

## A WITCH AND WITCHCRAFT

**Exodus 22:18** Thou shalt not suffer **a witch** to live.

**Deuteronomy 18:10** 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**,

**1 Samuel 15:23** For rebellion [is as] the sin of **witchcraft**, and stubbornness [is as] iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from [being] king.

**2 Chronicles 33:6** 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 5:20** Idolatry, **witchcraft**, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

## A WITCH, A DEFINITION OF

Occurs only in Ex. 22:18, as the rendering of *\_mekhashshepheh\_*, the feminine form of the word, meaning "enchantress" (R.V., "sorceress"), and in Deut. 18:10, as the rendering of *\_mekhashshepheth\_*, the masculine form of the word, meaning "enchanter."

## A WIZARD

**Leviticus 20:27** 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.

**Deuteronomy 18:11** Or **a charmer**, or **a consulter with familiar spirits**, or **a wizard**, or **a necromancer**.

## A WIZARD, A DEFINITION OF

A pretender to supernatural knowledge and power, "a knowing one," as the original Hebrew word signifies. Such an one was forbidden on pain of death to practise his deceptions (Lev. 19:31; 20:6, 27; 1 Sam. 28:3; Isa. 8:19; 19:3).

## **A NECROMANCER, A DEFINITION OF**

(Deut. 15:11), i.e., "one who interrogates the dead," as the word literally means, with the view of discovering the secrets of futurity (comp. 1 Sam. 28:7). (See DIVINATION .)

## **A CHARMER, A DEFINITION OF**

One who practises serpent-charming (Ps. 58:5; Jer. 8:17; Eccl. 10:11). It was an early and universal opinion that the most venomous reptiles could be made harmless by certain charms or by sweet sounds. It is well known that there are jugglers in India and in other Eastern lands who practise this art at the present day.

In Isa. 19:3 the word "charmers" is the rendering of the Hebrew *'ittim*, meaning, properly, necromancers (R.V. marg., "whisperers"). In Deut. 18:11 the word "charmer" means a dealer in spells, especially one who, by binding certain knots, was supposed thereby to bind a curse or a blessing on its object. In Isa. 3:3 the words "eloquent orator" should be, as in the Revised Version, "skilful enchanter."

## **DIVINATION, A DEFINITION OF**

of false prophets (Deut. 18:10, 14; Micah 3:6, 7, 11), of necromancers (1 Sam. 28:8), of the Philistine priests and diviners (1 Sam. 6:2), of Balaam (Josh. 13:22). Three kinds of divination are mentioned in Ezek. 21:21, by arrows, consulting with images (the teraphim), and by examining the entrails of animals sacrificed. The practice of this art seems to have been encouraged in ancient Egypt. Diviners also abounded among the aborigines of Canaan and the Philistines (Isa. 2:6; 1 Sam. 28). At a later period multitudes of magicians poured from Chaldea and Arabia into the land of Israel, and pursued their occupations (Isa. 8:19; 2 Kings 21:6; 2 Chr. 33:6). This superstition widely spread, and in the time of the apostles there were "vagabond Jews, exorcists" (Acts 19:13), and men like Simon Magus (Acts 8:9), Bar-jesus (13:6, 8), and other jugglers and impostors (19:19; 2 Tim. 3:13). Every species and degree of this superstition was strictly forbidden by the law of Moses (Ex. 22:18; Lev. 19:26, 31; 20:27; Deut. 18:10, 11).

But beyond these various forms of superstition, there are instances of divination on record in the Scriptures by which God was pleased to make known his will.

(1.) There was divination by lot, by which, when resorted to in matters of moment, and with solemnity, God intimated his will (Josh. 7:13). The land of Canaan was divided by lot (Num. 26:55, 56); Achan's guilt was detected (Josh. 7:16-19), Saul was elected king (1 Sam. 10:20, 21), and Matthias chosen to the apostleship, by the solemn lot (Acts 1:26). It was thus also that the scape-goat was determined (Lev. 16:8-10).

(2.) There was divination by dreams (Gen. 20:6; Deut. 13:1, 3; Judg. 7:13, 15; Matt. 1:20; 2:12, 13, 19, 22). This is illustrated in the history of Joseph (Gen. 41:25-32) and of Daniel (2:27; 4:19-28).

(3.) By divine appointment there was also divination by the Urim and Thummim (Num. 27:21), and by the ephod.

(4.) God was pleased sometimes to vouch-safe direct vocal communications to men (Deut. 34:10; Ex. 3:4; 4:3; Deut. 4:14, 15; 1 Kings 19:12). He also communed with men from above the mercy-seat (Ex. 25:22), and at the door of the tabernacle (Ex. 29:42, 43).

(5.) Through his prophets God revealed himself, and gave intimations of his will (2 Kings 13:17; Jer. 51:63, 64).

## **AN ABOMINATION, A DEFINITION OF**

This word is used, (1.) To express the idea that the Egyptians considered themselves as defiled when they ate with strangers (Gen. 43:32). The Jews subsequently followed the same practice, holding it unlawful to eat or drink with foreigners (John 18:28; Acts 10:28; 11:3).

(2.) Every shepherd was "an abomination" unto the Egyptians (Gen. 46:34). This aversion to shepherds, such as the Hebrews, arose probably from the fact that Lower and Middle Egypt had formerly been held in oppressive subjection by a tribe of nomad shepherds (the Hyksos), who had only recently been expelled, and partly also perhaps from this other fact that the Egyptians detested the lawless habits of these wandering shepherds.

(3.) Pharaoh was so moved by the fourth plague, that while he refused the demand of Moses, he offered a compromise, granting to the Israelites permission to hold their festival and offer their sacrifices in Egypt. This permission could not be accepted, because Moses said they would have to sacrifice "the abomination of the Egyptians" (Ex. 8:26); i.e., the cow or ox, which all the Egyptians held as sacred, and which they regarded it as sacrilegious to kill.

(4.) Daniel (11:31), in that section of his prophecies which is generally interpreted as referring to the fearful calamities that were to fall on the Jews in the time of Antiochus Epiphanes, says, "And they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate." Antiochus Epiphanes caused an altar to be erected on the altar of burnt-offering, on which sacrifices were offered to Jupiter Olympus. (Comp. 1 Macc. 1:57). This was the abomination of the desolation of Jerusalem. The same language is employed in Dan. 9:27 (comp. Matt. 24:15), where the reference is probably to the image-crowned standards which the Romans set up at the east gate of the temple (A.D. 70), and to which they paid idolatrous honours. "Almost the entire religion of the Roman camp consisted in worshipping the ensign, swearing by the ensign, and in preferring the ensign before all other gods." These ensigns were an "abomination" to the Jews, the "abomination of desolation."

This word is also used symbolically of sin in general (Isa. 66:3); an idol (44:19); the ceremonies of the apostate Church of Rome (Rev. 17:4); a detestable act (Ezek. 22:11).

## **THE WORD ABOMINATION IS USED 69 TIMES IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS**

**Genesis 43:32** And they set on for him by himself, and for them by themselves, and for the Egyptians, which did eat with him, by themselves: because the Egyptians might not eat bread with the Hebrews; for that [is] **an abomination** unto the Egyptians.

**Genesis 46:34** That ye shall say, Thy servants' trade hath been about cattle from our youth even until now, both we, [and] also our fathers: that ye may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd [is] **an abomination** unto the Egyptians.

**Exodus 8:26** And Moses said, It is not meet so to do; for we shall sacrifice **the abomination** of the Egyptians to the LORD our God: lo, shall we sacrifice **the abomination** of the Egyptians before their eyes, and will they not stone us?

**Leviticus 7:18** And if [any] of the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings be eaten at all on the third day, it shall not be accepted, neither shall it be imputed unto him that offereth it: it shall be **an abomination**, and the soul that eateth of it shall bear his iniquity.

**Leviticus 11:10** And all that have not fins and scales in the seas, and in the rivers, of all that move in the waters, and of any living thing which [is] in the waters, they [shall be] **an abomination** unto you:

**Leviticus 11:11** They shall be even **an abomination** unto you; ye shall not eat of their flesh, but ye shall have their carcasses in **abomination**.

**Leviticus 11:12** Whatsoever hath no fins nor scales in the waters, that [shall be] **an abomination** unto you.

**Leviticus 11:13** And these [are they which] ye shall have in **abomination** among the fowls; they shall not be eaten, they [are] **an abomination**: the eagle, and the ossifrage, and the ospray,

**Leviticus 11:20** All fowls that creep, going upon [all] four, [shall be] **an abomination** unto you.

**Leviticus 11:23** But all [other] flying creeping things, which have four feet, [shall be] **an abomination** unto you.

**Leviticus 11:41** And every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth [shall be] **an abomination**; it shall not be eaten.

**Leviticus 11:42** Whatsoever goeth upon the belly, and whatsoever goeth upon [all] four, or whatsoever hath more feet among all creeping things that creep upon the earth, them ye shall not eat; for they [are] **an abomination**.

**Leviticus 18:22** Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it [is] **abomination**.

**Leviticus 20:13** If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed **an abomination**: they shall surely be put to death; their blood [shall be] upon them.

**Deuteronomy 7:25** The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold [that is] on them, nor take [it] unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it [is] **an abomination** to the LORD thy God.

**Deuteronomy 7:26** Neither shalt thou bring **an abomination** into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: [but] thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it [is] a cursed thing.

**Deuteronomy 12:31** Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every **abomination** to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods.

**Deuteronomy 13:14** Then shalt thou enquire, and make search, and ask diligently; and, behold, [if it be] truth, [and] the thing certain, [that] such **abomination** is wrought among you;

**Deuteronomy 17:1** Thou shalt not sacrifice unto the LORD thy God [any] bullock, or sheep, wherein is blemish, [or] any evil favouredness: for that [is] **an abomination** unto the LORD thy God.

**Deuteronomy 17:4** And it be told thee, and thou hast heard [of it], and enquired diligently, and, behold, [it be] true, [and] the thing certain, [that] such **abomination** is wrought in Israel:

**Deuteronomy 18:12** 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.

**Deuteronomy 22:5** The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so [are] **abomination** unto the LORD thy God.

**Deuteronomy 23:18** Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog, into the house of the LORD thy God for any vow: for even both these [are] **abomination** unto the LORD thy God.

**Deuteronomy 24:4** Her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that [is] **abomination** before the LORD: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the LORD thy God giveth thee [for] an inheritance.

**Deuteronomy 25:16** For all that do such things, [and] all that do unrighteously, [are] **an abomination** unto the LORD thy God.

**Deuteronomy 27:15** Cursed [be] the man that maketh [any] graven or molten image, **an abomination** unto the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and putteth [it] in [a] secret [place]. And all the people shall answer and say, Amen.

**1 Samuel 13:4** **And** all Israel heard say [that] Saul had smitten a garrison of the Philistines, and [that] Israel also was had in **abomination** with the Philistines. And the people were called together after Saul to Gilgal.

**1 Kings 11:5** For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom **the abomination** of the Ammonites.

**1 Kings 11:7** Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that [is] before Jerusalem, and for Molech, **the abomination** of the children of Ammon.

**2 Kings 23:13** And the high places that [were] before Jerusalem, which [were] on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom **the abomination** of the children of Ammon, did the king defile.

**Psalms 88:8** Thou hast put away mine acquaintance far from me; thou hast made me **an abomination** unto them: [I am] shut up, and I cannot come forth.

**Proverbs 3:32** For the froward [is] **abomination** to the LORD: but his secret [is] with the righteous.

**Proverbs 6:16** These six [things] doth the LORD hate: yea, seven [are] **an abomination** unto him:

**Proverbs 8:7** For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness [is] **an abomination** to my lips.

**Proverbs 11:1** A false balance [is] **abomination** to the LORD: but a just weight [is] his delight.

**Proverbs 11:20** They that are of a froward heart [are] **abomination** to the LORD: but [such as are] upright in [their] way [are] his delight.

**Proverbs 12:22** Lying lips [are] **abomination** to the LORD: but they that deal truly [are] his delight.

**Proverbs 13:19** The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul: but [it is] **abomination** to fools to depart from evil.

**Proverbs 15:8** The sacrifice of the wicked [is] **an abomination** to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright [is] his delight.

**Proverbs 15:9** The way of the wicked [is] **an abomination** unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.

**Proverbs 15:26** The thoughts of the wicked [are] **an abomination** to the LORD: but [the words] of the pure [are] pleasant words.

**Proverbs 16:5** Every one [that is] proud in heart [is] **an abomination** to the LORD: [though] hand [join] in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

**Proverbs 16:12** [It is] **an abomination** to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness.

**Proverbs 17:15** He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both [are] **abomination** to the LORD.

**Proverbs 20:10** Divers weights, [and] divers measures, both of them [are] alike **abomination** to the LORD.

**Proverbs 20:23** Divers weights [are] **an abomination** unto the LORD; and a false balance [is] not good.

**Proverbs 21:27** The sacrifice of the wicked [is] **abomination**: how much more, [when] he bringeth it with a wicked mind?

**Proverbs 24:9** The thought of foolishness [is] sin: and the scorner [is] **an abomination** to men.

**Proverbs 28:9** He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer [shall be] **abomination**.

**Proverbs 29:27** An unjust man [is] **an abomination** to the just: and [he that is] upright in the way [is] abomination to the wicked.

**Isaiah 1:13** Bring no more vain oblations; incense is **an abomination** unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; [it is] iniquity, even the solemn meeting.

**Isaiah 41:24** Behold, ye [are] of nothing, and your work of nought: **an abomination** [is he that] chooseth you.

**Isaiah 44:19** And none considereth in his heart, neither [is there] knowledge nor understanding to say, I have burned part of it in the fire; yea, also I have baked bread upon the coals thereof; I have roasted flesh, and eaten [it]: and shall I make the residue thereof **an abomination**? shall I fall down to the stock of a tree?

**Isaiah 66:17** They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one [tree] in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and **the abomination**, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD.

**Jeremiah 2:7** And I brought you into a plentiful country, to eat the fruit thereof and the goodness thereof; but when ye entered, ye defiled my land, and made mine heritage **an abomination**.

**Jeremiah 6:15** Were they ashamed when they had committed **abomination**? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time [that] I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.

**Jeremiah 8:12** Were they ashamed when they had committed **abomination**? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.

**Jeremiah 32:35** And they built the high places of Baal, which [are] in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through [the fire] unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this **abomination**, to cause Judah to sin.

**Ezekiel 16:50** And they were haughty, and committed **abomination** before me: therefore I took them away as I saw [good].

**Ezekiel 18:12** Hath oppressed the poor and needy, hath spoiled by violence, hath not restored the pledge, and hath lifted up his eyes to the idols, hath committed **abomination**,

**Ezekiel 22:11** And one hath committed **abomination** with his neighbour's wife; and another hath lewdly defiled his daughter in law; and another in thee hath humbled his sister, his father's daughter.

**Ezekiel 33:26** Ye stand upon your sword, ye work **abomination**, and ye defile every one his neighbour's wife: and shall ye possess the land?

**Daniel 11:31** And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily [sacrifice], and they shall place **the abomination** that maketh desolate.

**Daniel 12:11** And from the time [that] the daily [sacrifice] shall be taken away, and **the abomination** that maketh desolate set up, [there shall be] a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

**Malachi 2:11** Judah hath dealt treacherously, and **an abomination** is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the LORD which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god.

**Matthew 24:15** When ye therefore shall see **the abomination** of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

**Mark 13:14** But when ye shall see **the abomination** of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:

**Luke 16:15** And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is **abomination** in the sight of God.

**Revelation 21:27** And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither [whatsoever] worketh **abomination**, or [maketh] a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.