

actually *says* 'When the woman saw Samuel.' Doesn't that *prove* it was Samuel's spirit who appears to her?"

Again the answer is no. We must remember that the medium was asked to "bring up Samuel." She went into an altered state of consciousness, in which she was able to see things which Saul was unable to see; and in that altered state she "saw" Samuel. This must mean that she saw Samuel in her imagination, or in a vision, or in her memory, or in her "mind's eye," or in some other way that mediums "see" spirits. If a spirit was locally present and was enabling her to see it, that spirit was definitely *not* the spirit of Samuel, although it could have been a demonic spirit impersonating Samuel and taking the name Samuel. In fact, this is what happened, since the spirit apparition is called Samuel.

Saul tells the spirit allegedly speaking through the medium why he has come to consult it. He wishes to know what to do in his distress!

*Verses 16-18* -- "And Samuel [not Samuel the prophet, but Samuel the spirit apparition] said, 'Why then do you ask me, since the Lord has departed from you and has become your adversary? And the Lord has done accordingly as He spoke through me; for the Lord has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, to David. As you did not obey the Lord and did not execute His fierce wrath on Amalek, so the Lord has done this thing to you this day.'"

Notice the first part of the spirit's message: it is all history, and is all well known to any Israelite. There is nothing here that the medium herself did not know.

*Verse 19* -- "Moreover the Lord will also give over Israel along with you into the hands of the Philistines, therefore tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. Indeed the Lord will give over the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines!"

Here in the second part of the spirit's message we are no longer speaking of the past but of the future. The spirit makes a prediction containing four items, each of which is capable of being checked as to its fulfillment. These four items are:

(1) Israel's arms' will be defeated by the Philistine army.