

LYING SIGNS & WONDERS

Claudia Scott Engel 2019



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Lately I have experienced some troubling circumstances concerning misunderstanding of the purpose of prophetic, predictive words both among non-Christians, and in some different churches, and even some Christian individuals.

I grew up in the Air Force and we moved every three years or so to a different culture around the world on various air-bases. That's what gave me a heightened sense of the differences in culture when I first moved to this area in the 70's. I first lived in Woodstock New York and now work some fifty years later in Rhinebeck New York. Both of these hamlets are known to have "New Age" influences in their surrounding areas, modern mythology, Karma, Bahjan Belt, the Omega Institute, Reiki, etc.

I was also surprised to find that there are Christians who access horoscopes and seek out seances, and palm reading, unaware of what the bible and our Father has said about this. Non-Christians might think they are tapping into the "higher Force," a New Age name for God. Neither may be aware of the serious consequences these activities entail. However the bible is very clear. There is only one God and one Son of God, Jesus Christ.

The word of God clearly warns us to not practice such things:

Do not turn to mediums or spiritists; do not seek them or be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God. (Leviticus 19:31)

As to the person who turns to mediums and to spiritists, to play the harlot after them, I will set my face against that person and will cut him off from among his people. (Leviticus 20:6)

There shall not be found among you anyone . . . who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens or a sorcerer, or one that casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For whoever does these things is detestable to the Lord . . . (Deuteronomy 18:10-12)

But the . . . unbelieving . . . the murderess, immoral persons and sorcerers . . . , their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone which is the second death. (Revelation 21:8)

I recently had an old acquaintance who was not saved come to my home for a dinner party along with some of my Christian sisters. As the conversation picked up it turned to things they have heard and

seen from our Lord, prophetic words, words of knowledge, etc. My unsaved friend said, “*We should have a seance,*” a shocking response. I asked why and she said, “*So we can wait to see what the spirit would say to us.*” A dear sister piped up, “*But He is here right now!*” And there is the difference.

First we need to recognize that these palm readers and soothsayers are *not just speaking untrue happenings*. It has amazed me to see some persons, directed by a different spirit, know things they had no other way of knowing except by some unknown source. Some people just write these things off as simply untrue. However what do you say to people who can prove to you that these words did indeed come true? Indeed these communications are real! But let’s investigate what the bible says and why it is a bad choice.

The Old Testament

Over and over God our Father was angry with Israel because they had repeatedly left their first love and followed after idols. Over and over it is the *first thing* He mentions. They followed the habits of the surrounding Canaanites and Philistines who all had and commonly used *soothsayers*.

Philistines . Soothsayers

(Isaiah 2:6) For You have forsaken Your people, the house of Jacob, Because they are filled with eastern ways; They are soothsayers like the Philistines, And they are pleased with the children of foreigners.

Magic is Real BUT Always Weaker

Pharaoh’s magicians (3 snakes),

(Exodus 7:10-12) So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and they did so, just as the Lord commanded. And Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent.

¹¹ But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. ¹² For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron’s rod swallowed up their rods.

(Exodus 7:14-22) But the magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts. So Pharaoh's heart remained hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

We see that magic and magicians were common in royal courts. Pharaoh's magicians replicated three of God's wonders done through His servant Moses, with real snakes, real bloody water and the rest. However it is important to note in each circumstance, God's signs and wonders *were and will always be, overwhelmingly, more powerful.*

Solomon (Samuel's appearing)

What about the spirits that show up at seances? Are they just a trick or a demon? They may be a demon but they might also be real as we see in the incident when Solomon went to inquire of the witch of Endor, a practice he himself had explicitly outlawed in Israel because of God's commands.

(1 Samuel 28:9-15) And she said, "An old man is coming up, and he is covered with a mantle." And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground and bowed down.

¹⁵ Now Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?"

There are numerous examples of real signs and wonders via the soothsayers and magicians.

(Daniel 2:2) Then the king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.

In Numbers 22, we read of Balaam and how he definitely was hearing from the supernatural, but with the wrong heart and the wrong motive, but still REAL.

Why is it that man wants to know his future, but wants to do so without having to go to God, or somehow go around Him? But God is a jealous God and wants us to love Him first and foremost above all else and have "*no other gods besides Me.*" It is because of His **great love**. He knows what that "other side of the force" is really after, to deceive man and eventually enslave him to Satan. We see this at the very beginning of creation when the enemy enticed Adam and Eve to eat of the Tree of Knowledge so they would be "*like God.*" Satan tempted Jesus in the Wilderness promising Him everything if He would just bow down and worship him instead of the Father. It was all deceit aimed at

pride, but of course there was none in our Lord. He tries over and over as with Adam and Eve saying, “*You will be like gods!*” These are the types of enticements he uses on us:

- “Love yourself; you are God.”
- “You have lived before.”
- “There are many paths to God; choose your own.”
- “There is no eternal Savior, no atonement for sin, no hell, no resurrection, no judgment.”
- “All religions are one.”
- “The New Age god exists as energy that is vibrating everywhere in the universe; get into harmony with it and achieve higher planes of awareness.”
- “Suffering, heartbreak, sickness and death are all opportunities to wake up. Especially death. All is good.”
- “There is no good or evil; both are two side of the same coin.”
- “The belief that you are bad, a form of evil, distorts your vision and self esteem. This belief enables you to produce negative results in the world. You are made of the same stuff as God, and that is nothing but God. You are good. You are not evil. No one is evil.” (See Dale Rumbles’s tract “*The New Age Movement*” 1)

Indeed God’s plan is to make us like Him in His Son but we need a lifetime of training to be made complete, sanctified, humble, purified, ready and able to do His will in the New Creation (See Paul’s letter to the Ephesians).

New Testament

Let’s see what Jesus says about these signs and wonders.

(Matthew 24:24) For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

As He cast out spirits they knew who He was. “*What have we to do with You, O Jesus of Nazareth?*”

The Church

In the time directly ahead of us, I sense two forces rising one against the other, growing higher and higher each passing day. It is *very* easily seen in the news broadcasts, the government dissensions, the cat-

aclysmic geological disturbances all of which grow stronger and stronger and are not going away. Many may wish for and speak peace but they are not going away. The enemy's signs and wonders are getting more and more powerful.

But so is the manifestation of God and in His church. Power and wondrous signs are coming and will come in much greater ways upon Jesus's bride. His church will totally eclipse with a bright, bright light any deceitful darkness which will ultimately end up being annihilated by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The following is what to expect in greater ways as the Lord is about to pour out a revival as never before. He has just recently spoken to the church:

(Isaiah 43:18-20) Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth;

Signs in the Church

These are the manifestations of the Holy Spirit we see, and can expect to see more and more of in the days ahead.

*(1 Cor. 12:4-11) There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: ⁸ for to one is given the word of **wisdom** through the Spirit, to another the word of **knowledge** through the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another **prophecy**, to another **discerning of spirits**, to another different kinds of **tongues**, to another the **interpretation of tongues**. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

We can see this working in the church as we read the acts of the apostles in the book of Acts.

Paul and the Servant Girl

(Acts 16:16-18) Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." ¹⁸ And this she did for many days.

But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

Simon the Sorcerer

(Acts 8:9) But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great)

This sorcerer saw a magic so much greater than his own that he wanted to buy it!

Many of the people in early Corinth were into witchcraft but when transformed by the revelation of Jesus Christ, they took all their books on sorcery and burned them! What does that tell you? Mankind and New Agers are fascinated and drawn to these wonders. Just so, we should expect many people in our local region, especially in the areas surrounding Woodstock and Rhinebeck, to be attracted to the healings, prophecies and miracles that are going to be manifesting the powerful love of God in His only Son, Jesus, our Savior and Lord, the salvation of man.

A few years back I was sitting in a waiting room while my car's tires were being changed. The lady next to me noticed I was reading my bible and we began to share our beliefs. It turns out she had been in a New Age church near Woodstock but was converted and became a Christian. Unfortunately I do not remember where she said she attended church. But she did explain to me the huge difference between the signs in her past church and the life she had now found in Christianity, in Jesus. I was amazed. In the same way we will see people attracted to the Lord as this new revival comes.

False Signs

(2 Thessalonians 2:8-10)⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.⁹ The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

This opposing force we see even now bulging up from the earth to oppose the church will increase more and more as we approach the end. Most, if not all, of these Leftist agendas are carefully calculated by Satan for this conflict in his New Age through the education of the young and aspiring, to as many who do not have a love for the truth.

Anti-christ

(Rev. 13:14-15) And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. 15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

(Rev. 16:14) For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

How to Proceed, 3 Facts to keep in Mind

Beware of any Prophecies, signs or wonders that don't follow these three criteria:

- 1) The Lord's power is always much, much greater in comparison.
- 2) As we look at the countless prophecies in the bible (both Old and New Testament), Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Revelations, etc. in almost every circumstance if not all, there was ***always a redemptive side*** spoken right along with any gloomy predictions (1 Co-

rinthians 14:3). Even in the prophet's blistering predictions of hell and the end, God says in Ezekiel 33:11:

¹Say to them, 'As I live!' declares the Lord God, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?'

Furthermore, Ezekiel finishes his book with wonderful promises for the future, the millennial kingdom and eternity.

3) **And here is a main key.**

*(1 John 4:1-3) Beloved, do not believe every spirit, **but test the spirits**, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.*

A lot of non-Christians and New Agers don't mind talking of prophecies at all. **And, they don't have any problem talking of God or even Jesus Himself but not as the Son of God.** They don't mind "praying" either. Many of us have experienced that they are really very at ease with all of this. What separates and shuts down any niceties is mentioning Jesus Christ as **Lord**, not just the name of Jesus. It is in *clearly stating* at some point that He is the only son of God and Lord of Lords that will immediately make the difference.

It is a lot easier and safer to not offend people and yet still talk of what the Lord is doing. That's part of the process, but at some time Jesus must eventually be mentioned for who He is in order to accomplish anything of lasting value. We may not have opportunity at first but eventually the right timing will come. May we become braver and braver and speak sincerely from our hearts, praying that we might have an opportunity. Amen.

So beware of any prophecies or signs that don't pass these three criteria. Again as the coming revival becomes greater there will be many more Christians learning how to speak a word from God. They may make mistakes but how exciting this time will be! If you are one of those gifted, I suggest going to a prophetic conference if there is one available. Hang out with other prophetic people, stay humble, submit to your church leadership and be willing to be corrected if need be. I

highly recommend Graham Cooke's book "Developing Your Prophetic Gifting," also Jack Deere's "Some Said It Thundered." Above all spend time and listen to our Lord Himself on a *daily* basis.

Recently I heard a prophecy predicting the death of a past president accompanied by earthquakes in Alaska, all of which came true (President Bush 2019.) There have been many such phenomenal words of late. However, may I remind all of us, and the ones prophesying, to make sure the Lord shows a way of redemption while giving a word like that. At least mention what the Lord can do in the situation and mention God! If I had received that word the very least I would have done is to call anyone I might have known in Alaska and tell them we need to pray. Anytime we get something of an ominous nature from the Lord what should be done first and foremost, is *pray*, not necessarily giving the word at all lest you frighten the person or persons. If you *presume* the prediction cannot be changed by prayer you have missed it. If you receive a word like that the reason it was given by the Lord at all MAY BE to *pray*. Prayer is much more powerful than we tend to think. The prayer of one righteous man accomplishes much.

Another caution would be to realize what we might unknowingly do by *exalting the individual who gave the word*. I have seen some mighty prophetic voices in the past decades get highly elevated causing the enemy to target them and then they fell and the fall was a long, long way down from the pinnacle they found themselves on. How wonderfully gracious of the Lord to be building a church that has all the gifts functioning in it at the same time so no one individual is built up. How awful to have just one great teacher in a church and then think of it as his church! Ugh. The Lord means us to be a body of believers each functioning with the gifts of the Spirit just as He sees fit always uplifting and pointing to our sovereign Lord, Jesus Himself and Him alone.

Conclusion

I had a conversion to Christ when I was a teenager. While my parents had a bible study going on in our living room I was tucked away in my bedroom hidden beneath the covers, reading the bible all by myself. They were reading about how some Episcopal churches were receiving the Holy Spirit (the late 50's). I was reading the book of Acts where Apostle Peter told onlookers just how to be saved.

(Acts 2:38-39) Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the [a] remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

So right there under my covers, in the dark room, I did just that, out loud. And lo and behold! All of a sudden I felt the presence of God get bigger and bigger and bigger! At the same time I felt smaller and smaller and also so very dirty. I repented and then wow. I received the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues! Overwhelmingly so that I actually thought I might have died. After a while I rose and crept out into the hallway and there were the grownups still studying about receiving the Holy Spirit. Funny right? The next morning I had forgotten until I went out to walk to school and when I looked around the sky was so very blue and the trees so green. I said to myself, “Oh yeah, I met God last night.” Later on I found out that the local Episcopal Bishop Butterfield was actually filled with the Holy Spirit and went about praying over his diocese, extending his hands out towards his flock praying they would receive the Holy Spirit. Years later I found out that my brother Peter had a similar experience around the same time frame but neither of us mentioned it.

At any rate I forgot about all of this as I matured, went through highschool and on to college until I was confronted with my life once again years later. But that is a different story. What I want to express is one of the many dangerous times I went through before finally making it into a church.

I had come down to Woodstock New York stopping on my way to Greenwich Village where I was looking to find and join an artist community. Many of the artists in Greenwich were staying for the Summer in Woodstock so there I stayed at a friends home. The home was owned by a woman who was very much a New Ager. For some reason she felt that I was very spiritual and took me to meet a local witch who was well known. They wanted me to put a up a booth at the annual Woodstock Fair, reading palms. I was given a book on chiromancy and studied it a little apprehensively. I actually think I was just playing a game but was flabbergasted when the line at my booth got longer and longer as word of my “true sayings” went all over the fair! This stuff is real, folks!

Later back at my work place, my fellow workers started asking me to tell their fortunes. I didn't know what to do. Somehow it felt dirty and I finally made the decision to tell them all that I hated knowing other peoples futures. As I look back on those times, I see the hand of God stepping in and saving me from a lot of things that could have destroyed me.

After coming into the church and learning the truth through the word of God as mentioned at the beginning of this little booklet, I felt so sorrowful that I repented and asked the Lord to completely cleanse me from it all. He is faithful and just. Amen.

Final Prophetic Words

At any rate the reason I relate all of this is because, I prophetically sense, things are about to unfold that we are currently unequipped for as much as we should be. There are more and more incidents where our paths are crossing New Agers. I believe Jesus wants us to get ready!

We need to be ready to respond to any New Ager or non-christian that might be attracted to us in the days ahead as signs and wonders grow on both sides. We should be ***equipped*** in how to respond with biblical proof of what to do and what not to do from God's perspective both for ourselves and for them as written in this tract.

Remember the Corinthian church. We might have the same experiences ahead of us, in Jesus name. Amen.

1. I highly recommend Dale Rumble's tract, "The New Age Movement" which goes into much greater and stronger detail, mentioning several reference books that might be helpful for anyone desiring further study. ([Http://thefountain.org/dalestracts.htm](http://thefountain.org/dalestracts.htm)) Dale was very excited when he was writing this tract knowing years ago how much we were going to need it today. He spent his life in equipping the church.

2. I also recommend Derik Prince's book "SPIRITUAL WARFARE for the End Times," specifically chapter twenty, *The Rise of False Prophets*, for further study.

3. Dale Rumble, "The Dark and Glorious Future"

4. Dale Rumble, "The Unveiling of the Man of Sin"

