

The Somerset Sower

Truth Does Not Fear Investigation! (John 3:19-21)

OCTOBER

2007

The Bible Opposes Astrology And The Occult: (Part Two)

By Willie Ramsey

Some Frequently Asked Questions

● **Question:** If the occult is not real, would you please explain *demons* (“*devils*” in the KJV)?

Answer: While there are a number of things we don't know about them, the following things we do know about demons:

1. Demons were *spirit* beings, thus had no physical existence (Mark 1:23).
2. Demons were in league with the devil (Matt. 12:22-26).
3. Demons were therefore evil or “unclean” (Mark 1:23).
4. The devil never had miraculous power. Only God does (Psalm 136:4; II Thess. 2:9).
5. Therefore, the demons' power also *was not miraculous* (Psalm 136:4).
6. They had some kind of non-miraculous power to inhabit certain people (Matt. 8:28).
7. It took God's miraculous power to cast them out (Matt. 10:1).
8. The fact they had to ask Christ, “art Thou come hither to torment us before the time” (Matt. 8:28-29), shows they did not know what His purpose was and therefore they did not know the future for themselves or anybody else.
9. They knew a specific “time” of “torment” was coming when they would not be allowed to inhabit men any more (Matt. 8:28-29).
10. I conclude the “time” when they could no longer afflict people was when the age of miracles ended (I Cor. 13:8-10). For God never let the devil have superiority over Him. God also established that Christians can “resist” the devil and he must then “flee” (James 4:7). In the age of miracles God gave the apostles and others miraculous power to cast demons out of people so that their affliction of people could be overcome (Matt. 10:1; Luke 10:1,17). The demons were powerless to overcome God's supernatural power to cast them out. God would not bring an end to the age of miracles and leave the demons able to afflict people without anyone being able to cast them out.

● **Question:** “If all forms of the occult are wrong, then what about the times in the Bible where people of God cast lots to know God's will, as in Acts 1: 24-26 and other places; and what about when the knowledge of God's will was made known in dreams during the time of Joseph and Daniel, etc.?”

Answer: Whether stones, pieces of wood, or other material was used, the use of “lots” was like our putting names on pieces of paper into a hat and then drawing one name in order to decide who gets something, or will do something, etc. In all the cases of “lots” and “dreams” mentioned in this question, it is shown in each context that *God chose* or *allowed* those methods in those instances by which he would show *His will to the people*. In each case the answer came *from God*, not from some other source as is supposed in the case of astrology and the occult.

Some Spiritual Observations And Lessons

1. At the heart of the occult concept is *idolatry* - *the sin of turning of one's heart and life away from God* (Gal. 5:19-21). Then in His place, people accept and act upon the false belief that there are supernatural beings (gods, evil spirits) who possess power or knowledge desired by men, and that on certain conditions, they will grant the use of them unto man.

2. Historically, all the ancient nations believed and practiced idolatry, and thus believed in supernatural powers and beings other than God (Romans 1:18-32). Numerous references are found in the Bible to their many gods (as in Romans 1) and their occult beliefs and practices (Deut. 18:9-14).

3. *One of the evidences that the Bible is from God* is the fact that the children of Israel were not taught idolatry and the occult like the Babylonians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, and other nations, but were actually commanded against such false and sinful beliefs and practices (Deut. 18:9-14).

Even modern unbelievers correctly ridicule and reject the occult beliefs of those other ancient cultures, yet they still exalt them as being highly intelligent people. There is an important lesson and point here.

Think about this for a moment. Since the Babylonians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, and others were such highly intelligent peoples, as modern unbelievers admit and tell us, *what caused the children of Israel to not be guided into the same occult beliefs as these other, supposedly more intelligent nations of their same time in history?* Is it to be accounted for in the fact that the children of Israel were just inherently more intellectually developed than the other nations after all? Obviously not. *The only reasonable conclusion is that it is because God revealed His Truth against the occult which the children of Israel accepted and the other nations did not* (Deut. 18:9,14; Romans 1:19-21)!

4. Some have erroneously taught that besides God, the devil also has miraculous powers. But those who know and accept the Bible to be the Truth (John 17:17), know that it is God "*alone*" Who "*doeth great wonders*" or miracles (Psalm 136:4). The devil's supposed great powers are therefore pointed out in II Thess. 2:9 to be "*lying*" (Greek *pseudos*, meaning *false* or *a lie*). All alleged miracles from sources other than God are false or deceptions (Rev. 13:11-14). Satan has no supernatural powers to use on behalf of anyone! Neither does anyone else. Only God does (Psalm 136:4)!

5. There are numerous idolatrous concepts.

A. An idol in principle is anything which one puts before God in his life. Hence, idols can be made of people, possessions, self, concepts of life, etc.

B. Man is guilty of standard idolatry when he forms a statue, calls it a god, and bows down to it in worship as if it were real (Isaiah 44:6-17; Acts 17:29).

C. There are always various false concepts one accepts and acts upon when one accepts the belief in any false god. It is here where the occult concepts began.

D. As we have seen, the "occult" refers to a range of idolatrous concepts and practices of those who believe either in false gods, or in supernatural powers of sources other than God, from which they seek *power*, or *knowledge of the future*, or *contact with the dead*, etc. It is condemned in Scripture as being *false worship* or *idolatry*, by which people have turned their devotion away from the true God to false or imaginary sources of help and hope (Romans 1:18-32).

6. Truth, though, tells us there is *only one real God* (I Tim. 2:5; I Cor. 8:6) and that idols are therefore "*nothing*" (I Cor. 8:4). That is, the gods they represent *do not actually exist*.

Bear in mind therefore that the occult does not pertain to any realm of *real existence*, but refers merely to a realm of *perceived existence and power* which idolatrous man has turned to while rejecting God.

Conclusion

As always, we who are Christians have a great responsibility to teach the people of our time of history the facts about the only true God.