

the people they judged. Because of these great powers and their lofty position and responsibilities, God Himself in Psalm 82 called these human judges "gods." The medium called the spirit apparition of Samuel a "god" and did so quite appropriately.

The answer to the second question is simpler still. The medium envisioned the spirit apparition as coming *up* out of the earth because the common folk belief was doubtless that when persons' bodies were buried in the ground, their spirits also went down into the ground with them. (Think of the present-day folk belief in spirits arising out of cemetery graves partly shrouded in mist on dark nights!) Therefore, when called on by a medium, these spirits came *up*, out of the ground.

*Verse 14* -- "And he said to her, 'What is his form?' And she said, 'An old man is coming up, and he is wrapped with a robe.' And Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground and did homage."

Notice, Saul saw *nothing*. He asked the medium, "What is his form"? "What does he look like?" Whatever information he hoped to get through the medium, he was totally dependent on her for it.

Notice her answer, and what there is in it that is definite and concrete and unambiguous, as far as the identification of her spirit guide. She mentioned three identifying marks: (1) the spirit is a man; (2) the spirit is old; and (3) the spirit is wrapped in a robe. And notice that Saul's response to the mention of these identifying marks was definite and unambiguous: "And Saul knew it was Samuel."

Here we must ask a very forthright, point-blank question: *How* did Saul *know* that the spirit apparition whom the medium said she was seeing was the spirit of *Samuel*? After all, Saul could see nothing; he could "see" only what the medium told him she saw. As we analyze this situation, we should note two features which characterize all consultations of spirit mediums, including those of the present day:

(1) The person who comes to consult the medium believes, at least to some extent, in mediumship itself; i.e., that the medium can, at least sometimes, contact the spirits of persons who have died, and can receive