

# 1 Samuel 31:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him.

## Analysis

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The armor-bearer's suicide following Saul's death reveals the depth of loyalty Saul commanded from his immediate attendant. The Hebrew 'wayyamot immo' (died with him) emphasizes their shared fate. This servant's faithfulness unto death contrasts with those who fled and survived. His act, while not endorsed, demonstrates that Saul retained the devotion of those nearest him. Even failed leaders may inspire profound loyalty.

## Historical Context

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The custom of retainers dying with their king appears across ancient cultures. This armor-bearer's suicide represented the ultimate expression of personal loyalty to his master.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

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

## Study Questions

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1. What does the armor-bearer's loyalty suggest about Saul's personal relationships?

2. How do we evaluate such extreme loyalty in light of Scripture's values?

## Interlinear Text

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וְרָא שָׁא וְלִפְלִפְלָא  
יְרָא נְשָׁא כִּי כָּלְלָא  
saw And when his armourbearer  
H7200 H5375 H3627 H3588  
and died that Saul he fell  
H4191 H7586 H5307

עַל הַאֲגָם  
על ה אֲגָם  
likewise upon his sword and died  
H1571 H1931 H5921 H2719 H4191 H5973

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