

# David mourns for Saul and Jonathan

Notes for 21 Sep

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Read: [2 Samuel 1:1-27](#)

This group is full of personal and professional experts on grief, so I won't take your time listing the qualities of grief that can be the bane of our life experience. We'll talk about them as we go.

## Amalekites

In order to understand what I once considered a very odd and violent reaction of David, I looked at the history of these people and their relationship with Israel.

[Genesis 36:12](#) – they were descendants of Esau.

[Psalm 83:7](#) - they are mentioned among the enemies of Israel.

[1 Samuel 15](#) – Israel fights against the Amalekites. Saul saves their king and loses the crown over his decision.

[1 Samuel 15:8](#) – Agag, king of the Amalekites is spared.

[1 Samuel 30:13](#) – Amalekite owner abandon's sick servant.

[Esther 3](#) – Haman, a descendant of Agag, will plot against Mordecai and work to destroy all Jews in the Empire.

## Our Discussion Begins

1. Last week in 1 Samuel 31:4 we learned that Saul died by suicide. This week the text notes that David was fighting against the Amalekites while Saul and Jonathan were in battle with the Philistines. What do you think are the reasons this young Amalekite came to David?
2. Why do you think he thought could get away with lying?
3. Is there symbolism for you that David and his men fasted until evening after hearing of the death of Saul and Jonathan?
4. What do you think were David's feelings when he had the Amalekite executed?
5. What do you think was the greater symbolism in that act? It seems to me that there are at least two levels.

The Scroll of the Upright One is non-canonical writing that has not been preserved. It's mentioned in this text and in [Joshua 10:12-13](#).

6. Why would David want this lament preserved?
7. Why would he want the people of Judah to be taught The Bow? Note: this is one tribe; not all of Israel.
8. What do you think are the mix of reasons in vs. 20 that hearers and singers were told who should not hear this song.

9. Vs. 21 - what do you think is the symbolism that David writes Saul's shield is not anointed?
10. What do you think it means that David wrote vs. 24 – oh daughters of Zion weep for the one who clothed you in scarlet and jewellery? Could this also be a reference to [1 Samuel 18:7](#)?
11. Is there a difference between 2 Samuel 1:26 and the rest of the lament? If you see that possibility, what do you make of it.
12. What do you think is the significance of David's mix of actions reported in 2 Samuel 1?
13. What do you think might have been the significance of his actions to the people of Judah? ...and to the rest of Israel.
14. What part of today's text touched you or felt particularly important to you?

As always, I am looking forward to seeing you and hearing your thoughts on this.

As always, I wish for you unexpected, gentle blessings.

*Catherine*