

DEMONOLOGY (12)

QUESTION #8 – How does God view people who dabble in satanic or demonic things?

It is clear that people who are right with God stay far away from the satanic and demonic. For example, when some occultists came to know the Lord in Ephesus, they immediately got rid of anything connected to Satan and demons (Acts 19:15-20). God does not look favorably upon one who dabbles in any satanic or demonic area and His Word is very clear on this point:

There are six passages of Scripture that give us a good perspective of God's perception of these things. **One important point to note is that five of the six passages are aimed straight at believers.**

(Passage #1) - Deuteronomy 18:9-14 - One dabbling in demonic things is detestable to God.

(Passage #2) - Leviticus 20:6 - One dabbling in demonic areas loses the favor and blessings of God.

(Passage #3) - Leviticus 20:27 - One dabbling in demonic things deserves death.

(Passage #4) - I Chronicles 10:13-14 - God may physically execute one who dabbles in demonic things.

(Passage #5) - I Samuel 15:23 - One dabbling in demonic things will never reach full potential in life or ministry.

(Passage #6) - Revelation 21:8 - One dabbling in demonic things deserves hell.

God does not ever look or speak favorably concerning any person who dabbles in satanic or demonic things. If a person is an unbeliever and has been involved in these types of activities, he/she should immediately admit his/her sin and ask Jesus Christ to be his/her Savior. If a person is a believer, he/she should immediately admit he/she has grossly sinned against God and should confess it and turn from it. John says if a believer will confess sin, God will forgive sin (I John 1:9).

QUESTION #9 – What are some of the ways that people come in contact with the satanic and demonic world?

These are all things that believers should completely avoid and, if they have ever been involved in them, they should immediately confess:

(Contact Way #1) - Sorcery

The Hebrew word indicates that this is a person who offers prayers and worship to someone or something other than the true God of the Bible. Some passages indicate people who contact Satan or demons do at times receive special answers and powers because of their request—Exodus 7:11; Daniel 2:2. This type of person would be highly committed to the occult and would actually pray and worship Satan, demons, and forces of evil.

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(Contact Way #2) - Magic.

A magician, in Scripture, is not a slight-of-hand artist or illusionist, he is one highly devoted to dark, evil, secret types of satanic things. The word seems to suggest that a magician was one who reached a high level in the dark arts, such as a leader or priest. Such a one is highly skilled in evil “sacred writings” and is able to communicate to others the dark and mysterious teachings. Such a person is well advanced in the dark, satanic and demonic world and he tries to control people and events by supernatural means.

There are many texts of Scripture that imply that at times they do have great power and at other times they do not: Gen. 41:8, 24; Ex. 7:11, 22; 8:7, 18; 9:11; Dan. 2:27; 4:7, 9; 5:11. Undoubtedly, many who claim to be able to lead others into gaining power and insight from the spirit world, and any cult leader or priest would fit into the biblical definition of a magician.

(Contact Way #3) - Astrology.

The basic meaning of this word has to do with one who uses hidden arts. It seems to imply that one has the ability to uncover things or messages which are hidden in the stars and planets; one who foretells things by the position of the stars and planets. Apparently, there are those who are able to gain messages from some sort of read out of the stars and planets (i.e. Matt. 2:1-2).

In our day and age, astrology is a flaunted art. To be sure, many professed astrologers are phony and false. However, there are those who are real and are able to gain deep and dark insight from the spirit world, through some analysis of the stars and planets. Every Christian should stay far away from this type of activity, including even the reading of a horoscope, for God detests this.

(Contact Way #4) - Soothsaying.

Soothsaying is the ability to determine the future fate of an individual by looking at the position of stars at birth or by other means. A soothsayer could literally declare future fate or fortune. Another way to define soothsayer is a fortune teller who bases his future predictions on the stars or planets. One who can actually do this will probably make a fortune in this life—Acts 16:16; Dan. 2:27; 4:4-7; 5:7-11. Again, the believer needs to keep in mind how God views this—an abomination.

(Contact Way #5) - Divination.

The primary meaning of this word seems to refer to a false prophet who was not sent by God. William Gesenius states that it was “always used of the false prophets of the Hebrews” (*Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 736). Contexts that give us some type of insight as to what this refers indicate that this person would receive some sort of satanic or demonic vision and then would testify of the vision or give some prophesy based on that vision (Jer. 14:14; Ezek. 13:6-7). This is information gained by supernatural means.

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What apparently happened in Acts 16:16 is that a woman was in contact with the evil spirit world and could make prophecies concerning the fate of a person by soothsaying or fortune telling. She undoubtedly was very skilled in this type of evil for she made her owners a great deal of money. When she was delivered from the demonic power, she no longer had the ability to do this (Acts 16:19). What makes this person false is not so much the prediction for the prediction may actually come true; it is the source of the information which is not the Word of God, but contact with the evil spirit world and deception of their own minds (Jer. 14:14).

(Contact Way #6) - Witchcraft .

Here is the Hebrew word from which sorcery is derived. The word speaks of one who offers prayers and worship of Satan and his demons and practices sorcery and magic. God is very clear to specifically reveal in writing how He views one who does this (Deut. 18:10-12; Ex. 22:18). Very closely connected to this word is the word “medium,” which refers to one who can contact the spirit world (I Sam. 28:7; I Chron. 10:13-14). It seems that one reason why people get involved with this is because they want power and knowledge beyond that which God gives (I Sam. 28:7; Is. 8:19).

A believer who would consult with or contact a witch or medium actually risks physical execution by God (I Chron. 10:13-14). Our responsibility is to carefully understand God’s Word and to prayerfully wait on the Lord, trusting only in Him. We must not ever consult with witches or mediums (Is. 8:17).

(Contact Way #7) - Charmer .

This word particularly has to do with one who has fellowship with satanic and demonic forces and is specifically able to verbally communicate with these forces and cast spells over people (Deut. 18:11; Is. 47:9, 12). The actual word “charmer” is closely connected with speaking or chanting in almost a whisper-type manner. It is some form of satanic muttering. The Bible indicates that “charmings” can be very powerful even, at times, having control over deadly serpents (Ps. 58:4-5). There is no question that many who actually charm deadly snakes do so by aid of demonic power.

(Contact Way #8) - Necromancy .

This is a very difficult Hebrew word, which seems to imply an ability to consult with forces of darkness in regard to death (Deut. 18:11). It is possible that this refers to one who claims he can make contact with dead spirits; that is, with people who have died. It is also possible that this person would claim that he could contact the spirit world in pronouncing death on an individual. The word is closely connected with evil spirits and death.