

Acts Series

Lesson #112

June 11, 2013

Dean Bible Ministries

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The Acts of the Apostles “To the end of the earth” Acts 1:8

Demonism and Fortune-Telling Acts 16:16–19





0 25 50 100 mi.
0 40 80 160 km

Acts 16:16, “Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.”



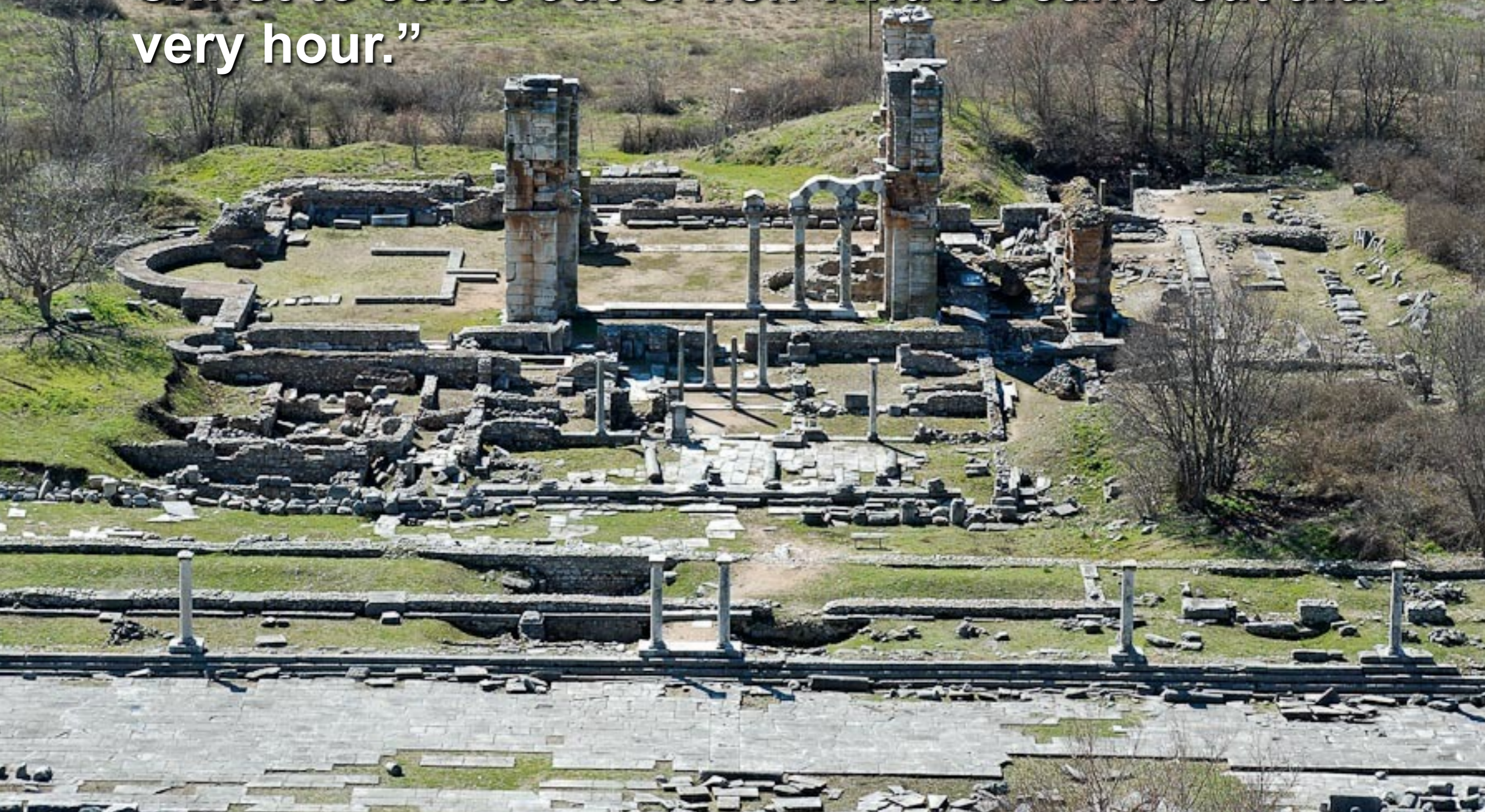
Acts 16:16, “Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.”

lit. “having [*echo*] a spirit, a *puthonos*”

Acts 16:17, “This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.’ ”



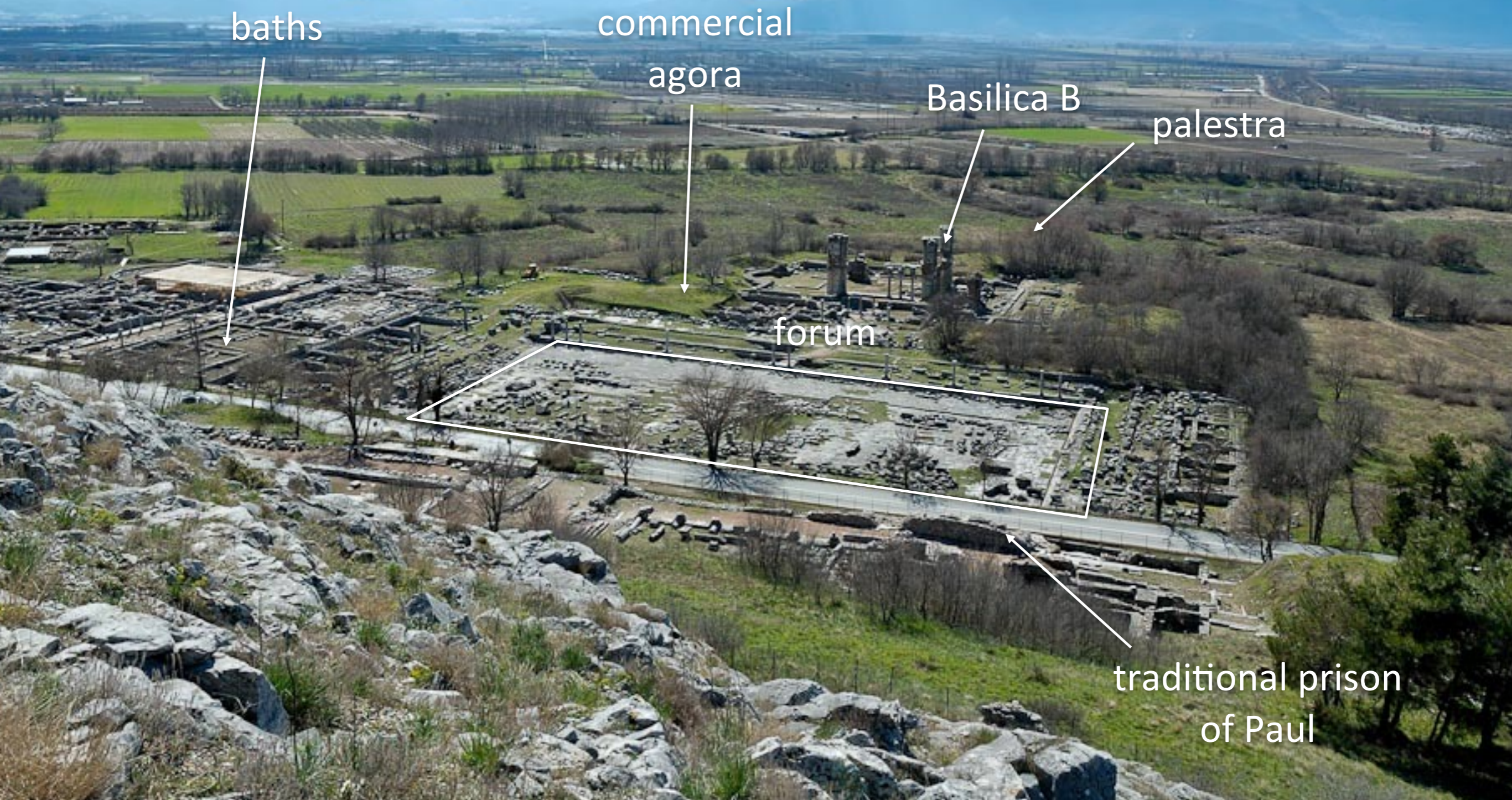
Acts 16:18, “And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, ‘I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.’ And he came out that very hour.”



Acts 16:19, “But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged *them* into the marketplace to the authorities.”



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Activities Associated with Demonism

1. Idolatry, the worship of any god, from the worship of self, the worship of material things, to the worship of various deities including Allah and the god of Mormonism.

Ex. 20:3, “You shall have no other gods before Me.

Ex. 20:4, “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;

Ex. 20:5, “you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,”

Rom. 1:25, “who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

1 Cor. 10:14, “Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.”

1 Cor. 10:19, “What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything?”

1 Cor. 10:20, “Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.

1 Cor. 10:21, “You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord’s table and of the table of demons.”

2. Therefore, any human thought system that is not related to the worship of the one true, living God, is in fact, the worship of demons and demon-influenced thought.

1 Sam. 15:23, “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.”

3. When God and his control of history is rejected, then idolatrous humans seek other avenues for control of their chaotic life. This may take a number of forms, but some forms are more overtly associated with the demonic. Among these are various forms of fortune-telling.

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Divination: The attempt to foresee or foretell future events in order to control the circumstances of one's life. Forms of divination include: astrology, palmistry, dowsing, tarot cards, reading horoscopes, and necromancy.

Ezek. 21:21, “For the king of Babylon stands at the parting of the road, at the fork of the two roads, to use divination: he shakes the arrows, he consults the images, he looks at the liver.”

4. Scripture

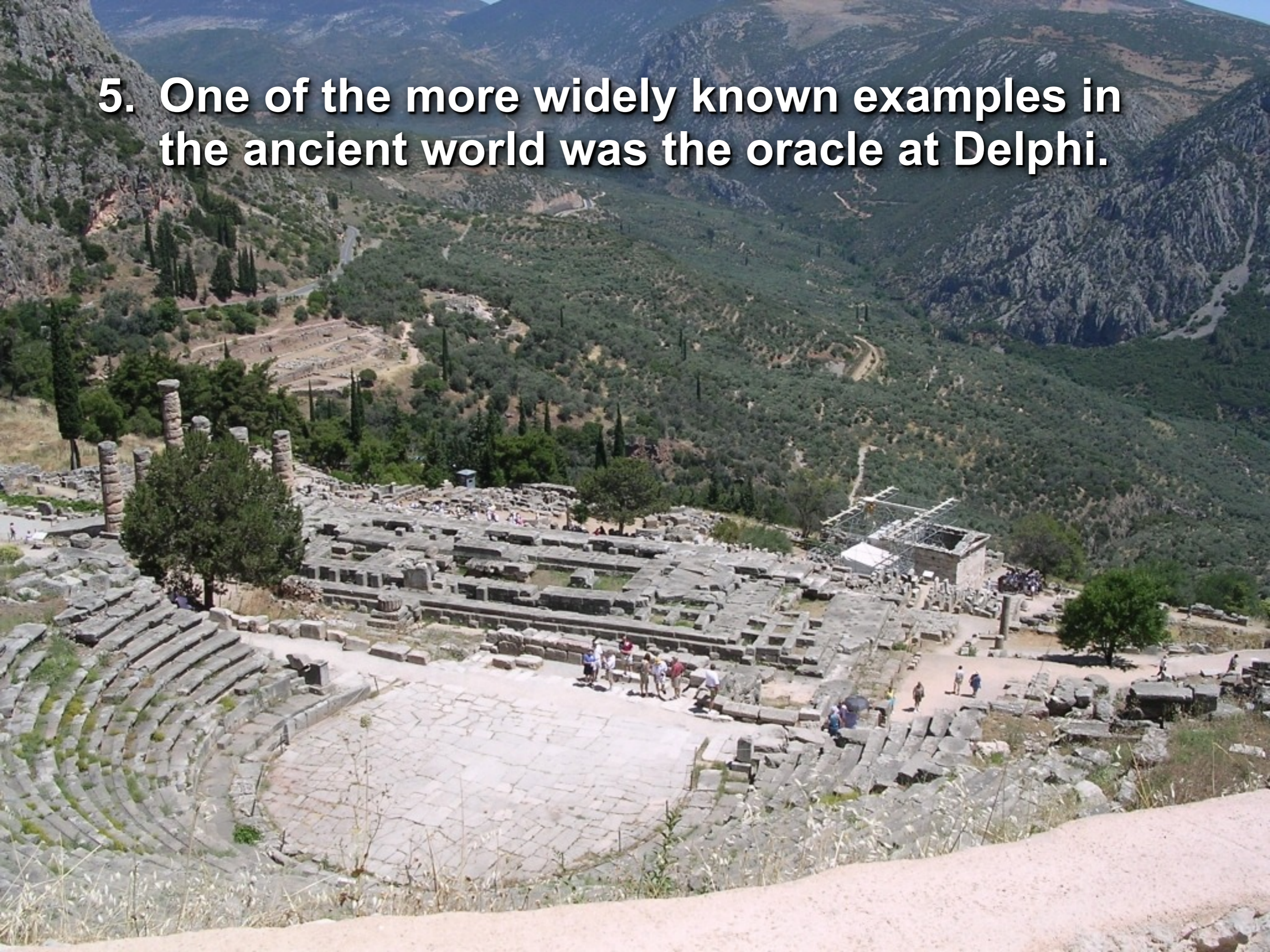
Lev. 19:26, “You shall not eat anything with the blood, nor shall you practice divination or soothsaying.”

Deut. 18:10, “There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer,”

Lev. 19:31, “Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.”

Lev. 20:27, “ ‘A man or a woman who is a medium, or who has familiar spirits, shall surely be put to death; they shall stone them with stones. Their blood shall be upon them.’ ”

5. One of the more widely known examples in the ancient world was the oracle at Delphi.



**“I can count the sands,
and I can measure the
ocean; I have ears for
the silent, and know
what the dumb man
meaneth; Lo! On my
sense there striketh the
smell of a shell-covered
tortoise boiling now on
a fire, with the flesh of a
lamb, in a cauldron,
brass is the vessel
below and brass the
cover above it.”**

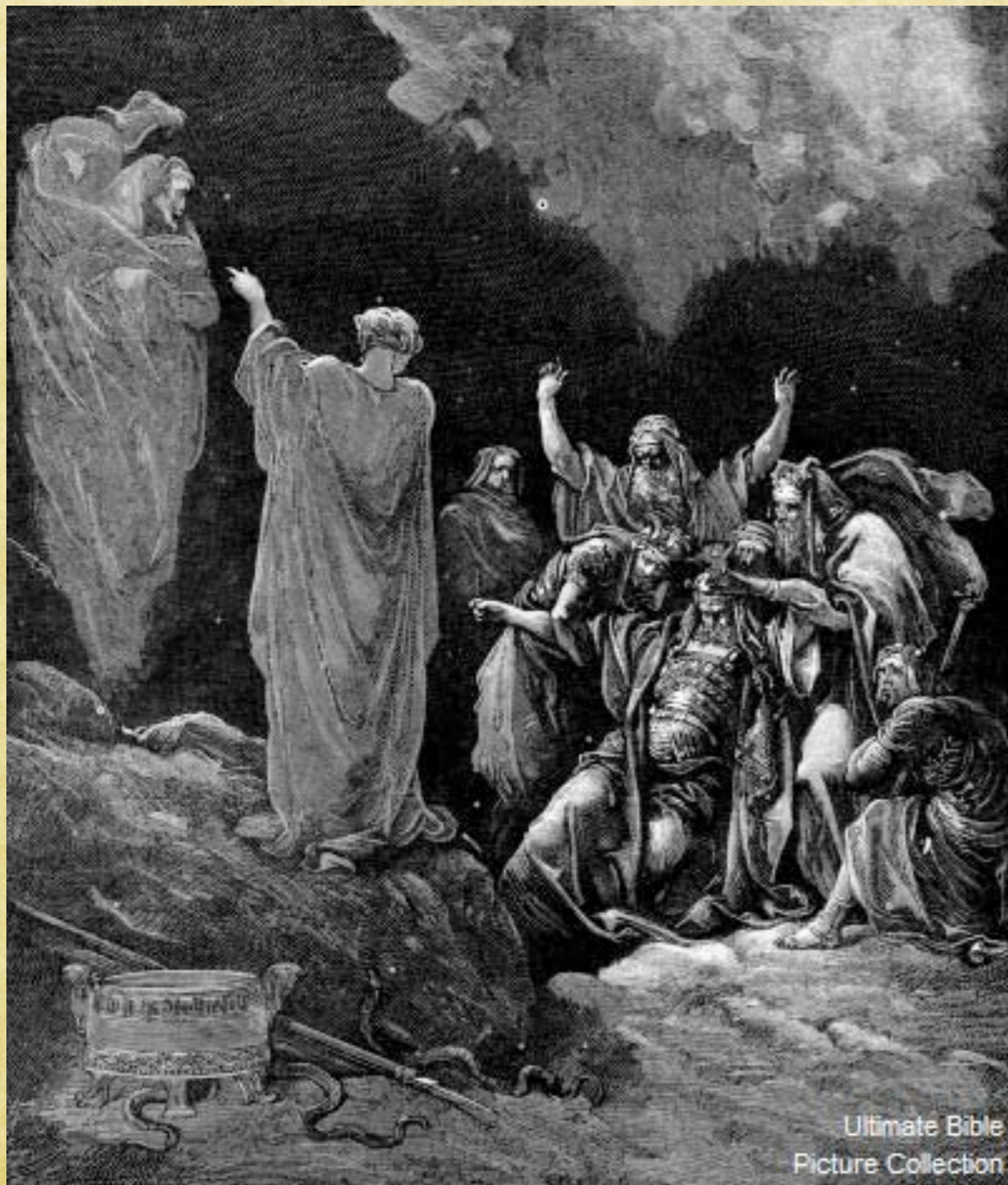


Das Orakel zu Delphi.

6. Another form of divination exposed in the Bible is that of necromancy, consulting the dead through mediums and witches.

Isa. 8:19, “And when they say to you, ‘Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,’ should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living?”

Isa. 29:4, “You shall be brought down, you shall speak out of the ground; your speech shall be low, out of the dust; your voice shall be like a medium’s, out of the ground; and your speech shall whisper out of the dust.”



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7. Saul and the witch at En-Dor