

## Introduction

### Overview:

It is important to realize that:

The term "*witchcraft*" in the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) refers to (mostly) women who used spo The term, "*witchcraft*" in the Christian Scriptures (New Testament) refers to murderers who use poisons to kill people. ken curses to injure other people or destroy their property.

In North America, "*Witch*" and "*Witchcraft*" most often refer to Wiccans and Wicca.

Thus, in terms of behavior, Wicca is a benign and healing religion; the "*witchcrafts*" mentioned in the Bible are evil and destructive. The two are exact opposites.

That said, it is important to remember that: The Bible contains many passages [exhibiting intolerance towards other religions](#), and almost no passages which actively [promote inter-religious tolerance](#). [Wicca](#) is certainly a religion that is very different from [Judaism](#) and [Christianity](#). Wicca, as well as [Buddhism](#), [Hinduism](#), [Islam](#), [Native Spirituality](#), [Taoism](#), and hundreds of other religions are thus equally condemned by many verses in the Bible. Many Wiccans engage in specific practices to foretell the future. These include scrying, tarot cards, I Ching, runes, etc. Although these practices are not mentioned in the Bible, they are similar to other divination techniques which are condemned in various biblical passages. However, not all Wiccans engage in divination. And the vast majority of persons who use divination are not Wiccans.

### Who exactly is a Witch?

In this section, we are considering whether the Bible *specifically* condemns Wicca. We have not been able to find any translation of either the Hebrew or Christian Scriptures which contains the words *Wicca* or *Wiccan*. However, many translations of the Bible, such as the *King James Version* and the *New International Version*, condemn what they call "*Witches*" and "*Witchcraft*". This causes serious misunderstandings.

The religion of [Wicca](#) is one of [at least 18 different practices associated with the term "witchcraft."](#) Most of are unrelated to each other. Of these 18 practices, [six main forms of "witchcraft"](#) exist today.

The most popular usages of "Witch" refer to:

1. A woman of such incredible beauty that she bewitches men.
2. An old woman, often portrayed with an evil appearance; sometimes called a "hag."
3. A follower of [Religious Satanism](#) who either worships Satan or recognizes Satan as a virile pre-Christian, pagan concept. They may perform evil sorcery, but only against their enemies.

4. A person devoted to performing evil sorcery: using rituals, spoken curses, etc to injure or kill others.
5. A Wiccan; a follower of a modern religion that was reconstructed partly from an ancient religion of the Celts. Wiccans are prohibited from harming others.
6. In Africa, a native healer who practices alternative, holistic medicine and may engage in evil sorcery.
7. In TV programs like *Bewitched*, a person, usually a woman, who was born with supernatural abilities and is capable of performing miracles by waving a wand, wiggling a nose, etc.
8. In children's books like the [Harry Potter™ series](#), where people live in an alternative universe with unicorns, invisibility cloaks, dragons, talking animals, magical quills, flying broomsticks, magic wands, etc.

There are many [additional meanings not cited above](#). Most are variations on the above eight.

**Warlock:** An old-English term for oath breaker. *Conservative Christians and the media often refer to male Witches/Wiccans as Warlocks*. The term is not used by Witches, Wiccans or other Neopagans.

**Wicca:** a [Neo-pagan](#) polytheistic religion with roots in pre-Christian, pre-Celtic Europe. Wiccans follow the [Wiccan Rede](#): "*do whatever you wish, as long as you harm nobody, including yourself*". Power, manipulation and control of others strictly prohibited. Their drug usage usually confined to wine. Rare ritual sexual activity is practiced, but only in private between a committed adult couple. Wiccans do not proselytize. Most Wiccans are solitary practitioners; some form democratically organized covens, typically of 5 or more people. The minimum age for training or initiation is usually 18. *Conservative usage: evil [occultic practice](#) based on a lust for power, manipulation and control. Rigid ritual practice; heavy illegal drug usage and sexual activity; organize into covens of 13 members each; practice shape shifting (human to animal). Active recruiters, particularly of young people.*

● **Wiccan:** a follower of Wicca

**Widdershins:** The counter-clockwise direction. The term is often used in describing Neopagan rituals.

**Witch:** a follower of Witchcraft. It has so many conflicting meanings that it should be used with great care (or perhaps never at all) in public, in order to avoid confusion. 19 common meanings are:

1. A Gothic Satanist; a worshiper of Satan who, during the late Middle Ages and Renaissance, was believed to use black magic to harm others, by involving the aid of Satan and his demons. They didn't exist then and don't exist now.
2. A Wiccan; a follower of [Wicca](#), a recently created, benign, Neopagan religion which is largely based on the some of the symbols, deities, seasonal days of celebration of an ancient European Celtic religion. Wiccans are prohibited from using magic to harm others; they do not believe in the existence of Satan or demons.
3. A woman of such incredible beauty that she bewitches others.
4. A woman of incredible ugliness; a hag.
5. A person who practices benign Magick to influence the world through rituals.

6. A magician with unusual knowledge who can apparently perform miracles during ceremonial magic rituals.
7. In ancient Native American usage and the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament): an evil person who secretly uses evil sorcery (black magic) to intentionally harm others.
8. In the Christian Scriptures (New Testament): a criminal who murders people by administering poisons.
9. A follower of modern-day [Religious Satanism](#). They recognizing Satan as a virile pre-Christian, pagan principle, but do not believe in his existence as a living entity.
10. A member of an underground, evil religious group who worship Satan who engage in [ritual abuse, murder and sometimes cannibalism -- largely involving children](#). During the 1980s and early 1990s, many North Americans believed that this group exists; some still do, although hard evidence is absent.
11. A wizard who inhabits an alternative world of fantasy and magic, filled with good and evil people with magical powers, flying broomsticks, invisibility cloaks, dragons, talking animals, magical quills, etc. e.g. [Harry Potter™ books](#).
12. A person, usually a woman, who was born with supernatural abilities and is capable of performing miracles by waving a wand, wiggling their nose, etc. This is often seen in TV programs, like *Bewitched* or *Charmed*. They don't exist either.
13. Followers of a group of Caribbean religions which combine elements of tribal African religions with Christianity; e.g. [Santeria](#) and [Vodun](#).
14. In some African Aboriginal religions, a person who unknowingly has supernatural powers capable of hurting others. *Witch doctors* attempt to counteract these evil energies.
15. An expert, as in: "*She is a witch of a writer.*"
16. A person who uses a forked stick or other instrument to locate sources of underground material -- typically water.
17. A woman who is not submissive to her husband.
18. A general "*snarl*" word for a nasty, vicious person, typically female.
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29. A follower of any religion other than Christianity (e.g. of Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Native American Spirituality, etc.).