

“Mediums” [‘obot] and “wizards” [yddonim] in the Hebrew Bible

Leviticus 19.31

Do not turn to mediums or wizards; do not seek them out, to be defiled by them: I am YHWH your God.

Leviticus 20.6, 27

If any turn to mediums and wizards, prostituting themselves to them, I will set my face against them, and will cut them off from the people. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy; for I am YHWH your God....A man or a woman who is a medium or a wizard shall be put to death; they shall be stoned to death, their blood is upon them.

1 Samuel 28.3, 9

Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in Ramah, his own city. Saul had expelled the mediums and the wizards from the land....The woman said to him, "Surely you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the wizards from the land. Why then are you laying a snare for my life to bring about my death?"

2 Kings 21.6

[King Manasseh of Judah] made his son pass through fire; he practiced soothsaying and augury, and dealt with mediums and with wizards. He did much evil in the sight of YHWH, provoking him to anger. [as 2 Chronicles 23.6]

2 Kings 23.24

Moreover Josiah put away the mediums, wizards, teraphim, idols, and all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem

Cf, Deuteronomy 18.9-14

When you come into the land that YHWH your God is giving you, **you must not learn to imitate the abhorrent practices of those nations.** No one shall be found among you who makes a son or daughter pass through fire, or who **practices divination, or is a soothsayer, or an augur, or a sorcerer, or one who casts spells, or who consults ghosts or spirits, or who seeks oracles from the dead.** For whoever does these things is abhorrent to YHWH; it is because of such abhorrent practices that YHWH your God is driving them out before you. You must remain completely loyal to YHWH your God. Although these nations that you are about to dispossess do give heed to soothsayers and diviners, as for you, YHWH your God does not permit you to do so.