

**A Study of I Samuel**  
*The Desiring for a King*  
**The Final Days of Saul**  
**Chapter 28**

**David and Achish (1-2):** David's response to the king of Gath, Achish is ambiguous, saying basically do as you see fit for you know what I can do.

**Introduction:**

**The Saul and the Witch of Endor:** God has always condemned any form of communication with the dead.

**There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. (Deuteronomy 18:10-12)**

1. Pass through the fire: The sacrifice of children through the fires of Moloch and such like; involved in satanic practices of any kind.
2. Divination: A soothsayer, one who by supposed divine means foretells the future.
3. Observer of Times: Fortune-teller, that foretells the events of men's lives by the alinement of the stars.
4. Enchanter: One who places others under a spell (Charmer)
5. Witch: A female who performs: divination, enchantments, necromancy etc...
6. Charmer: One that charms serpents or other cattle or uses the power of a "charm" to enchant another.

7. Consulter with Familiar Spirits: One who by various means communicates with his or her familiar spirit a demonic entity that comes at his or hers beckoning. (Smurfs: Azrael the angel of Death)

8. Wizard: A male who performs: divination, enchantments, necromancy etc...

9. Necromancer: One who communicates with the dead.

### **More Scriptures Condemning Satanic Practices:**

Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God. (Leviticus 19:31)

And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people. (Leviticus 20:6)

And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. (2 Kings 21:6) (Manasseh)

*Also: Isaiah 8:19-22*

**The Dispute Regarding Samuel:** It is often disputed whether it was really Samuel that the witch conjured up. However, it is my view point that Samuel did come up before Saul, not by the conjuring of a witch but by the overruling of God. Consider the following:

1. The witch did not know it was Saul who was inquiring of her (vss. 8-10) and as such she would operate upon the usual deceivableness of a familiar.
2. The witch was startled to see it was Samuel who appeared unto her, she knew it was Saul who was requesting the raising of Samuel (vss. 12-14).
3. Saul understood that it was Samuel by his notable mantle (*the one Saul ripped*) that the witch describes (vs. 14). Thus, it seems that Saul did not see Samuel only heard his voice.

4. The scriptures clearly show that it was Samuel communicating the words of the LORD concerning Saul's coming doom (vs. 19)

### **The Saul and the Witch of Endor (3-25)**

*The Fear of Saul (3-6):* The bible says, the fear of man bringeth a snare (Prov. 29:25), and such is the case with Saul. Fear can cause us to do desperate things. Saul feared and greatly trembled at the host of the Philistines (5). However, when Saul received no answer from the LORD regarding the battle, he became fearful and very desperate (vss. 6-7). Saul having previously put away all those that had familiar spirits and the wizards from the land (3) in desperation does the unthinkable.

*So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to inquire of it; (1 Chronicles 10:13)*

*The Desperation of Saul (7-14):* Saul seeking to commune with the dead seeks a woman that has a familiar; one that has a demonic entity that does her bidding (7). Saul's men know of a woman that is in the land of Endor.

Saul disguises himself, by taking off his kingly attire, takes two men with him and goes to the woman by night (8 cf. 25). Saul asks for the woman to "divine unto him by the familiar spirit and bring him up whom I shall name unto thee" (8).

The woman not knowing who Saul was is fearful that he would turn her over to authorities and they would kill her (9). However, Saul assured her that he would not and makes an oath to God, so she agrees and Saul requests Samuel to be brought up (10-11).

The woman expecting to only contact her familiar sees Samuel come up and thereby she knew this was Saul and now she is very fearful, thinking Saul has sought to deceive her to take her life she screams (12). However, Saul assures her again and asks her what she saw? The woman said she saw gods ascending out of the earth. Saul inquiring deeper asks "What form is he of?" to which she references he is an old man covered in a mantle (14). Saul understood by Samuel's distinctive "mantle" that it was Samuel himself. So, Saul bows himself to the ground (14).

*The Message from Samuel (15-20):* Samuel's words to Saul are, "Why hast thou disquieted me to being me up?" (15). Saul rehearses in his ears how the LORD is not speaking to him for He is departed from him (15).

Samuel at first simply rehearses the words that he spoke while he was yet alive (16-18), but then Samuel goes on to add that all the host of Israel will be delivered into the hand of the Philistines and Saul and his sons will be with Samuel tomorrow (19).

The news is greater than Saul can bear. In his fear, fatigue, and his emotional exhaustion he collapses to the earth (20).

*The Recovery of Saul (21-25):* Saul is beckoned by the woman and his men to take nourishment which after a time he concedes. Once Saul has regained his strength, he leaves in the same night he came (25).

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**David and His Men Refused in Battle (1-11):** This battle covers the final chapters of I Samuel. Saul goes into the battle knowing its outcome.

This chapter would be difficult to interpret if it were not for the fact that we know David would never go to war against his own people, Israel. God in His mercy used these events to prevent David from being in an uncompromising position.

The Philistines gathered to battle against Saul and the Israelites (28:1-2 cf. 29:1-2). David and his men having earned the respect of the king of Gath are requested by Achish, the king of Gath to be his guard in battle taking up the rear (29:2).

However, when the princes (*military commanders*) saw the king with David and his 600 bringing up the rear they protested, “what do these Hebrew here”? King Achish basically says they are with me; however, this is not good enough for the princes considering the seriousness of the battle. The princes were wroth at the king and protested that David will turn in battle and be our adversary, after all is not this the same David whom they sang, “Saul slew his thousands and David his ten thousands?” (3-5).

King Achish realizing he cannot prevail against the argument by the princes asks David to return from going to battle (6-7). David’s protest is feigned. David at the decision of the king to have him and his men return from the fight acts hurt by the decision, but lets it stand (8-10).

David therefore departs to his town Ziklag while Achish and the armies of the Philistines head to Jezreel (11).

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**David Avenges the Amalekites concerning Ziklag (1-21):** It came to pass that as David was returning from king Achish that the Amalekites had invaded Ziklag, Davids place of residents at the time. The Philistines had taken captive all the women and children and burnt the city with fire (1-2).

David and his 600 upon entering Ziklag weep until there were no more power to weep (3-5). The people were so distraught that they even talked of stoning David (6). But David encouraged himself in the LORD (6).

David consulted with God if he should go out in battle against the Amalekites, to which the LORD replied, "Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them and without fail recover all" (8).

David and his 600 went after the Amalekites to the brook Besor about 16 miles. David leaves behind 200 men that were too exhausted to continue as he and his 400 men carried on (9-10).

As David and his men carried on, they found an Egyptian slave of the armies of the Amalekites who had been left for dead and after tending to him asked of him where the Amalekites were. The Egyptian after securing his own safety tells them all (11-15).

David descends upon the Amalekites killing them from twilight until the evening of the next day. There was not a man of the Philistines escaped from them but 400 men on camels (16-17).

David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away, so that there was nothing lacking to them neither small nor great, David also collected the loot from the enemy (18-20).

**Sticking by the Stuff (21-31):** David was a man of integrity. David, his men and all the people and substance they had recovered return to Besor unto the 200 that were to faint to peruse in the battle. Upon meeting them some of David's 400 men, men of "belial"

proposed that those that did not go forth into the battle should not be partakers of the spoils, but only have back their families and then they should depart (22).

David's response is, "Then said David, Ye shall not do so, my brethren, with that which the LORD hath given us, who hath preserved us, and delivered the company that came against us into our hand. For who will hearken unto you in this matter? but as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike." (23-24).

David settles this issue from this day forth, for David made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel (25).

David sends out gifts to all the places he had hid himself while fleeing from Saul (26-31). This would be paving the way for the time in which David would be King over a united land.

David remains at Ziklag for news from the battle between Israel and the Philistines. David does wait long, for news came in just three days (2 Sam. 1:1-2). Once David receives the news of the death of Saul, David sought the LORD's guidance and the LORD sent him to Hebron (2 Sam. 2:1-4). David reigned over Judah for seven and a half years, Hebron was his capital city (vs. 11).

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**The Death of Saul (1-13):** Saul's army was no match for the Philistines with its large army and chariots. Israel tried to lure the Philistines to the hill country where their chariots would be useless, however this fails miserably. Israel was outclassed and outnumbered however even with this if God had been with them, they would have won in battle. Some of the men deserted while others fell on the battlefield (2).

The Philistines following hard after Saul and his sons, eventually slaying Jonathan, Abinadab and Malchishua Saul's sons (2). Saul, wounded by an arrow asks his armourbearer to take his life but would not, so Saul falls upon his own sword as does his armourbearer (3-6). The Philistines move into the vacated cities of Israel and on the next day they begin stripping the dead of their belongings only to find Saul and his three sons (7-8). The Philistines cut off the head of Saul and stripped him of his armor and paraded them around the cities, after which they placed the armor in the temple of their god Ashtaroath and the head of Saul in the temple of Dagon (9-10 cf. I Chron. 10:9). The bodies of Saul and his three sons the Philistines fastened to the wall at Bethshan (9-10).

A final act of loving devotion is shown by the people of Jabeshgilead (11-13). Saul's first great victory had been the delivering of Jabesh Gilead from the Ammonites (I Sam. 11:1-15). This deliverance the people did not forget, so once they heard of the humiliation of the mutilated bodies of Saul and his sons, they sent out valiant men and went all night and took down the bodies of Saul and his sons and brought them to Jabesh and burnt them with fire and took the bones and buried them under a tree at Jabesh (12-13). Saul was not a spiritual man, but they respected the office.

Later David will exhume the bones of Saul and his sons and give them a proper burial in their family's tomb in Benjamin (2 Sam. 21:13-14).