

indicating that the person Samuel himself was speaking here. But we definitely know that this was not the case, for at least three important reasons:

(1) Samuel was with the Lord in the third heaven. Although he was in the disembodied, intermediate state, he was not available to be "brought up" by a spirit medium to give messages to people who came to consult her.

(2) Consultation of spirit mediums was expressly forbidden by the Lord upon pain of death. The Lord would never have sent or permitted Samuel to come to earth to be involved in that which He expressly condemned (especially since God Himself had refused to answer Saul in any of the ways by which He revealed His will to human beings, and Saul was attempting to obtain knowledge of the future by a forbidden means). And Samuel, a righteous man, would never have participated in that which God had forbidden.

(3) It is important to remember that it was not Samuel who was giving the message to Saul, but the medium. Just as Saul saw nothing but that which the medium described, so he heard nothing but that which the medium told him. And in view of the first two reasons above, we can affirm that whatever and whoever the spirit medium saw and heard, it was not Samuel, the last great Judge of Israel, the earliest of the great prophets of Israel, the anointer of King Saul and King David, the hero of faith mentioned in Hebrews 11.

But now we must ask, if it was not Saul speaking through the medium's vocal chords, who was it? It seems that there are only two possibilities:

(1) the medium was speaking for herself, perhaps changing her voice to sound like a man; or (2) a demonic spirit was speaking through her, controlling her and using her voice like an instrument.

Notice also the spirit's first words: "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" The spirit came "up"; the medium had power to "disturb" and "bring up" this spirit. Once again this shows that it was not Samuel, even though Saul believed that it was Samuel. The medium certainly had no power over Samuel to bring him from heaven. And again note that the medium never called the spirit apparition "Samuel."

No doubt someone will object: "That may all be true, but in verse 12 it