

# 1 Samuel 28:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he is covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself.

## Analysis

The identifying details, 'an old man covered with a mantle' (Hebrew: 'me'il'), connect to Samuel's characteristic prophetic garb. The mantle (me'il) was specifically associated with Samuel from when his mother made him a little robe (2:19) to when Saul tore his mantle symbolizing the torn kingdom (15:27). Saul's immediate perception that 'it was Samuel' and his prostration (Hebrew: 'wayyiqqod') indicate recognition and reverence. The king bows before the prophet he once resisted, now seeking what he previously rejected.

## Historical Context

The mantle was the characteristic garment of prophets, later associated with Elijah and Elisha. Samuel's me'il served as a recognition marker and symbol of prophetic authority throughout his career.

## Related Passages

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. What identifying marks reveal someone's true identity and calling?
2. How do we respond differently to God's messengers in desperate situations than in prosperous ones?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֹּאמֶר	לָהּ	מָה	תִּשְׁאַר	זֶה	אִישׁ	וְתִּשְׁאַר	זֶה	אִישׁ	וְתִּשְׁאַר	זֶה	אִישׁ
And he said	H0	H4100	unto her	What form	And he said	man	An old				
	H559			H8389		H559	H376	H2205			
cometh up	H1931		and he is covered	with a mantle	perceived	And Saul					H3588
	H5927		H5844	H4598	H3045	H7586					
that it was Samuel	H1931		and he stooped	with his face	to the ground	and bowed					H7812
	H8050		H6915	H639	H776						

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 15:27** (Parallel theme): And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent.

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