

Fortune Telling and Astrology

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Since the mid-1960s, there has been an immense increase in the popularity of divination, or fortune telling, among young people all over the globe. Divination is an occult practice where a person foretells future events or gains secret knowledge regarding someone's personality and life. Popular methods of divination are: astrology, tarot cards, palm reading psychic consultations, mediums and ouija boards.

Why have these practices (especially astrology) become so popular in our modern “scientific” culture? Because people want personal guidance in their lives. People want to know the future, because knowledge of the future means control of the future. Control of the future, through occult means, is supposed to give a person an advantage over others. This advantage entails power. People want to predestinate their own lives through foreknowledge. A key element in divination is that people seek this knowledge on their own terms. Psychics and those who cast astrology charts generally give out vague good news to their customers. If they gave out bad news, they would go out of business. “This is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord: which say to seers, ‘See not’; and to the prophets, ‘Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits’” (Is. 30:9,10). Therefore, astrologers, psychics and all diviners, by nature, are false prophets. “The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king. But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets (Dan. 2:27,28). This does not mean that psychics have never been right. Through coincidence and demonic deception many people are deceived into becoming followers of these occult practices. When it comes to divination, Satan's tactic is simple: give people what they want, tell them what they want to hear. “The prophets prophesy falsely and my people love to have it so” (Jer. 5:31).

Perhaps you are thinking, “come on what’s the big deal? I only read the astrology page in the newspaper.” Or, “My friends and I have a séance once in a while, so what? It’s just good clean fun.” The basic problem with that thinking is that it is man-centered. It totally ignores what God has said regarding divination. The Bible says that God hates divination in any form with a holy hatred. “Thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of [the] nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord” (Deut. 18:9-12). If you are involved in astrology in any way, or if you consult with a psychic, you are detestable before God. You are an abomination in the sight of the Lord.

The Word of God speaks clearly and forcefully regarding this issue. God says that divination is worthless and deceitful: “They prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart” (Jer. 14:14). The Lord proclaims that diviners are liars and false prophets, “they prophesy a lie unto you” (Jer. 27:10). He says that those who practice divination will not be a part of his people, “they shall not be in the assembly of my people” (Ezek. 13: 9). God says that divination is false, futile, nonsense and lies, “a vain vision, a lying divination” (Ezek. 13:7). Diviners have not been sent by the Lord God, “the Lord hath not sent them” (Ezek. 13:6). The Lord does not speak through them, “ye say, ‘The Lord saith it’; albeit I have not spoken” (Ezek. 13:7). God tells his people not to worry about the signs in the heavens (i.e. astrology), because “the customs of the people [including astrology] are vain” (i.e. useless, futile; Jer. 10:3). The Lord through the prophet Isaiah proclaimed a severe judgment against astrologers, “Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee. Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame; none shall save thee” (Is. 7:13-15).

In Acts 16:16-18, a girl who had a spirit of divination (or, in modern jargon, was a “psychic”), had these powers only because she was possessed by a demon. Apostle Paul cast this demon out, in the name of Jesus Christ, and set the poor girl free of this dark oppression. Why does God hate divination? Because it is a demonic, unauthorized form of revelation. God has given to mankind a perfect, infallible guide for salvation, life and godly living. This guide is the Bible. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works”, (2 Tim. 3:16, 17). When people reject, ignore or attempt to allegorize the Bible, in order to incorporate it into an occult or new age paradigm, they are asserting their independence from God. They insult the majesty of God. They are saying by their actions, “The Bible is unnecessary;” or, “The Bible is not an adequate guide for living.” They are saying, “I’ll do it my way. I don’t need God telling me what to believe or how to act.” Practitioners of divination, whether they realize it or not, are accepting the satanic doctrine of salvation and power through autonomy from God (cf. Gen. 3:1-6; Jud. 21:25).

Satan was the first diviner in history. When Adam and Eve obeyed Satan rather than God, they were seeking a shortcut to power and dominion. God had promised Adam eternal life, if he perfectly obeyed God’s command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God commanded Adam and Eve “to be fruitful and multiply” and fill the earth (Gen. 1:28). Adam was given dominion over the earth in order to develop a godly culture—one which would glorify, obey and enjoy fellowship with the Creator. In order to develop a worldwide godly culture, mankind would be totally dependent on God’s Word (before the Fall through direct communication) for personal and societal ethics. If anyone needed personal guidance, they would receive it from God. Adam and Eve rejected God’s plan, believed Satan’s word and decided to follow their own ethical standard (cf. Gen. 3:1-6). The result of disobedience to God’s word is death (cf. Gen. 2:17), spiritual death and slavery to sin and Satan in this life; physical

death, hell and the lake of fire in the future. When people seek the answer to life's problems through divination, they only make matters worse.

It is a normal part of human nature that drives people to seek dominion over the earth. It is understandable that people want success in life. It is perfectly rational to seek out ways of overcoming life's problems; but to do so apart from God's Word is a form of idolatry and self-worship. Jesus Christ said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.... No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon [i.e. riches].... But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:19-21, 24, 33). There is no neutrality. True success, and lasting dominion, can only come by placing Christ first in your life. The only way to have a meaningful life is by believing in Jesus Christ and repenting of your wicked life-style. Instead of the vain, idiotic babbling of the diviners, you must submit to Christ's Word as your blueprint for living.

Perhaps you are asking, "Why do I need to believe in Jesus Christ? Aren't the accounts of His virgin birth, crucifixion and resurrection myths made up by the early Christian church?" Absolutely not! The apostle Peter said, "We have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty" (2 Pet. 1:16). God came to earth and dwelt in human flesh (cf. Phil. 2:5-8). He was born of a virgin, in Bethlehem (cf. Matt. 1:23-2:1). Jesus lived a sinless life (cf. Jn. 8:46). He was tortured and crucified as a blood atonement for his people. "Christ Jesus: whom God set forth to be a propitiation [i.e. Christ appeases God's just wrath against sin] through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; to declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus" (Rom. 3:24-26). Jesus Christ died on the cross and was laid in a tomb for three days (cf. Matt. 27:50, 60). On the third day, he rose from the dead, victorious over sin, the world, death and Satan. "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept [i.e. died]. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered the kingdom to God, even the Father, when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed, is death" (1 Cor. 15:20-26). Jesus Christ ascended into heaven (cf. Acts 1:9) and sits on the right hand of God the Father (cf. Heb. 1:3). Jesus Christ now personally intercedes for those who believe in him. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 Jn. 1:9).

If you believe in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ, you will be saved. You will have eternal life. "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the

Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For, God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (Jn. 3:14-18).

What about you? Are you going to trust in Jesus Christ? Have you repented of your sins? Or, will you continue to lead a life characterized by self-worship? Divination won't save you. It will drag you into the pit of hell, “into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matt. 8:12).

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