

SCRIPTURAL PROHIBITIONS AGAINST OCCULT PRACTICES

Compiled by Michael Andrew Friend
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This study is primarily a compilation of scriptures. Any commentary immediately follows the scripture, which is in the King James Version. Commentaries are primarily Jamieson, Fausset, Brown, Commentary on the Old and New Testaments, Eerdmans Publishing (JFB); Bible Encyclopedia and Dictionary, Fausset, Zondervan (may be out of print); Keil and Delitzsch, Commentary on the Old Testament, Eerdmans Publishing (K&D).

Gen. 41 Verses 8 and 24

[8] And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh.....:

[24]..... and I told this unto the magicians; but there was none that could declare it to me.

Exod. 7 Verses 11 to 12

[11] Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.

[12] For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

Commentary: "The supremacy of Jehovah over the demoniacal powers of Egypt manifested itself in the very first miraculous sign, in the fact that Aaron's staff swallowed those of the magicians; though this miracle made no impression upon Pharaoh." K&D

Exod. 7 Verses 20 to 22

[20] And Moses and Aaron did so, as the LORD commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood.

[21] And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

[22] And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the LORD had said.

Exod. 8 Verses 5 to 7

[5] And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch forth thine hand with thy rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause frogs to come up upon the land of Egypt.

[6] And Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt; and the frogs came up, and covered the land of Egypt.

[7] And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs upon the land of Egypt.

Commentary: The plague of frogs "was also imitated by the Egyptian augurs with their secret arts, and frogs were brought upon the land by them. But if they were able to bring the plague, they could not take it away. The latter...is evident from the fact that Pharaoh was obliged to send for Moses and Aaron to intercede with Jeho vah to take them away." K&D

Exod. 8 Verses 16 to 19

[16] And the LORD said unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch out thy rod, and smite the dust of the land, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

[17] And they did so; for Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod, and smote the dust of the earth, and it became lice in man, and in beast; all the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

[18] And the magicians did so with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not: so there were lice upon man, and upon beast.

[19] Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

Exod. 9 Verse 11

[11] And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boil was upon the magicians, and upon all the Egyptians.

Exod. 22 Verse 18

[18] Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.

Lev. 19 Verses 26 to 28

[26] Ye shall not eat any thing with the blood: neither shall ye use enchantment, nor observe times.

[27] Ye shall not round the corners of your heads, neither shalt thou mar the corners of thy beard.

[28] Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD.

Commentary: In his discussion of "divination" in his Bible Encyclopedia and Dictionary, Fausset states that the phrase "observing times" comes from 'anan meaning "to cover," using covert arts; or else from 'on, meaning "time," or "fixed time": "those who define the exact 'auspicious time' to travel, to traffick, etc.; or else 'astrologers,' who judge by the stars auspicious and inauspicious days. The LXX (Septuagint, Greek translation of the Old Testament) explain it of 'observers of words,' so as to decide by them whether success will attend an undertaking or not (Gen. 24:14, 1 Sam. 14:9, 10, 1 Kings 20:33). Others take it from 'ain, 'the eye,' 'one fascinating with the eyes' (Matt. 20:15)."

Lev. 19 Verse 31

[31] Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.

Commentary: "The Hebrew word rendered 'familiar spirit,' signifies the belly, and sometimes a leathern bottle, from its similarity to the belly." JFB. According to JFB on Isa. 8:19, the word for "familiar spirits" is also used in Job 32:19 for "skin 'bottles'; hence the idea of 'inflation' with the Spirit as skin bottles full of wine, and speaking from the belly. The form is feminine, as women often exercised this trait--necromancers, spirit-chamers, who evoked the dead by incantations." According to K&D, it denotes a "departed spirit, who

was called up to make disclosures with regard to the future, hence a familiar spirit...The word is connected with `ob,' a skin...." a man or woman in whom is an `ob."

Lev. 20 Verses 6 to 7

[6] And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people.

[7] Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.

Lev. 20 Verse 27

[27] A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them.

Commentary: The latter phrase indicates that "The criminals having been forewarned, would be their own murderers; the ministers of justice who condemned them to death were free from the responsibility of their death." JFB.

Num. 22 Verses 7

[7] And the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the rewards of divination in their hand; and they came unto Balaam, and spake unto him the words of Balak.

Commentary: The "rewards of divination" are "like the fee of a fortune teller..." JFB

Num. 23 Verses 23

[23] Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!

Commentary: "The fact that Israel was not directed, like other nations, to the uncertain and deceitful instrumentality of augury and divination, but enjoyed in all its concerns the immediate revelation of its God, furnished the proof that it had its God in the midst of it, and was guided and endowed with power by God Himself." K&D. "No art can ever prevail against a people who are under the shield of omnipotence..." JFB

Deut. 18 Verses 10 to 15

[10] There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch,

[11] Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

[12] For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

[13] Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God.

[14] For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.

[15] The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

Commentary: To "pass through the fire" refers to the worship of Moloch who, according to Fausset's Bible Encyclopedia and Dictionary "was Ammon's god, akin to Moab's god Chemosh. The fire god, worshipped with human sacrifices, purifications, and ordeals by fire, as other idols were occasionally; also with mutilation, vows of celibacy and virginity, and devotion of the first born." According to JFB, divination "denotes primarily to divide, and hence to determine by lot or divination, particularly the three favorite methods of divining specified by Ezekiel 21:21 (shaking arrows which were marked with the names of places, consulting the images or teraphim (household gods), and looking at the liver of animals)." JFB. An "enchanter" refers to "an observer of serpents (one who..uttered a low hissing sound, in imitation of those reptiles.)" JFB. A "charmer" refers to a "binder with magic knots or spells." JFB

1 Sam. 6 Verse 2

[2] And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, What shall we do to the ark of the LORD? tell us wherewith we shall send it to his place.

1 Sam. 15 Verse 23

[23] For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

1 Sam. 28 Verses 3-14

[3] Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land.

[4] And the Philistines gathered themselves together, and came and pitched in Shunem; and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they pitched in Gilboa.

[5] And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled.

[6] And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams nor by Urim, nor by prophets.

[7] Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and inquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.

[8] And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee.

[9] And the woman said unto him, Behold, thou knowest what Saul hath done, how he hath cut off those that have familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land: wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life, to cause me to die?

[10] And Saul sware to her by the LORD, saying, As the LORD liveth, there shall no punishment happen to thee for this thing.

[11] Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel.

[12] And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou art Saul.

[13] And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: for what sawest thou? And the woman said unto Saul, I saw gods ascending out of the earth.

[14] And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh 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 himself.

1 Chr. 10 Verses 13 to 14

[13] So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to inquire of it;

[14] And inquired not of the LORD: therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse.

2 Kgs. 9 Verses 22

[22] And it came to pass, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, is it peace, Jehu? And he answered, What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many?

2 Kgs. 17 Verses 16 to 18

[16] And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.

[17] And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

[18] Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only.

2 Kgs. 21 Verses 5 to 7

[5] And (Manasseh) he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.

[6] And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

[7] And he set a graven image of the grove that he had made in the house, of which the LORD said to David, and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever:

2 Chr. 33 Verses 6 to 7

[6] And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

[7] And he set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen before all the tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever:

Commentary: Manasseh "worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them," (2 Ki. 21:3) and as indicated above, built altars to them. K&D says "This star-worship was a later development of the primary star-worship of Ssabism, in which the stars were worshipped without any image, in the open air and upon the housetops, by simple contemplation...This burning of incense took place not merely to the sun and moon, but also to signs of the zodiac and to all the host of heaven, i.e., to all the stars (2 Ki. 23:5); by which we are no doubt to understand that the sun, moon, planets and other stars were worshipped in conjunction with the zodiac, and with this were connected astrology, augury, and the casting of nativities, as in the case of the later so-called Chaldeans."

2 Kgs. 23 Verse 24

[24] Moreover the workers with familiar spirits (mediums in the Amplified translation), and the wizards, and the images (teraphim [household gods] in the Amplified translation), and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiyah the priest found in the house of the LORD.

Isa. 2 Verse 6

[6] Therefore thou hast forsaken thy people the house of Jacob, because they be replenished from the east ("filled with the customs from the east," in the Amplified translation), and are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers.

Isa. 8 Verse 19

[19] And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?

Commentary: JFB describes "wizards" as "men claiming supernatural knowledge: from the old English, 'to wit,' i.e., to know."

Isa. 19 Verse 3

[3] And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek (without avail) to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards.

Isa. 29 Verse 4

[4] And thou shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust.

Isa. 47 Verses 9 to 13

[9] But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments.

[10] For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me.

[11] Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou shalt not know.

[12] Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail.

[13] Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee.

Commentary: "The various kinds of fortune-tellers (the 'multitude of thy counsels' verse 13) were a prominent part of daily life in Babylon, but all of these failed the people when they needed them most. So it is with all who trust in any but the Lord God." The Wesleyan Bible Commentary, Baker Book House, Charles W. Carter General Editor. In his discussion of "divination," in his Bible Encyclopedia and Dictionary, Fausset says that "monthly prognosticators" were those "who every new moon professed by observations of it to foretell the future."

Isa. 57 Verses 3 to 8

[3] But draw near hither, ye sons of the sorceress, the seed of the adulterer and the whore.

[4] Against whom do ye sport yourselves? against whom make ye a wide mouth, and draw out the tongue? are ye not children of transgression, a seed of falsehood,

[5] Enflaming yourselves with idols under every green tree, slaying the children in the valleys under the cliffs of the rocks?

[6] Among the smooth stones of the stream is thy portion; they, they are thy lot: even to them hast thou poured a drink offering, thou hast offered a meat offering. Should I receive comfort in these?

[7] Upon a lofty and high mountain hast thou set thy bed: even thither wentest thou up to offer sacrifice.

[8] Behind the doors also and the posts hast thou set up thy remembrance: for thou hast discovered thyself to another than me, and art gone up; thou hast enlarged thy bed, and made thee a covenant with them; thou lovedst their bed where thou sawest it.

Isa. 65 Verses 3 to 4

[3] A people that provoketh me to anger continually to my face; that sacrificeth in gardens, and burneth incense upon altars of brick;

[4] Which remain among the graves ("trying to talk with the dead," in the Amplified translation), and lodge in the monuments (in the Amplified, "secret places [or caves where familiar spirits were thought to dwell]"), which eat swine's flesh, and broth of abominable things is in their vessels;

Jer. 10 Verse 2

[2] Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

Commentary: Eichorn thinks the reference here to be some celestial portent which had appeared at that time, causing the Jews dismay. Probably the reference is general, viz, to the Chaldees, famed as astrologers..." JFB. According to Will Durant, The Story of Civilization, Our Oriental Heritage, p . 256, discussing Babylonia, "Every movement of every star determined, or forecast, some terrestrial event: if, for example, the moon was low, a distant nation could submit to the king; if the moon was in crescent the king would overcome the enemy. Such efforts to wring the future out of the stars became a passion with the Babylonians; priests skilled in astrology reaped rich rewards from both people and king."

Jer. 14 Verses 14 to 15

[14] Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.

[15] Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that prophesy in my name, and I sent them not, yet they say, Sword and famine shall not be in this land; By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed.

Jer. 27 Verses 9 to 10

[9] Therefore hearken not ye to your prophets, nor to your diviners, nor to your dreamers, nor to your enchanters, nor to your sorcerers, which speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon:

[10] For they prophesy a lie unto you, to remove you far from your land; and that I should drive you out, and ye should perish.

Jer. 29 Verses 8 to 9

[8] For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed.

[9] For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD.

Ezek. 12 Verses 24 to 25

[24] For there shall be no more any vain vision nor flattering divination within the house of Israel.

[25] For I am the LORD: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass; it shall be no more prolonged: for in your days, O rebellious house, will I say the word, and will perform it, saith the Lord GOD.

Commentary: "(A)ll those false prophets (Lam. 2:14) who `flattered' the people with promises of peace and safety shall be detected and confounded by the event itself." JFB

Ezek. 13 Verses 6 to 23

[6] They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The LORD saith: and the LORD hath not sent them: and they have made others to hope that they would confirm the word.

[7] Have ye not seen a vain vision, and have ye not spoken a lying divination, whereas ye say, The LORD saith it; albeit I have not spoken?

[8] Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, saith the Lord GOD.

[9] And mine hand shall be upon the prophets that see vanity, and that divine lies: they shall not be in the assembly of my people, neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel, neither shall they enter into the land of Israel; and ye shall know that I am the Lord GOD.

[10] Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; and one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untempered mortar:

[11] Say unto them which daub it with untempered mortar, that it shall fall: there shall be an overflowing shower; and ye, O great hailstones, shall fall; and a stormy wind shall rend it.

[12] Lo, when the wall is fallen, shall it not be said unto you, Where is the daubing wherewith ye have daubed it?

[13] Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even rend it with a stormy wind in my fury; and there shall be an overflowing shower in mine anger, and great hailstones in my fury to consume it.

[14] So will I break down the wall that ye have daubed with untempered mortar, and bring it down to the ground, so that the foundation thereof shall be discovered, and it shall fall, and ye shall be consumed in the midst thereof: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

[15] Thus will I accomplish my wrath upon the wall, and upon them that have daubed it with untempered mortar, and will say unto you, The wall is no more, neither they that daubed it;

[16] To wit, the prophets of Israel which prophesy concerning Jerusalem, and which see visions of peace for her, and there is no peace, saith the Lord GOD.

[17] Likewise, thou son of man, set thy face against the daughters of thy people, which prophesy out of their own heart; and prophesy thou against them,

[18] And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe to the women that sew pillows to all armholes, and make kerchiefs upon the head of every stature to hunt souls! Will ye hunt the souls of my people, and will ye save the souls alive that come unto you?

[19] And will ye pollute me among my people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, to slay the souls that should not die, and to save the souls alive that should not live, by your lying to my people that hear your lies?

[20] Wherefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against your pillows, wherewith ye there hunt the souls to make them fly, and I will tear them from your arms, and will let the souls go, even the souls that ye hunt to make them fly.

[21] Your kerchiefs also will I tear, and deliver my people out of your hand, and they shall be no more in your hand to be hunted; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

[22] Because with lies ye have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, by promising him life:

[23] Therefore ye shall see no more vanity, nor divine divinations: for I will deliver my

people out of your hand: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

Commentary: According to JFB, the women sewed pillows to "'elbows and wrists,' for which the false prophetesses made cushions to lean on, as a symbolical act, typifying the perfect tranquility which they foretold to those consulting them." As to the "kerchiefs," JFB calls them "magical `veils,' which they put over the heads of those consulting them, as if to fit them for receiving a response, that they might be rapt in spiritual trance above the world."

Ezek. 21 Verses 23 to 29

[23] And it shall be unto them as a false divination in their sight, to them that have sworn oaths: but he will call to remembrance the iniquity, that they may be taken.

[24] Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye have made your iniquity to be remembered, in that your transgressions are discovered, so that in all your doings your sins do appear; because, I say, that ye are come to remembrance, ye shall be taken with the hand.

[25] And thou, profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end,

[26] Thus saith the Lord GOD; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high.

[27] I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him.

[28] And thou, son of man, prophesy and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD concerning the Ammonites, and concerning their reproach; even say thou, The sword, the sword is drawn: for the slaughter it is furbished, to consume because of the glittering:

[29] Whiles they see vanity unto thee, whiles they divine a lie unto thee, to bring thee upon the necks of them that are slain, of the wicked, whose day is come, when their iniquity shall have an end.

Ezek. 22 Verse 28

[28] And her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken.

Dan. 1 Verse 20

[20] And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

Commentary: According to JFB, the word "astrologers" here refers to the Hebrew "enchanters" which is from a Hebrew word having a root meaning "to conceal." Dummelow's The One Volume Bible Commentary, Macmillan Publishers, states of "astrologers," that the Revised

translation is "enchanters." Dummelow also states, "The Babylonians had an elaborate system of magic, the fame and practice of which survived long after the Babylonian empire had ceased to exist."

Dan. 2 Verses 2 to 28

[2] Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.

[3] And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.

[4] Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation.

[5] The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.

[6] But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof.

[7] They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it.

[8] The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me.

[9] But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof.

[10] The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean.

[11] And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.

[12] For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.

[13] And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.

[14] Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon:

[15] He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel.

[16] Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.

[17] Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:

[18] That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

[19] Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

[20] Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:[21] And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

[22] He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

[23] I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.

[24] Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation.

[25] Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation.

[26] The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?

[27] Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king;

[28] But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

Dan. 4 Verse 7

[7] Then came in the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers: and I told the dream before them; but they did not make known unto me the interpretation thereof.

Dan. 5 Verse 7

[7] The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. And the king spake, and said to the wise men of Babylon, Whosoever shall read this writing, and shew me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.

Commentary: Only Daniel could read the "writing on the wall."

Micah 3 Verse 7

[7] Then shall the seers be ashamed, and the diviners confounded: yea, they shall all cover their lips; for there is no answer of God.

Micah 5 Verses 12 to 13

[12] And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thine hand; and thou shalt have no more soothsayers:

[13] Thy graven images also will I cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the work of thine hands.

Nah. 3 Verse 4

[4] Because of the multitude of the whoredoms of the wellfavoured harlot, the mistress of witchcrafts, that selleth nations through her whoredoms, and families through her witchcrafts.

Zech. 10 Verse 2

[2] For the idols have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a lie, and have told false dreams; they comfort in vain: therefore they went their way as a flock, they were troubled, because there was no shepherd.

Mal. 3 Verse 5

[5] And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.

Matt. 24 Verse 24

[24] For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Acts 8 Verses 9 to 13

[9] But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:

[10] To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.

[11] And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.

[12] But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

[13] Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

Acts 13 Verses 6 to 11

[6] And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-jesus:

[7] Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.

[8] But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

[9] Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,

[10] And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

[11] And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

Acts 16 Verses 16 to 18

[16] And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

[17] The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.

[18] And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

Commentary: Regarding the "spirit of divination," JFB states "a spirit supposed to be inspired by the Pythian Apollo, or of the same nature. The reality of this demoniacal possession is as undeniable as that of any in the Gospel history." In his Bible Encyclopaedia and Dictionary, Fausset states "The pythonesses (marginal rendering of Acts 16:16) spoke with a deep voice as from the belly..." Fausset also describes a "pythoness" and the witch of Endow as a "'medium' between the consulters and the powers of darkness."

Acts 19 Verse 19

[19] Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

Commentary: The "curious arts" are "magic arts." JFB

Gal. 5 Verses 19 to 20

[19] Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

[20] Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

2 Thes. 2 Verses 8 to 12

[8] And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

[9] Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

[10] And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

[11] And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

[12] That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Commentary: Satan is "a liar, and the father of it." John 8:44

1 Tim. 4 Verses 1 to 2

[1] Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

[2] Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

Rev. 9 Verses 20 to 21

[20] And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

[21] Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

Commentary: On "sorceries," JFB states "witchcrafts by means of `drugs (pharmakeion).' A work of the unrenewed flesh (Gal. 5:20), the sin of the heathen: to be repeated by apostate Christians in the last days (Rev. 22:15)."

Rev. 13 Verses 13 to 14

[13] And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

[14] And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

Rev. 16 Verses 13 to 14

[13] And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

[14] For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Rev. 17 Verses 3 to 8

[3] So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

[4] And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

[5] And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

[6] And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

[7] And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

[8] The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

Rev. 18 Verses 10 to 23

[10] Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

[11] And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

[12] The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,

[13] And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.

[14] And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.

[15] The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,

[16] And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!

[17] For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,

[18] And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city!

[19] And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.

[20] Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

[21] And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

[22] And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee;

[23] And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.

Rev. 21 Verse 8

[8] But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Rev. 22 Verses 14 to 15

[14] Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

[15] For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.