

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1)	06 December, 2026.....	1Samuel 01-02	Prayer
2)	13 Dec.....	1Samuel 03-04	Calling
3)	20 Dec.....	Luke 02.....	(Christmas) Savior
4)	27 Dec.....	1Samuel 05-07	Supremacy
5)	03 January 2027	1Samuel 08-14	King Demanded
6)	10 Jan.....	1Samuel 15.....	Obedience
7)	17 Jan.....	Psalms 139.....	Value of Life
8)	24 Jan.....	1Samuel 16.....	Anointed
9)	31 Jan.....	1Samuel 17.....	Victory
10)	07 Feb.....	1Samuel 18-21	Friendship
11)	14 Feb.....	1Samuel 22-24	Respect
12)	21 Feb.....	1Samuel 25.....	Discernment
13)	28 Feb.....	1Samuel 26-31	Guidance

INTRODUCTION – 1SAMUEL 26-29

- 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
1Samuel 26:1-25	David Resorts to Deception to Stay Alive - 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. Principle to Live by. 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 (Matt 10:16). - vv8-11. David again spares Saul's lifeWHY? Consider this. 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. ...and David wisely refused to take matters into his own hands and slay God's anointed. - v12. God caused a deep sleep to fall on David's enemies. Consider this. If God be for us, who can be against us? God works behind the scenes to preserve His church, though many might be martyred. - 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? Consider this. 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.
27:1-12	David Flees from the Heat to the Flame - In Judah, David was chased by Saul, but in Philistia, David was hated by all, & he found a friend in Achish. Principle to Live by. 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.....Isaiah 26:10 - 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. - Did David do good or evil? Consider this. God prevented David from having the honor to build a grandiose temple for Him, for David was a "man of blood" 1Chron 28:3 - This type of atrocity seemingly withheld blessings and more glory from David Jeremiah 5:25

Passage	Comments
28:1-25	Saul Took Matters into His Own Hands Again - Was Saul saved? Like Judas, the verdict is still out - v5. When Saul inquired of God, why was God silent? - Doesn't God promise to respond favorably to those who call on Him..... Ps 145:18-19 - Unless they are wicked or prodigal..... Jer 25:5 - v12. Was it really Samuel who chatted with Saul? - Some commentaries say YES, others say NO - According to the context in its plain text, the answer seems to be YES, it was Samuel who chatted with Saul and not a demon in disguise. - God seemingly allowed a real apparition to appear, which is why the woman was fearful, for she was a trickster (argument from silence). - v16. The Lord became Saul's enemy because of willful and unrepentant disobedience. - 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" ...Jer 18:8 ...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..... Hos 5:4
Why the Death Penalty for Playing the Ouija Board?	- 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), (Deut 18:10-11; 1Sam 28). - The death penalty was also for using enchantments or observing times (astrology), and for calling familiar spirits (Lev 19:26, 31). False prophets and dreamers whose prophecies and dreams even came true were to be stoned (Deut 13:1-5). - God took such practices seriously as an affront to His deity and worship, and a threat to the truth of His word.
29:1-11	David is Told to Go Home - God's providence kept 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. - Therefore, thank God for unanswered prayers.

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: 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 weightlifting or positive thinking?



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

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INTRODUCTION – 1SAMUEL 30-31

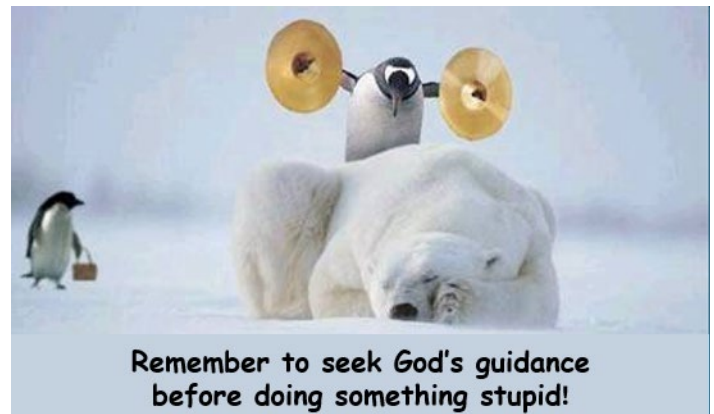
- David encountered personal loss and received threats on his life from his own army, so he had to “strengthen himself” to get back in the fight.
- When you have no one on your side to encourage you, and God seems to be against you, how do you strengthen yourself?

Passage	Comments
1Samuel 30:1-6	David Strengthened Himself - David probably recalled the time he was anointed by Samuel to be King over all Israel, and that day had not arrived yet, so he realized God was not finished with him yet..... 1Sam 16:13 - He also had to convince his army to refocus on God and not on their misfortunes. David might have said, “Let us wait for the LORD and keep His way, for He will cause us to be victorious; and we will see the wicked cut off”..... Psalms 37:34
A Word on Positive Thinking	Good Aspects of Positive Thinking - If anyone has reason to be positive, it is Christians - God of the universe saved us, keeps us, loves us - He only has good intentions for our lives - Positive thinking promotes physical & mental health Not-So-Good Aspects of Positive Thinking - We can deceive and even harm ourselves by believing in lies we tell ourselves. We are commanded not to deceive ourselves..... 1Cor 3:18 - E.g., “By His stripes we are healed” and you refuse to seek medical attention for high blood pressure, diabetes, or other health issues. His stripes heal us spiritually – not physically. Biblical Aspects of Positive Thinking - We are commanded to think on good things to improve our perspective and attitude Phil 4:8
30:7-20	David Recovers What Was Stolen - vv7-16. When David pulled himself together, he first sought God’s direction how to proceed. Principle to Live by. We have something better than an ephod to enquire of God → His Word. - vv17-20. Was David justified slaughtering his enemy for stealing away the women and children, who were not harmed? Consider this. The OT called for the death penalty for kidnappers Exodus 21:16
30:21-31	Those Who Stay Behind Are Vital to Victory - No less vital to any war effort are those in logistics, administration, technical support, and funding. Food for Thought. If you are a taxpayer, you paid a soldier to kill enemy combatants for you; and unfortunately, you also paid for abortions in the U.S. → Which ones will God hold us accountable for?

Passage	Comments
31:1-7	Saul Commits Suicide What are some of the biblical issues on suicide, euthanasia, and physician-assisted suicide?
A Word on Suicide	- Recorded suicides and assisted suicides in the Bible: - Abimelech had someone kill him..... Judges 9:54 - Saul speared himself..... 1Sam 31:4 - Saul’s armor-bearer speared himself 1Sam 31:5 - Ahithophel hanged himself..... 2Sam 17:23 - Judas hanged himself Mat 27:5; Acts 1:18 - Many try to commit suicide during the tumultuous Tribulation, but will be unsuccessful..... Rev 9:6 - Was Jesus’ death an assisted suicide? He had to die at a specific time, on a specific date, at the hands of a specific people, for a specific reason, and in a specific way – that He controlled! - Does the elimination of the death penalty and the acceptance of abortions, euthanasia, and assisted suicide, minimize the value of life as defined by God? ☐ Yes; ☐ No; ☐ Don’t know; ☐ Maybe - It’s a quandary why those who support abortion, assisted suicide, and euthanasia are very often against capital punishment. They prefer to kill the innocent and spare the guilty. Consider this. Suicide is not God’s ideal way to end one’s life. We should be watchful of those who are in despair and be ready to help wherever we can.
31:8-13	Honorable Inhabitants of Jabaesh-Gilead - This people group is mentioned 5x Judges 21:8-14. They refused to help their brothers defeat the perverted Benjamites, so Israel nearly wiped them out, saving 400 virgins. 1Samuel 11:1. Young King Saul rescued them from the Ammonites. 1Sam 31-2Sam 2. In gratitude, they risked their lives to give Saul and his sons a decent burial. & 5. 2Sam 21:12 and 2Chron 10:11. Their story of burying Saul is recounted. - It seems everyone is worthy of forgiving and saving. King Saul could have refused to help Jabaesh-Gilead when they were attacked by the Ammonites for their despicable behavior 400 years earlier. Principle to Live by. Help those in need (unless other biblical principles dictate otherwise), because you might be helping those who will help you one day.

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- When in the midst of a tragedy, we can either be like David and pull ourselves together by acknowledging God’s hand on our situation, or we can despair like Saul and seek to quit life. Let’s choose life and finish the race strong.
- And if we see some in despair, let’s be like the Jabesh-Gileadites and help out in some way, even if it is going to a friend’s funeral.



**Remember to seek God's guidance
before doing something stupid!**