

~SPIRITISM (877)

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• The belief or doctrine that the spirits of the human dead, surviving the death of the physical body, can and do communicate with the living, especially through a person, a medium, particularly susceptible to their influence.

• Both the Bible and secular history reveal that spiritism existed from very early times. Egypt's religion was permeated with it.

• 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)

• And the religion of Babylon, which city was also the chief religious center for Assyria, was **spiritistic**.

• Stand still, now, with your **spells** and with the abundance of your **sorceries**, in which you have toiled from your youth, that perhaps you might be able to benefit, that perhaps you might strike people with awe. (Isaiah 47:12)

• 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)

• The **Greek** word for **spiritism** is *phar-ma-ki'a*. Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words [1981, Vol. 4, pp. 51,52] says of the

word: [English, pharmacy etc.] primarily signified the use of medicine, drugs, spells, then, poisoning, then, sorcery.

- Idolatry, **practice of spiritism**, enmities, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, contentions, divisions, sects. (**Galatians 5:20**)
- **RV, sorcery AV, witchcraft**, mentioned as one of the works of the flesh.
- And they did not repent of their murders nor of their **spiritistic practices** nor of their fornication nor of their thefts. (**Revelation 9:21**)
- And no light of a lamp will ever shine in you again, and no voice of a bridegroom and of a bride will ever be heard in you again, because your traveling merchants were the top-ranking men of the earth, for by your **spiritistic practice** all the nations were misled. (**Revelation 18:23**)
- However, Pharaoh also called for the wise men and the sorcerers, and the magic-practicing priests of Egypt themselves also proceeded to do the same thing with their magic arts. (**Exodus 7:11**)
- Nevertheless, the magic-practicing priests of Egypt proceeded to do the same thing with their secret arts, so that Pharaoh's heart continued to be obstinate, and he did not listen to them, just as Yehowah had spoken. (**Exodus 7:22**)
- And I shall indeed set a demarcation between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign will take place. (**Exodus 8:23**)
- **In the Septuagint;**
- And I shall indeed set a demarcation between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign will take place. (**Exodus 8:23**)
- However, the magic-practicing priests did the same thing by their secret arts and made the frogs come up over the land of Egypt. (**Exodus 8:7**)
- And the magic-practicing priests tried to do the same by their secret arts, in order to bring forth gnats, but they were unable. And the gnats came to be on man and beast. (**Exodus 8:18**)

- **But to you these two things will come suddenly, in one day: loss of children and widowhood. In their complete measure they must come upon you, for the abundance of your sorceries, for the full might of your spells, exceedingly. (Isaiah 47:9)**
- **Stand still, now, with your spells and with the abundance of your sorceries, in which you have toiled from your youth, that perhaps you might be able to benefit, that perhaps you might strike people with awe. (Isaiah 47:12)**
- **In sorcery, the use of drugs, whether simple or potent, was generally accompanied by incantations and appeals to occult powers, with the provision of various charms, amulets, etc, professedly designed to keep the applicant or patient from the attention and power of demons, but actually to impress the applicant with the mysterious resources and powers of the sorcerer.**

·· Its Source

- **A major feature of **spiritism** is claimed communication with the dead. Since the dead are conscious of nothing at all, communication with such dead persons is actually impossible.**
- **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)**
- **God's Law to Israel forbade anyones inquiring of the dead and made the practice of **spiritism** a capital offense.**
- **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)**
- **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)**
- **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 practicer 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)**
 - **For everybody doing these things is something detestable to Yehowah, and on account of these detestable things Yehowah your God is driving them away from before you. (Deuteronomy 18:12)**
 - **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)**
 - **And in the Christian Greek Scriptures the statement is made that those who practice spiritism will not inherit God's kingdom.**
 - **Idolatry, practice of spiritism, enmities, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, contentions, divisions, sects. (Galatians 5:20)**
 - **Envies, drunken bouts, revelries, and things like these. As to these things I am forewarning you, the same way as I did forewarn you, that those who practice such things will not inherit God's kingdom. (Galatians 5:21)**
 - **But as for the cowards and those without faith and those who are disgusting in their filth and murderers and fornicators and those practicing spiritism and idolaters and all the liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur. This means the second death. (Revelation 21:8)**

- It, therefore, logically follows that any claimed communication with dead persons, if not a deliberate lie on the part of the claimant, must be from an evil source, a source that stands in opposition to Yehowah God.
- The Bible clearly indicates that wicked spirits, demons, are this evil source. A case in point is a certain servant girl in the city of Philippi. She used to furnish her masters with much gain by practicing the art of prediction, one of the things related to **spiritism**.
- 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**)
- The account plainly says that the source of her predictions was, not God, but **a demon of divination, a wicked spirit**. Hence, when the apostle Paul expelled the **wicked spirit**, this **girl lost her powers of prediction**.
- 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**)
- Regarding the **Greek expression *pneu'ma py'tho-na***, here rendered **a demon of divination**, **Vines Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words [Vol.1, p. 328] says: Python, in Greek mythology was the name of the Pythian serpent or dragon, dwelling in Pytho, at the foot of mount Parnassus, guarding the oracle of Delphi, and slain by Apollo. Thence the name was transferred to Apollo himself. Later the word was**

applied to diviners or soothsayers, regarded as inspired by Apollo. Since demons are the agents inspiring idolatry.

- No, but I say that the things which the nations sacrifice they sacrifice to demons, and not to God. And I do not want you to become sharers with the demons. (**1 Corinthians 10:20**)
- **The young woman in**
- 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**)
- **Was possessed by a demon instigating the cult of Apollo, and thus had a spirit of divination.**

See Also DEMON

See Also DEMON POSSESSION

.. In Israel

- Even though God had legislated strictly against **spiritism**, **spirit mediums** appeared from time to time in the land of Israel. These were probably foreigners who came into the land or some of those who had been spared from destruction by the Israelites.
- King Saul removed them from the land during his reign, but evidently toward the end of his rule some **spirit mediums** again began their practice.
- Saul demonstrated how far he had removed himself from God when he went to consult the **mistress of spirit mediumship** in En-dor.
- Now Samuel himself had died, and all Israel had proceeded to bewail him and bury him in Ramah his own city. As for Saul, he had removed the spirit mediums and the professional foretellers of events from the land. (**1 Samuel 28:3**)
- 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**)

•• King Saul's Visit To A Medium

- When Saul went to the **medium**, Yehowah's **spirit** had for some time been removed from him, and in fact, God would not answer his inquiries by means of dreams or by the Urim, used by the High Priest, or by the prophets.
- Although Saul would inquire of Yehowah, Yehowah never answered him, either by dreams or by the Urim or by the prophets. (**1 Samuel 28:6**)
- God would have no more to do with him, and God's prophet Samuel had not seen Saul for a long period of time, from before David's being anointed to be king. So it would be unreasonable to think that Samuel, even if still alive, would now come to give Saul advice. And God would certainly not cause Samuel, whom he had not sent to Saul before his death, to come back from the dead to talk to Saul.
- And Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, because Samuel had gone into mourning for Saul. As for Yehowah, he regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel. (**1 Samuel 15:35**)
- That Yehowah would in no way approve of or cooperate with Saul's action is shown by his later statement through Isaiah;
- 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**)**
 - **Therefore, when the account reads; When the woman saw Samuel she began crying out at the top of her voice, it obviously recounts the event as viewed by the medium, who was deceived by the spirit that impersonated Samuel.**
 - **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**)**
 - **As for Saul himself, the principle stated by the apostle Paul applied; Just as they did not approve of holding God in accurate knowledge, God gave them up to a disapproved mental state, to do the things not fitting. Although these know full well the righteous decree of God, that those practicing such things are deserving of death, they not only keep on doing them but also consent with those practicing them.**
 - **And just as they did not approve of holding God in accurate knowledge, God gave them up to a disapproved mental state, to do the things not fitting. (**Romans 1:28**)**
 - **Filled as they were with all unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, badness, being full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malicious disposition, being whisperers. (**Romans 1:29**)**
 - **Backbiters, haters of God, insolent, haughty, self-assuming, inventors of injurious things, disobedient to parents. (**Romans 1:30**)**
 - **Without understanding, false to agreements, having no natural affection, merciless. (**Romans 1:31**)**
 - **Although these know full well the righteous decree of God, that those practicing such things are deserving of death, they not only keep on doing them but also consent with those practicing them. (**Romans 1:32**)**

- **The Commentary on the Old Testament, by C. F. Keil and F. Delitzsch (1973, Vol. II, First Samuel, p. 265), refers to the Greek Septuagint at. (1 Chronicles 10:13), which has added the words and Samuel the prophet answered him. [Bagster]**
- **The Commentary supports the view that is implied by these uninspired words in the Septuagint, but it adds: Nevertheless the fathers, reformers, and earlier Christian theologians, with very few exceptions, assumed that there was not a real appearance of Samuel, but only an imaginary one.**
- **According to the explanation given by Ephraem Syrus, an apparent image of Samuel was presented to the eye of Saul through demoniacal arts.**
- **Luther and Calvin adopted the same view, and the earlier Protestant theologians followed them in regarding the apparition as nothing but a diabolical spectre, a phantasm, or diabolical spectre in the form of Samuel, and Samuel's announcement as nothing but a diabolical revelation made by divine permission, in which truth is mixed with falsehood.**
- **In a footnote [First Samuel, pp. 265,266], this Commentary says: Thus Luther says; The raising of Samuel by a soothsayer or witch, in was certainly merely a spectre of the Devil, not only because the Scriptures state that it was effected by a woman who was full of devils, for who could believe that the souls of believers, who are in the hand of God, were under the power of the devil, and of simple men, but also because it was evidently in opposition to the command of God that Saul and the woman inquired of the dead.**
- **The Holy Ghost cannot do anything against this himself, nor can He help those who act in opposition to it. Calvin also regards the apparition as only a spectre. It is certain, he says, that it was not really Samuel, for God would never have allowed His prophets to be subjected to such diabolical conjuring. For here is a sorceress calling up the dead from the grave.**
- **Does any one imagine that God wished His prophet to be exposed to such ignominy, as if the devil had power over the bodies and souls of the saints which are in His keeping? The souls of the saints are said to rest in God, waiting for their happy resurrection.**

Besides, are we to believe that Samuel took his cloak with him into the grave?

· For all these reasons, it appears evident that the apparition was nothing more than a spectre, and that the senses of the woman herself were so deceived, that she thought she saw Samuel, whereas it really was not he. The earlier orthodox theologians also disputed the reality of the appearance of the departed Samuel on just the same grounds.

· Jesus Power Over The Demons

· When Jesus was on earth, he proved that he was the Messiah, God's Anointed One, by expelling the demons from possessed persons. This he did without special ritual or séance or any form of magic. He simply commanded the demons to come out, and they obeyed his voice. Even though unwillingly, the demons were forced to recognize his authority

· And, look! They screamed, saying; What have we to do with you, Son of God? Did you come here to torment us before the appointed time? (**Matthew 8:29**)

· But a long way off from them a herd of many swine was at pasture. (**Matthew 8:30**)

· So the demons began to entreat him, saying; If you expel us, send us forth into the herd of swine. (**Matthew 8:31**)

· Accordingly he said to them; Go! They came out and went off into the swine, and, look! The entire herd rushed over the precipice into the sea and died in the waters. (**Matthew 8:32**)

· But the herders fled and, going into the city, they reported everything, including the affair of the demon-possessed men. (**Matthew 8:33**)

· And, look! All the city turned out to meet Jesus, and after having seen him, they earnestly urged him to move out from their districts. (**Matthew 8:34**)

· And, when he had cried out with a loud voice, he said; What have I to do with you, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I put you under oath by God not to torment me. (**Mark 5:7**)

- For he had been telling it; Come out of the man, you **unclean spirit**. (Mark 5:8)
- But he began to ask him; What is your name? And he said to him; My name is Legion, because there are many of us. (Mark 5:9)
- And he entreated him many times not to send the **spirits** out of the country. (Mark 5:10)
- Now a great herd of swine was there at the mountain feeding. (Mark 5:11)
- So they entreated him, saying; Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them. (Mark 5:12)
- And he permitted them. With that the **unclean spirits** came out and entered into the swine, and the herd rushed over the precipice into the sea, about two thousand of them, and they drowned one after another in the sea. (Mark 5:13)
- At the sight of Jesus he cried aloud and fell down before him, and with a loud voice he said; What have I to do with you, Jesus Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me. (Luke 8:28)
- For he had been ordering the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For over a long time it had held him fast, and he was repeatedly bound with chains and fetters under guard, but he would burst the bonds and be driven by the demon into the lonely places. (Luke 8:29)
- Jesus asked him; What is your name? He said; Legion, because many demons had entered into him. (Luke 8:30)
- And they kept entreating him not to order them to go away into the abyss. (Luke 8:31)
- Now a herd of a considerable number of swine was feeding there on the mountain, so they entreated him to permit them to enter into those. And he gave them permission. (Luke 8:32)
- Then the **demons** went out of the man and entered into the swine, and the herd rushed over the precipice into the lake and

drowned. ([Luke 8:33](#))

- **Just as Satan recognized Yehowah's authority when Yehowah permitted him to afflict Job for a test but commanded Satan not to kill Job.**
- **Accordingly Yehowah said to Satan; There he is in your hand! Only watch out for his soul itself! ([Job 2:6](#))**
- **So Satan went out away from the person of Yehowah and struck Job with a malignant boil from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ([Job 2:7](#))**
- **Also, Jesus performed this work without cost.**
- **But after it became evening, people brought him many demon-possessed persons, and he expelled the spirits with a word, and he cured all who were faring badly. ([Matthew 8:16](#))**
- **When he got to the other side, into the country of the Gadarenes, there met him two demon-possessed men coming out from among the memorial tombs, unusually fierce, so that nobody had the courage to pass by on that road. ([Matthew 8:28](#))**
- **And, look! They screamed, saying; What have we to do with you, Son of God? Did you come here to torment us before the appointed time? ([Matthew 8:29](#))**
- **But a long way off from them a herd of many swine was at pasture. ([Matthew 8:30](#))**
- **So the demons began to entreat him, saying; If you expel us, send us forth into the herd of swine. ([Matthew 8:31](#))**
- **Accordingly he said to them; Go! They came out and went off into the swine, and, look! The entire herd rushed over the precipice into the sea and died in the waters. ([Matthew 8:32](#))**
- **So he cured many that were ill with various sicknesses, and he expelled many demons, but he would not let the demons speak, because they knew him to be Christ. ([Mark 1:34](#))**
- **Even the unclean spirits, whenever they would behold him, would prostrate themselves before him and cry out, saying; You**

are the Son of God. (**Mark 3:11**)

- But many times he sternly charged them not to make him known. (**Mark 3:12**)
- Demons also would come out of many, crying out and saying; You are the Son of God. But, rebuking them, he would not permit them to speak, because they knew him to be the Christ. (**Luke 4:41**)

· Refutes Pharisees False Charge

- After one of such cures by Jesus, his enemies, the Pharisees, charged; This fellow does not expel the demons except by means of Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.
- But, says the account; Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, Every kingdom divided against itself comes to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.
- In the same way, if Satan expels Satan, he has become divided against himself, how, then, will his kingdom stand? Moreover, if I expel the demons by means of Beelzebub, by means of whom do your sons expel them? This is why they will be judges of you.
- Then they brought him a demon-possessed man, blind and dumb, and he cured him, so that the dumb man spoke and saw. (**Matthew 12:22**)
- Well, all the crowds were simply carried away and began to say; May this not perhaps be the Son of David? (**Matthew 12:23**)
- At hearing this, the Pharisees said; This fellow does not expel the demons except by means of Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons. (**Matthew 12:24**)
- Knowing their thoughts, he said to them; Every kingdom divided against itself comes to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. (**Matthew 12:25**)
- In the same way, if Satan expels Satan, he has become divided against himself. How, then, will his kingdom stand? (**Matthew 12:26**)

- Moreover, if I expel the demons by means of Beelzebub, by means of whom do your sons expel them? This is why they will be judges of you. ([Matthew 12:27](#))
- The Pharisees were forced to concede that superhuman power was needed to expel the demons. Yet they wanted to keep the people from believing in Jesus.
- Therefore they attributed his power to the Devil. Jesus then enforced the consequences of their argument by showing what the logical outcome of such an argument would mean. He answered that if he were an agent of the Devil, undoing what Satan did, then Satan was indeed working against himself, which no human king would do, and would soon fall. Moreover, he called attention to their **sons**, or disciples, who also claimed to expel demons.
- If the Pharisees argument was true, that the one expelling demons did so by the power of Satan, then their own disciples were acting under this power, a thing that the Pharisees were, of course, unwilling to acknowledge. Jesus said that therefore their own **sons** were judges condemning them and their argument. Then Jesus said, But if it is by means of God's spirit that I expel the demons, the kingdom of God has really overtaken you.
- But if it is by means of God's spirit that I expel the demons, the kingdom of God has really overtaken you. ([Matthew 12:28](#))
- Jesus followed up his argument by pointing out that no one could enter a strong man's, Satan's, house and seize his goods unless he had the power to bind the strong man. The false charge on the part of the Pharisees prompted the warning about sin against the Holy Spirit, since it was by God's spirit that Jesus expelled the demons, and in speaking against this work, the Pharisees were not merely expressing hatred of Jesus but were speaking against the evident demonstration of God's Holy Spirit.
- Or how can anyone invade the house of a strong man and seize his movable goods, unless first he binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house. ([Matthew 12:29](#))
- He that is not on my side is against me, and he that does not gather with me scatters. ([Matthew 12:30](#))
- On this account I say to you, every sort of sin and blasphemy will

- be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the spirit will not be forgiven. ([Matthew 12:31](#))
- For example, whoever speaks a word against the Son of man, it will be forgiven him, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, no, not in this system of things nor in that to come. ([Matthew 12:32](#))
 - What Jesus Christ said about expelling demons should not be understood to signify that the **sons** of the Pharisees and all others who claimed to cast out demons were necessarily God's instruments. Jesus mentioned persons who would ask:
 - Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and expel demons in your name, and perform many powerful works in your name? ([Matthew 7:22](#))
 - And yet then I will confess to them; I never knew you! Get away from me, you workers of lawlessness. ([Matthew 7:23](#))
 - Not being true disciples of Jesus Christ, such workers of lawlessness would be children of the Devil.
 - You are from your father the Devil, and you wish to do the desires of your father. That one was a manslayer when he began, and he did not stand fast in the truth, because truth is not in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks according to his own disposition, because he is a liar and the father of the lie. ([John 8:44](#))
 - The children of God and the children of the Devil are evident by this fact: Everyone who does not carry on righteousness does not originate with God, neither does he who does not love his brother. ([1 John 3:10](#))
 - So, any claimed expelling of demons on their part would be, not as instruments of God, but as agents of the Devil. In using persons as exorcists, even doing so in Jesus name, the attempt of the seven sons of Sceva at;
 - But certain ones of the roving Jews who practiced the casting out of demons also undertook to name the name of the Lord Jesus over those having the wicked spirits, saying; I solemnly charge you by Jesus whom Paul preaches. ([Acts of Apostles 19:13](#))

- Now there were seven sons of a certain Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, doing this. ([Acts of Apostles 19:14](#))
- But in answer the wicked spirit said to them; I know Jesus and I am acquainted with Paul, but who are you? ([Acts of Apostles 19:15](#))
- With that the man in whom the wicked spirit was leaped upon them, got the mastery of one after the other, and prevailed against them, so that they fled naked and wounded out of that house. ([Acts of Apostles 19:16](#))
- Satan would not be divided against himself. Rather, by this seemingly good work of undoing the case of demon obsession, Satan would be transforming himself into an angel of light, thereby advancing his power and influence over the deceived.
- And no wonder, for Satan himself keeps transforming himself into an angel of light. ([2 Corinthians 11:14](#))

· He That Is Not Against Us Is For Us

- On one occasion the apostle John said to Jesus; Teacher, we saw a certain man expelling demons by the use of your name and we tried to prevent him, because he was not accompanying us.
- This man was evidently successful in expelling demons, for Jesus said;
- John said to him; Teacher, we saw a certain man expelling demons by the use of your name and we tried to prevent him, because he was not accompanying us. ([Mark 9:38](#))
- But Jesus said; Do not try to prevent him, for there is no one that will do a powerful work on the basis of my name that will quickly be able to revile me. ([Mark 9:39](#))
- For he that is not against us is for us. ([Mark 9:40](#))
- Not all who believed in Jesus personally accompanied him and his apostles in their ministry. During this time the Law covenant was in force, by God's will, and God through Jesus Christ had not yet

inaugurated the New Covenant and the beginning of the Christian congregation of called ones.

- **Only from Pentecost of 33 C.E. onward, after Jesus by his sacrifice had brought about the removal of the Law, was it necessary for anyone serving in the name of Christ to associate with this congregation, the members of which were baptized into Christ.**
- **Peter said to them; Repent, and let each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the free gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts of Apostles 2:38)**
- **For the promise is to you and to your children and to all those afar off, just as many as Yehowah our God may call to him. (Acts of Apostles 2:39)**
- **And with many other words he bore thorough witness and kept exhorting them, saying; Get saved from this crooked generation. (Acts of Apostles 2:40)**
- **Therefore those who embraced his word heartily were baptized, and on that day about three thousand souls were added. (Acts of Apostles 2:41)**
- **And they continued devoting themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to sharing with one another, to taking of meals and to prayers. (Acts of Apostles 2:42)**
- **Praising God and finding favor with all the people. At the same time Yehowah continued to join to them daily those being saved. (Acts of Apostles 2:47)**
- **Or do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (Romans 6:3)**
- **Then, instead of dealing with the fleshly nation of Israel as he had done until that time, God recognized the Christian congregation as his holy nation.**
- **But you are, a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for special possession, that you should declare abroad the excellencies, of the one that called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9)**

- For truly by one spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink one spirit. (**1 Corinthians 12:13**)

•• A Work Of The Flesh

- While it might be thought by the **practicers of spiritism** that it is a **spiritual practice**, God's Word calls it, not a work of the spirit or part of its fruitage, but a work of the flesh.

- Note the detestable things with which it is classified; fornication, uncleanness, loose conduct, idolatry, **practice of spiritism literally, druggery**, enmities, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, contentions, divisions, sects, envies, drunken bouts, revelries, and things like these.

- It appeals to the desires of the sinful flesh, not to the things of the spirit, and the apostle warns that those who practice such things will not inherit God's kingdom.

- Now the works of the flesh are manifest, and they are fornication, uncleanness, loose conduct. (**Galatians 5:19**)
- Idolatry, **practice of spiritism**, enmities, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, contentions, divisions, sects. (**Galatians 5:20**)
- Envy, drunken bouts, revelries, and things like these. As to these things I am forewarning you, the same way as I did forewarn you, that those who practice such things will not inherit God's kingdom. (**Galatians 5:21**)

•• Will Bring Its Practicers Eternal Destruction

- As for Babylon the Great, which is to be hurled into the sea, never to be found again, one of the sins charged against her is stated in the Revelation. By your **spiritistic practice** all the nations were misled.

- And no light of a lamp will ever shine in you again, and no voice of a bridegroom and of a bride will ever be heard in you again, because your traveling merchants were the top-ranking men of the earth, for by your **spiritistic practice** all the nations were misled. (**Revelation 18:23**)

- Concerning the everlasting destruction of those who practice **spiritism**, the Revelation says; As for the cowards and those without faith and those who are disgusting in their filth and murderers and fornicators and those **practicing spiritism**, **literally**, **druggers**, and idolaters and all the liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur. This means the second death.
- But as for the cowards and those without faith and those who are disgusting in their filth and murderers and fornicators and those **practicing spiritism** and idolaters and all the liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur. This means the second death. (**Revelation 21:8**)

·· **Magical Art, A Related Practice**

- Related to **spiritism** is **magical art**. In Ephesus many believed the preaching of Paul, and quite a number of those who **practiced magical arts** brought their books together and burned them up before everybody.
- Indeed, quite a number of those who practiced magical arts brought their books together and burned them up before everybody. And they calculated together the prices of them and found them worth fifty thousand pieces of silver. (**Acts of Apostles 19:19**)
- The **Greek** word for **magical arts** is *pe-ri'er-ga*, **curiosities**, literally, **things that are around work**, and thus superfluous, that is, **the arts of those who pry into forbidden things, with the aid of evil spirits**. [Int, *Vines Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, Vol. 1, p. 261]

·· **A Prophecy Against Jerusalem**

- In a pronouncement against Jerusalem for her unfaithfulness, Yehowah said;
- And you must become low so that you will speak from the very earth, and as from the dust your saying will sound low. And like a spirit medium your voice must become even from the earth, and from the dust your own saying will chirp. (**Isaiah 29:4**)
- This pointed to the time when enemies would come up against Jerusalem and reduce her to a very low state, crushed to the earth, as

it were. Accordingly, what utterance Jerusalem's inhabitants made would come from low down in their abasement.

- It would be as if a **spirit medium** were talking in such a way as to make it appear that a soft, dull, low, hushed, and weak sound were coming from the dust of the earth. However, as;
- And the crowd of those strange to you must become just like fine powder, and the crowd of the tyrants just like the chaff that is passing away. And it must occur in an instant, suddenly. (**Isaiah 29:5**)
- From Yehowah of armies you will have attention with thunder and with quaking and with a great sound, storm wind and tempest, and the flame of a devouring fire. (**Isaiah 29:6**)
- And it must occur just as in a dream, in a vision of the night, regarding the crowd of all the nations that are waging war against Ariel, even all those waging war against her, and the siege towers against her and those making things tight for her. (**Isaiah 29:7**)
- Yes, it must occur just as when someone hungry dreams and here he is eating, and he actually awakes and his soul is empty, and just as when someone thirsty dreams and here he is drinking, and he actually awakes and here he is tired and his soul is dried out, thus it will occur with the crowd of all the nations that are waging war against Mount Zion. (**Isaiah 29:8**)
- Shows, Jerusalem was to be delivered.