

Science, Scams, Superstitions, and Spirits

The Séance

A forbidden practice

Saul had outlawed these practices when he was under Samuel’s guidance

Is it a sting operation?

Saul’s oath

Vs. 10 But Saul swore to her by the LORD, “As the LORD lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing.

Samuel’s message

Questions

Was this even Samuel?

Can certain people summon the dead for conversation?

Where was Samuel before being brought back? How could he come back from there?

Why is God against this sort of thing, anyway?

So what?

1. Those who have physically died are still alive and conscious. They retain their earthly personality to some degree. “Their deeds follow them.”

Revelation 14:13 And 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 labors, for their deeds follow them!”

2. Occult practices, mediums, and spiritists are recognized in the Bible. They are forbidden, not because they are hoaxes, but because they promote reliance on supernatural guidance from some source other than the Lord.

Leviticus 20:6 If a person turns to mediums and necromancers, whoring after them, I will set my face against that person and will cut him off from among his people.

3. No matter how attractive it may look at the time, occult practices will not give you what you want.

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

The Supper

Saul’s last meal

A better feast awaits

Rev. 19:9 The angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”

There is life after death. Are you going to a fearful judgment or a blessed feast?

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. Are you aware of anyone who practices the occult in your life? What are they looking for that drives them in that direction?
2. How might you respond to a person who says that there is no spiritual realm at all?
3. How does this passage teach us about the reality of life after death?
4. Saul’s last meal was fit for a king, and yet his doom was imminent. How does Christ offer us a better meal, and how are you living for that meal and looking forward to it?