

“... in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.” 2 Corinthians 2:11 (NIV)

MARKS OF THE OCCULT

1. Disclosure Of Information Unavailable To Us Through

Normal Means

“[God] made all the stars - the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the constellations of the southern sky.” Job 9:9 (NLT)

“And when you look up to the sky and see the sun, the moon and the stars - all the heavenly array - do not be enticed into bowing down to them....” Deuteronomy 4:19 (NIV)

“You have trusted in your wickedness.... Your wisdom and knowledge mislead you.... Disaster will come upon you, and you will not know how to conjure it away.... Keep on, then, with your magic spells and with your many sorceries.... Let your astrologers come forward, those stargazers who make predictions month by month... they are like stubble; the fire will burn them up. They cannot even save themselves.... All of them go on in their error....” Isaiah 47:10-15 (NIV)

“...fortune-tellers predict only lies, and interpreters of dreams pronounce falsehoods that give no comfort.” Zechariah 10:2 (NLT)

“I am the Lord, the Creator of all things. I alone stretched out the heavens.... I make fools of fortunetellers and frustrate the predictions of astrologers.” Isaiah 44:24-25 (GNT)

“...do not let your people practice fortune-telling... or interpret omens.... Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord” Deuteronomy 18:10-12 (NLT)

2. Contact With Supernatural Powers, Paranormal Energies,

Or Demonic Forces

“... do not let your people... function as mediums or psychics, or call forth the spirits of the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord.” Deuteronomy 18:10-12 (NLT)

“Someone may say to you, ‘Let’s ask the mediums and those who consult the spirits of the dead. With their whisperings and mutterings, they will tell us what to do.’ But shouldn’t people ask God for guidance?” Isaiah 8:19 (NLT)

“Do not listen to...your fortune-tellers, ...mediums.... They are all liars.... This is what the Lord says,’ I have not sent these prophets! They are telling you lies in my name.” Jeremiah 27:9-10, 15 (NLT)

IV. SAUL AND THE MEDIUM OF ENDOR

“Saul then said to his attendants, ‘Find me a woman who is a medium, so I may go and inquire of her.’ ‘There is one in Endor,’ they said. So Saul disguised himself, putting on other clothes, and at night he and two men went to the woman. ‘Consult a spirit for me,’ he said, ‘and bring up for me the one I name.’” 1 Samuel 28:7-8 (NIV)

“But the woman said to him, ‘Surely you know what Saul has done. He has cut off the mediums and spiritists from the land. Why have you set a trap for my life to bring about my death?’ Saul swore to her by the Lord, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, you will not be punished for this.’ Then the woman asked, ‘Whom shall I bring up for you?’ ‘Bring up Samuel,’ he said. When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out at the top of her voice and said to Saul, ‘Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!’ The king said to her, ‘Don’t be afraid. What do you see?’ The woman said, ‘I see a ghostly figure coming up out of the earth.’ ‘What does he look like?’ he asked. ‘An old man wearing a robe is coming up,’ she said. Then Saul knew it was Samuel, and he bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground.”

1 Samuel 28:9-14 (NIV)

“‘Consult a spirit for me,’ he said, ‘and bring up for me the one I name.’” 1 Samuel 28:8 (NIV)

“When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out at the top of her voice and said to Saul, ‘Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!’” 1 Samuel 28:12 (NIV)

V. THE OUTCOME

“‘Why have you disturbed me by calling me back?’ Samuel asked Saul. ‘Because I am in deep trouble,’ Saul replied. ‘The Philistines are at war with me, and God has left me and won’t reply by prophets or dreams. So I have called for you to tell me what to do.’ But Samuel replied, ‘Why ask me, since the Lord has left you and has become your enemy? The Lord has done just as he said he would. He has torn the kingdom from you and given it to your rival, David.... What’s more, the Lord will hand you and the army of Israel over to the Philistines tomorrow, and you and your sons will be here with me. The Lord will bring down the entire army of Israel in defeat.’”

1 Samuel 28:15-19 (NLT)

“Saul fell full length on the ground, paralyzed with fright because of Samuel’s words. He was also faint with hunger, for he had eaten nothing all day and all night. When the woman saw how distraught he was, she said, ‘Sir, I obeyed your command at the risk of my life. Now do what I say, and let me give you a little something to eat so you can regain your strength for the trip back.’ But Saul refused to eat anything. Then his advisers joined the woman in urging him to eat, so he finally yielded and got up from the ground and sat on the couch. The woman had been fattening a calf, so she hurried out and killed it. She took some flour, kneaded it into dough and baked unleavened bread. She brought the meal to Saul and his advisers, and they ate it. Then they went out into the night.”

1 Samuel 28:20-25 (NLT)

“Now the Philistines attacked Israel, and the men of Israel fled before them. Many were slaughtered on the slopes of Mount Gilboa. The Philistines closed in on Saul and his sons, and they killed three of his sons - Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malkishua. The fighting grew very fierce around Saul, and the Philistine archers caught up with him and wounded him severely. Saul groaned to his armor bearer, ‘Take your sword and kill me before these pagan Philistines come to run me through and taunt and torture me.’ But his armor bearer was afraid and would not do it. So Saul took his own sword and fell on it. When his armor bearer realized that Saul was dead, he fell on his own sword and died beside the king. So Saul, his three sons, his armor bearer, and his troops all died together that same day.”

1 Samuel 31:1-6 (NLT)

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I. THE SETTING

Now Samuel was dead, and... Saul had expelled the mediums and spiritists from the land. The Philistines assembled and came and set up camp at Shunem, while Saul gathered all Israel and set up camp at Gilboa. When Saul saw the Philistine army, he was afraid; terror filled his heart. He inquired of the Lord, but the Lord did not answer him.... Saul then said to his attendants, ‘Find me a woman who is a medium, so I may go and inquire of her.’ ‘There is one in Endor,’ they said. So Saul disguised himself, putting on other clothes, and at night he and two men went to the woman. ‘Consult a spirit for me,’ he said, ‘and bring up for me the one I name.’”

1 Samuel 28:3-8 (NIV)

II. THE SUPERNATURAL WORLD

“... we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.”

Ephesians 6:12 (NLT)

“... you know the story of the angels who didn’t stick to their post, abandoning it for other, darker missions.”

Jude 1:6 (MSG)

“... Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.”

2 Corinthians 11:14 (NIV)

“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God.”

1 John 4:1 (NIV)

III. THE OCCULT

“Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them.”

Ephesians 5:11 (NLT)