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SPIRITISM IN 1 SAMUEL 28:12-19?

I cannot agree with any who hold that "the participants were all overcome by delusion induced by their own psychological status at that time and moment." While such delusions undoubtedly occur to a limited extent, I feel that their occurrence is far from being sufficient to account for the events described. In addition, I do not believe the Holy Spirit would have caused the story to be included in the Scripture if it were nothing but a delusion. Such an interpretation impresses me as hardly consonant with belief that the Bible is the Word of the Living God, given for our instruction and admonition.

As you point out the Pentateuch contains very strict prohibition against seeking to establish contact with deceased relatives. We can safely say that in most cases where individuals believe that they have had such contact some sort of trickery is involved, either on the part of a professional medium, or of an evil spirit that is trying to deceive. After giving strict orders that Spiritists and wizards should not be allowed in his domain, Saul himself broke the command, thus giving an illustration of the weakness of human nature. No man is perfect. All have sinned and it is only through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ that any of us can be saved. Yet the account in 1 Samuel is hardly to be properly interpreted as meaning that the woman, or a demon, impersonated Samuel. This can be shown to be wrong, by two considerations: (1) the woman was greatly surprised when Samuel appeared. What happened was evidently contrary to anything that she had expected; (2) an evil spirit would hardly rebuke Saul for his sin and point to the judgment of God. To my mind it is quite clear that the woman pretended to make some sort of hoax, perhaps expecting that an evil spirit would fool the inquirer, but that God intervened in this case by actually sending Samuel himself. The message that was given was clearly from God and this was proven both by its character involving denunciation of sin and also by its literal fulfillment. Thus the story describes a very unusual situation where God intervened in a most unusual way.