

Life of David

Lesson 22

Text

1 Samuel 29:1 - 1 Samuel 30:31 (Psalm 56; 1 Chronicles 12:1-22)

Background

Chapter 28 begins the climatic end of 1 Samuel as it moves towards a great battle between Israel and the Philistines. We see that the Philistines have mustered their forces in the north most likely in an attempt to cut Saul off from his northern tribes. This also gave the Philistines a great advantage as they could now fight on level ground where the Philistine chariots would give them a great advantage.

This drives Saul into a state of desperation. When all attempts to hear from Yahweh fail, Saul decides to seek the help of a medium of Endor (no Ewoks here!) in order to gain the help from a recently deceased Samuel. While the biblical author doesn't condemn the use of mediums, it shouldn't be overlooked that this practice was not something that was permitted and should be avoided for obvious reasons. The author's intent here was to portray the desperation of Saul here.

Through the medium, Samuel reminds Saul of this truth, **“And Samuel said, “Why then do you ask me, since the LORD has turned from you and become your enemy? The LORD has done to you as he spoke by me, for the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David. Because you did not obey the voice of the LORD and did not carry out his fierce wrath against Amalek, therefore the LORD has done this thing to you this day. Moreover, the LORD will give Israel also with you into the hand of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons shall be with me. The LORD will give the army of Israel also into the hand of the Philistines.”**

The prophecy of Saul's fall was on the horizon of coming to fruition. It tells us that Saul was filled with fear, he had no strength in him, and didn't eat all day or night. The end was near! Also in the mix here, is David's deceptive existence with Achish, who is leading the attack. Let's read on and learn of the beginning of the end of Saul and his reign as king of Israel.

Day 1 - Read and Listen

1. Read and/or listen to the passage twice. If possible, use different translations. I highly recommend having the passage read to you. Many apps, including the Blue Letter Bible, have a feature that will read the Bible to you. Meditate and pray on the passage.

Day 2 - Observing the Text

- 2. Who are the characters listed in the passage? As much as the passage tells you, write down any titles, traits, or additional information about each of the characters in the narrative.

- 3. Where does the narrative take place? List out any locations mentioned. To be more specific, study a map from the timeframe of 1 Samuel (approximately 1105 - 971 BC) and see if you can find the locations on a map. Write down any observations from this exercise.

- 4. Summarize the main plot points from the passage in the space below.

Day 3 - Understanding the Narrative

- 5. Name one or more of the conflicts from the passage and how they were resolved or left unresolved.

6. How does the narrative fit into what you already learned about 1 Samuel?
Consider, if applicable, the following: How does the narrative tie to the larger picture of a coming royal priesthood? Do you see any foreshadowing of Jesus as King?

Day 4 - Additional Study

7. Take note of any repeated words, thoughts, or phrases in our passage this week. Write those down below.

8. Did any parts of the passage you read make you think about other stories in the Bible? This includes similar narratives, but could also include similarity in lessons being learned by different people at different times. We call these links “purposeful parallels.” If so, write those down below.

9. **Word Studies:** Use the “Blue Letter Bible” or your favorite word study method to look up any words of your choice in the passage. Be prepared to share your findings with your group. Remember, this is the Old Testament. You will be looking up Hebrew words.

Day 5 - Life Application

Reading the Bible should change you! The purpose of reading any passage or passages is to gain life changing applications you must consider for your own life.

10. **Application:** “Bring me the ephod”. During a time of great distress, David sought out the Lord and sought to gain Godly wisdom in the way he should act. What are you doing in times of distress? Are you seeking out the “ephod” and looking to gain God’s wisdom or are you doing it on your own strength? Write down your thoughts or a challenging question to yourself.

11. **Optional:** Write down any additional life applications from your study time this week down below.

Day 6 - Closing Thoughts and Reflections

As you’ve had time to meditate on this week’s passage, write down any closing thoughts and/or list ways this passage has challenged you. How are you going to take the application from Day 5 and make it a tangible application for you? What are some additional things that you’d like to share with your group? These are just a few ideas to jot down as you close out this week.

Notes from the Teaching

Teacher: _____ **Date:** _____
