

Scripture_background

Background Notes for 1 Samuel 28:

Historical Context:

- The events in 1 Samuel 28 occur during the time when Saul was the first king of Israel, around 1000 B.C.
- This story is set in the ancient kingdom of Israel, specifically at a time when Israel was often at war with the Philistines, one of their chief enemies.

Cultural Context:

- Ancient Israel was a religious society with a strong belief in God, and it was forbidden for Israelites to practice magic, witchcraft, or to consult with mediums or spiritists (those who speak with the dead), as stated in Deuteronomy 18:10-12.
- Despite the prohibition, some people in Saul's time still sought guidance from such practices, which were more common among surrounding nations.

Theological Insights:

- Saul, the king, was desperate for guidance and help because God had stopped communicating with him due to his disobedience and lack of faith.
- In his desperation, Saul disobeyed God's law by consulting a medium, showing how fear and desperation can lead people away from trust in God.
- The story reveals the consequences of disobeying God and the importance of faithfulness. It also highlights that God desires His people to seek Him, not other sources, for guidance.
- This passage helps teach that God wants us to rely on prayer and His word for direction in our lives.

For Teaching:

- Help students understand the importance of trusting and obeying God even in difficult times.
- Discuss with students how we can seek God's guidance today through prayer and reading the Bible, rather than turning to sources that go against God's teachings.
- Emphasize the difference between making choices out of fear versus faith.
- Encourage students to talk about a time they had to trust someone, and relate it to trusting God even when we don't understand His plans.