

Comment on Our Culture

Ephesians 6.11,12 “Clothe yourselves with the full armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, (*evil spirits who rule this sinful world*) against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens.” *(italics added to clarify the text)*

The Biblical warnings are against the occult, sorcery, divination, omens, soothsayers, sorcerers, casting of spells, conjuring up spirits, necromancy, false prophets, practicing (*black*) magic, and witchcraft. I.e. these are the practices against which Paul says we struggle.

There are many scriptures that indicate that spirits exist - good and bad. Most confirm Paul's admonition about our struggle, and they affirm that God is in control. Many of them were one-off occurrences which God orchestrated for certain reason(s).

Which brings us to the witch of Endor.

1 Samuel 28.9-14 “But the woman said to him, “Look, you are aware of what Saul has done; he has removed the mediums and magicians from the land! Why are you trapping me so you can put me to death?” But Saul swore an oath to her by the Lord, “As surely as the Lord lives, you will not incur guilt in this matter!” The woman replied, “Who is it that I should bring up for you?” He said, “Bring up for me Samuel.”

When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out loudly. The woman said to Saul, “Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!” The king said to her, “Don't be afraid! What have you seen?” The woman replied to Saul, “I have seen one like a god coming up from the ground!” He said to her, “What about his appearance?” She said, “An old man is coming up! He is wrapped in a robe.”

This was a one-off, non-normative act of God. A divine display of judgement rather than a haunting. The witch may have been able to delude the gullible via her act of conjuring up the dead. She trafficked in delusion and the demonic.

However she was far from self-deluded. She was well aware of the fact that Samuel's appearance in the land of the living was in spite of her deceptions not because of them. She was wholly incapable of conjuring up the ghost of the departed.