

## **Lesson 10-Homework David's Blessing and Saul's Death**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel Chapters 28-31**

**Directions:** Use your study bible, internet, or any other study source to help you with these questions.

1. Locate the following places and write down their geographical locations.

- Shunem
  
- Gilboa
  
- Endor

2. Saul inquired of the Lord as to his battle plans against the Philistines.

- Why didn't the Lord respond to Saul?
  
- List various ways in which God spoke to people of the Old Testament?

3. Saul went to Endor since the Lord refused to speak to him.

- Who did Saul look for at Endor?
  
- What did God say about mediums (Leviticus 19:31; 20:27)?

- Why did Saul disguise himself when he went to Endor?

4. Samuel's presence terrified the medium.

- Do you think the medium actually saw Samuel based on Leviticus 19 and 20?
- How did this personage of Samuel respond to Saul?
- How did Saul respond to Samuel's message?

5. The Philistines gathered at Aphek while Israel gathered at Jezreel.

- Locate these places on a map and write down their general locations.
- How did God keep David from sinning against Israel?
- Why did the men of Jabesh-gilead give honor to Saul after his death?

## Lesson 10

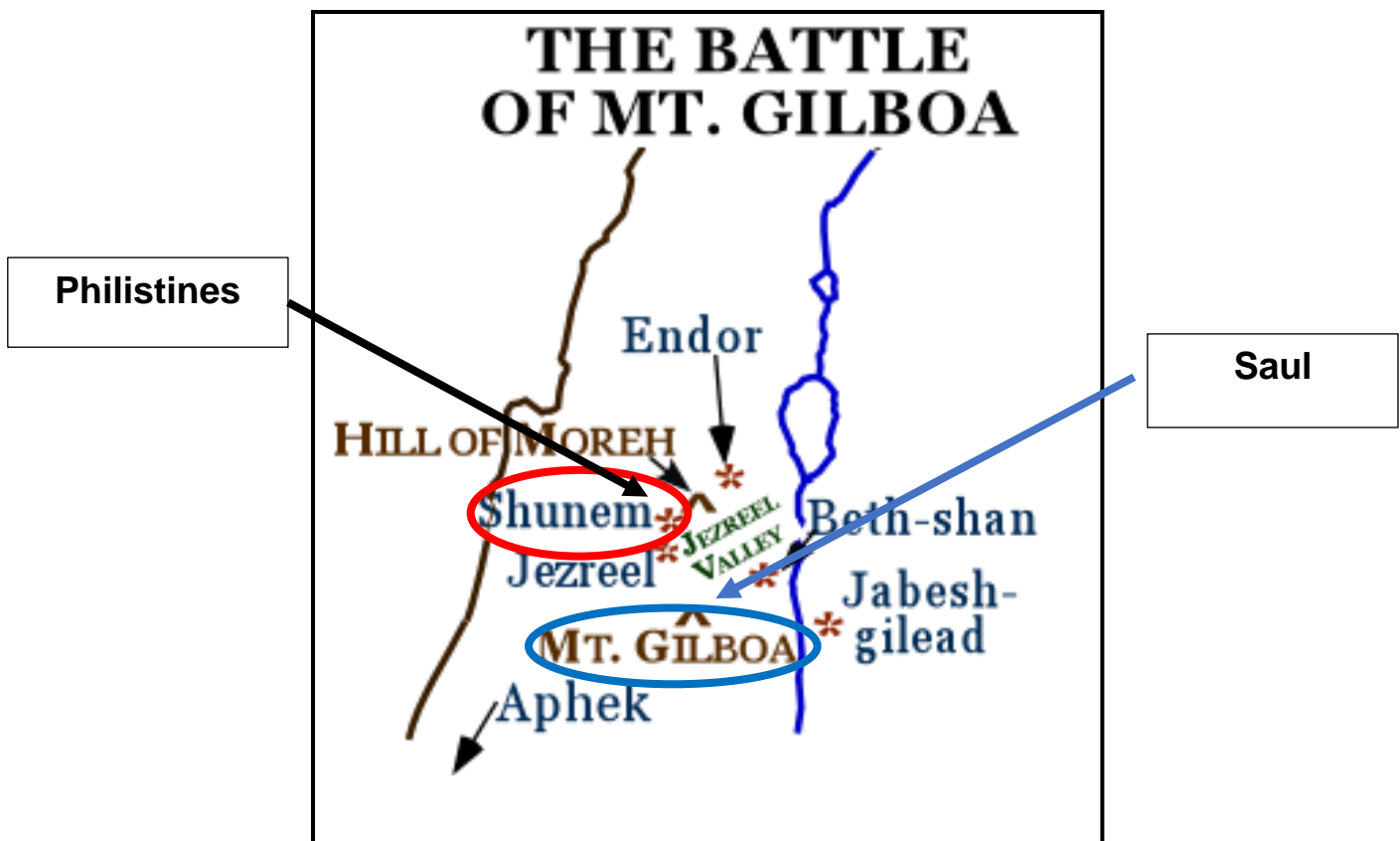
### 1 Samuel Chapters 28-31

#### David's Blessing and Saul's Death

##### Chapter 28-Saul Consults a Medium at Endor

###### Vs. 1-25

- The Philistines gathered their armies to fight against Israel.
- Since Achish, King of Gath believed David had lost his loyalty to Israel, he promoted David as his **bodyguard** (Compare this to Psalm 118:8).
- King Achish expected David to fight against Israel.



<http://www.soniclight.com/constable/notes/htm/OT/1%20Samuel/1Samuel.htm>

- The Philistines camped at Shunem while Saul camped at Gilboa.
- The size of the Philistine camp terrified Saul (Compare Saul's fearfulness to Psalm 118:5-8).

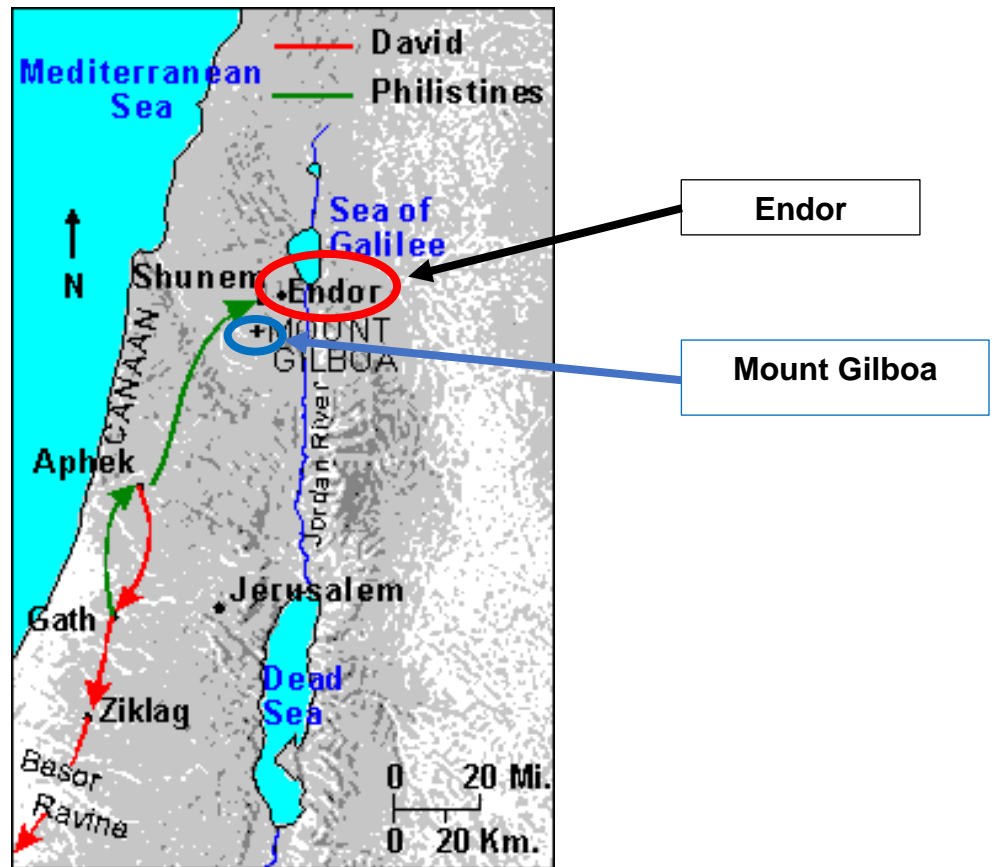
- Saul inquired of the Lord, but the Lord **did not** answer, whether by dreams or by the prophets.
- Sometimes the Lord spoke through the priest using the **Urim** and **Thummim**. The priest wore these stones in a pouch. The Lord might have used the Urim and Thummim to relay His message by casting lots.



**Urim and Thummim Kept in Breastplate**

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/588916088744852614/>

- Prophets, sometimes called seers, could foretell the future.
- Prophets would also declare the Word of the Lord even when the people did not want to hear it.
- Since the Lord did not speak to Saul, he sought out a medium in the Philistine territory of **Endor**.



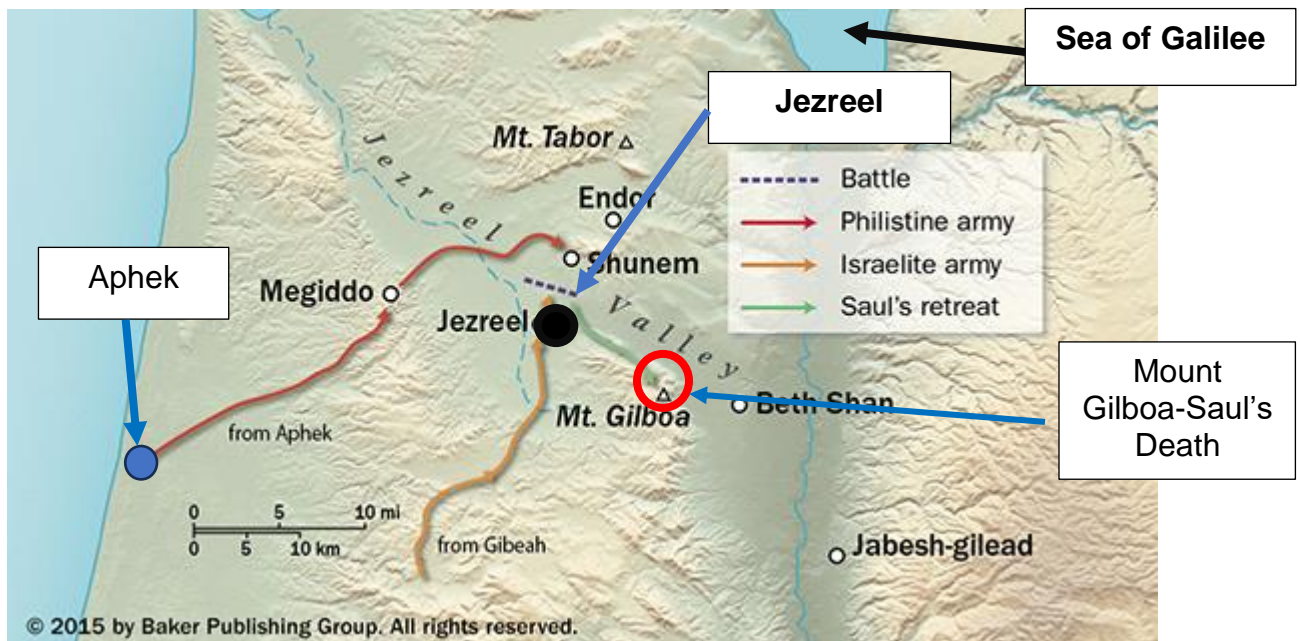
<https://treasureboxmy.blogspot.com/2014/03/1-samuel-battle-at-gilboa.html>

- The use of Mediums violated God's Law and Saul removed them from Israel (Leviticus 19:31; 20:27).
- Saul did not want the Philistines or the medium to recognize him, so Saul **disguised** himself.
- The medium asked Saul who she should bring up and Saul answered, "Samuel."
- **Samuel's** appearance terrified the medium, and she instantly recognized Saul.
- The medium believed Saul had tricked her and would put her to death. Saul, however, promised not to harm her.
- The medium described Samuel's appearance and Saul immediately recognized Samuel.
- Saul asked Samuel about the next day's battle.
- Samuel told Saul since he had **disobeyed** the Lord, both he and his sons would die in battle and Israel would fall to the Philistines.
- Much debate has surfaced as to whether God actually raised Samuel from the dead.
- Scripture clearly states God had stopped talking with Saul (1 Samuel 7:6).
- Satan and his demons have powers as mentioned in Ephesians 6:12).
- One should never entertain the powers of demonic forces.
- After hearing the message, Saul fell to the floor in terror.

- Both the medium and Saul's servants encouraged him to eat.
- After Saul ate, he went away.
- Interestingly, Saul never **repented**. Jesus states in John 16:7-8, the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin. If the Holy does not convict, then one has no desire to repent.
- The Holy Spirit had left Saul, therefore, no repentance.
- What a dreadful state for any unbeliever who rejects the spirit time and time again (Matthew 12:31-32; Hebrews 10:31).

## **Chapter 29-The Philistines Dismiss David**

- The Philistines gathered at Aphek while Israel gathered at Jezreel. David's men formed in the rear of the Philistine army.

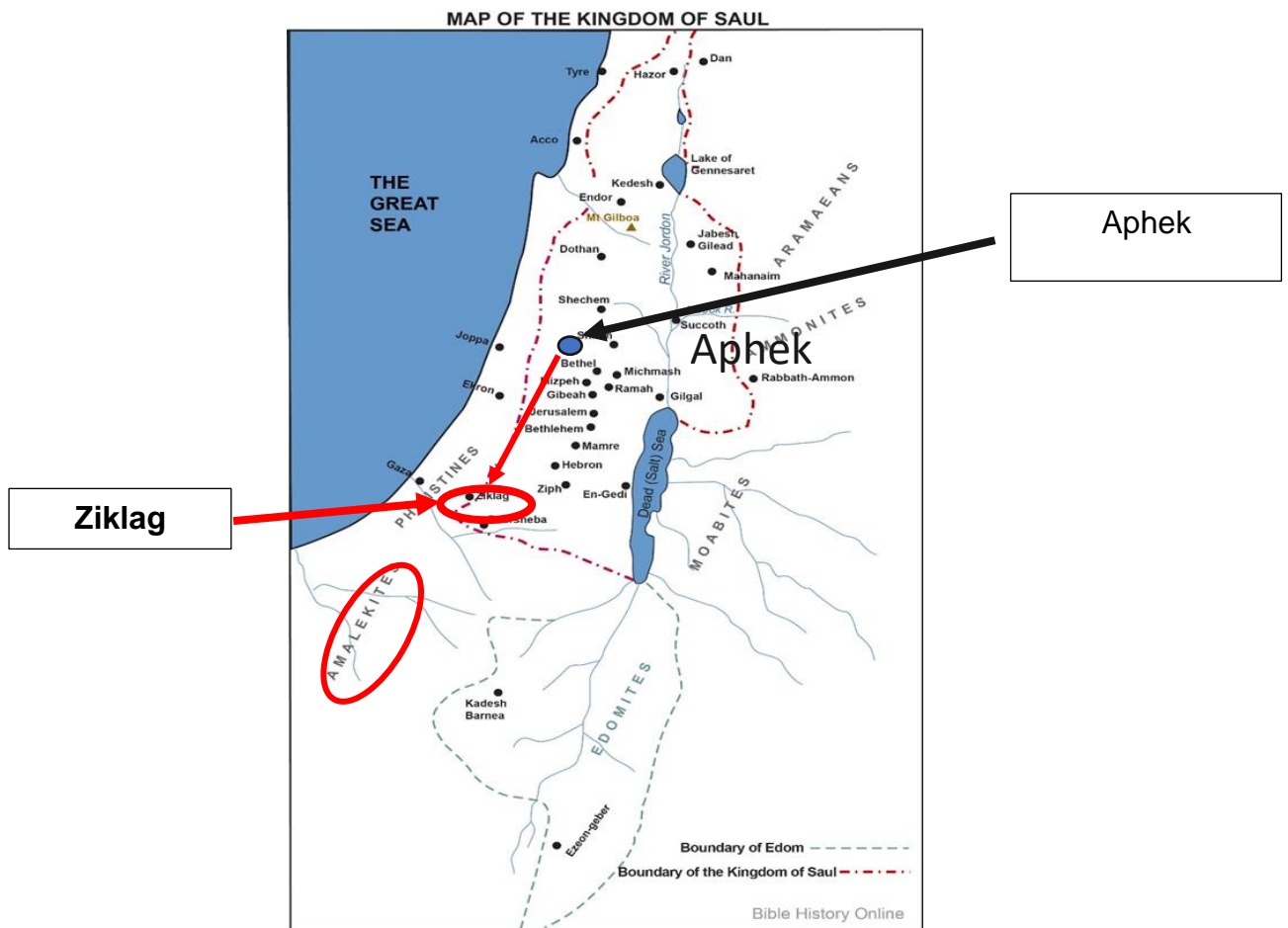


<http://www.bakerpublishinggroup.com/books/encountering-the-old-testament-3rd-edition/702/students/esources/chapters/238>

- Earlier, the Philistines had defeated the Israelites at Aphek, took the Ark of the Covenant, and killed Eli's two sons-1 Samuel 4.
- Angered at Achish, the commanders felt David's men would **betray** them since they were Israelites.
- As a result, Achish sent David and his men home.
- It appears David wanted to fight with the Philistines against Israel.
- Perhaps, David did not seek the Lord's advice to live with Achish nor to join Achish in battle against Israel.
- David could have feigned loyalty without revealing his true **intentions**.
- By God's providence, He turned favor away from David and kept him from fighting Israel.



## Chapter 30-David Destroys the Amalekites

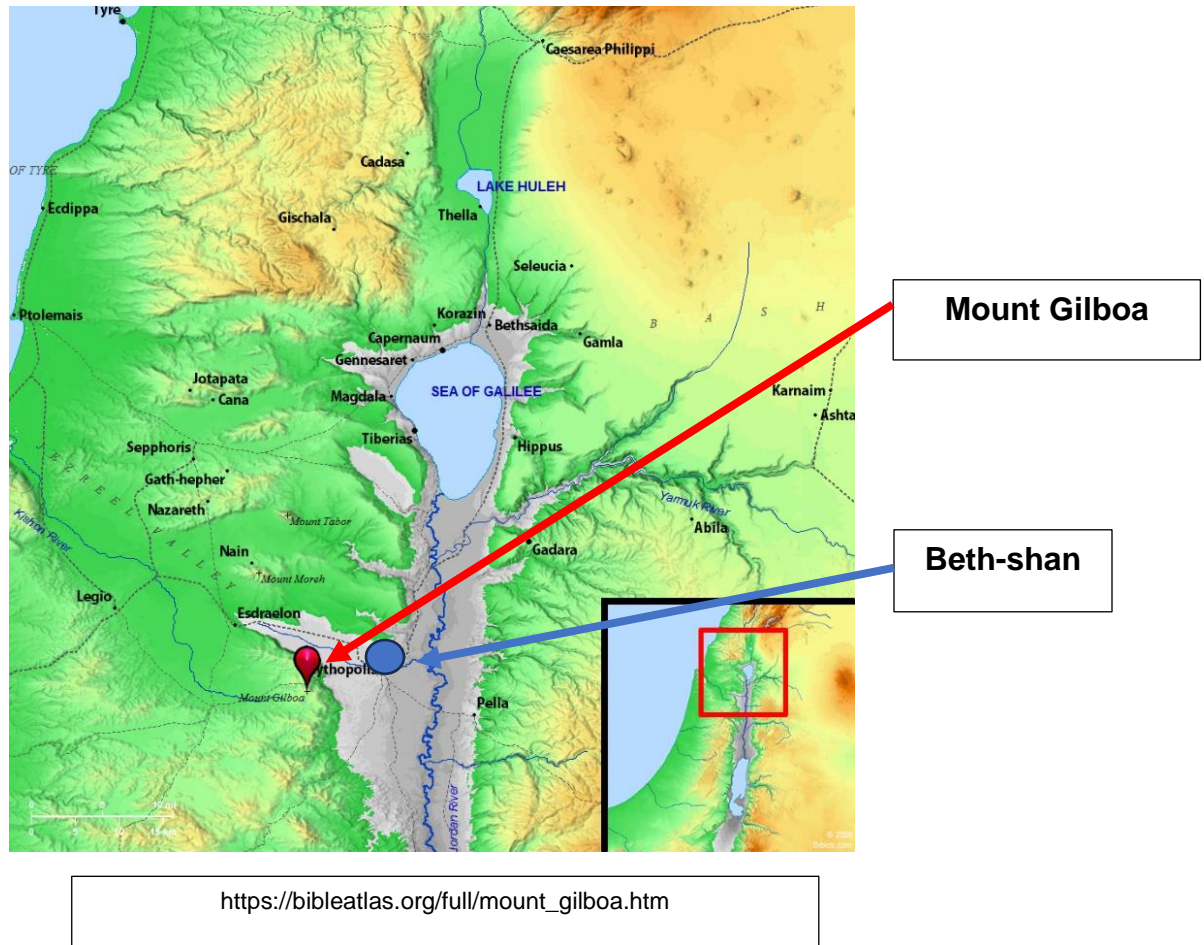


<https://www.pinterest.fr/pin/677580706408340901/>

- When David and his men returned to camp, they discovered the **Amalekites** had raided Ziklag and had taken all their families and possessions.
- Some of David's men talked of **stoning** him.
- David asked the Lord as to whether he should pursue the Amalekites.
- The Lord told David to pursue the Amalekites and they would regain everything.
- David had six hundred men with him. Two hundred men, unable to continue, stayed with the luggage.
- David's **four hundred** men defeated the Amalekites and recaptured all their belongings.
- Some of the more worthless men did not want to share the spoils with the two hundred who stayed behind.
- David made a decree that whoever stayed with the baggage during war would also share the spoils of war.
- David gave some of the spoils to Israelites who had shown him favor.

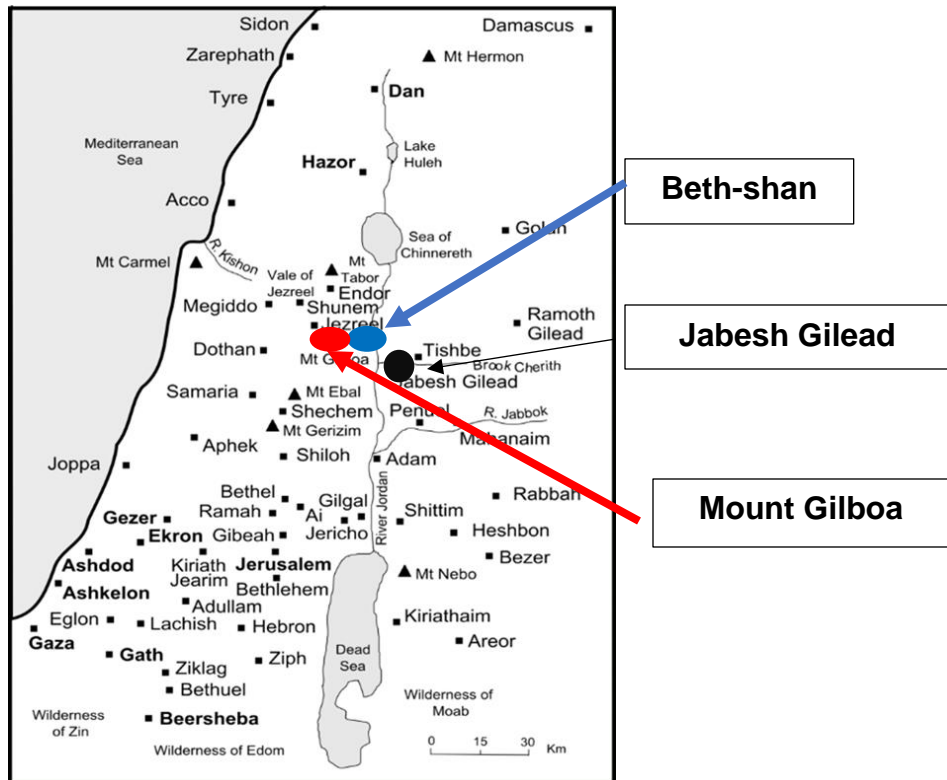
## Chapter 31-The Death of Saul

- The Philistines slew the Israelites, Saul, and his sons on Mount Gilboa.



- Wounded badly, Saul told his armor bearer to kill him so the Philistines would not make sport of him.
- The armor bearer refused to kill Saul, so Saul drew his sword and killed himself.
- The Israelites fled from the Philistines and the Philistines overtook their cities.
- The Philistines cut off Saul's head, stripped off his weapons, and spread the news throughout the Philistine territory.
- The Philistines put Saul's weapons in the temple of Ashtaroth (goddess of fertility-the counterpart to Baal) and fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan.





<http://www.thebiblejourney.org/biblejourney2/22-the-world-of-the-old-testament-journeys/ancient-israel/>

- When the inhabitants of **Jabesh-gilead** heard what the Philistines had done, the valiant men of the city rose and took down the bodies of Saul and his sons and buried them at Jabesh.
- The people fasted for seven days.
- Earlier, Saul had rescued the people of Jabesh-gilead from the Ammonites, and they were deeply indebted to him. See chapter 11.

## Summary

Saul had the potential of reigning as a mighty king. Due to his disobedience and lack of repentance, God stripped him of all glory.

As with Saul, God reaches out to every individual. He created each of us to have fellowship with Him. Without God's Spirit working within us, we cannot fully live the life He intended. Void of God's guidance, we make careless decisions, we become prideful, deceitful, hateful, full of revenge, and ultimately, God removes us from His presence.

God freely asks us to accept His son, Jesus Christ, into our lives for the forgiveness of sin. When we receive Jesus as Lord, we instantly become children of God, obtain the fullness of His Spirit, and have fellowship with Him for eternity.

# 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel

## Discussion Questions

### Lesson 10

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel Chapters 25-27

1. God protected David from attacking Israel.
  - a. Has God ever protected you from making a bad decision? Explain.
  - b. How can we discern God's will when making difficult decisions?
  - c. Why does God stop us from making mistakes and other times, allows us to make them?
  - d. How can we trust God when he allows bad situations to take place?
2. Saul sought an answer concerning the Philistine battle by going to a seer (medium or fortune-teller) at Endor.
  - a. Why did God prohibit seers?
  - b. Do you feel fortune tellers have authentic gifts?
  - c. Do you think God uses fortune tellers for our good?
  - d. What dangers might Christians face when going to fortune tellers?
3. Saul heard Samuel's voice come up from the grave.
  - a. Did God or demonic activity replicate this voice?
  - b. Did Saul ever repent from his sins?
  - c. What did Saul do after leaving Endor?
  - d. Why do you think Saul did not repent?
4. David sought the Lord's advice as to whether he should Attack the Amalekites.
  - a. Could David have found it difficult to seek the Lord's advice before attacking the Amalekites?
  - b. Why didn't the four hundred men want to share the spoils with the two hundred who did not fight?
  - c. Do we find it difficult to show generosity toward others who we feel may not deserve it? Explain.
  - d. What can we do to cultivate a generous heart?
5. How would you summarize the lives of the following.
  - a. Samuel
  - b. Saul
  - c. Jonathan
  - d. David