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I never cease to be amazed at things in God's Word. Such as we are told not to commune with familiar spirits.

1 Samuel 28

Philistines Gather against Israel

1And 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. 2And 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.

Turn of events for David. King Achish has been under the impression all this time that David has been raiding Israeli towns, but as a ruse to displace foreign nations that were in Israel David has been systematically removing them from Israel. Now, the Philistines including King Achish intend to attack northern Israel. King Achish under the impression that David is on their side invites David and his men to join them in their conquest of Israel.

In verse 1 Samuel 28:2 Achish tells David:

And Achish said to David, Therefore will I make thee keeper of mine head for ever.

The meaning of the phrase is that Achish trusted David and wanted him to be head of his bodyguard detail as long as Achish lived.

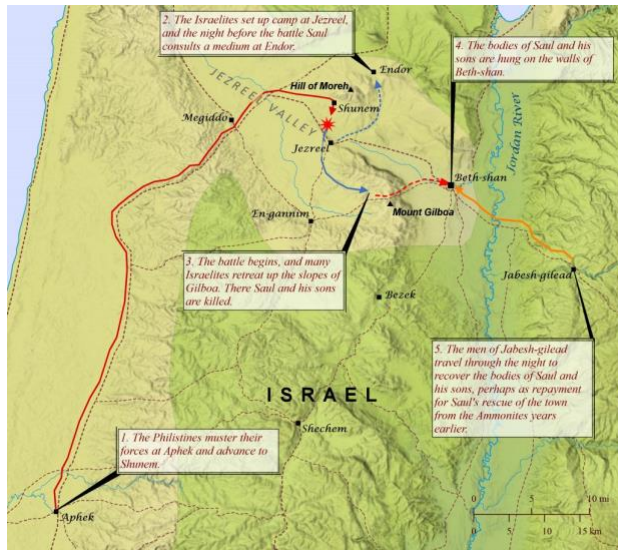
3Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land.

The evil and Satanic practices involved in “familiar spirits and wizards” were an abomination to God and is the Mosaic Law were forbidden.

Leviticus 19:31 Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy 18:10-12 There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch,

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



5And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled. **6**And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.

Saul has come to the end of his relationship with God. Samuel is gone who had interceded many times on the behalf of Saul. In desperation Saul tries alternatives to finding God's heart in this matter and to no avail. God has abandoned Saul just as Saul had abandoned God in the years leading up to this day.

Saul and the Medium of Endor

7Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and inquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, *there is* a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.

How deep can man fall to keep his power. King Saul had abandoned God early in his career as the first King of Israel. How

many correlations can we see between how King Saul operated and how even America has and is operating?

King Saul removes all the “familiar spirits” from Israel apparently after Samuel’s death. Was this an effort to reconnect with God after allowing all this evil to come into Israel? When God is no longer the focus of your nation who will the leaders seek for insight into coming events. As with King Saul, they will seek many ungodly sources to help them chart their course to maintain power and rule.

Saul is told of a woman who is a “familiar spirit” in a town called Endor.

8And 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.

There are a couple of things to understand here. First likely under pressure from the High Priest/Prophet Samuel, King Saul had removed all who communicated with “familiar spirits” from the land of Israel.

3Now 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.

So, for Saul to seek one he had to disguise himself to even speak to one with “Familiar Spirits”.

So why did Samuel at God’s direction pressure Saul to remove all who speak with “Familiar Spirits”?

Leviticus 19:31 Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I *am* the LORD your God.

A bit of a rabbit trail:

God is aware of Satan’s intent on convincing people that they can talk to the dead, most often dead relatives or people of power.

The reality is that these “mediums” who claim to speak to dead relatives or others who are deceased are speaking to demons.

Demons are fallen angels and like other angels are a creation of God but were given some level of free will. We know that due to God telling us that there were many angels who followed Satan and left their original position or habitat in heaven. That acknowledges that those angels made a choice through some level of free will.

Those who chose to follow Satan, were cast down to earth. There is likely a hierarchy within the ranks of Angels and I base that on several verses. Here is a prominent verse that speaks to leadership within the Angelic realm.

Revelation 12:7 7And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

The term “his angels” lends itself to Michael being of a superior rank and leading other angels of lower rank into battle.

Likewise, there appears to be leadership ranks within the fallen angels with Satan of course being the head.

Revelation 9:11And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.

God also tells us that Satan is the leader of this band of rebels and even though none of them are mentioned by name other than Christ getting some to respond to His commands and calling themselves “legion”.

We also know from God’s Word that there are some fallen angels that are and have been held in chains beneath the Euphrates River.

Revelation 9:11And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.

Revelation 9:14 13And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, 14Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels **which are bound in the great river Euphrates. 15And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month,**

and a year, for to slay the third part of men. (emphasis mine)

9And 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?

Obviously, this woman was fully aware that it was Saul that had all of her friends and her removed from Israel. She of course would think this was a trap to get her to expose herself as a medium for “familiar sprits”.

10And 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.

This conversation is bazar in its depth. This woman convinced that she has always been speaking to a specific dead person in her past. Now she asks Saul for the name of the person he wants to talk to. Of all people Saul wants to speak to his mentor and antagonist Samuel. When the woman calls the name of Samuel and he appears it frightens the woman and it now fully reveals who is asking to speak, it is the King himself.

12And 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.

God is in absolute control of the universe and all aspects of it. Nothing happens without God's authorization. It is a strange thing that God would authorize this contact with His dead Prophet Samuel. It is strange that God allowed a thing that He had declared as forbidden.

God prefers and commands those who believe in Him should consult with Him and not those are connected with Satan and evil.

Isaiah 8:19 When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists who whisper and mutter, shouldn't a people consult their God instead? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living?

So, a vary rare occurrence God allows Samuel to be brought up from Paradise to speak to Saul the King of Israel. One might ask why God would allow this. The simple answer is He is God and He decides what is allowed, when and why. God answers to no man. So, the conversation is not going to involve God and Saul, as God had ceased speaking to Saul due to his failure to be obedient to God.

15And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up?

Saul is apparently aware of the situation as to being called back to the surface of the earth away from his temporary lodging in Paradise.

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.

The issue is that when God leaves, there is no alternative for absolute TRUTH. When God leaves the place, HE was at is empty. When God left the Temple due to the sins of the priests, there is no sign that HE ever returned.

The Arc of the Covenant was placed in the Holy of Holies in the Temple that Herod built but the only sign of God's presence at that temple was at the Crucifixion of Jesus. When Christ gave up His Spirit to God, the curtain was ripped from top to bottom, an indisputable sign it was God who did it and opened access to Him through the Blood of HIS Son.

Ezekiel 10: [18](#)Then the glory of the LORD departed from off the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubims. [19](#)And the cherubims lifted up their wings, and mounted up from the earth in my sight: when they went out, the wheels also were beside them, and every one stood at the door of the east gate of the LORD'S house; and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above.

[20](#)This is the living creature that I saw under the God of Israel by the river of Chebar; and I knew that they were the cherubims. [21](#)Every one had four faces apiece, and every

one four wings; and the likeness of the hands of a man was under their wings. [22](#)And the likeness of their faces was the same faces which I saw by the river of Chebar, their appearances and themselves: they went every one straight forward.

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

Samuel has known for some time that God would remove Saul as King of Israel. Samuel also knew that God had replaced Saul with David as King. Samuel had already told Saul this and why God had done it but had just not carried it out yet. There are those who may walk away from Christ or God but not in such a way to become God's enemy. To be God's enemy one must completely reverse his position with God/Christ.

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

[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.

You may recall as we studied 1 Samuel how many times Saul had rejected God's Word and direction. It is apparent that Saul had allowed those who practiced witchcraft and acted as mediums to conjure the supposed dead. As we have found these mediums are actually talking to demons. These demons have the time to

learn everything about a person who has died and then act and answer like they are that person. It is all a deception by Satan to confuse man and draw him away from God.

God had given Saul specific direction to destroy the Amalekites for what they had done to Israel when they came out of Egypt.

19Moreover 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.

This is an incredible prophesy that Samuel gives to Saul. One would think that Saul would warrant Sheol instead of Paradise. But Samuel tells Saul he and his son will be with him “tomorrow”.

Those Old Testament Saints from what I can gather were kept in Paradise, also called “Abraham’s bosom”, awaiting the Good News to be preached to them by the Messiah while He was supposedly dead in the grave. Jesus was not idle after being Crucified but active in leading the captives free.

Ephesians 4: 7But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

8Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

9(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

1 Peter 3:19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;

I'll explain my understanding and it is based on what I believe to be the "whole council of God". Not to say that I am right, it is just what makes sense to me personally. I believe we all have this life on earth to accept Jesus. Failure to do that then puts a person into the category of "non-believer" or one who rejects Jesus.

We know that there is one way to God and that is through the Son. If we reject the Son, then we reject the Father. If death captures a person in that condition, there is no hope of redemption.

There were two locations in the Sheol, Hell and Paradise. There may be other terms used but that is the essence of the idea of being held below the earth.

Sheol was for the righteous Jews before Jesus and Hell was the holding place for all who reject Jesus. My understanding is that Jesus went into the earth while His Body was supposedly sequestered in the tomb. I do not think He went to those who rejected Him, but instead to those who loved God and were waiting to hear that the Good News the defeat of death was carried out by the Son of God.

Ephesians 2:8 you are saved by Grace through Faith and that not of yourself, it is the gift of God, not by any works lest any man should boast.

20Then 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.

Hebrews 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Saul's fate is sealed. God through Samuel has for the final time told Saul that the Kingdom of Israel was no longer under his Kingship. Saul finally realizes there is no more bargaining with God, no more repenting for failures as King and servant of God. He now knows his date of death, tomorrow, both he and his beloved sons will die in battle. That drives him to fall prostrate on the ground, no hope, no more chances to walk in obedience to God.

21And 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.

These times were strange times when we consider how powerful the kings were. People like this woman afraid for her life in front of Saul, now takes pity on a man she can see is on the door step of death. She undoubtedly heard the words from Samuel to Saul as she was the medium that called on Samuel.

She calls out her own danger she faced when doing something that Saul had forbid at God's direction and that is "familiar spirits" being in Israel. King Saul asked her to call Samuel and she did at great risk of life.

22Now 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.

Through all of this she still offers compassion to the King in the form of food.

23But 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. 24And 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: 25And she brought *it* before Saul, and before his servants; and they did eat. Then they rose up, and went away that night.

These few verses cover a lengthy period of time. To kill a calf, field dress it, prepare a fire to cook it, make dough without leaven and bake it all takes a great amount of time. All the while Saul sitting there contemplating his own eternity. Having no clear picture of what is to happen to him on the next day other than death. What kind of thought would he think. What kind of thoughts would you think, if you knew that tomorrow you were going to die?

I have been thinking about how God approached His creating of man and what He considered knowing everything before it even exists.

I see at least four phases that God had to consider. The **first** phase was creating Adam and then creating Eve as a help mate. God already had created the Garden, he had already created the angels including Satan.

God in this initial creation time had a “personal relationship” with Adam and Eve. A close and loving relationship, one that God wanted and Adam and Eve enjoyed and embraced.

The fall comes and the “personal relationship” ends.

So, God appears to allow mankind to grow and find its own way in this new world and existence. Due to the sin nature now embedded in mankind and passed on, man begins a steady decline into sin. An all encompassing, unfettered sin nature that brings God to say that it saddened His heart that He had created mankind.

God then brings the flood to cleanse the earth of this massive invasion of sin. He does however find a man that He has some confidence in, not in the same “personal relationship” manner God had with Adam but still one of command and obedience in Noah. So, from a Personal, in-person relationship with Adam and

Eve, God now creates the **second** type of relationship we can call, Command and Obedience relationship with Noah.

A great deal of time passes after the flood before God creates the third type of relationship. This **third** relationship is a “legal” relationship. One in which God calls on another faithful man, Moses and gives him the law by which to live by. The relationship is not a personal one as before other than with Moses, but it is a legal one for the masses. God gives the law as to what is allowed and what is not allowed in order to find any relation with the Creator God. This legal relationship is hard and has little mercy to it. This legal relationship had at its core to show mankind how far short they come from the Glory of God. It is a relationship that is impossible to carry out.

The **fourth** and final relationship costs God His beloved Son. It is God’s final effort to recreate His original “personal relationship” with mankind.

My sense is that God has missed that one-on-one relationship He first had with Adam and Eve. To get it back, God must fulfill the “Legal relationship” that He created. The “Legal relationship” or what we call the “Law”, required innocent blood be spilled to break the barrier sin had erected between man and God. Under the “Law” this sacrificial amends was only temporary and had to be repeated time and time again.

This fourth and final approach by God was based on Mercy, Grace and Belief. God's Son would be the sacrifice, the final and complete sacrifice to fulfill all the legal requirements that God had established. Anything less would not bring about an avenue to a personal relationship with God and God with man.

Ephesians 2 in my opinion codifies the entire arrangement that God declared as the only way to come to Him.

Ephesians 2: [1](#)And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; [2](#)Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: [3](#)Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. [4](#)But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, [5](#)Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) [6](#)And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: [7](#)That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. [8](#)For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: [9](#)Not of works, lest any man should boast. [10](#)For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.
(emphasis mine)

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