

directed the course of the battle personally (instances in which this occurred may be found in 1 Samuel 12:11; 14:17; 14:46-47; 15:5; 17:13; 18:6 and 24:1; 1 Samuel 19:8 may be an exception). If the army of Israel was defeated, all of them (except for those who deserted or fled) would either be killed or taken captive. Thus, unless Saul deserted as commander in chief or fled, it was certain that he would fall into the hands of the Philistines if the army of Israel was defeated in battle. Thus this item could have been predicted by natural means.

But what about the *fourth item*: that Saul and his sons will be dead the next day? Could the medium have predicted this by normal, natural means?

It would of course not have been difficult for the medium to predict that Saul and his sons would *die*. Eventually that would happen to all human beings in the Old Testament period (unless they were translated like Enoch and Elijah)! But to predict that Saul and his sons would all die on the same day, and that day would be the *next day* -- could the medium have done that by natural means? Or is a supernatural explanation necessary?

If the medium knew from Saul or his servants that the battle was (at least to all appearances) going to be *the next day*, then this part of the prediction was not too difficult to make. Of course, if the battle was not lost on the *first* day, but continued with a series of attacks, retreats, regroupings, etc., then this part of the prediction would not have been confirmed. Or if only *Saul* and not his son was killed, this part of the prediction would not have been fulfilled. Or if Saul and only *some* of his sons were killed, this part would not have been verified. Since the prediction appears to imply that Saul and all of his sons would be dead the next day (even though verse 19 does not specifically say "all").

At this juncture an observation would seem to be called for. Even if the prediction was off by a day or two, or by a son or two, the medium could still have claimed a high degree of accuracy, which is all that spiritists have ever claimed. When spirit mediums have at times attained a 50 or 60% degree of accuracy, this has been considered high. On the other hand, the prophets who spoke for God have been scrutinized by critics of the Bible for centuries to see if they were 100% accurate; and whenever these critics have claimed that their predictions have seemed to fall short of this high standard, skeptics, atheists and agnostics have pounced on