

Associates for Scriptural Knowledge • P.O. Box 25000, Portland, OR 97298-0990, USA

© ASK, February 2020 • Telephone: 503 292 4352

Webpage on the Internet: <http://www.askelm.com> • E-Mail address: askoffice@askelm.com

Dear Associates and Friends,

February 2020

This month's article is "[Magic in the Bible](#)." No, the article is not about using the Bible as a tool for doing magic, but it is an examination of magic in the Holy Scriptures. Why should magic be avoided? Magic necessitates cooperation with spirit beings which is necessary for magical processes to be successful. Magic is a method of idolatry. It requires people to associate with lesser gods to obtain what YHWH, the Creator, will not provide to the magic user when and how he or she wants it. God designates magic as evil that all believers, Israelites and Gentiles (whether they observe the Old Covenant, New Covenant, or the Mystery teachings of Scripture), should avoid and oppose in every way. God will punish the use of magic, as you will read.

Demons in the Gospels and Acts

Did you ever wonder why there were so many instances of spirit possession in the Gospels and in Acts of the Apostles? It almost seems as if the spirits were attracted to the Messiah of Israel and the Savior of the world, or were they assigned by Satan to monitor what Jesus was doing?

Whatever the case, vast crowds were listening to Jesus teach about the Kingdom of God.¹ In Luke chapters 9 and 10 Jesus deliberately stirred up the spirit realm, like throwing a stick at a beehive.

"Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils [*daimonia*], and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. ... And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing everywhere. ...

The apostles, when they were returned, told him all that they had done. And he took them, and went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida."

• *Luke 9:1–2, 6, 10*

The people did not give them privacy but followed Jesus and His disciples.

"After these things the Lord appointed other seventy [disciples, some manuscripts have "seventy-two"] also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come."

• *Luke 10:1*

Then Jesus also gave them detailed instructions on how to handle themselves in their travels and preaching, and how to handle opposition to their message.

"Heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, 'The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.' ... He that hears you hears me; and he that despises you despises me; and he that despises me despises him [God] that sent me."

• *Luke 10:9, 16*

"And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, 'Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through your name.' And he said unto them,

'Beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents

¹ Read Dr. Martin's article, "[Salvation and the Kingdom of God](#)."

and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.”

• *Luke 10:17–20*

Jesus was not telling them about Satan falling from heaven several thousand years ago. He saw Satan fall at some time after He sent out the seventy disciples to preach, teach, heal, and subject the spirits who were oppressing and possessing the people. Jesus, through His apostles and disciples, disrupted Satan’s plans with their preaching the message of the Kingdom and salvation of God. It was so effective that Satan **“as lightening” dove to earth** from heaven to pick up the remains of his shattered kingdom. Indeed, their **“names are written in heaven.”** Enjoy this month’s article.

Be Wise for Good, Artless for Evil

The apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Rome toward the end of his epistle:

“For your obedience reached out [is known] to all. Over you, then, am I rejoicing. Now I am wanting you to be wise, indeed, for good, yet artless for evil. Now the God of peace will be crushing Satan under your feet swiftly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you!”

• *Romans 16:20, Concordant Literal Version*

Bequests and Legacies

Keep in mind that ASK gratefully receives bequests from estates, trusts, or legacies. However, please let us know that you are leaving a bequest — in writing — so we may properly follow-up when appropriate. We know that many of you appreciate the work of ASK, and we are grateful that you keep us in your thoughts for the future. However, remember always that family comes first:

“A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.”

• *Proverbs 13:22*

I hope you will consider ASK as those of **“the just”** and that our efforts are worthy of consideration in your estate planning. As I wrote in the July 2009 Newsletter when I last wrote on this subject:

“ASK is a legacy of love that God and Christ have made available to you, the family of God, and to the world through Dr. Martin’s works and research, and we are privileged to assist in that work being preserved, and hopefully grow so we can better serve you all.”

One Last Reminder

This is your last reminder to request a receipt for your 2019 contributions for your tax records. Of course, you can ask at any time for last year’s contribution accounting, but I will not remind you again this year. Like so many things in this world, if you don’t ask, you won’t get, at least not automatically.

Thank You

To all of you, we are grateful for all your contributions. God has led many of you to graciously contribute to ASK and we pray you are happy to do so and that God will bless you for doing so. If you have not yet contributed to ASK, but have been taught useful information about God, Christ, the Holy Scriptures, your salvation and the salvation of all human beings to become mature children of God, various important information on doctrine, prophecy, the Temples in Jerusalem — if any of this has taught you, we ask you to begin to help fund ASK. Thank you for helping us continue teaching you.

David W. Sielaff
david@askelm.com