

Methods used to Influence a Person

1.1. Curses

The Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines a curse:

- (n) a prayer or invocation for harm or injury to come upon one; evil or misfortune that comes as if in response to imprecation or as retribution; a cause of great harm or misfortune
- (v) to use profane insolent language against, blaspheme; to call upon divine or supernatural power to send injury upon; to execrate in fervent and often profane terms; to bring great evil upon, afflict

The Oxford Universal Dictionary defines a curse:

- (n) an utterance consigning a person or thing to evil; a profane oath
- (v) to utter against person or things words which consign them to evil; to afflict with such evils as indicate divine wrath or malignant fate

The TempestWolf's Lair website has the following to say¹: "*Curses have been around for as long as mankind could hate. No religion can claim to have originated the curse; it sprung up wherever jealousy and anger did. Nor can any religion claim to be truly free of casting a curse of one sort or another. They're everywhere, and they can be vicious. A curse isn't created by merely being angry at someone. They are created when someone intensely wishes another harm in some part, or all, of their life. Curses feed on the negative emotions of their creator, and, like any magick, are sent out to fulfill the wishes of the caster. The wishes of the caster are usually revenge for hurt caused, jobs stolen, lies, backstabbing, betrayal, lovers lost or stolen, death of friends and/or family, or simple jealousy that someone else's life is better than theirs.*"

Karen Danrich states²: "*The pattern of the curse involves one soul choosing to send destructive energy at another soul with malicious intent from either a conscious or unconscious plane of reality. The energetic pattern of any curse will always have a barb or arrow on the end of the pattern. The energetic arrow behind any curse lodges into the circular pattern of the molecular structure of a certain part of the body and obstructs the energy flow within the molecule or group of molecules. As the pattern of the curse takes hold, enough molecules can be caused to stop moving so that the cells within a certain part of the body begin to die. If enough molecules and related cells are obstructed, illness or death results. All illness, aging and decay are related to the pattern of the curse. As such, all curse patterns must be transmuted and transcended in the ascension process.*"

According to the Mystical, on-line encyclopaedia of the "occult, mysticism, magic, paranormal"³: "*Curses are Magic spells which are placed upon people with the intention of harming them. The misfortune intended by curses can range from illness, and harm, to even death. Curses are declared to be the most dreaded form of magic, often called black magic, and are believed to be universally used. The principle purposes for them to be "laid" or "thrown" are for revenge, and also for protection of homes, treasures and grave sites. Curses can become effective immediately or may be dormant for years. Curses laid on families have been known to have plagued them for generations. The word hex is sometimes used synonymously with curse. In neo-Pagan Witchcraft, some Witches use the term hex to designate a binding spell, which is different from a curse. A curse is the expression of desire of harm to come to a particular person. Anyone can lay a curse on another person, but it is believed that the authority of the person who lays the curse on increases its potency and makes it more dangerous. Such persons are believed to be priests, priestesses or royalty; persons possessing magical skill, such as Witches, sorcerers and magicians; and persons who have no other recourse to justice, such as women in many societies, the poor, the destitute and the dying. Deathbed curses are the most potent, since all the curser's vital energy goes into the curse.*"

¹ www.tempestwolf.com/herbs/magickal/curses/about.htm

² www.ascendpress.org/articles/transmissions1/A1Beylib.html

³ www.themystica.com/mystica/articles/c/curses.html

Marilyn Hickey defines a generational curse as⁴: “An unclean iniquity that increases in strength from one generation to the next, affecting the members of that family and all who come into relationship with that family.”⁴

Level of Influence, Probable Roots and Fruits

Curses can influence all three levels - body, mind and spirit. It is mostly focused on bodily, relationship and property harm which can then result in mind and spirit harm. A curse can place witchcraft on the person's will or emotions (mind harm).

Source or roots of curses:

- Inheritance
- Involvement with unclean and unholy things for example the occult or secret societies
- Territorial rights violations
- Performance of demonic rituals
- Distinct situations and actions for example deliberate speech etc.

Fruits:

- Bad health, loss of a job or even loss of loved ones
- According to Deuteronomy 28 the following fruits can occur: sterility, divorce and adultery, rebellion or loss of your children, debt, your home or property can be under a curse. *See Appendix for detail on Deuteronomy 28.*
- Other can be disease like cancer, arthritis, kidney and gallbladder problems due to the sin of bitterness and unforgiveness.

In general six effects (fruits) of curses can be experienced:

1. blessings lost,
2. abilities limited,
3. position and circumstances reduced,
4. the quality of life affected,
5. future posterity also affected,
6. death

Examples of Curses

Most know curses are spoken words in everyday life - for example: “I wish you will die”, “You are stupid”, “May he melt away like the froth of the river”, “Hell roast him”. Other curses could be conditional - for example: “If you do not deliver by tomorrow your flesh will rot in the sun.” Some curses can be transferred via eating of drinking potions - for example: love potions or death potions. There are countless examples of curses.

⁴ HICKEY, 1987, p. 24

What the Bible says about Curses

There are four types of curses:

1. Curses from God for the purpose of gaining the person's attention and causing him to turn from his evil ways, turn to God and purify his life.
2. Curses from Satan and/or his servants with the legal right to curse;
3. Curses from Satan and/or his servants without the legal right to curse;
4. Curses from man – man either speaks life or death. Man can curse himself or another party.

Both 2 and 3 are done for the purpose of causing injury, loss, destruction and often death. Exodus 34:6-7:

"And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord! The Lord! a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in loving-kindness and truth, Keeping mercy and loving-kindness for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but Who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children, to the third and fourth generation."

The Roots of Curses

- Sin - Malachi 2:2:
"If you will not listen, if you will not lay it to heart to give glory to my name, says the Lord of hosts, then I will send the CURSE on you and I will CURSE your blessings; indeed I have already CURSED them, because you did not lay it to heart."
- Spoken Word – Proverbs 18:21:
"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it [for death or life]"
- Tattoo - Body tattoos bring curses (Leviticus 19:28). Sorcerers often pass their powers through a tattoo on the body of a disciple or descendent.

Heritage and families are very important to God

- Deuteronomy 6:6-7:
"And these words which I am commanding you this day shall be [first] in your [own] minds and hearts; [then] You shall whet and sharpen them so as to make them penetrate, and teach and impress them diligently upon the [minds and] hearts of your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down and when you rise up."
- Exodus 20:5:
"You shall not bow down yourself to them or serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me,"
- Deuteronomy 30:19:
"I call heaven and earth to witness this day against you that I have set before you life and death, the blessings and the curses; therefore choose life that you and your descendants may live"
- Also see Deuteronomy 4:9-10

Generational or Ancestral Curses

Scripture stating the duration, effect and fruits of curses:

- Exodus 20:1-5 states that a curse of idol worship extends to fourth generation of great grandchildren. Note that every generation involved in sin then becomes the first generation of the curse causing a snowball effect and the "four" generations can turn into numerous generations.

- Deuteronomy 23:2 states that the curse of the bastard extends to tenth generation of descendants.
- Deuteronomy 28 states that blessings are for obeying and curses for disobeying the Holy Bible; verses 1-14: blessings, 15-44: curses and 45-68: wrath of God.
- Numbers 14:18:
"The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation."
- Jeremiah 2:9:
"Therefore I bring charges against you again, declares the Lord. And I will bring charges against your children's children."
- 2 Samuel 3:29:
"May his blood fall upon the head of Joab and upon all his father's house! May Joab's house never be without someone who has a running sore or leprosy or who leans on a crutch or who falls by the sword or who lacks food."
- Malachi 2:2-3:
"If you do not listen, and if you do not set your heart to honour my name, says the Lord Almighty, I will send a curse upon you and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not set your heart to honor me. Because of you I will rebuke your descendants"
- Also see Exodus 20:5; 34:7; 1 Samuel 2:30-33

Adam and Eve (Genesis 3)

Because of the disobedience of Adam and Eve towards God in the Garden of Eden, a curse was brought upon humanity and the world in which they lived. The Lord pronounced specific curses that were related to the serpent, the woman and the man.

- The serpent - would crawl upon his belly and enmity would be placed between him and the woman and between his offspring and hers (Genesis 3:14-15).
- The woman (Eve) - would have pain in childbirth and was placed under the authority of her husband (Genesis 3:16).
- The man (Adam) - representing humanity was cut off from the tree of life, and the ground was cursed with thorns and thistles so that man would have to toil with great difficulty to produce crops until he died (Genesis 3:17-19).
- The man and the woman were driven out of the garden of Eden and God had the entrance guarded by cherubim and a flaming sword (Genesis 3:24).

The results of these curses are still existent today. Suddenly the quality of Adam and Eve's lives changed. They would not continue to have the comfort they had in the garden and in the Lord's presence. Their blessings were taken from them as their circumstances were reduced.

The Downfall and Destruction of Abimelech (Judges 9)

Abimelech's, the slave woman's son, incited the lords of Shechem and killed all 70 of his own brothers in order to become ruler. The curse of Jothan in Judges 9:19-20 pronounced judgment because of this murder:

"If you then have acted sincerely and honourably with Jerubbaal and his house this day, then rejoice in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice in you; But if not, let fire come out from Abimelech and devour the people of Shechem and Beth-millo, and let fire come out from the people of Shechem and Beth-millo and devour Abimelech".

An evil spirit was permitted to work between Abimelech and the lords of Shechem. The resulting hostility led to their deaths and the curse was fulfilled in Judges 9:57:

"And all the wickedness of the men of Shechem God repaid upon their heads and caused to come upon them the curse of Jothan son of Jerubbaal"

The Downfall and Destructing of Ahab (1 Kings 16-22)

Ahab took Jezebel as his wife and served Baal (16:13). Ahab was extremely wicked (16:33) and Israel was judged because of his sins (18:1-18). Elijah's prophesied a curse on Ahab, a pronouncement of judgment in 1 Kings 21:19-23:

"Say to him, Thus says the Lord: Have you killed and also taken possession? Thus says the Lord: In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick your blood, even yours. And Ahab said to Elijah, Have you found me, O my enemy? And he answered, I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the Lord. See [says the Lord], I will bring evil on you and utterly sweep away and cut off from Ahab every male, bond and free, And will make your household like that of Jeroboam son of Nebat and like the household of Baasha son of Ahijah, for the provocation with which you have provoked Me to anger and made Israel to sin. Also the Lord said of Jezebel: The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel."

The prophetic curse was fulfilled. Three years of war between the King of Aram and Israel followed and Ahab gathered 4000 prophets to seek their counsel. The 4000 prophets prophesied victory (22:6) but when Micaiah the prophet was summoned, he prophesied defeat (22:17), which made the king very angry. Micaiah revealed a vision (22:19-22). He saw God on his throne asking the question, "who will entice Ahab?" Different responses were given - then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord saying, "I will entice him." "How?" the Lord asked him. "I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. The Lord responded - "You are to entice him, and you shall succeed; go out and do it." Micaiah's closing comment

"So the Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouths of all these prophets; and the Lord has spoken evil concerning you." (22:23)

King Ahab commanded that Micaiah be put into prison. The king went to battle in spite of Micaiah's warning - He disguised himself, but was mortally wounded by an arrow that pierced him between his armour. The king apparently bled to death in his chariot. When his chariot was washed by the pool of Samaria, the dogs licked up his blood.

The Herod's Family – New Testament Generational Curse (Matt 2:1-3)

Herod "the Great", the king at the time of Jesus' birth was not fully Jewish. He was partially an Idumean, which is an Edomite, descendant of Esau. Esau hated the things of God and sold his own birthright to his brother Jacob (Genesis 25:34; Hebrews 12:16-17) and therefore Herod the Great was part of a cursed generation who did not serve God (according to Deuteronomy 27 and 28). The Edomites also hated the things of God. They were always provoking the Israelites (descendants of Jacob), who loved the things of God. An ongoing battle existed between them. God haters did everything against God's commandment. Herod, being half-Idumean and half-Jewish, had this same battle in his family going on between God-lovers and God-haters. He felt so threatened about the king that was to be born in Bethlehem that he had all the babies less than 2 years old killed (**) in the Bethlehem district when rumour went around that this boy was born. Herod the Great showed the same tendencies as his forefathers the Edomites: hatred, violence and cruelty. Herod the Great had a son Herod Antipas. The curse was carried over to his son (Exodus 34:7). Herod Antipas committed a terrible sin by marrying his brother Philip's wife Herodias (**).

John the Baptist preached against it saying that it was wrong and therefore was thrown into prison and later beheaded on Herodias request (**) without having a proper reason to do so. Herod Antipas therefore showed the same tendencies as his father: hatred, violence and cruelty. Herod Antipas had a son called Herod Agrippa. He killed James, the brother of John with a sword (**). He threw Peter and other people into jail and mistreated them (Acts 12:1-5) and killed many more (**). Herod Agrippa therefore showed the same tendencies as his father: hatred, violence and cruelty. Herod Agrippa had a son also called Herod Agrippa. This was the last of Herod the Great's family. Although they were rulers of their country, they eventually lost everything. History says that Agrippa lost his position and bought a farm on Mount Vesuvius to live out the rest of his life in shame and exile. The sins of the fathers were visited on the children for four generations up and above all the generations before Herod the Great. (** sin = God-hater)

Other Biblical Generational Curse Examples

Exodus 20:1-5 and Ezekiel 18:1-9 is where God showed Earline that this was the curse of idol worship brought on her by her Indian ancestors which caused her and her family heart trouble.

1.2. Beliefs

1.2.1. Religion

Oxford Universal Dictionary defines religion as *“A state of life bound by monastic vows; action or conduct indicating a belief in, reverence for, and desire to please, a divine ruling power; the exercise or practice of rites or observances implying this; a particular system of faith and worship; recognition on the part of man of some higher unseen power as having control of his destiny, and as being entitled to obedience, reverence, and worship; the general mental and moral attitude resulting from this belief, with reference to its effect upon the individual or the community.”*

Thus it is the system of beliefs and practices by which a group of people interprets and responds to what they feel is called a religion. It is sacred, and usually, supernatural as well. Religion is found in all societies but is expressed and institutionalised in various ways. The belief in a god or gods is called theism. Of the world's major religions, Christianity, Islam and Judaism are examples of monotheism, the belief in only one God. Hinduism, in contrast, is an example of polytheism, the belief in more than one God. The other major religions of the modern world do not centre on a god figure but rather on abstract principles of transcendental idealism, dedicated to achieving moral or spiritual excellence. Totemism is the veneration of a totem – usually an animal (or in rare cases, a plant) – as both a god and an ancestor. It is practised by many traditional societies. Supernaturalism is a type of religion that does not recognise specific gods or spirits but does believe in supernatural forces that influence people's lives, and animism, a type of religion that recognises active (animate) spirits operating in the world. Other forms of religion, practised in pre-modern societies, include simple supernaturalism.

All forms of religion share four basic elements: the sacred, one or more rituals, a system of beliefs and a social organisation of believers:

- Anything set apart from everyday life that is capable of evoking deep respect and awe is called *“the sacred”*.
- An established pattern of behaviour closely associated with the experience of the sacred is called a *ritual*. Ritual brings believers together in a group.

- *System of Religious Beliefs* to help explain the meaning and purpose of the sacred and of rituals.
- *A social organisation of believers* is formed in order to ensure the continuity and effectiveness of the religious experience.

Religion is related to several basic aspects of the human condition. It may provide support and consolation. It may give human existence meaning and purpose, and it may provide people with a sense of identity.

1.2.2. Mythology

Oxford Universal Dictionary defines a myth as “a purely fictitious narrative usually involving supernatural persons, actions or events, and embodying some popular idea concerning natural or historical phenomena. Often used vaguely to include in any narrative having fictitious elements” or “a fictitious or imaginary person or object.. The word itself comes from the Greek "mythos" which originally meant "speech" or "discourse" but which later came to mean "fable" or "legend". In other words it is a traditional story (i.e., one handed down orally over the centuries and only later committed to writing). Mythology has two related meanings. Firstly it refers to a collection of myths that together form a mythological system. Thus one can speak of "Norse Mythology", "Roman Mythology", "Greek Mythology", "Asian Mathology" or "Egyptian Mythology". In this sense one is describing a system of myths which were used by a particular society at some particular time in human history. A second meaning of the term mythology is the academic study of myths and systems of myths in general. “Mythos” means story. In short mythology is the study of stories or a collection of stories. Joseph Campbell stated during an interview that "a mythology is a system of affect-symbols, signs evoking and directing psychic energies. It is more like an affective art work than a scientific proposition."

There are three types of myths:

- **Myth Proper:** a traditional tale that explains a natural phenomenon, a custom, cult practice, the status of the divine and human world, etc. In short, they are etiological, pre-scientific
- **Legend:** a traditional tale about men and women popularly accepted as historical, but is interspersed with supernatural events, such as the direct intervention of the gods.
- **Folktale:** a traditional tale that has no basis in reality but which is told to entertain (fables) or to instruct (parables). Themes include a quest, a divine command disobeyed, fraternal strife, a wicked step-mother, winning of the bride etc.

Level of Influence and Probable Fruits of False Beliefs

False beliefs influence an individual mostly on the soul and spirit levels, creating deception and confusion through lies.

What the Bible says about False Beliefs

2 Corinthians 11:3-4 states *“But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.”*

Satan's primary tactic in opposing God is not to foster atheism but religion; not to prove there is no God but to be worshipped as God. Satan is not an initiator but an imitator. God has an only begotten Son - the Lord Jesus, and so has Satan - "the son of Perdition" (2 Thessalonians 2:3). There is a Holy Trinity, and there is likewise a Trinity of Evil (Revelations 20:10). One not only read of the "children of God," but also of "the children of the wicked one" (Matthews 13:38). As there is a "mystery of godliness (1 Timothy 3:6) so also is there a "mystery of iniquity" (2 Thessalonians 2:7). God "seals" His servants in their foreheads (Revelations 7:3) by His angels, so also, Satan on the other hand sets a mark in the foreheads of his devotees (Revelations 13:16) by his agents. Did Christ perform miracles, so also can Satan (2 Thessalonians 2:9). Is Christ seated upon a throne, so is Satan (Revelations 2:13 – Greek). Has Christ a Church, then Satan has his "synagogue" (Revelation 2:9). Is Christ the Light of the world, then so is Satan himself "transformed into an angel of light" (2 Corinthians. 11:14). Did Christ appoint "apostles," then Satan has his apostles, too (2 Corinthians. 11:13). Satan's counterfeit religion is openly exposed in the Bible:

- Galatians 1:6-9:

"I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed."

- 2 Peter 2:1-3:

"But there were false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber."

The Scriptures reveals that, at the time of Christ's return, the world will be saturated with false religion. But knowing that there is only one true church: Ephesians 4: 3-6, 13:

"Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

1.3. Occult

Webster's online dictionary defines occult as:

- (a) - Hidden and difficult to see; "an occult fracture"; "occult blood in the stool".
 - Having an import not apparent to the senses nor obvious to the intelligence; beyond ordinary understanding; "mysterious symbols"; "the mystical style of Blake"; "occult lore"; "the secret learning of the ancients".
- (n) Supernatural forces and events and beings collectively; "She doesn't believe in the supernatural".
- (v) - Cause an eclipse of (a celestial body) by intervention; "The Sun eclipses the moon today"; "Planets and stars often are occulted by other celestial bodies".
 - Become concealed or hidden from view or have its light extinguished; "The beam of light occults every so often".
 - Hide from view; "The lids were occulting her eyes".

The word "occult" comes from the Latin *occultus* meaning "hidden". Occult is a system of religious beliefs or rituals, pertaining to the supernatural - that which is beyond the range of natural knowledge. It is based on a farming term in Latin meaning "cultivation". Sociologists and anthropologists sometimes use the term cult to describe religious structure or belief patterns with meanings unique to their disciplines. In modern usage, the term cult is often used by the general public to describe any religious group they view as strange or dangerous. Thus, cult can describe religious leaders or organizations that employ abusive, manipulative, or illegal control over their followers' lives.

The occult religious expression could contain:

- the worship of self as the supreme will
- a belief that Satan is a Christian invention designed for controlling people
- the conjuring and manipulation of supernatural Influences, agencies, or phenomena for one's own purposes and gain

Occultism can be endorsed in movies, in video games, play station games, on television and in literature as:

- creatures that have both human and non-human form and characteristics
- beings with paranormal (psychic) powers who call upon some strange god(s) to fill themselves with special supernatural powers
- people who are normal but can change into a different being by calling upon an element in nature (air, fire, earth, water, ethers)

A person who studies or practices any form of the "occult sciences" (such as divination, magic, mysticism, spiritualism, and so forth) is called an "occultist". There are three main categories of the occult:

1. Seeking carnal knowledge / sins of the flesh and eyes: includes all forms of sex sin, including pornography e.g. Satanism
2. Seeking knowledge of the future e.g. divination
3. Seeking supernatural power e.g. spiritism

Note that Satanism is an example of occultic practice where Satan is worshipped as the supreme will. Heavy metal (originally Rock) music is one of many methods that can be used to influence people to become involved in the occult or could even contain occultic practices. Death Metal has proven to be more violent than any previous forms of rock, but only in intensity. Black Metal is simply pushing the envelope of wickedness and blasphemy that has always been present in rock music. Some claim that no matter how vile, no matter how violent rock music is, it does not have a destructive influence upon its hearers. There are many who make light of those who find connections between such things as violent music and violent crime, or pornography and rape. It is believed that this is strange, unreasonable and irresponsible thinking. The pounding beat of rock and the rock lyrics does have an influence. Those who saturate themselves with rock are deeply affected by it. Rock in all its forms corrupts, injures, maims and kills and can be the cause of many traumatic events. The progression of metal music can be defined as follows: Rock (1865-1949), Proto Metal (1950-1969), Heavy Metal (1970-1981), Speed Metal (1982-1987), Death Metal (1988-1993), Black Metal (1991-1996) and currently Retro-cumulative (from 1996).

Level of Influence and Probable Fruits

Occults can influence a person on all three levels: body, mind and spirit. Occultic practices can include curses, ritual abuse, sexual orgies, homicide, hipnosis through to mind control techniques. Any fruit is possible when involved in the occult, depending on the occult practice itself – its beliefs, rituals, etc.

What the Bible says about Occultic Practices

The Bible condemns all kinds of Occultism with the strongest words and penalties. The Bible orders "to stone them to death", what they do is "prostitution against God", and calls them "an abomination to God":

Leviticus 20:6,27:

"A man or woman who calls upon spirits or fortune-tellers or magicians shall be put to death by stoning; their blood is upon them... anyone who turns to mediums and fortune-tellers or magicians prostitutes himself by following them, I will set my face against him, and will cut him off from the people"

Deuteronomy 18:10-12:

"There must never be anyone among you who makes his son or daughter pass through the fire of sacrifice, who is a soothsayer, augur or sorcerer, weaver of spells, consulter of ghosts or mediums, or necromancer (who seeks oracles from the dead). Anyone who does such things is an abomination to God, and because of such abominations the Lord, your God, is driving out these nations before you"

Why occult activity is wrong:

- It seeks and uses an evil power source: Occult power originates from Satan, his angels (demons) or the souls or spirits of people who participate. Satan and his angels are fallen spiritual beings who have used their God-given powers to foster rebellion against God. The scriptures state that only God has all knowledge and He alone is more powerful than any other being (Psalm 139:1-6,16-18; Philippians 2:9-11; Isaiah 14:27; Psalm 2; 1 Chronicles 16:26; Psalm 96).
- It gives a means to sin by pride of life: The occult appeals to one's natural desire for power and knowledge. People usually want to be in control of the situations they are in and/or be able to influence the outcome so that it will benefit them. Man's sinful nature is to attempt to work things out on his own without submitting himself to the authority of God or depending on God for our provision. John identified this as the "pride of life"-sin in 1 John 2:16. The occult offers a variety of means by which a person may be deceived into thinking that he/she can be in control.
- God commands us not to be involved in the occult: He commands man to be separate from the occult so that man and women can be His people (Leviticus 20:24-26) without distraction. Seeking occult power/knowledge is essentially soliciting the help of demons or false gods. This disobeys God's command "You shall have no other gods before Me" in Exodus 20:3. God has told man to seek Him for everything in life. Jesus explained, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" in Matthew 22:37. This leaves no room for other "gods." Part of God's nature is that He desires people's full devotion and attention – He is a "jealous" God and a "consuming fire" (Deuteronomy 4:24).

Biblical Example of Occultic Involvement

Moses had warned the Israelites to drive all wizards and witches out of the lands they conquered or put them to death and it was known throughout the region. Saul's kingship was firmly established upon his victory at Jabesh-Gilead, after which he was proclaimed king at Gilgal (1 Samuel 11:1-15). Following initial successes, Saul soon began making a series of very serious blunders, beginning with the offering of a sacrifice, which was to be performed only by the priests (1 Samuel 13:9-12). It was this foolish and presumptuous disobedience to God that cost him the kingship, which would later be taken over by David. Saul's behaviour then further degenerated from unwise to outright insane, including ordering his military forces to go without food until they had defeated the enemy, and attempting to have his own victorious son Jonathan executed for disregarding the foolish order (1 Samuel 14:24-45). A time came where the Philistines were gathered to battle King Saul's army and the frightened king knew he could not win but hoped he could find help. There had been a time when God had guided him, but now he had sinned against God so he could not expect a blessing from that source. In desperation, Saul turned to the witch at Endor to contact the dead Samuel for advice (1 Samuel 28:3-25) in which his doom was predicted by an apparent appearance of the dead Samuel instead of the usual familiar spirits (1 Samuel 28:4-25). Saul died during a battle with the Philistines the very next day (1 Samuel 31:1-13).

1.4. Secret Societies

The Oxford Universal Dictionary defines secret society as "*An organization formed to promote some cause by secret methods, its members being sworn to observe secrecy*". Many cults may be characterised as secret societies as many of their memberships, proceedings, procedures and rituals are kept secret. Secret societies are illegal in several countries. In the European Union, Poland has made the ban a part of its constitution. Many secret societies have been established on university campuses including, Skull and Bones (1832) at Yale University, the Order of the Bull's Blood (1834) at Rutgers University and the Bishop James Madison Society (1812) at The College of William & Mary. The first collegiate secret society was the FHC Club (1750), followed by Phi Beta Kappa (1776), both founded at William & Mary. William & Mary's early exposure to secret societies allowed these types of organizations to flourish there. It now serves as host to at least five, including the 7 Society, the 13 Club, the Alpha Club, the FHC, and the Bishop James Madison Society.

According to the Reverend Alexander Hislop, author of the book "The Two Babylons: The Papal Worship", secret societies can be traced back to Nimrod, who became, after his death, the first of sacred mortals. After the great flood, survived only by Noah and his family, a mighty man and warrior arose in what is now known as ancient Babylon. His name was Nimrod, and he commanded a tremendous presence upon what is today known as ancient Babylon. Nimrod established a satanic system of idolatry openly, with many people flocking to this worship. At this time, the predominant religious system that ruled the world was the worship of the One True God. Soon after Nimrod established his alternative religion, based upon witchcraft and idolatry, Shem, one of Noah's sons, was greatly angered and was motivated by Almighty God to remove Nimrod. Shem militarily attacked Nimrod, defeating him, and taking him prisoner. Shem executed Nimrod and many of his satanic priests and followers. As an example of the thorough nature of his victory, Shem ordered Nimrod's body to be cut into pieces. Each of these pieces was sent throughout the known world to demonstrate to everyone that the worship of Satan through idolatry and witchcraft would not be tolerated. The world seemed safe from this tide of evil. However, Nimrod's wife, Semiramus, and some surviving priests, joined forces to create a secret, underground religion.

They deified Nimrod, creating a counterfeit to the True Messiah, Jesus Christ. They created a system of Satanic Mysteries destined to spread over the entire world. The teachings of these "Mysteries", as they came to be called, very subtly led men back to the very system of Nimrod's magic and idolatry, which Shem had so vigorously destroyed. This false path was made appealing to men by promising them hidden knowledge, by enticing them with the allure of keeping such knowledge secret, and binding them together with severe oaths and secret signs and handshakes. This, then, was the beginning of the secret societies, starting several generations after the great flood, in approximately 2200 B.C. Secret Societies have existed, therefore, for over 4,000 years of human history; they literally were Satan's church from the beginning. Through the ages and still today, members of the occult are taught that certain subjects were revealed to men in secret societies. Some of these subjects include geometry, astronomy, physics, medicine, higher mathematics, music, art, literature and the planting of subliminal messages.

Level of Influence and Probable Fruits

All secret societies have very specific stipulations and rules for being part of the organization and everyone associated with the organization must take a vow of secrecy bounded by conditions. If the vow of secrecy or any other related covenant should be broken by any member, curses will be released against the individual, his or her loved ones and descendants. Fear plays a very important part of any secret society. Fear keeps many people in bondage; fear of death, fear of sickness, fear for loss of loved ones etc. The same is applicable as for curses. The fruits of the secret society will be dependant on what was done via rituals etc. For example in Freemasonry rituals include death and resurrection, blood oaths, phallus worship etc.; In the Knight Templar rituals include black magic, pederasty (anal intercourse, usually with a boy), Satanism, sex-worship (phallicism), sodomy etc.

What the Bible says about Secret Societies

Jesus warns against being deceived, in Matthew 24:4-5, 11, and 24. In verse 24, Jesus quantified this type of deception as He warned, *"...if it were possible, they [False Prophets] shall deceive the very elect"*. This prophesied deception is to be so sophisticated and so believable it will deceive virtually every person on earth who is not saved. Secret societies are in conflict with the teachings of Holy Scripture. A Christian must never affiliate with any organization that:

- Yokes together believers with unbelievers in unholy alliances (2 Corinthians 6:14-18);
- Requires a pledge to unscriptural oaths which are sealed by using the name of God improperly or in vain (Exodus 20:7, Leviticus 5:4-6, Matthew 5:34-37, James 5:12);
- Represents itself as providing teaching in harmony with the Bible when in fact it does not (2 Peter 3:16);
- Represents itself as being religious and offers a false hope of salvation through works, yet dishonours the only true God and our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ (John 17:3, 1 Timothy 2:3-6, Colossians 2:8-10, Ephesians 2:8,9).

The Christian should be very careful to do what is right in the eyes of other; not to be deceived by "group pressures" or "people pleasing" (Romans 12:17; Acts 5:29). Secretively meeting behind closed doors in a lodge where activities are carried on behind a cloak of secrecy, in favour of fellow members, usually for economic, social,

or political advantage hardly describes doing what is right in the eyes of everybody. "*Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord*" (2 Corinthians 6:17). This is God's advice for Christians and is certainly applicable in regard to secret societies.

1.5. Broken Covenants

The Oxford Universal Dictionary defines a covenant:

- (n) A mutual agreement between two or more persons to do or refrain from doing certain acts; sometimes the undertaking of one of the parties; a vow; a formal agreement; in English Law a promise or contract under seal
- (v) To enter into a covenant; to contract; to agree or subscribe to by covenant

A blood covenant is the most enduring, most solemn and most sacred of all contracts on earth. When a blood covenant is entered into, a contract is made whereby both parties covenant to give life, love and protection for ever until death parts you. It cannot be broken. An example of a blood covenant is the marriage covenant. Violating a blood covenant was punishable with death. The blood covenant originated from the earliest days, when God taught man and covenanting was a universal custom. It has been practiced in some form or another by many nations in existence.

Nine Steps for entering into a blood covenant:

1. Removal and exchange of coat or robe – The coat or robe represented the person, their character and their nature. Interpretation: "If I give you my coat, I give you myself, my being and my life as a pledge".
2. Removal and exchange of belt – The belt kept the clothing and armour together; dagger, bow, arrows and sword. It represented strength and support. Interpretation: "If I give you my belt, I give you all my strength and ability in warfare". If the one party is attacked, the other party is attacked. The one's battles become the others. The one party will fight with the other party; help, defend and protect.
3. Cut the covenant – an animal is cut into two equal halves, laid open on both sides of the parties, with their backs towards each other. The two parties walk in the middle of these halves towards each other. When reaching one another they will turn around to face each other. This represented that both parties are denying their rights to their own lives, denying to self and walking a new sacrificial life. As covenant partners walking between the pieces of the sacrifice, a symbol of their binding contract, the partners declare pointing to the split torn apart animal. One partner will do so to the other partner and more if one tries to break this covenant: divide him/her in two and feed the parts to the vultures if one violates the sacred contract.
4. Mix blood – an incision is made in the palms or wrists of the right hands and they are clasped together until the blood intermingles. The parties then swore allegiance to each other.
5. Exchange names – the parties then exchange names represented of exchanging authority and reputation.
6. Make a scar – ash is rubbed into the incisions to make the scars permanently, the mark of the covenant man. When a scar is seen by another party they know that more is involved than what meets the eye.
7. The terms – each party declares out load (and list) that all assets, money, property, possessions and liabilities are belonging to the other party. This is done in front of witnesses.
8. The meal – bread is broken and wine is drunk, representing taking part in each other.

9. Memorial stones – stones are stacked or a tree is planted and the blood of the slain animal is sprinkled on it as a memorial for all to see.

The parties now become true friends, a term used only of blood brothers. From now on their families are forever related by a blood covenant, including all their descendants.

Level of Influence and Probable Fruits

Broken covenants can influence a person on all three level: body, soul and spirit. It could result in any kind of fruit: health problems, debt, poverty, blessings lost etc. Violating a blood covenant was punishable with death; therefore death could be a result.

What the Bible says about Covenants

A covenant is a sovereign administration of grace, divine in its origin, disclosure, confirmation and fulfilment. All biblical covenants were blood covenants. The Hebrew word for covenant is BERITH and the Greek word is DIATHEKE. Both literally mean "TO CUT". It means to cut a covenant by shedding blood and walking between two pieces of flesh. Biblical examples of covenants are:

- Jacob and Laban (Genesis 21:21-34; 31:44-45)
- David and Jonathan (Samuel 18:1-9)
- God and Abraham (Genesis 17)

Biblical Example of Broken Covenants (2 Samuel 21:1)

"There was a three-year famine in the days of David, year after year; and David inquired of the Lord. The Lord replied: it is on account of Saul and his bloody house, for he put to death the Gibeonites."

There was a famine in the land, and David equated that famine to the blessing or lack of blessing from God. He sought God in finding out why there was a famine. The Lord answers him *"It is on account of Saul and his blood-stained house; it is because he put the Gibeonites to death"* in 2 Samuel 21:1b. Many years earlier, when Joshua entered the Promised Land, the Israelites were tricked by the Gibeonites into believing they were travellers when they were actually enemies of Israel. The Gibeonites tricked Israel into making a peace treaty (covenant) with them. It was one of the first major mistakes Israel made after entering the Promised Land. As a result of the peace treaty, the Gibeonites were kept as slaves to Israel. This was never God's intention for Israel. God wanted Israel to destroy all their enemies, but they made an error in judgment that required that they honour a covenant with the Gibeonites. Saul made a decision to disregard this covenant with the Gibeonites and sought to annihilate them. David sensed there was something preventing God's blessing on Israel. As a nation they had violated a covenant made before God. Now they were reaping the consequences.

1.6. Sexual Immorality

There are definite *biblical* restrictions on sexual acts which are broader called sexual immorality (Greek "porneia").

Examples of Sexual Immoralities

- Adultery - Sex outside of marriage. One of the sexual partners is married.
- Sexual Idolatry - temple prostitutes for pagan fertility goddess worship. Sex used as a form of worship.
- Pederasty - The practice of pederasty falls into three distinct styles. (1) The relationship between an older man and a young boy, (2) the practice of slave prostitutes, (3) the effeminate "call boy" or male prostitute. Other practices included a heterosexual male degrading another heterosexual male by anal intercourse after capturing them in battle.
- Fornication – Sex practiced outside of marriage.
- Homosexuality - a man or woman who engages in sexual activity with another member of the same sex. Such activity usually leads to an orgasmic experience. A lesbian is a woman homosexual. She usually brings her female partner to sexual climax by manipulation of the clitoris with either her finger or tongue. Latent homosexuality is the cruel and harmful term (attributed to Sigmund Freud) suggesting that some people are born with homosexual tendencies.
- Paedophilia - involves reoccurring sexual arousal and desires or fantasies involving sexual impulses toward a pre-adolescent child or children. The paedophile must be above age 16, and the sexual attraction must involve a child of age 13 or younger who is at least 5 years younger than the adult. A paedophile has either acted on these sexual impulses, or the fantasies and /or sexual arousal and impulses disturb the individual. The paedophile is sexually aroused because the child is a child, regardless of the paedophile's sexual orientation, or the child's gender. Different types include fixated, regressed, cross-sex, same-sex, and female paedophilia.
- Bestiality (Bestiality) – sex with animals
- Prostetution – sex for money

Level of Influence and Probable Roots and Fruits

Social Immoralities can influence a person on all three levels: body, soul and spirit. Fruits can vary depending on the immorality act; anything from lust, health problems, hatred, rejection, through to sexual problems, marriage problems, conceiving problems, etc.

Probable roots could include: the result of abnormal personality development, rejection in the womb, overindulgent mother, cold or distant parent, growing up feeling like a failure, fear of rejection, inability to relate to the opposite sex, feelings of not having any friends, losing relationships, break in the relations bonds within the family producing a lack of a sense belonging/affirmation.

What the Bible Say about Sexual Immorality

Christians obey the precepts and statutes of the Bible because they have been justified as children of God. They do not obey them in order to be justified. What the Bible has to say:

- Looking on a woman lustfully is adulterous. Matthew 5:27-28:
"You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart"

- Put to death sexual immorality. Colossians 3:5-7:
"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived"
- Sexual sins come from the heart. Matthew 15:19-20:
"For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean'"
- Sexual immorality, including premarital sex (fornication), is described in detail as sin against God and your body, the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:12-20).
- The sexually immoral will not inherit the kingdom of God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10:
"Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God"
- Homosexuality is a sin. Whenever the Lord Jesus Christ talks about human sexuality He uses the original creation of man as a point of reference. Matthew 19:4 God makes it clear that homosexuality is so serious that it warrants the maximum penalty: Leviticus 20:13 states *"If a man lies with a male as if he were a woman, both men have committed an offence (something perverse, unnatural, abhorrent, and detestable); they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them."*

1.7. Traumatic Historical Events

Traumatic history events are events that occurred in history, which had traumatic results or influences on people and the society.

Examples of Traumatic Historical Events

Examples could include natural disasters, bloodshed, wars, assassinations and persecutions. Well known events were the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Hitler's persecution of the Jews, World War I, etc.

Level of Influence and Probable Fruits

Traumatic history events could have influenced a person on all three levels: body, soul and spirit. There is a distinction between the person executing the act, the victim and the people in the line of influence like family, a nation etc. All mentioned could have experienced fruits in their lives. Any fruit can be experienced depending on the act; anything from trauma, fear, rejection through to mental problems.

Social Deviations and Crime

Social deviance is behaviour that violates the significant social norms of a group or society. The concept of deviance is different from statistical abnormality and its definition varies according to the social circumstances surrounding the deviant behaviour. For this study only deviant behaviour that is bad or unacceptable will be looked at. Deviant behaviour is not necessarily criminal behaviour. Every society must have ways to limit the actions of people in order to make them want to conform to social norms. Deviance is culturally transmitted and learned through socialisation. Crime is a behaviour that is prohibited by a government authority and that can be punished

through the application of formal sanctions. The main categories of crime include crime against persons, crime against property, victimless or moral crime, organised crime and white-collar crime.

Examples of Social Deviance and Crime

Examples are theft, murder, rape, vandalism, hatred, abortions, assault, molestation, suicide. In order to limit people's action Roman Catholicism created the Seven Deadly Sins; pride, envy, gluttony, lust, anger/wrath, greed/avarice and sloth. The Bible also lay down rules and draw lines: In the Old Testament there where the Ten Commandments to be adhered to: (1) you shall not serve other gods, (2) you shall not take the Name of the Lord in vain, (3) keep holy the sabbath day (4) honor your father and your mother (5) you shall not kill, (6) you shall not commit adultery, (7) you shall not steal, (8) you shall not bear false witness, (9) you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, (10) you shall not covet your neighbour's goods.

Level of Influence and Probable Fruits

Social deviance and crime can influence a person on all three levels: body, soul and spirit. There is a distinction between the person executing the deviance or crime and the victim. Both could experience fruit in their lives. Any fruit can be experienced depending on the act; anything from trauma, fear, through to sexual problems.

Sins of the flesh, according Gal 5:19-21 are: ¹⁹*Now the doings (practices) of the flesh are clear (obvious): they are immorality, impurity, indecency,* ²⁰*Idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger (ill temper), selfishness, divisions (dissensions), party spirit (factions, sects with peculiar opinions, heresies),* ²¹*Envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*(Also see Romans 7:5; Romans 8:5,8; James 1:13-15 Titus 3:3)

Romans 6:23 states that the penalty for sin is death: *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in [Or through] Christ Jesus our Lord."*

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