

# TAROT OF THE MOST HIGH



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# WARNING

This Guidebook does **not** come with a Deck of Tarot Cards, and is meant for individuals who wish to have a printed copy of this book. Instructions for downloading a free copy of this book in electronic format available at: [www.dwellwithprudence.com](http://www.dwellwithprudence.com)

The deck can be purchased at:

<https://www.makeplayingcards.com/sell/dwellwithprudence>

Tarot of the Most High: Reflections on the Bible (Revised Edition)

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## Foreword

The ‘Tarot of the Most High’ is a tarot card deck incorporates depictions of events from the Bible into the traditional 78 card tarot deck, and includes depictions of events from the Old Testament, New Testament, and the Apocrypha. Each card includes an image, a key word (describing the overall theme of the card), and a section containing relevant Bible verses, which provides ample symbolism/themes for enhanced and easy tarot readings. These are not cards with fluffy inspirational Bible verses on them, but like the Bible, contain mature content documenting the interaction between God and human-beings, and human’s struggles with evil throughout history. You can learn from the sins, temptations, adversity, and struggles of Biblical characters, for your personal growth, and/or reflect on God’s interaction with mankind in the past, present, and future. The images on the cards are recreations of public domain images taken from ‘*The Bible And Its Story Taught by One Thousand Picture Lessons*’(1910), ‘*Die Bibel in Bildern*’(1872), and ‘*Dore Bible Gallery*’(1883); with artist such as Hans Burgkmair (1531), Albrecht Durer (1528), Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1872), and Gustave Dore (1883). Many of these beautiful images might have otherwise been lost to obscurity, but were recreated here so that new generation can view their artwork and reflect on God’s word.

# Tables

Major Arcana	Image / Characteristic
0 Fool	Folly and the Fool / Naivety
I Magician	Moses / Confrontation
II High Priestess	The Bride / Virtuousness
III Empress	The Woman Israel / Salvation
IV Emperor	God / Reliance
V Priest	Jesus / Advocacy
VI Lovers	Tobias and Sarah / Devotion
VII Chariot	The Four Winds / Guardianship
VIII Strength	Samson and Delilah / Influence
IX Hermit	Daniel in the Lion's Den / Solitude
X Wheel	Ezekiel's Wheel / Succession
XI Justice	Lamb of God / Impartiality
XII Hanged Man	Christ Crucified / Obedience
XIII Death	Angel of Death / Retribution
XIV Temperance	Baptism / Transformation
XV Devil	Adam and Eve / Knowledge of Evil
XVI Tower	Tower of Babel / Division
XVII Star	Star of Bethlehem / Manifestation
XVIII Moon	Six Seal / Realization
XIX Sun	God's Blessings / Happiness
XX Judgment	God's Judgment / Recompense
XXI World	God's Promise / Anticipation

Card	Cups/Destiny	Swords/Adversity	Staffs/Disciple	Pentacles/Wisdom
King	Repentance	Victory	Righteousness	Wisdom
Queen	Immorality	Lasciviousness	Stratagem	Communication
Knight	Remembrance	Opportunity	Providence	Shrewdness
Page	Patience	Priorities	Bereavement	Freedom
Ace	Destruction	Conflict	Conquest	Stewardship
2	Extortion	Wickedness	Arrogance	Protection
3	Justification	Devastation	Commitment	Enticement
4	Sacrifice	Compromise	Defiance	Negligence
5	Faithfulness	Reputation	Banishment	Prudence
6	Perspective	Debauchery	Treachery	Adultery
7	Martyrdom	Jealousy	Mercy	Perseverance
8	Liberation	Overkill	Assurance	Generosity
9	Forgiveness	Consequence	Predestination	Selfishness
10	Atonement	Leadership	Boundaries	Contemplation

## About This Deck

Tarot Card decks consist of 78 cards divided into two sections and four suits. The two sections are the Major Arcana (Table One) and the Minor Arcana (Table Two). The Major Arcana is made up of 22 cards, labeled with Roman Numerals starting with zero and going up to 21, and is associated with the 22 Letters of the Hebrew alphabet. The Minor Arcana is similar to a standard deck of playing cards, but it includes four court cards, associated with the four Hebrew letters in the name of God (Tetragrammaton). The Minor Arcana has cards numbered 1 through 10, which represent the Ten Sefirot of the Kabbalah, and the Court Cards (Page, Knight, Queen, and King) are associated with the Four-Letter Name of God (Yod, Hei, Vav, Hei).

In the ‘Tarot of the Most High’, the cards in the Major Arcana are associated with the Mysteries of God and His foreordained plan, and the cards in the Minor Arcana deal primarily with humanity’s struggles against evil, mankind’s interactions with God, and other humans. Generally, the Major Arcana deals with spiritual concepts, and the Minor Arcana addresses more earthly ones. The Minor Arcana is divided into four suits: Cups, Coins, Staffs, and Swords, which are related to the items contained in the Arc of the Covenant, which contains the Staff of Moses (Staffs), a Cup containing the Manna from Heaven (Cups), the Manna from Heaven (represented by Pentacles), and the Ten Commandments (represented by the Two-Edge Sword). Certain attributes are associated with each of the suits (Staffs / Personal Endeavors, Cups / Relationships, Swords / Challenges, Pentacles / Business), but in order to have broader readings the suits may contain a wider range of concepts.

In the ‘Tarot of the Most High’, the ‘Cups’ suit focuses mainly on topics related to ‘Destiny’ and sacrifice. They address topics such as faithfulness, martyrdom, and concepts such as ‘death before dishonor.’ They explore the lives and integrity of people who placed their commitment to God above their own lives, and their trust in God’s providence. The cards in the Cups suit deal with God’s interactions with mankind, and humanity’s trust and commitment to God.

The primary theme of the ‘Swords’ suit is ‘Adversity’, and the cards deal with interactions between humans. Many of the cards in this suit depict King David’s struggles in life, and can be used to help you understand how to get ahead in life while overcoming temptations and obstacles. Also included are the lives of people who were confronted with great wickedness/tragedies, and the need to balance one’s priorities and/or responses in difficult situations.

The cards in the ‘Staff’ suit are primarily associated with ‘Discipline.’ You can think of a Staff as a ‘Rod of Reproof’ – although that verse (Proverbs 29:15) is not actually included in this deck. The Shepherd’s Staff was used to both guide and discipline the sheep. This suit of the Minor Arcana deals with topics related to learning lessons, growing in knowledge, finding one’s way in the world, and overcoming challenges in order to become successful.

The main theme of the cards in the ‘Pentacles’ suit is ‘Wisdom.’ This suit deals with situations where wisdom is put into practice, whereas the situations in the ‘Staffs’ suit describe the trials through which wisdom is developed. Wisdom is associated with Pentacles/Coins, because wisdom states, “*Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.*” (Proverbs 8:10), and Jesus stated, “*I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich*” (Revelations 3:8). This suit deals with how wisdom is applied, and how people’s faith is tested (tired by fire) to determine their worthiness.

In the Tarot of the Most High, the Major Arcana deals with understanding the Mysteries of God. The Fool card can be viewed as the naïve children of God at the beginning of their journeys, but the journey through the Major Arcana of the Tarot of the Most High is one of spiritual development. The Fool card represents a naïve youth faced with the need of learning or using discernment in order to navigate the obstacles he/she will face in the world.

The Magician card depicts Moses, and deals with confrontation. Unlike the Fool (who had the choice of either following or ignoring his father’s advice), Moses had a personal relationship with God. He trusted in God and served as God’s instrument on earth. As in the Rider-Waite Tarot Deck, The High Priestess card is

associated with the Secret Church (the one built without hands), and the Bride of Christ. Expanding on the concept of being instruments of God, Christ's Bride is called to be a Holy Priesthood and for each member to let their lights shine on earth.

The Empress Card represents the Woman Israel described in the book of Revelations or the last Eve. Her story depicts the rebellion of the Satan, the war in Heaven, the birth and redemption of Christ, God's protection of Israel, and God's preordained plan from the foundation playing out. The Emperor card represents God, and our reliance on Him to direct and work in our lives. The High Priest Card depicts Jesus (Yehshua), who serves as mankind's advocate to his father. The Lovers Card depicts Tobias and Sarah, but the devotion within a marriage is also a metaphor for God's relationship with humanity. The Church is the Bride of Christ, and humanity is able to understand God and our relationship to Him, through our earthly relationships and marriages.

The Chariot Card represents God's will being accomplished on earth, guardianship, and influence through earthly governments. The Strength Card depicts Samson and Delilah and addresses the concepts of strength and influence – you can be influenced by God and follow your conscience or you can be driven by temptation and left vulnerable to evil. The Hermit Card portrays Daniel in the Lion's Den, and demonstrates God's influence (over the lions) in response to Daniel's willingness to follow God. The Wheel Card displays Ezekiel's wheel, cycles of life, and all things working in accordance with God's will (events in the Bible often occurred as a foreshadowing of the events to come).

The Justice Card portrays the Lamb of God, which is central in God's plan and was ordained from the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:20, Revelations 13:8). The Hanged Man Card depicts Christ crucified, which is the reason He is considered the Lamb of God. The Death Card portrays the Angel of Death killing the first born in Egypt, but passing over God's chosen people, who have the blood of the lamb on their doorposts. The Temperance Card shows the Baptism of Jesus; it is through Baptism that followers of Christ can be sealed for redemption, and overcome death through the blood of the lamb.

The Devil card depicts Adam and Eve being tempted in the Garden of Eden. It is due to them eating from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil that death entered the world, humans are able to understand choices and consequences, and the need for redemption and salvation were created. This is the beginning of God's plan being put into motion. The Tower card represents God's intervention in the world; God caused division among humans and called Abraham to follow Him and to become a chosen people.

The Star card portrays the 'Star of Bethlehem', and the manifestation of God's salvation to mankind through the birth of His son. It is through Jesus that God's promises to Abraham were extended to the gentiles, so that all those to elect to follow their heavenly father's advice/commandments, may accept the blood of the lamb, and death will pass over them (as it did on Passover) and their sins are forgiven. The Moon card represents the breaking of the Six Seal in the Book of Revelations, and the realization of those on earth regarding the truth of God's existence (there will be signs at the end times, such as the moon being turned to blood).

The Moon is sometimes referred to as the false light. Unlike the sun, the moon is lifeless. The moon does not produce any light on its own, but is only a reflection of the light of the sun shining on the other side of the world. Scripture states, *"Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness (1 Thessalonians 5:5)."* The Sun and the Moon cards are in direct contrast of each other. The Sun card displays God's blessings to His followers, and the Moon card portrays the children of the night at a time of distress – when they finally realize the results of their choices.

The Judgment card represents the Final Judgment of God, where every individual will be judged according to his/her deeds. It is a day of punishment and reward, rejoicing and sorrow; dependent on each individual's actions. The final card in the Major Arcana is the World card, and represents the New Jerusalem and God's promised world to come; it will exist without any evil, sadness, or pain in it. It is the final outcome, and what all of the other previous aspects of God's plan have led up to. The Judgment and World cards portray the final outcomes of the children of the light and the children of darkness (Matthew 25:31-46).



## Divination and the Bible

In modern times, divination, soothsaying, and fortune telling is often associated with people thought to possess psychic powers by superstitious people. Psychics are thought to have been born with a special gift, or somehow having psychic powers that other people do not possess. The truth is there is no such thing as psychic powers. The people that perform these psychic feats do not possess a skill that any normal person could not learn to develop. Tarot cards, dowsing rods, and pendulums do not possess any magical powers. It doesn't matter if a witch doctor created the instrument or if the Pope blessed it; the seemingly otherworldly ability to produce information does not come from the instrument, but comes from the sub-conscious mind of the practitioner; or more to the point, how the person is able to creatively interpret impressions he/she picks up sub-consciously.

In the Torah (Law of Moses/the first five books of the Bible), the Israelites were forbidden from turning away from God and engaging in the practices of their neighboring nations. Fortune-telling was only one of several things the Israelites were not allowed to practice, and this was done because such practices might tempt people to turn to others with spiritual issues that they should be taking to God. It causes them to commit adultery against God (Hosea 4:12). In the Book of Acts (8:10), the people viewed Simon Magus as the “*the Great Power of God!*” The magician served as a stumbling block to others, and caused the people to place their faith in false prophets instead of relying on God.

Both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible warn against being led astray by false prophets, yet the Bible records many miracles and prophecies given under the direction of God for the purpose of directing His people. Under God's direction, Moses combated the magicians of Egypt, and later the Levites used the Urim and the Thummim to divine God's will/judgment. It wasn't the miraculous acts or divinations that were considered evil; the sin had to do with the motive of those who engaged in such activities. The Egyptian magicians attempted to use magick in order to prove their gods were superior to the God of Abraham, and soothsayers and false prophets used their practices to bring profit or glory to themselves instead of giving the glorify to God.

The Urim and the Thummim were used by the Levite Priests to determine the will of God (Exodus 28:30). No one knows exactly how they were used, but it is believed they provided the priest with a 'yes or no' answer in order for the priest to determine if a person was guilty or innocent. However, using Urim and Thummim was more involved than simply flipping a coin, because they did not always provide a clear answer (1 Samuel 28:6). They were used in association with the Breastplate of Decision, and only the High Priest used them. Those interested in learning how to use the Urim and Thummim for divinatory purposes should see the author's other books and works.

The Old Testament documents the history of the Hebrew people, but they were not the only ones who had knowledge of the one true God. In the Gospel of Matthew (Chapter 2), the first Gentiles to worship Jesus were the Magi (magicians) from the east, and in the Old Testament, Balaam was a magician who also knew the true God. Balaam practiced divination and had a relationship with God. The sin that Balaam was eventually condemned for was related to his greed. He cared more about the profit he could make than he did about God's will toward the Hebrew people. God sent an angel to warn Balaam not to side against the Israelites, and Balaam did obey God by blessing Israel instead of cursing them. However, Balaam ended up providing advice the King of Moab (to have the Israelites indulge in sexual immorality and idolatry) in order to turn God against them.

The difference between magical practices and miracles can be derived by the purpose or reasons behind their use. In the Bible, miracles were performed to bring glory to God, or to establish the credibility of a prophet so that others will heed the message the prophet was sent to deliver. The miracles were performed with the aid of the dwelling Shekinah of God. In the ancient world, witchcraft involved summoning spirits and consorting with demons and people sacrificed their own children to idols. Ultimately, the danger of 'magick' is that it brings glory to the magician and feeds into the magician's vanity. Just as it is difficult for a rich man to enter heaven (Matthew 19:24), when someone places their faith in their own vanity they are less likely to seek God. Such people desire 'profits' more than being 'prophets.'

If a magician successfully uses his/her arts to assist others, the magician is the one who receives the glory and takes credit for the act; this is the sin that prevented Moses from entering the Promised Land. God instructed Moses to speak to the rock in order to bring glory to God, but instead, Moses said, “*Must we fetch you water*”, and he struck the rock (Numbers 20:10-12).

The Prophets in the Old Testament served to deliver God’s instructions to the people. False prophets were people who claimed to speak on God’s behalf, but were deceivers pursuing their own self-interests. Being a false prophet, a stumbling block, or leading others astray is clearly a sin, but using judgment, discernment, and even interpreting signs to estimate the future was considered a normal part of life.

*Matthew 16:2-4 He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. 3 And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times? 4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed. (KJV 1610)*

*Luke 12:54-58 And he said also to the people, When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower; and so it is. 55 And when ye see the south wind blow, ye say, There will be heat; and it cometh to pass. 56 Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time? 57 Yea, and why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right? 58 When thou goest with thine adversary to the magistrate, as thou art in the way, give diligence that thou mayest be delivered from him; lest he hale thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and the officer cast thee into prison. (KJV 1610)*

By evaluating the sky, the Pharisees and Sadducees were able to predict the weather that was coming. This is done by examining the past to predict the future. By comparing the present appearance of the sky to similar appearances in the past, the future can be estimated by

expecting that the same results will occur in the future that have occurred in the past. These principles are the heart of fortune-telling. By examining the past and present, you predict what will most likely occur in the future if the same behavior observed in the past continues uninterrupted.

People rarely change their behavioral patterns, so if someone regularly gets drunk immediately after getting off work, then it is not difficult or magical to predict that the person will behave in the same manner in the days to come. Using such deductive reasoning is extremely different than consulting with the spirits of the dead in order to obtain advice from a different plain of existence. When reading the Tarot, you are not being guided by ghosts or demons, but are employing your own Psyche (mind/soul) to evaluate situations and brainstorm solutions. The ‘Psychic’ aspect of a reading comes from your own ‘Psyche.’ However, there will always be superstitious people, who fear what they don’t understand, will quote the few Bible verses that mention divination, and take them out of context to claim that any interpretation of signs is evil or demonic.

*Deuteronomy 18:9-14 When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. 10 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, or an enchanter, or a witch. 11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. 12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. 13 Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. 14 For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.*

*Leviticus 19:26-28 Ye shall not eat any thing with the blood: neither shall ye use enchantment, nor observe times. 27 Ye shall not round the corners of your heads, neither shalt thou mar the corners of thy beard. 28 Ye shall not make any cuttings*

*in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD.*

The Hebrew people were forbidden to engage in the religious practices of the nations in the land they were about to enter. They were to be a holy people and had other requirements (such as not eating certain meats, shaving, or printing marks on their sin to honor the dead). Some of the rules given to the Hebrew people were repeated in the New Testament for gentile believers to observe, but others were removed. Christians are specifically told that they are not required to abstain from meats (not even from meats sacrificed to Idols). Christians can shave and get tattoos. Christians are still warned against false prophets and not to commit adultery against God, but divination and fortune-telling are not specifically mentioned as being forbidden; this is because for Christians, such practices are unnecessary; they do not need a High Priest to consult the Shekinah with the Urim and Thummim, because the Shekinah now dwells within each individual believer and the Holiest of Holies is within one's heart.

*Revelation 21:7-8 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. 8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

Sorcery is included in the above list of sins that lead to condemnation, but the word used for sorcery is, '*pharmakeia*', which is where we get our modern word '*pharmacy*.' This does not mean that modern Christians are not allowed to use medicine, the word needs to be interpreted based on its context. Taking drugs in order to produce hallucinations and obtain visions is much different than taking medication to heal an illness. Modern medicine is based on scientific discovery; meaning, a hypothesis is tested to determine if it consistently produces the same results.

In the same manner, the '*Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*' is used to classify mental disorders by comparing criteria to previously observed behavior in order to classify individuals into their *most likely* category, and to provide treatment the will *most*

*likely* to succeed (based on what has worked for individuals with *similar characteristics in the past*). It is the same concept Jesus said the Pharisees used to predict the whether, by examining similar behavior/attributes observed in the past in order to predict the most effective solution for the future.

Modern medicine is not based on worshipping false gods, but uses *observation* to predict the *most likely* occurrence or to estimate the *best solution*. The definition of ‘*sorcery*’ as given in the Book of Revelations does not refer to either modern medicine or to interpreting the images on randomly selected tarot cards. Comparing the images on cards to your impression of the person in order to predict that the person will continue in the same behavioral patterns in the future as the person has in the past is not a sin; it is using deductive reasoning, and similar to the principles used in science and medicine.

*Acts 16:16-18 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: 17 The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. 18 And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.*

The girl in the above verse did not use tarot cards, nor did she cast lots in order to obtain her information. She was possessed by a demon. This is an example of the divination that was outlawed in the Old Testament of the Bible. The verse is often used by judgmental people to claim the Bible is against divination, but the problem in this situation was that the child was possessed by a demon, and not that she was using her mental faculties to determine the Paul was preaching a message on behalf of the Most High God. The information she spoke was correct, but it was derived by consorting with a spirit/demon. In addition to the Urim and Thummim, lots were also cast throughout the Bible in order to make decisions (Proverbs 16:33, Acts 1:26, Leviticus 16:8).

Nineteenth Century Deacon and Magician Eliphas Levi believed that Tarot cards were a replacement for the Urim and the Thummim. In the Old Testament, the Urim and Thummim was used by the High Priest to consult the Spirit of God, but in the New Testament, all believers are considered part of the priesthood (1 Peter 2:9), and the Spirit of God dwells within them (1 Corinthians 3:16). In the Old Testament, certain Prophets were filled with the Spirit of God, which enabled them to understand and speak the truth. The Spirit of God now dwells in all believers; they do not need someone to act as the Old Testament Prophets used to, because each believer is now filled with the Spirit of God personally, just as the Old Testament Prophets were (John 3:34, 14:17, 14:26, Ephesians 1:17). The Spirit of God now dwells within believers, so they have direct access to the will of God through their own consciences. It is not necessary for believers to utilize any divination tool, since they only need to listen to what the spirit within them, but using such tools can aid them in combining their analytical thinking with the creative and intuitive aspects of their subconscious minds.

Reading tarot cards requires you to use your mind creatively, which enhances your ability to solve problems. Tarot cards require you to interpret the theme or images on a randomly selected card, based on the position in the tarot spread that the card falls in. In order to read the cards and produce a coherent narrative based on the card's random placement, you are required you to use your creativity and problem solving skills. Reading tarot cards is an exercise for your mind.

While reading tarot cards you systematically reflect on the issue you are evaluating, and the images/concepts on the cards often produce an emotional response from your subconscious mind. Your subconscious mind is a powerful tool you can use with your discernment, and is capable of picking up more information than you normally pick up consciously. This allows you to devote more of your intellectual capability of your mind to the problem at hand, in order to develop creative solutions. Using Tarot of the Most High enable you solve the issue you are reflecting on based on Biblical principles.

I do not advocate relying solely on the tarot to make decisions, but it can be a useful tool in helping you examine situations from view points that you might not have otherwise considered. If you practice

doing tarot readings and are able to provide Biblical advice based on randomly selected Christian concepts, then you will certainly be capable of providing a Biblical answer to a person's question when you are allowed to choose the scripture/concept of your choice.

Developing Biblically based solutions to problems while interpreting the random placement of Biblical concepts (in a tarot spread) is more difficult than being able to choose the verses yourself. If you get good at making sense out of chaos, your ability to use your mind to develop solutions will be enhanced. If you improve in your ability to read impressions/people, you will be able to provide sound scriptural advice with or without the use of tarot cards.

*1 Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.*

The Hebrew people were forbidden from practicing magick, witchcraft, divination, and many other things, but the intent was for them to remain faithful to God. For Christians, all things were made clean; all things are permissible, but not all things are beneficial. You are not required to eat kosher foods or to be circumcised in order to follow God, but you must practice discernment (Roman 14:23). Taking medicine to help you overcome an illness is not a sin, because you are not doing so as part of the worship of other gods.

Medicine and science is an example of human ingenuity. If you are not contributing your healing to the power some witchdoctor received by making a sacrifice to a tree god, then you are not committing adultery against God. All practices must be evaluated objectively, and you must use discernment in dividing right from wrong. Using a pharmacy because we recognize that through trial and error man has discovered different combinations of natural substances that can help alleviate certain conditions is not the same thing as practicing sorcery (poisoning).

Reading tarot cards can benefit your spiritual development, but it certainly should not be your sole solution for spiritual growth. Using the 'Tarot of the Most High' will allow you to randomly select cards to stimulate and/or exercise your subconscious mind, which will improve



your ability to think on your feet (think outside-the-box), use discernment, and evaluate where you believe you are in your spiritual walk/development. However, keep in mind that when dealing with tarot cards, we are playing a game with cards. Do not read more into the readings than you should. The cards are not magical, the magic comes from you, and the psychic aspect comes from your psyche. The cards do not know the future, but serve as a tool to simulate your creativity, access your intuition, and helps brainstorm solutions in order to predict the future by examining situations and comparing them to the past and the present.

When reading the tarot, you will be spreading the cards out randomly, and reflecting on the spiritual principles expressed in the images on the cards. While playing such a game, you will be setting aside time to focus on God or to concentrate on your spiritual progress, which would be much better than if you would have otherwise spent that time indulging in an activity that does not aid you in developing a closer relationship with God. The ‘Tarot of the Most High’ may not be of the same benefit as reading the Bible, but it does provide the unique function of requiring you to apply random Biblical principles as a solution to everyday problems; it helps you put the concepts of the scriptures into practice.

Tarot cards did not exist until the 15<sup>th</sup> century A.D., and were not used by fortunetellers until the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Cartomancy is the practice of fortune-telling using a deck of cards, and originally a standard deck of playing cards (poker cards) was used for that purpose. Later, many fortunetellers began to prefer tarot cards over playing cards, so in modern times, tarot cards are the cards most people associate with Cartomancy. Modern superstitious people may view tarot cards as possessing some kind of supernatural power and fear them, yet the same people possess no fear of a standard deck of playing cards, even though those cards were the original cards used in Cartomancy.

Tarot Cards do not possess any supernatural powers. Like playing cards, they are simply cards with images printed on them. The information derived from them is obtained by randomly drawing cards from the deck and attributing certain meanings to them. The meanings associated with both playing cards and tarot cards in the past were based on traditional attributes

others assigned to them. Palmistry functions in a similar manner, in that certain attributes are associated with different lines or sections of a person's hand based solely on what previous people have claimed. The ability to read tarot cards rests in the reader's ability to translate and interpret symbolic images in order to produce a coherent narrative out of the subjective information. It requires the reader to use his/her wisdom and discernment in conjunction with his/her intuition.

## Reading Tarot Cards

Reading tarot cards can be reduced to the basic formula of  $A + B = C$ .

A = the problem, issue, criteria. If 'A' represents the 'You' position (or primary issue) of a tarot layout, then you must interpret the card you draw ('B') to produce a coherent explanation ('C').

B = the tarot card drawn. Every aspect of the tarot card does not need to be compared to 'A', you will focus on what stands out most to you while comparing the images or concepts expressed on the card to the criteria of 'A'.

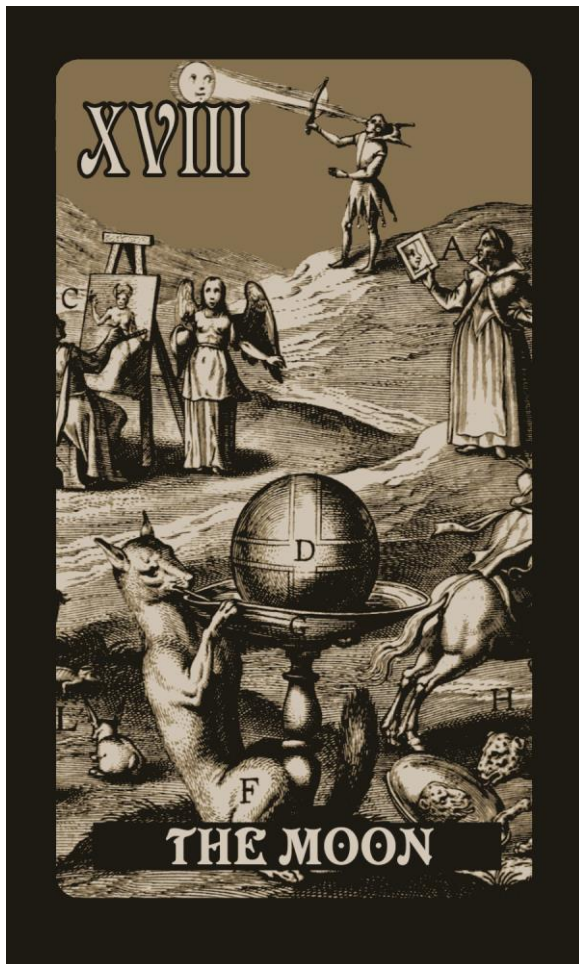
C = the final result or interpretation. The objective is to use your brainstorming abilities, or to interpret an emotional response produced by your subconscious mind in order to compare the criteria in 'A' with an aspect of card 'B' to produce an answer 'C'.

Example: Assuming 'A' is referring to the 'You' position (or primary issue) in a tarot spread, you would examine 'B' (a randomly selected card) to provide an answer or explanation for the situation, which represents 'C'. We will use the 'Moon Card' of the 'Christian Mystic Tarot' in this example (the image is found on the following page). If the Moon Card represents 'B', then you would interpret either the images or concepts expressed on the tarot card to produce 'C'. Based on examining the card, you must better define what 'A' represents (is the focus of the reading on the person's spiritual development, performance at work, status in a relationship, etc...)

Examining the Moon Card as the criteria for 'B', there are multiple examples of people or animals looking into mirrors. The entire card speaks about reflection, personal reflection and others. The cheetah (bottom right of the card) probably does not understand what it is looking at when seeing his own reflection, but the woman (middle right of the card) may be looking at herself because she is self absorbed or full of vanity.

The man at the top of the card is looking at the moon and seeing the sun; the moon is sometimes referred to as the false light, because those viewing it may believe it is producing light, when really

it is a dead rock (with no life on it) that is merely reflecting the light of the sun on the other side of the earth. In the middle left, there is a person/angel posing for a picture, but the artist sees a devil. There is also an animal with a squirrel like tail drinking water, a rabbit, and a man riding a horse away from the card.



In order to produce 'C' (relate A + B), you don't need to interpret everything on the card. You will only address what you focus on, and what seems to be the most likely solution from the criteria you are given. If the purpose of the reading was to address a person's spiritual development, you might focus on the angel, and comment about how he may see himself as perfect (an angel), but if he spent

more time doing personal reflection he may realize there is still a great deal of sin in his life that he needs to address (represented by devil).

If the purpose of the reading was to address a person's performance at work, you still might focus on the angel, but comment about how he may see himself as behaving perfect (an angel), but others view him – or interpret his actions – as being flawed (a devil); your advice would then be for the person to try to be aware of how his actions might be interpreted by others or to give more thought to their feelings.

Ignoring all of the images regarding reflection, the card also makes reference to the concept of speed. The man on the horse, rabbit, and cheetah all suggest speed, although they are not all running. The fast animals that are stationary may suggest untapped potential. Alternatively, you could connect the 'Speed' imagery with the 'Reflection' imagery to conclude that the person (or issue) 'A' is rushing through his/her task and not taking enough time to reflect on what he/she is doing, which causes those around the person to view the persons work/efforts negatively, even though the person believes he/she is doing everything perfect.

If the issue in the reading was related to questions about a relationship, such as, "*I am having trouble in a romantic relationship and don't know why*", then the thing that stands out most to you might be the guy riding away on the horse. Is one of the people in the romantic relationship unwilling to commit? Is one of the people trying to leave the relationship? If so, is the person leaving because he/she has not reflected on the relationship to appreciate what he/she has? Maybe the person is reflecting too much on past relationships that did not work out, which makes the person want to escape. Perhaps the person needs to stop running, appraise the situation objectively, and relax and enjoy drinking from the fountain in front of him/her.

As you can see, many different answers for 'C' can be derived by interpreting the card, and every time the card is drawn, you will most likely select a different aspect of the card to represent 'B', because the criteria of 'A' you are contemplating will be different each time. What is the correct answer or imagery to select from the card? There is no correct answer, the solution for 'C' will be based on your

impressions of ‘A’ and ‘B’, and the result will be your best opinion based on the information available to you. Since the criteria you are evaluating for  $A + B = C$  is matched randomly, the comparison of your impressions will be different every time, and will never become routine.

The more you know about the person you are reading, the easier this will be. However, even with complete strangers we naturally pick up on and formulate impressions of the person. Our conscious minds are limited to only paying attention to a few bits of information at a time, but our sub-conscious minds pick up much more information. Subconsciously (or emotionally), we get impressions of strangers. Even a mere glance at a person, may cause us to consider a stranger as dangerous or attribute some other characteristic to them – this is part of our survival instincts. We may not consciously understand what it was about the person that produced such an emotional response within us, but we receive such impressions none the less.

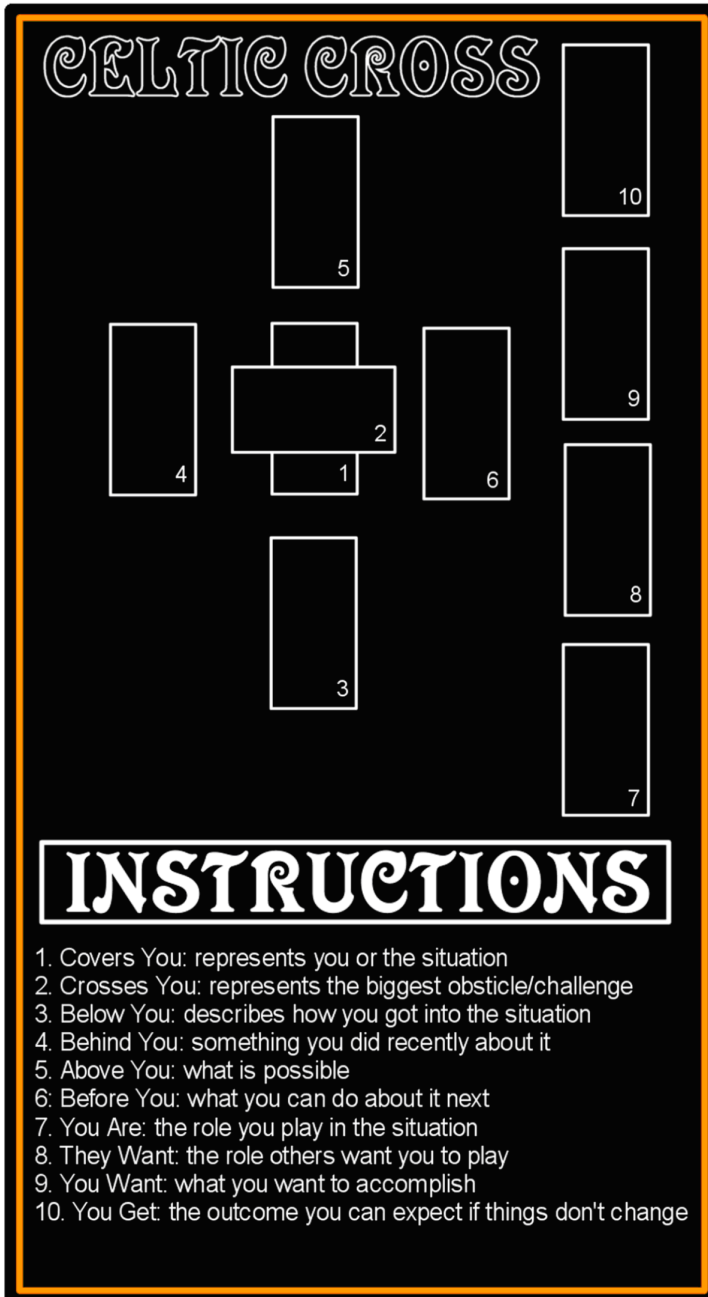
While reading tarot cards and focusing on understanding and putting into words such abstract impressions, we may produce readings that sound extremely accurate and convincing. This is one of the reasons tarot card reading and fortune-telling has become so feared by superstitious people. Since we are able to produce information in readings that sounds – or is – true, even though we did not have a conscious awareness of the information, the phenomena may seem otherworldly, and this may scare superstitious people – who attribute the information as coming from ghosts, demons, angels, etc...

Some people theorize that when we encounter others our auras mix with theirs and this allows us to get extra sensory perceptions of them, but regardless of the theory, the fact of the matter is that we pick up things sub-consciously all of the time. Not all of the things we notice sub-consciously are relevant to us consciously at the time, so the information is largely ignored by our conscious minds – aside from general impressions as to whether the person is dangerous, in a bad mode, or something else pertinent to us at the moment. That does not mean that all of our impressions of a person are derived by our sub-conscious (emotional) minds; humans are judgmental beings, and we are constantly using our conscious minds to judge others.

Consciously we evaluate others using our deductive reasoning processes. If someone is overweight, we may conclude that they do not exercise, eat right, or live a healthy lifestyle, and we may label or categorize them as being lazy. If someone is well dressed, we might conclude that the person is successful, vain, snobby, etc... Someone who is unkempt may lead us to believe they are unwilling to put effort into themselves, and we might transfer those properties to their work and speculate that they would be a lousy employee. Alternately, we might associate the person's unkemptness with a low self-esteem and judge him/her as lacking confidence in his/herself; transferring those qualities to the person's professional life, we might conclude that the person will be hesitant or unsure of his/her solutions, and our bias may cause us to lack confidence in the person's results (even if there was nothing wrong with the product the person produced).

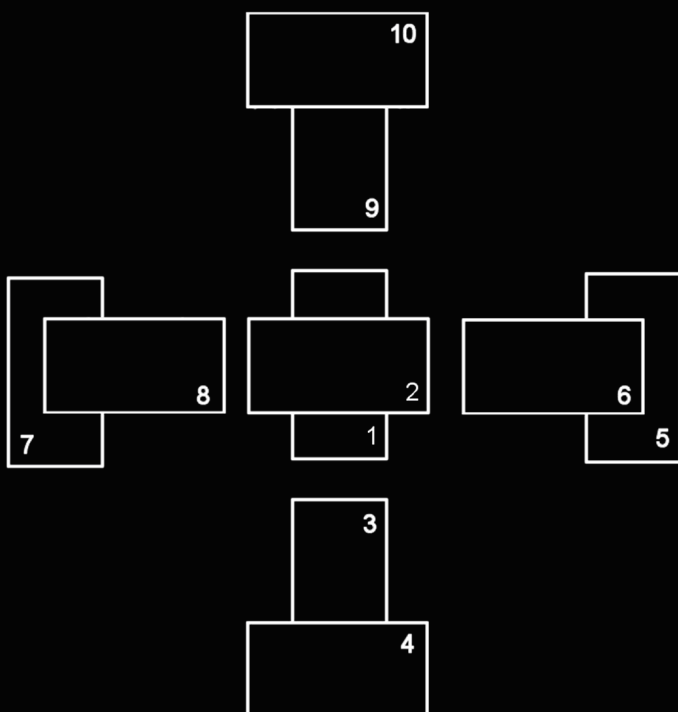
The bottom line is that humans do judge others, and our stereotypes, bias, prejudices, and even our objective deductions can be flawed. Regardless of whether our impressions originate from our conscious or sub-conscious minds, tarot reading is not an exact science. It is not a means of divining truths from some spiritual plane of existence. It simply reflects our best efforts to formulate an opinion based on our impressions of the information given to us. When reading tarot cards, that equation involves comparing our impressions of 'A' with our impressions of 'B' in order to formulate a feasible explanation or answer for 'C'.

## Card Layouts





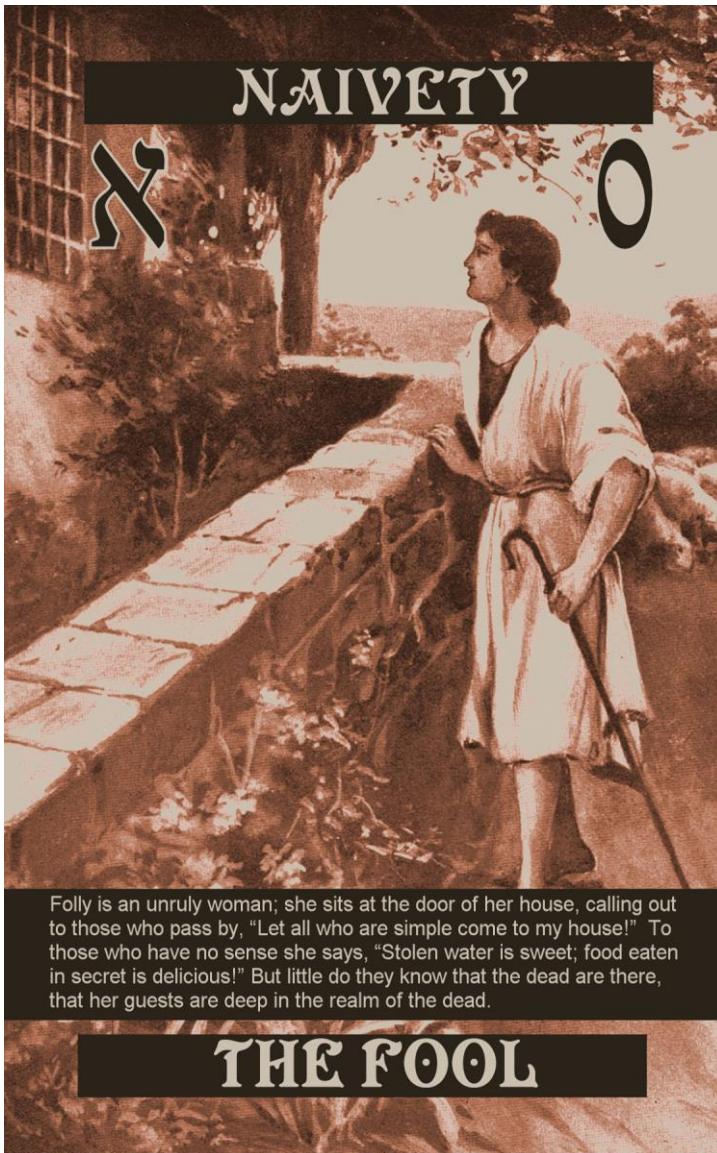
# THE CRUSADERS CROSS



## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Represents the person's current spiritual progress/situation
2. Represents the biggest obstacle to further development
3. The person's interactions with the world  
(Discernment, Overcoming Sin, Trial by Fire, Holy Marriage)
4. Biggest current challenge in earthly walk  
(what is preventing further progress)
5. The person's attitudes/understanding of the concept of Mercy  
(love, forgiveness, compassion, empathy, selflessness, etc...)
6. Greatest challenge to understanding/applying mercy
7. Person's understanding of the concepts of Judgment/Justice  
(Suffering, punishment, reproof, freewill, consequences, hell)
8. Biggest obstacle in applying/understanding those principles
9. The person's understanding and/or relationship with God  
(Devotion, Faith, Love, Trust, Thankfulness, Prayer Life)
10. Biggest challenge in that relationship

# THE FOOL



Theme/Keyword: Naivety, Innocence, Curiosity, Temptation

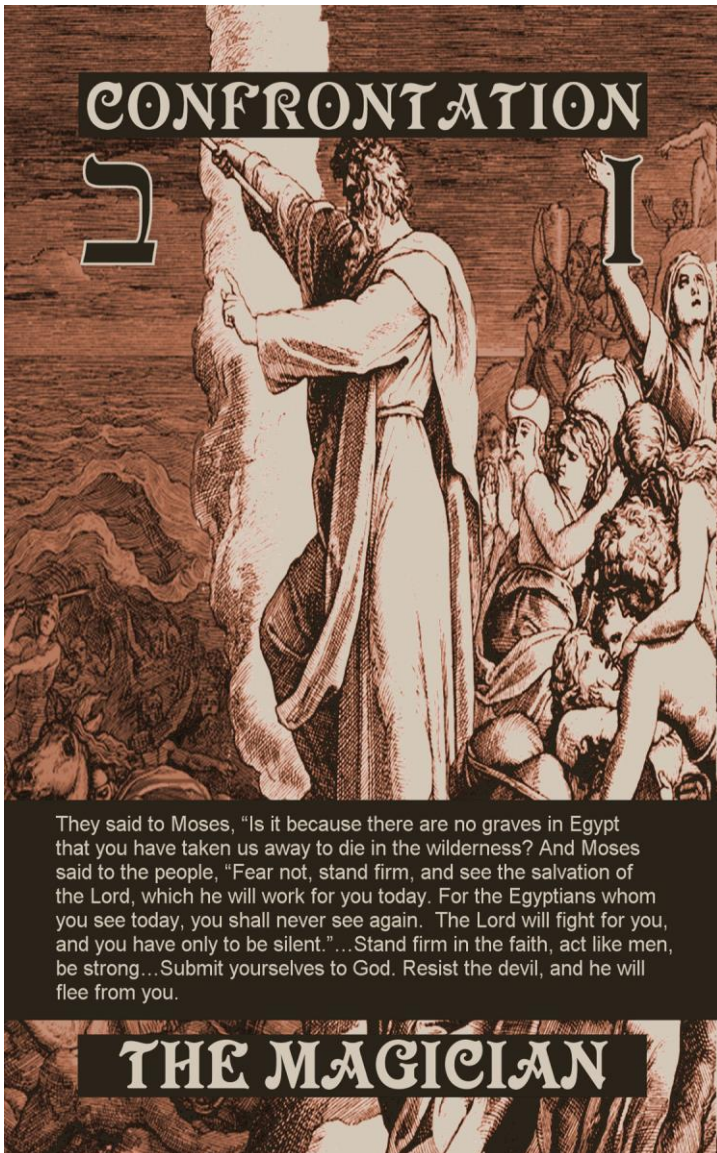
Meaning/Comments: the Fool Card represents a naïve youth exploring the world on his own for the first time. The scripture on the card speak of the 'Woman Folly' from the Book of Proverbs and represents the guidance the

youth received from his father. Now the boy is out in the world, and must decide if he will follow his father's advice or if he will be led away by temptation. The guidance and relationship between a father and son is an analogy of the guidance God's children receives in the Bible. God has spoken to mankind throughout history, but will His children obey His commandments and precepts? When reading tarot cards, the card may be placed right side up or upside down. If the card is upside down, the card represents the opposite meaning, yet still related to the topic. Right side up it reflects foolishness, and upside down it might represent having overcome foolishness or having learned to resist temptation.

Related Scripture:

Proverbs 7:6-27, 9:13, 6:24-29

# THE MAGICIAN



Theme/Keyword: Confrontation, Trust/Reliance on God, Service

Meaning/Comments: The image on the card is of Moses parting the Red Sea. Moses served as an instrument of God and obeyed God's will. With God's help, he rescued the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt, and allowed God

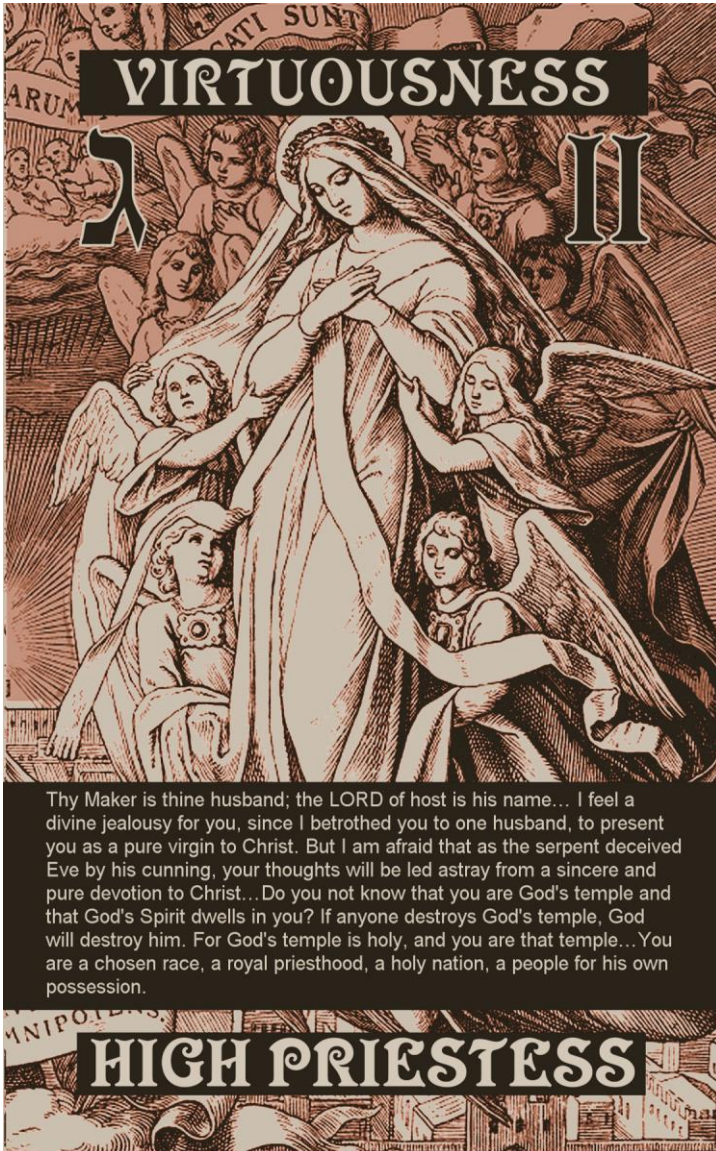
to prove His superiority to the gods of Egypt while simultaneously pushing the Egyptian people for their sins. The message of this card is to have faith in God, but it also represents a willingness to follow God and to be God's instrument or representative on earth. You do not need to be told what to do by a burning bush in order to make a difference in the world. You can let your light shine and serve God in your local community, or among your friends and family. You do not need to be endowed with supernatural powers in order to make a difference in the lives of those around you. If this card is reversed (upside down in the layout) it might mean represent an absence of either confrontation, service, or faith.

**Related Scripture:**

1 Corinthians 16: 13-14, James 4:7, Exodus 14:10-31



# THE HIGH PRIESTESS



Theme/Keyword: Virtuousness

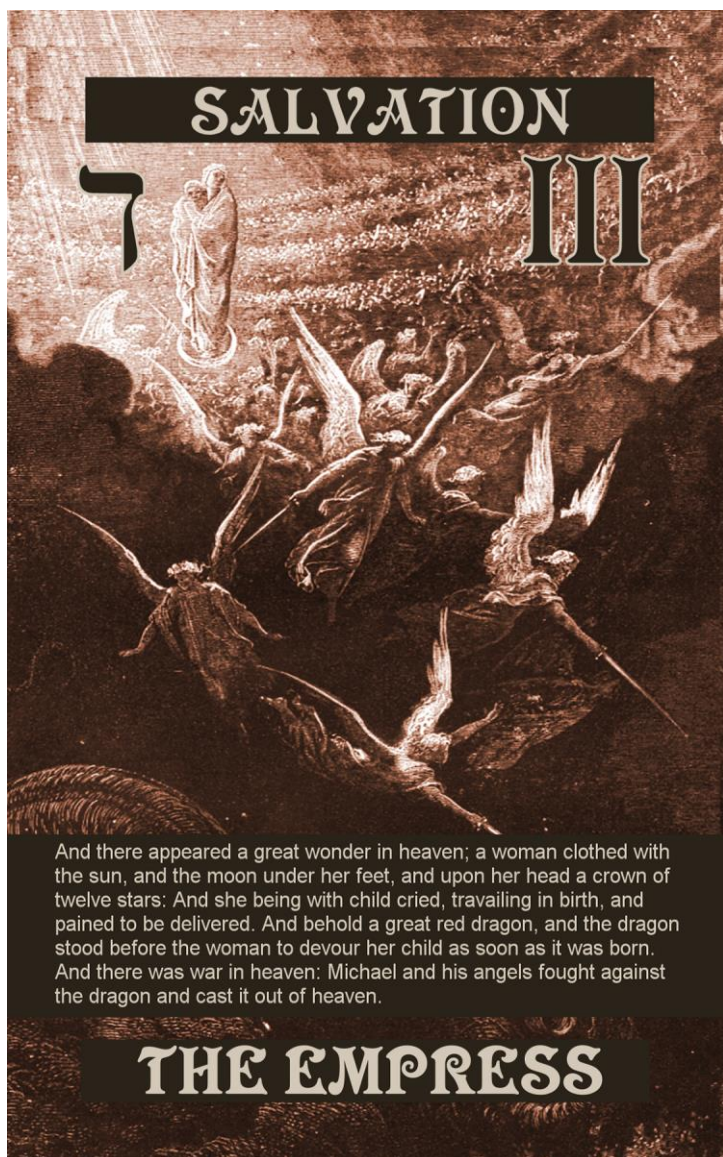
Meaning/Comments: The image on the card is of the Bride of Christ being supported by angels. Christians are called to be holy, and throughout both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible God's followers are referred to as the

Bride. In the New Testament, the Bride refers to Christ's Church, and its members are called to be a Holy Priesthood. In the Old Testament, indulging in Idolatry or worshiping other gods was considered committing adultery against God. The marriage relationship between a man and a woman demonstrates the commitment God's followers are to have with Him. We are to remain pure of sin and committed to following the precepts in the Bible. If this card is in the reverse position, it might reflect a lack of commitment or an absence of purity.

Related Scripture:

Isaiah 54:5, 1 Peter 2:9, 2 Corinthians 11:1-6, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17  
16, Revelation 19:7-9

## THE EMPRESS



And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And behold a great red dragon, and the dragon stood before the woman to devour her child as soon as it was born. And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and cast it out of heaven.

Theme/Keyword: Salvation

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Empress Card is a depiction of the Woman Israel in the Book of Revelations. It is a metaphoric retelling of the

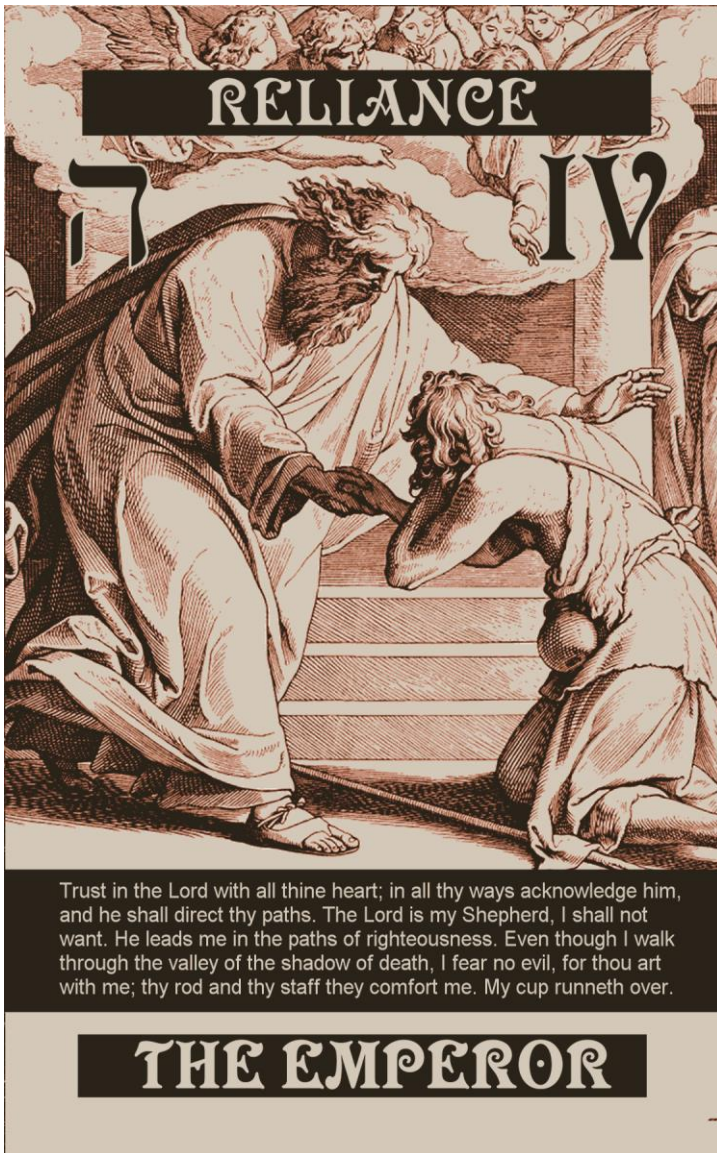


birth of Christ and the spiritual battle behind it. There was a war in heaven the devil and his angels were cast down to earth. It represents the spiritual battle between good and evil that has taken place since the foundation of the world, and God's answer to the problem of evil. The first Eve allowed sin to enter into the world, and the last Eve brings about salvation from sin. If this card is reversed it may represent a lack of understanding of God's plan or the mysteries of God.

Related Scripture:

Revelations 12:1-17

# THE EMPEROR



Theme/Keyword: Reliance

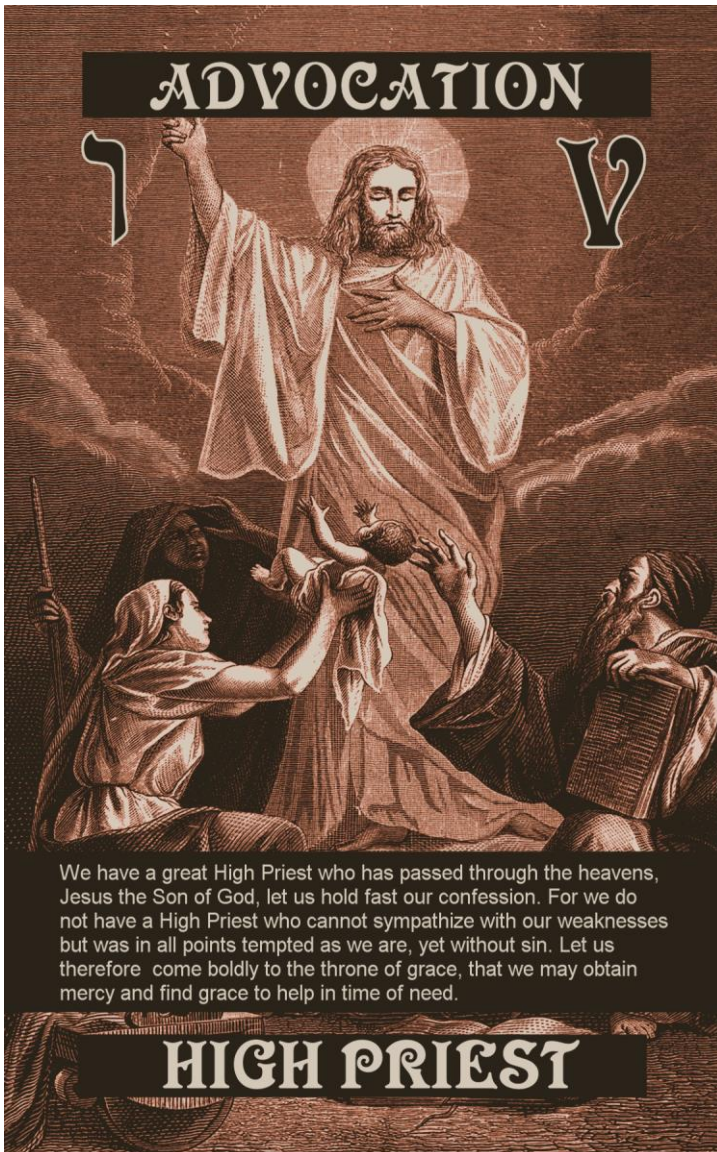
Meaning/Comments: The Emperor Card represents God and His loving kindness towards mankind. God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in love (Psalm 103:8, Psalm 145:8). He is patient with us, not

wanting anyone to parish, but for all to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). God wants to have a relationship with us, and for us to depend on Him, and to share our lives with Him. Like the father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, God wants us to overcome our sinful nature and return to Him. There is more joy in Heaven over one sinner who repents, than there is for ninety-nine righteous people who do not need to repent (Luke 15:7). If you put your faith in God and trust in Him, He will not let you down; He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). If this card is in the reverse position it may reflect the need to build a closer relationship with God, and to trust in and have faith in Him as your Father.

Related Scripture:

Psalms 23:16, Isaiah 45:5-13, Proverbs 3:5-7

# THE HIGH PRIEST



Theme/Keyword: Advocation

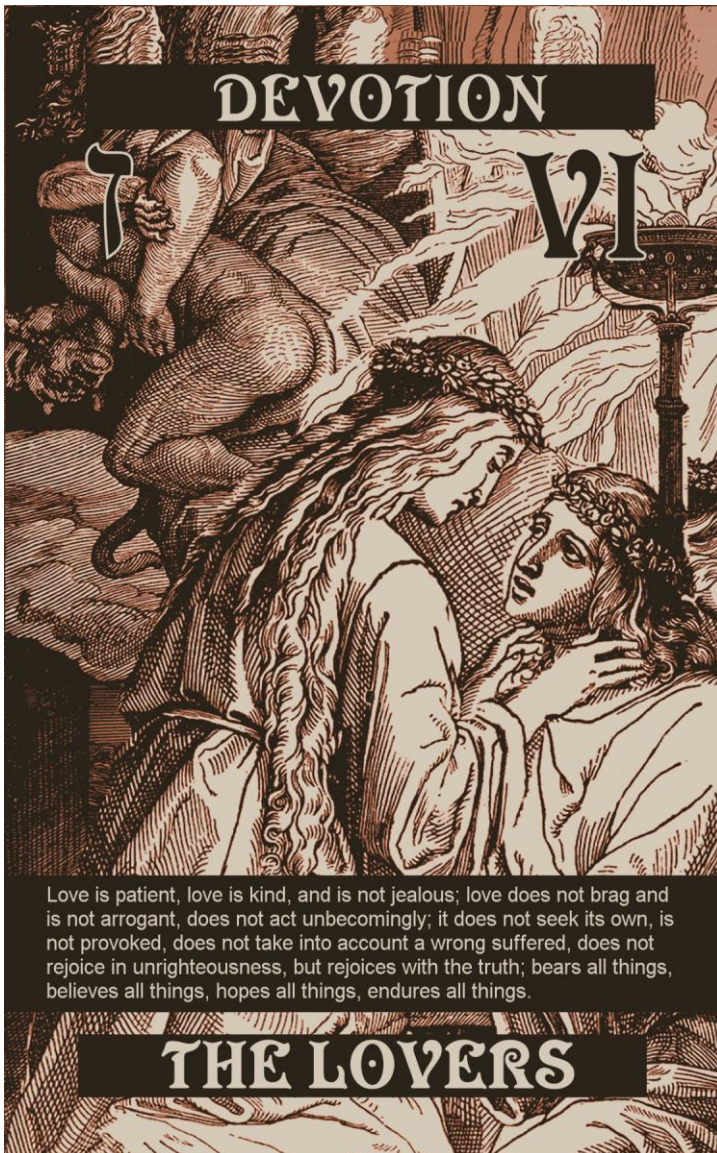
Meaning/Comments: The High Priest Card represents that specific role of Jesus as are High Priest. Jesus is now seated at the right hand of his father, and he lives to make intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25). Jesus lived a life of

servitude to God, and corrected the scribes of his day. He clarified God's message to humanity, and opened the door for gentiles to understand and follow God. The first Adam became a living being, but Jesus as the last Adam became a life-giving spirit (1 Corinthians 15:45). In the image on the card, Jesus is pointing towards Heaven, a reference to him showing us the way to God. If this card is reversed, it might reflect a lack of understanding of this aspect of Jesus' mission, such as erroneously going praying to the Virgin Mary, an Angel, or Saint, or trusting an earthly priest or pastor to make intercession on one's behalf instead of praying to directly to God in the name of Jesus.

Related Scripture:  
Hebrews 4:14-16



# THE LOVERS



Theme/Keyword: Devotion

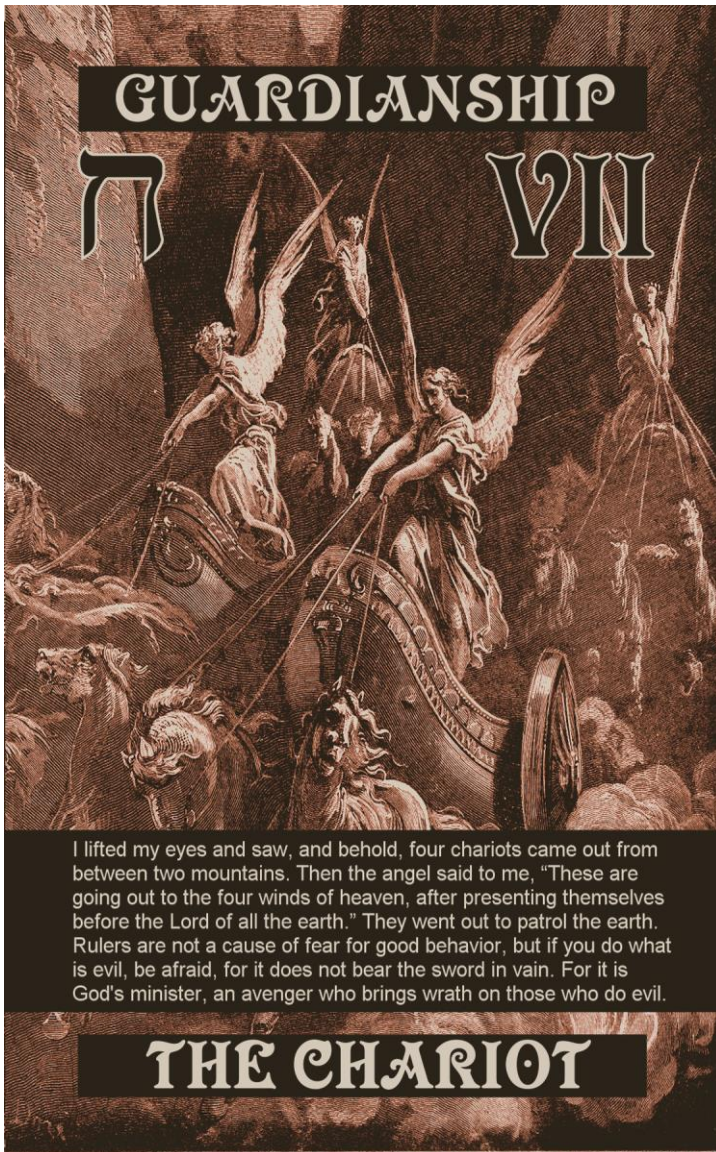
Meaning/Comments: The image on the Lovers Card is of Tobias and Sarah, which is from the Book of Tobit in the Apocrypha. The scripture on the card is a description of love, and the theme is of the love and devotion expressed

between a man and a woman in marriage. Since the marriage relationship also demonstrates the commitment and devotion we are to have towards God, the card can be used to represent either your relationship with God or with your spouse. In the Book of Tobit, Sarah was plagued by a demon, and was suicidal. God responded to Sarah's sorrow and to Tobias' father's depression, but sending an angel to unit Tobias and Sarah and thereby fixing all of their problems. If this card is in the reverse position, it may reflect a lack of love, or a lack of commitment to either God or one's spouse.

**Related Scripture:**

1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 1 John 4:6-11, Romans 13:8-9, Tobit 8:1-14

# THE CHARIOT



Theme/Keyword: Guardianship

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Chariot Card is of the Four Winds of Heaven. In the Book of Zechariah they are depicted on chariots, but they share similarities to the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. The Four Winds

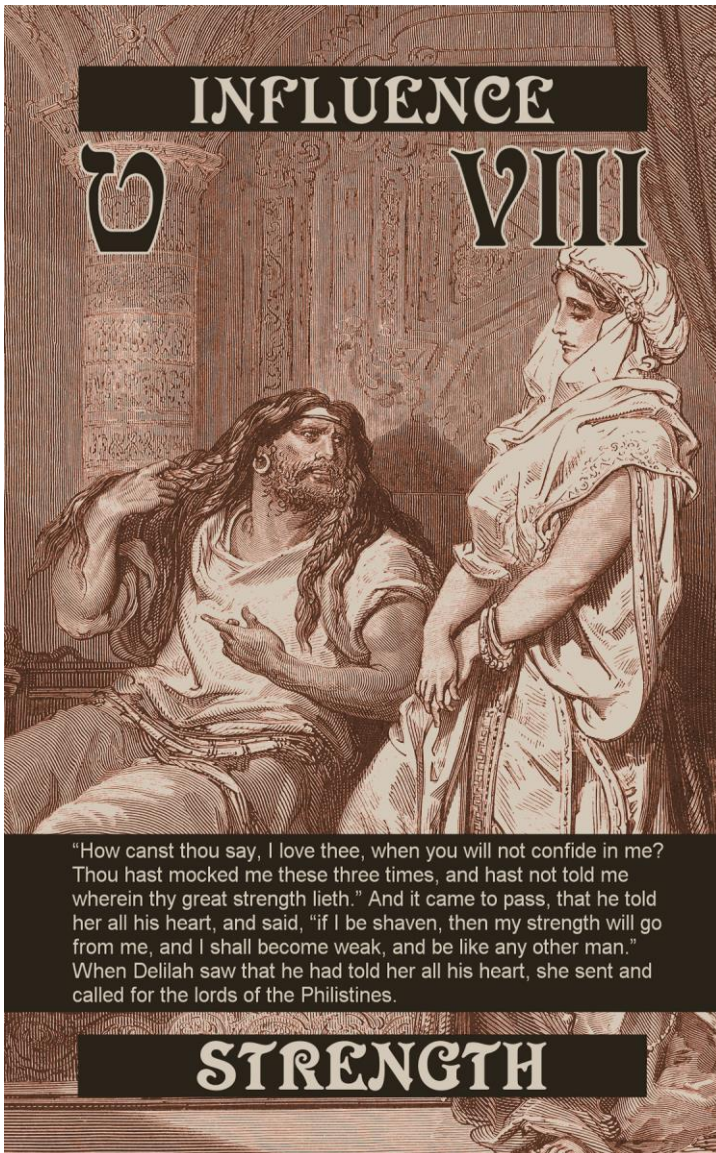


are said to influence earthly governments. The verse on the card includes the verse from Zechariah, but it is combined with the verse from Romans describing obedience to earthly governments. When evaluating this card in a tarot spread, it could represent God's influence in the world, concepts of justice within societies, or it can represent guardianship in general – such as the need to take care of your family or to love your fellow man. If the card is reversed, it might represent an absence of guardianship, a lack of self-control, or a feeling of injustice.

Related Scripture:

Romans 13:1-5, Zechariah 6:1-6

# STRENGTH



"How canst thou say, I love thee, when you will not confide in me? Thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth." And it came to pass, that he told her all his heart, and said, "if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man." When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines.

Theme/Keyword: Influence, Strength

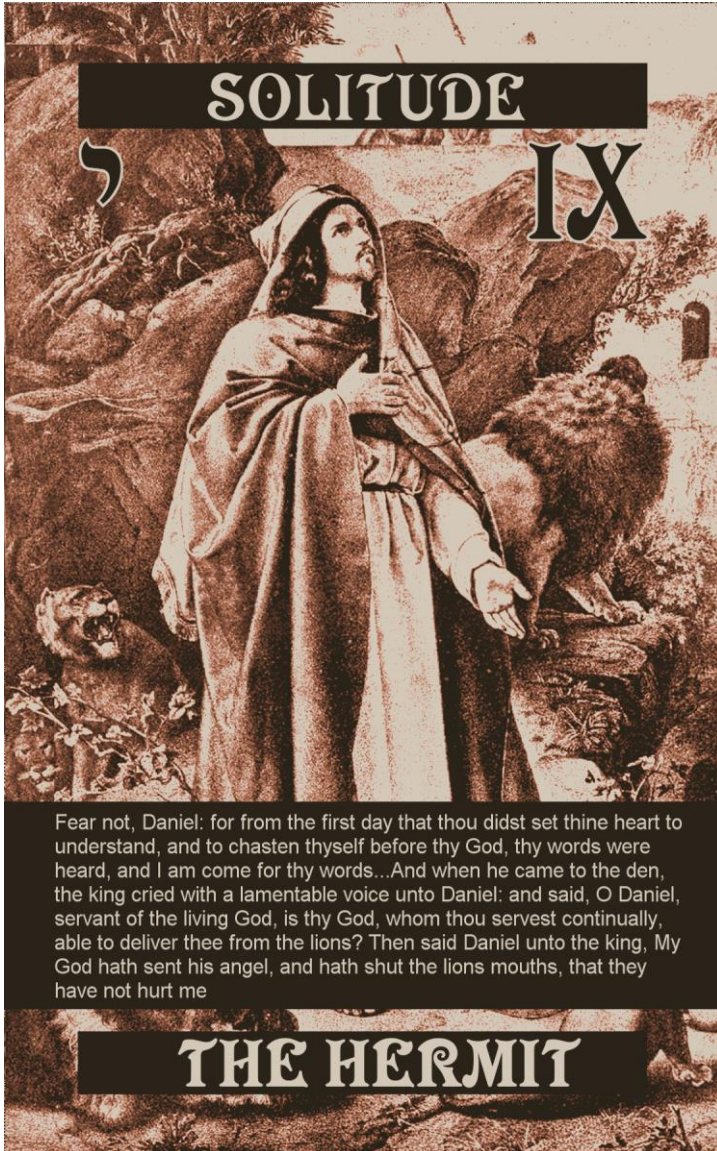
Meaning/Comments: The image on the card is of Samson and Delilah. Samson was given extraordinary physical strength by God, and was appointed as a judge of his people. Although Samson was a judge and was

strong, he lacked judgment was weak regarding his desire for foreign women. There are many types of strength; physical strength, mental strength (being able to withstand temptation), and the power of influence. In the Book of 1 Esdras the King held a competition among three wise men as to whom or what is the strongest. The winner of the competition stated that women were the strongest, because they are able to influence kings. Samson was physically stronger than Delilah, but she was able to use her influence to overcome his physical power. If this card is reversed, it could represent a struggle relating to any of the different categories of strength or a lack thereof.

Related Scripture:

Judges 16:15-21, 1 Esdras 4:13-32

# THE HERMIT



Theme/Keyword: Solitude

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Hermit Card is of Daniel in the Lions Den. Everyone works out their own salvations alone and will be judge according to their own deeds. Sometimes we need to separate ourselves from others and take time to reflect on God's word when we are alone. After his

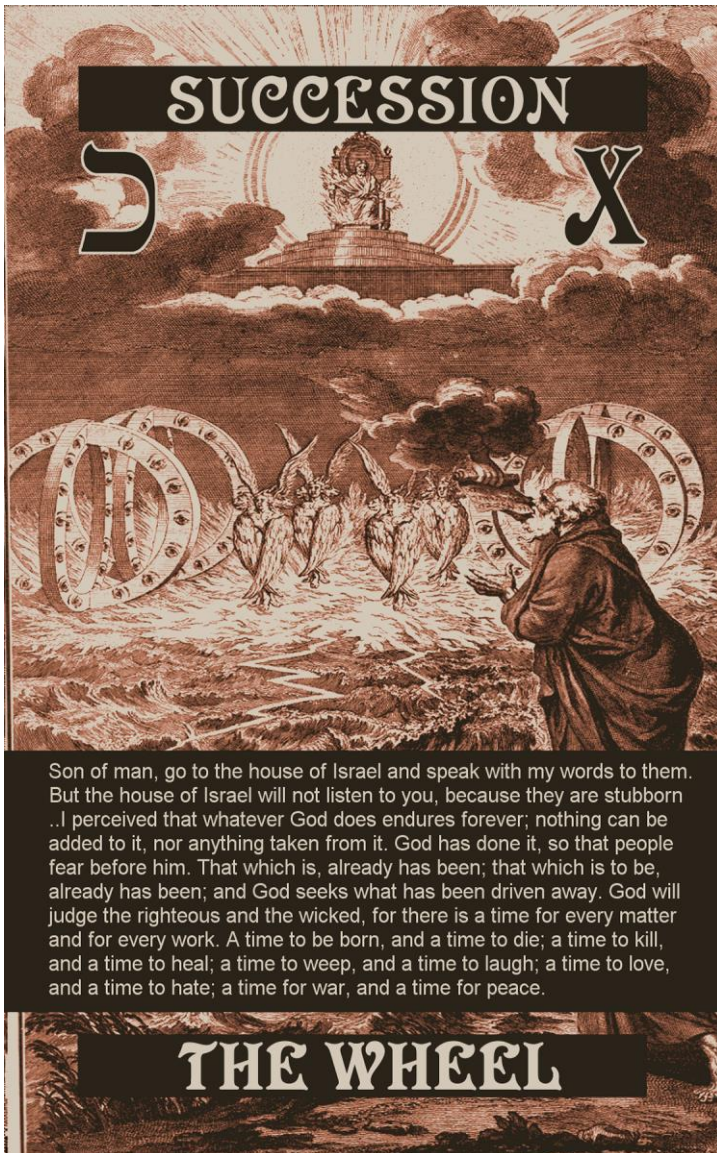
baptism, Jesus went off into the desert by himself and was tempted by the devil. This prepared him to begin his ministry. Likewise, Moses left Egypt and was alone in the desert when he spoke to God in the burning bush. Sometime we need to be by ourselves in order to develop a closer relationship with God. Throughout the Book of Daniel, he remains faithful to God, while living as a captive in Babylon. He was faithful to God, even when he was threatened with death. If this card is reversed it might represent the need to spend more time with God on a one on one basis.

Related Scripture:

Daniel 10:11-14, Daniel 6:13-27



# THE WHEEL



Theme/Keyword: Succession

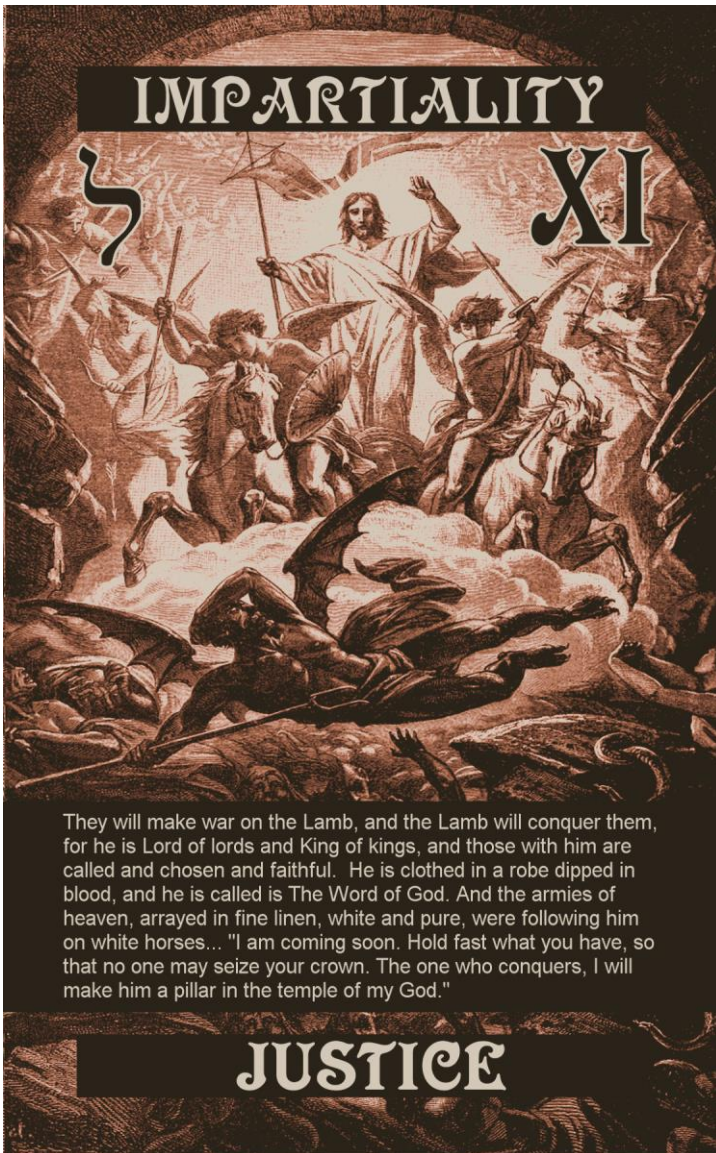
Meaning/Comments: The image on the card is of Ezekiel's Wheel, which represents the Chariot of God. Ezekiel was sent to preach the word of God to the people, knowing that they were unlikely to listen. However, since they

were warned, they would have no excuse on judgment day. Ezekiel's mission reflects the mission of Jesus, who was also referred to as the Son of Man. Through Jesus' preaching, God's word was given to the gentiles, and the way to heaven was proclaimed around the world. However, even with the Bible translated in every language and readily available for free on the internet, many people in the world are too stubborn to hear it. The theme of 'succession' speaks to the repeating of God's message through time by foreshadowing of His mysteries; such as Moses lifting up a bronze serpent in the desert to reflect the salvation that would later come through Christ on the cross. Many of the events in the Old Testament (such as the Passover in Egypt) occurred as a foreshadowing of what Jesus would do (since all events led up to Jesus). A Solomon described in the Book of Ecclesiastes there is a time for everything and everything has a time. The seasons change and the cycle of life continues, just as the Wheel keeps spinning. As Christians we can learn a lot about ourselves by studying the lives of the people in the Bible, because human nature has changed very little over the centuries; so the adversity and challenges others have faced are very similar to the things we go through. If this card is reversed it may represent a lack of understanding of God's plan.

Related Scripture:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-22, Ezekiel 3:1-7

# JUSTICE



Theme/Keyword: Justice

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Justice Card is of Jesus, portrayed as the Lamb of God in the Book of Revelations, and deals with the justice of God. Throughout the Bible, God is consistently described as a God of



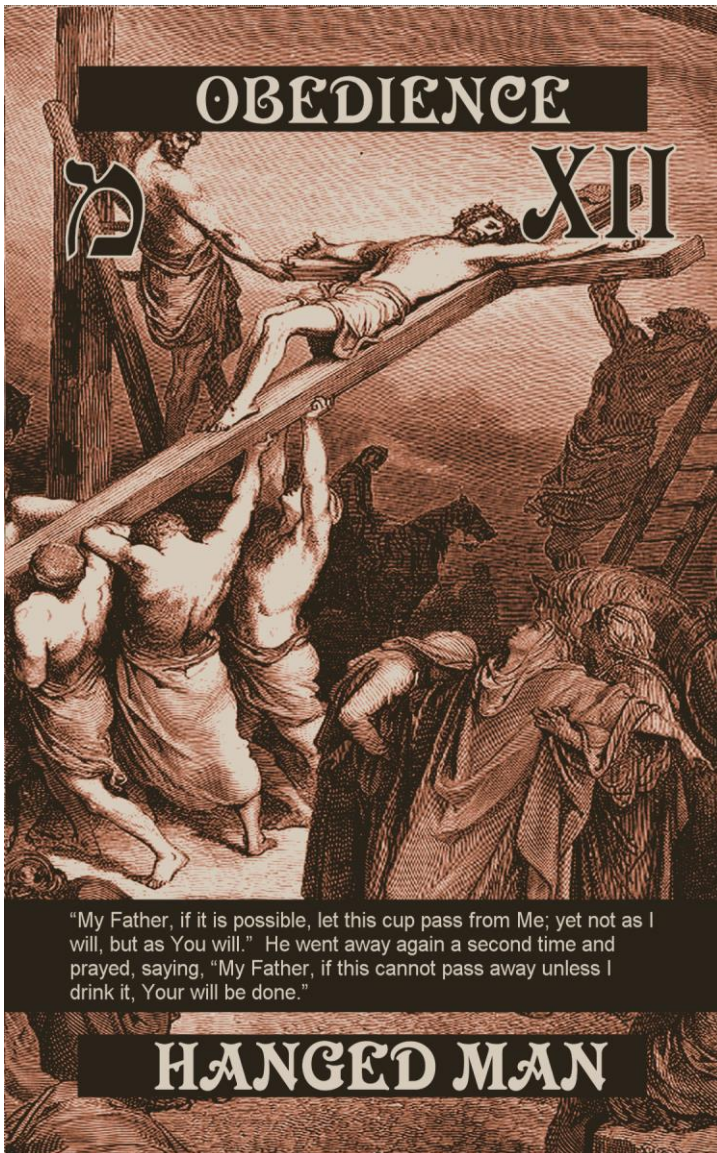
Justice, yet, many people fall away from God because they do not understand how a ‘loving’ God could sentence people to eternal hell simply for not believing in Him. Others have extreme difficulty comprehending why God allows bad things to happen to good people. The answer to both of these questions has to do with Justice. God never promises us safety on earth. Even if we are completely obedient, good people can still fall into the hands of evil men, and may be subjected to unspeakable atrocities. God’s own son was crucified on the earth, and all of the Apostles were likewise executed. The Hebrew people spent hundreds of years as slaves in Egypt, and Joseph was thrown down a well and later falsely accused of a crime and put in prison. As humans, we grow spiritually by facing adversity. If we were not required to confront evil, then we would not grow; which is why Jesus stated that it is harder for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven than it is for a camel to go through the eye of a needle. This is because the rich man has everything he needs, and therefore has no reason to seek God. It is when we are facing troubles that we are most likely to seek God’s assistance, and through His response, we are able to build our relationship with Him and grow in our faith. The reason that God does not rescue us from the hands of evil men has to do with justice and perspective. In the same way that we would not grow in our faith if we did not face challenges, the evildoer’s actions would not warrant punishment in hell if God prevented them from committing the evil desires of their hearts. God wants His followers to be holy and to have love, wisdom, and compassion in their hearts (see the High Priestess card for a description of the Bride). Murderers and Rapists deserve to go to hell, but if God prevented them from committing their acts (if they were prevented from going through with their intentions) being sentenced to eternal torment might seem extreme. To answer the first question, God does not sentence people to hell for simply not believing in Him; that is a straw man argument. God is gracious and merciful, His judgment exceeds our own, and if He sentences someone to hell, He does not do so arbitrarily. Throughout history there has never been a shortage of people preaching the truth to the world. Jonah and Ezekiel are examples of people who preached God’s salvation to others who they either knew did not deserve it or that their audience would not listen. Nevertheless, the message was preached to the people, so that they are without excuse. In modern times, people live many years, the Bible is available to them on the internet and in every motel room; people have ample time to contemplate the meaning for their existence, and if they reject God, it is by their choice. As for the evildoers who intentionally set out to harm others or commit atrocities, there is no question regarding them being deserving of judgment. As for their victims, it is a matter of perspective. First, they need to realize that nowhere in the Bible does God promise them safety, and there are many examples of just people in the Bible being wronged. What the victims need to realize is that the world is not only about them – it is also about their victimizer. Since God does not step in to prevent

suffering, the attackers solidify their place in hell. For the victims, the things that happened to them are correctly viewed as grave injustices, which they are. However, if the situation is viewed from a spiritual perspective, the victims will get justice. Although victims may not receive justice on the earth, that does not mean that the evildoer got away with it – they certainly will not. Jesus died on the cross and was glorified in Heaven for his suffering on earth. Victims can rest assured that God loves them; He will give them justice, and He will reward their faithfulness and their patience in Heaven. The Six of Cups Card also deals with Perspective, and points out not to fear those who can kill the body but can do nothing more, but instead to fear God, who can destroy the body and the soul in hell. While on earth the evildoers may think they are getting away with their evil, but in the end, they will face justice. Their victims may be killed, but as Paul stated, to die is gain, because God's followers will be rewarded for their faithfulness. Questions regarding eternal punishment, why there is suffering in the world, why good things happen to bad people, or why the evil seem to prosper are all deep questions and concepts that are difficult to understand, but understanding of these topics can be gained by understanding the character of God. The bottom-line is that while we live on the earth, we are sheep in the midst of wolves; we are fairly defenseless and there are many threats that want to do us harm. If we are to survive in the world, we must become as wise as serpents (understand the dangers that we face), but must remain as gentle as doves (we are to remain holy and not use our understanding of evil to engage in evil). Unfortunately, we can do everything right, and still fall victim to evil; in which case, we are told to be faithful unto death, and promised that we will receive a crown of life (Revelations 2:10). Our purpose in life is to learn judgment and discernment, and to make the right choices. We are to develop love and compassion, and to have empathy for others. We must overcome our sins and selfishness, and perfect our characters. In order to do this, evil must exist in the world, because it is only through our interactions with evil that we understand choices and consequences, which is how we develop our character. In the end, everyone will be judged according to their own deeds, and based on our choices/actions; we will receive consequences or rewards. Victims can rest assured that God will right all the wrongs done to them, and their victimizers will face justice. In Jesus' public ministry, he said to "forgive and you will be forgiven", but when speaking to his disciples, he spoke to them of a widow who cried out to a judge, "Grant me justice over my adversary" and Jesus said, "Will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly (Luke 18:3-8)." If this card is reversed, it may represent an absence of justice, or a lack of understanding of the concept.

Related Scripture:

Revelation 17:14, 19:11-16, 3:11-12, Proverbs 21:15, Deuteronomy 16:19, 32:39-43

# THE HANGED MAN



Theme/Keyword: Obedience

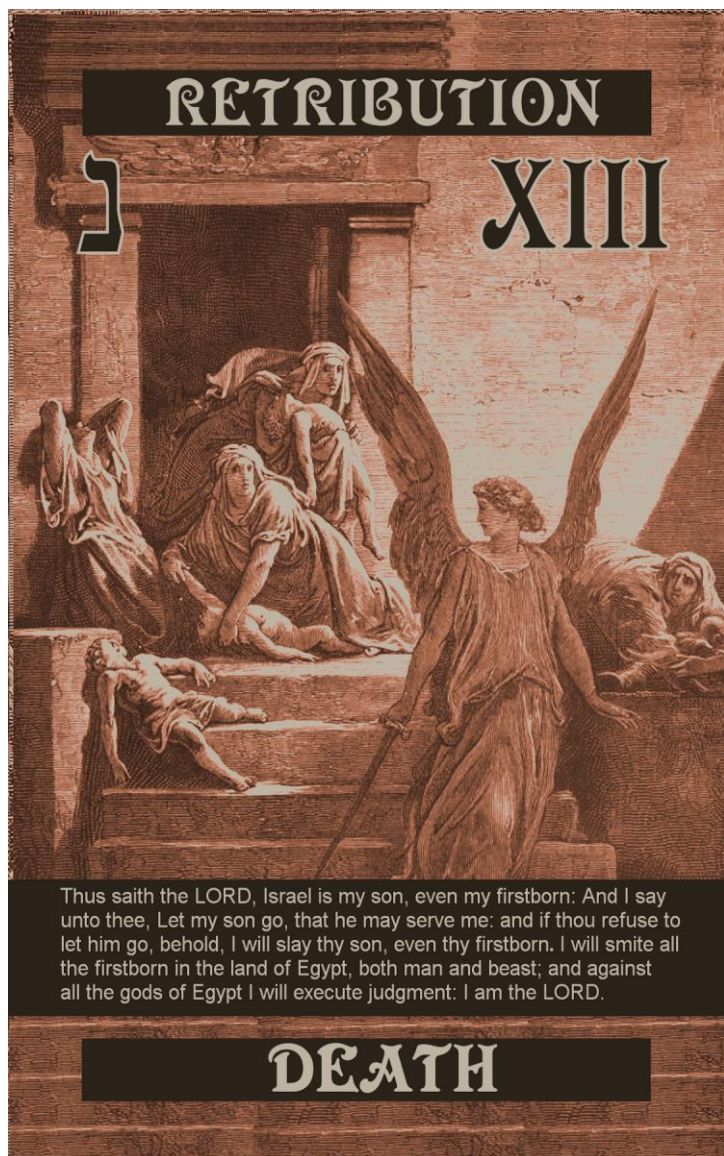
Meaning/Comments: The image on the Hanged Man Card is of Jesus being crucified. The crucifixion of Jesus was central to God's plan since before the foundation of the world. Many of the events that occurred in Old Testament

were done as a foreshadowing of this event. Jesus was obedient to God, and trusted in God's will. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed that if were possible, that God let the cup pass from him, but he determined that if his suffering was in accordance with God's plan, then he would be obedient to God's will. As we go through life, we will face many hard times and trials, but as we go through it, we must keep in mind that God only disciplines those He loves (Hebrews 12:6), and that if we trust in Him, all things will work together for our good (Romans 8:28). God has a plan for each of us; the very hairs are our heads are numbered; therefore we should trust in God's will and not be afraid (Luke 12:7). "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11)."

Related Scripture:

Luke 22:42-46, Matthew 26:38-45

# DEATH



Theme/Keyword: Retribution, Change, Judgment

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Death Card is of the Angel of Death smiting the first born sons of Egypt. This card is related to the previous two cards, because it embodies justice (against the Egyptians) and the Passover of God's people by the Blood of the Lamb. Passover was a foreshadowing of

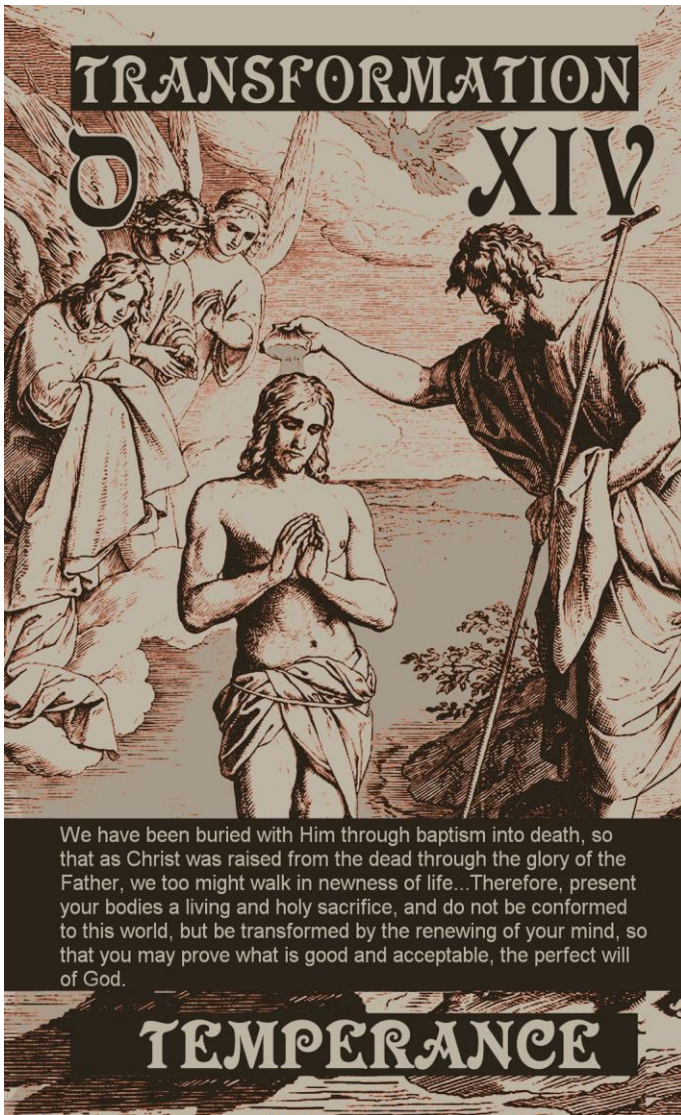
Jesus being crucified as the Lamb of God, and due to the Passover lamb, God's followers were spared from death. The firstborn sons of Egypt were taken as the final plague against Egypt as a punishment for their sins and their rejection of God. Jesus was the first born son of God, and died on the cross to take away the sins of the world. Traditionally, the Death Card in a tarot deck represented cycles of life, death and rebirth, something coming to an end, and a new beginning. According to the Bible, death is also a temporary state. Since Jesus overcame death, everyone will live eternally. Through judgment, people will be evaluated according to their deeds and will spend eternity in either Heaven or Hell. Right side up this card might represent change, and if it is reversed, it can represent stagnation or an unwillingness to change.

**Related Scripture:**

Jeremiah 9:21-25, 14:13-20, 7:3, 14:1, Ezekiel 9:1-10, Exodus 11:1-7



# TEMPERANCE



Theme/Keyword: Temperance, Balance, Rebirth, the Start of the Great Work

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Temperance Card depicts the Baptism of Jesus. For the believer, baptism marks his/her commitment to following God. Like a marriage, it is a lifelong commitment where you determine to commit the rest of your life to God. After baptism, believers receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, their bodies become the temple of God,

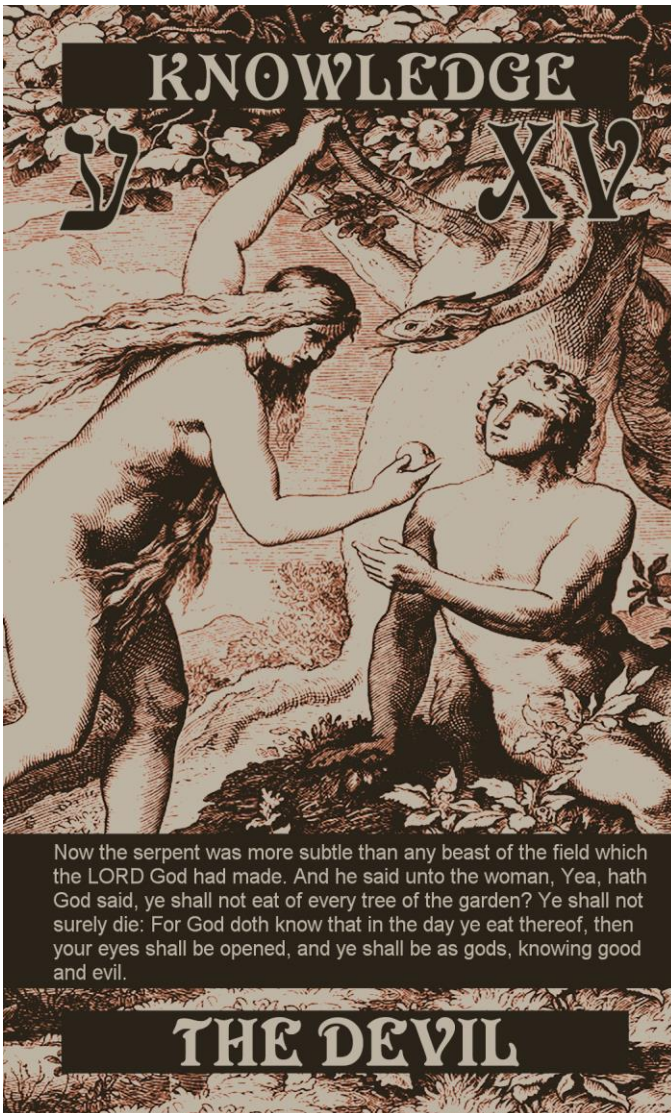


and as the Bride of Christ, must remain faithful and commit to living a life of holiness that is pleasing to God. Baptism is also a cleansing and purification; your sins are forgiven and you start a new life; being born again in the spirit, destined to be conformed into the image of Christ and accepted into Heaven as a child of God. If this card is reversed, it may represent the need for change or to determine if you are ready to commit your life to the Great Work of purifying your soul and living as an adopted child of God.

Related Scripture:

Colossians 2:11-14, Romans 6:3-6, 12:1-2

## THE DEVIL



Theme/Keyword: Knowledge, Temptation

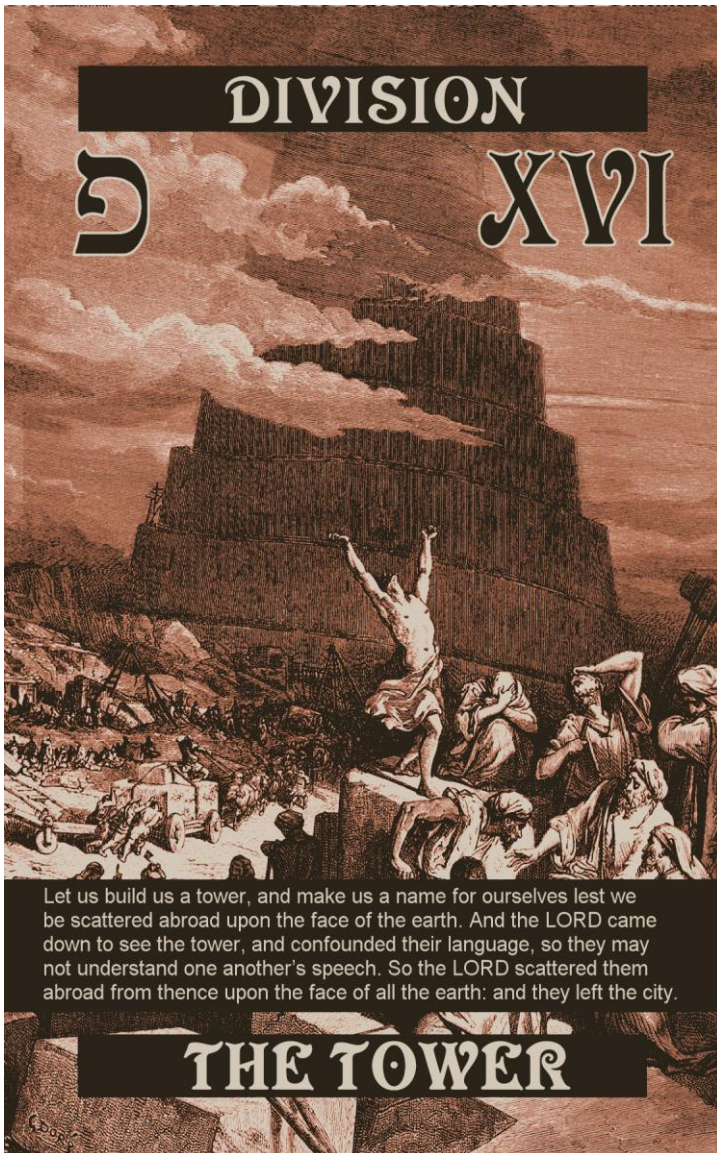
Meaning/Comments: The image on the Devil Card is of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. They knew they were forbidden to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, yet the serpent (devil) was able to convince them to eat from it. The serpent deceived them by telling them that they

would not die, but instead would be like God and able to understand good and evil. Although they did not die immediately, they both did eventually die, but not before understanding the difference between good and evil. Due to their defiance of God's instructions, sin entered the world, and Adam and Eve learned about evil by one of their sons (Cain) killing his brother Abel. Now we live in a world of choices and consequences, and must resist temptation, and we are able to grow in our understanding and judgment as we are confronted with evil. The Fall of Man brought suffering into the world, but it is through challenges that we are able to become like God and possess knowledge of Good and Evil. We build our relationships with God and gain His approval based on how we live our lives; just as God looked upon Abel's sacrifice with favor, but not Cain's sacrifice, God evaluates us by our actions. When evaluating this card in a tarot spread, you can focus on the knowledge of good and evil, or on Adam and Eve's actions, such as them attempting to cast the blame on others for their transgressions. You could also focus on their punishments, such as men needing to earn a living by the sweat of their brow, or women experiencing pains in childbirth. Or you can focus on the spiritual battle between the descendants of Eve (humans) and the serpent (devil), which finds its ultimate conclusion with Christ on the Cross and the Final Judgment in the Book of Revelations. If this card is reversed, then it would mean the opposite of whichever of the above topics you focused on, based on how the card relates to the other cards in the tarot spread.

**Related Scripture:**

Genesis 3:1-7, John 8:44-45, 1 Peter 5:8-9, 1 John 3:8-9

# THE TOWER



Theme/Keyword: Division, Defiance

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Tower Card is of the Tower of Babel. God's instructions to both Adam and Eve and Noah were for them to replenish the earth and subdue it (Genesis 1:28, 9:1), but instead of

spreading out across the earth, the people elected to build a great tower to make a name for themselves, and so that everyone would gather in one location. In response, God confused their languages to force division among humans. God then found one person (Abraham) who was willing to follow Him, and move away from the Ziggurat and to the Promised Land. It is because of Abraham's faith and obedience (and willingness to follow God) that his descendants became God's chosen people. Christians are descendants of Abraham through faith; so the basic lesson for anyone wishing to earn God's favor is to ignore the desires of the other humans, and be willing to listen to God's instructions and follow Him. Due to that simple principle, Abraham's descendants are as countless as the stars. When evaluating this card in a tarot spread, you can focus on the division of the people or the obedience of the small percentage of people in the world who choose to follow God. If this card is reversed, it might represent unity or having overcome the sin of disobedience.

Related Scripture:

Genesis 11:1-9



# THE STAR



For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end, upon the throne of David over His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from that time forward, even forever.

Theme/Keyword: Manifestation, the Start of God's Mysteries being revealed

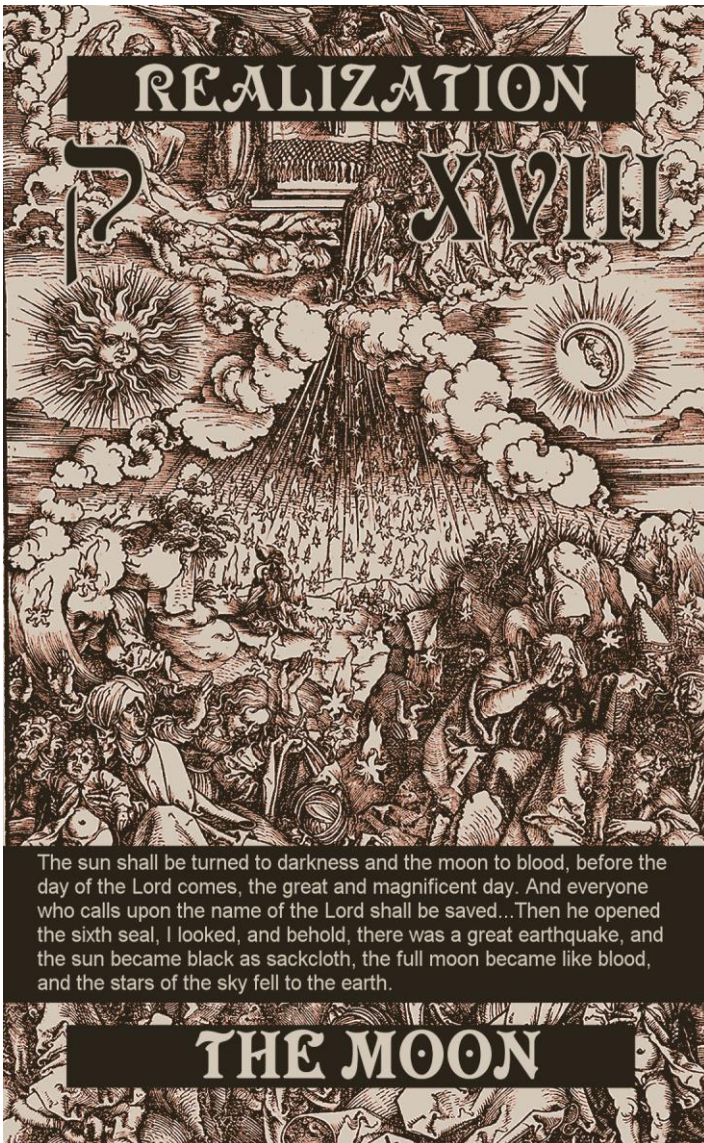
Meaning/Comments: The image on the Star Card depicts the birth of Jesus, and the manifestation of God's foreordained plan. It represents the fulfillment of prophecy and the unveiling of the mysteries of God that have been kept secret since the foundation of the world. This card is related to the Devil Card, because the birth of Christ was God's answer to Original Sin.

Due to the Fall of Man, women were cursed with sorrow in childbirth, men were forced to work, and enmity would exist between the offspring of women and the serpent (Genesis 3:15-17). It was through Mary giving birth that Jesus entered the world, and it is through the work of Jesus that the devil was defeated; so that now humans can overcome sin and have eternal life. In a tarot spread this card might represent the unveiling of God's plan in your life, or it might be a call to reflect on the mysteries of God that were revealed in His son. Since the birth of Jesus was only the beginning of these revelations, this card might represent the point where you start to understand how God is working in your life, as things begin to manifest. If this card is reversed, then the opposite would apply, and it might reflect that you remain in a state of confusion regarding God's will or your purpose in life.

Related Scripture:

Isaiah 9:5-7, Matthew 1:18-25

# THE MOON



Theme/Keyword: Realization, Reflection

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Moon Card depicts the breaking of the sixth seal in the Book of Revelations. At this point, the existence of God could no longer be denied; it is the beginning of judgment, but those who call on the name of the Lord will be saved. In the Bible, the children of God are

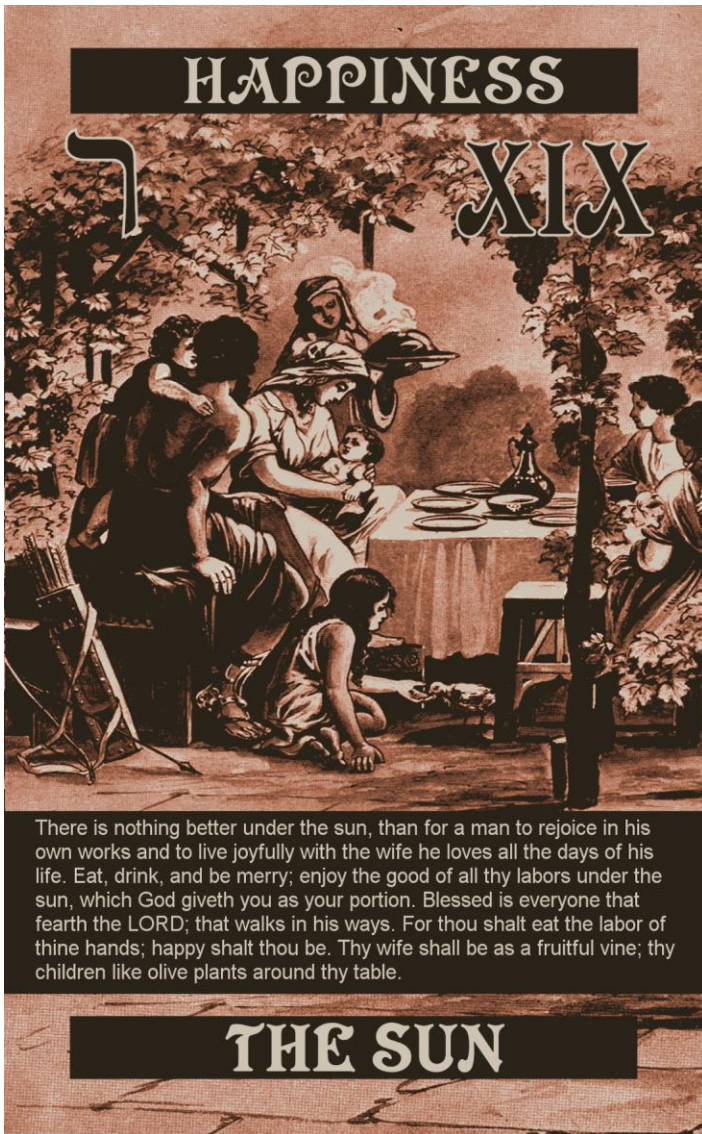


referred to as Children of the Light and non-believers are considered as remaining in darkness. Christians are to be lights to the world (Matthew 5:14). Light and darkness could be represented by the sun and the moon. The sun provides warmth to the earth and makes the flowers grow. The moon is a lifeless rock that orbits around the world. Although the moon may give off the appearance of offering light, those who believe that light is emanating from it are in error. The light the moon provides is only a slight reflection of the light from the sun. Likewise, false doctrines may seem similar to the message of the Bible, but the doctrines are deceitful. Many people on earth reject the Word of God contained in the scriptures and are deceived into accepting false religions or philosophies as the truth – whether that entails worshiping the wrong gods, concluding that there is no god, or believing false doctrines regarding the one true God (Matthew 7:23). If this card is reversed, it would mean the opposite of whichever characteristic you focused on, and/or what makes the most sense based on its position in the tarot spread.

**Related Scripture:**

1 Corinthians 13:12, Acts 2:20-21, Revelation 6:12-17, Ephesians 5:7-8, 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6

# THE SUN



There is nothing better under the sun, than for a man to rejoice in his own works and to live joyfully with the wife he loves all the days of his life. Eat, drink, and be merry; enjoy the good of all thy labors under the sun, which God giveth you as your portion. Blessed is everyone that feareth the LORD; that walks in his ways. For thou shalt eat the labor of thine hands; happy shalt thou be. Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine; thy children like olive plants around thy table.

Theme/Keyword: Happiness, God's Blessing, Contentment

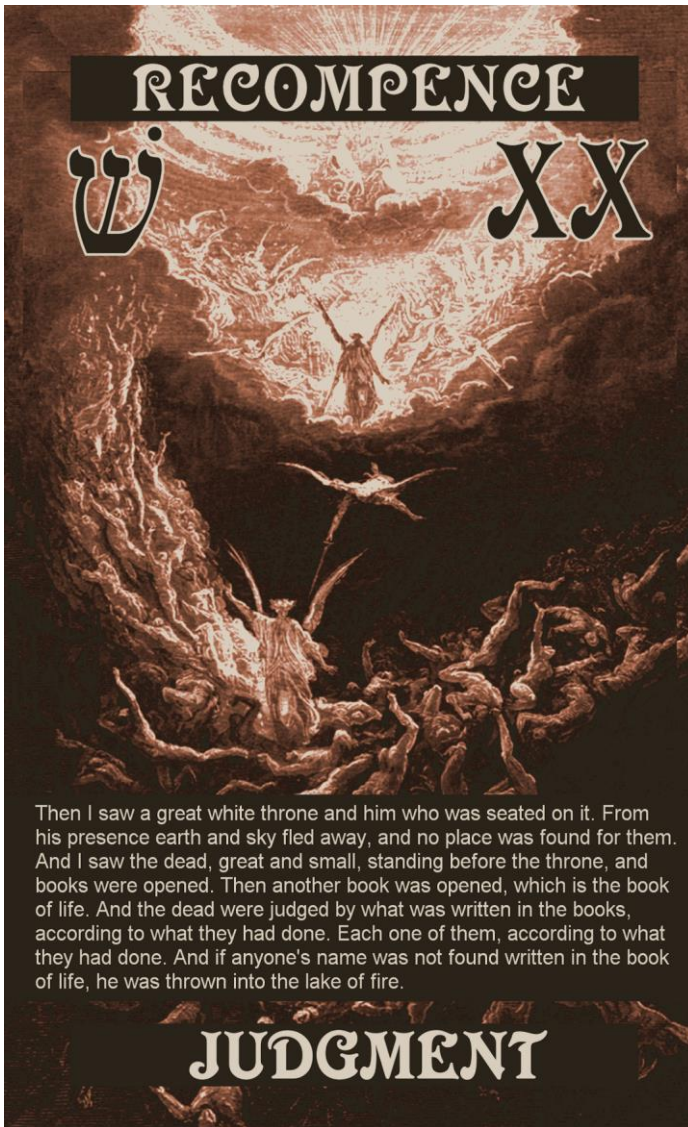
Meaning/Comments: The image on the Sun Card depicts the love and blessings that God bestows on mankind. Due to Adam and Eve's sin, humanity was cursed with labor (both in earning a living and bringing forth children), but although earning a living or birthing children may be sorrowful

at times, our wages and children are a gift from God that we are to enjoy. We should be thankful to God for giving us this day and our daily bread. Even when we go through hard times, God is with us. Like Paul, we should learn to be content while either living in excess or in need (Philippians 4:11-13). When we are experiencing difficulty, we must keep in mind that God will cause all things to work together for our good (Romans 8:28), and that He only disciplines those He loves (Hebrews 12:6). When we are receiving God's blessings, we must remember to be thankful, because just as it is harder for the rich man to enter Heaven than for a camel to pass through the eye of the needle, when things are going well, it is easy for people to get so wrapped up in their own lives that they neglect their relationships with God. There is evil and suffering in the world, there are struggles and hardships, yet the world is also a beautiful place and is full of wonderful things. Life is about finding balance and enjoying the blessings that God has given you, regardless of the state you are in. We are to be good stewards with what God has given us, and trust that our circumstances and our relationship with God will continue to improve as long as we do not lose focus on it. Meanwhile, we are to enjoy the blessings that God has given us and be thankful. If this card is reversed, it might mean the absence of blessings or that you are not recognizing that blessing you are actually receiving.

**Related Scripture:**

Proverbs 30:8-9, Ecclesiastes 3:10-13, 9:9-11, 5:18-20, 8:15, Psalm 128:1-4, Philippians 4:11-13

# JUDGMENT



Theme/Keyword: Recompense, Judgment

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Judgment Card depicts the final judgment of God, which is similar to the content on the Justice Card. Everyone will be judged according to their actions and will be either rewarded or punished based on their individual deeds. This card can also

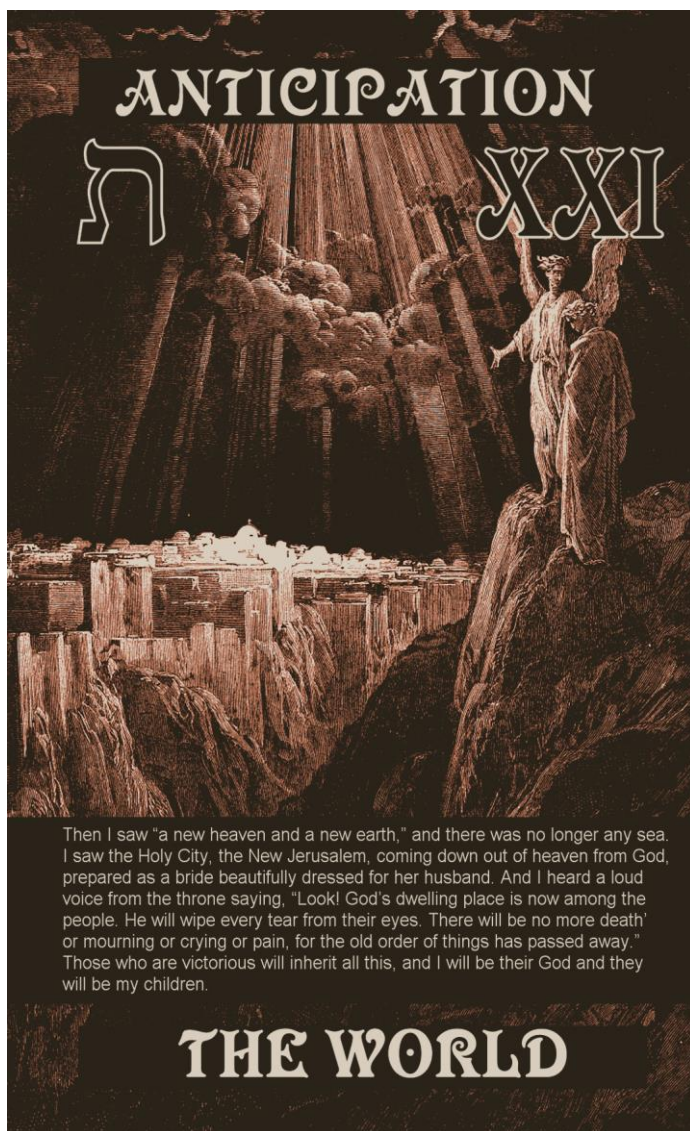
represent the concept of judgment in general; since all Christians are to develop judgment and discernment through their experiences on earth. “Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? 3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this life (1 Corinthians 6:2-3)?” If this card is reversed, it may reflect a lack of judgment or the need to evaluate how you are living in order to prepare for judgment.

Related Scripture:

Matthew 25:40-46, Daniel 12:1-4, Revelation 20:10-15



# THE WORLD



Theme/Keyword: Anticipation, Hope, Expectation, Reward

Meaning/Comments: The image on the World Card portrays the angel in John's vision from the Book of Revelations when John is shown the New Heaven and the New Jerusalem coming down from Heaven. This will be the final outcome and the reward for God's followers; where the lion and lamb

will lie down together in peace (Isaiah 11:6, 65:25), and there will be no more sorrow or pain. God's followers will be given a crown of life and will dwell in safety. Those who overcome the world will find their place in the new kingdom. If this card is reversed, it may reflect the need to refocus on one's priorities, and to correctly balance one's efforts to get ahead in the world with their efforts to grow spiritually and to prepare for eternity.

Related Scripture:

Revelation 21:1-8



## ACE OF WANDS



Theme/Keyword: Conquest

Meaning/Comments: The Ace of Wands Card is of the 1<sup>st</sup> Horseman of the Apocalypse from the Book of Revelations. The exact interpretation of this prophecy is up for debate, but many people interpret the 1<sup>st</sup> Horseman to represent the earthly ministry of Jesus, and the rider on the white horse is

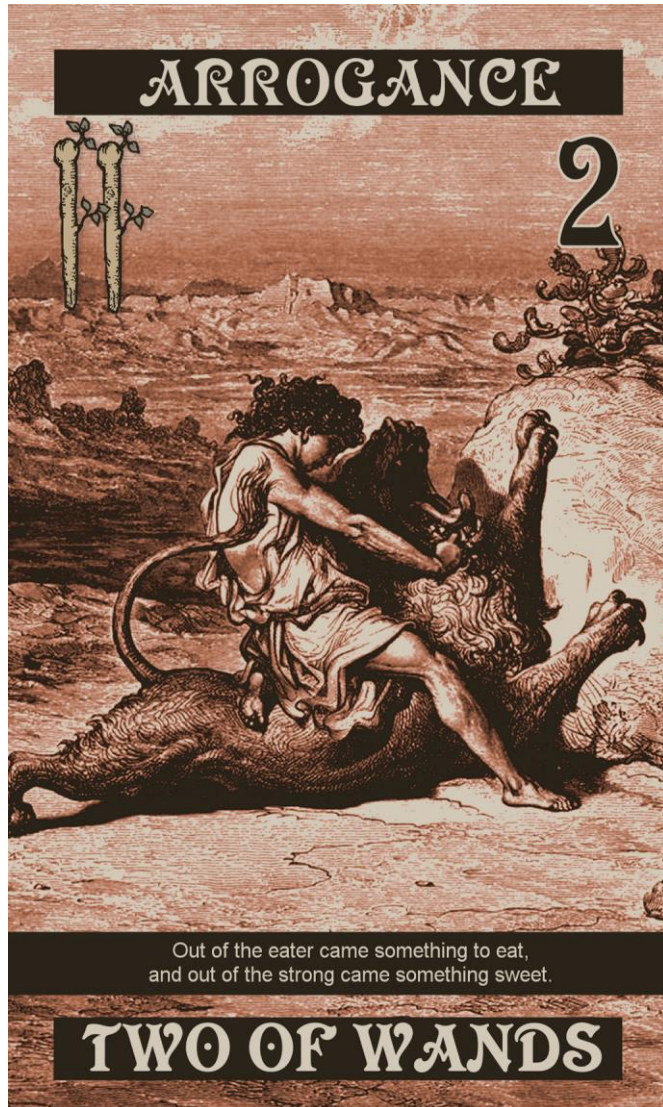
Revelations 19:11 as his 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. During Jesus' earthly ministry he conquered death by dying on the cross and being resurrected. Through our faith in him, we are more than conquerors (Romans 8:37). Following the death of Jesus, the church was formed and the great conquest or spiritual battle began. If you hold to the interpretation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Horseman representing Christ's ministry on earth, then in our current state we are engaged in the great spiritual battle to spread the truth of the Gospel throughout the earth, until the conclusion of the battle at Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. The white horse represents purity, the crown represents the crown of righteousness that followers of Christ will receive in Heaven, and the bow is a low range weapon demonstrating that the conquest is far reaching. In wars, arrows are usually the 1<sup>st</sup> weapons used, and are utilized prior to close quarters combat. When interpreting this card, you can attribute it to conquest in general, or to start of the spiritual battle against evil. If this card is reversed, it might represent an absence of initiative or failure to engage in the battle against sin or evil.

#### Related Scripture:

Revelation 6:1-2, Romans 8:36-39, 12:21, 1 John 5:3-5, Revelation 12:10-12



## TWO OF WANDS



Theme/Keyword: Arrogance

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Two of Wands Card is of Samson fighting a lion. After killing the lion, Samson later returned to find bees and honey in its carcass. Although marrying foreign women was forbidden at the time, Samson got engaged to a Philistine woman. Samson then challenged his Philistine guests to a bet and offered them an impossible riddle. The

answer to the riddle was something that only Samson could know, because he was the only one who saw the honey in the carcass of the lion. The Philistines threatened and pressured his bride to be into finding out and revealing the riddle to them, so when the Philistines correctly provided an answer to the riddle, Samson knew that his bride to be had betrayed his confidence. In response, Samson killed 30 Philistines and took their money to pay the debt he owed for losing the bet. There was no reason for Samson to challenge the Philistines to answer an impossible riddle. Due to arrogance he was overconfident in believing that no one could find out the secret that existed only in his own mind (especially since when Samson saw the honey he took it with him). When Samson lost the bet, he lost his temper and was a sore loser. He was unwilling to pay his debt with his own money, but instead killed people in order to pay his debt. Due to his anger, he lost the woman he wanted to marry and she was given to someone else. When Samson finally cooled off, he returned for his wife only to find out that she had been given in marriage to someone else. Again, this infuriated Samson, and in reprisal he burned the Philistine's crops (Judges Chapter 15). Samson had an opportunity to learn from his mistakes. He had attempted to engage in a forbidden relationship, only to be influenced by a foreign woman into revealing his secret, which caused him to lose his bet. However, Samson did not humble himself or change his ways. Instead he used the strength he was given to do whatever he wanted. Eventually, Samson would fall in love with another foreign woman who was able to influence him into revealing the secret of this great strength. Delilah cut Samson's hair, taking away his great strength, and immediately the Philistines came upon him, gouged out his eyes, and took him prisoner (Judges Chapter 16). When the Philistines were having a feast, they brought Samson out to make sport of him, then Samson prayed to the Lord, "*Sovereign Lord, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes* (Judges 16:28)." Samson used his strength to push the pillars of the building, and collapsed it on himself and the Philistines. Samson killed about 3,000 Philistines in his death, but even in this final gesture, Samson's motivation was to get revenge for his eyes. God used Samson to deliver His people from the Philistines, but it wasn't because Samson was a righteous person. Samson consorted with prostitutes, engaged in forbidden relationships, and was driven by lust, revenge, and anger. God had blessed Samson with great strength, but Samson used that gift by feeling untouchable; which led to him acting arrogantly and filled him with overconfidence. He used his blessings as a means of chasing after the lusts of his heart. When the Philistines tried to stop him, they were defeated. When his parents challenged him regarding his desire for a foreign woman, he ignored them and told them, "*Get her for me; for she pleases me well.*" The lesson of this tarot card is to be good stewards with the blessings that God provides you, and to learn from the difficulties you experience in life to grow

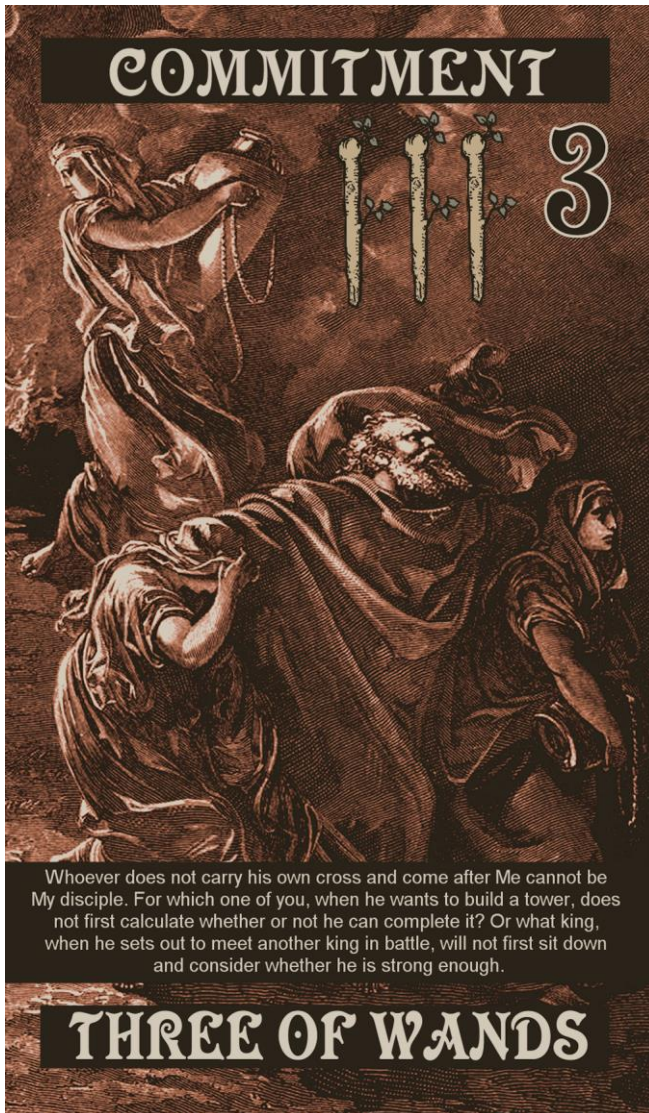
in wisdom; Samson did neither of these. Do not be arrogant or chase after lust or revenge, but humble yourself and place your faith in God. If this card is reversed, it might represent a lack of arrogance, or having overcome that trait.

Related Scripture:

Psalms 5:4-6, Judges 14:1-20, Nehemiah 9:16, 9:29, 1 Timothy 6:17-18



## THREE OF WANDS



Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first calculate whether or not he can complete it? Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough.

Theme/Keyword: Commitment

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Three of Wands Card is of Lot, his daughters, and his wife. Angels were sent to remove Lot and his family from the city before Sodom and Gomorrah were to be destroyed, and they were warned not to look back. Lot's wife did not heed their warning. She looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt. The lesson of this card is about

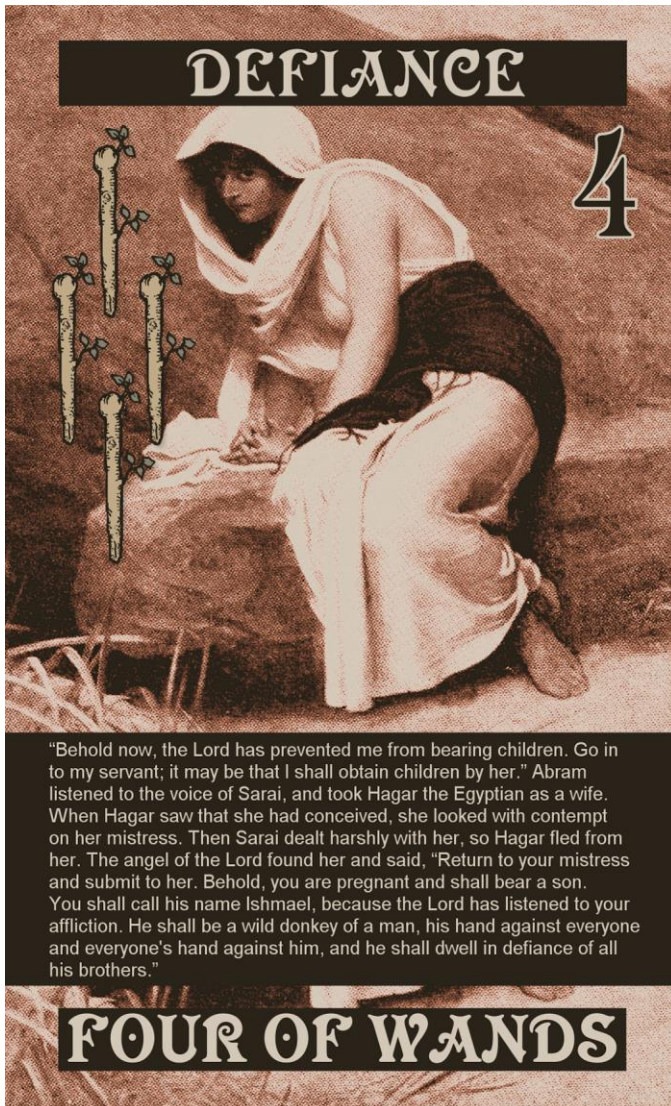


commitment. Once you have determined to live your old sinful life behind, do not look back, but move forward. If this card is reversed, it would represent a lack of commitment. If you determine to follow God, do so with all your heart, become a new creation, and leave your old sinful ways in the past.

Related Scripture:

Genesis 19:15-25, Luke 14:25-35

## FOUR OF WANDS



"Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." Abram listened to the voice of Sarai, and took Hagar the Egyptian as a wife. When Hagar saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, so Hagar fled from her. The angel of the Lord found her and said, "Return to your mistress and submit to her. Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the Lord has listened to your affliction. He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he shall dwell in defiance of all his brothers."

Theme/Keyword: Defiance, Resistance

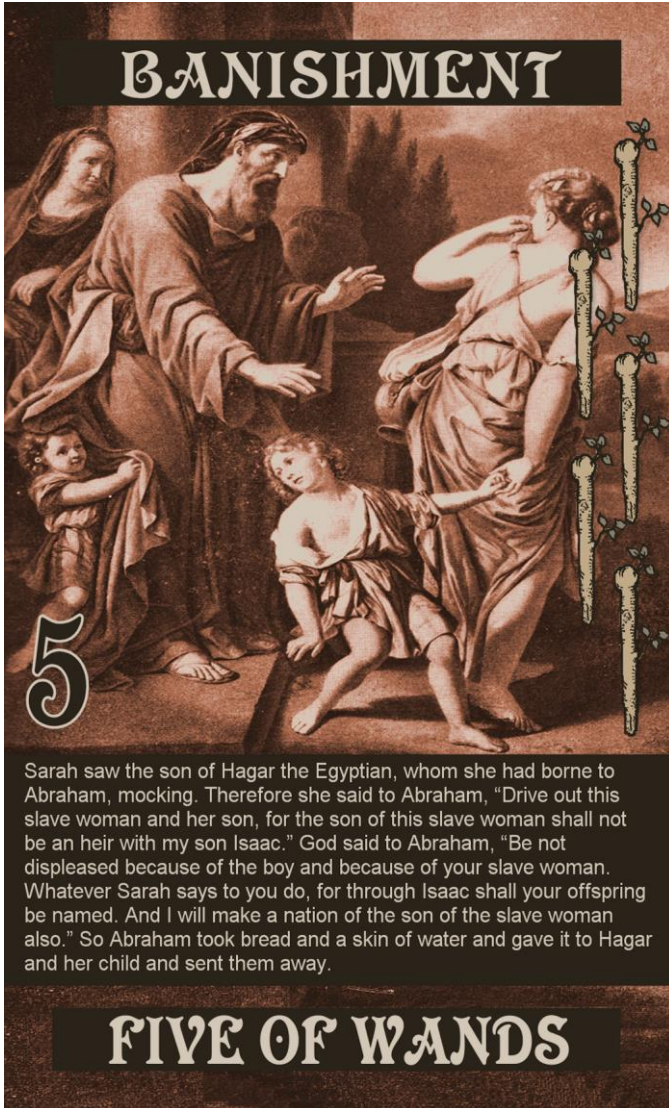
Meaning/Comments: The image on the Four of Wands Card is of Hagar in the wilderness. Sarah was barren, so she gave her handmaiden to Abraham so that Hagar could provide offspring to Abraham on Sarah's behalf. However, once Hagar conceived, Sarah became jealous, mistreated her, and Hagar fled their home. The Angel of the Lord found Hagar in the wilderness and

convinced her to return to Abraham and Sarah. The angel told Hagar that she would bare a son, who would constantly be in conflict with his brethren. Hager left Sarah in defiance, and would give birth to a son who would constantly live in defiance of his brothers. Hagar's son Ishmael is the ancestor of the Prophet Mohammed of Islam, and Sarah's son Isaac is the ancestor of the Jews. The descendants of these two brothers have been in constant conflict throughout history, and their battle continues to this day. Ishmael's descendants were the ones who sold Jacob's son Joseph into slavery in Egypt. Hagar and Ishmael were not treated well and were later banished, but it is through conflict and adversity that humans are able to learn discretion, forgiveness, and justice. The descendants of both Isaac and Ishmael have certainly provided ample opportunity for humans to learn about conflict. This card has to do with defiance. If his card is reversed, it might represent having obtained an understanding of this concept, such as having developed the wisdom to choose the right battles to fight, and when to create unity instead of division.

#### Related Scripture:

Genesis 16:1-12 Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar. 2 And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the Lord hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai. 3 And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife. 4 And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes. 5 And Sarai said unto Abram, My wrong be upon thee: I have given my maid into thy bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes: the Lord judge between me and thee. 6 But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, thy maid is in thine hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee. And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face. 7 And the angel of the Lord found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur. 8 And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai. 9 And the angel of the Lord said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands. 10 And the angel of the Lord said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude. 11 And the angel of the Lord said unto her, Behold, thou art with child and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the Lord hath heard thy affliction. 12 And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.

## FIVE OF WANDS



Theme/Keyword: Banishment

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Five of Wands Card is of Hagar and Ishmael being banished from Abraham's household. Hagar thought she would have to witness her son die in the wilderness, but God came to her rescue. God promised to make Ishmael a great nation, and the descendants of Ishmael would later launch the Islamic conquest and conquer much of the

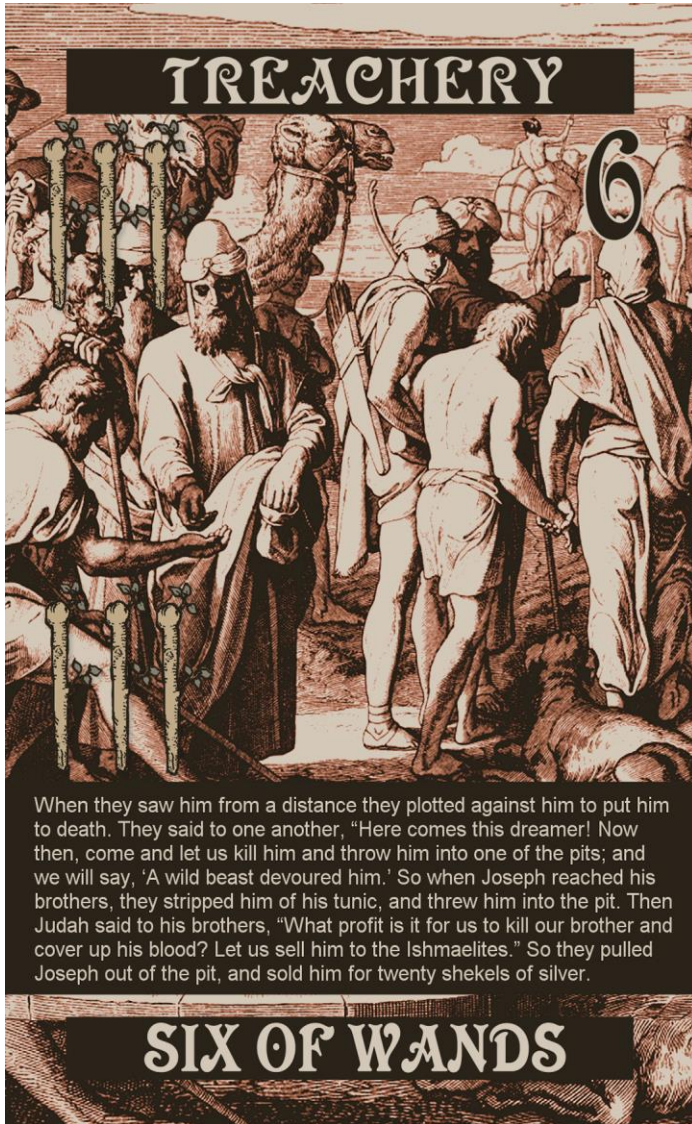
world. As stated in the Four of Wands Card, Ishmael was foretold to be in constant conflict with his brothers, and even today, Islam holds more land than the Israel does. Even the small amount of land that the Nation of Israel holds is constantly disputed, so that when people talk about the possibility of peace in the Middle East, they are referring to attempts at establishing peace between the descendants of these two brothers (Isaac and Ishmael). This card has to do with banishment and rejection. If this card is reversed, it might represent peace or reconciliation.

#### Related Scripture:

Genesis 21:5-21 And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him. 6 And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me. 7 And she said, Who would have said unto Abraham, that Sarah should have given children suck? for I have born him a son in his old age. 8 And the child grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the same day that Isaac was weaned. 9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking. 10 Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac. 11 And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son. 12 And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called. 13 And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, because he is thy seed. 14 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread, and a bottle of water, and gave it unto Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away: and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba. 15 And the water was spent in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs. 16 And she went, and sat her down over against him a good way off, as it were a bow shot: for she said, Let me not see the death of the child. And she sat over against him, and lift up her voice, and wept. 17 And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is. 18 Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; for I will make him a great nation. 19 And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink. 20 And God was with the lad; and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer. 21 And he dwelt in the wilderness of Paran: and his mother took him a wife out of the land of Egypt.



## SIX OF WANDS



Theme/Keyword: Treachery, Betrayal

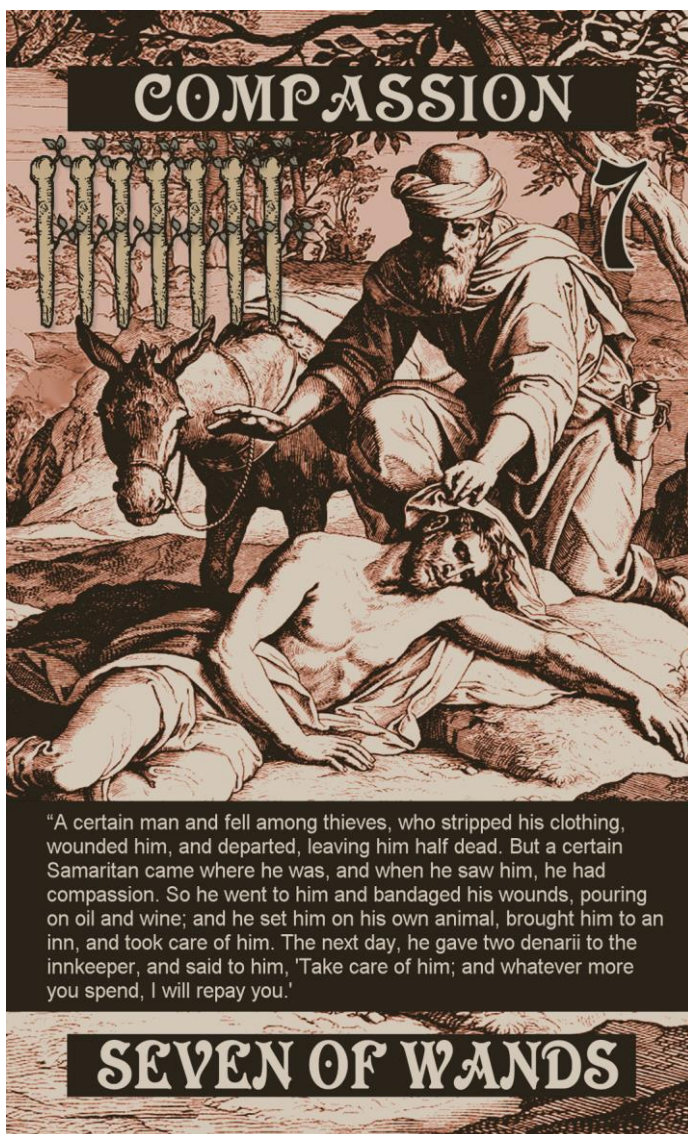
Meaning/Comments: The image on the Six of Wands Card is of Joseph being sold to the Ishmaelites to be sold into slavery in Egypt. Joseph was naïve and did not realize that he was making his brothers jealous of him. Joseph was his father's favorite and stayed in the house with his parents instead of

working in the fields with his brothers. When Joseph told his brothers that he had a dream in which his brothers bowed down to him, his brothers plotted against him. They threw Joseph into a well and then sold him into slavery. This marked Joseph's passage from naivety and the start of him learning to take care of himself. Joseph would later be falsely accused of a crime and thrown into prison. Eventually, Joseph will overcome all of the obstacles he will face, due to his trust in God, and his dream of his brothers bowing to him will come to fruition. This card represents betrayal, but through betrayal we have an opportunity learn about living prudently and who we should trust. In Joseph's case, God was the one he trusted in, and who was always there for him. If this card is reversed, it might represent faithfulness or commitment.

Related Scripture:  
Genesis 37:8-36



## SEVEN OF WANDS



Theme/Keyword: Compassion, Mercy, Empathy

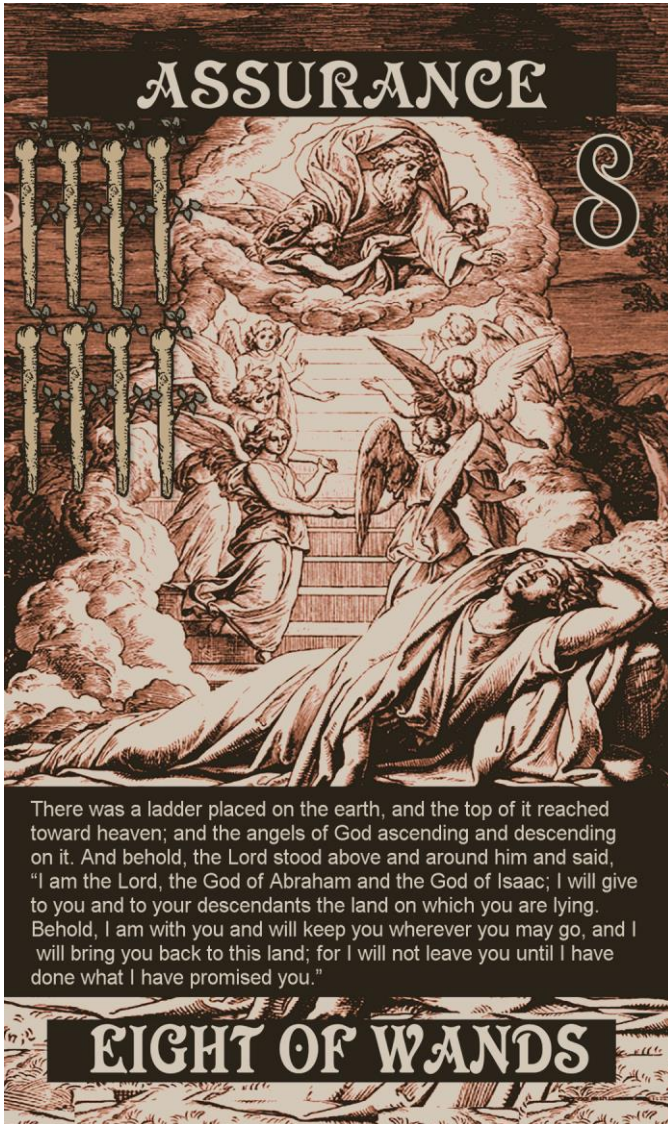
Meaning/Comments: The image on the Seven of Wands Card is of the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus told the parable in response to a question regarding, "Who is my neighbor?" As is taught elsewhere in the Bible, God does not show partiality, but judges people according to their

hearts. At the time, Samaritans were looked down upon in society, but Jesus used a Samaritan in the parable to demonstrate that it isn't about a person's outward appearance, but is the person's character that makes the person valuable. The message is to see beyond bias and prejudice, and to evaluate situations objectively. Since Jesus also taught that the Law and the Prophets could be summed up in the principles of loving God with all your heart and to love your neighbor as yourself, the Parable of the Good Samaritan demonstrates the compassion and mercy people should have towards their neighbors (those in need). This card deals with compassion, if it is reversed, it might represent a lack of empathy, or a deficit in understanding of these principles.

#### Related Scripture:

Luke 10:29-37 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? 30 And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. 33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, 34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. 36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? 37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

## EIGHT OF WANDS



Theme/Keyword: Assurance, Trust, Providence

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Eight of Wands Card is of Jacob's vision of a stairway to Heaven, often referred to as Jacob's Ladder. Jacob had previously pretended to be his brother and deceived his father in order to steal his brother's blessing. As a result, Jacob fled the land and was himself

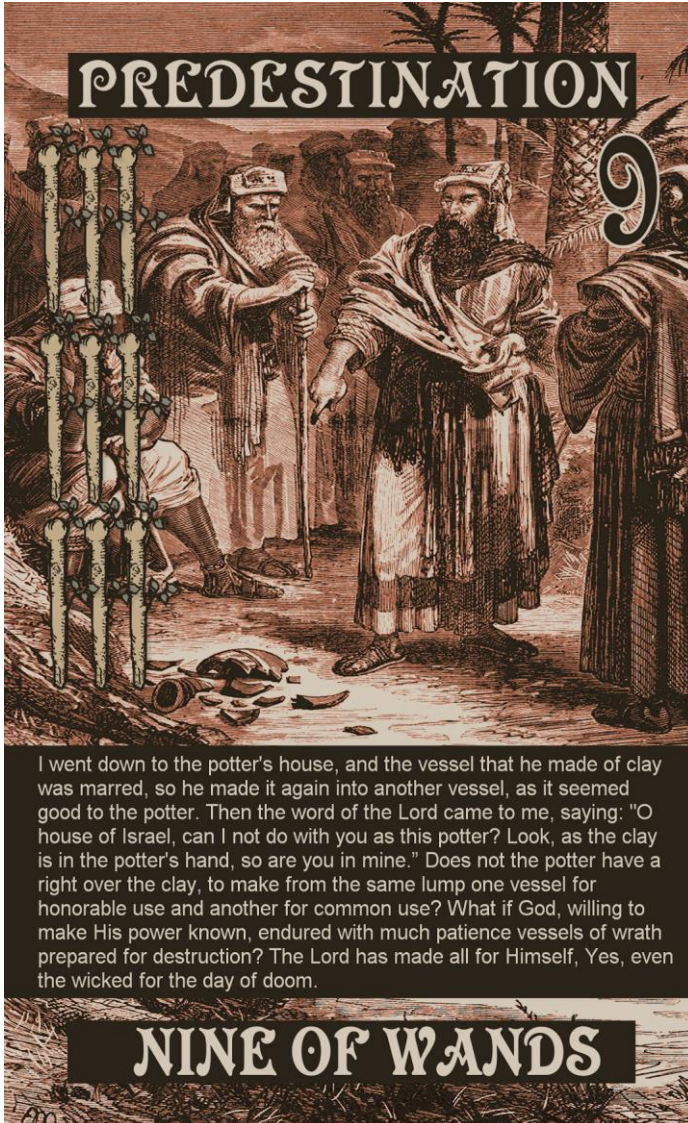
tricked into providing years of service in order to marry Rachel. When he finally returned to the land of his father, he was afraid that his brother would still be angry with him. The vision Jacob received was God's assurance that Jacob would receive the blessing from God. The point being that all of Jacob's efforts to steal his brother's blessing, to deceive his father, and the resulting years he spent in hiding and being deceived himself was unnecessary. The blessing he desired and tried to obtain through cunning, comes from God, and regardless of what Jacob tried to do, ultimately the decision as to who to bless belonged to God. In Jacob's vision, he was given reassurance directly from God that he would be blessed, and his inspired Jacob to return to the land of his fathers. However, even with this reassurance, Jacob continued to fear Esau, and it is only after he wrestled with an Angel of the Lord (Genesis Chapter 32) that Jacob finally trusted in his blessing. Jacob's wrestling with God had to do with the lack of assurance he felt regarding the blessing he attempted to obtain through deceit. In order to have faith, he needed to be assured by God through his vision of the stairwell to heaven, and later by angels actually being sent to speak with him face to face. Jacob spent many years in hiding due to his behavior, and his unwillingness to trust in God's providence caused him to set a poor example for his children. His children became jealous of Joseph, and since they did not what Joseph to receive a blessing from God that would require them to bow down to him, they betrayed their brother (selling him into slavery), and lied to their father (telling him that Joseph was killed by an evil beast). Joseph, did a much better job of trusting in God's providence, and did fulfill the vision he received without resorting to trickery.

#### Related Scripture:

Genesis 28:10-17 And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. 11 And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. 12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. 13 And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; 14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 15 And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. 16 And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not. 17 And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.



## NINE OF WANDS



Theme/Keyword: Predestination, Providence

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Nine of Wands Card is of the Potter's Vessel. We are God's handy work, and He can do with us as He pleases. We are to have faith that God will cause all things to work together for our good, and trust in His will. Joseph trusted in God's providence and was able to save his many lives; what his brother meant for evil, God intended for good

(Genesis 50:20). In contrast, Jacob attempted to obtain God's blessing on his own time frame through force and deception. Our lives are in God's hands (James 4:14). God has a plan for each of us, but our usefulness and stewardship can aid us in determining whether we are vessels of honor or dishonor. If this card is reversed, it might represent a lack of trust in God's will.

**Related Scripture:**

2 Timothy 2:20-21, Romans 9:9-26, Proverbs 16:4, Jeremiah 18:3-6, Isaiah 64:8, Isaiah 45:9-10, Romans 8:28-30, 9:10-23, Ecclesiastes 3:10-11

## TEN OF WANDS



Theme/Keyword: Boundaries, Direction, Instruction

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Ten of Wands Card is of Moses and the Ten Commandments. This event provided clear guidance from God as to how to live. YHVH is to be your only God, do not make idols and worship them, do not use the name of God in vain, remember the Sabbath, honor your parents, do not murder, commit adultery, steal, bear false witness, or covet.

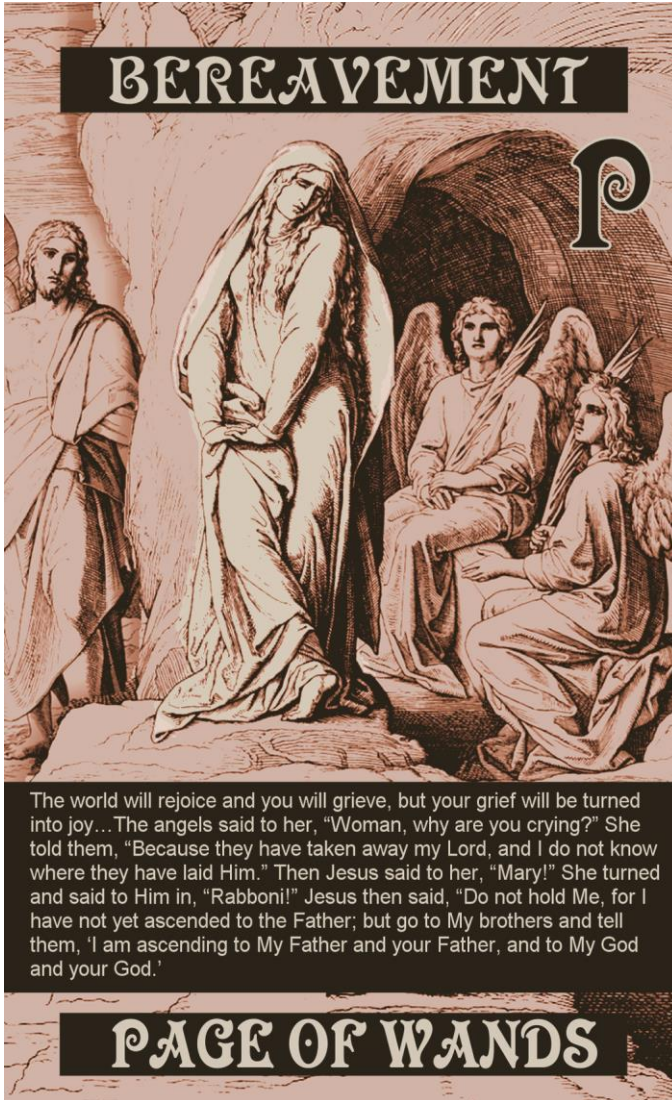


The first four commandments have to do with our relationship with God, and the last six are related to our relationships with others. We are given the choice between good and evil and life and death, and are given freewill to make choices – knowing that we will be held responsible for the consequences of our actions. In the Torah, much more guidance was provided, but much of it represented the legal system of the nation they were establishing. Jesus summarized the Ten Commandments into two: love God and love your neighbor as yourself. Ordinances regarding the eating of certain meats and things like that were not restated for Christians to follow, but the 10 Commandments still apply to everyone. Following the Ten Commandments is beneficial both spiritually and in our earthly lives. The benefits derived by maintaining the favor of God while navigating the obstacles of our lives should be common sense; since, if God is with us, who can be against us (Roman 8:31)? Listening to the advice of your parents can help prepare you for the world, and committing sins such as murder, adultery, stealing, bearing false witness, or coveting will only make your earthly life or difficult. If his card is reversed, it might represent a resistance to following the rules or a lack of guidance.

#### Related Scripture:

Deuteronomy 30:15, Exodus 20:1-17 And God spake all these words, saying, 2 I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. 7 Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. 8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: 11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. 12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. 13 Thou shalt not kill. 14 Thou shalt not commit adultery. 15 Thou shalt not steal. 16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. 17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

## PAGE OF WANDS



The world will rejoice and you will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy...The angels said to her, "Woman, why are you crying?" She told them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." Then Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in, "Rabboni!" Jesus then said, "Do not hold Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'

PAGE OF WANDS

Theme/Keyword: Bereavement, Sadness, Despair

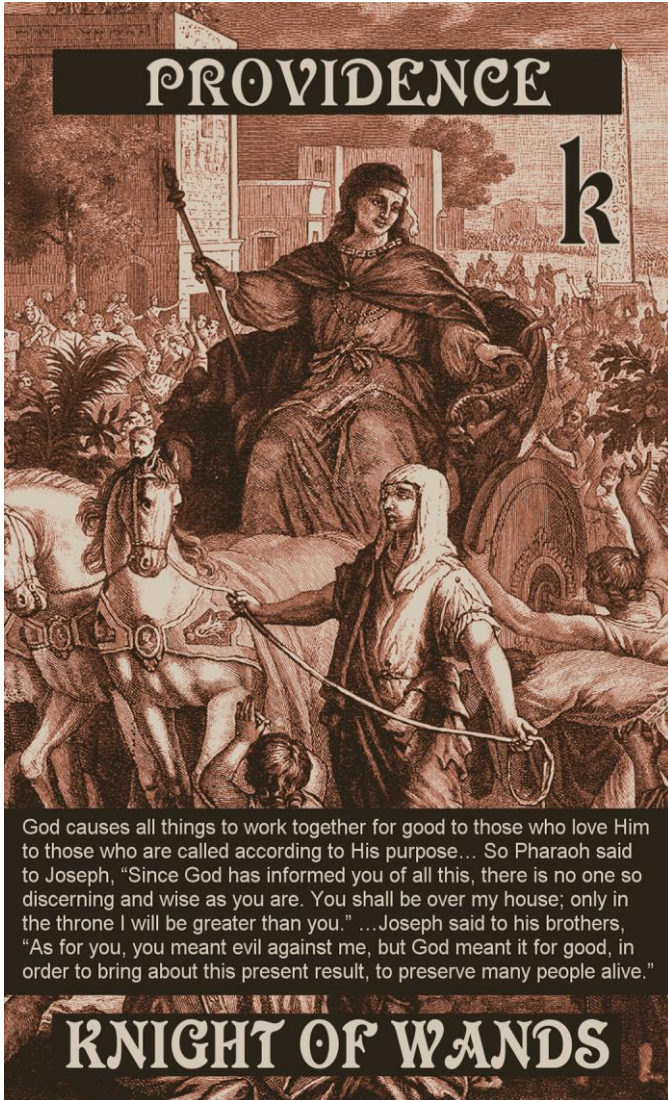
Meaning/Comments: The image on the Page of Wands Card is of Mary Magdalene discovering Jesus' body missing from the sepulcher. This card represents sadness, but our times of troubles are short-lived. *Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted* (Matthew 5:4). Humans experience sadness, because God experiences sadness; God was grieved in His heart when he saw that man's every thought and intention was evil

continually (Genesis 6:5-6). Similarly, God feels jealous when His people commit adultery against Him, and becomes angry when they defy Him. By experiencing emotions, we are given an opportunity to understand God and grow in wisdom. Mary Magdalene was the first person to witness the resurrected Jesus, which is very significant. Not only was it a woman that Jesus first appeared before, but he manifested himself to Mary before Apostles Peter or John. Mary Magdalene was a disciple of Christ who remained with him while he was being crucified, and she went to his tomb in order to anoint his body. It is probably due to her devotion, the Christ gave her the honor of being the first one to witness his resurrection. While we live on the earth, we may experience sorrow and will experience hard times, but we are to have faith and recognize that although these experiences are painful, they are also temporary. Using Mary as an example, we are to remain faithful and even diligent in the times of our despair, knowing that those who mourn will be comforted, and that God will wipe away every tear (Revelation 21:4). If this card is reversed, it might represent happiness or overcoming sadness, or it might represent a lack of understanding of such emotions or as to why suffering exists on the earth.

**Related Scripture:**

Mark 16:1-11, John 16:19-22, 20:1-18, Luke 24:1-12, Revelation 21:4

## KNIGHT OF WANDS



God causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him to those who are called according to His purpose... So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you are. You shall be over my house; only in the throne I will be greater than you." ...Joseph said to his brothers, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive."

Theme/Keyword: Providence, Manifestation, Fulfillment of Prophecy

Meaning/Comments: the Knight of Wands Card is of Joseph being appointed over all the land of Egypt, so that only in the throne was Pharaoh above him. Through all of the trials and difficulties that Joseph faced in his life, he remained faithful to God and grew in wisdom; to the point that Pharaoh determined that Joseph's knowledge of God and wisdom was unmatched. At the beginning of his life, Joseph was naïve. He always told the truth, even if

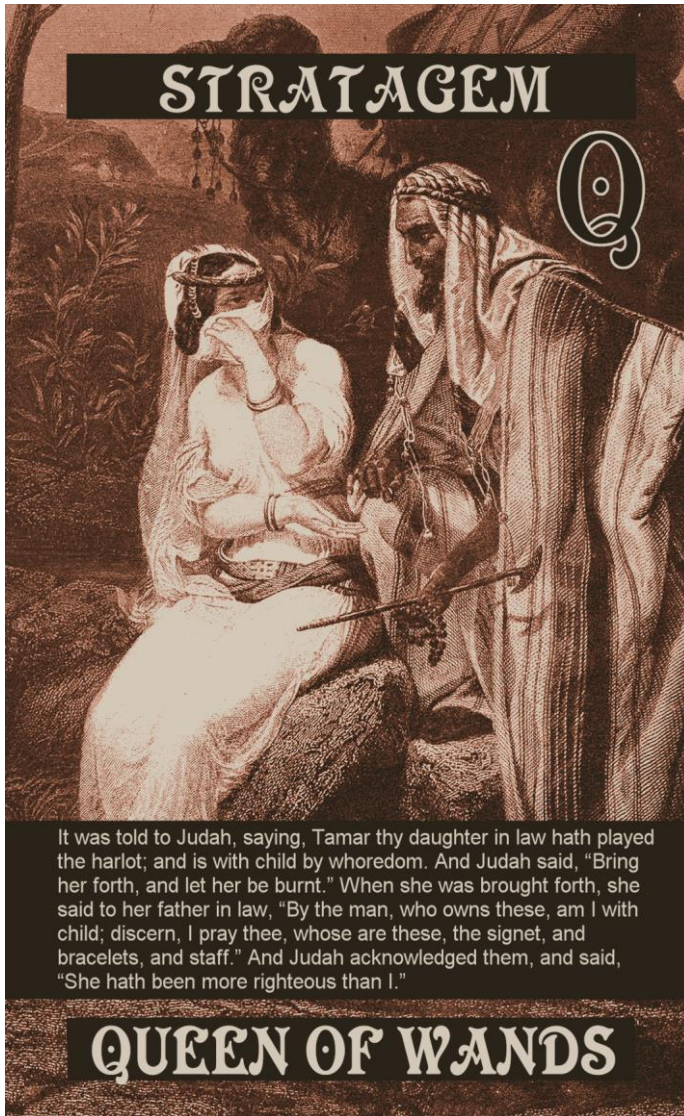
the truth was something that others did not want to hear. He did not conceal his dream of his brothers one day bowing down to him, and his honesty worked against him – leading to him being sold into slavery. As a slave, Joseph proved to be a good steward in his master’s house, and his unwillingness to compromise his integrity led to him resisting his master’s wife’s attempt to seduce him, which resulted in him being put in prison. While in prison, he again proved through his efforts to be a trusted steward. He interpreted the dreams of two other prisoners and told them the truth regarding the interpretations. He did not try to deceive them or manipulate them to his advantage, but openly stated, “*remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house* (Genesis 40:14).” As a result, he eventually was given the opportunity to interpret Pharaoh’s dream and be appointed as Pharaoh’s steward. Joseph rose to power without compromising himself, and he remained faithful to God in every circumstance; whether in power, in prison, or as a slave. The power Joseph received from Pharaoh allowed him to save the lives of many people, including his own family members. When Joseph was reunited with his brothers, he did not seek revenge against them, but spoke with them in wisdom and about God’s will. Joseph’s life is an example for us, so that we might remain faithful to God in any circumstance, and trust in God’s providence in our lives. If this card is reversed, it might represent a lack of trust in God’s plan.

Related Scripture:

Genesis 50:19-21, Romans 8:28, Genesis 41:38-45



## QUEEN OF WANDS



Theme/Keyword: Stratagem, Problem Solving

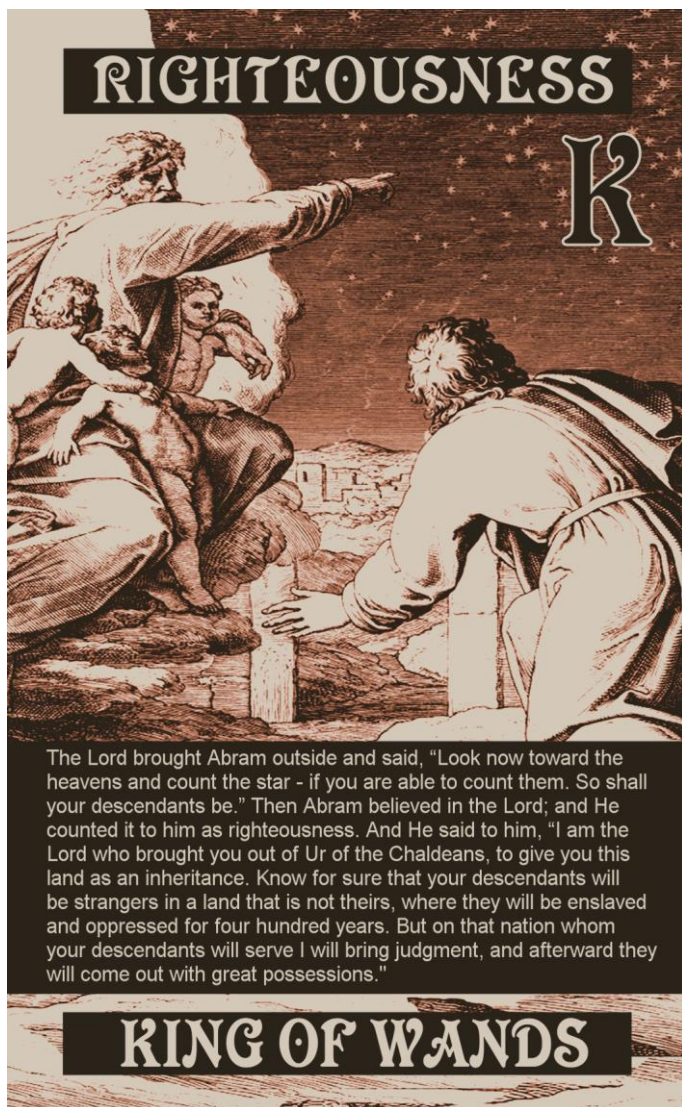
Meaning/Comments: The image on the Queen of Wands Card is of Tamar pretending to be a prostitute in order to deceive Judah. Tamar was married to Judah's son Er, but he was wicked, so God killed him. According to their tradition, Er's brother Onan was to be able to father children through Tamar on behalf of his brother, but Onan had no intention to do so. Onan had sex with



Tamar, but practiced coitus interruptus to avoid getting her pregnant – this displeased God, so God slew Onan also. Judah then told Tamar to go back to her father’s house and live as a widow until his next son grew up, but Judah reneged on his promise. So Tamar dressed up as a prostitute and deceived Judah into having sex with her, and she thereby conceived, allowing her to provide a child in the line of her dead husband. Tamar is an ancestor of both King David and Jesus Christ. Tamar was mistreated by Judah and his sons, and needed to outsmart Judah to avoid remaining as a widow in her father’s house. Judah’s sons were so wicked that God required both of their deaths, and Judah is the one who suggested selling his brother into slavery instead of killing him so that they could also make a profit while getting rid of their brother. No one was looking out for Tamar’s interests, so she looked out for her own, and when Judah attempted to have her put to death, he determined that she was more righteous than he was. This card deals with shrewdness and strategy, and the need to live with prudence and protect yourself from the evils in the world. If this card is reversed, it might represent a lack of cunning or being walked all over.

Related Scripture:  
Genesis 38:6-26

## KING OF WANDS



The Lord brought Abram outside and said, "Look now toward the heavens and count the star - if you are able to count them. So shall your descendants be." Then Abram believed in the Lord; and He counted it to him as righteousness. And He said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land as an inheritance. Know for sure that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed for four hundred years. But on that nation whom your descendants will serve I will bring judgment, and afterward they will come out with great possessions."

Theme/Keyword: Righteousness

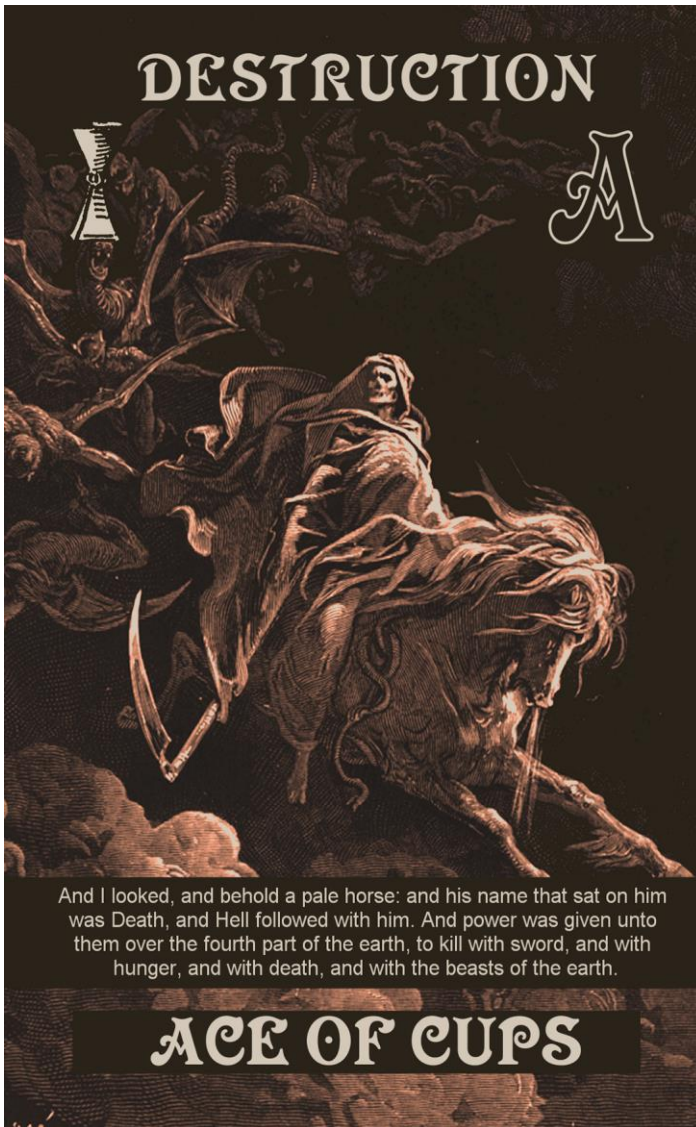
Meaning/Comments: The image of the King of Wands Card is of God rewarding Abraham for his righteousness and promising to make his descendants as numerous as the stars. God also told him that Abraham's descendants will be enslaved for four hundred years and then rescued. Abraham was considered righteous due to his faith and willingness to follow God, and God was faithful to everything He promised. Abraham's children

Isaac and Ishmael established the Jewish and Muslim faiths, and Christians are considered Abraham's children through their faith. Abraham did become the father of many nations. Abraham was faithful in leaving Ur of the Chaldeans, but he did not wait on the Lord while waiting for his first child to be born. Instead, he had Ishmael with his wife's handmaiden, of whom it was foretold that he would constantly be in conflict with his brothers. Abraham is an ancestor of three major world religions, and their philosophies drive many nations. Although Abraham's descendants have been in conflict for many centuries, the impact Abraham has made on the world through his willingness to follow God has been profound. This card represents righteousness, faith, and trust in God's promises. Through our choices, we may cause more difficulties for ourselves, but as Joseph discovered, through adversity – and even the conflict between brothers – God's providence can take place. What humans mean for evil, God can use for good. Everyone has their faults. At one point in history the Tribe of Benjamin was almost completely wiped out, but had they not survived, Paul the Apostle would not have been born and the Gentiles would not have learned about God. I do not have anything good to say about Judah or his sons, but if Tamar had not outstrategized them neither Jesus nor King David would have been born. The message of this card is to trust in God, and wait for His will. God is faithful and will fulfill His promises. Even if we grow impatient and make things worse through our decisions, we must remain tolerant of others, and realize that even if conflict results, God can use it to bless us or the world. If this card is reversed it might represent a lack of trust in God's plan.

Related Scripture:

Genesis 15:5-21

## ACE OF CUPS



Theme/Keyword: Destruction, Death, Rebirth, Completion, Beginning

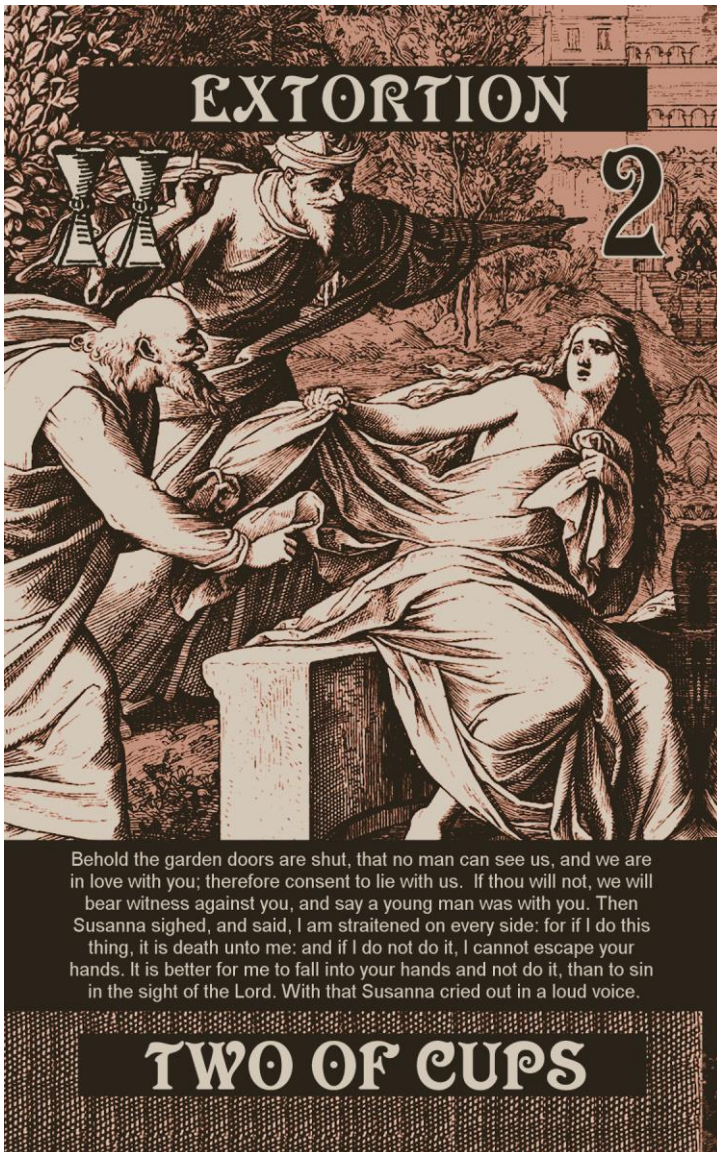
Meaning/Comments: The image on the Ace of Cups Card is of the Fourth Horseman of the Apocalypse from the Book of Revelations. The Fourth Horseman represents the beginning of the end. For the saved, this marks the beginning of a new era without evil, death, or suffering, but for evildoers,

this marks the beginning of judgment and destruction. In a tarot card spread, this card would represent an event or situation coming to its conclusion, and the need to move beyond it. The ending of something is often difficult, and person enters a liminal stage while figuring out what to do next, come to terms with the loss of his/her investment, and determines how to move forward. If this card is reversed, it might represent a person's unwillingness to accept the writing on the wall, or to recognize that even if the person is disappointed, he/she must accept that things come to an end and change is sometimes necessary.

Related Scripture:  
Revelation 6:5-6



## TWO OF CUPS



Behold the garden doors are shut, that no man can see us, and we are in love with you; therefore consent to lie with us. If thou wilt not, we will bear witness against you, and say a young man was with you. Then Susanna sighed, and said, I am straitened on every side: for if I do this thing, it is death unto me: and if I do not do it, I cannot escape your hands. It is better for me to fall into your hands and not do it, than to sin in the sight of the Lord. With that Susanna cried out in a loud voice.

Theme/Keyword: Extortion, Blackmail, Injustice, Death Before Dishonor

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Two of Cups Card is of Susanna being sexually extorted in the garden. Two elders threatened to falsely accuse her of fornication, if she did not submit to having sex with them. Susanna

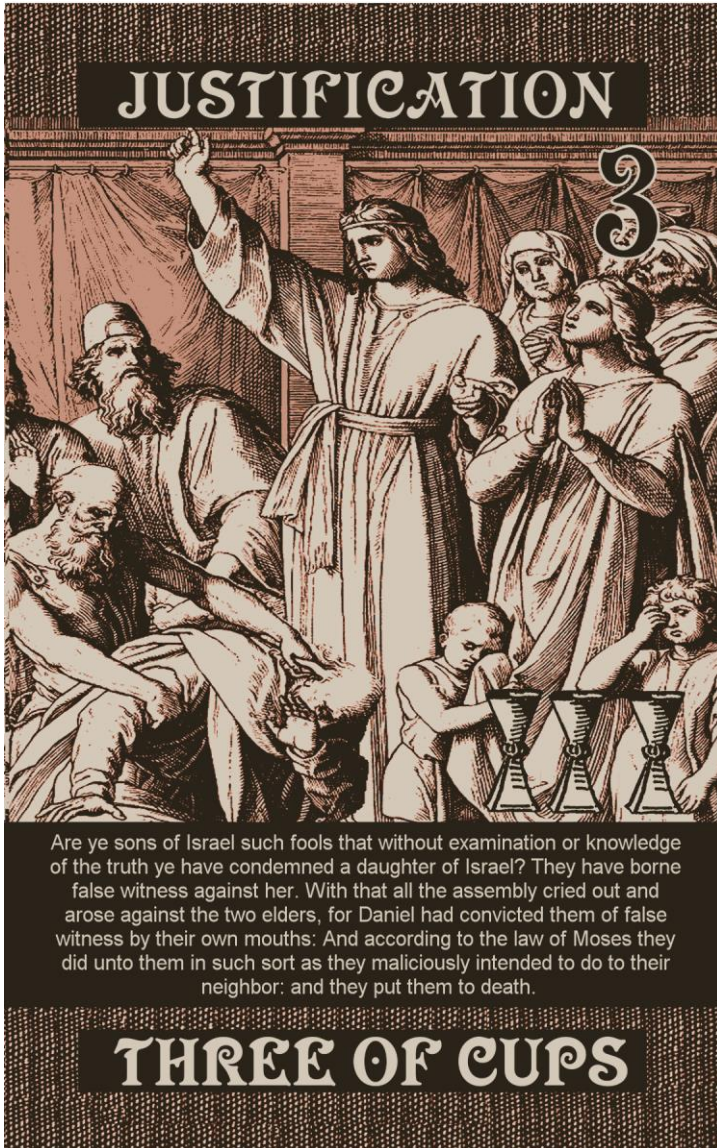


elected to call for help, because she believed that when only being given bad options, she would be better for her to not sin against God or compromise her honor – even if it is resulted in her death. The card represents doing the right thing, even if that places you at risk. If this card is reversed, it might represent inappropriate compromise.

Related Scripture:

Susanna 1:20-24

## THREE OF CUPS



Theme/Keyword: Justification, Rescue, Truth

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Three of Cups Card is of Daniel coming to Susanna's rescue. Daniel separated the two accusing elders and had them recount their stories separately in order to demonstrate their

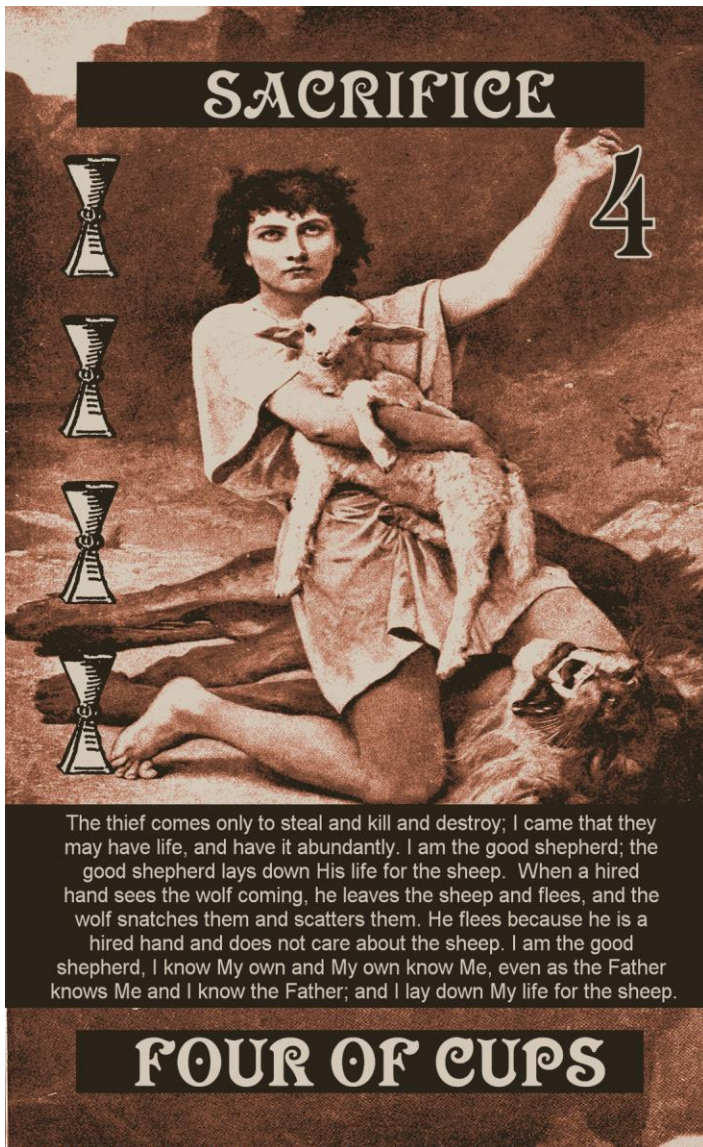
inconsistencies and prove that they were lying. The penalty for bearing false witness was that the guilty parties would receive the punishment they intended for the person they accused, which meant death for them. Susanna was unwilling to compromise her honor or sin against God, so God sent Daniel to justify and rescue her from her dilemma. This card represents being there for others and/or examining the facts before rushing to a conclusion. If this card is reversed it might represent injustice. Sometimes, the world isn't fair and we may be penalized for doing the right thing, but as long as we do not compromise ourselves, we can be proud of our actions and know that God will reward us at the appointed time.

#### Related Scripture:

Susanna 1:49-63 Return again to the place of judgment: for they have borne false witness against her. 50 Therefore all the people turned again in haste, and the elders said unto him, Come, sit down among us, and shew it us, seeing God hath given thee the honour of an elder. 51 Then said Daniel unto them, Put these two aside one far from another, and I will examine them. 52 So when they were put asunder one from another, he called one of them, and said unto him, O thou that art waxen old in wickedness, now thy sins which thou hast committed aforetime are come to light. 53 For thou hast pronounced false judgment and hast condemned the innocent and hast let the guilty go free; albeit the Lord saith, The innocent and righteous shalt thou not slay. 54 Now then, if thou hast seen her, tell me, Under what tree sawest thou them companying together? Who answered, Under a mastick tree. 55 And Daniel said, Very well; thou hast lied against thine own head; for even now the angel of God hath received the sentence of God to cut thee in two. 56 So he put him aside, and commanded to bring the other, and said unto him, O thou seed of Chanaan, and not of Judah, beauty hath deceived thee, and lust hath perverted thine heart. 57 Thus have ye dealt with the daughters of Israel, and they for fear companied with you: but the daughter of Juda would not abide your wickedness. 58 Now therefore tell me, under what tree didst thou take them companying together? Who answered, under an holm tree. 59 Then said Daniel unto him, Well; thou hast also lied against thine own head: for the angel of God waiteth with the sword to cut thee in two, that he may destroy you. 60 With that all the assembly cried out with a loud voice, and praised God, who saveth them that trust in him. 61 And they arose against the two elders, for Daniel had convicted them of false witness by their own mouth: 62 And according to the law of Moses they did unto them in such sort as they maliciously intended to do to their neighbour: and they put them to death. Thus the innocent blood was saved the same day. 63 Therefore Chelcias and his wife praised God for their daughter Susanna, with Joacim her husband, and all the kindred, because there was no dishonesty found in her. 64 From that day forth was Daniel had in great reputation in the sight of the people.

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## FOUR OF CUPS



Theme/Keyword: Sacrifice

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Four of Cups Card is of a young King David rescuing a sheep from the lion's mouth. David was a good shepherd, who placed himself at personal risk in order to protect/rescue the defenseless. Jesus later described himself as the Good Shepherd, and pointed out that the

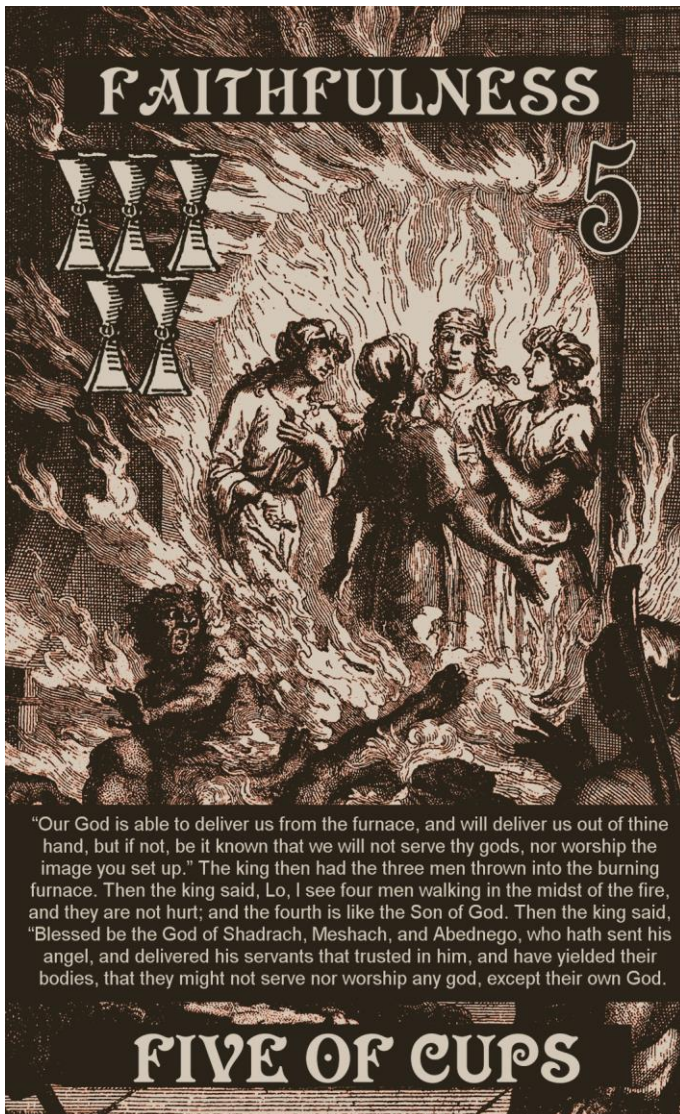
good shepherd is willing to fight the wolves and die for the sheep. This card represents sacrifice – including the ultimate sacrifice – in order to do the right thing. If this card is reversed, it might represent selfishness or a lack of commitment.

Related Scripture:

John 10:8-18, 1 Samuel 17:34-35



## FIVE OF CUPS



Theme/Keyword: Faithfulness, Death before Dishonor, Uncompromising

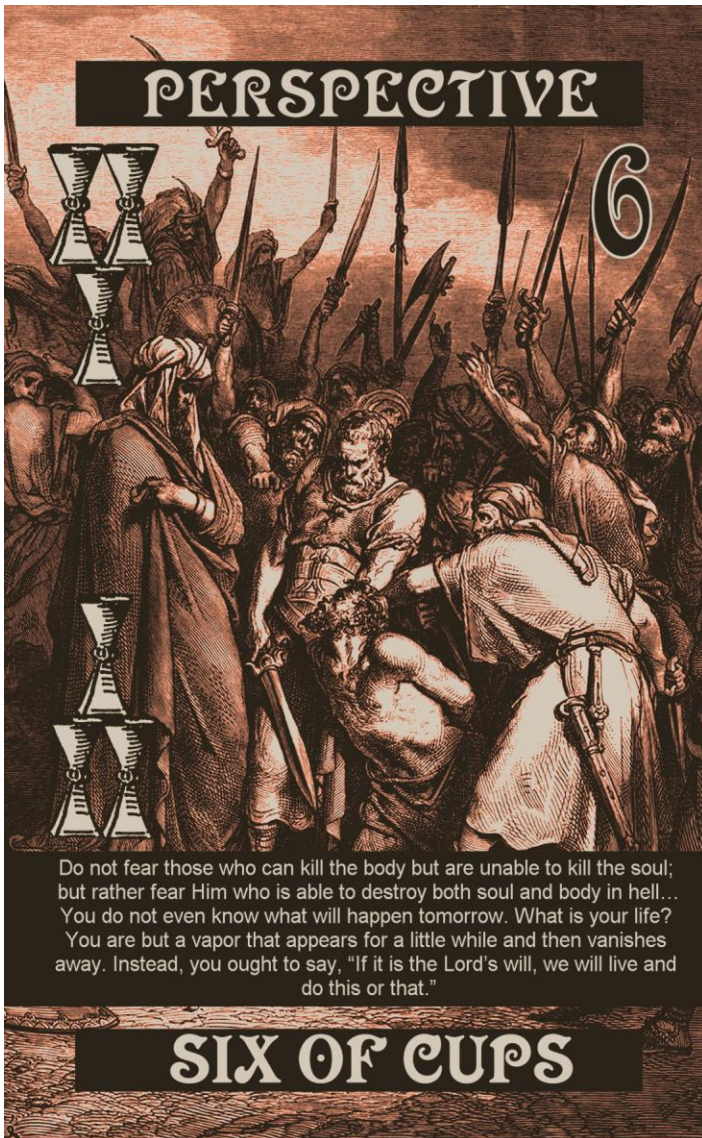
Meaning/Comments: The image on the Five of Cups Card is of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego being cast into the furnace by King Nebuchadnezzar for refusing to bow down and worship his image. The three Hebrews trusted that God was able to save them, but determined that even if God did not rescue them, they would not worship other gods. In this



situation, God did rescue them, and Nebuchadnezzar made a proclamation that if anyone spoke against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego then they would be cut to pieces. This card is about remaining faithful unto death, and in this situation, the three were spared. However, even if they died, their faithfulness would have been rewarded in the afterlife. Publilius Syrus is quoted as saying, *“What is left when honor is lost?”* The answer is nothing. Similarly, Patrick Henry said, *“Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!”* Life is precious and we are to live cautiously and protect ourselves; however, some things are worth dying for. If this card is reversed, it might represent infidelity or a lack of commitment.

Related Scripture:  
Daniel 3:3-30

## SIX OF CUPS



Theme/Keyword: Perspective, Looking Beyond, Hope, Trust in God's Will

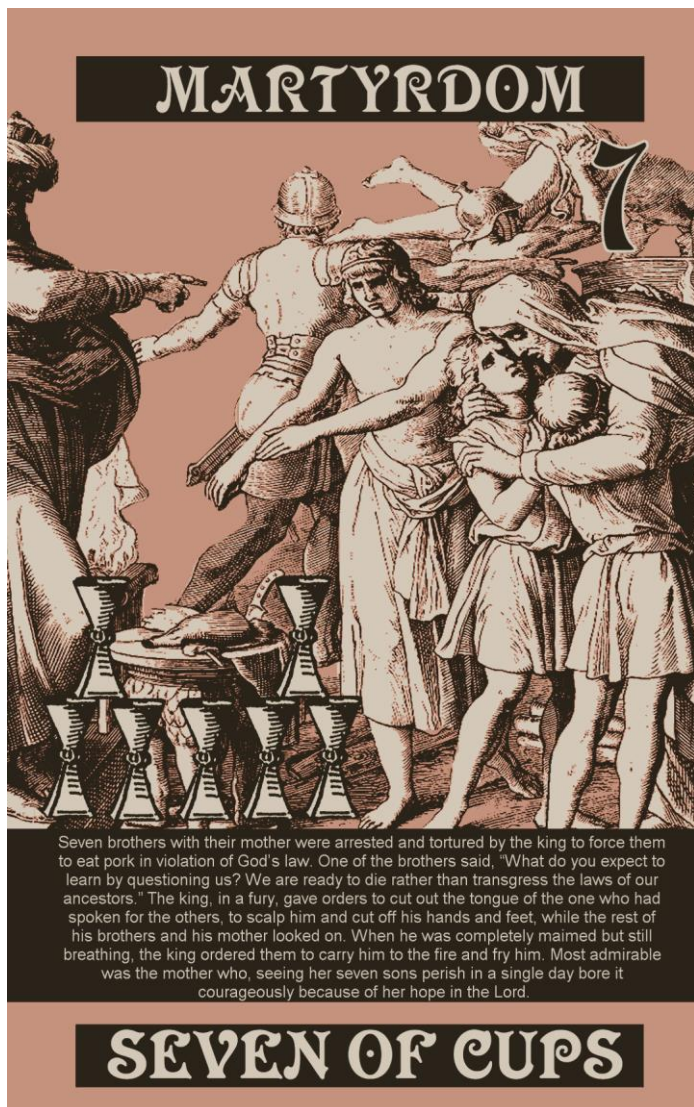
Meaning/Comments: The image on the Six of Cups Card is of a man who has fallen into the hands of the enemy. The verse on the card speaks reminds us not to fear death or the suffering humans can inflict on us. Our trust and faith should be in God and in His judgment. Although on earth it may appear that

the evil prosper, but appearances can be deceiving. The evil are not actually prospering, but are committing acts that will ultimately seal their fates. The faithful may be led away as sheep to the slaughter (Romans 8:36), but they will find victory in their deaths. Life is but a test, to see if we will choose good or evil. While we live, we are given opportunities to learn and apply judgment and discernment, but our lives are short and will vanish away like a vapor. The purpose of life isn't to live long, but to live well. Our deaths do not represent destruction, but completion of our trials. As Paul stated, '*To die is gain* (Philippians 1:20-22).' We have nothing to fear in death. If this card is reversed, it might represent a lack of perspective, a feeling of fear, or not understanding one's purpose in life.

Related Scripture:

Matthew 10:28, James 4:13-15

## SEVEN OF CUPS



Theme/Keyword: Martyrdom, Commitment, Faith, Trust, Obedience

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Seven of Cups Card is of a mother and her seven sons being martyred for refusing to disobey the scriptures and eat pork. The mother and each of her sons remained faithful to God unto death, and each experienced slow, painful, torturous deaths. They trusted in their resurrection, and that their persecutors were storing up persecution for

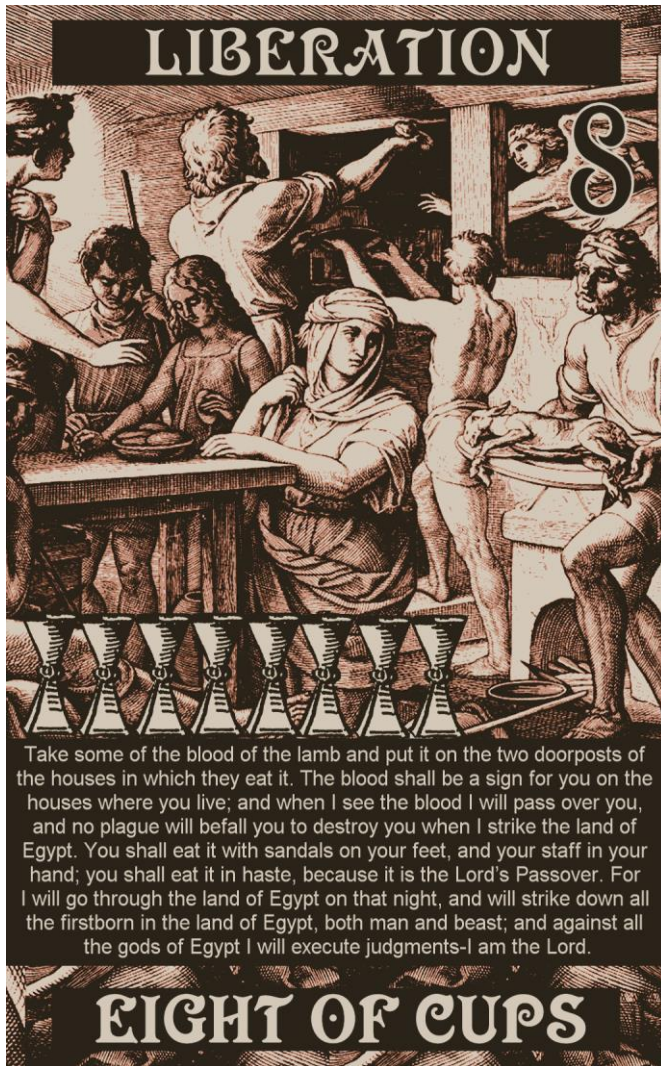
themselves. All of the cards in the Cups suit have dealt with similar subject matter; namely, standing firm on your beliefs and willing to accept death before compromise. As in the Six of Cups Card, the fear of death is based on one's perspective. The family in the Book of Maccabees trusted in God and remained loyal to him. In a tarot spread, this card would represent accepting difficulties without compromising your integrity while hoping for a better future. If this card is reversed, it might represent a lack of conviction or an absence of trust in God's promises.

Related Scripture:

2 Maccabees 7:1-42



## EIGHT OF CUPS



Take some of the blood of the lamb and put it on the two doorposts of the houses in which they eat it. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. You shall eat it with sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; you shall eat it in haste, because it is the Lord's Passover. For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments-I am the Lord.

Theme/Keyword: Liberation, Rescue, Freedom

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Eight of Cups Card is of the first Passover, when God instructed the Hebrew people to sacrifice a lamb and mark their homes with its blood so that their houses would be passed over when He smote the first born of Egypt. This was the final plague against Egypt, and was the one that finally convinced Pharaoh to free the Hebrew people from slavery. This event foreshadowed the salvation that would come

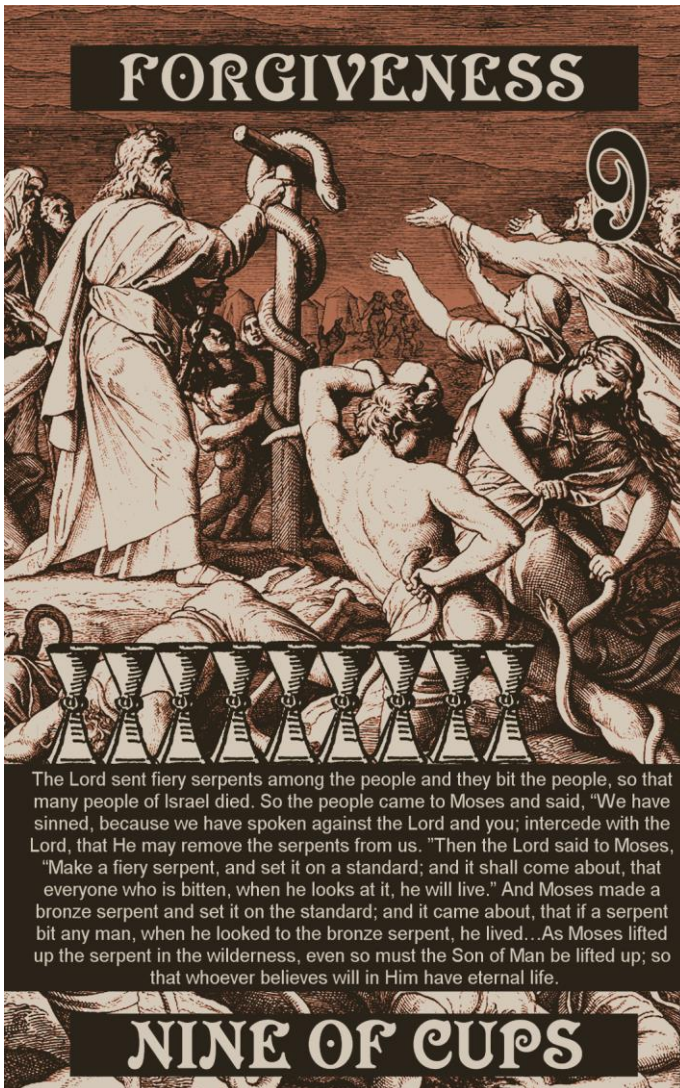


through Christ's death on the cross. The people were not automatically spared/protected, but needed to follow God's instructions and take certain actions in order to secure their salvations. This card represents liberation from oppression through faith in God's promise. If this card is reversed, it might represent feeling trapped in a situation, or a lack of faith in God's promises.

Related Scripture:

Exodus 12:1-13

## NINE OF CUPS



Theme/Keyword: Forgiveness

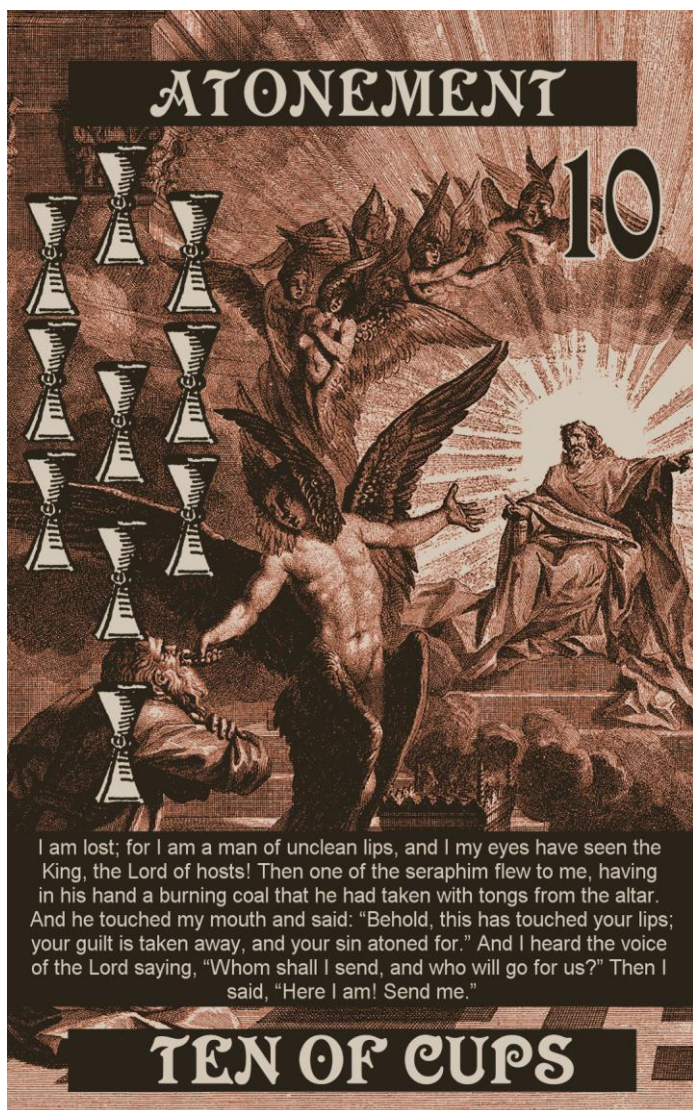
Meaning/Comments: The image on the Nine of Cups Card is of Moses setting up the Bronze Serpent in the desert. Due to the people's sins, God sent fiery serpents among the people. When the people repented, God told Moses to set up the Bronze Serpent on a pole and whoever was bitten by a serpent could look to the Bronze Serpent would live. Similar to the Feast of

Passover, the Bronze Serpent was also a foreshadowing Christ on the Cross. In the same way that the Hebrew people could look to the Bronze Serpent to escape the punishment of death for their sins, those who look to the Cross of Christ can have their sins forgiven and receive eternal life. This card represents forgiveness, but forgiveness is not automatic. In order to receive the forgiveness God offers, the sinner must recognize their need for forgiveness and must have faith in God's promises and look to the cross. If this card is reversed, it might represent a feeling of being unforgivable, or a lack of faith in God's promises.

Related Scripture:

Numbers 21:6-20, John 3:14-15

## TEN OF CUPS



Theme/Keyword: Atonement, Penitence, Repentance

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Ten of Cups Card is of Isaiah's vision of the throne of God. Isaiah stated that he was unworthy because he had unclean lips, then an angel took a hot coal and touched it to Isaiah's lips and purified his lips. When God ask who He should send to speak to the people, Isaiah stated, "here I am, send Me." Since his lips had been purified,

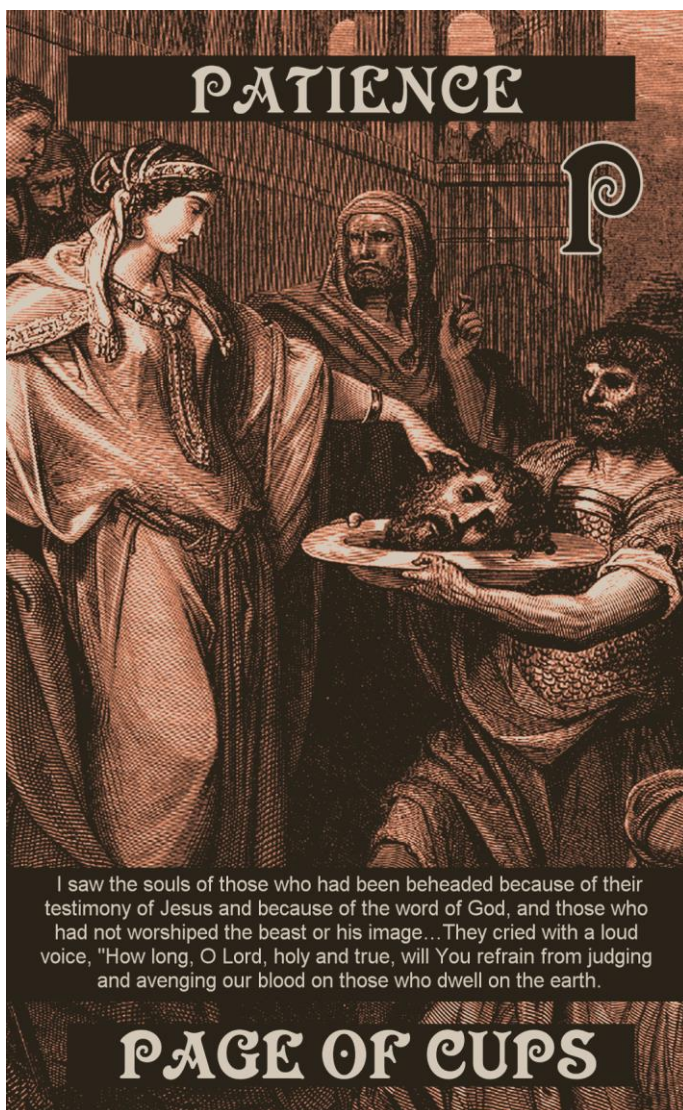
he was worthy to deliver God's message. This card has to do with atonement. Isaiah confessed his sins, and was purified of them. The message he was sent to preach would be delivered to unrepentant sinners, who would not listen to the message. Similar to how God hardened Pharaoh's heart in order for His will to be done (bringing judgment against Egypt on behalf of all the wronged people who have been crying out to God against them), the people who Isaiah was sent to were blind and deaf to the message so that God's purpose might be fulfilled. Jesus also preached in parables, so that only those to whom the message was sent would understand it, and the unintended hearers would not comprehend it. Ultimately, this allowed for the message to be given to the gentiles (Acts 28:28). Prior to a person's sins being forgiven, they must repent, and physically take action to make amends. In Isaiah's case, that involved purifying his lips, and volunteering to go forth in the service of God. For the gentiles, it involves repenting of their sins, and committing to follow the teachings of Jesus and living the rest of their lives by God's commandments. If this card is reversed, it might represent an absence of repentance, or an unwillingness to take action to make amends.

#### Related Scripture:

Isaiah 6:1-12, Acts 28:26-28, Matthew 13:10-17, John 12:37-43



## PAGE OF CUPS



Theme/Keyword: Patience, Endurance, Fortitude

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Page of Cups Card is of John the Baptist having been beheaded at the request of Herod's daughter. The verse on the card is of those who have been martyred over their service to God crying out for justice. Just as those who are still living on earth must wait patiently for God to grant them justice over their victimizers, the souls of



those who have been martyred are also waiting for the appointed time for God to avenge them. Although evildoer may appear to prosper while living on earth, they will not escape judgment. The wicked may seem like they are successful, but they are actually storing up wrath for themselves. The Bible is clear that God hates evil, and they He will not at all acquit the wicked (Nahum 1:3). Until the Day of Judgment, God's followers must remain patient, and have faith that God is faithful to His promises and will grant His children vengeance over their adversaries (Deuteronomy 32:35, Romans 12:19, Luke 18:3). If this card is reversed, it might represent a lack of patience or an absence of faith in God's promises.

Related Scripture:

Revelation 6:9-11, Mark 6:17-29, Revelation 20:4-6

## KNIGHT OF CUPS



Theme/Keyword: Remembrance

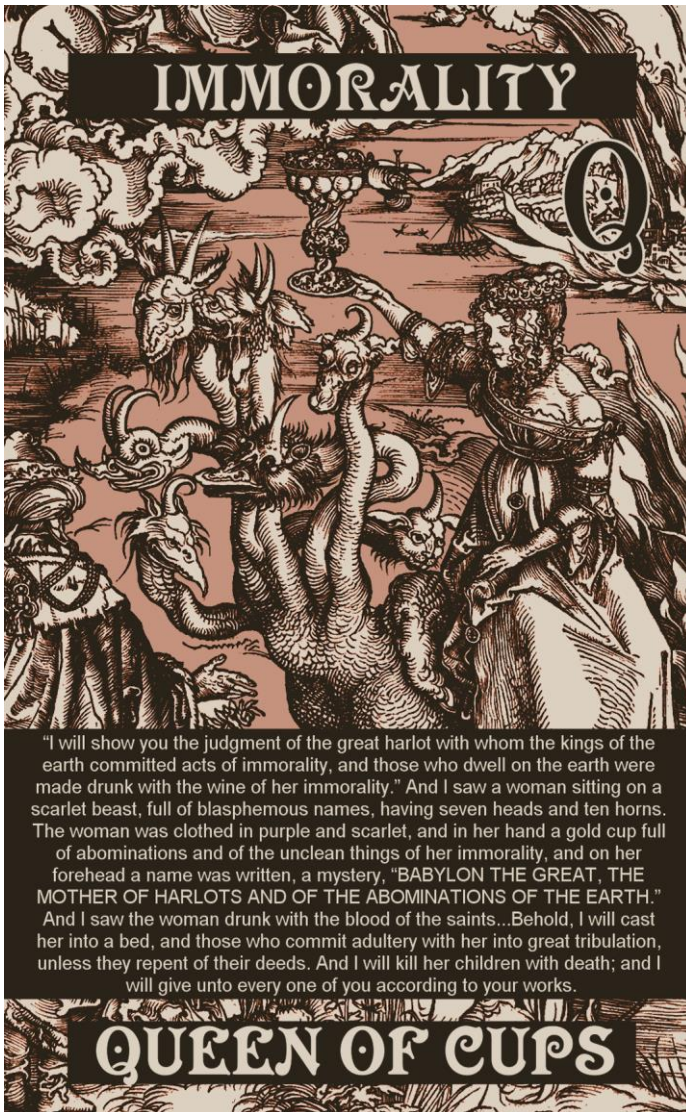
Meaning/Comments: The image on the Knight of Cups Card is of Jesus instituting the First Communion, which is to be done in remembrance of him. Communion represents the New Covenant in his blood, and Christians remembering that Jesus' body was broken for them. The act of communion is a symbolic gesture related to accepting Christ's sacrifice for the forgiveness

of our sins. This is what the Feast of Passover and looking to the Bronze Serpent were foreshadows of. It is any act of purification, similar to Isaiah touching the hot coal to this mouth as an act of atonement. It represents remembering Christ's sacrifice, accepting the forgiveness he offers, and committing to live a life of commitment to God's ordinances. If this card is reversed, it might represent a lack of understanding of these concepts (being blind or deaf to the message), or someone being a forgetful hearer who is missing out on the blessings available to him/her (James 1:25).

Related Scripture:

Luke 22:19-21, 1 Corinthians 11:22-30

# QUEEN OF CUPS



"I will show you the judgment of the great harlot with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality." And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints...Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

Theme/Keyword: Immorality

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Queen of Cups Card is of the Whore of Babylon riding on the seven headed beast from the Book of Revelations. The verses on the card are about the Whore of Babylon and the woman Jezebel, who was also in the Book of Revelations. Both of these women lead people astray and encourage them to commit immorality. The message of

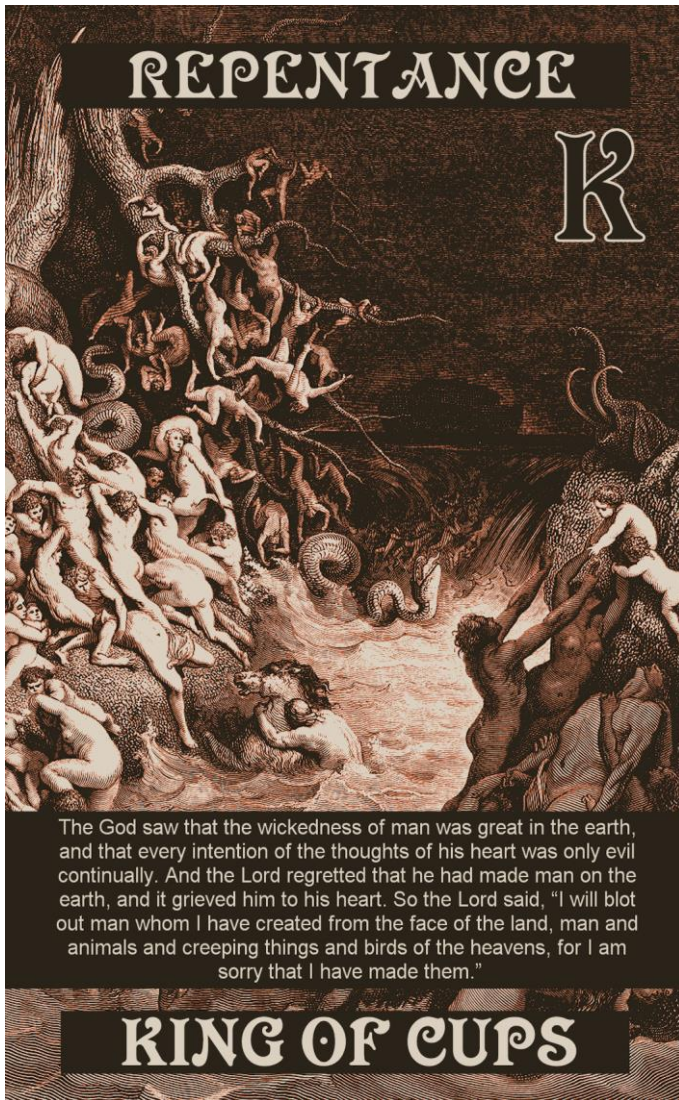
this card is about sin and temptation. Christians must live within a sinful world, but they are not to tolerate evil. Particularly, they are not to tolerate other Christians who engage in immorality. If this card appears in a tarot spread, it might mean the subject of the reading is engaged in immorality, he/she may be associating with or tolerating immoral people, or is being tempted by it (the exact meaning would be based on the cards around it and/or the tarot readers intuition). If this card is reversed, it will still have something to do with immorality, but would possess the opposite meaning, such as having overcome temptation or made positive changes with the person's life. Regardless of if it is right side up or reversed, the concept of immorality or sin is associated with whoredom, because it relates to sinning against God's commandments or committing adultery against him.

**Related Scripture:**

Revelation 17:1-13, 2:20-24, 1 Corinthians 5:9-11



## KING OF CUPS



Theme/Keyword: Repentance, Regret, Remorse

Meaning/Comments: The image on the King of Cups Card is of Noah's Ark and the Great Flood. The repentance the verse on the card speaks of represents God's regret/sadness for creating man on the earth. God had given humans freewill and the ability to choose between good and evil, but they used their freedom to be consumed with evil – to the point that God felt the

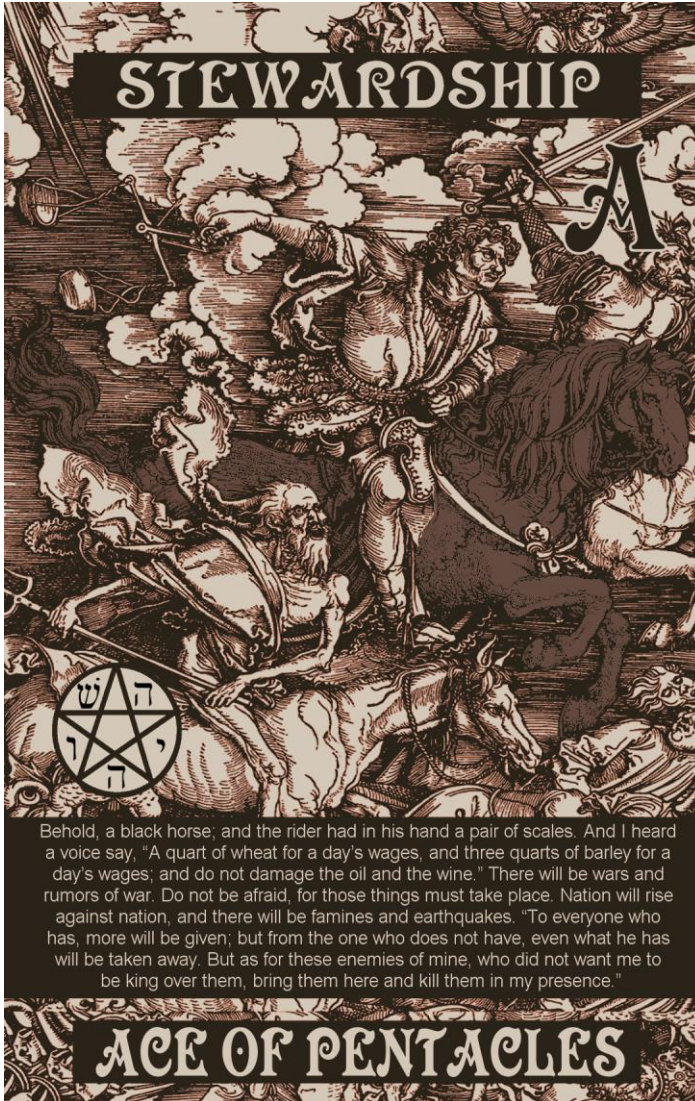


need to wipe them out and start over. This is an example that we are able to follow (not the wiping everyone out part). When we recognize sin within our lives, we must repent from it, eradicate it, and move beyond it. In a tarot spread this card might represent regret, the repentance, or the need to make drastic changes and start over. If this card is reversed, it might represent stagnation or trying to hold onto a job or relationship that has clearly run its course – it might be time to give up on an unfruitful pursuit and move on.

#### Related Scripture:

Genesis 6:5-8 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. 7 And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

## ACE OF PENTACLES



Behold, a black horse; and the rider had in his hand a pair of scales. And I heard a voice say, "A quart of wheat for a day's wages, and three quarts of barley for a day's wages; and do not damage the oil and the wine." There will be wars and rumors of war. Do not be afraid, for those things must take place. Nation will rise against nation, and there will be famines and earthquakes. "To everyone who has, more will be given; but from the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to be king over them, bring them here and kill them in my presence."

Theme/Keyword: Stewardship

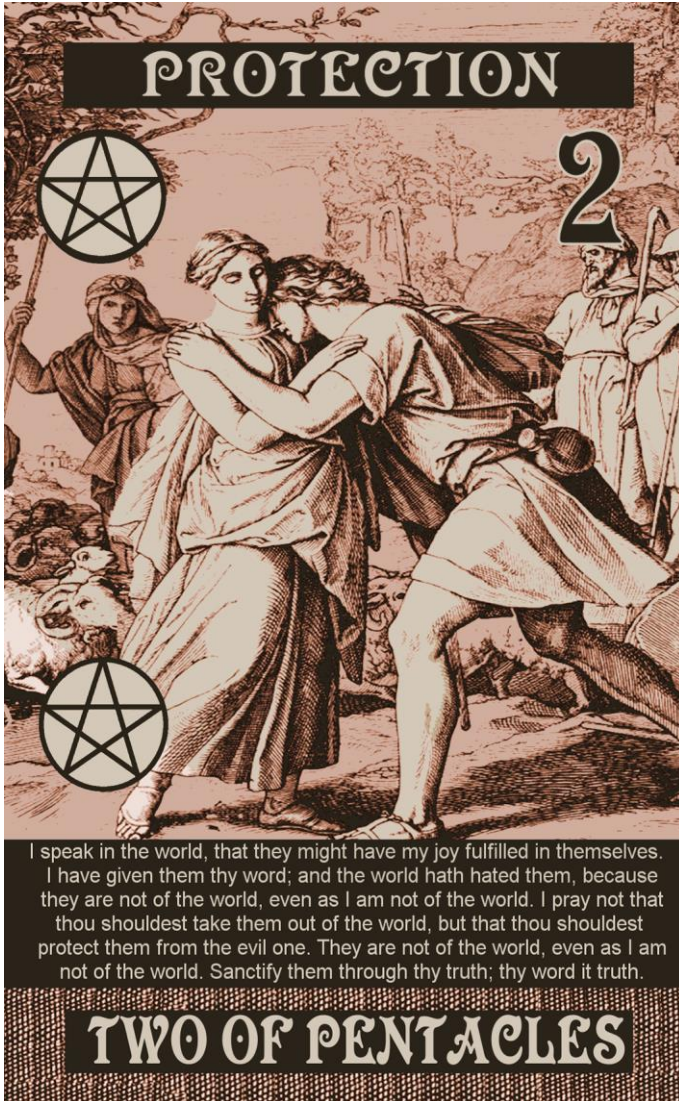
Meaning/Comments: The image on the Ace of Pentacles Card is of the Third Horseman of the Apocalypse as portrayed in the Book of Revelations; his coming represents famine and pestilence on the earth. He holds a scale in his hands representing the need for balance and appropriate stewardship. Droughts and famines are not devastating to those who are prepared for them. In Genesis Chapter 41 Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream and foretold

of a coming famine. In response, Pharaoh appointed Joseph to be his steward and to prepare for the coming hardships. Joseph was able to preserve not only the Egyptians through the famine, but he also saved his own family. When we reflected on the Sun Card previously, we observed that are work and the benefits of our efforts are a gift from God. Our stewardship involves more than balancing our budgets and controlling our money. Every gift that God gives us is a blessing that we are appointed as stewards over. Our lives should shine as lights to the world, we are to love our neighbors and be there for those who need our help. If you are a parent, how effectively you raise your children is a demonstration of your stewardship. If you are in a management position, how you treat, respond, motivate, and lead your employees is part of your stewardship. While we live on the earth, we are to be good stewards with the blessings that God has given us; we are to enjoy life, but at the same time use our gifts to make an impact on the lives of those around us. If this card is right side up it could reflect either a coming hardship or a focus on stewardship; of course, if this card is reversed, it would mean the opposite of whatever concept you attributed to it.

Related Scripture:

Revelation 6:5-6, Luke 19:24-28, Matthew 24:6-7, 25:14-30

## TWO OF PENTACLES



Theme/Keyword: Protection, Being Hated, Separation, Living with Honor

Meaning/Comments: The image of the Two of Pentacles Card is of Jacob and Rachel, but the verses I selected have to do with the hardships Christians face while living in the world, yet being rejected by the people in it because of their faith in God. The image on the card is of a wife supporting her husband, and them being there for each other during hard times. As Ecclesiastes states, “Two are better than one; because they have a good

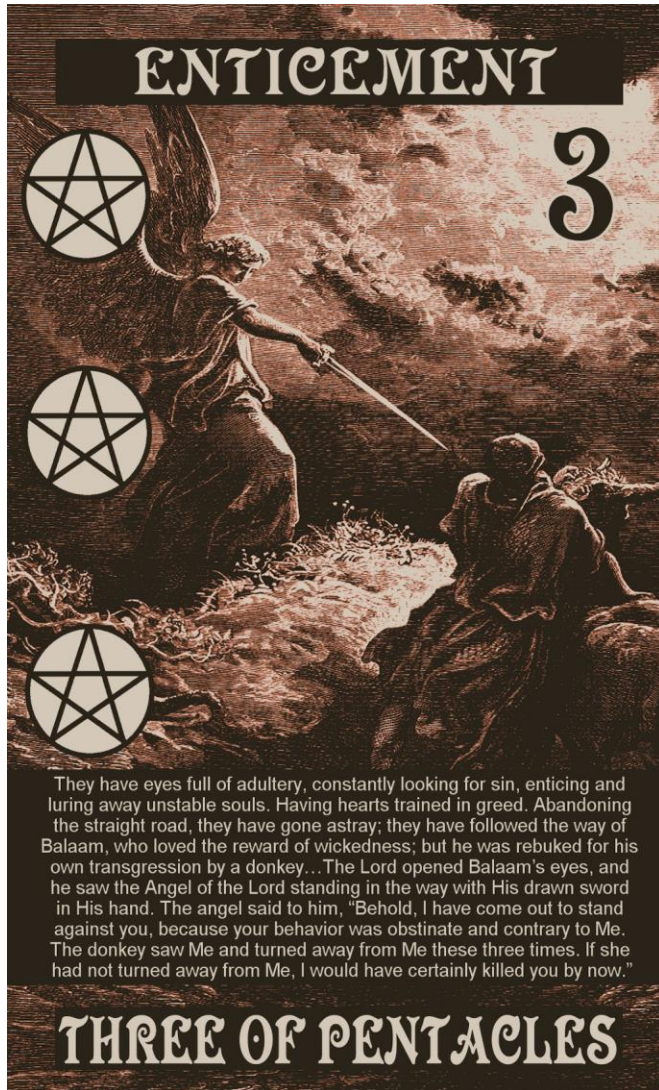
*reward for their labour. 10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. 11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? 12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)."* The verse on the card is the prayer of Jesus to his father; in which he acknowledges that Christians will be hated while living in the world, but he does not ask God to remove us from the world. Instead, Jesus asks God to protect us from the evil one (devil). As we navigate the world, we will face confrontation, and we must separate ourselves from the sinners in the world. However, we cannot separate ourselves completely from the world, because we must interact with sinners in order to exist in it (1 Corinthians 5:9-11). We must find the appropriate balance in our lives, so that we are able to interact with the world without being corrupted by it. Nevertheless, while we live in the world, we will be faced by both physical and spiritual temptations. Jesus prayed for God to protect us from the devil, but it is up to us to live with honor and not compromise our values while we interact with the people in the world. If this card is reversed, it might represent vulnerability or failing to resist sin.

**Related Scripture:**

John 17:14-16, 15:18-19, Luke 6:22-23, 1 John 3:13-14, Matthew 10:22, 24:8-10, Mark 13:13, 4:11-12, Matthew 15:14, Matthew 7:6



## THREE OF PENTACLES



Theme/Keyword: Enticement, Temptation, Justification

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Three of Pentacles Card is of Balaam and the Angel of the Lord. It has to do with resisting temptation and following God. Balaam was sought after by the enemies of Israel for his divination abilities and then he was requested to place a curse on Israel. Balaam understood that doing so was against the wishes of God, but Balaam was greedy and wanted the money offered to him. The Angel of the Lord

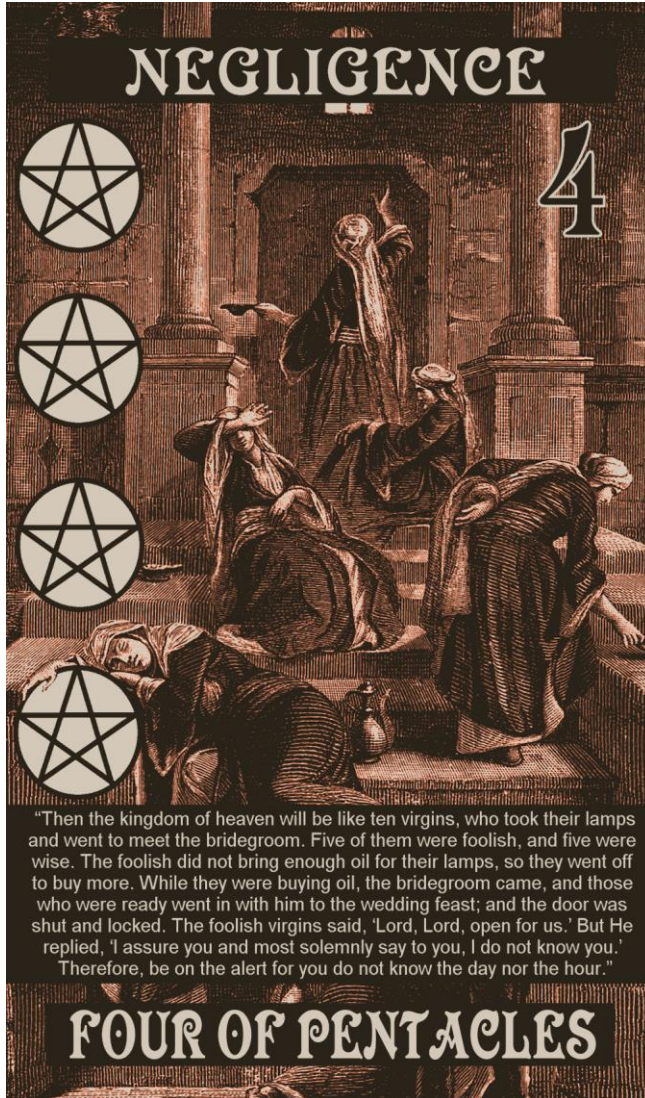


stood against Balaam to block his path, and Balaam consented to only pronounce what God instructed him to do. He was attempting to justify his behavior so that he could technically remain obedient to God, while still obtaining the money he was offered. Balaam ended up blessing Israel instead of cursing them, but in order to earn his wages, he found a way to circumvent the instructions of God. Instead of cursing Israel, he provided advice to the enemy king, and suggested to use the women of Moab to entice/seduce the Israelites into committing sexual immorality and worshipping idols – as a means of turning God against Israel. Balaam used his knowledge of God as a means of working against God’s will. Ultimately, Balaam was killed in the war, so he did not profit from his betrayal. This card deals with enticement; both the enticement of Balaam and the enticement he unleashed on the Hebrew people to cause them to sin. In our own lives, we must resist temptation, and avoid the human tendency of attempting to justify behavior we know is wrong. Through cognitive dissonance humans attempt to rethink moral conflicts in order to excuse their behavior, so that they can still get to do what they want even if it is contrary to what they know to be true/right. You can’t circumvent truth/reality. Sometimes you must resist your desires in order to do what is right. If you need to mentally debate yourself as to if something is acceptable, then it probably isn’t. How you interpret this card will be based on where it lies in the tarot spread, and if it is reversed it would represent the opposite of enticement (obedience) or perhaps a lack of desire for something related to the issue being evaluated.

Related Scripture:

2 Peter 2:14-16, Numbers 22:16-35

## FOUR OF PENTACLES



"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins, who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. The foolish did not bring enough oil for their lamps, so they went off to buy more. While they were buying oil, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut and locked. The foolish virgins said, 'Lord, Lord, open for us.' But He replied, 'I assure you and most solemnly say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, be on the alert for you do not know the day nor the hour."

### FOUR OF PENTACLES

Theme/Keyword: Negligence, Laziness, Sloth

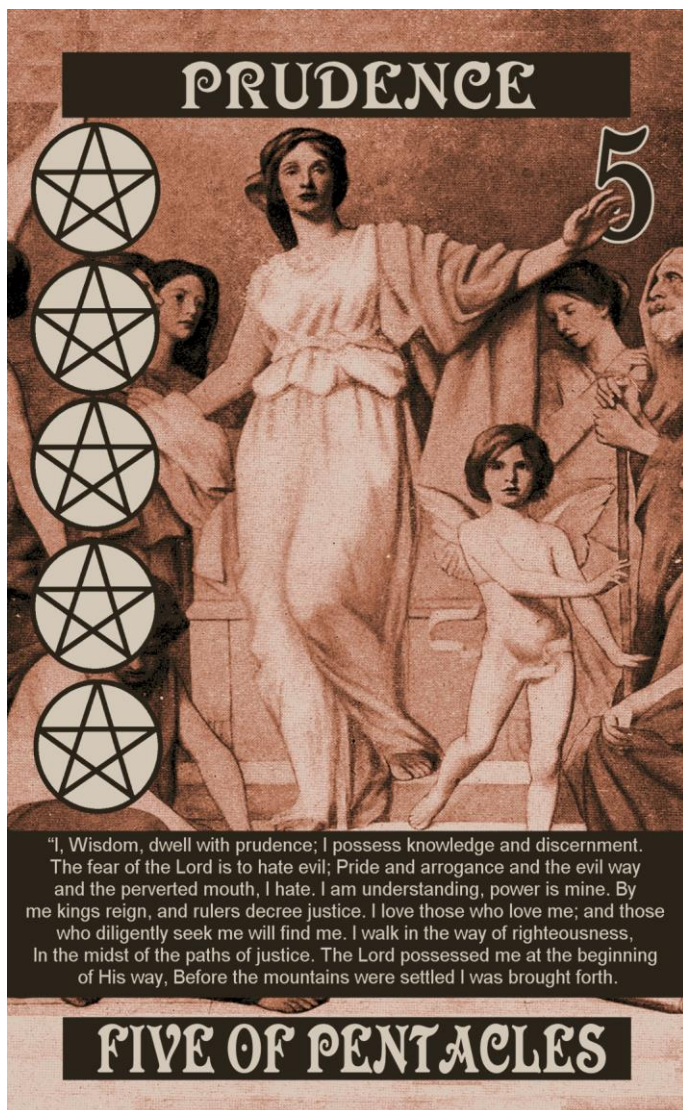
Meaning/Comments: The image on the Four of Pentacles Card is of the Parable of the Ten Virgins in the Gospel of Matthew. The ten virgins knew what they were supposed to do, but were unprepared for their master's return. They ended up being locked out of the wedding feast. The parable refers to the return of Jesus and the wedding feast is the celebration between Christ and his bride (the church). The ten virgins represent negligent people

who believed they were Christians, but had not done what was expected of them. *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven (Matthew 7:21-24).”* The message is not to put off doing what you are supposed to do, and to be prepared. Being a Christian involves more than simply claiming to be one; part of being a Christian is doing the will of God, and living according to the scripture (John 15:14). If this card is reversed, it might reflect a lack of understanding of this topic, or being successfully prepared.

Related Scripture:

Matthew 25:1-13 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. 2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: 4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. 6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. 9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. 11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. 13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

## FIVE OF PENTACLES



Theme/Keyword: Wisdom, Prudence, Understanding

Meaning/Comments: In image on the Five of Pentacles Card is of the Woman Wisdom from the Book of Proverbs. The Woman Wisdom is an enigma for many believers. Most people interpret her as a personification of the concept of wisdom, but in the Old Testament and the Apocrypha she speaks as if she were an individual. Wisdom states that she was with God

during the foundation of the world, and in the Apocrypha, she is referred to as both the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of the Lord. The word used for 'spirit' in Old Testament Hebrew is a feminine word, and the word for 'spirit' in New Testament Greek is a neuter word that is translated as masculine. It might be that the Woman Wisdom in the Old Testament and Apocrypha refers to the same Holy Spirit spoken of in the New Testament, because there are many similarities. The Woman Wisdom might represent the Spirit of God that dwells within believers, or she might be a separate being that plays a purpose in God's plan. Regardless, she shares personality traits with God, and she proclaims the same message of gaining understanding, living prudently, and overcoming evil. If this card is reversed, it could represent a lack of wisdom or the need to be more careful.

#### Related Scripture:

Proverbs 8:1-36 Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice? 2 She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths. 3 She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors. 4 Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man. 5 O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart. 6 Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things. 7 For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. 8 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them. 9 They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge. 10 Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold. 11 For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it. 12 I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions. 13 The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate. 14 Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength. 15 By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. 16 By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth. 17 I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. 18 Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness. 19 My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver. 20 I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment: 21 That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures. 22 The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. 23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. 24 When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. 25 Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: 26 While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. 27 When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: 28 When he

established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: 29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: 30 Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; 31 Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men. 32 Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways. 33 Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. 34 Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. 35 For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord. 36 But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.

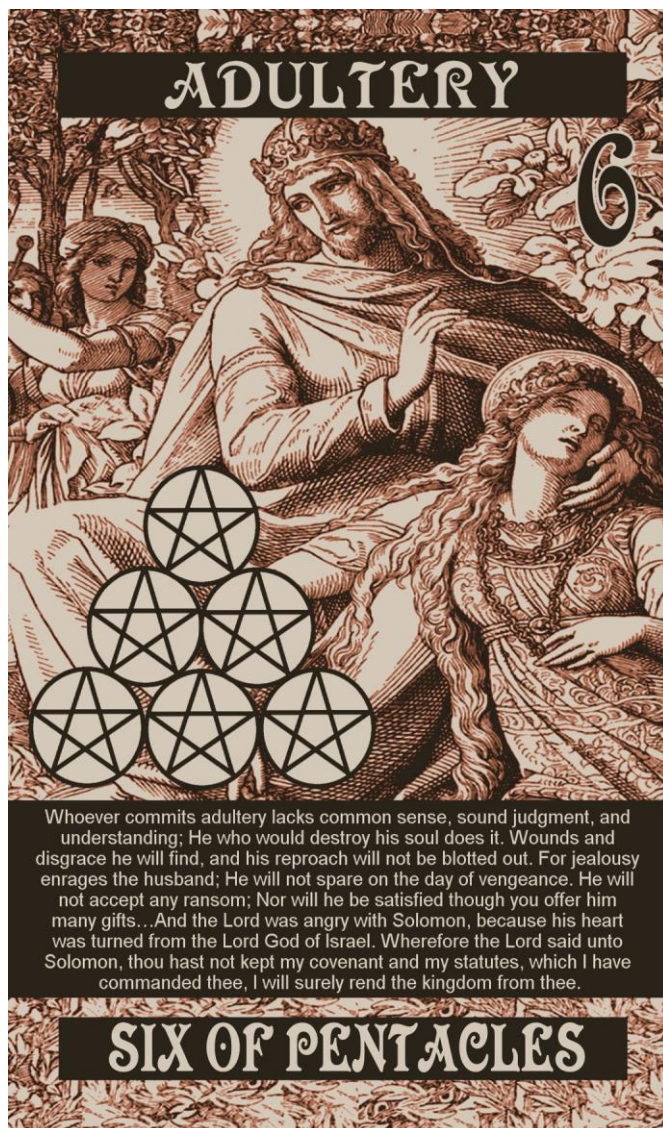
Proverbs 8:22-30 The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. 23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. 24 When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains bounding with water. 25 Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: 26 While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. 27 When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: 28 When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: 29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: 30 Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him;

Wisdom 7:25 For she is the breath of the power of God, and a pure influence flowing from the glory of the Almighty:

Wisdom: 1:3-7 For froward thoughts separate from God: and his power, when it is tried, reproveth the unwise. 4 For into a malicious soul wisdom shall not enter; nor dwell in the body that is subject unto sin. 5 For the holy spirit of discipline will flee deceit, and remove from thoughts that are without understanding, and will not abide when unrighteousness cometh in. 6 For wisdom is a loving spirit; and will not acquit a blasphemer of his words: for God is witness of his reins, and a true beholder of his heart, and a hearer of his tongue. 7 For the Spirit of the Lord filleth the world: and that which containeth all things hath knowledge of the voice.



## SIX OF PENTACLES



Theme/Keyword: Adultery

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Six of Pentacles Card depicts King Solomon. King Solomon was granted wisdom from God, and was known as being one of the wisest people to ever live on the earth. However, even with all of his wisdom and understanding, Solomon could not control his lust. In the Book of Proverbs, Solomon provides advice for resisting lust and avoiding

adultery, but Solomon ended up disobeying God, and like Samson, he married foreign women contrary to the scripture. Solomon ended up having 1,000 wives or concubines and he allowed them to build temples and worship foreign gods. Solomon's failure led to God removing the kingdom from Solomon's son. This card addresses the concept of Adultery, both against one's spouse and against God. If this card is reversed, it might represent fidelity or commitment to either God or an earthly relationship.

#### Related Scripture:

Proverbs 6:24-35 Keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. 25 Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids. 26 For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life. 27 Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? 28 Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? 29 So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent. 30 Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; 31 But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house. 32 But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul. 33 A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away. 34 For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. 35 He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts.

1 Kings 11:1-13 But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites: 2 Of the nations concerning which the Lord said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. 3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. 4 For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father. 5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. 6 And Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and went not fully after the Lord, as did David his father. 7 Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. 8 And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. 9 And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, 10 And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should

not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the Lord commanded. 11 Wherefore the Lord said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. 12 Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son. 13 Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.

Judges 14:18 And the men of the city said unto him on the seventh day before the sun went down, What is sweeter than honey? And what is stronger than a lion? and he said unto them, If ye had not plowed with my heifer, ye had not found out my riddle.

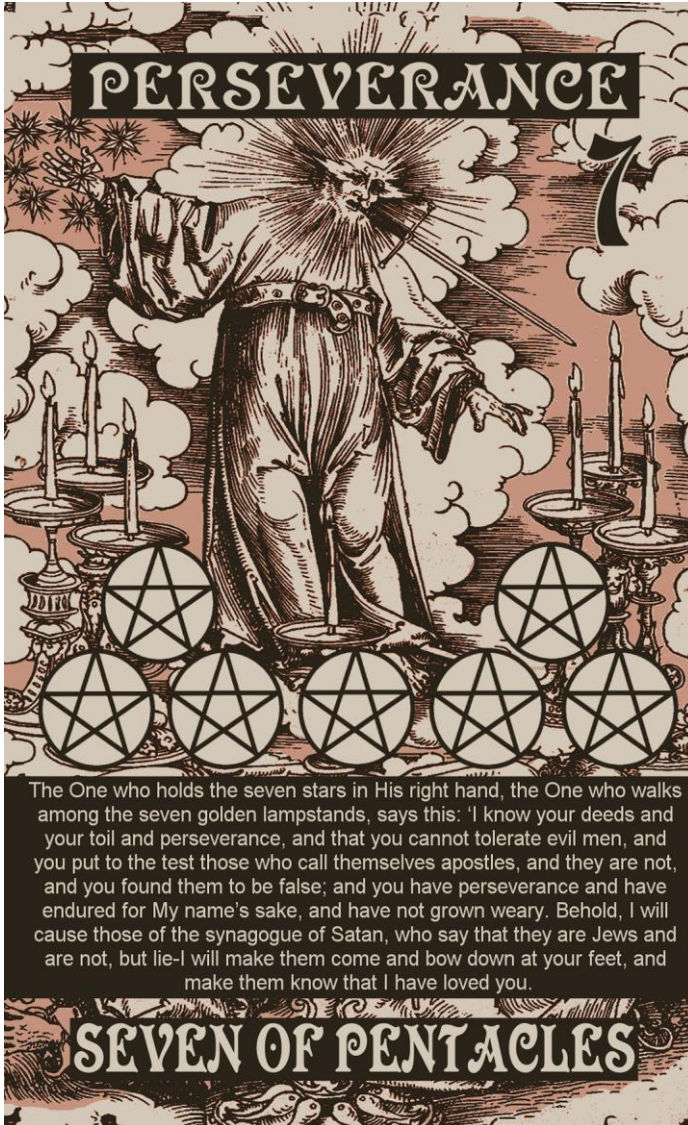
Judges 15:1-6 But it came to pass within a while after, in the time of wheat harvest, that Samson visited his wife with a kid; and he said, I will go in to my wife into the chamber. But her father would not suffer him to go in. 2 And her father said, I verily thought that thou hadst utterly hated her; therefore I gave her to thy companion: is not her younger sister fairer than she? take her, I pray thee, instead of her. 3 And Samson said concerning them, Now shall I be more blameless than the Philistines, though I do them a displeasure. 4 And Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took firebrands, and turned tail to tail, and put a firebrand in the midst between two tails. 5 And when he had set the brands on fire, he let them go into the standing corn of the Philistines, and burnt up both the shocks, and also the standing corn, with the vineyards and olives. 6 Then the Philistines said, Who hath done this? And they answered, Samson, the son in law of the Timnite, because he had taken his wife, and given her to his companion. And the Philistines came up, and burnt her and her father with fire.

Exodus 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Leviticus 20:10 And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

## SEVEN OF PENTACLES



Theme/Keyword: Perseverance, Encouragement, Endurance, Faithfulness

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Seven of Pentacles Card is of Jesus as described in the Book of Revelations. He commended one of the churches for their perseverance. Despite endured the hatred expressed toward them by the world for their belief is Jesus. The church tested false doctrine and did not tolerate evil. Christ encourages them to continue to persevere, and

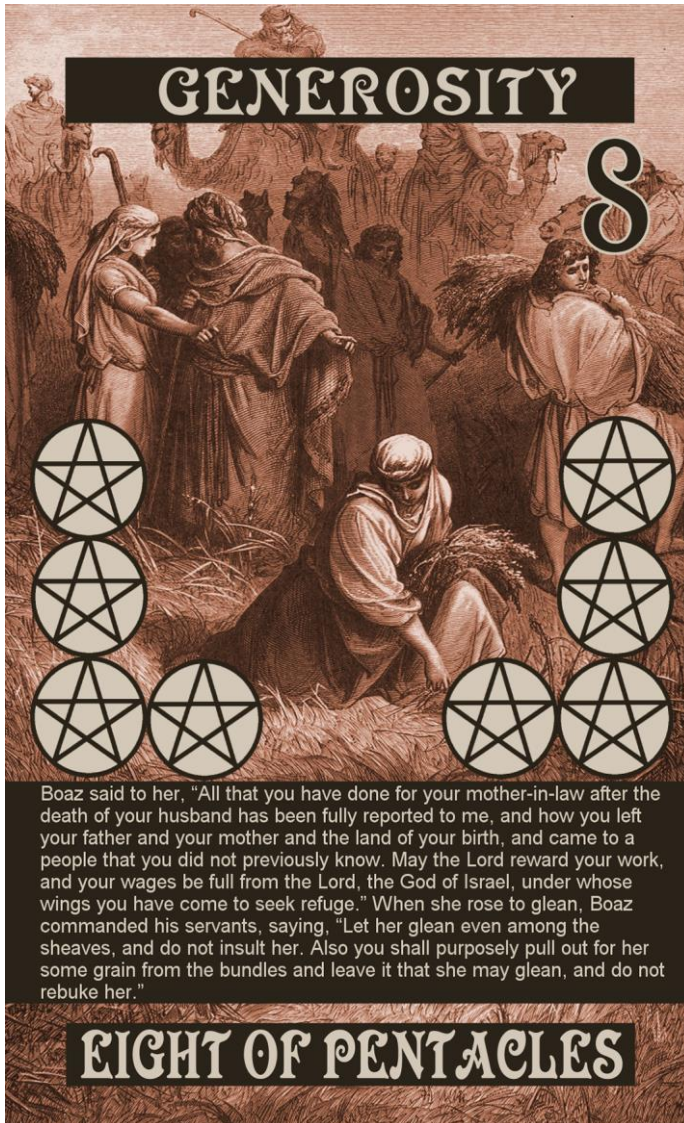
promised that he was make the church's enemies bow down at their feet and know that the church was loved by God. He also told them that because of their commitment, they have an open door to Heaven, and will be spared from the hour of temptation. If this card is reversed, it might reflect a lack of commitment or follow-through.

Related Scripture:

Revelation 1:12-20, 2:1-10, 3:8-11



## EIGHT OF PENTACLES



Theme/Keyword: Generosity

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Eight of Pentacles Card is of Ruth and Boaz. Ruth was a Moabitess, and was the widow of an Israelite who moved to Moab during a famine. Ruth brought her mother-in-law back to her own land and remained with and supported her. Ruth supported her mother-in-law by gleaning food. Boaz witnessed her honorable behavior and was

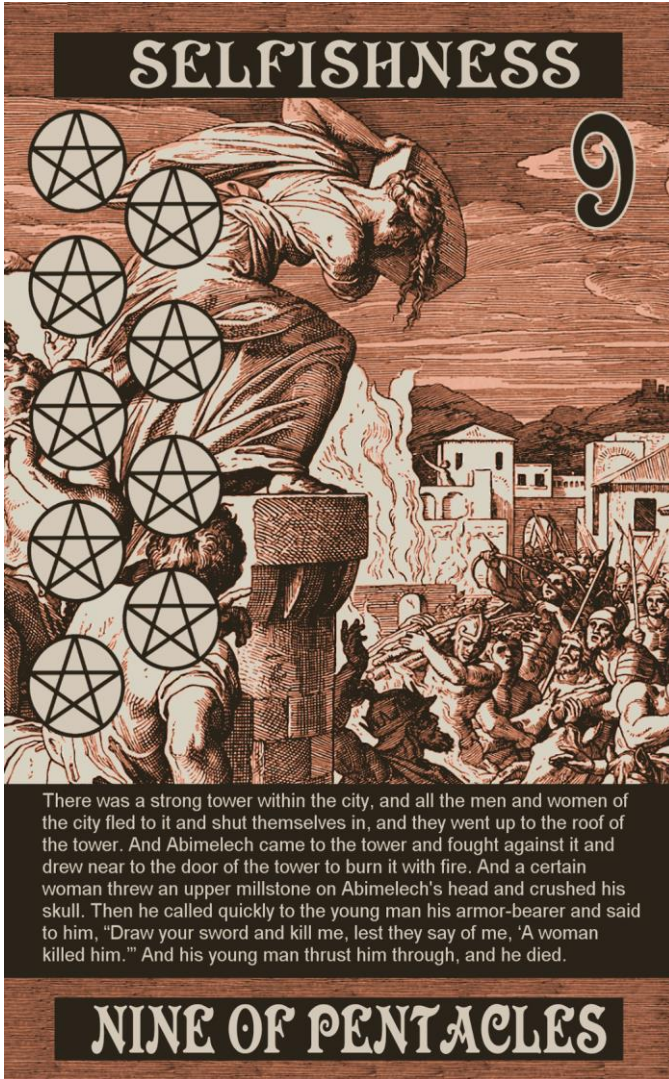


generous to her. Boaz was kind to her and told his workers to let food fall for her to glean. Eventually, since Boaz was a kinsman to Ruth's dead husband, Boaz redeemed and married her. Boaz and Ruth are ancestors of Jesus. Theirs is a love story of redemption. Ruth was from a cursed race of people and survived by scavenging for food, but due to her loving character, she won the heart of the wealthy Boaz, and together they contributed to the birth of Jesus – who would redeem sinners who are looked down upon within society. If this card is reversed, it might represent an absence of compassion.

#### Related Scripture:

Ruth 2:10-20 Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger? 11 And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore. 12 The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust. 13 Then she said, Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken friendly unto thine handmaid, though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens. 14 And Boaz said unto her, At mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers: and he reached her parched corn, and she did eat, and was sufficed, and left. 15 And when she was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not: 16 And let fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave them, that she may glean them, and rebuke her not. 17 So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah of barley. 18 And she took it up, and went into the city: and her mother in law saw what she had gleaned: and she brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed. 19 And her mother in law said unto her, Where hast thou gleaned to day? and where wroughtest thou? blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee. And she shewed her mother in law with whom she had wrought, and said, The man's name with whom I wrought to day is Boaz. 20 And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, Blessed be he of the Lord, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead. And Naomi said unto her, The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen.

## NINE OF PENTACLES



Theme/Keyword: Selfishness

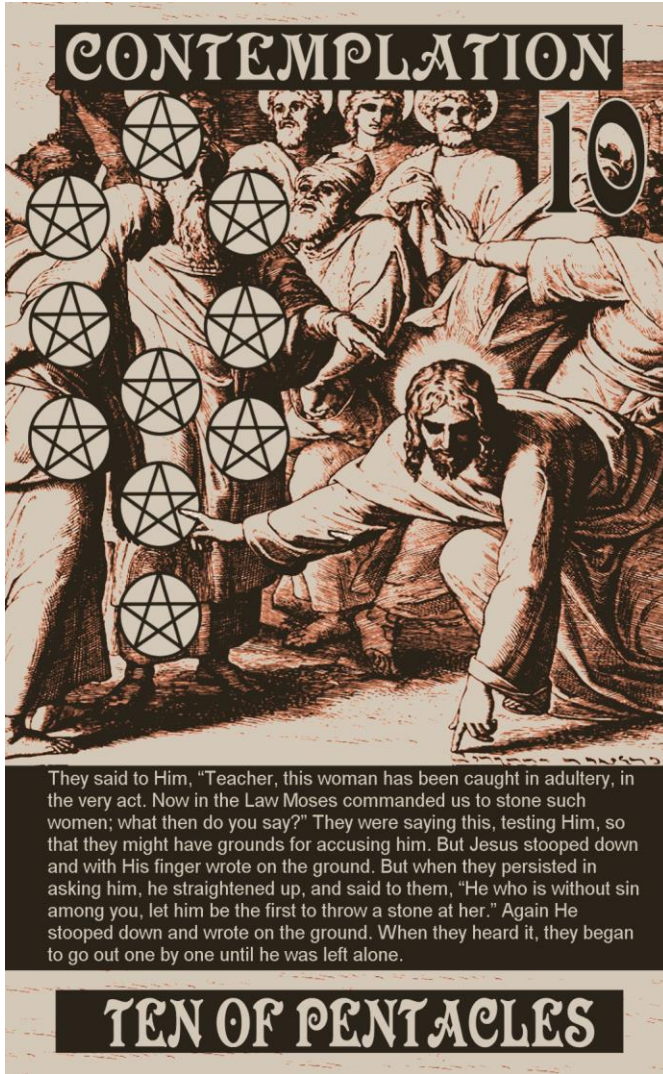
Meaning/Comments: The image on the Nine of Pentacles Card is of the death of Abimelech. He was selfish and hired worthless men to murder his 70 brothers so that he could pursue his desire to be the ruler (Judges 9:4-5). He then raised an army and started invading cities to force his rule. During one of the sieges a woman throw a stone from a tower and broke his skull. Abimelech then ordered his armor-bearer to draw his sword and kill him so

that no one would say that a woman killed him. Abimelech spent his life chasing after vainglory and pursuing his selfish ambitions. Even in death, he was worried about his reputation. He was okay with people knowing that he murdered his brothers in his quest for power, but considered it a disgrace to be killed by a woman. His hasty plan of having his armor-bearer stab him did not remove that stigma, and he is recorded in history as being killed by a woman. As Jesus stated, *“whosoever shall exalt himself shall be humbled; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted* (Matthew 23:12).” One of the basic lessons of the Bible is to avoid selfishness. We are to not seek our own glory, but should have compassion and concern for others. Jesus summarized the messages of the Torah and all of the prophets into two basic principles, love God and love thy neighbor (Matthew 22:36-40); if we do those things, our lives will encompass all other commandments. Stewardship towards God is an important aspect of our lives, but seeking earthly success and vainglory is pointless. *“For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out* (1 Timothy 6:7).” The only thing that we do take with us out of this world is our honorable character and our deeds. While living on the earth we are to live principled lives, and just as Boaz witnessed Ruth’s admirable behavior, through our character and actions we can receive honor from God. This card addresses selfishness, and how you interpret it will be based on its position in the tarot spread and the cards around it. If the card is reversed, the interpretation will still be related to selfishness, but it would have an opposite meaning (i.e. a lack of selfishness/not taking enough time for one’s self/being humble).

#### Related Scripture:

Judges 9:50-57, Proverbs 25:27, Galatians 5:26, Matthew 23:12, James 4:6, Proverbs 29:23, 27:2, Philippians 2:3, John 5:44

## TEN OF PENTACLES



Theme/Keyword: Contemplation, Think before you speak, Problem Solving

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Ten of Pentacles Card is of Jesus being tested by the Pharisees. In the story, the Pharisees brought him a woman who they say was caught in adultery to see if he would obey the Law of Moses and have her stoned to death. If Jesus said not to stone the woman, the Pharisees would have accused him of not following the Torah. However, since the Israelites were living under Roman occupation, if Jesus stoned her

to death, he would have committed murder under Roman law, and the Pharisees could have had him arrested. The choice appeared to be black and white, this or that, and between two options. However, in the tale Jesus was able to think outside of the box, and developed a solution involving a third option. Instead of allowing himself to be accused, (which the Pharisees would have been able to do if he chose either of the two options available to him) Jesus used the situation as an opportunity to teach a lesson about self-evaluation, compassion, and forgiveness, and he did so with a single sentence. He simply stated, *“He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her”*, and everyone in the crowd was convicted by their own consciences and left, until Jesus was alone with the woman. This card is about Contemplation; before you race to judgment against others like a self-righteous hypocrite, do some self-evaluation and, *“first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye (Matthew 7:5).”* In social situations, people do not like to appear speechless; humans have a desire to impress others and do not want to appear stupid or unable to produce an answer. People like to act like they are right and pretend they have all of the answers. Therefore, they have a tendency to blurt out whatever is on their mind and then try to justify their answers – instead of first thinking about the situation and planning out what to say. During the encounter, Jesus continued writing on the ground and pretended not to hear the Pharisees challenge. He collected his thoughts and thought before he spoke. When evaluating the situation, Jesus did not limit himself to the two options presented to him, but took the time he needed to explore other solutions. When he did speak, his sentence was carefully crafted so that it neither violated the Torah, nor did it encourage the diffusion of responsibility associated with mob rule. Mobs need a leader to initiate an action, and afterwards, the members of the mob do not feel personal responsibility for the actions of the group. Jesus prevented the mob rules mentality from occurring by charging each person to individually consider their own consciences and to evaluate their own behaviors before deciding whether or not they feel worthy of condemning the woman. This card deals with contemplation, problem solving, and thinking before you speak. If this card is reversed, it might represent a lack of contemplation or a rush to judgment. Now here is something for you to really contemplate; the scripture that contains this account did not exist in any early manuscripts of the Bible – meaning, it was not a part of the Gospel that John the Apostle wrote. Was Jesus actually presented with this test? Probably not, but that does not invalidate the principle of this card, which is to think before you speak or to contemplate before making a decision. If this event actually occurred, and had this been an genuine test, Jesus could have answered the Pharisees’ question without having to stone the woman to death or violate Roman law, because Jesus was tested by the Pharisees elsewhere and stated that

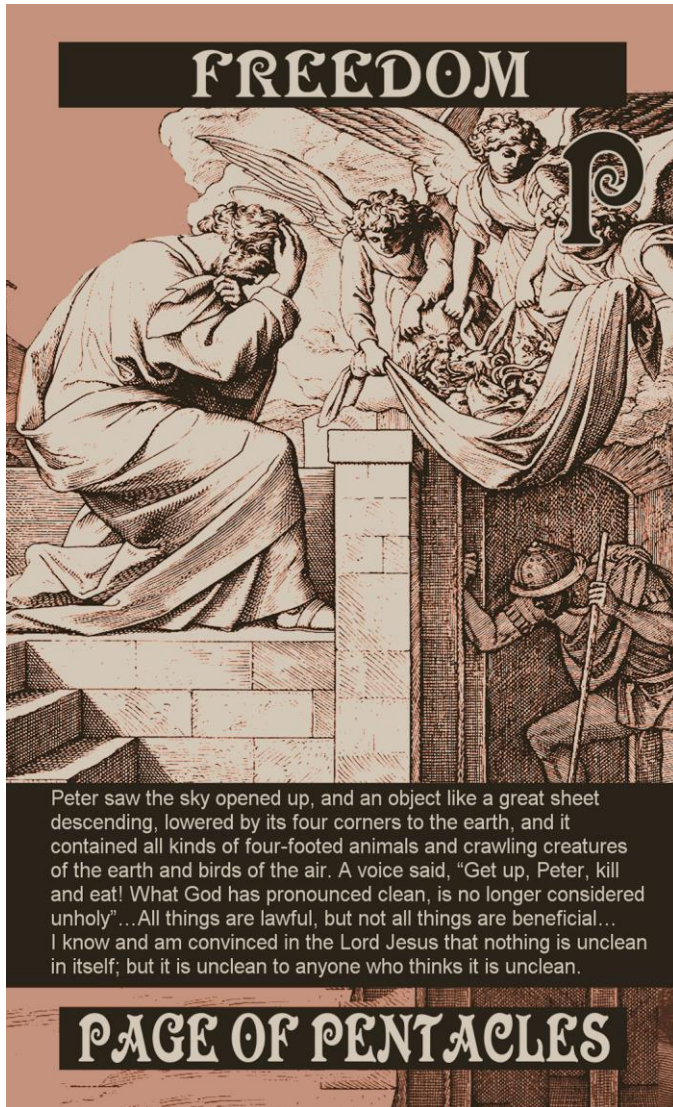
according to the Law of Moses, women who committed adultery could be divorced (Matthew 19:3-9, Matthew 5:32, Jeremiah 3:8).

Related Scripture:

John 8:1-11, Matthew 19:3-9, James 1:19, Proverbs 10:14, Matthew 12:36-37, Luke 12:2-3



## PAGE OF PENTACLES



Theme/Keyword: Freedom, Liberty, Conscience, Objectivity, Choice

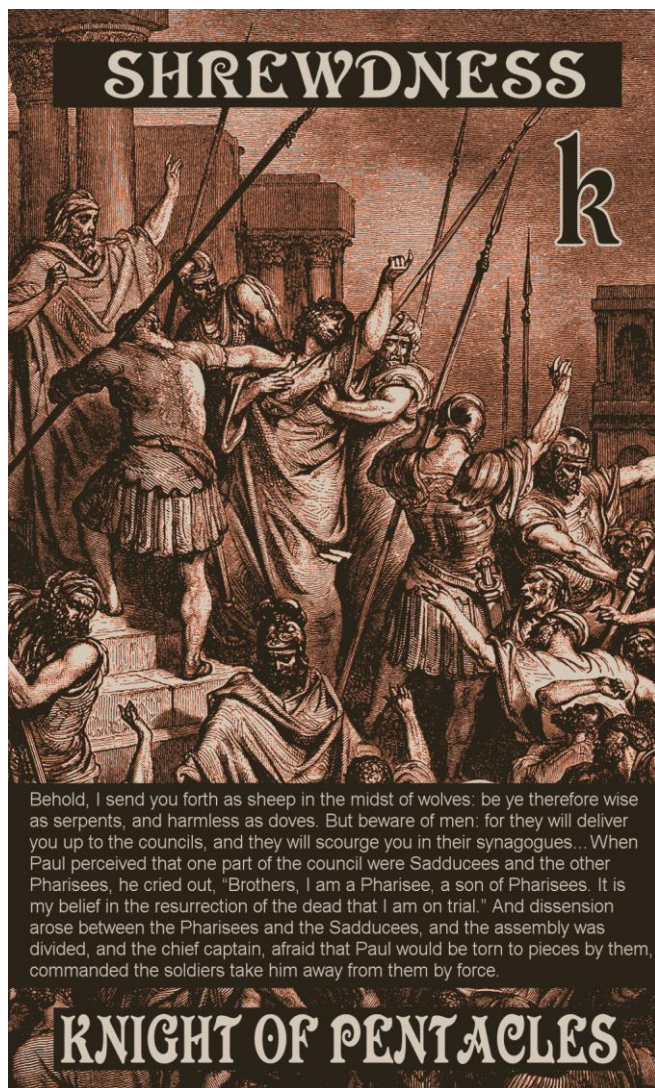
Meaning/Comments: The image on the Page of Pentacles Card is of Peter's vision in which God pronounced all things clean. Under Mosaic Law, many meats were considered unclean, and the Hebrew people had many other ordinances that Christians are not held to. As the Prophet Joel stated, "*Rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he*

*is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil* (Joel 2:13).” Peter reinforced those principles by emphasizing that it is, *“the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price* (1 Peter 3:4).” Christians are no longer required to make outward gestures such as circumcision as a display of their faith, because God cares more about their hearts and consciences. Peter’s vision offered liberty to both Jews and Christians; instead of making gentiles conform to Hebrew traditions, the New Covenant in Christ’s blood provides a way forward that emphasizes faith and behavior. Similar to the Prophets of the Old Testament, the Spirit of God dwells within Christians, and they are to be led by their consciences. They are not to be led away by their earthly desires, but through a transformation of their minds they are to be conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 12:2, 8:29). Liberty involves objectivity and understanding. The meat that was sacrificed to idols is nothing more than meat from a dead animal. If someone contributes supernatural properties to the meat due to the fact that it was used in a sacrifice then for that person, eating the meat would be a sin. Tarot cards are a game, which is played by interpreting the pictures on the cards – and nothing more. However, if someone is not objective, but instead believes the cards possess some kind of supernatural or satanic powers, then for that person, reading tarot cards would be a sin. Christian liberty involves objectivity and common sense. Be faithful to God, be led by God’s Spirit and your conscience, and do not do anything that you believe to be wrong (or that goes against your conscience). God will judge everyone according to their own deeds, and God is not a fool. The discernment humans possess is but a mere reflection of the wisdom of God. If your actions/deeds are done in good faith and with correct motives, God will understand where your heart was. Christian liberty is not a license to sin, but on the contrary, it permits freewill and gives Christian’s the ability to use and develop judgment and discernment in what they approve. It is an opportunity for growth. Instead of being considered good because you washed your hands, you are considered good because you choose to behave good. God doesn’t care if you get dressed up for church or if you put a WWJD bumper sticker on your car, He cares about where your heart is (Luke 12:34). This card represents freedom, objectivity, conscience, and understanding, and deals with making moral choices in life and following God from your heart. If this card is reversed it might represent a lack of understanding of these topics, or feeling of being controlled.

Related Scripture:

Acts 10:9-16, 1 Corinthians 10:23-33, Romans 14:1-23

## KNIGHT OF PENTACLES



Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues... When Paul perceived that one part of the council were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is my belief in the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial." And dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided, and the chief captain, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers take him away from them by force.

Theme/Keyword: Shrewdness, Prudence, Tactical Deception

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Knight of Pentacles Card is of Paul being led away by guards away from the Sadducees and Pharisees. Paul was brought before their council to be questioned regarding his faith in Jesus. They were hostile to Paul, and attempting to convince them of the truth would have been like casting his pearls before swine. Paul recognized that some of the people were Sadducees and some were Pharisees, so he used a

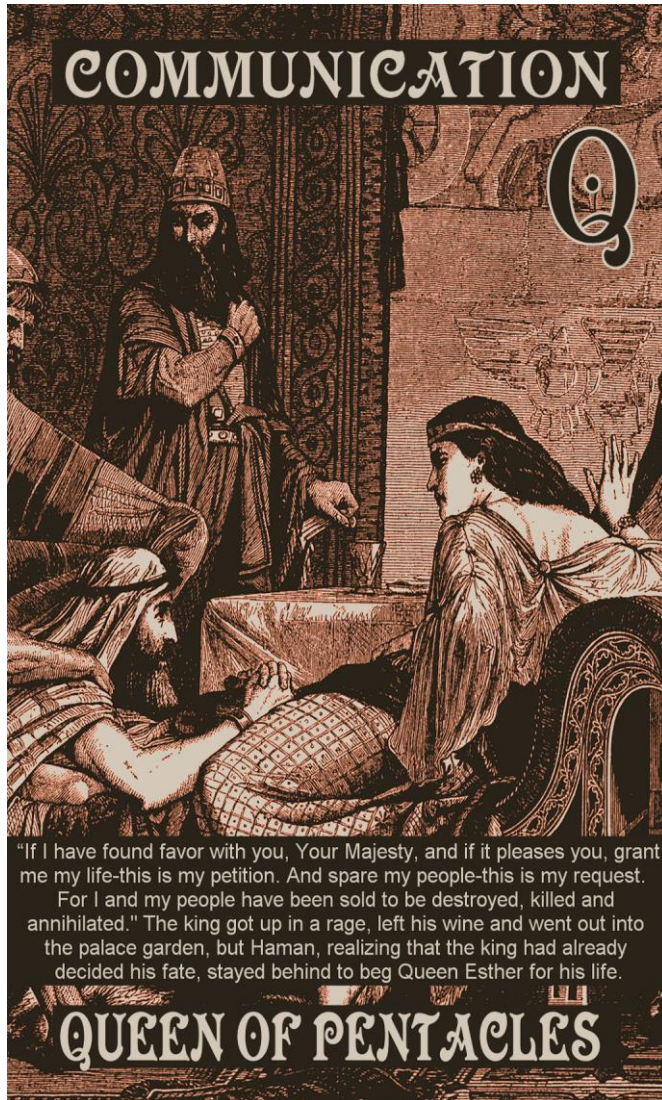
tactical deception as a misdirection to divide their house. Paul stated that he was on trial for his belief in the resurrection of the dead, which was technically true, but not in accordance to the disagreement among the Sadducees and Pharisees. Paul used his know of his enemies to cause division and divide their house (Matthew 12:25). He caused them to argue with each other instead of focusing on attacking him. Jesus warned that we are sheep in the midst of wolves, and should be as cunning as our enemies and to beware of men. As we live in the world, we are to be caution. Once the Jews started plotting to kill Jesus, he was careful where he went and avoided the cities. We are never promised safety while we live on the earth, but should be prudent and live cautiously. If this card is reversed it might represent a lack of shrewdness, such as trusting people whom you should not trust, or revealing things that you should keep secret (such as the code to your burglar alarm, if you will be out of town, or anything else that could be used against you).

Related Scripture:

Matthew 10:16-17, Matthew 12:25, John 11:53-54, 7:1, Matthew 10:23, John 7:10, Acts 23:6-10



## QUEEN OF PENTACLES



"If I have found favor with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, grant me my life-this is my petition. And spare my people-this is my request.

For I and my people have been sold to be destroyed, killed and annihilated." The king got up in a rage, left his wine and went out into the palace garden, but Haman, realizing that the king had already decided his fate, stayed behind to beg Queen Esther for his life.

QUEEN OF PENTACLES

Theme/Keyword: Communication, Deliberate Speech, Tact

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Queen of Pentacles Card depicts Queen Esther's final confrontation with Haman. Esther was humble in her speech and her carefully chosen words always caused the king to be receptive to her. Esther was able to save her people from genocide and cause the death of her adversary. By simply inviting the king to her dinner, she risked being put to death, but she determined, "*I will go in unto the king,*

*which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish* (Esther 4:16).” Esther provides a good demonstration of effective communication. She did just blurt out what was on her mind, but she set the stage for her message to be received. With forethought, she prepared a dinner, and carefully devised her message. This card deals with communication, and the willingness to take a stand and speak up when you need to – if it doing so could work against you. It is about doing what is right, and doing it in the right way. If this card is reversed, it might represent a need to improving in this area or that

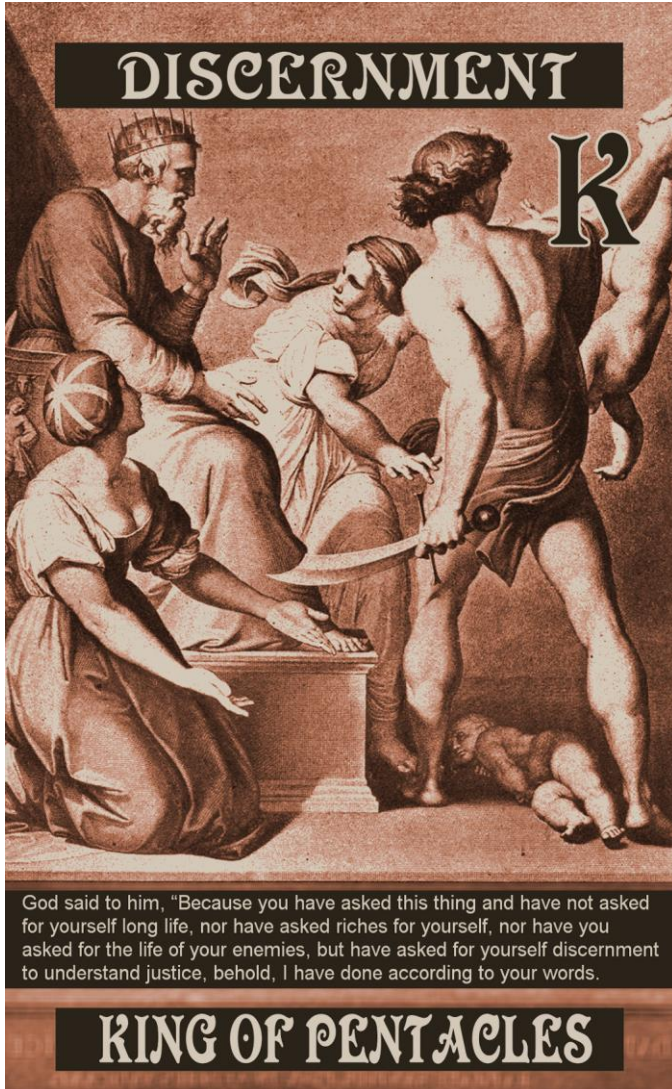
#### Related Scripture:

Esther 7:1-10 So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen. 2 And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom. 3 Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request: 4 For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage. 5 Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so? 6 And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen. 7 And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king. 8 Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of king's mouth, they covered Haman's face. 9 And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon. 10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

Proverbs 15:1-2 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. 2 The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.



## KING OF PENTACLES



Theme/Keyword: Discernment, Judgment, Wisdom

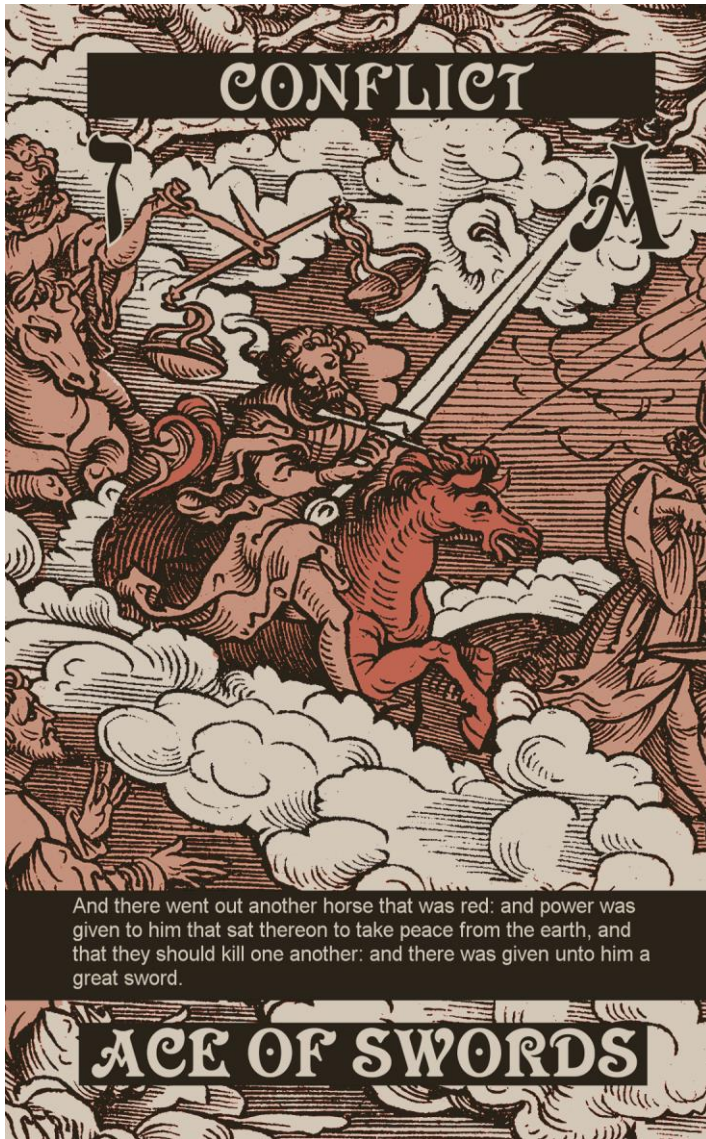
Meaning/Comments: The image on the King of Pentacles Card portrays King Solomon using a ruse to determine who a baby's true mother was. Solomon's understanding of love and human nature led him to conclude that the child's true mother would rather allow her child to live – even if it meant the child would be raised by another woman – than to continue in the argument. The woman was willing to sacrifice her happiness for the good of her child.

Similarly, when Solomon was a child, he made a selfless request of God, and instead of asking for riches or personal glory, he asked for an understanding heart, so that he could better serve God by leading his people as the king. Solomon's request pleased God, and God blessed him with more abundance than what Solomon had asked for. This card deals with the application of wisdom and possessing the right intentions within your heart. If this card is reversed, it might represent a lack of discernment or bad decisions.

Related Scripture:

1 Kings 3:6-28

## ACE OF SWORDS



Theme/Keyword: Conflict

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Ace of Swords Card is of the Second Horseman of the Apocalypse from the Book of Revelations. The Second Horseman carries a sword and is sent to remove peace from the earth. This could mark peace being removed from the earth at the End of Days, or it

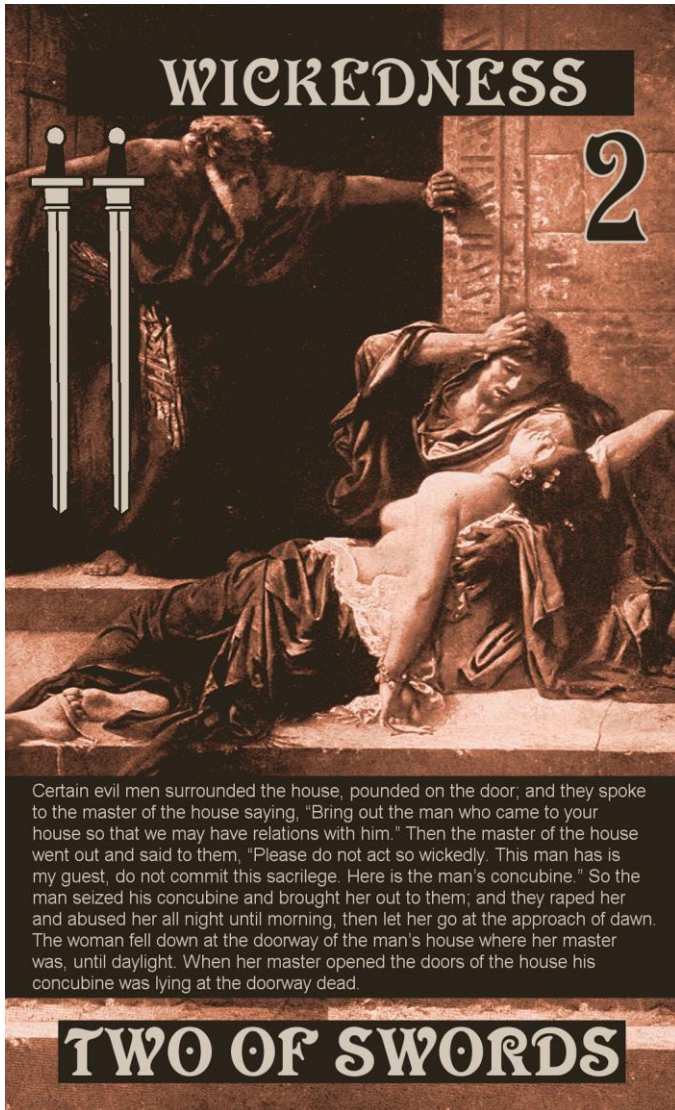
could represent the time period after Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Jesus stated that after he went through the baptism he was destined for (his death on the cross) the members of each household would be at variance (conflict) against each other. He did not come to bring peace to the earth, but instead a sword. Looking beyond the wars and conflicts being Muslims, Jews, and Christians, there is also division among Christian churches. Catholics, Jehovah's Witnesses, Churches of Christ, Baptist, Evangelicals, Mormons, and numerous other denominations hold different beliefs, and they each believe they are the only ones who have it right and that most other churches or denominations are in error (or even destined for hell). In my experience in studying the various denominations, I have found that mostly, they are right in some respects and completely off in others. None of them are perfect, but that does not mean that members of such denominations cannot be saved. Each person's relationship with God is a personal one, and everyone must work out their own salvations (Philippians 2:12). This card represents conflict, but more than that, it should also be interpreted as conveying the message of personal responsibility for determining the truth and standing on your own convictions. After all, everyone will be judged according to their individual deeds, and not based on the philosophies of the church, mosque, or temple they attended. If this card is reversed, it might represent a lack of conflict, which could be either good or bad; as it could represent either peace, or it could represent a willingness to conform to things when resistance might be warranted.

Related Scripture:

Revelation 6:3-4, Matthew 10:33-35, Luke 12:49-53



## TWO OF SWORDS



Certain evil men surrounded the house, pounded on the door; and they spoke to the master of the house saying, "Bring out the man who came to your house so that we may have relations with him." Then the master of the house went out and said to them, "Please do not act so wickedly. This man has is my guest, do not commit this sacrilege. Here is the man's concubine." So the man seized his concubine and brought her out to them; and they raped her and abused her all night until morning, then let her go at the approach of dawn. The woman fell down at the doorway of the man's house where her master was, until daylight. When her master opened the doors of the house his concubine was lying at the doorway dead.

Theme/Keyword: Wickedness, Evil, Atrocity, Tragedy, Fear, Cowardice

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Two of Swords Card is of the Levite and his concubine. The Levite's concubine was unfaithful to him and returned to her father's house. After four months the Levite went after her and tried to win her back with kind words (Judges 19:1-3). The reunion went well and the Levite stayed at the concubine's father's house for several days,

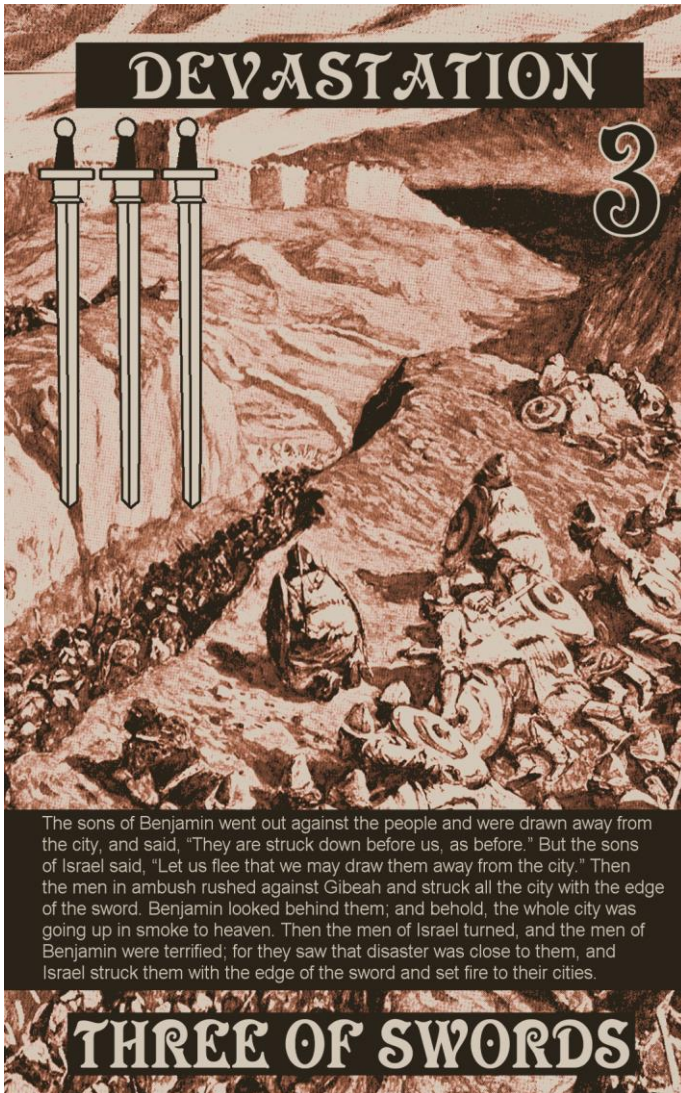
before starting his journey home. As it was getting dark, the Levite's servant suggested that they spend the night at a nearby town, but the Levite refused, stating that he would not stay the night in a foreign city. The Levite was from a remote hill country and was probably naïve, but they continued their travels until they reached a city containing the descendants of Israel (from the Tribe of Benjamin). So the Levite took his concubine, his servant, and all of the possessions he had with him and sat in the center of town hoping that someone will invite them to stay the night with them. Eventually, an old man passed by and invited them to stay with him. What occurred next was similar to what occurred when the angel went to get Lot's family out of Sodom. Evil men surrounded the house and demanded that the old man send the Levite out so that they might "know" him. Similar to how Lot offered up his own virgin daughters (Genesis 19:8), the old man offered his own daughter and the Levite's concubine to appease the men. Unlike the situation in Sodom, there weren't any angels to blind the evildoers and help them escape. The evil men would not listen to the old man, so he gave the Levite's concubine to the men, who raped and abused her all night to the point that she was dead by morning. In the morning the Levite was ready to leave and he told his concubine to get up so they can leave, but he discovered that she was dead. He later cut the concubine's body in to twelve pieces and sent one piece to each of the twelve tribes of Israel in an effort to seek justice. This card is about falling victim to evil and being grievously wronged. The concubine was treated atrociously and certainly deserved justice. Examining this card from the perspective of the concubine, it would represent the dangers of falling into the hands of evil men, which everyone in the world must be cautious of. However, there is also a lot to be learned by examining the actions of the Levite. The Levite obviously had some feeling for the concubine, since he went out of his way to win her back. However, his actions were naïve, dangerous, and arrogant. When Abraham and Isaac traveled they took precautions and deceived strangers by claiming their wives were their sisters, but they also trusted in God. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would later trust in God to the point that they went into the fiery furnace, and the Maccabees family was willing to be tortured to death for their refusal to eat pork. In contrast, the Levite is never stated to have trusted in God, but instead, he refused to go to a foreign city while it was daylight, because he trusted that he would be safer in a city that he shared a common heritage with. He trusted in heritage, and ignored the suggestion of his servant. He then sat in the middle of the city with all of his belongings hoping someone would be kind to him and offer him a place to stay, which allowed him to be targeted by evildoers. When the evil men surrounded the house he was staying in, he hid in the house and allowed his concubine to be raped all night. When he saw his concubine in the morning, he did not ask if she was okay, but instead ordered her to get up so they could get going. The Levite's arrogant and bossiness attitude is probably what led the concubine to



leave him in the first place. He was from a remote country, but he acted as though he knew what he was doing, he ignored the advice of his servant, and trusted in his heritage. Regardless of his naivety, when the evil men started ordering that he be sent out, for him to allow his concubine to be raped and abused all night while he hid in the house is an act of complete cowardice. The good shepherd is willing to lay down his life for his sheep and Susanna chose to risk death before compromising herself, but the Levite chose self-preservation over any feelings he had for his concubine. Even after the incident, he is not recorded as crying out to God for vengeance, but instead he trusted in his heritage and asks his relatives to get justice for him – and have other men from Israel fight the battle that he hid from. By examining this card from the Levite's perspective, the message of the card might be something related to the need to live prudently, listening to the advice of others, not being arrogant, and if necessary be willing to die fighting. If this card is reversed, it might represent having avoided tragedy or overcoming sin and wickedness.

Related Scripture:  
Judges 19:16-28

## THREE OF SWORDS



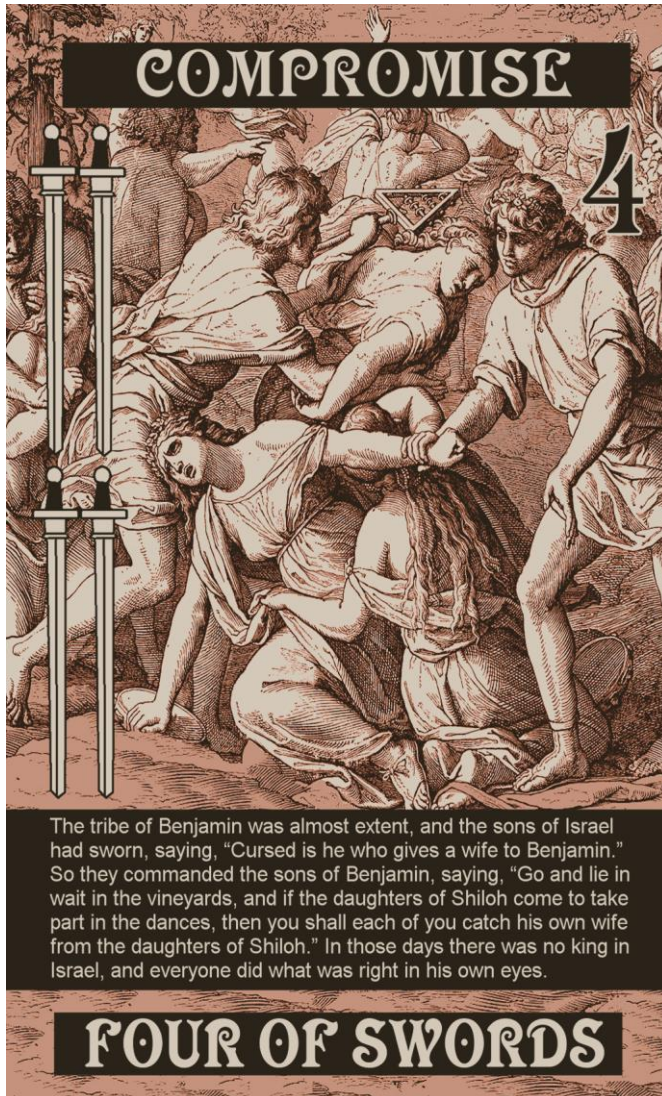
Theme/Keyword: Devastation, Destruction, Spirit Breaking

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Three of Swords Card is of the Tribe of Benjamin being ambushed due to them refusing to turn over the evil men who raped and murdered the Levite's concubine [on the previous card]. The children of Israel failed in their first two battles against Benjamin, and lost thirty-three thousand men in the battles, so on the third battle Israel played out a strategy and ambush. During the third battle, Israel retreated during the

fight, which caused the Tribe of Benjamin to become overconfident – believing they were winning – which allowed the children of Israel to lead the Tribe of Benjamin away from the city. Once the Tribe of Benjamin was led away from their city in pursuit of Israel, their city was ambushed and devastated. The Tribe of Benjamin looked back at their city, only to realize that everything they owned and loved was completely destroyed; their wives and children were murdered, and their houses and all of their belongings were burnt to the ground. This realization broke the spirits of the Tribe of Benjamin and they tried to flee, only to be overtaken and killed. In the end, only a few hundred men from the Tribe of Benjamin were left alive. The Tribe of Benjamin were destroyed due to their arrogance, and because they trusted in their might and refused to allow the evildoers in their city to face justice. The children of Israel trusted in God, and even though they lost thirty-three thousand men during the battle, they continued to do what they believed to be right, and sought to get justice for the murdered concubine. The Bible does not even give the name of the murdered concubine, but nearly sixty-thousand people died in the battles to bring her justice. The strategy the Israelites employed was merciless (murdering the enemy soldiers families in order to break their spirits), but the damage could have been avoided had the Benjamin not permitted evil to go unpunished within the cities they controlled. There is a moral line that societies should not cross, and the Tribe of Benjamin allowed their residence to go well beyond it. It did not matter that Benjamin's army was stronger, they should have learned from the past. The same crime was attempted in Sodom against Lot's visitors, and similar to the ambush against Benjamin, everyone in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were utterly destroyed. The message of this card is to maintain justice and morality within the societies we live in. The card could also represent the danger of being ambushed, but as long as you are living righteously, dying for doing the right thing is honorable. In a tarot reading, it could also represent being devastated or disappointed in a situation. If this card is reversed, it might represent overcoming or avoiding devastation or heartbreak.

Related Scripture:  
Judges 20:18-48,

## FOUR OF SWORDS



Theme/Keyword: Compromise, Circumvention

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Four of Swords Card is of the Tribe of Benjamin taking wives for themselves from the daughters of Shiloh. Tens of thousands of valiant men died avenging the rape of the Levite's concubine. The war between the tribes brought the Tribe of Benjamin to the brick of destruction, but afterwards, the tribes of Israel felt guilty about destroying their kinsmen. The children of Israel behaved appropriately by

seeking to avenge the rape of the concubine in Judges Chapter 20, but they went too far in killing everyone in the city; so that out of over 40,000 people in the tribe of Benjamin, only 600 were left alive following the battle. In Chapter 21, the tribes of Israel regretted the severity of destruction they had inflicted on the Tribe of Benjamin. In order to prevent the loss of one of the Tribes of Israel, the remaining tribes decided to attack Jabesh-gilead (for their refusal to join with them in seeking justice against the tribe of Benjamin) and to spare the unwed women so that they might serve as brides for the Tribe of Benjamin. Bible critics quote some of the above verses and present them as if God were sanctioning the rape of women as war booty, but this is not what happened. Delivering the survivors of Jabesh-gilead was not done with God's blessing, nor was it ordered by God. Besides the fact that the Hebrew's actions were not sanctioned by God, there is also nothing in the above verses to suggest the women were raped. What is stated is that the war against Benjamin left them without wives, and that the tribes of Israel who attacked Benjamin had vowed not to allow the women from their tribes to intermarry with the Tribe of Benjamin. The people of Jabesh-gilead were punished for their unwillingness to dispense justice, and their women were not restricted by the vow against intermarrying with the Tribe of Benjamin so they were allowed to marry them without bringing a curse upon themselves. However, the women from Jabesh-gilead were not enough to repopulate the Tribe of Benjamin, so the remaining tribes agreed to look the other way while men from the Tribe of Benjamin abducted brides from their clans for the remaining 200 men. This action was done as a means of circumventing the Israelites' vow not to permit their daughters to intermarry with the Tribe of Benjamin, which would cause them to be cursed. Their line of thinking was that since the Israelites did not spare the wives of the Tribe of Benjamin during the war, that as long as they didn't knowingly permit their daughters to marry members of the Tribe of Benjamin, then they would not be guilty of breaking their vow against it. None of the women of that time period fell in love or selected their choice of mates. Marriages were arranged by the bride's parents. The only difference in this situation is that the parents were not consulted prior to the marriages taking place as a way to circumvent their vows, and to avoid the curse they would have placed on themselves. The other Tribes of Israel had just finished bringing the Tribe of Benjamin to the brink of extinction due to a few of its members raping one woman. To conclude that after sacrificing tens of thousands of their own kinsmen in order to bring the perpetrators of one rape to justice that the survivors would then sanction the rape of their own daughters is illogical. The women in the above passages were not assaulted by an invading army and ravished for the sexual gratification of their invaders. They were women who prior to the war with Benjamin could have had an arranged marriage to one of its members at anytime. Regardless of how you interpret these events, nothing was done on God's orders, nor is there anything to suggest that God approved of their

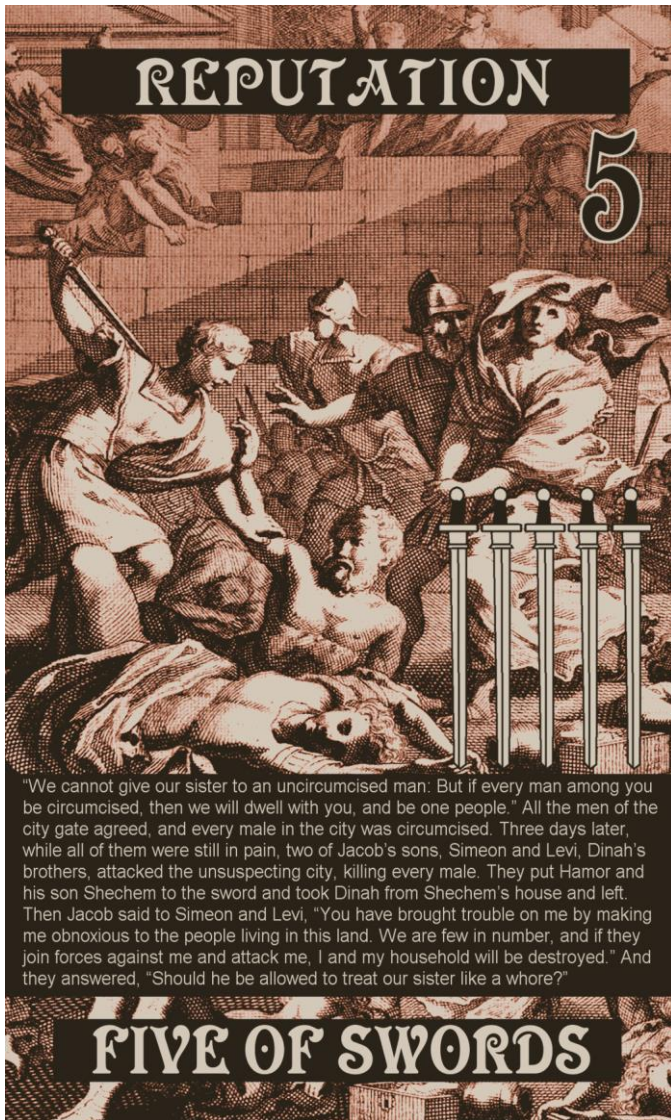
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actions. On the contrary, Judges 21:25 points out that there was no king in Israel, and that the people were doing whatever they thought was right in their own eyes. This card has to do with compromise, which involves give and take and making sacrifices during conflict resolution. The Israelites should have never vowed not to allow their daughters to marry into the Tribe of Benjamin, or they should have stuck to their convictions and allowed the Tribe of Benjamin to die out. However, if the Tribe of Benjamin had been wiped out, then neither King Saul nor the Apostle Paul would have existed. This card represents compromise, which is something that should not be done hastily. If this card is reversed, it might represent stubbornness or unwillingness to compromise.

Related Scripture:  
Judges 21:1-25



## FIVE OF SWORDS



Theme/Keyword: Reputation, Honor, Justice

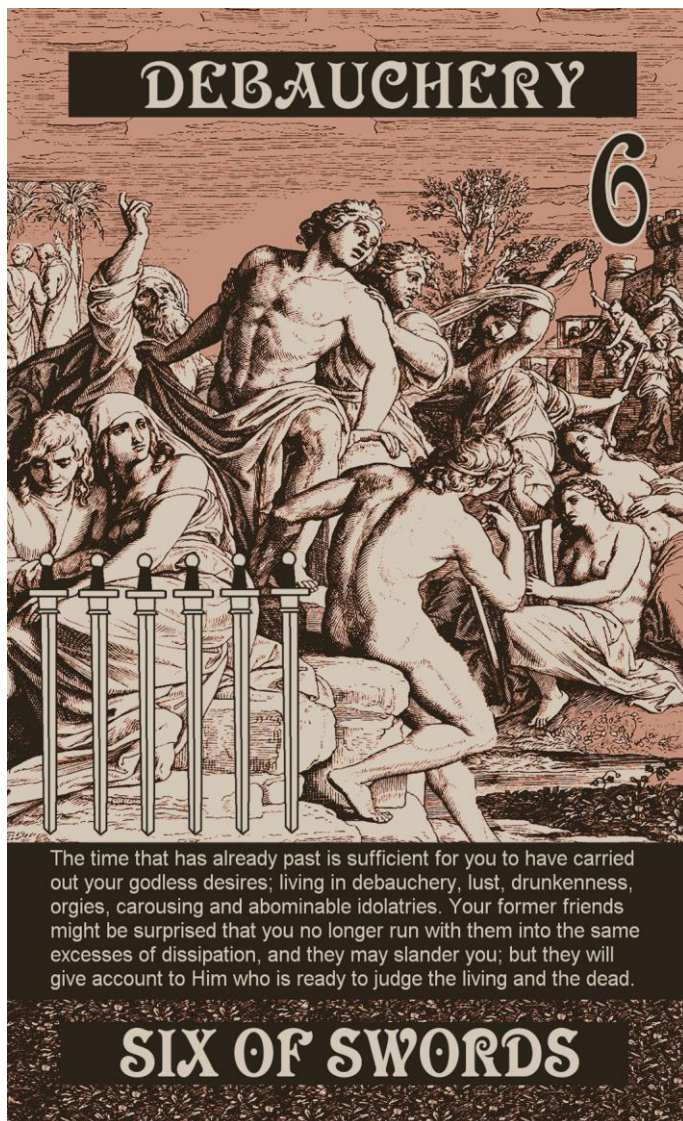
Meaning/Comments: The image on the Five of Swords Card depicts the sons of Jacob avenging the rape of their sister Dinah by killing all of the men in the neighboring city. After raping Dinah the prince had his father speak with Jacob and requested for her to be given to the prince in marriage. The sons of

Jacob deceived the prince's father and told him that if all of the men of his city were willing to be circumcised, then they would allow them to intermarry with the Tribe of Israel. Three days later, two of Jacob's sons went into the city and killed all the men in it while they were still healing from their circumcisions. Jacob was worried about his reputation; believing that since they were few in number and appeared to be plunderers, that the other inhabitants would kill him over it, but his sons responded, *"Should we have allowed him to treat our sister like a whore?"* This card is about reputation. Jacob was right that appearing warlike might cause the other inhabitants concern, but at the same time, allowing your daughter or sister to be raped and not doing anything about it is also a reputation you don't want to have. While living in a lawless society and needing to defend yourself, appearing too dangerous could provoke hostility, but appearing too weak would cause others to view you as prey. Jacob's family was outnumbered, and if they tried getting justice for Dinah against a king and his army, they might have been completely destroyed. Through their cunning, Jacob's sons managed to rescue their sister and remove any threat of reprisal from the neighboring king. By examining Jacob's past actions, it is clear that he was afraid of conflict (he hid from his brother for decades), and he did not want to develop a reputation that might lead to hostilities. His sons, on the other hand determined to avenge their sister, and the reputation they portrayed to the other inhabitants was something along the lines of, *'If you harm my family, we will kill you, wipe out your entire army, and leave your cities defenseless.'* In this world, predator select prey that they believe they can overpower. Bullies to not pick on people who they think might beat them up. Sometimes if you can't live in peace, then it is better to have the reputation of being dangerous than it is to be considered a coward. Jacob's sons defended their sister's honor, and when the Torah was eventually established, rape was punished by death for the perpetrator (Deuteronomy 22:25-27). In response to the Levite's concubine being raped, the children of Israel almost completely eradicated the Tribe of Benjamin. By deceiving and killing all of the men in the city Jacob's sons developed a reputation that Jacob believed placed their family a risk, but sometimes one must place himself/herself at risk in order to establish justice. Without justice evil is emboldened, and without honor one doesn't have a reputation (at least not one you want to have). As Publilius Syrus stated, *"What is left when honor is lost?"* Dinah deserved justice, and had her brothers only killed the prince, then his father would have certainly used his army to avenge the death of his son against a single family. This card has to do with reputation, and your reputation is determined by your actions. You can be branded a coward, recognized for your wisdom, or any other behavior. If this card is in a tarot spread, contemplate how others view you and what kind of example you are setting to others by your

behavior. If this card is reversed, it might represent a missed opportunity to establish a positive reputation, or a failure to do the right thing when given the opportunity.

Related Scripture:  
Genesis 34:1-31

## SIX OF SWORDS



Theme/Keyword: Debauchery, Depravity, Immorality

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Six of Sword Card portrays people consumed with fleshly lusts and engaging in debauchery. After deciding to follow God, Christians are to overcome their earthly lusts and become a new creation. As Peter stated, the time that has already past is long enough for you to have indulged in sinful behavior. Once you commit to following

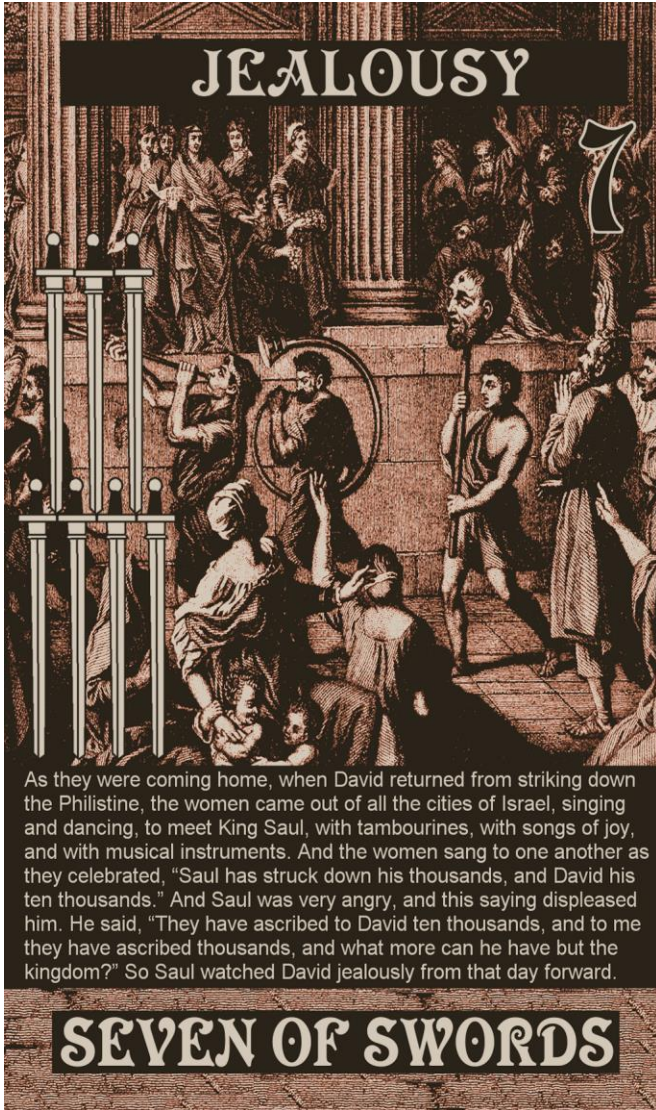
Christ, you must change your behavior and seek to live a life pleasing to God. Changing your behavior is difficult; because not only may it involve resisting mental and physical urges/addictions, but it may also require altering relationships and leaving former friends behind. Overcoming such sins is difficult, and even if you are strong enough to do so, that doesn't mean your friends are at a point in their lives where they will be open to conversion or willing to follow you. This card represents indulgence, gluttony, immorality, and the need to overcome such things. If this card is reversed, it might mean that you have already overcome such things.

**Related Scripture:**

1 Peter 4:1-6 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; 2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. 3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: 4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: 5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. 6 For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.



## SEVEN OF SWORDS



Theme/Keyword: Jealousy, Resentment

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Seven of Swords Card is of David returning from battle and carrying the head of Goliath. The women of the cities came out and singing for joy, and while doing so attributed ten times the amount of glory to David – which made King Saul jealous. Saul was worried about his reputation, and determined that since David had surpassed

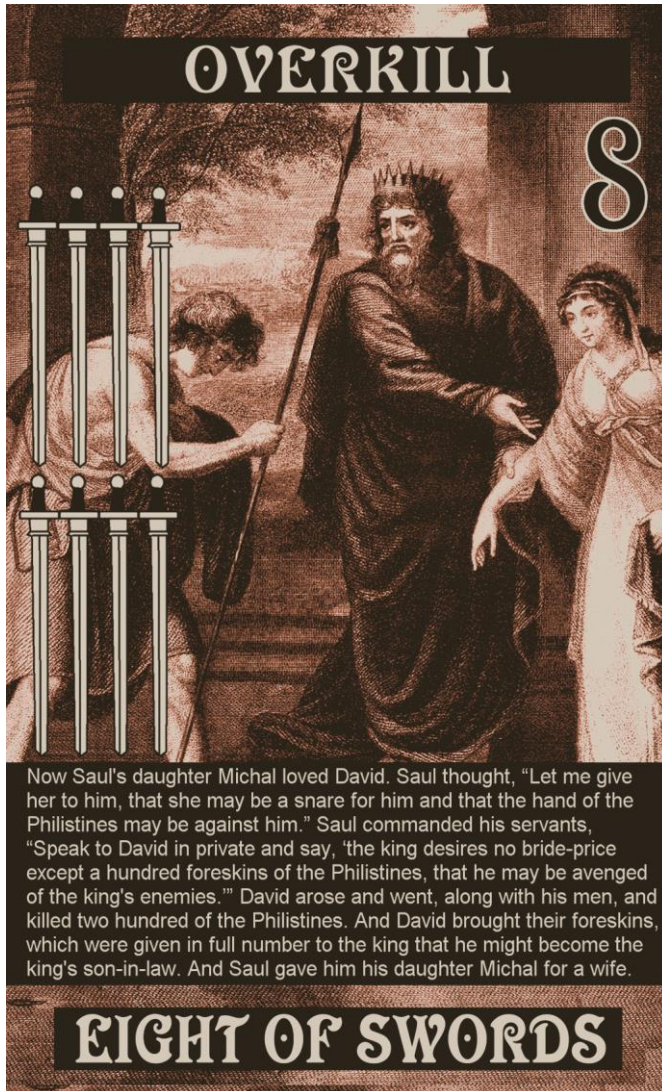


him in reputation, the only thing left for David to take away was his kingdom. Due to this jealousy, King Saul attempted to kill David, which was just the beginning of his efforts to either control or destroy David. This card represents jealousy; if it is reversed, it might represent having overcome this attribute.

Related Scripture:

1 Samuel 18:6-16 And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of music. 7 And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands. 8 And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom? 9 And Saul eyed David from that day and forward. 10 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand. 11 And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice. 12 And Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him, and was departed from Saul. 13 Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people. 14 And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the Lord was with him. 15 Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him. 16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

## EIGHT OF SWORDS



Theme/Keyword: Overkill

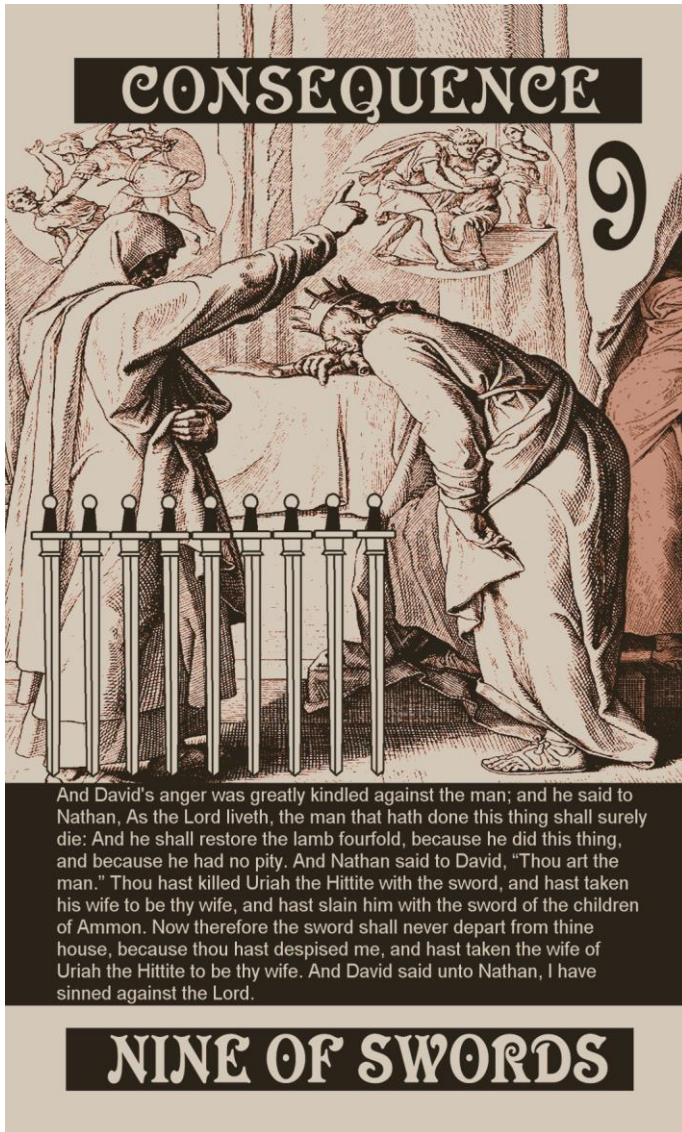
Meaning/Comments: The image on the Eight of Swords Card is of King Saul giving his daughter Michal to David in marriage. This was a trap King Saul attempted as a way to used their Philistine enemies against David. King Saul proclaimed Michal would be given to David if David gave the foreskins of one hundred Philistines as a dowry. In order to obtain the foreskins, David would need to cut the skin off of the end of one hundred Philistine penises,

which would most likely require their deaths. Saul hoped that David would die trying to obtain the foreskins, but instead, David came back with two hundred foreskins, so Saul had to give his daughter in marriage to David. This card has to do with going above and beyond what is required of you, and succeeding even when others are trying to set you up for failure. If this card is reversed, it might represent a lack of initiative or effort.

Related Scripture:

1 Samuel 18:17-30 And Saul said to David, Behold my elder daughter Merab, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for me, and fight the Lord's battles. For Saul said, Let not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Philistines be upon him. 18 And David said unto Saul, Who am I? and what is my life, or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son in law to the king? 19 But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto Adriel the Meholathite to wife. 20 And Michal Saul's daughter loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. 21 And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be my son in law in the one of the twain. 22 And Saul commanded his servants, saying, Commune with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore be the king's son in law. 23 And Saul's servants spake those words in the ears of David. And David said, Seemeth it to you a light thing to be a king's son in law, seeing that I am a poor man, and lightly esteemed? 24 And the servants of Saul told him, saying, On this manner spake David. 25 And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. 26 And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son in law: and the days were not expired. 27 Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife. 28 And Saul saw and knew that the Lord was with David, and that Michal Saul's daughter loved him. 29 And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually. 30 Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by.

## NINE OF SWORDS



Theme/Keyword: Consequence

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Nine of Swords Card represents King David being convicted by Nathan for his betrayal of Uriah the Hittite and his adultery with Bathsheba. David recognized his sins and repented, but he did not escape the consequences of them. Due to his sins, the child Bathsheba was carrying died, and Nathan foretold that the sword would never depart

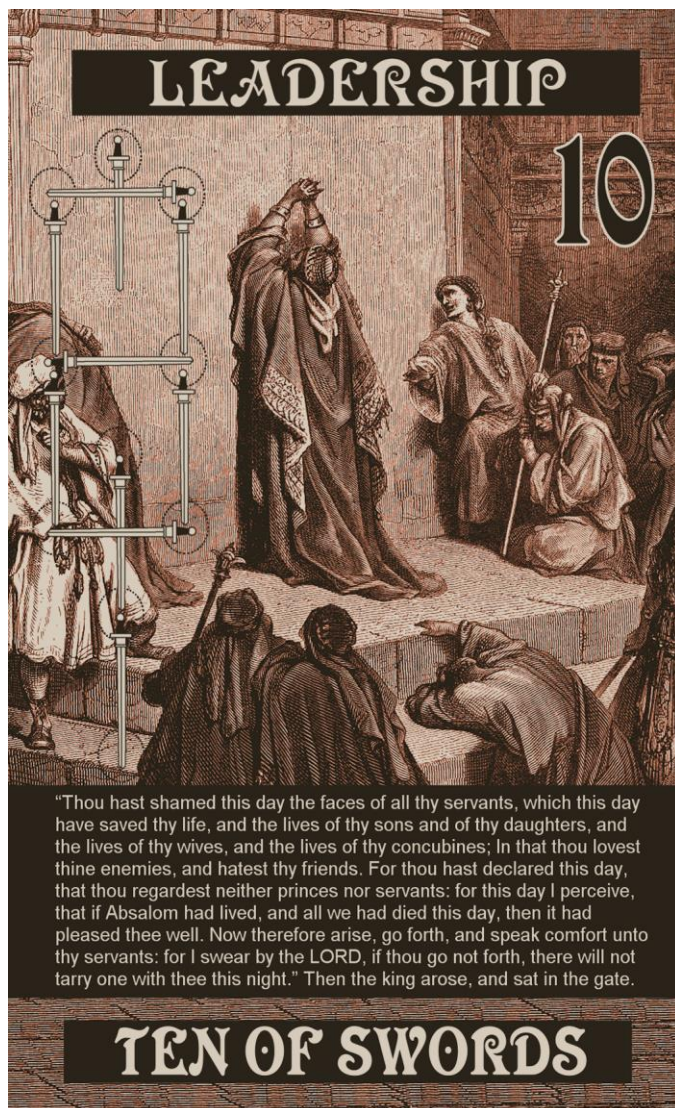
from David's house. One of David's children would later rape his sister, be murdered by his brother Absalom, and Absalom would later attempt to overthrow David's kingdom. This card has to do with consequences. There are consequences for every action, and there is nothing done in secret that will not be shouted from the rooftops (Luke 12:2-3). If this card is reversed, it might represent a feeling of having escaped from consequences (which is probably not true), or it might represent having faced certain consequences and moved forward.

Related Scripture:

2 Samuel 12:1-16



## TEN OF SWORDS



Theme/Keyword: Leadership

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Ten of Swords Card is of King David mourning over the death of his son Absalom – who died trying to overthrow David's kingdom. While the kingdom was rejoicing about being saved from an invading army, King David made them feel ashamed, because he was sad about the death of his son. Joab confronted David and told him that he

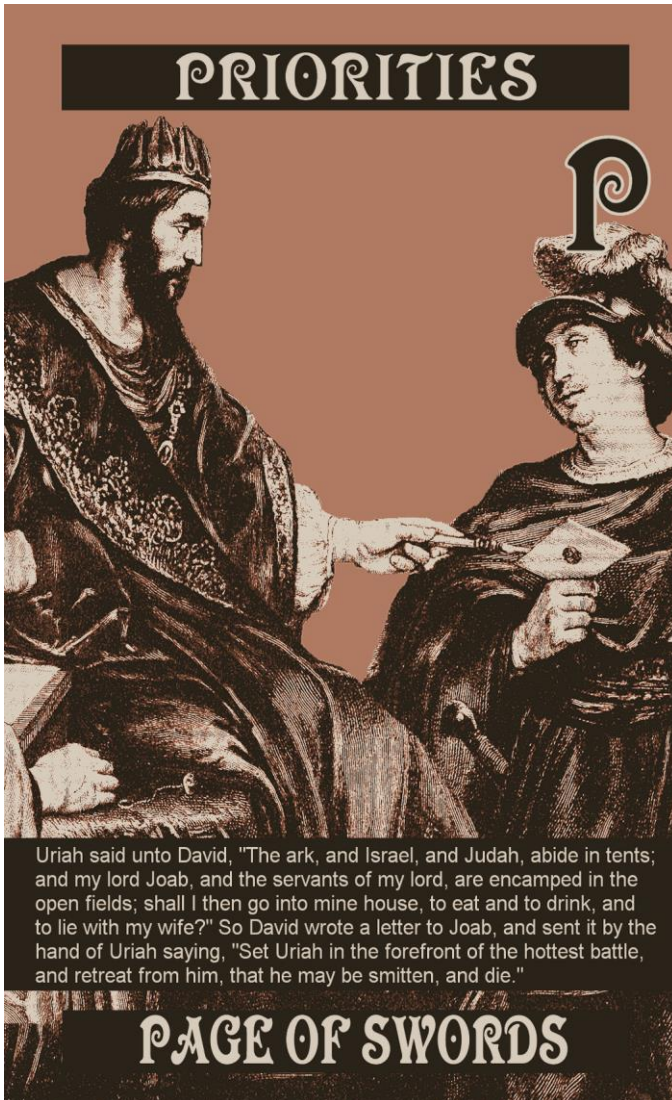


needed to put his personal feelings aside and behave like a king. Joab warned David that if he did not pull himself together and comfort his subjects, then no one in the kingdom would follow him after that day. David listened to Joab's advice and comforted his people. This card is about leadership. In order to be a good leader, you must consider the feelings of your subordinates, and sometimes you must put aside your personal feelings in order to fulfill your duties. Leadership involves inspiring confidence in your decisions, and providing your followers with purpose, direction, and motivation. If this card is reversed, it might represent a lack of leadership, bad leadership, not stepping up and doing the right thing, or being a dictator/tyrant instead of being someone that others choose to follow.

#### Related Scripture:

2 Samuel 19:1-8 And it was told Joab, Behold, the king weepeth and mourneth for Absalom. 2 And the victory that day was turned into mourning unto all the people: for the people heard say that day how the king was grieved for his son. 3 And the people gat them by stealth that day into the city, as people being ashamed steal away when they flee in battle. 4 But the king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son! 5 And Joab came into the house to the king, and said, Thou hast shamed this day the faces of all thy servants, which this day have saved thy life, and the lives of thy sons and of thy daughters, and the lives of thy wives, and the lives of thy concubines; 6 In that thou lovest thine enemies, and hatest thy friends. For thou hast declared this day, that thou regardest neither princes nor servants: for this day I perceive, that if Absalom had lived, and all we had died this day, then it had pleased thee well. 7 Now therefore arise, go forth, and speak comfortably unto thy servants: for I swear by the Lord, if thou go not forth, there will not tarry one with thee this night: and that will be worse unto thee than all the evil that befell thee from thy youth until now. 8 Then the king arose, and sat in the gate. And they told unto all the people, saying, Behold, the king doth sit in the gate. And all the people came before the king: for Israel had fled every man to his tent.

## PAGE OF SWORDS



Uriah said unto David, "The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife?" So David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah saying, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be smitten, and die."

Theme/Keyword: Priorities

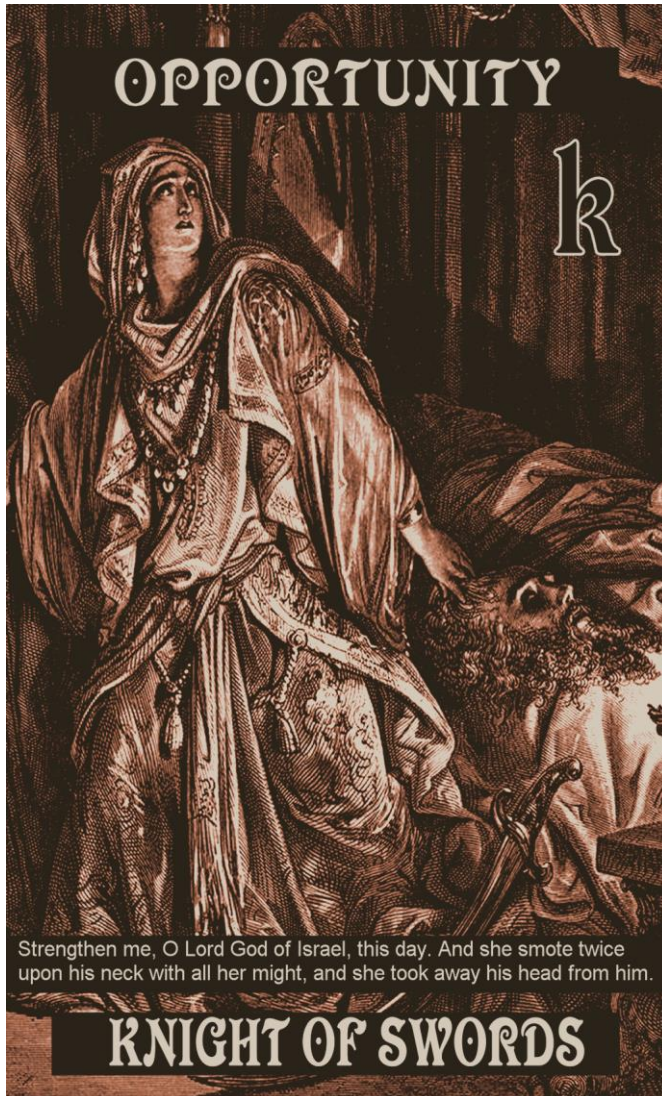
Meaning/Comments: The image on the Page of Swords Card is of King David giving Uriah the Hittite the letter that contains instructions for Uriah's own death. While Uriah was away at war (fighting in David's army), King David committed adultery with Uriah's wife and got her pregnant. David brought Uriah home from the war hoping that Uriah would sleep with his wife and mistake David's baby for his own. Unfortunately for Uriah, he was

too committed to the war effort, and felt it would not be appropriate for him to rest at home and sleep with his wife while the armies of Israel were living in tents on the battlefield. There is no doubt that Uriah was a devoted soldier, but he prioritized his devotion to duty above his commitment to his wife. Having been away from home for so long, his wife should have been thankful for any time she got to spend with him. However, since Uriah was more committed to his job, there was no way that he would mistake David's child for his own, leading David to resort to Plan B, which involved causing Uriah to die in combat. If Uriah had made his wife more of a priority, then maybe she would not have cheated on him in the first place. There is no doubt that Uriah's heart was in the right place, but he should have balanced his personal and professional lives more appropriately. The relationship between a husband and wife should be the top priority. A man leaves his father and mother in order to be joined together with his wife, and after that, he shouldn't leave his wife in order to be joined together with his job. The bottom line is that careers come and go, but marriages should last a lifetime. You should be able to trust your spouse, because you are in it together. Although your employer may share an interest with you in the mutual success of a company, in the end, your employer views you as a commodity and will place the needs of the company above the needs of its employees. This card has to do with priorities; make sure you are prioritizing things correctly in your life. What is most important to you in life? Priorities such as God, Family, and Country should be placed in the correct order. If this card is reversed, it might represent a lack of priorities, placing emphasis on the wrong things, or having learned from experience to prioritize correctly.

Related Scripture:

2 Samuel 11:3-27

## KNIGHT OF SWORDS



Theme/Keyword: Opportunity

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Knight of Swords Card is of Judith beheading Holofernes. The Assyrians were aware of God protecting Israel, and how He helped them escape from Egypt, so they did not attack Jerusalem directly, but waited to determine whether or not God was with the children of Israel at the time (because they knew that God would withdraw His favor in response to their iniquities). Instead, of attacking, Holofernes (the leader of

the enemy army) cut off Israel from their supplies, which caused Israel's cisterns to be empty in an effort to starve them out. Judith was a widow whose husband died of heat exhaustion while working in the wheat fields. When she heard that the people of Israel were planning on surrendering because of a lack of food and water, and went to the town officials, told them that they were being tested, and asked them to trust in God instead of surrendering. Uzziah (the King of Israel at the time) told her to go and pray that God sends rain so they could sustain themselves, otherwise he would surrender in a matter of days. Judith told Uzziah to allow her and her servant girl to leave the fortified city and with God's help she would rescue the people of Israel before the date they planned on surrendering. Judith then prayed to God, and asked they He bless her efforts to use deceit in order to overcome their enemies, just as Dinah's brothers did in order to avenge her rape. Outside of the walls, Judith was arrested and taken to Holofernes. She claimed that she would provide him with information on how to cross the mountains and conquer Israel without a single casualty. She used her beauty and wisdom to gain Holofernes' trust. One evening, Holofernes sought to get Judith drunk, because he was hoping to have sex with her. However, Judith was able to get Holofernes drunk to the point that he passed out in his bed chamber, and Judith found herself alone with the unconscious leader of the enemy army. Judith beheaded Holofernes and she and her servant girl snuck his head out of the camp and brought it to Jerusalem. When the Assyrians found Holofernes beheaded they said, "*one woman of the Hebrews hath brought shame upon the house of king Nabuchodonosor: for, behold, Holofernes lieth upon the ground without a head.*" Just as the Philistines fled after witnessing a shepherd boy (King David) behead their greatest warrior, when a single Hebrew woman was able to behead the leader of the Assyrian army, their soldiers became horrified and scattered in fear. The Book of Judith is about two women who walked out of a fortified city and returned a few days later with the head of their enemy's army. Judith determined to take actions, she placed her faith in God, and she was given the opportunity to save her people. This card is about opportunity; sometimes you must work for the opportunity and put effort into your plans, but it is faith in God that allows the seemingly impossible to be accomplished. We are to trust in God and pray for His assistance, but we cannot just sit around waiting for our prayers to be answered – we must do our part and put in the effort. If this card is reversed, it would represent a missed or lack of opportunity(s).

#### Related Scripture:

Judith 9:1-14 Judith fell upon her face, and put ashes upon her head, and uncovered the sackcloth wherewith she was clothed; and about the time that the incense of that evening was offered in Jerusalem in the house of the Lord Judith cried with a loud voice, and said, {9:2} O Lord God of my father Simeon, to whom thou gavest a sword to take vengeance of the strangers,

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who loosened the girdle of Dinah to defile her, and discovered the thigh to her shame, and polluted her virginity to her reproach; for thou saidst, It shall not be so; and yet they did so: {9:3} Wherefore thou gavest their rulers to be slain, so that they dyed their bed in blood, being deceived, and smotest the servants with their lords, and the lords upon their thrones; {9:4} And hast given their wives for a prey, and their daughters to be captives, and all their spoils to be divided among thy dear children; who were eager to do your will. Dinah's brothers were furious because of this disgrace to their family, so they called on you for help. O God, O my God, hear me also a widow. {9:5} For thou hast wrought not only those things, but also the things which fell out before, and which ensued after; thou hast thought upon the things which are now, and which are to come. {9:6} Yea, what things thou didst determine were ready at hand, and said, Lo, we are here: for all thy ways are prepared, and thy judgments are in thy foreknowledge. {9:7} For, behold, the Assyrians are multiplied in their power; they are exalted with horse and man; they glory in the strength of their footmen; they trust in shield, and spear, and bow, and sling; and know not that thou art the Lord that breakest the battles: the Lord is thy name. {9:8} Throw down their strength in thy power, and bring down their force in thy wrath: for they have purposed to defile thy sanctuary, and to pollute the tabernacle where thy glorious name resteth and to cast down with sword the horn of thy altar. {9:9} Behold their pride, and send thy wrath upon their heads: give into mine hand, which am a widow, the power that I have conceived. {9:10} Smite by the deceit of my lips the servant with the prince, and the prince with the servant: break down their stateliness by the hand of a woman. {9:11} For thy power standeth not in multitude nor thy might in strong men: for thou art a God of the afflicted, an helper of the oppressed, an upholder of the weak, a protector of the forlorn, a saviour of them that are without hope. {9:12} I pray thee, I pray thee, O God of my father, and God of the inheritance of Israel, Lord of the heavens and earth, Creator of the waters, king of every creature, hear thou my prayer: {9:13} And make my speech and deceit to be their wound and stripe, who have purposed cruel things against thy covenant, and thy hallowed house, and against the top of Sion, and against the house of the possession of thy children. {9:14} And make every nation and tribe to acknowledge that thou art the God of all power and might, and that there is none other that protecteth the people of Israel but thou.

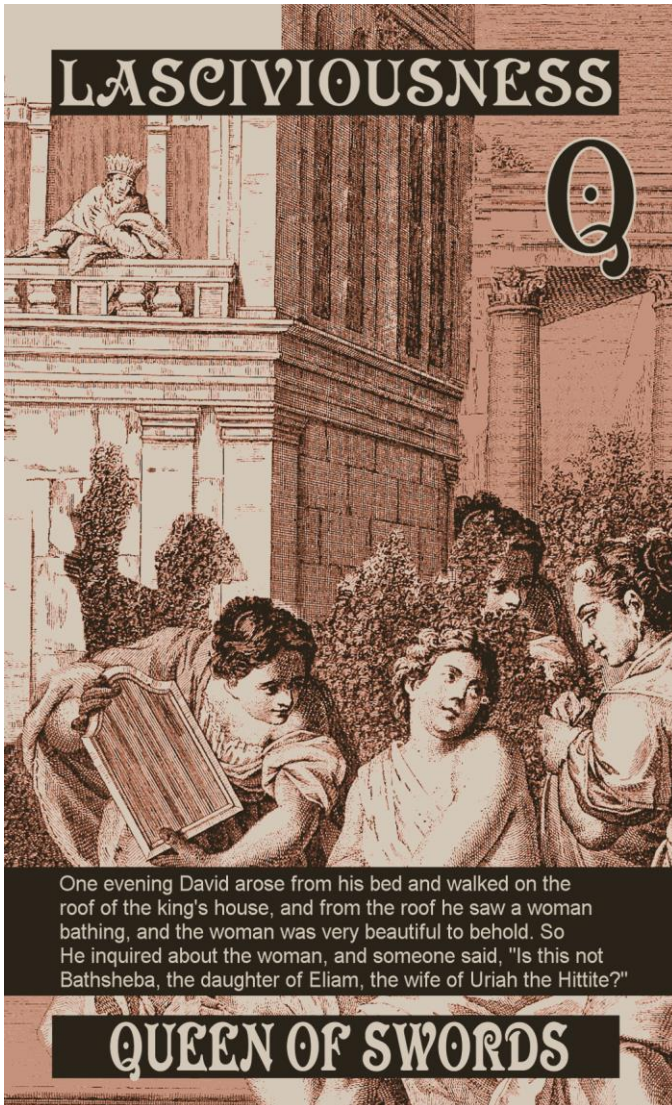
Judith 11:20-23 Then her words pleased Holofernes and all his servants; and they marvelled at her wisdom, and said, {11:21} There is not such a woman from one end of the earth to the other, both for beauty of face, and wisdom of words. {11:22} Likewise Holofernes said unto her. God hath done well to send thee before the people, that strength might be in our hands and destruction upon them that lightly regard my lord. {11:23} And now thou art both beautiful in thy countenance, and witty in thy words: surely if thou do as

thou hast spoken thy God shall be my God, and thou shalt dwell in the house of king Nabuchodonosor, and shalt be renowned through the whole earth.

Judith 12:15-20 Then he commanded to bring her in where his plate was set; and bade that they should prepare for her of his own meats, and that she should drink of his own wine. {12:16} Now when Judith came in and sat down, Holofernes his heart was ravished with her, and his mind was moved, and he desired greatly her company; for he waited a time to deceive her, from the day that he had seen her. {12:17} Then said Holofernes unto her, Drink now, and be merry with us. {12:18} So Judith said, I will drink now, my lord, because my life is magnified in me this day more than all the days since I was born. {12:19} Then she took and ate and drank before him what her maid had prepared. {12:20} And Holofernes took great delight in her, and drank more wine than he had drunk at any time in one day since he was born.

Judith 13:2-10 And Judith was left along in the tent, and Holofernes lying along upon his bed: for he was filled with wine. {13:3} Now Judith had commanded her maid to stand without her bedchamber, and to wait for her. coming forth, as she did daily: for she said she would go forth to her prayers, and she spake to Bagoas according to the same purpose. {13:4} So all went forth and none was left in the bedchamber, neither little nor great. Then Judith, standing by his bed, said in her heart, O Lord God of all power, look at this present upon the works of mine hands for the exaltation of Jerusalem. {13:5} For now is the time to help thine inheritance, and to execute thine enterprizes to the destruction of the enemies which are risen against us. {13:6} Then she came to the pillar of the bed, which was at Holofernes' head, and took down his fauchion from thence, {13:7} And approached to his bed, and took hold of the hair of his head, and said, Strengthen me, O Lord God of Israel, this day. {13:8} And she smote twice upon his neck with all her might, and she took away his head from him. {13:9} And tumbled his body down from the bed, and pulled down the canopy from the pillars; and anon after she went forth, and gave Holofernes his head to her maid; {13:10} And she put it in her bag of meat: so they twain went together according to their custom unto prayer: and when they passed the camp, they compassed the valley.

# QUEEN OF SWORDS



Theme/Keyword: Lasciviousness, Lust

Meaning/Comments: The image on the Queen of Swords Card is of King David lusting after Bathsheba as she bathed. David inquired as to who she was, and even after learning that she was the wife of Uriah the Hittite, he sent for her and committed adultery with her; causing her to become pregnant, and starting a chain of events that would have severe consequences on his

family. Besides this one incident with Bathsheba and Uriah, David was a man after Gods own heart and served Him faithfully. The baby Bathsheba was carrying died as a result of their sin, but she later conceived and gave birth to Solomon. King David would hand his kingdom over to Solomon, who also found favor with God for a time, but Solomon also succumbed to his lust and committed adultery against God by marrying foreign women and allowing his one thousand wives to set up temples to idols. This card is about lust and resisting temptation, because a few moments of pleasure can have devastating ramifications in your earthly and spiritual lives. If this card is reversed, it might represent overcoming temptation, or the ability to resist it.

#### Related Scripture:

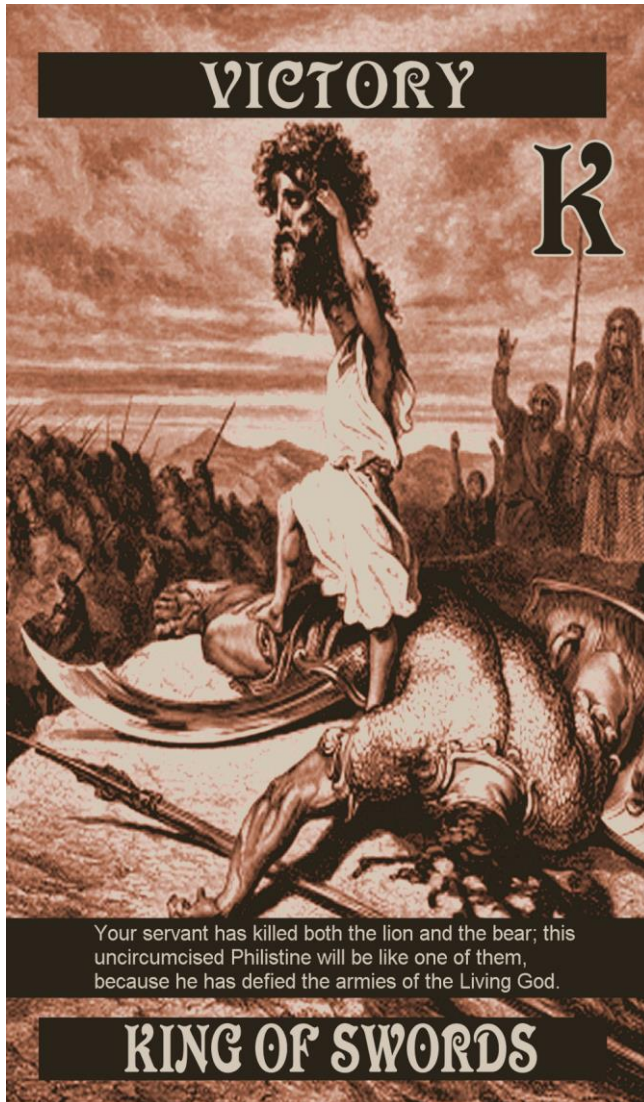
2 Samuel 11:1-5 And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem. 2 And it came to pass in an 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. 3 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? 4 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 unto her house. 5 And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child.

Exodus 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Matthew 5:27-29 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: 28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. 29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

James 1:13-15 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

# KING OF SWORDS



Theme/Keyword: Victory

Meaning/Comments: The image on the King of Swords Card is of King David beheading Goliath. David was anointed by Samuel to be the next King of Israel and went to visit his brothers who were serving in the army. David was a shepherd boy, but he had faith in God and would not tolerate Goliath challenging the God of Israel. Prior to this event, God provided David opportunities to build his confidence and master his skills with the sling.



David had defended his father's sheep from both a lion and a bear, and determined that he could do the same against Goliath. David stood as a boy armed with a sling and a rock against a giant, who was wearing full battle armor. David had faith in God and gave credit to God for the victory even before he slew Goliath, then with one stone, he killed the giant and the Philistine army fled in fear. This card is about victory, which we must play our part in, but life is much easier and we can be far more successful when we place our trust in God. If this card is reversed, it might represent the possibility of victory or a failure.

Related Scripture:

1 Samuel 17:34-54

## About the Author



Daniel E. Loeb is a scholar, occult author, and spiritual mentor who wrote under the pseudonym D. W. Prudence, while working in public service. He retired after serving 20 years in the US Air Force, and is now a full time author and instructor on topics related to Kabbalah, alchemy, and the tarot. He graduated from the Hypnosis Training Institute of Central California in 1994 and from the Therapeutic Learning Center School of Massage in 1997. He earned his Bachelor degree in Psychology in 2002 and a Master's degree in 2008. He has instructed Hypnotherapy certification courses internationally, he's worked as a Hypnotherapist in private practice, and as a Tarot reader. In 2018, He authored of the *'AlcheMystic Woodcut Tarot: the Secret Wisdom of the Ages.'* Loeb is a Jewish family name of German descent; it means 'Lion' and is a reference to the Tribe of Judah. Kabbalah and Rosicrucianism are in his blood, and have been the focus of his studies for many years. His unique life experiences, and his Jewish, Christian, and occult background has enabled him to interact with diverse cultures, and to gain a unique perspective on mysticism and human behavior. He is a husband, and the father of four. His present goal is to aid others in understanding the mystical concepts he has a passion for, and to empower his readers in their own spiritual endeavors. [www.dwellwithprudence.com](http://www.dwellwithprudence.com)