

CURRENT EVENTS AND THE BIBLE

Greetings precious people, this week we are going to examine another of today's events and how it relates to the Word of God the Bible. In the Book of Revelation we are told that one of the characteristics that will be prevalent during the "Last Days" also known in Revelation as "The Tribulation" will be the use and practice of sorcery. In Revelation 9:17-21 God is pouring out His wrath on a Christ rejecting rebellious world through what is known as the "Trumpet Judgments". Rev 9:17-21 "By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed--by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths for their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm. But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts."

Sorcery in both the Old and New Testament were strictly forbidden. Sorcery, in any form whether it is the modern day witchcraft craze as seen in many of the books, movies and television shows or other occult practices. No matter how "innocent" any of these may seem to be they all are avenues to the spirit realm which is demonic. And because they are very innocent looking and even entertaining which is their disguise many are disarmed and open to a more diabolical demonic realm.

It is interesting to note what God had to say to the ancient kingdom of Babylon concerning His judgment of them. In Isaiah 47:7-10, "And you said, 'I shall be a lady forever,' So that you did not take these things to heart, nor remember the latter end of them." Therefore hear this now, you who are given to pleasures, who dwell securely, Who say in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one else besides me; I shall not sit as a widow, nor shall I know the loss of children'; but these two things shall come to you in a moment, in one day: the loss of children, and widowhood. They shall come upon you in their fullness because of the multitude of your sorceries, for the great abundance of your enchantments. "For you have trusted in your wickedness; you have said, 'No one sees me'; your wisdom and your knowledge have warped you; and you have said in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one else besides me.'

For you Bible students note the striking similarities between the descriptions of the state of Babylon with our own nation the USA. Unless we repent of our wickedness a similar fate awaits us.

Let me take you back to the verse in Revelation. The Greek word that is used for sorcery is the word "pharmakeia" which as you may notice is the word we also get pharmacy from. This of course has to do with medication and drugs both legal (prescription) and illegal. Though many of our modern day medicines are helpful such as antibiotics the "pain killers" can be and often times are misused and abused bringing many into addiction and a life of sorrow and destruction. This is certainly true for the "illicit" drugs such as meth; heroin; cocaine; and a score of others. Though some would argue that marijuana and alcohol are not drugs, they do have the same affects as drug and alcohol use and addiction are at an all time high reaching epidemic levels.

So what does the use of drugs have to do with the end times? Drugs and alcohol act as inhibitors, they weaken and lessen one's inhibition which opens them up to all

kinds of practices such as sexual immorality; perverse thinking and talking; acting out things that one would not normally consider doing. The effects of drugs and alcohol also act to deaden one's senses making them less sensitive and cognizant to what is going on around them leading to a "I don't care" attitude.

As things in our society continue their downward spiral the greater the temptation becomes to turn to drugs and alcohol to lessen one's pain and discouragement. Listen dear ones, turn to Jesus instead. Surrender your life unconditionally to Him and follow Him all the days of your life.

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