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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Samuel and King Saul
And
The Medium Woman of Endor.
(2013)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises
But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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Samuel and King Saul and the Medium Woman of Endor.

Topics.

- Saul goes to a medium woman at Endor.
- The woman calls up Samuel and sees a god ascending up out of the earth.
- The appearance of Samuel.
- Samuel speaks to Saul.
- Death for the faithful is a perfect place of sleep.
- Samuel tells Saul the Lord will give the Kingdom to David.
- Israel will be defeated and King Saul will be killed.

INTRODUCTION: the following gives the overall context of this story: Samuel has died and Saul had put all the mediums and the spiritualists out of the land. Later the army of the Philistines camped against Saul and he greatly feared them so he inquired of the LORD, but the LORD would not answer him so Saul seeks out a woman who was a medium at Endor (1 Sam. 28:1-6).

Saul Goes to a Medium Woman at Endor.

1 Samuel 28:7-8 ---- ⁷Then Saul said to his servants, "Seek out for me a woman who is a medium (has a familiar spirit in KJV) that I may go to her and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "Behold, there is a medium at Endor" (a woman that has a familiar spirit in KJV). ⁸And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit and bring me him up whom I shall name unto thee.

Familiar: comes from the Hebrew word (owb) and from Strong's Concordance it means necromancer (i.e., one who evokes the dead). It also carries the idea of inspiration (i.e., the inspiration of God or man's own opinion).

The spirit: in this context carries the idea of spiritual impostors and deceivers.

A familiar spirit can refer to: -

- A performer like ventriloquist who makes something appear to speak, (i.e., they speak out of their belly or seem to do so).
- A person who has the spirit of necromancy or divination and by it appears to bring up a dead person who foretells the future.
- Those with a conjuring spirit by which the dead are supposedly conjured up for the purpose of making inquiry concerning the future.

The following verses clearly show that calling up the dead or presuming to do so was expressly forbidden by the law.

- There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination, tells fortunes, interprets omens or a sorcerer, a charmer, a medium, a wizard or a necromancer (Deut. 18:10-11).
- When they say to you, "Inquire of the mediums and the necromancer who chirp and mutter," should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living? (Isaiah 8:19).

Saul tells the Woman to call Up Samuel.

1 Samuel 28:9-11 ---- ⁹The woman said to him, "Surely you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums (familiar spirits in KJV) and the necromancers (wizards in KJV) from the land. Why then are you laying a trap for my life to bring about my death?" ¹⁰But Saul swore to her by the LORD, "As the LORD lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing." ¹¹Then the woman said, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" He said, "Bring up Samuel for me."

The woman not knowing the man in front of her was King Saul was afraid because she knew Saul had cut off the mediums from the land so she asks Saul, if he was setting a trap for her. Saul tells her no punishment will come to her for doing the thing he asks. The woman still not knowing it was King Saul then asks him, who should she bring up? And Saul tells her to bring up Samuel. Saul instead of searching his own heart and recognising his own sin attempts to obtain a revelation of the future in the most ungodly way. Is it any wonder God withdrew his Spirit from Saul, here is manifested Saul's total lack of heartfelt integrity and faith toward the LORD. Instead of searching his own heart and humbling himself before God in honest repentance, he in total defiance of God seeks out a woman who earns her living from a practise that was expressly forbidden by God (Deut. 18:11).

In an attempt to gain knowledge or help when it cannot be found from the LORD Saul seeks out a woman who had the reputation amongst the people of possessing the forbidden powers and who was acting completely against God's will to conjure up from the dead Samuel who had anointed Saul to the Kingdom and had formerly been his faithful friend and counsellor. To add to Saul's great sin he was fully aware that what this woman practised was an abomination to the LORD. We know this because the following verse shows us that Saul had previously put all the mediums and the necromancers out of the land of Israel.

- Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards out of the land (1 Sam. 28:3)

The woman sees a god Ascending up Out of the Earth.

1 Samuel 28:12-14 --- ¹²When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman said to Saul, "Why have you deceived me? You are Saul." ¹³The king said to her, "Do not be afraid. what do you see?" And the woman said to Saul, "I see a god coming (ascending in KJV) up out of the earth." ¹⁴He said to her, "What is his appearance?" And she said, "An old man is coming up and he is wrapped in a robe." And Saul knew (perceived in KJV) that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground and paid homage.

When the woman saw Samuel she became aware that the man before her was King Saul and was afraid, but Saul tells her not to fear and then he asks her what she saw. The woman tells Saul that she saw a god ascending up out of the earth an old man coming up covered with a mantle. Saul not seeing the vision perceives that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground and bowed down.

NOTICE: Saul never saw Samuel he only perceived it was him.

The appearance of Samuel: the woman thought she was seeing a god coming up out of the earth appearing as an old man wrapped in a robe, she did not know it was Samuel except by the fact Saul had told her to call up Samuel. Saul did not see the appearance or apparition of the old man wrapped in a robe, but had to ask the woman what was his appearance and trust in her words. Once Saul believed the woman was seeing and talking with Samuel he bowed his face in reverence. It is possible the woman had Saul remain in another room, but it is more likely that this is a vision the woman is seeing in her mind as many clairvoyants see today or a vision outside of her mind (much like a hologram) that only she can see (these are common types of biblical visions).

Biblical Visions: can relate to a spectacle gazed at by the eyes or a movie played out in the mind. In most cases God gives the picture or vision then the prophet speaks or writes it in their own words.

Sometimes the same biblical event or experience is spoken of as an actual and real event, while at other times the same event maybe recorded as a vision (an image or mental experience within the mind). A biblical vision is always under God's control and can appear as a movie played out on the screen of the imagination of the mind (similar to a dream) or it may appear as a hologram appearing in the air that is actually seen by the eyes of the prophet or to whoever God chooses to give the vision to. The vision communicates the LORD'S will or future events to the prophet who then proceeds to tell the vision to the people, sometimes in their own words and at other times in the exact words the LORD has spoken to them in the vision.

Samuel Speaks to Saul.

1 Samuel 28:15-16 --- ¹⁵Then Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed (disquieted in KJV) me by bringing me up?" Saul answered, "I am in great distress for the Philistines are warring against me, and God has turned away from me and answers me no more either by prophets or by dreams. Therefore I have summoned you to tell me what I shall do." ¹⁶And Samuel said, "Why then do you ask me, since the LORD has turned from you and become your enemy?"

It is interesting to notice that Samuel is pictured: -

- Coming up out of the earth and not as one ascending down from heaven.
- As an old man (i.e., a whole person and not as a disembodied spirit).

This is because the Bible teaches that: -

- Those who are alive who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep because the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then those who are alive who are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so they will always be with the Lord (1 Thess. 4:15-17).

This means that all the faithful who have died are in their graves, this is referred to as sleeping in Christ because their death is only temporary, it is as though they are in a beautiful peaceful sleep until the Lord descends from heaven and the archangel taps them on the shoulder and they awake to be raised with an immortal body to eternal life and everlasting glory. Samuel's words, "Why have you disturbed (disquieted in KJV) me show that death is a place of perfect peace. The following verses give God's perspective of death for the faithful: -

- I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labours for their deeds follow them!" (Rev. 14:13).
- Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints (Psalm 116:15).

For further information see the title: "Sleeping in Christ," at the end of this document.

Samuel tells Saul the LORD will give the Kingdom to David.

1 Samuel 28:17-18 -- ¹⁷The LORD has done to you as he spoke by me, for the LORD has torn the Kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David. ¹⁸Because you did not obey the voice of the LORD and did not carry out his fierce wrath against Amalek, therefore the LORD has done this thing to you this day.

King Saul did not have a right heart attitude toward the LORD. Saul had not only disobeyed God prior to this, but the fact he has sought out a woman who practices a craft that is totally against the LORD'S ways and Saul is fully aware that it is against God's will shows that he had no integrity in his heart toward the LORD. Remember he was a king the people chose because of his outward stature in contrast to David who the LORD chose because of the integrity of his heart toward the LORD.

It is most likely Saul loved being king because of the fame, importance and riches it brought to him more than he loved the LORD. This would explain why he rose in such jealous fits of rage toward David when God and the people began to favour David more than they favoured Saul.

Israel will be Defeated and King Saul will be Killed.

1 Samuel 28:19-20 -- ¹⁹Moreover, the LORD will give Israel also with you into the hand of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons shall be with me. The LORD will give the army of Israel also into the hand of the Philistines.” ²⁰Then Saul fell at once full length on the ground filled with fear because of the words of Samuel. And there was no strength in him, for he had eaten nothing all day and all night.

Samuel's words, "Tomorrow you and your sons shall be with me" mean that Saul and his sons will be lying with the dead the very next day. Immediately Saul heard these words of Samuel he was struck with fear and fell upon the earth. It is almost certain that Saul's fear was not because he had so grossly sinned and disobeyed the LORD, but because Samuel told him he would be dead the next day. Perhaps if Saul had repented as David did over his affair with Bathsheba the LORD may have spared his life.

The Woman Makes a Meal for Saul and His Servants.

1 Samuel 28:21-25 - ²¹And the woman came to Saul, and when she saw that he was terrified she said to him, "Behold, your servant has obeyed you. I have taken my life in my hand and have listened to what you have said to me. ²²Now therefore, you also obey your servant. Let me set a morsel of bread before you; and eat, that you may have strength when you go on your way." ²³He refused and said, "I will not eat." But his servants, together with the woman, urged him, and he listened to their words. So he arose from the earth and sat on the bed. ²⁴Now the woman had a fattened calf in the house, and she quickly killed it, and she took flour and kneaded it and baked unleavened bread of it, ²⁵and she put it before Saul and his servants, and they ate. Then they rose and went away that night.

Whether it was a vision of Samuel, a familiar Spirit, Samuel himself or the spirit of Samuel that the woman saw scholars will probably debate until Jesus returns. The thing that we do know is that Samuel was not seen as a disembodied Spirit descending down from heaven. The Lord Jesus Christ had no problem raising children, Lazarus and various others from the grave who would all eventually return back to it so it is quite reasonable to think that God the Father allowed Samuel to appear in some form to the woman and used the appearance or vision to punish Saul because he had so grossly sinned and disobeyed the LORD.

God clearly teaches that we should not consult mediums, but that does not mean that God is bound by what he instructs for His own people to do. God instructs those he loves for their protection against evil, God Himself does not need to be protected from anything. He is the Alpha and Omega the Almighty Creator and source of all life. God is so wise in wisdom that He is able to use good or bad to achieve His eternal plans and purposes.

Saul had already disobeyed the LORD prior to going to the medium woman (1 Chron. 10:13). Everything that Samuel spoke was destructive to Saul and to Israel. The word of the LORD for King Saul and Israel all came to pass. In this appearance of Samuel Saul himself saw nothing that the woman saw, it was the medium woman alone who saw a god (gods in KJV) ascending up from the earth and an old man covered with a mantle.

SUMMARY: there are many speculative ways of viewing the detail of these verses that it would be unwise to be dogmatic on any of them. Whatever this mystic experience of the woman involved it is clear that God was in full in control of it since all that the woman told Saul was everything Samuel had previously told King Saul that the LORD would do and everything the woman spoke came to pass. Added to this if she was pretending it is very unlikely she would have told the King he would be defeated in battle and be killed the very next day.

Had this woman been a pretender it is almost certain she would have made up something that would have pleased the King to win his favour (and perhaps a far greater reward). Notice Saul said, "Bring me up Samuel," and the very next words are, "When the woman saw Samuel" (v12) whereas one would have expected to be given some detail as to how she performed the operation, what spells and charms she used or at least some little intimation to be given concerning what she said or did; but the profound silence of the Scripture concerning it forbids our coveting to know the depths of this evil practise (Rev. 2:24) or to have our curiosity gratified with an account of the mysteries of iniquity.

The scripture conceals sinful art so that our minds may remain simple concerning evil (Rom. 16:19). At the end of Samuel's words Saul was terrified and filled with fear, but sadly this fear was most likely motivated from the woman's words that he would be killed the next day rather than from a humble, repentant spirit and the fact he had grossly sinned against God. If people consciously and deliberately chose to deny God and what they know is right before the LORD and be deceived, it is just with God to say, "Let them be deceived."

For further information see the titles: -

- Elijah taken to heaven.
- Visions.
- Transfiguration.
- In, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Sleeping in Christ.

in Daniel chapter twelve is written, "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt (Daniel 12:2). When a person who belongs to Christ dies, the Bible says, that they have no knowledge and know nothing, they are totally unaware of it and are therefore in a perfect state of peace, this state is called sleeping in Christ and because they have no consciousness there, is no time. It is very similar to someone in a deep sleep there is no awareness of time, when the person wakes they have no idea of whether four, seven or twelve hours have passed. Likewise because there is no time in death the moment a Christian dies is the moment they are in the Kingdom of God and with the LORD, for them it is instant, even though many years may have passed by in our world's time. David died thousands of years ago, but the moment he is resurrected will be like the moment he breathed his last breath, because for him there is no awareness of time, so it is for every Christian from death to Christ is instant.

Death to the Christian is similar to a person in a coma: a person in a coma has no consciousness of time, time does not exist to them, when they wake, they often think only a day or so has gone by, when in actual fact several years may have passed yet they think they are waking up, the same day, or next day after they went to sleep. The person in the coma or in death is totally unaware of any time that they have spent in the coma or being dead. Death to those who belong to Christ is much the same as the person in the coma, the dead or those who are sleeping in Christ have absolutely no consciousness of time so for them, the moment they die, is the moment they are instantly with the Lord, even though many years may have passed during the time they have been dead (i.e., sleeping in Christ).

It is the same principal as a person who goes into hospital for an operation: the patient is given an anaesthetic and put to sleep, surgeons cut them up and take bits out, over the next few hours, yet the patient is totally unaware of it they wake up and have absolutely no idea of the time that has passed, therefore when Paul says: -

- We are of good courage, and we would rather be away (absent in the KJV) from the body and at home with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8).

It is a true statement, even though he may have spent years sleeping in Christ.

NOTE: a second reason a Christians death is called sleeping in Christ is because their death is only temporary, being asleep in Christ means everyone who dies in Christ is kept in the eternal mind and memory of God.

Jesus said: -

- Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them falls to the ground without the father knowing it and even the hairs of our head are all numbered therefore we should not fear death because we are of more value than many sparrows (Matthew 10:29-31).

The entire person, (i.e., body, spirit, mind and consciousness) remains sleeping in Christ, until the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5) when all who are asleep in the Lord are woken up at the blast of the angels trumpet and raised from the dead to everlasting glory and clothed with an eternal and immortal body.

NOTE: some people find it difficult to comprehend God raising the dead, but think of it this way: we have super computers today that have in their memories literally trillions of bits of information and at the touch of a key any one of those bits is resurrected to us on a brightly coloured screen (soon it is most likely they will simply appear in the air), then with another touch of the key it all vanishes into the super memory and is gone, until we resurrect it again.

Knowing that God has given his creation a mortal mind and finite memory to be able to build such amazing computers should make it very easy to understand how God keeps us all in His immortal mind and eternal memory waiting for the right time to touch the supernatural keyboard of heaven and raise us once again to life. Added to this very few Christians have any trouble believing God created the universe that we live in so raising the dead in comparison is not such a difficult task for such an awesome, powerful and majestic God (Heb. 11:3).

For further information see the title: -

- Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

End.