

DEMONOLOGY
Message 5

INTRO: Everything we will be covering in this message you need to get some grasp of, because in our own society we have regressed to the stage the pagans were in, in Canaan, when Israel conquered them. God's purpose for creating man was for man to glorify Him. If man would glorify Him, this would fulfill man and bring mutual satisfaction. When Lucifer became Satan and after God had created man, Satan sought man's glory through sin. Instead of fulfillment, man would have fun or enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Moses grew up in Pharaoh's palace. He had known every enjoyment of the world. But Hebrews 11:24-26 says, "By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward." It seems to me that the devil's substitute for godly fulfillment is fun, or enjoyment or pleasure. That does not mean all enjoyable things are wrong, but they must be in their rightful place. To gain fulfillment, man must live righteously. To live righteously he must know God's will and live by it. But, after man sinned and received a sin nature, living righteously became something possible only through divine help. But living in sin comes perfectly natural. No help needed. Every time we sin, we fall for Satan's method. Every time we do right, we come in line with God's will and glorify Him. Thus goes the cosmic battle.

Now, one of the death traps of demonism is the occult. This is the practice of what is called magic. As I see it, magic is the devil's substitute for miracles. Miracles are when God sets aside the laws of nature to do something in nature. Magic is when Satan or demons set aside the laws of nature to do something in nature outside of the natural. The occult always speaks of the presence of demons. Demons orchestrate the occult. As we have seen already, man had not been in existence long when occultic practices were learned and practiced. In history we find occultic practices throughout Scripture, in both Testaments, and in between. Furthermore, you can find them in every age after the New Testament was completed and prophecy tells us that the age ahead will see even more occultic practices.

With regard to the OT, Merrill Unger writes, "The wide extent of the magical arts may be comprehended from the fact that Scripture alone refers to their being practiced in Babylon (Ezek. 21:21), Assyria (2 Kings 17:17), Chaldea (Dan. 5:11), Egypt Exod. 7:11), Canaan (Deut. 18:14, 21)..." (110).

In our last message we began to look at the history of demonism in the OT. We had come to point 6, demonism from the time of Joshua to the time of King Saul. And what we want to do this morning is take a closer look at Deuteronomy 18:9-12. This is still in the time from Joshua to Saul. So, let us turn to it and read it. God instructed Israel to go into the land and remove every nation there because of the occultic practices taking place there.

5. From Joshua to Saul (1423-1000) Cont'd

a. Human sacrifices

We begin with the first abomination listed in Deuteronomy 18. God said, "There shall not be found among you *anyone* who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire,..."

One of the ancient gods that was worshipped by the pagans around Israel was Molech. He was represented by the statue of a bull. Benoit and Barger say, "The statue of Molech that the pagan people and backslidden Israelites used as an altar had its arms extended to receive its victims. A fire would be built under the bull, which turned the arms red-hot. As the idol heated, drums would be played and the people would writhe, scream, and work themselves into a frenzy. Then at the appropriate time they would bring the selected children and hand them over to the priests of Molech. The priests would take these children and lay them on the altar, where they would burn to death. That is what is meant by 'passing your children through the fire' -- human sacrifice." Now I need not tell you that this was a demonic practice resulting from doctrines of demons.

How could a nation like Israel with the laws of God and His divine warnings fall into such sin?

Well, I will not take time to give you examples of this happening today, but I would not say that some day Canadians, people from our own country, will not practice child sacrifice. When I see our own Albertan Conservative party leader walk with pride at the head of a Gay Pride Parade, we must admit more is possible than we had imagined.

And in one sense one might say that abortion is nothing but human sacrifice. The god these babies are sacrificed to is self, and the purpose is to obtain pleasure. Ray Comfort writes, "In 2001, a survey conducted by the Alan Guttmacher Institute in New York found that '13 percent of abortion patients describe themselves as born-again or evangelical Christians.' That is, of all those who actually murdered their own unborn children, nearly one in eight professed faith in Jesus Christ. That is difficult to reconcile with the fact that Christians are supposed to love God and love others as much as they love themselves." ("God Has a Wonderful Plan for Your Life: The Myth of the Modern Message).

That was written over a decade ago. One can but only conclude the numbers are higher today. And so, in whatever form you find human sacrifice, one can know of a certainty that demons are behind the practice, whether it be abortion or to the god of Molech. It is demonic.

b. Witchcraft - Divination (Fortune telling)

Let me read from our text once more for the second practice, "There shall not be found among you *anyone* who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, *or one* who practices **witchcraft**,..." What is a witchcraft? The Hebrew word is *kecem*. This is divination, as the KJV reads here as well, which is finding the answer to some question or the future by means of magic methods. You understand by magic we mean methods derived from the powers of darkness.

In the next message I will give you some examples of this. Let me briefly take you to one here. Turn to Ezekiel 21. When the king of Babylon went

on the warpath he came to a fork in the road. One led to Rabbah and the other to Jerusalem (read verse 21). The king of Babylon used divination to determine which road to take first. He shook the arrows; he consulted images and he looked in the liver. This is witchcraft. This is demonism. We will look at this again in the next message.

Now, how do psychics divine the future or answer questions? Well, there are many methods such as palm reading etc... But I must warn that not all those who claim to practice magic are true practitioners. Some may simply be guessing and do not have information about the question or the future from outside themselves. But there are those who are actually in touch with someone outside themselves, but these entities are demons. That is magic. There are plenty of OT examples of this.

We do well to be informed that these practices are not only things that happened thousands of years ago. Adolf Hitler was no stranger to such things. He was in touch with the demonic world. Today many are resorting to psychics. Benoit and Barger write, "Many celebrities employ personal psychics, but they are not alone. U.S. government agencies and police departments worldwide secretly use psychics. Our government allegedly spends millions each year on psychics who are supposedly able to tell the future" (35-36).

I remember the paper called the "Free Press Weekly". I don't think it was free, but it was weekly. And in it was a continued story of a woman who was a clairvoyant. Wikipedia says, "The term **clairvoyance**... is used to refer to the ability to gain information about an object, person, location or physical event through means other than the known human [senses](#),^{[1][2]} i.e., a form of [extra-sensory perception](#)." I believe the woman's name was Jeane Dixon, if I remember correctly. If someone had been lost in the woods, she would go into her special state and tell them where this person was and so on. If you want to know how popular this subject is today, type the word 'psychics' into your computer search

engines and you will never be able to read it all. It is occultic invasion.

Well, in our earlier passage, those who dwelt in the land of Canaan lost their right to possession of this land because they practiced these kinds of abominations.

c. Soothsaying - Astrology

Our text then goes on like this: "There shall not be found among you *anyone* who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a **soothsayer**..."

The Hebrew word here is *anan*, and comes from a root word meaning *to make appear*. The word *anan* is here translated as a soothsayer. The KJV says, 'an observer of times'. What is in view is one who can foretell the future through omans or such like.

Barger and Benoit interpret this point as speaking of the sin of astrology. In an internet article by, "How Stuff Works", it says of this practice, "Astrology is the study of the influence that distant cosmic objects, usually [stars](#) and planets, have on human lives. The position of the [sun](#), stars, moon and planets at the time of people's birth (not their conception) is said to shape their personality, affect their romantic relationships and predict their economic fortunes, among other divinations. What most people know about astrology is their "sign," which refers to one of the 12 constellations of the zodiac. This is a form of sun-sign astrology, which is the astrology upon which newspaper horoscopes are based. It is probably the simplest form, because nothing more than the date of someone's birthday is needed to generate a sun-sign horoscope. Many astrologers will tell you that this form of astrology is so simplistic that it produces very limited results. To produce a more accurate reading, astrologers check to see what sign each planet was in at the time of birth. The planets and signs combine with other elements, such as houses and angles, to

form a complex and often very specific profile of a subject's personality, life and future prospects."

Recently we were in a 'fast foods' place, I believe it was the A&W, and in their little paper was the horoscope. You can find the horoscope in most newspapers in North America. This is a very popular way to get instruction for life, but it is also a very sinful way.

Benoit and Barger talk about how a young man got involved in astrology through his apostate mother, and I quote, "Soon, his life as a professional musician seemed to evolve around occult and mystic beliefs, in particular the horoscope that a bona fide witch had drawn for him on a scroll." Then they say, "If your child watches children's shows such as The Lion King, he or she may soon be just as Eric was, hooked on astrology. In one scene during the movie, the lead character, Simba, and his father are walking through the darkness after Simba had just disobeyed his father. They look up to the stars, and his father says to Simba, 'Those are ascended kings who are willing to guide you.' From the shelves in the children's section at your public library, to the hit movies and toys today, the occult is being endorsed and promoted to our kids" (42).

These writers would warn us today about numerous shows that seem innocent and children's things that seem innocent enough, like the Smurfs. And may I warn you not to get involved even in reading the horoscopes. Don't tamper with it at all.

d. Interpreting Omens - Enchanter **

We come now to the fourth item mentioned in Deuteronomy 18. It says, "There shall not be found among you *anyone* who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, *or one* who practices witchcraft, *or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens,...*"

The Hebrew word here is 'nawchash'. The idea here seems to be one who interprets omens. Omens are events or phenomena that occur that are seen by these interpreters as telling us something about the future.

One of our folk, Danny, was working in Fox Lake. During the time he was there a little girl drowned and they searched for her a number of days before they found her body. And when they found her body, a native who worked where Danny worked said, "They found her. Now the spirits will be angry." He interpreted it a bad omen that the girls body was found, which likely he thought the spirits had taken. Danny didn't give it further thought, but the next day was the funeral and right after they had the funeral, they had a tremendously violent storm. Danny said that the native that had told him about the bad omen had likely seen his look of unbelief when he told him the spirits would be angry, because at work the next day he said, "I told you so."

e. Sorcerer - Witchcraft

We go back to our text once more. It says, "There shall not be found among you *anyone* who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, **or a sorcerer,...**"

The word translated 'sorcerer' in the NKJV, I think, is better translated as the KJV does, a witch or witchcraft. Benoit and Barger call this point 'witchcraft'.

What is a witch? It is someone with magic powers, usually a woman, and these powers are used for evil. Today there are many who are called white witches. The difference is that they use their magical powers for supposedly good things. Well, I can say that when it comes to witchcraft, once more we could call North America invaded by the occult. Several years ago as my wife and I were driving we were listening to a radio talk show and on this show they had a woman who claimed to

be a white witch. White witches claim to be good witches.

A white witch on internet addressed this question, "What is a white witch?" She said, "Well a white witch for many people is a means of distinguishing practitioners of good and evil. White witchcraft means you worship Mother Nature; the Earth, the Goddess, and the God. Witches celebrate all that the earth is and the cycles of the year, which in turn are our holidays (The Sabbats and Esbats). You tune yourself into nature and use the elements around you; the planets, the sun, moon, herbs, flowers, trees, crystals, and colours. This will all help in your spell work. The term white witch is not used by witches like me I never call myself a 'white witch' as like nature I can be both good and dark but I never use my craft for evil as whatever you send out comes back to you threefold. I practice spells, rituals and other things. That term was adopted as a way of showing people who don't understand witchcraft that you are not evil and only do good magic. The term is not really used any more. What does it mean to be a witch in today's modern society? It is great as it is only in the last 60 years that witches have been able to practice their craft out in the open. Tools and other equipment is so much more available. Finding that people are much more open to the craft and its popularity has grown so much over the last 20 years. It also means others like psychics, mediums and druids etc. are able to practice as well out in the open" (<http://www.femalefirst.co.uk/culture/White+Witches-251324.html>).

Note that she said white witches use 'good magic'. That is like saying, 'good demons'. The United States Chaplain's Manuel has a section devoted to witchcraft, according to Benoit and Barger. Why is that? Because it is viewed as a viable religion within the country. These writers tell of an event where the First Lady of the

United States at that time, Hillary Clinton had her personal medium, a Texan named Jean Houston, do a séance on the roof of the White House, in an effort to contact the deceased former First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt (52).

David Benoit says that Eric Barger defines the New Age as, and I quote, "any system of belief that tells you to look inside yourself for enlightenment, wisdom or power." Then he says, "The same can be said for witchcraft as well" (47). So these writers connect witchcraft with the New Age. They speak of the witch and author, Laurie Cabot. She was able to convince Governor Michael Dukakis to appoint her the official 'Witch of Salem.' They write, "Appearing often on shows such as '60 Minutes' and a variety of magazine programs, she has brought witchcraft into the public eye and no doubt drawn many to view it with less skepticism and more acceptance." Then they say that in a ceremony, using a pentacle as an amulet (a conduit for power) she chanted, "Earth...air...fire...and water...and the Great Spirit. I invoke the god and goddess within my body" (49).

In their book they mention that at a public school in Portland Oregon, they were not allowed to celebrate a traditional Christmas, but they were required to participate in the Winter Solstice Program (53). Well, I understand that the winter and summer solstices and equinoxes, and such days as Halloween are holidays in the witches religion.

Once more I remind you, that for such practices God gave the land of Canaan to Israel, and had Israel drive them out of the land.

f. Conjuring spells - Charmers

We move to the next point. "There shall not be found among you *anyone* who makes his son or his

daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, **or one who conjures spells,...**"

The Hebrew word is *chawbar*. The main idea of this word is to join together, bind together etc... In magic, or demonic influences it is chanting or reciting of a magic spell. Webster's 1828 dictionary says it is "to subdue or control by incantation or secret influence." And again, "To subdue by secret power, especially by that which pleases and delights the mind."

The idea of hypnosis certainly suggests itself here. Funk & Wagnall's dictionary says that hypnosis is, and I quote, "A trancelike condition that can be artificially induced, characterized by an altered consciousness, diminishing the will power and an increased responsiveness to suggestion." We visited a good pastor friend this summer and he and his wife lost a godly daughter to the devil, apparently through hypnosis.

We have all heard of snake 'charmers'. These big venomous beasts are charmed to do what the charmer wishes them to do. If you look up amulets on the internet, charms will immediately appear. May I warn you about all of this. Maybe you say, "Pastor Phil, is everything demonic?" Answer? No! There are very many godly things you can enjoy. The warning is there are many things, some that appear innocent, that are demonic and we must be alert.

Benoit and Barger connect the sin of our passage also with superstition. Funk & Wagnall's say of superstition, that it is, "A belief founded on irrational feelings, especially of fear, and marked by a trust in or reverence for charms, omens, signs, the supernatural, etc...; also, any rite or practice inspired by such belief."

Here is what Benoit and Barger say, "Charms are all about superstition. Charmers promote charms and cast spells, supposedly to bring good luck or bad. For example, baseball players wear the same

cap every day and go through the exact same series of events leading up to each game if they're on a hitting streak" end quote. I remember Wayne Gretzki tuck the side of his hockey jersey in a certain way. Benoit says he purchased in a Christian book store a 'pocket angel' an angel cut out of a penny. It came with a card that promised wonderful things (66). Sometimes trolls are used for good luck. Some think if a black cat crosses the road in front of you that is a bad sign. Some will not walk under a ladder. Some think Friday the 13th is a bad sign. Some carry a rabbit's foot in their pocket and so on. Think each superstition through carefully, and see if one is not taking advice for life from some superstition or demon rather than from God. I am not saying that you get a demon every time you do something like this, but it is possible that these things will open the door to demons for some.

g. Mediums - Consulter with familiar spirits

For our last point this morning we go to our text once more. "There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, **or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.**"

It is difficult to know whether in the phrases, "a medium, or a spritist or one who calls up the dead" are meant to be three different kinds of occultic practices or whether it speaks of one practice. Merrill Unger says the whole expression could be rendered, "He who inquires of the departed spirit that is knowing, even he who seeks unto the dead."

I am not a Hebrew scholar but even those who are find these phrases difficult. However, it may be that these three all refer to seeking information regarding the future by consulting the dead. In another message we will look at Saul and the witch at Endor. She was knowledgeable in seeking

information from the dead. This is called in Scripture, the sin of necromancy. That word simply comes from the Greek word for 'dead', nekros. As the rest of these practices, it is a demonic practice.

Now I am going to deal with these last three as referring to contacting the dead. Barger and Benoit connect séances and channeling with this sin. A séance is where several people sit in an organized session to communicate with the spirits of the dead. In an internet article on how to conduct a séance it said those involved should be ready before they start with the questions they want to ask of the dead. Then they stressed that the atmosphere had to be right and the light should not be bright and they should have the method of communication such as a glass, or a pen and paper, or an ouiga board through which the medium can communicate with the spirit. Then they stressed that once the séance starts, no one is to leave or enter the room.

They said it was important for a member of the family of the deceased person to be present if possible and if the person was long dead, to have something there that had been that person's possession. Then they said that many times it is due to worldly attractions that many spirits come to this world and also, you need magnetic energy to bring the spirit down. People coming to the séance must have an open mind. Negative vibes from unbelievers can act as a hindrance in the path of the spirit.

Usually the group sits in a circle, sometimes holding hands. Then the article said the group should start with a hymn or prayer or chant, asking the spirit to come down and communicate. Well, instructions were given on how to carry the séance out and how to end it. Warning was also given that sometimes unwanted spirits might turn up as well. And at the conclusion it said, "Communicating with the dead is no joke..." And then they said, "Also do not try this alone if you are not an expert as the consequences might be bad."

Barger and Benoit say, "Channeling is the occult (now New Age) practice of lending one's mind and body to the spirit world to be used in communicating with the dead. This same thing has transpired during séances for centuries. But in our time, the twist is that the channeler now speaks as if it is actually the deceased person or entity being contacted who is doing the speaking. It is as if the channeler's mind, body, mouth and even hands (in the case of 'automatic writing') are taken over for a time while the spirit from beyond uses it" (96).

In their book they say, and I quote, "When Shirley MacLaine released her book, *Out on a Limb*, in January of 1984, it cracked the dike in Hollywood's secretive silence concerning the New Age and occult practices. Soon star after star paraded forward to give homage to either their channeler or the spirit whom they had come to trust" (96-97).

They write of Hillary Clinton who depended for years on the guidance of a spirit claiming to be that of the deceased former First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt (101). Today, so called important people from all over America are consulting spirits. It is the same that Saul sought from the woman at Endor.

CONCL: And so, in conclusion, I stretched this message as far as I dared, and I must confess it is too brief. But I trust it is enough to show us how it was when Israel took the land of Canaan, and how close to that kind of time we are today. I trust that this brief expose will give you discernment in a lot of things we have not covered. Today we need wisdom in every direction in this subject.