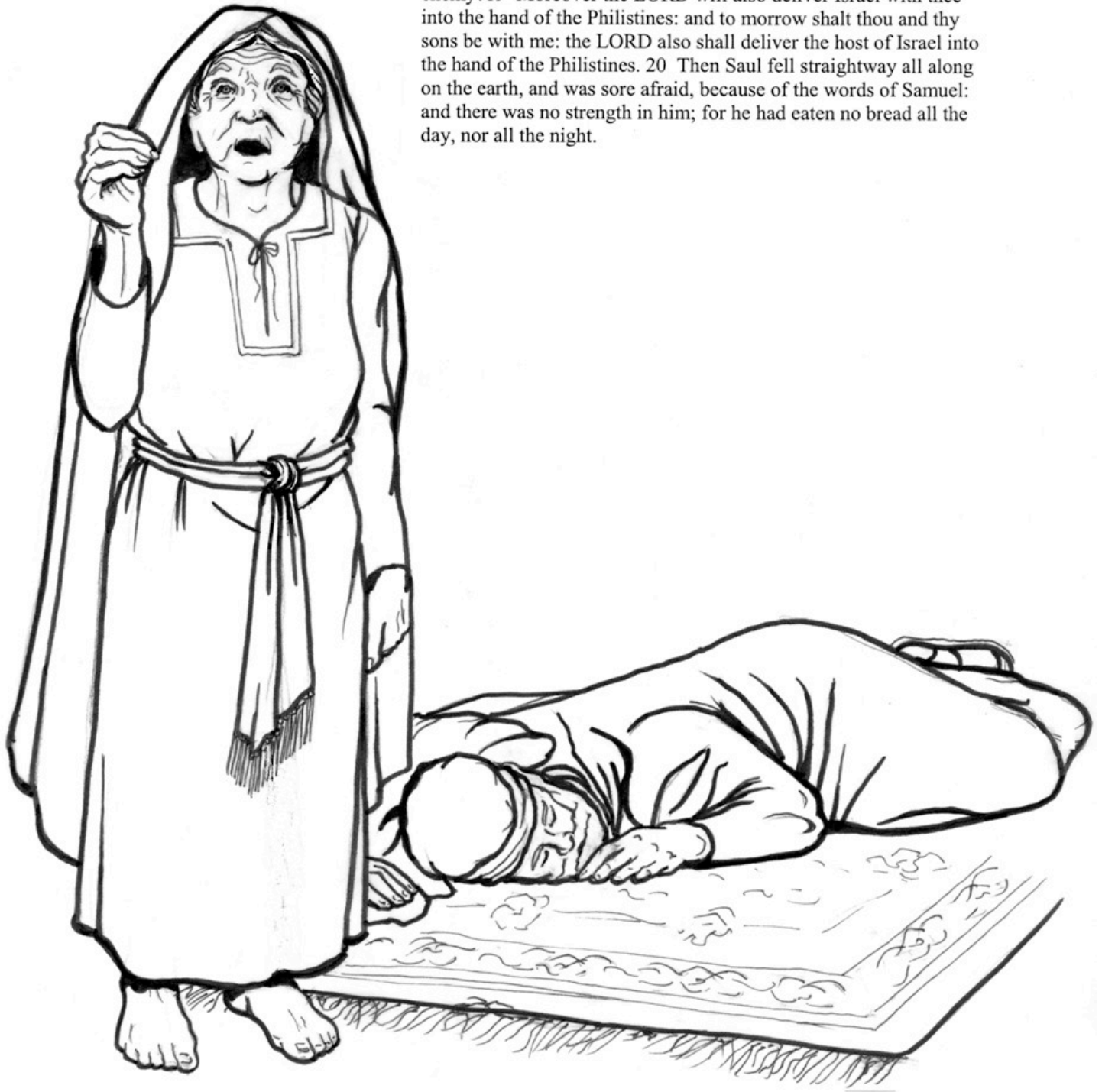


WITCH OF ENDOR

1 Sam 28:6 And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.7 Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and inquire of her. 8 And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee.11 Then said the woman,

Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel.16 Then said Samuel, Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the LORD is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy?19 Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines: and to morrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me: the LORD also shall deliver the host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines. 20 Then Saul fell straightway all along on the earth, and was sore afraid, because of the words of Samuel: and there was no strength in him; for he had eaten no bread all the day, nor all the night.



Isa 8:19 And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?

WITCH OF ENDOR

References in 1 Samuel

1. Where did she live and what was her occupation (1 Sam. 28:7)? [She was a witch who lived in Endor.](#)
 - A. Was she well known (28:7)? [Saul's servants knew of her, and others must have known of her too. However, we see in verse 9 that the law was that none with a familiar spirit should live. If she had been well-known she may have been killed according to the commandment of the king.](#)
 - B. Did her practice meet the approval of God (Lev 19:31; Lev 20:6; Deut 18:10-11; 1 Sam 15:23; Gal 5:19-21)?
 - [Leviticus 19:31—Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.](#)
 - [Leviticus 20:6—And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people.](#)
 - [Deuteronomy 18:10-11—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, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.](#)
 - [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.](#)
 - [Galatians 5:19-21—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, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.](#)
2. Why then did Saul seek for her (28:5-6)? [Saul saw the host of the Philistines and he was afraid. When he inquired of the Lord, He did not answer—even by the prophets.](#)
 - A. In what way did Saul come to her and why (28:8)? [Saul disguised himself and put on "other raiment" and went to her by night.](#)
 - B. What plea did she make to him (28:9)? [She begged him not to tell King Saul because the decree had been made that anyone with a familiar spirit should die.](#)
3. How did Saul answer her and what was his request (28:10-11)? [Saul swore to her that she would not be punished, and he asked that the spirit of Samuel be brought up.](#)
 - A. Did she expect to bring up Samuel from the grave (28:12-14)? [She must have been surprised to bring up Samuel because she cried out with a loud voice.](#)
 - B. If so, why was she so excited in his presence? [Certainly she did not know who Saul was before she saw the vision.](#)
 - C. If she could have really called up the dead, would she have been so excited? [She may have been able to do something, but not the real thing she did this time.](#)

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4. What was Samuel's speech to Saul (28:15-19)? At first Samuel asked Saul why he had disturbed him. When Saul told him the Lord was not answering his requests, Samuel said, "Wherefore then doest thou ask of me seeing the Lord has departed from thee?" Eventually Samuel told Saul that the Philistine armies would prevail over Israel and that he and his sons would die.
- A. How was Saul affected by this message (28:20)? Saul fell down on the ground because he was very afraid, and he had no strength left in him because he had not eaten for a day and a night.
 - B. What was her disposition then (28:21-23)? The witch felt sorry for him and insisted that he eat. Then she killed a calf and made unleavened bread and set it before Saul and his servants.
 - C. How did she supply strength to Saul (28:24-25)? She gave him meat and bread.
5. Endor was a town in Manasseh, about four miles from Mount Tabor. **Look on a map to see the exact location and explain what you know of the city.**
6. Necromancers are sorcerers practicing necromancy (magic). They were declared an abomination to the Lord, but were common in Egypt, Assyria and Babylon (Isa 47:9-12; Daniel 2:2). **How did the Lord feel about such people and their practices?**
7. A sorcerer is one who practices sorcery (Ex 7:11). They were banned from Israel and called witches and were punished by death (Ex 22:18). **What practice do we have today that is comparable to the activities described here? Can you name a few children's books based on magic and witchcraft?**

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

1. Is it sinful to consult fortune-tellers today? Why? (Lev 19:31; Lev 20:6; Deut 18:10-11; 1 Sam 15:23; Gal 5:19-21)
2. Leviticus 19:31—Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.
3. Leviticus 20:6—And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people.
4. Deuteronomy 18:10-11—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, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.
5. 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.
6. Galatians 5:19-21—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, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the

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kingdom of God.

- A. How do we renounce God in seeking the fortune tellers? [Individual student responses based on the scriptures given in question # 3](#)
- B. Who in the New Testament times sought such influence of departed spirits (Luke 16:27-28)? [The rich man died and was in torments and wanted Lazarus to go to his brothers to save them from that place.](#)
2. What is God's final appeal (Luke 16:29-31)? [Luke 16:29-31—Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.](#)
3. What if the witch had turned the strength of her powers for good? [Individual student responses](#)

WHAT ARE OUR CHILDREN LEARNING FROM MODERN READING MATERIALS?

Try searching the net for Christian arguments against the Harry Potter books and see how much you find. One such article appeared [here](#).

What follows is a quote from that article.

If Harry is good, then it must be good to use spells and other powers for good, since that is what the books advocate. If Harry lies and puts himself above the rules, which he does consistently, then that must be good as well, since Harry is the hero and is presumed to be good. Many defend these books on the ground that this is a story of good versus evil. If this is true, then one must conclude that in order to do good, one can lie, deceive, act maliciously, and use sorcery if the intention is good, or if the results are acceptable. This is a philosophy called pragmatism. In other words, the ends justify the means. Is this an ethic that one wishes to model for young people?

Ultimately, it is not that the Potter books provide an immoral universe, which at least acknowledges good and bad, but rather it is that the books present a morally neutral universe -- an amoral worldview, in which the practice of the occult for benevolent purposes is permissible and even encouraged. In essence, this is the occult worldview.