

# PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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**NOTES ON THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR SEPTEMBER 6.**

**Death of Saul and Jonathan.**

1 Sam. 31:1-13. (Read 1 Sam., chaps. 27-31; also 2 Sam. 1.) Memory vs. 6, 7.

Golden Text: There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death.—Prov. 14:12.

Intervening Events.—Tired of their outlaw life, David and his men go with their families to the land of the Philistines, and settle in Ziklag, remaining a year and four months (1 Sam. 27:1-7). David's deteriorating character displays itself in acts of cruelty and duplicity (27:8-12). The Philistines invade Israel, David being among them (28:1-2; 29:1-11). Israel is demoralized, numbers coming to join David (1 Chron. 12:19-21). Note the horrible position in which David has thus placed himself. Providence helped him out. The Philistine lords distrusted him. He went back to Ziklag, and had to pursue the man who had burned it (1 Sam. 30:1-25). Returning, he complimented his acquaintances in Judah with presents from his spoils (30:26-31). Meanwhile Saul consulted the woman of Endor (28:3-25). The next day (19) the battle of Gilboa was fought.

Time.—The year that David became king of Judah, perhaps 1063 B. C. The Usher date is 1056 B. C. Many give the date as more than fifty years later.

Place.—The Gilboa hills, rising from the valley of Jezreel.

Parallel Passage.—1 Chronicles 10:1-14. There is another account in the first chapter of 2 Samuel.

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Verse 1.—General account of the battle.—Now: While the various experiences just recounted were happening to David. Perhaps the battle occurred the day when David reached Ziklag with his spoils, and sent complimentary presents to his friends in Judah (comp. 1 Sam. 30:1 and 2 Sam. 1:1-2).—Fled, . . . and fell: But after a resistance so stubborn that the Philistines seem not to have been aware of the magnitude of their victory until the next day v. 8).

Verses 2-5.—Details of the death of Saul.—The battle went sore against Saul: Literally, "was heavy unto." That is, the fighting was severe. This clause says nothing of disaster.—The archers found him: This is the literal and correct translation, as opposed to "hit him" and "overtook him" in the versions. Probably they discovered where he was, and began to shoot at him.—He was greatly distressed: Much annoyed, not "sore wounded" (Old Version). What is here said concerning

the archers does not contradict what the Amalekite told David concerning "the chariots and the horsemen," for that belongs to a later point of time (2 Sam. 1:6).—Saul said, . . . Draw thy sword, etc.: Thanks to the woman of Endor, Saul has come into the battle disheartened. Otherwise he would have preferred to die fighting, and in that case he might not have died.—Fell upon it: Why stab himself in this fashion, rather than in some more exact and skilful way?—His armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead: That is what he thought he saw. The Amalekite told David (2 Sam. 1:6-10) that he found Saul supporting himself on his spear, apparently in a reclining position, in danger from the Philistine chariots and cavalry, and that Saul said, "Stand, I pray thee, over me, and slay me; . . . for my soul is yet whole within me. If this is the truth, Saul's attempted suicide was unsuccessful, and he died by the hand of the Amalekite.

Verse 6.—However he died, his dynasty perished with him. All his sons who had any fitness for reigning died in the same battle.—And all his men: Those who held official positions, perhaps.

Verse 7.—A result showing the decisiveness of the defeat.—The other side of the valley: To the north of the valley of Jezreel. We have no account of the Philistine occupancy at any other time thus extending to the north of Jezreel and to the east of the Jordan.—Came and dwelt: This denotes unresisted military occupancy. We are told how permanent the dwelling was.—In them: In the cities. In the parallel account in 1 Chronicles (10:7) the pronoun is masculine, which gives the meaning "among them;" that is, among the inhabitants of those cities.

Verses 8-10.—By the indignities to which they subjected his body, the Philistines showed that they regarded him as an especially formidable enemy, and thus really paid him a high tribute.—Cut off his head: The account in Chronicles says that they fastened his head in the house of Dagon.

Verses 11-13.—Another tribute to Saul from the people for whom he wrought his first great public act (1 Sam. 11:1-13).—Burnt them there: To prevent their falling again into the hands of the Philistines. There is here no necessary implication that cremation was then customary.

Judge William H. Taft, Governor of the Philippines, will succeed Elihu Root as Secretary of War about January 1, and Gen. Luke E. Wright will become Governor of the archipelago.

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