

Witchcraft and Spiritualism

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. There shall not be found among you any one that

1. maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire,

Moloch, a pagan fire god called in the Old Testament an idol of the Edomites, identified with the god of the Canaanites, whose believers introduced his worship into Judah and Israel. The Moloch was revered as the God of Fire to whom innocent children were sacrificed. His image was either bronze or iron, with a hollow body, the head of a calf and extended arms. Below the hollow body was a deep fiery pit, ever ready for the sacrificial lamb.

According to ancient mythology a royal king ruled throughout the agricultural year, and in an annual offering he was sacrificed by burning to appease the gods of fertility for a bountiful crop for the coming year. Within time the custom of offering the first-born offspring of a noble citizen of a community as an annual surrogate for the sacred king became in vogue. The child substitute, who died in the rites of sacrifice, had to be invested, at least for the occasion, with divine attributes of sacred royalty liberally endowed with supernatural powers or to be an image of the incarnation of a royal king.

In the passage of time the ceremonial rites of sacrifice to the royal king was linked with one of a sin offering. It was widely practiced by the past civilizations, "To the great god, a great sacrifice, breath for breath, blood for blood, life for life". The Canaanites, along with the Phoenicians, the Assyrians, the Moabites, the Aramaeans and others recalled the debts to their gods and offered their children as burnt offerings. The essential element of the ceremony was that the flesh which had become 'sin' should be taken away, destroyed. When the sin is got rid off, it is no longer between the gods and man. Thus the ritual sacrifice of the 'sin-offering' was a means by which the stain of sin of ancient man or of his community was removed.

The child, the sacrificial lamb, dressed in a simple white robe and crowned with wreath of olive branches, was brought to the altar with due ceremony. The child was then disrobed and placed on the idol's arms. It was quite probable the child was drugged and was unaware of his circumstances. After various rituals and ceremonies were performed the head priest shoved or rolled the child into the fiery pit. During the rites of sacrifice, people danced to flutes, timbrels and the beat of the drum; they called out to their god of fire to accept their rich offering of the sacrificial lamb as it was for them the noblest sacred act for their transgressions.

Usually the first-born son was offered, since they were more valued as they were the first male of the loins. However, for a lesser sin, younger sons or daughters were offered as in the Biblical passage of Jephthah, the Gileadite. He solemnly vowed that if God will deliver the Ammorites into his hands he will sacrifice the first person that greets him in his triumphant return, "who shall meet him with tambourines and dances but his daughter, and she his only child." (Judges 11).

2. or that useth divination,

Diviners

Strong's number: 7080

Hebrew: qacam

Pronunciation: kaw-sam'

a primitive root; properly, to distribute, i.e. determine by lot or magical scroll; by implication, to divine: -- divine(-r, -ation), prudent, soothsayer, use [divination].

DIVINATION: The exact meaning of this practice is unknown. The word seems to convey the idea of obtaining an oracle (divine announcement) by means of drawing lots. Ezekiel 21:21-22 is a Biblical clue as to how divination may have been done.

3. or an observer of times,

Observer of Times

Strong's number: 6049

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Hebrew: `anan

Pronunciation: aw-nan'

a primitive root; to cover; used only as a denominative from 6051, to cloud over; figuratively, to act covertly, i.e. practise magic: --X bring, enchanter, Meonemin, observe(-r of) times, soothsayer, sorcerer.

OBSERVER OF TIMES: The meaning of this word is uncertain, as the list of words used in various translations indicates (practice soothsaying, practice spiritism, fortune-teller, enchanter, etc.). Because this word is closely related to the Hebrew word translated cloud, it may refer to the reading and interpretation of cloud patterns. Another thought is that this is an onomatopoeic word, a word that is derived from the sound of the individual performing the practice.

4. or an enchanter,

Enchanters

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ENCHANTER: Because of the similarity of this Hebrew word to the word for snake, some scholars are of the opinion that there is a connection to snake charming. Others believe that since there is a similarity of hissing sounds between enchanters as they chant and snakes, this accounts for the similarity of the words.

5. or a witch.

Witch

Strong's number: 3784

Hebrew: kashaph

Pronunciation: kaw-shaf'

a primitive root; properly, to whisper a spell, i.e. to enchant or practise magic: -sorcerer, (use) witch(-craft).

WITCH: The RSV uses SORCERER. Exodus 7:11 tells us that Pharaoh had this group among his court advisors. Nebuchadnezzar also summoned his sorcerers to recount his dream as reported in Daniel 2. These men were using natural means to promote the belief that they truly had supernatural powers and to lead the people into a superstitious, pagan way of life which turned them away from the true and living God.

6. Or a charmer,

Charmer

Strong's number: 328

Hebrew: 'at

Pronunciation: at

from an unused root perhaps meaning to move softly; (as a noun) a necromancer (from their soft incantations), (as an adverb) gently: --charmer, gently, secret, softly.

CHARMER: The Hebrew word reflects the sense of binding or casting a spell. The usual translation is enchantment which refers to the means that the charmer uses in attempting to influence people.

7. or a consulter with familiar spirits,

Familiar Spirits

Strong's number: 178

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Hebrew: 'owb

Pronunciation: obe

from the same as 1 (apparently through the idea of prattling a father's name); properly, a mumble, i.e. a water skin (from its hollow sound); hence a necromancer (ventriloquist, as from a jar): -- bottle, familiar spirit.

CONSULTER OF FAMILIAR SPIRITS: A variety of terms including medium, necromancer, ghost, and spirit of the dead, are used to describe this Hebrew term. I Samuel 28 describes a medium; a person who supposedly can make contact with the dead.

8. or a **wizard**,

Wizard

Strong's number: 3049

Hebrew: yidd'oniy

Pronunciation: yid-deh-o-nee'

from 3045; properly, a knowing one; specifically, a conjurer; (by impl) a ghost: -wizard.

WIZARD: The root of this word comes from the Hebrew word to know, and implies knowledge available only to the specially initiated and not available to the ordinary person. The wizard was one who was thought to be acquainted with the secrets of the nonmaterial or unseen world.

9. or a **necromancer**.

Necromancer

Strong's number: 1875

Hebrew: darash

Pronunciation: daw-rash'

a primitive root; properly, to tread or frequent; usually to follow (for pursuit or search); by implication, to seek or ask; specifically to worship: -ask, X at all, care for, X diligently, inquire, make inquisition, [necro-]mancer, question, require, search, seek [for, out], X surely.

Strong's number: 4191

Hebrew: muwth

Pronunciation: mooth

a primitive root: to die (literally or figuratively); causatively, to kill: --X at all, X crying, (be) dead (body, man, one), (put to, worthy of) death, destroy(-er), (cause to, be like to, must) die, kill, necro[-mancer], X must needs, slay, X surely, X very suddenly, X in [no] wise.

NECROMANCER: This is a general term given for the practice of spiritualism. The Hebrew word means seeking unto the dead and is a comprehensive term which includes all forms of attempting to make contact with departed spirits.

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. Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God. 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. The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken; (Deuteronomy 18:9-15)

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Soothsayers

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Therefore, O Lord, thou hast forsaken thy people, the house of Jacob, because they be replenished from the east, and hearken unto **soothsayers** like the Philistines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers. (2 Nephi 8:22)

O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord. Therefore thou hast forsaken thy people the house of Jacob, because they be replenished from the east, and are **soothsayers** like the Philistines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers. (Isaiah 2:5-6)

Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; (Daniel 2:27)

There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers; Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation. (Daniel 5:11-12)

Sorcerers

Strong's number: 3784
Hebrew: kashaph
Pronunciation: kaw-shaf'

a primitive root; properly, to whisper a spell, i.e. to enchant or practise magic: -sorcerer, (use) witch(-craft).

Magicians

Strong's number: 2748
Hebrew: chartom
Pronunciation: khar-tome'

from the same as 2747; a horoscopist (as drawing magical lines or circles): -magician.

And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the Lord had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent. Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the **sorcerers**: now the **magicians** of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. (Exodus 7:10-12)

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Dreamers

Strong's number: 2492
Hebrew: chalam
Pronunciation: khaw-lam'

a primitive root; properly, to bind firmly, i.e. (by implication) to be (causatively to make) plump; also (through the figurative sense of dumbness) to dream: -(cause to) dream(-er), be in good liking, recover.

And it shall come to pass, that the nation and kingdom which will not serve the same Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation will I punish, saith the Lord, with the sword, and with the famine, and with the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand. Therefore hearken not ye to your prophets, nor to your **diviners**, nor to your **dreamers**, nor to your **enchanters**, nor to your **sorcerers**, which speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon: For they prophesy a lie unto you, to remove you far from your land; and that I should drive you out, and ye should perish. (Jeremiah 27:8-10)

Swearers

Strong's number: 7650
Hebrew: shaba'
Pronunciation: shaw-bah'

a primitive root; propr. to be complete, but used only as a denominative from 7651; to seven oneself, i.e. swear (as if by repeating a declaration seven times): --adjure, charge (by an oath, with an oath), feed to the full [by mistake for 7646], take an oath, X straitly, (cause to, make to) swear.

And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the **sorcerers**, and against the adulterers, and against **false swearers**, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the Lord of hosts. For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. (Mal 3:5-6)

Fearful

Strong's number: 1169
Greek: deilos
Pronunciation: di-los'

from deos (dread); timid, i.e. (by implication) faithless: --fearful.

Whoremongers

Strong's number: 4205
Greek: pornos
Pronunciation: por'-nos

from pernemi (to sell; akin to the base of 4097); a (male) prostitute (as venal), i.e. (by analogy) a debauchee (libertine): --fornicator, whoremonger.

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But the **fearful**, and **unbelieving**, and **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. (Revelations 21:8)

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and **sorcerers**, and **whoremongers**, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. (Revelation 22:13-15)

And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the **sorcerers**, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger, and fear not me saith the Lord of hosts. (3 Nephi 11:8)

And it came to pass that there were **sorceries**, and **witchcrafts**, and **magics**; and **the power of the evil one** was wrought upon all the face of the land, even unto the fulfilling of all the words of Abinadi, and also Samuel the Lamanite. (Mormon 1:20)

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; **Adultery**, **fornication**, **uncleanness**, **lasciviousness**, **Idolatry**, **witchcraft**, **hatred**, **variance**, **emulations**, **wrath**, **strife**, **seditions**, **heresies**, **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. (Galatians 5:19-21)

Times

Strong's number: 6471

Hebrew: pa`am

Pronunciation: pah'-am

or (feminine) pa;amah {pah-am-aw'}; from 6470; a stroke, literally or figuratively (in various applications, as follow): -- anvil, corner, foot(-step), going, [hundred-]fold, X now, (this) + once, order, rank, step, + thrice, ([often-]), second, this, two) time(-s), twice, wheel.

Enchantments

Strong's number: 5172

Hebrew: nachash

Pronunciation: naw-khash'

a primitive root; properly, to hiss, i.e. whisper a (magic) spell; generally, to prognosticate: --X certainly, divine, enchanter, (use) X enchantment, learn by experience, X indeed, diligently observe.

Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem: 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. For he built again the high

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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. Also he built altars in the house of the Lord, whereof the Lord had said, In Jerusalem shall my name be for ever. And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the Lord. And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he **observed times**, and used **enchancements**, and used **witchcraft**, and dealt with a **familiar spirit**, and with **wizards**: he wrought much evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke him to anger. (2 Chronicles 33:1-6)

Witchcrafts

Strong's number: 3785

Hebrew: kesheph

Pronunciation: keh'-shef

from 3784; magic: -sorcery, witchcraft.

And I will cut off **witchcrafts** out of thy hand, and thou shalt have no more **soothsayers**: (3 Nephi 9:102)

And it came to pass that the Nephites began to repent of their iniquity, and began to cry even as had been prophesied by Samuel the prophet; for behold no man could keep that which was his own, for the thieves, and the robbers, and the murderers, and the **magic art**, and the **witchcraft** which was in the land. Thus there began to be a mourning and a lamentation in all the land, because of these things; and more especially among the people of Nephi. (Mormon 1:34-35)

And I will **cut off witchcrafts** out of thine hand; and thou shalt have **no more soothsayers**: Thy **graven images** also will I cut off, and **thy standing images** out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt **no more worship the work of thine hands**. And I will pluck up **thy groves** out of the midst of thee: so will I destroy thy cities. (Micah 5:12-14)

Groves

Strong's number: 842

Hebrew: 'asherah

Pronunciation: ash-ay-raw'

or masheyrah {ash-ay-raw'}; from 833; happy; Asherah (or Astarte) a Phoenician goddess; also an image of the same: -- grove. Compare 6253.

Evil Spirit

Strong's number: 4190

Greek: poneros

Pronunciation: pon-ay-ros'

from a derivative of 4192; hurtful, i.e. evil (properly, in effect or influence, and thus differing from 2556, which refers rather to essential character, as well as from 4550, which indicates degeneracy from original

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virtue); figuratively, calamitous; also (passively) ill, i.e. diseased; but especially (morally) culpable, i.e. derelict, vicious, facinorous; neuter (singular) mischief, malice, or (plural) guilt; masculine (singular) the devil, or (plural) sinners: --bad, evil, grievous, harm, lewd, malicious, wicked(-ness). See also 4191.

Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the **evil spirit** answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. (Acts 19:13-17)

For if ye would hearken unto the spirit which teacheth a man to pray, ye would know that ye must pray: for the **evil spirit** teacheth not a man to pray, but teacheth him that he must not pray. (2 Nephi 14:11)

But O my people, beware lest there shall arise contentions among you, and ye list to obey the **evil spirit**, which was spoken of by my father Mosiah. For behold, there is a wo pronounced upon him who listeth to obey that spirit: for if he listeth to obey him, and remaineth and dieth in his sins, the same drinketh damnation to his own soul; For he receiveth for his wages an everlasting punishment, having transgressed the law of God, contrary to his own knowledge. (Mosiah 1:73-75)

And ye will not suffer your children, that they go hungry, or naked; Neither will ye suffer that they transgress the laws of God, and fight and quarrel one with another, and **serve the devil**, who is the master of sin, or **who is the evil spirit** which hath been spoken of by our fathers; he being an enemy to all righteousness; But ye will teach them to walk in the ways of truth and soberness; ye will teach them to love one another, and to serve one another; (Mosiah 2:25-27)

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John Wesley's Notes

Deuteronomy 18:

Verse 10 Useth divination - Foretelleth things secret or to come, by unlawful arts and practices. An observer of times - Superstitiously pronouncing some days lucky, and others unlucky. Or, an observer of the clouds or heavens, one that divineth by the motions of the clouds, by the stars, or by the flying or chattering of birds, all which Heathens used to observe. An inchanter - Or, a conjecturer, that discovers hidden things by a superstitious use of words or ceremonies, by observation of water or smoke or any contingencies. A witch - One that is in covenant with the devil.

Verse 11 A charmer - One that charmeth serpents or other cattle. Or, a fortune-teller, that foretelleth the events of men's lives by the conjunctions of the stars. Spirits - Whom they call upon by certain words or rites. A wizard - Hebrew. a knowing man, who by any forbidden way's undertakes the Revelation of secret things. A necromancer - One that calleth up and inquireth of the dead.

Verse 13 Perfect - Sincerely and wholly his, seeking him and cleaving to him and to his word alone, and therefore abhorring all commerce and conversations with devils.

Verse 14 Hath not suffered thee so to do - Hath not suffered thee to follow these superstitious and diabolical practices, as he hath suffered other nations to do, but hath instructed thee better by his word and spirit, and will more fully instruct thee by a great prophet.

Verse 15 Will raise up - Will produce and send into the world in due time. A prophet like unto me - Christ was truly, and in all commendable parts like him, in being both a prophet and a king and a priest and mediator, in the excellency of his ministry and work, in the glory of his miracles, in his familiar and intimate converse with God.

DIVINATION: The exact meaning of this practice is unknown. The word seems to convey the idea of obtaining an oracle (divine announcement) by means of drawing lots. Ezekiel 21:21-22 is a Biblical clue as to how divination may have been done.

OBSERVER OF TIMES: The meaning of this word is uncertain, as the list of words used in various translations indicates (practice soothsaying, practice spiritism, fortune-teller, enchanter, etc.). Because this word is closely related to the Hebrew word translated cloud, it may refer to the reading and interpretation of cloud patterns. Another thought is that this is an onomatopoeic word, a word that is derived from the sound of the individual performing the practice.

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CONSULTER OF FAMILIAR SPIRITS: A variety of terms including medium, necromancer, ghost, and spirit of the dead, are used to describe this Hebrew term. I Samuel 28 describes a medium; a person who supposedly can make contact with the dead.

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WIZARD: The root of this word comes from the Hebrew word to know, and implies knowledge available only to the specially initiated and not available to the ordinary person. The wizard was one who was thought to be acquainted with the secrets of the nonmaterial or unseen world.

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Harry Potter

Book 1

- Parents – witch & wizard who were killed by most evil wizard
- Evil wizard tried to kill Harry but spell rebounded and left scar on forehead and weakened evil wizard's power
- Studies wizardry (secrets) in school – transfiguration (change form or appearance) spells
- Evil wizard is spirit who wants to regain physical form
- Sorcerer's stone used to make potion that will prolong life

Book 2

- Harry hears voices
- Hidden chamber of secrets
- Harry finds spirit of Tom Riddle
- Spirit is in diary

Book 3

- Harry sees omen of death
- Pet rat is transfigured Peter Pettigrew

Book 4

- Evil wizard wants to come back to physical form requires blood and death
- Ghosts forms of those that evil wizard killed come back to aid Harry

Book 5

- Order of Phoenix (secret society) fights against evil wizard only in secret
- Strange dreams
- Secret club to teach defense against dark arts
- Final battle