### 1 Samuel

## Chapter 28

1After that, the Philistines gathered their troops to go to war with IsraEl, and AchIsh said to David:  
  
 ‘I’m sure that you and your men who are staying with me will join us in this war.’  
  
2And David replied:  
  
 ‘May this prove your servant’s faithfulness.’  
  
So AchIsh said to David:  
  
 ‘Then I’ll appoint you as the chief of my royal guards during this period!’  
  
  
3Well, SamuEl had already died (after which IsraEl had mourned for him at his tomb in his city of RamAh), and Saul had also [killed off] all those who searched for omens and those who called out to [the dead] in his land.  
  
4Then the Philistines went and set up camp at ShuNem, and Saul gathered the army of IsraEl and set up camp in GilBoa. 5But when Saul looked at the camp of the Philistines, it frightened him and he became weak at heart.  
  
6So he asked for [direction from Jehovah], but the Lord wouldn’t answer him in his dreams, give him any signs, or answer him through the prophets.  
  
7So he said to his servants:  
  
 ‘Then search for a woman who can tell the future, and I’ll go ask her!’  
  
And his servants told him:  
  
 ‘Look, there’s a woman who can tell the future in EnDor.’  
  
  
8So Saul disguised himself [by wearing] different clothes, and he covered his face; then he took two men with him and they went to see the woman at night.  
  
And he said to her:  
  
 ‘Use your powers for me and lead me to the one I want to speak to!’  
  
9And the woman replied:  
  
 ‘Look! Now you know as much as Saul did… The one who killed off everyone in the land who ask the [dead] and who look for omens.  
  
 ‘So are you coming here to trap and kill me?’  
  
10But Saul swore an oath to her by God, saying:  
  
 ‘As Jehovah lives, I won’t treat you unjustly in this matter.’  
  
11So the woman asked Saul:  
  
 ‘Then, who do you want me to bring up for you?’  
  
And Saul replied:  
  
 ‘Bring up SamuEl for me!’  
  
12Well when the woman saw SamuEl, she screamed and she said to Saul:  
  
 ‘Why have you misled me, for you’re Saul!’  
  
13And the king said to her:  
  
 ‘Don’t be afraid! Whom did you see?’  
  
And she said:  
  
 ‘I see judges rising from the ground.’  
  
14Then he asked her:  
  
 ‘What else did you see?’  
  
And she replied:  
  
 ‘A very old man coming up [from the ground] wearing a doubled robe.’  
  
Well, Saul recognized this as SamuEl; so he fell with his face to the ground and bowed low before him.  
15And SamuEl said:  
  
 ‘Why are you bothering me and why did you bring me up?’  
  
And Saul said:  
  
 ‘I’m in a lot of trouble; for the Philistines have come to war against me, and God has left me.  
  
 ‘He doesn’t listen to me anymore, nor does He answer the prophets or reply to me in my dreams… All I want to know is what I should do!’  
  
16Then SamuEl replied:  
  
 ‘If Jehovah has left you and taken up with your neighbor, why are you asking me?  
  
 17‘For, all that Jehovah is doing to you is what I told you that He would do! He’s going to rip your kingdom from your hands and give it to your neighbor David, 18because you didn’t listen to His voice when He was showing His rage on the AmaLechites.  
  
 19‘Therefore, Jehovah is going to give IsraEl into the hands of the Philistines… By tomorrow, you and your sons will be with me, while the camp of IsraEl will be handed over to the Philistines!’  
  
20Well at that, Saul dropped to the ground shaking, because he was so afraid of what SamuEl had said! He was already weak in the knees, because he hadn’t eaten anything all that day or night.  
  
21Then the woman went up to Saul, and when she saw that he was shaking, she said:  
  
 ‘Now, look at me and listen to your female servant, for I’ve put my life into your hands, and I’m trusting in what you said.  
  
 22‘Do what I tell you… I’m going to give you a little food to eat so you can regain your strength, and then you should leave.’  
  
23However he wouldn’t listen to her, because he didn’t want anything to eat. Yet his aids and the woman kept insisting; so he got up off of the ground and sat in a chair, 24then the woman went out and butchered a calf that was by her house.  
  
After that, she took some flour and made some fermentation-free bread, 25and she brought it all to Saul and his servants, and they ate…  
  
Then they returned [to their camp] that night.