

Deuteronomy 18:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

Analysis

For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD—The Hebrew to'evah (abomination) denotes something utterly detestable and morally repugnant to God's holy nature. This term appears throughout the Mosaic law for practices that fundamentally violate covenant relationship with YHWH. The phrase **all that do these things** refers back to the catalogue of occult practices in verses 10-11: child sacrifice, divination, soothsaying, enchantment, witchcraft, charming, consulting spirits, wizardry, and necromancy.

Because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee—The Canaanite nations' expulsion was divine judgment for their occult practices. God's holiness demands separation from such practices; Israel's conquest of Canaan was not arbitrary imperialism but theocratic judgment. This establishes a crucial principle: God judges nations for moral corruption, and His people must remain distinct. The verse connects cultic purity with covenant blessing—compromising with occultism forfeits God's protection and presence.

Historical Context

Moses delivered this warning circa 1406 BC on the plains of Moab, preparing Israel for entry into Canaan where occult practices were deeply embedded in religious culture. Archaeological evidence confirms widespread divination, necromancy, and child sacrifice among Canaanite peoples. The Molech cult (child

sacrifice) is attested in Phoenician inscriptions and excavations at Carthage. Israel's temptation would be to syncretize these practices with YHWH worship—precisely what later occurred and provoked prophetic condemnation (2 Kings 21:6; Jeremiah 7:31).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's unchanging holiness demand separation from occult practices in contemporary culture (horoscopes, mediums, spiritualism)?
2. What does the severity of God's judgment on Canaanite occultism teach about the spiritual danger of dabbling in 'harmless' supernatural practices?

Interlinear Text

וּבְגַלְלָה אֵלֶּה עַשְׂתָּה כִּי יְהִי הַקְּטוּבָה כִּי כָל שָׁהָר לְהַלְלָה
H3588 of these abominations H8441 H3068 the LORD H3605 For all that do H428 and because H1558

מֹרֵשׁ יְשַׁׁלְּמָה אֱלֹהִים יְהִי הַקְּטוּבָה כִּי לְהַלְלָה
of these abominations H8441 H428 the LORD H3068 thy God H430 doth drive them out H3423

מִפְּנֵיכֶם אֹתֶם מִפְּנֵיכֶם
from before H853 H6440

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 18:24 (Parallel theme): Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you:

Deuteronomy 9:4 (References God): Speak not thou in thine heart, after that the LORD thy God hath cast them out from before thee, saying, For my righteousness the LORD hath brought me in to possess this land: but for the wickedness of these nations the LORD doth drive them out from before thee.

Leviticus 18:27 (Parallel theme): (For all these abominations have the men of the land done, which were before you, and the land is defiled;)

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