

*What is magic? Are there different types of magic?*

Magic is an occultic practice which attempts to invoke supernatural powers to do superhuman things. Definitions of magic are dependent upon traditions of the modern social-scientific studies of the subject (R.D. Roberts, 2016).<sup>1</sup>

Regarding the use of magic in the Roman Empire for example J. A. Dunne wrote:

...By the first century, magical folk belief was a part of everyday life, although it was more prominent among the lower classes of society (Aune, *Apocalypticism*, 382). Magic itself was not a single religion, but was the substructure of religion, as it crossed different religious boundaries (Arnold, *Power and Magic*, 17–19). It was therefore understood within the boundaries of a particular religious tradition (Aune, *Apocalypticism*, 377).

Magic was believed to guarantee the adherent's desired result—whether that be protection, causing harm, or love (Hubbard, *Christianity in the Greco-Roman World*, 30). Often, this included an invocation of higher spiritual forces, whether angels, demons, deities, or the stars (Arnold, *The Colossian Syncretism*, 14–15).<sup>2</sup>

The apostle Paul warned of a coming Great Apostasy (2 Thess 2:1–12) and encouraged Christians to stand fast against it (2 Thess 2:13-17).

The use of magic in any form is forbidden in the scriptures (Lev 20:27, Re 21:8).

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<sup>1</sup> Roberts, R. D. (2016). Magic. In J. D. Barry, D. Bomar, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, D. Mangum, C. Sinclair Wolcott, L. Wentz, E. Ritzema, & W. Widder (Eds.), *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Lexham Press.

<sup>2</sup> Dunne, J. A. (2016). Asia Minor, Religions of. In J. D. Barry, D. Bomar, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, D. Mangum, C. Sinclair Wolcott, L. Wentz, E. Ritzema, & W. Widder (Eds.), *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Lexham Press.