# 1 Samuel 31:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Malchi-shua, Saul's sons.

## **Analysis**

The Philistines' pursuit specifically targets Saul's sons, eliminating the succession. Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchi-shua fall together. The Hebrew 'wayyabhiqqu' (followed hard, stuck close to) indicates determined pursuit, not random battlefield death. Jonathan's death creates particular pathos: David's closest friend and covenant partner dies fighting against the Philistines David was supposed to have joined. The prince who loved David dies while David is providentially absent.

### **Historical Context**

The naming of three sons indicates the battle was a targeting operation against the royal family. Ish-bosheth (called Esh-baal in Chronicles) survived, apparently not present at the battle, to provide brief opposition to David's reign.

# **Related Passages**

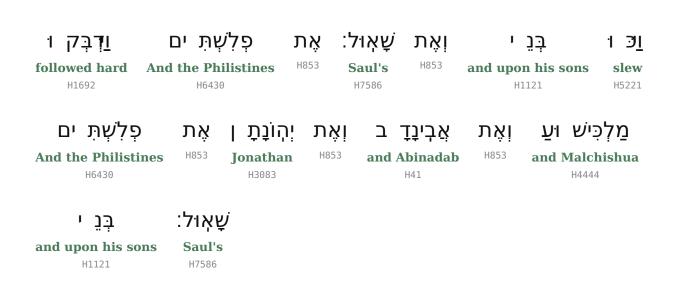
**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## **Study Questions**

- 1. How do you process the loss of righteous people in circumstances connected to others' sin?
- 2. What does Jonathan's death, faithful to the end, teach about faithfulness regardless of outcome?

### **Interlinear Text**



### **Additional Cross-References**

- **1 Chronicles 8:33** (Parallel theme): And Ner begat Kish, and Kish begat Saul, and Saul begat Jonathan, and Malchi-shua, and Abinadab, and Esh-baal.
- **1 Samuel 14:49** (Parallel theme): Now the sons of Saul were Jonathan, and Ishui, and Melchi-shua: and the names of his two daughters were these; the name of the firstborn Merab, and the name of the younger Michal:

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