

SERMON FROM HELL

This lesson is unique in that it is a Sermon from Hell to earth rather than from heaven to earth.

- Saul was unable to send a prayer to heaven so he sent one to hell (Sheol).

Most people are intrigued with the 6' o'clock news version of the drama of the events of this story rather than the spiritual substances of the events. They would rather focus on the witch rather than the Word of God. This is how the devil disguises and deceives the truth of events that are important to the Plan of God in human history.

(2 Cor.11:3) But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

(2 Cor.11:14) And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

In this lesson, we will focus our attention on the Word of God in the events rather than the witch.

This lesson will examine our lesson text by the following four homiletic points.

- (1 Sam.28:1-5) War with the Philistines
- (1 Sam.28:6-7) Without a prayer
- (1 Sam.28:8-14) Witch who survived purging
- (1 Sam.28:15-19) Word from dead prophet

1. The background to our lesson is war with Philistines that terrified King Saul because of what losing would mean to his family and Israel (1 Sam.28:1-5).

Notice how this story is introduced to us - "Now it came about **in those days**." "In those days," Saul is in reversionism trying to kill David as God's choice of king (1 Sam.18-28). As a result, David has joined the Philistines against Saul (1 Sam.27:1-4, 12; 28:1-2).

Principle: Two wrongs don't make a right. You don't fight evil with evil (1 Pet.3:9-10). God intervened for David so that he does not fight against Israel in defeat (1 Sam.29-30/ 28:19; 29:5).

The three main characters in story are identified at the beginning (1 Sam.28:3) Samuel and Saul and the spiritualist (medium).

Historically: The two armies have drawn their battle-lines for warfare (1 Sam.28:4) Shunem and Gilboa (Issachar territory). Saul became terrified at the strength of Philistine army (1 Sam.28:5) [ch.17] Goliath and Saul (1 Sam.17:11, 24) David and Goliath (1 Sam.17:26, 33-37, 45-49, 54) (1 Sam.31:9).

2. Saul is living out the saying, "without prayer."

(1 Sam.28:6) "When Saul inquired of the Lord, **the Lord did not answer him**; either by dreams or by Urim (Ex.28:30; Num.27:21) [Shadow Christology of the High Priesthood] (Heb.10:1) [Chs.5-8) or by prophets."

The Gospel of Christ is the first step:

(Isa.53:5) “But **He was pierced** through for our transgressions, **He was crushed** for our iniquities; The **chastening** for our well-being fell upon Him, and by **His scourging** we are healed.” (Isa.53:10-11; 1 Cor.15:3-4; Gal.3:8)

As a believer, Saul problem is just the opposite of **Ps.103:10**. “He has not **dealt with us** according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.”

Confession of sin is Saul’s answer. David understood this was the answer to his reversionism.

(Ps.51:2-4) “Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, **You only, I have sinned** and done what is evil in Your sight, **so that** You are justified when You speak and blameless when You judge.”
(1 John 1:9; Heb.4:14-16)

Because of no prayer life, Saul becomes desperate for a prophetic word about the outcome of the war. Saul seeks out a medium, sooth-sayer. Remember he had previous purged all divination from the priest-nation (1 Sam.28:3). Yet Saul’s advisors knew about the Witch of En-dor (1 Sam.28:7).

3. The witch of En-dor is interesting because she survived Saul’s earlier purging of the priest-nation of Israel (1 Sam.15:23; 28:3, 9; Lev.19:31).

Saul was unable to send a prayer to heaven so he sent one to hell (sheol) (1 Sam.28:8-14). He disguises himself, but she refuses to practice her sorcery because of Saul’s purging (1 Sam.28:8-9). She was convinced to continued, not knowing it was King Saul (1 Sam.28:10-11).

When she saw Samuel’s spirit she realizes her client was King Saul. He reassured her and asked her to give him the details of what she was seeing (1 Sam.28:12-14).

4. It was word of God taught in a sermon by a dead prophet to a living reversionistic king.

Samuel’s sermon from hell was in two parts: (1 Sam.28:15-18) and (1 Sam.28:19).

First part of the sermon was a reminder of previously taught Categorical Bible Doctrine (CBD)

(1 Sam.28:16-18) [Note the four parts]

Samuel said, “Why then do you ask me, since the LORD has departed from you and has become your adversary? The LORD has done accordingly as He spoke through me; for the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, to David. As you did not obey the LORD and did not execute His fierce wrath on Amalek, so the LORD has done this thing to you this day.

Second part was future Categorical Bible Doctrine (CBD)

(1 Sam.28:19) [Note the three parts]

“Moreover, the LORD will also give over Israel along with you into the hands of the Philistines, therefore tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. Indeed, the LORD will give over the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines!”

It wasn’t too late to confess sin and revert back to a spiritual condition. **Saul was still alive**. Rejection of kingship does not mean rejection of sonship with God (Heb.12:5-11). David was in a similar reversion status but confessed his sin (Ps.51:2-4, 9).