

# "Magic and Miracles"

January 16, 2022

Rev. Solomon Keal

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## Thanks and Announcements

"Please join us on Zoom at 11:00am Sunday for a discussion."

**Informal Service Pastor:** Rev. Solomon Keal

**Music Director:** Graham Bier

**Musicians:** Graham Bier, Julie Conaron

**Sound Technician -** Keith Genzlinger

**Livestreaming -** Lucas Mergen, Frank Stanley

"And Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent. But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the **magicians** of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their **enchantments**. ... But Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods." (Exodus 7:8-13)

"*And the magicians of Egypt did the same with their enchantments*" means that [by a misuse of order] the falsifiers among them produced something that looked the same. This is clear from the meaning of 'Egyptian **magic**' and 'enchantments' as misuses of Divine order. As regards **miracles**, it should be recognized that Divine **miracles** are as different from **miracles** involving the use of **magic** as heaven is from hell. Divine **miracles** spring from Divine Truth and take place in accordance with true order. Effects on lowest levels are **miracles** when it pleases the Lord that they should present themselves in that form. Thus it is that all Divine **miracles** represent states of the Lord's kingdom in heaven, and of the Lord's kingdom on earth, which is the Church. And this is the inward form that Divine **miracles** take. This is the situation with all the **miracles** performed in Egypt, as it is with all the rest that are referred to in the Word. All the **miracles** too which the Lord Himself performed when He was in the world were signs of the future state of the Church. Opening the eyes of the blind, for example, and the ears of the deaf, loosing the tongues of the dumb, enabling the lame to walk, and making the maimed whole and the leprous too, were signs that the kind of people meant by the blind, deaf, dumb, lame, maimed, and leprous would receive the Gospel and be spiritually restored to health, which would be accomplished by the Lord's Coming into the world. This is what Divine **miracles** are like as to the inward form they take. But **miracles** involving the use of **magic** hold nothing at all like that; they are performed by the evil to gain power over others, and in outward form seem to be the same as Divine **miracles**. The reason why they seem to be the same is that they start from order, and on its lowest level, where **miracles** present themselves, order always looks the same. ... [Miracles involving **magic**] have in view the destruction of things of the Church, whereas Divine **miracles** have inwardly as their end in view the building up of things of the Church." (Secrets of Heaven 7337)

"**To practice enchantment means, symbolically, to persuade someone of falsity and thus to destroy the truth.** The practice of enchantments existed among ancient peoples, and they were accomplished in three ways: First, they would keep someone else's hearing and thus their mind **continually focused on their words and declarations**, without letup on any part of them, while at the same time inspiring and instilling their thought then through their breathing, coupled with the affection in the tone of their discourse, with the result that the hearer could not form any thought of their own. Thus would speakers of falsehood forcibly infuse their falsities. Second, they would infuse a **persuasion**, which they would do by keeping the mind from anything contrary, and by keeping it intent only on the idea in what they were saying. Thus the spiritual atmosphere of one person's mind dispelled the spiritual atmosphere of another person's mind and suffocated it. This was the spiritual witchcraft that magicians once employed, and they called it **overcoming and binding the intellect**. This kind of enchantment was an enchantment of the spirit or thought only, whereas the first kind was an enchantment of the mouth or speech as well. Third, a hearer would **keep their mind so firmly in their own opinion that they would almost close their ears to hearing anything of what someone else was saying**. They would accomplish this by holding their breath, and sometimes by a tacit muttering, and thus by a **continual denial** of their adversary's opinion. This kind of enchantment was practiced by people listening to others, while the first two kinds were practiced by people speaking to others. These three kinds of enchantment were practiced among ancient peoples, and are still practiced among spirits in hell. In the case of people in the world, however, only the third kind remains, and this among people who have affirmed in themselves falsities of religion out of a conceit in their own intelligence. For when these people hear contrary views, they do not admit them any further into their thought than to superficial contact, and then they emit from the inner recess of their mind a kind of fire which consumes those views, of which the other person knows nothing beyond the indications of the facial expression and tone of voice in reply, if the enchanter does not contain that fire, that is, the anger of their conceit, by hiding it. This kind of enchantment today causes

truths not to be accepted, and in many cases, not to be understood." (Apocalypse Revealed 462)

"The **magi** in those times had a knowledge of the kinds of things that belong to the spiritual world, and in their teaching about these they employed the correspondences...and learned the arts of illusion which they used to perform **miracles** that involved **magic**. But those who were called the **wise ones** had no interest in anything like this. Instead they provided the answers to hard questions and taught about the causes lying behind natural things. ... For **magic** is nothing else than a perversion, being the perverted use of those kinds of things that constitute true order in the spiritual world." (Secrets of Heaven 5223)

"Sorceries and enchantments where they are mentioned in the Word mean **the art of presenting falsities to look like truths and of presenting truths to look like falsities**, which is done especially by means of **illusions**." (Secrets of Heaven 7297)

"Ritual that is merely secular is attributed to people who use **shallow logic** to investigate spiritual and heavenly topics.... This was the source of **Egyptian...magical arts**." (Secrets of Heaven 1195)

"There was a certain spirit who had become quite convinced that **nothing was the work of Divine Providence, but that every single thing was attributable to prudence, and also to fortune and chance**. ... He inquired after and also learned about everything - including **magical devices** - which he thought might be of service to him, in looking out for his own happiness. I talked to him and **he said that he was in his heaven when things were thus**, and that no other heaven could possibly exist than that which he created for himself." (Secrets of Heaven 6484; see also 6692)

"People who decide for Divinity pay attention to the **miracles** they see in the way both plants and animals reproduce. ... People who attribute everything to nature do see these things, but...when they see the **miracles** in nature they cannot think rationally, let alone spiritually. They think in terms of sensation and matter, and in so doing think about nature from within nature and not from above it." (Divine Love and Wisdom 351)