

**BLACK MAGIC WOMAN:
KING SAUL AND THE WITCH OF ENDOR**

by
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Got a Black Magic Woman,
Got a Black Magic Woman,
I've got a Black Magic Woman,
Got me so blind I can't see,
She's a Black Magic Woman,
She's trying to make a Devil out of me.
– "Black Magic Woman," Santana

I Samuel 28:

3. Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And Saul had Put Away those that had Familiar Spirits, and the Wizards, out of the Land.

4. And the Philistines gathered themselves together, and came and pitched in Shunem: and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they pitched in Gilboa.

5. And when Saul saw the Host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled.

6. And when Saul Enquired of YHWH, YHWH answered him not, neither by Dreams, nor by Urim, nor by Prophets.

7. Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a Familiar Spirit, that I may go to her, and Enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a Familiar Spirit in Endor.

8. And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, Divine unto me by the Familiar Spirit, and Bring me him Up, whom I shall name unto thee.

9. And the woman said unto him, Behold, thou knowest what Saul hath done, how he hath Cut Off those that have Familiar Spirits, and the Wizards, out of the Land: wherefore then Layest thou a Snare for my life, to cause me to Die?

10. And Saul Sware to her by YHWH, saying, As YHWH Liveth, there shall no Punishment happen to thee for this thing.

11. Then said the woman, Whom shall I Bring Up unto thee? And he said, Bring me Up Samuel.

12. And when the woman Saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou Deceived me? for thou art Saul.

13. And the King said unto her, Be not afraid, for what Sawest thou? And the woman said unto Saul, I Saw Elohim Ascending Out of the Earth.

14. And he said unto her, What Form is he of? And she said, An old man Cometh Up: and he is covered with a Mantle. And Saul Perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself.

15. And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou Disquieted me, to Bring me Up? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is Departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by Prophets, nor by Dreams: therefore I have Called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me, what I shall do.

16. Then said Samuel, Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing YHWH is Departed from thee, and has become thine Enemy?

17. And YHWH hath done to him, as he Spake by me: for YHWH hath Rent the Kingdom out of thy hand, and Given it to thy neighbor, even to David:

18. Because thou obeyest not the Voice of YHWH, nor Executest his Fierce Wrath upon Amalek, therefore hath YHWH Done this Thing unto thee this Day.

19. Moreover YHWH will also Deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines; and to morrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me: YHWH also shall Deliver the Host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.

20. Then Saul fell straightway all along on the earth, and was sore afraid, because of the Words of Samuel: and there was no strength in him; for he had eaten no bread all the day, nor all the night.

21. And the woman Came Unto Saul, and saw that he was sore troubled, and said unto him, Thine Handmaid hath obeyed thy voice, and I have put my life in my hand, and have hearkened unto thy words which thou spakest unto me.

22. Now therefore, I pray thee, hearken thou also unto the voice of thy Handmaid, and let me set a morsel of bread before thee, that thou mayest have strength, when thou goest on thy way.

23. But he refused, and said, I will not eat. But his servants, together with the woman, compelled him: and he hearkened unto their voice. So he arose from the earth, and sat upon the bed.

24. And the woman had a fat calf in the house; and she hasted, and killed it, and took flour, and kneaded it, and did bake unleavened bread thereof;

25. And she brought it before Saul, and before his servants; and they did eat. Then they rose up, and went away that night.

INTRODUCTION

Millions of Christians have read this story in their Bibles, and many have been left wondering: Did this really happen? Are Black Magic and Witches real? The controversies that arose over this story will truly amaze any reader who confronts them, for in a materialist age, this story truly stands out in its assertion of the reality of the Dark Arts.

If you believe that the Holy Bible is Inspired by God then you should have no trouble believing in Magic and Witches. But, almost unbelievably, a majority of Christians downplay this story as Gross Superstition, refusing to believe that the real Samuel, who had recently died, was really raised from the dead by a Witch. If they give it any reality, it is that Evil Spirits Deceived both Saul and the Witch into believing Samuel was actually raised. So, before we can really do justice to the story, we must first understand what the Old Testament teaches about Death and the Afterlife.

SHEOL

A good place to start is what the Bible has to say about the Afterlife in the Old Testament. There are, of course, some verses, that alone, would say that once you are dead you are gone and have no say in the grave. (See, e.g., Ecclesiastes 9:5.) But most of the Old Testament teaches that when you die you go to a Waiting for Judgment Prison of the Dead, whether you were good or bad. Most Christian leaders today assert that the Righteous Dead of the Old Testament lived in a restricted area of Sheol – the Jewish shadow underworld of the dead – they called Abraham’s Bosom, whereas the dead Sons of God fathers of the Nephilim were in another restricted area of Sheol, known as Tartarus. (Jude 6; II Peter 2:4.)

I believe overall the best passage in the Old Testament on this issue can be found in the Prophet Isaiah where he delivers an Oracle to the King of Babylon:

Sheol from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the Rephaim for thee, even all the Chief Ones of the Earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the Kings of the Nations.

All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us? Thy pomp is brought down to the Grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee.

How art thou fallen from Heaven, O Lucifer, Son of the Morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the Nations!

For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into Heaven, I will exalt my throne above the Stars of God; I will sit also upon the Mount of the Congregation, in the Sides of the North. I will Ascend above the Heights of the Clouds; I will be like unto the Most High.

Yet thou shalt be brought down to Sheol, to the Sides of the Pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and Consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the Earth to tremble, that did shake Kingdoms; that made the World as a Wilderness, and destroyed the Cities thereof; that opened not the House of his Prisoners?

All the Kings of the Nations, even all of them, lie in Glory, every one in his own house. But thou are Cast Out of thy Grave like an Abominable Branch, and as the Raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the Stones of the Pit; as a carcass trodden under feet.

Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy Land, and slain thy People; the Seed of Evildoers shall never be Renowned.

Prepare Slaughter for his Children for the Iniquity of their Fathers; that they do not Rise, nor Possess the Land, nor fill the Face of the World with Cities.

For I will Rise Up against them, Saith YHWH of Hosts, and Cut Off from Babylon the name, and remnant, and son, and nephew, Saith YHWH.

I will also make it a Possession for the Bittern, and Pools of Water; and I will Sweep it with the Besom of Destruction, Saith YHWH of Hosts.

YHWH of Hosts hath Sworn, Saying, Surely as I have Thought, so shall it Come to Pass; and as I have Purposed, so shall it Stand: That I will Break the Assyrian in my Land, and upon my Mountains tread him under foot: then shall his Yoke depart from off them, and his Burden depart from off their shoulders.

This is the Purpose that is Purposed upon the whole Earth; and this is the Hand that is Stretched Out upon All the Nations. For YHWH of Hosts hath Purposed, and who shall Disannul it? and his Hand is Stretched Out, and who shall turn it back? – Isaiah 14:9-27 (A “bittern” is a salt water mineral pool and a “besom” is a Witch’s Broom, a bundle of twigs used for sweeping, not for flying.)

That’s right, the dead Nephilim (Rephaim) congratulate the dead King of Babylon to the Afterlife after he dies. For a moment the King thought that he was a god, but he died just like a man. The key reference here is from Genesis 6:4: “There were Nephilim [Giants] in the Earth in those Days; and also after that, when the Sons of God came in unto the Daughters of Men, and they bare Children to them, the same became Mighty Men which were of Old, Men of Renown.

This was the state of mankind until the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, who took Captivity Captive when he Abolished All of Sheol, including Abraham’s Bosom and Tartarus. (Ephesians 4:8-10; II Peter 2:4; Jude 5.)

To quote from Isaiah again in his Prophecy of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ: “Thy Dead men shall Live, together with my Dead body shall they Arise. Awake and Sing, ye that Dwell in Dust; for thy Dew is as the Dew of Herbs, and the Earth shall Cast Out the Rephaim.” (Isaiah 28:19.)

With this information safely under our belts, we can safely conclude that Samuel, after he died, was in Sheol and the Witch of Endor Conjured him from the Sides of the Pit where he had been sleeping peaceably until the Witch disturbed him. The Bible asserts that Sheol was a Reality, as well as the possibility that certain Gifted Witches can conjure the Dead from their Sleep.

Of course, the Old Testament also forbids these practices for the Children of Israel, which makes no sense if they are not real:

Regard not them that have Familiar Spirits, neither seek after Wizards, to be Defiled by them: I Am YHWH thy God. (Leviticus 19:31.)

And then, there are always the Nay sayers, usually quoting such verses as Ecclesiastes 9:5: “For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.” But I believe Solomon was here talking about buried dead bodies. And anyone who has experienced an Out-of-Body Experience (OBE), knows that Ecclesiastes concludes with an amazing analogy:

Remember now the Creator in the days of thy youth, while the Evil Days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no Pleasure in them: while the Sun, or the Light, or the Moon, or the Stars, be not Darkened, nor the Clouds return after the rain:

In the Day when the Keepers of the House shall tremble, and the Strong Men shall bow themselves, and the Grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the Windows be Darkened.

And the Doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the Grinding is low, and he shall Rise Up at the voice of the bird, and all the Daughters of Music shall be brought low;

Also when they shall be afraid of that which is High, and Fears shall be in the Way, and the Almond Tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and Desire shall fall: because man goeth to his Long Home, and the mourners go about the streets;

Or ever the Silver Cord be loosed, or the Golden Bowl be broken, or the Pitcher be broken, at the Fountain, or the Wheel broken at the Cistern.

Then shall the Dust Return to the Earth as it was; and the Spirit shall Return unto God who Gave it.

Vanity of Vanities, Sayeth the Preacher; All is Vanity.

And moreover, because the Preacher was Wise, he still Taught the People Knowledge; yea, he gave Good Heed, and Sought Out, and Set in Order many Proverbs.

The Preacher Sought to find out Acceptable Words; and that which was Written was Upright, even Words of Truth.

The Words of the Wise are as Goads, and as Nails Fastened by the Masters of Assemblies, which are Given from One Shepherd. – Ecclesiastes 12:1-11

Most readers will recognize the allusions to the teeth (Grinders), and eyes (Windows), as well as Golden Bowl (the Skull) being broken in death. An OBE veteran also recognizes the connection between the fine Silver Cord that connects the Soul/Spirit to the Body, which is said to be linked to the Third Eye Chakra, which is supposed to be located in the pituitary gland, and which is the Nemesis of those Materialists who study Human Consciousness.

BLACK MAGIC

It is noteworthy to recognize current studies of the Black Magic in the Bible. Michael Holscher, a researcher for the Biblical Studies Department at Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany, has recently written about the uncanny similarity of the Curses in the Book of Revelation and ancient Roman Curse Tablets, known as “defixiones” – Latin for “binding” – written on lead plates.

This is no coincidence. (See my, “The Black Magic Spell of the Book of Revelation.”) For example, the Angel Casting the Stone to Destroy Babylon (Revelation 18:21), is a Type of a Curse Ritual. This is why the Book of Revelation is the most Evil book ever written. Besides that, the Bible also gives a fairly expansive definition of Black Magic Practices that are Prohibited:

When thou art come into the Land which YHWH thy God Giveth thee, thou shalt not Learn to do after the Abominations of those Nations.

There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth Divination, or an Observer of Times [Astrologers], or an Enchanter, or a Witch, or a Charmer, or a Consulter with Familiar Spirits, or a Wizard, or a Necromancer.

For all that do these things are an Abomination unto YHWH, and because of these Abominations YHWH thy God doth Drive them Out from before thee.

Thou shalt be Perfect with YHWH thy God.

For these Nations, which thou shalt Possess, hearkened unto Observers of Times, and unto Diviners, but as for thee, YHWH thy God hath not Suffered thou so to do. – Deuteronomy 18:9-14

Anyway, the Conjuring of dead spirits is known as Necromancy, and it is uniformly considered a bracket of Black Magic. The Witch of Endor is thus worth studying.

The first thing that I find interesting is why the Witch didn’t flee the Land like most of the other Witches and Wizards when Saul issued his Decree. After all, the penalty for Practicing such Arts was death. Why wasn’t she afraid before she knew the Enquirer was King Saul?

Was she so good at her job that the People pled with her not to flee? Well, she was able to Conjure the dead Samuel out of his Sleep. That must say something about her abilities: she had a powerful Familiar Spirit.

Also note the sexual nature of this meeting. After Samuel tells Saul of his Doom, she comes on to him, offering herself sexually as his Handmaid. She fixes him a meal as he sits on her bed. He does not leave until the morning. Think what you want, but Saul likely would not have had sex with her because of the superstition that sex before battle weakens your faculties. (Exodus 19:15; II Samuel 11:11.)

**ANOTHER WITCHY WOMAN:
PRINCE ADONIJA AND QUEEN MOTHER BATHSHEBA**

The case of Uriah the Hittite is a good example of this rule. Uriah is famous in the Bible for being one of David's Mighty Men and the first husband of Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, another Mighty Man. David's Counselor, Ahitophel, was the father of Eliam and grandfather of Bathsheba. (II Samuel 11:31-15; 15:12; 23:34, 39 .) Ahitophel was obviously upset with David on account of his Adultery with his granddaughter, Bathsheba, and participated in Absalom's Rebellion against the Throne, hanging himself after getting his household in order after Absalom failed to follow his advice. (II Samuel 15:12 – 17:23.)

As you will recall, David seduced and impregnated Uriah's wife, Bathsheba. Her grandfather, Ahitophel, was a very Wise Man:

And the Counsel of Ahitophel, which he Counseled in those days, was as if a man had Enquired at the Oracle of God: so was all the Counsel of Ahitophel both with David and with Absalom. – II Samuel 16:23

If this Wisdom was in Ahitophel's DNA, then we should expect his granddaughter to have inherited some it, and thus could have been another kind of Black Magic Woman. I've always thought there was something fishy about the account recorded in I Kings:

Now King David was old and stricken in years; and they covered him with clothes; but he gat no heat. Wherefore his Servants said unto him, Let there be sought for my Lord, the King a young Virgin: and let her stand before the King, and let her cherish him, and let her lie in thy bosom, that my Lord the King may get heat.

So they sought for a fair damsel throughout all the coasts of Israel, and found Abishag a Shunammite, and brought her to the King. And the damsel was very Fair, and cherished the King, and ministered unto him: but the King knew her not. – I Kings 1:1-4

If you are thinking that there is something sexual about all this, you only have to give that last sentence a little thought. Knowing someone Biblically means having sex with him or her. Once a King was no longer able to get it up, it was time for a new King, for fertility was everything in the old days. And even though Abishag was a beautiful virgin and slept with David, allegedly to keep him warm, David was unable to get it up, thus endangering the Nation.

Prince Adonija, whose mother was Haggith, was the King's son who would have been the natural successor to the throne, but he knew that Bathsheba had a deep hold on David after their Adultery (see below), and would have wanted her son, Solomon, to be King. It was common for the wives of a King to compete with each other for the coveted position of Queen Mother.

Therefore, Adonija jumped the gun:

Then Adonija the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be King: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.

And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so? and he was also a very goodly man; and his mother bare him after Absalom.

And he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruah, and with Abiathar the Priest: and they following Adonija helped him.

But Zadok the Priest, and Benaniah the son of Jehoiada, and Nathan the Prophet, and Shimei, and Rei, and the Mighty Men which belonged to David, were not with Adonija.

And Adonija slew sheep and oxen and fat cattle by the Stone of Zoheleth, which is by En-Rogle, and called all his brethren the King's sons, and all the men of Judah the King's Servants.

But Nathan the Prophet, and Benaiah, and the Mighty Men, and Solomon his brother, he called not. – I Kings 1:5-10

This is, of course, was an attempt at a coup de grace. Note the two factions. Adonija's faction of those opposed to Solomon, the son of Adultery, becoming King, and those loyal to King David. The fact that David's General of the Army, Joab (the son of David's sister, Zeruah, whose mother had been High Priestess of Zion), and Abiathar, the Priest of the Law of Moses, suggests that David's Adultery with Bathsheba had something to do with the Insurrection.

Even though YHWH had forgiven David and Bathsheba for their Adultery, they were punished with the death of their baby, conceived in Sin. Not to get sidetracked, but this is an

example of God choosing Grace over Law. (II Samuel 12:14.) Thus Solomon was not the Son of Adultery, but the Son of God's Grace. We see this Grace in the Seed of David also in the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, a thousand years later. (Matthew 1:18-21.)

Astute scholars have noticed that Zadok, Nathan, and Benaiah, were likely members of the old Jebusite Aristocracy, as well as the rivalry between Zadok, the Priest of the Order of Melchizedek, and Abiathar, the Priest of the Order of Aaron, that is, of the Law of Moses.

Adonija was also a Priest of the Order of Melchizedek for all of David's sons were priests, which allowed him to perform animal sacrifices, especially at a time when he declared himself as the new King. (II Samuel 8:18; see also my, "The House of the Forest of Lebanon: a Temple of the Goddess Asherah".)

We return now to the events taking place at the Stone of Zoholeth which was next to the Spring, En-Rogle, and in the Palace where the coup was first noticed. We note as an aside, that when "En" appears in front of a name it designates a Spring, always regarded as a Holy Place in the Ancient Near East:

Wherefore Nathan spake unto Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, Hast thou not heard that Adonija the son of Haggith doth Reign, and David our Lord knoweth it not? Now therefore come, let me, I pray thee, give thee Counsel, that thou mayest save thine own life, and the life of thy son Solomon.

Go and get thee in unto King David, and say unto him, Didst not thou, my Lord, O King, Swear unto thy Handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall Reign after me, and he shall sit upon my Throne? why then doth Adonija Reign?

Behold, while thou yet talkest there with the King, I also shall come in after thee and confirm thy words.

And Bathsheba went in unto the King into the Chamber: and the King was very old: and Abishag the Shunammite ministered unto the King. And Bathsheba bowed, and did obeissance to the King.

And the King said. What wouldest thee?

And she said unto him, My Lord, thou Swarest by YHWH thy God unto thine Handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall Reign after me, and he shall sit upon my Throne.

And now, behold, Adonija Reigneth; and now, my Lord the King, thou knowest it not. And he hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the sons of the King, and Abiathar the Priest, and Joab the Captain of the Host: but Solomon thy Servant hath he not called.

And thou, my Lord, O King, the eyes of all Israel are upon thee, that thou shouldest tell them who shall sit on the Throne of my Lord the King after him?

Otherwise it shall come to pass, when my Lord the King shall Sleep with his Fathers, that I and my son Solomon shall be counted Offenders.

And, lo, while she yet talked with the King, Nathan the Prophet also came in. And they told the King, saying, Behold, Nathan the Prophet. And when he was come in before the King, he bowed himself before the King with his face to the ground.

And Nathan said, My Lord, O King, Hast thou said, Adonija shall Reign after me, and he shall sit upon thy Throne? For he has gone down this day, and hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the King's sons, and the Captains of the Host, and Abiathar the Priest; and, behold, they eat and drink before him, and say, God Save King Adonija.

But me, even me thy Servant, and Zadok the Priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and thy Servant Solomon, hath he not called.

Is this thing done by my Lord the King, and thou hast not showed it unto thy Servant, who would sit on the Throne of my Lord the King after him?

Then King David answered and said, Call me Bathsheba. And she came into the King's presence, and stood before the King.

And the King Swore, and said, As YHWH Liveth, that hath Redeemed my Soul out of all distress, even as I Swore unto thee by YHWH God of Israel, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall Reign after me, and he shall sit upon my Throne in my stead; even so will I certainly do this day.

Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the earth, and did Reverence to the King, and said, Let my Lord King David live for ever.

And King David said, Call me Zadok the Priest, and Nathan the Prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada. And they came before the King.

The King also said unto them, Take with you the Servants of your Lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own Mule, and bring him down to Gihon: and let Zadok the Priest and Nathan the Prophet Anoint him there King over Israel: and blow ye with the Trumpet, and say, God Save King Solomon.

Then ye shall come up after him, that he may come and sit upon my Throne; for he shall be King in my stead: and I have Appointed him to be Ruler over Israel and over Judah.

And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the King, and said, Amen: YHWH God of my Lord the King say so too. As YHWH hath been with my Lord, even so be he with Solomon, and make his Throne greater than the Throne of my Lord King David.

So Zadok the Priest, and Nathan the Prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, went down, and caused Solomon to ride upon King David's Mule, and brought him to Gihon.

And Zadok the Priest took an Horn of Oil out of the Tabernacle, and Anointed Solomon. And they blew the Trumpet; and all the People said, God Save King Solomon.

And all the People came up after him, and the People Piped with Pipes, and rejoiced with great joy, so that the Earth rent with the Sound of them.

– I Kings 1:11-40

There is a lot to digest in this passage so we will take it slow so we don't miss anything. First, there is King David's Mule, or Ass, that Solomon is to ride to the Spring Gihon. This, of course, foreshadows the Prophecy of Zehariah who said that the Coming Messiah would ride upon an Ass; which is exactly what Our Lord Jesus Christ did when he entered Jerusalem as King. (Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:1-11.)

Second, we may ask: Who were the Cherethites and the Pelethites? They were Greek and Cretan Mercenaries that King David used for his bodyguard, for they would have been loyal only to him.

And lastly is Nathan's reminder to Bathsheba that David had Sworn to make her son Solomon the King to succeed him. Is this promise recorded elsewhere? No, not exactly. But there are hints that are suggested when David and Bathsheba first made love. Let us now examine that story in detail.

And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when Kings go forth to Battle, that David sent Joab, and his Servants with him, and all Israel, and they destroyed the Children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.

And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the Roof of the King's House: and from the Roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.

And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned to her house.

And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child. – II Samuel 11:1-6

It is hard for me to believe that a woman as intelligent and beautiful as Bathsheba would offer herself to David without some sort of compensation. After all, she was committing Adultery under the Law of Moses, which was punishable by death. (Leviticus 20:10.)

The reader can take note that there would not have been any doubt about the baby being David's son because she had just performed her duties of bathing after her period, which David had witnessed as a voyeur. Unfortunately, that baby died as punishment for David's great sin.

But I think the answer to whether Bathsheba consented to committing Adultery was not because she was an easy woman and David was her King, but because David Swore to her that if she conceived a boy, he would succeed him. Bathsheba must have been aware that David had many wives competing to be Queen Mother some day. With this Sworn Promise in mind, she would go from being a soldier's wife, to being the Queen Mother of Zion. That makes sense to me and I believe it is likely that that was the case.

It also makes sense to me that Nathan would have been aware of this promise from the beginning, leading him to the strategy he suggested to her. This strategy was one of reminding David of a prior promise, not fabricated to take advantage of David's waning health. This is further bolstered by the fact that David immediately put an end to the Insurrection and declared Solomon to be King. (I Kings 1:14-40.)

Remember that Nathan, Ahitophel, and Eliam had been members of the Jebusite Aristocracy prior to David taking the Citadel of Zion, where his mother, also a member of the Jebusite Aristocracy, had been the High Priestess of the Goddess Asherah. (See my, "The House of the Forest of Lebanon"). Thus, since they were not Israelites by birth, they must also have been in fear of Adonijah, who likely intended killing Solomon and Bathsheba for their disobedience of the Law of Moses.

And making the story even more witchy, Bathsheba must have known that for David to fulfill his promise, her husband had to die, which is exactly what happened. David, after learning that Bathsheba was pregnant, called Uriah up from the Battle for Rabbah and tried to get him drunk so that he would sleep with Bathsheba, giving credence to the belief that he was the father; but Uriah stuck to the no sex before battle rule to his demise. (II Samuel 11:1-15.) David then arranged with his General, Joab, for Uriah to be put in a position in the Battle so that he would be easy for the Ammonites to kill, which is what happened.

ABISHAG

The young virgin Abishag reveals another aspect of Bathsheba's witchiness. After the failed Insurrection, Adonija, Joab, and Abiathar the Priest of Moses, were still around. As the story is told, as David lay on his deathbed, he summoned Solomon to his side and advised him of the dangers he immediately would face:

Moreover, thou knowest also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, and what he did to the two Captains of the Hosts of Israel, unto Abner the son of Ner, and to Amasa the son of Jether, whom he slew, and shed the blood of war in peace, and put the blood of war upon his girdle that was about his loins, and in his shoes that were on his feet. Do therefore according to thy Wisdom, and let not his hoar head go down to the grave in peace....

And, behold, thou hast with thee Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite of Bahurim, which cursed me with a grievous curse in the day when I went to Mahannaim: but he came down to meet me at Jordan and I Sware by YHWH saying, I will not put thee to death with the sword.

Now therefore hold him not guiltless: for thou art a Wise Man, and knowest what thou oughtest to do unto him; but his hoar head bring thou down to the grave with blood. – I Kings 2:5-6, 8-9

It is said the Francis Ford Coppola and Mario Puza were inspired by this scene in their movie, The Godfather, when Vito Corleone, played by Marlon Brando, counsels his son, Michael, played by Al Pacino, before he dies, to kill the heads of the other Four Families when he is gone. (In the American Mafia, Lucky Luciano created the Five Families which originated Organized Crime in America.) Though David doesn't mention Adonija in his advice, he is still in the background because Joab aided Adonija in the attempted coup.

His fate will then be decided based upon an act that involves Bathsheba and Abishag. If you will recall, Ahitophel had given advice to Absalom during his Rebellion when he chased King David out of Jerusalem:

And Ahitophel said unto Absalom, Go in unto thy father's concubines, which he hath left to keep the House; and all Israel shall hear that thou are abhorred of thy father: then shall the hands of all that are with thee be strong.

So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house: and Absalom went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel...

Moreover, Ahitophel said unto Absalom, Let me now choose out twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue after David this night: and I will come

upon him, while he is weary and weak handed, and will make him afraid: and all the People that are with him shall flee: and I will smite the King only
 And I will bring back all the People unto thee: the man whom thou seekest is as if all returned: so all the People will be in peace
 And the saying pleased Absalom well, and all the Elders of Israel.
 – II Samuel 16:21–22; 17:1-4

Absalom must have been giddy at this advice. Having sex with the King's women declared to the People that he was now King of Israel. However, pride comes before a fall. Absalom then requested counsel from Hushai the Archite, a person David had left behind to be a spy and to counter the advice of Ahitophel.

Hushai knew that Ahitophel was right and if not countered he would succeed in killing King David. So he informs Absalom that the advice of Ahitophel was anticipated by King David, who was arranging to ambush Ahitophel if Absalom took this advice:

And Absalom and all the men of Israel said, The Counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the Counsel of Ahitophel. For YHWH had Appointed to defeat the good Counsel of Ahitophel, to the Intent that YHWH might bring Evil upon Absalom....
 And when Ahitophel saw that his Counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass, and arose, and gat him home to his House, to his City, and put his Household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the Sepulchre of his father.
 – II Samuel 17:5-23

That's the background of Adonija's alleged request to Bathsheba that sealed his fate:

Then sat Solomon upon the Throne of David his father; and his Kingdom was Established greatly.
 And Adonija the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon. And she said, Comest thou peaceably? And he said, Peaceably.
 He said moreover, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And she said, Say on.
 And he said, Thou knowest that the Kingdom was mine, and that all Israel set their faces on me, that I should Reign; howbeit the Kingdom is turned about, and is become my brother's: for it was his from YHWH.
 And now I ask one Petition of thee, deny me not. And she said unto him, Say on.
 And he said, Speak, I pray thee, unto Solomon the King, (for he will not say thee nay,) that he give me Abishag the Shunammite to wife.
 And Bathsheba said, Well; I will speak for thee unto the King.
 Bathsheba therefore went unto King Solomon, to speak unto him for Adonija. And the King rose up to meet her, and bowed himself to her, and sat down on his Throne, and caused a Seat to be set for the King's mother; and she sat at his Right Hand.

Then she said, I desire one small Petition of thee; I pray thee, say me not nay. And she said, Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonija thy brother to wife.

And King Solomon answered and said unto his mother, And why dost thou ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonija? ask for him the Kingdom also; for he is my older brother; even for him, and for Abiathar the Priest, and for Joab the son of Zeruiah?

Then King Solomon Swore by YHWH, saying, God do so to me, and more also, if Adonija have not spoken this word against his own life. Now therefore, as YHWH Liveth, which hath Established me, and set me on the Throne of David my father, and who hath Made me an House, as he Promised, Adonija shall be put to death this day.

And King Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he fell upon him that he died. – I Kings 2:12-25

What follows is a bloodbath like the one at the end of The Godfather. If this reads a lot like G.R.R. Martin's Game of Thrones, it is because that's what it is.

Abiathar the Priest is spared but is defrocked and exiled. Joab is then slain by Benaiah as he holds on to Horns of the Altar in the Tabernacle of YHWH. And last of all, Benaiah slays Shimei, as David had advised Solomon on his death bed. (I Kings 2:26-34.)

You must have deduced that there is something very strange in this telling. First of all, Bathsheba feared for the lives of herself and Solomon from Adonija, who, along with Joab, was allowed to live, even after their attempted coup. One wonders if Bathsheba was aware of David's deathbed advice to Solomon, because he only ordered the hits on Joab and Shimei, not on Adonija.

Thus, her and her son's lives were still in danger as long as Adonija and Joab lived. Only an uncritical thinker would have believed such a story as is told in this chapter. It is more likely that Bathsheba contrived the story so as to get rid of her adversaries, since she was in a kill or be killed situation.

Everyone knew after Absalom took Bathsheba's grandfather's advice, that mating with a King's concubines was a declaration of Kingship. That's why Solomon was so shocked at his mother's request.

Thus, Bathsheba was one Witchy Woman, who didn't need Black Magic to work her Evil. In fact, Shakespeare scholar, Harold Bloom (based on a translation by David Rosenberg), wrote in

his Book of J, that one of the sources of the Old Testament that scholars have designated as “J” – that is, the author that consistently used the Name of God, YHWH, in his narrative (“J” is based on the German spelling) – was likely a woman that was living at the time of David and Solomon.

He further designated the source as likely being Bathsheba, because of her background in Wisdom and participation in the events described. After all, her grandfather was Ahitophel, the Wisest Man in Israel at the time. (Harold Bloom, The Book of J [Grove Press, 2004]).

This makes the most sense to me, for she would have wanted to show that her hands were clean of Prince Adonija’s death.

CONCLUSION

Getting back to the issue of whether King Saul had sex with the Witch of Endor before the Battle of Gilboa, it is likely that he did not, for it was a very strong superstition unlikely to be disobeyed by military men, especially when two other military men who had accompanied Saul to the Witch’s habitat would have been eyewitnesses. Yes, I know that on other matters King Saul was notoriously disobedient and ironically rebuked for it by Samuel in real life:

And Samuel said, Hath YHWH as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the Voice of YHWH? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken better than the fat of rams.

For Rebellion is as the Sin of Witchcraft, and Stubbornness is as Iniquity and Idolatry. Because thou hast Rejected the Word of YHWH, he hath also Rejected thee from being King. (I Samuel 15:22-23.)

Is it any wonder then that King Saul resorted to Black Magic with the Witch of Endor after YHWH Rejected him? I really like how the author of I Samuel used irony in this story.

Other commentators have noticed that the Witch appeared to have been shocked that she succeeded in Raising Samuel. It scared the Sheol out of her! It also revealed to her that the Enquirer was King Saul himself, making it even more scary since she was involved with illegal activity punishable by death since the time of Moses: “Thou shalt not Suffer a Witch to Live.” (Exodus 22:18.)

The Holy Bible, the Word of Truth, teaches that Witchcraft and Black Magic are Real in this Material World. I, myself, have experienced its Power first hand. (See my, “The Telepathic Dominion of the Kosmocrats.”) I am not advocating Gross Superstition, but you should be aware that Black Magic is being practiced all of the time almost everywhere. Amen.