

*II Samuel 1:1-27*

Lesson #2, chap. 1, Looking into the Face of Death

Note: Most of the Lesson titles for this study of II Samuel have been taken from the book:

DAVID, Man of Prayer, Man of War

Walter J. Chantry

1 Now it came about after the death of Saul, when David had returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, that David remained two days in Ziklag. 2 On the third day, behold, a man came out of the camp from Saul, with his clothes torn and dust on his head. And it came about when he came to David that he fell to the ground and prostrated himself.

[1.] v:1-2, Looking at the map on page 2 of this lesson, about how far did this man have to travel in order to reach David?

[2.] Why might he have gone to David and prostrated himself?

3 Then David said to him, "From where do you come?" And he said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel." 4 David said to him, "How did things go? Please tell me." And he said, "The people have fled from the battle, and also many of the people have fallen and are dead; and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also." 5 So David said to the young man who told him, "How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?" 6 The young man who told him said, "By chance I happened to be on Mount Gilboa, and behold, Saul was leaning on his spear. And behold, the chariots and the horsemen pursued him closely.

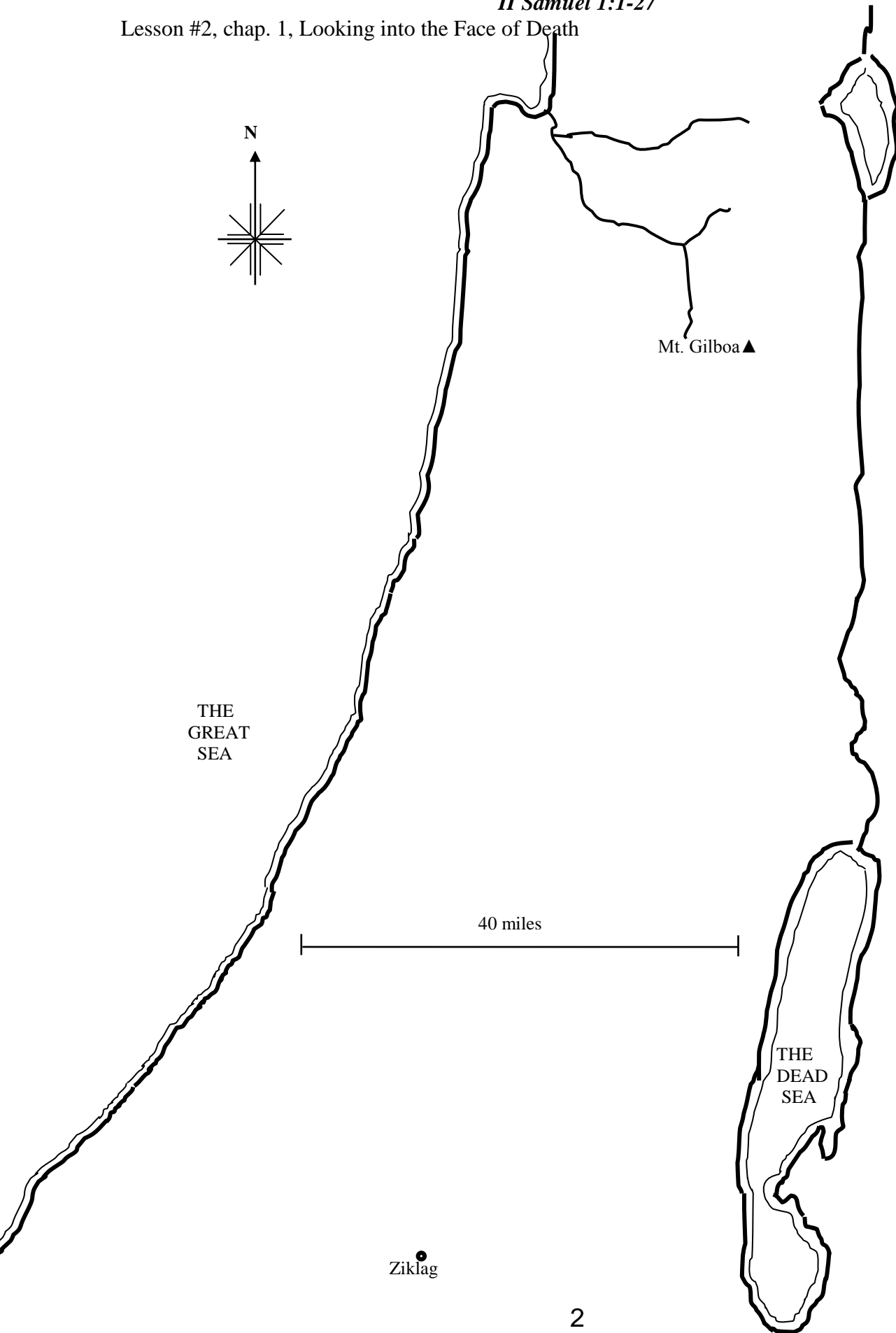
[3.] v:3-6, The account the man gave was probably true, up to a point! Reviewing I Sam 31, at what point did he start lying?

[4.] Can you think of a purpose for his false statements.

[5.] Likewise, with false teachers, what's in it for them?

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## *II Samuel*

### II Sam 1, Looking into the Face of Death

7 "When he looked behind him, he saw me and called to me. And I said, 'Here I am.' 8 "He said to me, 'Who are you?' And I answered him, ' I am an Amalekite.'

9 "Then he said to me, 'Please stand beside me and kill me, for agony has seized me because my life still lingers in me.' 10 "So I stood beside him and killed him, because I knew that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown which was on his head and the bracelet which was on his arm, and I have brought them here to my lord."

11 Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and so also did all the men who were with him. 12 They mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and his son Jonathan and for the people of the Lord and the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

[6.] v:7 & 8, Reviewing I Sam 30, Tell how the man really messed up, with David, when he claimed he told Saul of his nationality?

[7.] v:9 & 10, Now that David was king, do you suppose this would probably be the last person to ever lie to him?

[8.] Describe how important it was for David to be a good listener and not just a talker?

v:11-12, took hold of his clothes and tore them, . . . mourned and wept and fasted until evening.

**common ways to demonstrate grief**

[9.] v:11 & 12, Saul continually pursued David and his men. Upon hearing of the deaths, David and his men mourn. What happened, how come they didn't hold a grudge?

[10.] v:11 & 12, If you were the Amalekite, witnessing their grief, what would you be thinking?

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13 David said to the young man who told him, "Where are you from?" And he answered, "I am the son of an alien, an Amalekite." 14 Then David said to him, "How is it you were not afraid to stretch out your hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?" 15 And David called one of the young men and said, "Go, cut him down." So he struck him and he died. 16 David said to him, "Your blood is on your head, for your mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have killed the Lord's anointed.'"

#### David's Dirge for Saul and Jonathan

17 Then David chanted with this lament over Saul and Jonathan his son, 18 and he told them to teach the sons of Judah ~~the song of the bow~~; behold, it is written in the book of Jashar.

[11.] v:16, What is the meaning of "your mouth has testified against you" ?

[12.] Looking at v:17 & 18, who else did David want to remember and share his grief?

**book of Jashar**, *book of the righteous*, (Josh 10:13) . . . "a collection of odes in praise of certain heroes of the theocracy . . .".  
Unger's Bible Dictionary

The following dirge is in three verses. Each begins with the same groan, "How the Mighty Have Fallen". David's imagination surveys the heartbreaking scenes of battle, like those scenes he has, already, personally observed.

*19 " Your beauty, O Israel, is slain on your high places!*

*How have the mighty fallen!*

*20 " Tell it not in Gath,  
Proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon,  
Or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice,  
The daughters of the uncircumcised will exult.*

[13.] From *u:20* state where and why the news, of defeat, was not to be told.

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[14.] Again from *v:20*, This verse mentions two cities. Using your own maps and the map on page 2 designate the locations of the cities and write in their names.

*21 " O mountains of Gilboa,  
Let not dew or rain be on you, nor fields of offerings;  
For there the shield of the mighty was defiled,  
The shield of Saul, not anointed with oil.  
22 " From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty,  
The bow of Jonathan did not turn back,  
And the sword of Saul did not return empty.*

[15.] From *v:21*, how was the mountains of Gilboa instructed to show their remorse and how did *v:22* speak of Saul & Jonathan's bravery?

*23 "Saul and Jonathan, beloved and pleasant in their life,  
And in their death they were not parted;*

[16.] What would be the meaning of, "in their death they were not parted"?

*They were swifter than eagles,  
They were stronger than lions.  
24 "O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,  
Who clothed you luxuriously in scarlet,  
Who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.*

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*25 " How have the mighty fallen*

*in the midst of the battle!*

*Jonathan is slain on your high places.*

*26 "I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan;*

*You have been very pleasant to me.*

*Your love to me was more wonderful*

*Than the love of women.*

[17.] What does v:26 imply and what does it not mean?

*27 " How have the mighty fallen,  
And the weapons of war perished!"*

[18.] From *v:27*, The phrase, "the weapons of war" mean which of the following:

- a) shields?
- b) war horses?
- c) Saul & Jonathan?
- d) spears?
- e) the army of Israel?
- f) swords?

[19.] As a Christian husband, or father, or man, what ideas did you learn from Looking into the Face of Death, that you want to apply to your Christian life?