

OCCULTISM

Pertaining to supernatural, especially evil influences

FORMS OF OCCULTISM AS FOUND IN THE BIBLE:

1. Astrology: God does not speak through astrology.
Daniel 2:27, 28: Daniel could interpret the king's dream but he made sure that it was God who revealed it to him and by no other means. He gave God the credit for it and made sure others knew he was just a vessel who carried the message. (See also Daniel 2:22)
Isaiah 47:12-15: God mockingly urges the Babylonians to keep using their spells and sorceries (verse 9). In sarcasm, He suggests the astrologers and stargazers save them. Stargazers were ones who endeavored to tell the future by the relative position of the stars.
God was basically telling them that since they relied on these, go to them to be saved from the coming judgment (verses 12-13). Judgment was to reach the wise men as well as the merchants and none would be able to save the city.
2. Deuteronomy 18:10-11
The list in these verses God declared the practice of them to be detestable to Him. The list includes the following:
 - a. Using divination (foretelling future events; prediction)
 - b. Telling fortunes
 - c. Interpreting omens
 - d. The practice of sorcery (the controlling of others by demonic powers)
Harry Potter would fall into this category today)
 - e. Casting of spells
 - f. Using a mediumThe Bible (in some translations uses the word necromancy which is the art of revealing future events by means of a pretended communication with the dead.
3. Soothsaying: Isaiah 2:6
God abandoned His people as they were full of divination from the East (fortune-tellers). The ancient world was heavily involved in these practices. Spells and curses were cast by experts in magic, and the spirits of the dead were believed to wander the earth.
4. Witchcraft was like the sin of rebellion: 1 Samuel 15:23

Divination is defined as the science of being able to interpret the omens and formulate incantations that would be effective in dispelling the powers that threatened them.

GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THESE THINGS:

1. Forbidden: Deuteronomy 18:10, 11
Jeremiah 27:9 – God says not to listen to enchanters: the word comes from a root, the “eyes” that is, lookers at the stars and other means of taking omens of futurity; or another root, a “fixed time,” observers of times
Leviticus 19:26: Forbidden in the Law
Leviticus 19:31
2. Punished by death
Exodus 22:18; Leviticus 20:27
3. Forsaken by the people: Acts 19:18-20
The people came confessing, renouncing, and repenting of their evil practices. Not only did they confess but burned everything connected to those practices. Some translations use the words “curious arts”: the meaning here is practicing magic; a busybody (1 Timothy 5:13)
In this reference, the idea is that of pretending by incantations to raise the dead, coerce spirits to reveal the unknown, foretell events, heal, inflict diseases, counteract evil by amulets of charms, interpret dreams, calculate sex of children before birth, and foretell by the planets the daily life.