

Lesson 12
Saul Declines and Dies
(1 Samuel 28:1 – 31:13; 1 Chronicles 10:1-14)

Questions

1. What did David and his men commit to do for Achish (28:1-2; see also 29:2)?

2. Why did Saul seek a woman at Endor with a familiar spirit (28:3-7)?

3. Who did Saul ask the woman to bring up from the dead (28:8-14)?

4. What did Samuel say to Saul concerning his relationship to the Lord and his future (28:15-19)?

5. How did Saul react to Samuel's words (28:20-25)?

6. How did the Philistines react when they heard that David was going with Achish and them into battle (29:1-5)?

7. What did Achish tell David to do to appease the Philistine leaders (29:6-11)?

8. What did David find when he returned to Ziklag, how did he feel, and what did he do (30:1-6)?

9. What did David want to know from the Lord (30:7-10)?

10. What did David ask the Egyptian who they found in the field (30:11-15)?

11. What did David and his men do to the Amalekites (30:16-20)?
12. What did the wicked and base men who fought with David say about the men who did not go to battle and how did David respond (30:21-25)?
13. What did David do with some of the spoil he recovered from the Amalekites (30:26-31)?
14. How did Saul and his sons die in battle with the Philistines (31:1-5; 1 Chron. 10:1-5)?
15. What did the Philistines do with the dead bodies of Saul and his sons (31:7-10; 1 Chron. 10:7-10)?
16. What did the men of Jabesh-Gilead do with the dead bodies of Saul and his sons (31:11-13; 1 Chron. 10:11-12)?
17. Why did Saul die according to 1 Chronicles 10:13-14?

Digging Deeper

1. How many battles are being described in 1 Samuel 28-31?
2. Locate the following on a map: Ramah (28:3), Shunem and Gilboa (28:4; 31:1), Endor (28:7), Aphek and Jezreel (29:1, 11), Ziklag (30:1), the brook Besor (30:9-10), the cities of Judah (30:27-31), Beth-shan (31:10), Jabesh-gilead (31:11), and Jabesh (31:12-13).

3. What OT laws forbade the use of familiar spirits and wizards (28:3, 7)?
4. What is the Urim (28:6) and the ephod (30:7)? Who was Abiathar related to (30:7)?
5. Who in the New Testament spoke from the dead like Samuel did to Saul (28:15-19)?
6. Where in 1 Samuel had the Lord already said to Saul that he would take away his kingdom from him (28:17-18)?
7. Why would David want to fight alongside the Philistines (28:1-2; 29:1-11)?
8. What had Saul done for the men of Jabesh-Gilead earlier in 1 Samuel that would have given them reason to care for his body and his son's bodies (31:11-13)?

Applications for Today

1. Witchcraft (sorcery) is sinful and a work of the flesh (28:3, 7; Gal. 5:20; Rev. 9:21; 18:23; 21:8).
2. The Lord does not answer those who do not follow him (28:6, 16; Prov. 28:9).
3. Tell people the truth, even when it is hard to so do (28:16-19; Eph. 4:15).
4. God's word always comes to pass (28:19; 31:1-5; 1 K. 13:32).
5. Guard your reputation carefully. Even people in the world can become aware of it (29:5; 1 Tim. 3:7).
6. Disappointments in life can actually be a "God-send" to cause us to better things (29:6-11; Eccl. 3:1-11).
7. In times of great grief and trouble, strengthen yourself in the Lord (30:6; Psa. 18:1-2; 27:14; Jer. 15:11).

8. Ask the Lord for help in prayer when you are facing difficult choices and decisions in life (30:8; Phil. 4:6).
9. Encourage everyone to value life, defend life, and preserve life; not end life (31:4; 1 Chron. 10: 4; Gen. 45:5; Eccl. 7:12).
10. God punishes sin (1 Chron. 10:13-14; Heb. 2:2-3; 10:26-29).