

Dr. Robert Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 15, 1 Sam. 26-28 – David Spares Saul Again, David Flees to Gath Again

Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide Quiz, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 15, 1 Sam. 26-28 – David Spares Saul Again, David Flees to Gath Again, Biblicalearning.org, BeL

Dr. Chisholm's lecture provides an overview of 1 Samuel chapters 26-28. **Chapter 26** recounts David's second opportunity to spare Saul's life, emphasizing David's integrity. **Chapter 27** details David's regrettable decision to seek refuge in Gath, highlighting his lack of faith and the complications that arise from his alliance with the Philistines. **Chapter 28** shifts focus to Saul's desperation, describing his consultation with a medium and his encounter with Samuel's spirit, which delivers a prophecy of doom. **The lecture underscores the contrasting paths of David and Saul**, with David facing moral dilemmas and Saul confronting his impending demise. **Ultimately, the passage prepares for a critical juncture in the narrative**, where David's choices and Saul's fate intersect.

2. 15 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Chisholm, Session 15 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Historical Books → 1 Samuel).



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ession15.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 15, 1 Sam. 26-28 – David Spares Saul Again, David Flees to Gath Again

Okay, here's a detailed briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from Dr. Chisholm's lecture on 1 Samuel 26-28.

Briefing Document: 1 Samuel 26-28 (Chisholm Lecture)

Overview:

Dr. Chisholm's lecture, Session 15 of his series on 1 & 2 Samuel, covers three key events: David sparing Saul's life a second time (1 Samuel 26), David fleeing to Gath again (1 Samuel 27), and Saul's seance at Ein Dor (1 Samuel 28). The lecture emphasizes the themes of God's vindication, resisting the urge to force God's promises, the consequences of walking by sight rather than faith, and the ultimate rejection of Saul.

I. David Spares Saul Again (1 Samuel 26):

- **Main Theme:** This chapter serves as a second exhibit in the author's defense of David's integrity. David consistently refuses to harm "the Lord's anointed," even when given the opportunity. "If 1 Samuel 24 was at exhibit A in the defense of David's integrity, 1 Samuel 26 would be exhibit B, I suppose."
- **Key Points:** The Ziphites betray David's location to Saul, who resumes his pursuit.
- David intentionally enters Saul's camp at night. "There's no cave this time. David is doing this intentionally. It's not just accidental."
- Abishai urges David to kill Saul, seeing it as a God-given opportunity, but David refuses. "Today, God has delivered your enemy into your hands."
- David's philosophy is that the Lord will deal with Saul in His own time and way. David says, "As surely as the Lord lives...the Lord himself will strike him, or his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish."
- David takes Saul's spear and water jug as proof of his opportunity to kill Saul.
- David confronts Saul from a safe distance, taunting Abner for his failure to protect the king.
- Saul admits his sin and folly, again acknowledging David's innocence and potential triumph. "Surely, I have acted like a fool and have been terribly wrong."

- David refuses Saul's invitation to join him, demonstrating his continued reliance on God's timing.
- **Themes Reinforced:** Resisting the temptation to force God's promises, trusting in God's vindication, and leaving vengeance to the Lord.

II. David Flees to Gath Again (1 Samuel 27):

- **Main Idea:** David, losing sight of God's promises, resorts to a practical but ultimately faithless decision to seek refuge in Philistine territory. "One of these days I will be destroyed by the hand of Saul. The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of the Philistines."
- **Key Points:** David's lack of faith contrasts with the assurances he received from Jonathan, Saul, and Abigail.
- David takes 600 men with him to Gath and settles there with Achish, the king.
- David raids the Geshurites, Gerzites, and Amalekites, but deceives Achish into believing he is attacking Israelite territory.
- David's motive for wiping out entire populations is to prevent them from revealing his true activities to Achish. "Whenever David attacked an area, he did not leave a man or woman alive to be brought to Gath, where he thought they might inform on us and say, this is what David did."
- Achish is completely deceived and trusts David implicitly, believing he has alienated himself from his own people. "Achish trusted David and said to himself, he has become so obnoxious to his people, the Israelites, that he will be my servant for life."
- Achish asks David to join the Philistine army to fight against Israel. David agrees to fight with the Philistines, a sign of the dangerous situation he has created for himself. "Achish said to David, you must understand that you and your men will accompany me in the army. And David said, you might expect him to say, well, I can't fight against my own flesh and blood. Nope. David said, then you will see for yourself what your servant can do."
- **Themes:** The dangers of walking by sight rather than faith, the consequences of deceit, and the potential for God to use even flawed actions for His purposes (David fighting the Amalekites).

III. Seance in Ein Dor (1 Samuel 28):

- **Main Idea:** Saul, completely cut off from God's guidance, desperately seeks counsel from a medium, receiving a dire prophecy of his imminent death and defeat. "Seance in Endor, Bad News from Beyond the Grave."
- **Key Points:** Samuel is dead, and Saul has expelled mediums from the land, but he seeks one out in desperation. "Saul had expelled the mediums and spiritists from the land."
- Saul disguises himself and consults a medium at Ein Dor, asking her to summon Samuel.
- The medium is initially hesitant, fearing a trap, but Saul assures her she will not be punished.
- The medium sees Samuel and cries out, recognizing Saul. "When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out at the top of her voice and said to Saul, why have you deceived me? You are Saul."
- Samuel confirms God's rejection of Saul and foretells his death in battle the next day along with his sons. "The Lord will deliver both Israel and you into the hands of the Philistines and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me."
- Saul is terrified and collapses, physically weakened by the prophecy.
- The woman and his attendants persuade him to eat, and he departs.
- **Themes:** The consequences of disobedience, the futility of seeking guidance outside of God's will, the finality of God's judgment on Saul.

Overall Significance:

These chapters mark a turning point in the narrative. David's actions, though questionable at times, ultimately demonstrate his respect for God's authority and timing. Saul, on the other hand, is depicted as increasingly desperate and ultimately doomed due to his rejection of God's word. The stage is set for David's eventual rise to kingship, but not without significant challenges and moral complexities.

Note: Dr. Chisholm acknowledges that the chronological order of these events is not perfectly linear and that some overlapping occurs in the narrative.

4. Study Guide: Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 15, 1 Sam. 26-28 – David Spares Saul Again, David Flees to Gath Again

Study Guide: 1 Samuel 26-28

Key Themes

- **David's Integrity and Restraint:** The consistent refusal of David to harm Saul, despite repeated opportunities and encouragement from others, underscores his respect for the Lord's anointed and his faith in God's timing.
- **Saul's Decline and Rejection:** Saul's increasingly erratic behavior, reliance on fear, and ultimate consultation with a medium highlight his spiritual and moral decline, solidifying his rejection by God.
- **Walking by Faith vs. Walking by Sight:** The contrast between David's initial faith in God's promises and his subsequent decision to flee to Gath illustrates the tension between trusting in God's plan and relying on human reasoning.
- **Deception and its Consequences:** David's use of deception while in Philistine territory raises questions about the morality of his actions and sets the stage for potential conflict.
- **The Inevitability of God's Judgment:** The fulfillment of Samuel's prophecies regarding Saul's demise and the transfer of kingship demonstrates the certainty of God's judgment and the consequences of disobedience.

Character Analysis

- **David:** A man of faith and integrity who consistently refuses to take matters into his own hands, even when faced with threats and opportunities. He exemplifies patience and trust in God's timing, though he falters in his decision to flee to Gath.
- **Saul:** A king in decline, plagued by fear, insecurity, and spiritual darkness. His actions demonstrate a pattern of disobedience, ultimately leading to his downfall.
- **Abishai:** A loyal but impetuous follower of David who advocates for immediate action and struggles to understand David's restraint.
- **Abigail:** Wise voice in the narrative.

- **Achish:** King of Gath, whose trust in David is based on deception and misrepresentation. He represents the dangers of relying on appearances and worldly alliances.
- **Samuel:** A prophet whose spirit is summoned from the dead to deliver a final, damning message to Saul. His appearance underscores the authority of God's word and the consequences of rejecting it.
- **Medium of Endor:** She knew it was illegal for her to continue the practice, but she was willing to break the law for Saul.

Key Events

- **1 Samuel 26:** David sneaks into Saul's camp and spares his life a second time, taking his spear and water jug as proof. David confronts Abner and Saul, emphasizing his innocence and Saul's wrongdoing. Saul acknowledges his sin but does not change his behavior.
- **1 Samuel 27:** David, losing faith in God's protection, flees to Gath with 600 men and his two wives. He seeks refuge with Achish, king of Gath, and is given the town of Ziklag. David deceives Achish by raiding surrounding territories, including the Amalekites, while pretending to attack Israelite lands.
- **1 Samuel 28:** Achish, believing David is now a loyal servant, enlists him to fight against Israel in an upcoming battle. Meanwhile, Saul, facing the Philistine army and unable to receive guidance from God, seeks out a medium at Endor to summon the spirit of Samuel. Samuel delivers a prophecy of doom, foretelling Saul's defeat and death.

Quiz: Short Answer Questions

1. Why does David refuse to kill Saul in 1 Samuel 26, despite Abishai's urging?
2. How does David deceive Achish, the king of Gath, while living in Philistine territory?
3. What reasons does David give to Achish for moving to one of the country towns?
4. According to the text, what motivates David to flee to Gath?
5. What are the three methods Saul used to contact God in chapter 28?
6. Describe the role of the Ziphites in 1 Samuel 26.
7. How does Saul disguise himself when seeking out the medium at Endor, and why?

8. What message does the spirit of Samuel deliver to Saul in 1 Samuel 28?
9. What does the spear symbolize, and what does it mean when David takes it?
10. Explain the significance of Saul twice declaring David innocent in 1 Samuel 24 and 26.

Quiz Answer Key

1. David refuses to kill Saul because he believes Saul is the Lord's anointed, and David will not raise a hand against someone God has chosen. He trusts that God will handle the situation in His own time and way.
2. David deceives Achish by raiding territories of the Geshurites, Gerzites, and Amalekites, but he reports to Achish that he has been attacking the Negev of Judah, leading Achish to believe David has turned against his own people. He leaves no survivors to keep his scheme a secret.
3. David tells Achish he should move to one of the country towns because he felt he wasn't doing Achish any good at the royal city.
4. David is afraid Saul will eventually kill him, so he believes he has to flee. David says that the best thing to do is escape to the land of the Philistines because then Saul will stop searching for him.
5. Saul inquired of the Lord, but the Lord did not answer him by dreams, Urim, or prophets.
6. The Ziphites betray David's hiding place to Saul, informing Saul that David is hiding on the hill of Hachilah. They initiate Saul's renewed pursuit of David in 1 Samuel 26.
7. Saul disguises himself by putting on other clothes and traveling at night with two men. He does this to avoid being recognized as the king and to safely reach the medium without detection by the Philistines.
8. Samuel tells Saul that because he disobeyed the Lord and did not carry out his wrath against the Amalekites, the Lord has torn the kingdom from him and will deliver him and Israel into the hands of the Philistines. He also says Saul and his sons will die the next day.
9. The spear symbolizes Saul's hostility and murderous intentions toward David, as he had previously thrown it at David and Jonathan. When David takes the spear, it

shows he had the power to kill Saul but chose not to, demonstrating his restraint and respect for the Lord's anointed.

10. Saul's declarations serve as evidence of David's innocence and validate David's claim that he was not trying to usurp Saul's power.

Essay Questions

1. Analyze the contrasting approaches of David and Abishai in 1 Samuel 26. What do their actions reveal about their understanding of God's will and the proper response to injustice?
2. Evaluate the morality of David's deception while living in Philistine territory (1 Samuel 27). Is his behavior justified by the circumstances, or does it compromise his integrity?
3. Discuss the significance of Saul's consultation with the medium at Endor (1 Samuel 28). What does this event reveal about Saul's spiritual state, and how does it contribute to his downfall?
4. Compare and contrast the two instances in which David spares Saul's life (1 Samuel 24 and 26). What similarities and differences exist between these events, and what do they demonstrate about David's character?
5. Explore the theme of "walking by faith vs. walking by sight" in 1 Samuel 26-28. How does this theme manifest itself in the actions of David and Saul, and what are the consequences of each approach?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Anointed:** Set apart or consecrated for a special purpose, typically with oil. In this context, it refers to Saul as the king chosen by God.
- **Vindication:** The act of clearing someone of blame or suspicion; proving someone's innocence.
- **Ziphites:** Residents of Ziph, a town in the wilderness of Judah, who betray David's location to Saul.
- **Gath:** A major Philistine city, ruled by King Achish, where David seeks refuge from Saul.
- **Ziklag:** A town in Philistine territory given to David by Achish as a place to reside with his men and their families.
- **Amalekites:** A nomadic people group known to be enemies of Israel.
- **Medium:** A person believed to be able to communicate with the spirits of the dead.
- **Endor:** A town where Saul seeks out a medium to summon the spirit of Samuel.
- **Urim and Thummim:** Objects used for divination in ancient Israel to discern God's will.
- **Sheol:** The Hebrew term for the underworld or the abode of the dead.
- **Philistines:** Enemies of the Israelites who lived in the southwest of Canaan.
- **Gibeah:** Location where the Ziphites told Saul that David was hiding.
- **Hachilah:** Hill where David was hiding.
- **Negev:** The arid region in the southern part of the land of Judah.
- **Ein Dor:** Location of the Seance where the medium was found.

5. FAQs on Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 15, 1 Sam. 26-28 – David Spares Saul Again, David Flees to Gath Again, Biblelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions: 1 Samuel 26-28

- **Why does David spare Saul's life a second time in 1 Samuel 26, and what is the significance of this event in relation to 1 Samuel 24?**
- David spares Saul's life again in 1 Samuel 26, similar to what happened in 1 Samuel 24. Both instances serve as evidence of David's innocence and demonstrate that he has no intention of harming Saul. While some scholars view these accounts as different versions of the same event, they are presented as separate incidents where David has the opportunity to kill Saul but refuses to do so because Saul is the Lord's anointed. The significance of this is that it further defends David's integrity, especially given Saul's unpredictable behavior and the evil spirit tormenting him.
- **In 1 Samuel 26, what motivates David to enter Saul's camp, and what prevents him from killing Saul when he has the opportunity?**
- David intentionally enters Saul's camp to demonstrate his innocence and prove that he is not a threat to Saul. Abishai, one of David's men, sees this as an opportunity provided by God to eliminate Saul, but David refuses to harm "the Lord's anointed." David believes that vengeance belongs to the Lord and trusts that God will deal with Saul in His own time and way, whether through natural causes, battle, or divine intervention. He takes Saul's spear and water jug to prove he had the opportunity to kill Saul but chose not to.
- **What are the two possible reasons David suggests for Saul's continued pursuit of him in 1 Samuel 26, and what is the implication of each?**
- David offers two possible explanations for Saul's pursuit: either the Lord is inciting Saul against him (perhaps through the evil spirit tormenting Saul), or other people are encouraging Saul to do so. If the Lord is inciting Saul, David suggests that Saul should offer a sacrifice to appease God. If people are influencing Saul, David argues that they are effectively driving him out of the Lord's land, potentially forcing him to serve other gods, which is a grave offense.

- **Why does David flee to Gath in 1 Samuel 27, and what does this decision reveal about his state of mind at the time?**
- David flees to Gath because he fears that Saul will eventually destroy him, despite previous assurances from Jonathan, Saul, and Abigail that he would prosper. This decision reveals that David is losing sight of God's promises and succumbing to fear and a sense of self-reliance. He believes that escaping to Philistine territory is the best practical solution, indicating a lack of faith and a reliance on his own reasoning rather than trusting in God's protection.
- **How does David deceive Achish, the king of Gath, while living in Philistine territory, and what consequences does this deception have?**
- David deceives Achish by raiding Canaanite populations (Geshurites and Amalekites) but making Achish believe that he is attacking Israelite territories. He wipes out entire populations to ensure no one reports his true activities. This deception makes Achish believe that David has become a loyal servant who has alienated himself from his own people. As a consequence, Achish trusts David completely and expects him to join the Philistine army in battle against Israel.
- **What request does Achish make of David in 1 Samuel 28, and what is the potential conflict this creates for David?**
- Achish asks David and his men to join the Philistine army in the upcoming battle against Israel. This creates a significant conflict for David, as he would be forced to fight against his own people. The situation arises from David's successful deception of Achish, leading to a precarious and morally challenging situation for David.
- **Why does Saul seek out a medium in Endor in 1 Samuel 28, and what does this decision reveal about his character and his relationship with God?**
- Saul seeks out a medium in Endor because the Lord is no longer answering him through dreams, prophets, or the Urim and Thummim. Despite having previously expelled mediums and spiritists from the land in accordance with Old Testament law, Saul resorts to consulting a medium out of desperation. This decision reveals his lack of faith in God and his willingness to disobey God's law when he feels abandoned, highlighting his flawed character and broken relationship with God.

- **What message does Samuel (or the spirit claiming to be Samuel) deliver to Saul through the medium, and what is the significance of this message?**
- The spirit claiming to be Samuel tells Saul that the Lord has departed from him and that the kingdom will be torn from his hands and given to David. He also foretells that Saul and his sons will die in battle the next day and that Israel will be defeated by the Philistines. This message confirms Saul's rejection by God and seals his fate, emphasizing the consequences of his disobedience and his failure to carry out God's commands, such as destroying the Amalekites. It reinforces that David will be the next king and signifies the end of Saul's reign.