

OCCULT/OCCULTISM



FORMS OF OCCULTISM:

1. Astrology: Isaiah 47:13

God mocks and uses sarcasm with the Babylonians regarding the astrologers whose advice and help they seek. The Babylonians appeared to have invented the 12 signs of the zodiac about 500 B.C.

2. Charming: Deuteronomy 18:10-11

God gives strict words (a command) regarding occult practices. The pagan religions around them practiced divination, fortune tellers, sorcery, charmers etc. They were not to allow these practices to come in at all to defile them. Saul was guilty of using a witch (of Endor: 1 Samuel 28:7-14). The Israelites were curious about these practices. Being curious is a dangerous trap that can lure people in.

3. Consulting with spirits: Deuteronomy 18:11

Part of the list mentioned in the previous reference. God also gives the warning in Leviticus 19:31. Another term the Bible uses for one consulting with spirits is necromancer.

4. Divination: Deuteronomy 18:14

God told the Israelites that the nations they were about to drive out listened to fortune tellers and diviners but they were not to.

5. Magic: Genesis 41:8

Pharaoh of Egypt was troubled by his dream and summoned all the magicians and wise men to interpret the meaning. They could not. These men had power but their power was satanic. God stepped in to show His power through Joseph who did interpret the dream.

6. Soothsaying: Isaiah 2:6

The people were following the practices of the Assyrian empire. God abandoned them because of their evil ways. Some false prophets were referred to as soothsayers.

7. Witchcraft: Deuteronomy 18:9-14

Listed along with other sources of divination. All these things are an abomination to the Lord.

8. Wizardry: Deuteronomy 18:11

One in a list of abominations.

ATTITUDE TOWARD THESE:

1. Forbidden: Deuteronomy 18:10, 11 and Jeremiah 27:9

2. Punished by death: Exodus 22:18 and Leviticus 20:6, 27

Because it is a crime against God Himself.
It violates the first commandment.
It is rebellion against God and His authority.

3. Forsaken: Acts 19:18-20

Example of believers coming to Christ who renounced their sin and practices in this area. They burned the items associate with their practice.

OTHER SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Leviticus 19:31

Don't turn to these things (mediums, wizards etc.) as they will defile you.

1 Chronicles 10:13-14

Saul: died because he was unfaithful to the Lord and consulted a medium for guidance.

2 Chronicles 33:6

Manasseh: burned his children as an offering to his god. Child sacrifice is a vile act of pagan idolatry

Isaiah 8:19

The people would consult mediums and spiritists to seek answers from dead people instead of consulting God Who is alive. Isaiah questions their rationality of going to the dead first. Ironically, those who seek to consult the dead will be forced to join them.

1 Timothy 4:1-4

Warnings to the church regarding the strategies of the enemy. These are signs of the great apostasy before Christ's return.

Revelation 21:8

The final outcome of those who practice any such thing. The second death: the Lake of Fire.