

## Chapter 31

*Saul with his fannes are flaine in battel. 7. The Philiftijms pofsefe the place, and hang the dead bodies on a wal, 11. but valiant men of Iabes Galaad take them away, and burne them, burie their bones, and faft feuen dayes.*

**A**nd the Philiftijms fought againft Ifrael, and the men of Ifrael fled before the face of the Philiftijms, and fel being flaine in mount Gelboe. <sup>2</sup> And the Philiftijms fel vpon Saul, and vpon his fannes, and they ftroke Ionathas, and Abinadab, and Melchifua the fannes of Saul, <sup>3</sup> and the whole weight of the battel was turned vpon Saul: and the archers ouertooke him, and he was fore wounded of the archers. <sup>4</sup> And Saul fayd to his efquier: Drawe out thy fword, and ftrike me: left perhaps thefe vncircumcised come, and kil me, mocking me. And his efquier would not: for he was frighted with exceding feare. <sup>a</sup>)Saul therefore caught his fword, and fel vpon it. <sup>5</sup> Which when his efquier had feene, to wit that Saul was dead, himfelfe alfo fel vpon his fword and died with him. <sup>6</sup> Saul therefore died, and his three fannes, & his efquier, and al his men in that day together. <sup>7</sup> And the children of Ifrael, that were beyond the valley, and beyond Iordan, feing that the men of Ifrael were fled, and that Saul was dead, and his fannes, they left their cities, and fled: and the Philiftijms came, and dwelt there. <sup>8</sup> And when the next day was come, the Philiftijms came to spoile them that were flaine, and they found Saul and his three fannes, lying in mount Gelboe. <sup>9</sup> And they did cut of Saules head, and fpoiled him of his armour, and fent into the land of the Philiftians round about, that it fhould be declared in the temple of their Idols, and among their

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<sup>a</sup> Saul killing himfelf after that he was wounded by his enimies fig-nifieth thofe that being ouercome by tentations deſperatly perfiſt, & wilfully die in their finne. *S. Greg. ho. 10.*

people. <sup>10</sup> And they did put his armour in the temple of Aftaroth, but his bodie they hung on the wal of Bethfam. <sup>11</sup> Which when <sup>a</sup>the inhabiters of Iabes Galaad had heard whatfoeuer the Philiftijms had done to Saul, <sup>12</sup> al the moft valiant men arofe, & walked al the night, and tooke the bodie of Saul, and the bodies of his fonnes, from the wal of Bethfam: and they came to Iabes Galaad, and burnt them there: <sup>13</sup> and they tooke their bones, and buried them in the wood of Iabes, and fafted feuen daies.

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<sup>a</sup> Thefe men are cōmendable for *gratitude* towards Saul, who had deliuered them. *ch. 11.* for a *vvorke of mercie* in burying the dead: for *pietie* towards their king and princes, and for *fortitude* in atchiuing fo heroical an act.