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SPIRITS OF THE DEAD MY FIRST BIBLE TEACHING LESSON

When I was but a lad of 16 or 17, Mother took me to a national convention of spiritualist mediums (readers, those who channel, have a spirit guide). They were going to channel messages from the dead to the live people at the convention. They call it a seance. Mother went to places like that in hopes of hearing from my older brother, John.

Mother knew that I had recently "got religion" and she wanted to instruct me in her own brand of religion before I got too far away from her ideas. She was too late because I was a Bible student already.

A SPIRITUALIST CONVENTION

The convention speaker read from the Bible, to set a religious tone for the meeting. I was only recently saved myself, and I didn't know much about the Bible - but I knew he was not telling the whole truth. He was telling half the story, and I knew it and he made me mad.

He read half the Bible story about King Saul - when he consulted with the spirit of Samuel. You probably know the story better than I did, but here is part of what he read (Read the whole story from your own Bible when you can).

A FAMILIAR SPIRIT

I Samuel 28:7-8, "Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and inquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor. And Saul ... said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee."

ARE KINGS ALWAYS RIGHT?

He stopped reading here to describe the fact that the King of Israel inquired of a spiritualist medium (had a familiar spirit). He reasoned that it was the right thing to do because the King of Israel did it. I knew that he was wrong because Saul died for doing that, but at the time I couldn't prove it because I didn't know enough of what the Bible said, or where it said it.

BRING ME UP SAMUEL

He continued, (28:9-14) "And Saul sware to her by the LORD, saying, As the LORD liveth, there shall no punishment happen to thee for this thing. Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel. And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou art Saul. And the King said unto her, Be not afraid: for what sawest thou? And the woman said unto Saul, I saw gods ascending out of the earth. And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he is covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself."

The speaker concluded that this proves that it is good to make inquiry of the spirit world through spiritualists.

I knew he was wrong but I sat through the meeting quietly to see what else would happen.

NOTHING WORKED

A spiritualist speaker was then invited to raise a spirit and channel a message - but no spirit came.

A famous medium from Florida was called upon - but there was no spirit and no message.

Others tried, seemed perplexed, failed, and gave their turn to others.

WHAT'S WRONG?

They conferred privately on the platform. The leader then announced that there was someone present in the meeting who had a spirit that was stronger than theirs. That's why they could not raise the spirits of the dead. The afternoon

meeting was canceled but they guaranteed that the evening meeting would be successful and produce messages from the departed spirits.

THAT BOY HAS A STRONGER SPIRIT

As we left, all the dignitaries surrounded my mother and shook their fingers in her face and pointed at me and said, "DON'T YOU DARE BRING THAT BOY BACK HERE! HIS SPIRIT IS STRONGER THAN OURS. HE CONTROLLED OUR MEETING."

Mother was embarrassed and humiliated. She hadn't noticed anything that I had done that was wrong, but deep within her she agreed that it was my fault. I didn't know what happened either, but inside I agreed that they were right - my spirit did control the meeting. They couldn't operate with me there.

That night Mother and Dad went back to the convention but I went to my room and studied the Bible all night and way into the next morning. Back then I didn't know much about using a center reference or a concordance, so it took a long time to find the facts. I did find enough to present my first Bible lesson the next morning.

MY FIRST BIBLE LESSON

At breakfast I asked Dad if he wanted to hear the whole Bible story about King Saul and raising departed spirits. Dad said yes. I had my first audience.

We talked about the night before. Dad said that my brother John was not contacted but several other people received messages from their departed ancestors.

I agreed that it was possible to raise the spirits of the dead because the Bible said she raised the spirit of Samuel. I have heard erroneous pastors say that it is impossible, and that mediums are fakes who use magic lanterns and microphones. Sure there must be fakes. But, my Bible study and life experience have shown me that the story of Saul consulting with the spirit of Samuel is true. But, just because it works doesn't make it the right thing to do. In fact the Bible says it is the wrong thing to do.

THE WRONG THING TO DO

I read this scripture, that I had found in Bible study the night before, to Dad. It told why Saul died. It was way over in Chronicles, not in the book of Samuel where the speaker had read the night before. "So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not,

and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to inquire of it." (I Chronicles 10:8)

SAUL DIED

FOR CONSULTING A FAMILIAR SPIRIT

Saul died because he asked a lady with a familiar spirit (spiritualist) to tell him about the future (act as a fortune teller). Perhaps you can guess why the spiritualist speaker did not turn the Bible from Samuel to Chronicles to finish the story.

A DIFFERENCE

Then we talked about the big difference between our seeking the departed spirits and the case when our GOD sends the spirit of a departed loved one back here to us to bring comfort or instruction.

BE SOUGHT

Many Christians have confided the fact to me that their departed husband, wife, child or parent came to them near the time of the funeral. I always encourage them by telling them that I believe God sent the spirit of their departed loved one to help them. Then I warn them to not tell it to the church, because this difference is too subtle for most of the church to understand. It is OK if the spirit is sent from the Father to you. It's NOT OK if you seek the spirit.

FAMILIAR SPIRIT MISSING?

Recently I learned some more things about "FAMILIAR SPIRITS." The word "FAMILIAR" as in "FAMILIAR SPIRIT" is not in the original Bible, even though it is in the KJV. Look up the word "FAMILIAR" in STRONG'S CONCORDANCE. It's not there - even though it appears in the KJV many times. Look up the word "SPIRIT" and sometimes you will find the word "FAMILIAR" in front of it - most of the time you won't.

When you look them up you will find an amazing thing. Every time the word "FAMILIAR" appears before the word "SPIRIT" a new and different STRONG'S number appears for the word "SPIRIT." In other words, the Hebrew word for "FAMILIAR SPIRIT" is nothing like the word for "HOLY SPIRIT." The word we use for "HOLY SPIRIT" is STRONG'S 7307, RUWASH, see Isaiah 61:1. But the word for "FAMILIAR SPIRIT" is 178, OWB.

A FAMILIAR SPIRIT IS A BOTTLE

Now hold on to your hat. You won't believe this until you check it out for yourself. The word OWB (178) means "BOTTLE." A "FAMILIAR SPIRIT" is a "BOTTLE." Here is where OWB (178) was also translated "BOTTLE" in your own Bible:

Job 32:19, "Behold, my belly is as wine which hath no vent; it is ready to burst like new BOTTLES (178 - FAMILIAR SPIRITS)." ie., burst like "FAMILIAR SPIRITS."

How does a new leather "BOTTLE" burst? How does a "FAMILIAR SPIRIT" burst? STRONG'S gives us a clue. "178, a mumble, a water skin - from its hollow sound." To me that is like the resonant sound of blowing over the opening of a jug - like mountain music, or it could be like the sudden report of a tire rupturing, followed by the hissing noise of the escaping air. At seances the participants are encouraged to agree and blend their voices together to produce a resonant sound - AOOOOOM. Lately the TV has shown us something never before seen in our society, an Arab woman grieving at a funeral, making a musical note with her voice box, and trilling the note by moving her tongue side to side in her mouth. Take your pick or make up your own idea of the sound of a rupturing bottle.

GENIE IN A BOTTLE?

Aladdin's lamp? A spirit in a jug? Rub the lamp and out comes Genie? The etymology of 178 (OWB) produced those stories? Interesting. So when we read about a person with a "FAMILIAR SPIRIT" we should have a mental picture of a person with a bottle, and who makes a resonate sound to conjure up the departed spirit.

The term "FAMILIAR SPIRIT" doesn't make any sense. The bottle picture does. By the way, the translators could have translated the expression "a woman with a familiar spirit" into something more understandable like "a woman with a bottle" just exactly like they did when they used the word "bottle" in Job.

GO A WHORING

The law tells us what is wrong with consulting people with familiar spirits.

Leviticus 20:6, "And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people."

Go a whoring after them? That is SPIRITUAL ADULTERY. Adultery with spirits? Yes. Adultery takes place in: 1. SPIRIT, 2. SOUL and 3. BODY. The spirit should go after our GOD and Him only. Our GOD is a spirit. Our spirits are attracted to our GOD. But they can also be attracted to other spirits like the departed spirits of our ancestors. We want to know if we can help them. We want to know if they can help us. We want to know what it is like on the other

side. We want to know if they would do anything different. We want to know what our GOD has in store for us. We want to know.

SPIRITUAL ADULTERY

To take these questions to God is wholesome constructive love. But, to take the same questions (or other questions or communications) to any other spirit is SPIRITUAL ADULTERY. To turn after such as have FAMILIAR SPIRITS is to go a WHORING after them, the Bible says.

NO CONDEMNATION

We all know that our saviour JESUS did not condemn the adulterous woman.

John 8:11, "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."

We should apply the same pattern that JESUS used for the adulterous woman to one who commits spiritual adultery. I don't think that JESUS will condemn a person for going a whoring after a departed spirit.

STOP IT

I never plan to condemn anyone who, in the past, has consulted with FAMILIAR SPIRITS. But a good Bible teacher must add, "Now go and sin no more" like JESUS said. STOP IT. STOP IT!

If you know someone who has committed spiritual adultery by consorting with a person who has a familiar spirit, then tell that dear mistaken one that our JESUS will forgive them. All they have to do is ask. They will not suffer any condemnation from JESUS or the Godhead. Remind them that in the future they should take their questions to God - not familiar spirits. It may be wise to also remind them that most of the church is still under the gospel of the circumcision (a mixture of law and grace) so they better keep it quiet.

SO WHAT'S NEW?

A short while ago I attended a Charismatic meeting and was shocked to find that it turned out to have many of the same activities that I saw at the spiritualist convention that mother took me to years ago. The expressed desire of the speaker was to communicate with the spirits of dead ancestors. The new idea was that much of the trouble that we have in our own lives is because of a problem in the life of our departed ancestor. The problem was supposed to have been passed genetically, like the color of your eyes. It was explained that ministry to the departed spirit would help them and result in our own release from our present problems. I was polite and not quarrelsome, though I did not

think that the Bible agrees with the theology expressed. Polite social conduct does not mean agreement, as some people erroneously think.

"The son shall NOT bear the iniquity of the father." (Ez. 18:20, Deut. 24:16, 2 Kings 14:6, 2 Chr. 25:4, Jer. 31:29-30) That's one reason why I think the theology is wrong.

NO SPIRITS AGAIN

No spirits were raised while I was present in the meeting, though there were several tries at raising them. I was told that there was success in raising the departed spirits at private sessions after the public meetings. If you are going to have a seance, don't include me.

A STRONGER SPIRIT

I think I learned a little bit more about the time when JESUS had to exercise His stronger spirit. His spirit had to be stronger than many combined spirits.

Mark 5:2-13, "And when he (JESUS) was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, ... and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? (EL ELYON) I adjure thee by God (ELOHIM), that thou torment me not."

Stop. Look. Listen. That was an unclean spirit giving orders to JESUS in the name of the God (ELOHIM) of the unclean spirit. Incredible!!

He tried to withstand JESUS, but he couldn't. He even appealed to God Himself but it didn't work. It was a contest of spirits.

"Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea ..."

THE CONTEST

JESUS was operating in the name, nature, spirit power of EL ELYON, His creator Father. (Luke 1:32, 35) The contest occurred because the demons were operating in the name, nature, spirit power of ELOHIM, their creator (Father).

They had the nerve to adjure (set a limit upon, order to stop) JESUS in the name nature of their God ELOHIM. The demons were created by ELOHIM (YAHWEH in concert with EL SHADDAI to become ELOHIM, Amos 3:6, Deuteronomy 32:39, Isaiah 45:7). They were doing just what they were created to do.

GO JUMP IN THE LAKE!

But JESUS is the son of EL ELYON, the Most High God. So JESUS had the highest power over them. He said. What's your name? Into the pigs with you! Go jump in the lake!

YE ARE GODS (ELOHIM)

When the woman brought up the departed spirit of Samuel for Saul, she said she saw gods. That word "gods" is ELOHIM (430). She saw ELOHIMS. It is the same word as the God (ELOHIM) of the demons who adjured JESUS. In other words Samuel was an ELOHIM. You are an ELOHIM. The spirit of your forefather is an ELOHIM. Hard to believe? Try this!

Psalms 82:6, "I have said, Ye are gods (ELOHIMS); and all of you are children (not mature yet) of the most High (EL ELYON)."

Those demons were the creation of ELOHIM. But, you are the creation of EL ELYON, the Most High God. I know that you need the thoughts in my new book about the Names Of God. I work on it as often as I can, and I'll let you know when it is ready.

DISTURBED SPIRITS

It is disturbing to find that some Charismatic friends are starting to play with departed spirits. Playing around can lead to spiritual adultery.

No. I don't want to debate these issues or to be contentious. I do want to present my personal testimony and also present my Bible study on departed spirits.

IT HAD TO BE SAID

This message may stir up a hornets nest of angry spirits. Therefore, we have decided to ask you to join with us in prayer for protection by our GOD for our whole family.

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My back is now completely healed. Praise GOD.
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This ministry can not exist apart from the continued prayers and financial support of our students, readers and friends.

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SCHUYLER TODD SUTTON, our healthy 10th grandchild was born to DIANE (our 3rd child, 2nd daughter) and JEFF SUTTON on March 20, 1991 (their 4th child, 2nd son). Mother and son look great on Grandpa's lap (Dad's lap too).
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