

such alleged failures and have held them up as evidence of the falsity of the entire Bible!

Perhaps this is because of the differing claims of levels of accuracy made by spirit mediums and the writers of Scripture. Spirit mediums have allowed for large degrees of error in the messages they have allegedly transmitted. The writers of Scripture claim that they are transmitting God's truth with no mixture of error. Spirit mediums have often been proved wrong. No one has ever proved an error in the teaching of Scripture! However, these more modest claims of accuracy by spirit mediums still allow them to claim that at least some of their messages are true, or substantially accurate.

Returning to the fourth item of the prediction in terms of what actually happened, we learn from 1 Samuel 31 and 1 Chronicles 10 that the battle between the army of the Philistines and the army of Israel was probably lost on the *first day*, that not only *Saul* but his *sons* as well were killed, and that *all* of Saul's sons who went out with him to the battle died with him, including Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua. In 2 Samuel 2:8-11 we find mention of a fourth son, Ish-bosheth, who did not die then, but ruled over much of Israel for two years after Saul's death. Why he did not go out with his father and brothers to the battle is not clear. His name – Ish-bosheth (man of shame) is strange, but we can only speculate on the change from his former name, Esh-baal (man of Baal) to this name. Thus the fourth item in the medium's prediction came to pass essentially as she had spoken it! Could the medium have done this by natural means? Or must we bring in a supernatural fact to explain the fulfillment?

In favor of the natural-means explanation, we may say the following: If the medium could, by natural means, predict that the Israeli army would be defeated, that Israel would become subject to Philistia, that Saul would fall into the hands of the Philistines, and that the battle would be joined the next day, it would not have been such a great step to the prediction that Saul and his sons would die the next day. After all, Saul would rather die than fall into the hands of the Philistines (he proved this the very next day by killing himself by falling on his sword, as recorded in 1 Samuel 31:4); and if the army were defeated, he and his sons, as the army's leaders, would probably die fighting anyway.

In favor of the supernatural explanation, we may say that the accuracy