

THE OCCULT

James O. Eikenberry, March 8, 1991

(All Scripture quotations are NIV unless otherwise stated.)

How many of you believe in witches? In black magic? You should. The Bible says they are real.

2 Ch. 33: 6 NASB Speaking of King Manasseh. (See below for the Hebrew words used.)

NOT EVERYTHING SUPERNATURAL IS OF GOD

The magicians of Egypt. Ex. 7: 10-12, 20-22; 8: 6-7, 16-19 RSV

The witch of Endor. 1 Sam. 28; 1 Ch 10: 13, 14 NASB

Jesus cast out demons. e. g. Mk. 5: 1-20 NASB

False prophets may perform miracles. Mt. 24: 11, 24 RSV

All this is commonly called "the occult." The Bible names and forbids the occult (the seeking or use of satanic supernatural power, that is, supernatural power other than from God.).

Deut. 18: 9-15.

קָסַם (qasam) to practice divination ¹

קָסָם (qesem) divination ¹

עָנָן (anan) to conjure up spirits, to practice magic ¹; to practice soothsaying,

witchcraft, fortunetelling, divining, or sorcery ². (a cloud reader)

נָחַשׁ (nachash) to seek and give an omen, practice divination ¹; to observe signs ²
(a fortuneteller)

כַּשָּׁף (kashaph) to practice sorcery ¹

חָבַר (chavar) Qal pt.--to charm, conjure ¹; to tie a magic knot or spell ²

חֶכֶר (chever) spell ²

→ אוֹב (ov) spirit of the dead ¹; a necromancer, medium ²

→ יִדְּעוֹנִי (yiddeoni) spirit of the dead, one who possesses such a spirit, soothsayer ¹;
familiar spirit ²

2 Ch. 33: 6 Speaking of King Manasseh.

עָנָן (anan)

נָחַשׁ (nachash)

כַּשָּׁף (kashaph)

אוֹב (ov)

יִדְּעוֹנִי (yiddeoni)

Lev. 19: 26 (See the Amplified Bible)

נָחַשׁ (nachash)

עָנָן (anan)

Lev. 19:31; 20:6, 27

אוֹב (ov)

יִדְעֹנִי (yiddeoni)

Deut. 7: 25-26 the images of false gods. See 1 Cor. 10: 19-21.

Saul went to the witch of Endor. 1 Sam. 28: 1-20; 1 Ch. 10: 13-14.

2 Ki. 17: 16-18 Israel's great sin.

קָסָם (qasam)

קֶסֶם (qesem)

נָחָשׁ (nachash)

2 Ki. 23: 24-25

אוֹב (ov)

יִדְעֹנִי (yiddeoni)

Is. 8: 19 Consulting the dead.

אוֹב (ov)

יִדְעֹנִי (yiddeoni)

Is. 47: 9-14 Astrology.

כֶּשֶׁף (kesheph) sorcery ¹

חֶכֶר (chever)

הָבַר (havar) pt.-- astrologers ¹

חֹזֶה (chozeh) a seer, originally distinguished from נָבִיא (navi), then identical. ¹

*1 Sam. 15: 23 rebellion is as קָסָם (KJV witchcraft, ESV divination)
mt. 12: 25-45 (esp. 43-45); } When a demon has gone out it can return
Lk. 11: 17-28 (esp. 24-26) } if the place is empty.
→ (2nd word on previous page)*

[Here חֹזֶה (chozeh) is used with the word "stars" meaning those who prophesy on the basis of what they see in the stars.]

Ac. 16: 16-18 Casting out a fortune telling demon.

Ac. 19: 13-20 The sons of Sceva and Christians renouncing the occult. (This is no game.) The silver coin spoken of here was worth about a day's wages.

Therefore, this amount of money equalled about the yearly wages of 160 men.

Gal. 5: 19-21

φαρμακεία (pharmakeia) Sorcery, magic, magic arts. ³

1 Tim. 4: 1

Rev. 21: 8

φαρμακεία (pharmakeia)

WHAT SHOULD A PERSON DO to be free from the curse and bondage of the occult?

Jas. 4: 7a Submit therefore to God. . . .

- 1) Turn away from all know sin and commit your life to God.
- 2) Ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart to live within you as your Lord and Savior. (Or reaffirm this if you have previously done so.) Accept that your sin is forgiven and can only be forgiven because of the sacrifice which Jesus Christ made of Himself on the cross for you. (Jn. 3: 14-18; Rm. 3: 19-26; 5: 1-2, 6-9; 6: 23; Gal. 1: 4; Eph. 1: 3-7; Col. 1: 13-22; 1 Tim. 1: 15; 1 Pe. 1: 17-19; 2: 24; 3: 18; 1 Jn. 1: 9)

Your appropriate response to God is to love God and therefore to trust and obey Jesus Christ as the Lord and Master of every part of your life. (Jn. 3: 36; Rm. 6: 1-23; Rm. 12: 1-2; 1 Cor. 6: 19-20; 2 Cor. 5: 14-15)

- 3) Specifically name and ask God's forgiveness for each individual occult thing you have been involved with in any way, even those things which you did out of ignorance or as just a game. Renounce these things as sin. Renounce them from having any part in your life. Then utterly and completely turn away from these things.

Jas. 4: 7b . . . Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

- 4) Now resist the devil. For example, give this command, "Satan, in the name of Jesus Christ, I command you and the powers of darkness to leave my life. I have renounced all occult involvement, and I have been forgiven and freed by the power of the blood of Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name I break every occult bondage in my life and I cast you out. I shut the door of my life against you and my life is sealed by the Holy Spirit of God." The devil must flee when so commanded by a child of God living in submission to God and commanding by the authority in the name of Jesus Christ.

- 5) Get rid of all occult objects. This includes such things as literature; records; games; objects like tarot cards, ouija boards, and horoscopes; occult decorations whether it be on pillows, pictures, dishes, jewelry, etc.--**Do not give these things to others.** Don't even just throw them away. Burn them or utterly destroy them so that someone else will not be able to pick them up and use them.
- 6) Do not watch or listen to occult entertainment. It is even in some children's television shows.
- 7) Have nothing to do with the occult.
- 8) Explain these matters to your children in an appropriate way and at an appropriate time. Try to avoid making the matter sensational or horribly scary. That only honors the power of the devil. Explain to your children that these things are a false religion, they do not honor the Lord, and our Lord forbids us to be involved with them. Also explain to your children that we live in a society where there are many people who live around us that do things or believe things that God teaches us are wrong. We are not to hate these people. The Lord loves them and wants to reach them. Therefore we are to love them, pray for them, and look for an opportunity to help them come to know the Lord Jesus.
- 9) As it is appropriate, be willing to make known your disapproval of occult things. Some people do not understand and think these things are just a quaint decoration or a game.

¹ William L. Holladay, A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1971)

² Robert L. Thomas, ed., New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible (Nashville, TN: Holman, 1981)--The definitions here are based upon Brown, Driver, Briggs.

³ Bauer, Arndt, Gringrich, and Danker, A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature