

Message Notes



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TWO DEATHS... A STUDY IN CONTRAST

- What do you think those who survive you will write as your epitaph?
- Saul's epitaph in five words: 1 Samuel 26:21: *"I have played the fool!"*

A FOOLISH LIFE AND A PATHETICALLY TRAGIC DEATH THAT NEED NOT HAVE BEEN!

1. An infamous death: 1 Samuel 31:1-4, 6

Latin Vulgate: *"He was wounded in the abdomen. It was a mortal wound."*

2. Ransacked army and cities: 31:7-8
3. Sick irony, "Head and shoulders" above everyone: 9:2; 31:9-10

SAUL/CHRIST'S DEATH: A CLASSIC ANALOGY

1. The end of all national and spiritual hope...
2. The adversary had won the final victory...
3. A whole new plan of operation and salvation is ushered in...
4. Death opened the opportunity for another who would not otherwise have been included...
5. The end of an era...
6. The foolishness of man/God...

OUR DEATH: AN INESCAPABLE REALITY

Like Saul and his sons...

However it comes... *it comes to us all.*

"Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

WHAT DO YOU THINK THOSE WHO SURVIVE YOU WILL WRITE AS YOUR EPI-TAPH?

[Next week: A panoramic view of Saul and David's lives (our lives!) often leads us to ask, "WHY?"]