

BIBLICAL COUNSELLING OF SOTHO  
CHRISTIANS IN SYNOD MIDLANDS BELIEVING  
IN WITCHCRAFT

**REV DK SEMENYA**  
BA (Hons)

May 2007  
POTCHEFSTROOM

BIBLICAL COUNSELLING OF SOTHO  
CHRISTIANS IN SYNOD MIDLANDS BELIEVING  
IN WITCHCRAFT

By

**REV DK SEMENYA**  
BA (Hons)

Mini Dissertation submitted in partial-fulfilment of the  
requirements for the degree Magister Artium in Practical  
Theology (Pastoral) at the North West University  
(Potchefstroom Campus)

Supervisor: Prof Dr RS Letšosa  
Co-supervisor: Prof Dr BJ De Klerk

May 2007  
POTCHEFSTROOM

## Table of Contents

Section A	1
Chapter 1	1
Introduction .....	1
1.1 Definition of witchcraft.....	1
1.2 Background.....	3
1.2.1 Limited cosmic good.....	3
1.2.2 Fear.....	3
1.2.3 Doubt about someone's life-force .....	4
1.3 Problem statement .....	4
1.4 Aims and objectives .....	5
1.5 Central theoretical argument .....	5
1.6 Method of research.....	5
1.6.1 Basis-theory.....	5
1.6.2 Meta-theory .....	6
1.7 Schematic representation of the correlation between 3, 4 and 6.....	6
Chapter 2	8
Basic-principles of a Scriptural perspective concerning witchcraft	8
2.1 OT and NT teaching on witchcraft.....	8
2.1.1 Introduction.....	8
2.1.2 Work-plan and method .....	8
2.1.3 Exegetical study of Exodus 22:18.....	8
2.1.3.1 Principles from Exodus 22:18.....	10
2.1.4 Deuteronomy 18: 10-12.....	10
2.1.4.1 Principles from Deuteronomy 18:10-14 .....	13
2.1.5 2 Kings 9: 1-29.....	14
2.1.5.1 Principles from 2 Kings 9:1-29.....	15
2.1.6 2 Kings 21:1-10.....	15
2.1.6.1 Principles from 2 Kings 21:1-10.....	17
2.1.7 1 Samuel 28:1-25.....	17
2.1.7.1 Principles from 1 Samuel 28: 1-25 .....	20
2.1.8 Micah 5:11.....	20
2.1.8.1 Principles from Micah 5 .....	21
2.1.9 Nahum 3:4.....	21
2.1.9.1 Principles from Nahum 3: 4.....	23
2.1.10 A summary of Biblical principles from the OT	27
2.2. The NT teaching on witchcraft	27
2.2.1 Introduction .....	27
2.2.1.1 Work-plan .....	27
2.2.1.2 Acts 8:9-25 .....	27
2.2.1.2.1 Principles from Acts 8:9-25 .....	30
2.2.1.3 Acts 13:8-25 .....	30
2.2.1.3.1 Principles from Acts 13:8-25 .....	31
2.2.1.4 Acts 19: 19.....	31
2.2.1.4.1 Principles from Acts 19:19.....	32
2.2.1.5 Galatians 5:20 .....	33
2.2.1.5.1 Principles from Galatians 5:20.....	34
2.2.1.6 Revelation 9: 20&21 .....	34

2.2.1.6.1	<i>Principles from Rev 9:20&amp;21</i>	35
2.2.1.7	Revelation 21:8	35
2.2.1.7.1	<i>Principles from Rev 21:8</i>	36
2.2.1.8	Revelation 22:15	36
2.2.1.8.1	<i>Principles from Rev 22:15</i>	37
2.3	A summary of the Biblical principles from the NT	37
2.4	Biblical principles from both the OT and the NT	37
Section B		38
Chapter 3		38
Meta-theoretical principles concerning witchcraft		38
3.1	Aim	38
3.2	Method	38
3.2.1	Limited cosmic good vs. blessings	38
3.2.1.1	<i>What does the Bible say about limited cosmic good versus lessings?</i>	40
3.2.1.2	<i>Positive inferrals</i>	41
3.2.1.3	<i>Negative inferrals</i>	41
3.2.2	Fear	41
3.2.2.3	<i>What are witchdoctors?</i>	46
3.2.2.4	<i>Methods of cure/ witch cleansing</i>	48
3.2.2.5	<i>What does the Bible say about witchdoctors?</i>	49
3.2.2.6	<i>Christian doctors/ prophets of today</i>	50
3.2.2.8	<i>Positive inferrals</i>	52
3.2.2.9	<i>Negative inferrals</i>	52
3.2.3	Life-force/ vital force	53
3.2.3.1	<i>Traditional ways of increasing someone's life-force</i>	54
3.2.3.2	<i>Sectarian ways of increasing someone's life-force</i>	54
3.2.3.3	<i>Methods of cure</i>	55
3.2.3.4	<i>What does the Bible say about life-force or increase in someone life-force?</i>	56
3.2.3.5	<i>Positive inferrals</i>	57
3.2.3.6	<i>Negative inferrals</i>	57
3.2.4	A schematic representation of positive and negative inferrals as found in chapter 3	57
Chapter 4		61
Empirical study		61
4.1	Introduction	61
4.1.1	Method used	61
4.1.2	Work-plan	62
4.2	Results of the respondent's answers	65
4.3	Summary of findings based on questionnaires	66
4.4	Findings gathered by empirical research	66
4.4.1	Strong points and weak points	66
4.5	Summary: positive guidelines inferred from the literature study as well as the empirical research.	67
Section C		69
Chapter 5		69
Practice-theoretical guidelines on how to counsel Sotho Christian members who believe in witchcraft.		69
5.1	Introduction	69
5.1.2	Problem statement	69

















































































































































































































