

Examples from the bible of SRA (Satanic Ritual Abuse) and Occult Activities

Many of the elements of occult activity, Satan worship and ritual abuse are described in Scripture. Such things as ceremonial worship rites, sexual perversion, child sacrifice, animal sacrifice, and use of psychic (supernatural) powers which can be seen today in ritual abuse situations are repeatedly mentioned in both the old and New Testament.

Paul says in 1 Cor. 10:20 ... “but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, and not to God...”, making it clear that even in the New Testament, the pagan peoples were unknowingly (and perhaps at times knowingly) involved with demon worship.

The verses listed below are only a sample of the many places in Scripture where this topic is addressed.

God’s Warnings

In an effort to protect His people, God repeatedly warned them against becoming involved in the occult practices around them.

Deuteronomy 18:9-14 “When you enter the land

which the Lord your God gives you, you shall not learn to imitate the detestable things of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone **who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire**, one who uses **divination**, one who practices **witchcraft**, or one who **interprets omens**, or a **sorcerer**, or **one who 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; and because of these detestable things the Lord your God will drive them out before you. You shall be blameless before the Lord your God. For those nations, which you shall dispossess, listen to those who practice **witchcraft** and to **diviners**, but as for you, the Lord your God has not allowed you to do so.”

Lev. 20:27 Now a man or a woman who is a **medium** or a **spiritist** shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones; their blood guiltiness is upon them.

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

Lev. 20:6 As for the person who turns **to mediums and to spiritists**, to play the harlot after them, I will also set My face against that person and will cut him off from among his people.

Lev. 18:21 ‘Neither shall you **give any of your offspring to offer them to Molech**, nor shall you profane the name of your God; I am the Lord.

Lev. 20:2 ‘You shall also say to the sons of Israel, ‘any man from the sons of Israel or from the aliens sojourning in Israel, who gives any of his offspring to Molech, shall surely be put to death; the people of the land shall stone him with stones.’

Lev. 19:28 You shall not **make any cuts in your body for the dead**, nor make any tattoo marks on yourselves: I am the Lord.

Deut. 14:1 you are the sons of the craftsman: you shall not **cut yourselves** nor shave your forehead for the sake of the dead.

Deut. 23:17 None of the daughters of Israel shall be a **cult prostitute**, nor shall any of the sons of Israel be a cult prostitute.

Deut. 16:21 You shall not **plant for yourself an Asherah** of any kind of tree beside the altar of the Lord your God, which you shall make for yourself.

Deut. 27:15 Cursed is the man who **makes an idol or a molten image**, an abomination to the Lord, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and all the people shall answer and say, ‘Amen.’

Deut. 4:16 & 23 ‘...lest you act corruptly and **make a graven image for yourselves in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female**...So watch yourselves lest you forget the covenant of the Lord your God, which He made with you, and make for yourselves a graven image in the form of anything against which the Lord your God has commanded you.

Child Sacrifices as Part of idol worship

Three of the central gods in the lives of the people around the Israelites were Molech, Baal and Chemosh. All three required child sacrifice as a part of their worship.

Molech – Molech was the national god of the Ammonites (Canaanites). The high places of Topheth was one of the central places where he was worshiped.

Jer. 7:31 ‘And they have built **the high places of Topheth**, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, **to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire**, which I did not command, and it did not come into My mind.

2 Kings 23:10 He also defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, that no man might

make his son or his daughter pass through the fire to Molech.

2 Kings 17:17 Then they **made their sons and their daughters pass through the fire, and practiced divination and enchantments**, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking Him.

2 Chronicles 33:6 And he **made his sons pass through the fire in the valley of Ben-hinnom**; and he practiced witchcraft, used divination, practiced sorcery, and dealt with mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking Him to anger.

Ezekiel 20:31 “And when you offer your gifts, when you **cause your sons to pass through the fire**, you are defiling yourselves with all your idols to this day. And shall I be inquired of by you, O house of Israel: As I live,” declares the Lord God, “I will not be inquired of by you.”

Ezekiel 23:37&39 “For they have committed adultery and **blood is on their hands**. Thus they have committed adultery with their idols and **even caused their sons**, whom they bore to Me, **to pass through the fire to them as food**. For when they had **slaughtered their children for their idols**, they entered My sanctuary on the same day to profane it; and lo, thus they did within My house.

Ezekiel 16:20&21 Moreover, **you took your sons and daughters** whom you had borne to Me, **and you sacrificed them to idols to be devoured**.

Were your harlotries so small a matter? “You slaughtered My children, and offered them up to idols by causing them to pass through the fire.”

Jer. 32:35 And they built the **high places of Baal that are in the valley of Ben-hinnom to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire to Molech**, which I had not commanded them nor had it entered My mind that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.

Psalms 106:37 They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons.

Acts 7:42-43 “But God turned away and delivered them up to serve the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, ‘It was not to Me that you offered victims and sacrifices forty years in the wilderness, was it, O house of Israel? You also took along the tabernacle of Moloch and the star of the god Rompha, the images which you made to worship them...’”

Baal – Baal means ‘lord’ or ‘master’ and he was thought to provide fertility for crops and livestock. As a god who symbolized the productive forces of nature, Baal was worshiped with much

sensuality. (Asherah was portrayed as his wife and ‘Asherah’ was the name given to wooden poles or cult pillars that stood at Canaanite places of worship.)

Jer. 19: 4&5 Because they have forsaken Me and have made this an alien place and have burned sacrifices in it to other gods that neither they nor their forefathers nor the kings of Judah had ever known, and because they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent and have built the high places of Baal to burn their sons in the fire as burnt offerings to Baal, a thing which I never commanded or spoke of, nor did it ever enter My mind.

Jer. 32:29&35 And the Chaldeans who are fighting against this city shall enter and set this city on fire and burn it, with the houses where people have **offered incense** to Baal on their roofs and **poured out libations** to other gods to provoke Me to anger...And they built the **high places of Baal** that are in the valley of Ben-hinnom **to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire** to Molech, which I had not commanded them nor had it entered my mind that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.

1 Kings 19:1-3, 10, 15&18 Now Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to

me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.” And he was afraid and arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there...And he said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Thy covenant, torn down Thine altars and killed Thy prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away”...And the Lord said to him...”yet I will leave 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not **bowed to Baal** and every **mouth that had not kissed him.**”

2 Kings 11:18 And all the people of the land went to the house of Baal, and tore it down; his altars and his images they broke in pieces thoroughly, and killed **Mattan the priest of Baal** before the altars.

1 Kings 16:32&33 so he (Ahab) erected **an altar for Baal** in the **house of Baal**, which he built in Samaria. And Ahab also made **the Asherah**. Thus Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

1 Kings 18:26-28 Then they took the ox which was given to them and they prepared it and **called on the name of Baal** from morning until noon saying, “O Baal, answer us.” But there was no voice and no one answered. And they leaped about the altar which they made. And it came about at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, “Call out with a loud

voice, for he is a god; either he is occupied or gone aside, or is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened.” So they cried with a loud voice and **cut themselves according to their custom with swords and lances until the blood gushed from them.**

2 Kings 10:18-20, 25 Then Jehu gathered all the people and said to them, “Ahab served Baal a little; Jehu served him much.” And now, summon all the prophets of **Baal, all his worshipers and all his priests**; let no one be missing, for I have a great sacrifice for Baal; whoever is missing shall not live.” But Jehu did it in cunning, in order that he might destroy the worshipers of Baal. And Jehu said, “Sanctify a solemn assembly for Baal.” And they proclaimed it...Then it came about, as soon as he had **finished offering the burnt offering**, that Jehu said to the guard and to the royal officers, “Go in, kill them; let none come out.” And they killed them with the edge of the sword; and the guard and the royal officers threw them out, and went to the inner room of the house of Baal.

Asherah

2 Kings 17:16 And they forsook all the commandments of the Lord their God and made for themselves molten images, even two calves, and **made an Asherah and worshiped all the host of heaven and served Baal.**

Judges 6:25&26 Now the same night it came about that the Lord said to him, “Take your father’s bull and a second bull seven years old, and pull down **the altar of Baal** which belongs to your father, and **cut down the Asherah that is beside it**; and build an altar to the Lord your God on the top of this stronghold in an orderly manner, and take a second bull and offer a burnt offering with **the wood of the Asherah** which you shall cut down.

1 Kings 15:13 And he also removed Maacah his mother from being queen mother, because she had made **a horrid image as an Asherah**; and Asa cut down her horrid image and burned it at the brook Kidron.

1 Kings 16:33 And Ahab also **made the Asherah**. Thus Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

1 Kings 18:19 “Now then send and gather to me all Israel at Mount Carmel, together with **450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the Asherah**, who eat at Jezebel’s table.”

2 Kings 23:7 He also broke down the houses of the male cult prostitutes which were in the house of the Lord, where the **women were weaving hangings for the Asherah.**

Chemosh – Chemosh was the national god of the Moabites, associated with the heavenly bodies. Child sacrifice was also included in their ceremonies.

1 Kings 11:7&33 Then Solomon built a **high place for Chemosh the detestable idol of Moab**, on the mountain which is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon...because they have forsaken Me, and have worshiped **Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcom the god of the sons of Ammon**; and they have not walked in My ways, doing what is right in My sight and observing My statutes and My ordinances, as his father David did.

2 Kings 3:26-27 When the king of Moab saw that the battle was too fierce for him, he took with him 700 men who drew swords, to break through to the king of Edom; but they could not. Then **he took his oldest son who was to reign in his place, and offered him as a burnt offering on the wall**. And there came great wrath against Israel, and they departed from him and returned to their own land.

Magicians

The use of psychic powers as part of man's attempt to connect with the supernatural can be clearly seen in many events recorded in the Old and New

Testament. Such things as foretelling the future, placing curses on people and other supernatural occurrences are mentioned.

Daniel 2:10 The Chaldeans answered the king and said, "There is not a man on earth who could declare the matter for the king, inasmuch as no great king or ruler has ever asked anything like this of any **magician, conjurer or Chaldean**.

Acts 13:6-8 And when they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a **certain magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-Jesus**, who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. But **Elymas the magician** (for thus his name is translated) **was opposing them**, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

Ezekiel 13:17-21 Now you, son of man, set your face against the daughters of your people who are prophesying from their own inspiration. Prophesy against them and say, Thus says the Lord God, "Woe to the **women who sew magic bands on all wrists, and make veils for the heads of persons of every stature to hunt down lives!** Will you hunt down the lives of My people, but preserve the lives of others for yourselves?" And for handfuls of barley and fragments of bread, you have profaned Me to My people to put to death some who should

not die and to keep others alive who should not live, by your lying to My people who listen to lies. I will also tear off your veils and deliver My people from your hands, **and they will no longer be in your hands to be hunted**; and you will know that I am the Lord.

Acts 8:9-11 Now there was a certain man named Simon, who formerly was **practicing magic** in the city, and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great; and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, “This man is what is **called the Great Power of God.**” And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts.

Acts 19:17-19 And this became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified. Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices. And many of those who **practiced magic brought their books** together and began burning them in the sight of all; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

Cult Prostitutes

Sexual perversion was a prominent part of the worship of Baal, as well as other of the false gods mentioned in the Bible. Israel went so far as to station cult prostitutes in the temple.

1 Kings 14:24 And there were also **male cult prostitutes** in the land. They did according to all the abominations of the nations which the Lord dispossessed before the sons of Israel.

2 Kings 23:7 He also broke down the **houses of the male cult prostitutes which were in the house of the Lord, where the women were weaving hangings for the Asherah.**

Job 36:14 “They die in youth, and their life perishes among **the cult prostitutes.**”

Astrology

Worshipping the moon and other heavenly bodies was in Bible times, as it is today, a part of Satan worship.

2 Kings 21:3 For he (Manasseh) rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he erected altars for Baal and **made an Asherah**, as

Ahab king of Israel had done, and **worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.**

2 Kings 23:5 And he did away with the idolatrous priests whom the kings of Judah had appointed to **burn incense in the high places** in the cities of Judah and in the surrounding area of Jerusalem, also those who burned incense **to Baal, to the sun and to the moon and to the constellations and to all the host of heaven.**

Graven/molten images

Deut. 9:12 Then the Lord said to me, ‘Arise, go down from here quickly, for your people whom you brought out of Egypt have acted corruptly. They have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them; they have made a **molten image** for themselves.’

Judges 17:3&4 He then returned the eleven hundred pieces of silver to his mother, and his mother said, “I wholly dedicate the silver from my hand to the Lord for my son **to make a graven image and a molten image**; now therefore, I will return them to you.” So when he returned the silver to his mother, his mother took two hundred pieces of silver and gave them to the silversmith who made them into a graven image and a molten image, and they were in the house of Micah.

Judges 18:14 Then the five men who went to spy out the country of Laish answered and said to their kinsmen, “Do you know that there are in these houses **an ephod and household idols and a graven image and a molten image**? Now therefore, consider what you should do.”

Psalms 106:19 They **made a calf** in Horeb, and **worshiped a molten image.**

Isaiah 44:9, 15&17 Those who **fashion a graven image** are all of them futile, and their precious things are of no profit; even their own witnesses fail to see or know, so that they will be put to shame...then it becomes something for a man to burn, so he takes one of them and warms himself; he also makes a fire to bake bread. He also **makes a god and worships it; he makes it a graven image, and falls down before it...but the rest of it he makes into a god, his graven image.** He falls down before it and worships; he also prays to it and says, “Deliver me, for thou art my god.”

Spiritism/Witchcraft/Sorcery

Spiritism is the use of psychic phenomena to link up with the spirit world. The word for spiritist always appears in the Bible with the word ‘witch.’ The root of the Hebrew word ‘witch’ is the verb ‘to know.’

Witchcraft is the practice of getting information or guidance from a pagan god. **Soothsayers** were also mentioned in Scripture. They were perhaps the early astrologist, since the Hebrew word for cloud is similar to the word translated ‘soothsayer’ and means ‘an observer of times.’ Some feel that the soothsayers received wisdom by studying the clouds.

A **medium** is a person who attempts to communicate with spirits. **Sorcery** involved magic practices such as placing curses on people and using other psychic powers to accomplish supernatural feats.

1 Samuel 28:3, 7-9 Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him and buried him in Ramah, his own city. And Saul had removed from the land those who were **mediums and spiritists**. Then Saul said to his servants, “Seek for me a woman who is a medium that I may go to her and inquire of her.” And his servants said to him, “Behold, there is a woman who is a medium at En-dor.” Then Saul disguised himself by putting on other clothes, and went, he and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night; and he said, “**Conjure up for me**, please, and bring up for me whom I shall name to you.” But the woman said to him, “Behold, you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off those who are mediums and spiritists from the land. Why

are you then laying a snare for my life to bring about my death?”

2 Kings 21:6 And he made his son pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and used divination, and **dealt with mediums and spiritists**. He did much evil in the sight of the Lord provoking Him to anger.

2 Kings 23:24 Moreover, Josiah removed **the mediums and the spiritists** and teraphim and the idols and all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, that he might confirm the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the Lord.

2 Chronicles 33:6 And he made his sons pass through the fire in the valley of Ben-hinnom; and he **practiced witchcraft, used divination, practiced sorcery, and dealt with mediums and spiritists**. He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking Him to anger.

Isaiah 8:19 And when they say to you, “Consult the **mediums and the spiritists who whisper and mutter**,” should not a people consult their God? Should they consult the dead on behalf of the living?

Isaiah 19:3 “Then the spirit of the Egyptians will be demoralized within them; and I will confound their

strategy, so that they will **resort to idols and ghosts of the dead, and to mediums and spiritists.**

Galatians 5:19&20 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, **sorcery**, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions...

Zechariah 10:2 For **the teraphim** speak iniquity and **the diviners** see lying visions, and tell false dreams; they comfort in vain. Therefore the people wander like sheep; they are afflicted, because there is no shepherd.

2 Kings 18:4 He removed the high places and broke down the **sacred pillars** and cut down the Asherah. He also broke in pieces **the bronze serpent** that Moses had made, for until those days the sons of Israel **burned incense to it**; and it was called **Nehushtan**.

Examples of evil rulers who encouraged the occult:

Manasseh, one of the kings of Judah did much to further the occult practices which had become rampant throughout Israel. We can get a very detailed and clear picture of what those practices were by reading about his wicked life.

2 Kings 21:1-16 **Manasseh** was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Hephzibah. And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord dispossessed before the sons of Israel. For he **rebuilt the high places** which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he **erected altars for Baal** and **made an Asherah**, as Ahab king of Israel had done, and **worshiped all the host of heaven and served them**. And he built altars in the house of the Lord, of which the Lord had said, "In Jerusalem I will put My name." For he **built altars for all the host of heaven** in the two courts of the house of the Lord. And he **made his son pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft** and used **divination, and dealt with mediums and spiritists**. He did much evil in the sight of the Lord provoking him to anger. Then he **set the carved image of Asherah that he had made, in the house of which the Lord** said to David and to his son Solomon, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever...moreover, Manasseh **shed very much innocent blood** until he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; besides his sin with which he made Judah sin, in doing evil in the sight of the Lord.

(Parallel account in **2 Chronicles 33:62** And he made his sons pass through the fire in the valley of Ben-hinnom; and he practiced witchcraft, used divination, **practiced sorcery**, and dealt with mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking Him to anger.)

Righteous Rulers who brought reforms

Josiah, one of the kings of Judah, tried to eliminate the occult practices from his nation.

2 Kings 23:1-26 Then the king (Josiah) sent, and they gathered to him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem. And the king went up to the house of the Lord and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests and the prophets and all the people, both small and great; and he read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant, which was found in the house of the Lord. And the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to carry out the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people entered into the covenant. Then the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest and the priests of the second order and the doorkeepers, to bring

out of the temple of the Lord all **the vessels that were made for Baal, for Asherah, and for all the host of heaven**; and he burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron, and carried their ashes to Bethel. And he did away with the **idolatrous priests** whom the kings of Judah had appointed to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah and in the surrounding area of Jerusalem, also **those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun and to the moon and to the constellations and to all the host of heaven**. And he brought out **the Asherah** from the house of the Lord outside Jerusalem to the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and ground it to dust, and threw its dust on the graves of the common people. He also broke down **the houses of the male cult prostitutes which were in the house of the Lord**, where the **women were weaving hangings for the Asherah**. Then he brought all the priests from the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where **the priests had burned incense**, from Geba to Beersheba; and he broke down the **high places** of the gates which were at the entrance of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were on one's left at the city gate...he also defiled **Topheth**, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, that no **man might make his son or his daughter pass through the fire for Molech**. And he did away with **the horses which the kings of Judah had given to the sun**, at the entrance of the house of the Lord, by the chamber of Nathan-melech the official,

which was in the precincts; and he burned **the chariots of the sun** with fire. And **the altars which were on the roof**, the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and **the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the Lord**, the king broke down; and he smashed them there, and threw their dust into the brook Kidron. And **the high places** which were before Jerusalem, which were on the right of the mount of destruction **which Solomon the king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth** the abomination of the Sidonians, **and for Chemosh** the abomination of Moab, **and for Milcom** the abomination of the sons of Ammon, the king defiled. And he broke in pieces **the sacred pillars** and cut down **the Asherim** and filled their places with human bones. Furthermore, **the altar that was at Bethel** and **the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin**, had made, even that altar and the high place he broke down. Then he demolished its stones, ground them to dust, and burned the Asherah...moreover, Josiah removed **the mediums and the spiritists** and **the teraphim** and **the idols** and all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, that he might confirm the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiyah the priest found in the house of the Lord. And before him there was no king like him who turned to the Lord with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after

him. However, the Lord did not turn from the fierceness of his great wrath with which His anger burned against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked him.

As we have seen from these verses, the same occult practices which we find today in ritual abuse situations were prevalent in Bible times. Even the ‘unbelievable’ and ‘sensational’ atrocity of child sacrifice – which is often used to refute the legitimacy of SRA in today’s culture – is repeatedly mentioned in the Bible as part of the wickedness of Satan worship. Unfortunately, these same kinds of things go on today.