

# 1 Samuel 31:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was sore wounded of the archers.

## Analysis

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The narrative focuses on Saul's personal fate: 'the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him.' The Hebrew 'hammorim anashim baqqasheth' (men who shoot with the bow) identifies the weapon causing Saul's mortal wounds. The description 'wayyachel me'od' (was greatly wounded, in anguish) indicates he was incapacitated but not immediately killed. His suffering precedes his final decision. The archer who once threw javelins at David now falls to arrows.

## Historical Context

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Philistine archers represented advanced military technology in this period. The composite bow provided range and penetrating power that made it effective against armored opponents. Saul's wounds were serious enough to prevent escape but not immediately fatal.

## Related Passages

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

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

## Study Questions

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1. How do the instruments of our own judgment sometimes mirror our past behavior?
2. What happens when those who refused God's way face their final moments?

## Interlinear Text

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וַתָּכֹבֶד דַּבַּר הַמִּלְחָמָה אֶל שָׂאֵל וַיִּמָּצֵא הוּא וַיִּכּוּ אֶת הַקְּנָעִים:  
**went sore** **And the battle** H413 **against Saul** **hit** **and the archers**  
H3513 H4421 H7586 H4672 H3384

וַיִּפֹּל וַיִּכּוּ אֶת הַקְּנָעִים וַיִּכּוּ אֶת הַקְּנָעִים:  
H582 H7198 **wounded** **him and he was sore** **and the archers**  
H2342 H3966 H3384

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 1:6** (Parallel theme): And the young man that told him said, As I happened by chance upon mount Gilboa, behold, Saul leaned upon his spear; and, lo, the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him.