

THE OCCULT

- **Definition--things hidden, mysterious; dealing with mystic arts**
- **Avoid extremes of disbelief & fascination; be aware of its reality**
- **Deuteronomy 18:9-13**

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 their son or daughter in the fire, who practices 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; because of these same detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you. You must be blameless before the Lord your God.

- **Activities (Dt 18:9-13)**

1. Human sacrifice--power given through taking of life

“Do not give any of your children to be sacrificed to Molek, for you must not profane the name of your God. I am the LORD.” (Le 18:21)

2. Divination, interpreting omens--predicting future; seeing current or past events; finding lost objects

- Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her. When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. (Ac 16:16-19)

- Tarot cards
- Ouija boards
- Palm reading
- Crystal ball reading
- Astrology
- Fortune telling
- Tea leaf reading

3. Magick, sorcery, witchcraft—knowing supernatural or controlling forces of nature by ritual

- They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, “You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind for a time, not even able to see the light of the sun.” Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord. (Ac 13:6-12)

- Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?" Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power. (Ac 19:13-20)

4. Seances, spiritism, necromancy, medium--contacting the dead (not possible)

- Remember your Creator...before the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. (Ec 12:1, 7)

- Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment...(He 9:27)

- When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? (Is 8:19)

- So Saul disguised himself, putting on other clothes, and at night he and two men went to the woman. "Consult a spirit for me," he said, "and bring up for me the one I name." But the woman said to him, "Surely you know what Saul has done. He has cut off the mediums and spiritists from the land. Why have you set a trap for my life to bring about my death?" Saul swore to her by the Lord, "As surely as the Lord lives, you will not be punished for this." Then the woman asked, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" "Bring up Samuel," he said. When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out at the top of her voice and said to Saul, "Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!" The king said to her, "Don't be afraid. What do you see?" The woman said, "I see a ghostly figure coming up out of the earth." "What does he look like?" he asked. "An old man wearing a robe is coming up," she said. Then Saul knew it was Samuel, and he bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" "I am in great distress," Saul said. "The Philistines are fighting against me, and God has departed from me. He no longer answers me, either by prophets or by dreams. So I have called on you to tell me what to do." Samuel said, "Why do you consult me, now that the Lord has departed from you and become your enemy? The Lord has done what he predicted through me. The Lord has torn the kingdom out of your hands and given it to one of your neighbors—to David. Because you did not obey the Lord or carry out his fierce wrath against the Amalekites, the Lord has done this to you today. The Lord will deliver both Israel and you into the hands of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The Lord will also give the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines." (1 Sa 28:8-19)

5. Mysticism--altered state of consciousness (not found in Dt 18:9-13)

- Shamanic state of consciousness - Drugs - Hypnosis

- Yoga - Hyperventilation - Music

• **God's attitude**

1. Stay away for your protection—you can't control the demonic

2. They will be wrong--God is always right

- You may say to yourselves, "How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the Lord?" If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not

take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously, so do not be alarmed. (Dt 18:21-22)

HALLOWEEN

- **For Christians**

1. All Hallows Eve--Oct 31 (day before All Saints Day--Nov 1)
 - *For saints without specific day; remembering dead*

- **For Druid priests**

1. Last day of year for Celts
2. Celebrated Samhain--Lord of Dead, who called forth spirits of dead
 - *Lit fires to ward off spirits (distraction from warm homes)*
 - *Burned people to tell future (interpreted omens) & for protection*
 - *Animal skins worn during rituals*
 - *Other creatures out (fairies, demons) so food left to placate*
3. Irish brought to America in 1845

- **For Witches (Wicca)**

1. Similar to Druid (pagan) beliefs--rituals to contact dead
2. Beliefs (very diverse)
 - *Animism--everything alive, with soul*
 - *Monism--everything is of one essence*
 - *Pantheism--everything is divine*
 - *Polytheism--many gods*
 - *Relativism--no absolutes*
 - *Reincarnation--after death, soul goes to another body or form*

- **For Satanists**

1. Sexual & blood rituals with animals or humans
2. Animal or human sacrifice

- **Ephesians 5:8-11, 15**

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them...Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.