

Trinity Bible Church  
Sunday School--November 4, 2012

I Samuel 28--31  
*The Death of Saul*

David and the Philistines 27:1--28:2

Saul sought a medium Chapter 28

David forbidden to fight alongside  
the Philistines Chapter 29

David fights the Amalekites Chap. 30

Saul's death, and the death of  
Saul's sons Chapter 31

## I Samuel 28

:1-2 David commissioned by Achish

:3 The Background

:4 The Philistine Threat

:5 Saul's fear

:6 The LORD's refusal

:7 Saul's sinful solution

:8-25 Saul's plan carried out

# I and II Samuel Outline

I. The Kingship of God      I Samuel 1 to 7

II. The Kingship of Saul      I Samuel 8 to  
31

III. The Kingship of David    II Samuel 1 to  
I Kings 2:11

# Mediums and Spiritists, Witches and Familiar Spirits

Exodus 22:18

Leviticus 19:31

Leviticus 20:6

Leviticus 20:27

Deuteronomy 18:9-14

I Samuel 28:3, 9

Did Samuel actually appear to and speak with Saul?  
(*different views on the matter*)

1. Samuel's appearance was *psychological*, in Saul's mind.

BUT: --the woman also saw Samuel

--Saul actually talked with Samuel

2. A *demon impersonated Samuel* & appeared to Saul.

Incredible, in light of 28:16-19.

3. The medium was a *fraud*, and *tricked* Saul into thinking he saw Samuel.

BUT: note verse 12; SHE was surprised!

4. Samuel himself actually appeared and spoke with Saul.

1) The medium was surprised.

2) Saul recognized Samuel, and bowed to him.

3) The message Samuel spoke was clearly from the Lord.

4) The text is clear that this was Samuel. (:12, 15, 16)

5) Another appearance of men from the dead took place at Christ's transfiguration (Moses, Elijah).

# I Samuel 29--David and the Philistines

:1-2 Preparation for Battle

:3-5 Objections to David's joining with  
the Philistine army in battle

:6-11 Achish dismisses David

## I Samuel 30--David and the Amalekites

:1-3 David's return to Ziklag

:4-6a Sorrow and mutiny

:6b-8 "A man after God's own heart"

:9-15 Pursuing the Amalekites

:16-20 Conquering the Amalekites

:21-25 A new statute in Israel

:26-31 David's political prowess

## I Samuel 31--the Death of Saul and his Sons

:1-6 Saul and his sons die in battle

:7-10 Despicable desecration of Saul's body

:11-13 Valiant men of Jabesh Gilead rescue the  
bodies of Saul and his sons



Samuel's Message of Judgment to Saul  
I Samuel 28:16-19

--Yahweh has departed from you!

--Yahweh has become your enemy!

--Yahweh has torn the kingdom out of your hand!

Why has the LORD done all this?

Because Saul did not obey the voice of the LORD.

--Yahweh will give you and Israel in defeat to  
the Philistines!

--Tomorrow you and your sons will "be with me!"

## King Saul was a BIG Loser!

By thrusting himself into the priesthood, offering sacrifices which he was forbidden to offer,

Saul LOST the Royal Dynasty! I Sam. 13:13-14

For failing to obey the LORD in fully destroying the sinful Amalekites,

Saul LOST his Kingship! I Samuel 15:22-23  
28:18

For persistent self-will and disobedience to the revealed will of Almighty God,

Saul LOST his life! I Samuel 28:19  
31:1-6

## Some thoughts from a disobedient life:

X “Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice . . .” I Samuel 15:22

Saul thought he could revise God’s instructions to him, and still be pleasing to the Lord. He thought he had a better plan than God. His actions blatantly affronted God’s authority over his life.

Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

X “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft . . .” I Samuel 15:23

Saul’s life of rebellion year after year finally led to his actually seeking help from a witch (medium, necromancer) at the end of his life.

Sin is deadly. Sin in one form leads to sin in other forms, always in a downward progression. Sin on one level leads to more serious sin.

X “And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by the prophets.”

I Sam. 28:6

He sought her advice because he could not get an answer from the LORD. The psalmist said, “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.” (Psalm 66:18)

(Discuss *longsuffering* and the *wrath of abandonment*.)