



I Shall Dwell in the House of the Lord Forever

1 Samuel 27-31

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Introduction: The closing chapters of 1 Samuel bring a final resolution to the contest between David and Saul. Although Saul recognized David's claim to the throne (24:20), he still pursues David with the intent to dispose of him. David's fears get the best of him again, so he returns to Philistine territory in order to preserve his life (27). Saul continues his degenerate path by consulting a medium, upon which he discovers that his life will soon come to an end (28). Despite David's apparent lack of faith, the Lord delivers him from having to fight against the people of Israel (29) and grants him victory over their enemies (30). As predicted by Samuel, Saul's life comes to an end in inglorious fashion (31). By God's grace, David has persevered and will soon be king over Israel.

01. Perseverance is not a virtue when the path leads to death and final separation from God.

02. Perseverance is not mental toughness or willpower. It is the gift of God to all who trust in the Lord.

03. Perseverance is understandably hard in this lifetime but it brings unspeakable joy in the life to come.

The Lord is My Shepherd
[a study through 1 samuel]

1. Given David's increased faith in the Lord in 1 Samuel 23-26, are you surprised that David once again fears Saul and therefore returns to the land of the Philistines? Do you find that your walk with the Lord sometimes includes significant progress and certain setbacks? Read Romans 7:15-25 for further insight.

2. Even though Saul ordered mediums and necromancers to be expelled from the land, he easily located someone to do the work for him. What does this suggest about the prevalence of evil in the world? Imagine a city, state, or country with godly leadership and godly laws on the books—would such a place be free from sin? How does this reality lead you to long for a better world that is beyond this world?

3. What indicators from chapter 28 suggest that Samuel actually appeared and spoke to Saul? Are we to believe that people can communicate with the dead, or does this text underscore God permitting this to occur at this time for His own purposes? Read Mark 9:2-8 for another example of the dead appearing to others for God's own purposes.

4. Notice in chapter 29 how the Lord delivers David from having to fight against the Israelites. What similar providences have happened in your life where the Lord delivered you from poor decisions you had made? How does this kindly intervention from the Lord encourage you in light of poor decisions others also make? Are you encouraged to continue praying on their behalf?

5. What does the kindness of David towards the two hundred men (30:21-25) suggest about the kindness of the Lord towards those who grow weary in well-doing? How then should we treat brothers and sisters in the Lord when they do not measure up to our own standards? Read Matthew 20:1-16 for further insight.

For Further Reading: D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *The Final Perseverance of the Saints: An Exposition of Romans 8:17-39*. Banner of Truth Trust, 1975.

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