

# 1 Chronicles 10:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They arose, all the valiant men, and took away the body of Saul, and the bodies of his sons, and brought them to Jabesh, and buried their bones under the oak in Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

## Analysis

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**Theological Analysis:** This passage falls within the section on Saul's death and divine judgment. The Hebrew term **לען** (ma'al) - to act unfaithfully is theologically significant here, pointing to Divine judgment on disobedience. The Chronicler's narrative, while paralleling Samuel-Kings in places, offers a distinct theological perspective emphasizing temple worship, Levitical service, and covenant faithfulness.

Chronicles presents David not primarily as warrior-king but as worship organizer and temple planner. This verse contributes to that portrait by highlighting the spiritual dimensions of Israel's national life. The text demonstrates that true prosperity comes through proper worship and covenant obedience rather than merely military or political success.

Doctrinally, this passage teaches about Divine judgment on disobedience. Cross-references throughout Chronicles connect David's reign to the broader redemptive narrative, showing how God's covenant promises advance through faithful human leadership while ultimately depending on divine grace and power. The messianic implications are profound: Contrast between failed human kingship and Christ's perfect reign.

## Historical Context

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**Historical Background:** This section describes events from David's reign (c. 1010-970 BCE) but was written centuries later during the Persian period (c. 450-400 BCE). The Chronicler's selectivity in retelling David's story serves his theological purposes—he omits David's sins (Bathsheba, Absalom's rebellion) while emphasizing David's worship reforms and temple preparations.

The historical setting of Saul's death and divine judgment occurred during Israel's united monarchy, when the nation reached its territorial and political zenith. Archaeological evidence from this period shows significant building projects and administrative development. However, the Chronicler writes for a much smaller, struggling post-exilic community, using David's golden age to inspire hope for restoration.

Ancient Near Eastern parallels show that temple construction and royal sponsorship of worship were common across cultures. However, Israel's understanding of worship centered on covenant relationship with the one true God rather than manipulation of capricious deities. This theological distinctiveness shapes the Chronicler's presentation.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse's emphasis on Divine judgment on disobedience challenge or affirm your current spiritual priorities and practices?
2. What does Contrast between failed human kingship and Christ's perfect reign teach you about Jesus Christ and His redemptive work?
3. In what practical ways can you apply the principles of covenant faithfulness and proper worship demonstrated in this passage?

## Interlinear Text

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גּוֹפֶת	תְּ	אֶת	תִּשְׁאֵל	כִּיל	אֲשֶׁר	כָּל	לְקֹמָתוֹ	גּוֹפֶת	תְּ	אֶת	תִּשְׁאֵל	כִּיל	אֲשֶׁר	כָּל	לְקֹמָתוֹ	
They arose	H3605	men	all the valiant	and took away	H853	and the bodies										
H6965		H376	H2428	H5375	H1480											
וְלֹא	שָׁא	וְלֹא	וְאֶת	גּוֹפֶת	בְּנֵי	וְמִ	יִבְיאֵו	וְשָׁא	וְלֹא	וְאֶת	גּוֹפֶת	בְּנֵי	וְמִ	יִבְיאֵו	וְשָׁא	
of Saul	H853	and the bodies	of his sons	and brought	H935	in Jabesh	and buried	H7586	H1480	H1121	H935	H3003	H6912			
H853		H1480		H1121		H935										
שְׁבַע	תְּ	לִזְצָוָתִים	מִ	בְּאֵלָה	בְּיִבְשָׁה	וְמוֹתָא	וְלֹא	וְלֹא	תְּ	לִזְצָוָתִים	מִ	בְּיִבְשָׁה	וְמוֹתָא	וְלֹא	וְלֹא	
their bones	H6106	H8478	under the oak	in Jabesh	H424	H3003	H6684	H7651								
H3117																
יְמִים																
days																

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