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in the God of Israel and knew how Saul was

departing from the principles of justice that

God had commanded through the prophet Samuel,

who had anointed Saul to be king. When they

stood in the presence of Samuel and his associates, and saw them praising God, they might well

have felt strongly impelled to show their one
ness with the followers of the Lord. There is

no statement that any of the messengers fell

into a trance. What is said about them does not
necessarily prove any ecstatic characteristics

of the followers of Samuel.

The only really forceful argument that can be

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drawn from either of these passages to support the idea that ecstasy was characteristic of the prophets relates exclusively to what is said about Saul. The first passage (ch.10) relates that Samuel told Saul that when he would meet the company of the prophets the Spirit of the Lord would come upon him and he would join with them and prophesy, and says that he did so. This was so contrary to people's general impression of Saul that they said, "Is Saul among the prophets?" The second instance is somewhat different. When Saul came to Samuel's home to see

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