

Avoiding the supernatural

Witchcraft: spells, divination, luck (charms, rituals, & routines)

Fortune-telling: Psychics, palm reading, Tarot cards, astrology

False spiritual: Séances, spiritualists, dream books

The Holy Spirit warned of false teachings coming - 1 Tim 4:1 - The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

From the beginning GOD warned about dabbling in the supernatural

The practices are not from God and are detested by God - Deut 18:9-12 - 9 When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. 10 Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, 11 or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. 12 **ANYONE WHO DOES THESE THINGS IS DETESTABLE TO THE LORD**, and because of these detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you. 13 You must be blameless before the Lord your God.

It was a big downfall of kings -2 Kings 21:1-6 - Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. His mother's name was Hephzibah. 2 **He did evil in the eyes of the Lord**, following the detestable practices of the nations the Lord had driven out before the Israelites. 3 He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had destroyed; he also erected altars to Baal and made an Asherah pole, as Ahab king of Israel had done. He bowed down to all the starry hosts and worshiped them. 4 He built altars in the temple of the Lord, of which the Lord had said, "In Jerusalem I will put my Name." 5 In both courts of the temple of the Lord, he built altars to all the starry hosts. 6 He sacrificed his own son in the fire, practiced sorcery and divination, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He **did much evil in the eyes of the Lord, provoking him to anger.**

It's equal to extreme sin - 1 Sam 15:22-23 - 22 But Samuel replied: "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. 23 For **rebellion is like the sin of divination**, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as king."

Simply put God commands us not to dabble in it - Lev 19:26 ""Do not eat any meat with the blood still in it. ""Do not practice divination or sorcery.

The outcome was clear for those that practiced it

Lev 20:27 ""A man or woman who is a medium or spiritist among you must be put to death. You are to stone them; their blood will be on their own heads.""

Ex 22:18 "**Do not allow a sorceress to live.**

When the Church came together people destroyed their supernatural material - Acts 19:18-20 - 18 Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. 19 A number who had **practiced sorcery** brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. 20 In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

What God lets us know about the supernatural

Supernatural comes from Godless cultures- Isa 2:6 You have abandoned your people, the house of Jacob. They are full of superstitions from the East; they practice divination like the Philistines and clasp hands with pagans.

A large amount of it is dangerously fake

Jer 14:14 Then the Lord said to me, "The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I have not sent them or appointed them or spoken to them. They are prophesying to you false visions, divinations, idolatries and the delusions of their own minds.

Ezek 13:6-7 - 6 Their visions are false and their divinations a lie. They say, "**The Lord declares**," when the Lord has not sent them; yet they expect their words to be fulfilled. 7 Have you not seen false visions and uttered lying divinations when you say, "The Lord declares," though I have not spoken?"

Even more dangerous is some of it is real and very misleading - Acts 16:16-18 - 16 Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. 17 This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." 18 She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

In the end it will all be destroyed by God - Mic 5:10-15 - 10 "In that day," declares the Lord, "I will destroy your horses from among you and demolish your chariots. 11 I will destroy the cities of your land and tear down all your strongholds. 12 I will destroy your witchcraft and you will no longer cast spells. 13 I will destroy your carved images and your sacred stones from among you; you will no longer bow down to the work of your hands. 14 I will uproot from among you your Asherah poles and demolish your cities. 15 I will take vengeance in anger and wrath upon the nations that have not obeyed me."

The supernatural is man delving into something he doesn't understand and is doomed if he doesn't separate from it

The Bible shows those that participate in it are like ignorant animals acting instinctively

2 Peter 2:10-12 - Bold and arrogant, **these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings**; 11 yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord. 12 But **these men blaspheme in MATTERS THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND**. They are **like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish**.

Jude 8-10 - 8 In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, **reject authority and slander celestial beings**. 9 But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" 10 Yet **these men speak abusively against WHATEVER THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND**; and **what things they do understand by instinct, like unreasoning animals — these are the very things that destroy them**.

They promise others supernatural actions while they are still in danger - Isa 47:13-15 - 13 All the counsel you have received has only worn you out! **Let your astrologers come forward, those stargazers who make predictions month by month**, let them save you from what is coming upon you. 14 **Surely they are like stubble; the fire will burn them up**. **They cannot even save themselves from the power of the flame**. Here are no coals to warm anyone; here is no fire to sit by. 15 That is all they can do for you — these you have labored with and trafficked with since childhood. Each of them goes on in his error; there is not one that can save you.

All prophecy is through the Holy Spirit...nothing else (not cards, crystal balls, palms, stars...) - 2 Peter 1:20-21 - 20 Above all, **you must understand** that **no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation**. 21 For **prophecy never had its origin in the will of man**, but **men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit**.

We need to leave all interpretation for God - Gen 40:8 "We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no one to interpret them." Then Joseph said to them, "**Do not interpretations belong to God?**" Tell me your dreams."

God will destroy the false messengers and supports the ones HE sent - Isa 44:24-26 - 24 "This is what the Lord says — your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: **I am the Lord, who has made all things**, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself, 25 who **foils the signs of false prophets** and **makes fools of diviners**, who overthrows the learning of the wise and turns it into nonsense, 26 who **carries out the words of HIS servants** and **fulfills the predictions of HIS messengers**,

God is THE ANSWER seek HIM only - Isa 8:19-20 - 19 When **men tell you to consult mediums** and **spiritists**, who **whisper and mutter**, **SHOULD NOT A PEOPLE INQUIRE OF THEIR GOD? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living?**

It doesn't matter if it's real or fake, participating in it is what makes it a sin - 1 Cor 10:18-22_ 18 Consider the people of Israel: **Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar?** 19 **Do I mean then that a sacrifice offered to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything?** 20 **No**, but the **sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons**. 21 **YOU CANNOT DRINK THE CUP OF THE LORD AND THE CUP OF DEMONS TOO; YOU CANNOT HAVE A PART IN BOTH THE LORD'S TABLE AND THE TABLE OF DEMONS**. 22 **ARE WE TRYING TO AROUSE THE LORD'S JEALOUSY?** Are we stronger than he?

We have been warned, those that continue in this practice will be eternally condemned

Gal 5:19-21 - 19 The **acts of the sinful nature are obvious**: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and **witchcraft**; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and **the like**. **I warn you, as I did before, that THOSE WHO LIVE LIKE THIS WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD**.

Rev 21:7-8 - 7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, **those who practice magic arts**, the idolaters and all liars — **their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death**."

The key to not being misled by the supernatural is one main test is it will ALWAYS be in line with God - Deut 13:1-4 - **If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams**, appears among you and announces to you a miraculous sign or wonder, 2 and **if the sign or wonder of which he has spoken takes place**, and **he says, "Let us follow other gods" (gods you have not known) "and let us worship them,"** 3 you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. **The Lord your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul**. 4 **IT IS THE LORD YOUR GOD YOU MUST FOLLOW, AND HIM YOU MUST REVERE**. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him.

In a nutshell Jesus is the only answer and path -John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am **THE way** and **THE truth** and **THE life**. No one comes to the Father except through me.