

A Biblical Examination of Witchcraft

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I saw a meme posted the other day by someone who claims to be a witch. The meme stated: “What Christians think we do” and had a picture of people worshipping the devil. It also stated: “What we really do” and had a photo of people frolicking in and enjoying nature. Having spent a fair amount of time in paranormal investigation and New Age practices, I understood what point the meme was trying to make, and from a non-Christian perspective, it seems to succeed. On the surface, the meme was challenging the claim of biblical Christianity that witches serve and worship Satan. Instead of worshipping Satan, the meme claimed, witches are actually just in tune with nature and doing good. While not coming right out and saying it, it was very much implied that witches worship nature and self instead of Satan. Now, to any non-Christian, this seems amazing! You can actually be a witch and practice magic and not serve Satan. You can do good and be good, and serve nature instead. Sadly, even though on the surface, the meme seems to present that witches don’t worship Satan, when you take a biblical look at witchcraft, the meme is completely false. In Romans 1:28 CSB Paul writes,

For God’s wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth, since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, that is, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what he has made. As a result, people are without excuse. For though they knew God, they did not glorify him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became worthless, and their senseless hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man, birds, four-footed animals, and reptiles.¹

What Paul writes here is that nature, attributes, and existence of God are revealed

through His creation. As theologians, we call this natural, or general, revelation. God's power and divine nature are clearly seen in creation. But sadly, the unbelievers suppress the fact that nature reveals the existence of God, and more often than not, end up worshipping the creation rather than the Creator. And anything that teaches worship of someone or something other than God Himself is a doctrine of demons and is satanic.

Then Jesus told him, "Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him," Matthew 4:10

So, while the witchcraft meme is trying to say that witches worship nature, not Satan, the Bible says that in their worship of nature, witches are following a doctrine of Satan and thus, are worshipping Satan! Satan has one goal: to lead people further and further away from God. This includes both Christians and non-Christians. One of his favorite and oldest questions is: "Did God really say?" Did God really say we shouldn't worship nature? Did God really say worshipping anything other than Him is wrong and idolatry? How can worshipping God's wonderful creation be bad? How is wanting to use "magic" or spells or calling on nature or the universe for the good of yourself or another person so bad? If Satan can get you focused on something other than God, he's won and you are worshipping him through your worship/participation in whatever activity that is. In Genesis, Satan also tempts and deceives Eve by telling her that God didn't want her to eat the forbidden fruit for if she did, she would be "like God,"

In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil, Genesis 3:5

Satan's oldest lies all revolve around questioning God's Word and exalting yourself to 'god' like status, and we sadly see that very prevalently in witchcraft. Any religion that seeks to exalt the self to deity is nothing more than a modern offshoot of Satan's age old lie to Eve in the Garden of Eden.

*What has been is what will be,
and what has been done is what will be done;
there is nothing new under the sun.*

Ecclesiastes 1:9

All religions that exalt oneself or something else as deity in place of God are religions of Satan. Now, let's take a look into what witchcraft is and what witches believe and compare those to what the Bible says.

Many people nowadays are probably familiar with the terms Wicca, witchcraft and witches. Depending on who you ask and what resources you consult, some

people say they are all the same thing, while others will disagree. Though there are differences, witches and Wiccans are similar in many different aspects. The purpose of this book, though, is not to nitpick and delve into the differences, but rather to consider their main practices and how they compare to the Bible. So from this point forward, I shall just be referring to witchcraft or witches (though most, if not all, of what I discuss can be equally applied to Wicca as well).

Witchcraft is growing more and more popular in our day. Denver, CO, where I used to live, is becoming one of the largest and most prominent cities for witchcraft in America. According to a Pew Research Center Religious Landscapes Study in 2014, over 1 million people in the United States identified as Pagan or Wiccan, and with the explosion of New Age shops I witnessed in Colorado before I moved in 2019, I honestly would not be surprised if the current number of people who practice witchcraft has more than tripled. Mainstream media has played a huge role in generating interest in witchcraft. Shows such as Disney Channel's *Descendants*, *Sofia the First* and even all their Disney princess movies, all heavily feature magic and witchcraft. Disney, being a "family friendly" corporation, targets young audiences with witchcraft. Popular television series, such as *Supernatural*, make light of the Bible and Christianity and heavily feature magic, spell casting and witchcraft. Hollywood has made millions on supernatural and horror movies, many of which feature magic or witchcraft, and thus spread the interest amongst all age groups. Facebook and social media make it easier than ever to share and follow New Age groups and gain first hand exposure in witchcraft. All this, coupled with the secularization of society and the removal of God and the Bible from public life, has allowed Satan a major victory in spreading false religions and turning people away from God.

The goal of this book is educationally apologetic in function. It is not written as a direct polemic on witchcraft meant to convince witches of how they are wrong and the Bible is true, as for those who are seriously and deeply involved in witchcraft, their presuppositions will more likely than not cause them to dismiss this piece entirely as another Christian "propaganda" piece. Instead, I am writing this with three groups of people in mind. Firstly to Christians, as an educationally apologetic work to help my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ understand what witchcraft is, to understand it from a biblical perspective and to help them be able to engage in discussions and interaction with witches. Second I have those who consider themselves to be "Christian witches" in mind, with this being written to show how one cannot be both a Christian and a witch as they are mutually exclusive belief systems that cannot be harmonized and that stand in stark opposition to each other. Third, I have in mind unbelievers who have questions about both Christianity and witchcraft in their effort to find religion and spirituality, to show they cannot harmonize both, and hopefully show

the futility of witchcraft and the truth, peace, and life that Christianity brings.

Let's now take a look at some of the major points of witchcraft belief and practice:

- Witchcraft claims to be a religion that is nature based, and that is peaceful and spiritual. They claim to have no association with worship of Satan or demons.
- The main rule of witchcraft can be summed up as, "If it harms none, do what you will."
- Witches follow the cycles of nature including seasons and moon cycles in an effort to learn more about themselves, others, and the world.
- Witches work with earth elements, gods and goddesses, and their inner self to shape their lives and see each person as divine.
- Witches worship gods and goddesses. Some only see only one "Higher Power" (known by many different names), while others worship many different gods or goddesses.
- Many witches practice astrology, crystal energy, numerology, palm reading, tarot card reading and more in an effort to predict the future, gain wisdom or know themselves better.
- Some witches worship together in a coven under a priest or priestess, while others worship on their own.
- Witches cast spells for protection, occasions, prosperity, desires, self needs such as finding a new job, getting more money, finding love, ridding negative energy or persons from your life, healing from sickness, and more.
- Whatever you put out (energy, intention, etc) will return to you threefold (or ninefold, I have seen both taught and told in my research).
- Good witches practice white or green magic, bad witches practice black magic, but the majority of witches are supposedly good.
- Self empowerment, self growth, and self healing are all encouraged and are primary focuses of witchcraft.
- There is no central religious text and many develop their own unique belief systems and practices.
- Emphasis is put more on direct spiritual experiences rather than an institutional structure or centralized belief system.
- Chanting and meditation are used to become more in tune with the universe, the divine and yourself as well as to reach altered states of consciousness.
- Belief in reincarnation.

These are the major themes that would make up a "system" of belief and practices

in witchcraft. As you can see, there is great emphasis on the individual and that individual's connection to their surrounding environment. From my experience and research, a fair summary of witchcraft could be summed up as "A trinity of divine found in the universe, nature, and your inner self." Each person's experience is unique, and while there is no centralized religious structure, belief system or religious text, witches do get together to perform rituals, compare spells and practices and commune with the divine together. As long as you are not harming anyone and you are seeking your greatest good, you are succeeding in your religious and spiritual growth.

All told, witchcraft seems very innocent and like it has only the best in mind for everyone. With an emphasis on doing good and not doing any harm and only wanting the best for yourself and others, it seems almost right in line with Christianity's teachings of love your neighbor as yourself. What's more, since the majority of witches themselves emphatically claim that they do not worship, nor have any association with, Satan and demons, it seems like witchcraft could easily fit in with Christianity. But how does this compare to what the Bible teaches?

1. Witchcraft claims to be a religion that is nature based and that is peaceful and spiritual. They claim to have no association with or worship of Satan or demons.

I have already challenged this in my opening paragraphs, but it is worth repeating. The Bible clearly teaches that any worship other than of God is idolatry and sin. Being nature based is making nature their god and worshipping the creation rather than the Creator. Romans 1:22-23 clearly states,

Claiming to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man, birds, four-footed animals, and reptiles.

While they claim no association with Satan or demons, they have fallen for Satan's lies and are not worshipping God.

2. The main rule of witchcraft can be summed up as: “If it harms none, do what you will.”

Now, this rule almost seems to align with what Jesus commands us in Mark 12:31, “*Love your neighbor as yourself.*” The key word is “almost”. “If it harms none, do what you will,” leaves no guidance at all outside of not harming someone else. So if you want to get drunk, great! As long as it doesn’t harm anyone. If you want to commit adultery, great! As long as you and your partner both agree to it and it harms nobody. “If it harms none, do what you will” is a blatant attack against biblical teaching, as it seeks to undermine and make of no value the commands that God gives us. In Mark 12:29-31 Jesus tells us that the greatest commands are these:

“Jesus answered, “The most important is Listen, Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is, Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other command greater than these.”

The greatest command is to love God. And how do you love God? It isn’t to “do no harm”, it is by keeping His commands. So even if you could get away with a sin that isn’t going to harm anyone, you are transgressing God’s commands and harming your relationship with God. So, you’re harming yourself and offending God by sinning, therefore, the main rule of witchcraft is hypocritical in nature and doesn’t actually allow you to circumvent God’s commands. Even if you don’t believe in God and haven’t repented and believed in Jesus as your Lord and Savior, every time you sin, you are harming yourself and offending God.

3. Witches follow the cycles of nature, including seasons and moon cycles, in an effort to learn more about themselves, others and the world.

For a witch, season brings with it new things to celebrate and new energies to embrace. Same with each new moon phase and where it is positioned in the stars. But these seasons and moon cycles don't reveal anything about a person or give any energies to embrace. They are instituted, set in motion and sustained by God Himself. In Daniel 2:21 we are told,

*He changes the times and seasons;
he removes kings and establishes kings.
He gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to those
who have understanding.*

and in Psalm 104:19,

*He made the moon to mark the festivals;
the sun knows when to set.*

The passage in Daniel is significant in relation to how witches view the changing seasons. With each new season, there is a new energy to embrace, something new to focus on for yourself and the universe for that season, new wisdom and knowledge to seek and gain. But what does Daniel write, "*He gives wisdom to the wise.*" God gives wisdom; God gives understanding. The Bible doesn't say that the new season gives or brings wisdom or understanding. As we saw when we looked at the first point, witches are once again attempting to replace God and looking to the seasons and nature for their wisdom. Instead of seeking God, they seek nature. Instead of putting God first, they put nature first. "We don't worship Satan or have anything to do with him," witches claim, but Satan's main goal in life is to keep people from knowing and focusing on God. Once again, by putting nature first and seeking wisdom, knowledge and understanding from nature, witches are ignoring God and doing the will of Satan. They might not think or admit they are serving Satan or doing his will, but from a biblical perspective, they are making Satan happier than they could possibly know.

When we look at the verse from Psalm 104, we see that God made the moon to mark the passing of time. The festivals mentioned in this verse relate to the major Jewish festivals celebrated in Israel. *The Believers Bible Commentary* says this about Psalm 104:19 and the verses after it,

“Since life moves along in cycles and on schedule, there must be some way to measure time. So God set the moon in place to mark the months, and the sun, as if conscious, knows when to set and thus to mark the end of another day. The regular alternation of day and night is providential for animals and man. Under the cover of darkness the beasts of the forest go prowling after their food. When morning comes, they slink back to the safety of their dens. But man goes off to his work and utilizes the hours of daylight for productive labor.”

Morning and evening are marked by the passage of the moon and sun. The stars come out at their set times, the sun rises and sets at its set times, the moon shines in its phases in its set times. Let’s take a look at what Genesis 1:14-19 says when God created these nights in our sky:

“Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will serve as signs for seasons and for days and years. They will be lights in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth.” And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule over the day and the lesser light to rule over the night—as well as the stars. God placed them in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth, to rule the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. Evening came and then morning: the fourth day.”

It is interesting to note that God does not call the greater and lesser lights by the names that we know them, the sun and the moon. Why is this? Because the emphasis is not on what they are, but rather what they were created for. They were created to provide light for the earth. Nowhere in the Bible is there any sort of indication that the phases or season of the moon have any sort of special powers or insight or nor do they impart any sort of wisdom or inner change to anyone. To be a Christian and yet worship/perform rituals based on moon phases, star signs, seasons or sun position is to add to what the Bible teaches.

Let’s take a look at what some other Bible commentators and scholars have

to say. *The New Bible Commentary* has this to say on Genesis 1:14-19,

“Even more powerful proof of God’s creative power, and ever pertinent to human existence, are the sun, moon and stars. Pagan contemporaries of Genesis regarded these bodies as gods in their own right. To avoid any suspicion that the sun and moon were anything but created by God, Genesis calls them just *lights*. They were appointed to regulate the fundamental rhythms of human life by defining day and night and the seasons of the year.”

The study notes in the *NKJV Study Bible* say this:

*As in vv 14-15, the term for **lights** can mean “luminaries.” The word can either designate the sun, which emits light, or the moon, which reflects light. **He made the stars also:** This is a remarkable statement. In the ancient Middle East, other religions worshiped, deified, and mystified the stars. Israel’s neighbors revered the stars and looked to them for guidance. In contrast, the biblical creation story gives the stars only the barest mention, as though the writer shrugged and said, “And, oh, yes. He also made the stars.” Such a statement showed great contempt for ancient Babylonian astrology (see Ps. 29; 93).*

As a Christian, to worship/celebrate rituals based on the stars, sun, moon or seasons is to engage in activities that are unbiblical and contrary to why God created them. God alone deserves our praise and worship. The stars, sun, moon and seasons all were created by Him and do not deserve our worship or ritual observance. To worship or observe rituals for them is to play into Satan’s scheme which pulls us further from God.

4. Witches work with earth elements and gods and goddesses and their inner self to shape their lives and see each person as divine. Witches worship gods and goddesses. Some only see only one “Higher Power” (known by many different names) while others worship many different gods or goddesses.

I am going to tackle two different points that are basically the same: the different views on gods and goddesses and deities that witches worship. Depending on who you ask, witches will say there is only one goddess, a goddess and a god or multiple gods and goddesses. Most prevalent is the worship of the goddess referred to as Mother Earth. Witches also worship “the mother goddess” and her companion, “the horned god.” Some witches say that there are gods and goddesses in different elements of nature and the universe. Many witches also say that every person is their own god as well. From a biblical perspective, red flags immediately start to pop up because The Bible is explicitly clear that there is only one God and He didn’t make any other gods or goddesses, and He did not make every person their own god either (contrary to many popular Word of Faith preachers today as well). Let’s survey a few passages in the Bible concerning this topic,

*“For who is God besides the Lord?
And who is a rock? Only our God.”
Psalm 18:31*

*“See now that I alone am he;
there is no God but me.”
Deuteronomy 4:35*

*“For this is what the Lord says—
the Creator of the heavens,
the God who formed the earth and made it,
the one who established it
(he did not create it to be a wasteland,
but formed it to be inhabited)—
he says, “I am the Lord,
and there is no other.”
Isaiah 45:18*

“Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”

1 Timothy 1:17

These are just four of many verses and passages that clearly teach that there is but one God. He did not create any other gods (looking at you, Dr. Michael Heiser) nor did he create us as little gods (looking at you, Todd White). But, you may ask, weren't we created in the image of God? Doesn't that mean we are like God, making us little gods in His image? Not exactly. It is true that God made us in His image. We find that here in Genesis 1:26,

“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.”

Now, we see here we, as humans, are made in the image of God. But what does this mean exactly? Since God is spirit, it makes it impossible for us to have been made in His physical likeness, since we are physical beings who have a soul and spirit. We also see this as later on, God forbids His people to make physical images to worship Him In Exodus 20:4, *“Do not make an idol for yourself, whether in the shape of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth.”* Being made in His image then, means something more. We are made in His image in that we have similarities to God. Like God, we have an intellect, we have the ability to reason, we are relational beings, we have moral instincts, we can communicate. As He is Ruler over all creation, he made humans to have dominion over the earth as His representatives and stewards of creation to His glory. We see this in the dominion mandate, which is also the original great commission in Genesis 1:28, *“God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.’”* *The Believers Bible Commentary* says this about Genesis 1:26-28,

*The crown of God's work was the creation of **man in His image and according to His likeness**. This means that man was placed on earth as God's representative, and that He resembles God in certain ways.... Like God, man has intellect, a moral nature, the power to communicate with others, and an emotional nature that transcends instinct. There is no thought of physical likeness here. In contrast to animals, man is a worshiper, an articulate communicator, and a creator. There is an*

*allowance for or even an intimation of the Trinity in verse 26: **Then God [Elohim, plural] said [singular verb in Hebrew], “Let Us [plural] make man in Our image”***

*The Bible describes the origin of the sexes as a creative act of God. Evolution has never been able to explain how the sexes began. Humanity was commanded to be **fruitful and multiply**.*

*God gave man a mandate to **subdue** creation and **have dominion over** it—to use it but not abuse it. The modern crises in the earth’s environment are due to man’s greed, selfishness, and carelessness.*

*I also want to show what the study notes in the NKJV Study Bible say: **Let Us make** emphasizes the majesty of the speaker and allows for the later revelation of the Trinity (see 11:7; Matt. 28:19). The **Us** cannot refer to the angels that are present with God because man is made in the image of God, not of the angels. **in Our image**: What is the image of God in man? The traditional view is that God’s image includes certain moral, ethical, and intellectual abilities. A more recent view, based on Hebrew grammar and the knowledge of the ancient Middle East, interprets the phrase as meaning “Let Us make man as our image” (the Hebrew preposition in this phrase can be translated as). God placed humankind as living symbols of Himself on earth to represent His reign. This interpretation fits well with the command that follows—to reign over all that God has made. **according to Our likeness**: This phrase draws attention to the preceding figure of speech. Since God is Spirit (John 4:24), there can be no “image” or “likeness” of Him in the normal sense of these words. Indeed, image-making was later strongly prohibited because of the clear ties it had with idolatry (see Ex. 20:4–6). We may not make images of God for He has already done so! We are His images; it is we who are in His likeness. This is the reason God values people so much: We are made to reflect His majesty on earth. **have dominion**: Rule as God’s regent. That is, people are to rule as God would—wisely and prudently.*

As we can see, the Bible is explicitly clear that there are no other gods beside the one true God Himself. The earth was made by God for us, the earth was not made as a “goddess” to be worshipped. What the earth provides for us is a gift from God to us, it is not due to some deific power within the earth itself. There is no “mother goddess” or “horned” god, nor are there any deities within any earthly element or celestial body, nor

are we humans deities. We are made in God's image to steward the earth to His glory and to represent Him, and to worship God and not worship creation. To worship creation is to serve Satan's desires.

5. Many witches practice astrology, crystal energy, numerology, palm reading, tarot card reading and more in an effort to predict the future, gain wisdom or know themselves better.

In our current age, there is an ever growing following and fascination with astrology and New Age ways to try to learn the future or better yourself. Astrology teaches that by reading the stars and where they are positioned, you can learn about yourself, get healing, learn what you need to do in life and more. Numerology does the same with numbers, palm reading with the lines in your hand, crystals by meditating on their energy, tarot cards by what order of cards you pick out. But here is a scathing passage spoken by God through the prophet Isaiah concerning just how trustworthy and reliable these practices are:

*“So take your stand with your spells
and your many sorceries,
which you have wearied yourself with from your youth.
Perhaps you will be able to succeed;
perhaps you will inspire terror!
You are worn out with your many consultations.
So let the astrologers stand and save you—
those who observe the stars,
those who predict monthly
what will happen to you.
Look, they are like stubble;
fire burns them.
They cannot rescue themselves
from the power of the flame.
This is not a coal for warming themselves,
or a fire to sit beside!
This is what they are to you—
those who have wearied you
and have traded with you from your youth—
each wanders on his own way;
no one can save you.”*
Isaiah 47:12-15

God spoke these words through Isaiah to the nation of Babylon, who had taken the nation of Israel captive. Babylon did not worship God, but multiple deities. The king of Babylon consulted with mediums, astrologers and other magicians to predict the future, rule better and gain wisdom and understanding. God, through Isaiah, was prophesying judgement on Babylon, and God challenged the astrologers and other magicians to rescue the nation from His judgement through their powers. Babylon thought she could rely on these people rather than on God, and God showed that their powers and abilities were nothing, for in June of 539 BC, Babylon fell to the Medo-Persian empire. All the powers and knowledge of the sorcerers, magicians and astrologers of Babylon were powerless to save the nation against God's judgement through the Medo-Persian.

Sadly, many people today, including many Christians, are either ignorant of this history. "Oh, but these practices don't hurt anyone, they are just for your greater good," is the rallying cry. But by partaking in astrology, numerology, crystal energy, tarot card reading, and others, you are telling God that His revelation He has given us in the Bible is not enough. Satan and his demons love to give false information through the use of divination methods. If they can keep you focused on methods of divination and make you think that the Bible is inadequate or unnecessary altogether, you will fall further and further into the grasp of Satan. Satan is the father of lies according to John 8: 44,

You are of your father the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies,

and his demons follow in kind and are liars as well. You may get some good and seemingly trustworthy information when you start, but as you grow more and more dependent and interested in the information you receive, you will become blinded to the truth.

How are we to seek wisdom then, and learn about ourselves and how to be better people? We are to study God's Word, the Bible and pray to God. James 1:5 tells us, "Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God—who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly—and it will be given to him." How are we to live? 1 Peter 1:16 says, "for it is written, Be holy, because I am holy." What does God want us to do? Jesus says in Mark 12:29-31,

Jesus answered, "The most important is Listen, Israel! The Lord our God,

the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is, Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other command greater than these.”

The Bible is God’s special revelation of Himself to us. Within the pages of Scripture, we gain wisdom and understanding and learn what God’s will is for us and how we are supposed to live.

6. Some witches worship together in a coven under a priest or priestess, while others worship on their own.

In witchcraft, there is nothing wrong with worshipping together in an assembly of other witches, or worshipping on your own; both ways are encouraged and practiced. There are no real places of worship in witchcraft, unlike how there are church buildings within Christendom, mosques in Islam, synagogues in Judaism, or temples in, any eastern religions, though many witches encourage practicing or worshipping out in nature to become more 'in tune' with nature and ones self. As Christians, we are all part of the universal Body of Christ and a local assembly of believers. We are to walk daily with the Lord and worship Him in our daily, private lives, but we are also called to not forsake the assembling of the saints in Hebrews 10:24-25,

And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.

7. Witches cast spells for protection, occasions, prosperity, desires, self need and more. These can include: finding a new job, getting more money, finding love, ridding negative energy or persons from your life, healing from sickness, and more. Whatever you put out (energy, intention, etc.) will return to you threefold (or ninefold, I have seen both taught and told in my research). Good witches practice white or green magic, bad witches practice black magic, but the majority of witches are good.

Ah, the appeal of witchcraft. The aspect that Hollywood and pop culture gravitate to and love to show in as much pizzazz and ‘wow’ as possible: Casting spells and magic. I am going to look at three different points within this response, as they all more or less go together.

Whenever someone thinks about witches and witchcraft, it goes without saying that the ideas of casting spells and doing magic are thought of as well. Magic and witches go together like bread and butter. To achieve anything in witchcraft requires the use of spells and magic. Want more money? There is a spell (or twenty) for that. Sick? There is a spell for that. Want to find true love? You guessed it, there is a spell for that. Lost something? Yup, spell for that too. Anything you can think of, you can find or create a spell for. The majority of witches today practice white magic. White magic is said to be ‘good magic’ and there is nothing harmful about it. Many, if not all, witches who practice white magic will vehemently deny that it has anything to do with Satan or demons. Whatever energy or spell you put out into the universe will return to you threefold or more, and if you practice black magic (bad magic), it will return to you in even greater magnitudes. But what is sad and scary, is that those witches who practice white/good magic are praying to and worshipping the same entities that adherents of black/dark magic are, Satan and his demons. So while witches will say there is a difference between white and black magic, from a biblical perspective, there is no difference between the two because they are worshipping entities other than God. The website, *GotQuestions.org* has this well written write up concerning God and magic,

Throughout Scripture, in both the Old and New Testaments, all forms of witchcraft are in violation of God’s law and are condemned. (Deuteronomy 18:10–16; Leviticus 19:26, 31; 20:27; Acts 13:8–10). Pharaoh’s magicians used their “secret arts” to try to duplicate the miracles done by Moses and Aaron (Exodus 7:11; 8:7)—secret arts are

the ceremonies or rituals sorcerers use to accomplish their magic, involving incantations, spells, magic words, charms, amulets, etc. The apostle Paul condemned Elymas the sorcerer, proclaiming him a “child of the devil” who was full of “all kinds of deceit and trickery” and was “perverting the right ways of the Lord” (Acts 13:10). The apostle Peter likewise condemned Simon the magician in Acts 8:20–23. Nowhere in the Bible is a practicing sorcerer or magician portrayed in a positive light. A possible exception are the magi who brought gifts to Jesus; however, in the East the title magi was frequently given to philosophers or learned men who studied the secrets of nature, astronomy, and medicine. Jesus’ visitors were “wise men,” but not necessarily sorcerers. The Bible shows them worshiping the Lord (Matthew 2:11), not casting spells.

Scripture says that God hates all magic, whether it is white magic or some other kind. Why? Because it doesn’t come from God. Satan deceives people by making them think white magic is beneficial. Satan pretends to be an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14), but his desire is to ensnare the souls of as many as he can. The Bible warns against him and his evil tricks. “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

All magic and spells are powered through demons. While demons are supernatural and much greater in strength and knowledge than humans, they are also limited in their scope and cannot compare to God. You might get some answers or success with spells and desires, but that success is only to get you away from God and keep you trapped in a life of false promises and slavery to Satan. They can create imitations of what God does, and perform minor wonders, but they are not omnipotent, omnipresent or omniscient (all powerful, all present, all knowing). The ultimate goal of Satan and demons is to keep people from turning to God. The further you get involved in magic and witchcraft, the further from God you turn, and the tighter and tighter the grip of Satan and his demons becomes. Why settle for an imitation and less than the one who is the all powerful Creator of everything? Studying the Bible and having a relationship with God might not seem nearly as exciting and cool as casting spells and performing magic, but why spend a few years with magic and spells only to spend eternity in eternal judgment in Hell instead of following God and spending an eternity in Heaven with Him?

The practice of magic in witchcraft is almost a hypocritical thing for them to practice. Why do I say that? Because witches teach both free will and some believe in

relativism; free will in that every person is able to choose and do what they want, and their motto, "If it harms none, do what you will," more or less stands in support of free will. But if people have free will, why then do witches use spells for things that would necessitate their magic to force someone else's hand and violate that person's free will? If you don't want someone bothering you, for example, you cast a spell to keep that person from bothering you, which then violates that person's free will.

Some witches also teach relativism. But if all things are relative, then doesn't that effectively negate white and black magic? If one witch believes black magic is fine, well, what is another witch to say that witch can't use black magic? If truth is relative, what is true for one witch doesn't have to be true for another. Relativism effectively negates any sort of rules that one would have to follow. As Christians, we know that truth is not relative and that we can know truth absolutely. We know this as the Bible is true. But how do we know this? The Bible is the Word of God, and God cannot lie. Around 1400 BC, the Lord gave the wicked prophet Balaam a message in Numbers 23:19 in which Balaam states,

*God is not a man, that he might lie,
or a son of man, that he might change his mind.
Does he speak and not act,
or promise and not fulfill?*

In the New Testament, the author of Hebrews writes in verses 17 and 18a,

Because God wanted to show his unchangeable purpose even more clearly to the heirs of the promise, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie...

And Paul writes in the first two verses of his letter to Titus,

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness, in the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.

In these three passages we see that God cannot lie. And because He cannot lie, we can be sure that His Word cannot and does not lie either. And since He cannot lie, what He says and has revealed to us through His Word can be trusted fully to be the

truth. Jesus says in John 17:17 as He prays to the father, *“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”* There is no such thing as relativism or relative truth in Christianity. We can stand sure and strong upon the Word of God as the ultimate, authoritative and sufficient standard and foundation of Truth.

As mentioned, witches cast spells and use magic for many different reasons, reasons that include health, wealth and love. But, here is something to keep in mind. If magic and spells actually work, why do witches get sick? How come many are struggling with finances? How come many are lonely? If magic only works once in a while, then what is the point of using it? Witches might quickly retort that prayer for a Christian doesn't result in an immediate response or answer either. But this shows a fundamental ignorance of what prayer is. Prayer isn't a magical way to get God to do what you want. Prayer is talking to God. It is expressing our feelings and desires to Him. It is praising and glorifying Him and telling Him how much we love Him. It is confessing our sins and shortcomings and asking His forgiveness. It is seeking His will and aligning our will with His. Our relationship with God grows the more we pray and shows our trust and dependence on Him. Whereas magic is seeking your own will and desire, prayer is seeking God's will and trusting Him.

- *“Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus,”* 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- *“Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God,”* Philippians 4:6
- *“Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints,”* Ephesians 6:18

8. Self empowerment, self growth, self healing are all encouraged and are primary focuses of witchcraft.

Witchcraft is very much a self-focused religious system. Even through the worship of nature and gods and goddesses, it is all for personal gain or growth. The self is the ultimate master and all of nature, and the gods and goddesses of the witchcraft religion are subservient to the witch. And what kind of god is really a god if they are restricted to what a human wants it to do? Whether practicing white or black magic, all magic and spells have at their root a humanistic element that seeks to accomplish what the user wants. You are your own master in witchcraft. But what does the Bible say? What is the primary focus for the life of a Christian?

The primary focus of a Christians life is God. As His image bearers, we are to live for Him. The greatest commandment in the Bible is this found in Mark 12:30 and it says, *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.”*

As the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* says,

Q: What is the chief end of man?

A: Man’s chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.

And finally, as we read in God’s Word:

“When all has been heard, the conclusion of the matter is this: fear God and keep his commands, because this is for all humanity. For God will bring every act to judgment, including every hidden thing, whether good or evil.” Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

9. There is no central religious text and many develop their own unique belief systems and practices.

Witchcraft is wide and varied, and there is no central text or systematized belief system. Each witch more or less practices witchcraft as they see fit and to their own benefit. Most every witch will have a book of spells or book of shadows that contains all their spells and magical incantations. No two books will be the same. While there may be many similarities and some witches might copy the spells of other witches, each witch will personalize their book to their own needs and to what works best for them. There is also no systematized belief system for witchcraft either. Though as we have explored in this essay, there are many core beliefs that all witches follow to one degree or another.

Contrast this to Christianity. God's Word, the Bible, is authoritative for the faith and practices in a Christian's life. Scripture alone contains the revelations and commandments of God for us to know Him more, know His will and glorify Him, whereas in witchcraft, each witch can choose how they want to practice and can change a spell to suit their own needs or desires, a biblical Christian will stand upon and follow the Bible above anything else. While we may quote and use creeds, confessions, commentaries, traditions and works by pastors, scholars, and theologians, all extra biblical material and teaching must align with what the Bible says. Since Scripture, the Bible, is God's Word, it is God's authority according to 2 Timothy 3:16, *"All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness"*.

There is no picking and choosing what verse or passages a Christian wants to follow. There is no rewriting a verse or passage to fit what a Christian wants it to say to support their life (looking at you, progressive Christians). God breathed out His Word for us to follow. The Bible is sufficient for our faith and practices. Paul tells us in Colossians 2:8, *"Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition, based on the elements of the world, rather than Christ."* We are told not to base our faith on the philosophy and traditions of the world. The worldly system is under the influence of Satan and his demons and they will seek to twist and contort Scripture or get you to ignore Scripture altogether. Our faith and life should be based on Christ and His all-sufficient Word. The book of Psalms contains many wonderful verses and passages concerning the sufficiency, trustworthiness, beauty and wonder of Scripture.

*The instruction of the Lord is perfect,
renewing one's life;*

*the testimony of the Lord is trustworthy,
making the inexperienced wise.
The precepts of the Lord are right,
making the heart glad;
the command of the Lord is radiant,
making the eyes light up.
The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are reliable
and altogether righteous.
They are more desirable than gold—
than an abundance of pure gold;
and sweeter than honey
dripping from a honeycomb.
In addition, your servant is warned by them,
and in keeping them there is an abundant reward.
Who perceives his unintentional sins?
Cleans me from my hidden faults.
Moreover, keep your servant from willful sins;
do not let them rule me.
Then I will be blameless
and cleansed from blatant rebellion.
May the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.
(19:7-14)*

*Lord, your word is forever;
it is firmly fixed in heaven.”
...
How sweet your word is to my taste—
sweeter than honey in my mouth.
...
Your word is a lamp for my feet
and a light on my path.”
(119:89, 103, 105)*

10. Emphasis is put more on direct spiritual experiences rather than an institutional structure or centralized belief system.

This is similar to the prior point, yet different. For a witch, direct spiritual experience is what is sought after instead of a deeper knowledge and understanding of a centralized text or belief system. What is true of an experience for one witch might not be true for another witch. But if you have a spiritual experience, then you must be on the right track. Yet this presents a dilemma. If a spell works for one witch, but not for another, why not? Shouldn't it work consistently? An emphasis on personal experience leaves any sort of objective truth out of the equation, for there is none as experience is subjective. At its root, witchcraft is a subjective experience religion that seeks to allow its adherents to practice however they want to with the only objective end being bettering yourself/getting what you want out of it, which, at the end of the day, is still subjective, as what defines 'better'?

Again, contrasting biblical Christianity to witchcraft is the fact that Christianity does not seek out nor rely on direct spiritual experiences, nor is it taught in the Bible that we should be seeking out direct spiritual experiences. We follow the clear teachings of the God breathed Scripture.

Unlike in witchcraft or other experiential, subjective based religions and movements, biblical Christianity has at its core a foundation of systematized objective truth. Why is this important? Having a standard of objective truth allows two or more people to come together and understand what truth is and be able to live their lives accordingly. Instead of leaving truth up to each persons individual ideas, they can study the Bible and see what is laid out as truth. This way, it doesn't matter what you think, it doesn't matter what someone else thinks, it is still true. Experiential spirituality leaves the definition of truth entirely up to the user to define the truth as they want to. If the truth is objective, however, it is true regardless of what the user thinks.

11. Chanting and meditation are used to become more in tune with the universe, the divine and yourself as well as to reach altered states of consciousness.

The use of chanting and meditation to become more in tune with the universe or to reach altered states of consciousness are means to an end in seeking supernatural knowledge beyond what we supposedly can grasp or achieve through our everyday life. Witches would say becoming one with/in tune with the universe makes you more divine and helps you connect with your inner deity and achieve a 'god consciousness'. Reaching altered states of mind attempts to bring you revelations and experiences and understanding beyond anything you thought possible.

As we have explored earlier, from a biblical perspective there is no command or teaching to attempt to become one with the universe. The universe was created by God and was not created as a deity, and therefore has no divine aspect to it other than to point to the glory of God. "*The heavens declare the glory of God, and the expanse proclaims the work of his hands*" (Psalm 19:1). To attempt to become one with, or more in tune with the universe elevates the universe to 'god' status and leaves you worshipping creation rather than the Creator. Altered states of mind are also not something that a Christian should pursue. The spiritual experiences that one has are demonic in nature and often contradict what the Bible teaches. It is seeking extra Biblical knowledge and revelation, and thus says that the Bible is not authoritative nor sufficient. As a Christian, we are filled with the Holy Spirit, and thus have a new nature/mind within us. We should seek to keep our mind on heavenly things, which is not becoming more in tune with the universe or an altered state of mind experience, but rather means we should be focusing and meditating on God's Word, and His commands and teachings according to Colossians 3:2, "*Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.*"

12. Belief in reincarnation.

For a witch, the answer to the question, “what happens when we die,” is that we are reincarnated. Witches believe that death is just a part of a cycle of reincarnation that keeps repeating itself. But this is not found in the Bible at all. Scripture clearly teaches that when we die, there are only two options. If we are believers, we go to spend eternity in Heaven with God, enjoying Him and glorifying Him forever. If we are not believers, we will be under the wrath of God for eternity in Hell. Thus, if a third option is presented, we can reject it as a false option. Reincarnation is found nowhere in the Bible and is contrary to what the Bible clearly teaches us about what happens when we die. What does the Bible say to support this? Let’s take a look at Hebrews 9:27, and 2 Corinthians 5:6-9,

“And just as it is appointed for people to die once—and after this, judgment”

“So we are always confident and know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. In fact, we are confident, and we would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. Therefore, whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to be pleasing to him.”

We will die once. There is no endless cycle of reincarnation, nor do we get a second chance after we die. When we die, we are dead, and cease to exist in this physical life. After we die, we will be judged as to whether or not we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. No matter how good of a life you lived or how much good you did for others, it will not be enough to save you and appease God’s wrath (Isa 64:6). Unless you repent and believe in Jesus, you will be condemned to an eternity separated from God in Hell. The passage quoted above is a clear and distinct refutation of reincarnation. As a believer and an apostle, Paul writes in his second letter to the church in Corinth that when we die (to be away from the body) we will be at home with the Lord. There is no middle ground. There is no third option. There is no coming back to earth as another person or a creature or a ghost.

Ultimately, reincarnation leaves little hope for a witch once they die. Sure, reincarnation means that you should try to leave the world a better place so that when you are reincarnated, you return to a better world. But how do you know that you’re even going to recognize that the world is better or worse than in your previous life? You don’t. Thus, there is no objective, binding reason to live other than for yourself, however you want. This contrasts to the hope that a Christian has, for no matter how

bad things get for us in this life, we have a blessed hope that when we die, we will immediately be present with our Lord and Savior in Heaven. Paul writes in Romans 8:18, *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us.”* We have a blessed hope that brings us peace in this life. And since we serve God, we will desire to live for Him and follow His commands in this life. Love God and love people. Love your enemies, pray for your leaders, love your neighbor as yourself and love your brothers and sisters in Christ as John 15:17 requires, *“This is what I command you: Love one another.”*

In conclusion, witchcraft and Christianity are incompatible systems of belief. One cannot be both a Christian and a witch, for that would be a, *“house divided against itself [which] cannot stand”* (Mark 3:25). Witchcraft puts the self at the center of its worship and seeks to worship nature and the universe. Christianity serves God and God alone, the Creator and Sustainer of our life and world. Satan has done a wonderful job of trying to make witchcraft seem glamorous, good, and non-demonic, but to worship and follow anything other than God is to be serving Satan.

I pray this book will open the eyes of everyone who reads it to the error of witchcraft and the truth that witchcraft, whether white or black magic, is of Satan and leads to Hell. I pray this opens eyes to the truth of the Bible and the need to repent and believe in Jesus Christ and serve Him and Him alone. All who come to Him will be received and none turned away. There is salvation in no other but Jesus Christ.

“Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).

“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

“If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, Everyone who believes on him will not be put to shame, since there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord of all richly blesses all who call on him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Romans 10:9-13)¹

Soli Deo gloria!

Daniel McAdams

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