

Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



Deuteronomy Part 20 (chapter 18) KJV

5.10.2023

Chapter 18

Priests & Prophets, and Occults

What was the role of Priests? How were the Priests taken care of? Are we Priests? (1-8)

What are some idolatrous/occultic practices forbidden by God? Why are they popular today, despite being dangerous? (9-14)

What are some qualities of Prophets? What prophesy of prophet is fulfilled? What is the test for 'false prophets'? What is the punishment for false prophets? (15-22)

Anointed Leaders

Judges
(16)

Kings
(17)

Priests
(18)

Prophets
(18)



Judges
(16)

Judge justly

Don't be biased

Don't take bribes



King (17:15-20)

1. Chosen by God
2. Must be an Israelite
3. Don't acquire horses from Egypt or trust in horses
4. Don't have multiply wives, who will turn king away
5. Don't multiply wealth
6. Maintain a copy of law, Refer to it, and obey it
7. Be humble

Priests (1-8)

Role, Provision

Role of Priests and God's Provision for Priests

The priests the Levites, and all the tribe of Levi, shall have no part nor inheritance with Israel: they shall eat the offerings of the Lord made by fire, and his inheritance.² Therefore shall they have no inheritance among their brethren: the **Lord is their inheritance**, as he hath said unto them.

³ And this shall be the priest's due from the people, from them that offer a sacrifice, whether it be ox or sheep; and they shall give unto the priest the shoulder, and the two cheeks, and the maw. ⁴ The firstfruit also of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the first of the fleece of thy sheep, shalt thou give him. ⁵ For the Lord thy God hath chosen him out of all thy tribes, to stand to minister in the name of the Lord, him and his sons for ever.

⁶ And if a Levite come from any of thy gates out of all Israel, where he sojourned, and come with all the desire of his mind unto the place which the Lord shall choose; ⁷ Then he shall minister in the name of the Lord his God, as all his brethren the Levites do, which stand there before the Lord. ⁸ They shall have like portions to eat, beside that which cometh of the sale of his patrimony.

Role of Priests: Serving God and His Children

Carry the ark (10:8)

Stand and Minister to the Lord (10:8, 18:3)

Bless his name (10:8)

Intercessor, and Offer sacrifices (33:10)

Judge (17:9)

Encourager during battle (20:2-4)

Teach (33:10)

Role of Priests

Deuteronomy 10:8

At that time the Lord separated the tribe of Levi, to bear the ark of the covenant of the Lord, to stand before the Lord to minister unto him, and to bless in his name, unto this day.

Deuteronomy 33:10

They shall teach Jacob thy judgments, and Israel thy law: they shall put incense before thee, and whole burnt sacrifice upon thine altar

Malachi 2:7 For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.

Deuteronomy 20:2-4

² And it shall be, when ye are come nigh unto the battle, that the priest shall approach and speak unto the people, ³ And shall say unto them, Hear, O Israel, ye approach this day unto battle against your enemies: let not your hearts faint, fear not, and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them; ⁴ For the Lord your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.

Land for priests

While no land is given by God as inheritance or territory (like other tribes), 48 cities given (including 6 cities of refuge). Levites were spread throughout the promised land so that they could be local priests.

The total land represented a small area so Levites had to be taken care of by other tribes. They did not work in the land for sustenance like other tribes. Their calling was to serve God (see Role of Priests).

JOSHUA 21:1-2 Then came near the heads of the fathers of the Levites unto Eleazar the priest, and unto Joshua the son of Nun, and unto the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel; ² And they spake unto them at Shiloh in the land of Canaan, saying, The Lord commanded by the hand of Moses to give us cities to dwell in, with the suburbs thereof for our cattle.

NUMBERS 35:7-8 So all the cities which ye shall give to the Levites shall be forty and eight cities: them shall ye give with their suburbs. ⁸ And the cities which ye shall give shall be of the possession of the children of Israel: from them that have many ye shall give many; but from them that have few ye shall give few: every one shall give of his cities unto the Levites according to his inheritance which he inheriteth.

Provision for Levites

²The priests the Levites, and all the tribe of Levi, shall have no part nor inheritance with Israel: they shall eat the offerings of the Lord made by fire, and his inheritance

³And this shall be the priest's due from the people, from them that offer a sacrifice, whether it be ox or sheep; and they shall give unto the priest the shoulder, and the two cheeks, and the maw. ⁴The first fruit also of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the first of the fleece of thy sheep, shalt thou give him.

People must provide for the priests - giving the best (not left-overs or damaged crop) and first fruits.

Priests coming from far to the 'chosen place' must also be taken care of (7-8)

(read more details in Leviticus 7:28-36, Numbers 18:8-32)

TODAY: We should pray and support those those who are laboring for the Lord (full-time servants, missionaries, organizations).

The laborer is worthy of his reward (1 Timothy 5:18)

Sinners have been made Priests

EXODUS 19:6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation

I PETER 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood**

REVELATION 1:5-6

⁵ And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, ⁶ And hath made us kings and **priests unto God** and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

As Priests, we must also minister unto the Lord and His children.

Title of “Priests” is not given to church leaders (as seen in Catholic churches and some denominations)

Occultic Pagan practices

What is forbidden?

Why are they still popular?

(9-14)



Dictionary

Definitions from [Oxford Languages](#) · [Learn more](#)



oc·cult

noun

supernatural, mystical, or magical beliefs, practices, or phenomena.
"a secret society to study alchemy and the occult"

Similar:

the supernatural

the paranormal

supernaturalism

magic

black magic

adjective

1. of, involving, or relating to supernatural, mystical, or magical powers or phenomena.
"a follower of occult practices similar to voodoo"

FORBIDDEN
by God



Prohibited Occultic Practices

⁹ When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou **shalt not** learn to do after the abominations of those nations.

¹⁰ There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch.¹¹ Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

¹² For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee.¹³ Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God.¹⁴ For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the Lord thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.

Prohibited Practices

thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations (9) ... for all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord (12) ... but as for thee, the Lord thy God hath not suffered thee so to do (14)

God's children must not associate with abominable practices of communing/connecting with demonic spirits

Verse 10:

Child sacrifice,

Divination, (using sources other than true God to find answers)

Observer of times,

Enchanter Witch

Verse 11:

Charmer, consulter with familiar spirits, wizard,

Necromancer (communings with dead spirits ... Saul bringing up dead Samuel, I Samuel 28) ... how about praying to dead saints?

It is evil ...
works of the
flesh

II CHRONICLES 33:6 (King Manasseh, guilty of disobedience)

And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke him to anger.

GALATIANS 5:19-20 (are we guilty of disobedience?)

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

God reveals
secrets, not
astrologers
etc.

DANIEL 2 And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him. ² Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king. ³ And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.

²⁷ Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king;
²⁸ **But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets,**

**Demons have
power ...
but
our God is
more
powerful**

EXODUS 7:9-12

⁹ When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent. ¹⁰ And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the Lord had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent. ¹¹ Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. ¹² For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

I JOHN 4:4

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Divination dealt with in NT

DIVINATION REMOVED (ACTS 16:16-18)

And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: ¹⁷ The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. ¹⁸ And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

The world is
restless to
know answers
to future and
find peace ...
So occult
practices
continue

Seek wisdom from God (James 1:5, 3:17) and not from ...

Astrology

Palmistry

Calling the dead

Tarot cards

Horoscope

Divination

Magic

Wizardry

Sorcery

Etc.

Serious consequences of following occults

Deprived of True knowledge and guidance from the only True Source and True God. Only God knows the future.

Penalty of death

Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live (Exodus 22:18)

A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them (Leviticus 20:27)

Denied entrance to Heaven

⁸ But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death (Revelation 21:8)



Two Kings but different endings

King Saul and King David

Saul's ending

I CHRONICLES 10:13

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 enquire of it;

David's ending

I CHRONICLES 29:27-28

²⁷ And the time that he reigned over Israel was forty years; seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem. ²⁸ And he died in a good old age, full of days, riches, and honor: and Solomon his son reigned in his stead.

Prophets (15-22)

What are some qualities of Prophets? What prophesy of prophet is fulfilled? What is the test for 'false prophets'? What is the punishment for false prophets?

Prophets

¹⁵ The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken; ¹⁶ According to all that thou desiredst of the Lord thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.

¹⁷ And the Lord said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken. ¹⁸ **I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren**, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. ¹⁹ And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

²⁰ But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. ²¹ And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? ²² When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

Historical context for prophets (15-18)

Moses appointed as Prophet at the request of people in Mount Sinai (5:22-29). Moses will hear God's words and communicate to people.

²⁶ For who is there of all flesh, that hath heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived? ²⁷ Go thou near, and hear all that the Lord our God shall say: and speak thou unto us all that the Lord our God shall speak unto thee; and we will hear it, and do it.

Criteria for true prophets

Appointed by God (15)

Word must be given by God (18)

(Jeremiah 1:9, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth)

(I Peter 1:20 no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation)

God's Word must be communicated to the people without alteration

- Prophet's role is to communicate, God will hold responsible those who do not listen to the prophet
- **Moses** – a model prophet: called by God, heard from God, and communicated God's word to people (18)

False Prophets

²⁰ But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.

Speak before hearing from God

I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied (Jeremiah 23:21)

Speak in the name of other gods

Test of False Prophets

²² When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

Prophecy does not come true ==> False prophet

If prophecy comes true, it does not make them a true prophet (Deuteronomy 13:1)

Do not have the spirit of God ==> False prophet

I JOHN 4 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. ² Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: ³ And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God:

If you go to a church that doesn't preach the gospel of Christ ... **Exit quickly!**

¹⁸ I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

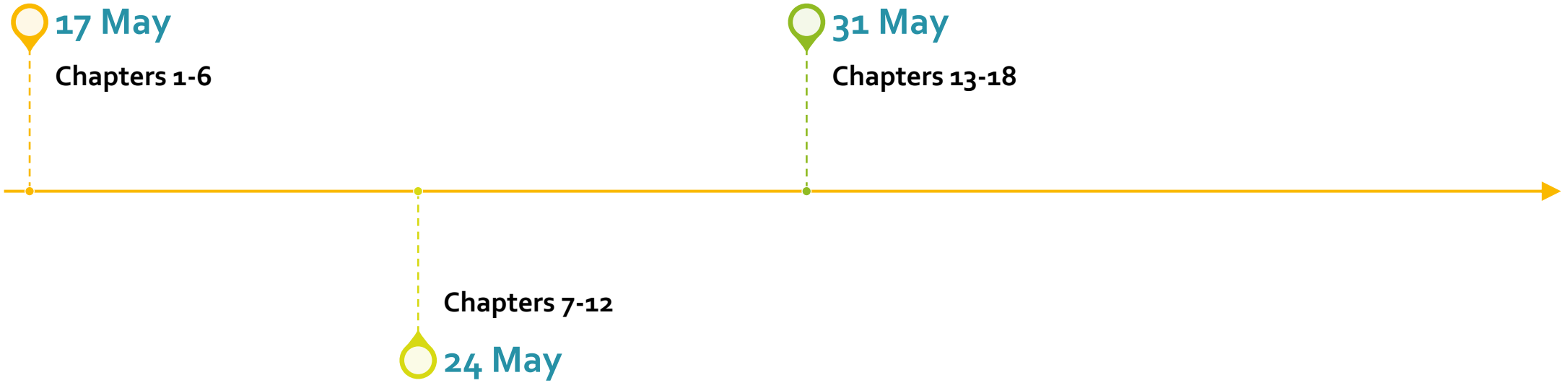
A prophet like Moses was not born after Moses (34:10)

Words of Jesus:

John 12:49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

Witness of People:

John 6:14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.



Bible Study & Quiz

(Absences not allowed 😊)

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