

The Aborted King:

I Samuel 12-31 and King Saul's Rise and Fall

Rachel Sharansky Danziger * July 5th 2021 * Storytelling and the rise of Kings lesson #6

1: Three warnings

I Samuel 4:2-4

(2) The Philistines arrayed themselves against Israel; and when the battle was fought, Israel was routed by the Philistines.. (3) When the [Israelite] troops returned to the camp, the elders of Israel asked, “Why did the LORD put us to rout today before the Philistines? Let us fetch the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD from Shiloh; thus He will be present among us and will deliver us from the hands of our enemies.” (4) So the troops sent men to Shiloh; there Eli’s two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were in charge of the Ark of the Covenant of God, and they brought down from there the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD of Hosts Enthroned on the Cherubim.

I Samuel 8:10-18

(10) Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people, who were asking him for a king. (11) He said, “This will be the practice of the king who will rule over you...(17) He will take a tenth part of your flocks, and you shall become his slaves. (18) The day will come when you cry out because of the king whom you yourselves have chosen; and the LORD will not answer you on that day.”

I Samuel 24:6-25

(24) Above all, you must revere the LORD and serve Him faithfully with all your heart; and consider how grandly He has dealt with you. (25) For if you persist in your wrongdoing, both you and your king shall be swept away.”

שמואל א ד:ב'–ד'

(ב) וַיַּעֲרְכוּ פְּלִשְׁתִּים לְקָרְאֵת יִשְׂרָאֵל וַתִּטָּשׁ הַמִּלְחָמָה וַיִּגְגַּף יִשְׂרָאֵל לִפְנֵי פְּלִשְׁתִּים.. (ג) וַיָּבֹא הָעָם אֶל־הַמַּחֲנֶה וַיֹּאמְרוּ זִקְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לָמָּה נִגְפָנוּ יְהוָה הַיּוֹם לִפְנֵי פְּלִשְׁתִּים נִקְחָה אֵלֵינוּ מִשְׁלַח אֶת־אָרוֹן בְּרִית יְהוָה וַיָּבֹא בְּקִרְבָּנוּ וַיִּשְׁעָנוּ מִכַּף אֲבִינֹו: (ד) וַיִּשְׁלַח הָעָם שְׁלֵחַ וַיִּשְׁאוּ מִשָּׁם אֶת אָרוֹן בְּרִית־יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת יְשֵׁב הַכַּרְבִּים וְשֵׁם שְׁנֵי בְנֵי־עֲלִי עִם־אָרוֹן בְּרִית הָאֱלֹהִים חֲפָנִי וּפִינְחָס:

שמואל א ח:י"–י"ח

(י) וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל אֵת כָּל־דְּבָרֵי יְהוָה אֵל־הָעָם הַשְּׂאֵלִים מֵאֵתוֹ מִלְּה: (ס) (יא) וַיֹּאמֶר זֶה יְהִי־מִשְׁפַּט הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר יִמְלֶךְ עֲלֵיכֶם... (יז) צֹאנֵיכֶם יַעֲשֶׂךָ וְאֶתֶם תִּהְיוּ־לֹ לַעֲבָדִים: (יח) וְזַעֲקֶתֶם בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא מִלִּפְנֵי מִלְּכֶם אֲשֶׁר בְּחַרְתֶּם לָכֶם וְלֹא־יַעֲנֶה יְהוָה אֶתְכֶם בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא:

שמואל א י"ב:כ'–ד'–כ"ה

(כד) אָךְ וַיִּרְאוּ אֶת־יְהוָה וַעֲבַדְתֶּם אֹתוֹ בְּאַמֶּת בְּכָל־לִבְבְּכֶם כִּי רָאוּ אֵת אֲשֶׁר־הִגִּדְלָ עִמָּכֶם: (כה) וְאִם־הִרְעַ תִּרְעוּ גַם־אֶתֶם גַּם־מִלְּכֶם תִּסָּפוּ: (פ)

2. The king-to-be

I Samuel 9:1-14

(1) **There was a man** of Benjamin whose name was Kish son of Abiel son of Zeror son of Becorath son of Aphiah, a Benjaminite, a man of substance. (2) He had a son whose name was Saul, an excellent young man; no one among the Israelites was handsomer than he; he was a head taller than any of the people. (3) Once the asses of Saul's father Kish went astray, and Kish said to his son Saul, "Take along one of the servants and go out and look for the asses."...

(5) **When they reached the district of Zuph**, Saul said to the servant who was with him, "Let us turn back, or my father will stop worrying about the asses and begin to worry about us." (6) But he replied, "There is a man of God in that town, and the man is highly esteemed; everything that he says comes true. Let us go there; perhaps he will tell us about the errand on which we set out." (7) "But if we go," Saul said to his servant, "what can we bring the man? For the food in our bags is all gone, and there is nothing we can bring to the man of God as a present. What have we got?" (8) The servant answered Saul again, "I happen to have a quarter-shekel of silver. I can give that to the man of God and he will tell us about our errand."...(10) Saul said to his servant, "A good idea; let us go." And they went to the town where the man of God lived.

(11) **As they were climbing the ascent to the town**, they met some girls coming out to draw water, and they asked them, "Is the seer in town?" (12) "Yes," they replied. "He is up there ahead of you. Hurry, for he has just come to the town because the people have a sacrifice at the shrine today. (13) As soon as you enter the town, you will find him before he goes up to the shrine to eat; the people will not eat until he comes; for he must first bless the sacrifice and only then will the guests eat. Go up at once, for you will find him right away."

(14) **So they went up to the town**; and as they were entering the town, Samuel came out toward them, on his way up to the shrine.

שמואל א טי'א-י"ד

(א) וַיְהִי־אִישׁ מִבְּנֵי־יְמִין [מִבְּנֵי־מִינ] וְשֵׁמוֹ קִישׁ בֶּן־אֲבִיאל בֶּן־צְרוֹר בֶּן־בְּכוֹרֶת בֶּן־אַפְיָח בֶּן־אִישׁ יְמִינִי גִבּוֹר חָיִל: (ב) וְלוֹ־הָלָה בֶן וְשֵׁמוֹ שָׁאוּל בְּחֹר וְטוֹב וְאִין אִישׁ מִבְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל טוֹב מִמֶּנּוּ מִשְׁכֻּמּוֹ וּמִעֲלָה גְבוּהַ מִכָּל־הָעָם: (ג) וַתֵּאבְדֶּנּוּ הָאֲתָנוֹת לְקִישׁ אָבִי שָׁאוּל וַיֹּאמֶר קִישׁ אֶל־שָׁאוּל בְּנוֹ קַח־נָא אֶתְּךָ אֶת־אֶחָד מֵהַנְּעָרִים וְקוּם לֵךְ בַּקֶּשׁ אֶת־הָאֲתָנוֹת:...

(ה) הֲמָהּ בָּאוּ בְּאֶרֶץ צוּפִי וְשָׁאוּל אָמַר לְנַעֲרָו אֲשֶׁר־עִמּוֹ לָכֵה וּנְשׁוּבָה פֹּה־יַחְדָּל אָבִי מִן־הָאֲתָנוֹת וְדָאָג לָנוּ: (ו) וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ הִנֵּה־נָא אִישׁ־אֱלֹהִים בְּעִיר הַזֹּאת וְהָאִישׁ נִכְבָּד כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־יְדַבֵּר בּוֹא יְבֹא עִתָּהּ וְנִלְכֶה שָׁם אוֹלִי־יִגִּיד לָנוּ אֶת־דִּרְכָּנוּ אֲשֶׁר־הִלְכְּנוּ עָלֵיךָ: (ז) וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁאוּל לְנַעֲרָו וְהִנֵּה נִלְכֶה וּמַה־נִּבְיָא לְאִישׁ כִּי הִלְחֵם אֶנְל מִכְּלִינוּ וְתִשׁוּרָה אִין־לְהִבִּיא לְאִישׁ הָאֱלֹהִים מָה אֲתָנוּ: (ח) וַיֹּסֶף הַנְּעָר לְעֲנוֹת אֶת־שָׁאוּל וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה נִמְצָא בְיָדִי רִבַּע שֶׁקֶל כֶּסֶף וְנִתַּתִּי לְאִישׁ הָאֱלֹהִים וְהִגִּיד לָנוּ אֶת־דִּרְכָּנוּ: (י) וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁאוּל לְנַעֲרָו טוֹב דַּבְּרָה לָכֵה וְנִלְכֶה וְיִלְכוּ אֶל־הָעִיר אֲשֶׁר־שָׁם אִישׁ הָאֱלֹהִים:

(יא) הֲמָהּ עֹלִים בְּמַעְלָה הָעִיר וְהֲמָהּ מְצָאוּ נַעֲרוֹת יִצְאוֹת לְשֹׂאֵב מַיִם וַיֹּאמְרוּ לָהֶן הֲיֵשׁ בְּזֶה הָרְאָה: (יב) וַתַּעֲנִינָה אוֹתָם וַתֹּאמְרֶנָּה יֵשׁ הִנֵּה לְפָנֶיךָ מֵהָרַר עִתָּהּ כִּי הַיּוֹם בָּא לְעִיר כִּי יָבִח הַיּוֹם לָעָם בַּבֶּמֶה: (יג) כְּבִאֲכֶם הָעִיר כֵּן תִּמְצְאוּן אֹתוֹ בְּטָרֶם יַעֲלֶה הַבֶּמֶתָה לְאָכֹל כִּי לֹא־יֵאכֹל הָעָם עַד־בָּאוּ כִּי־הוּא יְבָרַךְ הַזֹּבֵחַ אַחֲרֵי־כֵן יֵאכְלוּ הַקְּרָאִים וְעִתָּה עָלוּ כִּי־אֲתוּ כְהַיּוֹם תִּמְצְאוּן אֹתוֹ:

(יד) וַיַּעֲלוּ הָעִיר הֲמָהּ בָּאִים בְּתוֹךְ הָעִיר וְהִנֵּה שְׁמוּאֵל יֵצֵא לְקִרְאתָם לְעֲלוֹת הַבֶּמֶה: (טו)

3: The aborted scene

David Alter, The Art of Biblical Narrative, 60-61:

As an audience familiar with the convention, we might properly expect that he will draw water for the girls, that they will then run home with the news of the stranger's arrival, and so forth...

The type scene has been aborted. The hero swings away from the girls at the well to hurry after the man of god who will launch him on his destiny of disaster... The sense of completion implicit in the betrothal of the hero is withheld from this protagonist; the deflection of the anticipated type-scene somehow isolates Saul, sounds a faintly ominous note that begins to prepare us for the story of the king who loses his kingship, who will not be a conduit for the future rulers of Israel, and who ends skewered on his own sword.

4: The king

I Samuel 9:17-21

(17) As soon as Samuel saw Saul, the LORD declared to him, "This is the man that I told you would govern My people."...(20) As for your asses that strayed three days ago, do not concern yourself about them, for they have been found. And for whom is all Israel yearning, if not for you and all your ancestral house?" (21) Saul replied, "But I am only a Benjaminite, from the smallest of the tribes of Israel, and my clan is the least of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin! Why do you say such things to me?"

שמואל א ט':יז-כ"א

(יז) וּשְׂמוּאֵל רָאָה אֶת־שָׂאוּל וַיהוָה עָנָהוּ הַגָּה הַאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר אָמַרְתִּי אֵלַיךָ זֶה יַעֲזֹר בְּעַמִּי... (כ) וְלֹאֲתַנּוֹת הָאֲבֹדוֹת לָךְ הַיּוֹם שְׁלֶשֶׁת הַיָּמִים אֵל־תִּשָּׂם אֶת־לִבְךָ לָהֶם כִּי נִמְצְאוּ וְלִמִּי כָּל־חַמְדַּת יִשְׂרָאֵל הֲלוֹא לָךְ וְלִכְל בֵּית אָבִיךָ: (ס) (כא) וַיַּעַן שָׂאוּל וַיֹּאמֶר הֲלוֹא בְּוַיְמִינִי אָנֹכִי מִקְטַנֵּי שְׁבֹטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וּמִשְׁפַּחְתִּי הַצָּעִיר מִכָּל־מִשְׁפַּחֹת שְׁבֹטֵי בְנֵי־מִן וְלָמָּה דִּבַּרְתָּ אֵלַי כַּדָּבָר הַזֶּה:

5: The first rejection

I Samuel 13:1-16

(8) He waited seven days, the time that Samuel [had set]. But when Samuel failed to come to Gilgal, and the people began to scatter... (10) He had just finished presenting the burnt offering when Samuel arrived; and Saul went out to meet him and welcome him. (11) But Samuel said, "What have you done?" Saul replied, "I saw the people leaving me and scattering; you had not come at the appointed time, and the Philistines had gathered at Michmas. (12) I thought the Philistines would march down against me at Gilgal before I had entreated the LORD, so I forced myself to present the burnt offering." (13) Samuel answered Saul, "You acted foolishly in not keeping the commandments that the LORD your God laid upon you! Otherwise the LORD would have established your dynasty over Israel forever. (14) But now your dynasty will not endure. The LORD will seek out a man after His own heart, and the LORD will appoint him ruler over His people, because you did not abide by what the LORD had commanded you."

שמואל א י"ג:א'-ט"ז

(ח) וַיִּיחַל [וַיִּוָּחַל ו] שְׁבַעַת יָמִים לְמוֹעֵד אֲשֶׁר שְׂמוּאֵל וְלֹא־בָא שְׂמוּאֵל הַגִּלְגָּל וַיִּפְז הָעָם מֵעִלְיוֹ... (י) וַיְהִי כְּכַלְתּוֹ לְהַעֲלוֹת הָעֹלָה וְהַגָּה שְׂמוּאֵל בָּא וַיֵּצֵא שָׂאוּל לְקִרְאתוֹ לְבָרְכוֹ: (יא) וַיֹּאמֶר שְׂמוּאֵל מָה עָשִׂיתָ וַיֹּאמֶר שָׂאוּל כִּי־רָאִיתִי כִּי־נִפְז הָעָם מֵעִלְי וְאֵתָה לֹא־בָאתָ לְמוֹעֵד הַיָּמִים וּפְלִשְׁתִּים נֹאֲסָפִים מִכְּמֹשׁ: (יב) וַאֲמַר עֲתָה יִרְדּוּ פְלִשְׁתִּים אֵלַי הַגִּלְגָּל וּפְנֵי יְהוָה לֹא חָלִיתִי וְאֵתָאֶפֶק וְאֵעֲלֶה הָעֹלָה: (ס) (יג) וַיֹּאמֶר שְׂמוּאֵל אֵל־שָׂאוּל נִסְכַּלְתָּ לֹא שְׂמַרְתָּ אֶת־מִצְוֹת יְהוָה אֵלֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה כִּי עֲתָה הֲכִיז יְהוָה אֶת־מַמְלַכְתְּךָ אֶל־יִשְׂרָאֵל עַד־עוֹלָם: (יד) וְעֲתָה מִמְּלַכְתְּךָ לֹא־תִקְוֶם בְּקִשׁ יְהוָה לֹא אִישׁ כִּלְבָבוֹ וַיִּצְוֶהוּ יְהוָה לְנָגִיד עַל־עַמּוֹ כִּי לֹא שְׂמַרְתָּ אֶת אֲשֶׁר־צִוָּה יְהוָה:

6: The second rejection

I Samuel 15 10-28

(10) The word of the LORD then came to Samuel: (11) “I regret that I made Saul king, for he has turned away from Me and has not carried out My commands.” Samuel was distressed and he entreated the LORD all night long... (13) When Samuel came to Saul, Saul said to him, “Blessed are you of the LORD! I have fulfilled the LORD’s command.” (14) “Then what,” demanded Samuel, “is this bleating of sheep in my ears, and the lowing of oxen that I hear?” (15) Saul answered, “They were brought from the Amalekites, for the **troops spared** the choicest of the sheep and oxen for sacrificing to the LORD your God. And we proscribed the rest.”...

(17) And Samuel said, “**You may look small to yourself**, but you are the head of the tribes of Israel. The LORD anointed you king over Israel, (18) and the LORD sent you on a mission, saying, ‘Go and proscribe the sinful Amalekites; make war on them until you have exterminated them.’ (19) Why did you disobey the LORD and swoop down on the spoil in defiance of the LORD’s will?” (20) Saul said to Samuel, “**But I did obey the LORD!** I performed the mission on which the LORD sent me: I captured King Agag of Amalek, and I proscribed Amalek, (21) and the troops took from the spoil some sheep and oxen—the best of what had been proscribed—to sacrifice to the LORD your God at Gilgal.” (22) But Samuel said: “Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As much as in **obedience** to the LORD’s command? Surely, obedience is better than sacrifice, Compliance than the fat of rams. (23) For rebellion is like the sin of divination, Defiance, like the iniquity of teraphim. Because you rejected the LORD’s command, He has rejected you as king.” (24) Saul said to Samuel, “**I did wrong to transgress the LORD’s command and your instructions; but I was afraid of the troops and I yielded to them.** (25) Please, forgive my offense and come back with me, and I will bow low to the LORD.” (26) But Samuel said to Saul, “I will not go back with you; for you have **rejected the LORD’s command**, and the LORD has rejected you as king over Israel.”

(27) As Samuel turned to leave, Saul seized the corner of his robe, and it tore. (28) And Samuel said to him, “The LORD has this day torn the kingship over Israel away from you and has given it to another who is worthier than you.

שמואל א ט"ו י' - כ"ח

(י) ויהי דבר־יהוה אל־שמואל לֵאמֹר: (יא) נחמתי כִּי־המלכתי את־שָׁאוֹל לְמִלְחָה כִּי־שָׁב מאַחֲרַי וְאֶת־דְּבַר־יְהוָה לֹא הִקְיִים וַיִּחַר־לְשֹׁמוֹאֵל וַיִּזְעַק אֶל־יְהוָה כָּל־הַלַּיְלָה: ... (יג) וַיָּבֹא שְׁמוֹאֵל אֶל־שָׁאוֹל וַיֹּאמֶר לֹו שָׁאוֹל בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה לַיהוָה הִקִּימְתִי אֶת־דְּבַר יְהוָה: (יד) וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוֹאֵל וּמָה קוֹל־הַצִּאֵן הַזֶּה בְּאָזְנִי וְקוֹל הַבֶּקָר אֲשֶׁר אֲנֹכִי שֹׁמֵעַ: (טו) וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁאוֹל מֵעֲמֻלְקֵי הַבִּיאוֹם אֲשֶׁר חָמַל הָעָם עַל־מִיטֵב הַצֹּאן וְהַבֶּקָר לְמַעַן זִבְחַ לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיהָ וְאֶת־הַיּוֹתֵר הִחְרַמְנוּ: ...

(יז) וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוֹאֵל הֲלוֹא אִם־קִטְּנָן אַתָּה בְּעֵינַיִךְ רֹאשׁ שְׁבִיטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אַתָּה וַיִּמְשַׁחֶהָ יְהוָה לְמִלְחָה עַל־יִשְׂרָאֵל: (יח) וַיִּשְׁלַחֶהָ יְהוָה בְּדַרְגָּה וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ וְהִחְרַמְתָּה אֶת־הַחֲטָטָיִם אֶת־עֲמֻלְקֵי וְנִלְחַמְתָּ בּוֹ עַד כְּלוֹתֵם אֹתָם: (יט) וְלָמָּה לֹא־שִׁמַּעְתָּ בְּקוֹל יְהוָה וַתַּעֲטִ אֶל־הַשְּׁלָל וַתַּעַשׂ הָרַע בְּעֵינַיִךְ יְהוָה: {ס} (כ) וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁאוֹל אֶל־שְׁמוֹאֵל אֲשֶׁר שִׁמַּעְתִּי בְּקוֹל יְהוָה וְאֵלֶּךְ בְּדַרְגָּה אֲשֶׁר־שִׁלַּחְנִי יְהוָה וְאֵבִיא אֶת־אֲנֹגְלֵי מִלְחָה עֲמֻלְקֵי וְאֶת־עֲמֻלְקֵי הִחְרַמְתִּי: (כא) וַיִּקַּח הָעָם מִהַשְּׁלָל צֹאן וּבָקָר רַאשֵׁי־הַחֲרָם לְזִבְחַ לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיהָ בְּגִלְגָּל: {ס} (כב) וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוֹאֵל הַחֲפִיץ לַיהוָה בְּעֵלּוֹת וּזְבָחִים כְּשִׁמְעַ בְּקוֹל יְהוָה הִנֵּה שֹׁמֵעַ מִזִּבְחַ טוֹב לְהִקְשִׁיב מִחֶלֶב אֵילִים: (כג) כִּי חֲטָאת־קֶסֶם מְרִי וְאָעוֹן וּתְרָפִים הַפְּצָר לְעוֹן מְאֹסָתָ אֶת־דְּבַר יְהוָה וַיִּמְאָסֶהָ מִמִּלְחָה: {ס} (כד) וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁאוֹל אֶל־שְׁמוֹאֵל חֲטָאתִי כִּי־עֲבַרְתִּי אֶת־פִּי־יְהוָה וְאֶת־דְּבַר־יְהוָה כִּי יִרְאתִי אֶת־הָעָם וְאֲשִׁמַּע בְּקוֹלָם: (כה) וְעַתָּה שָׂא נָא אֶת־חֲטָאתִי וְשׁוּב עִמָּי וְאַשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לַיהוָה: (כו) וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוֹאֵל אֶל־שָׁאוֹל לֹא אָשׁוּב עִמָּךְ כִּי מְאֹסָתָ אֶת־דְּבַר יְהוָה וַיִּמְאָסֶהָ יְהוָה מִהַיּוֹת מִלְחָה עַל־יִשְׂרָאֵל: {ס} (כז) וַיִּסַּב שְׁמוֹאֵל לְלֶכֶת וַיִּחַגַּק בְּכַנְף־מְעִילָו וַיִּקְרַע: {ס} (כח) וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו שְׁמוֹאֵל קְרַע יְהוָה אֶת־מַמְלַכּוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵעַלְיָה הַיּוֹם וּנְתַנָּהּ לְרַעַה הַטּוֹב מִמָּךְ:

7. Towards the end

I Samuel 28:3-10

(3) Now Samuel had died and all Israel made lament for him; and he was buried in his own town of Ramah. And Saul had forbidden [recourse to] ghosts and familiar spirits in the land. (4) The Philistines mustered and they marched to Shunem and encamped; and Saul gathered all Israel, and they encamped at Gilboa. (5) When Saul saw the Philistine force, his heart trembled with fear. (6) And Saul inquired of the LORD, but the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by prophets...

(7) Then Saul said to his courtiers, "Find me a woman who consults ghosts, so that I can go to her and inquire through her." And his courtiers told him that there was a woman in En-dor who consulted ghosts. (8) Saul disguised himself; he put on different clothes and set out with two men. They came to the woman by night, and he said, "Please divine for me by a ghost. Bring up for me the one I shall name to you." (9) But the woman answered him, "You know what Saul has done, how he has banned [the use of] ghosts and familiar spirits in the land. So why are you laying a trap for me, to get me killed?" (10) Saul swore to her by the LORD: "As the LORD lives, you won't get into trouble over this."

I Samuel 22:9-19

(9) Doeg the Edomite, who was standing among the courtiers of Saul, spoke up: "I saw the son of Jesse come to Ahimelech son of Ahitub at Nob. (10) He inquired of the LORD on his behalf and gave him provisions; he also gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."... (18) Thereupon the king said to Doeg, "You, Doeg, go and strike down the priests." And Doeg the Edomite went and struck down the priests himself; that day, he killed eighty-five men who wore the linen ephod. (19) He put Nob, the town of the priests, to the sword: men and women, children and infants, oxen, asses, and sheep— [all] to the sword.

שמואל א כ"ח:ג-י

(ג) וּשְׁמוּאֵל מָת וְיִסְפְּדוּ-לוֹ כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּקְבְּרוּהוּ בְרָמָה וּבְעִירוֹ וְשָׂאֹל הִסִּיר הָאֲבוֹת וְאֶת-הַיְדֻעָנִים מִהָאָרֶץ. (ד) וַיִּקְבְּצוּ פְּלִשְׁתִּים וַיָּבֹאוּ וַיִּחַנּוּ בְּשׁוּנֵם וַיִּקְבֹּץ שָׂאֹל אֶת-כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּחַנּוּ בְּגִלְבֹּעַ. (ה) וַיֵּרָא שָׂאֹל אֶת-מַחְנֵה פְּלִשְׁתִּים וַיֵּלֶא וַיִּחְרַד לְבֹן מֵאָד. (ו) וַיִּשְׁאַל שָׂאֹל בְּיְהוָה וְלֹא עָנָהוּ יְהוָה גַּם בְּחִלְמוֹת גַּם בְּאוּרִים גַּם בְּנְבִיאִים...

(ז) וַיֹּאמֶר שָׂאֹל לְעַבְדָּיו בְּקִשׁוּ-לִי אִשָּׁת בְּעֵלְת-אֹב וְאֶלְכָה אִלֶּיהָ וְאֶדְרָשָׁה-בָּהּ וַיֹּאמְרוּ עַבְדָּיו אֵלָיו הִנֵּה אִשָּׁת בְּעֵלְת-אֹב בְּעִין הַיָּם. (ח) וַיִּתְחַפֵּשׂ שָׂאֹל וַיִּלְבַּשׂ בְּגָדִים אַחֲרָיִם וַיֵּלֶךְ הוּא וּשְׁנֵי אַנְשֵׁים עִמּוֹ וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל-הָאִשָּׁה לַיְלָה וַיֹּאמֶר קְסוּמִי- [קְסוּמִי] גֵּא לִי בְּאֹב וְהַעֲלֵי לִי אֶת אֲשֶׁר-אָמַר אֵלָיִךְ. (ט) וַתֹּאמֶר הָאִשָּׁה אֵלָיו הִנֵּה אֶתָּה יְדַעְתָּ אֶת אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה שָׂאֹל אֲשֶׁר הִכְרִית אֶת-הָאֲבוֹת וְאֶת-הַיְדֻעָנִי מִן-הָאָרֶץ וְלָמָּה אֶתָּה מַתְנַקֵּשׁ בְּנַפְשִׁי לְהַמִּיתָנִי. (י) וַיִּשָּׁבַע לָהּ שָׂאֹל בְּיְהוָה לֵאמֹר חַי-יְהוָה אִם-יִקְרָךְ עוֹן בְּדַבַּר הַזֶּה.

שמואל א כ"ב:ט-י"ט

(ט) וַיַּעַן דּוֹג הָאֲדָמִי וְהוּא נֹצֵב עַל-עַבְדֵי-שָׂאֹל וַיֹּאמֶר רְאִיתִי אֶת-בֶּן-יִשָּׁי בָּא נֹכַח אֶל-אַחִימֵלֵךְ בֶּן-אַחֲטוֹב. (י) וַיִּשְׁאַל-לוֹ בְּיְהוָה וַצִּידָה נָתַן לוֹ וְאֶת חֶרֶב גִּלְיָת הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי נָתַן לוֹ... (יח) וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְדוֹיג [לְדוֹאֵג] סֵב אִתָּה וּפְגַע בְּכַהֲנַיִם וַיִּסָּב דוֹיג [דוֹאֵג] הָאֲדָמִי וַיִּפְגַע-הוּא בְּכַהֲנַיִם וַיָּמַת. (יט) וַיִּמָּוֶט הוּא וְחַמֶּשֶׁה אִישׁ נֶשֶׂא אֶפֶוד בָּדִי. (יט) וְאֶת גֵּב עִירֵי-הַכַּהֲנַיִם הִכָּה לְפִי-חֶרֶב מֵאִישׁ וְעַד-אִשָּׁה מְעוֹלָל וְעַד-יוֹנֵק וְשׁוֹר וְחִמְזוֹר וְשֵׁה לְפִי-חֶרֶב.

8. The fall

I Samuel 11:4-7

(4) When the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul and gave this report in the hearing of the people, all the people broke into weeping. (5) Saul was just coming from the field driving the cattle; and Saul asked, “Why are the people crying?” And they told him about the situation of the men of Jabesh. (6) When he heard these things, the spirit of God gripped Saul and his anger blazed up. (7) He took a yoke of oxen and cut them into pieces, which he sent by messengers throughout the territory of Israel, with the warning, “Thus shall be done to the cattle of anyone who does not follow Saul and Samuel into battle!” Terror from the LORD fell upon the people, and they came out as one man.

I Samuel 28:15-19

(15) Samuel said to Saul, “Why have you disturbed me and brought me up?”

And Saul answered, “**I am in great trouble.** The Philistines are attacking me and God has turned away from me; He no longer answers me, either by prophets or in dreams. So I have called you to tell me what I am to do.”

(16) Samuel said, “Why do you ask me, seeing that the LORD has turned away from you and has become your adversary? (17) The LORD has done for Himself as He foretold through me: The LORD has torn the kingship out of your hands and has given it to your fellow, to David, (18) because you did not obey the LORD and did not execute His wrath upon the Amalekites. That is why the LORD has done this to you today. (19) Further, the LORD will deliver the Israelites who are with you into the hands of the Philistines. Tomorrow your sons and you will be with me; and the LORD will also deliver the Israelite forces into the hands of the Philistines.”

(20) At once Saul flung himself prone on the ground, terrified by Samuel’s words. Besides, there was no strength in him, for he had not eaten anything all day and all night.

שמואל א י"א:ד-ז

(ד) וַיָּבֹאוּ הַמַּלְאָכִים גֹּבְעַת שְׂאוֹל וַיְדַבְּרוּ הַדְּבָרִים בְּאָזְנֵי הָעָם וַיִּשְׁאוּ כָל־הָעָם אֶת־קוֹלָם וַיִּבְכוּ. (ה) וְהִנֵּה שְׂאוֹל בָּא אַחֲרָי הַבְּקָר מִן־הַשָּׂדֶה וַיֹּאמֶר שְׂאוֹל מַה־לָּעָם כִּי יִבְכוּ וַיִּסְפְּרוּ־לוֹ אֶת־דְּבַר־יָבֵישׁ. (ו) וַתִּצְלַח רוּחַ־אֱלֹהִים עַל־שְׂאוֹל בִּשְׂמֵעוֹ [כְּשִׁמְעוֹ] אֶת־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַיַּחַר אַפּוֹ מְאֹד. (ז) וַיִּקַּח צֶמֶד בְּקָר וַיְנַתְּחֵהוּ וַיִּשְׁלַח בְּכָל־גִּבּוֹל יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּיַד הַמַּלְאָכִים. וַיֹּאמֶר אֲשֶׁר אֵינְנוּ יֹצֵא אַחֲרָי שְׂאוֹל וְאַחֲרֵי שְׂמוּאֵל כִּהַּ יַעֲשֶׂה לְבָקְרוֹ וַיִּפֹּל פָּחַד־יְהוָה עַל־הָעָם וַיִּצְאוּ כְּאִישׁ אֶחָד.

שמואל א כ"ח:ט"ו-י"ט

(טו) וַיֹּאמֶר שְׂמוּאֵל אֶל־שְׂאוֹל לָמָּה הִרְגִזְתָּנִי לְהַעֲלוֹת אֵתְּךָ וַיֹּאמֶר שְׂאוֹל צָר־לִי מְאֹד וּפְלִשְׁתִּים וְגִלְחָמִים בִּי וְאֱלֹהִים סָר מֵעָלַי וְלֹא־עֲנִי עוֹד גַּם בְּיַד־הַנְּבִיאִים גַּם־בַּחֲלֻמוֹת וְאִקְרָאָה לָהּ לְהוֹדִיעַנִי מִהַּ אַעֲשֶׂה. (טז)

(טז) וַיֹּאמֶר שְׂמוּאֵל וְלָמָּה תִּשְׁאַלְנִי וַיְהִי כִּי סָר מֵעָלַי וַיְהִי עָרָה. (יז) וַיַּעַשׂ יְהוָה לּוֹ כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר בְּיַד־יְהוָה וַיִּקְרַע יְהוָה אֶת־הַמַּמְלָכָה מִיַּד־יְהוָה לְרֹעֵה לְדָוִד. (יח) כַּאֲשֶׁר לֹא־שָׁמַעְתָּ בְּקוֹל יְהוָה וְלֹא־עָשִׂיתָ חֲרוֹן־אָפוֹ בְּעַמְלִק עַל־כֵּן הִדְבֵּר הַזֶּה עֲשֶׂה־לָּהּ יְהוָה הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה. (יט) וַיִּתֵּן יְהוָה גַּם אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל עִמָּךְ בְּיַד־פְּלִשְׁתִּים וּמָחָר אֲתָהּ וּבָנֶיהָ עִמָּךְ גַּם אֶת־מַחְנֵה יִשְׂרָאֵל יִתֵּן יְהוָה בְּיַד־פְּלִשְׁתִּים.

(כ) וַיִּמְתָּר שְׂאוֹל וַיִּפֹּל מִלֹּא־קוּמָתוֹ אַרְצָה וַיִּרָא מְאֹד מִדְּבַר־שְׂמוּאֵל גַּם־כִּחַ לֹא־הָיָה בּוֹ כִּי לֹא אָכַל לֶחֶם כָּל־הַיּוֹם וְכָל־הַלַּיְלָה.