

**I SAMUEL 26-28**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to I Samuel chapter 26 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

In our last study we saw David have the opportunity to kill Saul, but he spares Saul's life and when David confronts him on this issue, it almost seems like Saul is broken over what he is doing.

But, as we saw, Saul went home, and David went to the strongholds.

Why did David go to the strongholds, why did David keep hiding from King Saul? Why did David do that?

Because I believe he knew that Saul had not changed his ways. It was just an emotional response outwardly, but nothing had changed inwardly, he still wanted David dead.

Then the story shifted to a wealthy man who lived in Carmel and his name was Nabal, and like his name, he was a fool.

He refused to give David and his men some food. David felt that since they helped Nabal's men watch over his sheep, care for them, protect them, this should not have been a big problem.

But it was and Nabal refuses to give them any food!

And when David hears this, he wants to kill Nabal. I guess I should not say that David wanted to kill Nabal, he was going to kill him!

Thus, he gathers 400 of his men to go and do that very thing.

When Nabal's wife hears what is happening, she comes to David with food and humbles herself before him.

She tells David that if he goes through with this, when he kills her husband, it is going to affect his life.

She tells him that when he is King, he will have this baggage with him, it will never leave him.

And David saw the wisdom in what she said. He felt that God had brought her to warn him, and he left this situation in the hands of God.

When Abigail tells her husband what she has done, saving his life, he is so angry with her that he either has a heart attack or stroke, which causes him to go into a coma for ten days, and then he dies.

He let this anger kill him.

And once David hears of this, he praises the Lord and marries Abigail.

That is where we will pick up our study this evening, in I Samuel chapter 26, starting in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

## **I SAMUEL 26**

### **VERSES 1-4**

As you read this you might be thinking, ***“I thought Saul had repented of his sin against David and now he was his friend again, so why is he going after him?”***

We see this played out for us, Saul appearing to repent and get right with David just a few chapters back, in I Samuel 24:16-21, **“So it was, when David had finished speaking these words to Saul, that Saul said, ‘Is this your voice, my son David?’ And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. Then he said to David: ‘You are more righteous than I; for you have rewarded me with good, whereas I have rewarded you with evil. And you have shown this day how you have dealt well with me; for when the Lord delivered me into your hand, you did not kill me. For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him get away safely? Therefore may the Lord reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. And now I know indeed that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. Therefore swear now to me by the Lord that you will not cut off my descendants after me, and that you will not destroy my name from my father’s house.’”**

It sounded legitimate and yet, it was not. As I have said it was just an emotional response, probably because he got caught in his sin, but there was no change in his heart as is evident by his actions now. He wants to kill David again.

And these Ziphites are at it again.

Remember what we read back in I Samuel chapter 23, **“Then the Ziphites came up to Saul at Gibeah, saying, ‘Is David not hiding with us in strongholds in the woods, in the hill of Hachilah, which is on the south of Jeshimon? Now therefore, O king, come down according to all the desire of your soul to come down; and our part shall be to deliver him into the king’s hand.’”** I Samuel 23:19-23.

In other words, they told King Saul where David was at, and they are doing it again!

And once Saul finds out the general location, he gathers his 3,000 men to go after David and his 600 men.

But David is aware of what is going on, that Saul was in the area, and he sends out spies to watch what Saul is doing so they can stay a step ahead of Saul and his army!

David knows exactly where Saul is at, but Saul has no idea where David is at, just a general location but Saul has not spotted David yet!

And God was teaching David lessons of faith, and we see that his faith is growing. In Psalm 18:17 we are told, **“He delivered me from my strong enemy, From those who hated me, For they were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the Lord was my support. He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me.”**

The Lord kept David safe, He delivered David whenever Saul was close to capturing him.

Lord, help us to learn these lessons!

But here is the problem when we are learning these lessons.

This growth happens in the fire and that is where we have to trust in the Lord. David is still learning and so are we!

#### VERSES 5-8

It is late in the night and David sees Saul fast asleep, surrounded by his 3,000 men with Abner, the commander of his army close by, as he was to protect his King.

And David asks his men who will go with him inside the camp of Saul to confront Saul. And Abishai said that he would go.

Interestingly enough his mother's name was Zeruiah, and she was David's sister according to I Chronicles 2:13-16, which made Abishai David's nephew!

And as the army of Israel is asleep, they sneak into the camp and Abishai tells David that God has brought Saul into his hand and the spear that Saul used to try and kill David, Abishai wants to use it to kill Saul! He wants to pin him to the ground with it!

In fact, Abishai says he only needs one shot to kill Saul, ***“Let me at him! I will make mincemeat out of him!”*** is kind of what Abishai is saying!

Now let’s think about this for a minute. How in the world can the whole army of King Saul be asleep?

Some needed to remain awake to make sure no one would sneak into the camp and kill King Saul!

That is crazy and it does not sound right.

But it is when you know the rest of the story.

You see, there is an answer to this question and the answer is given to us in I Samuel 26:12 as we will see in a few minutes.

But I will let you in on the secret. The Lord put the camp of Israel, including Saul and Abner into a deep sleep.

Okay, not really a hint, but that is what happened and that is why they could enter the camp unnoticed!

### VERSES 9-12

Think about the situation that David was in. He could have let Abishai kill Saul, and his hands would have been clean, but he didn’t allow it.

David let Saul live a few chapters back, and now Saul is coming after David again and David could have said, ***“That is it! He is dead to me, and he is going to be dead period! Go get him Abishai!”***

But David did not see it that way. He knew that the Lord would deal with Saul and in the end; Saul would die because of his rebellion against the Lord.

In saying that, you can see that David understood that all that Saul did to him did not give him the right to kill Saul or let one of his men kill Saul, for he would be just as responsible.

It is as Poole wrote, ***“Though Saul be a cruel tyrant, and rejected by God, yet he is our sovereign lord and king; and I, though designed king, as yet am but a private person, and his subject; and therefore cannot kill him without sin, nor will I consent that you shouldst do it.”***

I think for us; it is hard to wait for the Lord to act and take revenge on the wrong that was done to us!

But I think that is the wrong attitude. We should not be waiting for the Lord to destroy someone, but to restore the person who wronged us. We should desire the Lord to save a life and not destroy one.

And yes, the wrongs that have been done to you may be severe but think about what our Lord endured for us. Think about what He said as he was nailed to that cross and what was taking place by those around Him. In all that pain and suffering, He was able to say, **“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”** Luke 23:34.

May we have that same compassion and love for people, to see them restored and not destroyed!

As we are told in Romans 12:19, **“Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord.”**

And as I have said, the reason that David and Abishai could enter the camp unnoticed was that the Lord put the army of Israel, including Saul, into a “**deep sleep.**”

It was not that they were lazy or did not want to protect their King. God was working and David must have recognized this because he took Saul’s spear and his jug of water as evidence that he could have killed Saul, but didn’t!

#### VERSES 13-16

I love what David does here, it is funny to me.

He is taunting Abner. He is basically saying to Abner, ***“Hey Abner! You are supposed to be guarding the King, you are his bodyguard, and what were you doing, sleeping! In fact, you were so sound asleep that anyone could have walked into the camp and killed the King! And by the way, is there something missing of the King’s? Could it be his spear and his jug of water? I think it is missing because I have it right here! Abner, you are worthy of death because you did not protect your King!”***

In other words, David is saying to Abner, ***“I think, by my actions of not killing the King I care more about Saul than you do. You let me walk right into your camp because you were sleeping on the job!”***

And look at what happens next as Saul hears this yelling and wakes up!

VERSES 17-20

Once again Saul speaks to David like a broken man, that he has repented, ***“Son, I am sorry, forgive me!”*** type of thinking and yet, his heart had not changed. He got caught and he is trying to make himself look good. If there was true repentance, there would have been a change in his behavior and there is none!

We will see this once again as we read on, but again, no true repentance here and the evidence for that is that he still is coming after David!

David, on the other hand, speaks from his heart and it is reflected in his actions. He appeals to Saul that he has done nothing wrong, and he wants to come back home so he can worship in the Tabernacle instead of being on the run and forced into other lands where they worship other gods!

David sees himself as insignificant and says that Saul is coming after a flea!

And that phrase, ***“as when one hunts a partridge in the mountains”*** was familiar to Saul.

Clarke makes these remarks concerning this, ***“It is worthy of remark that the Arabs, observing that partridges, being put up several times, soon become so weary as not to be able to fly; they in this manner hunt them upon the mountains, till at last they can knock them down with their clubs. It was in this manner that Saul hunted David, coming hastily upon him, and putting him up from time to time, in hopes that he should at length, by frequent repetitions of it, be able to destroy him.”***

In other words, David wants Saul to know that he is no threat to him, thus, why are you coming after me.



We also see David leave this matter in the hands of God, that if he lives or dies, God's will is going to be done!

#### VERSE 21

Did Saul really repent here?

As I have said, I don't believe that he did, his actions will show that he didn't.

These are nothing more than empty words spoken because he was caught doing wrong and he is trying to make himself look better, but there is no change in his heart!

Paul spoke of this kind of sorrow that is empty compared to a sorrow that takes place in the heart and overflows in action in II Corinthians 7:8-10, where we are told, **“For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”**

The Amplified Bible puts these verses like this, **“For even though I did grieve you with my letter, I do not regret [it now], though I did regret it; for I see that that letter did pain you, though only for a little while; Yet I am glad now, not because you were pained, but because you were pained into repentance [and so turned back to God]; for you felt a grief such as God meant you to feel, so that in nothing you might suffer loss through us or harm for what we did. For godly grief and the pain God is permitted to direct, produce a repentance that leads and contributes to salvation and deliverance from evil, and it never brings regret; but worldly grief (the hopeless sorrow that is characteristic of the pagan world) is deadly [breeding and ending in death].”**

Paul is saying that it is not just being sorry, but that the sorrow you have leads to repentance. It leads to a complete turning from your ways, it is active, seen in the things that you do and say.

Just plain sorrow is meaningless in the eyes of God. In fact, worldly sorrow, a sorrow that does not bring about a godly change in your life, will lead to death.

On the other hand, godly sorrow produces a change in your life.

But that is not what we see with Saul, his sorrow was worldly, and it will lead to his death!

Think about this for a minute. Saul was destined for greatness in Israel, but he fell far short from attaining that.

We are going to see that very shortly King Saul will be killed, and his tombstone could easily read the words that came flowing from his mouth, **“I have sinned . . . I have played the fool and erred exceedingly.”**

Saul tried to grab his greatness from men, and in doing so he lost it, not only before his fellow man, but also before God.

You see, God could have made Saul a great King, he equipped him for the work, but Saul failed to **DO** the work, he failed to surrender his life to the Lord!

How many people, as they come to the end of their life, as they appear before the Lord, will repeat the words of Saul, “**I have sinned . . . I have played the fool and erred exceedingly**”?

#### VERSES 22-25

How come David doesn't take the invitation from Saul and return home with him?

Because David did not believe Saul and he is going to wait it out to see if the words Saul spoke were true or if they were just a lot of hot air.

And for David, what he said back in I Samuel 26:19, “**. . . for they have driven me out this day from sharing in the inheritance of the Lord, saying, ‘Go, serve other gods.’**” is going to come to pass! He will be living in the land of the enemy!

And for Saul and David, they will never see each other again; this is their last encounter!

Thus, Saul heads home and David remains on the run in the wilderness!

As we move into I Samuel chapter 27, let me share these words with you.

We are told,

David feared the Lord – so much so, that he refused to harm Saul even when it he had the power to do so . . . Saul was God's anointed.

Whereas, Saul had no fear of God . . . He acted on impulse - not conviction. Saul did what was best for Saul. Obeying God was not a high priority for King Saul.

As a result, when the pressure gets applied Saul folds up like a cardboard box in a thunderstorm.

[That is what we will see in this next chapter] *the tragic fall of a once tall Saul . . .* And the words of Jesus are sure to come to mind, “*Great was (his) fall.*”

- Sandy Adams, I Samuel 27

## **I SAMUEL 27**

### **VERSE 1**

David has been on the run from King Saul for many years and it is taking its toll on his life.

He is both physically and emotionally drained and he is so discouraged that he feels one day Saul will kill him.

Thus, the only solution is to flee to the enemy, into the land of the Philistines and at least he will be safe there.

How can David feel this way?

Didn't David say in I Samuel 26:24, “**And indeed, as your life was valued much this day in my eyes, so let my life be valued much in the eyes of the Lord, and let Him deliver me out of all tribulation.**”

What happened from what David said back in I Samuel chapter 26 to what he is saying now?

He took his eyes off the Lord and focused on the situation, and he became discouraged and in despair, he just felt hopeless!

And keep in mind it wasn't that Saul drove him into the land of the Philistines, it was discouragement and despair and that will always lead us into the hands of the enemy and away from God!

And notice that this is going on in David's heart, he did not say these things out loud, but it was eating at him and what was going on inside of him would be manifested outwardly.

David Guzik wrote, *"If someone says in their heart, 'God doesn't care about me,' it will make a difference in their life. If someone says in their heart, 'I deserve better than this,' it will make a difference in their life. If someone says in their heart, 'I come before others,' it will make a difference in their life. By the same principle, if someone says in their heart, 'God loves me and I don't have to earn His love,' it will make a difference. If they say in their heart, 'I am grateful for every blessing I have,' it will make a difference. If someone says, 'Others come first,' it will make difference in their life. What we say in our heart has great power for good or evil, for blessing or cursing."*

How true that is! Don't give up but trust in the Lord because you will not find peace, protection anywhere else except the Lord!

Spurgeon learned this lesson as he wrote, *"I remember on one occasion, to my shame, being sad and doubtful of heart, and a kind friend took out a paper and read to me a short extract from a discourse upon faith. I very soon detected the author of the extract; my friend was reading to me from one of my own sermons. Without saying a word he just left it to my own conscience, for he had convicted me of committing the very fault against which I had so earnestly declaimed."*

I love that because how many times I am dealing with an issue and in the teaching for that day, is what I was dealing with. May we trust in the Lord and His promises to us!

Spurgeon again put it like this, *“Always be afraid of being afraid. Failing faith means failing strength. Do not regard despondency as merely a loss of joy, view it as draining away your spiritual life. Struggle against it, for it often happens that when faith ebbs sin comes to the flood. He who does not comfortably trust God will soon seek after comfort somewhere else.”*

What an important lesson for us to learn.

#### VERSES 2-4

We tend to think that when things are going well, when the enemy leaves us alone, we are doing well. In reality, it is just the opposite.

When the heat is turned up the enemy is trying to stop us from doing the work we are supposed to be doing for the Lord. And when things are going well, most of the time it means we are not walking with the Lord, and the enemy doesn't care what we do then.

Think about David, Saul leaves him alone, but he is in the camp of the enemy, outside the land of Israel!

It is as Morgan wrote, *“It is impossible to see David taking refuge in Gath, without recognizing that he had lost for the time being the clear vision of God which made him strong against Goliath.”*

And here he is in Gath of all places, the hometown of the giant, Goliath that he killed! But here he is, but he is not alone!

David's defection to the Philistines touched even more than the six hundred men, it touched all their families.

It directly touched David's household also, because Ahinoam and Abigail were with him.

Our sin, our backsliding does affect those around us and not in a good way. He was their leader and yet he was leading them away from the Lord at this point.

#### VERSES 5-7

Last time Achish kicked David out but this time, seeing the 600 men with him, he must have thought David would be a benefit to him and he gives David the border town of Ziklag, kind of a suburb of Gath, which was located in the foothills between Philistine and Simeonite territory, according to Joshua 19:5.

Thus, they are no longer on the run, they have a city to dwell in, a fortified city and yet, when you are outside God's will you are never safe and you can be in the most dangerous place in the world and obeying the Lord, and it is the safest place to be.

You see, that is where faith comes in. This is where trust comes in. Are we willing to submit to Him or are we going to walk by sight and see the salvation we can bring to a situation, which is never good!

#### VERSES 8-9

David understands that he is living where he shouldn't be living and thus, I believe he is trying to justify this by attacking the enemies of Israel.

In doing so he not only kills all the people, but he robs them.

And because there is no one left alive, no one could tell Achish what David was doing but that will not stop Achish from asking David what he has been up to.

Let's see how that situation plays out.

VERSES 10-12

As Achish asks David what he has been up to David lies to him and tells him that he has been invading the land of Israel.

Thus, Achish thinks he has a friend since David has now burned his bridges, you might say with his people.

But David has not done that and this sin of lying, and murder, will raise its ugly head again with David's encounter with Bathsheba and the killing of her husband Uriah to cover his own sin!

If the root of sin is not dealt with it will come back and be even stronger!

So David is not in a good situation and because of his lies, it is going to get him in trouble down the road.

As we move into I Samuel chapter 28, the focus now is on King Saul, and it is not going to be good as he is moving farther and farther away from God.

But, before we get to Saul, we have just a few verses about David, and this will be related to Saul.

**I SAMUEL 28**VERSES 1-2

Notice how the lies of David have caught up with him.

Achish wants David to go out with him to fight against Israel!

David had painted himself into a corner with no escape.



Of this Clarke makes these remarks, *“I undertake no defense of this conduct of David; it is all bad, all defenseless; God vindicates him not . . . it is false to say that, because these things are recorded, therefore they are approved.”*

Why did God allow this?

Because He is molding and shaping David, He did not give up on him just as He does not give up on us!

These are lessons to grow by!

And this gathering of the Philistines against Israel will affect King Saul. How will he respond?

Let's read on and see.

#### VERSES 3-6

After the death of Samuel there was a spiritual vacuum left in the land. And Saul did throw out the mediums and spiritists from the land, which was good.

Keep in mind that Saul did this in his earlier days when he was still influenced by Samuel's leadership.

But let me also say this. That was not what God had instructed them to do with these spiritist and mediums.

But once again – a trait indicative of Saul – the King fails to obey God fully.

In Leviticus 20:27 God commands Israel, **“A man or a woman who is a medium, or who has familiar spirits, shall surely be put to death; they shall stone them with stones. Their blood shall be upon them.”**

If Saul had obeyed the Lord and His Word and eliminated the occultists as God had commanded, this sad chapter would've never happened.

Saul falls into the trap of his own partial obedience – ***AND HE ISN'T THE LAST TO DO THAT!***

And look at what happens when things are not going well, what is Saul going to do?

What are we going to do when we are in tough situations?

That is a great question for each of us to answer. You see, what will we trust in, who will we seek when the heat is turned up?

And here is the trouble for Saul. The Philistines are coming after them again, and from his location on Mount Gilboa, just south of the Sea of Galilee, he could watch the movement of the Philistines, and he realized he was in trouble!

Keep in mind that ***“Shunem, in the Valley of Jezreel, was about twenty miles north of Aphek, the most northerly Philistine city. The fact that the Philistines had penetrated thus far gives an indication of their dominance over Saul’s kingdom, and of their intention to press further east to the Jordan.”*** (Baldwin)

And Saul does try to seek guidance from the Lord, but the Lord is silent, He is not answering Saul.

Now some may feel that this is not fair, but think about it.

Saul did not listen to Samuel.

He killed the 85 priests of Nob, murdered them.

And now he wants to seek the Lord. God was speaking and he refused to listen and thus, God is now silent, which is troubling Saul even more! And keep in mind that this is not a sign of repentance for Saul, he just wants to get out of the trouble that he is in!

What will he do now?

Let's read on and see!

### VERSES 7-8

Why did Saul have to ask his men where to find a medium?

Because Saul had kicked these mediums and spiritists out of the land and now he is looking for them.

And notice that his men don't try to discourage him from going through with this, which tells me they have succumbed to the way of Saul.

Remember when Saul asked them to kill Jonathan and then the priests of Nob and they refused.

Now it seems they have gone to the dark side you might say!

And En Dor was only a short distance away, that is where this medium lived, close to where the Philistines were located.

Again, if Saul wasn't doing anything wrong, why did he disguise himself? You see, he knew he was doing wrong, as Leviticus 20:6 tells us, "**And the person who turns to mediums and familiar spirits, to prostitute himself with them, I will set My face against that person and cut him off from his people.**"

But you can't hide from God, He sees what is going on and He knows Saul's heart!

Also notice that Saul has a specific person in mind that he wants to be brought back from the dead so he can inquire what to do and that person will be Samuel.

Which again is funny when you think about it because Saul didn't listen to Samuel when he was alive, why would he listen to him now!

But Saul knew that Samuel was a man of God, and his back was up against the wall, and he did the only thing in his mind that might work, speak to the dead.

Folks, why speak to the dead when we can speak to the living God! It is as we are told in Isaiah 8:19-20, **“And when they say to you, ‘Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,’ should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”**

I can’t understand Christians who go to tarot card readers, or seek guidance from horoscopes or channelers or Ouija boards! And did you know that they even have a Christian Ouija board or, as it is called, *The Holy Spirit Board*, and it says on the box that you can communicate directly with Jesus!

That is foolish and it is wrong. We have a living God, and we have His Word and if you won’t listen to that, you have a bigger problem!

Let me just share this with you, it is from God Channel, and you will see what I mean.

We are told from this web site,

Welcome to GodChannel. We’re a group of people working on healing into wholeness.

The group has evolved since February of 1997 when three channelers first put up the site.

Since then, new channelers have joined and some no longer participate. Four of us have worked on the original channeling and all of us proofread and edit.

Two channelers focus on channeling Spirit, Body, Grandfather and the Folks.

Another two, along with several important contributors, have focused on channeling the Mother.

Since our extended vacation ending in October 2005, most site activities are now being carried out by two of the three original channelers.

We each have direct experience in channeling Deity through writing. We discovered this ability in our own inner searching for God and some of us in using processes such as *“Inner Dialogue”* and *“Womb of Wisdom”* and the exercise *“Morning Pages”*.

This kind of channeling is remarkably easy to do once you get the hang of it, and the channeling class explains the way we do it. We had been channeling privately for several years when we began work on the site in February of 1997. This is the first time we’ve shared our channeling publicly.

Our Sources have indicated preference for us to keep the site simple and functional. What we have been given as Spirit’s or the Mother’s words are always enclosed in quotes to distinguish them from our notes and readers’ questions and comments.

- godchannel.com

How sad and in the end, they will find out that they were communicating with demons, and their desire is to destroy lives, not save them.

May we not go to the dead for advice, but to the Lord, the living God!

#### VERSES 9-10

This woman, this medium, thinks that this is some kind of government sting operation and as soon as she conjures up a dead person, she will be arrested and put to death!

And Saul assures her that no harm will come to her, and he swore by the **LORD!**

You know what that tells me?

It tells me you can use all the spiritual jargon you want, and it is totally meaningless if you are not walking with the Lord and if your words are not of the Lord!

It would be like robbing a bank but having a prayer meeting before you rob the bank so that the Lord would give you success in your venture!

That truly was Saul here!

#### VERSES 11-14

Now this is a very controversial section, and I will tell you what I think is going on here.

First of all, as this medium, we call her the witch of En Dor, but the reality is she was a medium that contacted the dead, and all of a sudden here comes Samuel and she is terrified.

Why is she terrified if she does this for a living?

Maybe she never had visible contact with the dead before, maybe it was only voices she heard. Or maybe this truly was Samuel!

She also now knows that it is King Saul who is inquiring about this, and she is again afraid that he might do something to her.

But Saul tells her not to fear and he wants to know what this man she is seeing looks like.

That tells me that Saul never saw this person, only this medium did and as she described him, he came to the conclusion that it was Samuel!

We are going to read on and then I will tell you if this is really Samuel or just a demon pretending to be Samuel!

VERSES 15-19

Now did Samuel really come back from the dead to speak to Saul?

It is possible, and the reason I say that is we see Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration, but I am not totally convinced that is what we are seeing here.

Does God make exceptions?

Yes, like it is appointed for men to die once and then comes the judgment. (Hebrews 9:27)

We see Lazures raised from the dead and people have died and have been brought back to life. That is the rule, die once, but there seems to be that exception.

Here's where I don't think this is Samuel. Again, it goes against the Scripture, but this could be an exception.

But if God wasn't speaking to Saul, why would he speak to Saul through Samuel?

God could have spoken to Saul or He could have sent a prophet to Saul.

Also, in I Chronicles 10:13-14 we are told, **"So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the Lord, because he did not keep the word of the Lord, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance. But he did not inquire of the Lord; therefore He killed him, and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse."**

You see, if it was truly Samuel then Samuel would be speaking for the Lord and yet, here in I Chronicles it says that Saul did not inquire of the Lord and thus, why would the Lord send Samuel? I don't think He would! Also, in I Samuel 28:14 it says that Saul **"perceived"** it was Samuel. He didn't see this figure, but by the description, that is the conclusion he came to!

Not a huge point, but it is not something I will be dogmatic about, because I believe there are good points either way.

Here's the thing that we need to keep in mind and be careful about. Paul reminds us of this danger in II Corinthians 11:14, where he wrote, **"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works."**

Do you see the deception that is out there and the only way to know the truth is to know God's Word for it will set you free from the lies, the deception that is out there!

Now what about the information that Samuel gave to Saul, it is accurate.

Yes, but again, most of it was already known, the only part that wasn't was the death of Saul and his sons.

But what is interesting is that this demon tells Saul, **"Moreover the Lord will also deliver Israel with you into the hand of the Philistines. And tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The Lord will also deliver the army of Israel into the hand of the Philistines."** I Samuel 28:19.

I don't believe this is entirely correct. You see, I do believe that Saul and most of his sons will be with this demon, but Jonathan will not because Jonathan loved the Lord. Yes, he will be killed in battle, but he was a believer, a man of faith while his father Saul was not!

I don't believe that Saul was saved and thus, he will be separated from God!

J. Vernon McGee makes these interesting comments on these verses.



He tells us,

It is interesting to note that nothing new is added. Saul does not get any new information. Samuel, before his death, had already pronounced the death, the destruction, and the rejection of Saul.

Certainly Saul did not gain any comfort, any direction, or any new information from his excursion into the spirit world.

This reminds me of an account related by one of the friends of Job. By the way he introduces it, you would think that he had been given some tremendous revelation.

Listen to him: *“Now a thing was secretly brought to me, and mine ear received a little thereof. In thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falleth on men, fear came upon me, and trembling, which made all my bones to shake. Then a spirit passed before my face; the hair of my flesh stood up: it stood still, but I could not discern the form thereof: an image was before mine eyes, there was silence, and I heard a voice, saying, Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his maker?”* (Job 4:12–17).

After this man had this tremendous experience and went through these gyrations, what came out of it that was new? Nothing! *“Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his maker?”* That is a self-evident truth. The spirit revealed nothing new!

It is obvious from the account of the witch of En-dor that God was not in it. To begin with, God would not call Samuel up - Saul makes it clear that God was no longer speaking to him.

Was Satan able to call up Samuel? That, of course, is the question.

In Scripture we need to understand that only Christ ever communicated with the dead. He alone can speak to the dead.

This man Saul had been abandoned by God. As far as he is concerned, heaven is silent.  
And so Saul turns to hell.

- J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible, Vol. II, pp. 179-180

For me, I don't believe that this was Samuel, I believe it was a demon impersonating Samuel.

#### VERSE 20

When Saul heard the news, he was devastated. He refused to eat, and he became totally drained of strength.

But also note there is no remorse, no repenting of his sins. That is one of the reasons I believe Saul was not saved.

#### VERSES 21-25

Isn't it interesting that this medium, this witch convinces him to eat, and he did.

Why is that such a big deal?

Think of it. It is just like Satan to get our eyes off of sin and eat, drink and forget about our sins. He wants us to be comfortable with them.

That was Saul here!

What the Lord had spoken to Saul over the years His Words fell on deaf ears and now, within 24 hours, he will be dead!

It is as Baldwin wrote, *“The additional information, that within twenty-four hours he and his sons would be dead, was no help at all to his morale. Indeed he would have been better without it. He did himself no good by doing what he had decreed to be unlawful. God’s word stood and could not be altered. He should have believed it instead of thinking that by further consultation he could reverse its judgment. The Lord did not answer him, because there was no more to be said.”*

You see, the heart of the problem for Saul was the problem of the heart!

Where are you this evening?

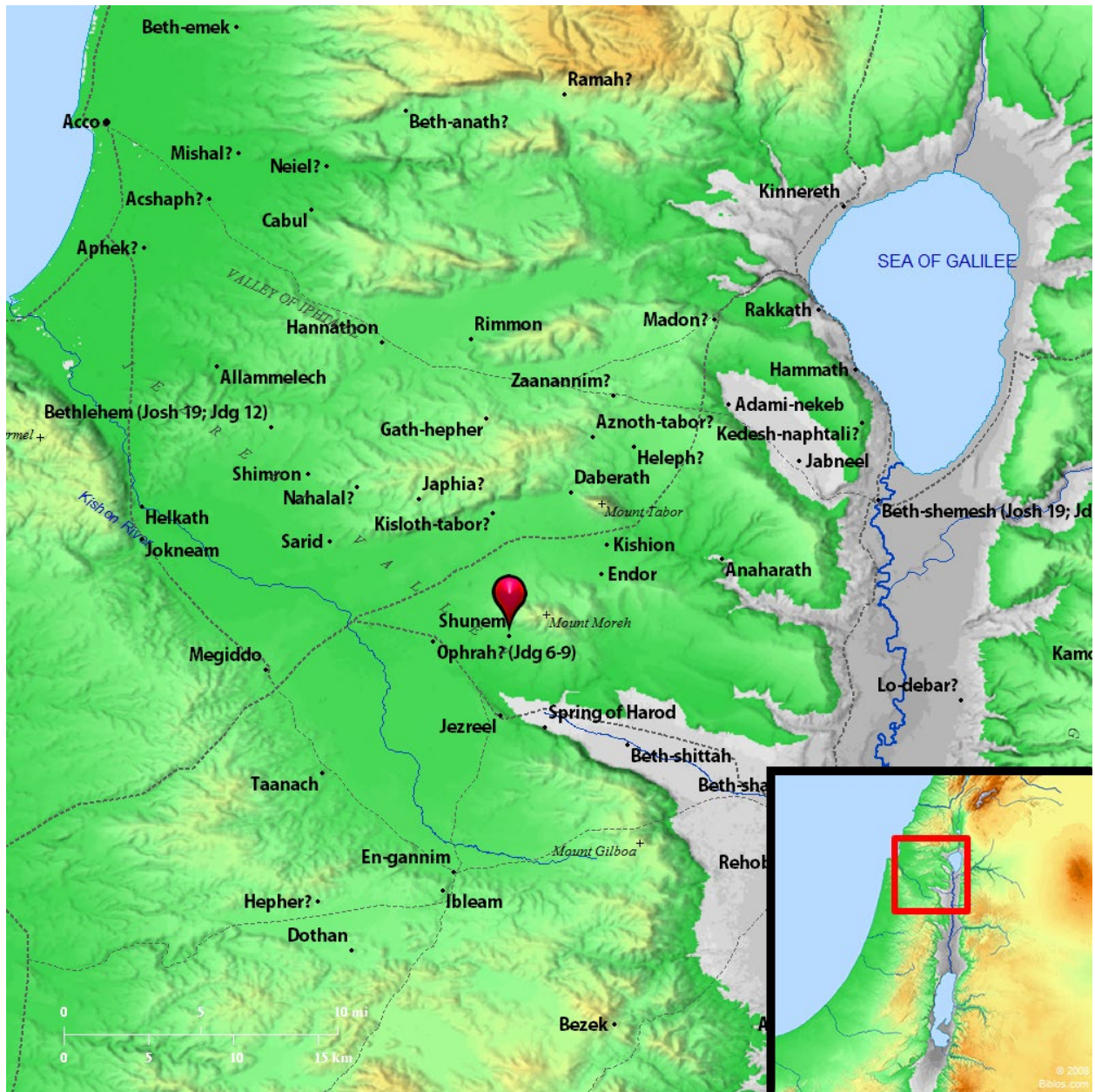
Are you listening to the voice of the Lord or are you hardening your heart to Him?

If you are listening, you need to take it a step further and obey.

If you are not listening, why is that?

You see, God loves us so much and He desires fellowship with us and that fellowship can only be found through His Son Jesus Christ!

God has spoken, are we listening and will we obey?

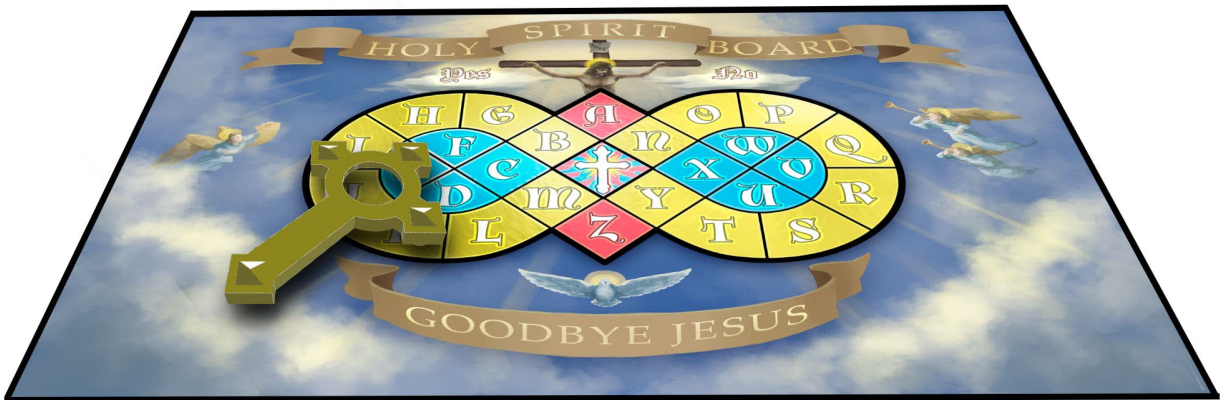












Nothing more than a Ouija board! And God forbids this!