

## Part 3 – Roots in the Land ROOT OF THE OCCULT

### Introduction:

The third root, the root of the occult is our topic for today and next week. The word occult is a word that I think we are all familiar with but perhaps do not understand. We think that the occult is far removed from our society, our circles of influence. The truth is that the occult is all around us and gaining popularity with each day. Just turn on your TV or watch a movie, the occult has mainlined.

The word occult can be defined as: matters regarded as involving the action or influence of supernatural powers or some secret knowledge of them. There is a hidden component to the occult. The word also has the meaning: to shut off from view or exposure. The true source of the power at work is secretive.

This is why the supernatural manifestation of God's power is not occult. God works in the open. It is His desire to know and be known. There is, however, another who works in the shadows, who hides his true intentions and shrouds them in secrecy until you are entangled and ensnared. It is this secret supernatural power which is the manifestation of the kingdom of darkness which is a root that needs to be exposed, unearthed, severed and removed from the land.

There are things, occult involvements, which people, find themselves entangled with that affect not only their lives but those around them now and in generations to come. In dealing with the root of the occult, within ourselves, we must become aware of the symptoms and then be willing to accept deliverance from them. Only then can we be affective in ministering deliverance to the people of the land.

Deuteronomy 18:9-14 <sup>9</sup> When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations.

<sup>10</sup> There shall not be found among you *anyone* who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, *or one* who practices witchcraft, *or* a soothsayer, *or* one who interprets omens, *or* a sorcerer, <sup>11</sup> *or* one who conjures spells, *or* a medium, *or* a spiritist, *or* one who calls up the dead. <sup>12</sup> For all who do these things *are* an abomination to the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord your God

drives them out from before you. <sup>13</sup> You shall be blameless before the Lord your God. <sup>14</sup> For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the Lord your God has not appointed such for you.”

Christian, regardless of how many other Christians are doing it, watching it, fascinated by it, the occult and its activities, God has not appointed such for you! If we get far along enough in this today, some of you will be upset with me. You will feel like you are being attacked, or that I am overboard, or that I am just turning over stones, or that I am just plain ol’ no fun. But this is serious. Occult involvement opens a door for Satan and his hosts to work in you, your family and your bloodline. These were not appointed of God for you, they are detestable.

The Holy Spirit will begin to press on your heart, and you will want to ignore or explain it away. A check will rise up in your spirit. What will you do? God works in the open. We will work in the open today. The occult hides and obscures its true source. Will you possess the land or be disposed from it?

### **1) The root of the occult is present in the land through idolatry:**

- a) Idolatry is the worship of anything other than God. Often there will be a physical representation, like an idol; regardless there is always a demonic power, unseen, that is receiving the worship.
  - i) Psalm 106:36-40 says, “<sup>36</sup> They served their idols, which became a snare to them. <sup>37</sup> They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons, <sup>38</sup> and shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; and the land was polluted with blood. <sup>39</sup> Thus they were defiled by their own works, and played the harlot by their own deeds. <sup>40</sup> Therefore the wrath of the Lord was kindled against His people”
  - ii) Idolatry, the occult; robs, kills and destroys. It affects the participant and the coming generation. In this passage, God says that His people sacrificed their sons and daughters to demons.
  - iii) In the Deuteronomy passage, He said that no one should be found among His people that makes their sons or daughters pass through fire. This is a clear reference to the sacrifice offered before the idol of Molech, a god representing the sun. The idol held out a platter, under which a fire would

burn. To gain his favor people would place their sons and daughter, infants on the platter. The screams and cries could be heard as the child was scolded to death.

- iv) How does someone become involved in such evil, sacrificing to demonic powers? Because the true nature of what will be required is hidden. It is the root of the occult and unless severed it will thrive and survive, generation to generation.
- b) People are led to believe that the occult offers them knowledge and power, that they will control the unseen forces. The reality is that the person is being manipulated by those powers.
  - i) It's a story as old as the fall of man. Eve was promised knowledge and power; her eyes were going to be opened and she would be like God. The result is that Adam and his race were enslaved. The story is played out just the same day after day.
  - ii) The occult works by establishing common ground and an agreement is entered between people and demons. There is always a cost for every benefit offered. (Cave vision if time.)
  - iii) However, the benefit offered always becomes a curse to the benefactor. And the supernatural ability as well as their curse can be extended from generation to generation. It could be thought of as spiritual genetic trait.
- c) Idolatry has a religious Christian face as well.
  - i) Any Christian church or religious system which uses statues, icons, promotes the veneration of the living or the dead or requires adherence to rituals and sacraments as a mean of winning favor with God, or obtaining salvation is not Christian. It is idolatry. It is witchcraft. Pure and simple, that is what it is. There is no other way to understand it and there is only one way to deal with it. It is how it worked in the Garden. It is how God said it was to be dealt with in the Promised Land and it is how we are to deal with it today.
  - ii) The same is true of Christian doctrine which is clearly based in selfish gain. There is within the Christian Church, what is commonly called the faith movement or the prosperity movement, which in many cases has given way to hyper faith and hyper prosperity. Every word that crosses your lips has creative power. Whatever you say, that is what will be. It spills over to positive confession and negative confession.

- iii) Bondage makes its full manifestation when you become frightened to talk about things as they really are. It stops you from being able to move forward out of the trouble and into the fullness of what God has for you.
- iv) This idolatry is witchcraft. It will be called white magic by some, it makes it more acceptable, the inference is that it is good. It is the attempt to control the power of God for the good of people. It is manipulation. It is not of God. It does not free, it only enslaves to the powers and principalities which it obscures, it is the very essence of the meaning of the word: occult.
- v) Any Christian teaching which takes images from the Scripture and plasters them over pagan traditions and idols, is not a Christian teaching. This is why we have tried to move away from the traditional celebrations of the church. Because they are not the true traditions of the Congregation of the LORD. They are the bastard children of man mixing the sacred with detestable; of man striking an accord with demons. Man, trying to control and manipulate.
- vi) This is the root of rebellion at work. Man, rebelling against God's power, rule, authority and truth. Therefore, Scripture says, "rebellion is as the sin of divination".
- vii) The essence of the occult is manipulation. By contrast, the essence of true Christianity is submission.
- viii) Whether knowingly or not the manipulation of the occult always enslaves. Submission to God always frees. What would you have at work in your life? What would you want to pass onto your successive generations?

### **Conclusion:**

I know that this is a difficult and touchy conversation. It goes strongly against so much of what we are comfortable with. Throughout the years the church has Christianized the pagan festivals and called them High Holy Days. It is worse than lip stick on a pig. We excuse ourselves by saying, "Well I am not celebrating for that reason." Or, "I know what the true meaning of ... is." I am not so sure that God looks upon it that way. He sure didn't in the Deuteronomy passage, or anywhere else for that matter.