

WITCH OF EN-DOR

We have been studying the Life of Samuel from the Book of 1 Samuel. This is our final lesson from this series of studies.

This lesson involves King Saul's enlisting of the Witch of En-Dor to consult with Samuel in Sheol.

“The term ‘Witch of En-Dor’ occurs widely in literature and particularly in common parlance, but is not found in the Bible.” (Unger Bible Dict., pg.1039)

This lesson will study five aspects of the Witch of En-Dor.

1. The English Bible refers to the witch of En-Dor as a medium of divination.

However, in the Hebrew text of (1 Sam.28:7), she is referred to as Baal's mistress of necromancy (baalah – ob) [one who contacts the dead] (Deut.18:11).

Greek word for (ob) is eggasrimuthos (our word ventriloquist).

(Isa.29:4) “Then you will be brought low; from the earth you will speak, and from the dust where you are prostrate your words will come. Your voice will also be like that of a **spirit (ob)** [KJ – familiar spirit] from the ground, and your speech will whisper from the dust.”

2. Mediums used incantations (whispers and muttering) in their séances.

(Isa.8:19) “When they say to you, ‘Consult the mediums and spiritualists who whisper and mutter,’ should not a people consult their God? Should they consult the dead-on behalf of the living?”

During his earthly ministry, Samuel told Saul, “rebellion against the Directive Will of God is the same as the sin of divination.” (1 Sam.15:23)

3. Divination was considered an abomination to both the Priest-Nation of Israel and client nations associated with the Plan of God (Deut.12:29-32).

All forms of divination were considered **detestable or abomination** (toebah) such as witchcraft, interpret omens, sorcerer, cast spells, medium, spiritualist, **one who calls up the dead.**

(Deut.18:9-12) “For whoever does these things is detestable to the Lord.”

Divination was a common practice among the nations of Canaan (Isa.2:6).

(Deut.31:17-18) “They sacrifice to demons who were not God.”

The Priest-Nation of Israel was forbidden to practice it. It would bring divine discipline to it and those who practiced it (Ex.22:18; Lev.19:31; 20:6-7, 27; Ps.106:35-43).

Client nation of Egypt (Isa.19:3-4).

Client nation of Babylon (Isa.47:9-15; Rev.18).

- Warning to United States of America (divination and anti-Semitism).

4. **The Witch of En-Dor was a survivor of Saul's purging of the Priest-Nation of divination.**

(1 Sam.28:3, 12) "Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him and buried him in Ramah, his own city. And Saul had removed from the land those who were mediums and spiritualists."

Purging the Priest-Nation was part of the great reform of King Josiah (2 Kings 23:24-25).

However, failure to purge it was part of the great evil of King Manasseh (2 Kings 21:1-9).

(1 Chron.10:13-14) "**So Saul died** for his trespass which he committed against the Lord, **because** of the word of the Lord which he did not keep; **and also because** he asked counsel of a medium, making inquiry of it, and did not inquire of the Lord. Therefore, He killed him and turned the kingdom to David the son of Jesse."

It is said, "he who speaks to the dead soon joins them." (1 Sam.28:19).

5. **Believers should avoid dabbling with divination devices such as Ouija boards, horoscopes, psychic hot lines, and palm and tea readings.**

(2 Cor.2:11) "So that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes."

(1 Tim.4:1-2) "But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, **paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons**, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron."

(Gal.3:1) "You foolish Galatians, **who has bewitched you**, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified?"

It occurred in Paul's missionary travels:

- (Acts 8:9-13) Samaria
- (Acts 13:6-12) Island of Paphos
- (Acts 16:12-24) Philippi [python demon]
- (Acts 16:16; 19:17-20) Ephesus [the demon of evil]