

1 Chronicles 10:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise on the sword, and died.

Analysis

And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise on the sword—The Hebrew verb naphal ('fell') implies both physical collapse and moral failure. This unnamed servant's loyalty unto death mirrors Jonathan's earlier devotion (1 Sam 14:7), showing how Saul inspired fierce devotion despite his spiritual decline.

The parallel with Judas (Matthew 27:5) is striking—both deaths represent covenant failure and divine rejection. Yet while 1 Samuel 31 provides military details, Chronicles emphasizes theological judgment: Saul died for his unfaithfulness (ma'al, v.13). The armor-bearer's death symbolizes how a leader's spiritual failure carries consequences for those who follow.

Historical Context

Mount Gilboa (c. 1010 BC) was the site where Saul's dynasty ended and David's began. The Chronicler uses this event to explain the monarchy transition as divine verdict, not political accident. This theological interpretation helped exilic Jews understand leadership and covenant faithfulness.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does loyalty to human leaders sometimes blind us to their spiritual failures?
2. What warnings does Saul's death offer about the consequences of persistent disobedience?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּרְא שָׁאֵל כִּי כִּי
saw And when his armourbearer
H7200 H5375 H3627 H3588
וַיָּמָת בַּיּוֹם
and died that Saul he fell
H4191 H7586 H5307

וְאַתָּה עַל הַדָּם
likewise on the sword and died
H1571 H1931 H5921 H2719 H4191

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org