

DESCENT INTO DARKNESS 1 SAMUEL 28:3-25

1 Samuel 28:25 And she brought *it* before Saul, and before his servants; and they did eat. Then they rose up, and went away that night.

John 13:30 He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night.

1 Samuel 28:3 Now Samuel was dead....1 Samuel 25:1 And Samuel died....

This text is not a mere chronological record & retelling of the events. It was written creatively!

27:1-28:2 → 29:1-11 → 28:3-25

This is one of the most difficult chapters to read in the Scripture - sad, terrifying, hopeless....

Psalms 88 The Book of Lamentations 1 Samuel 31

Ezekiel 33:21 And it came to pass in the twelfth year of our captivity, in the tenth month, in the fifth day of the month, that one that had escaped out of Jerusalem came unto me, saying, The city is smitten.

This text is obviously the background / backdrop of David's fear & prayer!

Psalms 51:7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Psalms 51:8 Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Psalms 51:9 Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Psalms 51:11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Psalms 51:12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

I. A descent without Samuel!

1 Samuel 28:3 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.

1 Samuel 25:1 And Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah. And David arose, and went down to the wilderness of Paran.

1 Samuel 15:34 Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul. 1 Samuel 15:35 And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.

Thoughts:

- Saul had been anointed king by Samuel
- Saul had rarely, if ever, really obeyed Samuel – that is God!
- Saul had been disqualified by his long-term / life-long disobedience

Saul disqualified himself!

- But Saul still needed Samuel!

1 Samuel 15:30 Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God. 1 Samuel 15:31 So Samuel turned again after Saul; and Saul worshipped the LORD.

- Although Saul never saw Samuel again, I'm sure Saul always thought he would / planned to do so!
- In fact, he didso!!!

II. A descent against impossible odds!

1 Samuel 9:2 And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.

1 Samuel 10:23 And they ran and fetched him thence: and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward.

1 Samuel 28:5 And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled. 1 Samuel 28:15 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....

III. A descent without God!

Ephesians 2:11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; Ephesians 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

1 Samuel 28:6 And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.

1 Samuel 28:15 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.

John 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. **John 10:29** My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

2 Timothy 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Romans 8:35 ; Jude 24-25

Hebrews 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never (Ὀὐ μή) leave thee, nor (οὐδ' οὐ μή) forsake thee.* **Hebrews 13:6** So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not (οὐ) fear what man shall do unto me.

IV. A descent **into** divination!

1 Samuel 28:3 Now Samuel was dead... And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land. **1 Samuel 28:7** 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 Endor. **1 Samuel 28:8** And Saul disguised himself... 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. **1 Samuel 28:10** And Saul swore to her **by the LORD**, saying, *As the LORD liveth, there shall no punishment happen to thee for this thing.* **1 Samuel 28:11** Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel. **1 Samuel 28:12** And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice... **1 Samuel 28:14** ... And Saul perceived that it *was* Samuel, and he stooped with *his* face to the ground, and bowed himself.

So many questions:

1. Was this real or...?

Fake ←-----clever fraud -----→ real but...!

Remember: Scripture forbids this! It does not say it does not work / it is fake!

2. Why did Saul expect a different message?

3. Why didn't Saul repent?

4. Could Saul still repent? (It's never too late!!!)

1 Samuel 28:16 Then said Samuel, **Wherefore** then dost thou ask of me, seeing the LORD is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy? **1 Samuel 28:17** 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: **1 Samuel 28:18** 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.

Exodus 22:18 Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.

Leviticus 19:31 Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I *am* the LORD your God.

Leviticus 20:6 And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people.

Leviticus 20:27 A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, **shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them.**

Deuteronomy 18:9 When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. **Deuteronomy 18:10** There shall not be found among you *any one* that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, **Deuteronomy 18:11** Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. **Deuteronomy 18:12** For all that do these things *are* an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. **Deuteronomy 18:13** Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. **Deuteronomy 18:14** For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: **but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.**

V. A descent **into** darkness & death!

1 Samuel 28:19 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. **1 Samuel 28:25** And she brought *it* before Saul, and before his servants; and they did eat. **Then they rose up, and went away that night.**

1 Chronicles 10:13 So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, *even* against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking *counsel* of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of *it*; **1 Chronicles 10:14** And enquired not of the LORD: therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse.