

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

פרק כ"ט

1. In this פרק we get a flashpoint of the debate between אכיש, king of גת, and the leaders of the clans of the פלשתים. Earlier we had said that it was not clear if אכיש trusted דוד or not. What can we say about that question based on this פרק?
2. דוד seems eager to join אכיש in the battle against שאול, yet when he had the opportunity, he twice refused to harm שאול. Has דוד changed his mind, or does he have some other plan? How do you know?
3. Which of the פלשתים believed that דוד could be trusted and which believed that he was plotting against them all along?
4. Assuming that דוד was plotting to turn against the פלשתים at a critical moment of the battle, why might ה' have wanted that דוד not be present in the battle?

פרק ל

1. This פרק takes away from the center of the action involving שאול. Some would argue that what happened to צקלג is a punishment for דוד's willingness to fight on the side of פלשתים (after all, he left צקלג to go far away to that battle). What evidence can you find to support or refute that claim?
2. What important religious action does דוד do in this פרק? In what way does it contrast with what שאול did in פרק כח (the incident with the אוב בעלת)?
3. Earlier, there were two incidents in which דוד had to set a moral standard for his men. What are the two places in this פרק that דוד sets a new ethical standard?
4. For the first time, דוד faces an outright uprising from his own men. How does he deal with it?
5. What well-timed political move does דוד make in this פרק?
6. The incident with שאול and the בעלת אוב has a number of features: the king wanting someone to do something that could have endangered them, a promise that no bad will come if the person follows the request, and feeding someone who hadn't eaten for a while. Notice that this פרק has the same elements. In what way is this פרק different from that prior one?

פרק ל"א

1. How was שאול killed? Did שאול act honorably or dishonorably when facing certain death?
2. What prompted the people from יבש גלעד to rescue the bodies of שאול and his sons from the indignity inflicted upon them by the פלשתים?
3. By the time שאול is killed, what is left of his kingdom? What legacy did he leave?