

## 40. Saul, The First King

Saul's sons included Jonathan, Ishbosheth, and Malkishua. He also had two daughters: Merab, who was older, and Michal. (1 Samuel 14:49 NLT)

Now the Philistines fought against Israel; the Israelites fled before them, and many fell slain on Mount Gilboa. The Philistines pressed hard after Saul and his sons, and they killed his sons Jonathan, Abinadab and Malki-Shua. The fighting grew fierce around Saul, and when the archers overtook him, they wounded him critically.

Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword and run me through, or these uncircumcised fellows will come and run me through and abuse me."

But his armor-bearer was terrified and would not do it; so Saul took his own sword and fell on it. When the armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he too fell on his sword and died with him. So Saul and his three sons and his armor-bearer and all his men died together that same day.

When the Israelites along the valley and those across the Jordan saw that the Israelite army had fled and that Saul and his sons had died, they abandoned their towns and fled. And the Philistines came and occupied them. (1 Samuel 31:1-7 NIV)



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ABUSE	FIERCE	OLDER
ACROSS	FOUGHT	PHILISTINES
ALONG	GILBOA	PRESSED
ARCHERS	ISHBOSHETH	SAUL
ARMOR	JONATHAN	SLAIN
BEARER	JORDAN	TERRIFIED
CRITICALLY	MALKISHUA	THREE
DIED	MERAB	TOWNS
FELL	MICHAL	VALLEY
FELLOWS	OCCUPIED	WOUNDED