

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

Theological Analysis: This passage falls within the section on Saul's death and divine judgment. The Hebrew term *מַעַל* (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

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

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

וַקִּימוּ	כָּל	אִישׁ	חַיִּל	וַיִּשָּׂא וְ	אֶת	גּוֹפֹת
They arose	H3605	men	all the valiant	and took away	H853	and the bodies
H6965		H376	H2428	H5375		H1480
וְקָבַר וְ	בְּנֵי יוֹ	גּוֹפֹת	וַיָּבִיֵא וּמִ	בְּיָבֶשׁ	וַיָּבִיֵא וּמִ	וַיָּבִיֵא וּמִ
of Saul	H853	and the bodies	of his sons	and brought	in Jabesh	and buried
H7586		H1480	H1121	H935	H3003	H6912
וַיִּצַּע וּמִ	שִׁבְעַת	תַּחַת	תַּחַת	בְּיָבֶשׁ	וַיָּבִיֵא וּמִ	וַיָּבִיֵא וּמִ
H853	their bones	H8478	under the oak	in Jabesh	and fasted	seven
	H6106		H424	H3003	H6684	H7651
יָמִים:						
days						
H3117						

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