

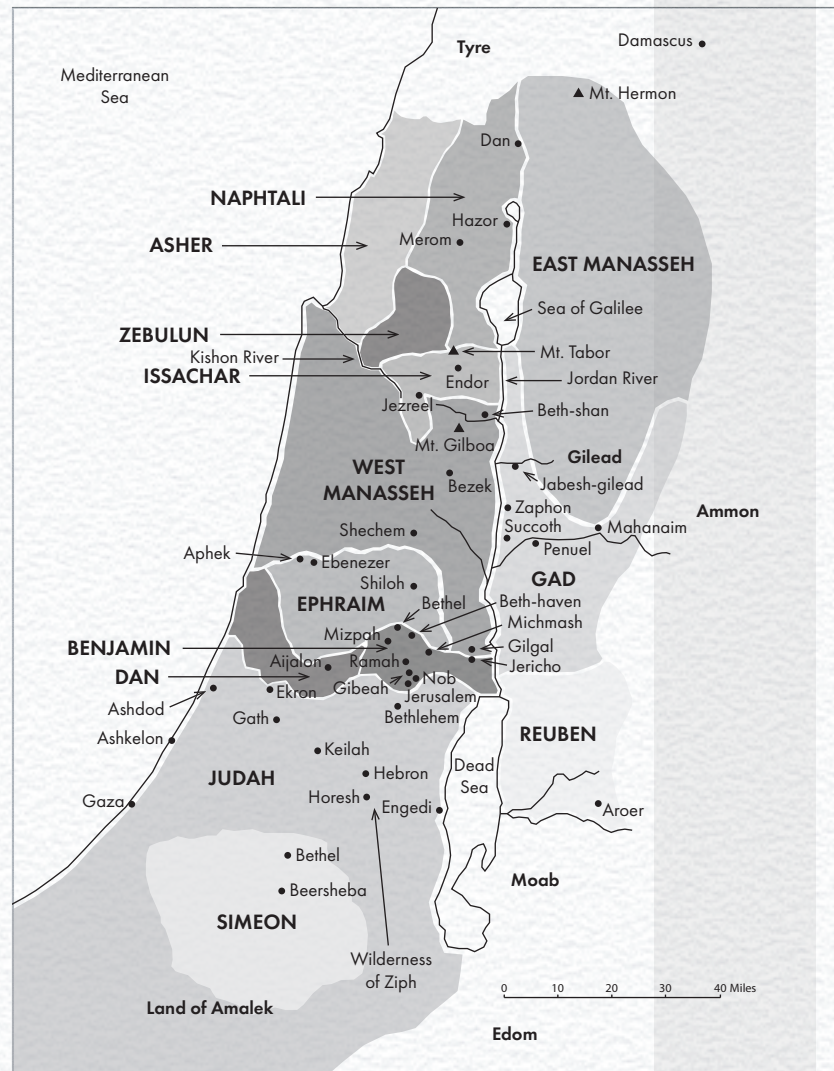
1 Samuel 31

WHEN

- Israel's first king, Saul, was appointed in approximately 1050 B.C.
- The events documented in 1 Samuel 31 took place around 1010 B.C.

WHERE

- The Israelite army fought with the Philistines at Mt Gilboa.
- The Philistines hung Saul's body at Beth-shan.
- Saul and his sons were buried in Jabesh-gilead.



CHARACTERS

- **David** – Samuel anointed him to be the second king of Israel. During these days, David lived amongst the Philistines at Ziklag because Saul wanted to kill him.
- **Saul** – The first king of Israel. He reigned for approximately 40 years.
- **Jonathan** – Saul's son and David's best friend.
- **The Philistines** - The long-time enemies of the Israelites.

OUTLINE

- THE DEATH OF KING SAUL (31:1-13):

- + The Israelites fought against the Philistines, but the battle went poorly for them.
- + They retreated and many were killed on Mount Gilboa.
- + The Philistines caught up with Saul and his sons, and the Philistine archers began shooting at them.
- + Saul was struck by an arrow and badly wounded.
- + He asked his armor bearer to kill him because he didn't want to be captured by the Philistines, but his armor bearer was too afraid.
- + So, Saul propped up his sword and fell on it, killing himself. His armor bearer did the same.
- + Saul's three sons were killed in battle with him (Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchi-shua).
- + The day following the battle, the Philistines found Saul's body on Mt. Gilboa. They cut off his head, took his armor to their pagan temple, and hung his body on a wall at Bethshan.
- + When the men of Jabesh-gilead heard what the Philistines had done, their valiant men went by night and recovered the bodies of Saul and his sons and buried them in Jabesh.

APPLICATION

- A life of dedication to the Lord is a life-long pursuit, beware of starting off well and finishing poorly.
- Saul starting off with great promise but ended as a disappointment.
- He started out humble and loving the Lord, but he ended up as the enemy of God.
- Our relationship with the Lord is one that needs to be cared for and nurtured every day.
- It isn't enough to start well, we need to finish well (2 Tim 4:7). Certainly, God will help us to that if we desire it.
- James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.