

# Bible Studies

## Deuteronomy 18



### Read Deuteronomy 18v9-13

This is the clearest of many passages that outlaw occult practices.

Verse 10, *Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire*, refers to the practice of offering infants to Molech.

As best we know a bronze furnace was shaped to represent the god Molech, children of about 2 years of age were tossed down a shoot into the incandescent stomach of the idol. The practice was accompanied by drums to hide the screams of the Child.

The Hebrew for: *'do not imitate'* means *'do not learn to do'*.

God is saying *"do not learn from the people you live among"*.

### How does this apply to us?



There are eight prohibitions *divination*

*sorcery,  
interprets omens,  
engages in witchcraft,  
casts spells,  
medium,  
spiritist,  
consults the dead.*

Read this list in several versions to get an idea of the scope of meaning.

We recognise that despite the passage of 3500 years since this command was given all of these eight practices are still common in our enlightened society.

### Why do you think this is?

**Divination** is normally done with rods or a pendulum the spirits are asked to questions and then expected to influence the pendulum or rods to show the answer. The Hebrew word is used of a broad range of occult practices.

The word translated **Sorcery**, has the idea soothsaying, telling the future by physical signs, this would include astrology.

Interpreting omens could include palm reading or reading tea leaves. Today consulting the dead we generally call a seance.

As far as I know no one ever read auras in Biblical days.

### Do you think this list would include such things?

**What word is used (twice) to describe God's view of such things?** v9 & 12

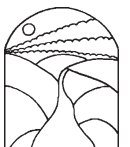
**What effect does practising these things have on God?** 2 Kings 21v6

*"Do not allow a sorceress to live." Exodus 22:18*

*"Do not practice divination or sorcery." Leviticus 19:26*

*"A man or woman who is a medium or spiritist among you must be put to death. You are to stone them; their blood will be on their own heads." Leviticus 20:27*

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These are Old Testament passages what does the New Testament have to say?

*Acts 19v19*

*Galatians 5v20*

*Revelation 22v15*

**Why do you think such things are detestable to God?  
What attitude should a Christian hold towards them?**



**Read 1 Corinthians 10v19-22**

**How does this passage tie in with what we have said?**

Many of those who engage in occult practices are simply tricksters and charlatans out to make money from the gullible. But behind others is true power that comes not from God, but from the enemy. Clearly we cannot use both God's power and the enemies. In fact we want to stay away from anything that uses the enemies power. You cannot walk in both the darkness and the light.

Occult activity brings a person into direct contact with the demonic, such contact can have serious spiritual, physical, moral and psychological effects.

Participating in occult practices can give the enemy a hold over our lives. Where a Christian has engaged in such things, even if it was before they believed, they should repent of them. They should also have prayer to prevent the enemy for using such things as an opening to oppress them.

**What possible reason could a Christian have for dabbling in occult practices?**

**Why do you think Ouija boards and the like are so popular?**



**If someone told you to get your palm read at a school fundraiser and you knew Romeo the gypsy was the headmaster dressed up, would you do it?**



**What would you say about a medium who claims to be a Christian and that it is God who enables him/her to consort spirits?**

*When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? Isaiah 8:19*



**Read Ezekiel 13:18-20**

**What kind of charms do you think this passage is talking about?  
In what way do they ensnare?**

**What possible reason could there be for a Christian wearing a lucky charm?**  
In light of Hebrews 13v5-6 I can't think of any.

**What practices do you think we should avoid?  
How much occult practice is safe for a Christian?  
How much occult practice is safe for an unbeliever?**

The answer to this question is simple, none. If there are times, when through God's grace, no harm is done so be it, but any involvement with the occult is playing with fire.

*The LORD protects the simplehearted; when I was in great need, he saved me. Psalm 116:6*