

**A Detailed Analysis of I Samuel 28:3-25,  
with Particular Reference to the  
Modus Operandi of Spirit Mediumship**

*Verse 3* -- "Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him and buried him in Ramah his own city. And Saul had removed from the land those who were mediums and spiritists."

Samuel was dead! It is important to establish this fact at the outset, and to point up its implications. Just as Charles Dickens in his short story *A Christmas Carol* takes pains to establish the death of Jacob Marley, so we must be clear about Samuel's death. Dickens writes, "There is no doubt that Marley was dead. This must be distinctly understood, or nothing wonderful can come of the story I am going to relate."

Samuel was dead. His body was buried in Ramah; his disembodied self was in the presence of the Lord in the third heaven. This fact must be seen against the background of the biblical teaching concerning the intermediate state. The intermediate state is that state or condition of persons following physical death until their resurrection and judgment. Persons in the intermediate state are either in the place or realm to which disembodied unrighteous persons go or in that one to which disembodied righteous persons go. Samuel, then, was in the place or realm to which the disembodied righteous go, which is called by various names in Scripture, including heaven, paradise (a Persian loan-word meaning a park or garden, reminiscent of the beautiful, unspoiled Garden of Eden), the Father's house, Abraham's bosom, and the highest heaven.

We also learn from this verse that Saul had removed all mediums and spiritists from the land of Israel. This must mean that he had outlawed them, or chased them out, or had killed them.

*Verses 4-5* -- "So the Philistines gathered together and came and camped in Shunem; and Saul gathered all Israel together and they camped at Gilboa. When Saul saw the camp of the Philistines, he was afraid and his heart trembled greatly."

Back in verse 1 we learn that the Philistines had gathered their forces to fight against Israel. Saul then gathered the army of Israel to defend against the Philistines, and had camped by Mount Gilboa, a hill some