

Regard not them that have **familiar spirits**, neither seek after **wizards**, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God. (Leviticus 19:31)

And the soul that turneth after such as have **familiar spirits**, and after **wizards**, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people. (Leviticus 20:6)

A man also or woman that hath a **familiar spirit**, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them. (Leviticus 20:27)

There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with **familiar spirits**, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. (Deuteronomy 18:10-12) [See Exodus 22:18]

So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it; (1 Chronicles 10:13) See also: 2 Kings 21:6; 23:24 2 Chronicles 33:6 Isaiah 8:19; 19:3; 29:4

*American Dictionary of the English Language - Noah Webster 1828*

FAMIL'IAR, adjective famil'yar. [Latin familiaris, familia, family, which see.]

2. A demon or evil spirit supposed to attend at a call. But in general we say, a familiar spirit.

WIZARD, noun [from wise.] A conjurer; an enchanter; a sorcerer. Leviticus 20:27.

CONJURER, noun One who practices conjuration; one who pretends to the secret art of performing things supernatural or extraordinary, by the aid of superior powers; an impostor who pretends, by unknown means, to discover stolen goods, etc. Hence ironically, a man of shrewd conjecture; a man of sagacity.

ENCH'ANTER, noun One who enchants; a sorcerer or magician; one who has spirits or demons at his command; one who practices enchantment, or pretends to perform surprising things by the agency of demons.

SOR'CERER, [Latin sors, lot.] A conjurer; an enchanter; a magician. The Egyptian sorcerers contended with Moses.

NECROMANCER, noun [See Necromancy.] One who pretends to foretell future events by holding converse with departed spirits; a conjurer.

NECROMANCY, noun [Gr. Dead, and divination.]

1. The art of revealing future events by means of a pretended communication with the dead. This imposture is prohibited. Deuteronomy 18 2. Enchantment; conjuration.

WITCH, noun 1. A woman who by compact with the devil, practices sorcery or enchantment.

## Observations Concerning The Familiar Spirit At Endor

1. Saul was judged partly for seeking counsel (spiritual advice) of the woman who had a familiar spirit. (1 Chronicles 10:13-14) Saul's career can be described as one that was by devil. 1 Samuel 16:14
3. The dead did not reappear and speak to the living as in the encounter with the familiar spirit. Samuel was dead and buried (v. 3). Familiar spirit is introduced in the same verse that states Samuel had died. "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)
4. The familiar spirit brought about great fear and not a great faith in the Lord (vs. 4).
5. Samuel was old (signifying death, not life) and not in a glorified state like Moses and Elijah were; Matthew 17:1-4. Being dead, Samuel was no longer under the curse of the earth nor subject to age.
6. Samuel was a prophet and God said he specifically did not answer by prophets. "And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, **nor by prophets.**" (1 Samuel 28:6)
7. The Lord did not answer Saul. The Lord would not then be compelled to answer Saul through a witch who was subject to a demon (familiar spirit). God was in charge, not the devil. I Samuel 28:6
8. The Bible says that "the woman saw Samuel" (being deceived) not that it actually was Samuel.
9. God's means of communication is through his word, not through someone returning from the dead without a body. Lazarus had a body when he returned from the dead, so did Jesus.  
"And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." (Luke 16:30-31) The Bible is more power and persuasive than the dead returning.
10. The woman was deceived and did not recognize Saul (vs. 12). Likewise she may have been deceived and thought she saw Samuel. Already at work in Saul, the devil could have shown himself as Samuel. "...Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." (2 Cor. 11:14)
11. The Lord God was not descending from Heaven, but gods were coming up from the Earth. This was not of the Lord, not from Heaven. Perhaps several devils were involved in this deception. (Luke 8:30).
12. Since God had departed from Saul, this Samuel was not sent of the Lord (vs. 15).
13. No new revelation was given through the woman (vss. 17-18) but perhaps the timing of death.
14. This "Samuel" accepted worship when Saul bowed. In contrast, the devil likes worship. A good angel refused John's worship (Rev. 22:8-9). This "Samuel" was not a prophet nor a good angel.

*Lesson: Samuel did not consult and trust God's written word but sought evil spiritual advice.*