

THE AMALEKITE & THE LIMITS OF KNOWLEDGE 2 SAM. 1:1-16

2 Samuel 1:1 NOW it came to pass after the death of Saul, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, and David had abode two days in Ziklag; **2 Samuel 1:2** It came even to pass on the third day, that, behold, **a man came out of the camp from Saul** with his clothes rent, and earth upon his head: and so it was, when he came to David, that he fell to the earth, and did obeisance.

2 Samuel 1:3 And David said unto him, **From whence comest thou?** And he said unto him, Out of the camp of Israel am I escaped.

2 Samuel 1:4 And David said unto him, **How went the matter?** I pray thee, tell me. And he answered, **That the people are fled from the battle, and many of the people also are fallen and dead; and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also.**

2 Samuel 1:5 And David said unto the young man that told him, **How knowest thou that Saul and Jonathan his son be dead?**

2 Samuel 1:6 And the young man that told him said, **As I happened by chance upon mount Gilboa**, behold, Saul leaned upon his spear; and, lo, the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him. **2 Samuel 1:7** And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called unto me. And I answered, Here am I. **2 Samuel 1:8** And he said unto me, Who art thou? And I answered him, **I am an Amalekite.** **2 Samuel 1:9** He said unto me again, Stand, I pray thee, upon me, and slay me: for anguish is come upon me, because my life is yet whole in me.

2 Samuel 1:10 **So** I stood upon him, and slew him, **because** I was sure that he could not live after that he was fallen: **and I took the crown that was upon his head, and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them hither unto my lord.**

2 Samuel 1:11 Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that were with him: **2 Samuel 1:12** And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword.

2 Samuel 1:13 And David said unto the young man that told him, **Whence art thou?** And he answered, **I am the son of a stranger, an Amalekite.** **2 Samuel 1:14** And David said unto him, **How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?** **2 Samuel 1:15** And David called one of the young men, and said, Go near, and fall upon him. And he smote him that he died. **2 Samuel 1:16** And David said unto him, Thy blood be upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the LORD's anointed.

Bernard Lewis on the function of a historian:

- Find out what happened
- Find out how it happened (rare, hard)
- Find out why it happened (exceptionally rare)

John 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge (the) righteous judgment.
(Μὴ κρίνετε κατ' ὄψιν, ἀλλὰ τὴν δικαίαν κρίσιν κρίνατε.)

3 events recently:

1. 3-5 meetings with an individual attempting to ascertain one thing...
2. LCBT / C: all of our legal documents are registered at Lyons, IL!!!
3. April 6th & 7th, 1862

Facts of 2 Samuel 1:

1. David didn't know what happened to Saul! 1-3
2. The Amalekite knew Saul was dead 3-4
3. David wanted to know how he knew

2 Samuel 1:5 And David said unto the young man that told him, **How knowest thou** that Saul and Jonathan his son be dead?

This tends to be the end of gossip & the drip, drip, drip, drip....

4. The young man **claimed to know because he was there / had been there** 6-10
And, he **obviously** had been there

An important battlefield fact: very few, and actually almost none, can be easily found!
The spoils of war → which requires spoilers
Scavengers is another name

2 Chronicles 20:25 And when Jehoshaphat and his people came **to take away the spoil of them**, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of **the spoil**, it was so much.

1 Samuel 31:8 And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen in mount Gilboa. **1 Samuel 31:9** And they cut off his head, and stripped off his armour, and sent into the land of the Philistines round about, to publish it in the house of their idols, and among the people. **1 Samuel 31:10** And they put his armour in the house of Ashtaroth: and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan.

5. David believed the young man

11-12

13-16

6. But David didn't know (God knew)

1 Samuel 31:1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel: and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa. **1 Samuel 31:2** And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Malchi-shua, Saul's sons. **1 Samuel 31:3** And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was sore wounded of the archers. **1 Samuel 31:4** Then said Saul unto his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. **Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it. 1 Samuel 31:5** And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him. **1 Samuel 31:6** **So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armourbearer, and all his men, that same day together.**

What we know:

- **The Philistines killed Saul and his sons **including** Jonathan**
- **Saul was gravely wounded by archers**
- **Saul fell on his own sword → to escape abuse / torture / & humiliation**
- **That's how Saul died**

The Amalekite knew “that” Saul had died.

Did the Amalekite know “how” Saul died???

Did the Amalekite know “why” Saul died?

1 Samuel 26:10 David said furthermore, As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish.