

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

**פרק י"ט**

1. By the opening scene of this פרק, what has changed in the way שאול wants to dispose of דוד?
2. In what ways is this story similar to the story of יעקב רחל ולבן?
3. What kind of plot does יונתן devise to warn דוד? What actions does יונתן take beyond trying to warn דוד?
4. Twice in this פרק the life of דוד is saved by a "double agent." Who is the double agent in each case? What is different in the means they use to save דוד? What do they have in common?
5. Even after שאול is anointed as king, שמואל plays a very active role. This פרק contains the only encounter between דוד and שמואל after דוד was anointed by שמואל. Notice how different שמואל's behavior vis-à-vis דוד was from his behavior with שאול.
6. The phrase להגם שאול בנביאים? Is used in contemporary Hebrew to mean, 'What, all of a sudden you're such a big-shot?!' Aside from here, it is used earlier in פרק י. What is the difference between the two scenes of שאול having נבואה?
7. Both in the previous פרק and in this one we find someone from the royal family "losing" their royal clothes. What does that symbolize? What is the difference between the one in this פרק and the one in פרק יח? Where did we earlier find that שאול was no longer wearing his royal clothes?
8. We hear in this פרק about someone who sends מלאכים and about how a goat is used for purposes of deception. What story in ספר בראשית uses similar images?

**פרק כ**

1. Why would יונתן deny that his father had bad intentions toward דוד when שאול's intentions became evidently apparent in the opening of the previous פרק?
2. At the beginning of this פרק, there is an extended conversation between דוד and יונתן. What is each trying to say to the other?
3. What is the difference between what דוד suggests they do (פסוק ה-ח) and what יונתן suggests (פסוק יח-כג)? What does יונתן eventually do?
4. What secret code did יונתן devise to communicate with דוד whether it was safe or not? Why was there a need for the code? Was it an arbitrary code or was there some logic to it? (Notice that this is not the first time יונתן uses a secret sign!)
5. If דוד and יונתן speak after the secret message was sent, what was the value of the secret message?!
6. From שאול's comment to יונתן, what is clear about שאול's understanding of the relationship between דוד and יונתן?