

I. The Hollow, Dark Season In Israel (3-6)

A. The godly man had died (3) - “Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in Ramah, his own city.”

B. The enemy was approaching (4) - “The Philistines assembled and came and encamped at Shunem. And Saul gathered all Israel, and they encamped at Gilboa.”

C. The king was floundering (5-6) - “When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly. 6 And when Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord did not answer him, either by dreams, or by Urim, or by prophets.”

II. The Carnal, Evil Heart In Saul (7-11)

A. Godless disobedience now directed Saul (7) - “Then Saul said to his servants, “Seek out for me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her.” And his servants said to him, “Behold, there is a medium at Endor.”

B. Hypocritical deception now defined Saul (8-10) - “So Saul disguised himself and put on other garments and went, he and two men with him. And they came to the woman by night. 8b And he said, “Divine for me by a spirit and bring up for me whomever I shall name to you.” 9 The woman said to him, “Surely you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the necromancers from the land. Why then are you laying a trap for my life to bring about my death?” 10 But Saul swore to her by the Lord, “As the Lord lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing.”

C. Proud defiance now dominated Saul (11-14a) - “Then the woman said, “Whom shall I bring up for you?” He said, “Bring up Samuel for me.” 12 When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman said to Saul, “Why have you deceived me? You are Saul.” 13 The king said to her, “Do not be afraid. What do you see?” And the woman said to Saul, “I see a god coming up out of the earth.” 14a He said to her, “What is his appearance?” And she said, “An old man is coming up, and he is wrapped in a robe.”

III. The Unwavering, Blazing Spirit of Samuel (14b-20)

A. Samuel’s fearsome presence (14b - 15a) - “And Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground and paid homage. 15 Then Samuel said to Saul, Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?...”

B. Saul’s faithless desperation (15b) - “Saul answered, I am in great distress, for the Philistines are warring against me, and God has turned away from me and answers me no more, either by prophets or by dreams. Therefore I have summoned you to tell me what I shall do.”

C. Samuel’s final word (16-19) - “And Samuel said, “Why then do you ask me, since the Lord has turned from you and become your enemy? 17 The Lord has done to you as he spoke by me, for the Lord has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David. 18 Because you did not obey the voice of the Lord and did not carry out his fierce wrath against Amalek, therefore the Lord has done this thing to you this day. 19 Moreover, the Lord will give Israel also with you into the hand of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons shall be with me. The Lord will give the army of Israel also into the hand of the Philistines.” **Defeat, dethroning, death & defamation - Samuel’s postmortem message**

D. Samuel’s fiery stroke (20) - “Then Saul fell at once full length on the ground, filled with fear because of the words of Samuel. And there was no strength in him, for he had eaten nothing all day and all night.”