

1 Samuel 28:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou art Saul.

Analysis

The woman's terrified cry when she 'saw Samuel' suggests something unexpected occurred. The Hebrew 'watz'aq beqol gadol' (cried with a loud voice) indicates genuine shock. Her immediate recognition that her client is Saul implies that Samuel's actual appearance (rather than a demonic counterfeit) conveyed information she could not have anticipated. Most interpreters understand this as an exceptional divine intervention where God actually permitted Samuel's appearance, surprising even the medium accustomed to deception.

Historical Context

Scholars debate whether this was truly Samuel or a demonic impersonation. The narrative presents it as Samuel, and the prophecy proves accurate. Most Reformed interpreters see this as a unique divine act, permitting Samuel's appearance to deliver final judgment on Saul.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you understand this unusual supernatural event within the biblical narrative?
2. What does it suggest when even practitioners of deception encounter something genuine?

Interlinear Text

גַּד וְלִבְקָרָה	בְּקָרָה	שְׁמֹאֵל	לְאַתְּ	בְּאֵשׁ הָ	וְתִּתְּרַא
saw H7200	And when the woman H802	H853	Samuel H8050	she cried H2199	voice H6963
לִאמְרָה	בְּאֵשׁ הָ	אַל	שְׁאֹולָה	לִאמְרָה	לְפָה
saying H559	And when the woman H802	H413	me for thou art Saul H7586	saying H559	H4100
רְמִיתָנִי	וְאַתְּ הָ	שְׁאֹולָה			
Why hast thou deceived H7411	H859	me for thou art Saul H7586			

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