

1 SAMUEL CHAPTER 28

DAVID AND ACHISH

VS 1. LET'S LOOK AT THE PHRASE, "IN THOSE DAYS". WHAT DAYS? WE ARE GOING TO SEE THAT DAVID IS STILL A DECEIVER, AND FAITH IS LIVING WITHOUT SCHEMING. WE ARE GOING TO SEE DAVID DECEIVE ACHISH (KING OF THE PHILISTINE CITY OF GATH) CONCERNING THREE MATTERS: A REQUEST FOR A CITY, THE RAIDS HIS MEN CONDUCTED AND THE DESIRE TO FIGHT THE KING'S BATTLE.

VS 1 WHAT TWO THINGS ARE THE PHILISTINES PREPARING TO DO? WHAT DOES ACHISH WANT DAVID TO DO FOR HIM? THE KINDNESS SHOWN TO DAVID AND HIS MEN BY ACHISH IN GATH WAS NOT WITHOUT EXPECTATION OF RECIPROCATION. WHAT DO YOU THINK DAVID THOUGHT ABOUT FIGHTING ISRAEL?

UNDOUBTEDLY THE NEWS HAD REACHED THE PHILISTINES THAT SAUL WAS TRYING TO KILL DAVID AND SO ANY ENEMY OF SAUL WOULD BE WARMLY WELCOMED IN GATH, ACHISH WOULD MAKE USE OF DAVID'S TACTICAL SKILL AND THE BATTLE-HONED SKILLS OF HIS COURAGEOUS MEN. BUT DAVID BROUGHT WITH HIM BETWEEN 2,000 AND 3,000 PEOPLE (30:1-3) AND THAT WAS QUITE A CROWD TO JUST DROP INTO GATH. (ACTUALLY, DAVID DID NOT WANT TO STAY IN GATH BECAUSE THE KING AND HIS OFFICERS COULD INVESTIGATE WHAT DAVID WAS DOING.)

VS 2 WHAT DOES DAVID TELL ACHISH? BEING A MAN OF HONOR, DAVID WOULD NOT FAIL TO HELP THOSE WHO HAD SHOWN HIM KINDNESS. DAVID WAS DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT HE HAD PROVEN HIMSELF AS A VALIANT AND SUCCESSFUL WARRIOR AND WAS ASSURING ACHISH OF HIS FIDELITY AND ABILITY.

VS 2 HOW DOES ACHISH RESPOND? IN LIGHT OF DAVID'S VICTORY OVER GOLIATH (17:49-54) AND IMAGINED BAD REPUTATION AMONG THE ISRAELITES, ACHISH WAS EXPRESSING CONSIDERABLE TRUST IN DAVID'S LOYALTY AND ABILITY, BECAUSE "BODYGUARD" OR "CHIEF GUARDIAN " LITERALLY MEANS "KEEPER OF MY HEAD".

SAMUEL AND SAUL

VS 3 LOOK AT DEUTERONOMY 18:9-14. "When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, you shall not learn to imitate the detestable things of those nations. . . There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, . . . or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. . . For whoever does these things is detestable to the LORD; and because of these detestable things the LORD your God will drive them out before you. . . You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. . . For those nations, which you shall dispossess, listen to those who practice witchcraft and to diviners, but as for you, the LORD your God has not allowed you *to do so*.

"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him. . . This is according to all that you asked of the LORD your God in Horeb on the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the

THE FACT THAT SOME OF HIS SERVANTS KNEW WHERE THE SPIRIT MEDIUM LIVED SUGGESTS THAT SAUL'S CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN WASN'T TOO THOROUGH AND THAT NOT ALL HIS OFFICERS AGREED WITH HIM. EN-DOR SET IN PHILISTINE-HELD TERRITORY AND SAUL RISKED HIS LIFE TO SEEK OUT THE COUNSEL OF A MEDIUM. THUS HE WENT ON A TEN MILE JOURNEY, IN DISGUISE BY NIGHT. HE BROKE THE VERY LAW HE ATTEMPTED TO ENFORCE. WHAT DOES HE ASK OF THE WOMAN?

VS 9 HOW DOES THE WOMAN RESPOND? THE WOMAN WAS NO FOOL. SHE WANTED TO BE SURE THIS WASN'T A TRAP FOR SPIRITISM WAS A CAPITAL CRIME IN ISRAEL. SAUL NOT ONLY VIOLATED THE LAW HIMSELF, BUT HE ALSO ENCOURAGED HER TO VIOLATE IT TOO!

VS 10 HOW DOES SAUL REASSURE THE WOMAN? THOUGH BLATANTLY WALKING IN DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD, IT IS IRONIC THAT SAUL WOULD SWEAR BY THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE LORD AS A MEANS OF ASSURING HIS CREDIBILITY TO THE MEDIUM. EVEN MORE SAUL SWORE THAT NO PUNISHMENT WOULD COME UPON HER WHEN THE LEVITICAL LAW REQUIRED HER TO BE STONED TO DEATH (LEV 20:27). HERE WE SEE SAUL HAD NO REGARD FOR THE LORD OR THE LAW. WHAT WOULD IT HAVE TAKEN AT THIS POINT TO RESTORE HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD?

VS 11 WHO DOES SAUL ASK FOR? WHY DO YOU THINK HE WOULD WANT TO SPEAK TO SAMUEL? REMEMBER THIS WAS THE MAN SAUL DIDN'T WANT TO CONTACT WHEN THE PROPHET WAS ALIVE.

VS 12 WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT "THE WOMAN"? THOUGH QUESTIONS HAVE ARISEN AS TO THE NATURE OF SAMUEL'S APPEARANCE, THE TEXT CLEARLY INDICATES THAT SAMUEL, NOT AN APPARITION, WAS EVIDENT TO THE EYES OF THE MEDIUM. BECAUSE SHE UNDERSTOOD HER INABILITY TO RAISE THE DEAD IN THIS MANNER, SHE IMMEDIATELY KNEW 1. THAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN BY THE POWER OF GOD AND 2. THAT HER DISGUISED INQUIRER MUST BE SAUL.

VS 13 WHAT DOES THE WOMAN TELL SAUL SHE IS SEEING? FROM HER PERSPECTIVE, SAMUEL APPEARED TO BE "LIKE A SPIRIT" ASCENDING OUT OF THE EARTH. THERE IS NO OTHER SUCH MIRACLE AS THIS IN ALL OF SCRIPTURE. TAKING THE PLAIN MEANING OF THE TEXT, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT SAMUEL DID APPEAR TO THE WOMAN, BUT SHE WAS SHOCKED WHEN IT DID HAPPEN. HER SURPRISED LOUD CRY WAS EVIDENCE THAT SAMUEL'S SUDDEN APPEARING WAS SOMETHING SHE DIDN'T EXPECT TO HAPPEN.

VS 14 WHAT DOES SAUL WANT TO KNOW? HOW DOES SHE ANSWER? GOD MIRACULOUSLY GAVE SUCH APPEARANCE SO SAUL WAS ABLE TO PERCEIVE THAT THE SPIRIT WAS SAMUEL.

VS 15 WHAT DOES SAMUEL WANT TO KNOW? HOW DOES SAUL ANSWER? NOTICE IN THIS VERSE THE "I" AND "ME". WHAT DOES THIS SHOW US ABOUT SAUL'S CHARACTER? WHAT DID THE LORD TELL ISRAEL ABOUT SUCH THINGS BEFORE THEY ENTERED THE LAND? LOOK AT DEUTERONOMY 18:10-11 "There shall not be found among you