

II. Discussion

A. His belief seems to have been one of convenience, not conviction

Admittedly this is a judgment on my part but when he knows that Samuel is dead and the Philistines are massing on the frontiers, his resort is not to God but to the deceased Samuel through the medium. He says some nice things about the Lord at times but at a crucial hour turns to a force that he had previously outlawed in Israel. I think real belief would not have let him go that way.

B. His behavior seems to be one of compromise, not confession

In his post mortem discussion with Samuel (28:15) he confesses that God does not respond to him either by word or prophetic action. Samuel gives him substantially the last messages he had given. Saul has been rejected of God and the kingship will go to David. His collapse at the woman's house is not one of confessional grief but emotional despair.

C. His goals, apparently were personal, not godly.

Well, after awhile we can find fault with everything he did and I am not trying to go that route. I am trying to say that his ineffectiveness spiritually was a sum of all these things I have discussed and if we can view them positively we can be used of God in wonderful ways

III. Conclusion: It is a sad account---the life of Saul---yet there are many positive things in it to bless us if we allow the truth of God and His Word to be the sustaining influences in our lives and if we keep our dependence on Him and demonstrate it in worship and obedience. Reverse the issues that plagued Saul and you will have a solid ground for building a life of spiritual vitality and thankfulness. Not all of us are equally subjected to all things but we all, in some way, will face part of this picture and by seeing the end result we are warned away from what weakens and minimizes us and drawn to what will make us whole and effective.

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