

Witch Watch

by GUNDELLA



When Israel's king consulted a witch

After the death of the Prophet Samuel, times were not good in Israel. The future was uncertain, and people lived in fear of being conquered by the Philistines.

In troubled times in our own land, people flock to palmists, card readers, astrologists and the like. The Israelites did the same thing. Then, just as now, there were those who took advantage of the situation in order to cheat people.

It became necessary for King Saul to "send out of the land all those who were known to have familiar spirits or to be wizards," to protect the people from possible fraud.

SAUL HIMSELF was a bit of a psychic. He believed in the power of divination and first met Sameel when he sought him out to find his father's donkeys.

Later, as he developed his own gifts, many thought Saul himself would be numbered among the prophets.

But now, his dreams and visions filled him. Things were going badly. The Philistines were encamped against him. He prayed in vain for guidance.

Finally, he decided to seek the help of a medium. He asked his servants to find him a woman with a familiar spirit, and they led him to the witch of Endor.

DRESSED IN disguise, Saul made the dangerous journey past the enemy camp in the dead of night. When he reached the woman and roused her out of bed, she was frightened. Not knowing it was the king himself, she thought these men were there to trap her for illegally using her powers.

When Saul finally convinced her of his sincerity, she used her occult powers to rouse Samuel from the grave.

Saul may have wished that he had not called up the prophet, for Samuel warned him from the grave, "The Lord has rent the Kingdom out of thine hand. . . and tomorrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me."

The following day, Saul's sons were slain, and Saul "took a sword and fell upon it."

This and a story of Tobias, related last week, are only two of the many interesting occult tales to be found in the Old Testament of your Bible.

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