

Dangers of Dabbling in the Occult

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Deuteronomy 18:9-14 NIV

When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. Let no-one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practises divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD, and because of these detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. You must be blameless before the LORD your God. The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practise sorcery or divination. But as for you, the LORD your God has not permitted you to do so.

(The Living Bible Version lists the above as: Black Magic, Calling on evil spirits for aid [My note: channeling/chalices], fortune teller, serpent charmer, medium, wizard, consulting the dead)

Clarke's Commentary Notes

Verse 10. To pass through the fire] Probably in the way of consecration to Molech, or some other deity. It is not likely that their being burnt to death is here intended. See on "Le 18:21".

Divination] Mymoq Moq kosem kesamim, one who endeavours to find out futurity by auguries, using lots, &c.

Observer of times] Nnwem meonen, one who pretends to foretell future events by present occurrences, and who predicts great political or physical changes from the aspects of the planets, eclipses, motion of the clouds, &c., &c. See on "Ge 41:8".

Ge 41 Verse 8. Called for all the magicians] Mymjrx chartummim. The word here used may probably mean no more than interpreters of abstruse and difficult subjects; and especially of the Egyptian hieroglyphics, an art which is now entirely lost. It is most likely that the term is Egyptian, and consequently its etymology must remain unknown to us. If Hebrew, Mr. Parkhurst's definition may be as good as any: "jrx cheret, a pen or instrument to write or draw with, and Mt tam, to perfect or accomplish; those who were perfect in drawing their sacred, astrological, and hieroglyphical figures or characters, and who, by means of them, pretended to extraordinary feats, among which was the interpretation of dreams. They seem to have been such persons as Josephus (Ant., lib. ii., c. 9, s. 2) calls ierogrammateiv sacred scribes, or professors of sacred learning."

Wise men] hymkx chacameyha, the persons who, according to Porphyry, "addicted themselves to the worship of God and the study of wisdom, passing their whole life in the contemplation of Divine things. Contemplation of the stars, self-purification, arithmetic, and geometry, and singing hymns in honour of their gods, was their continual employment."-See Dodd. It was probably among these that Pythagoras conversed, and from whom he borrowed that modest name by which he wished his countrymen to distinguish him, viz., filosofov, a philosopher, simply, a lover of wisdom.

Enchanter] vxnm menachesh, from vxn nichesh, to view attentively; one who inspected the entrails of beasts, observed the flight of birds, &c., &c., and drew auguries thence. Some think divination by serpents is meant, which was common among the heathen.

A witch] Pvxm mechashsheph, probably those who by means of drugs, herbs, perfumes, &c., pretended to bring certain celestial influences to their aid. See the note on "Le 19:26".

Verse 11. A charmer] rbx rbx chober chaber, one who uses spells; a peculiar conjunction, as the term implies, of words, or things, tying knots, &c., for the purposes of divination. This was a custom among the heathen, as we learn from the following verse:-

Virg. Ecl. viii., ver. 77.

"Knit with three KNOTS the fillets, knit them straight;

Then say, these KNOTS to love I consecrate."

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A consulter with familiar spirits] bwa lav shoel ob, a Pythoness, one who inquires by the means of one spirit to get oracular answers from another of a superior order. See on "Le 19:31".

A wizard] ynedy yiddeoni, a wise one, a knowing one. Wizard was formerly considered as the masculine of witch, both practising divination by similar means. See on "Ex 22:13", and See "Le 19:31". [My note: Games such as Dungeons & Dragons and others encourage wizardry, spells, murderous plots, etc.]

Or a necromancer.] Mytmh la vrd doresh el hammethim, one who seeks from or inquires of the dead. Such as the witch at Endor, who professed to evoke the dead, in order to get them to disclose the secrets of the spiritual world.

Leviticus 19:26-28 NIV*

"Do not eat any meat with the blood still in it. Do not practise divination or sorcery. Do not cut the hair at the sides of your head or clip off the edges of your beard. Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves. I am the LORD.

Clarke's Commentary Notes

Verse 26. Neither shall ye use enchantment] wvxnt al lo thenachashu. Conjecture itself can do little towards a proper explanation of the terms used in this verse. sxn nachash; See note at "Ge 3:1", we translate serpent, and with very little propriety; but though the word may not signify a serpent in that place, it has that signification in others. Possibly, therefore, the superstition here prohibited may be what the Greeks called Ophiomanteia, or divination by serpents.

Nor observe times.] wnnwet alw velo teonenu, ye shall not divine by clouds, which was also a superstition much in practice among the heathens, as well as divination by the flight of birds. What these prohibitions may particularly refer to, we know not. See Clarke note on "Ge 41:8".

Verse 27. Ye shall not round the corners your heads] This and the following verse evidently refer to customs which must have existed among the Egyptians when the Israelites sojourned in Egypt; and what they were it is now difficult, even with any probability, to conjecture. Herodotus observes that the Arabs shave or cut their hair round, in honour of Bacchus, who, they say, had his hair cut in this way, lib. iii., cap. 8. He says also that the Macians, a people of Libya, cut their hair round, so as to leave a tuft on the top of the head, lib. iv., cap. 175. In this manner the Chinese cut their hair to the present day. This might have been in honour of some idol, and therefore forbidden to the Israelites.

The hair was much used in divination among the ancients, and for purposes of religious superstition among the Greeks; and particularly about the time of the giving of this law, as this is supposed to have been the era of the

Trojan war. We learn from Homer that it was customary for parents to dedicate the hair of their children to some god; which, when they came to manhood, they cut off and consecrated to the deity. Achilles, at the funeral of Patroclus, cut off his golden locks which his father had dedicated to the river god Sperchius, and threw them into the flood. [My note: This doesn't mean certain hairstyles or lengths in either men or women are forbidden; it simply means don't cut or style your hair or use pieces of hair for the purpose of idol worship or as superstitious paraphernalia.]

Activities That Are Occultic (My notes)

Astrology is Occultic because it is Superstition about Stars. Astronomy, on the other hand, is NOT Occultic since it is merely Science about Stars.

Astrology (horoscopes, etc.) seeks to obtain spiritual guidance from the stars, trying to predict one's future apart from God's methods. Bad: The curiosity for horoscopes and the like is foolish, immature, and presumptuous. Worse: The dabbling with it opens a door for demonic influence and desire for deeper forms of obtaining guidance and prediction. Worst: A preoccupation with astrology and horoscopes guarantees demonic activity and bad decisions to be made.

Fortune Telling includes Tarot Cards, other occultic card and computer games commonly sold in your average bookstores and often by toy stores, Psychic telephone hotlines, Quji boards, 8-balls, palm reading, crystal balls, etc.

Other Techniques which are definitely occultic: Hypnosis (even if posing as a so-called medical procedure), Good-Luck Charms, Channeling, Yoga, Reading the Satanic Bible, Transcendental Meditation (TM) and newer variants of the same, Extra Sensory Perception (ESP), most Subliminal Messages mixed with music or sounds of nature, Backward Masking of satanic messages into rock music by some artists, Seances, Biorythms, Belief in Crystals for guidance/prediction/luck, automatic writing, wholistic healing taught in some hospitals to their staffs, certain (not all) relaxation techniques taught in seminars, trying to dialogue with an angel(s) or invisible personalities or trying to obtain their name(s), trying to talk with a deceased loved one, Adoration/Communication with a figure or statue of Mary or a departed saint, Chanting or drawing occultic symbols (pentagrams, etc.) to conjure up contact with spirits, sacrificing animals or animal parts to contact spirits, etc.

ALL TECHNIQUES ENDEAVORING TO OBTAIN GUIDANCE AND/OR CONTACT WITH THE INVISIBLE SPIRITUAL REALM OTHER THAN SEEKING GOD THROUGH PRAYER AND THE METHODS HE HAS PRESCRIBED IN THE BIBLE ARE OCCULTIC OR BORDER ON THE SAME!