

# INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

## SAUL SUCCUMBS TO SPIRITUALISM

By Nina Atcheson



For use in *Animated/Engaged Learning*.

### READ 1 SAMUEL 28:3–25.

At the beginning of this chapter we discover that the prophet Samuel has died, and Israel laments for him. We then read that King Saul had gotten rid of the mediums and spiritists from the land, making it illegal to be a witch. The narrative doesn't tell us when Saul abolished the mediums in the land. Some think it may have been when he found himself possessed by an evil spirit. Either way, these practices were common among the surrounding nations, but Deuteronomy 18:9–14 states that Israel was forbidden to have anything to do with them. (See *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*,

vol 2, p. 585 on "Had put away.") "Sorcery had been prohibited by the Mosaic law, on pain of death, yet from time to time it had been secretly practiced by apostate Jews."—Ellen G. White, *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 287

Yet here Saul faces one of the biggest battles of his life—annihilation by the Philistines. Instead of keeping his enemies at bay, he's been chasing David around the countryside for the past seven years. Now Saul is terrified as he realizes the strength of the Philistine army.

#### 1. Saul "inquired of the Lord," but God did not answer him in any way. Why, do you think, was God silent?

because God knew saul was going against God, maybe God thought that saul wouldnt listen anyway.

#### 2. Saul's second option was to turn to a medium. Why, do you think, did he do this?

because he wanted answers regardless of if they were true, or who they came from

**3. What is symbolic about Saul putting on different clothes to see the medium?**

represents him leaving god, hiding from God, changing to benefit himself

**4. How did the woman know it was Saul who had come to her?**

because Saul asked for Samuel

**5. The woman questions Saul, worried about her own life. What is ironic about Saul's reply?**

that he swears on God

**6. Why, do you think, should Saul ask for Samuel above all others?**

because saul trusted samuel, most knowledge

**7. Was this really Samuel, coming to give Saul a message? How do you know?**

I don't necessarily believe that it was actually Samuel, because it was going through a medium, not God.

**8. If it wasn't really Samuel, why does the Bible say "Samuel said . . ."?**

because it was the image of Samuel that Saul had wanted to see, because Saul believed it was Samuel.

**9. How does verse 16 further support the fact that it was not really God speaking through Samuel, but rather an evil spirit?**

because it said that God was Saul's enemy, without any hope or grace,

**10. Did the evil spirit/Satan know the outcome of the battle?**

No, he was likely trying to turn it to how he wanted.

**11. Why would the woman have killed a calf and prepared a meal?**

to be respectful, possibly sacrificing to her own gods.

**12. Is witchcraft still around today?**

yes

**13. Are demons and demon possession real? Are they in our culture today?**

I am not sure, i think it could be real, but at the same time it also could be used as analogies in the bible to demonstrate a point, I do not know if it is in the culture today, but I believe that it very likely could be.

**14. What do you think Saul's state of mind would have been like the next morning when he stood before his army?**

not the best, anxious, sad, down

15. Some people say that the Seventh-day Adventist belief about the state of the dead is wrong because of this story. How would you respond to this?

Samuel could have been lies, evil spirit, peoples perception and state of mind.

16. What is wonderful about the Seventh-day Adventist belief about the state of the dead, and what does it reveal to us about the heart of God?

That there is a relief in knowing that they are not watching you, and worrying, or that they are being tormented

17. This is a turning point for both Saul and David (who is in another location, which we'll explore soon). Their fates are about to change. Saul, who has been in a position of power, now becomes very weak. David, who has been somewhat insignificant and weak, is about to become very powerful. The prophet Samuel had some wise advice that we can learn from too. What was it? (1 Samuel 15:22)

obeying god is better than sacrificing.

READ 1 SAMUEL 29–31.

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**18. Meanwhile, where was David, and what was he doing?**

he went back to his home town

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**19. While Saul is at the witch, David has given his military genius to the Philistines.  
Why is it always a temptation to give ourselves to the wrong side?**

because we might think that it is safer there.

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**20. How did God intervene (when David didn't deserve it) to save David from having to fight  
alongside the Philistines, against his own people? What does this teach you about God?**

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**21. David returned “home” to Ziklag (his Palestine town).**

**What did he find there upon his return, and what does this story tell you about God?**

he finds a raiding party that has plundered his home.

**22. What can we learn from David’s response to devastation?**

**(Read chapter 68, “David’s Heavy Trial,” pp. 348–351 from *Beginning of the End (Patriarchs and Prophets)* to add to your response.)**

**23. Consider the differences between David and Saul in their response to hard times.**

**What was the main difference, and what can you take from the examples of these men’s lives?**

David turned back to God, while saul went to his own pride.

**24. How did Saul die?**

committed suicide

**25. Why did God not allow Jonathan to live, when his attitudes were the opposite of his father?**

**26. What can we learn from Saul, Israel's first king?**

saul let his pride get before God.