

Wilderness Lessons #21

March 13, 2016

Camp #35 Punon

Nu 33:42-43 They journeyed from Zalmonah and camped at Punon. 43 They journeyed from Punon and camped

Definition:

Punon = perplexity (Strong's)

Punon is found (2X) only here (Nu 33:42-43)

Punon comes from a root word, meaning to be perplexed (Strong's); it's used (1X)

Ps 88:15 I was afflicted and about to die ... I suffer Your terrors; I am overcome or embarrassed (NASU)

distracted = KJV; ASV; AMP;

despair = NIV;

distraught = NKJV

Punon = distraction; perplexity;

Application:

Distracted:

Ps 55:2-3 Give heed to me and answer me; I am restless in my complaint and am surely distracted, 3 Because of the voice of the enemy, Because of the pressure of the wicked; ...

Lk 10:38-40 Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. 39 She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word. 40 But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me."

Dismayed:

"Do not fear or be dismayed" (Jos 8:1; 1Chr 22:13; Jer 1:17; 30:10; 46:27; Ezk 3:9)

Dt 1:21 the LORD your God has placed the land before you; go up, take possession,

Dt 31:8 "The LORD is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you.

Jos 1:9 Be strong and courageous; for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (Jos 10:25; 1Chr 28:20; 2Chr 20:17)

2 Ch 20:15 because the battle is not yours but God's

2 Ch 32:7 for the one with us is greater than the one with him.

Dismayed because of the taunts of the enemy (1Sam 17:11)

Dismayed because of lack of presence of God (Psa 30:6-7; 104:29)

Dismayed because of the suffering of trials (Job 4:5; Psa 6:1-3)

Confusion:

1 Co 14:33 for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, ...

Jas 3:16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder (confusion) and every evil thing.

Confusion is part of the curse of the law (Dt 28:20); God promised to throw Israel's enemies into confusion (Ex 23:27); instead, because of their sin and rebellion, confusion is what Israel experienced.

Isa 21:3-4 For this reason my loins are full of anguish; Pains have seized me like the pains of a woman in labor. I am so bewildered I cannot hear, so terrified I cannot see. 4 My mind reels, horror overwhelms me; The twilight I longed for has been turned for me into trembling.

Camp #36 Oboth

Nu 33:43-44 They journeyed from Punon and camped at Oboth. 44 They journeyed from Oboth and camped

Definition:

Oboth = Pythones; oracular serpents; familiar spirits; (root = a soothsayer; an invoker of the dead; one possessed with the devil; a bottle). Bottles (of skin). Necromancers. (DBN)

Pythones = [from Greek Pythōn, spirit of divination]; (MWCD)

Oboth is found 4X (Nu 21:10,11; 33:43,44);

The plural form of Oboth is found 88 X in OT. It is translated as:

familiar spirit = KJV;
mediums [and/or] spiritists = NASU;

See - Lev 19:31; 20:6,27; Dt 18:11; 1Sam 28:3,7,7,8,9; 2Ki 21:6; 23:24; 1Ch 10:13;
2Ch 33:6; Isa 8:19 19:3; 29:4

Application: Oboth & "spiritism"

The Church of today must be ready for the modern day harvest that will be reaped. Because we live in a fragmented society, people come to Christ with family breakdown, moral confusion, rampant immorality of every kind, occultism, new age mixed with eastern religions. People come to Christ broken, wounded, unstable, spiritually bankrupt and emotionally frazzled. The journey from salvation to maturity is something long and uncharted for most who start this new transformation. As a church, we must have a vision to process people into spiritual wholeness, healing and spiritual health. (Frank Damazio; The Making of a Vision; page 139)

Occult Definitions:

A. Occult = means "that which is hidden."

B. Derek Prince: the occult is anything that is spiritual or supernatural that is not to God through the mediator (the man) Christ Jesus.

There are 3 branches to the occult:

- 1) divination = foreknowledge
- 2) sorcery = material object contact points; music, cards, movies, potions, books
- 3) witchcraft = power; magic, spells, control

The occult has its beginnings in idolatry

1. The occult is the worship of other gods.
2. Idolatry opens the door to the hidden powers of darkness.
3. These powers are demons (Ps. 106:35-38; I Cor. 10:20)

Entering into an occult involvement is bowing down before other gods. This unholy alliance opens the door to the supernatural.

Rebellion against God is the root of the occult.

1Sam 15:23 "For rebellion is as the sin of divination ...

The occult holds keys that open doors into the spiritual realm (of darkness); doors are opened into this dimension (knowingly and unknowingly) through various practices.

The occult is the counterfeit of the true

- I. There is a genuine outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28, Acts 1:5,8).
 - a. In the true baptism one receives the Holy Spirit.
In the counterfeit one receives an unclean spirit.
 - b. The Holy Spirit energizes the person.
The unclean spirit brings passivity to the person.
 - c. Jesus Christ is the baptizer in the Holy Spirit
The counterfeit works through mediums, séances, occult games, etc.
2. There are true supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 12:1-11)
There are also counterfeit gifts of the unholy spirits.
3. The gifts of the Spirit comes through the spirit and are ministries of the Spirit.
The occult powers focus on the mind, requiring passivity and/or trances, etc.

Occult Practices - Definitions:

Spiritism: Is the effort to go beyond death and enter into contact with those that have died. Deceiving spirits can imitate the deceased and produce knowledge known by the person.

Scripture expressly forbids this. "Or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead." (Deut. 18:11)

Spiritism believes in reincarnation. This denies the very heart of the gospel, Christ's redemption through the Cross.

Levitation: The capacity of a solid object to defy the laws of gravity, to levitate itself with no means of support." This act is occult and gained through seeking power from the occult.

Poltergeist (Noisy ghost): Poltergeists present themselves as spirits of a deceased person. Poltergeists are attracted to houses where occult practices have occurred.

Ouija board: A medium of communication by which a spirit will respond to the questions of the curious; a so called "harmless game" that puts one in contact with the spirit world.

Apportation (telekinesis): The moving of a solid object from one place to another. Occult spiritual energy can move material objects, even through walls or locked doors.

Astral Projection: Leaving the physical body, traveling some distance, then returning.
An individual in a state of consciousness is capable of leaving his physical body, traveling long distances, then returning to his/her own body. Drugs can also induce this kind of state.

Automatic hand writing: Writing something supernaturally, not knowing what is written.
One writes under compulsion of a spirit not knowing until later what is written.

Extrasensory Perception (E.S. P.) Knowledge that comes from the occult realm.

Visions and Dreams:

Dreams can be from a demonic source. Deut 13:1 If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, ' Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,' 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 " You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him. 5 "But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has counseled rebellion against the LORD your God who brought you from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to seduce you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from among you.

Visions and Dreams can come also from God.

Dan 1:17 As for these four youths, God gave them knowledge and intelligence in every branch of literature and wisdom; Daniel even understood all kinds of visions and dreams.

Dan 1:19 The king talked with them, and out of them all not one was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's personal service. 20 As for every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and conjurers who were in all his realm.

Telepathy: The phenomena of knowing what is in someone else's mind.
Used with objects sometimes to receive information about the owner.

Clairvoyance: Having knowledge, without the use of any known senses.
The perception of facts, of which one has no former knowledge, without the use of any of the known senses. This explains the clairvoyance of: Jeanne Dixon and Edgar Cayce

Clairsentience: An irrational diagnosis of illness.
Methods used: Concentration; Crystal ball gazing; Touching with the hand; Pendulum rod.

Astrology: Study of stars and their relative positions to foretell the future.
Astrology attempts to penetrate the future. The Zodiac becomes the center of attention.
It is fatalistic (One's destiny is fixed by the stars)

Cartomancy; Tarot cards: A technique of fortune telling.
78 cards are used to foretell the future. People become victims of the power of suggestion and the prediction actually becomes a curse.

Palmistry: A technique of fortune telling
1) Chiromancy is the telling of fortunes from the lines in the hand.
2) Chirology is the scientific interpretation of the shape and lines of the hand.
3) Graphology is the interpretation of handwriting.

Diving with a rod or pendulum:
Rod is moved over parts of the body for detention of illness, etc.
Forked stick is used to find unrevealed sources of water, mineral deposits, etc.

Mirror Mantic or Crystal Ball:

Gazing into a mirror or crystal ball sets in motion forces that are subconscious which give entrance to powers outside the person.

Psychometry: A technique of fortune telling

The supposed faculty of divining knowledge about an object, or about a person connected with it, through contact with the object. The techniques of fortune telling often change, but the spirit & the force behind it remains the same.

Magic: Manipulating the spirit world for its own personal ends.

The much disputed art of, or at least attempt at, knowing & ruling the spirit (human, animal & plant) worlds, together with the world of dead matter - through extrasensory means with the aid of the mystical & accompanying ceremonies. (Kurt Koch)

Whereas divination seeks knowledge of past, present, & future, magic seeks to manipulate the spirit world for its own personal ends. One assumes the role of God.

Black magic: Endeavors to subjugate & dominate the enemy with magic.

White magic: (Christian symbols can be used)

In true prayer of faith one submits to God, while in white magic one compels God to act. The will of the person becomes supreme rather than the will of God.

Mysticism: Methods of meditation to attain spiritual truths.

The state of unlimited and unconditional awareness brings one to a consciousness of ultimate reality. Mysticism asserts the possibility of attaining knowledge of spiritual truths through intuition acquired by fixed meditation.

This doctrine & practice comes from such disciplines as yoga, magic alchemy, astrology, kabbalah, taoism, tantra and zen.

Thoughts of Mysticism:

In our day this practice is carried on in various forms of which transcendental meditation & martial arts are prominent. The doctrine basically denies the personal God of Christianity, asserts the inherent divinity of man, and rejects any absolute statement of moral values.

Man is a divine being. Meditation brings one to experience the inner self. The "self" of man is God. The purpose & fulfillment of life is to become aware of our "divine" nature. This brings man "enlightenment," "illumination," "at-one-ment," "union." The man-God becomes, master & creator of his own reality.

Some other definitions:

Witch = A person under the influence of an evil spirit who has demonic powers.

Witchcraft = The power or influence that a witch can do. (Sorcery)

Sorcery = Magic performed with the aid of evil spirits.

Soothsayer = Person who claims to tell what will happen by: divination, astrology & other means other than God or the Holy Spirit.

Necromancy = Communicating with the dead.

Enchantments = by use of magic; put under a spell (Bewitching)

Charmer = (Serpent charming) a dealer in spells / enchanter.

Superstition = Misplaced credulity concerning the supernatural, which leads to irrational fear, misdirected reverence, false religion and magic, and which brings God's judgment. Scripture warns against and condemns such things.

Five ways to rebuke Satan and all demonic powers.

1. A display of human anger and energy, such as the yelling at the devil, stomping your feet, or throwing things, is the least desirable method of rebuking. While Martin Luther did throw an ink bottle at Satan, he later proclaimed that printing the gospel was more powerful than throwing an ink at him.
2. Quoting Scriptures -- when Scripture is quoted or held up as the standard of right and wrong, it is a rebuke against evil.
3. Worship and praise to Jesus -- when Jesus is lifted up, His enemies are rebuked and cast down.
4. Sitting at the table spread in the presence of our enemies, meditating, and feasting on the word of God is a rebuke to the enemy.
5. Dwelling peacefully in quietness and confidence, ignoring the accusations, gestures, and thoughts of the enemy is a strong form of rebuking. To simply put Satan and his thoughts out of our minds is a rebuke of the highest order.

References used in this study:

The Outline Bible
Nelson Study Bible
With the Word Bible Commentary, by Warren W. Wiersbe
Adam Clarke's Commentary
Dictionary of Bible Names; by Justin Cornwell (DBN)
Dictionary of Bible Themes:
Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (MWCD)