

The Flood of the Psychics

Through the mid-1900's, no one took witches and magic seriously. Today it is different. Many people would be surprised to find how commonly the occult is in our society:

Books – Nearly every bookstore has a major section on the occult.

Magazines and tabloids – such as the *National Enquirer*, sold at every grocery store check-out lane, promote psychics and all kinds of occult practices. Most newspapers publish Astrology Charts daily.

Games – Toy or game sections in stores often sell occult games. *Ouija Boards* or *Dungeons and Dragons* have been around for years, and similar “fantasy games” are developed regularly. Still more popular are video and online games involving witches, sorcerers, demons, and occult powers of all kinds. Often players role-play or pretend to be occult characters.

Television and movies – Beginning years ago with “Rosemary’s Baby,” and continuing through “The Exorcist,” “Star Wars,” and so on, many programs and movies have major occult themes. Even children’s cartoons now feature occult powers, with witches, sorcerers, demons, etc.

Music – Many popular recording artists are involved in sorcery and witchcraft. Popular songs often involve occult aspects, and album covers can subtly portray Satanist symbols.

Education – Many colleges and universities teach courses discussing the occult, and even high school and grade school texts may contain references to witchcraft and the occult.

Psychic Fairs – Offer psychic readings, fortune-telling, palm reading, mind-mapping, reading tarot cards, and other occult services.

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The Faith of the Psychics

Practitioners may sincerely believe that they can help people by predicting their future, giving advice, connecting them with their dead loved ones, sharing insights about their character, etc. They claim to be able to reveal the meaning of life to their followers.

What is wrong with that? The Old Testament provides the answer.

When the Israelites were preparing to enter the Promised Land, God told them not to get involved in the pagan practices in that land because they were detestable to Him:

Deuteronomy 18:9-14, “When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. 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 [use of objects to predict the future], or an observer of times [astrologer], or an enchanter, or a witch [both refer to the user of charms or magic], Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits [medium, or channeler], or a wizard [user of spells], or a necromancer [communication with the dead].

“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. Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. 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.”

The reason for this can be understood by reading the next verse:

Deuteronomy 18:15, “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;”

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God wants His people to seek the truth from Him. Looking to other “forces” is to turn from light to darkness.

The Failure of the Psychics

The Bible tells of several confrontations between psychics and real prophets of God. For example in the Book of Daniel we read of the King having a dream:

Daniel 2:27-28, “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; **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;**”



The psychics failed because only God “revealeth secrets.” Psychics can be good at giving general advice (fortunes), but fail miserably when attempting to accurately predict the future. That is something that only God can do.

Isaiah 46:9-10, “Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.”

The Fellowship with Psychics

Should Christians associate with psychics and their practices? After all, what harm can it do? They might even bring people to “faith.”

The New Testament provides the answer:

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prayer, a certain damsel **possessed with a spirit of divination** met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: 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. 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. And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers,”

This young servant girl was a soothsayer (psychic or fortune-teller). She was also possessed of a demon.

She endorsed Paul and Silas’ ministry and message. But Paul did not want her endorsement, and cast the demon out of her in the name of Jesus Christ. Once delivered of her demon, she was no longer able to practice her psychic trade. Her masters were furious at their financial loss, and had the missionaries thrown in jail.

Later Paul preached the Gospel at Ephesus, and we read:

Acts 19:18-20 – “And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts [psychics] 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. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.”

When God’s Word prevails in the lives of people today, they renounce their involvement in psychic practices. They remove and destroy all aspects of it in their lives.

The gospel of Christ cannot coexist with the occult in our lives. Either the occult will drive out faithfulness to Christ, leading to eternal condemnation, or else the gospel will drive out

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The gospel of Christ cannot coexist with the occult in our lives. Either the occult will drive out faithfulness to Christ, leading to eternal condemnation, or else the gospel will drive out

the occult, leading to salvation.

And no wonder, for the Word of God asks:

2 Corinthians 6:14-15, “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?”

The implied answer – absolutely none!

God then gives a simple command:

2 Corinthians 6:17-18, “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

John 8:32, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”



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THE TRUTH ABOUT PSYCHICS



“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.

To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because **there is no light in them.**” (Isaiah 8:19)

By Tom Stiles

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