

# Life of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

## Saul Consults a Medium

- When Saul saw the Philistines gathered for war he was very afraid [1 Sam 28:3-6].
  - Saul could no longer consult with Samuel [v. 3a].
  - Saul had purged the land of mediums [v. 3b].
  - Saul did gather the armies of Israel, but he was afraid of the Philistines [vv. 4-5].
  - Saul had been in prolonged carnality, so the Lord was not answering his prayers [v. 6].
- Instead of confessing his sins and being restored to fellowship with the Lord, Saul sought help from a medium [1 Sam 28:7-10].
  - Saul knew what he was doing was wrong, so he disguised himself [v. 8 cp. Lev 19:31].
  - The medium did not want to get in trouble, but Saul assured her that she would not be punished for helping him [vv. 9-10 cp. Lev 20:27]
- Saul asked the medium to bring up Samuel so he could speak with him [1 Sam 28:11-14].
  - The medium did not expect to bring up Samuel, so when she saw him she knew that her visitor must be someone important – King Saul! [v. 12]
  - Saul asked the medium to describe what she was seeing because he wanted to be sure it really was Samuel [vv. 13-14]
- God allowed Samuel to appear to Saul in order to deliver bad news to him [1 Sam 28:15-19].
  - Saul told Samuel that God was not answering him, so he needed advice [v. 15].
  - Samuel rebuked Saul and repeated what he had told him before [vv. 16-18 cp. 1 Sam 15:28].
  - Samuel added that the Philistines would defeat Israel and Saul and his sons would die [v. 19].
- Saul was devastated by Samuel's news and lacked any strength because he was famished [1 Sam 28:20-25].
  - The medium offered Saul food to eat, but he initially rejected her offer [vv. 20-23a].
  - Saul's men (and the medium) convinced Saul that he should eat and they departed in the middle of the night after eating [vv. 23b-25].