

# 1 Samuel 28

## *Saul Seeks a Witch*

### 1. 28:1-6 – Introducing Saul’s Downfall

- a. 1 - David fought for Achish, now commanded to fight against Israel.
  - i. The LORD uses Israel’s enemies as punishment when they reject his will.
- b. 2 - *“keeper of mine head forever”* (27:12) LORD has other forever plans (2 Sam 7:13-16)
- c. 3 - Samuel was dead (25:1), the clearest fact in the events that follow.
  - i. Witch/wizard - To know/gain wisdom/access power thru spirits (not God)
  - ii. God forbids this - Exo 22:18, Lev 19:26,31, 20:6,27; Jer 27:9-10, Gal 5:20
- d. 4-5 - Fear not faith is in Saul’s heart – Fear acts foolishly, rashly, blaming others.
- e. 6 *“LORD answered him not”* which require patience, faith, judgment (all Saul lacked)
  - i. Dreams through him as king, Urim through priest’s ephod, nor prophets.

### 2. 7-10 – Saul’s Sins at Endor

- a. Saul has shown rebellion, stubbornness, iniquity - 1Sam 15:22-23, 35 (19:23-24)
  - i. Saul sins in every verse with the same old sins now become ripe.
- b. 7 - *“Seek me... a familiar spirit... and inquire of her”* Sin #1 – Disregarding God.
  - i. 1 Chr 10:13-14 explains this as why he was slain – consulting spirits not God.
- c. 8 - *“disguised himself... divine unto me”* Sin #2 –Deception and divination. De 18:9-14
  - i. His disguise intended to deceive the woman to get her to do this wrong.
- d. 9 - *“layest thou a snare for my life”* Sin #3 - Hypocrisy. Saul doing what he killed for.
- e. 10 - *“sware to her by the LORD”* Sin #4 - Blasphemy. Contradicting God. Sin ≠ sin.

### 3. 11-14 – Bringing Samuel Up

- a. 11 - *“Bring me up Samuel”* - Necromancy is divination from the dead.
  - i. Why? Samuel and Saul had a relationship that Samuel eventually mourned.
- b. 12 - *“when the woman saw Samuel, she cried”* - She knew it was Saul by seeing Samuel.
- c. 13 - *“I saw gods ascending”* - Divination does not necessarily include visions (Jn 10:35)
- d. 14 - *“Saul perceived that it was Samuel”* - Saul did not see, but the text says ‘it was’
  - i. The last time the mantle was mentioned, Saul rent it - 1 Sam 15:27-28
- e. The big question argued: is this truly Samuel or a devil in disguise (like Saul)?

### 4. 15-20 – Samuel Speaks

- a. 15 - *“Samuel said to Saul”* -Who is speaking? The text says Samuel, unless it doesn’t.
  - i. *“Why has thou disquieted me”* - Samuel’s rebuke for Saul disturbing the dead.
  - ii. *“I am sore distressed...”* - Not a good start. His answer is entirely selfish/sinful
- b. 16 - *“the LORD ... is become thine enemy”* - Samuel mentions “the LORD” 7x.
- c. 17-18 - *“The Lord hath done ... as he spake by me”* - Confirms the prophecies of ch 13-15.
- d. 18 - Samuel tells Saul why the LORD does what he does - Saul’s disobedience.
- e. 19 - The prophecy: Saul & sons die tomorrow, Israel & host into Philistine hands.
- f. 1 Sam 27 is the preface to this testimony with David among the Philistines.
  - i. The LORD uses Philistines to punish Saul and give the kingdom to David.
- g. 20 - The words of “the LORD” and his judgment caused him to fall in fear.

**5. 21-25 – Saul’s “Strength”**

- a. 21-22 – Saul faces trouble (like David did), but his a result of his sin (unlike David)
  - i. David in trouble: He ate holy bread, didn’t tempt God, mercy to Anointed, patient, did inquire of the LORD, a handmaid feeds him after a righteous act - promised to live to rise to the throne (ch.25), received by Gentiles (ch. 27)
- b. 23-25 – *“he hearkened unto their voice”* - The voice of a witch and wicked servants.
  - i. Saul in trouble: Ate bread in an unholy place, tempted God, mercy to wickedness, impatient, did not inquire of the LORD, a handmaid feeds him after an unrighteous act - promised to fall and die, attacked by Gentiles.
- c. *“The Spirit speaketh expressly...”* - 1 Tim 4:1-7 – Beware seducing spirits, devils.
- d. Fallen Israel will also turn to witches, diviners, other means when they reject God.
  - i. Ultimately, they turn to the antichrist, and the devil himself. Rev 13:11-17
  - ii. These sins will be irreversible, and God will destroy them – Rev 14:9-10
  - iii. Unclean spirits deceive kings of the earth to go to judgment - Rev 16:13-14
- e. Israel’s strength is the LORD, but fallen Israel gets their strength somewhere else.