

# 1 Samuel 28:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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Samuel's rhetorical question exposes the futility of Saul's consultation: 'Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the LORD is departed from thee?' The Hebrew 'sar... le'oyev' (departed... become enemy) identifies God not merely as absent but as actively opposed. This devastating declaration removes any hope that Samuel might intercede or reverse divine judgment. The prophet who anointed Saul now confirms that God Himself has become Saul's adversary. No prophetic intervention can help when God opposes.

## Historical Context

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The language of God becoming an enemy appears rarely in Scripture and represents the most severe form of divine judgment. This declaration confirmed that Saul's rejection was complete and irreversible, not a temporary discipline but permanent abandonment.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. What does it mean for God to become someone's enemy rather than merely withdrawn?
2. How does this passage shape your understanding of persistent disobedience's consequences?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֹּאמֶר	שְׁמוּאֵל ל	וְלָמָּה	תִּשְׁאַל נִי
<b>Then said</b>	<b>Samuel</b>	<b>H4100</b>	<b>Wherefore then dost thou ask</b>
H559	H8050		H7592
וַיֵּרָא ה	ס ר	מַעַל יְיָ	וַיֵּרָא י
<b>of me seeing the LORD</b>	<b>is departed</b>	<b>H5921</b>	<b>H1961</b>
H3068	H5493		
עָרָב:			
<b>from thee and is become thine enemy</b>			
H6145			