



Preview text...

If we were to expunge all accounts of the apparently paranormal from the pages of the Bible, we would be left with an intolerably emasculated volume. When Bibles are laid open, there are millions of surprises! In this chapter we will first look at the sort of accounts of paranormal happenings, the Bible contains. That investigation, however, will leave us with a large number of questions to answer. Did the writers intend us to take them literally or not? If they *did* intend them to be taken literally, can present day educated Western readers, believe them? And what is the attitude of the biblical writers to the paranormal powers that they tell us about?

Any exhaustive account would require a large volume to itself. We can do no more in this book than give a 'sampler'....

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We cannot, of course, use the Biblical accounts as part of a proof that paranormal phenomena occur. Standards of proof in parapsychology are very high indeed, and all normal explanations have to be examined and rejected for good reason before a paranormal explanation is considered. So accounts like those in the Bible which have a long oral history behind them, and which have been put into written form many years after the events they are describing, are of no use whatsoever in establishing paranormality. But we are not trying to *prove* that the Biblical accounts contain examples of the paranormal. We are simply saying that paranormal events *can* occur, so that the fact that an event is described in Scripture has paranormal aspects to it does not immediately and automatically prevent us from believing that it could have happened as reported.

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What does the Bible say about