

THE NINE FORBIDDEN PRACTICES OF THE OCCOULTE By Eric Barger

When we wrote the book *Entertaining Spirits Unaware: The End-Time Occult Invasion*, David Benoit and I drew from at that time over 45 years of combined ministry experience often dealing with New Age spiritualism, witchcraft and overt occultism. These are issues that occasionally make the most alert Christian uncomfortable and the unaware simply cringe. It may seem like overkill to some that David and I write such a book, for after all, the occult and those who purvey it are certainly nothing for Christians to concern ourselves with...or are they? How we wish that the occult was indeed just a most point in our society. However, in actuality the occult is thriving in America and around the world, gaining acceptance and followers in unparalleled numbers. Today there is a spiritual war going on for the lives and souls of men, women, teens and yes, children; and without the Church lighting up and exposing this darkness it continues unabated, overtaking the unsuspecting around us.

Recently I was speaking at a Christian conference at Houston's (TX) Second Baptist Church. While there, a gentleman came by our display booth and noticed the title of my (then) new book. He backed up slightly and exclaimed, "Ohhhh, the occult. That scares me!" I happened to hear him and was able to respond saying, "Brother, the only reason the word 'occult' has the ability to frighten you is because you don't understand it - which is exactly what Satan wants."

Ignorance invites misunderstanding, fear, complacency and deception. This is why considering the enemy's vast deployment of occult traps (ranging from an array of New Age self-help seminars and numerous kids' cartoons, to the world of children's books and the ever-present 1990's TV psychic "Miss Cleo" and her TV-based tarot card reading service), it is of ultimate importance that we have at least a basic understanding of what God's Word declares on the issue. If that was true back twenty years ago when we wrote *Entertaining Spirits Unaware*, it is certainly more imperative now.

Derived from the Latin word **Occultus**, the occult by definition means "things hidden, things in darkness, the practices of divination and sorcery". Make no mistake - God is not confused in the least about the realm of occultism, its practices and adherents. His Word is crystal clear and God's position **must** also become **our** position if we expect His blessing, protection and providential power to be evident in our lives and homes. The majority of those dabbling in occult, New Age, and mystical practices really have no understanding of who they are really dealing with and the sinister forces they have invited into their lives. Since there are truly just two sources of spiritual power in the Universe – God and Satan – one needs to examine, who it is and which kingdom they have tapped into. One is truth and one is a finely disguised counterfeit.

THE NINE FORBIDDEN PRACTICES

Deuteronomy 18 contains the most powerful biblical passage outlining the occult. In verses ten and eleven we find the <u>Nine Forbidden Practices</u> of the occult:

⁹When 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. ¹⁰There 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, ¹¹Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. ¹²For 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. ¹³Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. ¹⁴For 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.

In my Take A Stand! Seminar **"The End-Time Occult Invasion,"** I use the following slide to illustrate how it is absolutely imperative that we avoid all forms of occultism and teach others the same.



Once we see and understand God's standard on the occult, several more Scriptures immediately come to mind that give direction, warning and clarity concerning the various deceptions.

Ephesians 5:10-11 instruct what we must do concerning evil in any form.

¹⁰Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. ¹¹And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

Il Corinthians 6:14-18 leaves no doubt that God wants His children to steer clear of any fascination or involvement with the occult.

¹⁴Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? ¹⁵And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, ¹⁸And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. In the strongest terms used in the entire Bible, God condemns and forbids the occult as He warns the Israelites to avoid and abhor it.

Pronouncing it as "towebah," God, in His wisdom, lays out

the <u>Nine Forbidden</u> <u>Practices</u>

- 1) Human Sacrifice We call that abortion today!
- 2) Divination The Heart of the occult. Manipulation from demonic sources.
- **3)** Astrology We either trust God or the Zodiac but not both!
- 4) Enchanter Someone satanically endowed to produce seductive spells.
- 5) Witchcraft and Witches Includes its modern, organized counterpart, Wicca.
- 6) Charmer One whose ability to manipulate objects or beings comes via demonic powers.
- 7) Consulter with Familiar Spirits – One who gleans knowledge from the powers of darkness.
- 8) Wizards Practitioners of magical arts.
- 9) Necromancers Those who claim to be in contact with the dead.

Deuteronomy 13: 1-5 serves as God's warning to His own that those who endear themselves to false teachings and false teachers (that includes the occult) are indeed "returning to "Egypt" – entering again into satanic bondage!

¹If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, ²And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; ³Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ⁴Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. ⁵And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.

Notice verse three, which relates that our acceptance or rejection of these false teachers and their works <u>will be a test</u> of our allegiance to God!

No wonder the Scripture very clearly and concisely instructs and warns of God's will (blessings or judgement) concerning the occult and related issues. Make no mistake: when we fail to reject and expose any and all of the occult practices and various entertainment modes that now endorse them the Bible clearly says that we have <u>failed the test</u> and have commenced to following "other gods."

Furthermore, Romans 1:32 declares that those who entertain themselves with the images of evil, including the many brands of occult-based entertainment, are under the same judgement and curse as those who actually *perform* the occult deeds! Wow!

²⁹Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, ³⁰Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: ³²Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Doesn't that sound exactly like our culture today; having pleasure in or being entertained by the very things that God condemns?

IGNORANCE IS NEVER BLISS!

Many would be content to stay ignorant of the seriousness of the occult in the sight and mind of God. However, to do so is to invite curses and demonic activity to infest our homes, families and land. At very least we cannot expect God to bless and enrich our lives and loved ones if we persist in walking in darkness, making acceptable what He disdains.

Hosea 4:6 speaks to those who walk in ignorance and also to us who know the truth that we must herald it clearly!

⁶My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

It is a sad and tragic fact of these end-days that many in the Church – <u>THE CHURCH</u> – have followed "strange gods" entertaining themselves and their families with movies, books, television programs and more that do nothing more than glorify the Nine Forbidden Practices of the Occult!

Need we wonder why God doesn't answer our prayers, save our families, anoint our worship services and fill our lives with boldness, power and miraculous authority? We need only look as far as the entertainment that many Saints so willingly allow to rob them of not only precious time, but of their sensitivity to God's Word and standards for His children. As we continually implant Satanic occultism into our minds and lives through "harmless" entertainment venues it won't be long before we accept what God calls evil as good and reject what He calls good as evil, pridefully becoming wise in our own eyes. –**TASM**

Visit www.ericbarger.com for more information on the cults, occult, spiritual warfare and apologetics.