

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

You will recall in chapter 27, it opened a great season of compromise - as David went to seek refuge within the enemy.

Instead of continuing to place his trust in the Lord, he makes an alliance with the enemies of his people.

David flees into the Land of the Philistines and brings with him, his 600 men and their families and then they proceed to raid village after village in an attempt to increase their own net worth.

David became very deceptive as well during this dark period in his life and we saw an example of this last week as he would kill everyone who he raided so that word never got back of the atrocities that he was committing.

He wanted to make sure that his sin was not exposed.

David had been so deceptive that even the king Achish was fooled into thinking that David had turned his back on Israel when in reality the villages that David was raiding belonged to the enemies of Israel.

[1Sa 28:1-25 NKJV] 1 Now it happened in those days that the Philistines gathered their armies together for war, to fight with Israel. And Achish said to David, "You assuredly know that you will go out with me to battle, you and your men." 2 So David said to Achish, "Surely

you know what **your servant** can do." And Achish said to David, "Therefore I will make you one of my chief guardians forever."

Notice that the chapter begins with, now it happened in those days...

Those days, is in reference to the time period of David walking in compromise.

Sixteen months – that is how long David lived with the Philistines.

And I am pretty sure that for the first year that David lived among the Philistines, he probably thought it was a good idea.

After all, Saul is not chasing him anymore.

He no longer has to live in caves or in some wilderness.

He is no longer dodging spears.

But church, that is what compromise tends to do – we never see the immediate consequences of our compromise until much later.

I am pretty sure that David never thought that he would ever be invited to join the Philistines in their attempt to destroy Israel.

He never thought that he would be asked to fight against the same people he had been anointed to lead someday.

He never thought that his compromise would put him in the front lines against God's people.

King Achish didn't think it was a big deal in asking him because he thought that David had already been doing it for a while -

But church, that is the result of his compromise.

3 Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had lamented for him and buried him in Ramah, in his own city. And Saul had put the mediums and the spiritists out of the land.

We were told of Samuel's death back in chapter 25:1.

The reason that the writer brings it up is to provide the reader a timeline of what is occurring because during the same period, Saul, as king, passed laws prohibiting this practice in Israel.

Both mediums and spiritists speak of people who deal with the demonic, either by working with the aid of a demonic spirit, or in an attempt to contact a dead person.

And church, God is very serious when it comes to those who seek mediums and spiritists.

Turn with me to Deut 18,

[Deu 18:9-12 NKJV] 9 "When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. 10 "There shall not be found among you [anyone] who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire (this refers to them sacrificing their children to Molech), [or one] who practices witchcraft, [or] a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, 11 "or one who conjures

spells, **or a medium, or a spiritist**, or one who calls up the dead. 12 "For all who do these things [are] an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you.

So, the question always comes up – what's wrong going to one of these persons?

And the answer is that there are individuals who make it all up, they are total frauds and they are there to simply rip you off – and there are other individuals who information is provided to them, but it is coming through demonic activity.

And at first you may get some truth – because demons see our interactions. But then eventually that truth is replaced

with deception – making the individual dependent on satan/demons instead of on God.

No Psychic hotline or Ouija boards

4 Then the Philistines gathered together, and came and encamped at Shunem. So Saul gathered all Israel together, and they encamped at Gilboa. 5 When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly.

When Saul first became king and was walking with the Lord, he was a man of great courage. And we saw a few examples in scripture where it demonstrated his courage (1 Sam 11)

However, when the Spirit withdrew from him, he began to lose his courage and then when Samuel died, it appears that he lost whatever courage he had left.

It is important to note that courage didn't drive him when he pursued David – that was fueled by jealousy and envy.

He is in fear of the Philistines because for all these years, his focus was going after David and because he was going after David – he allowed the Philistines to take land and grow stronger in numbers.

It was all his fault.

6 And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by the prophets.

Saul had rebelled against the word of God over and over again, and God had given him every opportunity to repent.

He acknowledged he had sinned against God by going after David (twice) yet he still didn't repent.

Here he sits with the Philistines ready to go to war, he is without courage and now, he doesn't even have the comfort of hearing God's voice.

7 Then Saul said to his servants, "Find me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her."

And his servants said to him, "In fact, [there is] a woman who is a medium at En Dor." 8 So Saul **disguised**

himself and put on other clothes, and he went, and two men with him; and they came to the woman by night.

And he said, "Please conduct a seance for me, and bring up for me the one I shall name to you."

Why did Saul disguise himself? Because he didn't want to break his own law.

Saul had earlier made a law against witchcraft and psychics. Yet now he goes to look for help from the very things he knows is wrong.

9 Then the woman said to him, "Look, you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the spiritists from the land. Why then do you lay a snare for my life, to cause me to die?" 10 And Saul swore to her by the LORD, saying, "[As] the LORD lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing."

The woman is being very careful here. She smells something fishy.

The medium wondered if this was a government “sting” operation; but Saul assured her – swearing in the name of the LORD, no less – that she would not be punished.

Do you see the irony here?

Saul is swearing in the name of Yahweh that he isn't going to punish this medium for breaking the very laws of Yahweh.

11 Then the woman said, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" And he said, "Bring up Samuel for me."

It is sad to see how desperate Saul had become –

Remember, Samuel is the one who strongly rebuked Saul when he disobeyed God.

Samuel is the one who told him that he had lost the kingdom and God had chosen another.

12 When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman spoke to Saul, saying, "Why have you deceived me? For you [are] Saul!"

The scriptures clearly tell us that in this occasion, this witch/medium saw Samuel.

Meaning either she was a fraud prior to this encounter or it could mean that she was so used to communicating with certain demons that were impersonating people – that when she had never experienced the real spirit of a dead person.

God allowed the spirit of Samuel to communicate with this woman this one time to bring the revelation of the judgment to Saul.

13 And the king said to her, "Do not be afraid. What did you see?" And the woman said to Saul, "I saw a spirit

ascending out of the earth." 14 So he said to her, "What [is] his form?" And she said, "An old man is coming up, and he [is] covered with a mantle." And Saul perceived that it [was] Samuel, and he stooped with [his] face to the ground and bowed down.

Saul never sees Samuel. Only the woman sees Samuel.

Yet, Saul, out of respect bows to the ground anyway.

15 Now Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" And Saul answered, "I am deeply distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God has departed from me and does not answer me anymore, neither by prophets nor by dreams. Therefore I have called you, that you may reveal to me what I should do."

I asked you to underline these three things in verse 15,

Why?

Because they reveal Saul's **emotional** state, **his spiritual** state and **his mental** state.

16 Then Samuel said: "So why do you ask me, seeing the LORD has departed from you and has become your enemy? 17 "And the LORD has done for Himself as He spoke by me. For the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David. 18 "Because you did not obey the voice of the LORD nor execute His fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore the LORD has done this thing to you this day.

Saul, everything that is happening right now – I told you would happen years ago when you decided to disobey God.

And guess what Saul, God doesn't change His mind.

19 "Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with you into the hand of the Philistines. And tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The LORD will also deliver the army of Israel into the hand of the Philistines."

Not only does Samuel remind Saul that he is about to lose his kingdom.

He also tells him that the Philistines are going to defeat Israel and that he along with his sons will die the next day.

I asked you to make a note that Samuel states that Saul and his sons will be with him.

Samuel is referring to Shoel. In the Old Testament, before Jesus Christ died for our sins, the believing dead and the unbelieving dead went to the same place.

However, this place was separated into two compartments – Abraham's bosom and the place of torment where those who rejected God went.

You guys can read Luke 16 – The rich man and Lazarus and see that even Jesus spoke of such a place.

20 Immediately Saul fell full length on the ground, and was dreadfully afraid because of the words of Samuel. And there was no strength in him, for he had eaten no food all day or all night. 21 And the woman came to Saul

and saw that he was severely troubled, and said to him, "Look, your maidservant has obeyed your voice, and I have put my life in my hands and heeded the words which you spoke to me. 22 "Now therefore, please, heed also the voice of your maidservant, and let me set a piece of bread before you; and eat, that you may have strength when you go on [your] way." 23 But he refused and said, "I will not eat." So his servants, together with the woman, urged him; and he heeded their voice. Then he arose from the ground and sat on the bed. 24 Now the woman had a fattened calf in the house, and she hastened to kill it. And she took flour and kneaded [it], and baked unleavened bread from it. 25 So she brought

[it] before Saul and his servants, and they ate. Then they rose and went away that night.

This woman takes pity on Saul and serves he and his servants supper.

Perhaps she is hoping that he won't change his mind and kill her.

It's a sad note when a practitioner of the occult comforts the King of Israel.

That is what we have here –

But they were two of the same kind; each lived in rebellion to God, and each was under judgment from the LORD.

Now in chapter 29, the events shift back to David and we see how God intervenes so that he doesn't fight in the war with the Israelites.

[1Sa 29:1-11 NKJV] 1 Then the Philistines gathered together all their armies at Aphek, and the Israelites encamped by a fountain which [is] in Jezreel. 2 And the lords of the Philistines passed in review by hundreds and by thousands, but David and his men passed in review at the rear with Achish.

When we started the book of 1 Samuel and we were introduced to the Philistines, you might remember that the Philistines were comprised of five main cities and each one had its own king.

So, here in chapter 29, the forces are being organized and being brought together as one army – and as they are doing this, they spot David and his men among the group.

3 Then the princes of the Philistines said, "What [are] these Hebrews [doing here]?" And Achish said to the princes of the Philistines, "[Is] this not David, the servant of Saul king of Israel, who has been with me these days, or these years? And to this day I have found no fault in him since he defected [to me]."

David may have king Achish fooled – but the other princes are skeptical of David's motives.

Those Hebrews are not one of us.

They worship a different God than we do.

Their allegiance/their loyalty is toward someone else.

4 But the princes of the Philistines were angry with him; so the princes of the Philistines said to him, "Make this fellow return, that he may go back to the place which you have appointed for him, and do not let him go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he become our adversary. For with what could he reconcile himself to his master, if not with the heads of these men? 5 "[Is] this not David, of whom they sang to one another in dances, saying: 'Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands'?"

The princes of the Philistines were worried that if David joined them in battle, that he would turn on them in order to

find favor with Saul and that favor would be obtained with the price of their lives.

In the same manner that David cut the head of Goliath, he would do the same with their heads.

And they remind Achish of the song that the people sang where they praised David as being more valiant as a warrior than Saul.

6 Then Achish called David and said to him, "Surely, [as] the LORD lives, you have been upright, and your going out and your coming in with me in the army [is] good in my sight. For to this day I have not found evil in you since the day of your coming to me. Nevertheless the lords do not favor you. 7 "Therefore return now, and go

in peace, that you may not displease the lords of the Philistines."

David thought he couldn't be happy or at peace in the land of Israel (1 Samuel 27:1) – that is why he fled to the land of the Philistines.

Now he finds that his "Philistine friends" won't accept him either.

David has no home; he is trying to live in both worlds, so he has no home in either world.

And that is one of the characteristics of a backslidden Christian –

Backslidden Christians tend to be miserable because they have too much of the world to be at peace in the Lord and they have too much of the Lord to be at peace in the world.

Just like David.

8 So David said to Achish, "But what have I done? And to this day what have you found in your servant as long as I have been with you, that I may not go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?" **9** Then Achish answered and said to David, "I know that you [are] as good in my sight as an angel of God; nevertheless the princes of the Philistines have said, 'He shall not go up with us to the battle.' **10 "Now therefore, rise early in the morning with your master's servants who have come with you. And as soon as you are up early in the**

morning and have light, depart." 11 So David and his men rose early to depart in the morning, to return to the land of the Philistines. And the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

David seems genuinely disappointed that he will not be able to fight for the Philistines against Israel.

This is where David's backsliding hits rock bottom.

He was preparing to go to war against Israel.

He was trying to go to war against God and God's people.

And used these horrible words: "that I may not go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king."

David was calling Achish his lord and the people of God his enemies. That was the lowest.

Always remember that when we begin to backslide, we never think we will sink as low as we sometimes do.

David's heart is in a bad place, but notice that God didn't abandon him.

And it is a good thing too because David will once again turn to the Lord in the next chapter.

We should praise God for the times when He keeps us from sinning as bad as we want to.

Let's pray...