

# THRU BIBLE

## 1 Samuel 27–29 | “Saul and the Witch of Endor”

### I. DAVID IN GATH. (27)

#### A. (v. 1)

#### 1. “*And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul:...*”

- a. There seems to be some time that has transpired at this point between **1 Samuel 26:25** and **27:1**.
- b. **NOTE:** This is a “Negative Confession”, but it didn’t happen!
  - 1) Some people are fearful of making a negative confession! In the Greek, it’s *bologna*, which means *baloney*! 😂
  - 2) The false doctrine of “Positive & Negative Confession” is a lame doctrine.
  - 3) Some people are just negative, but that does not mean every negative thing will happen to them because they confess it.
- c. Obviously David did not believe that Saul had repented, and for good reason! Saul has relented in the past only to flip out again and try to kill David.
  - 1) He had been under pressure for some time now, and under the pressure, David begins to snap! He is discouraged, despairing, and fear has gripped his heart.
- d. **NOTE:** David’s declaration of despair showed that he had lost faith in the promise of God. God promised David that he would sit upon the throne, and it hadn’t happened yet.

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e. **KEY:** Never doubt in the dark what the Lord told you in the light!

2. ***“...there is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand.”***

a. This is a lapse of faith in David!

1) David was given direct revelation from God that he would sit on the throne. Thus, there was no danger of him dying no matter how dangerous of a situation he get into.

a) You, as a child of God, are indestructible until your time is up!

b) It is when we have lapses of faith that we try to take things into our own hands, and sometimes we just want to escape!

### B. (v. 4)

1. ***“And it was told Saul that David was fled to Gath: and he sought no more again for him.”***

a. David got the results that he wanted by getting Saul to stop chasing him, but he did it in fear by running away instead of just trusting God.

1) **NOTE:** To God, the ends do not justify the means.

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### C. (v. 5)

1. **“And David said unto Achish, If I have now found grace in thine eyes, let them give me a place in some town in the country, that I may dwell there: for why should thy servant dwell in the royal city with thee?”**

- a. What David says here is not his true motivation. His true motivation is:
  - 1) To be away from the watchful eye of the Philistines.
  - 2) To avoid assimilation with the Philistines.

### D. (v. 6)

1. **“Then Achish gave him Ziklag that day:...”**

- a. “Ziklag”
  - 1) Originally, this was a town assigned to the Tribe of Judah ([Josh. 15:31](#)), and was among the towns of Judah that were given to the Tribe of Simeon ([Josh. 19:5](#); [1 Chron. 4:30](#)). Evidently, neither Judah nor Simeon took it and it was retained by the Philistines.
  - 2) It is located in the SE corner of Gath’s territory and good distance away from Gath itself.
    - a) For Gath, this would protect the SE corner, but for David, it was far enough away from the Philistine center so that he could carry on his own agenda without being discovered.

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2. ***“...wherefore Ziklag pertaineth unto the kings of Judah unto this day.”***

- a. **NOTE:** It refers here to the kings of Judah, not just the kings of Israel, thus the author of the books of Samuel wrote them after the Kingdom was divided.

### E. (v. 8)

1. ***“And David and his men went up, and invaded the Geshurites, and the Gezrites, and the Amalekites: for those nations were of old the inhabitants of the land, as thou goest to Shur, even unto the land of Egypt.”***

- a. These nations were under the judgment of God, and David was just continuing the work that God had commanded ([Exod. 17:14](#); [Josh. 13:13](#); [1 Sam. 15:2-3](#))

### F. (v. 10)

1. ***“And Achish said, Whither have ye made a road to day? And David said, Against the south of Judah, and against the south of the Jerahmeelites, and against the south of the Kenites.”***

- a. David tells a lie here, which some scholars condone by saying that deception is okay when it comes to war.
- 1) **NOTE:** The thing about lying is that you have to lie to cover it up! And it is difficult to keep track of the lies that you tell.

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2) **KEY:** If you’re too dumb to keep track of it all, like me, then it’s better just to tell the truth so that you don’t have to worry about it!

b. “*Jerahmeelites*”

1) Jerahmeel was the firstborn of Hezron ([1 Chron. 2:9, 25-26](#)). He was one of the 3 large Judean clans of Hezron.

## II. SAUL AND THE WITCH OF ENDOR. (28)

### A. (v. 3)

1. **“Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land.”**

a. **NOTE:** This section of verses 3-25 is NOT in chronological order.

1) The narrative resumes in [1 Samuel 29:1](#) where [1 Samuel 28:2](#) leaves off.

2) This event belongs just before 1 Samuel 31 because the visit to the witch was on the night before the battle ([v. 19](#)).

3) In [1 Samuel 28:4](#), the Philistines are already in Shunem in the Galilee facing Mount Gilboa, but in [1 Samuel 29:1](#), the Philistines are still in Aphek, in the plain of Sharon not yet having arrived into the Galilee, and not yet having arrived in the Valley of Jezreel.

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- 4) In **1 Samuel 29:1**, while the Philistines are still in Aphek, the Israelites have arrived at the city of Jezreel.
- 5) In **1 Samuel 28:4**, when the Philistines came to Shunem, which would take them by way of Jezreel, the Israelites by that time had retreated to Mt. Gilboa.

### B. (v. 4)

1. ***“And the Philistines gathered themselves together, and came and pitched in Shunem: and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they pitched in Gilboa.”***

a. “Shunem”

- 1) Located<sup>1</sup> near the Jezreel Valley, a few miles north of Mount Gilboa.
- 2) **NOTE:** This shows that the Philistines had penetrated the largest valley in northern Israel, the Jezreel Valley, right in the middle of the Land.

b. “Gilboa”

- 1) Mount Gilboa is a mountain range overlooking the Jezreel Valley located<sup>2</sup> in northern Israel.
- 2) Saul moved from Jezreel in the plain to Mt. Gilboa.

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<sup>1</sup> DMS 32° 36' 20.28" N, 35° 20' 3.5" E    Decimal 32.605633, 35.334306

<sup>2</sup> DMS 32° 26' 2" N, 35° 24' 52" E    Decimal 32.433889, 35.414444

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- a) The plain would give the Philistines the advantage because of their chariots, so Saul moving his troops to Mt. Gilboa will make the chariots of the Philistines a lot less useful.

### C. (v. 6)

#### 1. **“And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.”**

##### a. *“the LORD answered him not”*

- 1) There are times that the Lord does not directly speak to us about a certain circumstance, and it’s because He wants us to rely on Him by faith. However, in Saul’s case, it is because of his rebellion against the Word of God.

##### b. *“neither by dreams”*

- 1) God can speak through *dreams* (Joel 2:28).

##### c. *“nor by Urim”*

- 1) Saul had the 85 priests killed at Nob, and Abiathar was the only one to escape and he is with David at this time with the ephod (23:6).

##### d. *“nor by prophets”*

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- 1) Samuel is dead already (25:1; 28:3).
- 2) The prophet Gad is with David (22:5).
- 3) Maybe there were some prophets left at the school of the prophets in Ramah, but had nothing for Saul from the LORD.

### D. (v. 7)

1. **“Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her...”**
  - a. *“a woman that hath a familiar spirit”* - Heb. lit. *“a woman who is a mistress of necromancy”*
    - 1) She would be one who consults the dead to determine the future.
      - a) This would be a woman who has a divining demon, a demon that impersonates the dead.
  - b. Saul is in direct violation of the Law of Moses (Lev. 19:31; 20:6; Deut. 18:9-14).
    - 1) **NOTE:** It is so sad to me that people will go to a medium or psychic and take so seriously what they say, yet they won’t go to God and take His Word seriously.
2. **“...And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.”**
  - a. *“there is a woman”*



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1) I find it interesting that Saul’s men knew about this witch, especially considering the distance between Gibeah and Endor.

b. “Endor” - Heb. “*Spring of Dwelling*”

1) This is not the Forrest Moon in Star Wars where the Ewoks lived in Return of the Jedi.

2) This is a town located in Manasseh between the Hill of Moreh and Mount Tabor.

### E. (v. 8)

1. **“And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee.”**

a. “Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment”

1) Saul was “*from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.*” (9:2)

2) **Q** = How does a 7-foot tall guy *disguise himself* with a hoodie, and nobody knows who it is? And how does he get passed the paparazzi?...

b. “*and they came to the woman by night*”

1) This was a very dangerous, 10-mile journey from Gilboa to Endor because he would have travelled very close to the Philistine camp.

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- 2) **NOTE:** It is tragic that the darkness of the *night* matched the darkness of Saul’s soul at this time.

### F. (v. 9)

1. **“And the woman said unto him, Behold, thou knowest what Saul hath done,...”**
  - a. *“thou knowest what Saul hath done”*
    - 1) If this woman cannot recognize Saul, who is 7 foot tall, how is she going to recognize Samuel when he comes up?!

### G. (v. 10)

1. **“And Saul sware to her by the LORD, saying, As the LORD liveth, there shall no punishment happen to thee for this thing.”**
  - a. Saul is all mixed up! The same LORD that forbid witchcraft and necromancy is the same LORD that Saul is now saying will not hurt her for her witchcraft and necromancy!

### H. (v. 14)

1. **“And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he is covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself.”**
  - a. *“An old man cometh up”*

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- 1) Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum said, “Before the glorification, the spirit of the deceased looks the age at which he died. The resurrection body won’t be that way, but before the glorification of the spirit, the deceased look like the age at which he died.”
- b. *“he is covered with a mantle”*
  - 1) This was what Samuel wore his whole life since childhood (2:19), and Saul had previously ripped his mantle (15:27).
2. **Q** = Is this really Samuel? Was this something that God allowed? Is this just a demon?...
  - a. **There are 3 DIFFERENT VIEWS about these events that try to EXPLAIN AWAY what happened:**
    - 1) **This was purely psychological and was only in the mind of Saul, but it didn’t really happen.**
      - a) However, it was not Saul who saw Samuel, but the witch saw Samuel.
      - b) Also, Saul actually talked with Samuel (v. 15), therefore, it doesn’t make sense for it to be merely psychological.
    - 2) **The woman practiced fraud and tricked Saul into believing.**

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- a) However, she herself was surprised (v. 12). Also, the news was bad, and giving Saul bad news would endanger her life if she was only pretending.

### 3) This was a demon impersonating the dead.

- a) The LXX uses the Greek word that means “ventriloquist.”
- b) The problem with this view is that a demon can impersonate the dead, but a demon cannot bring the dead back.
  - i. Some have gone to a channeler and the supposed dead relative starts talking about things that only the relative and the person could know, but really it’s a demon and these people are being deceived into believing that they are actually contacting the spirits of their dead relatives.
- c) Also, the message that is spoken could not have come from a demon.

### b. However, if we take the Text literally, at face value, then it was the *real* Samuel that came up.

- 1) The witch was surprised at what she saw, showing that what happened was not normal or expected (v. 12).
  - a) **NOTE:** The witch did not bring Samuel up, but God allowed Samuel to step onto the scene!

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- 2) The message to Saul came from God (v. 16-19), and the prophecy was fulfilled the next day (v. 19).
  - a) Throughout the O.T., the Lord says that what distinguishes Him from other gods is that He can predict the future and His prophecies are fulfilled! (Isaiah 41:21-24; 44:6-8)
- 3) It was Saul who identified the figure as being Samuel and Saul knew Samuel well.
  - a) **NOTE:** Saul did not see Samuel, but he heard Samuel (v. 13-14).
- 4) Samuel speaks directly to Saul and not through the medium (v. 15-16, 20).
- 5) The Text states that it was indeed Samuel (v. 12, 15-16, 20).

### I. (v. 24)

1. ***“And the woman had a fat calf in the house; and she hasted, and killed it, and took flour, and kneaded it, and did bake unleavened bread thereof:”***

a. *“the woman had a fat calf in the house”*

1) **Q** = Who puts a fat calf in their house?...

- a) I don't have a fat calf in my house, but I have a fat dog! Daisy is a pug-bulldog mix that is beautifully ugly.



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## III. THE REJECTION OF DAVID BY THE PHILISTINES. (29)

### A. (v. 1)

1. ***“Now the Philistines gathered together all their armies to Aphek:...”***

a. This statement shows that **1 Samuel 29**, chronologically speaking, precedes **1 Samuel 28:4**.

1) The previous section (**28:4-25**) gives the reason for Saul’s fall and this section continues where **1 Samuel 28:2** left off.