

# 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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מִבְמֹרִים: תִּמְצֵא הוּא שָׁא וְלִתְכַּבֵּד  
and the archers hit Saul against the battle went sore

H3384 H4672 H7586 H413 H3513

מִבְמֹרִים: מֵאָדָם אֶנְשׂוּ יָמִים  
and the archers he was sore him and wounded

H3384 H3966 H2342 H7198 H582

## 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.

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