

## Encounters between Christians and Magicians: Choose Life not Death

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 by Stephen Yulish PhD

Nearly 2000 years ago the physician Apostle Luke wrote of the missionary travels of Saul and Barnabas. In one interesting passage he wrote: "And when they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-Jesus who was with the proconsul Sergius Paulus a man of intelligence. The man summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to learn the word of God. But Elymas, the magician (for thus his name is translated) was opposing them and seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. But Saul, who was also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his eyes, his gaze upon him and said, 'you who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil. You enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord? And now behold the hand of the Lord is upon you and you will be blind and not see the sun for a time.' And immediately, a mist and a darkness fell upon him and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand. Then the proconsul believed when he saw what had happened being amazed at the teaching of the Lord," (Acts 13:6-12).

This is one of many examples of encounters between Simon Magus type magicians (e.g. Acts 8) and early Christian apostles. This is of course not surprising given the tremendous stakes in this battle between good and evil. What is surprising and disheartening is that many bible commentators like F.W. Bruce describe these purveyors of evil as mere charlatans and fakes. This is unfortunate according to Dr. Ed Murphy author of *The Handbook for Spiritual Warfare* because as he rightly states, these magicians were and are real and are the enemy of Christianity. They are skilled in the arts of divination, sorcery, witchcraft and spiritism and lead people away from the faith towards deception and error. It is not that these things cannot be done but that God commanded us not to do them. God was very clear:

"Anyone who practices divination, witchcraft, interprets omens, or is a sorcerer, casts a spell, is a medium, a spiritist or calls up the dead, is detestable to the Lord" (Deuteronomy 18:10-12).

While this is from the Torah in the Old Testament, the language is even harsher in the New Testament.

"These people will not inherit the Kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9) and will "end up in the Lake of Fire for all eternity" (Revelation 21:8).

Therefore we are warned to:

"Stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers of darkness in heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:11-12).

"Our gospel is veiled to those who are perishing by the god of this world who has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they may not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).

There are many false prophets out there so we need to test the spirits to see if they are really from God (1John 4:1).

In the case described above between Paul and Elymas, the Proconsul believed but Elymas apparently did not but there were times when the magicians themselves believed as Simon did in Acts 8:13 when he heard the preaching of Philip and was baptized.

I also described one such encounter between good and evil, between spirit filled Christians and a kabbalistic magician in my first novel *The Great Harpazo Deception* (pages 292-293). Here, the vicious, demonic, magician is not only foiled by a spirit filled Christian but also finds the truth after a personal encounter with Jesus Christ.

There was a knock at the door.

"Who could that be?" Yossi asked. "Should I get it?"

"I would not", Judah answered. "It can only be one of our adversaries since all our allies are right here in this room."

The knocking turned to banging and everyone became frightened.

"It is Rabbi Klingfeldt", a voice shouted. "Open this door right now or I will break it down!"

"What do you want?" Judah yelled back as he stood in front of the door.

"I want Rabbi Waxman!"

"Why?"

"Because he is confusing the brethren!"

"What makes you say that?"

"Because they want to see him and he is hiding here with all you meshumedim(nuts)! Now open this door!"

"Why should I open this door when you want to do, God knows what, to the poor Rabbi? Do you think that I am crazy? Now be gone before I put a bullet in your kishkas (stomach)."

Rabbi Klingfeldt knocked down the door with his mind. It just fell open right off of the hinges. Judah stood there in stunned disbelief. The Rabbi walked in with his red hair flying and his eyes spinning even though the night air was perfectly calm. He gave Judah the curse of the evil eye and then moved on to Rabbi Waxman. Judah could not move. Yossi and Shmuel ran up to the crazed Kabbalist but suddenly went flying backwards into the wall. Dawn picked up a kitchen knife and tried to stab it into the Rabbi's back but she could not bring it down and it suddenly turned and stabbed her in the shoulder. "Judah, do something", Dawn yelled as she fell over with the knife sticking out of her shoulder.

Judah began to pray and called upon the Ruach Hakodesh (Holy Spirit) to cover him with the armor of God. It had worked to battle AZAZEL (the extraterrestrial fallen angel) and he hoped that it would work with the likewise evil Rabbi Klingfeldt. After all, Sha'ul said to the people at Ephesus that they should put on the full armor of God to help them stand firm against the schemes of the devil, to battle the spiritual forces of wickedness in heavenly places. This was not a battle with flesh and blood but was again spiritual warfare with the forces of the Adversary. Judah was now clothed in the full armor of God and first went over to assist his stricken wife. He pulled out the knife from her shoulder and placed the tip of his sword against the wound. The wound stopped bleeding. He then went after Rabbi Klingfeldt. "Be gone from here you demonic presence!" Judah yelled at him.

"My powers are greater than yours, Yehuda", The Rabbi replied as he stared at Judah with his evil eye. "Turn into bone!" he cursed.

Judah smiled and went right up to the Rabbi and removed his evil eyes with his Sword of the Spirit and handed them to him. The Rabbi became hysterical and ran from the house screaming obscenities in Yiddish and Hebrew.

"I guess that He that is in me is greater than He than it is in the world, Rabbi Klingfeldt", Judah shouted as he opened the door for the charging Rabbi and guided him out of the house and pushed him into the street. Rabbi Klingfeldt ran down the dark street holding his eyeballs and screaming uncontrollably.

"Maybe now you will be able to really see the Truth, Rabbi!" Judah yelled after him and closed the door.

Rabbi Klingfeldt darted aimlessly down the street unable to see where he was going. He finally tripped and tumbled hard onto the cobblestones. He still held his eyes in his hands however, fearful that to lose them would forever trap him in this present darkness. Suddenly there was a bright light inside his head. Everything became illuminated and the deep despair that he had felt melted away. Standing in front of him in his mind's eye was Yeshua (Jesus). The Rabbi recognized him by his nail pierced hands and he began to sob. The Lord poured out His spirit of grace and supplication on the sorcerer.

"Adonai, I am not worthy to be in your presence", Rabbi Klingfeldt sobbed as he got to his knees. "Why do you come to this poor, pathetic, unworthy sinner?"

"It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous but sinners", Yeshua said. "Go my son and sin no more!"

God wants no one to perish but for all to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9) God said: "I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses, now choose life" (Deuteronomy 30:19). Article found at <http://www.ufodigest.com/index.html>