



Thou art my hiding place  
and my shield:  
I hope in thy word.

—Psalms 119:114



Christian Science Sentinel  
**Bible Lens**

Ancient and Modern  
Necromancy, alias  
Mesmerism  
and Hypnotism,  
Denounced

**November 26–  
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# Ancient and Modern Necromancy, alias Mesmerism and Hypnotism, Denounced

## from Section 2

### 5 | Exodus 1:8

*Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.*

Nearly four hundred years earlier, the Hebrew leader Joseph saved Egypt from famine and brought his entire family to live there (see Genesis 46:5–27 and Exodus 12:40). Seeing that the Israelites had flourished and multiplied greatly since that time, the new Egyptian king felt threatened. His order to kill Hebrew baby boys at birth followed efforts to control the Jews through brutal enslavement in extensive state building projects (see Exodus 1:9–16, 22).

### 6 | Exodus 2:1, 2

*There went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months.*

Moses' parents, Amram and Jochebed (see Exodus 6:20), were both members of the tribe appointed to provide priests for the Israelites. The Hebrew leader's older brother Aaron—in addition to serving as Moses' right-hand aide in confronting Pharaoh and leading the Exodus—became the first high priest of Israel.

### 6 | Exodus 2:3

*When she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with*

*slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink.*

The bulrushes Jochebed used to make Moses' ark-basket were papyrus, the plentiful water plant known for its variety of uses. Growing up to about fifteen feet (four and a half meters), papyrus supplied material for small boats, mats, garments, and—its best-known product—paper.

“Flags” were grassy reeds, later associated with the name of the Red Sea (also known as the Reed Sea).

### 6 | Exodus 2:10

*The child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.*

Scholars identify the name *Moses* as Egyptian, but the princess's explanation—“because I drew him out of the water”—suggests a similar Hebrew word that means “to draw” (*mashah*). The only other scriptural use of this term is in David's statement about Yahweh, “He drew me out of many waters” (II Samuel 22:17, quoted in Psalms 18:16).

## from Section 3

### 11 | I Samuel 19:1, 2

*Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David. But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David.*

David's friendship with Jonathan, Saul's firstborn son, is legendary. A formidable warrior against the Philistines (see I Sam-

# An exploration of Bible citations from the *Christian Science Quarterly*® Bible Lessons

“...a lesson on which the prosperity of Christian Science largely depends.” —Mary Baker Eddy

uel 13:3; 14:1–14), Jonathan was drawn to David after David’s victory over the Philistine champion Goliath (see 18:1–4). The two made a covenant—and also became brothers-in-law after David married Jonathan’s sister Michal.

Their bond was tested when Saul charged his son to murder David. Jonathan chose disobedience to his royal father over betrayal of his friend, going to great lengths to protect David from Saul and making two more covenants with him (see chap. 20 and 23:16–18). After Jonathan’s death in battle, David mourned him: “Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful” (II Samuel 1:26, New International Version®).

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## from Section 5

### 18 | John 8:31–33

*Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered him, We be Abraham’s seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?*

The “Jews which believed on him” were those who had accepted Jesus’ Messiahship but held on to traditional Jewish precepts and often disagreed with his teachings. Here they misconstrue the Master’s statement about freedom, equating it solely with liberation from physical servitude. According to some sources, they also misrepresent their history. Although these Jews may have been describing their individual experiences, the Israelites had certainly

been slaves and captives—and were under Roman occupation at that time.

Jesus argues that their desire to kill him contradicts their relationship to Abraham and allies them with “your father the devil” (see vv. 37–44). “He that is of God,” Jesus declares, “heareth God’s words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God” (v. 47).

### 18 | John 8:44

*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

“A murderer from the beginning” recalls the first biblical account of murder, the story of Cain’s killing of his brother Abel; the references to lying evoke the trickery of the serpent (see Genesis 4:8, 3:1–5).

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## from Section 8

### 24 | Colossians 3:3

*Your life is hid with Christ in God.*

Life hidden with Christ, writes one source, “is protected and guaranteed against the strains and stresses of secular life and against the moral corrosions of evil because it does not depend on human defense, or personal resolution, but on God.”

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#### Resources quoted in this issue

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**Cit. 24:** Buttrick, George Arthur, Nolan B. Harmon, et al., eds. *The Interpreter’s Bible: A Commentary in Twelve Volumes*. Vol. 11, Philipians, Colossians, Thessalonians, Pastoral Epistles, Philemon, Hebrews. Nashville: Abingdon, 1951–57.



# Related healing ideas

## The safe place

There is no little space where God is not,  
No crevice, cranny, fissure, scissure, slot,  
No corner overlooked, no hidden gate  
Through which His counterfeits can infiltrate.

No enemies are lurking in the shades,  
No evil powers to storm the barricades:  
Fear for no breach in God's encircling wall,  
His allness never can be less than all.

Let us be sure of this, that come what may,  
Out of God's universe we cannot stray;  
No lonely place is here, or danger spot,  
There is no little space where God is not.

By Virginia Thesiger  
From the February 25, 1985, issue of the  
*Christian Science Sentinel*

## New-found peace

I have found a sanctuary  
Where I can kneel alone;  
There are no stained-glass windowpanes,  
No vaulted arch of stone,  
Nor steeple spire, nor belfry dome.  
I hear no chime of bell.  
But, oh, the peace of God is there!  
It whispers, "All is well."  
This temple is my consciousness,  
A refuge night and day  
Where I can talk with God and feel  
His presence when I pray.

By Ila Elizabeth Rose  
From the February 3, 1962, issue of the  
*Christian Science Sentinel*

## 'The secret place of the most High'

*Psalms 91:1*

Wake to your sense of original  
innocence,  
Honor the joy there, the beauty,  
magnificence,  
Banishing thoughts of anxiety,  
ugliness,  
"Worship the Lord in the beauty of  
holiness."\*

Closing the door as you enter the  
"secret place,"  
Hidden from secular noise in His  
quiet grace,  
Knowing His love for all, praying  
with gratitude,  
Meekly acknowledging God's great  
infinite,

Safe in the kingdom of God, divine  
consciousness,  
Witness the Christ-healing power,  
His righteousness.  
Find in His presence your  
spirituality,  
Faith, understanding, fruition,  
reality.

\*Psalms 96:9

By Carol Dismore  
From the April 4, 2016, issue of the  
*Christian Science Sentinel*