

# 1 Samuel 28:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

Saul's physical collapse ('fell straightway all along on the earth') mirrors his spiritual collapse throughout the chapter. The Hebrew 'nephal male-qomato artsah' (fell the full measure of his height to the ground) emphasizes his complete prostration. The combination of terror at Samuel's words and physical weakness from fasting leaves Saul utterly broken. The mighty warrior who once stood head and shoulders above Israel now lies face-down, defeated before battle begins. Physical strength without spiritual vitality proves worthless.

## Historical Context

Saul's fasting may have been preparation for the forbidden ritual or simply the result of anxiety suppressing appetite. His complete physical collapse rendered him temporarily incapable of any action, including returning to his army or preparing for battle.

## Related Passages

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

---

1. How does spiritual crisis manifest in physical symptoms?
2. What happens when the weight of our choices finally crushes us?

## Interlinear Text

---

וְאַתָּה כִּי־בַּדְבָּרִים  
straightway Then Saul fell all along  
H4116 H7586 H5307 H4393 H6967 H776 H3372

מִמְּדָבָר וְשָׁמְוֹאָל גַּם  
and was sore because of the words of Samuel and there was no strength  
H3966 H1697 H8050 H1571 H3581

לֹא אָכַי בְּזַבְּדָה אָכַל כִּי־לֹא  
H3808 H1961 H0 H3588 H3808 H398 H3605 H3899

כַּל־לֹא כִּי־וּמְלִילָה:  
all the day nor all the night  
H3117 H3605 H3915

---

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org