

quickly slaughtered it; and she took flour, kneaded it, and baked unleavened bread from it. And she brought it before Saul and his servants, and they ate. Then they arose, and went away that night."

Some Observations Concerning Spirit Mediumship and the Source of Its Phenomena

Spiritualism and spirit mediumship have been in existence for a very long time. It goes back to very early Bible times. During the past 130 years it has experienced a great revival of interest and participation. Currently there are Spiritualist associations in many countries of the world. One of the largest is the Spiritualist Association of Great Britain (SAGB), with headquarters in London. There are more than 500 Spiritualist churches in the United Kingdom. In the United States there are more than 400 Spiritualist churches, including the National Spiritualist Association of Churches (200 churches), the Universal Church of the Master (125 churches), and the International Assembly of Spiritualists (80 churches). The only other country with a sizable number of spiritualists is Brazil, which is said to have a large number, but little is available in the way of statistics regarding the number of churches.

In the history of Spiritualism the one feature that characterizes alleged spiritualistic phenomena is that of *fraud*. After intentional deception and outright fraud are sifted out of the reports of spiritualistic phenomena, there appears to be very little of a substantive nature. Fraud is the *rule*, not the exception!

However, after all of the deductions for fraud, the question must still be asked: Are there some spiritualistic phenomena that look genuine, that stand in need of further explanation? If there are such phenomena, we must ask whether they are explainable on a natural basis, or whether some supernatural explanation must be sought. If there are some genuine phenomena, we must be aware of various possibilities of explanation, including the following:

(1) Could these phenomena be produced by disembodied (discarnate) spirits of deceased human beings? The answer that Scripture gives is that the disembodied selves of the unrighteous are in Hades, whereas the disembodied selves of the righteous are in heaven with the Lord. Since there are only two classes of human beings (the righteous and the