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**Evil**  
in all its  
**Forms**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



**Learn  
The Bible with Family**

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Evil in all its Forms.

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### Topics.

- God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and Shechem.
- An evil spirit from the LORD torments king Saul.
- A woman with a familiar spirit calls up Samuel.
- Evil, demons, and Hollywood.
- Not every non-believer is an evildoer.
- Characteristics of evil in the light of God and mankind.

**Evil:** comes from the Hebrew word (ra) and from Strong's Concordance and refers to anything that gives pain, causes harm, or hurt (physical, mental, or spiritual) and to anything that is bad of its kind (i.e., (salty land, toxic water, stormy weather etc.), and embraces such things as unhappiness, misery, and stress. In relation to people, it refers to a person who is vicious, spiteful, malicious, brutal, nasty, cruel, hurtful, mean, violent and sadistic in disposition and wicked ethically.

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### GOD SENT AN EVIL SPIRIT BETWEEN ABIMELECH AND SHECHEM

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- **Judges 9:23:** God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem and the leaders of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech.

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To understand this verse, we need to look at the context it is in. The following is a very brief overview of the story.

- Abimelech went to Shechem and said to them what is better for you, that all seventy sons of my brother Jerubbaal rule over you or that I rule over you?' Shechem gave Abimelech seventy pieces of silver and Abimelech hired men and with their help murdered the seventy sons of his brother Jerubbaal (Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal hid himself and escaped), then all the leaders of Shechem made Abimelech king.

Later Jotham proclaims to the people of Shechem fire from King Abimelech will devour the leaders of Shechem because they took part in the murder of the seventy sons of Jerubbaal, and fire will come out from the leaders of Shechem and devour King Abimelech because he murdered the sons of Jerubbaal.

**This prophecy of Jotham came to pass in the following manner:** King Abimelech ruled over Israel three years and God sent an evil spirit between him and the leaders of Shechem, and the leaders of Shechem dealt treacherously with King Abimelech. God's purpose for this evil (contention) was so that the punishment for the murder of the seventy sons of Jerubbaal would come upon the leaders of Shechem and upon King Abimelech. Eventually the leaders of Shechem plotted against King Abimelech to destroy him. When King Abimelech was told of Shechem plan to destroy him he and his men went to war against Shechem, and through many battles destroyed them, but during the final battle a woman threw a millstone on King Abimelech's head and crushed his skull. Abimelech told his young armour-bearer to thrust him through with his

sword so that no one would say a woman killed him, the young man thrust him through and King Abimelech died, when the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they all departed to their homes. In this way, God returned the evil of Abimelech, which he had committed against his father in killing his seventy brothers and made all the evil of the men of Shechem return on their heads. Added to this the prophetic words of Jotham were fulfilled: "Fire from King Abimelech devoured the leader of Shechem and fire from the leaders of Shechem devoured King Abimelech." Here is the stunning wonder of God's ways, wisdom, and justice (for the complete story see Judges 9).

The discord of the Shechemites (perhaps from pride and envy) resulted in them dealing treacherously with King Abimelech. This disharmony and conflict were permitted by God and was from God. The evil spirit brought about God's justice upon King Abimelech and Shechem for the murder of the seventy sons. This justice came about through jealousies, envies, resentments, covetousness, betrayal, lies, deception, treachery, and brutal and bloody wars, so in this context the evil spirit could be seen as the evil that arises up out of the human heart, which in the New Testament, is often personified as the devil.

The English Standard Bible says:

- **Galatians 5:19:** Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality.

The King James Bible says:

- **Galatians 5:19:** Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness.

Mathew and Mark wrote:

- For out of the heart come evil thoughts murder and false witness (Matthew 15:19) (Mark 7:21).

It becomes very clear to whoever reads the story concerning the violent murder of Jerubbaal's seventy sons that all these evils brought about the murder of the seventy sons and brought about God's justice upon Abimelech and Shechem especially when we consider that the verse states: "God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem (v23)

James the half-brother of Jesus tells us:

- **James 4:1-4:** What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? <sup>2</sup> You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.

From these verses it is clear, that it is from our own heart and passions that war within us, that we quarrel, fight and murder, because we covet things we do not have, and cannot lawfully obtain. It could be correctly said, the evil spirit, was the envious and jealous spirit, dwelling in the heart of Shechem, that brought about the treachery and divisions, between his people and King Abimelech.

**The statement, God sent an evil spirit could simply mean:**

- God permitted hatred, suspicions, jealousies and ill will toward one another.
- God allowed the seeds of discord and contention to be sown among them.

- God permitted factions; and these factions produced insurrections, civil contentions, and slaughter.
- God gave them up to their own hearts' lusts, to think evil of one another which grew into jealous rage and revenge.

It is certain Abimelech and Shechem's own lusts were evil spirits' (i.e., in the New Testament called devils dwelling in their own hearts), from which come fights and wars (James 4:1). It would be right and proper to say that it is to these evils, that, God gave them up, or that God sent (permitted) these evil spirits to manifest between them. God permitted jealousy, distrust, secret disaffection, smouldering rebellion and tyranny between Abimelech, and the men of Shechem, and used this evil discord dwelling in their hearts to punish the wickedness of the Shechemites, and the vicious crimes of Abimelech the royal murderer and usurper of the king's throne. God allowed this evil amongst king Abimelech and the Shechemites, because they consented with the king in shedding innocent blood, therefore God brilliantly used the evil in their own hearts to destroy each other. Sooner or later God will bring justice upon those who murder the innocent. Sin results in punishment, and though God is not the author of sin, He is the author of justice and punishment. Abimelech and the Shechemites cruelly murdered the seventy sons of Jerubbaal, and so it is only just that God used the evil of their own hearts to bring punishment upon the Shechemites, because they approved and aided Abimelech in the bloody murder of the sons of Jerubbaal and agreed to make him king after he had murdered them.

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### AN EVIL SPIRIT FROM THE LORD TORMENTS KING SAUL

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**NOTE:** since there is much confusion amongst religions worldwide concerning the following verse, we will look at it in some detail.

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- **1 Samuel 15:10-11:** The word of the LORD came to Samuel: <sup>11</sup> "I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments." And Samuel was angry, and he cried to the LORD all night.

**INTRODUCTION:** the LORD told Samuel that he had rejected Saul from being king over Israel because Saul had turned back from following the LORD and his commandments. The LORD then instructs Samuel to go to the house of Jesse because he has chosen David to be king. Samuel says, "LORD Saul will kill me if he hears of this." God shows Samuel what to do, and he goes and anoints David, and the Spirit of the LORD immediately rushed upon David, and from that day forward the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul.

- **1 Samuel 16:14-16:** Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him. <sup>15</sup> And Saul's servants said to him, "Behold now, an 'evil spirit from God is tormenting you. <sup>16</sup> Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skilful in playing the lyre, and when the evil spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well."

David is brought to King Saul to play the harp.

- **1 Samuel 16:23:** And whenever the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand, so Saul was refreshed and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

Saul was jealous of David, so the Spirit of God departed from Saul and therefore he was troubled by fear, which means he would have lost the peace he would have had when he had the Spirit of God was upon him

**Troubled:** comes from the Hebrew word (baath) and from Strong's Concordance means to be afraid, terrified, affrighted, dismayed, startled, or overtaken by terror, in the context of Saul having a troubled Spirit from the LORD, it carries the idea of Saul being full of anxiety, jealousy, anger, aggression and violence as opposed to being peaceful and calm.

**CONSIDER:** God is love, and the fruits of the Spirit are love, compassion, grace, kindness, mercy, patience, self-control, forgiveness, desiring the best for others and rejoicing with them when they do well even when they maybe promoted above us, or are having far greater success. Saul was fully jealous of David being favoured by the people, and by God so naturally God's Spirit departed, and of course Saul is flooded with the fruits of the flesh (i.e., anger and wrath, and the aggressive desire to inflict harm on David who Saul envied and was jealous of).

**The evil spirit:** in this context refers to the evil spirit of violence, anger and aggression that came upon Saul. It appears that when Saul saw that God was removing the Royal Throne of Israel from him and giving it to David, his mind became extremely jealous, and he grew in anger toward David (God's chosen king), as a result of this jealousy anger and his previous rebellion toward God (1 Sam. 15:10-11) not only did God's Spirit leave Saul, but his mind grew fretful, irritable spiteful, discontented and suspicious, and as a result he became foolish and fearful, and losing all courage he fell into a spirit of deep melancholy (depression).

**NOTE:** even after Saul conceived an enmity toward David no one else could bring peace to his mind which most likely added even further aggravation to his troubled mind, and his fits of rage toward David.

- Then a harmful spirit (the evil spirit in KJV) from the LORD came upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing the lyre (1 Sam 19:9).

There is a universal expression that states: "What God does not fill, evil will. Clearly this is a true statement in the case of Saul. Here we see that after God withdraw his Spirit from Saul, because of his rebellion and distain toward David, murderous thoughts of evil filled the void of darkness in Saul's heart and mind.

**Evil, darkness, and light:** evil can be seen as the absence of God like darkness is an absence of light, the greater the light the less the darkness, for darkness can only exist in the absence of light, in the same way cold is the absence of heat, the greater the heat the less the cold, so it could be said that the evil spirit came upon Saul because of the absence of God's good Spirit.

**The soothing power of music:** there, is no-doubt certain modes of music have a natural tendency to exhilarate and excite the mind or to sooth, calm and sedate a disturbed and troubled mind. This effect of music has a greater influence and effect on some people more than others. David after being anointed by Samuel was later called to become a physician to Saul by playing music on his harp to make him merry, and by doing so bring calm and tranquillity to his mind to help him against some form of mental disease, which no one else could help him with. Though only David's instrumental music with his harp is mentioned, it is very likely he added vocal music to his playing and sang hymns and songs of praise.

**The expression, the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul carries the same idea as the following expressions:**

- The spirit of prophecy departed from the prophet.
- The spirit of wisdom departed from the wise.

- The spirit of courage departed from the brave.

The Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD come upon him, and filled him with fear and anguish, and an inward feeling of depression that grew into melancholy, and occasionally broke out in passing fits of insanity. This evil spirit not only deprived Saul of his peace of mind, but stirred up the feelings, ideas, imaginations, and thoughts to such an extent that at times it drove him even into madness and violent fits of rage. The loss of Saul's throne, the extinction of his royal house, the loss of the LORD'S Spirit, and the exaltation of David by God, and by the people drove Saul to such jealousy that he became, irritable, vindictive, and subjected to fits of morbid melancholy.

**The Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul carries the idea that God took away Saul's:**

- Judgment, wisdom, good sense, caution, and courage.
- All other gifts that qualified Saul for his kingship.

When people grieve and quench the Spirit of God by conscious, deliberate, and wilful sin, God's Spirit will not always strive, but depart, the consequence of this for Saul was that an evil Spirit from God troubled him. Those that drive the good Spirit of God away naturally become prey to an evil spirit. An evil Spirit from the LORD carries the idea that it is by God permission, that Saul was delivered up to be troubled by unruly and tormenting passions; as envy, despair, rage, and fear and from these he grew suspicious, fretful, irritable, discontented and paranoid.

**NOTE:** if this evil spirit was a literal evil demonic spiritual creature with and evil conscious mind (as much of traditional Christianity believes them to be), it is certain music, no matter how beautiful would not calm it down from its evil purposes.

**For further information on evil spirits see the title:**

- Devil.
- Demons.

In Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

How much better it would have been if Saul's friends, instead of advising him to find relief though music had advised him to make his peace with God, by honestly humbling himself before the LORD in true repentance and turning away from his sinful attitudes toward David, and toward God, not only would he have had present relief, but the Spirit of God would have returned to him.

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**A WOMAN WITH A FAMILIAR SPIRIT CALLS UP SAMUEL**

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- **1 Samuel 28:7:** Then Saul said to his servants, "Seek out for me a woman who is a medium (has a familiar spirit in KJV) that I may go to her and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "Behold, there is a medium at En-dor" (a woman that has a familiar spirit in KJV).

**Familiar:** comes from the Hebrew word (owb). From Strong's Concordance it means necromancer (i.e., one who evokes the dead). It also carries the idea of inspiration (i.e., the inspiration of God or of man's own opinion).

**The Spirit:** in this context it carries the idea of spiritual impostors and deceivers.

**The woman with the 'familiar spirit' can refer to:**

- A woman performing like a ventriloquist who makes something appear to speak, (i.e., she spoke out of her belly or seemed to do so).
- A woman who had the spirit of necromancy or divination, and by it appears to bring up a dead person who foretells the future.
- A woman with a conjuring spirit by which the dead are supposedly conjured up for the purpose of making inquiry concerning the future.

Calling up the dead or presuming to do so was expressly forbidden by the law.

- **Deuteronomy 18:10-11:** There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination, tells fortunes, interprets omens or a sorcerer, a charmer, a medium, a wizard or a necromancer.
- **Isaiah 8:19:** When they say to you, "Inquire of the mediums and the necromancer who chirp and mutter," should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living?

Instead of Saul searching his own heart and recognising his own sin, attempts to obtain a revelation of the future in the most ungodly way. Is it any wonder God withdrew His Spirit from Saul, here is manifested Saul's total lack of heartfelt integrity and faith toward the LORD. Instead of searching his own heart and humbling himself before God in honest repentance, he in total defiance of God seeks out a woman who earns her living from a practise that was expressly forbidden by God. (Deut. 18:11).

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To gain knowledge or help when it cannot be found from the LORD, Saul sought out a woman who had the reputation amongst the people of possessing the forbidden powers, and who was acting completely against God's will to conjure up from the dead Samuel who had anointed him to the kingdom, and had been his faithful friend and counsellor. To add to Saul's great sin, he was fully aware that what this woman practised was an abomination to the LORD. We know this because he had all the mediums and the necromancers put out of the land of Israel. (1 Sam. 28:3).

**The appearance of Samuel:** the woman thought she was seeing a god coming up out of the earth appearing as an old man wrapped in a robe, she did not know it was Samuel except by the fact Saul had told her to call up Samuel. Saul did not see the appearance or apparition of the old man wrapped in a robe, but had to ask the woman what was his appearance and trust in her words. Once Saul believed the woman was seeing and talking with Samuel, he bowed his face in reverence. It is possible the woman had Saul remain in another room, but it is more likely that this is a vision the woman is seeing in her mind, as many clairvoyants see today, or a vision outside of her mind (much like a hologram) that only she can see (these are common types of biblical visions).

**Biblical visions:** can relate to a spectacle gazed at by the eyes or a movie played out in the mind. In most cases God gives the picture or vision then the prophet speaks or writes it in their own words. Sometimes the same biblical event or experience is spoken of as an actual and real event, while at other times the same event maybe recorded as a vision (an image or mental experience within the mind). A biblical vision is always under God's control and can appear as a movie played out on the screen of the

imagination of the mind (like a dream), or it may appear as a hologram appearing in the air that is seen by the eyes of the prophet, or to whoever God chooses to give the vision to. The vision communicates the LORD'S will or future events to the prophet who then proceeds to tell the vision to the people, sometimes in their own words and at other times in the exact words the LORD has spoken to them in the vision

**The woman the mystic experience and Saul:** whatever this mystic experience of the woman involved, God was in full in control of it, since all that the woman told Saul was everything Samuel had previously told Saul that the LORD would do. Added to this if she was pretending, it is very unlikely she would have told the King he will be defeated in battle and be killed that very day. Had this woman been a pretender it is almost certain she would have made up something that would have pleased the King to win his favour (and perhaps a far greater reward).

**NOTICE:** Saul said, "Bring me up Samuel," and the very next words are, "When the woman saw Samuel" (v12), whereas one would have expected to be given some detail as to how she performed the operation, what spells and charms she used or at least some little intimation to be given concerning what she said or did; but the profound silence of the Scripture concerning it, forbids our coveting to know the depths of this evil practise (Rev. 2:24), or to have our curiosity gratified with an account of the mysteries of iniquity. The scripture conceals sinful art so that our minds may remain simple concerning evil. (Rom. 16:19).

At the end of Samuel's words Saul was terrified and filled with fear, but sadly this fear was most likely motivated from the woman's words he would be killed the next day, rather than from a humble spirit and the fact he had grossly offended God. If people consciously and deliberately chose to deny God and do what they know is against the word of the LORD, it is just with God to say, "Let them be deceived."

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## EVIL, DEMONS AND HOLLYWOOD

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Hollywood has taken the word evil and attached it to demons and devils, but in biblical language evil refers to humans who

- Deny the existence of God.
- Love the gifts of a bribe.
- Oppress the poor and the needy.
- Pervert justice.
- Deliberately do harm to humans physically, financially, sexually, emotionally, and spiritually.

**In summary:** the Bible tells us, God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that they turn from their ways and live (Ezek. 33:11), and that He desires that all people would be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Tim. 2:3-4). Added to these, the second Commandment is, "love your neighbour as yourself," in the light of these beautiful verses, it is clear, the word evil, biblically applies to anyone who deliberately hurts or harms another human in any way.

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## NOT EVERY NON-BELIEVER IS AN EVILDOER

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Some have the idea that everyone who does not believe in God is a wicked person, but this is not true, certainly we are all sinners no matter how good our behaviour, but not all are wicked. Many who have not heard the message of the bloodstained cross of Calvary and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ do amazing acts of kindness and charity toward others, and many even give their lives to helping the less fortunate and helpless. Others in countries where God's word is not as available as it is in Western world look to the heavens and creation and hear their silent testimony of God's greatness and His glory and believe.

- **Psalm 19:1-4:** The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. <sup>2</sup>Day to day they utter out speech, and night to night reveals and shows knowledge. <sup>3</sup>There is no speech, nor language, where their voice is not heard. <sup>4</sup>Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

Upon this simple faith and limited knowledge, they live a lifestyle of goodness before God. Based upon the universal principal, "To those who are given much, much is expected, but to those who have little, little is expected." I am certain at the second resurrection (called the second death), when the sea, hades, and the grave give up the dead to stand before God at the Great White Throne Judgment many will be judged according to the light of God they were given, and the lifestyle they lived before Him. For further information concerning the Great White Throne Judgment, see the title:

- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## CHARACTERISTICS OF EVIL IN THE LIGHT OF GOD AND MANKIND

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In the light of God, people considered evil are those who:

- Have no interest in seeking God, and openly say that there is no God.
- Curse, and renounce God, and believe in their heart, "they will not be called to account."
- Speak against God and the Lord Jesus Christ without any fear and do violence against God, the Lord Jesus Christ, and his people.

(Ps, 10:4, 7, 13) (Ps, 11:2) (Ps, 17:8).

### **Following are the characteristics of evil in the light of mankind:**

In the light of mankind, people considered evil are those who:

- Speak in arrogance and close their heart to pity, and seize and oppress the poor when it works to their advantage.
- Openly deceive, and oppress others and are full of iniquity.
- Love appearing righteous, but are greedy for gain, and full of iniquity
- Make great boasts of their achievements and of themselves, and close their hearts to pity.
- Believe no enemy will ever overcome them.
- Murder the innocent and seek ways to cheat the helpless out of what is rightfully theirs.

- Utter lies to their neighbour, and with flattering lips and a deceiving heart entice them into their wicked schemes believing no one will find them out or overcome them.
- Believe their portion is in this life only, and love violence, and make war against the righteous.

Scripture speaks of those who practice the things listed on these two lists as being vile and an abomination among all mankind.

(Ps, 10:2-3 & 6-9) (Ps, 11:2, 5, 7) (Ps, 12:2-3 & 8) (Ps, 17:8, 10, 14).

**Summary of evildoers:** throughout the Psalms there are many verses that speak of the character and attitudes of the wicked, if we were to list them all it would be a very long list, but we would see that they all have the following two things in common:

1. They deny the existence of God.
2. They deliberately inflict some type of harm and hurt upon others (i.e., physically, financially, emotionally, sexually, mentally, verbally, and spiritually), for their own advantage and gain.

This is totally contrary to Jesus' command, "Love your neighbour as yourself." (Mark 12:31), meaning do-good to others and not harm, and totally contrary to the law of love.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*