Lesson 75 – Ancient and Modern Sorcery

1) Where does our lesson begin today?
   1 Samuel 28:6-7 And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by _____, nor by prophets. Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a _____ spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.
2) What did Saul see?
   1 Samuel 28:14 And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he is covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it was _____, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself.

The Scripture account of Saul's visit to the woman of Endor has been a source of perplexity to many students of the Bible. There are some who take the position that Samuel was actually present at the interview with Saul, but the Bible itself furnishes sufficient ground for a contrary conclusion. If, as claimed by some, Samuel was in heaven, he must have been summoned thence, either by the power of God or by that of Satan. None can believe for a moment that Satan had power to call the holy prophet of God from heaven to honor the incantations of an abandoned woman. Nor can we conclude that God summoned him to the witch's cave; for the Lord had already refused to communicate with Saul, by dreams, by Urim, or by prophets. ***1 Samuel 28:6***. These were God's own appointed mediums of communication, and He did not pass them by to deliver the message through the agent of Satan.

3) How does 1 Chronicles describe what happened to Saul?
   1 Chronicles 10:13-14 So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the _____ of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it; And enquired _____ of the LORD: therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse.

Here it is distinctly stated that Saul inquired of the familiar spirit, not of the Lord. He did not communicate with Samuel, the prophet of God; but through the sorceress he held intercourse with Satan. Satan could not present the real Samuel, but he did present a counterfeit, that served his purpose of deception.

4) What is at the core of ancient sorcery and witchcraft?
   Isaiah 8:19 And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the _____?

Nearly all forms of ancient sorcery and witchcraft were founded upon a belief in communion with the dead. Those who practiced the arts of necromancy claimed to have intercourse with departed spirits, and to obtain through them a knowledge of future events.

This same belief in communion with the dead formed the cornerstone of heathen idolatry. The gods of the heathen were believed to be the deified spirits of departed heroes. Thus, the religion of the heathen was a worship of the dead.

5) What did Israel do at one point?
   Numbers 25:1-3 And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.
6) How did the Psalmist describe this very thing?
   Psalms 106:28 They joined themselves also unto Baalpeor, and _____ the sacrifices of the dead.

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The deification of the dead has held a prominent place in nearly every system of heathenism, as has also the supposed communion with the dead. The gods were believed to communicate their will to men, and also, when consulted, to give them counsel. Of this character were the famous oracles of Greece and Rome.

The belief in communion with the dead is still held, even in professedly Christian lands. Under the name of spiritualism, the practice of communicating with beings claiming to be the spirits of the departed has become widespread. It is calculated to take hold of the sympathies of those who have laid their loved ones in the grave. Spiritual beings sometimes appear to persons in the form of their deceased friends, and relate incidents connected with their lives and perform acts which they performed while living. In this way they lead men to believe that their dead friends are angels, hovering over them and communicating with them. Those who thus assume to be the spirits of the departed are regarded with a certain idolatry, and with many their word has greater weight than the word of God.

There are many, however, who regard spiritualism as a mere imposture. The manifestations by which it supports its claims to a supernatural character are attributed to fraud on the part of the medium. But while it is true that the results of trickery have often been palmed off as genuine manifestations, there have also been marked evidences of supernatural power. And many who reject spiritualism as the result of human skill or cunning will, when confronted with manifestations which they cannot account for upon this ground, be led to acknowledge its claims.

7) What was the first lie recorded in the Bible?
Genesis 3:4-5 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely _____: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as _____…

Modern spiritualism and the forms of ancient witchcraft and idol worship, all having communion with the dead as their vital principle, are founded upon that first lie by which Satan beguiled Eve in Eden.

8) What does the Bible say about those who have died?
Ecclesiastes 9:5-6 For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not _____ _____, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a _____ for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.
Psalms 146:4 His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.
9) What did God declare to his people?
Leviticus 20:6 And the soul that _____ after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face _____ that soul, and will cut him off from among his people.

The Hebrews were expressly forbidden to engage in any manner in pretended communion with the dead.

10) Who are the “Familiar Spirits”?
1 Corinthians 10:20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to _____, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.
11) To whom are you worshipping when you follow the familiar spirits?
Palms 106:37-38 Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto _____, And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood.

The “familiar spirits” were not the spirits of the dead, but evil angels, the messengers of Satan. Ancient idolatry, which, as we have seen, comprises both worship of the dead and pretended communion with them, is declared by the Bible to have been demon worship.

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Modern spiritualism, resting upon the same foundation, is but a revival in a new form of the witchcraft and demon worship that God condemned and prohibited of old.

12) What did Paul tell Timothy?
1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to _____ _____, and doctrines of devils;
13) What will happen before Jesus returns?
2 Thessalonians 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and _____ wonders,

Paul, in his second letter to the Thessalonians, points to the special working of Satan in spiritualism as an event to take place immediately before the second advent of Christ.

14) What did Peter warn us of?
2 Peter 2:1-2 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable _____, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall _____ their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

Here the apostle has pointed out one of the marked characteristics of spiritualist teachers. They refuse to acknowledge Christ as the Son of God.

15) What did John warn us of?
1 John 2:22-23 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is _____, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever _____ the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

Spiritualism, by denying Christ, denies both the Father and the Son, and the Bible pronounces it the manifestation of antichrist.

By the prediction of Saul's doom, given through the woman of Endor, Satan planned to ensnare the people of Israel. He hoped that they would be inspired with confidence in the sorceress and would be led to consult her. Thus, they would turn from God as their counselor and would place themselves under the guidance of Satan. The lure by which spiritualism attracts the multitudes is its pretended power to draw aside the veil from the future and reveal to men what God has hidden.

16) What has God given us?
2 Peter 1:19 We have also a more sure word of _____; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that _____ in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

God has in His word opened before us the great events of the future, all that it is essential for us to know, and He has given us a safe guide for our feet amid all its perils; but it is Satan's purpose to destroy men's confidence in God, to make them dissatisfied with their condition in life, and to lead them to seek a knowledge of what God has wisely veiled from them, and to despise what He has revealed in His Holy Word.

There are many who become restless when they cannot know the definite outcome of affairs. They cannot endure uncertainty, and in their impatience, they refuse to wait to see the salvation of God. Apprehended evils drive them nearly distracted. They give way to their rebellious feelings, and run hither and thither in passionate grief, seeking intelligence concerning that which has not been revealed. If they would but trust in God, and watch unto prayer, they would find divine consolation.

17) What did Solomon tell us?
Proverbs 14:29 He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is _____ of spirit exalteth folly.

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This impatient haste to tear away the veil from the future reveals a lack of faith in God and leaves the soul open to the suggestions of the master deceiver. Satan leads men to consult those that have familiar spirits; and by revealing hidden things of the past, he inspires confidence in his power to foretell things to come. By experience gained through the long ages he can reason from cause to effect and often forecast, with a degree of accuracy, some of the future events of man's life. Thus, he is enabled to deceive poor, misguided souls and bring them under his power and lead them captive at his will.

18) What is the acid test for checking to see if something is true?
Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this _____, it is because there is no light in them.

God Himself is the light of His people; He bids them fix their eyes by faith upon the glories that are veiled from human sight. The Sun of Righteousness sends its bright beams into their hearts; they have light from the throne of heaven, and they have no desire to turn away from the source of light to the messengers of Satan.

The demon's message to Saul, although it was a denunciation of sin and a prophecy of retribution, was not meant to reform him, but to goad him to despair and ruin. Oftener, however, it serves the tempter's purpose best to lure men to destruction by flattery. The teaching of the demon gods in ancient times fostered the vilest license. The divine precepts condemning sin and enforcing righteousness were set aside; truth was lightly regarded, and impurity was not only permitted but enjoined.

19) How good are we at judging things?
Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is _____ above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

God understands the tendencies of the depraved nature of man. Then, as now, Satan was watching to bring about conditions favorable to rebellion, that the people of Israel might make themselves as abhorrent to God as were the Canaanites. The adversary of souls is ever on the alert to open channels for the unrestrained flow of evil in us; for he desires that we may be ruined and be condemned before God.

Satan was determined to keep his hold on the land of Canaan, and when it was made the habitation of the children of Israel, and the law of God was made the law of the land, he hated Israel with a cruel and malignant hatred and plotted their destruction. Through the agency of evil spirits strange gods were introduced; and because of transgression, the chosen people were finally scattered from the Land of Promise. This history Satan is striving to repeat in our day. God is leading His people out from the abominations of the world, that they may keep His law; and because of this, the rage of ***"the accuser of our brethren"*** knows no bounds.

20) What is Satan doing now?
Revelation 12:10,12 …for the accuser of our brethren is _____ down, which accused them before our God day and night… …Woe to the inhabiters of the _____ and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

The antitypical land of promise is just before us, and Satan is determined to destroy the people of God and cut them off from their inheritance.

21) What admonition did Jesus give us that we need now more than ever?
Mark 14:38 _____ ye and _____, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.
22) What should we be ever vigilant against?
Leviticus 19:31 Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be _____ by them: I am the LORD your God.
Deuteronomy 18:12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD…

Can you see that not all supernatural things are from God?

Would you like to stand on the Sea of Glass praising the LORD?

When is it time to humbly seek the LORD for guidance?

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