

I Samuel 8

David living in Ziklag. Had crisis of faith and went to live with the Philistines.

Chapter 28 : Philistines get ready for war against Israel. Saul is still king. Saul has been disobedient. People also. Disobedience leads to punishment by enemies.

Philistines feel confident because they have David and they were more afraid of him than of Saul. They feel David can fight for them. David gives a vague answer.

Philistines camped at Shumen – in land of Issachar. Israel poorly guarded. Saul has used military and resources chasing David.

Saul sees their army and is afraid. Calls to the Lord but gets no answer. Lord knew his motives and his sins. Disobeyed with the Amalekites and killed the priests. Knew he would consult the devil next. Saul banished occult from the kingdom but had evil inside himself. Does not even think to repent and turn back to God.

Wants to talk to a medium (spiritist or witch). Saul has banished them from the Land. Aides tell him there is a witch in En Dor. Goes in disguise. She recognizes him as Saul. Saul wants her to conjure up Samuel. Wants advice. Demon takes form of Samuel. Shows power of the evil kingdom.

Samuel is in disguise but demon recognizes him. Demon in disguise but Samuel does not recognize him. Power of the evil kingdom. Complains about God abandoning him.

Demon tells Saul that God is mad and that the kingdom will be delivered to the Philistines and Saul and his family will be dead. Demons don't give encouraging messages. Become accusers.

Chapter 29: Philistine lords upset that David is there. Remember the song about him. Don't want him going to the battle.

David in a bad position. God gets him out of this situation using the Philistine lords.

Chapter 30: David goes back to Ziklag. Amalekites have attacked the city and taken the woman and children. Revenge on David. City was unguarded. Was punishment for David also. People turned on David and considered stoning him. Was his fault for provoking the Philistines and leaving the city unguarded.

David turns back to God. Strengthens him. Prays with an ephod. God answers and tells him to pursue. Had 600 men. 200 were too fatigued to go all the way. David is patient with them. Does not make them go past their strength.

Defeat the Amalekites and take back the women and children and the spoils. David says that even the men who stayed at the river get a share of the spoils. David gives some to others in different places.

Chapter 31 : Philistines attack and are routing the Israelites. Saul is wounded by archers. Jonathan and Saul's other sons are killed. Wants his armor-bearer to kill him so he doesn't fall into enemy hands. He refuses.

Saul falls on his sword and dies. Armor-bearer does the same – Jewish tradition says he was Doeg.

Israelites fled and abandoned the cities. Philistines occupy them.

Philistines cut off Saul's head and put his armor in their god's temple. Proclaimed their victory throughout the country. Saul's body hung on a city wall.

Israelites take it down and burn it and buried the bones.

Book begins with the birth of Samuel and ends with burial of Saul.

