

SPIRITUALISM AND THE OCCULT

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(1) The unseen forces behind Spiritualism and the Occult

War in Heaven



Revelation 12:7-9 “Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. 8 But the dragon was not strong enough to prevail, so there was no longer any place left in heaven for him and his angels. 9 So that huge dragon—the ancient serpent, the one called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world—was thrown down to the earth, and his angels along with him.” NET

The devil and his angels were cast out of heaven during the war that began there. They were cast to this earth and they have been here ever since. The verse says that Satan deceives the whole world. So if the

whole world is in agreement on something then we had better be on our guard.

Revelation 12:3-4 “Then another sign appeared in heaven: a huge red dragon that had seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadem crowns. 4 Now the dragon's tail swept away a third of the stars in heaven and hurled them to the earth...” NET

The imagery of the book of Revelation pictures the Devil or Satan as a great red dragon. One of his activities is that his tail caused a third of the stars of heaven to the earth. The next verse tells us what the stars represent.

Revelation 1:20 “...the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches...” NET

A star is symbolic of an angel. Satan or Lucifer the shining one was cast out of heaven and his angels were cast to the earth with him. The dragon's tail drew one third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. The number of Satan's angels are one third of the original number of angels that inhabited heaven. They were cast out of heaven and now reside here on earth with us. They are unseen but they are very active in their continued warfare against the Government of heaven. They are the unseen forces behind the occult and spiritualism, false religion, war, disease and disaster.

Luke 10:17-18 “Then the seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name!” 18 So he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.” NET

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Jesus anointed seventy men to preach the gospel and to heal the sick. These men returned to tell Jesus of their success. Jesus tells them that He was there in heaven when the rebellion took place. He saw all that went on and saw Satan and his angels expelled from heaven like a bolt of lightning. The demons that the workers for Jesus were casting out of people were some of Satan's angels who were expelled from heaven.

Matthew 25:41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels!’” NET

Jesus was well aware of the activity and existence of the devil and his angels. Here Jesus is prophesying about their final destruction on the day of judgement.

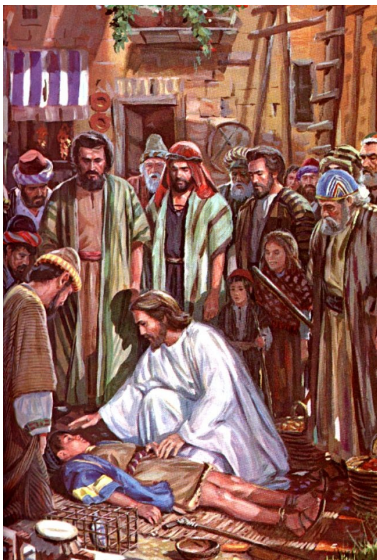
Jude 6 “You also know that the angels who did not keep within their proper domain but abandoned their own place of residence, he has kept in eternal chains in utter darkness, locked up for the judgment of the great Day” NET

Here is another reference to the final destruction of evil angels on the day of judgement.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 “For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is not surprising his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will correspond to their actions.” NET

Often we tend to think of Satan and his angels as something hideous and terrible. But here we are told that they can present themselves as something beautiful to behold and who claim to work for our best good when in reality they are planning our destruction. Church workers under satanic control are shown to be of the same character.

(2) Demon possession, and other illnesses



Matthew 4:24 “So a report about him spread throughout Syria. People brought to him all who suffered with various illnesses and afflictions, those who had seizures, paralytics, and those possessed by demons, and he healed them.” NET

Jesus the great physician went all throughout Israel healing the sick of all kinds of diseases. He also cast out demons out of people who were possessed. This tells us that demon possession is a real phenomenon and that it is **not** the same as the various diseases that people have.

Luke 9:1-2 “After Jesus called the twelve together, he gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, 2 and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.” NET

The author of the gospel of Luke is Luke the physician who was a close companion of the apostle Paul. He was the only bible writer that was not a Jew. He was a gentile who was a highly educated physician. In Colossians 4:14 he is called ‘*Luke the beloved physician*’. As a physician he would be familiar with the diseases of the day. He is careful to distinguish between legitimate illnesses and the supernatural phenomenon of demon possession. And the two are not the same. Not anyone can just cast out demons. It requires special powers given by God. It is the same type of supernatural power that is required to heal the sick.

Matthew 7:21-23 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the kingdom of heaven—only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. 22 On that day, many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many powerful deeds in your name?’ 23 Then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you. Go away from me, you lawbreakers!’” NET

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On the great judgment day many professed Christians who are numbered among the lost call to Jesus and ask why they are condemned. These people, Christians, as only Christians call Christ 'Lord', are condemned because they did not do the will of the Father by obeying the Law of God. They practiced lawlessness. Notice that among them are people who were dedicated evangelists who prophesied or preached in the name of Jesus; workers who cast out demons in the name of Jesus; and workers of miracles. Yet they are lost. Evidently doing these works for God does not make a person a Christian. Those people were active workers for Satan himself and they did not know it. We must beware of false workers because we can be deceived by their false gospel that leads us to disobey God's law. Be careful of people who claim to cast out demons.

(3) False miracles and false doctrines

Deuteronomy 13:1-3 "Suppose a prophet or one who foretells by dreams should appear among you and show you a sign or wonder, 2 and the sign or wonder should come to pass concerning what he said to you, namely, "Let us follow other gods"—gods whom you have not previously known—"and let us serve them." 3 You must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer, for the Lord your God will be testing you to see if you love him with all your mind and being." NET

Here God is explicitly telling the people not to put their trust or confidence in miracles or in people who can accurately foretell the future. But to judge the messenger and the miracle by the message that attends it. If the messenger tells you to forget the commandments of God you know that the miracle is of Satanic origin and that you must reject both the miracle and the messenger.

Revelation 16:14 "For they are the [spirits of the demons performing signs](#) who go out to the kings of the earth to bring them together for the battle that will take place on the great day of God, the All-Powerful." NET

Many people put their faith and trust in miracles. But a miracle is only evidence that a higher power is involved. It is not a sign from God. Here the Apostle John says that demons are responsible for many miracles especially in the last days leading up to the second advent of Christ. The only way to differentiate between a genuine miracle and a satanic counterfeit performed by demons is not by the miracle itself but by the message brought by the person who performed the miracle. Many faith healers and TV evangelists are obvious deceivers as the people who they claim to heal remain sick and some die from the disease that the evangelist claimed to cure. But there are many genuine miracles performed that defy science. These are not evidence of God. The origin of the miracle is to be judged by the message that attends it and not by the miracle itself.

1 Timothy 4:1 "Now the Spirit explicitly says that in the later times some will desert the faith and occupy themselves with [deceiving spirits and demonic teachings](#)." NET

Satan and his demons are involved in all forms of deception. Here the Apostle Paul says that demons are responsible for false religions and beliefs. False doctrines invented by these demons are designed to lure people away from the truth of Christianity and the Bible. A lot of false doctrines have penetrated the Christian church and have become accepted as fundamental Christian belief in spite of the fact that they are not in the Bible. Such as the doctrines of the immortality of the soul, an eternally burning hell, and Sunday observance.

2 Thessalonians 2:9 "The arrival of the lawless one will be by [Satan's working with all kinds of miracles](#) and signs and false wonders," NET

Here the Apostle Paul warns of the coming of the Antichrist. Paul does not say that the Antichrist is the one who performs these miracles. Only that Satanic miracles will be done that are so convincing that the people who see them will be astonished. But the miracles are not from God, they are lying wonders meaning that they are from Satan and are meant to deceive. The message that attends these satanic miracles is designed to turn us from the law of God. That is why the evil one here is called the 'lawless one'.

Revelation 13:13-14 "[He performed momentous signs](#), even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people 14 and, by the signs he was permitted to perform on behalf of the beast, [he deceived those who live on the earth](#). He told those who live on the earth to make an image to the beast who had been wounded by the sword, but still lived." NET

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Deception of gigantic proportions is here foretold. In the last days just prior to the return of Christ, the workers of Satan will perform miracles that will deceive the inhabitants of the earth and cause them to make an image to the beast. The apostle John here describes the satanic miracles as fire that comes from heaven. This imagery comes from the Old Testament book of 1st Kings in describing an incident that took place during the days of the prophet Elijah. The story is told in *1 Kings 18:17-40*.

All Israel, the professed people of God, are in apostasy from God and are worshiping the false pagan god Baal. The prophets of God are in hiding from evil king Ahab and are in fear of their lives. Elijah challenges the evil king and the prophets of Baal and all Israel to a showdown to decide who is the true God, the LORD or Baal, and who among them are the worshipers of the true God. The challenge made by Elijah was this: -

1 Kings 18:19-24 “Now send out messengers and assemble all Israel before me at Mount Carmel, as well as the 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah whom Jezebel supports.”²⁰ Ahab sent messengers to all the Israelites and had the prophets assemble at Mount Carmel. ²¹ Elijah approached all the people and said, “How long are you going to be paralyzed by indecision? If the LORD is the true God, then follow him, but if Baal is, follow him!” But the people did not say a word. ²² Elijah said to them: “I am the only prophet of the LORD who is left, but there are 450 prophets of Baal. ²³ Let them bring us two bulls. Let them choose one of the bulls for themselves, cut it up into pieces, and place it on the wood. But they must not set it on fire. I will do the same to the other bull and place it on the wood. But I will not set it on fire. ²⁴ Then you will invoke the name of your god, and I will invoke the name of the LORD. The god who responds with fire will demonstrate that he is the true God.” All the people responded, “This will be a fair test.” NET

The prophets of Baal prayed and danced all day to Baal hoping that he would send fire from heaven to consume their sacrifice, but nothing happened. All their prayers to this false god were in vain. Then came Elijah’s turn. He prepared the altar of the LORD and placed the sacrifice on it and then prayed to the LORD. Elijah says: -

1 Kings 18:37-40 “Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are the true God and that you are winning back their allegiance.” ³⁸ Then fire from the LORD fell from the sky. It consumed the offering, the wood, the stones, and the dirt, and licked up the water in the trench. ³⁹ When all the people saw this, they threw themselves down with their faces to the ground and said, “The LORD is the true God! The LORD is the true God!” ⁴⁰ Elijah told them, “Seize the prophets of Baal! Don’t let even one of them escape!” So they seized them, and Elijah led them down to the Kishon Valley and executed them there.” NET

The fire that fell from heaven was God’s answer to Elijah’s prayer. This fire was proof that Elijah was worshiping the true God and that the Lord was the true God. The counterfeit miracles that will be performed in the last days just prior to the return of Christ are described as ‘fire that falls from heaven in the sight of men’. These Satanic miracles that cause the world to decide to worship the beast and his image will be so convincing that the whole world who sees them will claim that these miracles are from God, and that the people who perform them are worshiping the true God. Like Israel in the days of Elijah the people will say that this is from God. When in fact the miracles will be from Satan. And will not be evidence of the true God at all.

Matthew 24:23-26 “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe him. ²⁴ For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ Remember, I have told you ahead of time. ²⁶ So then, if someone says to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out, or ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe him.” NET

Christ Himself warns of great deception, especially regarding His return. False prophets will arise and will perform *great* signs and wonders to deceive even God’s elect if possible. These false miracles won’t just be little scams or tricks performed by charlatans. Many will be undeniable wonders unexplainable by science. These false prophets will spread false and lying reports about the second advent of Christ. False Christs will also appear in the seance chamber. Mediums and spiritualists will claim to talk to Christ in the ‘inner rooms’ but we are told by Jesus Himself not to believe it.

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(4) God's condemnation of the occult

The book of Deuteronomy is Moses' farewell address to the nation of Israel spoken as they were entering the land of Canaan. Moses warns the people of the dangers of the occultist practices of the inhabitants of the land. He warns them not to follow these practices else God will disown them.

Prohibited Occult Practices

Deuteronomy 18:9-12 "When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, you must not learn the abhorrent practices of those nations. 10 There must never be found among you anyone who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, anyone who practices divination, an omen reader, a soothsayer, a sorcerer, 11 one who casts spells, one who conjures up spirits, a practitioner of the occult, or a necromancer. 12 Whoever does these things is abhorrent to the Lord, and because of these detestable things the Lord your God is about to drive them out from before you." NET

God's condemnation of the occult is quite clear. It is an abomination to God, and those who practise occultism of any description are on Satan's ground. All forms of witchcraft and talking to the dead are expressly condemned.

Leviticus 19:31 "Do not turn to the spirits of the dead and do not seek familiar spirits to become unclean by them. I am the Lord your God." NET

Mediums were people who spoke to the familiar spirits. These spirits claimed to be the departed dead. God says that any consultation with spirits will result in defilement.

Leviticus 20:27 "A man or woman who has in them a spirit of the dead or a familiar spirit must be put to death. They must pelt them with stones; their blood guilt is on themselves." NET

So evil was the practise of communing with spirits who claimed to be the departed dead that God ordered the execution of any person who did it. To have a familiar spirit was to have a spirit as a guide who helped, encouraged and gave advice. To have such a spirit councillor was a capital offence in the eyes of God. The reason for this is because: -

"According to the Word of God, these spirits which come to us and claim to be the dear ones taken away by death are not dead people. They are not living people. They are not people at all. They are fallen angels masquerading in the form of our loved ones." *Conditionalist Faith of our Fathers vol 2 p988. Ed. L.E. Froom. Review and Herald, 1965.*

Isaiah 8: 19-20 "They will say to you, "Seek oracles at the pits used to conjure up underworld spirits, from the magicians who chirp and mutter incantations. Should people not seek oracles from their gods, by asking the dead about the destiny of the living?" 20 Then you must recall the Lord's instructions and the prophetic testimony of what would happen. Certainly they say such things because their minds are spiritually darkened." NET

Back in the days of the prophet Isaiah, the 8th century BC, ancient Israel had forsaken the law of God, and had turned to mediums to seek guidance from evil spirits who were pretending to be the departed dead. This evil can also apply to praying to the dead. An alternative to these evil practices was to seek council from God. Isaiah was trying to turn the people away from the council of demons and to redirect them to the word of God as the standard of truth.

(5) Talking to the dead. King Saul and the witch of En Dor

1Samuel 28: 3-20 “Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had lamented for him and buried him in Ramah, in his own city. And Saul had put the mediums and spiritists out of the land. Then the Philistines gathered together, and came and encamped at shunem. So Saul gathered all Israel together and they encamped at Gilboa. When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly. And when Saul enquired of the Lord, the Lord did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by the prophets. Then Saul said to his servants, ‘Find me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and enquire of her.’ And his servants said to him, ‘in fact, there is a woman who is a medium at En Dor.’ So Saul disguised himself and put on other clothes, and he went, and two men with him; and they came to the woman by night. And he said, ‘Please conduct a séance for me, and bring up for me the one I shall name to you.’ Then the woman said to him, ‘Look, you know what Saul has done, and how he has cut off the mediums and the spiritists from the land. Why then do you lay a snare for my life, to cause me to die? And Saul swore to her by the Lord saying, ‘As the Lord lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing.’ Then the woman said, ‘Whom shall I bring up for you?’ And he said, ‘Bring up Samuel for me.’ When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman spoke to Saul, saying, ‘Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul!’ And the king said to her, ‘Do not be afraid. What do you see?’ And the woman said to Saul, ‘I saw a spirit ascending out of the earth.’ So he said to her, ‘What is his form?’ And she said, ‘An old man is coming up, and he is covered with a mantle.’ And [Saul perceived that it was Samuel](#), and he stooped with his face to the ground and bowed down. Now Samuel said to Saul. ‘Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?’ And Saul answered, ‘ I am deeply distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God has departed from me and does not answer me anymore, neither by prophets nor by dreams. Therefore I have called you, that you may reveal to me what I should do.’ Then Samuel said; ‘ So why do you ask me, seeing the Lord has departed from you and become your enemy?’ ‘And the Lord had done for Himself as He spoke by me. For the Lord has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbour, David. Because you did not obey the voice of the Lord nor execute His fierce wrath upon Amelek, therefore the Lord has done this thing to you this day. Moreover the Lord will also deliver Israel with you into the hand of the Philistines. And tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The Lord will also deliver the army of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.’ Immediately Saul fell full length on the ground, and was dreadfully afraid because of the words of Samuel.”



The Prophet Samuel was dead. He is in his grave waiting the resurrection when Jesus the life giver shall call him from the tomb at the second advent of Christ. In obedience to the law of God king Saul had put all the spiritists and mediums out of the land. Then the time came when the Philistines were attacking Israel again. Now Saul enquires of the Lord, not for the pardon of his sins but because of fear of the Philistines. God had ceased communicating with Saul. Because Saul had always rejected the words of Samuel God’s chosen messenger, he had exiled David who was the chosen of God to be the next king. And he had also killed the priests of the Lord at Nob. Therefore God refuses to answer him. If Saul had repented of his sins and enquired of the Lord the Lord would have answered him. So now Saul does the unthinkable. He tries to communicate with the dead prophet Samuel through a condemned agent of Satan.

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A medium. - In the original Hebrew of the biblical texts, the woman is identified by the phrase, "There is at Endor a woman Behabalth-Ob." This phrase can be translated several different ways. In some translations, Ob means "python," which could refer to a literal serpent or an evil spirit. Therefore, Behabalth-Oh could mean that the woman "owns" a python or is "owned by" (i.e. possessed by) a python. The Latin Vulgate calls the witch of Endor a pythonissa or mulier pythonem habens, meaning a woman who tells fortunes by consulting a python or conjured spirit.

"Then the woman said, 'Whom shall I bring up for you?' And he said, 'Bring up Samuel for me.' When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. ... And the woman said to Saul, 'I saw a spirit ascending out of the earth.'

This part of the story reveals the truth of the situation. Condemned agents of Satan do not have the power to call up dead prophets from their graves. It could only have been a demon that was pretending to be Samuel. There are some people who take the position that the prophet Samuel was actually present at the interview with Saul. If as claimed by some, Samuel was in heaven, he must have been summoned there either by the power of God or by Satan. No-one for a moment would believe that a woman of Satan had the power to call a holy prophet of God down from heaven. Nor can we believe that God summoned Samuel to the witches cave; for the Lord had already refused to communicate with Saul by dreams, Urim or prophets which were Gods own means of communication. And God did not bypass them to deliver the message through an agent of Satan. The message itself is sufficient to determine its origin. Its object was not to lead Saul to repentance for his sins but to tell him the lie that God had become his enemy and to urge him on to ruin. This is not the work of God but of Satan. This act of Saul is given as one of the reasons why God rejected Saul and abandoned him to destruction.

1 Chronicles 10: 13-14 "So Saul died because he was unfaithful to the Lord and did not obey the Lord's instructions; he even tried to [conjure up underworld spirits](#). 14 [He did not seek the Lord's guidance](#), so the Lord killed him and transferred the kingdom to David son of Jesse."

Here it is clearly said that Saul consulted underworld spirits through a medium for guidance and not of the Lord. If he spoke to the real Samuel he would have been enquiring of the Lord because prophets are God's messengers. He did not communicate with the real Samuel the prophet of the Lord. But through a condemned agent of Satan, Saul held communication with a demon (one of Satan's angels) pretending to be the prophet Samuel. Satan could not present the real Samuel, but he did present a counterfeit to serve his purpose of deception. This deception cost Saul his eternal life.

Ephesians 6: 12-13 "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, [against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens](#). 13 For this reason, take up the full armor of God so that you may be able to stand your ground on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand." NET

Persecution of God's people has always existed since Cain killed his brother Abel, and it will exist as long as sinful man exists. But the real enemy is not man but the unseen forces of evil that relentlessly wage war against God and His people. These forces are not flesh and blood. They are described as "spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places". This is an obvious reference to Satan and his angels who organise persecution and murder, false religious beliefs and deception. When one human persecutor is gone Satan always has another ready to take his place. Our only method of defence is in what Paul describes as the whole armour of God. Paul uses the armour of an ancient Roman soldier as an example of Christian defence against Satan. -



Ephesians 6:14-18 "Stand firm therefore, by fastening the belt of truth around your waist, by putting on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 by fitting your feet with the preparation that comes from the good news of peace, 16 and in all of this, by taking up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit (which is the word of God).

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18 With every prayer and petition, pray at all times in the Spirit, and to this end be alert, with all perseverance and petitions for all the saints. ” NET

- (1) The helmet of Salvation to protect the head and the mind.
- (2) Breastplate of righteousness to protect the heart and character.
- (3) The shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of satanic attack.
- (4) The sword of the Spirit which is bible knowledge.
- (5) The gospel of peace to protect the feet.

Armed in this way the Christian is to pray always with perseverance for strength. Using the word of God as an attack weapon to attack false religious beliefs and practices he is to advance forward using faith (belief in God’s promises) as protection. There is no mention of any protection for the back. We are not to turn our backs on Satan and his angels else we are left in a vulnerable defenceless position.

(6) Near death experiences – undisguised Spiritualism.

Many people have had an extraordinary experience of being clinically dead and have seen and heard things that made them believe that they had gone to heaven and seen Christ, only to be revived and supposedly brought back from near death. These experiences follow a similar pattern.

- (1) Not one of the people involved was actually dead. They were only clinically dead, meaning that their heart had stopped beating and they had stopped breathing. But their brains were still alive.
- (2) They claim to leave their own body and float upwards into an atmosphere of light where they claim to have seen Jesus Christ.
- (3) Many also claim to have seen the departed spirits of friends and loved ones in heaven who have died before them.

People who have had these experiences have come from many different backgrounds. Some have been believers in God while others have been atheists. Some have been what society deems as good people while others have been evil. Yet all go to the same place. Thus the Christian plan of salvation is made redundant and meaningless. Why be Christian, if at death, all go to the same place? No distinction is made between good and evil.

It is obvious that a person cannot believe in these near death experiences and believe in the Christian Bible at the same time. If one is correct then the other is wrong. And yet during these near death experiences people have claimed to have seen the biblical Jesus. This Jesus is *not* the Jesus of the Bible. But a lying spirit claiming to be Jesus. And if a liar then it is a satanic spirit because Christ said that Satan was the father of lies.

These experiences are nothing more than spiritualism. The Bible says that ‘the dead know no nothing’ (Eccl 9:5). But spiritualism claims that the dead know *everything*.

The official National Spiritualists Association yearbook p13 (1961) says, “Spiritualism is God’s message to mortals, declaring that there is no Death. That all who have passed on still live. That there is hope in the life beyond for the most sinful. That every soul will progress through the ages to heights, sublime and glorious, where God Is Love and Love Is God. *Conditionalist Faith of our Fathers vol 2 p1164. Ed. L.E. Froom. Review and Herald, 1965.*

Spiritualism and near death experiences teach the same thing. That there no difference between the righteous and the wicked, all have the same destiny. There is no death. This is the lie that Satan told our first parents in the Garden of Eden. ‘You shall not surely die’.

“A spiritualist is a person who is convinced (1) that the human personality survives beyond bodily death, and (2) that the surviving spirits can, and constantly do, communicate with living people through the intermediacy of especially endowed individuals known as ‘mediums.’ ” *The Truth about*



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Spiritualism, p13. Robert Bechhofer. *Conditionalist Faith of our Fathers vol 2* p1164. Ed. L.E. Froom. *Review and Herald*, 1965.

1 Timothy 4:1 “Now the Spirit explicitly says that in the later times some will desert the faith and occupy themselves with deceiving spirits and demonic teachings.” NET

“This modern revival of Spiritualism, therefore, not only seems to lend evidence that we are living in what Paul calls the ‘latter times,’ but Paul seems to intimate rather strongly that the spirits which are around in the séances and sittings of the present day, or rather night, are not the spirits of our loved ones at all, but spirits whose distinguishing features are a cloven hoof and a forked tail and a lying tongue. Demon possession does not, of course, always manifest itself in the same way, but always with one purpose, and that is to seduce man from the worship of God. The old devil is as cunning as ever, and these demons of his, like angels of light, often disguise the real purpose of their action by pretended zeal for the truth, even by the reading of the Bible and encouragement to the Christian life; but this is only to gain confidence and a firmer hold on the victim, and back of it all is the sinister motive of enthraling mankind under the dominion of their lord and master, Satan, the arch-enemy of God. The Bible says distinctly that the air which envelops our earth is full of evil spirits, and, if that is so, we cannot be surprised at their attempt to communicate with man and to influence him for evil.” *William E. Biederwolf, Spiritualism*, p.21-22. *quoted in Conditionalist Faith of our Fathers vol 2* pp1166 -1167. Ed. L.E. Froom. *Review and Herald*, 1965.

“It was the postulate of man’s consciousness in death and the consequent belief that the spirits of the dead return to hover over and minister to the living that prepared the way for Spiritualism, both ancient and modern. It may be difficult to reject what purports to come from ‘glorified spirits.’ But they are instead, as we have seen, only fallen angels, doing Satan’s bidding, appearing as messengers of light from the spirit world. This astute device constitutes a perfect counterfeit. It is Satan’s masterpiece. Thinking they are listening to departed loved ones, those who heed the seductions of Modern Spiritualism are instead, actually giving ear to ‘seducing spirits and doctrines of devils’ – devils, or demons, who are ‘speaking lies in hypocrisy’ (1 Tim 4:1,2). It is a cruel, yes, and a tragic deception.

In these sophisticated times the term ‘witchcraft’ is generally held in contempt and the claim that men can actually hold intercourse with evil spirits is generally regarded as a relic of the Dark Ages. Modern Spiritualism, in a new and cunning guise, and with adherents now numbering millions, has invaded the churches and courts of kings and the ranks of warriors and statesmen. Nevertheless, it is simply a revival, in fascinating disguise, of the witchcraft and sorcery condemned and prohibited of old. With such an adroit vehicle at his command Satan is deceiving multitudes and is making increasing numbers captive to his masterpiece of deception.

“That the phenomena of Modern Spiritualism are identical with those of ancient witchcraft and sorcery has been forth-rightly attested by Spiritualist J.J. Morse in his *Practical Occultism*. We should note his question carefully, that its significance not be missed: - ‘shall we ... come down to the plain, simple truth, that the phenomenal aspects of Modern Spiritualism reproduce all the essential principles of the Magic, Witchcraft, and Sorcery of the past? The same powers are involved, ... the same intelligences are operating.’ *J.J. Morse, Practical Occultism (1888)*, p 85. This candid admission and its import cannot be overemphasised. These are the same evil forces and powers that God forbade in His repeated prohibitions of old. We tamper with them only at the gravest peril.” *Conditionalist Faith of our Fathers vol 2* pp1174 -1175. Ed. L.E. Froom. *Review and Herald*, 1965.

“While professing to bring the living into communion with the dead, the prince of evil exercises his bewitching influence upon their minds. He has the power to bring before men the appearance of their departed friends. The counterfeit is perfect; the familiar look, the words, the tone, are reproduced with marvelous distinctness. Many are comforted with the assurance that their loved ones are enjoying the bliss of heaven, and without suspicion of danger, they give ear ‘to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.’

When they have been led to believe that the dead actually return to communicate with them, Satan causes those to appear who went into the grave unprepared. They claim to be happy in heaven and even to occupy exalted positions there, and thus the error is widely taught that no difference between the righteous and the wicked. The pretended visitants from the world of spirits sometimes utter cautions and warnings which prove to be correct. Then, as confidence is gained, they present doctrines that directly undermine faith in the Scriptures. With an appearance of deep interest in the well-being of their friends on earth, they insinuate the most dangerous errors. The fact that they state some truths, and are able at times to foretell future events, gives to their statements an appearance of reliability; and their false teachings are accepted by the multitudes as readily, and believed as

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implicitly, as if they were the most sacred truths of the Bible.” *The Great Controversy by E.G.White. Review and Herald 1888, p552.*

(7) Beware of Angels

There is in society today an increasing interest in the existence and the activity of angels. Even occult practitioners are claiming that they can put you in contact with your guardian angel so that you can receive counselling and guidance from these spirits. What they don't tell you is that these angels are not holy angels sent from heaven but Satan's angels sent to lie, deceive, and to bring misery and destruction. God's holy angels do not work through people who practice the occult. They do not work through occult practices that God has condemned. But Satan's angels do.

(8) Spiritual Warfare

Roger Mourneau, a Christian who converted from spirit worship in 1946, wrote a book about his conversion experience entitled “A Trip into the Supernatural”. It is an amazing book exposing Satan's deceptions leading to destruction and God's workings to save the lost. He also authored several books about prayer. In them he gives some interesting insights into the activities of demons and their attacks on Christians. He writes:

“After I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour in 1946, there still came days I would become extremely depressed in my Christian walk... As a spiritist I had learned that demonic spirits delight in flashing thoughts and images in people's minds to activate their imagination, producing discouragement, hopelessness, despair, etc. I understood well what was happening to me. *“Beware of Angels” p48 Roger Mourneau. Review and Herald Pub Assn Hagerstown, MD 21740 copyright 1997*

“Demon spirits love to play games with the minds of humans,” a spirit priest told me during my days as a spirit worshipper. “They flash thoughts and images in people's minds with such delicate skill that the recipients believe them to be their own reasoning. With a great sense of satisfaction he bragged how the spirits can activate the human imagination, triggering people to like certain persons and hate others. They can cause them to experience vibrant happiness, or the direct opposite -- great discouragement and depression. “And when it comes to poor Christians,” he declared, “those who are not aware of the supernatural activity and power, the spirits can apply such overwhelming pressure against them that it eventually destroys any faith they might have in the Creator...” *“When You Need Incredible Answers to Prayer”. p70 Roger Mourneau. Review and Herald Pub Assn Hagerstown, MD 21740 copyright 1995*

And I especially stress the importance of praying for the Holy Spirit to fight their battles for them. Many of those who have turned to prayer with a full understanding of what they were up against are now enjoying glorious victory over what had once been crushing problems.” *“When You Need Incredible Answers to Prayer”. p71 Roger Mourneau. Review and Herald Pub Assn Hagerstown, MD 21740 copyright 1995*

“The Creator, the priest said, cannot lie, and He does not sway people's feelings to get them to believe His word. On the contrary, He wants them to accept it because they trust Him to tell only the truth. On the other hand, spirits can lie, and take advantage of the fact that human beings listen to their feelings when it comes to deciding on the direction of their lives. Spirits make full use of that weakness by causing people to feel strongly about things the spirits want them to believe. They fill the human mind with erroneous thoughts. People naturally accept such ideas, and always will.” *“A Trip into the Supernatural” p61. Roger Mourneau. Review and Herald Pub Assn Hagerstown, MD 21740 copyright 1993*

Conclusion: - Spiritualism is a cruel hoax, a mocking travesty, a cunning cheat. It preys upon pious human hopes and fears, but leads only to disillusionment and despair. It promises endless life, but leads to eternal death. It promises communication with departed loved ones, but substitutes the pretence of masquerading demons. It promises exaltation, only to disappoint and degrade. It promises that all who hear and heed its siren voice will be like God, only to lead them into fellowship with devils, and to partake of their sinister characteristics. It is a fiendish hoax devised for the unwary. *Conditionalist Faith of our Fathers vol 2 pp 1273 . Ed. L.E. Froom. Review and Herald, 1965.*

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