

1 & 2 Samuel Series

Lesson #102

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.



THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S

THE NECROMANCER OF En-DOR;
SAUL'S FINAL PUNISHMENT ANNOUNCED

1 SAMUEL 28:6–25

1 Sam. 28:3, “Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had lamented for him and buried him in Ramah, in his own city. And Saul had put the mediums and the spiritists out of the land.”

- 1. God had quit speaking to Saul—this was part of his divine discipline.**

1 Sam. 28:3, “... And Saul had put the mediums and the spiritists out of the land.”

אָזְבָּן 'ov-2 comm masc
plur abs

“medium,
necromancer;” could
be male or female, but
mostly referred to as
female, someone who
contacted the dead.

[ἔγγαστριμυθος
enggastrimuthos
indicating some sort of
ventriloquism]

יִדְעַנִי yidde^coni comm
masc plur abs “spiritist”
Wizard (KJV..); fortune-
teller (Berkeley Version,
AR); familiar spirit (JPS,
NEB); spirit (NEB, NAB);
magician (JB); and sorcerer
(JB), Since the root of יִדְעַנִי
is the verb יִדּע “to know,”
implied in the title,
therefore, is esoteric
knowledge not available to
the ordinary person.

**1 Sam. 28:3, "... And Saul had put the
mediums and the spiritists out of the land."**

**The pair *'ov* and *yidde'oni* (q.v.) often appear
together**

**Lev. 19:31; 20:6, 27; Deut. 18:11; 1 Sam.
28:3, 9; 2 Kings 21:6; 23:24; 2 Chron. 33:6;
Isa. 8:19; 19:3**

**2. Saul had previously understood the
issue related to demonism and had
followed the law. **Saul was a believer.**

1 Cor. 10:20, “Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.

1 Cor. 10:21, “You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord’s table and of the table of demons.”

3. Idolatry is a form of demonism. All non-divine viewpoint thought is Satanic thought, following Satan’s pattern of substitution his independent thinking for dependence on God.

4. So the ultimate issue is in relation to guidance and direction, getting revelation.

Deut. 18:13, “You shall be blameless before the LORD your God.

Deut. 18:14, “For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you.

Deut. 18:15, “The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,”

Deut. 13:1, “If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder,

Deut. 13:2, “and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods’—which you have not known—‘and let us serve them,’

Deut. 13:3, “you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”

5. Background

1 Sam. 28:4, “Then the Philistines gathered together, and came and encamped at Shunem. So Saul gathered all Israel together, and they encamped at Gilboa.”

(I Sam. 14:47-48)

Advance of the Philistines against Shunem (I Sam. 28:4ff)

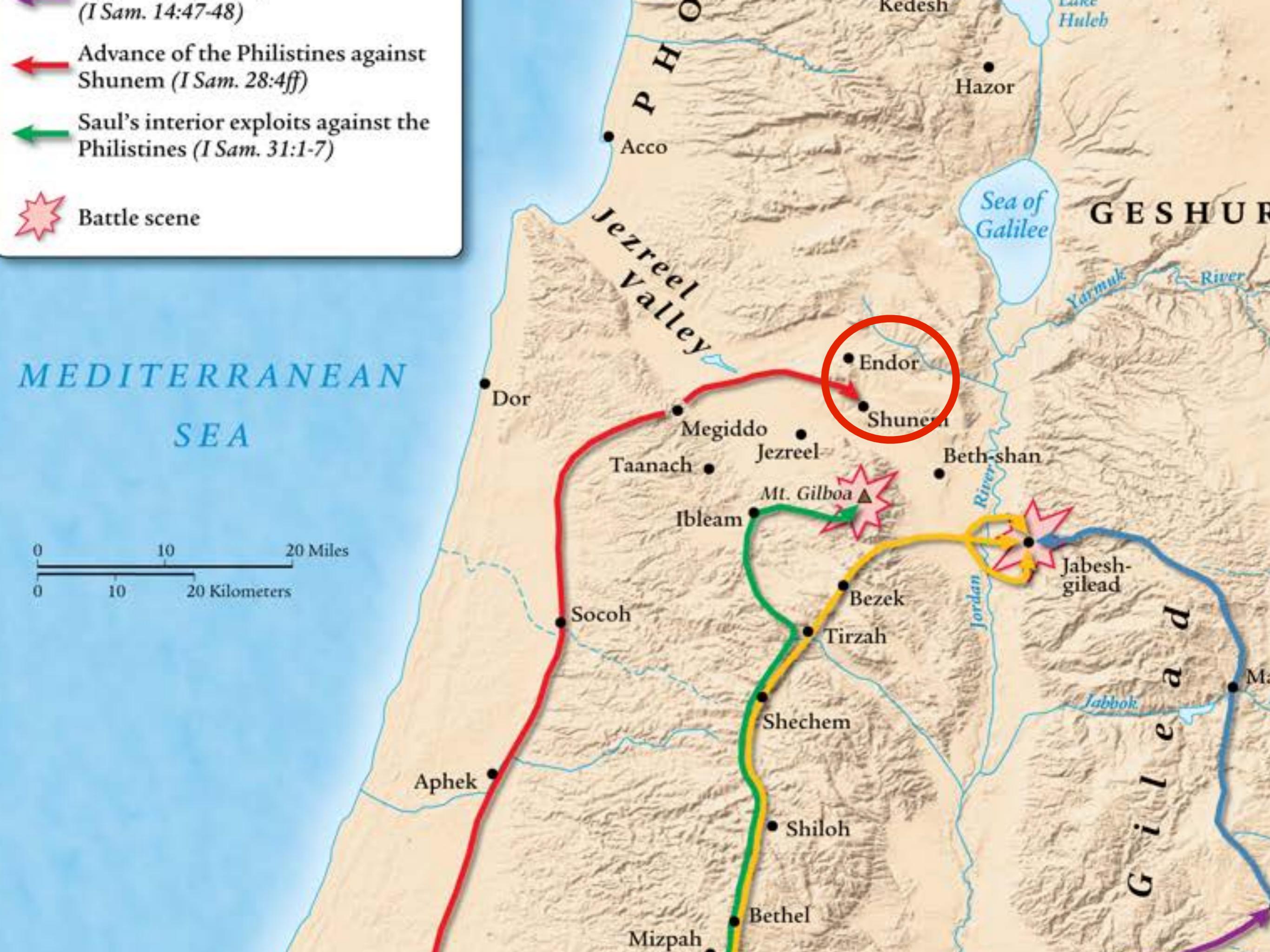
Saul's interior exploits against the Philistines (I Sam. 31:1-7)



Battle scene

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

0 10 20 Miles
0 10 20 Kilometers



1 Sam. 28:5, “When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly.”

חָרַד (*ḥārad*) quake, move about, (be) startled, tremble, (be) afraid

1 Sam. 28:15, ... “And Saul answered, ‘I am deeply distressed;’ ”

ירא־ *yara'*-1
qal wawConsec 3
masc sing to fear,
be afraid, panicky,
in a state of terror,
anxiety

צְרַר־ *tzarar*-1 qal
perf 3 masc sing
pressured, personal
anguish, distress,
inner turmoil, terror

FEAR

6. Conclusion of fear: The biblical solution to fear is faith, trust in God.

Psa. 56:3, “Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.

Psa. 56:4, “In God (I will praise His word), in God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?”

Psa. 91:4, “He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler.

Psa. 91:5, “You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day,”

1 Sam. 28:6, “And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by the prophets.”

7. Wrong methodology is also idolatry.

1 Sam. 28:6, “And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by the prophets.”

What was Saul’s solution? Right or wrong?

1 Sam. 28:6, “And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by the prophets.”

What was Saul’s solution? Right or wrong?

A right thing—seeking God’s direction

A wrong way—seeking God through necromancy

Conclusion: Saul was wrong, period

A wrong methodology, or doing things contrary to God's way, is to substitute God's way for our way.

This is the essence of Saul's original sin which is idolatry.

1 Sam. 15:23, “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.”

1 Sam. 28:7, “Then Saul said to his servants, ‘Find me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her.’ And his servants said to him, ‘In fact, there is a woman who is a medium at En Dor.’ ”

2-בָּרְאֵן 'ov-2 comm masc plur abs

“medium, necromancer;” could be male or female, but mostly referred to as female, someone who contacted the dead.

[ἔγγαστριμυθος *enggastrimuthos* indicating some sort of ventriloquism]

Isa. 29:4, “You shall be brought down, You shall speak out of the ground; Your speech shall be low, out of the dust; Your voice shall be like a medium's, out of the ground; And your speech shall whisper out of the dust.”

2-בָּאֵר 'ov-2 comm masc plur abs

“medium, necromancer;” could be male or female, but mostly referred to as female, someone who contacted the dead.

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JERUSALEM

1 Sam. 28:7, “Then Saul said to his servants, ‘Find me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her.’ And his servants said to him, ‘In fact, there is a woman who is a medium at En Dor.’ ”

1 Chron. 10:13, “So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the LORD, because he did not keep the word of the LORD, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance.

1 Chron. 10:14, “But he did not inquire of the LORD; therefore He killed him, and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse.”



“As the event proved, Saul did not really enquire of the Lord, in the sense of seeking directions from Him, and of being willing to be guided by it. Rather did he, if we may so express it, wish to use the Lord as the means by which to obtain his object. But that was essentially the heathen view, and differed only in detail, not in principle from the enquiry of a familiar spirit, to which he afterwards resorted.”

~Alfred Edersheim, *Bible History*

1 Sam. 28:9, “Then the woman said to him, ‘Look, you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the spiritists from the land. Why then do you lay a snare for my life, to cause me to die?’

1 Sam. 28:10, “And Saul swore to her by the LORD, saying, ‘As the LORD [YHWH] lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing.’ ”

**1 Sam. 28:11, “Then the woman said,
‘Whom shall I bring up for you?’ And he
said, ‘Bring up Samuel for me.’**

**1 Sam. 28:12, “[W~~X~~en] AND 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!’ ”**

1 Sam. 28:13, “And the king said to her, ‘Do not be afraid. What did you see?’ And the woman said to Saul, ‘I saw a spirit ascending out of the earth.’

1 Sam. 28:14, “So he said to her, ‘What is his form?’ And she said, ‘An old man is coming 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 down.”

1 Sam. 28:15, “Now Samuel said to Saul, ‘Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?’ And Saul answered, ‘I am deeply distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God has departed from me and does not answer me anymore, neither by prophets nor by dreams. Therefore I have called you, that you may reveal to me what I should do.’”

1 Sam. 28:16, “Then Samuel said: ‘So why do you ask me, seeing the LORD has departed from you and has become your enemy?’ ”

1 Sam. 28:17, “And the LORD has done for Himself as He spoke by me. For the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David.

1 Sam. 28:18, “Because you did not obey the voice of the LORD nor execute His fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore the LORD has done this thing to you this day.”

1 Sam. 28:19, “Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with you into the hand of the Philistines. And tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The LORD will also deliver the army of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.”

Saul's Reaction of Despair:

1 Sam. 28:20, “Immediately Saul fell full length on the ground, and was dreadfully afraid because of the words of Samuel. And there was no strength in him, for he had eaten no food all day or all night.”

1 Sam. 28:21, “And the woman came to Saul and saw that he was severely troubled, and said to him, ‘Look, your maidservant has obeyed your voice, and I have put my life in my hands and heeded the words which you spoke to me.

1 Sam. 28:22, “ ‘Now therefore, please, heed also the voice of your maidservant, and let me set a piece of bread before you; and eat, that you may have strength when you go on your way.’ ”

1 Sam. 28:24, “Now the woman had a fatted calf in the house, and she hastened to kill it. And she took flour and kneaded it, and baked unleavened bread from it.

1 Sam. 28:25, “So she brought it before Saul and his servants, and they ate. Then they rose and went away that night.”