

## Spiritism

The next cult we want to look at is Spiritism. We want to look at it because it plays a part in Mormonism.

*1 Corinthians 15:29*

*Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf?*

Mormons believe that you can go back and baptize people who have died. Based on this verse the Mormon leadership speaks openly of talking with the spirits of people who have died and receive information, council, and guidance from spirits of the dead.

This is a very dangerous practice and is condemned in scripture. This is called Spiritism and is alive and well not only in Mormonism but also in our culture.

The definition of Spiritism is, "a spiritual activity, grounded in the belief that people can make contact with the deceased and acquire information from beyond."

There are three major categories of Spiritism:

1. Physical phenomena
2. Psychic phenomena
3. Metaphysical phenomena

Spiritism is man's oldest religion. We see it in ancient cultures and paganism, and we see it in the psychics who are on our televisions. Spiritism has an unbroken history in almost every culture.

## Spiritism in the Bible

The ancient Egyptians were practitioners of cultism of magic sorcery and necromancy which were used by the priests of the demon gods of Egypt. All through the **Old Testament** we see the cultures of the **Egyptians**, Babylonians, and the **Canaanites** were all involved with Spiritism.

God's people even got involved with this: King **Saul**, King **Manassah**, and the people of **Israel**.

God forbid this activity and ordered the death **penalty** for all sorcerers.

*Exodus 22:18*

*You shall not permit a sorceress to live.*

*Leviticus 20:27*

*A man or a woman who is a medium or a necromancer shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones; their blood shall be upon them*

## Why this cult is so dangerous

Two reasons:

1. Spiritism is **opposed to** every major doctrine of the Christian faith.

They reject:

- The **inspiration** and **authority** of the Bible
- The doctrine of the **Trinity**
- The deity of **Christ**
- The **virgin birth**
- The Vicarious **Atonement**
- The bodily resurrection of **Christ**
- The biblical doctrine of salvation by **grace**, through **faith** in Christ
- The doctrine of **hell**

2. True Spiritism involves demons and their leader Satan.

I say "true spiritism" because the vast majority is fraudulent. But true spiritism is a cult of antiquity and it's **motivating source is** Satan and his demons.

We need to see what the Bible says about Satan and the demons so you see how dangerous Spiritism is.

## What the Bible says

The Old Testament **assumes** the existence of Satan just like it does God.

In the New Testament, **every writer** of the New Testament recognizes his existence.

- In the gospels, there are **twenty-nine** references to him and twenty-five of those **Jesus** is speaking of him.

Scripture makes it very clear that **Satan exists.**

There are two passage in the Old Testament that tells us about Satan and his fall, and I want us to look at them to understand what he was and why he fell.

### Ezekiel 28:12-19

Understand the Lord is talking to the King of Tyre but he is addressing the power behind the throne which is **Satan.**

V 12-13

*Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD:*

*“You were the signet of perfection,  
full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.  
13 You were in Eden, the garden of God;  
every precious stone was your covering,  
sardius, topaz, and diamond,  
beryl, onyx, and jasper,  
sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle;  
and crafted in gold were your settings  
and your engravings.  
On the day that you were created  
they were prepared*

1. Satan was **created by God**
2. Satan was **beautiful**

V 14-15

*You were an anointed guardian cherub.  
I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God;  
in the midst of the stones of fire you walked.  
15 You were blameless in your ways  
from the day you were created,  
till unrighteousness was found in you.*

3. Satan was once a Cheribum, which is the highest order of angel.
4. *Anointed* means he had a special place.
5. Satan forgot he was a creation.

V 17-18

*Your heart was proud because of your beauty;  
you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor.  
I cast you to the ground;  
I exposed you before kings,  
to feast their eyes on you.  
18 By the multitude of your iniquities,  
in the unrighteousness of your trade  
you profaned your sanctuaries;  
so I brought fire out from your midst;  
it consumed you,  
and I turned you to ashes on the earth  
in the sight of all who saw you.*

6. Satan planned a rebellion against God.

God removed him and his ultimate punishment is seen.

Matthew 25:41

*"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"*

The second passage tells of his fall.

Isaiah 14:13-14

*You said in your heart,  
'I will ascend to heaven;  
above the stars of God  
I will set my throne on high;  
I will sit on the mount of assembly  
in the far reaches of the north;  
14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;  
I will make myself like the Most High*

### Satan's five "I will's" from Isaiah 14:13-14

1. I will ascend to heaven- he wanted to have equal recognition with God.
2. I will raise my throne above the stars of God- rule the angels apart from God.
3. I will sit on the mount of the assembly- Satan is seeking to rule over human affairs.
4. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds- he wanted glory equal to God or above God's glory.
5. I will make myself like the Most High - this is a reference to God being the possessor of heaven and earth and Satan wanted it.

Some of his names tell us his character and his activity.

- Lucifer- refers to his original state; shining one, may refer to him being the head of the angels
- Satan- it means adversary or opposer
- Devil- means slander or one who trips up
- Great dragon- terrifying, destructive beast
- The evil one- he is wicked and is not content to be corrupt himself he seeks others to corrupt
- Tempter- tries to entice men to do evil
- Accuser- accuses the brethren
- Deceiver- who deceives mankind

Demons are angels that rebelled with Satan. There is a possibility that a third of the angels went with Satan. They are helpers in Satan's work.

There are two groups of demons:

1. The demons who are free to roam the earth.
2. The demons who are not free.

### **Satan's activity toward the unsaved**

1. Snatching away the **Gospel**. Luke 8:1
2. **Blinding** minds to the Gospel. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4
3. Promoting a false **lifestyle**. Ephesians 2:1-3
4. **False religion**. 1 Timothy 4:1-2

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared.

Demons are **behind this** phenomenon. Demons are behind the **supposed communication** with the dead.

Spiritism and Biblical Christianity are **diametrically opposed**. Christians who attend seances or experiment with Spiritism expose themselves to **demonic oppression** and become disinterested or opposed to God's work and word.