

1 Samuel 28

Chapter 28 of 31 · 25 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Saul and the Witch of Endor

¹ And it came to pass in those days, that the Philistines gathered their armies together for warfare, to fight with Israel. And Achish said unto David, Know thou assuredly, that thou shalt go out with me to battle, thou and thy men.

² And David said to Achish, Surely thou shalt know what thy servant can do. And Achish said to David, Therefore will I make thee keeper of mine head for ever.

³ Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land.

⁴ And the Philistines gathered themselves together, and came and pitched in Shunem: and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they pitched in Gilboa.

⁵ And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled.

⁶ And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.

⁷ Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at En-dor.

⁸ And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee.

9 And the woman said unto him, Behold, thou knowest what Saul hath done, how he hath cut off those that have familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land: wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life, to cause me to die?

10 And Saul sware to her by the LORD, saying, As the LORD liveth, there shall no punishment happen to thee for this thing.

11 Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel.

12 And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou art Saul.

13 And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: for what sawest thou? And the woman said unto Saul, I saw gods ascending out of the earth.

14 And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he is covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself.

15 And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do.

16 Then said Samuel, Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the LORD is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy?

17 And the LORD hath done to him, as he spake by me: for the LORD hath rent the kingdom out of thine hand, and given it to thy neighbour, even to David:

18 Because thou obeyedst not the voice of the LORD, nor executedst his fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore hath the LORD done this thing unto thee this day.

19 Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines: and to morrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me: the LORD also shall deliver the host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.

20 Then Saul fell straightway all along on the earth, and was sore afraid, because of the words of Samuel: and there was no strength in him; for he had eaten no bread all the day, nor all the night.

21 And the woman came unto Saul, and saw that he was sore troubled, and said unto him, Behold, thine handmaid hath obeyed thy voice, and I have put my life in my hand, and have hearkened unto thy words which thou spakest unto me.

22 Now therefore, I pray thee, hearken thou also unto the voice of thine handmaid, and let me set a morsel of bread before thee; and eat, that thou mayest have strength, when thou goest on thy way.

23 But he refused, and said, I will not eat. But his servants, together with the woman, compelled him; and he hearkened unto their voice. So he arose from the earth, and sat upon the bed.

24 And the woman had a fat calf in the house; and she hasted, and killed it, and took flour, and kneaded it, and did bake unleavened bread thereof:

25 And she brought it before Saul, and before his servants; and they did eat. Then they rose up, and went away that night.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

God — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

Kingdom — מַלְכוּת (Malkhut)

Kingdom, reign, royal power

The Hebrew **malkhut** (מַלְכוּת) denotes kingdom or royal rule—the realm and reign of a king. God's kingdom represents His sovereign rule over all creation.

Lord — יְהוָה / אֲדֹנָי (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

Prophet — נָבִיא (Navi)

Prophet, spokesman

The Hebrew **navi** (נָבִיא) means prophet—one who speaks God's word to the people. Prophets received divine revelation and declared God's message, often calling Israel to repentance and foretelling future events.

Word — דָּבָר (Davar)

Word, thing, matter

The Hebrew **davar** (דָּבָר) means word, thing, or matter—God's creative and authoritative speech. 'By the word of the LORD were the heavens made' (Psalm 33:6).

Wrath — אַף (Aph)

Wrath, anger

The Hebrew **aph** (אַף) literally means 'nose' or 'nostrils,' idiomatically expressing wrath or anger—God's righteous indignation against sin. Yet God is 'slow to anger' (Exodus 34:6) and 'abundant in mercy.'

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Samuel 28:3 **Spirit:** Leviticus 19:31; 20:27. **References Israel:** 1 Samuel 25:1. **Parallel theme:** Exodus 22:18

1 Samuel 28:4

Parallel theme: Joshua 19:18; 2 Kings 4:8. **References Israel:** 1 Samuel 31:1

1 Samuel 28:5 **Parallel theme:** Job 15:21; 18:11; Psalms 73:19; Proverbs 10:24; Isaiah 7:2; Daniel 5:6

1 Samuel 28:6

Prophecy: Numbers 12:6; Jeremiah 23:28; Lamentations 2:9. **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 14:37; Deuteronomy 33:8; John 9:31; James 4:3. **References Lord:** Exodus 28:30; Numbers 27:21; Matthew 1:20

1 Samuel 28:7 **Spirit:** Leviticus 19:31; 1 Chronicles 10:13; Acts 16:16. **Parallel theme:** Joshua 17:11; Psalms 83:10; Habakkuk 2:3

1 Samuel 28:8 **Spirit:** 1 Chronicles 10:13; Isaiah 8:19. **Parallel theme:** 1 Kings 22:30; 2 Chronicles 18:29; 35:22

1 Samuel 28:9 **Spirit:** 1 Samuel 28:3

1 Samuel 28:14 **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 15:27

1 Samuel 28:15

Prophecy: 1 Samuel 28:6. **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 18:12; Proverbs 14:14; Hosea 9:12

1 Samuel 28:18 **References Lord:** 1 Kings 20:42. **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 15:9

1 Samuel 28:21 **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 19:5; Judges 12:3; Job 13:14

1 Samuel 28:23 **Parallel theme:** 1 Kings 21:4

1 Samuel 28:24 **Parallel theme:** Luke 15:23

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