

The Sin of Witchcraft

Isa 8:19 **And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep** (*Heb.6850- to coo or chirp*), **and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God?** for the living to the dead? 20 To the law and to the testimony: **if they speak not according to this word, it is because *there is no light in them.*** (*Emp. Added*)

- Witchcraft is founded on ignorance and thrives on the gullible, the ignorant and the misinformed.

“The occult holds a place of fascination, curiosity and tolerance in an era in which men have become dissatisfied with the predictability and familiarity of Christianity. Neither can it be overlooked that this faith of ours disallows so much of the immorality that modern men crave and are unwilling to abandon; the occult not only allows such immorality, but often demands it.”

Witchcraft is Sin.

(See Exodus 17:8-16 for background on the following.)

1Sa 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice, *and* to hearken than the fat of rams. 23 For **rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft** (*Heb.7081- a lot; also divination [including its fee], oracle*), and stubbornness *is* as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, He hath also rejected thee from *being* king. (*Emp. Added*)

- Of course this was spoken to King Saul after disobeying the commandment of God to totally destroy Agag and the Amalekites. Casting lots for the purpose of making a living through deceitful predictions or prophecy was (*and still is*) an abomination and taking fees has remained a part of that deceptive practice even to this very day. On the other hand, under the Old Law, the casting of lots was used to help decide which of two goats would be the “scapegoat” (*Lev 16:8*) and in other cases it was used to make decisions where necessary in dividing the land (*example: Josh 18:6*). In the New Testament it was used to make the decision, between Barsabas and Matthias, as to who would take Judas’ place as one of the twelve apostles.

Act 1:23 And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. 24 And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all *men*, shew whether of these two Thou hast chosen, 25 That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. 26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot (*Gk.2819- a die [for drawing chances]*) fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Pro 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing (*Heb.4941- verdict*) thereof *is* of the LORD.

- Going to a casino to toss the dice for ill-gotten gain is sin because it’s gambling. It isn’t God who makes the verdict as to whether or not a person wins the jackpot; it’s Satan. Win or lose, he’s the one who the gambler allows to control each outcome and just

because a gambler is winning is no reason to thank God for it. God is not impressed even if the gambler gives it all to charity. "Casting lots" is an action that is neutral in nature but can be used in either a positive or negative way considering the context.

Psa 22:18 They part My garments among them, and cast lots upon My vesture.

Joh 19:24 They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted My raiment among them, and for My vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.

Joel 3:3 And they have cast lots for My people; and have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink.

The Penalty for Witchcraft under the Old Covenant.

Lev 20:6 And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits (*Heb.178- necromancer [ventriloquist, as from a jar]*) (*They would disguise their voice so as to make it sound authentic.*), and after wizards (*Heb.3049- conjurer [illusionist]*), to go a whoring after them, I will even **set My face against that soul**, and will **cut him off** from among his people. (*Emp. Added*)

Lev 20:27 A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, **shall surely be put to death**: they shall **stone them with stones**: their blood *shall be* upon them. (*Emp. Added*)

Deu 18:9 When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt **not** learn to do after the abominations of those nations. (*Likewise with Christians; just because we are in the world doesn't mean we are to participate in its sinful practices.*) 10 There shall not be found among you *any one* that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination (*casting lots to make it look like they are able to foretell future events*), or an observer of times (*Heb.6049- to act covertly, that is, practice magic*), or an enchanter (*Heb.5172- to prognosticate [foretell]*), or a witch (*Heb.3784- to whisper a spell, that is, to enchant or practice magic*), 11 Or a charmer (*Heb.2266- to fascinate [by means of spells]*), or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer (*ventriloquist who "seeks" to speak to the dead*). 12 For all that do these things are an **abomination** unto the LORD: and **because of these abominations** the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. 13 Thou shalt be perfect (*Heb.8549- undefiled*) with the LORD thy God. 14 For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do. (*Emp. Added*)

Deu 4:24 For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, *even* a jealous God.

- Anything and everything that we put ahead of God, He is jealous of. If we can't live righteously in order to go to Him in prayer and wait for an answer without being in such a big hurry and go to a lying heathen then we deserve no more than what Saul got for his disobedience.

1Sa 28:18 Because thou obeyedst not the voice of the LORD, nor executedst His fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore hath the LORD done this thing unto thee this day. 19

Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines: and tomorrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me (Samuel): the LORD also shall deliver the host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.

1Sa 28:3 Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And **Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards**, out of the land. 4 And the Philistines gathered themselves together, and came and pitched in Shunem: and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they pitched in Gilboa. 5 And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled. 6 And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim (*Heb.224- lights; Urim, the oracular brilliancy of the figures in the high priest's breastplate [This would be where the Israelites went to seek advice from the Levitical priests who had the "ephod" [Heb.646- a girdle; specifically the high priest's shoulder piece]]*), nor by prophets. (*Emp. Added*)

- By this time Saul had already slain eighty-five priests that wore the "linen ephod" (*1 Sam 22:14-19*) because they had unknowingly aided his enemy, David. God would not answer him through the priests or the prophets so Saul turned to the group of those who possessed "familiar spirits".

Lev 19:31 Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I *am* the LORD your God.

The Witch of Endor

1Sa 28:7 Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, *there is* a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor. 8 And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me *him* up, whom I shall name unto thee. 9 And the woman said unto him, Behold, thou knowest what Saul hath done, how he hath cut off those that have familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land: wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life, to cause me to die? 10 And Saul sware to her by the LORD, saying, As the LORD liveth, there shall no punishment happen to thee for this thing. 11 Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel. 12 And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou *art* Saul. 13 And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: for what sawest thou? And the woman said unto Saul, I saw gods ascending out of the earth. 14 And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he is covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it *was* Samuel, and he stooped with *his* face to the ground, and bowed himself.

- This woman was shocked to see someone actually come up, which proves that she couldn't do it on her own through her own deceptive practices. God wanted Saul to know the outcome of his disobedience and in the meantime expose the false practice of witchcraft by raising Samuel from his "sleep" in the Hadean realm ("*...Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up?...[vs.15]*"). This is what the modern day crystal ball readers do when performing their séances. The better ones make sure they have enough information about each situation they deal with to be able to create the illusion that they actually **can** speak to the dead. Other than that, it's pure luck.

Exo 8:18 And the magicians did so **with their enchantments** to bring forth lice, **but they could not**: so there were lice upon man, and upon beast. 19 Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said. (*Emp. Added*) (*Like the witch of Endor, they were exposed as hacks.*)

1Co 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications (*Gk.3657- companionship*) corrupt good manners.

2Ch 33:1 Manasseh *was* twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem: 2 But did *that which was* **evil** in the sight of the LORD, like unto the **abominations of the heathen**, whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel. 3 For he built again the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down, and he reared up altars for Baalim, and made groves, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them. 4 Also he built altars in the house of the LORD, whereof the LORD had said, In Jerusalem shall My name be forever. 5 And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. 6 And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he **observed times** (*Heb.6049- practice magic*), and used **enchantments** (*Heb.5172- whisper a spell*), and used **witchcraft** (*Heb.3784- to enchant*), and dealt with a **familiar spirit** (*Heb.178*), and with **wizards** (*Heb.3049- conjurer*): he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger. (*Emp. Added*)

Rom 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25 Who changed the **truth of God into a lie**, and **worshipped** and **served the creature** more than the Creator, Who is blessed forever. Amen. (*Emp. Added*)

Gal 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft (**Gk.5331 [φαρμακεία]- medication, that is, magic [Thayer: 1) the use or the administering of drugs 2) poisoning 3) sorcery, magical arts, often found in connection with idolatry and fostered by it*), hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and **such like**: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that **they which do such things** shall **not** inherit the kingdom of God. (*Emp. Added*)

- Witchcraft is specifically mentioned in the New Testament among the sins on Paul's list that many were practicing. The consequence of which is to miss Heaven.

**"From this root, we derive our English word "pharmacy." It is not the local drug store or apothecary that Paul is condemning, but the use of mind altering substances, especially to facilitate the working of dark error."*

- The woman that touched the hem of Jesus' garment couldn't be healed by the modern day medicine of that time even if it **was** legitimate. Of course Jesus didn't have to resort to the "faith healing" practices that put men like Oral Roberts and others in the limelight either. His was a genuine healing that happened instantaneously.

Luk 8:42 ... But as He went the people thronged Him. 43 And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had **spent all her living upon physicians**, neither could be

healed of any, 44 Came behind *Him*, and touched the border of His garment: and **immediately** her issue of blood stanchd. 45 And Jesus said, Who touched Me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng Thee and press *Thee*, and sayest Thou, Who touched Me? 46 And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched Me: for I perceive that virtue (*Gk.1411- force; specifically miraculous power*) is gone out of Me. 47 And when the woman **saw that she was not hid**, she came trembling, and falling down before Him, she declared unto Him **before all the people** for what cause she had touched Him, and how she was healed immediately. 48 And He said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: **thy faith hath made thee whole**; go in peace. (*Emp. Added*)

Act 8:9 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery (*Gk.3096- practice magic*), and bewitched (*Gk.1839- to astound*) the people of Samaria, **giving out** that himself was **some great one**: 10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, **This man is the great power of God**. (*Emp. Added*) (*Part of the sin of sorcery is in giving the impression that those who practice it possess "divine" power.*)

Act 12:21 And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. 22 And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man. 23 And immediately an angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

"... Simon the sorcerer ... was most certainly in the illusion business before he met Philip the evangelist in Acts 8. When he saw the apostles actually working miracles – not magic or illusion – he was convinced for they were doing what he could only accomplish by skillful deception."

Act 13:6 And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain **sorcerer**, a **false prophet**, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus (*Gk.919- son of Joshua*): 7 Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. 8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation [*Arabic for sorcerer*]) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. 9 Then Saul, (who also is called Paul [*his Roman name*],) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, 10 And said, O full of **all subtilty** and **all mischief**, **thou child of the devil**, **thou enemy of all righteousness**, wilt thou not cease to **pervert the right ways** of the Lord? 11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand. 12 Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, **believed**, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord. (*Emp. Added*)

- Modern day witches, a.k.a. wiccans, according to the Bible are no more informed than their ancestors were since there were such deceivers. They are still "full of all subtilty and all mischief", still "children of the devil", still the "enemies of all righteousness" and still "pervert the right ways of the Lord". Seeking out advice from a fortune teller is akin to **not** trusting in God's providence and would be promoting a sinful profession. Obviously there's nothing wrong with practicing the kind of magic that's found in kids games just as there is nothing wrong with playing cards or any other game that's played in fun.

Pro 17:22 A merry heart doeth good *like* a medicine (*Heb.1456- a cure*): but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

- But when money and illicit behavior are involved it then becomes sin. Someone is always taken no matter how accurate the prediction. Besides, according to the Bible, it is still sin.

"Today, most understand magic to be nothing more than harmless entertainment, "[like pulling a rabbit out of a hat, abracadabra] the hand is quicker than the eye, presto." Most know they have been tricked, but enjoy the mystery nonetheless. A few believe that humans can possess magical powers, but they are not taken seriously, nor should they be. The faith is not harmed by entertainment magic and is only insulted slightly by warped minds that believe magic is real. While some Christians have objected mightily to the popularity of the Harry Potter series of books, these works of fiction have not led children into the occult any more than Tom Clancy books have led adults into espionage."

The final judgment when all will be exposed.

Rev 21:8 But the **fearful** (*Gk.1169- faithless*), and **unbelieving**, and the **abominable**, and murderers, and whoremongers, and **sorcerers**, and **idolaters**, and **all liars**, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. (*Emp. Added*)

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

- Faithless, unbelieving, detestable, sorcerers, image worshippers and every liar (*all these describe different characteristics of witchcraft*) will end up spending an eternity in Hell! The thousand year reign is the "first resurrection" which a person participates in once God "translates them into the kingdom of His dear Son" (*Col 1:13*) thus spending an eternity in Heaven. The devil deceived Eve "through his subtilty" (*2 Cor 11:3*) which is the same method that sorcery employs in its deception. Who are you going to believe? God or Satan? The choice is yours.

#1.Have you heard?

Romans 10:14 ..."how shall they believe in Him **Whom they have not heard?**"(*Emp. Added*)

#2.Do you believe?

Heb 11:6 ..."for he that commeth to God **must believe that He is...**" (*Emp. Added*)

#3.Have you repented?

Act 3:19 ..."Repent ... be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..."(*Emp. Added*)

#4.Have you acknowledged Christ as the Son of God, Who alone can save you?

Joh 14:6 I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.

#5.Have your sins been washed away?

Act 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

1 Pet 3:21 "...baptism doth **also** now save us..." (*Emp. Added*)

#6.If you've done all these things, have you remained faithful?

Romans 6:4 "...we also should walk in newness of life."

#7. Grow

2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him
be glory both now and forever. Amen.

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