

## ~FORETELLER OF EVENTS (318)

[Hebrew, *yid-de`o-ni'*, professional foreteller of events]

- An individual claiming ability to forecast what will take place in the future, among whom the Bible **names magic-practicing priests, spiritistic diviners, astrologers, and others.**
- The Hebrew word *yid-de`o-ni'*, rendered professional foreteller of events, comes from the root *ya-dha`* or **know**, and implies knowledge hidden to the ordinary person. It often appears in conjunction with *'ohv*, meaning **spirit medium**.
- Or one who binds others with a spell or anyone who consults a spirit medium or **a professional foreteller of events** or anyone who inquires of the dead. (**Deuteronomy 18:11**)
- Some individuals possessed occult powers by virtue of contact with the demons, the wicked angelic enemies of God under Satan the Devil, who is the ruler of the demons.
- Later he was expelling a dumb demon. After the demon came out, the dumb man spoke. And the crowds marveled. (**Luke 11:14**)
- But certain ones of them said; He expels the demons by means of Beelzebub the ruler of the demons. (**Luke 11:15**)
- However, others, to tempt him, began seeking a sign out of heaven from him. (**Luke 11:16**)
- Knowing their imaginations he said to them; Every kingdom divided against itself comes to desolation, and a house divided against itself falls. (**Luke 11:17**)
- So if Satan is also divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? Because you say I expel the demons by means of Beelzebub. (**Luke 11:18**)
- If it is by means of Beelzebub I expel the demons, by whom do your sons expel them? Because of this they will be judges of you. (**Luke 11:19**)

- But if it is by means of God's finger I expel the demons, the kingdom of God has really overtaken you. ([Luke 11:20](#))
- In ancient times various methods were employed by these prognosticators in obtaining their messages of prediction: stargazing
- You have grown weary with the multitude of your counselors. Let them stand up, now, and save you, the worshipers of the heavens, the lookers at the stars, those giving out knowledge at the new moons concerning the things that will come upon you. ([Isaiah 47:13](#))
- Examination of the liver and other viscera of sacrificed animal victims.
- For the king of Babylon stood still at the crossways, at the head of the two ways, in order to resort to divination. He has shaken the arrows. He has asked by means of the teraphim. He has looked into the liver. ([Ezekiel 21:21](#))
- Interpretation of omens
- And he made his own son pass through the fire, and he practiced magic and looked for omens and made spirit mediums and professional **foretellers** of events. He did on a large scale what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, to offend him. ([2 Kings 21:6](#))
- Consultation with the so-called spirits of the dead, and so forth.
- Or one who binds others with a spell or anyone who consults a spirit medium or a professional **foreteller** of events or anyone who inquires of the dead. ([Deuteronomy 18:11](#))

**See Also DIVINATION**

**See Also SPIRITISM**

- The lives of the Egyptians, like the lives of the Babylonians, were regulated to a large extent by their fortune-tellers.
- And the spirit of Egypt must become bewildered in the midst of it, and I shall confuse its own counsel. And they will be certain to resort to the valueless gods and to the charmers and to the spirit mediums and to the professional **foretellers** of events. ([Isaiah 19:3](#))

- On the other hand, God's true servants never looked to such persons for information. When the Law was given to Israel shortly after their release from bondage in Egypt, they were strictly forbidden to consult **professional foretellers of events**.
- Do not turn yourselves to the spirit mediums, and do not consult professional **foretellers** of events, so as to become unclean by them. I am Yehowah your God. (**Leviticus 19:31**)
- Having immoral intercourse with them would result in being cut off in death from among God's people. And as to the one practicing the art, the Law went on to say;
- As for the soul who turns himself to the spirit mediums and the professional **foretellers** of events so as to have immoral intercourse with them, I shall certainly set my face against that soul and cut him off from among his people. (**Leviticus 20:6**)
- And as for a man or woman in whom there proves to be a mediumistic spirit or spirit of prediction, they should be put to death without fail. They should pelt them to death with stones. Their own blood is upon them. (**Leviticus 20:27**)
- Nearly 40 years later, when poised to enter the Promised Land and to drive out its inhabitants, Israel was reminded.
- When you are entered into the land that Yehowah your God is giving you, you must not learn to do according to the detestable things of those nations. (**Deuteronomy 18:9**)
- There should not be found in you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, anyone who employs divination, a practitioner of magic or anyone who looks for omens or a sorcerer. (**Deuteronomy 18:10**)
- Or one who binds others with a spell or anyone who consults a spirit medium or a professional **foreteller** of events or anyone who inquires of the dead. (**Deuteronomy 18:11**)
- More than 350 years later, Israel's first king, Saul, removed all the **foretellers** of events from the land, but before his death he had fallen so far away from Yehowah that he personally sought out a mistress of spirit mediumship in En-dor to foretell his future.

- At first she was afraid to practice her art, but at Saul's insistence that she bring up Samuel, she conjured up a vision. She described its form as an old man wearing a sleeveless coat. Saul was convinced that it was the prophet Samuel.
- Finally Saul said to his servants; Seek for me a woman who is a mistress of spirit mediumship, and I will go to her and consult her. Then his servants said to him; Look! There is a woman who is a mistress of spirit mediumship in En-dor. (1 Samuel 28:7)
- So Saul disguised himself and clothed himself with other garments and went, he and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night. He now said; Employ divination, please, for me by spirit mediumship and bring up for me the one whom I shall designate to you. (1 Samuel 28:8)
- However, the woman said to him; Here you yourself well know what Saul did, how he cut off the spirit mediums and the professional foretellers of events from the land. Why, then, are you acting like a trapper against my soul to have me put to death? (1 Samuel 28:9)
- Immediately Saul swore to her by Yehowah, saying; As Yehowah is alive, guilt for error will not befall you in this matter! (1 Samuel 28:10)
- At this the woman said; Whom shall I bring up for you? To this he said; Bring up Samuel for me. (1 Samuel 28:11)
- When the woman saw Samuel she began crying out at the top of her voice, and the woman went on to say to Saul; Why did you trick me, when you yourself are Saul? (1 Samuel 28:12)
- But the king said to her; Do not be afraid, but what did you see? And the woman went on to say to Saul; A god I saw coming up out of the earth. (1 Samuel 28:13)
- At once he said to her; What is his form? To which she said; It is an old man coming up, and he has himself covered with a sleeveless coat. At that Saul recognized that it was Samuel, and he proceeded to bow low with his face to the earth and to prostrate himself. (1 Samuel 28:14)

- **And Samuel began to say to Saul; Why have you disturbed me by having me brought up? To this Saul said; I am in very sore straits, as the Philistines are fighting against me, and God himself has departed from me and has answered me no more, either by means of the prophets or by dreams, so that I am calling you to let me know what I shall do. (1 Samuel 28:15)**
- **And Samuel went on to say; Why, then, do you inquire of me, when Yehowah himself has departed from you and proves to be your adversary? (1 Samuel 28:16)**
- **And Yehowah will do for himself just as he spoke by means of me, and Yehowah will rip the kingdom away from your hand and give it to your fellowman David. (1 Samuel 28:17)**
- **As you did not obey the voice of Yehowah, and you did not execute his burning anger against Amalek, that is why this is the thing that Yehowah will certainly do to you this day. (1 Samuel 28:18)**
- **And Yehowah will also give Israel with you into the hand of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. Even the camp of Israel Yehowah will give into the hand of the Philistines. (1 Samuel 28:19)**
- **But it could not actually have been Samuel, for he was dead, and the dead are conscious of nothing at all.**
- **For the living are conscious that they will die, but as for the dead, they are conscious of nothing at all, neither do they anymore have wages, because the remembrance of them has been forgotten. (Ecclesiastes 9:5)**
- **Samuel, when alive, would certainly have had nothing to do with a spirit medium, and Yehowah God and his holy angels would give such a one no cooperation. God himself told his people;**
- **And in case they should say to you people; Apply to the spiritistic mediums or to those having a spirit of prediction who are chirping and making utterances in low tones, is it not to its God that any people should apply? Should there be application to dead persons in behalf of living persons? (Isaiah 8:19)**
- **To the Law and to the attestation! Surely they will keep saying**

what is according to this statement that will have no light of dawn. (**Isaiah 8:20**)

- Nearly 400 years after Saul's reign, King Manasseh of Judah did on a large scale what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, to offend him, including the consulting of professional **foretellers** of events, who flourished under his rule.
- And he made his own son pass through the fire, and he practiced magic and looked for omens and made spirit mediums and professional **foretellers** of events. He did on a large scale what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, to offend him. (**2 Kings 21:6**)
- And he himself made his own sons pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and practiced magic and used divination and practiced sorcery and made spiritistic mediums and **professional foretellers of events**. He did on a grand scale what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, to offend him. (**2 Chronicles 33:6**)
- All of these had to be cleaned out of the land by Manasseh's grandson, righteous King Josiah.
- And also the spirit mediums and the **professional foretellers of events** and the teraphim and the dungy idols and all the disgusting things that had appeared in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem Josiah cleared out, in order, that he might actually carry out the words of the Law that were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest had found at the house of Yehowah. (**2 Kings 23:24**)
- The only mention in the **Christian Greek Scriptures** of demonic predicting of the future is the instance in which the apostle Paul, in the city of Philippi, freed a certain servant girl with a spirit, a demon of divination.
- She had furnished her masters with much gain, by practicing the art of prediction. Manifesting the fact that such practice is truly demonic and diametrically opposed to God, the masters of the girl from whom the demon was cast out caused Paul much trouble in Philippi, bringing Paul and his companion Silas before the magistrates, who gave the command to beat them and then threw them into jail.
- And from there to Philippi, a colony, which is the principal city of

the district of Macedonia. We continued in this city, spending some days. ([Acts of Apostles 16:12](#))

- And it happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a certain servant girl with a spirit, a demon of divination, met us. She used to furnish her masters with much gain by practicing the art of prediction. ([Acts of Apostles 16:16](#))
- This girl kept following Paul and us and crying out with the words. These men are slaves of the Most High God, who are publishing to you the way of salvation. ([Acts of Apostles 16:17](#))
- This she kept doing for many days. Finally Paul got tired of it and turned and said to the spirit; I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And it came out that very hour. ([Acts of Apostles 16:18](#))
- Well, when her masters saw that their hope of gain had left, they laid hold of Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the rulers. ([Acts of Apostles 16:19](#))
- And, leading them up to the civil magistrates, they said; These men are disturbing our city very much, they being Jews. ([Acts of Apostles 16:20](#))
- And they are publishing customs that it is not lawful for us to take up or practice, seeing we are Romans. ([Acts of Apostles 16:21](#))
- And the crowd rose up together against them, and the civil magistrates, after tearing the outer garments off them, gave the command to beat them with rods. ([Acts of Apostles 16:22](#))
- After they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them securely. ([Acts of Apostles 16:23](#))
- Because he got such an order, he threw them into the inner prison and made their feet fast in the stocks. ([Acts of Apostles 16:24](#))