Witchcraft In Disguise

I. Legitimate Dominion vs. Illegitimate Control (Gen. 1:27–28)
   A. Witchcraft proceeds out of rebellion (1 Sam. 15:23)
      1. The religion of rebellious fallen man
      2. Its objective: control over:
         a. Forces of nature
         b. Course of life
         c. Other human beings
   B. Many different forms
      1. Some element of the supernatural
      2. Counterfeits true God-given religion
      3. Uses: sacrifices, oaths, covenants, curses, spells, incantations, potions, drugs, some forms of music (hard rock)
      4. Atmosphere of fear and darkness
   C. Witchcraft can disguise itself in Christian forms.
      Satan can do more harm to the church from inside than from outside (compare Acts 16:16–18)

II. What Witchcraft Is
   A. A work of the flesh (Gal. 5:20)
   B. An evil spiritual power
   C. Three key words:
      1. Manipulate – *means*
      2. Intimidate – *means*
      3. Dominate – *objective*
   D. Forms witchcraft takes
      1. Manipulation can begin at birth; e.g., a baby crying
      2. Contemporary culture
         a. Advertising: appeals to pride, covetousness
         b. “Want what you don’t need, buy what you can’t afford”
         c. Leads to addictions: nicotine, alcohol, shopping
      3. Husband/wife relationships
         a. Husband: rage, violence, jealousy, sulkiness, criticism—basically *intimidation*
b. Wife: hurt feelings, tears, emotional sickness, listing husband’s misdeeds to produce guilt—basically, manipulation
   Sometimes inherited by birth through female line, e.g.
   (1) American “Deep South”
   (2) Matriarchal societies

c. Both: withholding sex (compare 1 Cor. 7:3–5)

4. Children: rebelliousness, temper tantrums

5. Parents: possessiveness, cultivating dependence, exploiting affection, and so projecting guilt, making love a “reward”

6. In the church
   a. Appealing for money
      (1) “There are 5 people here . . .”
      (2) Harrowing descriptions—guilty if you don’t give
      (3) “You will receive your healing if . . .”
   b. Fear and threats
      (1) “If you leave this church, you’ll never prosper.”
      (2) Demand for unquestioning loyalty
      (3) “Covenant breaker”
         (2) and (3) are marks of cults
   c. Spiritual operations
      (1) Interpretation and prophecy to control
      (2) Controlling by prayer, e.g. group of “spiritual” women around a pastor
      (3) “Charismatic fortune telling”
         “False vision or flattering divination” (Ezek. 12:24)
         (a) Beware of flattery (Prov. 29:5)
         (b) The Holy Spirit exalts Jesus (John 16:14)
   d. Sexual seduction
      (1) Male leaders through counseling, etc.—sexual freedom “for the mature”
      (2) Females through being counseled or serving a male leader
      (3) Warnings: Prov. 2:10–11, 16–19; 7:21–27—witchcraft’s targets are strong men
      (4) We all need to protect ourselves—none of us are immune

The Prayer Of Desperation
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I. Personal Background: How I Learned This Principle
   A. The Lord waits to hear from Israel a prayer of total desperation (Zech. 14:1–3)
      1. No other hope—no other source of help
      2. This applies also to individual salvation
   B. The Lord waits—in order to show grace and mercy (Is. 30:18).
      We also must wait—this intensifies longing and dependence.
   C. The Lord allows His people to come to the verge of utter destruction (Deut. 32:23–27)—then intervenes to silence the boasting of the adversary
D. The utter helplessness of God’s people provokes His compassion—also exposes the
total ineffectiveness of all false gods (Deut. 32:36–38)
E. The Lord alone has the power of life or death—salvation or destruction—our prayer
must be based on this realization (Deut. 32:39–40)
F. Ultimately the Lord will avenge all injustice to His people (Deut. 32:43)
G. God waits for iniquity to become fully ripe (Ps. 92:7)
   1. Rev. 22:10–12; 14:14–16
   2. Isaiah 63:1ff—the winepress of the wrath of God
H. We must learn to see the wicked from God’s perspective (Ps. 73:12–20)
I. The Lord waits until all His elect have been gathered in (2 Pet. 3:9)
J. God through the Holy Spirit grants grace, supplication, revelation—we cannot produce
these by our own carnal or religious efforts (Zech. 12:10)

II. The Moment And Place Of Desperation—The Moment Of Truth—God Waits Till We
Come To This Place
A. Individual
   1. Deliverance from sin and its consequences
   2. Crisis in marriage, family or personal situation—ask God to show you if there is a
      specific barrier
B. National (Britain)
   1. Judgment according to light received (Matt. 11:20–24)
   2. Greater privilege carries greater responsibility (Luke 12:4–8)

   Who is willing to pray this kind of prayer?

   How To Live In A World Falling Apart

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I. Scriptures That Describe Our World Today
A. Features of our time: (Luke 17:26–30)
   1. Infiltration from Satan’s kingdom (Gen. 6:1–2)
   2. Every thought evil (Gen. 6:5)
   3. Filled with violence (Gen. 6:11)
   4. Sexual perversion (Gen. 6:12)
   5. Blatant aggressive homosexuality (Gen. 19:1–11)
B. Corruption of human character (2 Tim. 3:1–5)
   1. Corruption is irreversible
   2. The root problem: love of self
      a. Leading to breakdown of family
      b. Leading to breakdown of society
      c. Leading to anarchy
      d. Leading to tyranny (antichrist)
C. One unique feature: restoration of Israel (Jer. 30:3, 24b)

II. How To Respond
Nothing new—only the old directions underlined

A. Align with God’s two primary objectives
   1. The establishment of God’s kingdom on earth (Matt. 6:10)
      a. The only kingdom that will not be shaken (Heb. 12:25–29)
      b. God will shake all nations (Hag. 2:7)
      c. The kind of person who cannot be shaken (1 John 2:17)
      d. Right priorities (Matt. 6:33)
   2. A people for the kingdom (Tit. 2:11–14)
      a. Purified by Christ for Himself
      b. In response, we must purify ourselves. This is the scriptural evidence that we
         are genuinely looking forward to Christ’s return (1 John 3:2–3)

C. Seven marks of preparation (2 Peter 3:11–14)
   1. Holy conduct
   2. Godliness
   3. Looking for . . .
   4. Hastening . . . (Matt. 24:14)
   5. In peace
   6. Without spot
   7. Blameless

D. Final counsel (1 Cor. 7:29–33)
   1. Not tied to anything earthly
   2. Without “personal agenda”
   3. To marry or stay single?
      Let God choose for you.

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