

# 23. Defeat On Gilboa

*Quote: So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it; And enquired not of the LORD: therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse.*

**1 Chronicles 10:13-14**

## Chapter Breakdown

Mark in the second half of the chapter breakdown of 1 Samuel 21-31 (separate sheet).

## Bible Marking:

1 Samuel 28:6 - **"Saul enquired of Yahweh"** - cp 1 Chron 10:14 - Saul "enquired not of Yahweh". ie. He was not in the habit of doing so. Now when Samuel was dead, and all other possibilities had been exhausted, Saul turned to Yahweh. He contrasts with David who turned to Yahweh first (see 1 Sam 30:6-8).

Yahweh would not heed for several reasons:

- It was too late - Yahweh will not be last. This last belated enquiry is contrasted with the diligence with which Saul sought a woman with a familiar spirit.
- "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination." Proverbs 28:9.

1 Samuel 28:7 - **"seek"** - "basically connotes a person's earnest seeking of something or someone" (TWOT).

## Witches (Mark in 1 Samuel 28)

There are three words for witches in the Hebrew:

1. "familiar spirits" (Heb 'owb') = a mumble and hence a necromancer (ventriloquist); a soothsayer who invokes the dead by the power of incantations.. in order to give answers as to future or doubtful things (Gesenius).
2. "Wizards" (Heb 'yddoni') - a knowing one; specially a conjurer.
3. "Witches" (Heb 'kashaph') - to whisper a spell ie. To enchant, or practise magic; to use magical song, to mutter.

Witchcraft was established in the nation because Israel learned the abominations of the nations that were already present in the land (Deut 18:9-11).

Under the Law of Moses such people were absolutely condemned (Lev 19:31; 20:6,27).

The reasons God gives are (taken from Law of Moses p295-296):

- "For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD..." (Deut 18:12). This is because God is a jealous God (Exod 20:5).
- It is good for man to worship God - it exalts God to his rightful position, and humbles man to his rightful position. It is degrading and demoralising for him to be diverted from it.
- It grieves God to be deprived of His due by the folly of man. This is what familiar spirits and witches etc do by pretending to use a power they do not possess.