

Asking God vs. Asking Satan

These are from a book I was just e-booking for my anti-spiritualism site and I realize that in this we can see the attitudes of Adventism today: spiritualism to the hilt! Book--Dowsing by Ben Hester.

The "knowledge of good and evil" and eventual death is what mankind bought at the price of alienation from God. Yet this very action, with its catastrophic results is hailed by the occult as a beautiful happening, a "necessity in the evolution of man". It is forbidden in occult teaching to condemn "sin" since it is touted as necessary to growth, with Satan, called by his former name, Lucifer, revered as the leader in this growth process.

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The consideration here of prayer versus the occult as a means of satisfying our needs and wants deserves a little more reflection. Why are results from prayer so uncommon, and why are results from requests to the occult power source so immediate, satisfactory, and attractive? The answer is found in history. Through the eyes of history the present-day problem is suddenly clarified.

Our illustration starts with the early Hebrews. The descendants of Abraham (the "children of Israel") as pictured in the Old Testament, made a covenant with God. The dictionary defines covenant as "a binding and solemn agreement". In this historic covenant the people agreed to keep the "commandments" of God, and in return God agreed to keep the people safe, provide a home in the garden land of the world (in what is today barren desert), and keep them healthy and prosperous. This covenant was for a purpose. These people were to be the earth's leaders, guided by God. What could be more ideal? Yet for some hard-to-understand reason the people broke this covenant time after time. On the surface it would appear that these "chosen people" were so stupid as to be unable to exercise good judgment. However this was not the case. Even today, after many hundreds of years away from their original broken covenant Jews are quietly ensconced in the leadership of science, politics, banking, art, music, and all human endeavor in the world. Why did they fail?

First, there must be some understanding of the reality of the supernatural in this people-to-God relationship. Not only was the miraculous almost commonplace, there was almost direct contact with God through their religious leaders. It seems to us today that this would have been something impossible to turn from. However, there is evidence that there were also miraculous happenings in the pagan world surrounding these people. There is evidence in the biblical references to the other gods, that there was an ongoing Satanic attempt to match the miraculous happenings of the true God relationship.

However, there was one vast difference, and this is the key—then and today. God demanded right living, morality, and justice of his people. It was in the covenant. Paganism made no such demands. It fostered unbelievable immorality, licentiousness and freedom from any restraint. A perusal of their religious rites shows a picture of such unbelievable brutality, lasciviousness and gore to be mind-numbing to our present-day morality. This no-restraint society, plus what must have been an impressive display of occult manifestations and the use to which people could put

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them, appealed to these strong, virile, headstrong men of the man oriented society. There were the continually tempting no-restraint religions just a step across the border.

The standards Moses set up reflect how barbarous the world of that day really was. His requirement that all the people in a neighborhood take active part in the execution of a neighbor who broke the law, and the custom of an eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth was undoubtedly the only means possible of getting through to them. This is clearly seen in a thoughtful reading of the Old Testament. The headlong wallowing in paganism marked their behavior for years after a return to the true God. Even such a strong figure as King Solomon built temples to the pagan gods to please his women, even while worshipping the true God, and his paganistic leanings are plainly seen.

The principle of the difference in religions is still with us today. The fact that we do not see the extremes or the overt supernatural manifestations today is not germane to our problem. The opposing forces are still there, and the same offer of benefits from the supernatural without any prerequisite of right living is the same old temptation to paganism. To come before God and be heard, still requires repentance, confession, and obedience. It includes a willingness to accept responsibility and a giving over of the will to God. **So much of the teaching we are given today is sort of a total immersion in a gigantic love blob they call God, without any mention of responsibility following conversion.** It certainly shows up when answer to prayer is demanded. The reality is so different from the emotional theory. "Thy will be done" is the most difficult prayer to learn.

None of this is a problem in approaching the occult for favors. No right living; no change of character; not even the intention to do good is required. And it is all buttered over with friendliness and good will. It is easy, immediate and inviting. Come and talk to the spirits with us. Come join our humanism. Come practice sorcery (dowsing) with us. Come join us in our pagan religions. We are such friendly people. We are your brothers. This invitation is as old as mankind. This is why, no matter if you are a good or evil man, you can practice divination (dowse) successfully. This is not our paranoid fantasy. The whole story of dowsing and other aspects of the occult contain these facts.