

BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

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Saul and the Witch of Endor.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

When something shameful and cruelly unjust happens, people wonder where evil came from. Our great and holy Creator God made everything good and is not the source of any evil. He created angels before He created human beings. The most important angel made, Lucifer, hovered over the throne of God. He became proud and wanted to be worshipped as God instead. He challenged his creator and God threw him out of heaven. Falling like lightning, one third of the angels chose to accompany him. Lucifer became Satan, the archenemy of God. And the group of angels became demons or evil spirit beings. Since that time of separation, Satan has tried to destroy everything belonging to God in an attempt to hurt God Himself.

Satan and his demons have limited powers although great. They do not know the future. If they had known that the Lord Jesus Christ would have risen victorious over death three days after He died, they would never have pressed the crowd in front of Pilate's hall to shout for Jesus' death. Jesus' resurrection was total victory over Satan. It is only a matter of time before Satan and his demons will be punished by God for their rebellion.

All through the Bible, people are warned to have no involvement in occult practices, sorcery, fortune telling, witchcraft or trying to contact the spirits of dead people. These are dangerous practices and lead to a deep spiritual darkness that is very difficult to escape from. In God's nation of Israel, being a witch or medium between the living and dead was punishable by death. King Saul had this law in force so those who practiced such things were very careful not to draw attention to themselves.

A vast number of Philistine soldiers were camped a short distance from the city of Gilboa in central Israel. Saul realized how hopelessly outnumbered his troops were. He could have used David and his men then but they were far away. He had made them his enemies. Saul was desperate for a strategy to use against the Philistine army. He remembered how God had given Gideon a battle plan that needed only three hundred soldiers. Saul prayed to God but he did not ask in faith but rather, with a doubting, unstable mind. When Saul received no answer from God, he decided to visit a medium and ask to speak with Samuel. He travelled 10 kilometres north-west from the Israelite camp for a meeting with a witch from Endor.

DRAMA - The Bible In Living Sound.

How unnatural and strange it was that Saul wanted to talk to Samuel's spirit now that he was in a tight spot. When Samuel was alive, Saul never visited Samuel or sought his advice. Samuel predicted Saul's and his three sons' death. Normally it is understood that when a medium brings up a dead person's spirit, what comes forth is a demon who has assumed the form and identity of the departed person. But in this instance, the Bible is clear that God allowed Samuel himself to appear to Saul and to make a prediction that came to pass the very next day.

People sometimes want to know the future so they will feel more powerful and secure. They turn to occult methods to contact the spirit world in the hope of obtaining an advantage from not going directly to God. Saul did this. God does not reveal to us the future ahead for our own good. Such knowing would cause us to live in constant fear and without faith. Saul is a good example of this. He was made king when he was about 30 years old and thought to have ruled for 39 years when he visited the witch of Endor's place. It came as a great shock to him to find out that he and his sons were going to die the next day.

Those who try to expand their awareness through witchcraft and sorcery come to believe that humankind is basically good. They see evil only as an illusion, so they conclude that the root of the human dilemma is ignorance, not sin. Consequently they do not consider they need God's redemption or request forgiveness for their sins. They believe they can connect with God or the spirit world without relying on Christ's blood.

In the Bible book John, Chapter 8, we are told that Satan is the father of lies and there is no truth in him. Neither can we expect anything else from Satan's followers or demons. Things were not going as they normally would. God through the prophet Samuel intervened and gave Saul one last truthful chance to repent from his sins.

Saul was driving Satan out of his kingdom with the laws on occult activities. Yet he harboured Satan in his heart by malice and envy. Big troubles become terrors to those who practice disobedience. Saul seemed panicked by the unwinnable situation he found his army to be in. The Philistines had bows and arrows and this meant that they did not need to get as close as a swordsman did to fight an enemy soldier.

God has graciously provided a protective shield around us to discourage direct contact with demons in the spirit world. Occult practices attempt to penetrate that shield and open a door to interaction with evil spirit beings. If you have had any dealings with the dark world of spirits, place your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ to save you from these spirits and your sin. Christ is completely more powerful than Satan. Renounce any dealings you have with the occult and ask other Christians to pray for you. Destroy all occultic objects and stop having contact with friends still involved with the powers of darkness. The Lord Jesus will help you to do this if you genuinely want to rely fully on God and His protection. Saul wanted to win a battle; not confess his sins to God or ask for forgiveness. His stubborn heart refused to bend. And he died unrepentant the next day. Don't be proud like Saul.

MUSIC - Integrity Music.

That was Paul Baloche and Ed Kerr singing "The Lord Longs to be Gracious."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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