

2 Samuel 1

King Saul was not a good man in every way. His actions affected so many—to include the men who died around Him in the previous chapter. David knows that his friend and brother in law Jonathan probably saw the death of his father (David's father in law) and David's enemy. We remember the fallen because of their position. 1:12 carries a surprise for an Amalekite who didn't know that position was everything: "God's anointed."

1:17-18

After hearing from the news source who is now dead (the man who thought he'd be rewarded by David), **David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son, 18 and he told them to teach the children of Judah the Song of the Bow; indeed it is written in the Book of Jasher:** Apparently what we're about to read is quoted from this **Book of Jasher**. This song was written for the funeral of Saul and Jonathan.

"I write my song because of a man who was placed in a position by God." This reminds us that all who die in God's care on another field of battle are exactly where they ought to be—positions chosen by God.

1:19

"The beauty of Israel is slain on your high places! How the mighty 1 Samuel 14 finds Jonathan and his armor bearer kill 20 men after scaling a deep embankment. **have fallen!** Think about how bad this could have gotten if David didn't know who Saul was. David had his wife recouped by his father in law after David goes into exile. David could have sung about this. How about being "hunted like a partridge" after being the only calming influence in his life (and that before he had javelins hurled at him). He could have talked about how awful a father in law he really was. Instead he speaks of **the beauty of Israel**. It took a special man to remember the good things about somebody after they pass away. At funerals we get a chance to be selective in our memories. We look past the disgusting times and we remember the **beauty**. Sometimes we remember things because we choose to—at the expense of others.

1:20-21

Tell it not in Gath, Why? They'll be happy. We don't talk about folks around them who don't appreciate the sacrifice. Proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon—Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph. Again, here are people that are being kept from hearing news because they would not "savor" or be "mindful" of things the way they ought. **21 "O mountains of Gilboa, Let there be no dew nor rain upon you, Nor fields of offerings. For the shield of the mighty is cast away there! The shield of Saul, not anointed with oil.** This was something that had the emblem of one's family or hometown and it was so beautiful and symbolic of one's pride that it was a shame to leave it on the battlefield. Better for a man to come home "on his shield" than to come home "without his shield."

Their **shield** is not longer ready.

1:22

From the blood of the slain, From the fat of the mighty, The bow of Jonathan did not turn back, And the sword of Saul did not return empty. They took many enemy with them. You have to be anti-Jesus to be anti-war (Revelation 19). The one who "bears the sword" brings vengeance on the enemies of God (Romans 13:4).

1:25

"How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! This is an exclamation; not a question. **Mighty** men fell all the time. **Jonathan was slain in your high places.**

1:26

I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; Now, instead of singing to the "daughters of Israel" (verse 24), he sings to his best friend.

You have been very pleasant to me; Your love to me was wonderful, Surpassing the love of women. As much as I love my wife, there is a love that cannot be surpassed once they have mixed their blood in battle. This

is a holy calling. This happens because David and Jonathan cut a covenant with one another as if they had the same soul (1 Samuel). David took a disliking toward blind and lame at Jerusalem after he was mocked. However, because of his covenant with his **brother Jonathan**, he cared deeply **Jonathan's** son; he cared for the family of the fallen: a lame man named Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9).

1:27

“How the mighty Certainly this world could use a few more. **have fallen,** For the 3rd time in this passage. Quite the chorus. **And the weapons of war perished!”**