

**Message #67****I Samuel 28:7-19**

It is interesting to observe the records that are kept concerning one who is going to be executed. The final hours are carefully chronicled so that there is a record of what the person eats and what the person says. The final walk to the execution area is also described.

A few years ago, there was a program that showed a convicted murderer who was put to death and his final moments of life were spent cursing and spitting at people. Those who witnessed this said there was no repentance, no contrition, just arrogant and defiant rebellion and hatred of authority.

Generally speaking that in many ways describes Saul. That describes the final hours of his life. When we come to this passage, we come to the final hours of Saul's life and they are very carefully documented and they are tragic.

Saul's final hours of life were spent the way most of his life was spent—total and complete rebellion against God and His word and will.

What we see here is this:

**THE FINAL HOURS OF SAUL'S LIFE WERE SPENT IN THE HABITUAL PATTERN OF HIS LIFE "WITCH" WAS TOTAL REBELLION AGAINST GOD AND HIS WORD.**

When the Apostle John was getting ready to end the book of Revelation, he wrote: "Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and the one who is holy, still keep himself holy" (Rev. 22:11).

In other words, the character that a person has will be the character when the life on earth ends. This is a Scripture that is easy to see today. There are indicators that God is sovereignly at work and His sovereign program is heading to judgment. Just the CORONA virus says that. You would think that this would prompt people to say, we need to get serious about God and His word. For the most part that is not happening. People who are evil and corrupt continue to be evil and corrupt.

That clearly is the story of Saul.

There are three sad historical realities to observe here concerning Saul:

**HISTORICAL REALITY #1 – Saul searches out a Satanic spiritist. 28:7**

You can tell a lot about a person by watching where the person turns for help in times of trouble. Saul asked his servants to find a spiritist so he could consult her. A spiritist was a woman who could contact the demonic and Satanic world. She was like a modern day witch.

He basically wanted his servants to find some Satanic witch so he could have her contact the spirit world. His servants knew of such a woman who lived in En-dor.

En-dor sits on the northern slope of Mt. Hermon. Keep in mind that Saul is looking at a Philistine army that is camped in Shunem (28:4). Now En-dor was located north of Shunem (28:4).

This would be a place that would be risky for Saul to go when your enemy sits in your way. From his location, it was across the Jezreel Valley and beyond the Philistine camp in Shunem. Saul would have to travel 10-12 miles at night and it would be through very dangerous territory. So to actually get to the place where this Satanic witch lived, Saul would have to risk his own life.

Saul was not willing to do this for God; but he was willing to do this to contact a witch. We may remember that when Saul was confronted by the Philistines, he was so cowardly that Jonathan and his armor bearer went themselves to fight, while Saul sat under a pomegranate tree hiding like a scared jack rabbit (I Sam. 14:2ff). But now, he is willing to make a dangerous move to consult a Satanic medium.

The O.T. law absolutely forbade any such contact (Lev. 19:31). God viewed one as defiled, who consulted a spiritist and He promised to set His face against one who did such a thing (Lev. 20:6). In fact, any form of divination demanded the death penalty (Lev. 20:27; Deut. 18:10-14).

There are Christians who think it is just innocent and funny to read their horoscope every day. There are Christians who think it is fine to consult a Ouija board, or tarot cards, or contact some fortune teller or Psychic. God does not see it as innocent child's play and it is not a light matter. If a believer does this, that believer is heading to complete disaster because it is an abomination to God.

If you have done such things, my immediate counsel is to go to God and confess it and beg for His forgiveness and turn away from any such thing and never do it again.

## **HISTORICAL REALITY #2 – Saul travels to En-dor and consults with a Satanic Spiritist. 28:8-14**

The text is very clear to point out the exact facts of this event:

**Fact #1** - Saul disguised himself. **28:8a**

He is disguising himself so he can enter the world of Satan.

**Fact #2** - Saul took two men with him. **28:8b**

He actually involves others in his rebellion. He does have comrades who are willing to follow him right into the Satanic world.

**Fact #3** - Saul went to see the woman at night. **28:8c**

Evil things happen in the dark of the night.

**Fact #4** - Saul asks the woman to bring up someone who was dead. **28:8d**

Saul believes that the Satanic world is real and there are those in it who can contact the spirit world.

**Fact #5** - The Spiritist informs him that this action can lead to her own execution. **28:9**

This is fascinating because it does show that those in the evil world do know how God views it. In fact, this witch assumed that Saul was in God's world and she feared that if she did anything for Jewish men, it could lead to her getting the death penalty from Saul.

This witch knew this was against the word and will of God and this witch thought if Saul, the king of Israel found out, he would execute her. What she didn't know is that she was talking to Saul.

Those who dabble in the dark world of Satan have a sense they are heading to the fires of hell. Those who dabble in the Satanic world know how God views it.

It is interesting to me that before Saul actually steps over the Satanic line and has her follow through with the evil action, God has this witch say this to him.

One would think he would have been immediately convicted that he has no business being here, knowing that this was totally contrary to the word and will of God. He actually has a witch basically telling him that.

**Fact #6** - Saul vows using the name of the LORD that she will not be punished. **28:10**

Do you see what Saul is doing here? He is actually vowing by using the name of the LORD to pronounce a form of blessing on a witch.

This is the last time Saul will speak in the name of the LORD and his speech is using the name of the LORD in a way that is the opposite of how the sacred name of God is to be used.

When a believer plunges into dark, depraved sin, he ruins the name of Jesus Christ. He drags the character of God through the mud.

**Fact #7** - The Spiritist wants to know who to conjure up and Saul tells her Samuel. **28:11**

Samuel's name had been such a wonderful name for God and now it is being used in connection with a Satanic spiritist given to witchcraft. Saul is dragging Samuel's name down into deep, dark depravity.

**Fact #8** - The Spiritist conjures up and sees Samuel. **28:12a**

There is absolutely no description of exactly what this woman did to conjure up Samuel, but whatever the ritual was, God did permit it.

There is much debate over whether or not this Satanic woman actually conjured up Samuel, or if it were a demon pretending to be Samuel. Some of the early church fathers took the position that it was not really Samuel, because they wanted to keep the church members from believing they could contact their dead relatives through some Satanic medium.

However, my conclusion is that this is really Samuel, and because Saul was the first king of Israel and God was about to kill Saul, He permitted this witch to conjure up Samuel. We conclude this for five contextual reasons:

- 1) The medium is shocked and cries out because apparently she could not normally do this- **28:12.**

As John Woodhouse said, when he appeared the woman was scared “out of her wits” (*I Samuel*, p. 515).

- 2) Saul bows down because he knows he is in the presence of Samuel. **28:14b**

Saul bows down to a human for the first and only time in his life. He once had apparently bowed down to God (I Sam. 15:31), but he would never think of bowing before a man of God until here.

- 3) Saul gets a message directly from God, which was something Samuel did do. **28:16-19**

- 4) The Biblical text specifically says it is Samuel. **28:12, 15, 16**

- 5) The medium realizes this is a Godly being as opposed to a demonic being. **28:13**

Generally speaking, when one goes into eternity, they are forever gone. But this is a very rare case in which God will sovereignly permit Samuel to return to communicate a message to Saul.

If any believer contacts a Satanic spiritist today in an attempt to contact a dead person, that believer is signing their own death warrant.

**Fact #9** - The Spiritist realizes she has done this for Saul. **28:12b**

The Spiritist realized she was in the presence of Saul. She knew it was Saul who was there. She knew Saul had deceived her. So here is a Satanic witch realizing she is in the presence of a King of Israel. What a pathetic testimony Saul is. What a pathetic man of God this is.

**Fact #10** - Saul asks the medium to tell him what she sees. **28:13-14**

Now he tells the medium she has nothing to fear. Saul has joined himself to the Satanic people. Saul could not see what the medium saw. So she describes it for Saul. She gives four descriptions:

**(Description #1)** - The man was in divine like form. **28:13a**—not an evil spirit.

**(Description #2)** - The man was coming up out of the earth. **28:13b**

We assume he was coming from Abraham's bosom, which is the O.T. believers' side of Sheol.

**(Description #3)** - The man was old. **28:14a**—In eternity, there are age distinctions.

**(Description #4)** - The man was wrapped in a prophet's robe. **28:14b**

The last encounter that Saul had with Samuel was one in which he grabbed on to the robe of Samuel and tore the edge of it (I Sam. 15:27-28). Samuel was buried in Ramah and would have been buried in his robe (I Sam. 25:1).

**HISTORICAL REALITY #3** – Samuel speaks to Saul and Saul speaks to Samuel. **28:15-19**

Samuel gives Saul three messages:

**Message #1** - Samuel asks Saul why he is disturbing him. **28:15a**

Samuel did not want to come back to this earth. Abraham's bosom must be such a wonderful place that it is very disturbing for one there to have to come back even for a moment. People in heaven do not want to come back to this earth.

**Message #2** - Saul explains to Samuel why he contacted him. **28:15b**

He gives Samuel his logical reasons:

- 1) He was distressed—he was totally desperate.
- 2) The Philistines were waging war against him.
- 3) God had departed from him.
- 4) God no longer answered any prayer.
- 5) God no longer speaks to him through prophets.
- 6) God no longer speaks to him through visions.
- 7) He did not know what to do.

**Message #3** - Samuel explains to Saul what has happened. **28:16-18**

Saul's last question to Samuel was "make known to me what I should do." Samuel never does answer that. What he does do is give Saul a series of revelations from God:

**(Revelation #1)** - There is no point asking me anything because God has departed from you.  
**28:16a**

It is too late for you to repent and regain the blessings of God.

**(Revelation #2)** - God has become your enemy. **28:16b**

**(Revelation #3)** - God has fulfilled the prophecy I told you. **28:17**

Samuel said I told you this was going to happen to you and you would not respond.

**(Revelation #4)** - You did not obey God. **28:18a**

**(Revelation #5)** - You did not pour out God's wrath on Amalek. **28:18b**

This obviously was a monumental moment in the relationship with God. This actual event occurred years before this in I Samuel 15. This was a major turning point.

**(Revelation #6)** - God will give you and Israel over to the Philistines. **28:19a**

**(Revelation #7)** - You and your sons will die tomorrow. **28:19b**

Do not overlook the fact that Saul would end up with Samuel, which means Saul was a believer. For all eternity he will be known as a king who did not walk with God and obey God.

#### **PARTING THOUGHTS:**

- 1. No matter what you face, stay far away from that which is Satanic.**
- 2. When facing trouble and turmoil, turn to the Lord.**
- 3. God never honors or blesses those who disobey Him.**