

## April 18 Answers

- 1) David once again sought refuge with the Philistines. His feigned attacks on Israelite territory were so convincing that Achish invited him to join the Philistines in their final showdown with Saul. When Saul realized how **large** the Philistine army was, he panicked. He sought God's guidance and direction, but God was **silent**. Saul discovered to his dismay that "The Lord is far from the **wicked**, but he hears the prayer of the **righteous**" (Prov 15:29). In desperation, Saul sought for a **medium** who could bring Samuel up from the dead. This further **sin** showed that he was still unwilling to repent. Saul told Samuel, "**God** has turned away from me and answers me no more" (1 Sam 28:15). Yet Saul was not the victim, for Samuel made it clear that **Saul** had first turned away from God. Those who **refuse** to do what they know is right should not be surprised when God refuses to hear their cries for help. Samuel told Saul that he and his sons would soon be dead. Saul could have **repented** then, but instead he confirmed a parable Jesus told many years later: "They will not be convinced even if someone rises from the **dead**" (Luke 16:31 NIV). God **graciously** allowed Samuel to speak to Saul one last time before the end, for God is not willing that any should perish. How tragic that Saul would throw away this precious chance to humble himself before God!