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Lesson 77

THE DEATH OF SAUL

Story Elements

- Text: 1 Samuel 28:3-25; 31:1-13
- Setting: approx. 1020 B.C.
- Main Characters: God, Saul, Samuel, and a witch
- **Plot**: Saul, desperate for spiritual guidance, consults with a witch shortly before his tragic death.

- **Key word**(s): "______" (28:5, 20)
- Climax: "1 Samuel 28:11 Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel.

The Witch at En	1 dor (28:3-25)
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1.	(vv 3-6) Once again, the armies of Israel and the Philistines gathered to do battle. The Saul sought guidance from the LORD, but no answer was received. (28:6)
2.	Deprived of godly spiritual guidance, Saul decided to disobey the Law of Moses (Deu.
	18:11) by seeking the services of a
	a. Under his leadership, Saul had driven almost all the mediums and
	("those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards" - KJV) out of Israel. Therefore, he
	used a disguise to visit the witch at Endor.
3.	(vv 7-11) Desperate for spiritual guidance, Saul asked the witch to "bring up"
4.	(v 12) The witch's startled reaction to the appearance of Samuel shows two things:
	a. She was to conjure the dead in this fashion.
	b. The LORD providentially Samuel to appear and converse with Saul.
5.	(vv 13-14) When Saul asked the witch what she saw, she said, "I saw gods ascending
	out of the earth." The word translated gods (Hebrew: Elohim) is a general word with
	various meanings that are determined by context. In this instance, it is used to refer to
	a spiritual being – Samuel's
6.	(vv 15-19) Samuel did not have good news for Saul. He told Saul that he and his
	would die in battle against the Philistines.
7.	(vv 20-25) Saul passed out from a combination of shock and lack of nourishment. The
	witch served and fed Saul and his men, probably out of a desire to part ways on

The Death of Saul (31:1-13)

8. (vv 1-2) At Mt. ______, the battle with the Philistines ensued, and true to Samuel's word Israel was losing and Saul's sons had fallen in battle.

9.	(vv 1-6) Philistine archers had especially targeted Saul, and he was dying of arrow wounds. Out of a desire to be spared from at the hand of Philistine
	victors, Saul asked his armor-bearer to finish him off. After his armor-bearer refused,
40	Saul took his own life, and then his armor-bearer followed suit.
10	(vv 7-13) The next day, as the Philistines pillaged the dead, Saul and his fallen sons were
	found and their bodies mutilated.
	a. Their bodies were fastened to the wall of
	b. The brave men of recovered the mutilated bodies and
	buried the bones under a tree at Jabesh.
A	pplication
11	.How shockingly hypocritical of Saul to assure the witch of her safety by
	by the LORD so she would engage in a practice forbidden by the LORD!
laa	winh 20.13 Wherefore the Lard said Forger web as this popula draw poor me with their
	riah 29:13 Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their
	outh, And with their lips do honour me, But have removed their heart far from me, And
LITE	eir fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:
12	.When the Spirit of God came upon Saul, he was changed (10:6) and filled with courage. After the Spirit had left him, he again became a fearful person, fearing friend and foe alike (cf. 18:12). One of Saul's problems was that he feared more than he feared God.
	Fimothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and a sound mind.