

# 1 THE FINAL 24 HOURS IN THE LIFE OF A FALLEN KING

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3 *with Pastor Dan Betzer*

4 I have often wondered if I were conscious for it, what would go through  
5 my mind if had only 24 hours to live? Would I be at peace? Would it be a  
6 pleasant experience?

7  
8 In the case of King Saul, the first monarch of Israel, it was a terrifying 24  
9 hours that found him consulting with a witch. Here is the true story:

10  
11 1 Samuel 28:3-20 New Living Bible

12 *(Meanwhile, Samuel had died and all Israel had mourned for him. He*  
13 *was buried in Ramah, his hometown. King Saul had banned all*  
14 *mediums and wizards from the land of Israel.)*

15 *[4] The Philistines set up their camp at Shunem, and Saul and the*  
16 *armies of Israel were at Gilboa. This story takes place in the northern*  
17 *part of Galilee. [5] When Saul saw the vast army of the Philistines, he*  
18 *was frantic with fear [6] and asked the Lord what he should do. But the*  
19 *Lord refused to answer him, either by dreams, or by Urim, or by the*  
20 *prophets. [7] Saul then instructed his aides to try to find a medium so*  
21 *that he could ask her what to do, and they found one at Endor. Endor -*  
22 *better known as Endur - a squalid and filthy little village of about 20*  
23 *huts on the slopes of Mount Hermon. [8] Saul disguised himself by*  
24 *wearing ordinary clothing instead of his royal robes. He went to the*  
25 *woman's home at night, accompanied by two of his men.*

26 *"I've got to talk to a dead man," he pleaded. "Will you bring his*  
27 *spirit up?"*

28 *[9] "Are you trying to get me killed?" the woman demanded. "You know*  
29 *that Saul has had all of the mediums and fortune-tellers executed. You*  
30 *are spying on me."*

31 *[10] But Saul took a solemn oath that he wouldn't betray her.*

32 *[11] Finally the woman said, "Well, whom do you want me to bring up?"*  
33 *"Bring me Samuel," Saul replied.*

34 *[12] When the woman saw Samuel, she screamed, "You've deceived me!*  
35 *You are Saul!"*

36 *[13] "Don't be frightened!" the king told her. "What do you see?"*

1 *"I see a specter coming up out of the earth," she said.*  
2 *[14] "What does he look like?"*  
3 *"He is an old man wrapped in a robe."*  
4 *Saul realized that it was Samuel and bowed low before him.*  
5 *[15] "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me back?" Samuel*  
6 *asked Saul.*  
7 *"Because I am in deep trouble," he replied. "The Philistines are at war*  
8 *with us, and God has left me and won't reply by prophets or dreams; so*  
9 *I have called for you to ask you what to do."*  
10 *[16] But Samuel replied, "Why ask me if the Lord has left you and has*  
11 *become your enemy? [17] He has done just as he said he would and has*  
12 *taken the kingdom from you and given it to your rival, David. [18] All*  
13 *this has come upon you because you did not obey the Lord's instructions*  
14 *when he was so angry with Amalek. This was the first nation to attack*  
15 *Israel upon their entrance to the Promised Land. [19] What's more, the*  
16 *entire Israeli army will be routed and destroyed by the Philistines*  
17 *tomorrow, and you and your sons will be here with me." "You only have*  
18 *24 hours to live, Saul."*  
19 *[20] Saul now fell full length upon the ground, paralyzed with fright*  
20 *because of Samuel's words. He was also faint with hunger, for he had*  
21 *eaten nothing all day.*

22

23 Did God really raise up Samuel from death to confer with Saul? I don't  
24 believe He did, for humans cannot commune with the dead. I have known  
25 preachers who said differently, but they are ignoring so much scripture by  
26 their strange and unbiblical beliefs. I believe that Satan, the father of all  
27 lies, gave Saul a demonstration of his wicked power and caused an illusion  
28 to come upon him.

29

30 Deuteronomy 18:9-14 (Living)

31 *"When you arrive in the Promised Land you must be very careful lest*  
32 *you be corrupted by the horrible customs of the nations now living there.*  
33 *[10] For example, any Israeli who presents his child to be burned to*  
34 *death as a sacrifice to heathen gods must be killed. No Israeli may*  
35 *practice black magic, or call on the evil spirits for aid, or be a fortune*  
36 *teller, [11] or be a serpent charmer, medium, or wizard, or call forth the*

1 *spirits of the dead. [12] Anyone doing these things is an object of horror*  
2 *and disgust to the Lord, and it is because the nations do these things*  
3 *that the Lord your God will displace them. [13] You must walk*  
4 *blamelessly before the Lord your God. [14] The nations you replace all*  
5 *do these evil things, but the Lord your God will not permit you to do*  
6 *such things.”*

7  
8 The thinking Christian will stay away from horoscopes, Ouija boards and  
9 the like. I once had a boss in radio who lived by such things. He made  
10 decisions that were foolish based on these Satanic tools. For so many  
11 reasons, I don't believe that the witch of Endor actually produced the real  
12 Samuel; but rather an apparition. Remember: Saul had long since been  
13 controlled by an “evil spirit” or Satanic powers.

14  
15 *“I believe that what happened at Endor was supernatural but I do not*  
16 *believe God had a thing to do with it.”* --J. Vernon McGee

17  
18 So at this point in I Samuel, young David has lost his two mentors: the  
19 great Samuel and the disappointing King Saul. And he mourned for them.  
20 Lest we just write off King Saul, consider David's reaction to his death:

21  
22 II Samuel 1:11-16

23 *Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the*  
24 *men that were with him: [12] And they mourned, and wept, and fasted*  
25 *until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the*  
26 *Lord, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword.*  
27 *[13] And David said unto the young man that told him, Whence art*  
28 *thou? And he answered, I am the son of a stranger, an Amalekite. [14]*  
29 *And David said unto him, How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine*  
30 *hand to destroy the Lord's anointed? [15] And David called one of the*  
31 *young men, and said, Go near, and fall upon him. And he smote him*  
32 *that he died. [16] And David said unto him, Thy blood be upon thy head;*  
33 *for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the*  
34 *Lord's anointed.*



1  
2 Mount Gilboa where King Saul was killed. Note its barrenness, as David prophesied.  
3

4 David's prophecy concerning the fatal mountain where Saul perished:  
5

6 II Samuel 1:21-22

7 *Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain,*  
8 *upon you, nor fields of offerings: for there the shield of the mighty is*  
9 *vilely cast away, the shield of Saul, as though he had not been anointed*  
10 *with oil. [22] From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the*  
11 *bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned*  
12 *not empty.*

13  
14 I note once again the difference between Saul's sons and David's who, for  
15 the most part, were treacherous toward their father. Saul's sons died nobly  
16 alongside their father on the mountain.

17  
18 Years before, David had been anointed to be the king; yet years went by  
19 before he ever took the throne or made Jerusalem his capital:

1 II Samuel 2:1-3

2 *And it came to pass after this, that David enquired of the Lord, saying,*  
3 *Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? And the Lord said unto*  
4 *him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto*  
5 *Hebron. [2] So David went up thither, and his two wives also, Ahinoam*  
6 *the Jezreelitess, and Abigail Nabal's wife the Carmelite. [3] And his men*  
7 *that were with him did David bring up, every man with his household:*  
8 *and they dwelt in the cities of Hebron.*

9

10 Does God approve of a man having two wives at the same time? No. This  
11 matter will cause a great deal of trouble and later on, he will have other  
12 wives, as well.

13

14 Scripture now informs us that David treated those loyal to Saul with  
15 great respect:

16

17 II Samuel 2:4-7

18 *And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over*  
19 *the house of Judah. And they told David, saying, That the men of*  
20 *Jabesh-gilead were they that buried Saul.*

21 *[5] And David sent messengers unto the men of Jabesh-gilead, and said*  
22 *unto them, Blessed be ye of the Lord, that ye have shewed this kindness*  
23 *unto your lord, even unto Saul, and have buried him. [6] And now the*  
24 *Lord shew kindness and truth unto you: and I also will requite you this*  
25 *kindness, because ye have done this thing. [7] Therefore now let your*  
26 *hands be strengthened, and be ye valiant: for your master Saul is dead,*  
27 *and also the house of Judah have anointed me king over them.*

28

## 29 LITTLE REMEMBERED FACT OF SCRIPTURE

30

31 II Samuel 2:8-9

32 *But Abner the son of Ner, captain of Saul's host, took Ish-bosheth the*  
33 *son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim; [9] And made him*  
34 *king over Gilead, and over the Ashurites, and over Jezreel, and over*  
35 *Ephraim, and over Benjamin, and over all Israel.*

1 Here is the beginning of the division of Israel, which will culminate after  
2 the reign of Solomon when Jeroboam leads a rebellion. At first, David  
3 was made king over the southern kingdom of Judah, but the northern  
4 tribes make Ishbosheth, a son of Saul, their king.

5

6 II Samuel 2:10-11

7 *Ish-bosheth Saul's son was forty years old when he began to reign over*  
8 *Israel, and reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David.*  
9 *[11] And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of*  
10 *Judah was seven years and six months.*

11

12 Abner was the “defense secretary” for those who followed Saul’s legacy  
13 and Joab served for David.

14

15 II Samuel 2:17

16 *And there was a very sore battle that day; and Abner was beaten, and*  
17 *the men of Israel, before the servants of David.*

18

19 Civil unrest would now last in Israel until David became king absolute  
20 and he would reign for a total of forty years. But palace intrigue and  
21 romances would cause even David’s unraveling, as we shall see.