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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Shaul, King David, Philistines, sorcery, fear, faith, Samuel, mediums, sorcerers, Gilboa, Endor, oath, iniquity, truth, God's will.

SPEAKERS

Baruch Korman, Intro Voice

I Intro Voice 00:03

Shalom, and welcome to Via Haftah Israel, a Hebrew phrase which means, 'You shall love Israel. We hope you'll stay with us for the next 30 minutes as our teacher, Dr. Baruch, shares his expository teaching from the Bible. Dr. Baruch is the senior lecturer at the Zara Avraham Institute, based in Israel, although all courses are taught in Hebrew at the institute, Dr. Baruch is pleased to share this weekly address in English. To find out more about our work in Israel, please visit us on the web@loveisrael.org That's one word, loveisrael.org Now here's Baruch with today's lesson.

B Baruch Korman 00:41

We are going to see in an undeniable way that Shaul, the king of Israel, was not a faithful man. Now this has been documented in many different ways throughout First Samuel, but now we're going to see how evil of a leader he is, that he has no faith, he does not rely upon God. He does not believe in Him. Rather, we are going to see that He engages in sorcery. Why? Because of fear. And when we love God with all of our heart, with all of our soul, and with all of our very essence, that love for God is going to remove fear from us, so that we can always follow His truth, that we can be faithful to carry out the will of God. So, with that said, take out your Bible and look with me, if you would, to First Samuel, chapter 28 Again, First Samuel and Chapter 28 Now, in this passage of scripture, we're going to see that a war is about to begin, and this war is going to bring great fear to Shaul, but as always, we're going to see that King David is a man that trusts in the living God, that realizes that God will not forsake his people, that God is a God that we can depend upon, that we can trust, that we can rely upon, and we will not be disappointed. So let's begin. Look with me, as I said, to First Samuel, chapter 28 Let's begin with verse one, where it says, and it came about in those days. Now normally when we see that expression, and it came about in those days, what can we expect God to move in a situation that God is going to demonstrate Himself faithful to the children of Israel. Notice what happens, and the Philistines gathered their camps for an army, that's literally what it says. Now, some Bibles will say for a battle. This is found as we press on into this scripture, but literally it says, and the Philistines gathered their camps for an army to war against Israel. Now, you'll recall

that David had fled from Shaul. Why? Because Shaul was committed to one thing, and what was that? He was committed to putting David to death, and therefore David fled into the land of the Philistines, but as we saw a few weeks ago, David was not someone who was ever disloyal to the plans and the purposes of God, because he would go out to raid Achish, the king of God, one of the key Philistine cities. What did he think? He thinks that he was going out and fighting against Israel to the extent that he would make himself abhorred to his people, but David wasn't doing that, was he? What we saw in the scripture is that David was going out and fighting against the Philistines and having victory, destroying them and taking plunder for his people. So David was always faithful to the call of God on his life, and that is wisdom, that is obedience. We should always be interested and committed to God's call upon our life. Let's press on. Notice what it says in the middle of verse one. And Achish said to David, You certainly know that with me you will go out among the camp. And again, this word for camp, Mahanay, refers to an army, a group of soldiers, and he says, "You, meaning David and your men. So Achish is saying something. I expect that you will go out and fight with the Philistines against Israel. Look now to verse two, but. David said to Achish, therefore you will know what your servant will do. Now this is interesting, because David says you will know what your servant will do. Now what David is saying is this: I am loyal to you, O King Achish, the King of God, but we know that David, first and foremost, is loyal to who he's loyal to, the God of Israel, that's who he is committed to, that's who he is going to serve, and he's always going to serve the God of Israel, so he says, "Here you will know what your servant will do. And Achish said to David, "Therefore, a keeper of my head, I will appoint you all the days. Now, here, what is David being told? He's being told that he is called to guard the head of Achish. In other words, he is becoming a bodyguard for Achish, and this is something that's going to have a degree of permanency, because it says, "I will set you all the days. Now this means that David has a different call upon him, instead of being king, what is he called to be the bodyguard of Achish, the King of God. Let's move on. Look at now verse three. We're going to be reminded of something that we saw a few weeks ago, and what was that? Look at verse three and Samuel has died, and all of Israel have lamented for him, and they buried him in Ramah in his city, and notice what else it said, it says, and Shaul has removed all the mediums and the sorcerer from the land. Now that would be a right thing to do, but why we see this in the verse speaking about Samuel is that it was under Samuel's influence that Shaul did this, not because he was a man of God, not because he trusted in God, but because of Samuel's influence, and we're going to see that Shaul relied a great deal upon Samuel, but let's press on. Notice what it says, verse three at the end, and Shaul had removed the mediums and the sorcerers from the land, verse four, and the Philistines gathered, and they came, and they encamped in Shunem, but Shaul and all of Israel gathered, and they encamped in Ghiboa. Now Gilboa is in the lower Galilee area, in what's thought of as the Jezreel Valley, and this is a place of future judgment. So all of this is being set up for us to understand what is going to happen in the future, that this is going to be a place of judgment. Keep reading, it says in verse five. And Saul looked at the camp of the Philistines, and notice what it says, and he became fearful, and his heart trembled exceedingly. So this is a man of fear, not faith. Now, are there things that can scare us? Certainly, in life, there's things that we worry about that concern us, and such. But when we have faith, we understand something. We understand the promises of God, that God will never leave us nor forsake us, that God will not be careless with His people, and more than that, we know something else. As the scripture says, with God all things are possible. We need to believe that and understand that the Lord, the God of Israel, He is our defense. Therefore, we don't need to fear the enemy, we didn't need, we need not to be concerned with what they're doing, how strong they are, what is their, their power, none of those things, because the one in this world referring to Messiah, the one who was in that world, he is greater than the one that belongs to the enemy, the enemy is always serving themselves rather than serving the will of God. So we need to remember that the one in us is greater than the one in the world, that's

what we need to always remember. Look now to verse six. Notice what Sheol wanted to do, and Saul inquired of the Lord, but the Lord did not answer him. Why not? There was no response from God, because Sheol was not interested in God's will, and this is a principle that we need to follow as well, and realize when we are only committed to what we want, God is not going to speak to us, God is not going to direct us, He is not going to provide for us. We will go it alone. It's only when we are committed to His will, His plans, His purposes, His objectives, then and only then, is God good at work in our life, that He is going to speak to us, that He is going to guide us, and direct us, and empower us, and provide for us everything that we need to do what to accomplish God's will. So, let me ask you again, are you truly committed to the will of God. See, many people turn to God, but not in a biblical faith. They turn to God because they have fleshly desires. They have what's very popular today to speak of. They think of their destiny. Now, their destiny is usually the outcome of being deceived by the enemy, they think this is their future, and they think God is behind it, but let me tell you, He is not. How do I know that? Because God is committed to those things that relate to His will, His purposes, His plan, and His priorities. So, if we're interested in ourselves and we're asking God just to bless what we want. God's going to be just like we see here, very, very silent. But when we repent, when we turn to God in faithfulness, and we say, not my will, but your will be done. When we're committed to the things of God, God will move in our life in a mighty way. This is what we should expect. So look again at the text, and Saul inquired of the Lord, but the Lord did not answer him, even with dreams, even with Urim, even with prophets, so what we see over and over here is that God is silent to Saul, and anytime that we are in in desires for what we want rather than the desires of God, God is going to be silent. That is the principle that's being taught well. What else do we know? Well, when we look on in the scripture, notice what happens. Verse seven, and Saul said to his servants, 'Seek for me. There's the key for me. He wasn't doing anything in order to serve God, but it was all about him, so he says to his servants, seek for me a woman, notice not a man, but a woman who is a medium that I will go unto her and inquire of her, and his servants said to him, behold, something important about to follow. There is a woman who is a sorceress, where in a place called Endor. Now I've been to Endor, and we see there that there is a museum there, and one of the things that we find in that museum is different things related to the occult, those things that were not part of the children of Israel, those things that speak about the influence of the nations rather than those things that are committed to the will of God, the purposes of God, and the plans of God, so it is a plus place of spiritual corruption, and understand the principle here. Whenever we are committed to what we want, we are going to be deceived by the enemy, and when we are wanting what we want, and it doesn't matter what God wants, when we are committed to our own things, realize what's going to happen. We are going to begin to behave like Saul, and what did he say? Find me a woman of sorcery, find me a medium that I can go, and we're going to see real quickly what is his objective. Look now, if you would, to verse eight. Now, Saul knew what he was doing was wrong, and there's clear evidence of this. Look at verse eight, and Saul disguised himself, and he put on other garments. So Saul knew. That this was the wrong thing to do, but nevertheless he did it anyway. Why? Because he thought this was the only way that he could accomplish his objective, not with God's help, not with God's wisdom, not with God's word, but through what, through sorcery, through mediums, and we're going to see what his objective is. He wants to consult the dead. Well, our God is a God of life. We should never want to hear any type of influence from those that are dead. But notice what it says in the scripture, and he went and two men with him, and they came to the woman, and notice this, it says nighttime, that's literally not by night, but simply nighttime. Now, why is that? Well, it shows us something, that they're doing this not in the morning, not at a time of transparency, but they have disguised themselves, and they do not want to be seen, so they go at night time and notice what his request is. He spoke, and basically, what does he want? Well, we might call it a seance. He wants that she should bring up someone from the dead, and this is exactly what

it says. He speaks, and he addresses her in the feminine. He says, 'Bring up again for me. It's never about God, it's never about what is right, it's never about truth. It's always for me, and this scripture is emphasizing how he's in bondage to what he wants rather than what God wants, so she, he says to her, bring up for me whom I shall say unto you, and notice her response, verse nine, and the woman said to him, behold, you have known what Shaul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the sorcerers from the land, and why do you set a trap or a snare for my soul to put me to death. Now this is something that she's saying she knows what she's doing is wrong. She knows that if she behaves in this way that she can lose her life. So she says, Why are you setting for me a snare, a snare in regard to this, that you want me to practice sorcery. Don't you know that Shoel, and here's what's interesting. Who is she speaking to? She's speaking to Shoel, the one who supposedly has cut off all the mediums and the sorceress from the land, but she's there. He was not successful in doing that. Well, notice something else. Verse nine, once more. And the woman said to him, Behold, have you not known what Shaul has done? How he has cut off the mediums and those who participate in sorcery from the land. Why do you set a snare for my soul to put me to death? Verse 10. Now notice something. This is again evidence to show us how far removed that Sheol is from God. How he speaks, verse 10, our final verse. And Sheol swore to her how in the Lord he took an oath in the Lord. Now there was no fear, there was no concern. There was no hesitancy in Shaul that he swore to her, took that oath in the Lord, a very serious statement to make, to swear in the Lord. Well, what's going to happen? Read on. He swore Shaul swore to her in the Lord, saying, as the Lord lives, and then we have to see something many Bibles will say punishment, but it's the word Avon, which is an iniquity. What he's saying is this, as the Lord lives, if an iniquity will come upon you in this matter. He's saying, as the Lord lives, I'm taking an oath that there will be no iniquity placed upon you, meaning this. He is promising that she will not be held accountable for any of this sorcery that she's performed. Me, that this matter won't bring about any type of judgment for her, and here's the problem: he's not concerned with the will of God. He's not interested in what the law of God commands. Sorcery, being a medium, consulting these things are all forbidden based upon the law of Moses. Now, what is the purpose of the law of Moses? It teaches us what is right, and therefore, when we know what is right, we also know what is wrong. We could say it this way: through the law, the law doesn't make us righteous, but the law defines what is righteous, and therefore it also defines what is unrighteous. So, when we do the things that God commands us, we will behave righteously. When we do the things that God tells us not to do, and we do them anyway, we are demonstrating unrighteousness, and that's what Saul is showing. He is showing very clearly that he is unrighteous, and what does he want? Well, he wants her to call up someone from the dead. Why? In order to get counsel. Now, why would anyone turn to the dead in order to get counsel, to get advice, to be told what to do, should you not turn to God? Now, someone would say, well, he did at first, but God wouldn't answer him. Yes, but there's a reason for that. When God is silent in my life, you know what that shows me. It shows me number one, that I'm either out of God's will, and I need to repent, or that I need to pray more diligently, that I need to seek His face. And one of the ways that we seek the face of God is by being committed to the instructions of God. God gives us instructions for life, and if we love him, if we believe in him, if we belong to him, then these instructions are going to be very precious to us. What are we going to do? We are going to implement them into our life. We are going to incorporate them in our behavior. Why? Because we want to be a people that have a testimony that's pleasing to God, that people see us and what do they want to do, they see us and they want to show themselves to be like us. This is what it means to have that proper witness, that godly testimony that we are an example for others on what to do, and also those things that are not to do, we don't do them, so we need a God-pleasing testimony. Why? For one main reason, so that we have a testimony of faithfulness, that we show others that we belong to the living God, that He is our Lord, that He is our Savior, and that we do not trust in any other thing. The

problem with Joel is that he was consulting with, and we'll see this next week, that he was consulting with the dead, but God is a God of the living. This is what the scripture tells us. So we need to have a very clear change in our attitude. We need to understand what we should do and also understand what we ought not to do, so that we are behaving in a way that manifests faithfulness. That's what we're called to do. Now, let's get something very clear. Faithfulness, what is it? Well, faithfulness is always connected to the truth of God. I've shared with you many, many times that the biblical word in Hebrew for faith is Emunah, and it's derived from the same root where we get the word Emet, or truth from so emunah is when we are committed to the truth of God. So ask yourself a question, is that what motivates you? God's truth, is that what you want to apply to your life? Is that where you want to be found in God's truth? And if you do, what is that going to do? It's going to relate you into an abundant relationship with God. The more committed you are to the truth of God, the more that you're going to experience God on a daily basis. That's what God wants to do. He wants to be active in your life. How do you show that you want God to be active in your life. Very simply, what do you do? You implement His truth into your life always. It is only when we are committed to the truth of God, then and only then is God going to see faithfulness, and when He sees faithfulness, He is going. To partner with us, he is going to begin to work according to his covenantal promises, and we will begin to experience his faithfulness. We will have access to his provision, we will know the presence of God, the power of God, and we will see things from a godly perspective, and that's what we need in order to demonstrate who we are in the Messiah. Now we're in First Samuel, but as we study this book, we're seeing numerous principles that teach us what a true believer does, how they make decisions, what is their motivation? And we're going to see how Shaul did not want to serve God, but he was wanting to hold on to his place of prominence as the King of Israel. And what did David do? David humbled himself. David put himself in a very difficult situation that he fled from Israel, and he began to dwell among the Philistines, the very enemy of Israel. But David didn't fear, David didn't doubt, David did not fret about how difficult his life was. What did he do? He used this opportunity to bring vengeance, the vengeance of the Lord, upon the Philistines, not worrying about his life, but understanding that God always wants to use his people, and no matter where we find ourselves, no matter what situation that we're in, we're only one step away from victory, and that victory is going to bring honor to God. It's going to glorify Him. It's going to exemplify God's character in our life, and that's what we're called to do. We're called to be people that when individuals watch us, they see godly activity, they see God at work in us and through us, for what, for one purpose, that they might see our good works and glorify our heavenly Father, praise Him, exalt Him, worship Him, understand that he is worthy. This is what we're called to do as children of God, and David is a great example of that, and Shaul is an example of what not to do. So we need to be people that trust God. How do we trust God? By walking in His truth. We do not fear, we do not fret, we do not worry, but we trust in the promises of the living God, who says, I will never leave you nor forsake you. With God, all things are possible.



Intro Voice 27:59

Well, we hope you will benefit from today's message and share it with others. Please plan to join us each week at this time and on this channel for our broadcast of loveisrael.org Again, to find out more about us, please visit our website, loveisrael.org There you will find articles and numerous other lectures by Baruch. These teachings are in video form. May download them or watch them in streaming video. Until next week, may the Lord bless you in our Messiah, Yeshua, that is Jesus, as you walk with Him.