

Year 2

Week 75

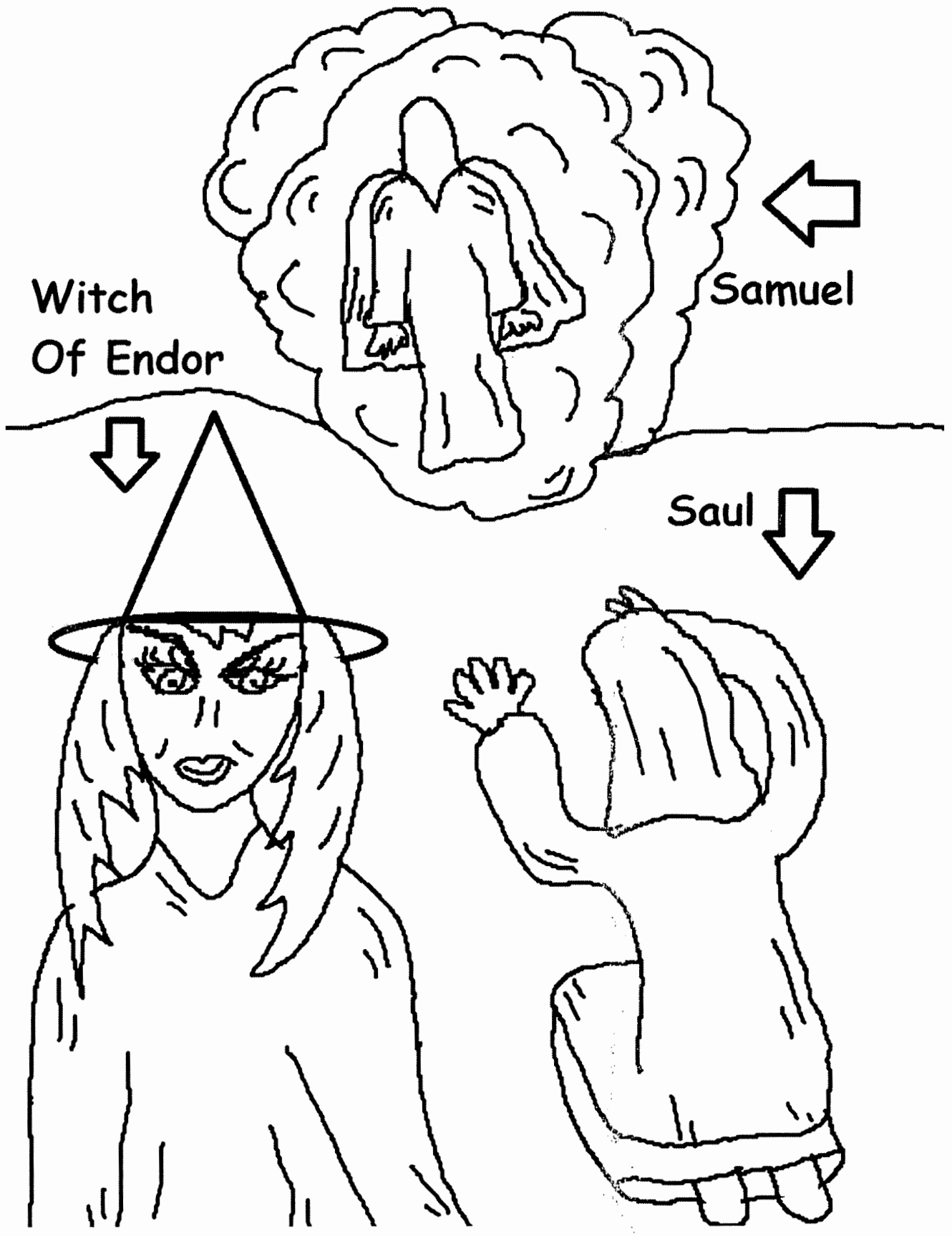
Saul Visits The Witch Of En Dor

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 28 and 1 Samuel 31

Key Verse: 1 Samuel 28:7 “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.’”

Key Points:

1. Samuel, the Lord’s prophet had died. King Saul had put all of the mediums and spiritists (witches, sorcerers, etc.) out of the land of Israel. These people were quite common in idolatrous lands.
2. The Philistines were gathered for battle against Israel. Because Saul had repeatedly rejected God, God was not communicating with Saul via dreams, prophesy, or by the breastplate of judgment (urim). This scenario coupled together for a terrifying situation for Saul.
3. Saul ironically decided to disguise himself and turn to the Devil’s realm for guidance instead of repenting and humbly turning to God. Saul requested that a witch bring Samuel up from the grave. Satan does not have this kind of power. Seeking witchcraft was expressly forbidden by God’s law (see Ex. 22:18 and Lev. 19:31).
4. The witch shrieked when she saw Samuel’s spirit. This had never happened before, but God allowed His Prophet Samuel’s rest to be interrupted to bring Saul a final chilling prophesy. Samuel told Saul that God was Saul’s enemy and that the next day he and his 3 sons would be killed in battle. His words rang true and they were all killed brutally by the Philistines.



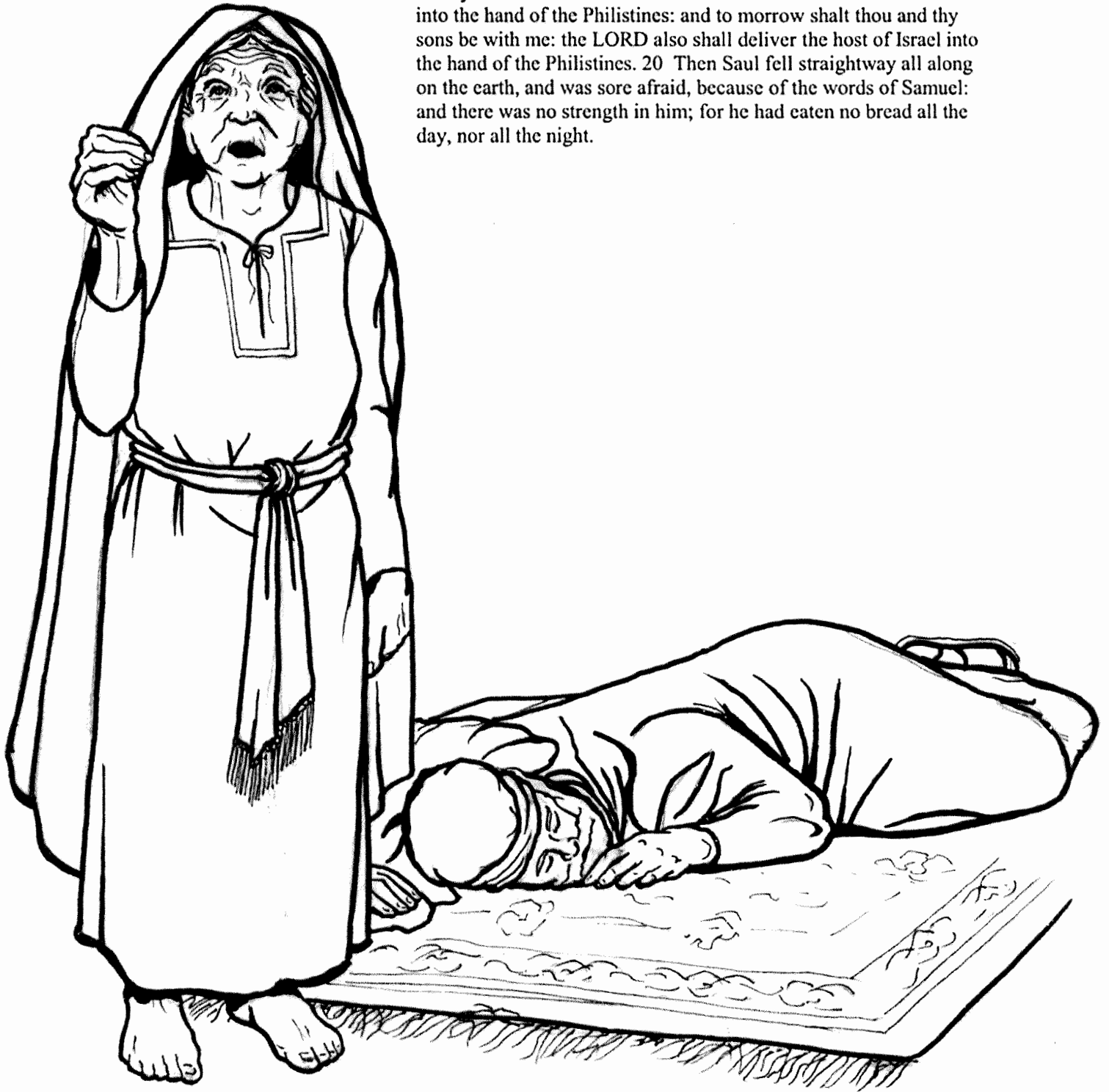
Witch
Of Endor

Samuel

Saul

1 Sam 28:6 And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.7 Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit; that I may go to her, and inquire of her. 8 And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee.11 Then said the woman,

Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel.16 Then said Samuel, Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the LORD is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy?19 Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines: and to morrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me: the LORD also shall deliver the host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines. 20 Then Saul fell straightway all along on the earth, and was sore afraid, because of the words of Samuel: and there was no strength in him; for he had eaten no bread all the day, nor all the night.

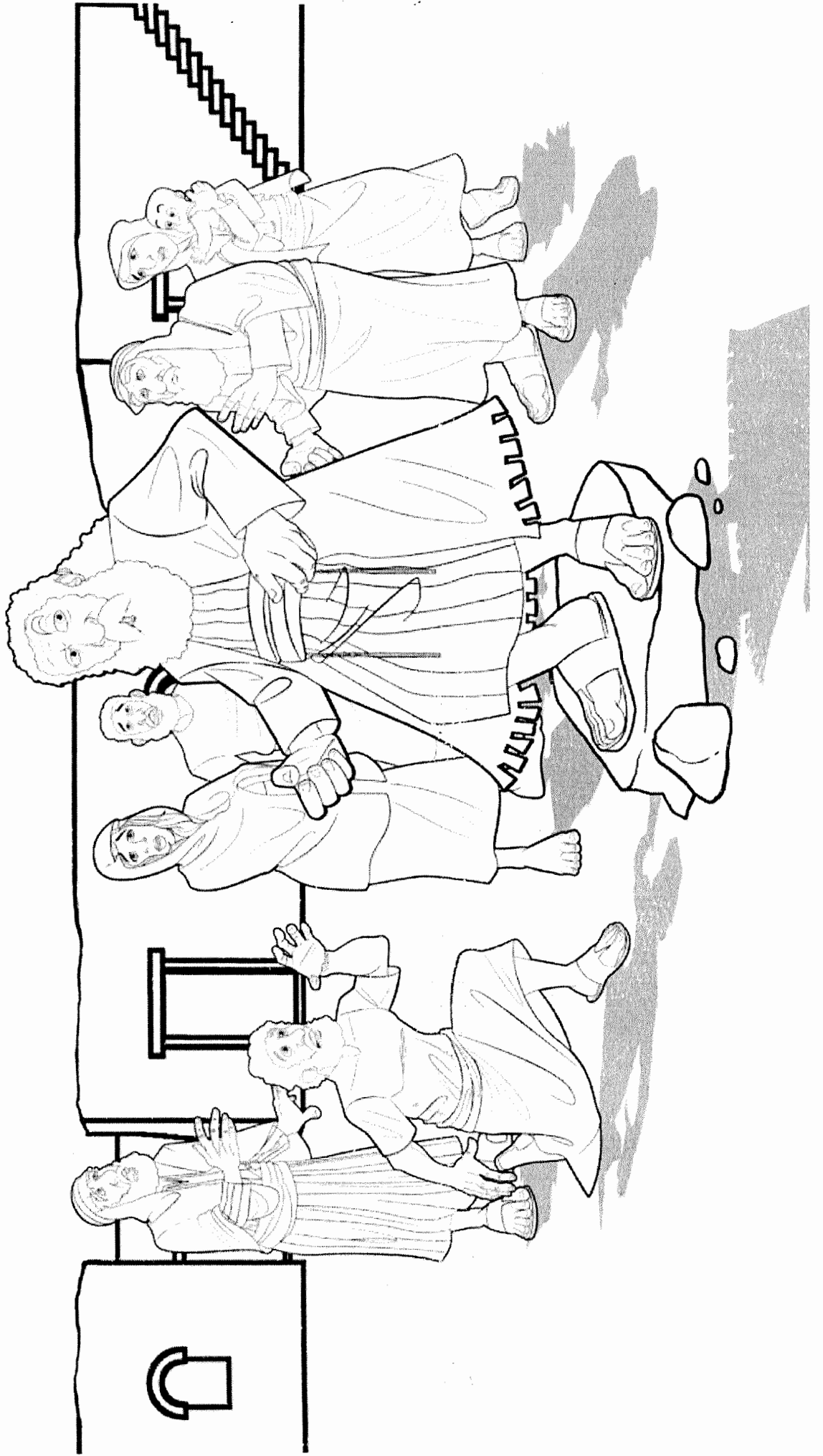


Isa 8:19 And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?



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Saul, a Witch, and a Spirit

[Saul 28:7]

Use the word bank below to fill in the blanks and learn about Saul, the witch of Endor, and a spirit. Some words are used more than once.

_____ is afraid of the _____.

Saul _____ himself to visit a _____ for help.

The _____ summons the _____ of _____.

_____ tells _____ bad news about the future.

_____ falls to the ground because he is upset.

The _____ cooks for _____ so he can make the journey home.

WORD BANK

SAUL

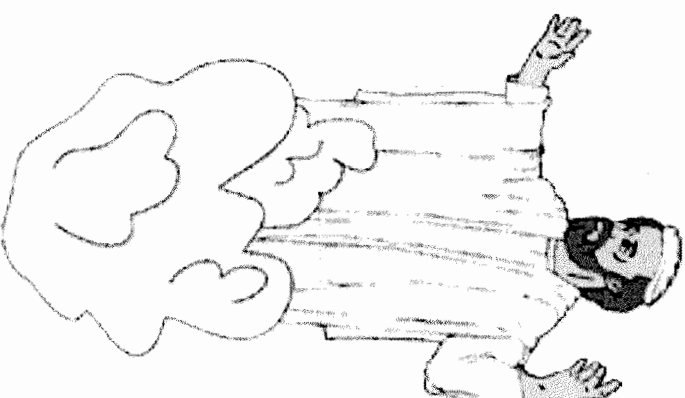
PHILISTINES

SPIRIT

WITCH

DISGUISES

SAMUEL



Saul Visits Witch of En-dor
I Samuel 28, 31

Memory Verse:

“Then Saul fell at once full length on the ground, filled with fear because of the words of Samuel.” I Sam 28:20

Choose the best answer:

Saul was looking for a medium because:

- a. God would not answer him.
- b. Samuel would not answer him.
- c. He could not find David.

The woman did not want to do what Saul asked because she was afraid of:

- a. David.
- b. God
- c. Saul.

The woman was afraid because she saw:

- a. Samuel.
- b. Saul.
- c. God.

Samuel said God had torn the kingdom from Saul's hand because:

- a. Saul had tried to kill David.
- b. Saul had disobeyed by not destroying the Amelikites.
- c. Saul had consulted a medium.

Who did Samuel predict would die in battle the following day?

- a. Saul alone.
- b. Jonathan alone.
- c. Saul and his sons.

Saul was injured by:

- a. The archers.
- b. A swordsman.
- c. His armor bearer.

Saul was killed by:

- a. The Philistines.
- b. His armor bearer.
- c. Himself.

The people of _____ took Saul's body back from the Philistines:

- a. Bethlehem.
- b. Jabesh-gilead.
- c. Beth-shan.

Samuel said that all this happened because of Saul's sin in which chapter?

- a. I Samuel 15.
- b. I Samuel 16.
- c. I Samuel 17.



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BIBLE QUIZ

WITCH OF ENDOR

Match the question with the
answer on the right.

QUESTIONS

- ___ King Saul was king of which people?
- ___ Which army wanted to fight the Israelites?
- ___ Why did King Saul want to talk to a witch?
- ___ In which town did King Saul talk to a witch?
- ___ Who did King Saul ask the witch to raise from the grave?
- ___ Why did King Saul want to talk to Samuel?
- ___ What did Samuel tell King Saul?
- ___ What happened to King Saul after he visited the witch of Endor?
- ___ Where in the Bible does Yahweh forbid trying to talk to dead people?
- ___ How did King Saul lose his life?

ANSWERS

1. Philistines
2. Endor
3. Deuteronomy 18
4. Saul and his sons w
their lives
5. Fell on his sword
6. Israelites
7. Went into battle ag
the Philistines
8. The prophet Samue
9. To understand the f
10. To learn how to de
Philistines



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WORD SEARCH

WITCH OF ENDOR

U M X U V P B E N D O R W G Q H M S V S
D O F T J X M B M S G Z T J W M H O L A
F O T R I B E S Y I A Q C P P V Z L G M
B E H Y G R I J A T Z R R B O V C D N U
F U S O T D X K H H W P R T O Z L I A E
U B O U R Z O E W S A J A O Q Z K E Z L
U E P O H S I Q E U E T I H W T E R G L
K N F H F J E T H E K C K S G F N S L E
X J H I I W W S Z M D C H T Z N W Q O O
C A G E K L Q C A I J S V Y V D F M W F
Q M Q R F G I B W Q T S T S G U L Q D B
B I R K I N G S W D T S O J Y E N Q N W
L N I R M T B P T W Z G R U F D J M P I
T V B J Z S N S Z I R C A X C B T U R T
S W P P L G P T A N N Z H V O T U U O C
R I L K I Z R O J A K E Z L V O U O P H
Z M B F E W M D Z O F B S D A F N X H B
J U D G E W R O F O F I P T F J M C E V
Q M E F W V N F Z G A Z S A U L S F T B
Q R C Z V X M X A U I S R A E L I T E X

JUDGE

TZITZITS

PHILISTINES

ENDOR

PROPHET

SAMUEL

SOLDIERS

TORAH

MIZPAH

ISRAELITE

YAHWEH

TRIBES

ARROW

KING

WITCH

HORSES

SAUL

BENJAMIN

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worksheets, quizzes and more visit our website at:

LESSON 5

SAUL AND THE WITCH OF ENDOR

I Sam. 28

INTRODUCTION. Sometime during David's fugitive years Samuel died and the people of Israel mourned for him. After David's encounter with Saul in the cave, David married Abigail, a woman of Carmel, and also Ahinoam, a woman of Jezreel. Both of these cities were located in the hill country of Judah where David was hiding. About the same time Saul gave his daughter Michal, who was David's first wife, to another man (I Sam. 25).

Again the Ziphites betrayed David to Saul, and again Saul began his pursuit of David. This time David discovered Saul and his men while they were sleeping in their camp. A deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them, and David was able to steal into the camp, take Saul's spear, and a jug of water. David then stood on a hill afar off and called to Abner, Saul's captain, chastising him for not guarding the king. Again, Saul, realizing David had spared his life, said he had sinned and would no longer attempt to harm David. David then went on his way and Saul returned to his place, no longer pursuing David (I Sam. 26).

David still did not trust Saul, however, and fled once more to Achish, the Philistine king of Gath. Achish gave David the city of Ziklag as a home, and David, his men, and their families dwelt in the city (I Sam. 27).

Once again the Philistines gathered their army together to fight against Israel. Saul gathered his army, and the two armies camped about five miles apart. When Saul saw the Philistine host, he was frightened. He attempted to communicate with God, but was unsuccessful either by dreams, by the priests, or by the prophets. Saul previously had attempted to rid the land of witchcraft, but because of his fear of the coming battle, he told his servants to find a witch for him to consult. When his servants

advised him there was a medium at Endor, Saul went to seek her advice after disguising himself. He tricked her into calling for Samuel's spirit, and surprisingly Samuel's spirit appeared. Samuel's message, however, was not comforting or encouraging to Saul (I Sam. 28).

A. SAUL CONSULTS A WITCH (MEDIUM)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. _____ Samuel died and all Israel (I Sam. 28:3) | a. night |
| 2. _____ Saul had put away (I Sam. 28:3) | b. dreams, Urim
nor prophets |
| 3. _____ Israel gathered at Gilboa against the
(I Sam. 28:4) | c. snare |
| 4. _____ When Saul saw the host of the Philistines,
he was (I Sam. 28:5) | d. lamented |
| 5. _____ When Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord
answered not, neither by (I Sam. 28:6) | e. loud voice |
| 6. _____ Saul told his servants to find a (I Sam. 28:7) | f. punishment |
| 7. _____ His servants said there was such a woman at
(I Sam. 28:7) | g. Endor |
| 8. _____ Saul disguised himself and went to see the
woman by (I Sam. 28:8) | h. afraid |
| 9. _____ The woman believed Saul was laying for her a
(I Sam. 28:9) | i. Philistines |
| 10. _____ Saul swore to her by the Lord that she would
receive no (I Sam. 28:10) | j. familiar spirits, wizards
(mediums, spiritists) |
| 11. _____ Saul asked the woman to bring up for him
(I Sam. 28:11) | k. Samuel |
| 12. _____ When the woman saw Samuel, she cried
with a (I Sam. 28:12) | l. woman with a familiar
spirit (medium) |
| 13. _____ The woman then recognized (I Sam. 28:12) | m. Saul |

B. SAMUEL'S MESSAGE TO SAUL

- | | | |
|-----------|---|--------------------------|
| 1. _____ | The woman told Saul she had seen a god (spirit) ascending out of the (I Sam. 28:13) | a. eat |
| 2. _____ | When Saul asked what form the spirit had, she said he was an (I Sam. 28:14) | b. Lord |
| 3. _____ | When Saul perceived it was Samuel, he (I Sam. 28:14) | c. servants |
| 4. _____ | When Samuel asked Saul why he had disturbed him, Saul said he was (I Sam. 28:15) | d. strength |
| 5. _____ | Saul said the Philistines make war and God does not (I Sam. 28:15) | e. David |
| 6. _____ | Samuel said the Lord had departed from Saul and become his (I Sam. 28:16) | f. old man |
| 7. _____ | Samuel said the Lord had rent the kingdom from Saul and given it to (I Sam. 28:17) | g. Amalek |
| 8. _____ | Saul had not obeyed the voice of the (I Sam. 28:18) | h. fatted calf and bread |
| 9. _____ | The Lord had taken the kingdom from Saul because he had not executed the Lord's wrath upon (I Sam. 28:18) | i. answer |
| 10. _____ | Saul and his sons would die the next day, and the Lord would deliver Israel to the (I Sam. 28:19) | j. bowed |
| 11. _____ | When Samuel had finished speaking, Saul fell to the earth and had no (I Sam. 28:20) | k. earth |
| 12. _____ | The woman persuaded Saul to (I Sam. 28:21-22) | l. Philistines |
| 13. _____ | She prepared a (I Sam. 28:24) | m. sore distressed |
| 14. _____ | She set food before Saul and his (I Sam. 28:25) | n. enemy |

The story of Saul visiting the medium presents some difficult questions and can be hard to understand. Following is a good discussion on the topic which may be of use when preparing your lessons.

Saul & the Witch of Endor

The Question

Toward the end of King Saul's reign he went to a witch to have her conjure up the Prophet Samuel. I thought that once a person died they were no longer available to those of us still in our bodies and that any so called contact was really demonic. Yet in scripture it seems as though the witch contacted the ACTUAL Prophet Samuel—not just a demon spirit impersonating him. Can you explain this to me?

- Name and location unknown

The Answer

Part 1: Is contacting the dead possible?

Part 2: Handling things that don't fit

Is contacting the dead possible? (Part 1)

Contacting the dead, called necromancy is strictly forbidden activity in the Bible. God does not tell us it is not possible; what he does say is DON'T DO IT. Saul was well aware of the biblical law forbidding it. **"Now a man or a woman who is a medium or a spiritist shall surely be put to death."** (Leviticus 20:27) **"There shall not be found among you anyone...who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead."** (Deuteronomy 18:11)

King Saul had previously reinforced God's law on this matter and had outlawed mediums and spiritists in the land. Yet when he was in big trouble and couldn't seem to hear from God for himself he broke his own rule. Not surprising. Saul's reign was always marked by compromise and weak character and Samuel had told him early on that God would remove the kingdom from him in favor of David.

I agree that the scripture makes it sound as if this apparition was the real Samuel. The witch's description of the conjured spirit definitely caused Saul to believe it was so. The "ghost" spoke like Samuel and confirmed the things Samuel had already told Saul while he was on earth. So—was it really him? We don't know.

Here are some possibilities. Perhaps it was Samuel. If we accept that we are simply accepting the scripture as stated and cannot be faulted for doing so. If that is true God allowed it yet we may not conclude that God therefore approved it. God allows us to exercise our free will and sin even though he does not approve of sin at all.

Perhaps it was actually a demon disguising itself as Samuel. The witch may have had access to demonic spirits she controlled and who to some degree controlled her. They could have conjured up Samuel's likeness and repeated back all Samuel's words to Saul in his lifetime. Why would they want to confirm God's word to Saul? Demons desire to intersect with our world wherever possible. Perhaps they get something out of doing so that we don't fully understand.

Handling things that don't fit (Part 2)

The story of Saul and the witch or medium of Endor is one of those passages that it is difficult to wrap our minds around. Our theology often sticks things in strict slots that we like so everything stays neat and tidy. What then do we do when there are loose ends and messy details that don't fit our belief system?

Does this passage indicate the dead are accessible to us? If Samuel were God's prophet why would he submit to being called back? Who's in charge, a witch or God? If this happened once, might it happen again, in our modern times? If a person dies and goes immediately to either heaven or hell, how could they be hanging around close enough to be contacted?

All these questions are legitimate but not necessarily answerable because there are times when scripture doesn't give enough information to satisfy our curiosity. We are left with mysteries. But we shouldn't stop

asking questions. We should keep digging into God's Word because often a mystery will surprisingly settle for us over time as we seek God's wisdom.

There is an approach I like to take when I find a hard passage of scripture and I'll share it with you. The first thing I do is look it up and read it in as many other translations as possible. To that I might add a paraphrase such as *The Message*. (A paraphrase is not a strict translation from the original language but a loose rendering which tries to capture the sense of the passage.)

I use every available study note and cross reference that each Bible supplies. Bible scholars who have asked the same questions frequently offer up solutions or possibilities I have never considered. They have taken into consideration customs of the day and archeological finds and word meaning nuances that are extremely helpful.

Beyond the Bible itself there are Bible dictionaries, Topical Bible studies and commentaries with a wealth of information to aid in understanding. Even as I researched this question of yours, I used all of the above. That's how I know it has been much asked and debated over time.

Finally, praying for understanding actually works. In fact, I think it is often the Holy Spirit who inspires our curiosity in the first place. Submit mysteries to him and wait. They WILL be answered, either here or in eternity.