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The Fall of King Sha'ul

First Samuel 21:1 to 31:13

First Chronicles 10:1-14 and 12:1-22



The more **Sha'ul** tried to hold on to **his** kingship, the tighter **he** gripped the crown, the more it seemed to slip through **his** fingers. **Samuel** had already rebuked **him** ([to see link click Cc - Samuel Rebukes Sha'ul](#)), and told him that **God** would raise up another **after His own heart** to lead the nation. More importantly, **ADONAI** had also rejected **him** (see [Ck - God Rejects Sha'ul](#)); nevertheless, **Sha'ul**, becoming more and more paranoid, thought the answer to **his** problems was to kill **David** (see [Cz - Sha'ul Pursues David](#)). As **he** moved further and further away from **ADONAI**, **he** became more and more under the control of **Satan**. The Bible teaches us that **the thief comes only to kill and steal and destroy** ([John 10:10a](#)), and the first thing **Sha'ul** does in this section was to **kill** all the **priests of Nov**, including **their wives, their children, and their cattle, donkeys and sheep** (see [Cx - Sha'ul Kills the Priests at Nov](#)). Then, the last thing **he** did was to consult a **medium** (see [Dj - Sha'ul and the Medium of Endor](#)), before **killing** himself (see [Dk - Sha'ul Takes His Own Life](#)). **Sha'ul** died because he was unfaithful to

ADONAI. The accusation of **faithlessness** is especially severe. The Hebrew word used is *ma'al*, which is normally reserved for serious sin against **God**, often associated with idolatry and carrying with it the **death** sentence. It is the seriousness, rather than the particular kind of sin, that the word implies.³⁸⁰ **He did not keep the word of the LORD and even consulted with a medium for guidance, nor did he inquire of YHVH, but did what was best in his own eyes (Judges 21:25). So Ha'Shem put him to death and turned the Kingdom over to David son of Jesse (First Chronicles 10:13-14). His** career began with promise, but ended in tragedy; it began with victory, but ended in defeat; it began with hope but ended with despair.³⁸¹