

BEREANS Bible Institute; Module III

“Ghost Stories” in the Bible”

#1. Did Saul Communicate with Samuel’s Ghost?

1 Samuel 28 tells the story of King Saul’s seeking out a medium to conjure up Samuel’s ghost, so he could get a prophecy from the dead prophet. That this was not really Samuel’s ghost, but a demonic imposter, is proven from the text itself.

A. The books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles were official government records of the events of the kings of Israel and Judah.¹ They were written from an observational perspective. (RULE #3 – “Historical Setting” requires that we consider the source and purpose for the book.

1. Saul concluded it was “Samuel” from the medium’s description, not from personal observation. Statements that “Samuel” spoke are from the King’s perspective, not to be contradicted by the king’s official “scribe.”

B. Saul specifically sought out a demon – possessed woman, to inquire of the demon.

C. The demon-possessed medium said she saw “elohim” (a god, or gods) coming out of the ground.

D. Saul conversed with the demon which spoke through the medium.

E. God would not speak through Samuel via the mouth of a demon possessed medium.

F. God would not speak to Saul, since He had already refused to answer him anymore.

G. Samuel would not participate in something forbidden by God.

H. The DEMON impersonating Samuel lied to Saul, something the real prophet would not have done. He said that *“tomorrow you and your sons will be with me.”* Saul did not die the next day because:

1. Saul had travelled more than 15 miles to go from his own camp in Gilboa to En Dor (1 Sam. 28:4). He had to return to his camp during the night.

2. The next day, the Philistines moved their entire army to Aphek, and Saul moved his entire army to Jezreel. (1 Sam. 29:1). Moving entire armies into position takes time.

3. The next day (after the moving of both armies) David departed from the Philistine army BEFORE they engaged Saul’s army (1 Sam. 29:10-11).

4. At some point the Philistines engaged Saul’s army after David left. They killed Saul after he retreated to Mt. Gilboa (1 Sam. 31:1-4).

5. Thus, there were at least two days between Saul’s encounter with Samuel’s “Ghost” and his death, perhaps more.

I. Accept all or nothing: If this passage proves Samuel was a “ghost,” then it also proves:

1. Demons have power to call up the ghosts of God’s people.

2. Ghosts can enter into living humans and speak through them. (2 ghosts in 1 body)

J. Contradicts plain teaching by Job, David & Solomon (all conduits of Divine Revelation) that the dead are asleep, are unconscious, know nothing, cannot think, and do not remember God.

¹ In the Greek Septuagint and Latin Bibles, 1 & 2 Samuel are correctly labeled 1 & 2 Kings, followed by 3 & 4 Kings (what are incorrectly called 1 & 2 Kings in our Bibles).