

## LIFE OF DAVID—HANDOUT 10

### 1 Samuel 31

Chiasm:

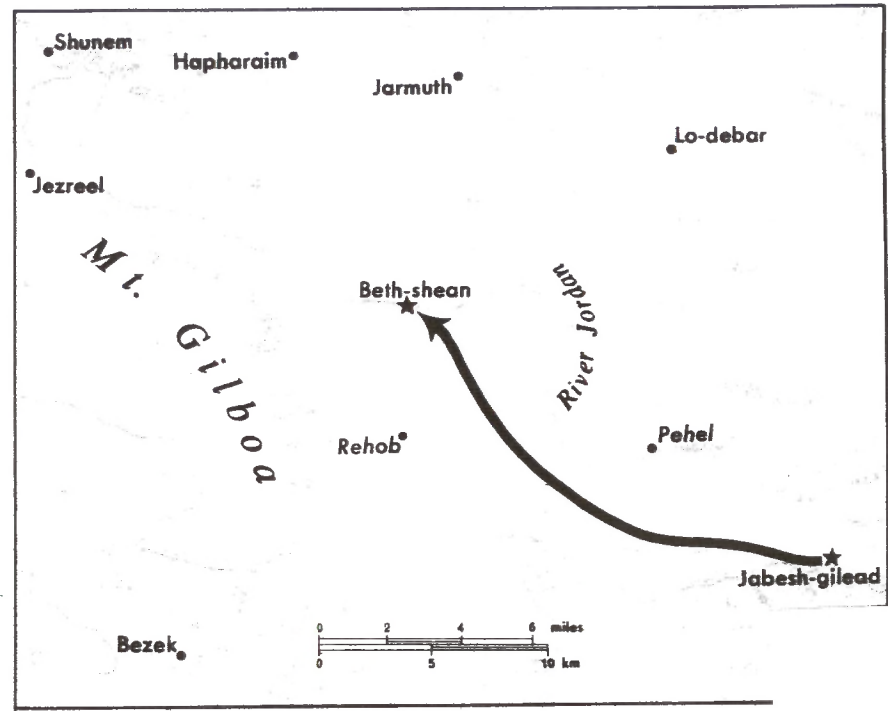
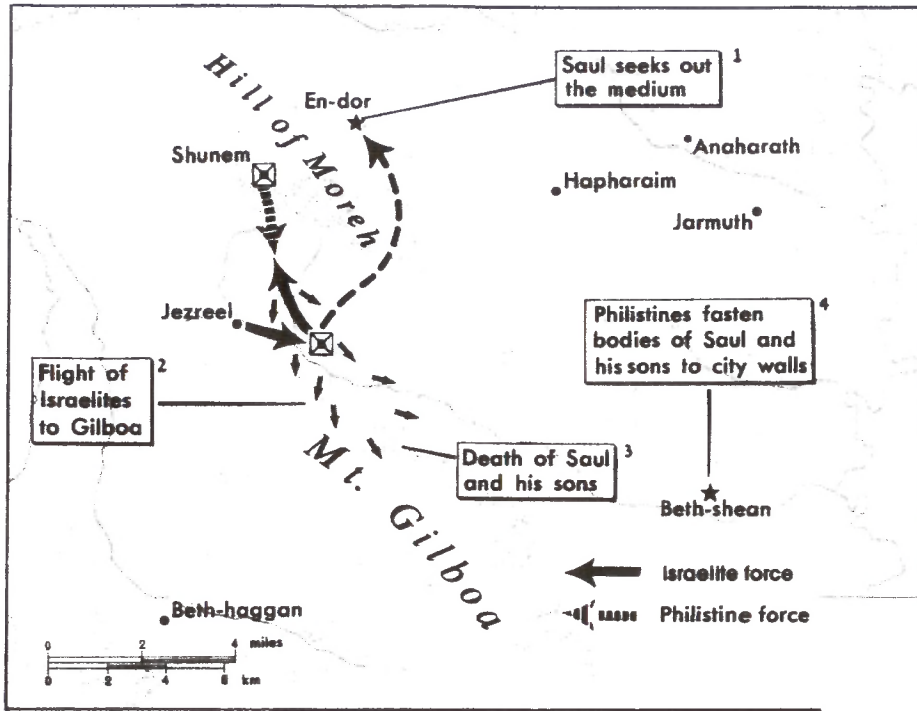
Philistines attack (v. 1)  
Israel flees (v. 1)  
Saul and his sons (v. 2)  
Saul under pressure (v. 3)  
Saul speaks to armor bearer (v. 4)  
Pierce me through (v. 4)  
Uncircumcised (v. 4)  
Pierce me through (v. 4)  
Armor bearer refuses (v. 4)  
Saul falls on his sword (v. 4)  
Saul and his sons (v. 6)  
Israel flees (v. 7)  
Philistines occupy (v. 7)

(Modified from J. P. Fokkelman, *Narrative Art and Poetry in the Books of Samuel*, Vol. II, p. 624)

*Non compos mentis*

William Cowper (1731-1800) (pronounced Cooper)

Poet; author of the Olney Hymns with John Newton (“Amazing Grace”)



**LEGO APPROACH TO HEBREW PROSODY**  
(a la J. P. Fokkelman, University of Leiden)  
(illustrated by David's Lament for Saul/Jonathan, 2 Sam. 1:19-27)

9. Whole Poem
8. Sections
7. Stanzas
6. Strophes
5. Verses (Bicolos, Tricolos, etc.)
4. Versets (i.e., Colos, Clauses)
3. Words
2. Syllables (Beats, Cadence)
1. Sounds

**Elements of Hebrew Poetry**

Symmetry/Parallelism

Example: "Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice"  
(2 Sam. 1:20c)  
"Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised exult"  
(2 Sam. 1:20d)

**(This is not strict synonymous Parallelism)**

What is A: "daughters of the Philistines"  
What is more (than A), i.e., B: "daughters of the uncircumcised"

What is A: "rejoice"  
What is more (than A), i.e., B: "exult"

Inclusio

Bracketing/framing inception and conclusion of piece; enveloping whole.

Example: "How are the mighty fallen" (2 Sam. 1:19b)  
"How are the mighty fallen" (2 Sam. 1:27a)

Chiasm

Mirror, cross-over duplication (i.e., A, A', [X], B', B)

A. "Jonathan" (2 Sam. 1:22c)  
B. "Saul" (2 Sam. 1:22d)  
B'. "Saul" (2 Sam. 1:23a)  
A'. "Jonathan" (2 Sam. 1:23a)

Assonance

Repetition of the same vowel sound. Must use the Hebrew Text to determine.

Alliteration

Repetition of the same consonants. Must use the Hebrew Text.

### PROSODIC ARRANGEMENT OF 2 SAMUEL 1:19-27

Tricolon: <sup>19</sup>“Your beauty, O Israel,  
is slain on your high places!  
How have the mighty fallen!

Bicolon:

1<sup>st</sup> Colon: <sup>20</sup>“Tell *it* not in Gath, Proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon;  
2<sup>nd</sup> Colon: Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, Lest the daughters of the  
uncircumcised exult.

Bicolon:

1<sup>st</sup> Colon: <sup>21</sup>“O mountains of Gilboa, Let not dew or rain be on you, nor fields of  
offerings;  
2<sup>nd</sup> Colon: For there the shield of the mighty was defiled, The shield of Saul, not  
anointed with oil.

Bicolon:

1<sup>st</sup> Colon: <sup>22</sup>“From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty  
2<sup>nd</sup> Colon: The bow of Jonathan did not turn back, And the sword of Saul did not  
return empty.

Tricolon:

<sup>23</sup>“Saul and Jonathan, beloved and pleasant  
in their life, And in their death they were not parted;  
They were swifter than eagles, They were stronger than lions.

Bicolon:

1<sup>st</sup> Colon: <sup>24</sup>“O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, Who clothed you luxuriously  
in scarlet,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Colon: Who put ornaments of gold on your apparel. <sup>25</sup>“How have the mighty  
fallen in the midst of the battle!

Tricolon + Bicolon:

Jonathan is slain on your high places.  
<sup>26</sup>“I am distressed for you, my brother  
Jonathan; You have been very pleasant to me.

Colon: Your love to me was more wonderful Than the love of women.

Colon: <sup>27</sup>“How have the mighty fallen, And the weapons of war perished!”

## STRUCTURAL SUGGESTIONS

### I.

- A. Elegiac Lament (?19, 20-21)
- B. Eulogy (22-23)
- A'. Elegiac Lament (24-27)

### II.

- A. (??) *Zevi* (Heb.) (19)
- B. Saul (21)
- C. Jonathan Saul (22)
- C'. Saul Jonathan (23)
- B'. Saul (24)
- A'. Jonathan, Jonathan (25b, 26)

### III.

- A. Beauty, O Israel, slain on high places (19a)
- B. How are the mighty fallen (19b)
- B'. How are the mighty fallen (25a)
- A'. Jonathan slain on high places (25b)

### IV.

- A. Slain on high places (19a)
- B. How mighty fallen (19b)
- C. Daughter of Philistines (20)
- D. Shield Saul (21d)
- E. Bow Jonathan (22b)
- D'. Sword Saul (22c)
- C'. Daughters of Israel (24a)
- B'. How mighty fallen (25a)
- A'. Slain on high places (25b)