

Ghost Stories of the Bible

Ghost stories are abundant today. Television programs seem filled with ghost stories. Some so-called “*ghost stories*” have plausible explanation, while others are only the work of pranksters, preying on the ignorant and gullible, however, there are non-fiction tales of the supernatural, with no scientific explanation whatsoever.

One magician exposed who has made it his life’s work to expose what he calls, “*fake ghosts,*” and has been able to do so in hundreds of cases. In fact, he claims that he has never failed once to prove that there is no such thing as ghosts.

Houdini, the great magician, once said, “*Never encountered a phenomenon I could not duplicate.*”

However there are some cases of what is called, “*Visible evidence of forces outside material state.*” One investigator, speaking in behalf of a committee of investigators in the realm of psychic phenomena, stated, “*After most painstaking test, I must admit these manifestations are genuine demonstrations of supernatural power, which have not been induced by suggestions, hypnotism or fraud.*”

Cold deduction of calculating unsympathetic men of science could scarily be mistaken, yet they announced, “*The laboratory has demonstrated the existence of intelligence outside the physical realm.*”

**WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE HAVE TO SAY?
WHAT ABOUT DISEMBODIES SPIRITS?**

Can there be “*spirits of departed dead*” roaming around? What does the Bible say about “*ghosts*?”

The most famous “*ghost story*” in Bible is found in 1 Samuel 28:7-12. This passage states:

“*Saul then said to his attendants, ‘Find me a woman who is a medium, - [owneth a familiar spirit - divineth by a ghost - has control of a spirit] - so I may go and inquire of her.’ ‘There is one in Endor,’ they said. So Saul disguised himself, putting on other clothes, and at night he and two men went to the woman. ‘Consult a spirit for me,’ he said, ‘and bring up for me the one I name.’ But the woman said to him, ‘Surely you know what Saul has done. He has cut off the mediums and spiritists from the land. Why have you set a trap for my life to bring about my death?’ Saul swore to her by the LORD, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, you will not be punished for this.’ Then the woman asked, ‘Whom shall I bring up for you?’ ‘Bring up Samuel,’ he said. When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out at the top of her voice and said to Saul, ‘Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!’”*

In verse 19 the *spirit* says, “*The LORD will hand over both Israel and you to the Philistines, and **tomorrow you and your sons will be with me.** The LORD will also hand over the army of Israel to the Philistines.*”

Who was speaking here? Was this Samuel or Satan impersonating Samuel? Whatever, or whoever, this was, one thing is plain, God had forbidden any attempt to contact the dead.

This cannot be dismissed as a “*hoax*,” or some brother-in-law in a bed sheet because verse 7 plainly says, “*a familiar spirit*,” and she was “*a woman that divineth by a ghost*,” or as another translation relates it, “*has control of a spirit*.” No! This is some kind of “*spirit*” from the nether world.

In 1 Corinthians 15:39-40 we read, “*All flesh is not the same: Men have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another.*”

There is a difference between plant life and animal life. There is a difference between Animal life and human life. Animal life is conscience life, but man a living soul. Man’s “*spirit*,” combined with his physical body is what makes him a “*soul*.” His *spirit* is just as material as his body, but adopted for *spirit*-world.

Just as fish are adapted for water; birds for the air; man’s flesh is adapted to the habitation to which it belongs, this world.

There are also supernatural (other than human) beings. Scripture tells us that demon spirits are “*familiar spirits*,” also called, “*seducing spirits*.”

1 Timothy 4:1 states, “*The Spirit...[the Holy Spirit]...clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.*”

God warns, “*In the last days some will give heed to seducing spirits.*”

In Matthew 12:43 Jesus says, “*Then an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it.*”

In the story of the man possessed by demons and Jesus cast them out, it says, “*And they begged him repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss. A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into them, and he gave them permission. When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside*” (Luke 8:31-34).

Demons have personalities, for Jesus conversed with them. God’s Word clearly teaches that demons can “*enter in*” to something, or someone; can “*take possession of*,” or, “*control of*” human beings, or animals, such as these swine in this incident Luke tells of.

1 Corinthians 10:20, tells us, “*some have fellowship of demons.*”

Satan is spoken of as a “*wondering spirit*,” invisible though he maybe to physical eyes. His demons can enter houses; give information through mediums; disclose past events and, to a *limited* extent, can forecast future events, as well. Satan cannot *create*. He and his demons are “*fallen angels*.”

Much of the strange phenomena can be explained when we understand the relation of the

spirit-world to the natural-world.

In the story of the walls of Jericho falling in Joshua 5:13, we read that before battle Joshua, met an angel, called, "*The Captain of Host of the Lord.*" We are told that it was the armies of the Host of Heaven that threw down those walls.

In 1 Chronicles 14:13-17 we read of God angel spirits helping out in a battle when Philistines were raiding the camps of Israel/ This passage says, "*Once more the Philistines raided the valley; so David inquired of God again, and God answered him, 'Do not go straight up, but circle around them and attack them in front of the balsam trees. As soon as you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, move out to battle, because that will mean God has gone out in front of you to strike the Philistine army.'* So David did as God commanded him, and they struck down the Philistine army, all the way from Gibeon to Gezer. So David's fame spread throughout every land, and the LORD made all the nations fear him."

Ministry of angels is seen all through Scripture. They were placed as guardians of Garden of Eden; sent to deliver Lot just before Sodom destroyed; Jacob wrestled with angel at Bethel; when Elijah was despondent under the Juniper tree, angels brought him bread and water; angels smote 185,000 Assyria soldiers in one night; and Daniel was minister to by angels in the lion's den. When Jesus was born angels were there; an angel warned Joseph to flee to Egypt, saving Mary and Jesus' life; angels ministered to Jesus after His time of fasting in the wilderness; at Gethsemane angels appeared to strengthen Jesus; angels liberated Apostles from prison; sailed with Paul and saved him from shipwreck; and Jesus said that Lazarus carried by angels to heaven.

Even though in the natural world there are certain laws, one law may counteract another law. For instance, the law of gravitation holds steel on table, but the law of magnetism can lift it from the table. Lazarus came under law of death. But a higher law - the Resurrection - came into play and raised him from the dead!

Both the "*spirit-world*" and the "*natural-world*" lie very close to each other, and sometimes can be overlapping in their laws. Supernatural "*miracles*" and not contrary to nature, it's just that a "*higher law*" comes into the situation.

When it comes to ghost stories, some are merely the work of pranksters, a hoax, however, some "*ghost stories*" are genuine spirits - demons or angels - good or bad - Godly or devilish!

Scripture teaches that when an individual dies, his "spirit" (or eternal soul) either goes to Paradise or Hades - (meaning "*the place of departed spirits*" - Paradise for the born-again believer and Hades for the unbeliever). It depends on whether one has accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior or not.

Jesus said the rich man went *immediately* to hell when he died. The New Testament teaches that the believer goes *immediately* to "*be with the Lord!*"