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## Articles

(Length – At Our Discretion)

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(Fiction)

#### LEAVING HOME

What feelings enter the heart as the time comes for leaving the parental home. Tears are coursing down the cheeks of my mother and an obvious lump of emotion is in the throat of my father as they stand in the open door of their home. I have already started on my way down the lane towards that big, exciting world that stretches open before me. I decided earlier this spring, the time has come to try out my own wings; to break the ties with my childhood. My throat is too tight to utter a sound as I realize what I am leaving behind. Security. Family meals, made all the more tasty with hearty laughter. The quiet moments sitting around the fire. Turning to look back, I watch as they return my wave. We had to put a rope around our old collie dog to keep him from coming after me. His questioning bark comes to me through the soft air as I turn once again down the lane. I dare not look back.

Now, years later, I can look back on those events that happened almost 40 years ago and remember the emotions I felt and the things I saw. I remember the sun was shining brightly in the fresh spring air with bluebells nodding in the grass. A wren was sending out its trilling song in front of the white painted birdhouse I had made when I was thirteen. Pleasant gurgling sounds were coming from the small stream that wound its way close by the lane. It was a glorious day! I recall a sense of excitement was running through me that I had never felt before or have felt since. I felt like yelling "Make way world!" I was twenty years old! I knew I had become a man. Responsible for my own self!

Many seasons have passed since that time I walked down the long grassy lane to become a man. My parents passed away some years ago and now lie buried next to each other under the rich earth of the valley. I appreciated the many principles they taught me. My steps through life would often circle back to the home place for a rewarding visit. Sitting on the porch, we would go over old times or discuss which crops my father should plant the next year.

Now, as my wife and I stand in the door of our home looking out at our own son, I feel emotions my father must have felt. Loneliness and loss, but liberally mixed in, a sense of pride as my son grasps my hand tightly.

The sky has not changed its deep blue and the spring birds are again singing their lilting melodies. The bluebells are nodding in the warm breeze as they did those many years before. And that familiar lump is in my throat as this time, I watch MY son turn around for that last wave as he walks down the long, grassy lane towards his own manhood.

#### A WOMAN

What a beautiful creation is a woman!

I love to watch the sparkle that can emanate from her eyes.

The sparkle and shine of life itself!

I love to watch that real heartfelt and joyful smile,  
when she sees her husband coming home from the days work.

My thoughts dwell on what she is ready to do for the man she loves.

Ready to bear his children.

Ready to treat him as a king.

Ready to comfort.

Ready to listen.

Ready to please.

Looking her best, with shiny hair well done.

With a smile in her eyes and upon her honeyed lips,

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she is ready to take him in her arms.  
Ready to walk side by side through the years of their lives.  
Ready to suffer when he suffers and to rejoice when he rejoices.  
Ready to forgive.  
Ready to forget.  
Ready to put her man first beyond her own desires.

A queenly woman is this, one of the jewels of the Mighty One's creation.  
A woman to live with.  
A woman to love with.  
a woman to be by your side.  
A woman to make you do your best.

**MARRIAGE!**

What joy! What happiness! What excitement the thought of marriage brings! What a paradox that weddings at first seem so far off yet rush to quickly to the date.

A bride to be, how flushed and beautiful and full of life!  
Hearts are full of exploding effervescence as though as a bottle of exquisite French Champagne. What joy shines out of sparkling eyes, so full of laughter and hidden mystery.

Bride and groom, looking forward to spending a lifetime together. Looking forward to growing in loving and righteous character as the years roll on. Learning of love, patience and tenderness. Walking side by side, through the valleys and shaded glens. Through the thorny thickets and the scented gardens. Upon the flowered alpine pastures and across rocky slopes.

The man being a leader and a strength to the woman, and the woman being a helpmeet to the man. Knowing their ultimate destiny and desiring each other to attain it. And each giving help to the other as they cross the thorny, rocky places in the pathways of their lives.

And each being there to share the joy when the stars are shining bright.

**EVENING**

Ah, yes, t'is that time of the evening now;  
The hot steaming sun has slipped below the horizon,  
purple shadows are stealing out from the grove.  
How quiet it is now. The chores are done;  
the cows are all in their stalls and the chickens have settled down.  
T'is comfortable here on the porch. I think everyone should have one.  
Already the air has begun to cool and the evening scents are rising.  
I pull out the other chair as my good wife comes out to join me.  
Neither of us say anything; no need to as the communication is there  
as she puts her hand in mine.

Together we watch the gathering darkness.

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I give a silent thanks to my Creator for this helpmeet He has given me.  
A strong, warm, loyal woman if ever there was one;  
raised a fine batch of children she did.  
They're all grown now and have families of their own.  
Sure is fine to have the grandchildren come out.  
Chips off the old block they are!

Stars are coming out quite heavy now.  
That old hoot owl out in the grove sure is letting us know he's around.  
B'out time we settle in now. It's getting late and the morning comes early.

**SNOWFALL IN THE DEEP WOODS**

The gentle, caressing, snowflakes glided down to touch the earth  
in the deep velvety woods. All around it is deathly quiet. Only  
the whispering wind through the branches of the ghostly trees  
can be heard.

A snowy owl goes gliding silently overhead and disappears into  
the woods, leaving you with the impression that you did not  
really see it at all, but only sensed it was there for a second.

The soft snow muffles your footsteps as you slowly make your  
way through the woods. Your tracks soon become obliterated  
by the constantly falling snow. As you pass under a snow laden  
branch, some falls off and goes down your neck; but it does  
feel delightfully cold.

You can see the lights of your home now, as you slowly trudge  
through the deepening snow and the darkening woods.

**THOSE POETS OF YORE**

From when I was small, poetry was dear,  
Transposing me across time and years beyond years.  
Expanding my horizons and broadening my mind,  
Giving me a view of fields not mine.  
Capturing for all, times and places, sunrises, sunsets,  
Poets capturing everything that their hearts will let.  
Keeping for us those things they felt,  
From many miles away and from centuries before.  
Allowing us to know of the days of yore.

**THE WORLD BELOW**

Silently I slide  
through the bluegreen sea  
With a flip of my fins  
the silky water parts around me.  
Gently it upholds  
the weight of my form,  
As the seaweed waves below me  
like a field of corn.  
Sunlit rays slice golden  
through a wind ruffled sea.  
Burrowing into the depths  
as though in an effort to flee.  
As the birds of the air

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have the freedom to soar,  
So the sea allows to me  
the freedom to do more.  
To move to and fro  
or to hang with head down.  
Or to spin in a circle  
and go around and around.  
To let the waves wash over me  
as though to a rhythmic musical score.  
To allow the all-enveloping silence  
to refresh me to the core.

**DANDELION FLUFF**

Let it tickle your nose, that white piece of fluff;  
So quickly it flows upon the merest hint of a breeze,  
To yonder it goes with each little puff.  
I strain to keep it in sight as it disappears into space;  
I suppose the next time I see it, t'will be at my neighbor's place.

**AN APPLE TREE IN BLOSSOM**

Standing in the early morning sun,  
Its torso shrouded in white,  
As though a bride.

Standing alone...waiting...  
As though with glowing face,  
Waiting for her husband to arrive.

Standing in beautiful blossoming array,  
Wrapped in scented pure white petals  
it stands on the hill...  
Waiting in the golden light of dawn.

Softly cupped white petals,  
More pure than the cleanest snow  
Surrounds its graceful limbs.

Within each blossom  
Yellow stamens add an air of excitement,  
An aura of love.

Pinkish buds yet unopened  
Give to it a blushing beauty  
And a sense of loveliness  
As of a shy young maid.

What glory and honor it brings  
to that Artist who created it,  
Bringing out springtime after springtime  
The message of hope and renewal.

What blessings from my Mighty One are reflected  
in the annual gown of shimmering beauty  
Found in a blossoming apple tree.

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**THE ZEPHYR**

Aye, I am a wandering zephyr, a wayfaring breeze.  
I come and I go, and I do what I please.  
Sailing across bright meadows and turning down paths,  
I explore and I wander to see what each has.  
Walking just ahead of me is a flaxen haired young maid,  
and with tresses so golden, she is a pleasure to see.  
I ruffle her hair so that the curls fly free.  
Catching her quick smile I pass on by,  
to where the wild flowers grow, to hear them say "Hi!".  
I watch them nod on their stems, acknowledging my presence  
while they converse with their friends.

I slide quickly by and before me I see,  
a tree reaching skyward, so I decide to climb high.  
Up through the treetops I move through the leaves.  
I can hear them murmuring together; they sound well pleased.  
I can hear them ask each other,  
"Did you catch the name of that breeze?"  
"No," they answer each one to the other,  
"For so quickly it was here, then had passed on further."

I have no time to stay and chat, for I am too independent  
and just too busy for that.  
Beyond the next hill and across the green vale,  
hide many things I must see, including the young quail.  
How much they have grown since last I passed by.  
And look how they freeze as their mother sees,  
the red tailed hawk riding aloft on the breeze.

Aye, my duties lie before me, so I must hasten on.  
To ruffle a curl and cool a brow,  
to ripple the water as only I know how.  
To make goldenrod dance, and the wheat field sway,  
as in wave after wave they acknowledge my way.

Aye, I am a wandering zephyr, a wayfaring breeze.  
I come and I go, and I do what I please.

**ITS MORNING!**

What a way to get up in the morning!  
Its yet still dark, but the sun is a 'borning.  
The mourning doves are stirring,  
My kitten is purring.  
The old clock is chiming a quarter to.

I say to myself, rise up you lazy fellow!  
Don't get too mellow...  
The sun is starting to shine, it's color quite yellow.  
All I have to do is put my feet on the floor,  
Put on my clothes and just head out the door.

The birds are all aflutter,  
They are excited about the day.  
I breath in the air and smell fresh mowen hay.

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I love the cluck of chickens and the roosters when they crow;  
To me, that makes the morning, and makes me feel aglow.

**IN HONOR TO WIDOWS**

What life you have experienced,  
you women of years.  
What trials and tribulations,  
with many shed tears.  
What stories you could tell us,  
if only we would stop to hear.

Of trials and of victories,  
of death and of fears.

You can tell us of the God  
who has helped you,  
And who showed you His ways  
through the years.  
You can teach the maids who follow,  
what it is that a man desires.

You can teach her to be honorable,  
to be humble and be wise.  
How to raise her children,  
and how to make good buys.  
How to make her house a home,  
and how to make a meal  
out of a tough old soup bone.

There are many things  
those gray heads contain,  
So do not be silent or refrain,  
from passing on your wisdom,  
To those who follow in your paths.

Let your gray hairs be for glory,  
and may they honor to you bring.

**MEMORIES**

What price is a memory?  
It may have cost you determination;  
It may have demanded effort too.  
It may have cost you tears and sorrow,  
Or hearty laughter from you.

Memories are what life consisted of,  
through the years gone by.  
Thoughts of humor and bittersweet,  
of laughter and of strife.  
So varied are our memories,  
as we trace back the steps of our life.

We think back on the things we did,  
or did not do.  
How might we have done things differently,

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or seized an opportunity or two.  
How often we let an opportunity,  
slip by us I fear;  
of living life to the fullest  
or cherishing those we hold dear.

So if you yet have your life to live,  
then take this advice, and hold it dear.  
Live life to the fullest,  
but lay off that third beer.  
Let moderation be your motto  
in everything you do.

Take time to smell the flowers,  
and to watch the sky so blue.  
Take time to hug your child,  
and show you care for him too.  
And don't forget to discipline,  
before he gets old enough to say...  
Don't you dare, or, don't get in my way!

For otherwise your memories  
will be bitter and be blue,  
and you will feel the sting  
of a heart pierced through.

So lay the foundation now,  
for the memories to follow.  
Be solid in your character  
and do not swallow,  
the bittersweet pills of  
a life gone to waste.

But learn the ways  
of the Eternal who made us.  
Incorporate His ways  
into the problems of this life;  
and you will find your memories  
to be without discord or strife.

**OH GLORIOUS FALL!**

Oh fall, how I love you! What stupendous displays of flaming  
reds, crisp yellows, burnt oranges. It's the fourth of July all over  
again; starbursts cascading and exploding over the hills and valleys.  
Pinwheels of iridescence spinning along the silver steams. Sparklers  
sitting and glowing upon the fences.

Leaves having spent their energy go fluttering down to ride  
slowly away upon the gentle back of the friendly waters below,  
carried to their final resting place known only to the silent stream.  
Ask though I would of its final destination, the stream only hurried  
faster around the bend without stopping to answer. Intent on doing it's  
job, it had no time for such pleasantries.

Fall is the time for the army of trees to put on their best dress



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uniforms. To parade in their finery for all to see before throwing off their clothes and girding for battle against the advancing war god of winter. Who can fight and endure a long battle encumbered by heavy layers of clothes? Or to fight without draining the fatness from their body?

Maples are among the first to realize the time for battle is near and time is short. Looking splendid in their dress uniforms, they start toughening their muscles to take on the strong, cold, shrieking spear thrusts of the enemy. They will be prepared to laugh in the face of old man winter himself.

As swirls of leaves race down the street each leaf chasing after the one in front, they do not see me walking towards them...I stop and watch as they bump against my boots, then pick themselves up and scurry after their comrades who have moved on. I laugh as they act just like a group of grade school children just let out of school. All full of laughter and excitement and eager to get to their play.

Fall, what a glorious tribute to the Creator who designed and planned in such detail, this most exhilarating season of the year. Who gave to the air the crispness that makes our blood race with excitement. Draw deep into your lungs that elixir and tonic. Can you not feel life itself surging throughout your body? See how your stride lengthens, and a spring comes into your step.

Yes, fall is my favorite time of year. A time to prepare for the winter ahead, to think of pumpkin pie, cranberry sauce, and Thanksgiving turkey. A time to experience joy and to sing a song of praise to the Creator who designed it all.

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## **Just too Explosive to Tell**

**(Copyright) by Jonathan Gray (New Zealand)**

Could this be the greatest find of all time? What do you think? My normal meticulous checking procedures have been blocked in this case.

### **DISCOVERY 4 MILES DEEP?**

The reported discovery was made in a 4-mile deep mine in Russia.

(By comparison, in the USA ancient man-made items have been discovered 2 miles deep.)

A miner came up with what looked like one of those fireproof security boxes that people put their valuables in.

Just the fact that something like this could be found so far down in the earth was shocking enough, but once the x-rays were done and they finally decided to open it, the shock was just beginning.

My informant (name protected) reports: Inside the box was a mirror, or at least it looked like one. It was not glass though. It sounded and looked like gold metal, but so smooth and shiny that it looked like a gold mirror. It was approximately 5 inches by 8 inches by an inch thick. It had a gold edging around it, but no seam could be detected.

After x-rays of the “mirror”, it appeared to be hollow but the inside of it troubled the minds of some, because in the center was something that looked like a circuit board.

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**“DON’T TELL THE PUBLIC”**

When they brought the box into our laboratory, we knew that this was not going out to the public. But now, after this, we knew that just the few of us were going to know what was going on from this point on.

Never in our wildest imagination did we foresee what was going to take place 10 years later.

Never has any object gone under so many tests. This “mirror” had everything known to us, done to it. And then one day while one of the scientists was holding it in his hand, something strange happened. It turned white and black lines of what looked like a foreign language appeared on it for just a second.

He nearly dropped it, and yelled for everyone to look. But as soon as it displayed the black words, it returned to a gold mirror.

Six times in the next 5 months this happened. And on the 7th time, we discovered that it happened at exactly the same instant as another group of scientists were performing experiments with Low Frequency in another building.

**BLACK LETTERS APPEAR**

When we took the “mirror” to their building and they turned on their testing equipment the “mirror” turned white and line by line, black letters appeared on the “mirror”.

Photographs were taken of the writing and no one of the top people of the field could tell us what language it was. We had a problem. We didn’t want to tell anyone where this strange language came from, but we had to get outside help.

We finally decided to use the military decoding people. At least they would keep silent. They didn’t need to know where the writing came from, in fact they didn’t even know that it appeared on the “mirror”. All they saw was the photograph of the writing. There seemed to be no end to the writing. It just went on and on. Page after page. And then one day it stopped and went back to the gold “mirror”.

We wondered why it stopped, even though the Low Frequency equipment was still going. It wasn’t until we tried to duplicate the experiment a week later that we discovered that when it came to stop, if we could touch a certain spot on the side of the “mirror” that it would start with the writing all over again.

Then the shock of all shocks. I was holding the “mirror” in my hand and looking deeply into it and touched two places on the back of it and the “mirror” turned into a picture in a gold frame.

**ANCIENT PHOTO SHOTS**

It was a scenery picture, beautiful in color and obviously taken in a dense vegetation area. But where? Nothing looked familiar. What was this “mirror”?

As others gathered around to look, I touched it again and a different picture appeared and this was a picture of a small stream, with people standing beside it. They looked as modern as us, dressed in sophisticated clothing, like anyone you meet on the street right here in this country.

But when was this picture taken? Who were these people?

I guess that the pictures had something to do with the writing. There were 15 pictures and they all appeared to be of a certain family.

Some of the pictures included modern type buildings and vehicles I couldn’t explain, other than people were riding in them.

One showed a young man holding a globe, but nothing looked familiar about the land mass. Could this be pictures and a recording device from another planet?

I thought, what we have here is a time capsule, but from what time and from where?

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Photographs of the pictures were taken as well as the whole writing sequence and for over 12 years now, every expert we have at our disposal has been working on this project. Don't think for a moment that the things of the world were top priority, this was top priority!

**ANCIENT WRITING DE-CODED**

The de-coding people ran every word of the strange language through their super computers and then it happened. Things started to click. They started to make some sense out of the words.

And what came to be the translation would shock all mankind, but it was never to be let out to the world. It couldn't be let out. The government wouldn't allow it to be let out.

I could not get the photos of the pictures out, but I did devise a way to scan and send to a private computer, the translation of it.

Now my life is in mortal danger. They do not know who made a copy, but they know that one was made. That is why I am giving it to you. They will soon put two and two together and know it was from me. My life won't be worth a coin.

The only way to keep them from killing everyone who has this, is to publish it and get it into as many hands as possible.

Then all they will be able to do is claim it is a fraud or some crack-pot story. They will disavow any knowledge of any of us who worked on the project and will deny any knowledge of the “Mirror Project 77”.

If you can get this published, some will believe!?

**WHAT THE ANCIENT MESSAGE SAYS**

Here are extracts I have made from what was translated:

This is the 800th year, I Jubal, the son of Lamech, want to leave this history to my children and all those who follow me.

I want to tell the other side of the story, the true version, not the religious foolishness of my great, great, great grandfather.

From the very beginning there were some of us who knew that the false teachings of Adam had to be stopped. They were corrupting our children. Arguments were a daily thing. We just moved away from them?.

**ORIGINAL BODY GLOW**

I remember as a child that we all, had a glow about us. Now it seems that we are not as glowing, they lost nearly half their light.

He told us, because of the change, great fear came upon them. Now it seems that we are not as glowing as the other group, but this came on so gradually that no one thought much about it.

Another thing I have noticed is the diminishing of “quickness of the mind”. We seem not to be as sharp as we were in the beginning. We have to think things out and reason, whereas before we just seemed to know the answer to whatever the problem was.

The same with the “power of the mind”. We used to be able to do many things with our minds, but have lost that power for some reason, but we just invent a machine to do the work, so it is no problem.

**EARLY VEHICLES INVENTED**

We made vehicles to transport us, when we could not transport ourselves with our minds anymore. We devoted many years trying to restore our mental powers, but could not, so invented things to make up the difference.

We were growing day by day and our inventions were glorious to behold. The sad thing is that the time came when our children and grandchildren didn't believe us when we said that we used to have the power.

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Adam and his followers are constantly trying to get us to return to the old ways. Why would we want to? He is living in the past.

Our technology and transportation is so great that we are the marvel of the world. We have proven that we do not need the old ways of Adam.

**SPACE TRAVEL BEGINNING?**

In fact, the rumor is floating around that soon we will be able to transport to the moon. We have gone to the very corners of the earth. Why not the moon? The sky is the limit for our people?

When my family and I flew to Zan the other day. We noticed that some of the lush foliage was gone from the earth. I wonder what is causing that? With so many changes in my life, I wonder what?

There's just some of that document.

Just think! If this is a genuine pre-Flood document which recorded the contemporary technology while it was still in existence, but was then buried deep by the Great Disaster - then what else might await our discovery?

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## Magic in the Bible

(Copyright) by David Sielaff (Portland, Oregon)



**Magic is real, it works, and has influence in our world. The Holy Scriptures are totally against any practice of magic from whatever source. Magic is effective only when spirits in the supernatural realm cause things to happen in the physical realm. In fact, that is the definition of magic. The Scriptural prohibitions against the use of magic are made for a serious reason. Dealing or trafficking with spirits in any way is idolatry, which is forbidden and foolish for people to do. Man should communicate only with God directly through one mediator and one mediator only, the man Jesus Christ.**

I have no experience with magic, nor have I sought to practice magic in any way; my study of it has been academic. However, much can be known about the subject from the Bible and from those who suffered from practicing magic, and those who suffered from the results of magic. Those results are ultimately evil and worthy of God's promised judgments. Magic will cause difficulty for anyone who practices it, both in his or her life and in the lives of those around them. What the Bible says on the subject is determinative, although other sources can give us context about the subject of magic.

**Definition of Magic**

A useful definition of magic is found in Webster's Dictionary, 1913 edition:

**"Mag'ic**

- 1. A comprehensive name for all of the pretended arts which claim to produce effects by the assistance of supernatural beings, or departed spirits, or by a mastery of secret forces in nature attained by a study of occult science, including enchantment, conjuration, witchcraft, sorcery, necromancy, incantation, etc.**

**Celestial magic**, a supposed supernatural power which gave to spirits a kind of dominion over the planets, and to the planets an influence over men.

**Natural magic**, the art of employing the powers of nature to produce effects apparently supernatural.

**Superstitious, or Geotic, magic**, the invocation of devils or demons, involving the supposition of some tacit or express agreement between them and human beings.

2. Pertaining to the hidden wisdom supposed to be possessed by the Magi; relating to the occult powers of nature, and the producing of effects by their agency.

3. Performed by, or proceeding from, occult and superhuman agencies; done by, or seemingly done by, enchantment or sorcery. Hence: Seemingly requiring more than human power; imposing or startling in performance; producing effects which seem supernatural or very extraordinary; having extraordinary properties; as, a *magic* lantern; a *magic* square or circle.”

• [“Magic,” Webster’s Dictionary, 1913 edition](#)

Other practices are closely related to magic. “Sorcery” is defined in *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary* as “**SOR’CERY, noun Magic; enchantment; witchcraft; divination by the assistance of evil spirits, or the power of commanding evil spirits.**”<sup>1</sup> Today two kinds of magic are categorized, (1) ceremonial magic and (2) magic presented by mediums and psychics. The Bible considers both to have the same source of power and does not distinguish between the two.

The number of terms for magic, divination, and demonology are too many to present in this article, so I incorporate them under the term “magic.” When there are many terms for a particular subject, it indicates that there was a deep interest in the subject, even though they all have the same source: spirit entities other than YHWH who are sought out, contacted, exchange items of value, or are worshipped.<sup>2</sup>

### **Magic Operates Through the “Agency” of Spirits**

Modern dictionary definitions no longer state that spirit entities are involved in magic. However, they are involved in the practice of magic, even if the one practicing magic might not be aware of it. Spirit entities, not the magicians, make the spells, enchantments, incantations, divination (and other terms of use in magic) effective in their operation — when God allows them to work.

Thomas Witton Davies in [Magic, Divination, and Demonology Among the Hebrews and Their Neighbors](#) (1898) also identified the practice of magic as involving spirits:

**“Magic may be briefly defined as the attempt on man’s part to have intercourse [interaction] with spiritual and supernatural beings, and to influence them for his benefit. It rests upon the belief ... that the powers in the world on which human well-being depends are controlled by spiritual agents, and that these agents are to be conciliated and made friends of by words, acts, and so forth, which are thought to please them. There is in this something analogous to religious worship and prayer.**

Indeed, magic and religion have many and close affinities ... All magic is incipient [embryonic] religion, for it is an appeal to spirits believed to be more powerful and wise than man, and the methods employed to secure what is desired are no other than supplications to the goodwill of the beings consulted. ....”

• [Davies, Magic, Divination, and Demonology, 1–2](#)

<sup>1</sup> This kind of magic is not to be confused with sleight of hand (prestidigitation).

<sup>2</sup> I am told Eskimos have a large number of terms for different snow conditions. A variety of terms is necessary for their well-being, and even their survival. For ancient peoples to have a large number of terms for supernatural contact likewise indicates interest and necessity.

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Davies considers the practice of magic to be an amoral action, without right or wrong, outside of morality.<sup>3</sup>

James George Frazer, author of *The Golden Bough* (1890), also understood magic and religion to be the same thing, or so closely related as to be almost identical. **“It has also been said that religion consists of an appeal to the gods, whereas magic is the attempt to force their compliance.”**<sup>4</sup> I make the distinction that magic operates within a personal (individual or small group) dynamic while religion operates within a communal or social environment. Furthermore, magic is most often done in private while religion is usually communal and done in public.

**“It commonly refers to the ability to cause change to occur by supernatural or mysterious powers and abilities. In the twentieth century, magic has been more stringently defined as the ability to create change by an act of the will and the use of the cosmic power believed to underpin physical existence. ...**

**A highly developed magic system existed in ancient Egypt, as in Babylonian and other early cultures. From these cultures the medieval European system of magic is believed to have evolved. Greece and Rome also possessed distinct magic systems that were integrated into their religious practice and thus, like the Egyptian and Babylonian rituals, were preserves of the priesthood.”**

• **“Magic,”** [\*Encyclopedia of Occultism, 956, 957\*](#)

There is another way to look at the relationship of religion, magic, and other forms of mysticism.<sup>5</sup> It is that all are connected. The difference is that various esoteric systems have means of communicating with or manifesting supernatural beings, differentiated by culture and nation. For example:

religious orders	call up	gods, angels and demons
magical crafts	" "	demons and spirits
spiritualists	" "	spirits of the departed
UFO contactees	" "	alien beings

On their part, the supernatural entities adapt their presentation to the cultural and situational expectations of the recipients. According to researcher John Keel, there is one phenomenon expressed and tailored to various human audiences. Scripture is consistent. Worship God or worship one that is not God.<sup>6</sup>

Unless YHWH is worshipped, all other worship is idolatrous, pagan, and worships evil supernatural entities that the apostle Paul calls **“principalities and powers”** (Romans 8:38; Ephesians 3:10, 6:12; Colossians 1:16, 2:15; and Titus 3:1). However ...

<sup>3</sup> New York: KTAV Publishing House, Inc., first published 1898 (reprint 1969), 1, 24. Davies argues against the idea that magic users attempt to compel **“spirits or deities, or the Deity, to do the will of him who utters the needful words, or performs the requisite acts”** (Davies, 3). However, this goes against human nature and I have no doubt that magic users attempt to gain power over the spirits, but often settle for a *quid pro quo*, something given or received for something of value. Human beings are created **“a little lower than the angels”** (Psalm 8:5; Hebrews 2:7, 9). The biblical examples of King Saul in 1 Samuel 28:19–25, and the sons of Sceva in Acts 19:11–19 tell of attempts to compel spirits to yield results they were unable to give.

<sup>4</sup> “Magic” in G. Gordon Melton, [\*Encyclopedia of Occultism and Parapsychology\*](#), Fifth Edition, Vol 2, M–Z (Secaucus, NJ: The Citadel Press, 2001), 957.

<sup>5</sup> Mysticism is the experience of a supposed reality outside the senses. The means of a mystical experience might involve intuition, insight, visions, illumination, sometimes brought about through hallucinogenic substances. By *definition*, mysticism does not necessarily involve spirits or demons. In *practice*, mysticism eventually will involve spirits or an attempt by them to make contact by subtle means.

When I was interviewed on an Australian internet radio show, I spoke about ritual magic on the [“Oz Internet Radio Show, Part 2”](#) (You might want to read/listen to the [“Oz Internet Radio Show, Part 1”](#) as an introduction to ASK and what we believe about many subjects.)

<sup>6</sup> Keel does not realize this, of course; he was an agnostic. See John Keel, *The Eighth Tower* (New York: Thames and Hudson, 1975), 78. Keel’s insight is expansive and all encompassing, and is only hinted at by others, yet the biblical worldview is true.



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***Magic Is Real, and It Works***

Magic works because it operates in a manner somewhat analogous to computer programs. Many aspects of magic, like computer programs, need to be done with precision. That being said, magic is also diverse. Deviations or changes may give wrong results or no results. Words of some incantations must be made precisely, some in a specific language, or performed at a specific or “sanctified” place and at a particular time of the year, month, or day. The varieties seem to be endless. Shortcuts are often sought, although the purpose remains the same — to attract the attention and assistance of one or several spirits to fulfill the desire and request. Magic at times uses spells and various physical items as talismans to focus energies.

Magic is governed by laws and rules of operation depending on the spirit entities whose help is being sought, demonic personalities, or even one or more of the higher principalities, powers, or angelic beings. What they require varies with different cultures and peoples. Magic has many categories of practitioners, as for example, the diviner or augur, whose functions and operations are entirely different from those of the witchdoctor or shaman, and those differ from the role of a trance medium or soothsayer. All receive knowledge or power from spirits. Magic has little power or effect when spirits do not cooperate or participate in the spells — or when their actions are opposed by God.

Proper procedure is necessary in the practice of magic just as adherence to proper procedure was necessary for Israel in the operation of the Tabernacle and Temple sacrifices. Although sacrifices existed long before the Tabernacle, the structure and function of most temples around the world throughout history in many ways resemble the three-fold structure of the Temple/Tabernacle first presented in Eden.

***The Role of Blood in Magic***

Aleister Crowley (d. 1947), an English occultist, magician, and self-identified satanist, wrote in his 1929 book, *Magick in Theory and Practice*, Book 4, Chapter 12, “Of the Bloody Sacrifice and Matters Cognate”:

**“The first ethical lesson in the Bible is that the only sacrifice pleasing to the Lord is the sacrifice of blood; Abel, who made this, finding favour with the Lord, while Cain, who offered cabbages, was rather naturally considered a cheap sport. The idea recurs again and again. We have the sacrifice of the Passover, following on the story of Abraham’s being commanded to sacrifice his firstborn son, with the idea of the substitution of animal for human life. ...**

**The blood is the life. ... For the highest spiritual working one must accordingly choose that <sup>[sacrificial]</sup> victim which contains the greatest and purest force. A male child of perfect innocence and high intelligence is the most satisfactory and suitable victim. ...**

**But the bloody sacrifice, though more dangerous, is more efficacious; and for nearly all purposes human sacrifice is the best.”**

• Crowley, [Magick in Theory and Practice, Bk 4, Chap. XII](#)

***Magic in the Old Testament***

Much of what Crowley writes is biblically true. The blood is intimately related to the life of an animal or a person as told in Genesis 9:3–6; Leviticus 17:11, 14; and Deuteronomy 12:23.<sup>7</sup> Whether Crowley was writing in jest or not about human sacrifice (and who really cares), the Bible confirms his words. In fact, the people of Judah completely misunderstood what God required in the law. There are several other verses regarding this subject. One was written by David (or someone during his time) who tells of Israel’s evils after entering the land God promised to them:

**“But were mingled among the heathen and learned their works. And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them. Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils <sup>[demons]</sup>, 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.”**

• *Psalm 106:35–38*

The blood was effective in bringing the devils or demons into communication so an exchange could be made. The blood of the innocent was exchanged for something desired by the offerer of the sacrifice: wealth, information, power,

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whatever. This was done by both heathen and by idolatrous people and even kings of Israel. See 2 Kings 16:3, 17:17, 21:6; Isaiah 57:5; Jeremiah 7:31, 32:35; Ezekiel 16:20–21, 20:26, 23:37, 47.

Evil spirits are called “devils” in the King James Version in Leviticus 17:7; Deuteronomy 32:17; 2 Chronicles 11:15; Revelation 9:20. (We will return later to this topic in the section “Magic in the New Testament.”)

Note the article, “Magician” in *The Lutterworth Dictionary of the Bible*, W.E. Mills, Gen. Ed. (Cambridge: The Lutterworth Press, 1994), 541:

**“It was the Canaanite and Philistines inside the borders of Palestine as well as the Babylonians and Egyptians without who resorted to the use of numerous forms of magic and divination.**

- **Laban practiced divination (Gen 30:27).**
- **Balak the Moabite hired the Mesopotamian magician Balaam to curse Moses’ group of Hebrews (Num 22–24).**
- **The Philistine magicians requested guidance as to how to treat the troublesome Ark of the Covenant (1 Sam 6:2).**
- **Isaiah referred to the ‘diviners from the east’ and ‘soothsayers like the Philistines’ (2:6).**

**Any and all forms of magic and divination are forbidden by OT [Old Testament] law and are punishable by death.”**

Here are other references to witchcraft, sorcery, or idolatry:

- **“You shall not suffer [allow] a **witch** to live” (Exodus 22:18).**
- **“He that sacrifices unto any god, save unto YHWH only, he shall be utterly destroyed” (Exodus 22:20).**
- **“You shall not eat any thing with the blood: neither shall you use **enchantment**, nor **observe times**” (Leviticus 19:26).**
- **“Regard not them that have **familiar spirits**, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am YHWH your God” (Leviticus 19:31).**
- **“And the soul that turns after such as have **familiar spirits**, and after **wizards**, to go a whoring after them [the spirits], I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people” (Leviticus 20:6).**

The Hebrew word in the Old Testament translated as “magician(s)” in the King James Version occurs in Genesis 41:8, 24; Exodus 7:11, 22, 8:7, 18–19, 9:11. These all refer to the Egyptian magicians who were technically “sacred scribes” in the Hebrew, but they still duplicated some of the plagues in Egypt, and they did not do them by sleight of hand.

***Magic, Divination, Idolatry, Before Entering the Promised Land***

**“When YHWH your God shall cut off the nations from before you, whither you go to possess them, and you succeed them, and dwell in their land; Take heed to yourself that you be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before you; and**

<sup>7</sup> In each verse listed, the Hebrew word is *nephesh*, better translated “soul.” The “soul” of the flesh is in the blood. Someday we will fully understand what that means. Leviticus 17:14:

**“For it is the life [soul] of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life [soul] thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, ‘You shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life [soul] of all flesh is the blood thereof: whosoever eats it shall be cut off.’”**



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that you **enquire not after their gods**, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods? Even so will I do likewise.’

You shalt not do so unto YHWH your God: for **every abomination** to YHWH, which he hates, **have they done unto their gods**; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods. What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: **you shall not add thereto, nor diminish from it.**”

• *Deuteronomy 12:29–32*

Later, in Deuteronomy chapter 18 another warning is presented with an extensive list of examples of activities forbidden by the Law of YHWH. Most of them are occult and several of them involve spirits:

“When you are come into the land which YHWH your God gives you, you shall not learn to do after the **abominations of those nations**. There shall not be found among you any one that

makes his son or his daughter to pass through the fire [human sacrifice], or that uses **divination**, or an **observer of times** [consulting clouds], or an **enchanter**, or a **witch**, or a **charmer**, or a **consulter with familiar spirits** [mediums],<sup>8</sup> or a wizard, or a necromancer.<sup>9</sup>

For **all that do these things are an abomination** unto YHWH: and because of these abominations YHWH your God does drive them out from before you.

You shall be perfect [flawless] with YHWH your God. For these nations (which you shall possess), hearkened unto **observers of times**, and unto **diviners**: but as for you, YHWH your God has not suffered [allowed] you so to do.

[YHWH then gives a Messianic prophecy through Moses<sup>10</sup> ...]

YHWH your God will raise up unto you a Prophet from the midst of you, of your brethren, like unto me; unto him you shall hearken.”

• *Deuteronomy 18:9–15*

Why are such things done by the Israelites — or by any nation or people? God is sovereign and He makes His will known to His Creation when, where, and how He chooses. He has chosen not to reveal Himself to the nations, but He has revealed Himself to His chosen people Israel. As the apostle Paul wrote:

“... that which may be known of God is manifest [made plain] in them; for God has shown it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal [eonian] power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”

• *Romans 1:19–20*

<sup>8</sup> The single Hebrew word translated in the King James Version as one or several “**that have familiar spirits**” in Leviticus 19:31, 20:6, 27; Deuteronomy 18:11; 1 Samuel 28:3, 7–9; 2 Kings 21:6, 23:24; 1 Chronicles 10:13; 2 Chronicles 33:6; and Isaiah 18:9, 19:3, 29:4. A better translation is a single word (as in Hebrew) “medium.”

<sup>9</sup> A necromancer is a person who seeks information from the dead. This information comes from spirits impersonating the dead.

<sup>10</sup> See Dr. Martin’s article, “[Mosaic Prophecies for the End-Time](#)” where other prophecies of Moses for our near future are identified.

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Those God has not called often try to obtain information from whatever source possible. They do not realize that true information is impossible to obtain unless God allows them to receive it. So they try to bypass God by contacting supernatural beings through other means — non-Christian religions, charismatic Christian groups, or magical practices, all because YHWH will not communicate with them.

There were many instances when YHWH did communicate with nations and individuals when He saw fit to do so. God communicated through His prophets to inform nations about His intentions. One example was when the Hebrew prophet Jonah was sent to Nineveh, capital city of Assyria, so those pagans would repent of their sins (they did so temporarily). Another example: God sent Jeremiah to all the nations of the world, to tell them to submit to the coming yoke of Babylonian domination. Some nations obeyed Jeremiah’s warning, others did not obey. Those nations ceased to exist and almost disappeared from history.<sup>11</sup>

YHWH’s protection of His people Israel was known among all Gentile nations. They knew from:

- proclamations and fulfillment from prophets of YHWH about judgment and doom to neighboring kingdoms oppressing or attacking God’s people,
- Gentile individuals who received blessings or healings from YHWH,<sup>12</sup>
- correspondence between Gentile rulers and the Kings of Israel and Judah,<sup>13</sup>
- travelers and caravans passing through Judea and spreading news of God’s blessings, and
- God’s public rescues and physical salvation of His people Israel or Judah from destruction.<sup>14</sup>

The nations around Judea knew full well about YHWH’s power: when the people of Israel entered and conquered the land of promise, during the powerful reigns of Kings David and Solomon, and several times during the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah, God intervened or rescued His people Israel from total destruction, in spite of their evil. Eventually, however, God had to allow those same nations to punish Israel.

Writing about a future Assyrian assault on the Kingdom of Judah, the prophet Isaiah wrote about the foolish leaders of Judah who sought solace from gods other than YHWH:

**“And when they shall say unto you, ‘Seek unto them that have familiar spirits [mediums], and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? [or] for the living to the dead?’**

**To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”**

• *Isaiah 8:19–20*

In Isaiah chapter 19 YHWH pronounces judgment upon Egypt because of its influence over Judah. Civil war was prophesied for Egypt, which weakened it for conquest by Assyria.

**“And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbor; city against city, and kingdom against kingdom.**

**And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they [the Egyptians] shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits [mediums], and to the wizards. And the Egyptians will I give over**

<sup>11</sup> Jeremiah fulfilled this commission from God, with mixed results. Some nations heeded, others did not. See Dr. Martin’s article, “[The Prophetic Birth of Our Civilization](#),” originally written in 1975. For me, it is one of the most fascinating prophecy articles that Dr. Martin wrote. (Read Jeremiah 27:8–11, two pages below.)

<sup>12</sup> Such as YHWH healing the Syrian military leader Naaman in 2 Kings 5:1–18. Reports of Naaman’s miraculous recovery became known throughout Syria, the land of Israel, and far beyond.

<sup>13</sup> Remember the fame of Solomon’s wisdom and greatness (1 Kings 4:29–34) and his correspondence and interaction with King Hiram of Tyre (2 Kings chapter 5). The same thing happened during Hezekiah’s reign.

<sup>14</sup> YHWH’s salvation of Israel from Egypt, through the wilderness, and conquest of the land promised to Abraham’s descendants, were widely known. Destruction of the Assyrian army besieging Jerusalem (2 Kings chapter 19) was likewise known around the world and attracted the notice of Babylon who sent envoys to Judah to both praise and spy on Jerusalem (2 Kings chapter 20).

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into the hand of a cruel lord; and a fierce king shall rule over them, says the Lord, YHWH of hosts.”

• *Isaiah 19:2–4*

Later Isaiah wrote about a future siege of Jerusalem and how desperate the people would be to learn any message of comfort and hope, even if it meant violating the Law of Moses:

“And you shall be brought down, and shall speak out of the ground, and your speech shall be low out of the dust, and your voice shall be, as of one that has a familiar spirit [a medium], out of the ground, and your speech shall whisper out of the dust.”

• *Isaiah 29:4*

Isaiah prophesied God’s judgment against Babylon, before Babylon was a threat to the Kingdom of Judah:

“Yet these two shall come to you in a moment, in one day: Bereavement and widowhood; Suddenly they come on you with your many enchantments, With the plentifulness of your charms exceedingly.

Stand now among your charms and among your many enchantments, With which you have labored from your youth; Perhaps you shall be able to benefit; Perhaps you shall terrify. You have tired yourself with your many counsels; Let them stand now and save you, The astrologers and the stargazers, those who inform by the new moons, From the things that are coming on you.”

• *Isaiah 47:9, 12–13, Concordant Literal Old Testament*

“But draw near hither, you sons of the sorceress, the seed of the adulterer and the whore. Against whom do you sport yourselves? against whom make you a wide mouth, and draw out the tongue? are you not children of transgression, a seed of falsehood, Enflaming yourselves with idols under every green tree, slaying the children in the valleys under the cliffs of the rocks?”

• *Isaiah 57:3–5*

“And it shall come to pass, that the nation and kingdom which will not serve the same Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation will I punish, says YHWH, with the sword, and with the famine, and with the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand.

Therefore hearken not you to your prophets, nor to your diviners, nor to your dreamers, nor to your enchanters, nor to your sorcerers, which speak unto you, saying, ‘You shall not serve the king of Babylon’:

For they prophesy a lie unto you, to remove you far from your land; and that I should drive you out, and you should perish. But the nations that bring their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him, those will I let remain still in their own land, says YHWH; and they shall till it, and dwell therein.”

• *Jeremiah 27:8–11*

“And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, says YHWH of hosts.”

• *Malachi 3:5*

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“And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the **magicians** and **astrologers** that were in all his realm.”

• *Daniel 1:20*

“Then the king commanded to call the **magicians**, and the **astrologers**, and the **sorcerers**, and the **Chaldeans**, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king. ...

The **Chaldeans** answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any **magician**, or **astrologer**, or **Chaldean**. ...

Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, ‘The secret which the king has demanded cannot the **wise men**, the **astrologers**, the **magicians**, the **soothsayers**, show unto the king.’”

• *Daniel 2:2, 10, 27*

“Then came in the **magicians**, the **astrologers**, the **Chaldeans**, and the **soothsayers**: and I told the dream before them; but they did not make known unto me the interpretation thereof.”

• *Daniel 4:7*

Later after Nebuchadnezzar died and Daniel was old, Belshazzar, King of Babylon, needed answers about text written by a disembodied hand on the wall of his banquet room (Daniel chapter 5).

“There is a man in your kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of your father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar your father, the king, I say, your father, made master of the **magicians**, **astrologers**, **Chaldeans**, and **soothsayers**.”

• *Daniel 5:11*

All the verses in Daniel reference occult practitioners. The religious leaders of the many temples in Babylon who “communicate” with pagan gods through various means are not counted on these lists.

### ***Magic in the New Testament***

In several accounts in the Gospels and Acts there are encounters with spiritual beings. Satan confronted Jesus to tempt Him (Matthew 4:1–11; Mark 1:12–13; Luke 4:1–13). In His ministry evil spirits confronted Jesus several times. The apostles also had encounters with evil spirits after Christ's resurrection and ascension. Note what the apostle Paul wrote:

“But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, **they sacrifice to devils** [*diamonion*, demons] and not to God: and I would not that you should have fellowship with devils [*diamonion*]. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils [*diamonion*]: you cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils [*diamonion*].”

• *1 Corinthians 10:20–21*

The term “magic” occurs four times in the New Testament. Two times it refers to the practices of Simon Magus (Acts 8:9, 11), and two times it refers to the practices of a person in Ephesus (Acts 13:6, 8).

Let us look at Simon Magus first:

“But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used **sorcery**, and **bewitched** the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, ‘This man is the

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great power of God.’ And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.”

• Acts 8:9–11

“And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus [son of Jesus]: Which was with the deputy of the country [a Roman Procounsel], Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.

But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy [Spirit], set his eyes on him, and said,

‘O full of all subtlety and all mischief, you child of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a season.’

And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand. Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.”

• Acts 13:6–12

Paul lists idolatry and witchcraft as great evils that can, when practiced with knowledge and repetition, cause God to delay a person’s salvation.

“But if you be led of the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are;

Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft [enchantment], hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like:

of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

• Galatians 5:18–21

Paul and his associates traveled to the city of Philippi in Macedonia, northeast of Greece (Acts 16:12). In Acts 16:16, Paul encountered a young woman who spoke. She was what the Greeks call an oracle:

“And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination [“divination” in Greek is *python*] met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, ‘These men are the servants of the most high God, which show unto us the way of salvation.’

And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, ‘I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.’ And he came out the same hour.”

• Acts 16:16–18

The owner of the young woman lost his livelihood and complained to the Roman magistrate. The oracle likely brought in money to the city also. For this act Paul and Silas were thrown in prison and beaten. A miracle released them, but for the sake of the jailer, they did not leave the prison. The jailer was converted, it became known Paul and Silas (and

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perhaps the physician Luke) were Roman citizens, and Paul and Silas were released (Acts 16:19–40) because of the encounter and exorcism of the python spirit.

The python spirit operated in a manner similar to the oracle at Delphi. The Pythian Games took place at Delphi every four years, two years after the Olympic Games. There was a connection of the python spirit with a dragon named Python. In Greek mythology, Python was killed by the god Apollo. Apollo is also the patron god of Delphi. While there is no further biblical information about this incident in Acts or its implications, contemporary Christian audiences of Acts were likely aware of the social, cultural, and religious background.<sup>15</sup>

If the Python oracle was similar or connected with the Delphi Oracle (both operated in a similar manner), did the action by Paul to exorcize the Python spirit or demon from the young woman have had an effect on other oracles? In the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD an interesting book was written, [On the Cessation of Oracles](#) (or *On the Failure of Oracles*) by the prolific Greek author Plutarch (d. 120 AD) who wrote, among many other works including *Plutarch’s Lives*. The pagan Plutarch became a priest at the oracle at Delphi around 95 AD.<sup>16</sup>

***Magic Is a Perversion of the Words of Jesus***

In Capernaum Jesus taught the people about His coming death, and how He would give His flesh and blood “**for the life of the world.**” Jesus said to the assembled people:

“**I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever** [for the eon]: **and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.**”

**The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, ‘How can this man give us his flesh to eat?’ Then Jesus said unto them,**

**‘Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoso eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, has eternal** [eonian, age-lasting] **life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.**

**He that eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, dwells in me, and I in him. As the living Father has sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eats me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna and are dead: he that eats of this bread shall live for ever** [for the age].”

**These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, ‘This is a hard saying; who can hear it?’”**

• **John 6:48–60**

The disciples had difficulty with the words of Jesus, first because God prohibited the ingesting blood in the time of Noah (Genesis 9:4) and later under God’s covenant with Moses (Leviticus 3:17, 7:26–27 and other passages). The second reason was because this must have seemed like magic to some of His disciples. In reality, it would have been magic if His words were spoken by anyone other than Jesus. In reality, magic and its horrific use of blood to gain power is an intentional and total perversion of the truth of God, applicable to Christ alone.

<sup>15</sup> “Python,” in *Dictionary of Deities and Demons in the Bible*, K. van der Toorn, etc., eds. (Grand Rapids: MI, Eerdmans, 1999).

<sup>16</sup> As an interesting side note, toward the end of Plutarch’s *On the Cessation of Oracles*, there is a curious discussion on whether demons could die. Of course, spirit beings can die, read Psalm 82, especially verses 6–7:

**‘I have said, ‘You are gods** [elohim]; **and all of you are children of the most High.’ But you shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes.’”**

These spirit beings were the Sons of God, not demons, but they certainly can die. Remember, Christ was originally spirit, became a human being (*anthropous*) and He died.



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***The True Importance of the Blood of Christ***

Blood does have real power. The blood of Jesus Christ is a source of power, not for humans, but it is used by God and Christ to cleanse and save every child of Adam to become a child of God.

**“But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal <sup>[eonian, age-lasting]</sup> redemption for us.**

**For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the <sup>[sprinkled]</sup> blood of Christ, who through the eternal <sup>[eonian]</sup> Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

**And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament <sup>[covenant]</sup>, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament <sup>[covenant]</sup>, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.”**

• **Hebrews 9:11–15**

And remember, no spirit in the realm of magic can mediate with anyone on behalf of any person. No human being, whether a priest in the Old Covenant or a priest in some church today, no one can be a mediator for us any longer:

**“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”**

• **1 Timothy 2:5–6**

The giving of Himself as **“a ransom for all,”** included His blood in death. The gift and the knowledge of our salvation do not extend to every human being — not yet, but it will. Only those Israelites who were elect believed in Christ as Peter wrote to believers “scattered abroad.” ...

**“... to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.”**

• **1 Peter 1:1–2**

***Jesus Accused of Being a Magician by the Jews***

**“It is this latter requirement concerning rebellious elders that is important to us in our present context. Since Jesus was recognized as an Elder in Israel, he was consistently called ‘Rabbi’ by the people (John 1:49; 6:25), the final judgment to condemn him to death had to be made at Bethphage to satisfy the legal demands that were enforced in the time of Jesus.**

**Indeed, the Talmudic scholars specifically state that Jesus was accused and convicted by the Sanhedrin of practicing magic and leading Israel astray. For this he was excommunicated from Israel (Sotah 47a). Plainly stated, it meant that Jesus was ‘put out of the Camp of Israel.’ This meant, that from the point of view of the Jewish authorities at Jerusalem, Jesus died on the tree of crucifixion as a Gentile, not as an Israelite!”**

• **Ernest Martin, [Secrets of Golgotha](#), 130**

Jesus was

1. accused and found guilty of magic or sorcery by the Great Sanhedrin at Jerusalem,
2. excommunicated from Israel for practicing magic (or sorcery), and

3. hanged on a tree.

*The Encyclopaedia Judaica*, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, compiled several statements from Talmudic sources about the death of Jesus.

**“They hanged Jesus on the eve of Passover. Forty days earlier a proclamation was issued that he was to be stoned for practicing sorcery and for enticing and leading Israel astray.”**

**“Let anyone who can speak in his favor come forward.”**

**“Nothing in his favor was discovered and they hanged him on the eve of Passover.”**

• *Encyclopaedia Judaica, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, vol. X, p. 5*

### **Sorceries and Unclean Spirits in the Book of Revelation**

Consider passages in the Book of Revelation that deal with sorceries and sorcerers. Remember, Revelation is a series of visions experienced (not just seen) by the apostle John.

The verse below takes place before Christ returns:

**“Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries [enchantments], nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.”**

• *Revelation 9:21*

The next verse describes preparations to oppose Christ’s return:

**“And I saw three unclean spirits [*pneumata*] like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits [*pneumata*] of devils [*daimonion*, demons], working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”**

• *Revelation 16:13–14*

In this vision, John foresees the fall of Babylon before Christ returns:

**“And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, ‘Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils [*daimonion*], and the hold of every foul spirit [*pneumata*], and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.’ ...**

**And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in you; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in you: for your merchants were the great men of the earth; for by your [Babylon’s] sorceries [enchantments] were all nations deceived.”**

• *Revelation 18:2, 23*

This next verse occurs after the New Earth is created and after New Jerusalem has descended.

**“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers [enchanters], and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”**

• *Revelation 21:8*

The next verse shows events during the great White Throne Judgment, when God’s education and conversion of all mankind will occur. When completed 1 Corinthians 15:28 will be the result.

**“For without are dogs, and sorcerers [enchanters], and whoremongers, and murderers, and idola-**



ters, and whosoever loves and makes a lie.”

• Revelation 22:15

### Angels ... and Simon Magus

(1) **Angels.** Human contact with angels is a subject beyond the scope of this article. Some magic users try to make contact with angels. Who knows if they succeed? I do not really care.<sup>17</sup> However, regarding angels and their role in God’s creation, Dr. Martin has produced several articles on the subject. Read them in any order that interests you:

[“Angels - the Facts and the Fictions”](#)

[“Why Did God Create Angels?”](#)

[“How God Uses Angels to Govern the Universe”](#)

[“The Positive Good that Angels Perform”](#)

[“Do You Have a Guardian Angel?”](#)

[“Why Does God Need an Army?”](#)

(2) **Simon Magus.** If you wish to learn about the intrusion of paganism into the Christian *ekklesia*, along with information about Simon Magus, read Dr. Martin’s excellent book (free online) [The People That History Forgot](#). Simon Magus is discussed in chapters 4–8, 10–12, 17–19, with chapters 4, 17, and 18 having the most information about this historical figure.

### The Burning of Books

While Paul and his colleagues were teaching in the city of Ephesus, an interesting incident took place:

**“And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.**

**Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them, which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, ‘We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.’ And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so.**

**And the evil spirit answered and said, ‘Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?’ And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.**

**And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books [scrolls] together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.”**

• Acts 19:11–19

Biblical Greek lexicons consistently consider the “**curious arts**” to be “magical arts.”

### Morality Has Degraded, Not Improved

I have a saying, “Never bet against human depravity.” Just as humanity is degrading genetically, so too human morality is degrading. After all, Scripture has a vast stream of accounts of people, and Paul tells his young colleague Timothy (and us) in 2 Timothy 3:1, “**This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.**” He is not writing about the tribulation. He is talking about the conditions for everyone in the last days (which we are still approaching). Then Paul presents a list of evils people will do. Many of those people will be believers or former believers in Christ’s resurrection:

<sup>17</sup> According to Nelson White (aka Frater Zarasthustra), *A Brief History of Western Magic ...* (Pasadena, CA: The Technology Group, 1986), there is a portion of magic that makes contact with angels.

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“For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.”

• *2 Timothy 3:2–9*

Paul tells Timothy later in chapter 3, still writing about the time of the end:

“But evil men and seducers [swindlers] shall wax WORSE and WORSE, deceiving, and being deceived. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

• *2 Timothy 3:12–13*

While few Christians in America suffer persecution by physical attack, many Christians around the world are suffering persecution. Be warned, for believers to “live godly in Christ” without persecution is not normal. Persecution may even come through your own family. In addition, Paul also tells us:

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places [among the celestials or the heavenlies].”

• *Ephesians 6:12*

In the lifetime of Christ and the apostles it was a time of peace and prosperity, called the Pax Romana. It began in 27 BC with the reign of Emperor Augustine and lasted for 200 years. During the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD this peace allowed Christianity to grow. One upset to peace was the Jewish rebellion that ended in 70 AD. Paul wrote Ephesians knowing that Christ would not return for a long time. Paul, Peter, and John gathered and organized the documents that became our New Testament.<sup>18</sup>

Things will indeed “wax worse and worse” in the future, and evils such as magic will increase. Satan, his minions, evil spirits, and principalities and powers, all sense the end of their limited sovereignty as Christ’s return gets closer with the passing of every day. Their hatred of all Christians will increase. We must depend more and more on the grace and mercy of God and Christ for all our brethren.

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<sup>18</sup> Dr. Martin’s book, *Restoring the Original Bible: The Design and Development of the Holy Scriptures* describes the two processes of the canonization of books of the Bible from within the Scriptures: one process for the Old Testament (confirmed by Jesus), and a later process for the New Testament. It is a remarkable story of God’s preservation of His written word to teach the world about Christ, the Living Word of God, and our salvation through Him.

**What is Right or Wrong with this Article and Why?**  
(Be sure to tell us if you want your name on your comments or not.)  
Learn to Give an Answer!

**Keep The Sabbath Sabbath**  
by Nathaniel Burson (Big Sandy, Texas)

If I tell someone to start keeping the Sabbath, their first thought is "but how can I do that, if there are no Sabbath-keeping churches nearby?" It has become thoroughly ingrained in the mind of every Christian that keeping the Sabbath/Sunday holy *means* going to church. They believe that is the beginning and the end of the intent of God's commandment on the subject.

And yet... it isn't. Because God never said that. In fact, He never once commanded you to go to church, not in the entire Bible. Think about that! So why did God *never* command anyone to go to church? More importantly, if it's not important enough to Him to say something about it... why is it SO important to you, and everyone else? (Those of you who know your Bible will point to **Hebrews 10:25**, but that is a command not to *stop* going to church – not a command to *go* to church. You might think I'm splitting hairs, but there is actually a big difference in this case, as I'll explain later.)

When I tell you to "keep the Sabbath", you instantly think "right, go to church!" ... but that isn't what I said. The idea that you can do one without the other is inconceivable to everyone today. Yet it's actually possible to do *either* one without the other – **you can keep the Sabbath without going to church, and you can go to church without keeping the Sabbath** – and nearly everyone does!

Let me explain how that's possible, by starting, as always, with the first rule of Bible study "what *exactly* did God say?"

**Exodus 20:8-11** *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it, and said "he that goeth not to church shall perish in hellfire".*

That's what you probably wish it said. **That's what you probably believe it meant.** *But that's not what it said.* After the word "hallowed it", there is a period. In the law to keep the Sabbath *not one word was said about assembly, congregating, gathering, or any other word that implies "going to church"*. The COMPLETE letter of the law was that "thou (yes, you, and him, and her, and them) shalt not work".

**Exodus 31:13-16** *Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you. Ye shall keep the sabbath; therefore, for it is holy unto you: everyone that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.*

Over and over again, God commands them, on pain of death, to "keep the Sabbath". To you, that means go to church. But it doesn't say that here, does it? The ONLY definition given in this passage of "keeping the Sabbath", is to make it a "Sabbath of rest".

**Exodus 35:2** *Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day there shall be to you an holy day, a sabbath of rest to the LORD: whosoever doeth work therein shall be put to death.*

Again, this odd phrase "Sabbath of rest". In Hebrew, Sabbath *means* rest. The original Hebrew here is *Shabbat Shabbaton*, or "sabbathy sabbath", or in modern English, a restful rest! Again, I must point out that it does *not mention* church, assembly, prayer, or any of the other ideas that are bound up with the Sabbath today.

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The Sabbath is mentioned 92 times in the Old Testament. The majority of those are commands not to work on it, or to “keep it”. There is only one in the OT that mentions an assembly on the weekly Sabbath day. Think about that – only 1 out of 92 verses talk about the thing that the world, and the churches of God, think is the absolute most important thing in the universe. Isn’t that significant?

**Leviticus 23:3** *Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.*

This is the only time the word “convocation” (assembly) was used in connection with the weekly Sabbath. It’s a generic, passing comment that says nothing about what “assembly” meant. Did everyone come to the tabernacle? Or only the men? For how long? What did they do? **All it says is “an holy assembly”, after underlining three more times that this was a Sabbath of REST.**

None of this proves we shouldn’t go to church. Nor is it intended to do so, contrary to what you might think. But it demonstrates the relative importance that “church” has, in comparison with “keeping the Sabbath”. We’ll come back to this verse again later.

### **WHAT IS THE CHURCH?**

**Hebrews 12:23** *To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,*

The word “church” is the Greek *ekklesia*, meaning “called out ones”. But we know from other scriptures that to be written in heaven, to be a part of the *church of the firstborn*, you have to be called, AND chosen, AND faithful!

All those who are called – even those truly called, not including tares and seat-warmers – are only at the FIRST STEP of salvation and are not the “saints” to compare yourself to! The reality is that most of those in any physical group of people called a church are *not* going to be in the first resurrection. (**Acts 20:30-31, 2 Timothy 1:15** give some indication of this.)

**3 John 1:9-10** *I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.*

John still called this “the church”, yet the evidence shows that Diotrephes is a false minister and casts the true brethren out of the church! Is this still a church of God? In name, yes! **It is STILL a group of people who were once called!** Thus, it is still a “true church”, since they were TRULY CALLED once – therefore they are a group of “called out ones”, an *ekklesia* – a church!

But we have been conditioned to think of a church as a group of people who have been **called, chosen, and faithful – and no such organization exists on Earth, nor has ever existed!** Not even Jesus’ own disciples were *all* faithful!

More importantly, that’s not what the Greek word meant! It doesn’t mean a group of faultless saints; it doesn’t even mean a group of people who are “trying” to obey God! It simply means a group of people whom God offered a *chance* at salvation – a chance some or all of them may or may not have already rejected!

Because of this inherent weakness in classifying *any* group of physical beings, God refused to make the church the absolute arbiter of truth on this Earth. **Churches don’t save you; God saves you. And God doesn’t save your church, God saves you.**

**The aforementioned “church of the firstborn”, who sleep now in heaven awaiting the resurrection, is the only body of people in the universe qualified to have the respect and admiration and obedience that you give to your own pale shadow of the true church of God.**

### **THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH**

A church, as in “the church at Corinth” or “the Living Church of God” means a physical group of *possible* saints, who *might someday find salvation*, who strive to overcome their carnal natures – mixed in with people who long ago decided they’d

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done enough and stopped growing... and those whom Satan deliberately put there to lead the rest of the church away (**Matthew 13:24-30**).

But that doesn't mean such a flawed church has no function. It pleased God through the *foolishness* of preaching to save those, and only those, who believe (**1 Corinthians 1:21**). Churches are meant to be flawed, meant to teach heresy, again – so that those who are approved are made manifest (**1 Corinthians 11:19**).

Churches serve two functions simultaneously. First, they teach you truth; then they try to take it away again. And both of those functions are enormously helpful. First, the teaching; the church is a mother. **Galatians 4:26** shows Jerusalem, as contrasted with Sinai, as mother of the New Covenant church. And in that role, she protects the infants, comforts them, feeds them on milk, and loves them.

These are all things a newborn Christian needs desperately. It's HARD to leave behind Babylon with all her customs, and learn about the laws, and keep them. The church provides a group of people, a protective herd who makes it easier – sharing their stories, showing you how to do things, and most importantly – proving to you that you can indeed overcome these problems.

And so, the babe grows up on milk, as all babes do. And yet there is supposed to be a time when babies grow beyond that and are weaned from the breast and start chewing solid food. There is supposed to be a time when children can face strangers without hiding in their mother's skirts.

**Hebrews 5:12** *For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.*

EVERY SINGLE PERSON IN YOUR CHURCH should be qualified to be teachers and have long since outgrown milk! Yet how many are truly qualified to be teachers of the most basic doctrines, the “first principles of the oracles of God”?

Go to your church and ask ten people to prove the most basic doctrines to you and see if they are not still milkaholics! No one should say “I'm not a scholar”, *because everyone is supposed to be “ready always to give an answer”* (**1 Peter 3:15**). And that answer shouldn't be “well, I can't prove it but here's a booklet!”

**Hebrews 5:13-14** *For everyone that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

It's FINE to only digest milk when you're a baby! But at some point, when you see a child of seven suckling his mother's teat, you start thinking the child is retarded. In the literal sense – he is “*less advanced in mental, physical, or social development than is usual for one's age*”, and also in the insulting sense “your church is just a bunch of retards”, which is essentially what Paul said. And what I say.

### **BREAKING THE MILK ADDICTION**

But let's ask the obvious question – who provides them with milk? Their mother, obviously – the church. Who provides them meat? Just as obviously, the Father – God Himself. **Even today, cooking slabs of meat is a man's domain.**

It is the mother who feeds them with comfortable rituals, with friendship and snuggling and support. But it is the **father who kills the beasts and corrects their carnal nature**. It is the father who gives them answers to hard questions their mother doesn't know the answer to and dares not ask.

So strong meat comes from the father. Therefore, it is the mother's job – the church's job – to raise them up to such an age that they are capable of digesting meat **and then let the father handle their education from there!**

It's one thing for a mother to help her young children cut up their meat for a few years, but eventually they're supposed to be able to cut it and chew it themselves, processing and digesting the beast their father killed to give them. But how would YOU feel about a mother who does this for her 30-year-old?



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But most mothers don't want their children to grow up and leave them, because they are desperate for the validation their children give them. So, they keep them dependent, shelter them from reality in every way they can, so they will never be able to leave the nest. They do this in the name of love, of protection, of wanting what's best for them.

But what's best for them is to grow up to be men who answer to God and no one else. Every church in history has taught her sons to fear her husband, and to trust only her. They are jealous of their father's role and want their children to learn only such meat as the mother has chewed, swallowed, vomited up again and fed them. Yes, I meant the metaphor to be gross because this is what churches do with God's truth.

You need to learn directly from God; God will teach you the things you need to know, at the speed you can handle it – which is much faster than your church thinks. She is inevitably frightened by this and will tell you to slow down, trust them, believe only things the ministry has proven to be true. **But this denies the fact that God teaches everyone in the congregation individually – and worse, seeks to prevent it!**

God does not reveal things first to the apostle, then to the evangelist, then to the preacher, then to the deacon, then to the man, then to the woman. God reveals things to the hearts of people who have ears to hear, and respects no one's office.

Because frankly, people screw things up. God Himself called it the “foolishness of preaching”. God said when you lift your tool upon the stones of His altar, you defile it – however good your intentions. This is why He feeds meat to His children in person, and not through their mother's mammary glands – and yes, I just called your minister a boob.

God's correction can be stern as only a father's can be sometimes it hurts, but it's for your good (**Hebrews 12:5-11**). **Because every time your father corrects you, he kills a little of your selfish beast. He offers up a sacrifice of red meat for a sweet savor, and your soul is fed thereby – making you more of a man.**

#### **THE PURPOSE OF THE SABBATH**

Only once in the Bible is there a command to assemble on the weekly Sabbath day, in **Leviticus 23:3**. But look at how God qualified that...

**Leviticus 23:1-2** *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which YE shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts.*

These are God's feasts... which MOSES commanded Israel to gather together for! It was not God who commanded an assembly on the Sabbath, *it was Moses who proclaimed it to be a holy convocation!* Do you realize what that means?? It means that these were things MOSES commanded Israel to gather for... which makes them a part of MOSES' covenant!

The feasts themselves are God's, they are binding, and they must be “kept” – just like the Sabbath must be “kept”. But the idea of going to *church* on these days is a law of Moses! That's why it is only mentioned once in the Bible, and why “holy convocation” is not a part of the fourth commandment or any other spiritual law – *because this was a law for the Old Covenant!*

*Think about it.* Keeping the Sabbath requires that you rest – that's all God ever said. But going to church requires that you physically go somewhere and try your best to stay awake. Thus, going to church is, by definition, a *work of the flesh*, a physical work of the law!

Which is why the Jews had synagogues in every city all over the world! *Because it was a part of their covenant!* Choke that down, digest that meat – *going to church is an Old Covenant institution!* But why? Why would church be commanded only in the Old Covenant, and not in the New Covenant? Because it's what Israel asked for!

**Deuteronomy 5:27** *Go thou near and hear all that the LORD our God shall say: and speak thou unto us all that the LORD our God shall speak unto thee; and we will hear it and do it.*

The entire FUNCTION of your church is to have a preacher who supposedly goes near to God and hears what He has

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to say and then shares it with the church – who dutifully write it down in their notebooks, and go home *knowing they have fulfilled the works of the law for that week!*

But if you’ve been around the truth for more than a few years, and think of yourself as a New Covenant Christian, you’re expected to be able to chew meat – solid food dug directly out of the Bible, or revealed by the Father to you, **without anyone else’s help!**

Eating meat is about GOD teaching you, and correcting you, PERSONALLY! And for this to happen you don’t need a church! You don’t need a preacher, nor an apostle – you just need a heart willing to change and obey God! Which is why a disappointed God went on to say...

**Verses 28-29** ...*they have well said all that they have spoken.* [in demanding the OC; but...] *O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children forever!*

God wanted to speak to Israel directly, just as He did at first from Sinai. All Israel was supposed to be the temple of God, just as we are (**Exodus 19:5-6, 1 Peter 2:5**). So, there was no reason to go to church every week to hear God’s words *from Moses!* God’s words were supposed to be their constant meditation, everywhere, every day.

**Deuteronomy 6:6-7** *And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

But Israel “did not like to retain God in their knowledge”, so they demanded Moses instead. So rather than speak to them daily, whenever the need arose, God turned His back on them and spoke to them only through Moses.

**Acts 15:21** *For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.*

And since they had to be together to hear Moses, He commanded them to gather into one place, to hear the *letters of the law!* But they could have been learning the spirit of those laws, **if only they had trusted their father, and not their mother!**

### **IS CHURCH REALLY RESTFUL?**

This doesn’t mean we shouldn’t “keep the Sabbath”. On the contrary, that was all God ever wanted. *But what did He mean by it?* The one and only stated purpose of the Sabbath was that you make it “a restful rest”. Now think about whether attending church *as practiced today* is in any way restful.

Finding your best clothes, getting the kids dressed, bathed, spanked, and bathed and dressed again, getting in the car, driving to church – struggling to get there on time, only to set up chairs, sing, pray, keep the kids on their best behavior – only to turn around and go home... this is by far the most stressful day of the week for any family with kids.

Even those who don’t have kids, because of the pressure to look perfect and show up on time, stay awake through the sermon on uncomfortable chairs, is anything but restful. Think about it – it’s *hard to stay awake because you’re tired and NEED TO REST!* (And because the sermon is boring, but mostly the other thing.)

It may be fun, you may enjoy it, and you may not even be lying to yourself when you say that... but it is *not* restful in any sense. It is stressful, and tiring, and even if you sleep all afternoon, you’re poorly prepared for six more days of work just to do it all again.

Most people would say I don’t keep the Sabbath because I don’t go to church; but **I keep the Sabbath without going to church. It is you who go to church without keeping the Sabbath**, for you fail to make it a “day of rest”.

When you’ve had a hard week of work, and I say, “you should take a rest”, is your first thought “yes! I want to go to church!”? No, your first thought is to take a nap, veg out on the couch with a book, binge-watch Netflix, or just sit on the

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porch and stare out at the weeds you didn't get cut in time. Or maybe hang out with good friends and chill.

Going to church *could* be restful – but as I said, church *as practiced* is anything but. If churches cared more about substance and less about appearance, they wouldn't have to have all their kids dressed in tight, uncomfortable suits; they wouldn't have to dutifully sit there with a Bible in their laps for 2 boring, endless hours praying for a power outage.

**Isaiah 1:12-14** *When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, ...the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is INIQUITY, even the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.*

God calls *their way of keeping the Sabbaths*, in PARTICULAR the “calling of assemblies”, and the “solemn meeting” an “iniquity”! He HATED the way Israel was keeping the Sabbath and the feasts, and He demanded of them “who required you to do this??” **Who commanded you to go to church this way, and make it such a soul-sucking experience?**

**Isaiah 58:13** *If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:*

I went to church for many years, and I never, *never* called it a delight. It was hours of boredom, of uncomfortable clothes and depressing music – “solemn meeting” indeed! The Sabbath should be FUN. Talking about the Bible should be INTERESTING! **If church is not exciting, you're doing it wrong.**

I don't mean lots of hallelujahs and amens – I mean engagement and interaction. Church is not a time for a boring lecture – you can read Moses at home **and should**. And you'll learn far more than you will following along with some pedantic minister from the pulpit!

To make the Sabbath a *delight*, a day of *rest*, “church” should be a time to hang out, in a comfortable environment, and talk about the Bible with brethren/friends. **That can be restful, AND fun, AND educational.** But no church on Earth practices that today.

This is a daring idea. It's scary, and it's different – and it's offensive for people who love church. But set your opinion aside, and ask yourself an objective question – who makes the seventh day a “restful rest” better, me or you? Be honest, now.

### **NOT FORSAKING THE CHURCH**

When you're first learning the truth, there is value in church, even if it's poorly done. No one is ready for algebra their first day in kindergarten. The church is a mother, and that mother is supposed to feed her infants and protect them from danger... when they're young. But then she is supposed to help them face a world without her protection, a world where they are independent adults who no longer need to suckle her teat.

Churches teach you the truth and give you a comfortable environment to practice the basics of the law. But invariably, churches are insecure and need your absolute devotion – you can't go to other churches, you can't talk to people who aren't of your flock – and some version of hell awaits those who leave the church!

**Hebrews 10:24-25** *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as the manner of some is but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

As I said at the beginning, this doesn't command you to go to church – and now you can see why. Rather, it commands that young Christian who has found flaws in his first mother not to slink away in the night, not to *forsake* those who helped him grow the first few years *without first considering what's wrong with his brethren and helping them do better!*

He owes this group of people the benefit of the understanding God has shown him – the Golden Rule requires it. If he sees something wrong with the teachings, *he has a responsibility to provoke them to do good works* instead of the evil works they're doing now!



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And he has a responsibility to do this three times; after the first and second admonition, the heretic – whether member or minister, angel, or church – must be rejected (**Titus 3:10-11, Galatians 1:8**). “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together” doesn’t mean *accept their sins and live with it for the sake of fellowship*, like everyone thinks it does!

It means if you’ve outgrown milk and are ready to be thought a man, **ACT LIKE ONE** and “*reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine*” (**2 Timothy 4:2**). If they help you find the door – and they will – then shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them in the day of judgment (**Mark 6:11**).

It *doesn’t* mean stay there “because you HAVE to go to church somewhere”, **because no such command exists in the Bible**. It means be a man and help these people who helped you to see their sins, and if they don’t, know that **Hebrews 10:26-27** awaits them now that you have corrected them, and turned their sins of ignorance into willful sins of rebellion.

It’s easy to grow dependent on your mother, easy to become attached to your church. And God made sure the church is flawed *precisely so that you will be faced with this choice, to see whether you love HIM or her more!* Sadly, pretty much the whole world loves their mother more than their father.

### **INVISIBLE CHURCHES**

Keeping the Sabbath is a test. It always was (**Exodus 16:4**). And the more people you have keeping it with you, the less of a test it is. “Keeping the Sabbath” – not working but resting instead – requires faith. It could cost you money, jobs, friends, and so on.

But “going to church” requires no faith, it simply requires you to get in your car and show up. In fact, it makes “keeping the Sabbath” require less faith, making it less of a test! You are, in effect, crowd-sourcing Sabbath keeping. You get everyone to do it together, which means it’s easier for each of you to do as you share the burden, the fear, and the hardships of Sabbath keeping.

It is this matter of faith that makes this such an offensive doctrine to churchgoers. Because they only know how to keep it with a group of like-minded people, and *the idea of keeping it without a church is terrifying!* It is *frightening* to be without the support of a mother, terrifying to be alone in the hands of God.

**Hebrews 10:31** *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

Why? Because they don’t trust God? Because they can’t believe He’s good? No, of course not. **It’s because they can’t see God! So, it’s harder to believe He’s there!** But they CAN see the church, so it’s EASY to trust that it’s there, and that it cares about you!

**Hebrews 12:18-19** *For ye are not come unto **the mount that might be touched**, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, And the sound of a trumpet, **and the voice of words...***

**Hebrews 12:22-23** *But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, week after week, every Christian on Earth attends a **mount that can be touched**. A present, visible symbol of divinity that they can worship at, with physical “men of God” to look up to. A family to comfort you in times of need and friends to rejoice with you in times of prosperity. This requires no faith, only sight.*

**2 Corinthians 5:7** *(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)* But the true Christian church is invisible, and your comfort must come from an innumerable company of *invisible angels*, and we “go to church” with an invisible “general assembly and church of the firstborn”, **most of whom are dead**.

It is the spirits of just men made perfect that welcome us as we keep the Sabbath, not because they are alive – but because we are one of their company, written in the same book as they are, worshipers of the same invisible God, who doesn’t trumpet words to us from a smoking, quaking mountain, but whom we believe in any way!

**Matthew 18:20** *For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*

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It requires faith to reject flawed churches that can be touched on every street corner, even when they have "some truth" and "good people". It requires faith to stand alone and believe that God's true church of the firstborn is with you no matter where, how, or with whom you "keep the Sabbath". In short, it takes faith to properly keep the Sabbath, and truly find rest for your souls.

**BOTTOM LINE**

You ask why I don't attend your church, or at least SOME church; it's not because it teaches false doctrines, though it does. It's not because it tolerates sin in its midst, although it does. It's not because the teachers are boring and the people in it are dullards, though they are.

It's simply because your church, like all churches, is an Old Covenant church – and the people love to have it so. Which means there is simply nothing for me to do there – nothing to learn, no one to teach. Because I don't drink milk anymore, and the people can't eat meat unless their mother predigests it. And their mother *hates* me. She senses that I'm a threat to her control over her children, *and I am*.

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**Articles – More Parts**  
(Other Parts of Already Printed Articles)

**Empty**

**Prophecy**  
(Things which are not exactly articles)

**Empty**

**Letters**

**Empty**

**Iron Sharpening Iron**  
(Agree or Disagree with Something Printed)  
New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)  
As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

**In regard to: E.I.H.A.K.R.I.**  
Article by Ray Daly  
Comments by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota)

This is in response to Jeff Caldwell's comments on my E.I.H.A.K.R.I. article. Specifically, it is in answer to Jeff's comments on the "10%" of Parthian Israelites.

In WCG it was taught that "90%" of all Israelites were killed, and only 10% survived Assyria's invasion. Clearly a totally misunderstood teaching. For the Truth is as follows.

90% ESCAPED. For Israel's God actually looked out for his people. 90% migrated before the invasion. Within at least one case, the Assyrians pursued some of the tribes until they crossed the Euphrates. But I will with the following points 1-2.

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1) "90% of the tribe of Ephraim, and the half tribe of Manasseh (the first half were living in northern India at the time), and a few thousand of the other four northern tribes migrated out of Samaria, and for a short period, settled in Judea with their brother Simeon. Sometime before the invasion of Judea by Babylon, these tribes, including most of Simeon, migrated west across northern Africa, and settled in the trade city of Tyrus (today's China), Carthage. Becoming the Carthaginian empire.

2) The 90% of the remaining tribes of Samaria migrated across the Euphrates, and went northward, settling in the steppes of today's Russia. Here they became known as the "white Scythians". Having replaced the "yellow Scythians" that settled there for a while, before moving east. Later, when the Persian Empire was defeated by Greece, these tribes migrated back south and settled in the mountainous area of today's Turkey and a bit eastward. Thus, they were close to the "10%" (now much greater) Parthians. They never worked together but did not war with one another.

It wasn't until sometime around 300 AD, because of famines and Arabic migrations into their area, that they migrated northward into northeastern Europe where they lived until William the conqueror moved them into their present lands.

## Prayer Requests

### Prayer Request (August 13, 2022)

Melody Rouse - Please Pray for the family of Melody Rouse who died on Friday, August 12, 2022. She is survived by her mother, 1 brother, and many cousins. She was 48 years old. Curtis Dahlgren is one of her surviving relatives.

### Prayer Request (August 14, 2022)

Larry Graff - Please Pray for Larry Graff who is in a nursing home with a roommate who leaves the TV on all night. Larry also has several health problems and eye problems that he needs prayer for.

## Feast Sites & Feast Reports

### **Feast Site – Lake Tahoe – Guardian Ministries** (Copyright) by David Antion (Pasadena, California)

*Here is an update on the Feast and the rooms at the Beach Retreat and Lodge at South Lake Tahoe.*

*Urgent Request for anyone potentially interested in booking either a "Lake View" room, "Beach Front" room, or one of the "Suite" rooms for our upcoming Feast of Tabernacles at South Lake Tahoe?*

*Currently, the upgrade rooms from our original block have booked out, HOWEVER, we may be able to Add More of the Upgraded rooms to our block "IF" needed?*

*If you are considering attending with us, but still are not certain, that is perfectly fine, as you can book and still cancel up to 48 hours prior to check-in without charge or penalty. However, it is advisable to book your room now to ensure availability. If you have not yet done so but think you might want to come, go ahead and book now because there is no obligation if you cancel.*

*Please let me know as soon as possible, as we will be asking our booking agent to make any needed adjustments by this Thursday afternoon, so the upgraded rooms can be made available for booking this weekend. There are still regular Garden View rooms currently available.*

*As a reminder, our Discounted rates, when using our Group Code **FEAST** (all CAPS) ...*

**\$129 Garden**

**\$149 Lake-view**

**\$169 Beach-front**

*There are 3 options for Suites...*

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**King Parlor Suite** - similar to our One King guest room however it has a smaller living room area with a balcony attached right off of the bedroom. Group rate \$229

**Two-Bedroom Suite** - it has One King bedroom and another bedroom with Two Queens however there is still just one bathroom. Group rate \$309

**Honeymoon Suite** - One King bedroom with sitting area and larger bathroom. Group rate \$329

There is no guarantee that the upgrade rooms will still be available, but we need to know if there is interest so we can make the request.

Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or need the booking information.

Looking forward to our wonderful fellowship during the Feast!

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## **Ads and Announcements**

### **Empty**

### **Other Items**

**(Poems, Jokes, Questions etc.)**

## **Discover Your Destiny**

**(Copyright) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)**

Another uplifting and encouraging post from Lance Wallnau which includes this statement: "You don't build a brilliant future by fixing your faults, but by investing time, money and training in the area of your gifts."

How true! Too often we dwell on the negative rather than the positive. Rather than just putting energy into maintaining and repairing what we already have, we need to grow and expand what God has given us. Remember, the first commandment was to "multiply and be fruitful."

Any problems or challenges that we must face are opportunities for growth. God is with us and is ready to help us with any task if we submit to Him. Read this inspiring message from Lance for yourself.

[Discover Your Destiny – Lance Wallnau](#)

## **Holy Days 2022**

**Passover – April 16, 2022 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)**

**Unleavened Bread – April 16-22, 2022**

**Pentecost – June 5, 2022**

**Trumpets - September 26, 2022**

**Atonement – October 5, 2022**

**Tabernacles – October 10-16, 2022**

**Last Great Day – October 17, 2022**