

Closing the loop: 1 Samuel 28:3-25

By [wisdom] kings reign and rulers make laws that
are just; (NIV Proverbs 8:15)



Fools despise instruction

**Here lies our sovereign lord the king,
Whose word no man relies on;
He never says a foolish thing,
Nor ever does a wise one**

Attributed to the satirist John Wilmot, 2nd Earl of Rochester. Written on the Bedchamber Door of Charles II, as quoted in *The Book of Days : A Miscellany of Popular Antiquities* (1832) by Robert Chambers, Vol. II, "July 26", p. 126

Fools despise instruction



**It seemed like a good idea...
at the time!**

The law of unintended consequences

Fools despise instruction

Proverbs 2:1-5

turning your ear to wisdom ... then you will
understand the fear of the LORD and find the
knowledge of God

If a man loudly blesses his neighbour early in the
morning, it will be taken as a curse.

(NIV Prov 27:14)

Like Macbeth or King Lear, Saul is his own worst
enemy

Closing the loop—Samuel is dead!

A list of mistakes

- Ignoring the words of Samuel (chapter 13)

- A foolish curse (14:24)

- Ignoring the words of Samuel again (chapter 13)

- Repeatedly trying to kill (loyal) David

- Murdering the priests of Nob (chapter 22)

Having rejected the words of the LORD, Saul is now desperate. He enquired of the LORD, but the LORD did not answer him by dreams or Urim or prophets.

(NIV 1 Sam 28:6)

Closing the loop—The seance

The ultimate foolishness. (Leviticus 20:27)

Yet it works! But Samuel has only one thing to add

The LORD will hand over both Israel and you to the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The LORD will also hand over the army of Israel to the Philistines.”

(NIV 1 Sam 28:19)

Saul's reign is ended and he has no one to blame but himself

Closing the loop—The mistakes to avoid

1. Too often Saul reacted without thinking
(Proverbs 29:20)
2. Self obsesssion led Saul to assume he knows best
3. Saul knew God's word, but did not *do* it
Intead he twisted it to his own purpose
(2 Peter 3:16,17)

Closing the loop—The conclusion

We need a wise king (Isaiah 52:13),

Not Saul, or even David, but **Jesus!**

Proverbs 1:20-33

For the waywardness of the simple will kill them,
and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but
whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at
ease, without fear of harm