

INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS

1. On the following table, write a brief summary of eight words or less for each of the 16 chapters involved in this study.

16	
17	
18	
19	
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25	
26	
27	
28	
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2. What, if any, division do you find in this part of the study?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 16

DAVID ANOINTED TO BE KING – I SAMUEL 16:1 – 23

1. There are only three paragraphs in I Samuel 16. On the following table, write a brief summary of eight words or less for each paragraph.

16:1-5	
16:6-13	
16:14-23	

2. Study the titles you have recorded on the above table. Now, write a summary title of eight words or less for the entire chapter.
3. In I Samuel 16:1-5, Jehovah commanded Samuel to anoint David as King.
- A. In 16:1, the Lord spoke to Samuel concerning Saul
 - 1. In this verse, the Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul since I have rejected him from being King of Israel." How would you describe the emotions of this statement?
 - 2. Read this verse again very carefully. How would you explain the message God gave when He said, "I have selected a king for Myself"?
 - B. In 16:2, Samuel responded to the Lord's commission.
 - 1. Compare this with Samuel's other responses to God. What did you find?
 - 2. Study the LORD'S answer to Samuel. What problem, if any, do you sense here?
 - C. In 16:3, the LORD continued His instruction to Samuel. God said, "You shall anoint for Me..." What are the implications of the way the LORD said this?
 - D. In 16:4, Samuel was met by a very nervous welcoming committee. How can we account for this?
 - E. In 16:5, Samuel attempted to calm the people.
 - 1. How did he do that?
 - 2. Almost as an after thought, Samuel invited Jesse and his sons to join them. How completely can we describe Samuel's integrity in this report?
4. In I Samuel 16:6-13, Samuel anointed David to be King of Israel.
- A. In 16:6, Samuel seems to have mistaken Eliab's appearance for God's call. How would he make such a mistake?
 - B. In 16:7, the LORD explained His rejection of Eliab. What explanation did the LORD give?
 - C. In 16:8, 9, The Lord rejected Abinadab and Shammah. What explanation did the LORD give for this?
 - D. In 16:10, the author gives a summary statement concerning the seven sons. In some instances, it says that the LORD rejected them. In other instances, it says that the LORD did not choose them. Is there any significance to this difference?
 - E. In 16:11, Samuel discovered that Jesse had one more son.
 - 1. What reason can we give, if any, to explain why the eighth son was not previously included?
 - 2. Samuel said, "send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." How can we account for his apparently strong words?
 - F. In 16:12, the author described the eighth son, David.
 - 1. How would you describe him?
 - 2. In some instances, the LORD offered explanation for his rejection of some of Jesse's sons. What reason did the LORD give for choosing the eighth son?

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

- G. In 16:13, the author described the anointing of David to be king. The author said, “And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward.”
1. What do you think he meant by this statement?
 2. Put yourself in the place of the seven brothers. How would you feel about this?
 3. Put yourself in the place of David. Knowing that Saul was still king and you were his servant, how would you feel about this event?
5. In I Samuel 16:14-23, David became Saul’s armor bearer.
- A. In 16:14, the author described the departure of the Spirit of the LORD from Saul. Study this verse carefully. What, problem, if any, do you sense in the content of this verse?
- B. In 16:15, Saul’s servant diagnosed the problem that seemed to be troubling the king. Reflect on this statement. Is this diagnosis accurate?
- C. In 16:16, this servant prescribed a solution for the problem that caused Saul to despair.
1. What problem might one anticipate with this prescription?
 2. Three times in as many verses, the author spoke of “an evil spirit from God.” What does he mean by this?
- D. In 16:17, 18, Saul agreed with the servant’s prescription.
1. The servant who recommended David described David’s qualities.
 - a. How would this servant know that David was “a mighty man of valor, a warrior”?
 - b. How would the servant know that “the LORD was with David”?
- E. In 16:19, Saul instructed David to be called. The servant said nothing about David being with the flock. How would Saul know this?
- F. In 16:20, Jesse did not answer Saul’s request, but he did send a gift along with his son. How would you describe this action?
- G. In 6:21, Saul wanted David to play his harp, but he became Saul’s armor bearer. How can one understand this change of responsibility?
- H. In 16:22, Saul sent a request to Jesse asking him to let David serve him permanently.
1. What does this say about Saul’s previous request?
 2. If you were Jesse and received this message, how would you feel?
- I. In 16:23, the author described David’s job description in more detail.
1. What additional information did the author provide?
 2. How did the author evaluate David’s effectiveness?
6. Reflect on your study of this chapter.
- A. What does this chapter tell us about God?
- B. In what way will this impact your walk with God?

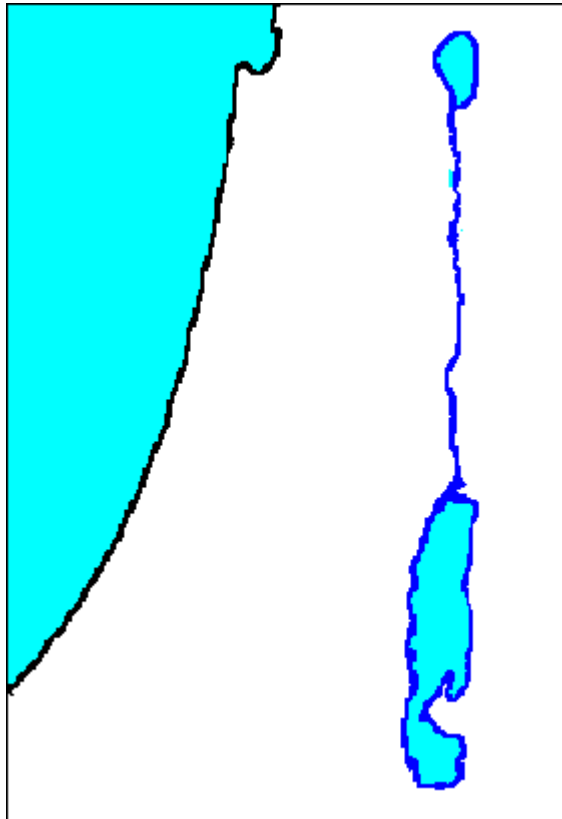
QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 17

DAVID KILLED GOLIATH – I SAMUEL 17:1 – 58

1. There are eight paragraphs in chapter seventeen of I Samuel. Please write a brief summary of eight words or less for each paragraph on the following table.

17-1-11	
17:12-16	
17:17-27	
17:28-30	
17:31-40	
17:41-49	
17:50-54	
17:55-58	

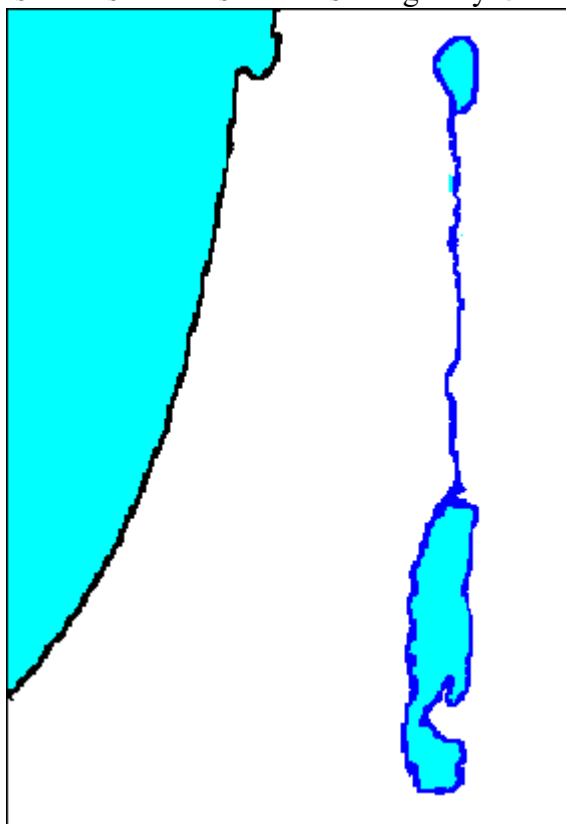
2. In I Samuel 17:1-11, the author tells of Goliath's challenge to Saul's army.
- A. In 17:1, 2, the author identified the location of both the Philistine and Israelite armies.
1. On this map, locate the position of each army.
 2. Identify the topography of this land – Flat? Hilly?
- Approximately how far apart are these two armies?



- B. In 17:3, the author mentioned that both armies stood on a mountain or high hill.
1. In the morning, which of these armies would have the advantage?
 2. In the afternoon, which of these armies would have the advantage?
- C. In 17:4-7, the author gave us a description of Goliath.
1. Measured in feet, how tall was Goliath?

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

2. What message is the author giving us in this lengthy description?
 - D. In 17:8-10, Goliath presented a challenge to the Israelite soldiers.
 1. What is the challenge?
 2. What is Goliath trying to accomplish? Did he do so?
 - E. In 17:11, the author reported the reaction of Saul and all Israel. Remember, Saul is the Israelite closest to the size of Goliath. What was the reaction?
3. In I Samuel 17:12-16, the author tells the story of David's brothers in the army.
 - A. In 17:12, the author reports the age of Jesse. Can you find a reason why this would be important?
 - B. In 17:13-15, there is a contrast between David and his three brothers. What does this contrast add to our information about what is happening in this family?
 - C. In 17:16, the author mentions that "the Philistine came forward morning and evening for 40 days." What is the significance of this information?
 4. In I Samuel 17:17-27, David visited his brothers and was enraged by Goliath's blasphemy.



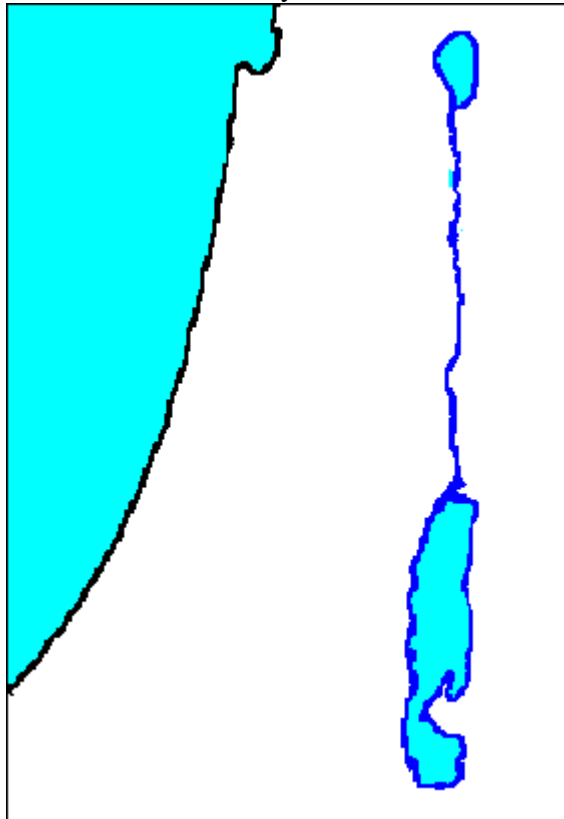
- A. In 17:17-19, Jesse instructed David to visit his brothers and carry gifts to them and to national leaders.
 1. On this map, identify Jesse's hometown and the place where the army was located.
 2. Approximately, how far did David have to travel?
- B. In 17:20, observe what David did with the flock.
 1. With whom did David leave the flock?
 2. What does this tell us?
 3. This verse tells us, in the second sentence, something the soldiers were doing. What is the significance of this?
- C. In 17:21, the author described the daily routine at the front. What danger(s) can you see in this practice?
- D. In 17:22, 23, David got his first glimpse of Goliath.
 1. In verse 22, David made a dangerous move. What was it?

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

2. In verse 23, David heard the tirade of Goliath. What would be the normal reaction for anyone his age?
 - E. In 17:24, the author reported the reaction in the camp of Israel when Goliath came out. What, specifically, was that reaction?
 - F. In 17:25, 26, there is an APPARENT confusion in the dialogue.
 1. What is this APPARENT confusion?
 2. What does this accomplish in the story?
 3. In 17:26, David asks two questions, but in them his wording expresses his emotional level. What is the basis of David's emotional outbursts?
5. In I Samuel 17:28 – 30, David's brother, Eliab, rebuked him.
- A. In 17:28, Eliab made two accusations against David.
 1. What are the accusations?
 2. In this attack, Eliab exposed his own weakness. What was that?
 - B. In 17:29, David's response tells us something about the relationship between these two brothers. What is it?
 - C. In 17:30, David asked his question again. Compare/contrast the content of David's questions spelled out in 17:26 and repeated here. Which of the two possible, suggested motives is really on David's mind?
6. In I Samuel 17:31-40, Saul sent David to face Goliath.
- A. In 17:31, 32, David's interest was conveyed to Saul.
 1. What is there about David's question that would cause a soldier to take the risk of telling Saul about it?
 2. In 17:32, David made a promise to Saul. How would you describe that promise?
 - B. In 17:33-37, Saul and David held a discussion about Goliath.
 1. What is Saul's argument?
 2. What is David's argument?
 3. How does David see his victory over the lion and bear as pertinent to this argument?
 4. If you were Saul, what is there in David's argument that would convince you to entrust the future of the entire nation to his skills?
 - C. In 17:38, 39, there is a comical picture of young David being overwhelmed with Saul's huge armor pieces.
 1. If you were Saul, what would you feel and think as you placed your huge protective pieces on this small boy?
 2. What convinced David that he could not use Saul's armor?
 - D. In 17:40, David prepared for his encounter with Goliath. Put yourself in David's position. How would you feel as you approached the giant?
7. In I Samuel 17:41-49, David killed Goliath.
- A. In 17:41, the author interjects a piece of information into the story that might give David pause. What is it?
 - B. In 17:42, there is a contrast between David and Goliath.
 1. What does it tell us about Goliath?
 2. What does it tell us about David?
 - C. In 17:43, Goliath accosted David. What two things did Goliath do?
 - D. In 17:44, Goliath threatened David. What was the threat?
 - E. In 17:45, David responded to Goliath's threat. In his response, David drew a contrast between his tactic and that of Goliath.
 1. What does this say about each one?
 2. David spoke of God in two ways:
 - a. What were they?

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

- b. What did David suggest by this?
- F. In 17:46, 47, David continued his response. There is a theme that David repeated in these verses.
 - 1. What is that theme?
 - 2. What purpose does David announce for this battle?
 - 3. Observe the names for God David uses on four occasions in these verses.
 - a. What are they?
 - b. How did David use them?
- G. In 17:48, 49, the author described the battle,
 - 1. Study these verses several times, what do they tell you about David?
 - 2. Observe that the stone struck Goliath in the forehead, but he fell face down. What does this tell us?
- 8. In I Samuel 17:50-54 – Israel pursued the Philistines and killed them.
 - A. In 17:50, the purpose of this sentence is emphasis. It, however, also stresses another fact besides the killing of Goliath. What is this fact?
 - B. In 17:51, there is a surprise fact about Goliath.
 - 1. What is this piece of information?
 - 2. What does this tell us about Goliath?
 - 3. There is also a breach of agreement in this verse. What is it?
 - C. In 17:52, the author described the route by which the Philistine soldiers fled.



- 1. Trace that route on this map.
- 2. What do we learn from this exercise?
- D. In 17:53, the author reported that when the Israelite soldiers finished chasing down the Philistine soldiers, they plundered the Philistine camps. How much plunder did David take?
- E. In 17:54, the author reported that David brought Goliath's head to Jerusalem, but Goliath's weapons David placed in his own tent. The text does not explain this. What suggestions can you make concerning these unusual actions?

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

8. In I Samuel 17:55-58, David brought Goliath's head to Saul
 - A. In 17:55, 56, Saul admits that he does not know the family from which David comes. This seems unusual. What purpose can be served by discovering this information at this point?
 - B. In 17:57, the series of events leaves a question in one's mind. What would that question be?
 - C. In 17:58, it is astonishing that at least two things are missing:
 1. What are these two things?
 2. Why would they be missing?
9. Reflect upon the content of chapter 17. What new insights have you gained? What impact will these things have on your walk with God?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 18

SAUL ATTEMPTED TO TRAP DAVID – I SAMUEL 18:1 – 30

1. There are seven paragraphs in I Samuel chapter 18. Write a brief summary of eight words or less for each paragraph on the following table.

18:1-5	
18:6-7	
18:8-9	
18:10-16	
18:17-21	
18:22-29	
18:30	

2. In I Samuel 18:1-5, the author dealt with the relationship between Jonathan and David.
- A. In 18:1, 2, Both Saul and Jonathan were greatly impressed with David. In view of the events of chapter 17, what would you say attracted each of them to David?
 - B. In 18:3, 4, Jonathan initiated a covenant with David and gave him his robe, armor and weapons.
 - 1. In view of these verses, what does it appear was the theme of this covenant?
 - 2. In 18:4, Jonathan gave David his robe, armor and weapons. What appears to be the meaning of this gesture?
 - C. In 18:5, David was placed “over the men of war.”
 - 1. What does this mean?
 - 2. In light of this verse, what is happening to David’s reputation both before the government and among the people?
3. In I Samuel 18:6-9, David returned from battle with Saul and the army.
- A. How were Saul and the army received?
 - B. What was Saul’s response to this welcome?
 - C. In verse 9, there is a report of Saul’s reaction. What does it say?
 - D. What does this tell you about Saul?
4. In I Samuel 18:10-16, Saul reacted to the welcome extended by the people.
- A. In 18:10, the author explained Saul’s feelings.
 - 1. Explain the author’s meaning when he said, “an evil spirit from God came mightily upon Saul.”
 - 2. Explain, in careful detail, what the author meant when he said, “He (Saul) raved in the midst of the house.”
 - B. David twice escaped Saul’s attempt to murder him.
 - 1. What does this tell us about David?
 - 2. What does this tell us about Saul?
 - C. In 18:12, the author described the relationship between Saul and David.
 - 1. What is that relationship?
 - 2. In this verse, the author explained the reason for that relationship.
 - a. What reason did he give?
 - b. What did the author mean by this reason?
 - D. In 18:13, Saul acted upon his feelings about David. The verse describes two things Saul did as well as how David responded.

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

1. Explain the two things Saul did.
 2. Compare what Saul did with 18:5. What did you learn?
 3. What does the author mean by, “He (David) went out and came in before the people”?
 - E. Study 18:14, in view of what Saul had done to David. What did you learn?
 - F. In 18:15, the author described Saul’s response to the report in 18:14. How would you describe this in today’s terms?
 - G. In 18:16, there is a contrast with 18:14. What does the author tell us in this contrast?
5. In I Samuel 18:17-21, Saul plotted to kill David
- A. In 18:17, the author carefully described the contrast between Saul’s words and motives.
 1. What information can you glean from this contrast?
 2. Think carefully about Saul’s statement to David. How would you evaluate this statement?
 3. Think carefully about the author’s report of Saul’s thought. What do you see?
 4. What other situation in Scripture does this verse call to mind?
 - B. In 18:18, the author reported David’s response to Saul. Study David’s words carefully. How would you describe this response?
 - C. Study 18:19 very carefully. It describes Saul’s action in response to David’s reply.
 1. How would you describe this action?
 2. Who is Adriel?
 3. What might prompt Saul to give Merab to Adriel rather than to David?
 - D. In 18:20, 21, the author indicated that Michal, Saul’s daughter, loved David.
 1. What motive of Saul does the author report?
 2. If you were David and Saul said to you, “For a second time you may be my son-in-law today,” what would you think?
6. In I Samuel 18:22-29, the author reported Saul’s attempt to get David to marry Michal.
- A. In 18:22, Saul instructed his servants to speak to David.
 1. Look carefully at what the servants were instructed to say. How would you describe this message?
 2. Is there any reason why Saul would not deliver this message himself?
 - B. In 18:23, David responded to the message Saul’s servants brought to him.
 1. What was the concern voiced by David?
 2. Was David accepting their suggestion?
 - C. In 18:24, 25, the servants reported to Saul and received new instructions.
 1. In verse 25, Saul mentioned a dowry. In view of 17:25, how do you feel about Saul’s offer?
 2. In verse 25, the author reported Saul’s purpose in this proposal. How would you describe this purpose?
 - D. In 18:26, Saul’s servants gave David the message they were instructed to give.
 1. How would you describe David’s response?
 2. Compare David’s response with 18:23. What did you observe?
 3. What does the author mean when he said, “before the days had expired...”?
 - E. In 18:27, David provided the required dowry. What can we learn from this verse?
 - F. I Samuel 18:28, 29 form a single sentence.
 1. This is a cause-effect statement. Describe in detail the causes reported by the author.
 2. Describe what the author meant by the effect he reported.
 3. If you were Saul, how would you feel at this point?
7. In I Samuel 18:30, the author described David’s experience after he was married to Michal.
- A. How would you describe these events?
 - B. In view of the author’s report in 18:28, 29, how would you think Saul felt about his dealings with David?

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

- C. In view of 18:12, how would you describe the events that took place in 18:13 – 30?
- 8. Reflect upon the events of chapter 18.
 - A. What theme continually emerges throughout the chapter?
 - B. Now look at your life. What does this chapter say about you and your life?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 19

SAUL AGAIN ATTEMPTED TO KILL DAVID – I SAMUEL 19:1 – 24

1. There are only three paragraphs in the nineteenth chapter of I Samuel. On the following table, write a brief summary of eight words or less for each paragraph.

19:1-7	
19:8-17	
19:18-24	

2. In I Samuel 19:1-7, Jonathan confronted Saul about sin – killing David.
- A. Think carefully about Saul’s instructions in 19:1.
 - 1. What assumptions has Saul made in issuing these instructions?
 - 2. There is a strong contrast in this verse. What are the two sides of this contrast?
 - B. In 19:2, the author presented a contrast between 19:1 and 19:2. As you study this contrast, what do you learn?
 - C. In 19:3, Jonathan gave David a series of instructions.
 - a. What is the tone of these instructions?
 - b. Compare/contrast the instructions in 19:1 and those in 19:3. What did you learn?
 - D. In 19:4, 5, Jonathan made a logical presentation to Saul about David.
 - 1. How would you describe Jonathan’s frame of mind when he said this?
 - 2. What reasons did Jonathan give his father for the exhortations he made?
 - 3. If you were Saul, how would you feel hearing this from your son?
 - E. In 19:6, Saul responded to Jonathan’s exhortations.
 - 1. The author said that “Saul vowed.” What does this mean?
 - 2. What did Saul vow to his son?
 - 3. What was added to Saul’s vow when he said, “as the LORD lives”?
 - F. In 19:7, Jonathan reported the previous events to David.
 - 1. On the basis of this verse, how did Jonathan respond to the vow of his father?
3. In I Samuel 19:8-17, Michal deceived her father.
- A. In 19:8, the scene shifts to a battle with the Philistines.
 - 1. How does this verse picture David?
 - 2. What does this say about David in view of the content of 19:1-7?
 - B. In 19:9, the author is talking about Saul.
 - 1. Read 19:8, 9 carefully.
 - a. What is contrasted?
 - b. What is the message in each of these verses?
 - 2. There is another contrast in 19:9.
 - a. What two things are contrasted?
 - b. What do you learn from this?
 - c. If you were David, in this verse, how would you feel?
 - C. In 19:10, Saul attempted to murder David.
 - 1. Compare 19:10 with 19:6. What have you learned?
 - 2. Now compare 19:9 and 10 with 16:13 and 14. What is the relationship between the two passages?
 - D. In 19:11, Saul tried again to find David.
 - 1. How would you say Michal gained the information she shared with David?

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

2. Try to explain why, in view of recent events, David fled to his house.
 - E. In 19:12, Michal, at great personal risk, assisted David in escaping from the people who would kill him. What reasons can you find for Michal to do this?
 - F. In 19:13, Michal again attempted to protect David.
 1. How did she do this?
 2. There is a shocking statement in this verse. What is it?
 3. How can you explain this surprising fact?
 - G. In 19:14, Michal again protected David
 1. What did she do?
 2. How would this protect David?
 - H. In 19:15, Saul changed his tactic, but not his intended purpose
 1. What is his new tactic?
 2. Why do you think he changed his tactic?
 - I. In 19:16, Saul's servants discovered a deception.
 1. How would this help David?
 2. In what way would this particular deception help?
 - J. In 19:17, Saul confronted Michal with her deception.
 1. What was Saul saying to Michal?
 2. Is there any possible justification for what she had done?
 3. How did she respond to Saul? Why?
4. In I Samuel 19:18-24, Saul's several attempts to kill David had failed.
- A. In 19:18, David fled to Samuel
 1. How would this benefit David?
 2. What good was it for David to be with Samuel?
 3. In what way would it be better to be in Naioth than in Ramah?
 - B. In 19:19, 20, Saul sent soldiers to take David captive.
 1. What did Saul's men discover when they arrived?
 2. What happened?
 3. Put yourself in the place of Saul. How would you feel when you received a report like this?
 - C. In 19:21, the author described Saul's reaction to the report of 19:20.
 1. What would prompt Saul to do this?
 2. Again, why would he think a third mission would do any better than the two previous missions?
 - D. In 19:22, 23, Saul realized his plan had failed three times.
 1. Put yourself in Saul's position.
 2. He was prophesying more than the three groups he had sent to kill David.
 3. How would you feel?
 - E. In 19:24, there appears to be an unusual report. How would you explain this verse?
5. Review the teachings of this chapter.
- A. What is the major teaching of this passage?
 - B. What message does this present for your life and ministry?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 20

DAVID COVENANTED WITH JONATHAN – I SAMUEL 20:1 – 42

1. There are six paragraphs in I Samuel chapter 20. On the following table, write a brief summary of eight words or less for each of these paragraphs.

20:1-11	
20:12-16	
20:17-23	
20:24-29	
20:30-34	
20:35-42	

2. In I Samuel 20:1-11, talked at length about David's safety and his loyalty to Saul.
- A. In 20:1, one can sense David's tension as he expressed his confusion to Jonathan. David asked three questions trying to find out why Saul wanted to kill him. In two of these questions, David used the words "iniquity" and "sin." What is the difference between the two words?
 - B. In 20:2, Jonathan seriously disagreed with his good friend, David. What was the basis of Jonathan's disagreement?
 - C. In 20:3, Jonathan's comments in 20:2 did nothing to change David's mind or relieve his fears. In view of their conversations in 20:1-3, why was David not convinced by his trusted friend?
 - D. In 20:4, Jonathan changed the subject of their conversation.
 - 1. What did Jonathan do?
 - 2. Why would he do this?
 - E. In 20:5-8, David found a way to accept Jonathan's offer as reported in verse four.
 - 1. How would his request be helpful?
 - 2. In 20:6, there is a problem that David created for Jonathan. What was it?
 - 3. In 20:7, David described his criteria by which to judge Saul's motives.
 - a. What was that criteria?
 - b. What other possibilities are there?
 - c. How satisfactory are these?
 - d. How can you explain David's final question in verse eight?
 - F. In 20:9, Jonathan responded. How would you describe that response?
 - G. In 20:10, 11, David and Jonathan planned their strategy. How would you describe this exchange?
3. In I Samuel 20:12-16, David and Jonathan covenanted for their mutual protection.
- A. In 20:12, Jonathan used a conditional statement to express the positive results he anticipated finding.
 - 1. What was the condition?
 - 2. What was the anticipated promise?
 - B. In 20:13, Jonathan continued with the negative conditional statement.
 - 1. What was the condition?
 - 2. What was the promise?
 - C. In 20:14, Jonathan expressed a note of personal concern.
 - 1. What was it?
 - 2. Why would he be so concerned?
 - D. In 20:15, Jonathan had a very different concern.
 - 1. What was that concern?

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

2. Jonathan's statement suggests a very specific implication that he has made. What does he imply?
3. Was Jonathan's implication a solid possibility?
- E. In 20:16, the author made a summary statement. In this statement there are two vital pieces of information.
 1. With whom did Jonathan make his covenant? Why?
 2. Jonathan said, "May the LORD require 'IT' at the hands of David's enemies." What is "it"?
4. In I Samuel 20:17-23, David and Jonathan planned their safety signals.
 - A. In 20:17, Jonathan insisted that David make his vow again.
 1. To what extent would this be necessary or helpful?
 2. What is added by the statement of Jonathan's love for David?
 - B. In 20:18, the scene changed. To what does Jonathan's attention return? What does this statement mean?
 - C. In 20:19, the author made it clear that Saul could not possibly miss David's absence.
 1. What would you assume the danger level of this decision to be?
 2. What would be their options if apprehended?
 - D. In 20:20-23, Jonathan explained how he would convey the information to David.
 1. In verse 20, are there any possible problems with Jonathan's plan to inform David?
 2. In verse 20, Jonathan announced a rather risky procedure. How would you describe it?
 3. In verse 21, Jonathan described the way he would report positive results. What possible problem could this entail?
 4. In 20:22, Jonathan dealt with the negative possibility. What was he saying?
 5. In 20:23, what did Jonathan mean when he said, "Behold the LORD is between you and me forever."?
5. In I Samuel 20:24-29, Jonathan made excuses on David's behalf.
 - A. In 20:24, Saul sat down at the feast, but David was absent. In 20:25, the author described the seating arrangement at Saul's table.
 1. How would you explain the author's message when he said, "But David's place was empty"?
 2. Observe the author's report, "And the king sat on his seat as usual, the seat by the wall." What could the author mean by this?
 - B. In 20:26, Saul obviously noticed that David was absent. His reaction seemed generous. Why would he react this way when he hated David?
 - C. In 20:27, Saul quizzed Jonathan about David's absence.
 1. If you were Jonathan, how would you feel?
 2. Observe Saul's reference to "David" in this verse. Why would he say that?
 - D. In 20:28, Jonathan answered Saul's question. How would you describe and evaluate this response?
 - E. In 20:29, Jonathan gave more detail about David's absence. What, if any, problems can you find in this report?
6. In I Samuel 20:30-34, Saul threatened Jonathan over David.
 - A. In 20:30, Saul let the full force of his anger explode.
 1. How did Saul describe Jonathan?
 2. What problem can you discover in this identification?
 3. Observe again the way Saul referred to David. Why would he say this?
 - B. In 20:31, there are two sentences in the verse. One begins with the word "for" while the other begins with the word "therefore."
 1. What do these pieces of information tell you?
 2. Think carefully about Saul's statement. What do you learn from them?
 - C. In 20:32, Jonathan responded with two very strong questions.
 1. Compare and contrast these two questions.

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

2. How would you define Jonathan's emotional tone when he said these things?
- D. In 20:33, Saul responded to Jonathan's confrontive questions. How did he do that? In this verse, the author identified Jonathan's conclusion based on Saul's actions. How did Jonathan conclude?
 1. How did the author describe Jonathan's attitude?
 2. What did Jonathan do? Why?
 3. What could be the consequences of such an action?
 4. In this verse, the author said, "He was grieved over David because his father had dishonored him." To whom does the author refer by the word "him"?
7. In I Samuel 20:35-42, Jonathan warned David over the plotted murder.
 - A. In 20:35-38, Jonathan gave David several signs that made it clear what he had learned from his father.
 1. Read 20:35 very carefully. See if you can find the problem with Jonathan's conduct that any knowledgeable Jew would have picked up if they observed this scene.
 2. In 20:36, Jonathan gave David a signal. What was it?
 3. Again, in 20:37, Jonathan gave David another signal. Can you discover it?
 4. And again, in 20:38, Jonathan presented his obvious message to David.
 - a. What did Jonathan say?
 - b. What did he mean?
 - B. In 20:39, 40, the author described what has happened. How would you explain this?
 - C. In 20:41, three things happened.
 1. Identify the three things David did.
 2. What did these actions mean?
 - D. In 20:42, Jonathan said two things in this emotion packed statement.
 1. What did he say?
 2. What did he mean?
 3. Again in this verse, Jonathan reminded David of their covenant. He had done this several times. Compare this statement of the covenant with previous statements of this agreement, such as 20:15. What did you learn?
8. In chapter 20, the author molded several very important teachings into a carefully crafted message.
 1. What messages did you observe?
 2. What have you learned about the way you confront difficult and uncomfortable situations?

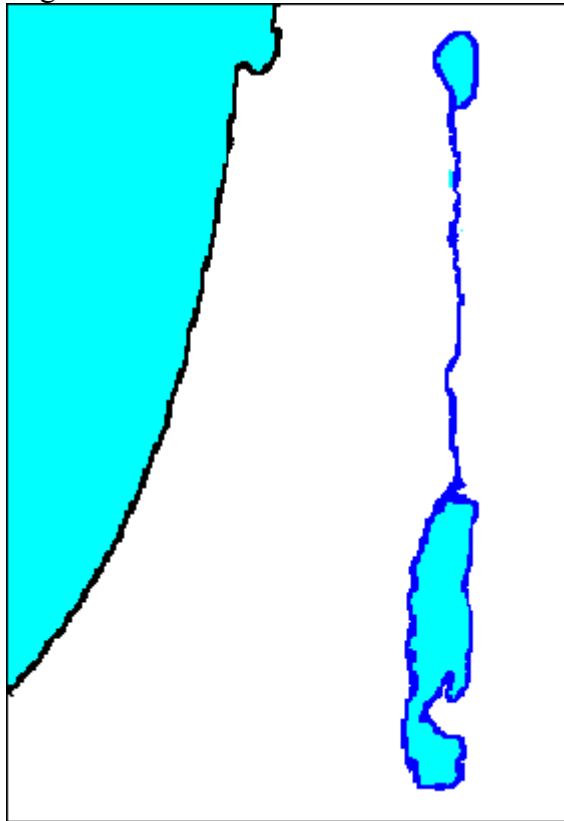
QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 21

DAVID PRETENDS MADNESS BEFORE THE KING OF GATH – I SAMUEL 21:1 – 15

1. There are only three paragraphs in the twenty-first chapter of I Samuel. On the following table, write a brief summary of eight words or less for each paragraph.

21:1-6	
21:7-9	
21:1-15	

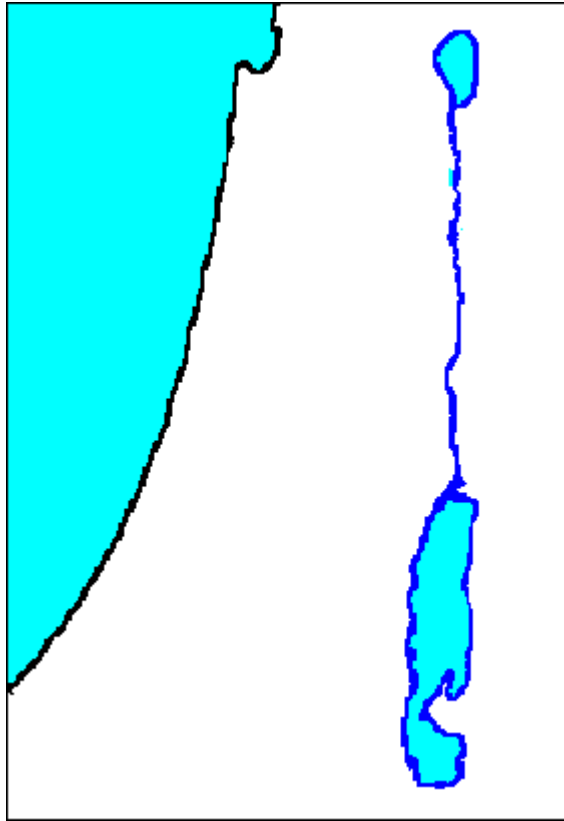
2. In I Samuel 21:1-6, David fled to Nob to get bread.
A. In 21:1, David fled to Nob to get bread.



1. Consult a Bible atlas to observe David's trip from Naioth to Nob. Record your findings on this map.
 2. Observe what the author described as the meeting between David and Ahimelech.
- B. In 21:2, David responded to Abimelech's question.
1. What was David's response?
 2. How would you evaluate this response?
 3. If you were Ahimelech, how would you feel?
- C. In 21:3, 4, David requested food from Ahimelech.
1. What is the difference between "ordinary bread" and "Consecrated bread" ?
 2. Why would Ahimelech's concern over whether the men "Have kept themselves from women"?
- D. In 21:5, 6, David responded to Ahimelech's concerns.
1. What did David say?
 2. In view of David's original explanation of his mission, how would Ahimelech feel about this need?

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

3. In I Samuel 21:7-9 – Doeg, one of Saul’s servants, saw David.
 - A. In 21:7, the author reported that Doeg was in Nob.
 1. What does he tell us about Doeg?
 2. What did the author mean when he said, ”Detained before the LORD”?
 - B. In 21:8, David made a request.
 1. What was his request?
 2. In view of the purpose of the mission that David explained to Ahimelech, if you were Ahimelech, how would you feel about this request?
 - C. In 21:9, Ahimelech responded to David’s strange request.
 1. Reread verses 8 and 9. How would you understand this strange request?
 2. If you were Ahimelech, what would you think?
4. In I Samuel 21:10-15, David pretended madness in Gath.
 - A. In 21:10, David fled from Nob to Gath.



1. On this map, record the flight.
 - a. About how far is this flight?
 - b. What kind of terrain did he traverse?
2. Think carefully about David’s destination.
 - a. What do we know about this destination?
 - b. Why would David even think of going there?
- B. In 21:11, David encountered a difficulty.
 1. What difficulty did David encounter?
 2. How would the leaders of this place gain this information?
 3. What did this difficulty mean to David?
- C. In 21:12, David reacted to what he heard. Attempt to spell out what the author meant when he described David’s reaction.

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

- D. In 21:13, David reacted to their discovery.
 - 1. What did David do?
 - 2. What risks was David taking?
 - 3. What good would this action accomplish?
 - E. In 21:14, Achish reacted to David's response.
 - 1. How would you describe the attitude of Achish?
 - 2. Why would he feel this way?
 - F. In 21:15, Achish asked two questions of his advisors.
 - 1. What is he asking?
 - 2. What is the tone of these two questions?
5. Review your study of chapter 21.
- a. What have you learned?
 - b. In what way will this impact your own spiritual journey?

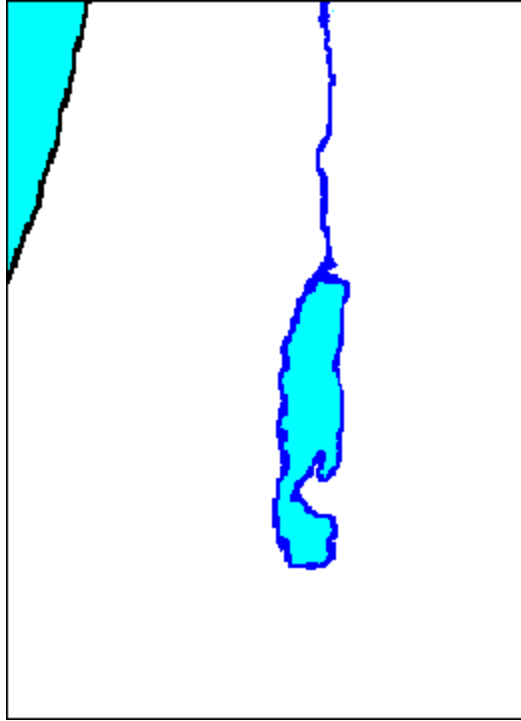
QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 22

SAUL SLEW AHIMELECH AND THE PEOPLE OF NOB – I SAMUEL 22:1 – 23

1. In I Samuel chapter 22, there are five paragraphs. Write a brief summary of eight words or less for each paragraph on the following table.

22:1,2	
22:3-5	
22:6-10	
22:11-19	
22:20-23	

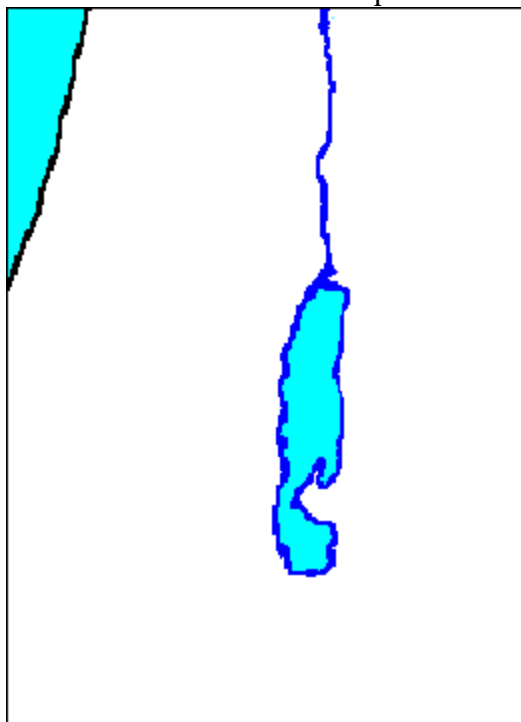
2. In I Samuel 22:1-2, David and 400 discontents hide in the Adullam cave complex.
A. In 22:1, David fled from Gath and took refuge in the cave complex near Adullam.



1. On this map show how David traveled on this trip.
 2. David's entire family came to him at the cave. In view of their attitude as shown in chapter 17, how can we account for this?
- B. In 22:2, there were 400 men who joined David at the cave complex.
1. How do you think they knew David was there, but Saul did not know it?
 2. Study this verse to consider the kinds of people who joined David here.
 - a. What does this tell you?
 - b. What problems can this potentially create?
- C. What benefits could this also create?
3. In I Samuel 22:3-5, David hid his parents in Moab.
- A. In 22:3, 4, David made the long trip to Moab to find a safe place for his parents.
1. On the map, point out the two possible routes he had to travel to bring his parents to Moab.

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

2. In view of the international relations between Israel and Moab, what does it tell you that David hid his parents there?
 3. Why would he not keep his parents with him and the men?
- B. In 22:5, the prophet Gad told David to leave the cave complex and hide in the forest of Hereth.



1. On this map, show the trip that this involved.
 2. In a Biblical atlas, study the terrain of both Adullam and Hereth. What did you find?
 3. What does this verse tell you about the character of David?
4. In I Samuel 22:6-10, Doeg informed Saul of David's visit to Nob.
- A. In 22:6, Saul and his army were camped in Gibeah.
 1. In a Biblical Atlas, discover how close they were to David's hiding place.
 2. Read this verse to see what it says about Saul. Is there anything new you have discovered there?
 - B. In 22:7, Saul talked with his advisors.
 1. What is the tone of this conversation?
 2. What appears to be the idea behind Saul's questions?
 3. Why would Saul refer to David as "the son of Jesse" rather than by his name?
 - C. In 22:8, Saul continued his talk to his counselors.
 1. Identify the charges Saul made in this verse.
 2. Where does Saul place the blame for David's situation? Why?
 3. In this verse, Saul described David's situation and intent. What is it?
 - D. In 22:9, 10, Doeg interrupts Saul's talk.
 1. Who was Doeg?
 2. In view of the report in chapter 21, what can you say about Doeg's report?
5. In I Samuel 22:11-19, Doeg killed the priests and people of Nob.
- A. In 22:11, Saul acted on the information provided by Doeg.
 1. In Hebrew literature, as in I Samuel, names are very important. Why do you think the author reported, "then the king sent **someone**..."?

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

2. If you were Ahimelech, or one of his priests, how would you feel when informed of this commanded presence?
 - B. In 22:12, Saul confronted Ahimelech. In 22:11, when speaking of Ahimelech, Saul used the priest's name. When speaking to the priest, directly, Saul refused to use his name, calling him, "Son of Ahitub." Why would he do this?
 - C. In 22:13, Saul brought charges against Ahimelech.
 1. In view of the report in chapter 21, how would you evaluate these charges?
 2. There appears to be one serious problem with Saul's assessment. What is it?
 - D. In 22:14, Ahimelech responded to the charges.
 1. How would you describe the tone of these remarks?
 2. In this verse, Ahimelech described David in four different ways.
 - a. What was Ahimelech trying to say in these descriptions?
 - b. Are these descriptions true?
 - c. How do you think Saul would react to this part of Ahimelech's defense?
 - E. In 22:15, Ahimelech continued his response. How would you summarize his defense in this verse?
 - F. In 22:16, Saul pronounced sentence upon Ahimelech.
 1. What was that sentence?
 2. How would you describe the justice of this trial?
 - G. In 22:17, Saul instructed the guards to carry out the sentence.
 1. Why was Saul comfortable giving the command, but the guards were afraid to carry it out?
 2. What was the consequence of this event?
 - H. In 22:18, Doeg was asked to do what the guards were afraid to do. How can one account for this situation?
 - I. In 22:19, Doeg changed positions because of his actions in verse 18.
 1. What was Doeg's title prior to this event?
 2. What function was he performing in this verse?
 3. What was the ultimate consequence, for Israel, of the things Doeg did on this occasion?
6. In I Samuel 22:20-23, Ahimelech's son fled to tell David of the destruction of Nob.
- A. In 22:20, 21, One of Ahimelech's sons escaped to tell David of the destruction of the city. What new information does this provide for us?
 - B. In 22:22, David responded to the news Abiathar brought. Read this verse again, very carefully. How would you describe David's feelings as pictured in this verse?
 - C. In 22:23, David gave Abiathar instructions.
 1. What did David say?
 2. How did he say it?
 3. What does this tell us about David?
7. Review your study of chapter 22.
- A. What lessons have you discovered about the way God deals with us?
 - B. What lessons have you discovered about the way God deals with the disobedient?
 - C. What will you do as a result of these discoveries?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 23

DAVID DEFEATED PHILISTINES AT KEILAH – I SAMUEL 23:1 – 29

1. There are five paragraphs in I Samuel chapter 23. On the following table, write a brief summary of eight words or less for each of these paragraphs.

23:1-6	
23:7-14	
23:15-18	
23:19-23	
23:24-29	

2. In I Samuel 23:1-6, David destroyed the Philistines at Keilah.
- A. In 23:1, David learned of the Philistine attack.
 - 1. Read this verse very carefully.
 - 2. What information does this report disclose?
 - 3. What are the implications of this report?
 - B. In 23:2, David, having heard the report, turned to the LORD.
 - 1. What does this tell us about David?
 - 2. What role is David fulfilling here?
 - 3. Aside from the announcement of victory, what do you see in the LORD’S response to David?
 - C. In 23:3, David’s 400 men respond to this divine announcement.
 - 1. When they responded, they gave two reasons. What are they?
 - 2. In view of the LORD’S prediction, how can we account for the reaction of David’s men?
 - D. In 23:4, David inquired again concerning this pending military action.
 - 1. Though the text does not say, what possible reasons can you find for David asking the LORD again concerning this military action?
 - 2. Look again at the LORD’S response. Compare/contrast it with His response in verse two.
 - E. In 23:5, David and his men fought the Philistines in Keilah.
 - 1. In this verse, the author said, “He led away their livestock”. To whom does the word “their” refer?
 - 2. What does the information about “livestock” add to the message of this verse?
 - F. In 23:6, Abiathar appears, again, in the text.
 - 1. Compare the teachings of 23:6 with 22:20. What did you discover?
 - 2. In 23:6, the author spoke of Abiathar arriving with the ephod in his hands. What is the significance of this remark?
3. In I Samuel 23:7-14, David fled Saul’s attempted trap at Keilah.
- A. In 23:7, Saul learned of David being in Keilah.
 - 1. Evaluate Saul’s reaction?
 - 2. Saul said, “He shut himself in by entering a city with double gates and bars.” What does this mean?
 - B. In 23:9-12, David dealt with the news that Saul knew of his whereabouts.
 - 1. In 23:9, what is the significance of David’s call for the ephod?
 - 2. In 23:10-12, David sought guidance from the LORD concerning this situation.
 - a. What was David’s concern in his questions to the LORD in verse 11?
 - b. Reflect upon the LORD’S answer. What does this tell you?
 - c. Read verse 11 again. What does this verse tell you about David’s emotional state?

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

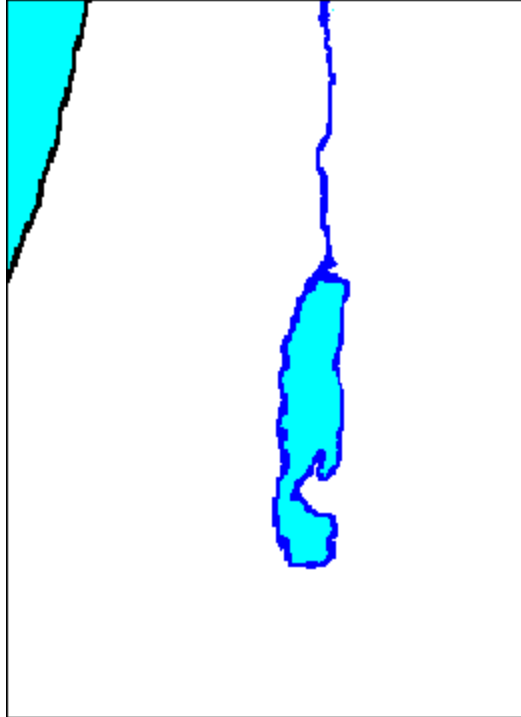
d. In 23:12, David asked of the LORD again. How does this question differ from his question in verse 11?

C. In 23:13, David and his men left Keilah.

1. The author said, "They went wherever they could go." What did he mean by this?
2. In this verse the author spoke of, "David and his men, about 600..." In 22:2, the author listed the number as "about 400 men." How can we account for this difference?

D. In 23:14, David moved his men, again.

1. On this map, locate where David and his men were now hiding.

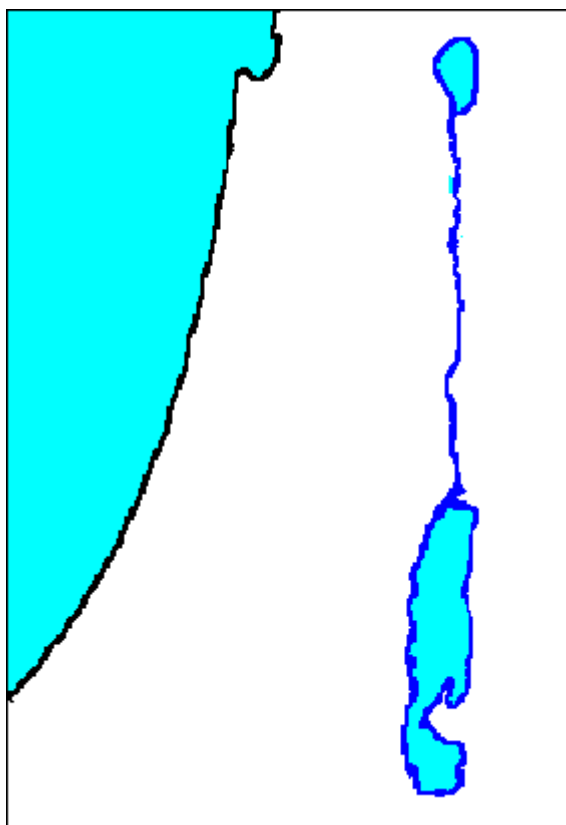


2. In this verse, the author said, "But God did not deliver him into his hand." How would you explain this statement to a new believer?

4. In I Samuel 23:15-18, Jonathan assured David of their covenant

- A. In 23:15, Saul was seeking David at Horesh. Locate the city on this map.

Questions for I Samuel 16-31



- B. In 23:16, Apparently Saul could not find David in Horesh, but Jonathan went down and found him.
1. How can we account for this?
 2. In this verse, the author said that, “Jonathan encouraged him (David) in God.” What did he mean?
- C. In 27:17, Jonathan continued talking with David.
1. What four things did he suggest in his attempt to help David deal with his fear?
 2. Jonathan said to David, “I will be next to you.” What did he mean?
- D. In 23:18, David and Jonathan made their third covenant with each other before the Lord. (See 18:3 and Chapter 20)
1. Compare and contrast the three covenants David and Jonathan made.
 2. If Jonathan wanted to encourage David, why did he make the covenant and then go home? Why didn't he stay and support David?
5. In I Samuel 23:19-23, the men of Ziph betrayed David to Saul.
- A. In 23:19, 20, the author records the betrayal.
1. Why would the men of Ziph want to betray David to Saul?
 2. What were the men of Ziph prepared to do in this betrayal of David?
 3. What risks could they be taking in this role?
- B. In 23:21, Saul responded to the invitation by the men of Ziph.
1. Saul said to them, “May you be blessed of the LORD.” Think carefully about this response. How would you evaluate this response in view of the context?
 2. Saul said, “You have had compassion on me.” In what way was their action an expression of compassion?
- C. In 23:22, 23, Saul gave the men of Ziph another assignment.
1. What did Saul instruct the men of Ziph to do?
 2. What reason did Saul give for instructing them in this way? Can you think of any other reasons?

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

6. In I Samuel 23:24-29, Saul's search for David was interrupted by the Philistine attack.
 - A. In 23:24, the men of Ziph returned home.
 1. Read this verse very carefully. Did they return home alone?
 2. Consult an Encyclopedia. What was the area of Maon like?
 - B. In 23:25, 26, Saul pursued David in the wilderness of Maon.
 1. Compare Saul's search in this area with his searches elsewhere in chapter 23.
 2. How would you describe this expedition?
 - C. In 23:27, 28, Saul was informed of the Philistine attack.
 1. Reflect on 23:24-28 in view of this news of the Philistine attack. What do you conclude from this review?
 2. Describe Saul's probable feelings as he abandoned the search for David and hurried north to encounter the Philistines?
 - D. In 23:29, David moved again.
 1. Study a map in your Bible or Bible Atlas. How would you describe this move?
 2. Review the moves David made in this chapter.
 - a. In what ways were they similar?
 - b. In what ways were they different?
7. Review your study of chapter 23. See if you can find a strain of thought that runs through the entire chapter.
 - A. Were you able to find that strain of thought?
 - B. How do you compare?
 - C. As you look at this comparison, what changes does it suggest for your life?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 24

DAVID SPARED SAUL AT ENGEDI – I SAMUEL 24:1 – 22

1. There are only three paragraphs in I Samuel chapter 24. On the following table, write a summary of eight words or less for each of these paragraphs.

24:1-7	
24:8-15	
24:16-22	

2. In I Samuel 24:1-7, David spared Saul's life in the cave
- A. In 24:1, Saul was informed that David had been discovered in the area of Engedi. How would you compare the security of David's surroundings in Engedi with his former location in Ziph? (Consult a Bible atlas or Encyclopedia.)
 - B. In 24:2, Saul took his handpicked army of 3,000 and went to the area of Engedi, which is on the east side of the mountain on the shore of the Dead Sea.
 - 1. The text talks about "the Rocks of the Wild Goats". What is the significance of this designation?
 - 2. In view of the fact that Saul knew that David had only 600 men, what does it tell us when Saul brought his entire 3,000 hand-picked warriors to catch David?
 - C. In 24:3, Saul unknowingly came into the cave where David and his men were hiding.
 - 1. If you were David, what would you be thinking?
 - 2. If you were one of David's men, what would you be thinking?
 - D. In 24:4, the 600 men pressed David sorely to kill Saul.
 - 1. Think carefully, would that have been a good idea?
 - 2. Why would David even bother to cut off the fringe from Saul's garment?
 - 3. What new information does this verse provide for us?
 - 4. If you were one of the 600 men, what would you be thinking.
 - E. In 24:5, 6, David explained his actions to the 600 men.
 - 1. Why did David feel it necessary to explain this situation to his men?
 - 2. What benefit would/did this explanation provide?
 - F. In 24:7, David persuaded his men concerning his dealings with Saul. If you were one of the 600 men, how would you feel as Saul left the cave?
3. In I Samuel 24:8-15, David showed Saul the fringe he had cut from Saul's garment.
- A. In 24:8, there is an apparent contradiction on display. In light of what is happening in this paragraph, how can we account for the way David addressed Saul and what David did when Saul looked at him?
 - B. In 24:9, 10, David tried to reason with Saul though they were a long distance apart.
 - 1. Whom has David held responsible for the conditions that exist here?
 - 2. How did David attempt to reason with Saul?
 - 3. From Saul's vantage point, to what extent was David's premise reasonable?
 - C. In 24:11, David continued his reasoning.
 - 1. Observe the way David addressed Saul. How would you evaluate this statement?
 - 2. How does the object David held in his hand prove his point?
 - 3. Why would David "cut off the edge of your robe" in the first place?
 - D. In 24:12, David continued his long-distance conversation with Saul.
 - 1. Observe the name David chose to refer to deity. What is the significance of this?
 - 2. There are three statements in this verse.

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

- a. What are the three statements?
 - b. What, if any, progression can you find in these statements?
 - c. What was David really trying to say?
 - E. In 24:13, David appealed to an ancient proverb.
 1. What is the purpose of this appeal?
 2. What was David trying to say?
 3. What was Saul's response?
 - F. In 24:14, David continued his long-distance conversation with Saul. In these three questions, what is David trying to achieve?
 - G. In 24:15, David finished his part of the conversation with Saul.
 1. David requested the LORD do three things. What are they?
 2. What is the purpose of these requests?
4. In I Samuel 24:16-22, Saul repented and stopped pursuing David.
- A. In 24:16, Saul responded to David's message.
 1. What significance, if any, can we attach to Saul's choosing to call David, "my son"?
 2. What is the significance of the author's report that "Saul lifted up his voice and wept (bitterly)"?
 3. If you were one of the 3,000 men of Saul's army, how would you feel?
 4. If you were one of David's 600 men, how would you feel?
 5. If you were David, how would you feel?
 - B. In 24:17-19, the author reported Saul's confession.
 1. How did Saul word his confession? Why?
 2. In 24:18, Saul made three statements. How would you summarize these statements?
 3. What is Saul admitting in these statements, in addition to the facts he stated?
 4. In 24:19, Saul gave his reasons for his thinking. What is Saul saying that David's actions prove?
 - C. In 24:20, Saul announced his understanding of future events.
 1. From Saul's vantage point, how does the future look?
 2. In this statement, Saul said, "The kingdom shall be established in your hands." What does this imply that he has not already said?
 - D. In 24:21, Saul made a dramatic request of David concerning his own family. In view of Saul's statements in 24:17-20, why would Saul feel it necessary to make this request?
 - E. In 24:22, David responded to Saul's plea.
 1. What was David's response?
 2. What significance, if any, do you attach to the author's description of where both Saul and David went after this encounter?
5. Review your study of this chapter. Study the contrasts between David and Saul.
- A. What did you learn?
 - B. What difference will this make in your approach to the daily problems you face?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 25

NABAL DIED: DAVID MARRIED TWO MORE WIVES – I SAMUEL 25:1 – 43

1. There are ten paragraphs in the 43 verses of I Samuel chapter 25. On the following table, write a brief summary of eight words or less for each paragraph.

25:1	
25:2-9	
25:10-13	
25:14-17	
25:18-22	
25:23-31	
25:32-35	
25:36-38	
25:39-42	
25:43	

2. In I Samuel 25:1, the author recorded the death of Samuel. In this one verse paragraph, the author reported two very different things – Samuel’s death and David’s flight to the wilderness.
- A. Read 25:1 once more. In view of the outstanding ministry of Samuel, how does it feel for you that the author dealt with his death in this manner?
- B. In chapter 24, Saul apologized to David and gave him safety assurances. How do you account for the fact that David left Engedi and went south to the barren wilderness of Paran?
3. **In I Samuel 25:2-9, David’s men requested food from Nabal.**
- A. In 25:2, 3, the author drew a contrast between two people.
1. Who were these people?
 2. What does the author say about each one.
 3. On the basis of these verses, evaluate Nabal’s economic situation.
- B. In 25:4, the author notes that Nabal was sheering sheep. What is the significance of this information?
- C. In 25:5, David sent 10 young men to greet Nabal “in my name.” What is the significance of insisting that they greet Nabal “in the name of David”?
- D. In 25:6, David sent 10 young men on the way to greet Nabal. What would be the purpose of this specific greeting?
- E. In 25:7, 8, David instructed the 10 young men on how they were to approach Nabal to request the gift.
1. Why would David instruct them to emphasize the fact that they had, “Come on a festive day”?
 2. Why would David instruct them to speak to Nabal of him (David) as, “Your son, David”?
 3. Think about this situation. David is telling his 10 young men to ask Nabal to give them a gift. If you were one of the 10 men, how would you feel?
- F. In 25:9, David’s men did exactly as he had instructed them. The text then says, “then they waited.” What does this mean?
4. **In I Samuel 25:10-13, Nabal refused the request.**
- A. In 25:10, Nabal responded to the request of David’s men.
1. In the statements in this verse, Nabal presented two major insults. What are they?
 2. How would you explain the two questions Nabal asked in this verse?

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

3. In the closing statement of this verse, Nabal voiced one of the worst insults in this book. What was he really saying?
 - B. In 25:11, Nabal asked what appears to be a ridiculous question. In what way was this question ridiculous?
 - C. In 25:12, David's 10 young men returned and reported the encounter with Nabal.
 1. If you were the young men reporting to David, how would you feel as you told him of these events?
 2. If you were David, how would you feel as you listened to this report?
 - D. In 25:13, David issued a command to his 600 men.
 1. What does it suggest to you that 400 men went with David while only 200 men stayed with the baggage?
 2. What do you make of the fact that in 25:5, David sent 10 men to request the gift, but in 25:13 he led 400 men to respond to Nabal's verbal attack?
- 5. In I Samuel 25:14-17, the servant explained the situation to Abigail.**
- A. In 25:14, the servant summarized the events for Abigail.
 1. Why would he do this?
 2. How would you evaluate the accuracy of the servant's summary?
 - B. In 25:15, 16, the servant continued his report to Abigail by giving specific details.
 1. What does this part of the servant's report tell you about the relationship between the shepherds and David's men?
 2. Twice in these verses, the servant said, "while we were with them." What inference can we draw from this statement?
 - C. In 25:17, the servant continued to speak with Abigail.
 1. How would you describe his statements in this verse?
 2. On the basis of this servant's remarks, how would you describe the relationship between the people in Nabal's household?
- 6. In I Samuel 25:18-22, Abigail prepared to act on the information the servant provided.**
- A. In 25:18, 19, Abigail prepared to intervene where her husband had made a serious error.
 1. Look at the gift described in verse 18. What does this tell you?
 2. In verse 19, the author reported that Abigail did not inform Nabal of her intentions.
 - a. What does this tell you?
 - b. What risk did she take?
 - B. In 25:20, Abigail met David on the road. How would you explain this situation?
 - C. In 25:21, 22, the author reported David's response when he learned of Nabal's attack.
 1. How would you summarize David's evaluation in verse 21?
 2. How would you evaluate David's attitude, as described in 25:22?
 3. How appropriate was David's reaction?
- 7. In I Samuel 25:23-31, Abigail interceded with David.**
- A. In 25:23, Abigail approached David.
 1. What did she do?
 2. Why would Abigail do as she did?
 - B. In 25:24, Abigail began her intervention.
 1. What did she do?
 2. Were her words true when she said, "On me alone, my lord, be the blame"?
 3. Why would she refer to David as "my lord"?
 4. Why would she refer to herself as "your maidservant"?
 - C. In 25:25, Abigail continued her appeal to David.
 1. Read the first sentence of this verse very carefully.

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

- a. How would you describe what she said about Nabal?
 - b. How would you describe her attitude in this verse?
 2. Abigail said, “but I your maidservant did not see the young men of my lord whom you sent.” Compare this statement with her words in 25:24, “On me alone, my lord, be the blame.” What did you discover?
 - D. In 25:26, Abigail changed the direction of her plea.
 1. What was she trying to accomplish?
 2. Of whom was she speaking?
 - E. In 25:27, Abigail presented her gift to David.
 1. What was the purpose of this gift?
 2. What was accomplished if David accepted this gift?
 - F. In 25:28, Abigail made an appeal to David.
 1. What two things did she do in this verse?
 2. Were these actions appropriate?
 3. How accurate did her statement prove to be?
 - G. In 25:29, 30, Abigail continued to talk about David.
 1. How would you describe the way she was speaking?
 2. Of whom was she speaking when she made the statements in 25:29?
 3. How would Abigail know “all the good that He (the LORD) has spoken concerning you.” (25:30)?
 4. If you were David, how would you feel hearing these words?
 - H. In 25:31, Abigail was still talking about David. There are two sentences in this verse.
 1. What was she saying in the first sentence?
 2. What was she saying in the second sentence?
 3. What is the relationship of sentence two to sentence one?
8. In I Samuel 25:33-35, David accepted Abigail’s apology and gift.
- A. In 25:32, David responded to Abigail’s apology.
 1. What did he really say?
 2. Specifically, how did he respond to the apology?
 - B. In 25:33, David blessed Abigail for three things:
 1. What are they?
 2. What was David really saying?
 - C. In 25:34, David continued his response to Abigail.
 1. There is an apparent contradiction between David’s statements in 25:33 and 34. What is the apparent contradiction?
 2. How can we appropriately understand this situation?
 - D. In 25:35, David made a pronouncement.
 1. What did he say?
 2. What are the implications of these statements?
9. **In I Samuel 25:36-38, Jehovah smote Nabal.**
- A. In 25:36, Abigail encountered Nabal. Contrast the picture of Abigail, in 25:23-35, with the picture of Nabal in 25:35. What did you discover?
 - B. In 25:37, Abigail finally was able to describe the situation for Nabal.
 1. If you were Abigail, how would you feel?
 2. Compare Nabal’s feelings in 25:10, 11, with his feelings in 25:37. What did you find?
 - C. In 25:38, Nabal died. Study this verse carefully. What problems, if any, does this verse create for you?

10. In I Samuel 25:39-42, Abigail became David's wife.

- A. In 25:39, David learned of Nabal's death.
 - 1. David blessed the LORD for three things. What are they?
 - 2. Study this list. What problems, if any, can you discern in these statements?
 - 3. At the end of the verse, David proposed marriage to Abigail. What two problems can you find in this?
- B. In 25:40, 41, Abigail received the marriage proposal from David.
 - 1. Abigail's response seems to be immediate. Is there any problem you can sense with this response?
 - 2. Study Abigail's response. What did you learn?
- C. In 25:42, Abigail followed David's men.
 - 1. There are a couple of illustrations of Nabal's wealth in this verse. What are they?
 - 2. Compare/contrast Abigail's statement in 25:41 with what happened in 25:42.
 - a. What did you learn?
 - b. How can we explain this?

11. In I Samuel 25:43, David took Ahinoam as his wife. Compare/contrast David's family with that of Abraham and Elkanah in relationship to plural wives.

12. Please review your study of I Samuel chapter 25. What impact will this study have on your relationship with God?

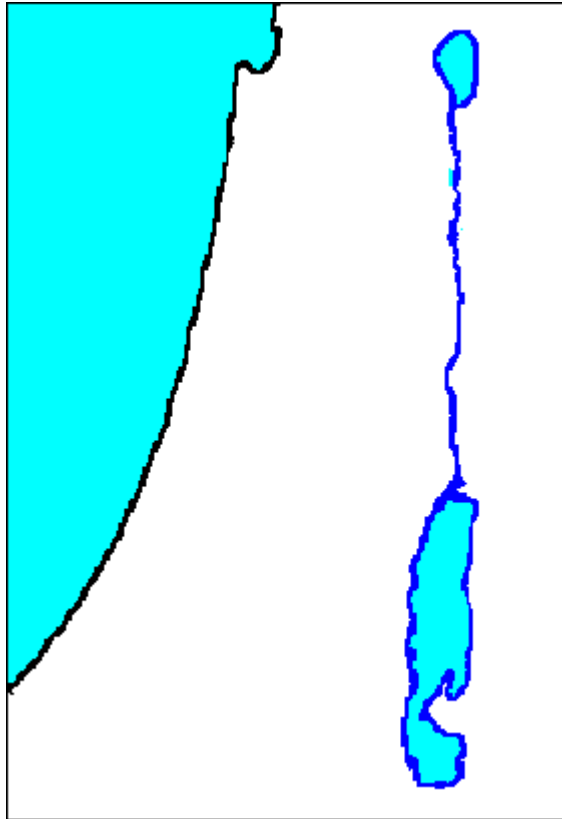
QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 26

DAVID SPARED SAUL'S LIFE AT ZIPH – I SAMUEL 26:1 – 25

1. There are five paragraphs in I Samuel chapter 26. On the following table, write a brief summary of eight words or less for each paragraph.

26:1-5	
26:6-12	
26:13-16	
26:17-20	
26:21-25	

2. In I Samuel 26:1-5, David discovered that Saul was coming to kill him.
A. In 26:1, the Ziphites informed Saul about David's location.



1. On this map, locate the following:
- The Wilderness of Ziph.
 - Gibeah
 - How far is it for them to go tell Saul?
 - What does this tell us?
- B. In 26:2, Saul took 3,000 men and went to Ziph.
- Study this map again. What did this mean to Israel?
 - What does this verse tell us about Saul's thinking?
- C. In 26:3-5, the author described the scene in the Wilderness of Ziph.
- What does this tell us about David?
 - What does this tell us about Saul?

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

3. In I Samuel 26:6-12, David took Saul's spear and water jug.
 - A. In 26:6, David sought volunteers. What does this tell us about David?
 - B. In 26:7, 8, Abishai asked permission to kill Saul.
 1. What does this verse tell us about Abashai?
 2. In 26:8, Abishai asked permission to kill Saul. What does this tell you about Abishai?
 - C. In 26:9-11, David refused permission to kill Saul.
 1. In 26:9, what did David mean? Why would he say this?
 2. In 26:10, how does this verse fit with 26:9?
 3. In 26:11, how does David defend his position?
 4. Describe how you would feel if you were Abishai?
 - D. Study 26:11, 12 very carefully for there is an apparent inconsistency in them.
 1. How does the author explain this?
 2. How would you possibly explain this?
4. In I Samuel 26:13-16, David chided Abner.
 - A. In 26:13, what did David do? Why did he do that?
 - B. In 26:14, how would you describe the situation the author has pictured?
 - C. In 26:15, 16, David chided Abner.
 1. Why would David attack Abner so strongly?
 2. Were David's statements completely honest?
 3. Why would David say these people should die?
 4. What purpose could be served by showing the spear and jug that he had confiscated?
5. In I Samuel 26:17-20, David chided Saul for seeking his innocent life.
 - A. In 26:17, Saul didn't really recognize David's voice.
 1. In view of why Saul was in Ziph, why would he speak of David as "my son"?
 2. In view of what Saul was trying to do, why would David speak of Saul as "my lord"?
 3. What does this say about both men?
 - B. In 26:18, David asked Saul three questions.
 1. Are these really three distinct questions or one question asked three ways?
 2. What progression, if any, do you find in these questions?
 - C. In 26:19, 20, David made a final plea.
 1. In 26:19, David suggested two possible scenarios. What are they?
 2. How would the first scenario be resolved?
 3. How would the second scenario be resolved?
 4. In the last half of verse 19, David identified three consequences"
 - a. What are they?
 - b. Is there any sense of progression in these three statements?
 - c. What did he mean when he quoted them as saying, "go serve other gods"?
6. In I Samuel 26:21-25, Saul repented pursuing David.
 - A. In 26:21, Saul made six statements. Study these statements carefully.
 1. What did he mean by each one?
 2. If you were David, how would you feel?
 - B. In 26:22, David speaks again.
 1. How did David respond to Saul's confession?
 2. What was David really saying?
 3. What would be gained by David showing the spear and jug?

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

- C. In 26:23, David spoke clearly to the issue at hand.
 - 1. What did he say?
 - 2. How is this different from 26:19, 20?
 - D. In 26:24, David suggested a resolution to the issue.
 - 1. What did he request Saul to do?
 - 2. What “distress” would he be speaking about?
 - E. In 26:25, Saul responded.
 - 1. In view of the reason Saul was in Ziph, why would he call David, “my son”?
 - 2. Saul said, “You will both accomplish much and surely prevail.” How would you describe this?
 - 3. Was Saul honestly repentant?
 - 4. The author closed the chapter with the statement, “So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.” What does the author mean? What really happened?
7. Review your study of this chapter.
- A. What comparisons/contrasts do you find?
 - B. What did you learn for your own walk with the LORD?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 27

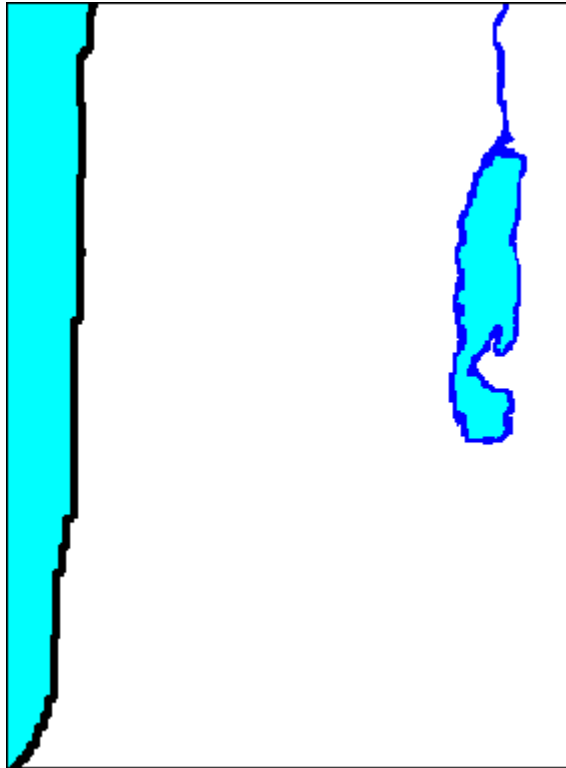
DAVID HID 16 MONTHS IN GATH – I SAMUEL 27:1-12

1. There are three paragraphs in I Samuel chapter 27. On the following table, write a brief summary of eight words or less for each paragraph.

27:1-4	
27:5-7	
27:8-12	

2. In I Samuel 27:1-4, David moved to Gath where he stayed for 16 months.
- A. In 27:1, David responded to Saul's apology.
 - 1. What is the essence of David's response?
 - 2. What does this tell you about David's feelings about Saul?
 - B? In 27:2, David and his 600 men moved to Gath. Think carefully about this move.
 - 1. How would you describe this move?
 - 2. What, if any, are the moral implications of this move?
 - C. In 27:3, David and his 600 men took their families with them when they fled to Gath. What does this indicate?
 - D. In 27:4, Saul learned where David and his men fled. In 26:1,2, Saul learned David and his men were in Hachilah and pursued them. In this passage, Saul learned of David's location and ended his pursuit. Why would he do this?
3. In I Samuel 27:5-7, David was given the area of Ziklag as a location for his followers.
- A. Read 27:5 very carefully. What observations can you make from this verse?
 - B. 27:6 is a strange comment. What observations can you appropriately assume on the basis of this statement?
 - C. In 27:7, the author pointed out that David and his followers lived in Ziklag for 16 months. Why would this be important information?
4. In I Samuel 27:8-12 David and his men devastated a number of localities in the area.
- A. In 27:8, David and his men raided three identified locations.
 - 1. Locate these three places on a map.

Questions for I Samuel 16-31



2. What reason can you find for David's attack on these cities?
 3. What problems, if any, do you see with these attacks?
 - B. 27:9, the author described David's plan of attack on these locations.
 1. What is the benefit of such a plan?
 2. What are the liabilities of such a plan?
 - C. In 27:10, Achish questioned David about these raids.
 1. What does this verse tell you about David?
 2. What does this verse tell you about Achish's relationship with David?
 - D. In 27:11, the author repeated David's design of attack.
 1. What explanation does this verse offer?
 2. How would you defend such a plan?
 3. How does this design compare with David's actions before coming to Ziklag?
 - E. In 27:12, Achish identified his attitude toward what David had said and done.
 1. How would you define the attitude of Achish?
 2. How would you describe this man?
5. Review your study of chapter 27.
- A. Whom would you identify as the "good people" in this chapter?
 - B. Whom would you identify as the "bad people" in this chapter?
 - C. What is the outstanding message of this chapter?

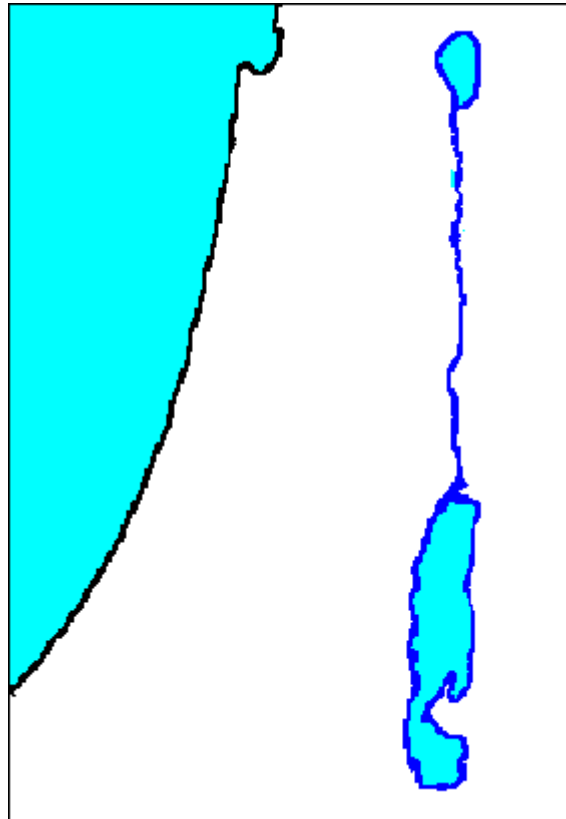
QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 28

SAUL SOUGHT A FAMILIAR SPIRIT – I SAMUEL 28:1 – 25

1. There are five paragraphs in I Samuel chapter 28. On the following table, write a brief summary of eight words or less for each of these paragraphs.

28:1-2	
28:3-7	
28:8-14	
28:15-19	
28:20-25	

2. In I Samuel 28:1, 2, Achish demanded that David fight against Israel.
- A. In 28:1, war is being prepared.
 - 1. Was Achish preparing for an offensive or defensive battle?
 - 2. Describe the tone of Achish's message to David.
 - B. In 28:2, David responded to Achish.
 - 1. How did David respond to the announcement in 28:1?
 - 2. What two things did Achish announce following David's response?
 - 3. If you were David, what would you think at this point?
3. In I Samuel 28:3-7, Saul sought a woman with a familiar spirit.
- A. In 28:3, the author spoke of Samuel's death and Saul's clearing Israel of mediums. What do these two pieces of information have to do with each other?
 - B. In 28:4, the author described the initial moves toward battle.
 - 1. On this map, trace the movements of both armies.



Questions for I Samuel 16-31

2. How does this differ from the previous engagement between the Philistines and Israel?
 3. What is the advantage in this move?
 - C. In 28:5, Saul viewed the enemy army on an adjacent hill. What was his reaction?
 - D. In 28:6, Saul tried to communicate with God.
 1. What name for deity did the author use in describing this incident? Why?
 2. Put yourself in Saul's position. What would you think? Why?
 - E. In 28:7, Saul made an unusual move.
 1. How can we explain this in view of Saul's actions in 28:3?
 2. Why would Saul ever do this?
4. In I Samuel 28:8-14, Saul asked the medium to bring up Samuel.
- A. In 28:8, Saul went to see the medium.
 1. Why would he wear a disguise?
 2. Why would he come by night?
 - B. In 28:9, the medium demurred Saul's request.
 1. What reason did she give for refusing the request?
 2. How did she describe Saul's efforts to get her to do this?
 - C. In 28:10, Saul responded.
 1. How did Saul respond?
 2. Describe the oath Saul took at this point?
 - D. In 28:11, Saul gave the woman the name of the person he wanted to see.
 1. It is clear that the woman had agreed to violate the law. How do we know this?
 2. What is the obvious problem with the choice that Saul made?
 - E. In 28:12, the person appeared that Saul desired to see.
 1. The medium knew the name of the person she was "bringing up." Why would she be shocked and frightened when she saw him?
 2. Why would seeing this person she had "brought up" let her know that this man who made the request was Saul?
 3. What did she say to Saul when this happened? Why would she say that?
 - F. In 28:13, Saul responded to the frightened cry of the medium.
 1. Read this verse carefully.
 - a. What did Saul say to the medium?
 - b. What does this reply say about Saul?
 2. Read the medium's reply again.
 - a. What did she say?
 - b. What does this mean?
 - c. How possible is this?
 - G. In 28:14, Saul questioned the medium about her answer.
 1. Explain Saul's question.
 2. What does she mean by her reply to this question?
 3. Study Saul's response to her description. What, exactly did he do?
5. In I Samuel 28:15-19, Samuel chastised Saul and prophesied his death.
- A. In 28:15, Samuel chastised Saul for "calling him up."
 1. Previously, Saul wanted to know how the battles would turn out. Study 28:15 with this in mind. What did you learn?
 2. In this verse, Saul admitted great distress. How did he describe the source of his distress?
 - B. In 28:16, Samuel responded to Saul's request. How would you explain what Samuel said to Saul?

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

- C. In 28:17, Samuel continued his message to Saul.
 - 1. What did Samuel prophesy?
 - 2. How did he explain this message?
 - D. In 28:18, Samuel continued his message to Saul.
 - 1. Study this verse carefully.
 - 2. In view of the report in chapter 15, what was Samuel saying?
 - 3. How did this turn out?
 - E. In 28:19, Samuel finished his prophesy.
 - 1. How does the message of this verse differ from 28:18?
 - 2. Think carefully about this message. How are we to understand this in view of God's promise to bless and protect Israel?
6. In I Samuel 28:20-25, Saul fell faint and the medium prepared a meal for him.
- A. In 28:20, something happened to Saul.
 - 1. How would you describe this condition?
 - 2. How would you account for this?
 - B. In 28:21, the medium spoke to King Saul.
 - 1. What was she saying?
 - 2. Why did she say this?
 - C. In 28:22, the medium identified, in part, at least, the reason that Saul was faint.
 - 1. What was the reason?
 - 2. Why would this be true?
 - D. In 28:23, Saul at first refused the medium's request.
 - 1. Why would he first refuse the request?
 - 2. What change took place so that he later accepted the request?
 - E. In 28:24, the medium prepared a feast for Saul.
 - 1. Think about the time involved in this verse. How long might this take?
 - 2. In view of the medium's statement in 28:22, why would this feast now be necessary?
 - F. In 28:25, Saul and his servants ate the feast. What is the significance of the fact that the author indicated that it was night?
7. Review your study of this chapter. Read through the chapter to focus upon consequences.
- A. What actions did you observe by each person?
 - B. What consequences did you observe?
 - C. What does this say about the choices you make in your life?

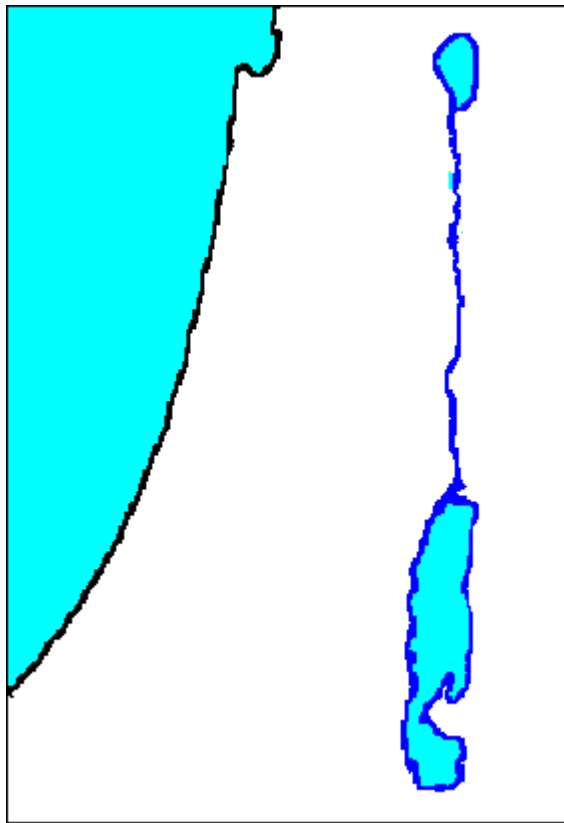
QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 29

PHILISTINES REFUSE DAVID AS AN ALLY – I SAMUEL 29:1 – 11

1. There are only two paragraphs in I Samuel chapter 29. On the following table, write a brief summary of eight words or less for each paragraph.

29:1-5	
29:6-11	

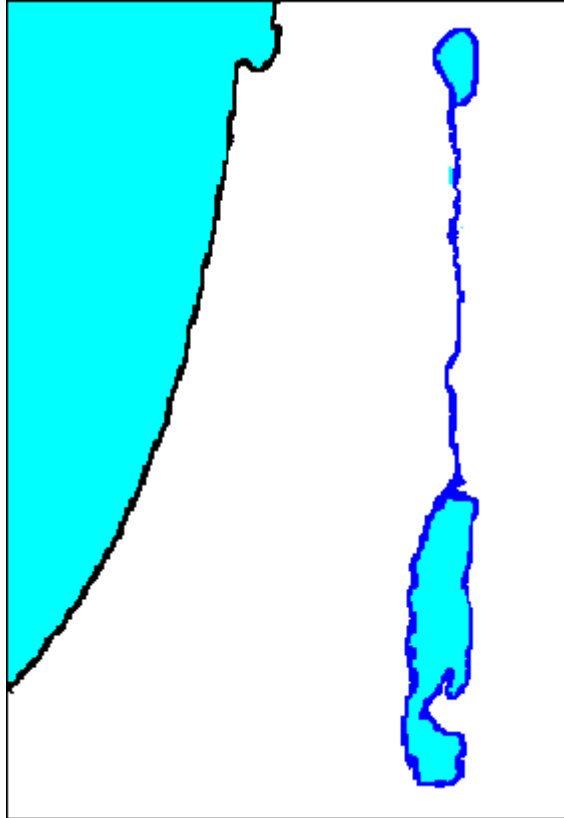
2. In I Samuel 29:1-5, the Philistine leaders refused to allow David to join battle against Israel
- A. In 29:1, the author indicated that the Philistine armies were gathered at Aphek.
1. On this map, show the location of the two armies as listed in 28:4. Then identify the location of the two armies as identified in 29:1.



2. In view of 28:4, how can we explain the move of the Philistine army in 29:1
3. Read this verse very carefully. What does it tell you about the makeup of the Philistine forces?
4. Study the message of Achish to David. How would you describe the tone of his words?
- B. In 29:2, the author described the way the army moved out. What did he say?
- C. In 29:3, there is some confusion among the Philistine leaders.
1. What was their complaint?
2. Achish answered the complaint. What answers did he give?
3. Why did he give the answers?
- D. In 29:4, the leaders were not satisfied with the answers given by Achish.
1. What was their complaint?
2. What solution did they insist upon?
- E. In 29:5, the Philistine leaders offered evidence to support their concerns. What evidence did they present?

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

3. In I Samuel 29:6-11, Achish asked David to return to Ziklag.
 - A. In 29:6, Achish explained the problem to David.
 1. What did he say?
 2. How did he say it?
 - B. In 29:7, Achish gave David instructions.
 1. What did he say?
 2. If you were David, how would you react to these instructions?
 - C. In 29:8, David responded to these instructions.
 1. How did David respond?
 2. Why would he respond that way?
 - D. In 29:9, Achish responded to David's question. What was he able to say?
 - E. In 29:10, Achish responded, as best he could, to the complaint of David.
 1. How did Achish respond?
 2. What else could he have done?
 - F. In 29:11, David obeyed the instruction of Achish.
 1. What did he do?
 2. On this map, trace the actions of David as well as his men.



4. Review your study of chapter 29. What have you learned that will benefit you in your spiritual journey?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 30

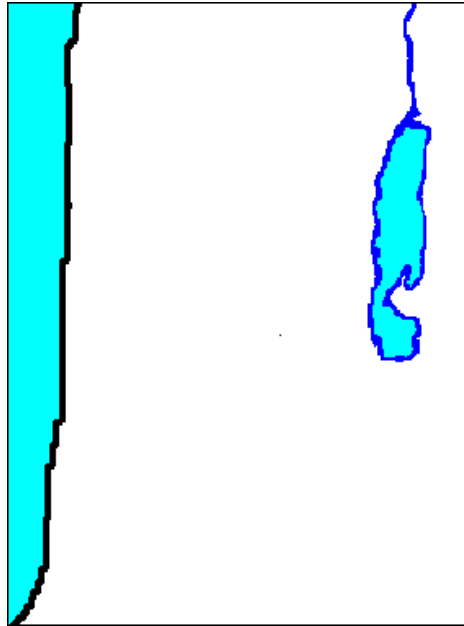
AMALEKITES TOOK FAMILIES: DAVID DESTROYED AMALEKITES – I SAMUEL 30:1 – 31

1. There are six paragraphs in I Samuel chapter 30. On the following table, write a brief summary of eight words or less for each paragraph.

30:1-6	
30:7-10	
30:11-15	
30:16-20	
30:21-25	
30:26-31	

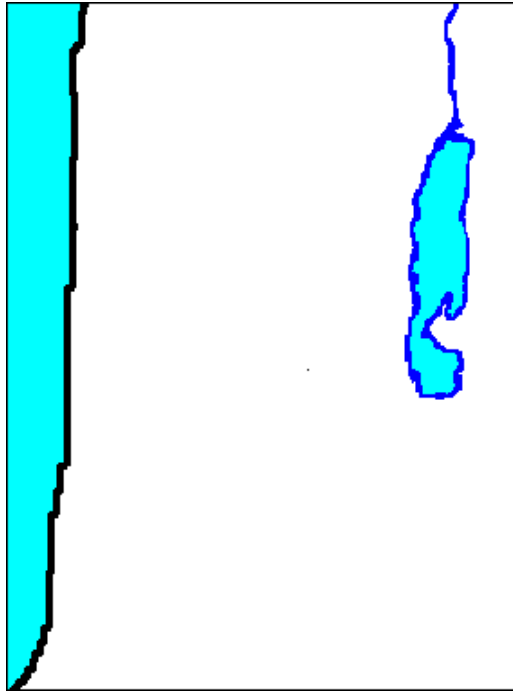
2. In I Samuel 30:1-6, the Amalekites burned Ziklag and took Jewish families.
- A. In 30:1, the author reported the attack on Ziklag. Study the wording of this report.
 - 1. What did you learn?
 - 2. Why would the Amalekites do this?
 - B. In 30:2, the author reported that the Amalekites killed no one, but took the women and children captive. Why would they do this?
 - C. Compare the contents of 30:3 with 30:2. What did you discover?
 - D. In 30:4, the author reported the reaction of David and his men to the discovery of their burned out city.
 - 1. How did the author describe it?
 - 2. What did he mean by this?
 - E. In 30:5, the author introduces an explanatory note that gives further information about 30:3, 4.
 - 1. What did the author add?
 - 2. In what way does this clarify the situation for us?
 - F. In 30:6, the author presents a very strong contrast
 - 1. What two things are being contrasted?
 - 2. Explain the details of each position.
 - 3. How could such a thing as this happen?
 - 4. What does this tell us about David?
3. In I Samuel 30:7-10, David asked the LORD if he should pursue the Amalekites.
- A. In 30:7, David asked Abiathar to bring “the ephod.”
 - 1. What is an ephod?
 - 2. Why would priest be part of such a fighting force that Saul was trying to annihilate?
 - B. In 30:8, David used the ephod to inquire of the LORD.
 - 1. Why would David ask the LORD these questions?
 - 2. David was an excellent military strategist. Why did he not just do what he knew needed to be done?
 - C. In 30:9, 10, David left 200 men with the base camp belongings while he and 400 men pursued the Amalekites.

Questions for I Samuel 16-31



1. On this map trace their journey as David pursued the Amalekites.
 2. As you study this map, why would 200 men be exhausted at this point?
4. In I Samuel 30:11-15, David found an Egyptian slave.
- A. In 30:11, 12, the author described how David and his men treated this slave.
 1. What were David's options concerning the treatment of this slave?
 2. What did David choose to do?
 3. What does this tell us about David?
 - B. In 30:13, David interrogated the slave.
 1. What questions did David ask? Why?
 2. What did the Egyptian reply?
 3. What did you learn from this?
 - C. In 30:14, the Egyptian described the raids in which his owner had participated.
 1. On this map, locate the places the servant mentioned.

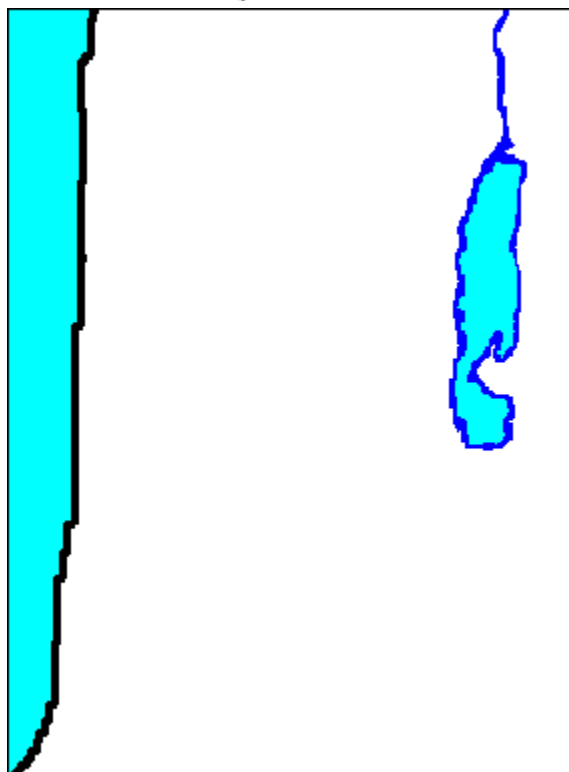
Questions for I Samuel 16-31



2. Study this map. What, if anything, can you discover from the servant's response?
- D. In 30:15, David asked the servant to take him to the Amalekite camp.
 1. Study David's request. What did you learn?
 2. Study the servant's reply.
 - a. What conditions did he place on his compliance with David's request?
 - b. In view of his treatment by David, why would he make these conditions?
5. In I Samuel 30:16-20, David killed the Amalekites and restored the families.
 - A. In 30:16, the author described what David and his men found at the Amalekite camp.
 1. What did they find?
 2. How was this information important?
 - B. In 30:17, David and his men devastated the Amalekite camp.
 1. What did you learn from this report?
 2. What does it tell you when 400 men escaped on camels?
 3. Why was it important to kill all the Amalekites?
 - C. In 30:18, the author described the beginning of his report of the things David and his men retrieved.
 1. What does the author mean when he wrote, "David recovered all that the Amalekites had taken"?
 2. Why does the author emphasize the fact that "David rescued his two wives"?
 - D. Compare the author's report in 30:19 with his report in 30:18. How would you describe this?
 - E. In 30:20, the author reported, again, what was retrieved. The author described two groups of animals. How can we explain what he meant by this?
6. In I Samuel 30:21-25, David insisted on sharing with the weak soldiers.
 - A. In 30:21, David and the 400 soldiers, along with the families of all 600 men, were reunited with the 200 weaker men. How would you describe this reunion?
 - B. In 30:22, the author designated a contrast by the use of the word "then."
 1. Identify the two parts of this contrast.
 2. Whose decision is being announced in this verse?
 3. Read 30:22 very carefully. Now, read 30:6 just as carefully.
 - a. What did you discover?

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

- b. What does this study tell us about David's job as leader of this military force?
- C. In 30:23, 24, David responded to the announcement reported in 30:22.
1. How would you evaluate the strength of this response?
 2. On what basis did David base this stand?
 3. There is at least one appeal to logic in this response. What is it?
- D. In 30:25, the author commented on David's decision and response.
1. What did the author say?
 2. What are the implications of this statement?
7. In I Samuel 30:26-31, David sent gifts to places where he had been. In these verses, the author mentions 10 places where David sent gifts.
- A. On this map, identify each of the ten locations.



- B. Study this map carefully. What reason(s) can you see for his sending gifts to these places?
- C. In a Bible Encyclopedia or Bible Dictionary, find out as much as you can about each location.
- D. In view of the rest of David's life, what other reasons can you see for these gifts?
8. Review your study of chapter 30. Much of this chapter focuses on a contrast between David and some of his men. Review the chapter to record what the author says about David. Read the chapter, also, to see what the author says about the "wicked and worthless men" among his troops. What does it say about one's character? What does it challenge you to do in relationship to your own character?

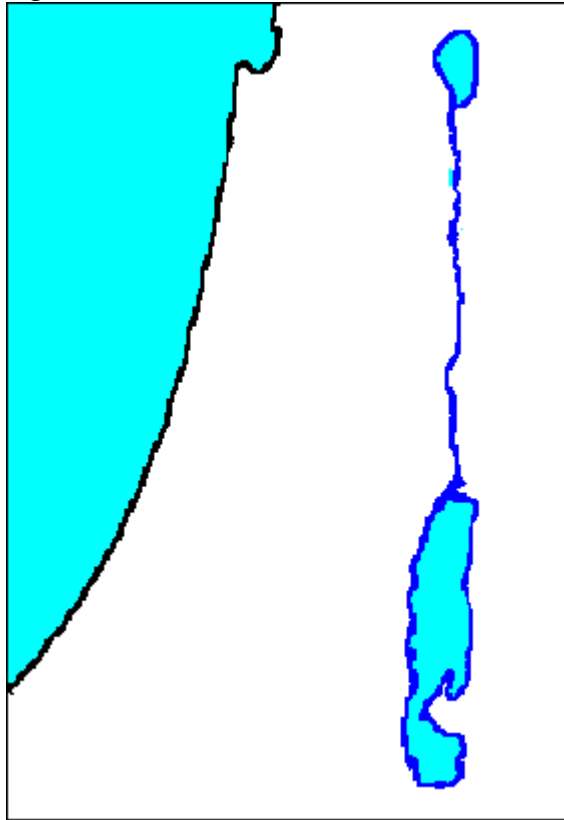
QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 31

SAUL KILLED HIMSELF: PHILISTINES HONORED ASHTEROTH – I SAMUEL 31:1 – 13

1. There are only two paragraphs in I Samuel chapter 31. On the following table, write a brief summary of eight words or less for each of these paragraphs.

31:1-6	
31:7-13	

2. In I Samuel 31:1-6, the Philistines killed Jonathan; Saul killed himself.
A. In 31:1, 2, Israel fled before the Philistines from Jezreel to Gilboa.
1. On this map trace that flight.



2. How far did they flee?
3. If you were Saul, how would you feel at this point?
- B. In 31:3, the author recorded Saul's wounding. Think carefully about this verse. What special information does this verse contain?
- C. In 31:4, Saul reacted to his wounding.
1. Why would Saul say such a thing?
2. Why would his armor-bearer refuse to do the bidding of the king?
- D. In 31:5, the armor bearer also died. Why would he do this?
- E. In 31:6, the author summarized the battle.
1. Why was this necessary?
2. What new information does this verse contain?

Questions for I Samuel 16-31

3. In I Samuel 31:7-13, the Philistines praised Ashteroth for Israel's defeat.
 - A. In 31:7, other Israelites watched the battle.
 1. Why would these people be watching instead of helping defend their homes?
 2. Where would they flee?
 - B. In 31:8, the Philistine soldiers came to strip the bodies of dead soldiers.
 1. Why would they do this?
 2. This verse gives us information about the death of Saul and his sons. What is that information?
 - C. in 31:9, the scavengers cut off Saul's head.
 1. Why would they send Saul's head and weapons throughout the land of the Philistines?
 2. The verse mentions the places of Philistine idol worship. What do these places have to do with the battle just finished?
 - D. In 31:10, Saul's armor was placed in the temple of Ashteroth.
 1. Who was Ashteroth?
 2. Why would Saul's weapons be displayed there?
 3. Why would they fasten Saul's body to the walls of Beth-shan?
 - E. In 31:11, 12, men from Jabesh-gilead retrieved the four bodies.
 1. Why would they do this at night?
 2. Why would they burn the four bodies?
 - F. In 31:13, they buried the bones of Saul and his sons.
 1. What does this tell us?
 2. Why would they fast seven days?
4. Review your study of chapter 31.
 - A. What element stands out in this chapter?
 - B. What truth do these facts emphasize?
 - C. How can we apply this to our day? To our country?

Questions for I Samuel 16-31