

THE OCCULTS

Deuteronomy 4:14-19

Introduction: What's wrong with looking up your birthday in a horoscope and seen what it says, it's only for fun? What's wrong with playing with an Ouija board? It's only a game. What's wrong with having somebody read your palm and tell you things? Or what's wrong with getting your future told by someone with Tarot cards? Everybody does it, don't they? It's a common thing of our time and it's so "harmless."

God has a lot to say about such things and nothing He has to say is good. These things are all tools of Satan to draw people away from God. This is a brief study about the background of some of these Occult things.

Genesis 11:1-10; Leviticus 20:6, 27; Deuteronomy 17:2-7; 18:10-11; 1 Chronicles 10:13; 1 Samuel 28; Isaiah 8:19-20 Matthew 24:36; 1 Corinthians 15:18; Galatians 4:8-10; Ephesians 6:12; Colossians 2:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

I. A LOOK AT ASTROLOGY AND HOROSCOPES

1. Over thousands of newspapers delivered to countless homes with daily horoscopes within the pages.
 - Some 2,000 astrologers in the United States, who receive thousands of letters each week with questions about horoscopes.
2. Magazines, newspapers, books, television, have stories about horoscopes and even some colleges and universities offer courses on horoscope/astrology.
3. Why do people want to read their "horoscope?" It gives them a sense of "oneness," a feeling of being a part of the vast universe. It is a substitute for religion. Some are seeking clues to their "destiny" in times of uncertainty.

4. What are the Origins of Astrology?

- The Babylonians primarily and the Ziguarts (Tower of Babel)
 - Heavenly planets were identified as/with gods.
 - Zodiac was/is a parade of animals which the stars make into outlines of animals.
 - The earth was/is believed to be the center and the planets revolved around the earth.
 - The Horoscope Cast is the position of the solar system at the time of one's birth with the sun's position being very important.
 - There is the belief that some kind of ray, force from planets affect a person's character and destiny.
 - Horoscopes tell people what they want to hear - (the truth).
 - Fact: There is no scientific proof of "rays" from planets.
 - Fact: Astrology can produce serious mental disturbances, a fear of life, despair, etc.
 - Fact: Astrology says nothing about God or Jesus Christ, or any Truth of the Bible.
 - Fact: The Bible states that God created all things and that the fulfillment for man is found in doing God's will. Man is free before God, so man is surely free from the planets.
5. Why do people use astrology?
 - People seek a sense of belonging, of fulfillment, some sort of guidance for everyday living, a sense of security.
 - FACT: Jesus Christ can give all that a person seeks and needs for everyday living.

II. A LOOK AT FUTURE PREDICTION (FAMILIAR SPIRITS)

1. Divination: The Ouija board, palmistry, Tarot cards.
 - Babylonians looked at animal livers.
 - Romans watched birds, lightening, looked at animal intestines.
2. Palmistry: The belief is that cosmic rays created the lines in one's hands at birth (chirognomy).
 - There is the life line, the head line, the heart line, line of fate.
 - Kin to Palmistry is "automatic writing," which is "outside" control.
3. Tarot Cards: From Rome, consisting of 78 cards.
 - The 52 card playing deck most of us are familiar with is a direct descendent from the Tarot Cards.
 - The cards can be interpreted in numerous ways.
 - Readings come from the Cards but also from the "Reader."
 - Everything depends upon the "reader's" "interpretation."
 - 56 regular cards, 22 picture cards with 1 "fool" card.
 - Every card has a traditional meaning.
 - The numbers come from the Hebrew alphabet.
 - "Tarot," like "all" occult matters is strictly SPECULATION.
4. Ouiji Board: Was designed in 1890 by Robert Fuld and the "name" or "title" is a combination of French and German for the word "yes." (oui -French; ji (ja) - German)
 - A marker on wheels with pencil or marker to write or point to words.
 - It is believed that a trance/hypnotic state, deep concentration, unconscious muscular movements causes the marker to move.
 - Answers seem to come from "beyond."
 - Fact: Serious psychological/spiritual problems often occur.
 - Fact: THIS IS NOT AN INNOCENT TOY
5. Predictors of the Future: Such as Edgar Cayce (to 1945), then Jeane Dixon, etc.
 - Old Testament prophets predictions were related to God. Modern predictions do not.
 - Jeane Dixon began with crystal balls, cards, astrology.
 - She has predicted the Anti-Christ is already born (1962).
 - Fact: God has given all that people can know and God will care for His own.
6. Seances: Related to ESP and clairvoyance.
 - Most people want to know about their departed loved ones.
 - Over 700,000 spiritualist in the United States, alone.
 - The "medium" goes into a "trance" and hears a "voice of control."
 - There appear to be knockings, table risings, other phenomina.
 - Fact: The Bible is very strong on this and king Saul got into it and "paid for it later."
 - Fact: Seances say nothing about God, heaven or hell.

CONCLUSION:

1. All this is of Satan and his attempts to keep people away from God.
2. Christians, of all people, should avoid all of this, no matter what. It is totally evil.

