

## Chapter Nine

### Saul and the "Witch" of Endor: A Classic Study in Spirit Mediumship

*Although spirit mediums have been around for a long time, in recent years there has been a tremendous revival of interest and participation in such occult activity. Are the phenomena allegedly produced by mediums all a product of fraud, or auto-hypnosis, or extra-sensory perception, or dissociation of personality, or Satanic forces? Or are they produced by disembodied spirits, employing mediums as channels? An analysis of King Saul's consultation with a spirit medium sheds considerable light on this question.*

In Bible times those who attempted to know secret, hidden things unknowable by ordinary means, and things not revealed by God, sometimes consulted with those who claimed to be able to communicate with the spirits of the dead. People who made such claims were known variously as mediums, spiritists, wizards, necromancers, or those who had a familiar spirit. The references to these persons and their activities all come from the Old Testament, with one possible exception, as noted later. There are twelve such references in the Old Testament, as follows:

Leviticus 19:31 -- "Do not turn to *mediums* or *spiritists*; do not seek them out to be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God."

Leviticus 20:6 -- "As for the person who turns to *mediums* and to *spiritists*, to play the harlot after them, I will also set My face against that person and will cut him off from among his people."

Leviticus 20:27 -- "Now a man or a woman who is a *medium* or a *spiritist* shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones, their bloodguiltiness is upon them."

Deuteronomy 18:9-12 -- "When you enter the land which the Lord your God gives you, you shall not learn to imitate the detestable things of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one