

MARCH 31

Read 1 Samuel 28–29

CHAPTER 28

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.

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.

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.

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

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

6 And when Saul enquired of

the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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:

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

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

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

CHAPTER 29

NOW the Philistines gathered together all their armies to Aphek: and the Israelites pitched by a fountain which *is* in Jezreel.

2 And the lords of the Philistines passed on by hundreds, and by thousands: but David and his men passed on in the rereward with Achish.

3 Then said the princes of the Philistines, What *do* these Hebrews *here*? And Achish said unto the princes of the Philistines, *Is* not this David, the servant of Saul the

king of Israel, which hath been with me these days, or these years, and I have found no fault in him since he fell *unto me* unto this day?

4 And the princes of the Philistines were wroth with him; and the princes of the Philistines said unto him, Make this fellow return, that he may go again to his place which thou hast appointed him, and let him not go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he be an adversary to us: for wherewith should he reconcile himself unto his master? *should it* not *be* with the heads of these men?

5 *Is* not this David, of whom they sang one to another in dances, saying, Saul slew his thousands, and David his ten thousands?

6 ¶ Then Achish called David, and said unto him, Surely, *as* the LORD liveth, thou hast been upright, and thy going out and thy coming in with me in the host *is* good in my sight: for I have not found evil in thee since the day of thy coming unto me unto this day: nevertheless the lords favour thee not.

7 Wherefore now return, and go in peace, that thou displease not the lords of the Philistines.

8 And David said unto Achish,

But what have I done? and what hast thou found in thy servant so long as I have been with thee unto this day, that I may not go fight against the enemies of my lord the king?

9 And Achish answered and said to David, I know that thou *art* good in my sight, as an angel of God: notwithstanding the princes of the Philistines have said, He shall not go up with us to the battle.

10 Wherefore now rise up early in the morning with thy master's servants that are come with thee: and as soon as ye be up early in the morning, and have light, depart.

11 So David and his men rose up early to depart in the morning, to return into the land of the Philistines. And the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

In chapter 28 Saul resorts to spiritism. He had departed from the Lord and therefore had no divine guidance. Saul's only recourse was to visit a witch, and this was prohibited by the Law. It is alarming to what ends a man will go when he has turned his back on the Lord.

This was not a case of a medium communicating with the spirit of a deceased person. It was God actually calling back Samuel in spirit form to pronounce impending doom upon Saul.

It is unbelievable that King Saul, a man chosen by God, could ever participate in so wicked a deed; yet the record is there. He 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.

David's sojourn in enemy territory forced him to lie to the king and when the Philistines did gather, David was almost forced to fight against his own people. When we lean on the wisdom of the flesh, we always end up in trouble. It was only the grace of God that kept David from having to reveal his true colors and slay his own people.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it" (Proverbs 30:17).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 13: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 7.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

ALICE DAVIS

DOROTHY MARTINEZ

HYMN FOR TODAY

TELL ME THE STORIES OF JESUS

by William H. Parker, 1845-1929

Children love to hear stories. It is critically important that we build upon this natural response and fill their minds with truths about Christ that will give them a solid foundation upon which to build their lives. Although Sunday schools are important, parental influence and instruction in the home are foundations of Christian education. The stories of Jesus—His birth, His life, His death, His resurrection, His ascension, and His promised return to take us to heaven—for the child of God of any age are always fresh, exciting, and spiritually refreshing. They never grow old.

Telling the stories of Jesus must also be the mission of our Sunday schools. Portrayals of the person and work of Christ must always be the core of every Christian education curriculum along with appropriate songs that enhance the teaching of the Scriptures. Although such emphases as character school, arts and crafts, and game times have their place in the church program, nothing ever equals the importance

of providing our youth with sound, relevant biblical instruction.

William H. Parker was an English Baptist layman greatly interested in the work of Sunday schools. He wrote this text in 1885 after returning from teaching his Sunday school class and reflecting upon the oft-repeated request of the children, "Teacher, tell us another story." This text pictures so vividly the important events of our Lord's life from Galilee to Calvary.

*Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;
things I would ask Him to tell me if He were here:
Scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.*

*First let me hear how the children stood round His
knee;
and I shall fancy His blessing resting on me:
Words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,
all in the lovelight of Jesus' face.*

*Into the city I'd follow the children's band,
waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;
one of His heralds, yes, I would sing
loudest hosannas! Jesus is King.*

*Show me that scene in the garden, of bitter pain.
Show me the cross where my Saviour for me was slain.
Sad ones or bright ones, so that they be
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.*

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

THE DATE THAT KNUTE ROCKNE WAS KILLED IN A KANSAS PLANE CRASH.

1850
JOHN C. CALHOUN DIED.

1860
GYPSY SMITH WAS BORN.

Gypsy Smith once said, "Anyone can preach to a crowd, but it takes the Grace of God to preach to one man."

1913
**THE DATE OF THE DEATH OF J. PIERPONT
MORGAN.**

He was supposed to have been the most powerful international banker who ever lived. An interesting thing about Mr. Morgan was the introduction to his will: "I commit my soul into the hands of the Saviour in full confidence that having redeemed it and washed it in His precious blood, He will present it faultless before my Heavenly Father and entreat my children to maintain and defend at all hazards and at any costs of our personal sacrifice the blessed doctrine of complete atonement for sin through the blood of Jesus Christ once offered and through that alone."

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1741
**SUCCESSION OF SUSPICIOUS FIRES AND
REPORTS OF SLAVE CONSPIRACIES** created hysteria in New York in March and April. Thirty-one slaves and five whites were executed.

1850
UNITED STATES POPULATION: 23,191,876.
Black population: 3,638,808 (15.7 per cent).

**MASSACHUSETTS SUPREME COURT REJECT-
ED THE ARGUMENT** of Charles Sumner in the Boston school integration suit and established the "separate but equal" precedent.

1930
**PRESIDENT HOOVER NOMINATED JUDGE
JOHN J. PARKER** of North Carolina for a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court. The NAACP launched a national campaign against the appointment. Parker was not confirmed by the Senate.

1948
**A. PHILLIP RANDOLPH TOLD SENATE ARMED
SERVICES COMMITTEE** that unless segregation and discrimination were banned in draft programs he would urge black youths to resist induction by civil disobedience.

1980
DEATH OF JESSE OWENS (66), who won four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics, 1936, in Tuscon, Arizona.

THE STORY OF THE PSALMS

Psalm 27

AUTHOR: David.

THE STORY BEHIND THE PSALM:

David had heard of Absalom's death and of his victory. Naturally he was pleased because he was still the king. He was heartbroken because his son had been killed in battle. Hence, he had a dual feeling when he wrote this Psalm. It is called a "composite" Psalm. Verses 1-6 were sung to a jubilant, double beat. Verses 7-14 were sung to a mournful and slow beat. This was called a "double expression." It was written thusly because David was both jubilant and mournful. Read verses 1-6 and enjoy David's jubilation. Read verses 7-14 and mourn with him because of his sorrow.

In a real sense this is the way all of us should be all the time. We should rejoice that our names are written in Heaven and yet mourn because the names of others are not there. We should rejoice because there is a Heaven and mourn because some will be lost forever in the fires of Hell. We should rejoice because of God's goodness to us and yet mourn because of sin on every side.

THE WAY IT WAS USED BY GOD'S PEOPLE:

This Psalm was sung after great victories. Bear in mind that every great battle that was won also carried with it the loss of life. Those of us who have lived through wars have learned that even in a way that is won, there is also sorrow. I think of those friends of mine who gave their lives in World War II—the first baseman on our softball team, the pitcher on our baseball team, the fellow who had the paper route down the street from me, my tennis doubles partner, not to mention my buddies with whom I trained in the infantry and paratroopers. Has there been a victory in your life which also brought with it lamentation and sorrow? You will find a kindred spirit in the one who wrote the 27th Psalm.

The Treasure Path to Soul Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC:

THE NEW CONVERT'S RESPONSIBILITY

(Assignment 13)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see "The Treasure Path to Soul Winning" link back on the DailyKJV.com page.)

Be identified with his Lord in Baptism.

() Romans 6:4 (Acts 8:36; 16:33)

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Attend the Lord's house every Lord's day.

() Hebrews 10:25

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Tell what great things the Lord hath done.

() Mark 5:19

Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

Like Andrew, bring nearest kin to Jesus.

() John 1:41 (John 1:40, 42)

He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

Diligently study to meet new Master's approval.

() 2 Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.