

# 1 Samuel 28:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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?

## Analysis

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The medium's fearful response exposes the danger of her profession and the effectiveness of Saul's earlier purge. Her reference to what 'Saul hath done' uses language suggesting violent action ('hikrit,' cut off) against practitioners. Her accusation 'thou layest a snare for my life' reveals awareness that her activities carry a death sentence. This exchange creates dramatic tension: Saul seeks help from someone whose death he previously ordered, while she fears the one seeking her aid.

## Historical Context

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The death penalty for consulting spirits (Leviticus 20:27) was apparently enforced during Saul's reign. The woman's fear indicates real danger, not mere formality. Her survival suggests either remote location, community protection, or incomplete enforcement.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How do fear and self-preservation conflict with calling in dangerous times?
2. What ironies emerge when we seek help from those we have previously condemned?

## Interlinear Text

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אָמַר	וְהָאִשָּׁה	אֶל יוֹ	הִנֵּה ה	אֶת ה	
said	And the woman	H413	H2009	H859	
H559	H802				
יְדָעַתְּ	אֶת	אֲשֶׁר	עָשָׂה	נָשָׁא וּל	אֲשֶׁר ר
unto him Behold thou knowest	H853	H834	hath done	what Saul	H834
H3045			H6213	H7586	
הִכָּה יֵת	אֶת	הָאֵב וְ	וְאֵת	הַדֹּעֵנִי	
how he hath cut off	H853	those that have familiar spirits	H853	and the wizards	
H3772		H178		H3049	
מִן	הָאָרֶץ	וְלֹא ה	אֶת ה	מִתְנַקֵּשׁ	
H4480	out of the land	H4100	H859	wherefore then layest thou a snare	
	H776			H5367	
בְּנַפְשִׁי	לְהַמִּיתָנִי:				
for my life	to cause me to die				
H5315	H4191				

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 28:3** (Spirit): 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.