



**“Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread” (Isaiah 8:13).**

### **Occult Invasion**

**Central Truth:** All elements of the occult are demonic and should be rejected by Christians.

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**Topic:** Cults, Doctrine: Heresies In.

Have you ordered a horoscope reading for your cat or dog? They are available for a fee. Do you read your horoscope daily in your newspaper? Most newspapers in the country carry it. Are you rejoicing that the “age of Aquarius” is upon us and expecting it to bring a time of peace, brotherhood, and prosperity? I hope your answer to each of those questions is a very positive no. To answer otherwise is to dabble in paganism.

A few years ago people scoffed at the idea of a devil, demons, or even angels. But now the belief is widespread. It is so prevalent that secular movies deal with themes of demon possession and exorcism of demons.

Many people are turning to occult practices (fortune-telling, séances, etc.) for guidance in daily life. They do not realize that they are “playing with fire.” Anything relating to the occult exposes one to the devil and his demons. Christians should have nothing to do with it. God says, *“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?”* (Isaiah 8:19). Indeed, they should!

### **Definition**

Occult is from the Latin word *occultus*, which means “to cover over; to be concealed.” It designates certain mystic arts that claim to foretell the future.

The current occult invasion takes many forms. (1) *Magic* seeks to control by spells, charms, and rituals which are supposed to direct certain natural or supernatural powers or forces. (2) *Astrology* is a false science which claims to foretell the future by studying the supposed influence of the relative position of sun, moon, and stars on human affairs by use of the horoscope. (3) *Alchemy* deals in transmutation, the miraculous change of one thing into another. All forms of the occult (and there are many others) play much on the mysterious and supernatural powers which superstitious and gullible people accept as valid. What a tragedy it is that people turn from the God who governs past, present, and future to seek help from such false sources. God is available with truth for time and eternity.

Kurt E. Koch lists seventy-one different forms and devises of the occult movement. His list includes astrology, clairvoyance, drug abuse, homosexuality, levitation, magic, meditation, pornography, rock music, spiritist healing, superstition, and yoga. Spiritism includes game boards, automatic writing, conversation with spirits, astral travel, table lifting. etc. (See *Occult ABC*, by Koch.)

The unusual experiences one may have in the occult include channeling, past life regressions, physic readings, yoga, in which one is caught up into the state of universal oneness, etc. (See *Inside the New Age Nightmare*, by R. Baer; Huntington House, 1989.) That list, incomplete though it is, indicates that the world of the occult is wide and almost incomprehensible.

Many people are caught up by subtle traps. They participate in “fun games” like tarot cards, game boards, séances, and reading the horoscope. But any involvement in those occult experiences is dangerous. It opens the door to more entrapment.

## **Dangers**

The greatest danger to dabbling in the occult is that it exposes you to demons. Are the experiences claimed by the followers of the occult real? Many of them are very real. What is the explanation for them? It is the power of demons at work. As Paul wrote, “*They sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils*” (I Corinthians 10:20). The devil is very active in all the occult.

Involvement in the occult has another danger: it creates in you a resistance to the things of God. That is the purpose of the devil in everything he does. Once a person has begun to believe what is written in the horoscope in the daily paper, for instance, he ceases to look to God for guidance. He

begins to attribute to the planets powers which belong only to God. He ceases to trust like a believer and trusts what the pagans trust. How tragic!

The end result of occult involvement is the rejection of God as a part of daily life. Emotional disorders often follow, and even suicide is attempted. Isaiah was right: Why should a people look to wizards and fortunetellers? *"Should not a people seek unto their God?"* (Isaiah 8:19).

## **Resistance**

Read Isaiah 8:11-20. There you will find guidelines by which you can stand against the allurements of the occult and live by biblical principles.

**Reverence God only.** *"Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. And he shall be a sanctuary"* (verses 13, 14). He is marked by faithfulness and truth (Isaiah 25:1). The wisest thing you can do is to look to Him only and yield to His control. Have no fear of other powers: *"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world"* (I John 4:4).

**Judge everything by the Holy Scriptures.** *"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 8:20). The Bible is given by God's own breath, as if He spoke those words personally (II Timothy 3:16). It is the standard by which all things are to be evaluated now. It will be the standard of judgment at the last day (John 12:48). Accept what the Bible approves and reject what it disapproves. Guard your mind. God will guide you into truth and keep you from error if you will govern your thoughts (verses 11, 12). Fill your mind with things that are true, honest, appropriate, and uplifting; if you do that, evil things will not enter (Philippians 4:8). The Christian must be continually disciplining his thoughts and bringing them into captivity so that he may obey Christ (II Corinthians 10:5).

**Look at the end of the way.** Those who follow occult devices will stumble and fall; they will also be broken and taken away captive (verse 15). Such a person will build his life without a foundation and it will crumble in the day of testing (Matthew 7:26, 27). Remember that *"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death"* (Proverbs 16:25).

**Refuse to participate.** Accept no invitation to be involved in any kind of occult practice, regardless of who may invite you (verse 19). It may appear as "innocent fun," but the dangers are too great to risk. *"Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of*

*the Lord's table, and of the table of devils” (I Corinthians 10:21).*

Involvement in the occult is a rejection of the Lord Jesus. *“Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them”* (Ephesians 5:11).

**Keep seeking God.** When Isaiah asks, *“Should not a people seek unto their God?”* the answer is obvious. *“If from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul”* (Deuteronomy 4:29). Who would want more than Him? In His presence you renew your strength to rise up as the eagle, to run without weariness, and to walk without fainting (Isaiah 40:31).

## **Deliverance**

Someone may say, “That is wise counsel, but it is too late for me. I am already involved in the occult. Is there deliverance for me?” The answer is, yes! Here is how.

**Come to Christ for deliverance.** *“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil”* (1 John 3:8). He gives rest to all who come (Matthew 11:28).

**Destroy all cultic objects: books, charms, pictures, and music.** Burn them as did the new converts at Ephesus (Acts 19:18-20). Break off completely all contacts and friendships with those who practice the occult arts. It is God's call for you to *“come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you”* (II Corinthians 6:17).

**Recognize your involvement as sin and confess your guilt to God, asking His forgiveness and deliverance.** If you confess your sin, He will take away the guilt and cleanse the stain left behind (1 John 1:9).

**Accept God's forgiveness by faith.** He promises, *“By him all that believe are justified from all things”* (Acts 13:39). Rest in forgiveness because of His promise, not because of the way you feel.

**Join a Bible study and prayer group in a Bible-teaching church.** You need public worship with God's people. But you need more than that. You need to be exposed to teaching and fellowship in a small group where you can be accountable and have personal support (Acts 2:42).

**Fully dedicate every part of your body and soul to God.** Leave no member of your body available as instruments of sin in the spiritual warfare. Consider yourself to be dead to sin but alive to righteousness in thought and in deed (Romans 6:11-14).

**Be constantly filled with the Holy Spirit** (Ephesians 5:18). To be

filled with the Spirit is to be governed by Him. Let every thought, desire, and action have His approval before you entertain it. He will give you victory.

Jesus has overcome the devil and all his demons. You already have His victory if you are in Him. Therefore live in it. Do not permit yourself to be enslaved by your spiritual enemy. *“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”* (Romans 6:16). Yes we are in a spiritual warfare, but the victory is won in Jesus.

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. What is the occult?
2. What is the evidence of an occult invasion today?
3. What are the dangers of involvement in the occult?
4. What is the power involved in occult experiences?
5. How does the Bible help in our dealing with the occult?
6. Why must we guard our minds against the occult?
7. Why should we refuse to participate in occult games?
8. Why must occult objects be destroyed rather than stored?
9. Why is involvement in the occult a sin to be confessed?
10. How is there victory in the Lord Jesus?