

# **Witchcraft in Believers? More Common Than You Think!**



**Examining the Symptoms, Causes and Consequences  
of the Presence of Witchcraft in a Believer's Life**

*By Chris Simpson*

# OUTLINE

- \* God Hates Witchcraft
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- \* Balaam's Final Apostasy
- \* How To Bring Freedom To Someone Caught in Witchcraft

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Let's consider how God feels about witchcraft:

*In that day, declares the Lord, I will destroy your horses from among you and demolish your chariots. I will destroy the cities of your land and tear down all your strongholds. I will destroy your witchcraft and you will no longer cast spells. I will destroy your carved images and your sacred stones from among you; you will no longer bow down to the work of your hands. I will uproot from among you your Asherah poles and demolish your cities. I will take vengeance in anger and wrath upon the nations that have not obeyed me. (Micah 5:10-15)*

Do you see any anger in these verses? This is a side of the Lord not often considered: God's absolute hatred for witchcraft. Time and again in the Old Testament God expressed His total disdain and intolerance for witchcraft in any way, shape or form. When the children of Israel entered the Promised Land, He said, "Wipe out and destroy every man, woman, child, even the cattle. Let nothing that breathes live that was involved in idolatry and the powers of the occult."

You might say, "Wait a minute, is that the loving, gentle Shepherd speaking?"

The prophet Jonah went to Nineveh and cried against it for its' wickedness. Amazingly enough, the people repented before Jehovah - everyone from the king on down. However, within a generation, Nineveh took up where they left off and engaged in witchcraft and wickedness so vile that the Old Testament book of Nahum is dedicated to the Lord's judgment against it. Nineveh had become a hot bed of the occult arts. In fact, Nineveh had perfected witchcraft and the occult to such a point that they were exporting it to surrounding nations. The entire book of Nahum has God saying, "I'm going to get Nineveh and wipe it out once and for all."

*...all because of the wanton lust of a harlot, alluring, the mistress of sorceries, who enslaved nations by her prostitution and peoples by her witchcraft. I am against you, declares the Lord Almighty. I will lift your skirts over your face. I will show the nations your nakedness and the kingdoms your shame. I will pelt you with filth, I will treat you with contempt and make you a spectacle. (Nahum 3:4-6)*

We're told that King Saul, after years of disobedience and rebellion, finally succumbed to the power and influence of witchcraft, when he consulted the witch, Endura, shortly before his death. Saul didn't start out that way, though. Early in his reign he struggled with feelings of jealousy and envy toward David. When David went out to the battles, all the ladies would come out afterwards and cry, "Saul slays his thousands, but David slays his ten thousands."

After envy and jealousy entered his heart, one thing led to another and Saul ultimately became bitter, angry, judgmental, incredibly insecure and finally, murderous. In the end, because God wouldn't speak to him anymore, he went to a witch who told him, "Tomorrow you're going to die." And the next day he was dead. God pronounces the death penalty on witchcraft.

### The Symptoms of Witchcraft

#### A rebellious and stubborn attitude.

Years before Saul's destruction, the prophet Samuel tried to warn him when he told him: *...rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. (1 Samuel 15:22-23)*

#### An unwillingness to be corrected or to hear the truth about oneself.

*Son of man, you are living among a rebellious people. They have eyes to see but do not see and ears to hear but do not hear, for they are a rebellious people. (Eze 12:2)*

Someone operating in witchcraft will often send out subtle signals that say, “Don’t dare correct me. If you do, I’ll get angry and attack you back.” One way to determine whether witchcraft is working in someone is when even the thought of confronting them about something gives you a sinking feeling. You find yourself saying, “Oh no! I’m not going to go to them with this issue. The defensiveness, anger and coldness aren’t worth it.” Because witchcraft is a spirit of rebellion - you’ll not find the attitudes of humility, brokenness, or the willingness to hear. Solomon tells us in the book of Proverbs that wise men love correction and reproof, but fools despise anything of the sort.

#### The pursuit of one’s own thoughts and imaginations.

*All day long I (God) have held out my hands to an rebellious people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations. (Isaiah 65:2)*

This speaks of one bound with tormenting thoughts, painful memories and irrational fears. A self-willed thought life often brings in demonic influence. When someone suffers from these things, they tend to alleviate the mental pressures through indulgences and addictive tendencies. Whether it’s drugs, alcohol, sex, food, or whatever, addictions are escapes, ways to get out of the ever-present pain. When one deals with the source (witchcraft rebellion), often the symptoms fall away.

#### A lying, deceitful spirit.

The tendency to exaggerate and lie is often a symptom of witchcraft. That doesn’t mean that if someone has a problem with lying that they are necessarily operating in witchcraft. But it does mean that if one is operating in witchcraft they’ll have a problem with lying and acting deceitfully in their dealings with others.

### Suspicion.

Inability to trust anybody. Since Satan is the Accuser, one mired in witchcraft will be susceptible to accusations against other people's motives, sincerity or good will.

### Guilt and legalism.

People moving in witchcraft have little to no understanding of the wonders of God's grace and mercy. They'll tend to live under a legalistic system of rules and standards.

### Persistent confusion.

*Lord, to us belong confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you. To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him. (Daniel 9:8-9)*

Rebellion and confusion are linked together in these verses. One goes with the other. God is not the author of confusion, but of peace. You can't have it both ways. A rebellious heart invariably produces a confused mind.

### Unrepentant gossip and slander.

*He that hides hatred with lying lips, and he that utters a slander, is a fool. (Proverbs 10:18)*

This is one of the clearest symptoms of witchcraft, particularly when there's no repentance for such activity. One operating in witchcraft often can't see that what they're doing is wrong, so blinded are they by someone else's fault and shortcomings. Gossip and slander are the out-workings of a bitter heart and bring on witchcraft power when one refuses to truly forgive from the heart.

### Judgmental attitudes.

Satan's accusing spirits often drown out God's whispers of mercy in the heart of one caught in witchcraft.

### A flattering tongue.

*A lying tongue hates those it hurts, and a flattering mouth works ruin.* (Proverbs 26:28)

### Other symptoms:

A tendency to be easily deceived; a hardened heart to the Lord; arrogant, self-righteous attitudes; unrepentant pride; and a refusal to change.

## The Causes of Witchcraft

### Not dealing with sin in a relationship.

Unforgiveness, bitterness and resentment, when not dealt with, can open you to severe spiritual consequences; one of which is the spirit of witchcraft. When the foundation of a relationship lacks forgiveness, there's no limit to the amount of deception and pride that can come in.

### Undealt-with attitudes of the heart.

Saul opened himself to jealousy and envy that ultimately led to witchcraft. Absalom, who usurped his father David's kingdom, opened himself to witchcraft when he refused to lay down hatred toward his brother Amnon. Any attitude of the heart, left to itself, can eventually turn a person into witchcraft rebellion.

### Any and all involvement in occultic type activities.

Even if you indulged in the following types of things 'harmlessly' as a child, they may very well have opened a door to witchcraft tendencies in your life. The following must be confessed and renounced before the Lord and the curses broken:

Astrology, Automatic handwriting, Channeling, Charms (good luck pieces), Clairvoyance, Conjuring, Consulter of the dead, Divination, Drugs, E.S.P., Enchanter, False prophecies, Fetishes (good luck pieces), Fortune-telling, Handwriting analysis, Horoscope, Incantation, Levitation, Medium, Mind control, Mind reader, Necromancy, New Age philosophies, Occultism, Ouija board, Palmistry, Pendulum divination, Rock music, Satanism, Séance, Soothsayer, Sorcery, Spirit-guide, Spiritist, Tarot cards, Warlock, Water witching, Yoga, etc. *(In addition, there are many more than this article could possibly cover).*

#### Involvement in false religions, cults, etc.

These involvement's must be acknowledged, confessed and renounced before the Lord and the curses broken: Buddhism, Christian Science, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Jehovah's Witness, Freemasonry, Mormonism, Rosicrucianism, Taoism, Theosophy, Unitarianism, Unity, Universalism, Word-of-Faith ideologies *(This is just a small sampling of the numerous anti-christ groups that are operating today).*

#### Generational family line curses and sins.

*You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol.....You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me. (Exodus 20:3-5)*

Notice in this verse that the curse applies to the third and fourth generation. That means that if your grandfather, or even great-grandfather was involved in one of these cursed areas, you could be affected. If you had a great-grandmother that dabbled in the occult sciences or a grandfather that was involved in Christian Science or Mormonism, this curse is present in your family line.

This could, though not in every case, be the source of many of the problems you struggle with in your life today. Even though Jesus broke these curses for us at the cross, we still must appropriate the grace to be free. All you need to do is recognize, confess and renounce such generational activity in the name of the Lord. Then, under the unction of the anointing, break the power of the curse (and any demonic activity involved) off your life.

### The Consequences of Witchcraft

#### Serious demonization.

*An evil man seeks only rebellion: therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him. (Proverbs 17:11)*

The word ‘messenger’ in this verse could just as easily have been translated ‘angel’ from the Hebrew. In other words, few things bring on the oppressive power of the demonic like a rebellious attitude.

#### Spiritual darkness, bondage and affliction.

The following verses describe the results of rebellion *Some sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron; because they rebelled against the words of God, and spurned the counsel of the most High. Therefore He brought down their heart with labor; they fell down, and there was none to help. (Psalm 107:10-12)*

#### Spiritual dryness and loneliness.

*God sets the lonely in families: he brings out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land. (Psalm 68:6)*

A spiritually rebellious person is often a loner, not needing or wanting to submit their life or ministry to anyone else. They just can’t find anyone ‘spiritual’ enough for them. These are the types of people that bounce from church to church and can

never really settle down. They'll often carry with them a divisive spirit, subtly spreading discord wherever they go. Always restless, they'll come into a church as the 'prophet' or 'prophetess' and try to set things straight. Anyone naive enough to receive a person like this will find a spirit of witchcraft coming as well.

#### Curses of every kind.

*The Lord's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous. (Proverbs 3:33)*

#### An untimely death.

*If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother when they discipline him, his father and mother shall take hold of him and bring him to the elders at the gate of his town. They shall say to the elders, This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey us. He is a glutton and a drunkard. Then all the men of his town shall stone him to death... All Israel will hear of it and be afraid. (Deut 21:18-20)*

The penalty for willful rebellion in the Old Testament was death. Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy. Anyone who allows witchcraft to remain in their life is risking cutting their very life short.

### Balaam: A Prophet of God That Opened Himself Up to Witchcraft

*Then the Israelites traveled to the plains of Moab and camped along the Jordan across from Jericho. Now Balak son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites, and Moab was terrified because there were so many people. Indeed, Moab was filled with dread because of the Israelites. The Moabites said to the elders of Midian, This horde is going to lick up everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field. (Num 22:1-4)*

The Moabites were scared to death of Israel. They knew they were next in line to be wiped out. So in desperation, they sent for Balaam, who was a genuine prophet of God. However, he was not traveling along with God's people in their journeys to the Promised Land. Balaam typifies believers who have giftings and anointings but are unwilling to be submitted to the covering of a local church.

*So Balak son of Zippor, who was king of Moab at that time, sent messengers to summon Balaam son of Beor, who was at Pethor, near the River, in his native land. Balak said: A people has come out of Egypt; they cover the face of the land and have settled next to me. Now come and put a curse on these people, because they are too powerful for me. Perhaps then I will be able to defeat them and drive them out of the country. For I know that those you bless are blessed, and those you curse are cursed. The elders of Moab and Midian left, taking with them the fee for divination. When they came to Balaam, they told him what Balak had said. (Numbers 22:4-7)*

There's a lot of disagreement today as to whether or not Balaam was indeed a true prophet of God. If it can be proved that he was, then a lot of people's comfortable theology will be disturbed. Let's consider a few verses that will substantiate the truth of God's call on Balaam's life. First, consider verse 6, in the passage above:

*For I know that those you bless are blessed, and those you curse are cursed.*

When Balaam spoke his words had power and came to pass. This is a sign of a true prophet, that God backs up his word in every detail. What Balaam blessed, God blessed. What Balaam cursed, God cursed. The next verses read:

*...spend the night here, Balaam said to them, and I will bring you back the answer the Lord gives me. So the Moabite princes stayed with him. God came to Balaam and asked, Who are these men with you? (Numbers 22:8-9)*

This is another sign that Balaam is a prophet: God came to him. He had regular visitations from the Lord.

*Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell face down. (Numbers 22:31)*

Balaam was not really startled by the angel. He bowed before him unlike most who, upon seeing an angel, would utterly panic. Seeing into the spiritual realm was probably a fairly common occurrence for Balaam. In fact, Balaam had profound understanding of the character and ways of God. Consider what he later said:

*God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? (Numbers 23:19)*

It's evident that Balaam knew God's character. He knew that God was a God of truth who honored and fulfilled His word, who was not a liar, and who was unchanging. Balaam also had quite a bit of spiritual discernment. Consider the following:

*God has not seen iniquity in Jacob, nor perverseness in Israel. The Lord their God is with them; the shout of the King is among them. (Numbers 23:21)*

At times the Spirit of God came upon Balaam with mighty anointing.

*When Balaam looked out and saw Israel encamped tribe by tribe, the Spirit of God came upon him. (Numbers 24:2)*

Balaam also had the gift of spiritual eyesight and spiritual hearing. Consider:

*..and he uttered his parable: The parable of Balaam son of Beor, the parable of one whose eye sees clearly, the parable of one who hears the words of God, who sees a vision from the Almighty, who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened: (Numbers 24:3-4)*

*Then he uttered his parable: The parable of Balaam son of Beor, the parable of one whose eye sees clearly, the parable of one who hears the words of God, who has knowledge from the Most High, who sees a vision from the Almighty, who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened: (Numbers 24:15-16)*

Four verses in one chapter tell us that Balaam had his eyes opened, or that he operated with spiritual insight. Balaam genuinely heard the Lord. In fact, the prophecy about the star that would arise over the birth of the Messiah was prophesied by Balaam.

#### *Proof That Balaam Was Indeed A Prophet of God*

- 1) Balaam's word carried authority.
- 2) God confirmed and fulfilled his words.
- 3) God often personally visited Balaam at times.
- 4) At times, God's Spirit moved on him with anointing.
- 5) Balaam was gifted with spiritual eyesight and hearing.
- 6) Balaam had clear discernment and saw visions.
- 7) He experienced angelic visitations.
- 8) He moved in prophetic utterances.

## Balaam's Blatant Rebellion

Balaam was a true prophet of God who became a soothsayer. Balak, the king of Moab, summoned Balaam to curse the people of Israel:

*A people that has come out of Egypt covers the face of the land. Now come and put a curse on them for me. Perhaps then I will be able to fight them and drive them away." But God said to Balaam, Do not go with them or put a curse on those people, because they are blessed. (Numbers 22:11-12)*

Now consider what God said to Balaam. Could anything be clearer? *Don't go with the Moabites and don't curse Israel!* But what does Balaam do? Rather than immediately rejecting Balak, he gave a 'shaded' answer:

*The next morning Balaam got up and said to Balak's princes, Go back to your own country, for the Lord has refused to let me go with you. (Number 22:13)*

In other words, I'd like to go but God won't let me! More than anything else, this statement reveals the true state of Balaam's heart. Balak's offer of money awakened greed within Balaam. The enemy knows the weaknesses of every man's heart. He knows exactly the right kind of cheese to bait every believer's trap.

So what happened? Because of Balaam's ambiguous reply to Balak's offer, Balak came back and upped the ante. He was quite ready to take advantage of the compromise he saw in Balaam's life. When they came back with more money, Balaam said:

*Now stay here tonight as the others did, and I will find out what else the Lord will tell me. (Numbers 22:19)*

Why did Balaam have to go back to the Lord concerning this issue? God had already spoken quite clearly. But, if you look closely, you'll see a remarkable thing in these passages about God and the way He relates to those who 'play games' with His Word. You see, Balaam wanted it both ways. He wanted the status and prestige that came with being one of God's prophets. The problem was, he also did not want to let go of his sin. So, he opted to deceive himself about the specific things God clearly said to him.

This is dangerous ground. When anyone begins to embrace what they really know is a lie, they make a left turn into realms of darkness. This is often true in the area of unforgiveness and judgment. Knowing full well that there's no other option but forgiveness, many will hang on to resentment and bitterness, telling themselves that the gravity of the offense doesn't warrant mercy. Few things open believers to the power of witchcraft more than the choices of deception in the face of what they know they must do. Now, how do you suppose God responds to this attitude of Balaam's?

*That night God came to Balaam and said, Since these men have come to summon you, go with them, but do only what I tell you. (Numbers 22:20)*

Now, isn't that strange? Why in the world would God tell Balaam something different after He'd already plainly spoken? It's really not difficult to understand. God's saying something along the lines of, "OK, if you're so determined to go and do your own thing in spite of what I've said, then go. I won't violate your free will. You know better than this Balaam, but apparently the only way you're going to learn to be obedient to me is to reap the fruit of your own choices." Can you at all relate to God saying these things in your own life?

*Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey and went with the princes of Moab. But God was very angry when he went, and the angel of the Lord stood in*

*the road to oppose him. Balaam was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. (Numbers 22:21-22)*

This could get really confusing at this point. Didn't God just tell Balaam he could go? So, why is He angry? When a believer stubbornly persists in their own way, they can come to the place where they provoke God's wrath against them. In fact, we're told that willful rebellion can bring us to the place where God is our very enemy:

*You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (James 4:4)*

God sent an angel to block Balaam's way. At first, Balaam didn't see the angel, but his donkey did. When the donkey balked at going forward, Balaam became quite angry and began beating the poor creature. Then one of the Bible's most remarkable events occurred. God opened the mouth of the donkey which then spoke out and rebuked him for his sin. (see 2 Peter 2:16)

*Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell face down. The angel of the Lord asked him, Why have you beaten your donkey these three times? I have come here to oppose you because your way is perverse before me. The donkey saw me and turned away from me these three times. If she had not turned away, I would certainly have killed you by now, but I would have spared her. (Numbers 22:31-33)*

When Balaam finally saw the angel of the Lord he fell on his face. He really didn't understand what he was doing as he pressed forward in his rebellion.

*Balaam said to the angel of the Lord, I have sinned. I did not realize you were standing in the road to oppose me. Now if you are displeased, I will go back.*  
(Numbers 22:34)

At this point, Balaam has been reduced to spiritual stupidity. He'd just been told that his way was perverse, yet he had the gall to say, "...if you are displeased..." It's like he's in 'la-la land' or something. This is more common than you might believe. When someone talks God's will but hangs on to their own will, they'll wind up spiritually dull and full of hypocrisy - saying one thing while doing quite another. Jesus once said something about this:

*You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.* (Matthew 15:7-8)

### Balaam's Final Apostasy

As you read on in the story, Balaam continued to persist in going his own way - in spite of the desire and direction of the Lord. And what was the result? He became hardened to the point of finally showing Balak a way to bring a curse upon Israel. He knew that if God's people were drawn into committing sin, then a curse would come on them directly without his help. It's evident from the following verses that Balaam succeeded in teaching Balak how to seduce the Israelites:

*Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality.* (Revelations 2:14)

*While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The*

*people ate and bowed down before these gods. So Israel joined in worshipping the Baal of Peor. And the Lord's anger burned against them. (Numbers 25:1-3)*

Balaam, a true prophet of God, rebelled to the point of showing the enemy how to use lust to conquer the people of God! This is the kind of thing that witchcraft can do in a believer's life. It'll make you crazy. You'll wind up saying and doing things you'd never dreamed of before. I've known believers who, because of witchcraft, bitterness and resentment, did things that brought great damage to God's people, to the point of hindering the lost from being saved. While, at the same time, continued professing great love for God and their fellow man. We're told of Balaam's ultimate demise in the book of Joshua:

*In addition to those slain in battle, the Israelites had put to the sword Balaam son of Beor, who practiced divination. (Joshua 13:22)*

In both the Old and New Testament, Balaam is held up as a scandalous and disgraceful pattern of a person to avoid. His downfall began when he refused to do what he knew God clearly wanted. This is the same reason believers are often ensnared into witchcraft. When you refuse to forgive, humble yourself and extend mercy in any relationship, then you open yourself to the same forces of witchcraft and darkness that brought his final destruction.

When a believer persists in a rebellious, self-willed attitude before the Lord, all kinds of things can happen. Sins once abhorred are now justified. Activities once carefully avoided are freely indulged in. Unhealthy and dependent relationships are once again embraced. And, if the rebellion is deep enough, either subtle or overt involvement in occult activities can begin in the life.

How To Bring Freedom  
to Someone Caught Up in Witchcraft

What can you do when you encounter a believer mired in rebellion, self-justification and witchcraft? The Apostle Paul gives us the answer:

*And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, and patient. He must in meekness instruct those that oppose themselves, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will. (2 Timothy 2:24-26)*

These verses contain the prescription necessary to help someone escape the snares of witchcraft. First of all, notice that Paul mentions *patience*. Depending on how bound and deceived a believer is, this process generally takes some time. Helping someone come to the place where they can humbly acknowledge their need for deliverance from witchcraft will require much patience on your part.

Paul also says to *in meekness instruct*. Don't just go to a person full of bitterness and witchcraft control and tell them, "You have witchcraft in your life." They may "turn again and attack you" (see Matthew 7:6). It takes wisdom to help them see the problem. One way to help them see their problem is for *you* to cease to be the problem. Believe me, if you approach them the wrong way, *you* will become the problem in their mind (scapegoating). Their focus won't be on their behavior but rather on your immature way of addressing it.

However, when you approach someone deceived in these areas with meekness, brokenness and humility, you are more likely to succeed. You'll be able to 'route around the demon' and reach their heart. Paul tells us this in Galatians:

*Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently, in the spirit of meekness, at the same time watching yourself, or you may also be tempted. (Galatians 6:1)*

When you approach them with the attitude of “but by the grace of God I could be caught up in the same way”, then you’ll get their attention. Then their focus will increasingly be on the demonic attitudes in their life - not your emotional reaction to those attitudes.

Paul goes on to say, *in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth.* At this point you need to speak the truth in love to those areas where they’ve embraced lies and deceptions (about themselves, about others or even about the character of God). Once the truth finds its way into their heart, then they’re on their way to freedom. You may have to spoon feed the truth at first, but eventually, as the person trusts you more, you can speak it more freely. Then, as truth is spoken, God brings the repentance necessary for release. We sow the seeds of truth and He brings forth the harvest of deep repentance.

Finally, Paul says, *that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.*

What a glorious privilege we have to be a part of the process in liberating our brothers and sisters from the devastating bondage’s of witchcraft to the glorious freedom of the Spirit!

"I, the Lord, have called  
you in righteousness;  
I will take hold of your hand.  
I will keep you and will make you  
to be a covenant for the people  
and a light for the Gentiles,  
to open eyes that are blind,  
to free captives from prison and to  
release from the dungeon  
those who sit in darkness."

(Isaiah 42:6-7)

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