

2019

Western Christadelphian Bible School



John Pople - Redwood City, California

Leading Ladies

Class 3 - Dangerous Liaisons -
Stories of the Other Woman

Leading Ladies

Jul 2019



John Pople: madenglishscientist@gmail.com

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3

“Dangerous Liaisons”

Stories of the Other Woman

Rachel

A Favourite Israelite Bride



Delilah

A Hired
Seductress

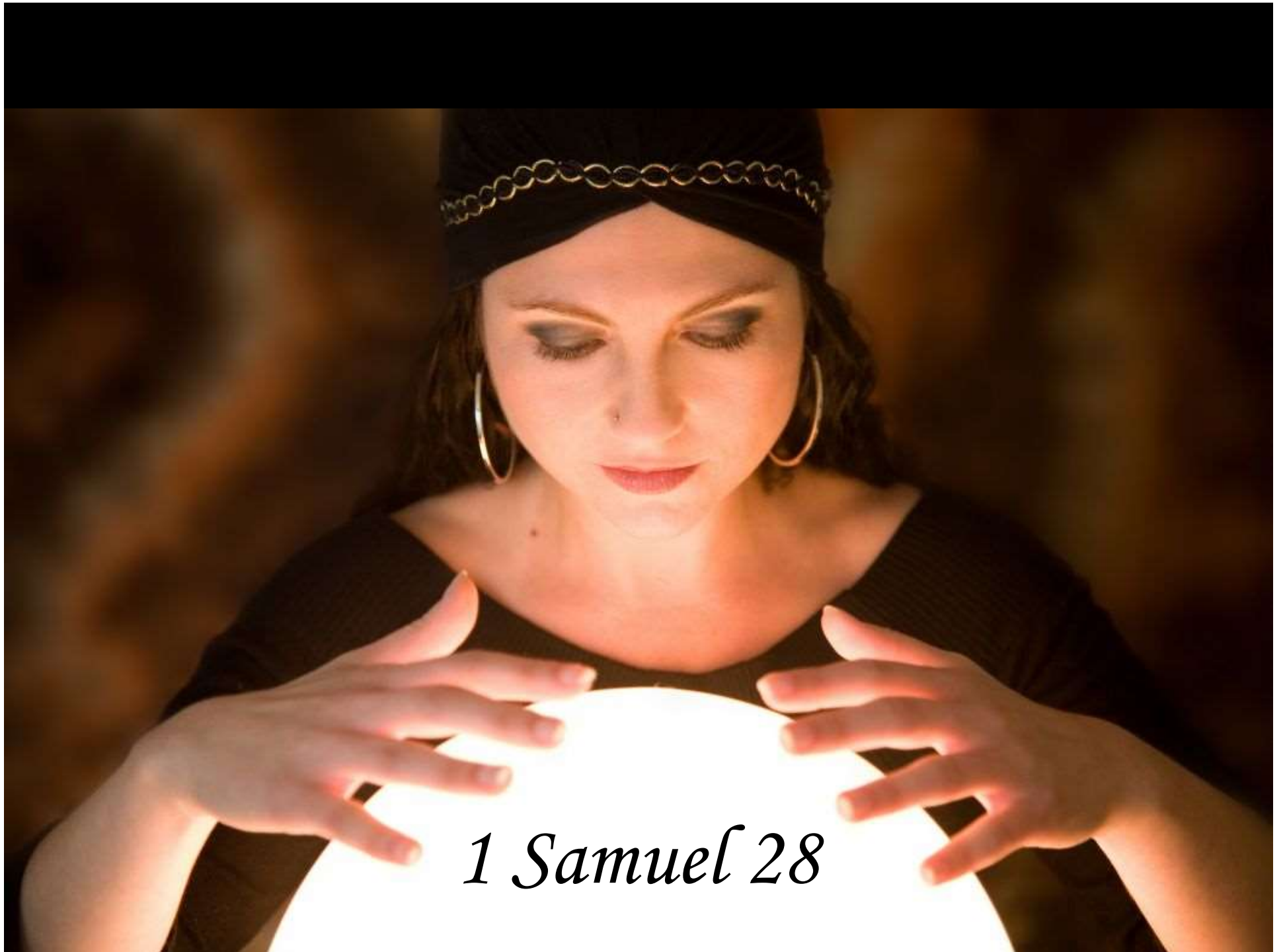
Witch of Endor

An Apostate Israelite





*Dangerous Liaisons:
The Witch at Endor's Story*



1 Samuel 28

Questions

How did the witch know that the disguised man was King Saul?

1 Sam 28:12

Did God genuinely resurrect Samuel?

If He did, does this give approval to the witch, or to witchcraft?

Does this story suggest people are conscious after death?

What does this story teach about the afterlife?

How does the witch know her visitor is King Saul?

Consider what she does know:

- King Saul is a head taller than other men **1 Sam 9:2**
(as is her visitor)
- Saul is very close by at Gilboa (5 miles, not usual 80) **1 Sam 28:4**
- King Saul has expelled the mediums from the land, so would only come in disguise **1 Sam 28:3,9**



...and what we can deduce about her

- She is still in business as a medium
⇒ She is smart enough to survive in a lethal environment

How does the witch know her visitor is King Saul?

- Her unknown (very tall) visitor has two servants *1 Sam 28:8*
- The very tall visitor requests God's prophet Samuel *1 Sam 28:11*
 - (Samuel terrified everyone; so a very unlikely request)

When [Samuel] arrived, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?" *1 Sam 16:4*

- Samuel generally accompanied King Saul
1 Sam 15; 13:8-10; 9:15-27
- SAMUEL APPEARS!

=> How can she not know?!



The Evidence of the Scream

When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out at the top of her voice

1 Sam 28:12

What does this reveal?

- Her witchcraft was in secret, so she would never normally scream
 - ⇒ She was genuinely terrified
 - ⇒ Something unexpected and shocking had happened – what?
 - ⇒ Samuel had appeared! (i.e. normally no-one did!)
- The Bible says it was Samuel (**1 Sam 28:12-20**) because it was

God can raise the dead, but the witch never could

Samuel's Last Prophecy

Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" **1 Sam 28:15**

- "to Saul" – knows God raised him b/c of Saul; witch did nothing
- "disturbed" consistent with not being conscious
- "up" is consistent with coming from the grave but inconsistent with coming from Heaven (i.e. "down")

"The Lord will hand over both Israel and you to the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me." **1 Sam 28:19**

- The faithful (Samuel) and the rejected (Saul) go to the same place – below – after death

Questions

How did the witch know that the disguised man was King Saul?

A host of clues revealed this; no supernatural power required

Did God genuinely resurrect Samuel?

Yes: her scream & record of Samuel's presence suggest this

If He did, does this give approval to the witch, or to witchcraft?

No; the Bible shows the witch wasn't involved & never expected this; her witchcraft had always been a fraud / delusion

Does this story suggest people are conscious after death?

No: Samuel's testimony implied he was not conscious

What does this story teach about the afterlife?

Both good & evil go to the same place & that place is "below"

What happened to the Witch?

Consider her spiritual peers:

1) Gentile sailors with Jonah, worshipping foreign gods

*Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the Lord and took vows. **Jon 1:16***

2) Rahab of Jericho, engaged in prostitution

*“I know that the Lord has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us...” And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father’s household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day. **Jsh 2:9, 6:25***

3) Woman of Endor, engaged in witchcraft

*When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out at the top of her voice **1 Sam 28:12***

The Witch may well have been converted





Dangerous Liaisons:

Delilah's Story

Delilah: A Danger Foretold?



Lion

A symbol of a **POWERFUL KILLER**, good or evil

> 70 refs, e.g. *Hos 5:14; 1 Pet 5:8*

<= A real danger

> 25 refs, e.g. *Dan 6*



Vineyard

A symbol of a **FERTILE WOMAN**

> 20 refs, e.g. *Is 5:1-2*

- Vineyard is where wine grows
 - Wine = Blood *Mt 26:27-28*
 - Blood = Life *Gen 9:4, Lev 17:11, Dt 12:23*
- => Vineyard is where life grows = a fertile woman

We see Samson meet a lion in a vineyard...

Samson went down to Timnah together with his father and mother. As **they** approached the **vineyards** of Timnah, suddenly a young **lion** came roaring toward **him**. **Jdg 14:5**

The lion came out of the foreign vineyard
⇒ There was danger for Samson in fertile women
The lion came only for him: it was ***his*** danger

Vineyard in the Valley of Sorek

Samson deceived Delilah 3 times
about the source of his strength

- All of Samson's lies pointed at the truth
- Delilah repeatedly revealed her treachery
- Samson's resistance to Delilah was only as strong as his weakest day



- Our resistance to temptation is only as strong as our weakest day
=> so don't dwell with 'her'



7 bowstrings



New ropes



7 hair braids

Blood Money: 1 100 Pieces of Silver



*The lords of the Philistines came up to [Delilah] and said to her, “Seduce [Samson], and see where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him... And we will **each give you 1,100 pieces of silver.**” Jdg 16:5*

Was Delilah ever paid?

Remembering Vashti

*the king was merry with wine, he commanded to bring Queen Vashti ...in order to show the peoples and the princes her beauty ...But Queen Vashti refused to come ...the king became enraged **Est 1:10-12***



*“The queen’s behavior will be made known to all women, causing them to look at their husbands with contempt... let a royal order go out from him... that Vashti is never again to come before King Ahasuerus... let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she. So when the decree by the king is proclaimed... all women will give honor to their husbands, high and low alike” **Est 1:17-20***

Vashti & Delilah

Can't remain Queen



Can't remain alive

A Cancelled Debt

Next Story:

A man confesses to his mother

*“The **1,100 pieces of silver** that were taken from you... behold, the silver is with me; I took it” ... he restored the **1,100 pieces of silver** to his mother. **Jdg 17:2-3***

Implications:

- Silver pieces were for Delilah
- Debt no longer needs paying
=> **Delilah has been killed**

*“we will each give you **1,100 pieces of silver.**”*

Jdg 16:5



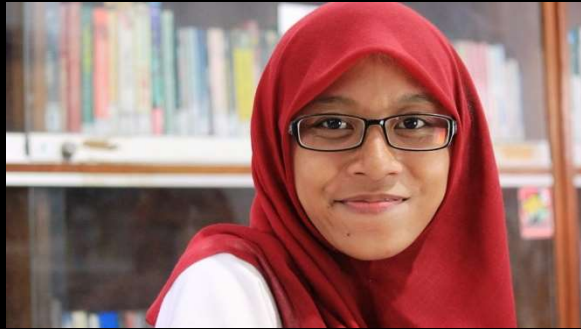
Delilah was as much a victim as Samson



Dangerous Liaisons:

Rachel's Story

Jacob Marries Two Sisters



How many years did Jacob work for Leah?

Jacob works 7 years for Rachel – gets Leah
Gets Rachel for another 7 years' work

Works 6 yrs for cattle = 20 yrs total

Leah treated as:

- a father's unwanted burden
- a husband's unwanted freebie

“Do not take your wife's sister as a rival wife” Lev 18:18

Consequences of Jacob's stubbornness for Rachel:

- **Leah is unloved** *Gen 29:30*
- **Wives/Sisters now competing**

Rachel's Story: Stolen Gods

Laban searches for the household idols which Rachel has stolen

*So Laban went into Jacob's tent and into Leah's tent... but he did not find them... and entered Rachel's. Now Rachel had taken the household gods and put them in the camel's saddle and sat on them. Laban felt all about the tent, but did not find them. And she said to her father, "Let not my lord be angry that I cannot rise before you, for the way of women is upon me." So he searched but did not find the household gods. **Gen 31:33-35***



Rachel's Moral Compass

- 1 No other  Gods
- 2 No wood/s  e idols
- 3  lasphemy
- 4 Must work  & rest
- 5 Honor  r parents
- 6 No murder 
- 7  dultery
- 8 No stealing 
- 9  es
- 10 No cheating 



Rachel is not presented as a godly woman

Rachel's Burial Place

*So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem). **Gen 35:19***

Leah's Burial Place

Cave of Machpelah

Cave holds:

Abraham & Sarah

Isaac & Rebekah

Jacob & Leah

Jacob buried Leah there

Gen 49:29-32

Affirmation as rightful wife?

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Rachel finishes outside Israel

Rachel

A Favourite Israelite Bride
Idolater, Left 'outside of Israel'?



Delilah

A Philistine
Seductress

Manipulated victim?



Witch of Endor

An Apostate Israelite
Converted from apostasy?

