

The Vision of Ezekiel

- *He called to the man clothed with linen, who had the writer's inkhorn at his side; 4 and the Lord said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it."*
- *5 To the others He said in my hearing, "Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity. 6 Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; Ezek 9:1-6*
- A vision with important applications

Our Response: Approval or Disgust?

- *and delivered righteous Lot, who was **oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked** 8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, **tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds**) — 2Pet. 2:7-8*
- *who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also **approve of those who practice them**. Rom 1:32*

The Abomination of "Sorcery"

*"When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow **the abominations of those nations**. ... one who **practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, 11 or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. 12 For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you. Deut 18:9-14***

Disney's "*benign*" Fairy Tales

- *Cinderella*
- *Beauty and the Beast*
- *Alladin*
- *Frozen*
- *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*
- *Fantasia*
- *Little Mermaid*
- *Tangled*
- All have subtle forms of spells, charms, witches sorcerers, omens – so subtle we don't even think about it. It is engrained in our culture as fairy tales

Television's "*benign*" dabbling in Occult

- Samamtha / Endora on Bewitched
- Wicked Witch of the West on Wizard of Oz
- Dracula,
- Frankenstein
- Wolfman
- Harry Potter's witches and warlocks
- Lord of the Rings Sauron and necromancer
- I dream of Jeanne

Are all these things Abominations?

- Is there any room for fantasy and illusion?
- Cartoons are not real.
- Can our imagination allow such things as long as we don't believe in them?
- Each of us makes our own decisions.
- Some are more lenient than others
- Some have never even thought about it
- They play such a minor role in the show.
- That's why I call them '*benign*'
- Yet others might proclaim they are sinister / evil.

More Sinister/Evil = Abominations

- Jason - Friday the 13th
- Fred - Nightmare on Elm Street
- Damien - the Exorcist.
- Horoscopes, palm reading, Ouija boards,
- Mediums Est New Age
- Shirley McLean and Channeling. Amulates
- The lucky rabbit's foot, Charms
- lucky and unlucky numbers, Witch Doctors
- Knocking on wood. Voodoo
- Fear of graveyards after dark, Ghosts
- Seven years bad luck breaking a mirror,
- A black cat crossing our path Friday the 13th
- Fortune Tellers Crystal Balls
- Do any of these things have any power in us?

Sorcery – A Remote Branch of Idolatry

- *Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 **idolatry, sorcery**, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Gal 5:19-21*

The Source of Evil in Idolatry Sorcery

- Like all lusts: idolatry and sorcery is are the perversion of a wonderful emotion
- The ability to feel awe, reverence and respect.
- The very heart of our ability to glorify, worship, and reverence God.
- When we give it to something else we cheat God.
- Man perverts it to gain wealth and power.
- Simon the sorcerer still in the grip of these lusts seen in his request to purchase the gift of the Holy Spirit with money. In his perverted thinking. he could use this power to gain even further influence and power over others.

Sorcery leads away from God to Idolatry

- The occult is the driving force and emotional compulsion behind idolatry.
- The raising of the hair on the nap of our neck,
- the chilling surge of emotion: fear, concern, awe.
- “what if this really has something behind it.”
- *The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 2Th 2:9-10*
- Not just false Christianity – All false religions

Sorcery throughout the Scriptures

- What the Egyptian magicians did when Moses threw down his serpent (Ex 7:11), changed the water of the Nile into blood (Ex 7:22), and brought the frogs (Ex 8:6-7).
- What the prophets of Baal sought to do in the contest with Elijah on Mt Carmel.
- What the magicians, astrologers, and sorcerers would have done if Nebuchadnezzar had first told them his dream.
- *Then the king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. Dan. 2:2*

The Power of Suggestion

- Power of Positive Thinking; Think and Grow Rich
- power of suggestion to create motivation leading to success.
- These abilities and emotions are rightly used by the gospel to lead us to repentance, spiritual growth, and eternal life.
- *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”* (Heb. 11:1).
- So also is sorcery. A counterfeit leading away from the truth. men.

The Power of Suggestion

- the palm reader, medium, or horoscope use the power of suggestion to create self-fulfilling prophecies.
- First marriage will fail and second be a success.
- They won't try because they know it will fail.
- First job, fired, second job, success
- Won't make any friends
- If we believe then we will make it happen.
- This is why they are right so often, but it is a terrible slavery and a recipe for failure.

God Makes Himself Clear

- Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, **to be defiled by them**: I am the LORD your God. ' Lev 19:31
- And the person who turns to mediums and familiar spirits, to prostitute himself with them, **I will set My face against that person and cut him off from his people. 7 Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God. 8 And you shall keep My statutes, and perform them: I am the LORD who sanctifies you. . . 27 A man or a woman who is a medium, or who has familiar spirits, shall surely be put to death; they shall stone them with stones. Their blood shall be upon them."** Lev 20:1-8 27

God is the only Source of Power

- *“To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD Himself is God; there is none other besides Him. . . Therefore know this day, and consider it in your heart, that the LORD Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.” Deut 4:35, 39*
- *Do not fear, nor be afraid; have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one. Isa 44:8*
- *I am the LORD, and there is no other; there is no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me, . . .22 "Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. Isa 45:5 45:22 see also Isa 46:9;*

Tool for the Spiritual Host of Wickedness

● *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Eph. 6:11-13*

Nothing is Higher than God

- None of this can be true! God is in absolute control of all forces on this earth!
- *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom. 8:37-39*

The Battle will Rage to the End

- *We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. 20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. 21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen. 1 John 5:18-21*