SAUL’S MISCALCULATION

God chose Saul to be king of Israel and filled him with His Spirit (1 Sam. 10:6). Because of his continual disobedience to the Lord’s commands (cf. 1 Sam. 13, 15) and his jealousy and hatred for David, however, “the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him” (1 Sam. 16:14, NKJV).

Instead of wisely administering his kingdom, Saul, under the influence of the evil spirit, spent most of his time persecuting David. The Philistines took advantage of Saul’s negligence and gained a huge military advantage over Israel. Saul was losing his mind and his kingdom, and in desperation he consulted the Lord through traditional methods such as prophets, dreams, visions, and Urim and Thummim. The Lord had departed from him, however, and did not answer.

With no word from the Lord by the use of accepted methods, Saul decided to use a method that God had strictly forbidden. Desperate to find out what would happen in the battle with the Philistines the following day, the king disguised himself and made arrangements to consult a spiritualist medium in the land of Endor. Although Samuel, at this point, had died and was buried (v. 3), the medium supposedly conjured up Samuel’s soul from the dead. But did she really? Those who believe in the immortality of the soul frequently use this story in an attempt to prove that the soul of Samuel appeared to the medium of Endor. However, a careful study of the story gives us multiple reasons why this conclusion is untenable.
Read 1 Samuel 28 from the translation of your choice. Write out 1 Samuel 28:10–15. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in 1 Samuel 28. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

How can the principles of this passage be applied to society today?

Where are there imposters to avoid today?

Read more at
www.inversebible.org/dead12-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

What is one contemporary area that the Bible has shed light on for you?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/dead12-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

- Genesis 3:1–6
- Revelation 13:13, 14; 16:13, 14
- Isaiah 8:19, 20
- Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6
- Leviticus 20:27
- 1 Chronicles 10:13, 14
- Matthew 24:23–25

What other narratives come to mind in connection with 1 Samuel 28?

Review your memorized verse from 1 Samuel 28.
Meditate on 1 Samuel 28 again and look for where Jesus is.

How can doctrinal assent transcend into personal admonition from Christ to you?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, how did the Spirit convict your heart?

Where are areas to which you can apply this week’s principles?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/dead12-7
Where are areas that spiritualism tempts you today personally?

What evidences do we have in 1 Samuel 28 that Samuel did not appear to the medium at Endor?

Did Saul actually see Samuel, or did he perceive that it was Samuel? Why were the perceptions of King Saul unreliable at this point in his life?

According to Hebrews 11:35, when will Samuel be able to speak again?

What method will Satan use at the end of time to deceive the whole world? (See Matt. 24:23, 24.)

How is it possible for Satan to seemingly predict events that will occur in the future or reveal the past secrets of a person’s life?

According to Isaiah 8:19, 20, how can we test the reliability of a message from any source? What is meant by the “law” and the “testimony”?

A Séance at Endor