

- (2) Israel will again become subject to Philistia.
- (3) Saul will fall into the hands of the Philistines.
- (4) Saul and his sons will be dead the next day.

Now we must ask a pointed question: Are these four items of prediction of such a nature that they could be known only by supernatural means, or could they be known or guessed at by natural means?

What about the *first item*: that the army of Israel will be defeated by the Philistine army? Could the medium have predicted this by normal means? Two comments may be made:

(1) in verse 5 Saul's heart trembled greatly when he saw the camp of the Philistines. If the Philistine army was much larger and better equipped and had higher morale than the army of Israel, then we can appreciate Saul's fear. The medium probably knew of the strength of the Philistine army also (especially since they were encamped only a few miles away, at the southwestern foot of the Hill of Moreh).

(2) In verse 15 Saul admitted that God had departed from him and would not answer him when he inquired of Him. Thus the medium knew that God was Saul's adversary and would not help him in the difficult battle ahead.

From these two items the medium could have predicted (though not with certainty) the defeat of the Israeli army, using only normal, natural reasoning.

What about the *second item*: that Israel will again become subject to Philistia? Could the medium have predicted this by natural means? To this we must reply that if Israel's army was defeated, then it would follow as a certainty that Israel would become subject to Philistia, just as it had a number of times before. Thus, given the fulfillment of the first prediction, this second one was fairly easy to make by natural means.

What about the *third item*: that Saul will fall into the hands of the Philistines? Could the medium have predicted this by natural means?

An important point to consider in this connection is that Saul, with rare exception, always led his army into battle, and frequently planned and