

HOROSCOPES

AN ALLURING WAY TO BEGIN THE JOURNEY

Horoscopes seem to be a simple and fun way to determine what kind of situations you will encounter during the week. Will your week be filled with riches, or should you expect a downturn on your financial horizon? Will your love life be set ablaze with sensational romance, or should you be spending more time with friends and family?

As harmless as reading horoscopes from the local newspaper may appear, they have the ability to plant a very small and seductive seed of curiosity within a person's soul. Instead of turning to God in prayer to seek answers for problems in life, people who read horoscopes are subconsciously looking to unknown entities for answers.

Once a person begins this process, the seed of curiosity will eventually grow into a deeper hunger for more advanced forms of personal enlightenment. In an attempt to satisfy this hunger, many people who read daily horoscopes venture out into more personalized forms of fortune-telling. This journey can begin with the study of astrology charts, numerology, or by visiting a local psychic for a palm reading.

As the psychic runs her fingers across her client's hand and begins the process of channeling messages from the spirit realm, most people are amazed at how a complete stranger can know so many details about their life. Once a client develops a level of trust with a psychic, she will usually ask if that person wants to receive a "special blessing" from the spirit guides. If the client agrees to accept the gift, that person will be opening a door to receive the same type of spirit from which the psychic has been channeling messages.

The part that requires discernment on behalf of the faithful is the source of the psychic's power. According to Sacred Scripture, there are

two forces at work in the world—good and evil. An interesting example of the spiritual forces that are at work in the world comes from the life of Saint Paul. In the book of Acts we see Saint Paul moving with the power of God. He is performing miraculous healings and preaching the Good News everywhere he goes.

Then one day Paul meets a "slave-girl who had a spirit of divination" that brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling.¹ "While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, 'These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.' She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour."²

In this situation, we see two different spirits at work. One Spirit comes from God, the other spirit of divination was coming from fallen angels known as demons. Somewhere in the slave girl's past, she made an agreement with a demonic spirit of divination, which gave her the ability to communicate with the netherworld for the purpose of fortune-telling.

The question that needs to be addressed by the faithful who participate in the daily reading of horoscopes is, what type of spiritual powers do you want to invite into your life? It is not possible to serve God in Spirit and in truth, and at the same time accept messages from demonic entities.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES TO SET THE CAPTIVES FREE

"All forms of divination are to be rejected: recourse to Satan or demons, conjuring up the dead or other practices falsely supposed to unveil the future. Consulting horoscopes, astrology, palm read-



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ing, interpretation of omens and lots, the phenomena of clairvoyance, and recourse to mediums all conceal a desire for power over time, history, and, in the last analysis, other human beings, as well as a wish to conciliate hidden powers. They contradict the honor, respect, and loving fear that we owe to God alone.”³

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2116

“All practices of magic or sorcery, by which one attempts to tame occult powers, so as to place them at one’s service and have a supernatural power over others—even if this were for the sake of

restoring their health—are gravely contrary to the virtue of religion. These practices are even more to be condemned when accompanied by the intention of harming someone, or when they have recourse to the intervention of demons.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2117

“False messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But be alert; I have already told you everything.”

Mark 13:22–23

Notes

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1. Acts 16:16.
2. Acts 16:17–18.
3. Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2116; Cf. *Deut* 18:10; *Jer* 29:8.