

***“Saul’s Séance and Last Supper”  
I Sam. 28:3-25***

Recall ch. 27-29 form a “sandwich structure” where David’s episode w/the Philistines (27) is interrupted by Saul’s episode w/a medium. Both disguise themselves before their enemies to get their help.

***Saul seeks for God’s help (28:3-7)***

- \*Historical note: 2<sup>nd</sup> obit. (25:1), spiritists “cut off” = killed, vs. 9).
- \*Saul’s appears to seek for divine help. But how, as he alienated Samuel (now dead), the prophets, and killed priests at Nob. I Chron. 10:13,14 downplays his attempt to seek God’s will here.
- \*Canaanites killed for psychic stuff (Lv. 19:31, 20:6,27, Dt. 18:9-15)

***Saul sneaks out for forbidden help (28:8-19)***

- \*Contrast Saul to David in 27, 29. David totally fools Achish and goes undetected for years and chews out Achish, while Saul is detected immediately and gets chewed out.
- \*Amazingly Saul killed the priests at Nob but spares a medium!
- \*Samuel comes “up” from Sheol / Hades = temporary place for the good / bad (see Lk. 16 parable). Believers today = 2 Cor. 5:8.
- \*Clearly this episode is not the result of a medium’s power to talk to the dead (note her shock), but it is God’s last response to Saul to go with his last meal. See 19:23,24, Jn. 11:49-51, I Kgs. 13:20-22, Num 22:28 for surprise mouths God used.

***Saul sits for a meal with a medium (28:20-25)***

- \*Saul is literally floored, as at 19:24 (overcome by the encounter).
- \*Eating with a medium is outrageous (I Kgs. 13:15-17) as it implies fellowship and mutual respect. Saul’s dumb fast (as in ch. 14) is broken with a feast--fatted calf (as in prodigal son’s party).
- \*Don’t miss imagery (28:25 “night” vs. 29:11 “early morning”) and compare that to Jn. 13:30.

**What is really scary here?**