



Truth For These Times



42. THE SPIRIT WORLD

INTRODUCTION

Today there are millions of people playing games with the unseen world, who are unaware of the dangers involved simply because they do not know the source of power behind the occult arts. The Bible, however, clearly reveals the source of power behind the psychic, but in spite of the fact that the Bible is the world's best selling book, very few read it diligently and understand its message. God's attitude toward black magic, witchcraft, spiritualism and the other facets of the occult is made very plain.

The thought has never occurred to many that a supernatural manifestation does not necessarily originate from God, nor that some miracles, although supernatural, can be a fraud, displayed for the purpose of deception. Sometimes things happen which defy all explanation and can be most convincing; but we need to realize that the supernatural involves not only the powers of good, but also the powers of evil. There are only two sources of the supernatural – good and evil.

Many occult practices seem so harmless and innocent, but they serve an important purpose. They lead away from faith and trust in God, and instead of seeking guidance from God, people trust in the horoscope, the ouija board and spirit messages. It is all a great deception to lead humanity on the wrong road away from truth. The occult manifests itself in many forms, and even uses miracle healing to draw the unsuspecting into its net. Many are ready to say how good this is, but when we see healings performed in a spiritualistic séance, (God condemns spiritualism) this shows clearly that not all healings come from God. We will note later in this study how clearly the Bible shows that spiritualism is an abomination to God. He would not work through a séance – this is the devil's ground.

The variety of spirit world manifestations seems to be endless. There are witches black, white and grey, and warlocks too. Messages are mysteriously written on a blackboard, or typed on a typewriter automatically. There are ghosts, haunted castles and haunted houses. There are crystal ball gazers whose predictions and fulfilments are uncanny. However they are often wrong, which makes us doubt their genuineness, for if God were the source of their inspiration there would be no mistakes. Sometimes it all looks so good, but if the occult looked bad it would never deceive. Those who make counterfeit money try to make it look real, but it is still counterfeit. This is the devil's strategy too, with good and evil.



There are a growing number of people who worship Satan.

Amazingly there are people who even worship Satan or the devil, and offer sacrifices to him. The ceremonies often involve drinking a mixture of blood and urine, sacrifices, and sex orgies. On occasions newspapers have reported human sacrifices, but usually they are never detected. Many who have been deceived in practising devil worship, have discovered too late that the devil is a terrible master.

The Satanic Bible is written by Anton LaVey, the founder of the first church of Satan. In some places of U.S.A. this bible outsells the Holy Bible by two to one. One Satanist by the name of Patrick Newell of New Jersey, requested death at the hands of his friends. He believed that at death he would return to earth as the leader of forty leagues of demons. His friends believed, and killed him. It makes one wonder how people can be deceived so easily, yet in U.S.A. and England it is claimed there are 200,000 witches.

THE SOURCE OF THE OCCULT

Revelation 12:7-9 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the GREAT DRAGON WAS CAST OUT, THAT SERPENT OF OLD, CALLED THE DEVIL AND SATAN, WHO DECEIVES THE WHOLE WORLD; HE WAS CAST TO THE EARTH, AND HIS ANGELS WERE CAST OUT WITH HIM.



Lucifer (light bearer) was the highest angel in heaven. When he rebelled against God, he became Satan – the accuser.

The devil was created a perfect angel, but in time he rebelled against God and was finally cast out of heaven. The angels who joined him in the rebellion were cast out with him. Satan gained access to this world by causing Adam and Eve to sin. This world has been the headquarters of the devil and his demons ever since. Being in the spirit world they cannot be seen by us, but they are real nevertheless. They observe humanity and are constantly carrying on their work of deception. Their ultimate plan is to prevent you from having everlasting life, while in the meantime they continue to make war against the powers of righteousness.

Isaiah 14:12-14 HOW YOU ARE FALLEN FROM HEAVEN, O LUCIFER, son of the morning! *How* you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: “I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I WILL BE LIKE THE MOST HIGH.”



The spirit world is made up of fallen angels expelled from heaven.

The devil’s name before he rebelled was Lucifer. Here it speaks about his fall from heaven and his aspiration to become as God. He sought God’s power, but not His character of love.

Matthew 25:41 Then He will also say to those on the left hand, “Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS.”

Jesus was very much aware of the presence of the devil and his angels. Here He refers to their final destruction. If Jesus believed in a literal devil and his assisting demons, then their existence is indeed a reality.

Jude 6

And THE ANGELS WHO DID NOT KEEP THEIR PROPER DOMAIN, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day.

Once again we have a reference to the fallen angels and their ultimate judgment.

2 Corinthians 11:13,14 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For SATAN HIMSELF TRANSFORMS HIMSELF INTO AN ANGEL OF LIGHT.

The devil and his angels do not always appear as something terrible or wicked, but can materialize into something that appears very good; even an angel of light. The appearance may seem good but their purpose is only to deceive.

THE OCCUPATION OF THE SPIRIT WORLD

Modern man says confidently “There are no such things as ghosts” but any person who has had an experience, and there are many thousands who have, will soon change his mind. Ghosts are not really departed dead, but the unseen world would want people to believe so. Ghosts are only demons putting on an act. This helps perpetuate the false doctrine of the immortality of soul.

OUIJA BOARDS – E.S.P. – MENTAL TELEPATHY

Ouija boards have proved to be one of the best selling games in America. It seems a harmless game until it is realised that the messages come through from a supernatural force, which means they are dangerous; because this is not God’s way of revealing Himself to man, rather, it is the method of the occult.



Extra sensory preception or mental telepathy, finds its source in the supernatural too. Some say it is the power of the mind, but here once again we see the unseen powers at work with the intention to deceive. One becomes so involved in practising this “gift” that God and His truth are forgotten.

HYPNOTISM

Hypnotism is looked upon as something good, to be used by doctors and dentists to advance medicine. But as we look closely we must ask if hypnosis is morally right. Should the mind of one be brought under the control of another? Is it safe to tamper with the mind, and let someone else do the driving? A person who submits to hypnosis surrenders his mind to another, which means he surrenders the conscience too. The conscience is the guardian of the soul, and if you kill the watchdog, anything can happen. Hypnosis is in fact, an invasion of our God-given individuality. It is an act of depersonalization.

One French hypnotist demonstrated the power of post hypnotic suggestion by suggesting to a young woman under hypnosis that she poison a young man she worked with. After she was snapped into normal consciousness, she took the glass of water which she believed was poison, and offered it to the young man to drink. She even pretended to drink from the glass herself to entice him, then watched him drink it. A rather dangerous game, wouldn’t you say? Hypnosis is one way of weakening the minds of men, for every time a person is hypnotised, the will is weakened. This means it is easier for unseen forces to gain control.

PALMISTRY – FORTUNE TELLING

Some have the ability to read a person's hand and predict their life. Others look into the crystal ball and see the future. Some uncanny predictions made have come true. Alandino Felix of Brazil warned of disaster in Rio de Janero in 1965, and one month later floods and landslides killed six hundred people. He said a Russian cosmonaut would die, and one did in 1967. He foretold the assassination of Martin Luther King and Senator Robert Kennedy. No human being can make such predictions with accuracy, but the powers of the unseen world can; because to a large degree they control the affairs of men. They have no control whatsoever over the genuine Christian, but in the world they have a big say. This means they have something to do with carrying out those predictions. Often the predictions are wrong, but they are right often enough to get people wondering.



God claims the ability to tell the future.

Isaiah 46:9,10 Remember the former things of old, for I *am* God, and *there is* no other; I *am* God, and *there is* none like Me, **DECLARING THE END FROM THE BEGINNING**, and from ancient times *things* that are not *yet* done, saying, “My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.”

The difference between God and the false prophets is that God leaves no room for error. A true prophet of God is right all the time. Furthermore, a true prophet of God always agrees with the Bible, but this is not so with the false.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary **THE DEVIL WALKS ABOUT LIKE A ROARING LION, SEEKING WHOM HE MAY DEVOUR.**



The devil's plans for you are destruction. He has one so-called virtue: persistence. He seeks your soul every moment of everyday. He constantly invents plans to deceive you that you may be lost. Left to yourself, your chances of overcoming are nil. His experience and cunning will outmatch you every time, unless you place your trust in Jesus. With Jesus on your side you are more than a match for the devil and the wicked one will flee from you.

Revelation 16:14 For they are **SPIRITS OF DEMONS, PERFORMING SIGNS**, *which* go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Is God the only one who works signs or miracles? **NO.** This text clearly states that devils, (demons or fallen angels), can work miracles too. Our faith is on shaky ground if it is based on miracles. Our faith is secure when based on the sure Word of God – the Bible.

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to **DECEIVING SPIRITS AND DOCTRINES OF DEMONS.**

We are certainly living in the latter times, and this text reveals the deceptive work of evil spirits, also demonic doctrines, or as we would say, false teachings. This evil work of the spirit world is certainly being carried on in our day.

2 Thess 2:9 The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of SATAN, WITH ALL POWER, SIGNS, AND LYING WONDERS.

Working through the antichrist, Satan displays his power by showing supernatural signs and wonders. We should not be surprised to see miraculous things take place, but our trust must remain firm upon the Word of God, not miracles. A miracle can only be tested by comparison with God’s Word. It must agree.

GOD’S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SPIRIT WORLD

Deuteronomy 18:9-13 When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you *anyone* who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, *or one* who practices WITCHCRAFT, *or* a soothsayer, or one who INTERPRETS OMENS, or a SORCERER, OR ONE WHO CONJURES SPELLS, OR A MEDIUM, OR A SPIRITIST, OR ONE WHO CALLS UP THE DEAD. FOR ALL WHO DO THESE THINGS *ARE* AN ABOMINATION TO THE LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. You shall be blameless before the LORD your God.



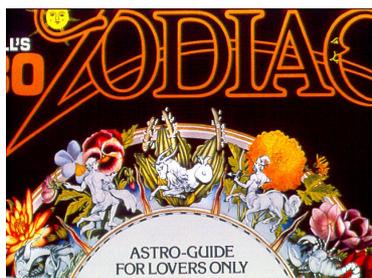
Satan portrays himself as an angel of light.

These texts condemn human sacrifice, black magic, witchcraft, fortune telling and spiritualism. God regards such practises as an abomination because they originate from the powers of evil, and are in direct opposition to God and His truth. Those who practise occult arts may not know the source of their power, but the Word of God exposes the devil and his wicked schemes.

Leviticus 19:31 GIVE NO REGARD TO MEDIUMS AND FAMILIAR SPIRITS; DO NOT SEEK AFTER THEM, to be defiled by them: I *am* the LORD your God.

God’s counsel is clear. His direction is “keep away from the deceptions of the spirit world.”

Leviticus 20:27 A man or a woman who is a medium, or who has FAMILIAR SPIRITS, SHALL SURELY BE PUT TO DEATH; they shall stone them with stones. Their blood *shall be* upon them.

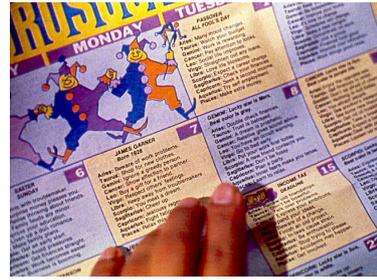


Here God plainly condemns those who communicate with the spirit world – a crime worthy of death. What is a familiar spirit? It is a demon that takes control of the mind of a man or woman, operating through the human body. Such a thing seems incredible, but on reading the New Testament, there are many cases where Jesus or His disciples cast out devils or spirits from those who were possessed.

HOROSCOPES

Isaiah 47:13,14

You are wearied in the multitude of your counsels; let now the **ASTROLOGERS**, **THE STARGAZERS**, and the monthly prognosticators stand up and save you from what shall come upon you. Behold, they shall be as stubble, the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame; *it shall not be* a coal to be warmed by, *nor* a fire to sit before!



The people of God living in the days of Isaiah were doomed because they were trusting in the stars rather than God. The same power demonstrated in spiritualism can be seen in astrology, another form of the occult. Reading the horoscope may seem harmless, but one soon becomes dependent upon the chart. In turn, this means dependence upon the unseen powers, and make no mistake, it is no game to them. When you think of it, doesn't it appear illogical that stars, unable to think, can choose our destiny? The Bible does not say a lot on astrology, but it certainly condemns it.

Galatians 5:20,21

Idolatry, **SORCERY**, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that **THOSE WHO PRACTICE SUCH THINGS WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**

Here is a list of sins which, unrepented of, will keep a person out of the kingdom of God. Witchcraft (or sorcery) is on the list, it is a part of the spirit world's inventions.

CAN WE TALK WITH THE DEAD?

Then there is spiritualism, or contact with the spirit world. In the séance it is claimed one can talk with the dead departed loved ones and friends, and it is true that something appears which can be seen, heard and even felt, resembling exactly those who have died. It is not really the departed dead, but the masquerading of a demon.



The dead know nothing.

The main teaching of spiritualism is that man is immortal – he cannot die. At death he is said to go to the spirit world and ultimately be a god. This is perpetuating the lie told to Eve in the Garden of Eden. God said that if they ate the forbidden fruit they would die, but the devil speaking through the serpent said, “You will not surely die, but be as gods.” Genesis 3:4,5 (KJV). If Satan can convince man that he does not die, then it is easy to suggest communication with the dead. Then he finds easy access to the mind and takes steps to control it. In the séance he can

impersonate a loved one perfectly, and thus pass on false guidance. He has one main motive – to deceive in order to destroy. He wants all mankind to share his fate of eternal destruction.

Ecclesiastes 9:5

For the living know that they will die; **BUT THE DEAD KNOW NOTHING**, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten.

Psalms 146:4 His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; in that very day HIS PLANS PERISH.

God's word is clear – the dead know nothing, so whatever is seen, felt or heard in the séance is not the dead returned. It is a cruel deception of the evil one. One of the main teachings of the Bible is the resurrection day; but what would be the use of a resurrection at the end of time, if the dead were already raised?

1 Corinthians 15:26 The last ENEMY *that* will be destroyed *is* DEATH.

Death is not a friend – it is an enemy. Death is not a transition to another world – the resurrection day brings us to the kingdom of promise. Best of all, at that time death will finally be abolished forever. Death was never meant to be and soon it will be no more.

Ephesians 6:12,13 For WE DO NOT WRESTLE AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT against principalities, against powers, AGAINST THE RULERS OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS AGE, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

The Christian life is a battle and a march. Our warfare is not physical, but spiritual. The powers of evil are doing their worst that all humanity might share the fate they themselves face – eternal destruction. Our salvation is to trust in Jesus and put on the whole armor of God. We can win, for Jesus has already defeated the devil. When we fight in the strength of our Saviour our victory is assured.

Isaiah 8:19,20 And when they say to you, “Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,” should not a people seek their God? *Should they seek* the dead on behalf of the living? TO THE LAW AND TO THE TESTIMONY! If they do not speak according to this word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them.

When we need guidance we do not seek counsel of the spirit world, we are guided by “the law and the testimony,” or in other words, the Word of God as found in the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit in whom we can safely trust for He will guide us into all truth.

CONCLUSION

The Bible reveals the hoax of the occult. If you follow the occult it will lead you on the path of destruction, but if you follow the Bible it will lead you on the path to life – eternal life. The Bible is not just a good book. It is inspired. It claims to have its origin in the mind of God, and if this is not true, then it is a book of lies. But there are no misses in the Bible – its batting average is 100%. The Bible is indeed what it claims to be – the Word of God.

If you think the psychic world is all false, then you are a perfect setup for the exploitation by demonic spirits. On the other hand, if you think all supernatural manifestations are from God, then



The Bible is the only reliable source for predicting the future.

you are an easy mark for deception. We live in a time when we must stay awake, or perish. We have to be able to spot deception, and spot it quickly. Today there is a great battle for your mind.

Is there any need to fear? Is the power of evil so great we cannot resist? If you place your trust in Christ, you have no need to fear, but if you have rejected Christ and willingly sin, you may have reason to be a little shaky. There is a power far greater than the devil, and that power is Jesus Christ. Satan is a defeated foe. He cannot control your mind if you are on the side of Jesus, but remember if you are not on God's side, you are against Him, for there is no neutrality. Demons are fallen angels, deceiving millions. It appears to be so real and easy to believe, but it is all a cruel hoax and a lying trick. The occult is a ghastly deception that leads to a fatal trap.

On a hill at Calvary almost 2000 years ago, Satan was defeated. Jesus hung upon a cross, nails driven through His hands and feet. His blood was shed and His life was given. It seemed like defeat for the Son of God to die, but in fact His death defeated Satan, because Jesus died for the sins of mankind. My friend, Jesus died for you that day. He died that you might live; that your sins might be forgiven. His death was the only way, but He was prepared to pay the price.



Satan and his angels are defeated by the cross.

There is one condition however; we must accept the salvation that has been offered. We must believe Jesus is our Saviour and be prepared to live for Him. Jesus is asking you to give your life to Him today in order that you do not lose it.

He won't make you. He won't control you by force like Satan, but He will let you make the choice. His purpose for dying was that you might live forever, and He is giving you the invitation to accept that offer. My friend, if you accept this wonderful gift of life, you will find peace of mind now, but you will also enjoy life everlasting. If you have not done so before, accept Him today as your Saviour, and you will live forevermore.

Review Sheet – The Spirit World

Assignment: Read the Bible study carefully before answering the following questions.

1. Who is the source of the occult? Revelation 12:7-9; Isaiah 14:12-14
Answer: _____
2. Did Jesus believe in the existence of the devil and his angels? Matthew 25:41
Prepared for _____.
3. To what extreme will the devil go to deceive? 2 Corinthians 11:13,14
For Satan _____.
4. Name some of the varieties of the occult world. Why do you think they are wrong?
Answer: _____
5. What is the difference between the predictions of God and those of the occult? Isaiah 46:9,10
Answer: _____
6. Are all miracles from God? Revelation 16:14; 2 Thessalonians 2:9
For they are _____
Satan, _____, _____, _____.
7. What kind of teachings are introduced by evil spirits? 1 Timothy 4:1
Answer: _____
8. What is God's attitude toward the spirit world? Deuteronomy 18:9-13
For all who _____.
9. What is God's counsel regarding familiar spirits and how severely does he view spirit control?
Leviticus 19:31 20:27
Answer: _____
10. Can those who follow the occult arts expect eternal life? Galatians 5:20,21
Sorcery --- _____
_____.
11. Can we talk with the dead? Explain. Ecclesiastes 9:5; Psalms 146:4
Answer: _____
12. Against whom do we fight our spiritual battles? By what should we be guided when seeking truth? Ephesians 6:12,13; Isaiah 8:19,20
Answer: _____

Can you see through the deception of the occult? YES _____ NO _____