

1 Samuel 28 - The Philistines Prepare to Fight Israel; Saul and the Witch at Endor; Samuel's Message to Saul

IV. Transition from the house of Saul to the house of David (1 Samuel 16:1—31:13)

(3) David in exile from the pursuing Saul (21:1—29:11)

(K) David in Philistia (27:1—29:11)

(a) David serves under Achish in Gath (27:1—28:2)

(b) Saul and the witch of Endor (28:3-25)

1 Samuel 28

(a) David serves under Achish in Gath (27:1—28:2)

1 Now it came about in those days that the Philistines gathered their armed camps for war, to fight against Israel. And Achish said to David, "Know for certain that you will go out with me in the camp, you and your men."

1 Now it came about in those days that the Philistines gathered their armed camps for war, to fight against Israel. And Achish said to David, "Know assuredly that you will go out with me in the camp, you and your men."

1 At that time the Philistines assembled their army for war to fight against Israel. Achish told David, "You know, of course, that you and your men will go out with me into the battle."

1 And it came to pass in those days, that the Philistines gathered their armies together for warfare, to fight with Israel. And Achish said unto David, Know thou assuredly, that thou shalt go out with me to battle, thou and thy men.

- Achish ordered David and his men to join his forces in battle against Israel

— It was as if God was forcing David to choose whom he would serve—his people or his enemies

- David's unwise choice to escape from Saul through a false alliance with Achish was costly

— He seemed to forget about the lessons from the first time he tried to hide in Gath (21:10-15)

— As we often do, David went back to the same place expecting a different result

- For more than a year (Cf. 1 Sam 27), David and his men lied about fighting the Israelites on behalf of Achish

— Instead, they attacked other peoples and seized their property, giving it to Achish as if it were from the Israelites

— They also killed all the men, women, and children to avoid any reports that would uncover David's scheme

2 David said to Achish, "Very well, you will learn what your servant can do." So Achish said to David, "*Then* I will assuredly make you my bodyguard for life!"

2 David said to Achish, "Very well, you shall know what your servant can do." So Achish said to David, "Very well, I will make you my bodyguard for life."

2 David told Achish, "Very well, you will now see what your servant will do." Achish told David, "Very well, I'll appoint you as my permanent bodyguard."

2 And David said to Achish, Surely thou shalt know what thy servant can do. And Achish said to David, Therefore will I make thee keeper of mine head for ever.

- David's reply was ambiguous and deceptive. The words, "what thy servant can do," contained no distinct promise of faithful assistance in the war with the Israelites.

— David did not promise to fight for the Philistines, but gave the impression that he would

— David was a slave to the lies he had told

— The expression "thy servant" was simply the ordinary form for speaking of oneself to a superior

- God had promised to make David king of Israel, but now King Achish told David that he would be his bodyguard for life

David continued to be a blessing to Israel as he obeyed God in Ziklag, without giving any help to Israel's enemy, the Philistines. David's plan, while yielding some positive benefits, also involved him in deception and lying, and left him vulnerable to Achish if he learned what was really happening.

This passage (1 Sam 27:1—28:2) illustrates that, when opposition from ungodly people persists, God's people should continue to pray and trust Him for protection rather than taking matters into their own hands. If we initiate a plan without seeking God's guidance, we may remove one source of aggravation and danger only to find ourselves in another. Such plans may result in some good, but they may also put us in situations where we find it even more tempting to disobey God (Cf. Jacob). We should, instead, remember God's promises (1 Peter 1:3-9; 2 Peter 1:2-4) and pray for His guidance (Cf. Phil 4:6-7).

Saul's Desperation

Chronologically, this section (v3-25) follows 1 Sam 29.

(b) Saul and the witch of Endor (28:3-25)

3 Now **Samuel was dead**, and all Israel had mourned him and buried him in Ramah, his own city. And Saul had removed the **mediums** and **spiritists** from the land.

3 Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him and buried him in Ramah, his own city. And Saul had removed from the land those who were mediums and spiritists.

3 Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in his own town of Ramah. Saul had expelled the mediums and spiritists from the land.

3 Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land.

- "...Samuel was dead" - Cf. 25:1

- "...mediums and spiritists" - these two terms always go together in the OT, showing the close relationship that exists between these activities

— The Mosaic Law prescribed death for mediums and spiritists because God promised to give His people all the information He wanted them to have about the future from prophets (Deut 18:9-22)

4 So the Philistines assembled and came and camped in **Shunem**; and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they camped in Gilboa.

4 So the Philistines gathered together and came and camped in Shunem; and Saul gathered all Israel together and they camped in Gilboa.

4 The Philistines assembled, moved out, and camped at Shunem, while Saul assembled all Israel and camped at Gilboa.

4 And the Philistines gathered themselves together, and came and pitched in Shunem: and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they pitched in Gilboa.

- "...Shunem" - located on the south side of the hill of Moreh; Endor was located on the north side

- Saul had two previous fateful encounters with the Philistines: at Michmash/Gilgal (13:5f) and Socoh/Elah (17:1f)

5 When Saul saw the camp of the Philistines, he was afraid and his heart trembled greatly.

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5 When Saul saw the Philistine camp, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly.

5 And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled.

- The shadow of Goliath's power fell on Saul as he recognized the threat against him

— If the Philistines prevailed in this encounter, they would cut Israel in half geographically

— David was not there to calm him or to rescue Israel this time, but David was to apparently fight against them

- Saul may have camped on the same ground where Gideon and his men camped

— The spring by which Gideon pitched is called “the well of Harod” (Judges 7:1), i.e., the Spring of Trembling. Saul camped beside the same spring and “trembled greatly.”

6 So **Saul inquired of the LORD**, but the LORD did not answer him, either in dreams, or by the **Urim**, or by the prophets.

6 When Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by prophets.

6 Saul inquired of the LORD, but the LORD did not answer him, either through dreams or Urim or through prophets.

6 And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.

- “...Saul enquired of the LORD” - 1 Chr 10:14 states that Saul “did not inquire of the LORD”; it is likely that Saul inquired of the Lord in this situation, but did not do so typically

— Saul’s attempts at inquiry were so unworthy that it would be an abuse of language to say that he was *really* “inquiring of Jehovah”

- God was silent to Saul’s inquiries; since Saul refused to listen to God in the past (Cf. 1 Sam 13; 15), God refused to listen to him now (Cf. v18)

— Normally when people refuse to pay attention to the Word of God, it becomes increasingly difficult for them to hear the Word of God (Cf. Jer 7:13-16)

— Saul’s current circumstances were an opportunity to repent and depend on God, but Saul showed by his choices that he still followed his own way

- Why did God not answer Saul?

— God’s Spirit had departed from Saul (16:14). Throughout Scripture, God warns that those who fail to follow His Word will lose the privilege of hearing or understanding it (Is 6:9-10; 59:1-13; Matt 13:14-15).

— God, who sees the motives of our hearts, knows whether we seek true guidance and assurance, or merely whatever we want to hear

— Anytime we openly refuse to follow God’s Word on a matter, but we keep praying for a different answer or outcome, we prove we are no longer looking for guidance, but for what we desire

— When we close our ears and hearts to God, we cannot blame Him if He responds with silence

- “...Urim” - Abiathar the priest took the Urim and Thummim and joined David some time before this event (22:20; 23:6-12), so Saul didn’t have access to it now

— It’s possible Saul created a new Urim and Thummim

God had rejected Saul as king because he disobeyed God (15:7-29). Saul had enough insight to publicly admit David was God’s choice to be king (24:20). Rather than accepting

God's gracious will for Israel and becoming David's mentor, Saul succumbed to jealousy, violence and conspiracy to murder (Rom 2:4). God had continually offered Saul grace and mercy in the midst of his disobedience. Yet, Saul's contempt for God grew as he rejected God's will and disobeyed God's Word. The suffering through consequences of Saul's sin affected him and those around him. But even the suffering did not bring about surrender of his will to God. The tragedy of Saul's life is that he consistently rejected God's grace in exchange for a life of disobedience, disloyalty and distance from Him and His goodness.

7 Then Saul said to his servants, "Find for me a woman who is a medium, so that I may go to her and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "Behold, there is a woman who is a medium at En-dor."

7 Then Saul said to his servants, "Seek for me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "Behold, there is a woman who is a medium at En-dor."

7 Saul told his servants, "Find me a woman who is a medium so I can go to her and make my inquiry through her." His servants told him, "Look, there's a woman at Endor who is a medium."

7 Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.

- Instead of responding to God's silence with humility and repentance, Saul sought guidance from a medium

— This encounter reveals the depth of Saul's disobedience, and shows that doing wrong often involves many sins and hurts many people

- Saul hypocritically ignored God's Word and his own previous laws against this practice

- A number of stern passages warn against any involvement with or practice of these satanic arts:

- Deut 18:9-12 includes these practices in a list of nine abominations that stand in opposition to revelation from God through his prophets
- Ex 22:18 denies sorceresses the right to live
- Lev 19:26,31; 20:6,27 likewise sternly caution against consulting a medium, a sorceress or anyone who practices divination

- Those cultivating these arts were to be put to death—the community was not to tolerate them, for what they did was so heinous that it was the very antithesis of the revelation that came from God (Cf. Jer 27:9-10)

All temptation to engage God's supernatural enemies to gain what God has not given is hypocritical, dishonors God and ignores the examples of Jesus' dealings with these spirits

and superstitions.

SAUL'S BAD CHOICES⁵⁰⁶		
His choices	Their consequences	References
He assumed a priestly role and offered sacrifices before battle.	Samuel announced God's choice of a new king.	13:5-23
He made a foolish oath.	The people turned against him.	14:1-52
He disobeyed God's instructions by not completely destroying Agag.	Samuel announced God's utter rejection of him as king.	15:1-9
He personally tried to kill David.	Fear and an evil spirit overcame him.	18:10-16
He ordered the murder of David.	He became paranoid.	19:1-7
He again tried to kill David.	An evil spirit tormented him.	19:8-10
He continued his murderous campaign against David.	He became jealous and fearful of David.	19:11-24
He tried to get Jonathan to assist in killing David.	He became violent toward Jonathan.	20:1-42
He ordered Doeg to kill the priests of Nob.	He slipped further into madness and depravity.	22:6-23
He visited a witch.	He became terrified of his future death.	28:7-25
He committed suicide.	He died in great shame.	31:4

8 Then Saul disguised himself by putting on different clothes, and went, he and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night; and he said, "Consult the spirit for me, please, and bring up for me *the one* whom I shall name for you."

8 Then Saul disguised himself by putting on other clothes, and went, he and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night; and he said, "Conjure up for me, please, and bring up for me whom I shall name to you."

8 Saul disguised himself, putting on different clothes. He went along with two men to the woman at night. He said, "Consult a familiar spirit for me and bring up for me the one whom I tell you."

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.

- Meeting in disguise, at night, reflects the dark nature of sin and people's desire to cover it, yet sin is always an offense to God that cannot be hidden, overlooked, rationalized or ignored. God sees and judges all sin.

- Saul knew the witch would not cooperate with him if she knew who he was, so he disguised himself

- It was a perilous journey of seven or eight miles, over difficult ground, part of which skirted the Philistine encampment (see location note on v4)

9 But the woman said to him, "Behold, you know what Saul has done, that he has eliminated the mediums and spiritists from the land. Why are you then setting a trap for my life, to bring about my death?"

9 But the woman said to him, "Behold, you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off those who are mediums and spiritists from the land. Why are you then laying a snare for my life to bring about my death?"

9 The woman told him, "Look, you know what Saul has done. He has removed mediums and spiritists from the land, so why are you trying to entrap me, so as to cause my death?"

9 And the woman said unto him, Behold, thou knowest what Saul hath done, how he hath cut off those that have familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land: wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life, to cause me to die?

10 So Saul swore an oath to her by the LORD, saying, "As the LORD lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing."

10 Saul vowed to her by the LORD, saying, "As the LORD lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing."

10 Saul swore to her by the LORD: "As surely as the LORD lives, no punishment will come on you for this thing."

10 And Saul sware to her by the LORD, saying, As the LORD liveth, there shall no punishment happen to thee for this thing.

- Saul swore to the reluctant witch, in the Lord's name, that he would not punish her for breaking the Mosaic Law

— Saul wanted to give a public impression of upholding the Law, but he broke it by seeking her out

11 Then the woman said, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" And he said, "Bring up Samuel for me."

11 Then the woman said, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" And he said, "Bring up Samuel for me."

11 The woman said, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" Saul said, "Bring up Samuel for me."

11 Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel.

- Saul requested that the witch bring up the departed spirit of Samuel, from *Sheol*
- Since the Lord would not answer Saul's inquiries, he thought Samuel may do it

12 When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice; and the woman spoke to Saul, saying, "Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul!"

12 When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice; and the woman spoke to Saul, saying, "Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul."

12 When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out loudly. The woman told Saul, "Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!"

12 And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou art Saul.

- God chose to step into the darkness, deception and dishonesty Saul had created for himself to expose His truth, presence and power
- The witch saw who Saul really was and became terrified because her life was in danger

13 But the king said to her, "Do not be afraid; but what do you see?" And the woman said to Saul, "I see a **divine being** coming up from the earth."

13 The king said to her, "Do not be afraid; but what do you see?" And the woman said to Saul, "I see a divine being coming up out of the earth."

13 The king told her, "Don't be afraid; but what do you see?" The woman told Saul, "I see a divine being coming up out of the ground."

13 And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: for what sawest thou? And the woman said unto Saul, I saw gods ascending out of the earth.

- "...divine being" - *elohim*, literally, "strong one"

— This is a common name for God in the OT, but it also describes the judges in Israel who were divine beings in that they served as judges under the Great Judge (Ps 82:6; Cf. John 10:35)

- Notice that Saul does not see Samuel; only the medium saw this "divine being"

14 He said to her, "How does he appear?" And she said, "An old man is coming up, and he is wrapped in a robe." Then Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground and paid homage.

14 He said to her, "What is his form?" And she said, "An old man is coming up, and he is wrapped with a robe." And Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground and did homage.

14 Saul told her, "What does he look like?" She said, "An old man is coming up, and he's wrapped in a robe." Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed low to the ground and prostrated himself.

14 And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he is covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself.

- What seems to have convinced Saul was the witch's description of Samuel's appearance: she reported that Samuel was wearing the characteristic "robe" (*me`iyil*)

— This was the very robe Saul had seized and ripped as Samuel declared that the kingdom had been ripped out of his hand (15:27-28; Cf. 24:4)

- Saul heard Samuel's words (v20) but did not see Samuel's form (v12-14)

— Back in 15:35 and 16:1, Samuel's separation from Saul had been accomplished and the king would "see" him no more

- Mediums and spiritists do not have access to the dead, but instead communicate with evil spirits posing as people who have died

— This is why these spirits are called "lying spirits" (1 Kings 22:22)

— This passage does not say that the witch brought Samuel up from the dead; God revealed Samuel to Saul

The question was whether the woman:

1. Really possessed the power of communion with the spirits of the dead
2. Had deluded herself into believing that she had such power
3. Was simply a deliberate impostor, is an endless debate among different writers

1 Chr 10:13: So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it;

The Septuagint reading of this text adds: Saul asked counsel of her that had a familiar spirit to inquire of her, and Samuel made answer to him.

It seems likely that:

1. Samuel's coming was of the Lord, not because of the witch's art
2. The witch was surprised when Samuel appeared
3. Samuel came because he had a special message for the king from the Lord

The witch could not have impersonated Samuel (in league with someone else) since she did not know Saul was coming. Nor is it possible that Satan could have accomplished this feat, since God would not allow Satan to deliver such a weighty message, nor would the Lord put His approval on a practice His Word condemned. The witch becomes a mere spectator once Samuel is on the scene.

15 And Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" Saul replied, "I am very distressed, for the Philistines are waging war against me, and God has abandoned me and no longer answers me, either through prophets or in dreams; therefore I have called you, so that you may let me know what I should do."

15 Then Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" And Saul answered, "I am greatly distressed; for the Philistines are waging war against me, and God has departed from me and no longer answers me, either through prophets or by dreams; therefore I have called you, that you may make known to me what I should do."

15 Samuel told Saul, "Why did you disturb me by bringing me up?" Saul said, "I'm in great distress. The Philistines are waging war against me. God has departed from me and won't answer me anymore, either by messages written by the hand of the prophets or by dreams. So I've summoned you to tell me what I should do."

15 And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do.

- Samuel had been at peace in the place of departed spirits, now Saul disturbed that rest — Saul's reason for doing so was to obtain divine guidance, since God did not respond to him

- Modern orthodox commentators are almost unanimous in the opinion that the departed prophet really appeared and announced the coming destruction of Saul and his army — They hold, however, that Samuel was brought up not by the magical arts of the witch, but through a miracle wrought by the omnipotence of God

16 Samuel said, "But why ask me, since the LORD has abandoned you and has become your **enemy**?"

16 Samuel said, "Why then do you ask me, since the LORD has departed from you and has become your adversary?"

16 Samuel said, "Why do you ask me, since the LORD has departed from you and become your enemy?"

16 Then said Samuel, Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the LORD is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy?

- Saul was wrong in thinking Samuel would tell him what strategy to use since the Lord would not

— The prophet was, after all, simply a mouthpiece of God

— The Lord had become Saul's real enemy, not the Philistines, since the king failed to obey

- "...enemy" - an Aramaic form, found only in one or two other places in Hebrew:

- The LXX renders this: “has come to be on the side of thy neighbor” (preferred)
- The Vulgate: “has passed over to thy rival”
- The Targum: “has become the help of man who is thine enemy”

17 And the LORD has done just as He spoke through me; for the LORD has torn the kingdom from your hand and given it to your neighbor, to David.

17 The LORD has done accordingly as He spoke through me; for the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, to David.

17 The LORD has done to you exactly as he spoke through me. The LORD has torn the kingdom away from you and has given it to your colleague David.

17 And the LORD hath done to him, as he spake by me: for the LORD hath rent the kingdom out of thine hand, and given it to thy neighbour, even to David:

- God caused Saul to hear a message he did not want to hear

— He was reminded of the unchanging consequences of his previous sin—David would be king

— He was also reminded of the coming consequences for his sins—the next day, Saul and his sons would be killed, and Israel’s army would fall to the Philistines

- Samuel repeated God’s judgment on Saul (Cf. 15:27-28)

18 Just as you did not obey the LORD and did not execute His fierce wrath on Amalek, so the LORD has done this thing to you this day.

18 As you did not obey the LORD and did not execute His fierce wrath on Amalek, so the LORD has done this thing to you this day.

18 Because you didn’t obey the LORD and didn’t display his fierce anger against Amalek, therefore, the LORD will do this thing to you today.

18 Because thou obeyedst not the voice of the LORD, nor executedst his fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore hath the LORD done this thing unto thee this day.

- Samuel also explained that the Lord stopped speaking to Saul because Saul had stopped listening to God

— Specifically, Saul had failed to obey the Lord by slaying Amalek

19 Furthermore, the LORD will also hand Israel along with you over to the Philistines; so tomorrow you and your sons *will be* with me. Indeed, the LORD will hand the army of Israel over to the Philistines!”

19 Moreover the LORD will also give over Israel along with you into the hands of the Philistines, therefore tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. Indeed the LORD will give over the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines!”

19 The LORD is giving both you, and Israel with you, into Philistine control. Tomorrow, the LORD will give you, your sons with you, and also the army of Israel into the control of the Philistines."

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.

- Samuel's final revelation was that God would hand His people over to the Philistines the next day, and Saul and his sons would die in the battle

— They would soon be with Samuel in *Sheol*, the place of departed spirits

God was still the true king of Israel and would control the destiny of His people, even His king, though Saul always wanted to be the ultimate authority in Israel and to control his own destiny.

20 Then Saul immediately fell full length to the ground and was very afraid because of Samuel's words; there was no strength in him either, because he had eaten no food all day and all night.

20 Then Saul immediately fell full length upon the ground and was very afraid because of the words of Samuel; also there was no strength in him, for he had eaten no food all day and all night.

20 Saul immediately fell down full-length on the ground. He was terrified because of Samuel's words, and he had no strength because he had not eaten food all day and all night.

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.

- As exhausted as he was by fasting, Saul fainted from the shock of hearing his doom pronounced

— It's ironic that instead of executing the woman for witchcraft, as the Law commanded, the witch actually ministered to Saul

— A disobedient medium became a source of blessing for the disobedient king

- Samuel's words terrified Saul, but they did not move him to listen and obey

- It is almost unbelievable that King Saul, a man chosen by God, could ever participate in so wicked a deed

— Saul walked in darkness, not in light; he disguised himself (yet was actually revealing his true character); he allowed a woman to break the law; he brought shame and defeat upon his nation, his army, his family, and himself.

— Yet Saul could not bring himself to repent or plead for mercy on behalf of his sons or his army. Instead, he was quickly persuaded to satisfy himself with a meal.

— Cf. Saul's response here to David's response (2 Sam 12) when a prophet confronted him with the consequences of his sin

21 The woman came to Saul and saw that he was utterly horrified, and she said to him, "Behold, your servant has obeyed you, and I have taken my life in my hand and have listened to your words which you spoke to me.

21 The woman came to Saul and saw that he was terrified, and said to him, "Behold, your maidservant has obeyed you, and I have taken my life in my hand and have listened to your words which you spoke to me.

21 Then the woman came to Saul and saw that he was very disturbed. She told him, "Look, your servant obeyed you. I put my life into your hands, and I listened to your words that you spoke to me.

21 And the woman came unto Saul, and saw that he was sore troubled, and said unto him, Behold, thine handmaid hath obeyed thy voice, and I have put my life in my hand, and have hearkened unto thy words which thou spakest unto me.

22 So now you too, please listen to the voice of your servant, and let me serve you a piece of bread, and eat *it*, so that you will have strength when you go on *your way*."

22 So now also, please listen to the voice of your maidservant, and let me set a piece of bread before you that *you may* eat and have strength when you go on *your way*."

22 Now, please listen to your servant. I'll put a piece of bread before you so you can eat and have strength to go on your way."

22 Now therefore, I pray thee, hearken thou also unto the voice of thine handmaid, and let me set a morsel of bread before thee; and eat, that thou mayest have strength, when thou goest on thy way.

- Samuel had said that because Saul had not obeyed God, God had done something to Saul (v18)

— The woman said that because she had obeyed Saul, Saul should do something for her (v21-22)

23 But he refused and said, "I will not eat." However, his servants together with the woman urged him, and he listened to them. So he got up from the ground and sat on the bed.

23 But he refused and said, "I will not eat." However, his servants together with the woman urged him, and he listened to them. So he arose from the ground and sat on the bed.

23 Saul refused, saying, "I won't eat!" Both his servants and the woman urged him, and so he listened to them. He got up off the ground and sat on the bed.

23 But he refused, and said, I will not eat. But his servants, together with the woman, compelled him; and he hearkened unto their voice. So he arose from the earth, and sat upon the bed.

- Initially, Saul refused to listen to the woman, just as he had refused to listen to God

24 Now the woman had a fattened calf in the house, and she quickly slaughtered it; then she took flour, kneaded it and baked unleavened bread *from it*.

24 The woman had a fattened calf in the house, and she quickly slaughtered it; and she took flour, kneaded it and baked unleavened bread from it.

24 The woman had a fattened calf in the house, and she quickly slaughtered it. She took flour, kneaded it, and baked unleavened bread.

24 And the woman had a fat calf in the house; and she hastened, and killed it, and took flour, and kneaded it, and did bake unleavened bread thereof:

- This proved to be Saul's "last supper"

25 She then served *it* to Saul and his servants, and they ate. Then they got up and left that night.

25 She brought *it* before Saul and his servants, and they ate. Then they arose and went away that night.

25 She brought it to Saul and to his servants, and they ate. Then they got up and went out that night.

25 And she brought it before Saul, and before his servants; and they did eat. Then they rose up, and went away that night.

- This verse reminds of Judas...he then having eaten the sop went immediately out (Cf. John 13:30)