

Surprise that the spirit apparition looked like *Samuel*? But Saul had specifically asked to contact Samuel.

(2) If she cried out with a loud voice of surprise, did she do so because this time an apparition had appeared, when usually nothing happened? Perhaps, although the rest of the passage does not support this.

(3) Did she cry out with a loud voice of *terror* at the sight of the apparition? Perhaps, although the rest of the account does not appear to show her as terrified, but rather shows *Saul* terrified (verse 21).

(4) Did she cry out with a loud voice every time she went into a trance and made contact with a spirit entity? Was this a part of her regular routine? The text does not tell us.

In any case, coming (momentarily) out of her trance state, the medium asked Saul why he came to her disguised. Had he come to get a spirit message from her and *then* kill her?

*Verse 13* -- "And the king said to her, 'Do not be afraid; but what do you see?' And the woman said to Saul, 'I see a divine being coming up out of the earth.'"

Saul assured her that he would not harm her, and asked her to go back into the trance and tell him what she saw. Here is a clear indication of one important aspect of mediumship, at least of the mental variety. This medium did not produce *physical* manifestations which Saul could see. Rather, he was totally dependent on the medium for what she claimed to be able to see while in the trance state, and totally dependent on her for what she told him she was seeing.

The medium told Saul that she saw a "divine being" or a "god" coming up out of the earth. Two questions immediately arise: (1) Why did she use the word "god" or "divine being" to describe the spirit apparition? (2) Why did she describe the apparition as coming up out of the earth?

The answer to the first question is rather simple. Saul had asked the medium to contact Samuel, who had been the last Judge of Israel before the kinship had been established. The Judges of Israel stood in the place of God, judged for God, and held the divine power of life and death over