

04 07 Occult

Today we I. start by reading Ephesians 6:10-18 as the Christians armor for standing against the devil. Followed with II. a few comments regarding satan, then III. with an introduction to The Occult, then IV. scriptural precautions during life on earth concluding with V. The Ephesian 6:10-18 passage in the Message Version.

I. So let's begin with the Bible reading:

Ephesians 6:10-18 NKJV *10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—*

II. a few comments regarding satan,

I often speak directly of or allude to satan and his demonic legions and the undefined extraordinary power he exerts upon this earth. You are likely aware of his first appearance in scripture in **Genesis 3** and the familiar verse 4 *Then the serpent said the woman, "You will not surely die."* And his practice through the Bible into **Revelation 12:9** *So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.* Special note: Jesus has won the victory over satan and death when He

2. arose from the dead and ascended back into heaven imparting the Holy Spirit upon believers. The war is won, we face battles until Revelation 20:10 that records the eternal destination of satan and his cohorts, which we will read later. Meanwhile several verses mention and the whole Bible illustrates who the ruler/prince of the earth is as in

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 *But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.*

Please place in your minds the truth of scripture and the reality of your walk on this earth that whenever and wherever sin is present, satan, the devil, the fallen one, the prince of the earth and a host of other names and his demons are present. I say it again: Wherever sin is present – satan is there instigating it. It is a sin, because satan inspires it. Including the sin that the world cultures are led to believe the spirit would, specifically satan - is a figment of ones imagination, not real, and not with any real power or influence on the individual.

*III. with an introduction to The Occult, I quote verbatim this definition: “The **occult**, in the broadest sense, is a category of **esoteric supernatural** beliefs and practices which generally fall outside the scope of **organized religion** and science, encompassing phenomena involving otherworldly agency, such as **magic** and **mysticism** and their varied **spells**. It can also refer to supernatural ideas like **extra-sensory perception** and **parapsychology**.”* It also refers to one who casts spells, conjures up spirits, a practitioner of the **occult**, magician, a necromancer, or soothsayer. It is noteworthy how the Israelites of Bible times dealt with such persons: **Joshua 13:22** *The children of Israel also killed with the sword Balaam the son of Beor, the soothsayer, among those who were killed by them.*

From the Bible then we see the occult encompasses practices that attempt to gain supernatural power, abilities, or knowledge apart from the Creator God. Here are a few scriptural examples:

3. - - You remember Moses went before Pharaoh showing miracles to convince him to let the Hebrews leave Egypt. Some of Pharaoh's magicians duplicated Moses' special powers in **Exodus 8:7** *And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt. **Exodus 8:18** Now the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not. So there were lice on man and beast.*

--**Deuteronomy 18:10-11** *There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, **11** or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.*

--**Acts 8:9** *But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great,*

– **Acts 8:11-13** *And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time. **12** But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. **13** Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.*

– **Acts 13:6-8** *Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus, **7** who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. **8** But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.*

--**Acts 19:11-20** *Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, **12** so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them. **13** Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." **14** Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. **15** And the evil spirit*

4. answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?” 16 Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17 This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. 18 And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. 19 Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.

Here is a partial list of the objects used with the occult:

Athame is a ceremonial dagger; wand; symbol of power, pentacle: is a 5 pointed star, cauldron, crystals, crystal ball, tarot cards, besom is a ceremonial broom, incense and candles, book of shadows/spells, chalice, triple moon, pentagram, ankh –a cross with loop at the top, ouija board, and a host of others. Magic can take various forms, including spellcasting, divination, and ritual work. While some may view magic as mere illusion or superstition, practitioners of witchcraft and the occult believe in its power to influence the world around them.

IV. scriptural precautions for our lives on earth:

--**Leviticus 19:24** *‘You shall not eat anything with the blood, nor shall you practice divination or soothsaying.*

--**Acts 8:18-23** *And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, 19 saying, “Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.” 20 But Peter said to him, “Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! 21 You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. 22 Repent therefore of this your wickedness,*

5. *and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. 23 For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity.”*

Another incentive to recognize everything possible and defend ourselves against satan comes from understanding the eternal destiny of satan with his goal of taking as many as possible with him. It is in the final precaution scripture I promised earlier I would share: **Revelation 20:10** *The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

As we read in Ephesians 6 to start with, and will in a moment read it in another version to close – Christians are given specific instruction on what to do when such activity is recognized: examine the word of God and live obediently, pray, and actively mutually encourage each other so no one falls for the clever strategies adapted in each generation to entrap the innocent and unbelieving.

V. The same Ephesian passage we started with, except this time from the Message version summarizes this message for us:

Ephesians 6:10-18 Message 10-12 *And that about wraps it up. God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no weekend war that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels.13-18 Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers*

6. and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.

Ephesians 6:10-18 NKJV

Genesis 3:4

Revelation 12:9

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

Joshua 13:22

Exodus 8:7

Exodus 8:18

Deuteronomy 18:10-11

Acts 8:9

Acts 8:11-13

Acts 13:6-8

Acts 19:11-20

Leviticus 19:24

Acts 8:18-23

Revelation 20:10

Ephesians 6:10-18 Message