

**Close Reading Questions for High School Students on
Sefer Shmuel: Perakim Chaf Aleph - Chaf Bet
by Zvi Grumet**

פרק כ"א

1. דוד engages in two acts of deception in this פרק. Identify them. In your eyes, are they ethically troubling in the same way or are they different?
2. In what way does דוד's status change in this פרק?
3. Did אחימלך know, or suspect, that דוד's arrival was suspect? Did he know about the tension between שאול and דוד?
4. Who is דואג האדומי?
5. Which part of דוד's flight to גת is most bizarre? (For a parallel account of this scene, see תהלים לד.)
6. What object connects the two scenes in this פרק?

פרק כ"ב

1. In the battle with דוד, דוד's older brothers are loyal soldiers of שאול and quite upset with דוד. What change do we see in them in the opening of this פרק?
2. What aspect of דוד's status changes when he gets to עדולם? How do you think that is going to affect שאול?
3. What kind of people join דוד? How do you think affected his stature in the eyes of the rest of the people? What are the benefits and challenges of leading a group like that?
4. Why does דוד go to מואב? Why do you think that גד הנביא makes him go back?
5. Notice that, once again, שאול has a חנית in his hand. Where else in this ספר has the חנית been featured as a weapon?
6. What aspect of שאול's emotional state becomes crystal clear in this פרק? Who is aware of it and becomes hesitant to listen to שאול as a result? Who takes advantage of שאול and tries to advance himself as a result?
7. Why did דואג האדומי wait until now to tell שאול about דוד's encounter in נוב? In what way does דואג's testimony go beyond the realms of truth?
8. The language and structure of שאול's address to אחימלך are similar to the ones he uses when earlier addressing his own people accusing them of being unfaithful to him not reporting יונתן's bond with דוד. What might the significance of that parallel be?
9. Traditionally, in נ"ך there are three sources of power (each with its own sphere of influence) that are designed to balance each other – the king, the prophet, and the כהן. What happens to that balance in this פרק in the case of דוד? In the case of שאול?
10. דוד invites אביתר הכהן (who fled the massacre in נב) to stay with him. What prompted דוד to do that?
11. What new and important ally does דוד get in this פרק?
12. Contrast שאול's treatment of עיר הכהנים with his treatment of עמלק!!