

Before proceeding to our focus passage, we should take note of some of the terms pertinent to spirit mediumship, some of which will be employed in this paper. The following definitions are quoted from the glossary of terms in Edgar B. Mitchell's book *Psychic Exploration* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1974):

*Spiritualism* -- A religious movement with doctrines and practices based on the belief that survival of death is a reality and that communication between the living and the deceased occurs, usually via mediumship.

*Medium* -- A sensitive who apparently perceives and communicates with discarnates, or who acts as a channel for discarnates to communicate through direct voice. A *mental* medium receives messages from the deceased and transmits them to the living. A *physical* medium can, in addition, produce physical effects such as levitation and materialization.

*Sensitive* -- A person who is psychic -- that is, is often able to induce psychic experiences at will.

*Psychic* -- (1) A synonym for sensitive. (2) Describing paranormal events and abilities that cannot be explained in terms of established physical principles.

*Discarnate* -- Disembodied. Used in mediumistic communications to refer to a soul, intelligence, or personality of a deceased person.

In 1 Samuel 28:3-25 we find an actual instance of a person consulting a spirit medium, and an insight into what actually transpires during such consultation. Our intention in this paper is to carefully and patiently work our way through the passage, seeking to understand its meaning and to draw pertinent implications for the practice of spirit mediumship today.