**SAMUEL: MIRACLE FINISH**

1 Samuel 19:20-23; 25:1 (see Ch. 28)

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**INTRODUCTION**

We have seen it all too often in the Bible and in modern times where people who started life off well end up badly. We need to think no further than these three kings: Saul, David, and Solomon. Saul’s reign turned bad quickly and is remembered for his collapse. David and Solomon’s reigns ended poorly beginning about the middle of their lives. Solomon never recovered, but David did somewhat regain himself and his reputation. In light of those three failures, what might we expect of Samuel, then? Will he finish well? We have seen his miraculous birth, life, and ministry. Now, let us examine the end of his life.

1. **HIS MARVELOUS FINAL YEARS**
2. There are mysterious details concerning the school of prophets.
3. These prophets were probably **started** by their leader, Samuel.
4. These prophets were probably **schooled** by Samuel.
5. There are marvelous details concerning the Spirit of God.
6. God’s Spirit has power to change people’s **direction** in life.
7. God’s Spirit has power to change people’s **duty** in life.
8. There are miraculous details concerning Saul and his soldiers.
9. Saul sent soldiers three times to capture David, **but** **God**….
10. Saul himself goes to capture David, **but** **God**….
11. **HIS MIRACULOUS FINISH**
12. There are mysterious details concerning his life and ministry.
13. We know some **dramatic** details of his life but not many.
14. In his farewell speech, he **dared** to ask if he had taken anything wrongly or had acted improperly (see 1 Sam. 12:1-4). **Response**: “You have not.”
15. There are marvelous details concerning his death (25:1).
16. We are not told how **old** he was when he died—a sign of great respect.
17. We are told that **all** Israel assembled and mourned his passing.
18. There are miraculous details concerning a message delivered after dying (ch.28).
19. In desperation, Saul asks a **medium** at Endor to call up Samuel.
20. Samuel angrily proclaims that Saul & his sons will **die** the next day.

**CONCLUSION**

Samuel was a marvelous man of God. It seems that nearly everything we are told about him was miraculous. He was a giant in the midst of a weak, small-spirited people. He believed in delivering God’s message boldly and without diluting it to make it easier to bear. Using an English idiom, we would say he was a straight shooter! When he died, all realized they had lost a great friend and leader who cared about them.

 His life challenges us to allow God to use us, to work through us, just as He did with Samuel. His words challenge us to proclaim boldly the message of God. Let us have a heart that pleases God! Then, we know we can trust God to do great things for us and through us.

*“In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;*

*In my life, Lord, be glorified today.”*