

A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE OCCULT

I. Witchcraft, divination, sorcery, enchantment, mediums, wizards, exorcism, amulets, incantation, necromancy, and astrology are condemned in the Bible as the work of Satan. Following after the above is considered a repudiation of God as a sufficient source of help and blessing.

- A. Deuteronomy 18:9-14
- B. Exodus 22:18
- C. 1 Samuel 15:23
- D. 2 Kings 21:1-15, 17:12-18
- E. Isaiah 8:16-22
- F. Jeremiah 10:2-3
- G. Ezekiel 13:1-23
- H. Acts 8:9-11, 13:6-12, 16:16-18, 19:18-20

II. Can the dead be contacted by the living?

- A. Ecclesiastes 9:5-6, 10
- B. Hebrews 9:27
- C. Luke 16:19-31
- D. 1 Samuel 28:6-14 (This is the classic example cited by those who believe the dead can be contacted through mediums. The woman in this case was frightened and cried out when Samuel appeared. She also knew at once that the man confronting her was Saul. This seems to show she was surprised by the event and knew God was doing an exceptional work.)

III. Some definitions of terms used throughout the Old and New Testaments.

- A. Divination — Has primarily a magical reference. The use of magic to determine fate by employing charms, spells or potions. Often related to the use of love charms by women and linked to adultery (2 Kings 9:22, Mal. 3:5).
- B. Witchcraft - Related to the exercise of magical arts, often including the use of drugs
- C. Enchanter - One who practices divination or an observer of omens.
- D. Sorcerer - Sometimes translated witch or witchcraft and related to the exercise of magical arts, often including the use of drugs.
- E. Charmer - From "binding" and suggests the binding of magical knots, the weaving of a spell.
- F. Necromancer - A medium, one who inquires of the dead. An attempt to consult the unseen world.

G. Amulet — From the root word "to bind" denoting objects carried by the person to ward off evil.

H. Nizard — One who has a "familiar spirit", i.e., a spirit under his control which the medium calls upon.

I. Incantation — Related to the use of magic and the "charming away" of an undesired condition.

J. Exorcism - Pronunciation of magic formulas or incantations, or the use of certain names to expel demons from a person.

K. Astrology - Art of interpreting the motions of the heavenly bodies as portents of future events.

Carl Mitchell