

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

1) 5 June 2016	1Samuel 1-2	Answered
2) 12 June	1Samuel 3-4	Called
3) 19 June	1Samuel 5-7	Worthy
4) 26 June	1Samuel 8-11	King?
5) 3 July	1Samuel 12-14	Fearred
6) 10 July	1Samuel 15	Judged
7) 17 July	1Samuel 16	Anointed
8) 24 July	1Samuel 17	Delivered
9) 31 July	1Samuel 18-21	Faithful
10) 7 August	1Samuel 22-24	Blinded
11) 14 August	1Samuel 25	Protected
12) 21 August	1Samuel 26-29	Respect
13) 28 August	1Samuel 30-31	Victory

**INTRODUCTION**

- David flees to the Philistines to avoid Saul, and Saul has a medium conjure up Samuel for a last minute chat – which did not end well.

Passage	Comments
28:1-25	<p><b>Saul Took Matters into His Own Hands Again</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Was Saul saved? Like Judas, the verdict is still out</li> <li>v5. When Saul inquired of God, why was God silent?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doesn't God promise to respond favorably to those who call on Him.....<a href="#">Ps 145:18-19</a></li> <li>Unless they are wicked or prodigal.....<a href="#">Jer 25:5</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>v12. Was it really Samuel who chatted with Saul?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some commentaries say YES, others say NO</li> <li>According to the context in it's plain text, the answer seems to be YES, it was Samuel who chatted with Saul and not a demon in disguise</li> <li>God seemingly allowed a real apparition to appear, which is why the woman was fearful, for she was a trickster (argument from silence)</li> </ul> </li> <li>v16. The Lord became Saul's enemy because of willful and unrepentant disobedience.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Could Saul have turned things around? Very possibly, for God's words says "even if a nation turns from its sin I will forgive and bless them" ...<a href="#">Jer 18:8</a></li> <li>...but only if they do not hit the point of no return, where their sins prevent them from repenting. It feels as if America is at that threshold.....<a href="#">Hos 5:4</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Why the Death Penalty for Playing the Ouija Board?	<p>God established the death penalty for those in the Old Testament who performed divination and witchcraft; interpreted omens; worked sorcery; casted spells; or who was a medium, a spiritist, or one who called up the dead (aka necromancer), (<a href="#">Deut 18:10-11</a>; <a href="#">1Sam 28</a>).</p> <p>The death penalty was also for using enchantments or observing times (astrology), and for calling familiar spirits (<a href="#">Lev 19:26, 31</a>). False prophets and dreamers whose prophecies and dreams even came true were to be stoned (<a href="#">Deut 13:1-5</a>).</p> <p>God took such practices seriously as an affront to His deity and worship, and a threat to the truth of His word.</p>
29:1-11	<p><b>David is Told to Go Home</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God's providence keeps David from being at the fight where Saul and Jonathan are killed. This could have had repercussions God didn't want David to deal with</li> <li>Therefore, thank God for unanswered prayers</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
1Samuel 26:1-25	<p><b>David Resorts to Deception to Stay Alive</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vv1-7. Saul chased David with 3,000 men. David's band of 600 went into hiding; he sent out spies; and he craftily sneaked into Saul's camp to agitate him                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Principle to Live by.</b> When confronted with life's dire situations, you won't lose heavenly rewards if, like David, you opt to be sly like a serpent and gentle as a dove (<a href="#">Matt 10:16</a>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>vv8-11. David again spares Saul's life ..... WHY?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Consider this.</b> God is not an "Indian-giver" with His gifts and anointings. Even Judas, the son of perdition, was able to heal miraculously along with the other Apostles and the other 70 disciples.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>...and David wisely refused to take matters into his own hands and slay God's anointed</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>v12. God caused a deep sleep to fall on David's enemies. <b>Consider this.</b> If God be for us, who can be against us? God works behind the scenes to preserve His church, though many might be martyred</li> <li>vv21-25. Saul admits to sinning against David. If Saul confessed his sins and sought to reconcile with David, why didn't David go back with Saul?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Consider this.</b> We may be asked to forgive a transgressor 70x7 times, but nice words do not reflect changed behavior. For example, we should not put a "repentant" child molester in the nursery.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
27:1-12	<p><b>David Flees from the Heat to the Flame</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Judah, David was chased by Saul, but in Philistia, David was hated by all, &amp; he found a friend in Achish</li> <li><b>Principle to Live by.</b> Time seemed to heal some wounds as David moved into once-enemy territory. In like fashion, Germany and Japan are now friends of the U.S., where once we were bitter enemies. Being kind to an enemy helps, unless they are totally wicked, for the wicked do not learn righteousness even when kindness is shown .....<a href="#">Isaiah 26:10</a></li> <li>vv9-12. David smote the land of the Philistines and left neither man nor woman, boy nor girl alive, and he lied about it to King Achish.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Did David do good or evil?</li> <li><b>Consider this.</b> God prevented David from having the honor to build a grandiose temple for Him, for David was a "man of blood" .....<a href="#">1Chron 28:3</a></li> <li>This type of atrocity seemingly withheld blessings and more glory from David.....<a href="#">Jeremiah 5:25</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS**

- Like David, we may need to avoid so called enemies of our faith, but, like David, continue to take the high road and stay faithful.
- Don't be like Saul and refuse to make things right with God and with God's people. Tragedy can only result.

**NEXT WEEK: 1Samuel 30-31.** David encounters loss and threats of betrayal, and he had to "strengthen himself" to get back in the fight. How does one strengthen himself? Is it by weight lifting or positive thinking?



Whoever keeps commandments keeps their life, but whoever shows contempt for their ways will die. - PROVERBS 19:16