

Shadows In the Bible

Witch of Endor

I like certain stories in the Bible that live in the shadows. They are not famous but interesting. Another character in the Bible is the Witch Of Endor. No, she does not live on the planet of Endor with the Star Wars Ewoks. The basic idea is that the Bible is against dark (other than God) spiritual mediums. This book frowns upon talking to the dead or worshipping other Gods.

King Saul is the first King of Israel. He was picked by the people and not by God. Saul is not a great king. As his story goes forward, he gets worse and worse. In time, this kingdom loses its greatest prophet to date: Samuel. 1 Samuel 28 begins with the reader seeing that king Saul gets rid of all the same spiritual leaders like Samuel. That is strange because Samuel is a man of God. Yet, Saul believes Samuel is no different than a witch or medium.

Saul tries to contact God but all he gets is silence. God knows this man's heart and is not responding. Then Saul puts a call out to find a spiritual person to talk to. He had just kicked out (or killed) them all in his kingdom. It says that he asked his servants if there is anyone with "familiar" spirits. Clearly, he wanted someone who could talk to the divine. I am betting he lumped prophets and witches in the same place.

His servants offered him the Witch of Endor. This exchange between them is interesting. He comes at night and in disguise because he was going against his decree. Saul then asks her to bring up Samuel. The man of God? Was there nobody able to talk to God in his kingdom except the dead? Remember God had forbidden them to talk to the dead. The Witch is stunned that Samuel appears to her. This witch is fearing for her life because I do believe that Saul had ordered the deaths of her medium friends. She is caught in a crazy place between the spirit of Samuel and Saul the despicable king.

God does not speak through the dead but the living. That is how it works. So why is this story here? It is a shadowy story. God says fine, Samuel troubled you in life and he will trouble you in death. The spirit of Samuel predicts the king's death. Funny enough, the witch then tries and make atonement for the kings. She is not a woman of God.

What it all means is that God knows that people do worship and try and contact other Gods. People cannot contact God through the dead. The only reason this is here is directly because God is making a point. God allows Samuel to speak. The message is death and destruction. That is not what Saul wanted. The witch is not powerful but a surprised pawn in Gods will. I love this shadowy story. We have mediums today. People do seek out the dead. They do try and discover Gods will in the wrong way. That includes this story of Saul and the shadowy character Witch of Endor.