

# 1 Samuel 31:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they put his armour in the house of Ashtaroth: and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan.

## Analysis

---

The placement of Saul's armor 'in the house of Ashtaroth' specifically honors the Philistine goddess, while fastening his body to Beth-shan's wall publicly displays the corpse. Ashtaroth (Astarte) was the fertility and war goddess of Canaanite religion, making this dedication a theological statement. The public display at Beth-shan, a strategic city in the Jezreel Valley, ensured maximum humiliation. The king of Israel becomes trophy and propaganda for pagan religion.

## Historical Context

---

Beth-shan (modern Beit She'an) occupied a strategic position at the junction of the Jezreel and Jordan valleys. Its walls would have been visible to traffic on major routes. Chronicles adds that Saul's head was placed in the temple of Dagon.

## Related Passages

---

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

---

1. What does the Philistines' religious interpretation of their victory reveal about spiritual warfare?

2. How should believers understand enemy claims of divine favor in their victories?

## Interlinear Text

---

|                   |             |            |              |              |       |           |
|-------------------|-------------|------------|--------------|--------------|-------|-----------|
| וַיִּשֶׁן יָמֹוֹ  | אֶת         | כָּל יוֹ   | בֵּית        | עַשְׁתָּרֹת  | וְאֶת | גּוֹיָתוֹ |
| And they put      | H853        | his armour | in the house | of Ashtaroth | H853  | his body  |
| H7760             |             | H3627      | H1004        | H6252        |       | H1472     |
| וַתִּקַּע וְ      | בְּחוֹמַת   | בֵּית      | שֵׁן:        |              |       |           |
| and they fastened | to the wall | H0         | of Bethshan  |              |       |           |
| H8628             | H2346       |            | H1052        |              |       |           |

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Joshua 17:11** (Parallel theme): And Manasseh had in Issachar and in Asher Bethshean and her towns, and Ibleam and her towns, and the inhabitants of Dor and her towns, and the inhabitants of En-dor and her towns, and the inhabitants of Taanach and her towns, and the inhabitants of Megiddo and her towns, even three countries.

**Judges 2:13** (Parallel theme): And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth.

**1 Samuel 21:9** (Parallel theme): And the priest said, The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom thou slewest in the valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod: if thou wilt take that, take it: for there is no other save that here. And David said, There is none like that; give it me.