

# 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

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**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

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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

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

### Study Questions

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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

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וַיֵּרָא	נִשָּׂא	כֹּל יוֹ	פִּי וַיָּמָת:	וְשָׂא וְל	וַיִּפֹּל ל
saw	And when his armourbearer		and died	that Saul	he fell
H7200	H5375	H3627	H3588	H4191	H7586
					H5307
גַּם	ה וְא	עַל	הֵן רָב	וַיָּמָת:	
			likewise on the sword	and died	
H1571	H1931	H5921	H2719	H4191	

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