PROPHETS AND PROPHECY

ARTICLE.

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This guide for 25 lines double-space

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1 patronize those who claimed to have relations 2 with evil spirits, sought a woman with a famil-3 iar spirit in order to learn the outcome of the imminent battle with the Philistines. The woman 5 claimed to be able to bring back the spirits of 6 the dead. Saul asked her to bring up Samuel. Verse 12 says, "And when the woman saw Samuel, 8 she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived 10 me? for thou art Saul." The context would seem 11 to make it evident that the woman, accustomed to ¹² pretending to bring up the spirits of the dead, 13 either through some fraud or because evil spirits impersonated them, was surprised and 15 terrified when Samuel actually appeared. God 16 had chosen, in this one instance, to cause Sam-17 uel's spirit to return in order to pronounce a 10 final judgment against Saul. It is a strange 19 episode, quite out of line with usual human 20 experience, but hardly such as to support the 21 description of the ecstasy of the prophets 22 guoted above.

Those describing the alleged ecstatic character of the Hebrew prophets cite the fact that on one occasion Elisha called for a minstrel before Page 93