

## Doctrine of Witchcraft and Demonism

1. When God established the nation of Israel as a theocracy He wanted no rivals. All false gods were to be destroyed along with individuals who tried to lead people into the world of the occult.
  - *Exodus 22:18 Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.*
  - *Deuteronomy 18:10 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, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch.*
2. Despite the divine prohibition the art of speaking with the dead and seeking out spirits from beyond the grave persisted in Israel and periodically was encouraged.
  - *Isaiah 8:19 And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, 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.*
3. It is possible for a person to be energized by and promoted by the demonic world.
  - *Acts 8:9 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one.*
4. There is no basis for making a distinction between White Magic and Black Magic. God condemns it all. Nothing about Black Magic or White Magic is innocent.
5. Sorcery is associated with false prophecy, which is why those in the charismatic movement and those involved in eastern mysticism should be especially cautious for they open themselves to the spirit world in an unusual way by suspending their minds.
  - *Acts 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 Bar-jesus.*
6. Witchcraft and all who are involved in the occult are enemies of the Cross and hostile to the gospel.
  - *Acts 13:8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.*
7. When the witch of Endor conjured up Samuel from among the dead it was a matter of God manifesting His absolute sovereignty over everyone and everything.

- *1 Samuel 28:15 And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do.*
8. Samuel was allowed to appear to Saul to the surprise of the witch (1 Samuel 28:12), which indicates that normally when the occult practitioner is in charge nothing unusual will happen.
- *1 Samuel 28:12 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.*
9. Though he was disturbed from his soul's rest Samuel was well informed of the situation and of future events. How much those who are with the Lord know about the affairs of earth is a matter of interesting speculation. The Catholics go too far in saying some dead saints know a lot about the affairs of those on earth to the point they can change the outcome through prayer to themselves.
10. What is more certain is that some of the fallen angels called principalities have a vital interest in the gospel message. If Christ is the Son of God, if He has crushed the serpents head, if the Christian message of salvation by grace through faith alone is true then these principalities will be eternally damned just as some are now reserved in chains of darkness.
- *Romans 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*
  - *Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*
  - *Jude 6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.*
11. Demons are addressed in a number of different ways in the New Testament.
- They are called "unclean spirits". *Matthew 10:1 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. Mark 6:7 And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;*
  - They are called "wicked (or evil) spirits". *Luke 7:21 And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight.*

*Acts 19:12 So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them. 13 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.*

- Paul calls them "*deceiving spirits*". *1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*
- John refers to "*the spirit of error*" and "*spirits of demons*". *1 John 4:6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.*

*Revelation 16:14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*

- Luke describes one demon as a "*spirit of divination*" *Acts 16:16 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:*

12. When a devil or demon possesses a soul great harm is done to the body in the form of mental and physical illness. Christ has power to cast out the devil and bring healing.

- *Matthew 17:14 And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, 15 Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. 16 And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. 17 Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I suffer you? Bring him hither to me. 18 And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.*

13. Surprisingly enough the enemies of Christ accused Him of being in alliance with Satan's kingdom, including his demons.

- *Mark 3:22 And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.*
- *John 8:48 Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?*

14. The charge of being in league with Satan was also made against John the Baptist.

- *Matthew 11:18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil.*
- *Luke 7:33 For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil.*

15. The works of Jesus, His personal goodness and righteousness showed the claims against him were not true. Christ will always be victorious over Satan and his kingdom.

- *Matthew 12:25 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: 26 And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? 27 And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. 28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. 29 Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? And then he will spoil his house.*
- *Luke 11:17 But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth. 18 If Satan also be divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand? Because ye say that I cast out devils through Beelzebub. 19 And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore shall they be your judges. 20 But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you. 21 When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: 22 But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.*

16. The power Jesus had to cast out demons was invested in His disciples.

- *Matthew 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.*

17. The power of God to cast out unclean spirits has not ceased. God is still sovereign over sin, Satan and sickness. However, superstition should not drive belief in the Divine Healer. God heals according to faith and prayer and His own good pleasure. When Paul was in need of healing God said “No” to his repeated requests.

- *2 Corinthians 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. 8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*