

Tragic End of King Saul **1Samuel 28:3-25, 31:1-13**

I. King Saul in Crisis – 28:3-6

1. Samuel is dead – 3
Saul did not fully obey God's directives
But under stress he did want to hear from God
This resource was no longer available to him
2. Saul had removed spirit mediums – 3
Only other source of information in spirit world
Those who made contact with evil spirits
3. Philistines were coming to attack – 4
Do not know if he knew David might be with them
4. Saul was afraid, greatly trembled - 5
5. He tried to seek God's help – 6
The Lord did not answer his attempt
By dreams, by Urim, nor by prophets
God had told him where his disobedience led
Not only disobedience but desire to kill David
Who is now God's anointed one to be king
It was now God's time to end his life
Consider 1 John 5:14-16
6. True condition of his heart is seen next
As he seeks help in the spirit world

II. Saul & the Witch – 28:7-25

1. Saul seeks for a spirit medium – 7
One who had a familiar spirit to give information
God's Word condemns all contact with spirit world
Deuteronomy 18:9-14
2. Saul wants her to contact the dead – 8-10
She protested knowing it was illegal – 9
Saul promised she would not be punished – 10
3. Saul asked her to bring up Samuel - 11
Normally it meant her spirit agent would speak
4. God allows Samuel to appear – 12-14
The witch is terrified – she is not in control - 12
She is aware Saul has deceived her
Saul asks what she had seen – 13-14
He is convinced that it was really Samuel
5. Samuel's message to Saul – 15-19
Samuel asked why his rest was disturbed - 15
He was at rest in Abraham's bosom (in Sheol)
Saul is desperate needing information – 15
Samuel tells him his days are finished – 16-19
The Lord has departed from you
He has taken away the kingdom as He said
God has given the kingdom to David
Your disobedience is being judged
Israel will be defeated, you & your sons will die tomorrow
6. Saul's response to Samuel's message – 20-25
Saul is overwhelmed in fear
He refuses to eat until forced
He leaves as a defeated man

III. God's Word Fulfilled - 31

1. Philistines defeated Israel – 1-2
Saul's three sons were killed
2. In battle Saul was wounded – 3-5
He did not want to die by Philistines
Armorbearer refused to kill him
So Saul fell on his own sword
Armorbearer followed Saul in death
3. Saul & 3 sons died as Samuel said – 6-7
With leaders dead men of Israel fled
4. Philistines celebrated their victory – 8-10
They cut off Saul's head
Sign of total victory, as David did to Goliath
They put his armor in the house of their gods
Trophies, Sign of superiority of their gods
They hung his body on a wall in Beth-shan
On display as further humiliation
5. Jabesh-gilead men acted bravely – 11-13
They removed the bodies from display
They burned & buried them in Jabesh
Then they fasted seven days

IV. David's Response – 2 Sam. 1:1-16

1. News of battle reaches David – 1:1-4
Messenger comes from Saul's camp to Ziklag
Israel has been defeated, Saul & Jonathan are dead
2. Man claims part in Saul's death – 5-10
Describes in detail what he did
Story differs from 1 Sam. 31:3-5; 1 Chron. 10:1-5
Perhaps he seeks David's reward
3. David mourns & weeps at news – 11-12
4. David executes the Amalekite - 13-16
For his part in death of "Lord's anointed"

V. David's Lament – 1:17-27

1. He praised their military skills – 17-22
They led Israel in victory over Philistines
2. They were together in life & in death – 23
3. Calls on Israel to weep over them – 24-27
Weep over both Saul and Jonathan
4. David is a man after God's own heart
He takes no pleasure in death of wicked
Ezekiel 33:11