

## 20 – Hour Module on Cults By John Feakes

### Introduction to Cults

#### Reasons for this Module:

1. To glorify God (Philippians 2:10-11) God is glorified when knees bend to the Lord Jesus. Those trapped within cult systems need to be liberated from error before they can trust in the Lord for salvation.
2. To expose error, contend for the faith (Ephesians 5:11, Titus 1:9, Jude 3)
3. Legislated regulations aimed @ bizarre groups could be turned into edicts that would hinder legitimate alternative expressions of faith
4. To protect ourselves from error and deception (i.e. New Age mysticism doctrines and techniques are invading the church by way of the Emerging Church Movement)

#### What is a Cult?

*“By the term cult I mean nothing derogatory to any group so classified. A cult, as I define it, is any religious group which differs significantly in some one or more respects as to belief or practice from those religious groups which are regarded as the normative expressions of religion in our total culture.”*

Dr. Charles Braden, emeritus professor, Northwestern University (1965), “These Also Believe”, Preface, xii, as cited by Dr. Walter Martin, “Kingdom of the Cults”, Bethany House Publishers, revised and expanded, 2003, p.17

*“I may add to this that a cult might also be defined as a group of people gathered about a specific person or person’s misinterpretation of the Bible.”*

Dr. Walter Martin, “Kingdom of the Cults”, Bethany House Publishers, revised and expanded, 2003, p.17

*“It has been wisely observed that men are at liberty to reject Jesus Christ and the Bible as the word of God; they are at liberty to oppose Him; they are at liberty to challenge it. But they are not at liberty to alter the essential message of the Scriptures, which is the good news that God does are for the lost souls of His children, and so loved us as to send His only Son that we might live through Him.”*

Dr. Walter Martin, “The Kingdom of the Cults”, Revised and Expanded, 2003, p. 21

#### Scaling the Language Barrier:

*“The student of cultism, then, must be prepared to scale the language barrier of terminology. First, he must recognize that it does exist, and second, must acknowledge the very real fact that unless terms are defined when one is either speaking or reading cult theology, the semantic jungle that the cults have created will envelope him, making difficult, if not impossible, a proper contrast between the teachings of the cults and those of orthodox Christianity.”*

Dr. Walter Martin, “The Kingdom of the Cults”, Revised and Expanded, 2003, p. 28

*“The late George Orwell’s stirring novel 1984, in which he points out that the redefinition of common political terms can lead to slavery when it is allowed to pass unchallenged by a lethargic populace is a classic illustration of the dangers of perverted semantics.”*

Dr. Walter Martin, “The Kingdom of the Cults”, Revised and Expanded, 2003, p. 29

*“The average non-Christian cult owes its very existence to the fact that it had utilized the terminology of Christianity, has borrowed liberally from the Bible (almost always out of context), and sprinkled its format with evangelical cliches and terms whenever possible or advantageous.”*

Dr. Walter Martin, “The Kingdom of the Cults”, Revised and Expanded, 2003, p. 29

*“Another confusing aspect of non-Christians cults’ approach to semantics is the manner in which they will surprise the Christian will voluminous quotations from no less authority than the Bible...Realizing that the cultist will apparently agree with the doctrine under discussion while firmly disagreeing in reality with the historical and biblical concept, the Christian is on his way to dealing effectively with cult terminology.”*

Dr. Walter Martin, “The Kingdom of the Cults”, Revised and Expanded, 2003, p. 29

*“And just as the American Bar Association will not tolerate confusion of terminology on the trial of cases, and as the American Medical Association will not tolerate redefinition of terminology in diagnostic and surgical*

*medicine, so also the church of Jesus Christ has every right not to tolerate the gross perversions and redefinitions of historic biblical terminology simply to accommodate a culture and a society that cannot tolerate an absolute standard or criterion of truth."*

Dr. Walter Martin, "The Kingdom of the Cults", Revised and Expanded, 2003, p. 31

**Summary** ("Kingdom of the Cults", p. 32):

- Direct the conversation to the problem of terminology
  - Compare cult definition with the contexts
  - Define:
  - Interpretation, Historical orthodoxy
  - Standard doctrinal words and phrases (I.e. New birth, context, exegesis, gospel etc...)
- Be prepared to share your testimony

Kingdom of the Cults (p. 33):

1. The average cultist knows his own terminology very well; prepared to discuss theology
  2. Well Trained cultist will avoid definition of terms concerning cardinal doctrines
  3. Seek a point of departure - preferably the Scriptures
- Familiarize yourself with cult terminology.

Kingdom of the Cults, p. 483, Re: Doctrinal Knowledge:

- Recognize our hitherto delinquency
- Recognize our lack of study
- Recognize our hitherto inability to explain/defend biblical doctrine

## **The 8 Great Subjects of Scripture**

### **1. The Bible**

- Revelation (Deut. 29:29) *"The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us, and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law."*
- Inspiration (2 Peter 1:21, 2 Timothy 3:16-17) *"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."*, *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*
- Illumination (1 Corinth. 2:12) *"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."*
- Preservation (Isaiah 40:8, Psalm 12:6-7) *"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the word of our God shall stand forever."*, *The words of the LORD are our words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation forever."*
- Meditation (2 Timothy 2:15) *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*

### **2. God the Father**

- **Existence** (Romans 1:20) *"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and godhead, so that they are without excuse."*
- **Sovereignty** (Psalm 135:5-6) *"For I know that the LORD is great: and that our LORD is above all gods. Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did he in heaven and in earth: in the seas, and all deep places."*
- **Trinity** (Deut. 6:4, Isaiah 48)
- **Attributes:**
  - **Divine:** *Omnipotence* (Job 42:2), *"I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee."* *Omnipresence* (Psalm 139:7-8) *"Whither shall I go to flee from thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there."* *Omniscience* (Psalm 139:4) *"For there is not a word on my tongue: but lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether."*

- **Personal:** *Holy* (Isaiah 5:16) *“But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgement, and God that is holy, shall be sanctified in righteousness”*, *Just* (Psalm 19:9) *“The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever: The judgments of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.”* *Love* (1 John 4:8) *“He that loveth not, knoweth not God: for God is love.”*

### 3. Jesus Christ

- **Deity** (John 1:1) *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”*
- **Humanity** (John 1:14, Hebrews 2:14) *“And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us...”, “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise partook of the same, that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.”*
- **Resurrection** (Romans 1:4, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4) *“[Jesus was] declared to be the Son of God, with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”*, *“For I delivered to you first of all, that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures: and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”*
- **Return** (Titus 2:13) *“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and Saviour Jesus Christ...”*

### 4. Holy Spirit

- **Personality** (Ephesians 4:30) *“And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”*
- **Deity** (Acts 5:3-4, 2 Corinthians 13:14) *“But Peter said, Ananias, Why hath Satan filled thine heart lie to the holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whilst it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but to God”*, *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, an the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.”*
- **Salvation** (see below)
- **Gifts** (1 Corinthians 12:4, 11) *“Now there are diversities of gifts, buty the same Sprit...But all these worketh that one and the self same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.”*

#### **In Salvation: C.R.I.B.S.**

- Conviction (John 16:8)
- Regeneration (Titus 3:5)
- Baptism (1 Corinthians 12:13)
- Sealing (Ephesians 1:13-14)

### 5. Angels

- **Angels** (Hebrews 1:14) *“Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation”*
- **Demons** (Jude 6) *“And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.*
- **Satan** (Luke 10:18, 1 Peter 5:8) *“And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.”*; *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”*

- **Defenses:**

**Alert** (1 Peter 5:8) *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”*

**Armour** (Ephesians 6:13) *“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”*

**Resist** (James 4:7) *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

### 6. Man

- **Origin** (Genesis 1:27) *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

- **Nature** (1 Thessalonians 5:23) And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Depravity** (Romans 5:12) “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”
- **Destiny** (Hebrews 9:27) And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

## 7. Salvation

- **Basis** (Ephesians 2:8-9) “*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast.*”
- **Result** (Romans 5:1) “*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*”
- **Cost** (1 Peter 2:24, 3:18) “*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed*”; “*For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.*”
- **Timing** (Romans 8:23) “*And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.*”

## 8. Future Things

- **Return** (Matthew 16:27) “*For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.*”
- **Judgment** (2 Corinthians 5:10, Revelation 20:15) “*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.; And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*”
- **Universe** (Revelation 21:1) “*And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*”
- **Eternity** (Revelation 22:5) “*And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.*”

## Features of Cults

### Why Cults Prosper (broad Categories)

1. **Love of Darkness** (John 3:19-21) “*And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*”
2. **Spiritual Immaturity** (1 Peter 2:2, Hebrews 5:13-14) “*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.*”; “*For everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*”
3. **Spiritual Subversion** (Galatians 1:6-7, Colossians 2:8-9) “*I marvel that ye are so soon removed from the him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another; but there are some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.*”; “*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.*”

4. **Intellectual Pride** (1 Corinthians 2:26-29) *“For you see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence.”*

### **Why Cults Prosper (Specifics)**

1. Disillusionment with the Political Life
2. Dehumanization by Science
3. Advent of the Drug Culture
4. Future Fright (Nuclear war, environment, etc)
5. Breakdown of the Family
6. Pop. Culture (New Age for Creativity, health, etc)
7. Psychology and the Occult (I.e. Jung)
8. Decline of the Church

*“...I am in agreement that “in general the cults represent the earnest attempt of millions of people to find fulfillment of deep and legitimate needs of the human spirit, which most of them seem not to have found in the established churches...”*

Dr. Walter Martin, “Kingdom of the Cults”, Bethany House Publishers, revised and expanded, 2003, p.18

*“We are in full agreement that these modern movements suggest that there was a vital, if not always coherent, moving force in back of them, giving luster and drive to their beliefs. But since cult systems vigorously oppose the Christian church, particularly in the realm of Christology and soterology, perhaps it is not at all out of order to suggest ‘that force’ is the same that opposed our Lord and the apostles, and has consistently opposed the efforts of the Christian church, the force described by the apostle Paul as ‘the god of this world.’”*

Dr. Walter Martin, “Kingdom of the Cults”, Bethany House Publishers, revised and expanded, 2003, p.19

### **The 12 Marks of a Cult**

#### **1. Extra-biblical Revelation**

- Genesis the longest exposition of creation; Revelation the longest on the end of the world (perfect bookends)
- Strongest warnings against adding to the Bible found in Revelation
- Apostolic witness gone after AD 100
- No universally accepted writings after this time

#### **2. False salvation Basis**

*“For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall love by faith.”*

Galatians 3:10-11

*“When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.”* Matthew 19:25-26

*“Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbid him, because he followeth not us. But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on our part.”* Mark 9:38-40

#### **3. Uncertain Hope**

#### **4. Presumptuous Messianic Leadership**

*“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed. Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; not being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”* 1 Peter 5:1-4

*"I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* Matthew 16:18

*"[You] are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone..."* Ephesians 2:19,22

**5. Doctrinal Ambiguity**

**6. Claim Special Discoveries**

**7. Defective Christology**

*"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ, For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him."* 2Corinthians 11:2-4

*"Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God."*

2 John 9

*"...thou shalt know no god but me: for there is no savior beside me."* Hosea 13:4

**8. Segmented Biblical Attention**

**9. Enslaving Organizational Structure**

**10. Financial Exploitation**

**11. Denouncing Others**

*"I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church."* 3 John 9-10

[Trinity, Eternal Punishment, Hell, Christendom, Immortal soul]

*Thus every time these terms are mentioned by anyone, the reflex action on the part of the Jehovah's Witness is instantaneous and hostile."* Walter Martin, "Kingdom of the Cults", 3002, p. 43

**12. Unquestioning Submission**

*"At the very core of Mormon theology, there is a tremendous emphasis upon authority as it is invested in the priesthood, rituals, and symbols presided over by the hierarchy of the Mormon Church... Apart from acceptance by this group the average Mormon can find no peace or, for that matter, community status or prestige... The social welfare program of the Mormon is another excellent inducement to Mormons to remain faithful... The Mormons also consciously invoke the biblical principle of helping one another... This forges an incredibly complex system of pressures and intertwining values over which is superimposed the theological structure of the Mormon Church, which stands between the average Mormon and the attainment of "exaltation" or progression to godhood."* Dr. Walter Martin, "The Kingdom of the Cults", 2003, pp. 44-45

## **Mormonism**

### **Basic Mormon Beliefs**

- The God of the Bible is only one of many (Polytheism)
- Almighty God was once a sinful man
- We can become gods
- Adam's fall was actually a good thing (Adam and Eve could have known joy otherwise)
- Jesus and Satan are brothers
- Satan desperately wanted to become the savior of the world
- The Book of Mormon is the most perfect book in the world; the Bible is corrupt and incomplete
- Christ's Church was eradicated until Joseph Smith restored it in 1830
- Over 12.5 million members
- Over 60,000 full-time missionaries- more than any other single missionary-sending organisation.
- Approx. 80 % of converts come from Protestant backgrounds
- Within 15 years the numbers are expected to double

- Within 80 years, with adherents reaching 267 million, Mormonism could become the next world religion since Islam

*"We, the undersigned, have been acquainted with the Smith family for a number of years while they resided near this place, and we have no hesitation in saying that we consider them destitute of the moral character which ought to entitle them to the confidence of any community...Joseph Smith Sr. and his son Joseph, were in particular considered entirely destitute of moral character and addicted to vicious habits."*

The testimony of 62 residents of Palmyra, New York, cited in E.D. Howe, "Mormonism Unveiled", Painsville, Ohio, 1834, p. 261 (see KOTC p. 204)

*"God made Aaron to be the mouth piece for the children of Israel, and he will make me be God to you in his stead and if you don't like it, you must lump it."*

-Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, History of the Church Vol., 6

*"I combat the errors of the ages;...I solve mathematical problems of universities, with truth--diamond truth; and God is my right hand man."* Joseph Smith, History of the Church Vol. 6, [1843]

*"If we get our salvation, we shall have to pass by Joseph Smith; if we enter our glory, it will be through the authority he has received. We cannot get around him."* - 1988 Melchizedek Priesthood Study Guide, p. 142, Apostle George Q. Cannon quoted

[There is] *"no salvation without accepting Joseph Smith. If Joseph Smith was verily a prophet, and if he told the truth...no man can reject that testimony without incurring the most dreadful consequences, for he cannot enter the kingdom of God"* - The Prophet Joseph Fielding Smith, "Doctrines of Salvation", vol. 1, p.190

*"No man or woman in this dispensation will ever enter into the celestial kingdom of God without the consent of Joseph Smith...every man and woman must have the certificate of Joseph Smith, junior, as a passport to their entrance into the mansion where God and Christ are... [Joseph Smith] reigns there as supreme a being in his sphere, capacity, and calling, as God does in heaven. Many will exclaim—"Oh, that is very disagreeable! It is preposterous! We cannot bear the thought!" But it is true."* - The Prophet Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, vol. 7, p.289-91

*"He that confesseth not that Jesus has come in the flesh and sent Joseph Smith with the fullness of the Gospel to this generation, is not of God, but is anti-christ"*

- The Prophet Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, vol. 9, p.312

## **The Two Pillars Supporting Mormonism**

- 1. The Restoration**
- 2. The Book of Mormon**

### **Pillar 1 - The Restoration**

Mormons believe that the church of Jesus Christ was effectively eradicated from the planet soon after the death of the last apostle. They affirm that even certain scriptures were lost. The Bible negates such a premise:

*"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be the glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."*

Ephesians 3:20-21

*"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: But the word of our God shall stand forever."* Isaiah 40:8

*"The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation forever."* Psalm 12:6-7

*"The counsel of the LORD standeth forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations."* Psalm 33:11

*"Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away."* Luke 21:33

*“Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.”* Matthew 26:13

*“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”*  
2 Timothy 3:16

*“Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”* John 15:3

*“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to your word.”*  
Psalm 119:9

*“And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”* John 20:30-31

*“The papyri witness to the text is invaluable...All are extant from within the first two hundred years after the New Testament itself was written.”*

Normal L. Geisler and William E. Nix, “A General Introduction to the Bible”, Moody Press, 1986 P. 391

*“Not a single teaching of the Christian faith is affected by these variations, nor is any major historical aspect of the Gospel narratives or early Christianity affected.”*

Alister E. McGrath, (Professor of Historical Theology at Oxford University and Principal of Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, consulting editor at “Christianity Today”), “In the Beginning: The Story of the King James Bible and How it Changed a Nation, a Language, and a Culture”, 2001, p. 242

*“The real text of the sacred writings is competently exact, nor is one article of faith or moral precept either perverted or lost, choose as awkwardly as you will, choose the worst by design, out of the whole lump of readings.”*

Charles Fremont Sitterly, “Text and Manuscripts of the New Testament,” in *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* (Chicago: Howard-Severance Co., 1915).

*“The interesting and important thing about the late-second-century text is this: at that early date there was already a wide diversity of variants. These variants were of course mostly quite minor in character, but they show that there had been no recent systematic editing of the documents to make them conform to some standard version.”* John W. Wenham, “Christ and the Bible, 1973, p. 178

*“In fact, except for the so-called Pastoral Epistles and Ephesians, it would be next to impossible to find any competent present-day scholarship that denies the Pauline authorship of the corpus of letters purporting to have been written by him.”* John Warwick Montgomery, “History and Christianity”, Downers Grove, Illinois, Intervarsity Press, 1971, p.19

*“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.”*  
Philippians 3:4-8

*“...[Paul] applies to Jesus the Greek word Kyrios, ‘Lord’, which was used in the pre-Christian Greek translation of the Old Testament (the Septuagint) as the equivalent of the most important Hebrew name of God, Yahweh, or YHWH. Note the implications of this. Paul, a monotheistic Jew, trained under the great Rabbi Gamaliel and therefore conversant with the Old Testament, ascribes to Jesus a word employed to render into Greek the most holy name of the one God.”* John Warwick Montgomery, “History and Christianity”, Downers Grove, Illinois, Intervarsity Press, 1971, pp. 50-51.

*“Probably the first document to quote any of the books of the New Testament was I Clement, which itself was considered canonical by some Christians. It is found in Codex Alexandrinus, included with the New Testament books. It was written from Rome to the church in Corinth, and is usually dated about AD 95. In it are plain*

*allusions to Hebrews, I Corinthians, Romans, and the Gospel of Matthew.*” “New Testament Survey”, by Merrill C. Tenney, Revised by Walter M. Dunnnett, 1985, p. 405

*“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the father in my name, he may give it to you.”*  
John 15:16

*“... After arriving in Rome, I compiled the succession down to Anicetus, whose deacon was Eleutherus. In each succession and in every city, preaching corresponds with the Law, the Prophets, and the Lord.”* Hegesippus, as cited by Eusebius, “The Church History”, 4.21-22

*“They affirmed, however, that the whole of their guilt, or their error, was, that they were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang in alternate verse a hymn to Christ as to a god, and bound themselves to a solemn oath, not to do any wicked deeds, but never to commit any fraud, theft, adultery, never to falsify their word, not to deny a trust when they should be called upon to deliver it up”* Pliny the Younger, Epistles X, 96

*“For as there are four quarters of the world in which we live, and four universal winds, and as the Church is dispersed over all the earth, and the gospel is the pillar and the base of the Church and the breath of life, so it is natural that it should have four pillars, breathing immortality from every quarter and kindling the life of men anew. Whence it is manifest that the Word, the architect of all things, who sits upon the cherubim and holds all things together, having been manifest to men, has given us the gospel in fourfold form, but held together in one Spirit. Matthew published his Gospel among the Hebrews (ie the Jews) in their own tongue, when Peter and Paul were preaching the gospel in Rome and founding the Church there. After their departure, Mark, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, himself handed down to us in writing the substance of Peter’s preaching. Luke, the follower of Paul, set down in a book the gospel preached by his teacher. Then John, the disciple of the Lord, who also leaned on His breast, himself produced his gospel, while he was living at Ephesus in Asia.”*  
Irenaeus, Against Heresies, 3.1.

*“The agreement between Justin’s account of Jesus’ life and teaching taken from the Memoirs and our Synoptic Gospels often extends to small particulars – and this is of significance... These coincidences in details, together with the general tenor of his account, suggest that Justin’s Memoirs were in substance identical with our Synoptic Gospels whatever else they may have contained.”* “Justin Martyr: His Life and His Thought”, by L.W. Barnard, Cambridge University Press, 1967, pp. 59-60

*“The Masorettes were indeed anxious that not one jot nor tittle, not one smallest letter nor one tiny part of a letter, of the law should pass away or be lost.”*  
Fredric Kenyon, “Our Bible and the Ancient Manuscripts”, p. 38

*“It is a matter of wonder that through something like a thousand years the text underwent so little alteration. As I said in my first article on the scroll, ‘Herein lies its chief importance, supporting the fidelity of the Masoretic tradition.’”* Millard Burrows, “The Dead Sea Scrolls”, p. 304, as cited by Geisler, “Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics”, Baker Books, 1999, p. 187

*“Because of their faithfulness, we have today a form of the Hebrew text which in all essentials duplicates the recension which was considered authoritative in the days of Christ and the apostles, if not a century earlier. And this in turn, judging from the Qumran evidence, goes back to an authoritative revision of the Old Testament text which was drawn up on the basis of the most reliable manuscripts available for collation from previous centuries.”* Gleason Archer, “A Survey of Old Testament Introduction”, Moody Press, 1974, p. 65

*“With the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, scholars have Hebrew manuscripts dated one thousand years earlier than the great Masoretic text manuscripts... There is a word-for-word identity in more than 95 percent of the cases, and the 5-percent variation consists mostly of slips of the pen and spelling.”* Millard Burrows, “What Mean These Stones”, cited in Josh McDowell, “The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict”, p. 90

*“Nothing in the new discoveries from the Qumran caves endangers the essential reliability and authority of our standard Hebrew Bible text...”*

Gleason Archer, "A Survey of Old Testament Introduction", Moody Press, 1974, p. 65

*"Some of the more prominent division of the work of Joseph Smith have survived, though barely, to this day. In the 1990 edition of his book, Divergent Oaths of Restoration (Los Angeles Calif.; Restoration Research), author Steven L. Shields lists well over one hundred "restoration": churches that claim Joseph Smith, his first vision, and the Book of Mormon as their foundation."* Kingdom of the Cults, p. 202

## **Pillar 2 – The Book of Mormon**

*"To consider that everything of saving significance in the Church stands or falls on the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon and, by implication, the Prophet Joseph Smith's account of how it came forth is as sobering as it is true. It is a "sudden death" proposition. Either the Book of Mormon is what the Prophet Joseph said it is, or this Church and its founder are false, a deception from the first instance onward. . . . Joseph Smith must be accepted either as a prophet of God or else as a charlatan of the first order. . . ." (Jeffrey Holland, Christ and the New Covenant, Desert Book, 1997, pp. 345-47; as quoted by BYU professor Robert Millett, [http://www.byui.edu/Presentations/Transcripts/Devotionals/2004\\_01\\_27\\_Millet.htm](http://www.byui.edu/Presentations/Transcripts/Devotionals/2004_01_27_Millet.htm)).*

### **Other "Amazing" Writings:**

*"Mrs. J.H. Curran, of St. Louis, Missouri, was no scholar. She had little knowledge of history, only a slight interest in books, and even less idea of the intricacies of language history. Yet from her poured a stream of writings that astonished the most eminent academics on both sides of the Atlantic."*

Strange Stories, Amazing facts", Readers Digest Association, Inc., 1976, p. 393

*"There are certainly some bold ideas, but they are crude and undigested. It is very odd: One would be led to think that Shakespeare must have been very young when he wrote the play. As to the doubting whether it be really his or not, who can possibly look at the papers, and not believe them ancient?"* Dramatist Richard Sheridan, commenting on Ireland's forged play, Cited in Readers Digest, "Strange Stories, Amazing Facts", 1976, p. 476

*"Although Sheridan questioned the play's quality, he did not doubt its authenticity, and bought it for about 300 [pounds] and a share of the profits from its production on the stage."* Readers Digest, "Strange Stories, Amazing Facts", 1976, p. 476

"Did Ethan Smith's View of the Hebrews furnish structural material for Joseph Smith's Book of Mormon? It has been pointed out in these pages that there are many things in the former book that might well have suggested many major things in the other. Not a few things merely, one or two, or a half dozen, but many; and it is this fact of many things of similarity and the cumulative force of them that makes them so serious a menace to Joseph Smith's story of the Book of Mormon's origin." -B.H. Roberts

*"In the light of this evidence, there can be no doubt as to the possession of a vividly strong, creative imagination by Joseph Smith, the Prophet, an imagination, it could with reason be urged, which, given the suggestions that are to be found in the 'common knowledge' of accepted American antiquities of the times, supplemented by such a work as Ethan Smith's View of the Hebrews, would make it possible for him to create a book such as the Book of Mormon is."* -B.H. Roberts

*"I shall hold that what is here presented illustrates sufficiently the matter taken in hand by referring to them, namely that they are all of one breed and brand; so nearly alike that one mind is the author of them, and that a young and undeveloped, but piously inclined mind. The evidence, I sorrowfully submit, points to Joseph Smith as their creator."* -B.H. Roberts

*"Through the whole continent, and in the remotest woods, are traces of their ancient warlike disposition. We frequently met with great mounds of earth, either of a circular, or oblong form, having a strong breast-work at a distance around them, made of the clay which had been dug up in forming the ditch on the inner side of the inclosed ground, and these were their forts of security against an enemy... About 12 miles from the upper northern parts of the Choktah country, there stand...two oblong mounds of earth...in an equal direction with each other... A broad deep ditch inclosed those two fortress, and there they raised an high breast-work, to secure their houses from the invading enemy." "The History of the American Indians", pp 377-378*

HOWE, Eber D. *MORMONISM UNVAILED: Or, A Faithful Account of that Singular Imposition and Delusion, from its Rise to the Present Time. With Sketches of the Characters of its Propagators, and a Full Detail of the Manner in Which the Famous GOLDEN BIBLE Was Brought Before the World. To Which are Added, Inquiries into the Probability that the Historical Part of the Said Bible Was Written by One Solomon Spalding, More than Twenty Years Ago, and By Him Intended to Have Been Published as a Romance. By E. D. Howe.* Painesville [Ohio]: Printed and Published by the Author., 1834.

“...no one, the prophet Joseph Smith excepted, has yet translated the Anthon Transcript. If modern students of Egyptians can't do it—at least they haven't—it is too much to believe that Professor Anthon could” The Mormon scholar Sidney B. Sperry “*The Problems of the Book of Mormon*, p.60”

“In a word, then, the Egyptian writing has passed through all the stages of development, from the purely pictorial to the alphabetical, but with this strange qualification,—that while advancing to the later stages it retains the use of crude earlier forms. As Canon Taylor has graphically phrased it, the Egyptian writing is a completed structure, but one from which the scaffolding has not been removed. The next step would have been to remove the now useless scaffolding, leaving a purely alphabetical writing as the completed structure. Looking at the matter from the modern standpoint, it seems almost incredible that so intelligent a people as the Egyptians should have failed to make this advance...Here *Queften*, monkey, is spelled out in full, but the picture of a monkey is added as a determinative; second, *Qenu*, cavalry, after being spelled, is made unequivocal by the introduction of a picture of a horse; third, *Temati*, wings, though spelled elaborately, has pictures of wings added; and fourth, *Tatu*, quadrupeds, after being spelled, has a picture of a quadruped, and then the picture of a hide, which is the usual determinative of a quadruped, followed by three dashes to indicate the plural number...As aids to memory such pictures are obviously of advantage, but this advantage in the modern view is outweighed by the cumbrousness of the system of writing as a whole.” S. RAPPOPORT, Doctor of Philosophy, Basel, Member of the Ecole Langues Orientales, Paris; Russian, German, French Orientalist and Philologist, VOL. XII., Part C.

“The point at issue is not that Father Lehi, the Jew, could read and understand Egyptian, though this is surprising enough.... No, the big question is how the scripture of the Jews (official or otherwise) came to be written in Egyptian.... If I were to suggest what I think to be the most insistent problem for Book- of-Mormon scholarship, I should unquestionably name this one: account for the Egyptian language on the Plates of Brass, and the Brass Plates themselves!” Mormon writer J. N. Washburn, “The Contents, Structure and Authorship of the Book of Mormon”, p.81.

“When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language. Judah was his sanctuary, and Israel his dominion.” Psalm 114:1-2

“This he ordained in Joseph for a testimony, when he went out through the land of Egypt: where I heard a language that I understood not.”  
Psalm 81:5 (A Psalm of Asaph)

“...all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.” Luke 24:44

“Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law?” John 7:19

“For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” Matthew 5:18

“In 1979 Israeli archaeologist Gabriel Barkay found two tiny silver scrolls inside a Jerusalem tomb. They were dated to around 600 B.C., shortly before the destruction of Solomon's temple and the Israelites' exile in Babylon. When scientists carefully unrolled the scrolls at the Israel Museum, they found a benediction from the book of Numbers etched into their surface. The discovery made it clear that parts of the Old Testament were being copied long before some skeptics had believed they were even written.” “Are the Bible Stories True?”, Time Magazine, December 18, 1995, Volume 146, No. 25  
The calendar found at Gezer is written in Paleo-Hebrew script  
It is dated to 928 B.C.

*"The language, with slight deviations, is Hebrew, and reads almost like a chapter from the Book of Kings."*, Mark Lidzbarsky, [www.theJewishEncyclopedia.com](http://www.theJewishEncyclopedia.com), "The Origin of the Alphabet"

Godly king Josiah initiated war with Egypt in 604 B.C. (2 Chronicles 35:20-23)  
The nation (including Jeremiah) mourned for him after his death (2 Chronicles 35:24-27)

2 Kings 23:34-35: Pharaoh Necho subjected Judah to heavy taxation after defeating Josiah, This occurred while Jeremiah was prophesying (c. 600 B.C.)

The prophet Jeremiah's ministry extended from 627 to 586 BC  
He warned God's people not to seek the help of Egypt.

*"And now what hast thou to do in the way of Egypt, to drink the waters of Sihor? Or what hast thou to do in the way of Assyria, to drink the waters of the river? Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee..."* Jeremiah 2:18

*"The word of the LORD which came to Jeremiah the prophet against the Gentiles; Against Egypt, against the army of Pharaoh-necho, king of Egypt..."* Jeremiah 46:1-2

*"Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them."* Jeremiah 10:2

*"And it came to pass in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that this word came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel and against Judah, and against all the nations..."* Jeremiah 36:1-2

*"Concerning the record of the Prophet Joseph Smith said: "I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding to its precepts, than by any other book."* Introduction to the 1981 version of the Book of Mormon

*"...written to the Lamanites, which are a remnant of the house of Israel"* Book of Mormon Title Page

*"After thousands of years, all were destroyed except the Lamanites, and they are the principle ancestors of the American Indians."* Book of Mormon, Introduction Preface, 1:2

*"Mormon affirms to Lamanites that they are of the house of Israel – admonishes them for their salvation."*  
*Book of Mormon, Mormon chapter 7, Heading*  
The footnote states that this admonishment was given in 385 AD

*"And behold, it is wisdom that this land should be kept as yet from the knowledge of other nations; for behold, many nations would overrun the land, that there would be no place for an inheritance."* 2 Nephi 1:8

*"The whole face of the land had become covered with buildings, and the people were as numerous almost, as it were the sand of the sea."* Mormon 1:7

*"Tudor Parfitt, the protagonist of the NOVA documentary "Lost Tribes of Israel," made a journey through southern Africa to study the unusual traditions of a black African tribe called the Lemba. This Bantu-speaking group claimed Jewish ancestry and observed many Semitic traditions such as kosher-like dietary restrictions and slaughter practices, male circumcision rites, strict rules against intermarriage, and Semitic-sounding clan names.*

*Parfitt spent many months with the Lemba, meeting their tribal and religious leaders and observing some of their most sacred rituals. He came to the conclusion that the origin of many of the Lemba traditions was indeed Semitic, not African. But whether these traditions came from Islamic or Jewish sources was impossible to discern from the historical and anthropological evidence available. It would take Y-chromosome studies to delve deeper into this question of origin."*  
*A few years after his travels, Parfitt teamed up with a group from The Center for Genetic Anthropology at*

University College London to look for a genetic counterpart to the Lemba's oral tradition of Jewish descent. Using a relatively new technique in genetic studies, the team identified a particular series of genetic markers on the Y chromosome of Lemba males. They then compared these markers to other groups with whom the Lemba might have shared a common ancestor long ago.

*The team collected DNA samples from Bantu (African), Yemeni (Arab), and Sephardic Jews and Ashkenazi Jews (including Cohanim from both communities) to compare the amount of similarity that existed between each of these groups. As we've seen, the more similar the Y chromosome, the more closely related are some individuals in the different groups to a common paternal ancestor. As a consequence, one can establish links between populations."*

*In an interview with NOVA, team member Dr. David Goldstein commented on the team's findings: "The first striking thing about the Y chromosomes of the Lemba is that you find this particular chromosomal type (Cohen modal haplotype) that is characteristic of the Jewish priesthood in a frequency that is similar to what you see in major Jewish populations. Something just under one out of every 10 Lemba that we looked at had this particular Y chromosomal type that appears to be a signature of Jewish ancestry.*

*Perhaps even more striking is the fact that this Cohen genetic signature is strongly associated with a particular clan in the Lemba. Most of the Cohen modal haplotypes that we observe are carried by individuals of the Buba clan which, in Lemba oral tradition, had a leadership role in bringing the Lemba out of Israel. "What this study shows is that the Lemba, and more specifically some members of the Buba sub-clan, seem to have an ancestral connection to Judaic populations. Like an oral history, but written in the letters of their DNA, the Lemba Y chromosome hands from father to son a living record of the past."*

[www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/israel/familylemba.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/israel/familylemba.html)

*"Genetic evidence also supports the oral tradition that the Lemba, who are now the Bantu-speaking people of southern Africa, derive from Jews who migrated from the Middle East to Yemen 2700 years ago and from Yemen to South Africa 2400 years ago. More than 50% of Lemba Y chromosomes carry haplotypes that are common among Jewish populations but absent from their African neighbours. Genetic analysis has also confirmed the distinctiveness of the Cohanim, or traditional Jewish priesthood."*

Owens, K. and M. King. 1999. Genomic views of human history. *Science* 286: 451-453.

*"From the point of view of mitochondrial DNA...the best bet for the origin is the Lake Baikal area of Russia."*  
David Glenn Smith, anthropologist at the University of California at Davis, in interview, National Geographic, "The First Americans", Dec., 2000, p. 65

*"The results showed a close similarity between the Chinese and the Native Americans, demonstrating a recent gene flow from Asia."*

Rich Deem, "DNA Evidence and Molecular Genetics Disprove the Book of Mormon", article at [www.godandscience.org/cults/dna.html](http://www.godandscience.org/cults/dna.html), Deem sources: GE Novick, CC Novick, J. Yunis, E. Yunis, P. Antunez de Mayolo, W.D. Scheer, P.L. Deininger, M. Stoneking, D.S. York, M.A. Batzerm R.J. Herrera, "Polymorphic Alu Insertions and the Asian Origin of Native American Populations", 1998

The East Asian strain of the Helicobacter Pylori has been isolated from Native Americans

See: D. Falush, T. Wirth, B. Linz, J.K. Pritchard, M. Stephens, M. Kidd, M.J. Blaser, D.Y. Graham, S. Vacher, G.I. Perez-Perez, Y. Yamaoka, F. Megraud, et al., "Traces of Human Migrations in Helicobacter Pylori Populations", *Science*, 299: 1528-1529, 2003

The human T-Cell Lymphotropic retrovirus HTLV-II is found in Mongolians and many Native Americans, but not in eastern Siberians.

M.D. Lairemore, S. Jacobson, F. Gracia, L. Castillo, et. Al., "Isolation of Human T-Cell Lymphotropic Virus Type II Infection Among Isolated Brazilian Amerindians in Panama", *J. Infect. Dis.* 166:100-107

37 dog specimens were examined from Mexico, Peru, and Bolivia

11 were examined from Alaska Mt. DNA analysis indicates that Native American dogs originated from multiple lineages of Old World Dogs see: "Ancient DNA Evidence for Old World Origin of New World Dogs", *Science*: 298, 2002, pp. 1540-1542

*"Indeed, BYU's Sorenson says DNA evidence likely may never yield a definitive answer on the question. He points to the fact that the first hurdle is to identify a specific gene pool for ancient Jews. He also notes that most*

*DNA sampling so far has been tied to maternal lineages, which makes it impossible to find a direct line back to Lehi, a male.*

*Sorenson has already argued that Lamanites may well only comprise a sliver of the American Indian population, and that they may never be found in samples of DNA testing.*

*"With [DNA] sampling, you may or may not find evidence of a connection to the Old World," he says. "If you do, that says something. If you don't, that says more research needs to be done." BYU Gene Data May Shed Light On Origin Of Book of Mormon's Lamanites, Thursday, November 30, 2000, BY DAN EGAN, THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE*

*"Yonder in the north there us singing on the lake. Cloud maidens dance on the shore. There we take our being. Yonder in the north cloud beings rise. They ascend onto cloud blossoms. There we take our being. Yonder in the north rain stands over the land...Yonder in the north stands forth at twilight the arc of a rainbow. There we have our being." -Tewa Indian song*

*"Our ancestors came from the north...The Tewa know not when the journey southward began or when it ended, but we do know where it began, how it proceeded, and where it ended. We are unconcerned about time in its historical dimensions, but we will recall in endless detail the features of the 12 places our ancestors stopped. We point to these places to show that the journey did indeed take place."*  
Alfonso Ortiz, "Though Tewa Eyes: Origins", National Geographic, October 1991, p. 7

*"Ice had formed ahead of them, and it reached all the way up to the sky. The people couldn't cross it...A raven flew up and struck the ice and cracked it. Coyote said, "These small people can't get across the ice." Another raven flew up again and cracked the ice again. Coyote said, "Try again, try again." Raven flew up again and broke the ice. The people ran across." Paiute Legend, cited in National Geographic, "The First Americans", December, 2000, p. 43*

*"I too have been to Soviet Asia and seen cave art and an old ceremonial costume remarkably similar to some found in America." Alfonso Ortiz, "Though Tewa Eyes: Origins", National Geographic, October 1991, p. 7*

*"Merritt Ruhlen of Stanford University has found compelling similarities between Ket, a language spoken by just 500 people in remote Siberia, and Na-Dene, a family of Native American languages. Writing in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, he gives examples of 36 words that are similar in the two language families, including the words for birch bark, children and rabbit"*  
WASHINGTON (Reuters), November 8, 1998

*" 'I like the (the word for) birch bark quite a bit', he said in a telephone interview. 'Its so specific. It seems to me that it would be extremely improbable that two families would invent the same word for birch bark' In Ket the word is pronounced something like 'ch'ee' -- a sound hard to transliterate into English. In several existing Na-Dene languages the word is pronounced similarly. The words for bread also correlate. In Ket the word is 'tuhguh' and in the Na-Dene Koyukon language it is 't'uga'."*  
WASHINGTON (Reuters), November 8, 1998

*"Currently on the available evidence there's nothing to suggest a relationship whatsoever with Israelites." Dr. Simon Southerton is a molecular biologist and former Mormon Bishop*

*"I've been working as an anthropologist either as a graduate student or professional since the early 1980's. I personally have never seen any evidence of Hebrew origin of Native Americans. I don't know of any of my colleagues in mainstream anthropology who are trying to prove a Hebrew origin for Native Americans."*  
Dr. Stephen L. Whittington is a Biological Anthropologist, University of Maine., Dr. Stephen L. Whittington is a Biological Anthropologist, University of Maine. He has been Director of the Museum of Anthropology and Adjunct Associate Professor of Anthropology since 2002.

*"There is no compelling evidence for a connection between Jewish populations and Native American populations based on genetics."*

Dr. David Glenn Smith, Molecular Anthropologist, University of California-Davis

*"I've been involved in a number of research projects that had examined DNA variations in ancient populations in the Americas. I don't know of any data that suggests particular similarity of native American populations to any population of the middle east."* Dr. Dennis O'Rourke, Molecular Anthropologist, University of Utah

*"I don't think there is one iota of evidence that suggests a lost tribe from Israel made it all the way to the New World. It is a great story, slain by ugly fact," says Michael Crawford, a University of Kansas professor of biological anthropology and author of "Origins of Native Americans", published by Cambridge University Press."* BYU Gene Data May Shed Light On Origin Of Book of Mormon's Lamanites  
Thursday, November 30, 2000, BY DAN EGAN, THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

*"Mormon Scholars can pretend like this evidence doesn't exist, which I think is dishonest. We can confront it and we can challenge it. I don't think we (Mormons) would be successful in challenging the data, in fact I don't know of any Mormon scientists that are challenging the finding of geneticists... Most Mormon scholars who commented on the subject, including myself, agree that the American Indians could not possibly be the descendants of the Lamanites. That for the American Indians as a whole, it is genetically impossible (for relation to Lamanite descendants), it's also archaeologically impossible. It's also historically and linguistically impossible." - Thomas Murphy, Mormon Anthropologist*

### **Anachronisms**

*"And it came to pass that the Lord God caused that there should be a furious wind blow upon the face of the waters, towards the promised land, and thus they were tossed upon the waves of the sea before the wind."*  
Ether 6:5

*"And thus they were driven forth, three hundred and forty and four days upon the water. And they did land upon the shore of the promised land."* Ether 6:11-12

The shortest distance across the Atlantic Ocean (c.1,600 mi/2,575 km) is between SW Senegal, W Africa, and NE Brazil, E South America. The circumference of the earth at the equator is 24,902 miles. If the "furious wind" only pushed them 10 mph, they could have travelled 82,560 miles in 344 days, or more than 3 trips around the earth!

How could Alma, in the Book of Mormon, have been a High Priest when he belonged to the tribe of Joseph (Manasseh), and not the tribe of Levi? The Bible teaches that High Priests must be descendants of Aaron and belong to the tribe of Levi.  
(Mosiah 11:17, 9:2, 1 Nephi 1:165, Num. 3)

New World Archaeologist Hector Escobedo has stated that though many city names have been identified in the New World, none match those found in the Book of Mormon  
see interview on documentary "The Bible vs. The Book of Mormon", Living Hope Ministries, [www.lhvm.org](http://www.lhvm.org), (435) 723-6469

*"Finding a garden spot on the coast of the Arabian peninsula was laughable and was laughed at in the 1800s, because nobody knew of a place that could come anywhere close to being a candidate for Lehi's Bountiful. Indeed, recent anti-Mormon books continue to mock the possibility of a place like Bountiful existing. "The Arabian desert does not have lush garden spots: Joseph Smith blew it. Case closed." Today we are in a much better position to assess Lehi's journey. It comes as no surprise to me that the journey described in the Book of Mormon now has substantial support behind it."*  
Jeff Lindsay, Mormon Apologist, see his article at <http://www.jefflindsay.com/BMEvidences.shtml>

*"In fortunate Arabia...you can always smell the sweet perfume of marvelous spices, whether it be incense or wonderful myrrh. Its inhabitants have great flocks of sheep in meadows, and birds fly in from distant isles bringing leaves of pure cinnamon."*

Dionysius the Greek, c A.D. 90, cited in Werner Keller (translated by William Neil), "The Bible as History, William Morrow and Company. New York, 1956, p. 208

*“[Arabia] seemed to be shrouded in dark mystery. No Western man had ever seen [Arabia] with his own eyes. “Arabia Felix” remained a book with seven seals. The first European in recent times to embark upon this dangerous adventure was Carsten Niebuhr, a German, who led a Danish expedition to south Arabia in the eighteenth century. Even he got only as far as San’a.”*

Werner Keller (translated by William Neil), *“The Bible as History*, William Morrow and Company. New York, 1956, p. 208

Almah 46:16 – Believers called Christians in the Americas 73 BC

Acts 11:26 – Believers first called Christians in Antioch around AD 40

1 Nephi 1:4 – Lehi’s journey took place in Zedekiah’s 1<sup>st</sup> year

1 Nephi 7:14 – Jeremiah already in prison

Jeremiah 32:1-2 – Jeremiah cast into prison in Zedekiah’s 10<sup>th</sup> year

*“For behold, saith the prophet, the time cometh speedily that Satan shall have no more power over the hearts of the children of men; for the day soon cometh that all the proud and they who do wickedly shall be as stubble; and the day cometh that must be burned.”* 1 Nephi 22:15 (588-570 BC) quoting Malachi 4:1(435 BC)

### **Dating Malachi**

1.The temple rebuilt and sacrificial system re-instituted

2.A Persian governor in authority (could not have been during either of Nehemiah’s governorships (445 and 433 BC)

3.The sins mentioned parallel those the Nehemiah dealt with

*“...hence a fair estimate would be about 435 BC. Even rationalist critics...find no objection to this date...”*

Gleason Archer, *“A Survey of Old Testament Introduction”*, Moody Press, 1964, pp. 431-432

Mosiah 2:3 – The Nephites and Lamanites offered sacrifices and burnt offerings according to the Law of Moses Impossible – Only those of the tribe of Levi could give attendance at the alter (Exodus 28-31, Numbers 3:7, Nehemiah 7:63, 65, Hebrews 7:12)

*“Then the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah in Riblah before his eyes: also the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of Judah.”* Jeremiah 39:6

*“Will ye say that the sons of Zedekiah were not slain, all except it were Mulek? Yea, and do ye not behold that the seed of Zedekiah are with us, and they were driven out of the land of Jerusalem.”* Heleman 8:21

### **Linguistic Issues:**

#### **Bad Grammar:**

*“And behold this thing shall be given to thee for a sign, and after thou hast beheld the tree which bore the fruit which thy father tasted, thou shalt also behold a man descending out of heaven, and him shall ye witness; and after ye have witnessed him ye shall bare record that it is the Son of God.”* 1 Nephi 11:7

*“...and yet ye put up no petition, nor repent of the thing which thou hast done.”* Mosiah 4:22

*“After Mormon completed his writings, he delivered the account to his son Moroni, who added a few words of his own and hid the plates in the hill Cumorah.”*

Book of Mormon, Introduction to the 1981 version

### **KJV Errors and Anomalies**

*“And upon all the ships of the sea, and upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures.”*

2 Nephi 13:16 quoting Isaiah 2:16

Hebrew – “Sekiyah” (a conspicuous object)

NIV – “every stately vessel”

NKJV – “all the beautiful slopes”

RSV – “All the beautiful craft”  
LXX – “upon every display of fine ships”  
ASV – “upon all pleasant imagery”

GWT – “...all the beautiful boats.”  
NASB – “...all the beautiful craft.”  
NLB - “...all the proud ocean ships.”

“*He fenced it.*” Isaiah 5:2 / 2 Nephi 15:2  
“*He dug it out.*” Dead Sea Scroll, Isaiah 5:2, translation by Peter Flint

“*My work is with my God.*” Isaiah 49:4 / 1 Nephi 21:4  
“*My reward is with my God.*” Dead Sea Scroll, Isaiah 5:2, translation by Peter Flint

- 40% of the italic words in Isaiah are lacking in the Book of Mormon
- Only 3.6 % of the words in Isaiah are in italics
- So: approx 1/3 of the BoM variants are associated with words that constitute only about 1/25 of the text  
Smith was reacting to italics rather than translating and ancient work

“Thou hast drunken the dregs of the cup of trembling *and* wrung *them* out.” Isaiah 51:17  
“Thou hast drunken the dregs of the cup of trembling rung out.” 2 Nephi 8:17

“These two *things* are come unto thee.” Isaiah 51:19

“These two sons are come unto thee.” 2 Nephi 8:19

The Hebrew is formulated in the feminine. “Sons” (banim) is masculine. The Book of Mormon is undoubtedly in error

### **Variations based on English Polysemy**

“Wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?” Isaiah 5:4

“Wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes it brought forth wild grapes.” 2 Nephi 15:4  
Hebrew - “Maddua” (Why?)

The BoM uses “wherefore” as a conjunction. It is impossible to render “maddua” this way

“Wherefore when I came, was there no man? When I called, was there none to answer.” Isaiah 50:2

“Wherefore when I came there was no man; when I called, yea, there was none to answer.” 2 Nephi 7:2

Maddua = Why? A conjunctive term is impossible. The BoM is clearly wrong

“I have called my mighty ones for mine anger, even them that rejoice in my highness.” Isaiah 13:3

“I have also called my mighty ones, for mine anger is not upon them that rejoice in my highness.” 2 Nephi 23:3

- KJV uses “for” as a preposition
  - BoM uses “for” as a conjunction
- The BoM reading is impossible

“Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for the fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty.”  
Isaiah 2:10

“Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for the fear of the LORD, and the glory of his majesty shall smite thee.” 2 Nephi 12:10

KJV is prepositional - “mippene” (because of)  
BoM is conjunctive - “ki”  
BoM reading is impossible

“and upon every high tower, and upon every fenced wall; and upon all the ships of the sea, and upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures.” 2 Nephi 12:15-16

“and upon every high tower, and upon every fenced wall, and upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures.” Isaiah 2:15-16

“against every tall tower and against every fortified [wall]; against all the Tarshish ships and against all the stately vessels.”

Isaiah 2:15-16 Dead Sea Scrolls, Translated by Peter Flint, Martin Abegg Jr., Eugene Ulrich, The Dead Sea Scrolls agree with the KJV reading – not the Book of Mormon.

“and upon every high tower, and upon every high wall, and upon every ship of the sea, and upon every display of fine ships.”

Isaiah 2:15-16 LXX, translated by Sir Lancelot Charles Lee Brenton, 1851

The understanding of “ships of Tarshish” as “ships of the sea” was well known in British and American commentaries predating the Book of Mormon

“Tarshish – The ships of the sea, as that word is used, Psal. XLviii. 7. whereby you fetched riches from the remote parts of the world.” John Wesley, “Explanatory Notes Upon Old Testament”, published 1765, Bristol, England

The same interpretation is reproduced in Matthew Poole’s “Annotations Upon the Holy Bible”, published in 1801, Edinburgh

“...ships of Tarshish signify in Scripture any trading or merchant ships. Accordingly, here the Septuagint render the words, “ships of the sea”, as our English translation does, Psal. XLviii 6.” William Lowth, “Commentary Upon the Old and New Testaments: The Prophets;”, published in 1727, London

“Their land is also full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made. And the mean man boweth down, and the great man humbleth himself, therefore, forgive him not.” Isaiah 2:6-9

“Their land is also full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made. And the mean man boweth not down, and the great man humbleth himself not, therefore, forgive him not.” 2 Nephi 12:8-9

“As my hand hath found the kingdoms of the idols...” Isaiah 10:10

“As my hand hath founded the kingdoms of the idols...” 2 Nephi 20:10

“Found” - Hebrew #4672 - “Matsa”

“Founded” - Hebrew #3245 - “Yasad”

The BoM reading has no support

“But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcass trodden under feet.” Isaiah 14:19

“But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the remnant of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcass trodden under feet.” 2 Nephi 24:19

“You are cast out of your grave like an abominable branch, like the garment of those who are slain, thrust through with a sword...” Isaiah 14:19 (NKJV)

“You are cast out of your tomb like a rejected branch; you are covered with the slain, with those pierced by the sword...” Isaiah 14:19 (NIV)

“But you are cast out, away from your tomb, like a loathed growth or a premature birth or an abominable branch [of the family], and as the raiment of the slain, those thrust through with the sword....” Isaiah 14:19 Amp. Bible

*“but you are cast out, away from your sepulchre, like a loathed untimely birth, clothed with the slain, those pierced by the sword...”* Isaiah 14:19 RSV

*“But you have been cast out of your tomb like a rejected branch, clothed with the slain who are pierced with a sword...”* Isaiah 14:19 NASB

*“But you have been flung out unburied, mere loathsome carrion, a companion to the slain pierced by the sword...”* Isaiah 14:19 NEB

*“But you are thrown out of your tomb like a rejected branch. You are covered with those who were killed in battle...”* Isaiah 14:19 GWT

*“but your body is thrown out like a broken branch; it lies in an open grave, covered with the dead bodies of those slain in battle...”* Isaiah 14:19 LB

*“Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the nations.”* Isaiah 9:1

*“Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by way of the Red sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the nations.”* 2 Nephi 19:1

### **Curiously Absent**

God's Covenant name: “YHWH” or “Yahweh” in Hebrew (Strong's #3068)

Later substituted in Hebrew with “Adonai” – The LORD, God's title (Strong's #136)

The King James translators followed, indicating with LORD where God's covenant appeared in the original (more than 6,000 times)

Why is God's covenant name not mentioned once in the book of Mormon when it is so prominent throughout the Old Testament?

### **Extraneous Words**

Jacob 4:1 – some things left unrecorded because of the difficulty of engraving on the plates

“It came to pass” used over 2,000X!

4 Nephi 4:6 uses 57 words to tell us that 59 years had passed!

### **Senseless Phrases**

*“And again, my brethren, I would cite your minds forward to the time when the Lord God gave these commandments unto his children...”* Alma 13:1

*“... and thus we see that they buried their weapons of peace, or they buried their weapons of war for peace.”* Alma 24:19

*“... they being shielded from the more vital parts of the body...”* Alma 43:38

*“Now, immediately when the judge had been murdered – being stabbed by his brother by a garb of secrecy, and he fled...”* Helaman 8:21

### **Jesus in Mesoamerica?**

*“In the first place, the statement that the Book of Mormon has already been proved by archaeology is misleading. The truth of the matter is that we are only beginning to see even the outlines of the archeological time-periods which could compare with those of the Book of Mormon. How, then, can the matter have been settled once and for all?”*

*“That such an idea could exist indicates the ignorance of many of our people with regard to what is going on in the historical and anthropological sciences. With the exception of Latter-day Saint archaeologists, members of the archaeological profession do not, and never have espoused the Book of Mormon in any sense of which I am aware.”*

*“As for the notion that the Book of Mormon has already been proved by archaeology, I must say with Shakespeare, ‘Lay not that flattering unction to your soul.’”(Hamlet III:4), Dr. Ross T. Christensen, BYU*

professor and head of the Society for Early Historic Archeology The University Archaeological Society Report, Number 19, December, 1960, pages 8-9.

*"The first myth we need to eliminate is that Book of Mormon archaeology exists."*

Mormon scholar, Dee F. Green Cited in Michael Coe, "Mormons and Archaeology, An Outside View", *Dialogue, A Journal of Mormon Thought*, 1973, Pages 40-48.

*"The bare facts of the matter are that nothing, absolutely nothing, has ever shown up in any New World excavation which would suggest to a dispassionate observer that the Book of Mormon, as claimed by Joseph Smith, is a historical document relating to the history of early immigrants to our hemisphere."* Mesoamerican archaeologist Michael Coe, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at Yale University "Mormons and Archeology: An Outside View," *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, Vol. 8, No. 2 (Summer 1973), p. 46

*"...nothing short of an inscription which could be read and roughly dated would bridge the gap between what might be called a pre-actualistic archaeology and contact with the realities of Nephite civilization",* Dr. Hugh Nibley "Since Cumorah", p.243.

*"Let me now state unconditionally that as far as I know there is not one professionally trained archaeologist, who is not a Mormon, who sees any scientific justification for believing the foregoing to be true, and I would like to state that there are quite a few Mormon archaeologists who join this group."* Mesoamerican archaeologist Michael Coe, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at Yale University "Mormons and Archeology: An Outside View," *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, Vol. 8, No. 2 (Summer 1973), p. 42

*"After nearly 150 years since the Nephite record was first published by Joseph Smith, we Mormons have been unable confidently to pin down the location of a single city, identify even one route they traversed, or sketch an accurate picture of any segment of the life they lived in their American promised land. In many respects, the Book of Mormon remains a sealed book to us because we have been incapable of placing it in its specific setting."* John L. Sorenson, *An Ancient American Setting For The Book of Mormon*, 1980, pages 2-3

*"I'd say this is a fairly king-sized problem....Mormons, in particular, have been grasping at straws for a very long time, trying to thread together all of these little esoteric finds that are out of context. If I were doing it cold, I would say in reviewing the Book of Mormon that it had no place in the New World whatsoever. It just doesn't seem to fit anything that I have been taught in my discipline in anthropology. It seems like these are anachronisms... As an archaeologist what [can] I say...that might be positive for the Book of Mormon? Well, really very little."* BYU archaeologist Ray Matheny, a tape-recorded symposium in 1984 in Salt Lake City, *This Is Not the Place*, For the last fifty years, Mormons have searched for proof of their church's mysterious origins but is it there? *Doubletake Magazine/Spring 1999*

By Hampton Sides, at <http://www.rickross.com/reference/mormon/mormon33.html>

*"I really have difficulty in finding issue or quarrel with those opening chapters of the Book of Mormon [i. e., the first 7 chapters which only relate to Lehi and his family around the area of Jerusalem]. But thereafter it doesn't seem like a translation to me.... And the terminologies and the language used and the methods of explaining and putting things down are 19th century literary concepts and cultural experiences one would expect Joseph Smith and his colleagues would experience. And for that reason I call it transliteration, and I'd rather not call it a translation after the 7th chapter. And I have real difficulty in trying to relate these cultural concepts as I've briefly discussed here with archeological findings that I'm aware of....*

*"If I were doing this cold like John Carlson is here, I would say in evaluating the Book of Mormon that it had no place in the New World whatsoever. I would have to look for the place of the Book of Mormon events to have taken place in the Old World. It just doesn't seem to fit anything that he has been taught in his discipline, nor I in my discipline in anthropology, history; there seems to be no place for it. It seems misplaced. It seems like there are anachronisms. It seems like the items are out of time and place, and trying to put them into the New World. And I think there's a great difficulty here for we Mormons in understanding what this book is all about."* "Book of Mormon Archeology," Response by Professor Ray T. Matheny, Sunstone Symposium, August 25, 1984, typed copy transcribed from a tape-recording, pp. 30-31. Three years after speaking at this symposium, Dr. Matheny wrote a letter in which he made it clear that there was still no Book of Mormon archaeology:

*"While some people choose to make claims for the Book of Mormon through archaeological evidences, to me they are made prematurely, and without sufficient knowledge.*

*"I do not support the books written on this subject including The Messiah in Ancient American, or any other. I believe that the authors are making cases out of too little evidence and do not adequately address the problems that archaeology and the Book of Mormon present. I would feel terribly embarrassed if anyone sent a copy of any book written on the subject to the National Museum of Natural History - Smithsonian Institution, or other authority, making claims that cannot as yet be substantiated. . . . there are very severe problems in this field in trying to make correlations with the scriptures. Speculation, such as practiced so far by Mormon authors has not given church members credibility."* (Letter by Ray T. Matheny, dated Dec. 17, 1987)

*"There are too many areas where one must either assume that evidence exists but has not yet been found or that something other than the words actually used [in the Book of Mormon] were intended . . . . Too much sidestepping of this sort can lead to the absurd."* Matheny's wife, Deanne G. Matheny, Mesoamerican anthropologist, *"Does the Shoe Fit? A Critique of the Limited Tehuantepec Geography."* 1993

This Is Not the Place , For the last fifty years, Mormons have searched for proof of their church's mysterious origins but is it there? Doubletake Magazine/Spring 1999

By Hampton Sides , at <http://www.rickcross.com/reference/mormon/mormon33.html>

*"[There's not ] a whit of evidence that the Nephites ever existed. The whole enterprise is complete rot, root and branch. It's so racist it hurts. It fits right into the nineteenth-century American idea that only a white man could have built cities and temples, that American Indians didn't have the brains or the wherewithal to create their own civilization."* Michael D. Coe, one of the world's preeminent scholars of the Olmec and the Maya, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at Yale University The author of the best-selling book *Breaking the Maya Code*, cited in "This Is Not the Place , For the last fifty years, Mormons have searched for proof of their church's mysterious origins but is it there? Doubletake Magazine/Spring 1999 , By Hampton Sides , at <http://www.rickcross.com/reference/mormon/mormon33.html>

*"With all these great efforts, it cannot be established factually that anyone, from Joseph Smith to the present day, has put his finger on a single point of terrain that was a Book of Mormon geographical place. And the hemisphere has been pretty well checked out by competent people... I must agree with Dee Green, who has told us that to date there is no Book of Mormon geography. I, for one, would be happy if Dee were wrong."* Thomas Stuart Ferguson, former president of the New World Archaeological Foundation, (which was funded by Brigham Young University and the Mormon Church), "Written symposium on the Book of Mormon Geography: Response of Thomas Ferguson to the Norman and Sorenson Papers," 4, 7, 29, quoted in Abanas, Richard, *"One Nation Under Gods"*, New York, NY: Four Walls Eight Windows, 2002. , p. 77.

*"This is perhaps the best known pre-Columbian monument that has been associated with the Book of Mormon by Latter-day Saints. In dealing with this stela it must be emphasized that the interpretation of iconography is extremely difficult and complex. The same symbols or combinations of symbols can have radically different meanings in different times, places, societies, or to different groups within a single society. We will never know for certain what Izapa Stela 5 meant to its creators. To me the connection with the Book of Mormon is possible, but tenuous."*

William J. Hamblin, (Ph.D., University of Michigan) is Associate Professor of History at Brigham Young University, *"Review of Archaeology and the Book of Mormon,"* by Jerald and Sandra Tanner, Provo, Utah: Maxwell Institute, 1993. Pp. 250–72 , <http://farms.byu.edu/display.php?id=126&table=review#note55>

*"...many, often remarkable, ways the events and circumstances in the scripture have parallels with what archaeological and historical sources tell us about ancient America . . . no number of them would unequivocally establish the book as an authentic pre-Columbian document."*, John Sorenson, as cited by Joel Hardy, *"Answers to Critics' Questions About the LDS Church"*  
<http://www.mormonhaven.com/harhav.htm>

*"Many Mormons are willing to spend money for instant evidence of knowledge rather than to labor for the knowledge themselves. The result is consumer demand for intellectual loot. This is especially true about scholarly study of Book of Mormon archaeology. At least from the time of George Reynolds the Saints have avidly bought books which claim to offer them inside information on this scripture, particularly on its geography or what are termed "external evidences." Some of these sources have actually been helpful to the serious reader. Many more, and these are the concern here, have harmed more than helped."* John L. Sorenson, *"Instant Expertise on Book of Mormon Archaeology,"* *BYU Studies* 16:3 (Spring, 1976), p. 429.)

*“The point we here wish to make is this: throughout North America, according to the Book of Mormon, this reformed Egyptian was the universal language of the people fifteen hundred years ago, when the Book of Mormon was compiled.*

*Now fortunately or unfortunately Joseph Smith has preserved for us and for the inspection of the world, a specimen of the characters found upon the plates from which he claims to have translated the Book of Mormon. He transcribed a few of the characters from the plates as specimens....*

*“Well, now, unfortunately for the claims of the Book of Mormon, we are able to learn precisely what kind of characters were used in Central America by its ancient inhabitants. They have been preserved in imperishable marble. Engraven upon stone in such a way as to retain to the end of time a silent though solemn rebuke to the false and foolish pretensions of the author of this book.*

*In the ruins of the two oldest cities in Central America, Copan and Palenque, are found in abundance the strange hieroglyphics, the written language of the people who once inhabited those old cities. Thousands of these mysterious characters are scattered about, engraven over ruined doorways and arches, upon the sides and backs of hideous-looking idols carved in stone, upon-- -”  
marble slabs, on the sides of immense pillars, here and there through the ruins of magnificent palaces and monster heathen temples....*

*These same hieroglyphics have been preserved in other form—for the ancient Mayas had books.... An examination of the three that are now known to be preserved, shows the same characters that are found upon the stone tablets, idols, etc., .... and represent the actual written language of the ancient Mayas—a people who are known to have occupied Central America, and been the sole occupants of a portion of that country at the very time, and covering the whole period, when, according to the Book of Mormon, the Nephites lived and flourished there.... A woeful fatality, is it not?*

*that there should not be even one of Mr. Smith's characters that bears a family likeness, or the least particle of resemblance to the characters actually used by the ancient inhabitants of Central America! ... we should find, in thousands of places, these reformed Egyptian characters engraved upon marble blocks and granite pillars.... But need we say that just the contrary of all this is found to be true.... It would therefore be sheer nonsense to imagine that the assertions of the Book of Mormon may after all have been true, but that through the lapse of time all traces of such a written language may have disappeared. Stone and marble, and gold and silver, and copper and brass are not liable to disappear in the brief period of 1500 years.” , M. T. Lamb “The Golden Bible,” pp.259-72.*

*“Doctrinal interpretation is the province of the First Presidency. The Lord has given that stewardship to them by revelation. No teacher has the right to interpret doctrine for the members of the Church” , President Ezra Taft Benson, “The Gospel Teacher and His Message” as found in LDS manual “Charge to Religious Educators,” pp.51-52. Efforts to pinpoint certain places from what is written in the book are fruitless because the record does not give evidence of such locations in terms of our modern geography.*

*“Attempts to designate certain areas as the Land Bountiful or the site of Zarahemla or the place where the Nephite city of Jerusalem sank into the sea ‘and waters have I caused to come up in the stead thereof’ can bring no definitive results. So why speculate?*

*To guess where Zarahemla stood can in no wise add to anyone’s faith. But to raise doubts in people’s minds about the location of the Hill Cumorah, and thus challenge the words of the prophets concerning the place where Moroni buried the records, is most certainly harmful. And who has the right to raise doubts in anyone’s mind?*

*Our position is to build faith, not to weaken it, and theories concerning the geography of the Book of Mormon can most certainly undermine faith if allowed to run rampant.*

*Why not leave hidden the things that the Lord has hidden? If He wants the geography of the Book of Mormon revealed, He will do so through His prophet, and not through some writer who wishes to enlighten the world despite his utter lack of inspiration on the point.*

*SOME AUTHORS have felt ‘called upon’ to inform the world about Book of Mormon geography and have published writings giving their views. These books, however, are strictly private works and represent only their personal speculations.” (Deseret News, July 29, 1978, Church News Section, p.16)*

## **Ancient Visits to America**

*“But Brendan had...shown that the saga of her namesake was no mere medieval fantasy, but a highly plausible tale. Scholars of epic literature will not be surprised. Their experience shows that some of the most durable legends, from the Iliad to the romance of Alexander the Great, are founded upon real events and real people.”* National Geographic, December 1977, p. 790

*“Most scholars consider the story merely an outstanding example of religious allegory. Some historians, however, suggest that the allegory contains seeds of truth – evidence that Brendan was in the vanguard of Irish sailors who explored the New world long before other Europeans.”* “Feats and Wisdom of the Ancients”, Time Life Books, 1990, p.114

*“This kind of sympathetic sifting of the Irish chronicles could be swept aside as extravagant allegory were it not for the persistent reference in the accepted Viking sagas to an earlier Celtic presence in America. The Norsemen were proud, even boastful, and it seems most unlikely that in recounting their tales of Vinland that they would give needless credit to Irish predecessors.”* Leslie F. Hannon, “The Discoverers”, McClelland and Stewart Ltd, Toronto, 1971, pp.32-33

## **Doctrinal Issues**

### **Salvation:**

*“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, In any man preach any other gospel unto you than that which ye have received, let him be accursed.”* Galatians 1:8-9

### **Mormon doctrines on salvation:**

*“Nevertheless, he that repents and does the commandments of the Lord shall be forgiven;”* Doctrines and Covenants 1:32

*“For we labor diligently to right, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.”* 2 Nephi 25:23b

### **The Bible’s Teaching on Salvation”**

*“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”* Ephesians 2:8-9

*“Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”* Romans 4:4-5

*“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost, which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;”* Titus 3:5-6

*“To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins”* Acts 10:43

*“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.”* John 6:47

*“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”* John 1:12

*“Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.”* John 6:29

### **Mormon Theology:**

*“It no sooner appeared than I found myself delivered from the enemy which held me bound. When the light rested upon me I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in*

*the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other – This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!”* Joseph Smith – History 1:17

Exodus 33:20 *“And he said, thou canst not see my face; for there shall no man see me, and live.”*

Exodus 33:11 *“And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face as a man spaketh unto his friend...”*

*“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”* John 1:18

*“In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn or every creature: for by him were all things created...”* Colossians 1:14-16

*“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”* 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

*“God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and truth.”*

John 4:24

*“Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see me have.”* Luke 24:39

*“If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, and the sign or wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams:”*

Deuteronomy 13:1-3

### **The Doctrine of Christ**

*“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, he hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”*

2 John v. 9

Apostle Bruce R. McConkie explained:

"These name titles all signify that our Lord is the only Son of the Father in the flesh. Each of the words is to be understood literally. Only means only, Begotten means begotten; and Son means son. Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers." (*Mormon Doctrine*, 1979, pp. 546-47)

"And Christ was born into the world as the literal Son of this Holy Being; he was born in the same personal, real, and literal sense that any mortal son is born to a mortal father. There is nothing figurative about his paternity; he was begotten, conceived and born in the normal and natural course of events,... Christ is the *Son of Man*, meaning that his Father (the Eternal God!) is a Holy Man." (*Ibid.*, page 742)

Brigham Young, the 2nd prophet of the Mormon Church, boldly asserted: "Now, remember from this time forth and for ever, Jesus Christ was not begotten by the Holy Ghost" (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 1, p. 51) This statement, of course, is directly contradicted by the Bible, Matthew 1:18 and 20: "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost... for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." It is interesting to note that even the Book of Mormon agrees with the Bible on this matter stating that Mary was to be "overshadowed and conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost..." (Alma 7-10)

### **Is God Eternal or is Matter?**

### **The Priesthood of Believers**

*“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia...”* 1 Peter 1:1

*“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 2:5*

*“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” 1 Peter 2:9*

*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” Romans 12:1*

*“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.” Psalm 51:17*

*“Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.” Psalm 107:21-22*

*“For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.” 1 Corinthians 1:17*

*“And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here Lord. And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for behold, he prayeth. And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.” Acts 9:10-12*

*“And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house: and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.” Acts 9:17-18*

*“While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?” Acts 9:44-47*

### **Concerning the Laying on of Hands to Impart Authority:**

*“But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood.” Galatians 1:15-16*

*“Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.” Galatians 1:17-18*

- Conversion (Acts 9:3-8) (c. AD 34)
- Preaching at Damascus (Acts 9:20-22)
- Sojourn in Arabia (Galatians 1:17)
- Return to Damascus (Acts 23:25)
- 1st Jerusalem visit with Peter (Acts 9:26-29)
- Sojourn in Syria and Cilicia (Galatians 1:21, Acts 9:30)
- One year of teaching at Antioch (Acts 11:26)
- 2nd Jerusalem visit with apostles (Famine relief) (Acts 11:28-30, Galatians 2:1-10)
- 1st missionary journey – begins with laying on of hands in Antioch (AD 48-49)

## **The Doctrine of Pre-Existence**

*“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee: and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.”* Jeremiah 1:5

*“Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to them also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father if us all, (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.”*

Romans 4:16-17

*“For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.”*

Psalm 139:4

*“For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”*

Isaiah 57:15

*“The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth form the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.”* Zechariah 12:1

*“And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”*

John 9:2

*“It was a conceit amongst the Jews, that the infant, when formed and quickened in the womb, might behave itself irregularly, and do something that might not be altogether without fault. In the treatise just mentioned [Vajicra Rabbi], a woman is brought in complaining in earnest of her child before the judge, that it kicked her unreasonably in the womb.”* Bishop Lightfoot, Commentary on the Gospel of John

*“Antoninus asked Rabbi \*Judah, ‘At what time evil affections began to prevail in the man? Whether in the first forming of the foetus in the womb, or at the time of its coming forth?’ The Rabbi saith unto him, ‘From the time of its first coming.’”*

## **The Fall of Mankind: A Good Thing?**

*“Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy.”*

2 Nephi 2:25

*“Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”* Psalm 16:11

*“And the LORD commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”*

Genesis 2:16-17

*“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it...”* Genesis 1:27-28

*“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”*

1 Corinthians 10:13

## **A “Living” Prophet to Understand Scripture?**

*“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and I have the keys of hell and of death.”* Revelation 1:18

*“The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;”* Deuteronomy 18:15

*“Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.”* John 6:14

*“Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet.”* John 7:40

*“And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this? And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.”*

Matthew 21:10-11

*“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”* 2 Timothy 3:15

*“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”* 2 Timothy 2:15

*“Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.”* 1 Timothy 4:13

*“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word.”* Psalm 119:9

### **Offices of the Church**

*“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”* Ephesians 4:11-13

*“And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.”* 1 Corinthians 12:28

*“Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is part shall be done away.”* 1 Corinthians 13:8-9

### **Adam – god doctrine**

*“How much unbelief exists in the minds of the Latter-day Saints in regard to one particular doctrine which I revealed to them, and which God revealed to me—namely that Adam is our father and God—. . .”* (Deseret News Weekly, June 18, 1873)

On October 8, 1861, Brigham Young said:

*“Some years ago, I advanced a doctrine with regard to Adam being our father and God. . . . It is one of the most glorious revelations of the economy of heaven, . . .”*

(“A Few Words of Doctrine,” unpublished manuscript in the Brigham Young Collection, LDS Archives, as cited by David John Buerger in *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, Spring 1982, page 29).

*“Contrary to many later perceptions, Brigham Young's death in late August 1877 did not mark the end of the Adam-God doctrine. . . . many of the Church's leading authorities unquestionably retained a belief in Brigham's teachings . . . in the 1890s one also finds brief but supportive references to the doctrine by Apostles Brigham Young, Jr., Franklin D. Richards and \*Lorenzo Snow. Amidst discussions treated below, for example, Snow is reported as leading “out on Adam being our Father and God. How beautiful the thought it brot. God nearer to us.” To this Richards added that “it made him thrill through his whole body it was new & it was inspiring” (\*Lorenzo Snow became the fifth President of the Church), *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, Spring 1982, page pages 33-34).*

*“Young clearly believed that Adam was the father of the spirits of mankind in addition to being the first procreator of mankind's physical bodies; . . . and that Adam was the spiritual and physical father of Jesus*

Christ.” Mormon scholar David John Buerger (*Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, Spring 1982, page 45).

*“Some prophets—I say it respectfully—know more and have greater inspiration than others...Thus, if Brigham Young, who was one of the greatest of the prophets, said something about Adam which is out of harmony with what is in the Book of Moses and in Section 78, it is the scripture that prevails.”* Apostle Bruce R. McConkie, In a letter to "Honest Truth Seekers, cited in Jerald and Sandra Tanner, “Mormonism—Shadow or Reality?”, page 178-C.

### **Communication with the dead:**

*“And when they say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep and mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? For the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”* Isaiah 8:19-20

*“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”* James 1:5

*“For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.”* Ecclesiastes 1:18

*“He that being often reproveth hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.”* Proverbs 29:1

### **Practical Steps for dealing With Mormons:**

1. Pray for their salvation
2. Engage them
3. Be kind to them
4. Share the Scriptures
5. Involve me!
6. Distribute literature

### **Jehovah’s Witnesses:**

- Founded by Charles Taze Russell
- Born Feb. 16, 1852, Pennsylvania
- Rejected the doctrine of eternal torment
- Age 18 – began a Bible class in Pittsburg; was elected “the pastor”
- 1876-1878 – assistant editor of a small magazine in Rochester, NY; resigned after doctrinal dispute re: the atoning work of Christ
- 1879 – Founded “The Herald of the Morning”, later became “The Watchtower Announcing Jehovah’s kingdom”
- In the year 1908 the headquarters moved to Brooklyn NY
- Became known as the Brooklyn Tabernacle

*“The Bible is our only standard, and its teachings our only creed, and recognizing the progressive character of the unfolding scriptural truths, we are ready and prepared to add to or modify our creed (faith-belief) as we get increase of light from our standard.”* Charles T. Russel, “The Watchtower”, April, 1882, p. 7

*“We need to examine, not only what we personally believe, but also what is taught by any religious organization with which we may be associated. Are its teachings in full harmony with God’s Word, or are they based on the traditions of men? If we are lovers of the truth, there is nothing to fear from such an examination.”* C.T. Russell, *Studies in the Scriptures*, Vol. 2, “The Time is at hand”, 1913 Ed., p.242

*“...people cannot see the Divine Plan in studying the Bible by itself...if he then lays them [Scripture Studies] aside and ignores them and goes to the bible alone, though he has understood his Bible for ten years, our experience shows that within two years he goes into darkness. On the other hand, if he had merely read the Scripture Studies with their references, and had not read a page of the Bible, as such, he would be in the light*

*at the end of the two years, because he would have the light of the Scriptures."* C.T. Russell, The Watchtower, Sept. 15, 1910, p. 298.

June 1912 - Reverend J.J. Ross, pastor of the James St. Baptist Church in Hamilton Ontario published a pamphlet *"Some facts about the Self-Styled 'Pastor' Charles T. Russell."*

From Ross' Pamphlet:

- "[The Studies in the Scriptures series are] the destructive doctrines of one man who is neither a scholar nor a theologian"
- "[They are] anti-rational, anti-scientific, anti-Biblical, anti-Christian, and a deplorable perversion of the gospel of God's Dear Son."
- "[Russell] never attended the higher schools of learning; knows comparatively nothing of philosophy, systematic or historical theology, and is totally ignorant of the dead languages."

March 17, 1913 Courtroom exchange:

- "Do you know the Greek Alphabet?"
- "Oh, yes"
- "can you tell me the correct letters if you see them?"
- "Some of them, I might make a mistake on some of them"
- Would you tell me the names of those on top of the page, page 447 I have got here?
- "Well, I don't know that I would be able to."
- "You can't tell me what those letters are?"
- "My way..." [He was interrupted at this point and not allowed to explain.]
- "Are you familiar with the Greek alphabet?"
- "No."

*"As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."* 2 Peter 3:16

*"Charles Taze Russell, thou hast, by the Lord, been crowned a king; and through the everlasting ages thy name shall be known amongst the people, and thy enemies shall come and worship at thy feet."* Watchtower, 1/1/1916 p. 377

- Russell died Oct. 31, 1916
- Joseph Franklin Rutherford took over as president of the organization 1917
- Vocal against other religious views
- First to make an issue of the term "Jehovah"
- Wrote over 100 books and pamphlets
- Died of cancer Jan. 8, 1942 at the age of 72 in his palatial mansion

*"As William Tyndale was used to bring the Bible to the attention of the people, so the Lord used Charles T. Russell to bring to the attention of the people an understanding of the Bible, particularly to those truths that had been taken away by the machinations of the Devil and his agencies. Because it was the Lord's due time to restore these truths, he used Charles T. Russell to write and publish books known as Studies in Scriptures by which the great fundamental truths of the divine plan are clarified."* J.F. Rutherford, "Creation", 1927 (Cited by Martin, p.50)

*"Satan has done his best to destroy these books because they explain the scriptures. Even as Tyndale's version of the Bible was destroyed by the clergy in various parts of the earth have gathered together thousands of volumes of Studies in the Scriptures and burned them publicly. But such wickedness has only swerved to advertise the truth of the divine plan."* - J.F. Rutherford, "Creation", 1927 (Cited by Martin, p.50)

*"Thus the Bible is an organizational book and belongs to the Christian congregation as an organization, not to individuals, regardless of how sincerely they may believe that they can interpret the Bible."* The Watchtower, Oct. 1, 1967. p. 587.

*"Where did we learn Bible truth in the first place? Would we know the way of the truth if it had not been for guidance from the organization? Really, can we get along without the direction of God's organization?" No, we cannot!"*

*Watchtower* 1983 Jan. 15 p.27

*"We all need help to understand the Bible, and we cannot find the Scriptural guidance we need outside the 'faithful and discreet slave' organization." (The Watchtower, Feb. 15, 1981.)*

*"From time to time, there have arisen from among the ranks of Jehovah's people those, who, like the original Satan, have adopted an independent, faultfinding attitude...They say that it is sufficient to read the Bible exclusively, either alone or in small groups at home. But, strangely, through such 'Bible reading,' they have reverted right back to the apostate doctrines that commentaries by Christendom's clergy were teaching 100 years ago..." The Watchtower, August 15, 1981.*

*"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

*"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 3:15*

*"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." Psalm 119:130*

*"The deliberate distortion of truth by this sect is seen in the New Testament translation....It is abundantly clear that a sect which can translate the New Testament like that is intellectually dishonest." History, Their Doctrine, and Our Response, Dr. William Barclay, as cited in Rhodes R, The Challenge of the Cults and New Religions, The Essential Guide to Their Zondervan, 2001, p. 94*

*"From beginning to end this volume is a shining example of how the Bible should not be translated." Rowley, H.H., How Not To Translate the Bible, The Expository Times, 1953; 65; 41*

*"I have never read any New Testament so badly translated as The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of The Greek Scriptures.... it is a distortion of the New Testament. The translators used what J.B. Rotherham had translated in 1893, in modern speech, and changed the readings in scores of passages to state what Jehovah's Witnesses believe and teach. That is a distortion not a translation." Julius Mantey, Depth Exploration in The New Testament, N.Y.: Vantage Pres, 1980, pp.136-137*

*"Jehovah's organization alone, in all the earth, is directed by God's holy spirit or force (Zech,4:6) Only this organization functions for Jehovah's purpose and to his praise. To it alone God's Sacred Word, the Bible, is not a sealed book." Watchtower, 1973 July 1st p.402*

*"It should be expected that the Lord would have a means of communication to his people on the earth, and he has clearly shown that the magazine called The Watchtower is used for that purpose." 1939 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses, p. 85.)*

*"No matter where we may live on earth, God's Word continues to serve as a light to our path and a lamp to our roadway as to our conduct and beliefs. (Ps. 119:105) But Jehovah God has also provided his visible organization, his "faithful and discreet slave," made up of spirit anointed ones, to help Christians in all nations to understand and apply properly the Bible in their lives. Unless we are in touch with this channel of communication that God is using, we will not progress along the road to life, no matter how much Bible reading we do." The Watchtower; 12/1/1981, p. 27.*

*"Of Course, it is easy to say that this group acts as a 'prophet' of God. It is another thing to prove it. The only way that this can be done is to review the record. What does it show?" Watchtower 1972, April 1st p.197*

*“The author acknowledges that in this book he presents the thought that the Lord’s saints might expect to be with him in glory at the end of the Gentile Times. This was a natural mistake to fall into...we drew a false conclusion, however, not authorized by the word of the Lord.”* C.T. Russell, *Studies in the Scriptures*, Vol. 2, “The Time is at Hand”, 1913 Ed., p. 242

*“In this chapter we present the Bible evidence which indicates that six thousand years from the creation of Adam were complete with A.D. 1872; and hence that, since 1872 A.D., we are chronologically entered upon the seventh thousand or Millennium - the forepart of which, the Day of the Lord”, the “day of trouble”, is to witness the breaking into pieces of the kingdoms of this world and the establishment of the kingdom of God under the whole heavens.”* C.T. Russell, *Studies in the Scriptures*, Vol. 2, “The Time is at Hand”, 1913 Ed., p. 242

*“According to this trustworthy Bible chronology six thousand years from man’s creation will end in 1975, and the seventh period of a thousand years of human history will begin in the fall of 1975 C.E.”* *Life Everlasting in Freedom of the Sons of God*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1966, p. 29  
Also see: *The Watchtower* Oct 15, 1969, p. 623, *The Approaching Peace of a Thousand Years*, p. 26-27, *Kingdom Ministry*, March, 1968, p. 4

*“The second coming of the Lord therefore began in 1874; and that date and the years 1914 to 1918 are specially marked dates with reference to his coming.”*  
J.F. Rutherford, *Creation*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1929, p. 310

*The scriptural proof is that the second presence of of the Lord Jesus Christ began in 1874 A.D.”* J.F. Rutherford, “Prophecy”, *Watchtower Bible and Tract Society*, 1929, p. 65, Also see: “Thy Kingdom Come”, 1891, 1923, p. 235; “The Battle of Armageddon”, 1897, 1913, p. 621; C.T. Russell, “Studies in the Scriptures”, Vol. 7, “The Finished Mystery”, p. 58

*“Surely there is not the slightest room for doubt in the mind of a truly consecrated child of God that the Lord Jesus is present and has been since 1874.”*  
C.T. Russell, “The Watchtower”, Jan 1, 1924, p. 5

*“In view of this strong Bible evidence concerning the Times of the Gentiles, we consider it an established truth that the final end of the kingdoms of this world, and the full establishment of the Kingdom of God, will be accomplished at the end of A.D. 1914.”* C.T. Russell, *Studies in the Scriptures*, Vol. 2, “The Time is at Hand”, 1889 and 1909 Ed., Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.99

*“In view of this strong Bible evidence concerning the Times of the Gentiles, we consider it an established truth that the final end of the kingdoms of this world, and the full establishment of the Kingdom of God, will be accomplished at the end of A.D. 1915.”* C.T. Russell, *Studies in the Scriptures*, Vol. 2, “The Time is at Hand”, 1915 Ed., Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, p.99

*“The Watchtower, and its companion publications of the Society, for forty years emphasized the fact that 1914 would witness the establishment of God’s kingdom and the complete glorification of the church. During that forty years God’s people on earth were carrying on a witness work, which work was foreshadowed by Elijah and John the Baptist. All of the Lord’s people looked forward to 1914 with joyful expectation. When that time came and passed there was much disappointment, chagrin and mourning, and the Lord’s people were greatly in reproach. They were ridiculed by the clergy and their allies in particular, and pointed to with scorn, because what would come to pass, and their ‘prophecies’ had not been fulfilled.”* J.F. Rutherford, “Light”, Book I, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1930, p. 194

*“However, suddenly, there came an end to World War I. It did not lead on, as Bible students expected, into Armageddon. And sincere worshippers of Jehovah, who were in the new covenant with him through his Mediator Jesus Christ, found themselves still in the flesh on the earth.”* “Man’s Salvation Out of World Distress At Hand”, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1975, p. 98

*“And the mountains were not found. Even the republics will disappear in the fall of 1920. And the mountains were not found. Every kingdom of earth will pass away, be swallowed up in anarchy.”* C.T. Russell, “Studies in the Scriptures”, Vol. 7, *The Finished Mystery*, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1917 Ed., p. 258

*“...there is evidence that the establishment of the Kingdom in Palestine will probably be in 1925, ten years later than we once calculated.”*

C.T. Russell, “Studies in the Scriptures”, Vol. 7, The Finished Mystery, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1917 Ed., p. 128

*“Therefore we may confidently expect that 1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the faithful prophets of old...”* “Millions Now Living Will Never Die”, 1918, p. 89

*“There will be no slip up...Abraham should enter upon the actual possession of his promised inheritance in the year 1925.”* Watchtower, Oct 15, 1917, p. 6157

*“God’s faithful people on the earth emphasized the importance of the dates 1914 and 1918 and 1925. They had much to say about these dates and what would come to pass, but all they predicted did not come to pass.”*

J.F. Rutherford, Vindication, Book One, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1931, p. 146. See also Yearbook, 1975, p. 146. Watchtower, Nov1, 1993, p.12

*“They had preached that in an early time God would overthrow ‘Christendom’. Many had emphasized the year 1925 as the date, and then when that date did not materialize the date was moved up to 1932. Again, 1932 came and ‘Christendom’ was not destroyed...”* Watchtower, Feb. 15. 1938

*“Things published were not perfect in the days of Charles Taze Russell, first president of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society; nor were they perfect in the days of J.F. Rutherford, the succeeding president. The increasing light on God’s Word as well as the facts of history have repeatedly required that adjustments of one kind or another be made down to the very present time.”* “The Watchtower”, March 1, 1979, p. 24

## **Jehovah’s Witness Doctrinal Errors**

### **1. Denial of Christ’s Divinity**

JW’s make an issue of the fact that Jesus is the Son of God, not, they say, God Himself. They fail to understand that the term son in Greek (uios) as in English, can denote more than genetic relationship:

*“Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken (loosed) the Sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.”* John 5:18

*“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Saviour, and the Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope; Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith;”* 1 Timothy 1:1

*“Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear: for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do.”* 1 Corinthians 16:10

Note: Timothy referred to as Paul’s work-fellow in Romans 16:21

*“And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnames them Boanerges, which is, the sons of thunder.”* Mark 3:17

Note Luke 9:52-56: James and John suggest sending fire upon the Samaritans that rejected Jesus

Obvious the word son (Uios) has a variety of meanings. Letting Scripture interpret Scripture, we understand that “Son” refers to one’s nature, not necessarily origin

James and John: loud, boisterous – Like thunder

Timothy: Committed to the work of the Lord - Like Paul

*“Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken (loosed) the Sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.”* John 5:18

*“But the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.” John 5:23*

*“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”  
Colossians 2:8-9*

### **Jesus is Worshipped:**

*“Then Jesus saith unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.” Matthew 4:10*

*“And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him.” Matthew 8:2  
“...there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him.” Matthew 9:18  
“And when they saw him, they worshipped him...” Matthew 28:17  
“And they came and held him by the feet and worshipped him.” Matthew 28:9  
“Then he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.” John 9:38  
“And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.” Luke 24:52*

### **Creator**

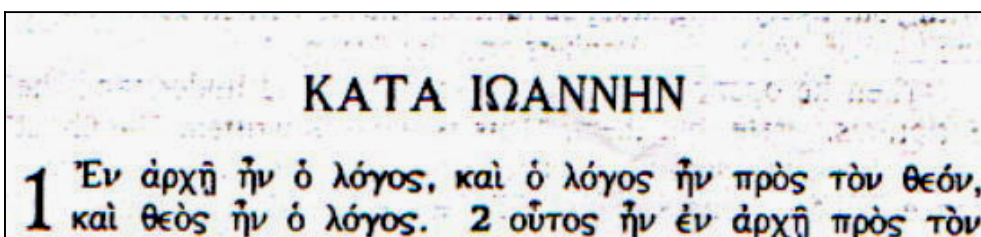
*“All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.” John 1:3*

*“Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens all alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself.” Isaiah 44:24*

*“I have made the earth and created upon it: I, even my hands have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded.” Isaiah 45:12*

*“Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together.” Isaiah 48:12*

### **John1:1 – Greek Grammar**



**Logos (NOM) has the article because it is the subject. Theos (NOM) does not therefore require the article. KJV translators understood this and changed the word order accordingly.**

*“...and we can see at once here that theos the noun for God has not got the definite article in front of it. When a Greek noun has not got the article in front of it, it becomes rather a description than an identification, and has the character of an adjective than of a noun.” William Barclay, “Many Witnesses, One Lord”, p.23-24*

*“There is no ‘a’ or ‘an’ in Greek; when they felt the need for a word like that, they would use number one.” Jim Found, Bruce Olson, M. Div., Editor, “Basic Greek in 30 Minutes a Day: New Testament Greek Workbook for Laymen”, Bethany House Publishers, 1983, p. 158*

*“And answered the Thomas and said to him the Lord of me and the God of me.” John 20:28*

## Jesus in the Old Testament

*“The mighty God, even the LORD, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof.”* Psalm 50:1

*“Thou shewest lovingkindness unto thousands, and recompensest the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them: the Great, the Mighty God, the LORD of hosts is his name;”* Jeremiah 32:18

*“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”* Isaiah 9:6

*“Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven.”* Genesis 19:24

## Trinity Proof Texts

*“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”* Acts 20:28

*“Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts: I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.”* Isaiah 44:6

*“Fear not; I am the first and I am the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen.”* Revelation 1:18

*“I am the LORD; that is my name: and my glory I will not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.”* Isaiah 42:8

*“And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.”* John 17:5

*“For who is God save the LORD? Or who is a rock save our God?”* Psalm 18:31

*“And did all drink the same spiritual drink; for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”* 1 Corinthians 10:4

*“before me no God was formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no savior.”* Isaiah 53:10-11

*“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”* Titus 2:13

*“For I am the LORD, I change not;”* Malachi 3:6

*“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever.”* Hebrews 13:8

*“Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting.”* Psalm 106:48

*“Before the mountains were brought forth, or even thou hadest formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting; thou art God.”* Psalm 90:2

*“But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting.”* Micah 5:2

*“Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last. Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together.*

*Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the LORD God, and his Spirit, hath sent me.”* Isaiah 48:12-16

*“...and thou shalt know that I the LORD am thy saviour and redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.”* Isaiah 60:16

*“As for our redeemer, the LORD of hosts is his name, the Holy One of Israel.”* Isaiah 47:4

*“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.”* Ephesians 1:7

*“I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”* John 8:24

*“Before Abraham was, I AM.”* John 8:58

κόσμου τούτου. 24	εἶπον	οὖν	ὑμῖν	ὅτι	world. 24	Therefore
world this.	I said	therefore	to you	that	I said to you	
ἀποθανεῖσθε	ἐν	ταῖς	ἁμαρτίαις	ὑμῶν·	YOU will die in YOUR	
you will die	in	the	sins	of you;	sins. For if YOU do	
ἐὰν γὰρ μὴ	πιστεύσητε	ὅτι	ἐγώ εἰμι,		not believe that I	
if ever for not	you should believe	that	I am,		am [he], you will	
ἀποθανεῖσθε	ἐν	ταῖς	ἁμαρτίαις	ὑμῶν.	die in YOUR sins.”	
you will die	in	the	sins	of you.	25	Therefore they

The Greek construction of “I AM” is exactly the same as the Greek translation of Exodus 3:14 (Septuagint), despite the claims of the Watchtower Society:

*“(John 8:23, 58; in the original Greek text this “I am” differs from the “I am” in the Greek Septuagint translation of Exodus 3:14, where Jehovah God speaks.)”*

*“Let God be True”, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Inc., Brooklyn, NY, 1946, p.40*

## 2. Christ is Michael

*“But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.”* Mark 13:32

*“...being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.”* Hebrews 1:4-7

*“And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. But to the Son he saith, Thy throne O God is for ever and ever.”* Hebrews 1:4-7

*“Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.”* Jude 9

## 3. Denial of the Trinity

### The Holy Spirit The Third Person of the Trinity

*“But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.”* Acts 5:3-4

*“But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.”*  
1 Corinthians 12:11

*“But when the comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:”* John 15:26

*“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will shew you things to come.”* John 16:13

*“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”* Romans 8:26-27

*“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you, Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”*  
Romans 8:9-11

*“Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”* 2 Corinthians 3:17

*“And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.”* Acts 5:32

*“As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.”* Acts 13:2

*“So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.”* Acts 13:4

*“For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things.”* Acts 15:28

*“Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bythnia: but the Spirit suffered them not.”* Acts 16:6-7

*“Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide in me.”*  
Acts 20:23

*“Whereof the Holy Ghost is also a witness to us: for after that he had said before: this is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them.”* Hebrews 10:15-16

*“But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.”* 1 Corinthians 2:10-11

*“This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.”* 1 John 5:6

*“...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”*  
John 14:6

*“Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?” Hebrews 10:29*

*“And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”  
Ephesians 4:30*

*“And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.”  
Matthew 12:32*

#### **4. Denial of the Physical Resurrection of Jesus**

*“God exalted his Son Jesus to be higher than he was before he lived and died as a man. If Jesus had been “equal in power and glory” with the Supreme Being, then Jehovah God could not have elevated his Son any higher than he was in his prehuman state. But now Jesus is made the Head under Jehovah of God’s capitol organization over the entire universe. Says the apostle Peter: “By the resurrection of Jesus Christ: who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.” (1 Peter 3:21,22)” “Let God be True:, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Brooklyn, NY, 1946, p. 43-44*

*“This proves that Jesus did not take his human body to heaven to be forever a man in heaven, for had he done so, that would have left him even lower than the angels. By his becoming a man, “we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death” (Hebrews 2:6-9) God did not purpose that Jesus should be humiliated thus forever by being a fleshly man forever; but, after he had sacrificed his perfect manhood, Almighty God raised him to deathless heavenly life as a glorious spirit creature.” “Let God be True:, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Brooklyn, NY, 1946, p. 43-44*

*“There is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” 1 Timothy 2:5*

*“And he saith unto them, Be not afrightened: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.” Mark 16:6*

*“Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body.”*

*John 2:19-21*

*“Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see me have.” Luke 24:39*

*“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came the resurrection from the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming.”*

*1 Corinthians 15:20-23*

*“Beloved, now we are the sins of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.” 1 John 3:2*

#### **5. Works-based Salvation (must identify with “God’s visible organization”)**

*“We should meekly go along with the Lord’s theocratic organization and wait for further clarification, rather than balk at the first mention of a thought unpalatable to us and proceed to quibble and mouth our criticisms and opinions as though they were worth more than the slave’s provision of spiritual food. Theocratic ones will appreciate the Lord’s visible organization and not be so foolish as to put against Jehovah’s channel their own human reasoning and sentiment and personal feelings.”*

*The Watchtower, February 1, 1952, pp. 79-80.*

*“The primary purpose of a Bible study is to teach the truth of God’s Word. It should also build in the student an appreciation for Jehovah’s organization and make him aware of the vital need to become part of it. ... The weekly Bible study should include instruction that will help students appreciate the organization and take advantage of provisions for their salvation. Take a few minutes each week to relate or describe something about the organization and how it functions. You can find helpful talking points in the November 1, 1984, Watchtower. The brochures Jehovah’s Witnesses in the Twentieth Century and Jehovah’s Witnesses—Unitedly Doing God’s Will Worldwide discuss major facets of the organization and how they may benefit us. Arranging for Bible students to view the video Jehovah’s Witnesses—The Organization Behind the Name will let them see for themselves what it is accomplishing.” Kingdom Ministry April 1993 p.3*

*“God has always used an organization. For example, only those in the ark in Noah’s day survived the Flood, and only those associated with the Christian congregation in the first century had God’s favor. (Acts 4:12) Similarly, Jehovah is using only one organization today to accomplish his will. To receive everlasting life in the earthly Paradise we must identify that organization and serve God as part of it.” The Watchtower, Feb. 15, 1983, p. 12.*

*“Make haste to identify the visible theocratic organization of God that represents his king, Jesus Christ. It is essential for life. Doing so, be complete in accepting its every aspect.” The Watchtower, October 1, 1967, p. 591.*

*“And while now the witness yet includes the invitation to come to Jehovah’s organization for salvation, the time no doubt will come when the message takes on a harder tone, like a “great war cry.” Watchtower 1981 Nov. 15 p.21*

*“Any person who wants to survive into God’s righteous new order urgently needs to come into a right relationship with Jehovah and His earthly organization now...” Watchtower 1981 Nov. 15 pp.16-17*

*“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9*

*“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost, which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; Titus 3:5-6*

*“To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins” Acts 10:43*

*“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.” John 6:47*

*“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.” John 1:12*

*“Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.” John 6:29*

## **6. Denial of the Physical Return of Christ**

*“Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye here gazing into heaven. This same Jesus, which was taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.” Acts 1:11*

*“Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: Behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as lightening cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matthew 24:26-27*

*“Behold, he cometh with the clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.”*

Revelation 1:7

## **7. Materialistic view of Man & “Soul Sleep”**

*“And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Ben-oni: but his father called him Benjamin.”* Genesis 35:18

*“And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.”* 1Kings 17:21.

*“And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.”* 1Kings 17:22

*“But his flesh upon him shall have pain, and his soul within him shall mourn.”*  
Job 14:22

*“O my God, my soul soul is down cast within me: therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan.”*  
Psalm 42:6

*“And shall consume the glory of his forest, and of his fruitful field, both soul and body: and they shall be as when a standard-bearer fainteth.”*  
Isaiah 10:18

*“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”* Matthew 10:28

*“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* 1 Thessalonians 5:23

*“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* Hebrews 4:12

*“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”* 3 John 1:2

*“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”* Matthew 16:26

*“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead.”*  
James 2:26

*“For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?”*  
1 Corinthians 2:11

*“Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord. (For we walk by faith, not by sight). We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”*  
2 Corinthians 5:6-8

*“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a straight betwixt two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.”* Philippians 1:21-23

*“And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”* Acts 7:59

## **8. Deny the existence of Hell**

*“And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.” Luke 12:4-5*

*“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.” Matthew 25:41*

*“And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.” Revelation 14:11*

*“And the devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire where the beast and the false prophet are, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” Revelation 20:10*

*“And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” Daniel 12:2*

## **9. Disrespect for Human Government**

*“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers, for there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth God: and they that resist shall have damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is a minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore, ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God’s ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.” Romans 13:1-6*

*“Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.” 1 Peter 2:17*

*“I exhort therefore that, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men. For kings, and for all that are in authority: that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.” 1 Timothy 2:1-2*

## **10. “Jehovah” the only true name for God**

*“Everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah will get away safe; .... (Joel 2:32) Jehovah's Witnesses are truly grateful to know Jehovah's name, and they have complete trust that he will save them when they call on him.” Watchtower 1998 May 1 p.19*

*“Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” [Context makes it clear that this verse is speaking about Jesus of Nazareth] Acts 4:12*

## **11. Blood Transfusions**

*“Moral insanity, sexual perversions, repression, inferiority complexes, petty crimes...often follow in the wake of blood transfusion.”*

--Watchtower, September 15, 1961, Page 564

## **12. The Cross denied (Jesus died on a “torture stake”)**

JW’s believe that Jesus died on a straight pole, His hands directly overhead, pierced with a single nail. The biblical text refutes this idea:

*“But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails...I will not believe.” John 20:25*

*“And sitting down they watched him there; And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.” Matthew 27:37 (the sign could be said to be over His head if His arms were stretched out to the sides as is typically portrayed. If the JW’s are right, the sign would have been set over His hands instead.*

## **“Problem” Texts**

### **1. John 14:28 (Father is greater)**

Answer: It is superfluous to state that God is greater than any creature. Something else is going on here. Philippians 2 provides the answer:

*“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:5-11*

So at the incarnation, the Father was greater than Jesus (in His office, positionally), but not better than Jesus. Jesus was still God during His earthly ministry, though He gave up temporarily the independent exercise of His divine attributes. Note the passage in Hebrews, which states that Jesus was better than the angels:

*“Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said he at any time, thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a Son? And again, when he bringeth the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.” Hebrews 1:4-6*

So:

**“Greater” (John 14:28) – speaking of office; position**

**“Better” (Hebrews 1:4) – speaking of intrinsic nature**

**Jesus is equal with the Father in nature, though in His earthly ministry the Father was positionally greater.**

**Jesus is by nature better than the angels**

### **2. Philippians 2:5-11 (Jesus did not seek to usurp God)**

Answer: The NWT is a horrible rendering. The KJV is demonstrably more accurate:

*“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:5-11*

The idea here is that equality with God was not something that Jesus grasped for, because it was something He already possessed!

### **3. Mark 13:32 (Jesus unaware of the day of His return)**

Answer: Jesus never ceased to be God, even during His earthly ministry. Instead He laid aside independent exercise of His divine attributes (like omniscience). Therefore, Jesus really didn’t know the day or hour of His return, but we may be sure that he knows now!

### **4. Colossians 1:15-17 (Jesus the firstborn)**

Answer: The text must be read in its context:

*“Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature. For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or*

*principalities, or powers: all things were created by him and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*” Colossians 1:15-17

**a. Jesus is the Creator of all things**

The word “things” is the key term. A “thing” is created. Jesus is not here (or anywhere) seen as a “thing”. He is the Creator of all “things”. The NWT which states that Jesus created all “other” things is completely unsupported in the Greek.

**b. Jesus is the sustainer of the universe:**

- Every part of the universe depends upon something else for its continued existence, so,
- the entire universe depends upon something outside of itself for its continued existence.
- Jesus is the one that “holds the universe together”

**c. First-born does not necessarily mean the first person born (or created) chronologically. It may refer simply to positional greatness:**

*“I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him: With whom my hand shall be established: mine arm also shall strengthen him. The enemy shall not exact upon him, nor the son of wickedness afflict him. And I will beat down his foes before his face, and plague them that hate him. But my faithfulness and my mercy shall be with him: and in my name shall his horn be exalted. I will set his hand also in the sea, and his right hand in the rivers. He shall cry into me Thou art my Father, my God, and the rock of my salvation. Also I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth.”* Psalm 89:20-27

**5. John 1:18 (No man has seen God at any time, but people saw Jesus)**

Answer: Again, text must be read in its entirety:

*“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”* John 1:18

This argument actually backfires on the JW’s. Jesus told Thomas that whoever saw Him saw the Father (John 14:9). Looking at Jesus is looking at God! Also see Hebrews 1:3 where Jesus is said to be the express image of God’s person. The statements in the book of Exodus are absolutely contradictory if Moses wasn’t looking at Jesus, the second person of the Trinity:

*“And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend.”* - Exodus 33:11

*“And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me and live.”* - Exodus 33:20

**Additional Notes:**

The JW’s believe that only a special group of “born again” Christians will comprise the 144,000 which will rule in heaven. The rest of the saved will live on a restored earth. A straightforward reading of the relevant passages refutes the whole idea:

Revelation 7: The 144,000 are:

- Israelites (Rev. 7:1-8) – 12,000 from each specific tribe. The text is so clear it hardly needs comment. As for the idea that only the 144,000 will be in heaven, John’s vision offers string refutation:

*“After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all the nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God, which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might be unto our god forever and ever. Amen.”* Revelation 7:9-12

Further identifying features of the 144,000 (Revelation 14:1-5):

The 144,000 are:

- ones that have their Father’s name written on their foreheads

- Virgins
- Redeemed from among men
- “the firstfruits unto God, and to the Lamb.” (v. 4)

The term “firstfruits” means that more will follow. It is fallacious to believe that the 144,000 will be the only ones in heaven.

The idea that the Lord’s redeemed will be separated into two classes is totally refuted by Scripture:

*“And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.”* John 10:16

*“[Caiaphas] prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; and not for that nation only, but also that he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.”* John 11:51-52

### **Who’s Witnesses?**

*“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: And ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”* Acts 1:8

*“Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the judge of the quick and the dead. To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.”* Acts 10:40-43

### **Christian Science**

- Mary Ann Morse Baker
- Born 1821 to Mark and Abigail Baker in Bow, New Hampshire
- Frequent illnesses
- *Married to George W. Glover 1843*
- Glover died months later; Mary left pregnant fell into deep depression
- Relied on morphine (see KOTC p. 150)
- June 21, 1853 married a dentist, Dr. Daniel M. Patterson
- Patterson treated her badly and eventually deserted her; she divorced him in 1873
- Phineas Parkhurst Quimby (1802-1866) wrote “Mind Cure”
- The Philosophy of P.P. Quimby: 1850’s - System of healing called “The Science of Man”; used terms “The Science of Christ” and “Christian Science”
- Relationship w/ Eddy began Portland, Maine, 1862
- Committed to Quimby’s care for spinal inflammation
- Claimed Quimby had cured her

*“I visited P.P. Quimby, and less than one week from that time I ascended by a stairway of 182 steps to the dome of city hall and am improving ad infinitum.”*

Mary Baker Eddy, Portland Evening Courier, November 7, 1862

*“Interestingly, if a medieval monk were to meet a modern Christian Scientist as the latter studied his weekly Lesson-Sermon, the monk would identify immediately with him. The Scientist’s daily reflective study resembles that of the monk’s daily meditation of sacred texts, called lectio divina (“divine study”). Both meditate on the words, hoping to reach beyond them to the reality they signify.”* Christian Science: A Sourcebook of Contemporary Materials, The Christian Science Publishing Society, 1990, p. 21

*“The idea given of God this time is higher, clearer, and more permanent than before.”*

Mary Baker Eddy, cited by Georgine Milmine, “The Life of Mary Baker G. Eddy, cited in “Kingdom of the Cults”, Revised and expanded, 2003, p. 157

*“As I have seen the amazing spread of this delusion and the way in which men and women are offering up money and the lives of their children to it, I have felt that it is a duty I owe to the public to make it known. I have no hard feelings against Mrs. Eddy, no axe to grind, to interest to serve; I simply feel it is due the thousands of good people who have made Christian Science the anchorage of their souls and its founder the infallible guide of their daily life, to keep this no longer to myself. I desire only that people who take themselves and their helpless children into Christian Science shall do so with the full knowledge that this is not divine revelation but simply the idea of an old-time Maine healer.”* Horace T. Wentworth (lived with Eddy in Stoughton she taught from the Quimby Manuscripts (1867-1870), Cited in KOTC, p. 158

*“The Bible, Science and Health, with Key to the Scriptures and my other published works are the only proper instructors for this hour. It shall be the duty of all Christian Scientists to circulate and to sell as many of these books as they can. If a member of the First Church of Christ, Scientist shall fail to obey this injunction it will render him liable to lose his membership in the church.”* Christian Science Journal, Jan., 1901, cited by David V. Barrett, “Sects, Cults, and Alternative Religions”, p. 79

*“If a member of this church were to treat the author of our textbook disrespectfully and cruelly, upon her complaint that member should excommunicated. If a member, without her having requested the information, shall trouble her on subjects unnecessarily and without her consent, it shall be considered an offence.”* Church Manual, Section on Disciple, Article XI, Complaints, Section 8: No Unchristian Conduct, Cited by David V. Barrett, “Sects, Cults, and Alternative Religions”, p. 80

*“A member of the Mother Church shall not haunt Mrs. Eddy’s drive when she goes out, continually stroll by her house, or make a summer resort near her for such a purpose.”* Church Manual, Section on Disciple, Article VIII, Complaints, Section 27: The Golden Rule, Cited by David V. Barrett, “Sects, Cults, and Alternative Religions”, p. 80

*“Take Notice*

*I request Christian Scientists universally to read the paragraph beginning at line 30 on page 442 in the edition of Science and Health, which will be issued February 29. I consider the information there given to be of great importance at this state of the workings of Animal Magnetism, and it will greatly aid the students in their individual experiences. – Mary Baker Eddy”* Christian Science Journal, February, 1908, cited in KOTC, p. 160

Here’s the addition to her book that was to “greatly aid” her followers:

*“Christian Scientists, be a law to yourselves, that mental malpractice can harm you neither when asleep no when awake.”*

### **The Tea Jacket Swindle**

*“Beloved, I ask this favor of all Christian Scientists. Do not give me on, before, or after the forthcoming holiday aught material except three tea jackets. All may contribute to these. One learns to value material things only as one needs them, and the costliest things are the ones that one needs most. Among my present needs material are these – three jackets, two of darkish heavy silk, the shade appropriate to white hair; the third of heavy satin, lighter shade, but sufficiently sombre. Nos. 1 and 2 to be common-sense jackets for Mother to work in, and not overtrimmed by any means. No. 3 for best, such as she can afford for her dressing room”. – Mary Baker Eddy, as quoted in KOTC, p. 161*

## **The Theological Structure of Christian Science**

### **I The Inspiration of the Bible**

1. Genesis 2:7 considered fiction (Refuted - Ps. 119:160)
2. Bible contains mistakes, corruption (Refuted - Prov. 30:5-6)

### **II The Doctrine of the Trinity and the Deity of Christ (According to the Scriptures):**

- One God (1 Corinthians 8:5-6)
- Father God (1 Peter 1:2)
- Jesus God (John 1:1, 14)
- Spirit God (Acts 5:3-4)

#### **1. Confuses the Trinity with Polytheism**

2. Jesus the Son of God, not God Himself (Refuted - Rm. 9:5)
3. Distinction made between Jesus and Christ  
(Refuted - Mat. 22:42, 24:5; 26:63-64, John 7:25-27, 31,40-42)

### **III The Doctrine of God and the Holy Spirit**

1. Jehovah a man-projected God

Refutation: Bible is self explanatory on this point

2. God is Principle Refuted:

- God remembers (Genesis 8:1)
- God speaks (Isaiah 48:12-16)
- God hears, sees, creates (Gen 6:5; Ex. 2:24; Gen 1:1)
- God knows (Jeremiah 23:11)
- God will judge the world (Acts 17:30-21)
- God is a personal Spirit (John. 4:24; Heb. 1:3)
- God has a will (Matthew 6:10)

### **IV The Virgin Birth of Christ**

1. Impossible that God's fullness could be reflected in a single man (Refuted - Colossians 2:9)
2. Jesus born of Mary's "spiritual thoughts" (Refuted - Luke 1:35)

### **V The Doctrine of Miracles**

1. Sick healed by acknowledging that sickness is not real
2. Sickness is error that truth casts out
3. Matter is unreal; Jesus "subdued it with his understanding"

Refuted :

Matthew 14:14-20 (feeding 5000)

John 2:1-11 (water to wine)

### **VI The Atonement of Jesus Christ**

1. His blood does not cleanse from sin

Refuted :

- 1 John 1:7
- Romans 5:9
- Ephesians 1:7; 2:13
- Colossians 1:14, 20
- Hebrews 9:14; 13:12
- 1 Peter 1:18-19

2. Substitutionary death denied

Refuted :

- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- 1 Peter 3:18

### **VII The Death and Resurrection of Christ**

1. His death denied (Refuted - 1 Corinthians 15:1-10)
2. Buried "alive" (Same as above)

### **VIII The Ascension and second Coming**

1. Ascension = greater understanding of Spirit, God; rise above the physical knowledge of His disciples  
(Refuted - Acts 1:9-11)

### **IX Satan and the Existence of Evil**

1. Evil is an illusion (Refuted - Matthew 6:13)
2. Neither matter nor evil actually exist (Refuted - Genesis 1:1, Jeremiah 10:11-12)

### **X The Nature and Existence of Hell**

1. Hell=doing evil; heaven=doing right

(Refuted -Matthew 25:41; 6:9-10)

2. Penalty for sin: mental anguish  
(Refuted -Matthew 25:41, Revelation 14:9-10)

### **XI The Kingdom of Heaven - Its Reality & Significance**

1. Heaven: Harmony; reign of the Spirit  
(Refuted - Matthew 6:9-10)

### **XII The Doctrine of Eternal Salvation**

1. Man as God's idea is already saved  
(Refuted -Acts 16:31; 1 John 5:12)

2. One sacrifice, however great, is insufficient to pay the debt of sin.  
(Refuted - Romans 5:17-19; 1 John 2:2)

### **XIII The Doctrine of Prayer**

1. (Audible) Prayer is ineffective (Refuted -James 5:16)  
2. Audible prayer (Refuted -Luke 11:2-13; 18:1-7)

### **XIV The Creation of Matter and Its Reality**

1. Matter does not exist (Refuted -Gen. 1:1, Jer. 10:11-12)  
2. All is infinite Mind (Self-refuting)

### **XV Man, the Soul, His True Nature and Destiny**

1. Man did not originate from the dust (Refuted -Gen. 2:7)  
2. Man is as unlimited as God (Refuted -Isaiah 46:9; Psalm 89:6)

*"Any material evidence of death is false, for it contradicts the spiritual facts of being." - Science and Health, p.584*

### **Verses of Special Importance:**

*"Through one man sin entered the world and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all have sinned." Romans 5:12*

*"For the earnest expectation of the creature, waiteth for the manifestation of the son of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope. Because the creature itself shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption, into the glorious liberty of the children of God." Romans 8:19-21*

*"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise partook of the same, that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil." Hebrews 2:14*

*"And deliver them, who through fear of death were all their life time subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels: but he took on him the seed of Abraham, Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest, in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people." Hebrews 2:15-17*

*"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he commeth into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me." Hebrews 10:4-5*

*"Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake, and thine often infirmities." 1 Timothy 5:23*

*“For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.”*  
1 Corinthians 4:17

*“But I trust in the Lord Jesus to sent Timotheus shortly unto you that I may be of good comfort when I know your state. For I have no man like-minded who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own not the things which are Jesus Christ’s. But ye know the proof of him that as a son with the father he hath served with me in the gospel.”* Philippians 2:19-22

## **Islam**

### **Islamic History & Theology**

- Islam means “submission”
- Followers are called “Muslims” (a submitted one)
- Founded by Muhammad (AD 570-632) an Arabian trader from Mecca
- Claimed special revelations from God
- Muslims consider him the last prophet from God (superceding Jesus Christ)
- Believe in one God (Allah); reject the Trinity
- Believe the Bible has been corrupted; the Koran is the final word of God
- Muhammad born in AD 570 in Mecca
- Part of the Quraysh Tribe – polytheists who worshipped in the Ka’ba (a 40’ x 40’ stone building with at least 360 idols)
- Became a shepherd / trader in the hills and valleys surrounding Mecca
- @25 married a wealthy widow (a 40 yr old merchant named Khadija)
- Had 2 sons (both died in infancy), and 4 daughters
- AD 610 - At age 40, Muhammad retreated to a cave on Mt Hira
- Stated that the Angel Gabriel appeared to him
- Shared with him a revelation from Allah for the tribes around Mecca
- Visions continued from AD 610 - 622

Muhammad first began preaching at Mecca around AD 610 - Most people did not accept his message In 622 Muhammad fled to Medina. This flight is called the Hegira. Muslims date their calendar from this year.

“In 630 Muhammad and his followers returned to Mecca and occupied the city.” World Book Encyc., 1986, vol. 10, p. 374

### **The Five Basic Doctrines of Islam:**

1. There is one and only one God.
2. There have been many prophets (I.e. Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad).
3. God created angels (Jinn), some are good, others are evil.
4. The Koran is God’s full and final revelation.
5. A final day of judgment is coming, followed by heaven for the faithful, hell for the lost.

### **The Five Basic Muslim Practices (Pillars)**

1. Confess that “There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger.”
2. Pray the salat, usually 5 times a day
3. Keep the annual fast through the 9th lunar month of Ramadan
4. 1/40 of a Muslim’s income donated to the needy
5. Every able Muslim must make at least 1 pilgrimage to Mecca in their lifetime

Muslims also believe in Jihad, or holy war - Some radical Muslims have exalted to the level of a pillar. “...The second case when the killing of civilians and women is permitted is when Muslims must launch a comprehensive attack against their enemies or shoot them from afar...Among these attacks are the martyrdom attacks that aim to kill...in order to strike terror in their hearts...In these attacks some women and children are unintentionally killed, of course, but this is with full right. [Otherwise] it would [lead] to the paralyzing of Jihad for the sake of Allah...It is impossible too avoid killing civilians in a war...” Kuwaiti Newspaper “Al-Watan, Sept 1st, 2001, Title: “Is Killing Jewish Women and Children Forbidden?”, translation by Shira Gutgold, originally in the Jerusalem Post, Sept 9, 2001

## **Textbook reading chart 44 – Islamic History**

### **Islamic Theology – 2 objectives**

1. Show that Islamic and Christian theology are different
2. Show that the Islamic conception is deficient philosophically and historically

### **In Common With Christianity:**

- Special creation
- Angels
- Heaven
- Hell
- Resurrection of all people

### **About Christ:**

- Virgin birth
- Prophethood
- Physical Ascension
- Sinlessness
- Messiahship
- 2nd Coming

### **Muslims Deny:**

- That Christ died on the cross for our sins
- His burial and physical resurrection

### **Islamic Response: Common view of salvation**

- Jews
- Jewish Christians
- Muslims

\*These differ from later (evangelical) Christianity (Influenced by Paul

“With their teacher gone, the devoted followers of Jesus tried to maintain the purity and simplicity of his teachings. But they were besieged and overtaken by a flood of Roman and Greek influences, which eventually so buried and distorted the message of Jesus that only a little of its truth now remains.”

Yahiya Emerick, “Who is Jesus?”, pamphlet by, “Why Islam”, [www.whyislam.org](http://www.whyislam.org)

The Qumran Caves: The site the most important Manuscript Discovery of all Time

The earliest New Testament fragments are datable to the first century! See: Carsten Peter Theide

“Eyewitness to Jesus”, Doubleday, 1996

“The papyri witness to the text is invaluable...All are extant from within the first two hundred years after the New Testament itself was written.” Normal L. Geisler and William E. Nix, “A General Introduction to the Bible”, Moody Press, 1986 P. 391

88 papyri

274 Uncial in Codex form

245 Lectionaries in Uncial

2,795 Manuscripts in Minuscule

1,964 Lectionaries in Minuscule

Total Lectionaries 2,209

Total Manuscripts 5,366

See: Normal L. Geisler and William E. Nix, “A General Introduction to the Bible”, Moody Press, 1986

- Including ancient translations: IN TOTAL: 24,970\* + MANUSCRIPTS

The works of Homer are the next best attested literary work. There are 643 extant copies of the Iliad...  
...compare to the New Testament with 24,970 extant copies!

Early church fathers from the 1st to the 4th centuries made over 36,000 citations from the New Testament!

All present day scholarship places the writing of the Gospels well within the first century

Paul:

“... it would be next to impossible to find any competent present-day scholarship that denies the Pauline authorship of the corpus of letters purporting to have been written by him.” John Warwick Montgomery, “History and Christianity”, Downers Grove, Illinois, Intervarsity Press, 1971, p.19

- Jewish (Phil. 3:4-6)
- Jesus is God (Roms 9:5)
- Death and resurrection (Roms 1:1-4, 1 Cor 15:3-4)
- Seen by the apostles (1 Cor 15:5)
- Confirmed by the apostles (Gal 1&2)
- Writings endorsed by the apostles (2 Pet 3:15-16)

### **Christianity’s rapid expansion:**

“If it were morally possible for them to have been deceived in this matter, every human motive operated to lead them to discover and avow their error... If then their testimony was not true, there was no possible motive for its fabrication.” Simon Greenleaf (1783-1853), Royal Professor of Law, Harvard University, “An Examination of the Four Evangelists by the Rules of Evidence Administered in the Courts of Justice”, pp. 28-30

Islamic View:

“The only records that have come down to us concerning Jesus are some sketchy biographical material, poorly researched and compiled, which can in no way be representative of the full and accurate Message of Jesus, the Son of Mary.” Yahiya Emerick, “Who is Jesus?”, Pamphlet, Why Islam, [www.whyislam.org](http://www.whyislam.org)

Mainstream scholarship:

“Ironically, it has not been the theologians, but the outsiders, such as scholars of ancient history, well used to imperfections in the works of pagan writers of antiquity, who have been most prepared to recognize the strong vein of authenticity underlying the gospels.” Ian Wilson, “Jesus: The Evidence”, Weidenfeld & Nicholson, London, 1984, p. 49

“The historical framework is exact. In terms of time and place the details are precise and correct.” A. N. Sherwin-White, Roman historian: “Roman Society and Roman Law in the New Testament”, 1978, p. 120

“Luke is a historian of the first rank; not only are his statements of fact trustworthy... this author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians .” Sir William Ramsay, Archaeologist, “The Bearing of Recent Discovery on the Trustworthiness of the New Testament”, p. 222.

Lee Strobel was a legal expert and an ardent atheist. The historic evidence helped convince him otherwise.

Attorney Frank Morison set out to disprove the resurrection. His research made him a believer.

“I say unequivocally that the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ is so overwhelming that it compels acceptance by proof which leaves absolutely no room for doubt.” Sir Lionel Luckoo, Attorney with 245 consecutive murder acquittals, knighted twice by Queen Elizabeth, former Justice and Diplomat, “The case for the Empty Tomb”, p. 112

### **Muslims Affirm:**

- That God (Allah) is an absolute one
- Undivided unity is most fundamental
- Denial of this is unpardonable

“And they say, "The Most Merciful has taken [for Himself] a son. You have done an atrocious thing. The heavens almost rupture there from and the earth splits open and the mountains collapse in devastation That they attribute to the Most Merciful a son. And it is not appropriate for the Most Merciful that He should take a son.” Surah 19:89-92 <http://quran.com/19>

“[He is] Originator of the heavens and the earth. How could He have a son when He does not have a companion and He created all things? And He is, of all things, Knowing.” Sura 6:101

<http://quran.com/6>

### **Some of Allah’s 99 Names include:**

The Just, the High One, the Sublime, the Contriver, the Judge, the Accounter, the Mighty One, the Majestic, the Gatherer, the King, the Honorer, the Avenger, the Observer of Justice, the Self Exalted, the Most Holy One, the One, the Administrator, Possessor of the Kingdom.

“Allah is incomprehensible because he is utterly unlike anything he created.” H. Wayne House, “Zondervan Charts of World Religions, Zondervan, 2006, chart 46, (Also see Gerhard Endress, “An Introduction to Islam”, NY, Columbia University Press, 1988, Neal Robinson, “Islam: A Concise Introduction”, WASH. DC, George University Press, 1999, David Waines, “An Introduction to Islam”, 2nd ed., Cambridge University Press, 2003, William Montgomery Watt, “Islam: A Short History”, Oxford, Oneworld, 1999,

“There is no deity except Allah. He is indivisible and absolutely transcendent. God is the Almighty, the Creator and the Sustainer of the universe, Who is similar to nothing and nothing is comparable to Him. Worship and obedience belongs to Allah and Allah alone. Joining other gods with God is an unforgivable sin. Any one who joins other gods with God has strayed far, far away from the Truth.”

<http://www.islam101.com/theology/index.htm>

“[Allah] is similar to none and nothing is comparable to Him...nothing is like Him.” “Concept of God in Islam”, pamphlet, from whyislam.org

“...[Allah] is infinitely beyond anything which the mind or senses of the human being can grasp or comprehend or imagine or explain, and that He is far, far above having any similarity to any of His creation.” Suzanne Haneef, “What Everyone Should Know About Islam and Muslims”, Library of Islam, 1996, p.14

### **Regarding Haneef’s Book:**

“This work, by an American convert, is intended primarily for a non-Muslim audience. Well-written and logically laid out, it presents the basic beliefs and practices of Islam...”<http://islamicbookstore.com/b2824.html>

### **God (Allah) as Absolutely Unknowable:**

- Argument is self defeating
- Saying God is unknowable is stating something known about God
- Causes produce effects that resemble themselves
- The universe therefore reveals some things about God (like Romans 1:20 says)

**Islamic response:** The brushes caused the painting yet they do not resemble the painting.

The entire cosmos is finite, contingent, potential.

Does this mean that God is finite, contingent, potential?

### **About Cause and Effect**

- An effect must resemble its cause (You cannot give what you haven’t got)
- Instrumental cause – through which something comes to be
- Efficient cause – by which something comes to be
- Instrumental causes needn’t resemble their effects
- Efficient causes do

The painting (effect) needn’t resemble its material cause (the brushes), but does resemble its efficient cause (the artist’s mind)

The entire cosmos has being and God is Being

The universe is like God in its actuality, but unlike God in its potentiality

### **What is Good?**

- Are things good because they really are good?
- According to what standard?
- Are things good because God says they’re good?
- Then “goodness” is arbitrary

Both lead to philosophical problems

“There is none good but one, that is God:” Matthew 19:17

God is goodness. He is the standard of what is good

### **Textbook reading: Shi’ite Islam: Distinctive beliefs and practices (Chart 47)**

Love the greatest good (defined 1 Cor 13) Love is relational

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” 1 John 4:7-8

### **About Love**

- Is love something other than God?

- Was it created? When?
- If love created, it is not “ever-existing.”
- Love was not with Allah prior to the creation
- Allah was deficient of the greatest goodness!
- If Allah is loving now (but not prior to creation) he is changing
- He changed from being non-relational to relational
- Allah is not therefore love
- He can be loving, not subject to love (his creation)

“Surely, Allah loves not the transgressors.” Surah 2:191

“Allah loves not the transgressor.” Surah 5:88

“But God commendeth his love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”  
Romans 5:8

### **Salvation**

Islam teaches that our works will be weighed

If our good deeds outweigh our bad ones, we will be saved

Remember: The moral standard of “goodness” is either:

- Created by Allah (arbitrary)
- Above Allah (then he is not supreme)

It is error to think that we can pay for breaking the law by keeping it in the future

Imagine: 999 wicked deeds being outweighed by 1,000 good deeds.

Ought this person to go to heaven?

- Martyrdom the only guarantee of paradise
- Why does God need such help to spread his message?

The Christian God needs no such military help

His people have died as peaceful witnesses

### **Christian View of Salvation:**

- The offense is not the determining factor but,
- the One who was offended
- God is the ultimately worthy being so paying for offending Him,
- Must be an ultimately worthy sacrifice
- No human can offer such a thing so,
- God had to offer Himself

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.” Acts 20:28

“The Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.” 1 John 4:14

“For Christ also hath suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.” 1 Peter 3:18

“[God] made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” 2 Corinthians 5:21

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

“Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.” Romans 4:4-5

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost, which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; Titus 3:5-6

### **The Islamic Doctrine of Abrogation**

#### **Inconsistencies in the Koran**

- “For them are good tidings in the worldly life and in the Hereafter. No change is there in the words of Allah. That is what is the great attainment.” Sura 10:64
- “And certainly were messengers denied before you, but they were patient over [the effects of] denial, and they were harmed until Our victory came to them. And none can alter the words of

Allah . And there has certainly come to you some information about the [previous] messengers.” Sura 6:34

- “We do not abrogate a verse or cause it to be forgotten except that We bring forth [one] better than it or similar to it. Do you not know that Allah is over all things competent?” Sura 2:106
- There shall be no compulsion in [acceptance of] the religion.” Surah 2:256
- “And when the sacred months have passed, then kill the polytheists wherever you find them and capture them and besiege them and sit in wait for them at every place of ambush. But if they should repent, establish prayer, and give zakah, let them [go] on their way.” Surah 9:5

### **Problems for the Muslim:**

1. How can we be certain Allah will not abrogate his word again?
2. How do we know Allah will not abrogate his decision to make Muhammad his final prophet?
3. If God can abrogate his eternal speech, how he be trusted with our eternal souls?
4. Abrogating is not progressive but indicates contradiction and annulment. Allah is either not all-knowing or a liar
5. Abrogation indicates that Allah is not omniscient (did not have the foreknowledge to avoid the need for abrogation). He is not omnipotent either (or else he would have taken measures to prevent the need for abrogation).
6. If Allah is not consistent, then his creatures have no foundation for morality and ethics. These are either absolute, universal, and invariant or they are not.

The Bible contains progressive revelation that brings to fulfillment and expands upon previous revelation without contradiction

- This spanned some 1600 years (not a mere 20)
- The Bible contains fulfillments and expansions, not corrects as the Koran does

### **Muhammad the Last Prophet?**

#### **Muhammad the Last Prophet? The Finality of Muhammad Over Other Prophets:**

1. The Old and New Testaments contain clear prophecies about him
2. His call to be a prophet was miraculous
3. The language and teaching of the Koran are without parallel
4. His miracles prove he was a prophet
5. His life and character prove him the last and greatest prophet

#### **1. The Old and New Testaments contain clear prophecies about him**

- A. **Deuteronomy 18:15-18:** “The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me, unto him ye shall hearken, according to all that thou desirest of the LORD thy God in Horeb, in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire anymore, that I die not. An the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken. I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.”

Answers:

“In Isaac shalt thou seed be called.” Genesis 21:12

“And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee. And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear the a son indeed, and though shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him, for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.” Genesis 21:18-19

“Lot believed in him. He said ‘I will fly this land and go where Allah has bidden me. He is the Mighty One, the All-knowing.’ We gave him Isaac and Jacob and bestowed and bestowed on his descendents prophethood and the Scriptures. We gave him his reward in this life, and in the life to come he shall dwell among the righteous.” Surah 29:27-28 (The Koran, Penguin Books, 1977, translation by N.J. Dawood)

The Lord Jesus Fulfills Deuteronomy 18:15-18

- From His Jewish brethren – Gal 4:4
- Spoke on the Father’s behalf - John 8:28

- Did not speak on His own – John 12:49
- Called Himself a prophet – Luke 13:33
- People considered Him a prophet:
- Matthew 21:11,
- Luke 7:16, 24:19,
- John 4:19, 6: 14, 7:40, 9:17,

**B. Deuteronomy 32:2** “And he said, The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them, he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of his saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them.”

- Many Islamics believe this verse speaks of three separate visitations of God
- Sinai – through Moses
- Seir – through Jesus
- Paran (Arabia) - through Muhammad

**Answers:**

- Jesus never went to Edom during His earthly ministry (though one day He will. See Isaiah 63:1-4)
- Deuteronomy 32:2 is all about the LORD’s coming

Deuteronomy 32:2 is part of a Blessing to Israel: “And this is the blessing, wherewith Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death.” Deut. 32:1

“If it [Deut. 33:2] were a prediction about Islam, which has been a constant enemy of Israel, could scarcely have been a blessing to Israel.” Norman Geisler, “The Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics”, Baker Books, 1999, p. 503

**C. Deuteronomy 34:10** “And there arose not a Prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face.”

**Answers:**

- “Since” – from Moses’ death until the last chapter of Deuteronomy was written (Probably by Joshua)
- Even if written late – was still completed centuries before Christ’s coming

“And there arose not a Prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face: In all the signs and the wonders which the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh, and to all his servants, and to all his land, and in all that mighty hand, and in all the great terror, which Moses shewed in the sight of all Israel.” Deuteronomy 34:10-12

Jesus Fulfills this prophecy:

- Jesus performed miracles like Moses
- Muhammad performed no miracles
- Jesus had direct access to God
- Muhammad received revelation through an angel (Gabriel)

**D. Habakkuk 3:3**

“God came from Teman, and the Holy One from Mount Paran Selah. His glory covered the heavens and the earth was full of his praise.”

Some Muslims believe this refers to Muhammad coming from Paran (Arabia)

**Answers:**

- Paran is hundreds of miles from Mecca
- The verse is obviously talking about God’s coming, not some prophet.

**E. Psalm 45:3-5** “Gird thy sword upon thy thigh, O most mighty: with thy glory and thy majesty. And in thy majesty ride prosperously, because of truth and meekness, and righteousness: and thy right hand

shall teach thee terrible things. Thine arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies; whereby the people fall under thee."

Is this speaking of Muhammad (the prophet of the sword)?

Answers:

Verse in context. Next verse reads: "Thy throne O God is forever and ever: the scepter of thy kingdom is a right scepter." (v6)

- Passage speaking of God
- Jesus claimed to be God (John 8:58, 10:30, 14:9)
- Hebrews 1:8-9 specifically identifies Jesus with this passage
- Jesus is coming with a sword (Revelation 19:11-16)

**F. Isaiah 21:7** "And he saw a chariot with a couple of horsemen, a chariot of asses, and a chariot of camels; and he hearkened diligently with much heed:"

Answer: The verse needs to be read in context: Isaiah 21:6-9 reads:

"For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Go, set a watchman, let him declare what he seeth. And he saw a chariot with a couple of horsemen, a chariot of asses, and a chariot of camels; and he hearkened diligently with much heed:

And he cried, A lion: My lord, I stand continually upon the watchtower in the daytime, and I am set in my ward whole nights: And, behold, here cometh a chariot of men, with a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, Babylon is fallen, is fallen; and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground."

**G. Matthew 3:11** "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:"

**Islamic Arguments regarding this verse:**

- Jesus and John contemporaries
- John never became a disciple
- No need for an inferior like John to baptize him
- The One John proclaimed was to make Jerusalem and its temple more glorious (Hag. 2:8-9, Mal. 3:1)

Answers:

- Jesus' ministry began after John's
- John tried to deter Jesus (Mt 3:14)
- Jesus came to fulfill the Law (Mt 5:17)
- John knew Jesus before (Jn 1:29 "The Lamb of God")
- Prophecies yet to be fulfilled at His 2nd coming

H. John 14:16 "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;"

Islamic arguments based upon Sura 61:6:

- Muhammad referred to as "Ahmad" (periclytos) = "praised one"

John 14:16 – παράκλητος (parakletos = intercessor, consoler: - advocate, comforter)

Muslims argue that "periclytos" is the original reading in John 14:16

Answer:

The question comes down to whether or not the New Testament has undergone corruption/revision. There is no evidence that this has taken place. The New Testament stands as the best-attested literary work in history (see the section refuting the Mormon claims of restoration). The Muslim cannot point to even one manuscript out of 1000's that contains his peculiar rendering of John 14:6.

Other identifying features of the parakletos that speak of the Holy Spirit – not Muhammad:

- Sent to the apostles; Muhammad was not sent to the apostles
- To abide forever; Muhammad dead for centuries
- You know him; disciples did not know Muhammad
- In you; Muhammad no in any of the apostles

- Their teaching not in accord with Muhammad's (no sign Muhammad was in them)
- In Jesus' name, Muhammad not sent in Jesus' name
- No speak on his own; Muhammad constantly testified of himself
- Glorify Jesus; Koran has Muhammad superseding Jesus

### **Summary:**

"Nowhere did the Bible predict the coming of Muhammad. Attempts by Muslim apologists to claim such involved forced interpretations contrary to the context of the passage. Rather, the Old Testament prophets predicted in detail the coming of Christ. Christ, not Muhammad, is confirmed to be God's messenger." Norman Geisler, "The Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics", Baker Books, 1999, p. 505

### **2. Was Muhammad's Call "Miraculous"?**

"[The angel] choked me with the cloth until I believed that I should die. Then he released me and said, 'recite!'" When Muhammad hesitated, he received...

"twice again the repeated harsh treatment." T. Andrae, "Muhammad: the Man and His Faith", New York, Harper & Row, 1955, p. 43-44

"Stricken with panic, Muhammad arose and asked himself, 'What did I see? Did possession of the devil which I feared all along come to pass?' Muhammad looked to his right and his left but saw nothing. For a while he stood there trembling with fear and stricken with awe. He feared the cave might be haunted and that he might run away still unable to explain what he saw." Biographer Muhammad Husayn Haykal, "The Life of Muhammad", Indianapolis: North American Trust, 1976, p. 74

"...as she did on earlier occasions when Muhammad feared possession by the devil, so now stood firm by her husband and devoid of the slightest doubt...respectfully, indeed reverently, she said to him, 'Joy to my cousin! Be firm. By him who dominates Khadijah's soul I pray and hope that you will be the prophet of this nation. By God, he will not let you down.'" Biographer Muhammad Husayn Haykal, "The Life of Muhammad", Indianapolis: North American Trust, 1976, p. 75

"Muhammad had not moved from his spot when revelation came to him accompanied by the usual convulsions. He was stretched out in his clothes and a pillow was placed under his head. Aishah [his wife] later reported, "Thinking that something ominous was about to happen, everyone in the room was frightened except me, for I did not fear a thing, knowing I was innocent..." Muhammad recovered, he sat up and began to wipe his forehead where beads of perspiration had gathered." Biographer Muhammad Husayn Haykal, "The Life of Muhammad", Indianapolis: North American Trust, 1976, p. 337

"The Muslims who overheard him asked, 'Are you calling the dead?' and the prophet answered, 'They hear me no less than you do, except that they are unable to answer me.'" Biographer Muhammad Husayn Haykal, "The Life of Muhammad", Indianapolis: North American Trust, 1976, p. 231

"There is hence no reason to deny the event of the prophet's visit to the cemetery of Baqi as out of place considering Muhammad's spiritual and psychic power of communication with the realms of reality and his awareness of spiritual reality that surpasses that of ordinary men." Biographer Muhammad Husayn Haykal, "The Life of Muhammad", Indianapolis: North American Trust, 1976, p. 496

### **3. The Language and Teaching of the Koran**

#### **Argument from unique literary style:**

- Questionable test for divine inspiration
- At best proves the author a gifted person (but artistic and intellectual gifts are hardly supernatural)

Mozart's first symphony was written at the age of six!!

(Muhammad wrote Koran at age 40)

Shakespeare, Homer, etc.. could also then be seen as divinely inspired

***"...among Muslims scholars of the early period, before bigotry and hyperbole prevailed, were some such as Ebrahim on-Nassam who openly acknowledged that the arrangement and syntax of the Qoran are not miraculous and that works of equal or greater value could be produced by other God-fearing persons."***

Iranian Shiite Scholar Ali Dashti, "Twenty-Three Years: A Study of the Prophetic Career of Mohammad", London, George Allan & Unwin, 1985, p.48

"...it is by no means the universal opinion of unprejudiced Arabic scholars that the literary style of the Qur'an is superior to that of all other books in the Arabic language...some doubt whether in eloquence and poetry it surpasses the Mu'allaqat, or the Magamat, or Hariri, though in Muslim lands few people are courageous enough to express such an opinion." Islamic Scholar C.G. Pfander, "The Mizanu'l Haqq: The Balance of Truth", Austria: Light of Life, 1986, p. 264

***"The Quran contains sentences which are incomplete and not fully intelligible without the aid of commentaries, foreign words, unfamiliar Arabic words and words used with other than the normal meaning; adjectives and verbs inflected without observance of the concord of gender and number; illogical and ungrammatically applied pronouns which sometimes have no referent; and predicates which in rhymed passages are often remote from the subjects."*** Iranian Shiite Scholar Ali Dashti, "Twenty-Three Years: A Study of the Prophetic Career of Mohammad", London, George Allan & Unwin, 1985, p.48-49

"These and other such aberrations in the language have given scope to critics who deny the Quran's eloquence." Iranian Shiite Scholar Ali Dashti, "Twenty-Three Years: A Study of the Prophetic Career of Mohammad", London, George Allan & Unwin, 1985, p.48-49

### **Muhammad Illiterate?**

"It is questionable that Muhammad was actually illiterate. As one authority noted, the Arabic words Al umni, translated 'the unlettered' prophet in the Qur'an (sura 7:157), "may be [rendered] 'heathen' rather than 'illiterate'". Pfander prefers the translation, 'the Gentile Prophet', agreeing that the term does not imply illiteracy."

Norman Geisler, "Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics", Baker Books, 1999, p 622, citing Islamic Scholar C.G. Pfander, "The Mizanu'l Haqq: The Balance of Truth", Austria: Light of Life, 1986, p. 254

"...when the Treaty of Hudaibah was being signed, Muhammad took the pen from Ali, struck out the words in which Ali had designated him 'the apostle of God' and wrote instead with his own hand the words, 'son of Abdu'llah.'...Tradition tells us too that, when he was dying, Muhammad called for pen and ink, to write a command appointing his successor, but his strength failed him before writing materials were brought." Islamic Scholar C.G. Pfander, "The Mizanu'l Haqq: The Balance of Truth", Austria: Light of Life, 1986, p. 255

"Many Meccans were able to read and write, and there is therefore a presumption that an efficient merchant, as Muhammad was, knew something of the arts." W. Montgomery Watt, "Muhammad: Prophet and Statesman", Oxford University Press, 1967, p. 40

Even if Muhammad was illiterate, he may have used a scribe to fix deficiencies and stylize the work. Homer was blind so he probably did not write his epics himself

### **Prophecies in the Koran**

- Most are exhortations to the army to fight on and God would grant victory
- One substantive prophecy: Prediction of the Roman victory over the Persian army:  
Sura 30:3-4: "The Greeks have been defeated in a neighboring land. But in a few years they shall themselves gain victory: such being the will of Allah before and after." (The Koran, Penguin Classics, 4<sup>th</sup> revised Ed., 1974, transl. by N.J. Dawood) – About N.J. Dawood:

- Born in Baghdad
- Came to England as Iraq State Scholar, 1945
- Director of Contemporary Translations Ltd.
- Founded the Arabic Advertising & Publishing Co., London
- Translated numerous technical works into Arabic
- Produced numerous commentaries
- Contributed to English-Arabic Dictionaries

### **Sura 30:3-4 Not so spectacular**

- 614-615 AD – Persians defeat Romans and capture Jerusalem
- Counteroffensive began 622 AD

- Victory not complete until 625 AD
- At least 10-11 years after the prophecy was given (not “a few” as predicted)
- Original had no vowel points, so sayaghlubuna (they shall defeat) could have been rendered (with the change of 2 vowels) sayughlabuna (they shall be defeated)
- Perceptive reading of the trends of time could easily account for this “prophecy”

### **Sura 89:2-5**

*“By the dawn, And [by] ten nights, And [by] the even [number] and the odd, And [by] the night when it passes, Is there [not] in [all] that an oath [sufficient] for one of perception?”*

•Claimed to be a prediction of the ten years of persecution early Muslims experienced. (This is far fetched)

•Many believe this refers to the first 10 nights of Zul-Hajj – the sacred season of pilgrimage. (See: A.Y. Ali, “Introduction to Sura XVII,” in *The Meaning of the Glorious Quar’an*, Vol. 2, Cairo, Egypt, Dar Al Kitab Al-Masri, n.d.. p. 1731, n. 6109 cited by Geisler, BECA p. 511)

The Bible is a different story. It makes numerous precise prediction with 100% accuracy. The book of Daniel makes many astounding prophecies that defy naturalistic explanation

### **Argument from Unity**

A weak argument for the Koran (written by 1 author over 20 years), but a great argument for the Bible (written by 40 writers over at least 1500 years).

### **Inconsistencies in the Koran**

- Abrogation
- Compulsion in Religion

### **Problems for the Muslim:**

How can we be certain Allah will not abrogate his word again?

- How do we know Allah will not abrogate his decision to make Muhammad his final prophet?
- If God can abrogate his eternal speech, how he be trusted with out eternal souls?
- Abrogating is not progressive but indicates contradiction and annulment. Allah is either not all-knowing or a liar

Abrogation indicates that Allah is not omniscient (did not have the foreknowledge to avoid the need for abrogation). He is not omnipotent either (or else he would have taken measures to prevent the need for abrogation). If Allah is not consistent, then his creatures have no foundation for morality and ethics. These are either absolute, universal, and invariant or they are not. Allah’s inconsistency seems to conflict with the concept of Sharia

The Bible contains progressive revelation that brings to fulfillment and expands upon previous revelation without contradiction The Bible contains fulfillments and expansions, not corrects as the Koran does

### **More Inconsistencies in the Koran**

- Earth created in six periods (days?) Sura 7:55, 32:5
- Sura 41:10 – earth in 2 days
- Sura 41:11 – mountains and food in 4 days
- Sura 41:12-13 made 7 heavens in 2 days
- Rebuke for the Jews – The Old Testament was written by Jews for Jews, yet most of the books contain many scathing rebukes for Israel’s unrighteous conduct. It is unlikely that Jewish writers acting on their own would write the kind of rebukes we see in the Old Testament.
- Jews known as monotheistic – yet God speaks of Himself in the plural. Today we understand that God exists as a Trinity. No Jew in Old Testament times grasped this reality. Even so, no scribe tried to “amend” these texts, which appear to be poor grammar. (Genesis 1:1 – God (plural) created (singular verb), Genesis 1:26 – God says Let Us make man in our image, Isaiah 6:8 – God asks, Whom shall I send, and who shall go for us?, Zechariah 3:2 – The LORD says to Satan, The LORD rebuke you, Zechariah 12:10 – the LORD says that the people “will look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him...”, Isaiah 9:6 – a child will be born called ‘The Mighty God’, yet God is said to be from everlasting (Psalm 90:2)

The answer to the apparent paradox is that Jesus Christ is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity (see section refuting the Jehovah's Witness views of Christ). The point is, monotheistic Jews had incentive to alter the Biblical text on these points but did not – proof positive that the Old Testament has not been corrupted.

### **Scientific Accuracy?**

**Claim: The Koran contains accurate scientific knowledge before its modern discovery:**

Example: Chapter 23, part 18, v. 13-15 supposedly refers to the unborn baby as “the thing which clings”

Answer: This is an updated rendering of the passage intended to be congruent with modern scientific discovery. The older versions of the Koran state that babies are formed from blood clots!

### **Modern online Koran:**

“Then We made the sperm-drop into a clinging clot, and We made the clot into a lump [of flesh], and We made [from] the lump, bones, and We covered the bones with flesh; then We developed him into another creation. So blessed is Allah , the best of creators.” Surah 23:14 <http://quran.com/23>

### **From 1974:**

“We first created man from an essence of clay: then placed him, a living germ, into a safe enclosure.<sup>1</sup> The germ we made a clot of blood, and the clot a lump of flesh. This we fashioned into bones, then clothed the bones with flesh, thus bringing forth another creation.” The Koran, Penguin Classics, 4<sup>th</sup> Revision, 1974, Translation by N.J. Dawood, 1. The womb [footnote in original]

Absurd claim: The Koran teaches that the sun sets in a little pool here on the earth! (Chapter 18, Part 16, v. 86-87)

### **Modern online Koran:**

“Until, when he reached the setting of the sun, he found it [as if] setting in a spring of dark mud, and he found near it a people. Allah said, "O Dhul-Qarnayn, either you punish [them] or else adopt among them [a way of] goodness.” Surah 18:86 (<http://quran.com/18>)

### **From 1974:**

“He journeyed on a certain road until he reached the West and saw the sun setting in a pool of black mud. Hard by he found a certain people.” The Koran, Penguin Classics, 4<sup>th</sup> Revised Ed., 1974, Translation by N.J. Dawood

Genuine “pre-scientific discovery” – The Bible makes many astounding scientific statements:

“He hath compassed the waters with bounds, until the day and night come to an end.” Job 26:10

H2328, חוּג, chûg, khoog - A primitive root (compare H2287); to describe a circle: - compassive  
God could draw a circle around the earth to mark the boundary of day and night only if the earth was a sphere.

“He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.” Job 26:7  
(Gravity)

By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the east wind upon the earth?” Job 38:24 (Solar radiation is the driving force of wind)

“Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea?” Job 38:16 (Springs on the ocean floor – only discovered in 1977)

Where is the way where light dwelleth? And as for darkness, where is the place thereof? (Light is a wave; always moving. Darkness has no speed.)

“Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.” (The identification with comets is not air-tight but compelling. Since the early 1990's scientists have found that small comets are adding 20-40 tons of water to our atmosphere ever 3 seconds!)

“Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?”

Job 38:31 (The Pleiades star cluster is very stable and said to be “gravitationally bound.” Orion is unstable and expanding.)

### **Human Sources for the Koran**

“The Arab's imagination is by nature strong. Living as he does under the vault of heaven and moving constantly in search of pasture or trade, and being constantly forced into the excesses, exaggerations,

and even lies which the life of trade usually entails, the Arab is given to the exercise of his imagination and cultivates it at all times whether for good or for ill, for peace or for war.” Biographer Muhammad Husayn Haykal, “The Life of Muhammad”, Indianapolis: North American Trust, 1976, p. 319

### **Changed Lives**

Any cult can claim that their particular belief system has changed lives for the better. Christianity has its share of amazing conversions as well (Paul’s letter to the Philippians contains some telling remarks)

#### **Paul**

“If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness that is in the law, blameless.” Philippians 3:4-6

“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.” Philippians 3:4-8

“...[Paul] applies to Jesus the Greek word Kyrios, ‘Lord’, which was used in the pre-Christian Greek translation of the Old Testament (the Septuagint) as the equivalent of the most important Hebrew name of God, Yahweh, or YHWH. Note the implications of this. Paul, a monotheistic Jew, trained under the great Rabbi Gamaliel and therefore conversant with the Old Testament, ascribes to Jesus a word employed to render into Greek the most holy name of the one God.”

John Warwick Montgomery, “History and Christianity”, Downers Grove, Illinois, Intervarsity Press, 1971, pp. 50-51.

#### **James**

The Martyrdom of James “the Just” AD 62 (James started out as an unbeliever – see John 7:5) What caused James to finally embrace His brother as Messiah after His horrendous crucifixion?

**Polycarp:** A Direct Link with the Apostles, Polycarp was appointed Bishop of Smyrna by the original Apostles. He was martyred for his faith in A.D. 156 at the age of 86.

#### **Pliny’s Testimony**

“They [the Christians he had tortured] affirmed, however, that the whole of their guilt, or their error, was, that they were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang in alternate verse a hymn to Christ as to a god, and bound themselves to a solemn oath, not to do any wicked deeds, but never to commit any fraud, theft, adultery, never to falsify their word, not to deny a trust when they should be called upon to deliver it up” Pliny the Younger, Epistles X, 96

#### **The Rapid Spread of Islam**

Its rapid spread is explicable apart from Divine intervention since Islam conquered with the edge of the sword. The rapid spread of Christianity cannot be so explained:

“My question is this: How did that happen, and happen so swiftly – within a decade of Jesus’ death? The problem is not how Christianity spread from one Roman city to another but how it moved from Galilean villages to Roman cities at all. How, in other words, did it ever get out of their villages?”

John Dominic Crossan, “The Birth of Christianity: Discovering What Happened in the Years Immediately Following the Execution of Jesus”, Princeton University Press, 1998, p.16

#### **4. The Alleged Miracles of Muhammad**

Muhammad claimed no miracles for himself. All accounts of his miracles are found in the Hadith, which is a compilation of writings made 100’s of years after Muhammad’s death. Islamic scholars themselves recognize that some of the writings in the Hadith are serious, but there is no consensus on which ought to be ejected as such.

#### **5. Muhammad’s Life and Character**

- Muhammad’s life typified by brutality and violence
- Muhammad married Aisha when she was only 7 years old, consummated the marriage when she was 9

#### **Salvation**

Islam teaches a works-based salvation message - Very unlike the New Testament Gospel:

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

“Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.” Romans 4:4-5

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost, which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; Titus 3:5-6

“To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins” Acts 10:43

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.” John 6:47

Practical Steps for witnessing to Muslims:

From former Muslim “Nasr Sadik”, as cited by James L. Garlow, “A Christian’s Response to Islam”, River Oak Publishing, 2002, p.115-116

1. Friendship is first. Invite him/her to your home and show hospitality
2. Visit their homes, eat with them, and eat their food
3. Ask the wife to teach you how to cook an authentic meal
4. Try to understand Eastern culture:
  - Dress modestly
  - Most friendships between persons of the same gender
  - Women should speak to the wife away from the husband
  - Show respect for the Bible
5. Don’t give information about a “witnessing strategy”
6. Do not take written materials with you
7. Talk to one person at a time. Muslims are afraid of each other. Also news might reach their families
8. Listen to their problems; offer to pray for them
9. Most Muslims have not read the Bible. Suggest the Gospel of John – a great place to start
10. Share your testimony
11. Share the nature and character of God
12. Muslims are controlled by fear. Sharing God’s love is important (1 John 4:18 – Love casts out fear)
13. Stay away from the doctrine of the Trinity at the beginning
14. Present the love of God and the assurance of entering heaven. Bring hope to your friend
15. Stay away from politics – especially the Israeli – Palestinian issue
16. Insist that the Bible has not been altered. It is the Word of God.
17. Understand a little about the Koran
18. Continue the relationship. It takes about a year for a Muslim to make a decision.
19. Center your witness on Jesus
20. Do not underestimate the power of prayer or the Word of God
21. Do not share a lot from the Koran. The average Muslim doesn’t know the Koran and will feel embarrassed.
22. When friendship is established, present the meaning of the death of Christ and the need for the cross
23. Ministering to women is very vital. They are lonely and confused. They know that they are not respected by the teaching of Islam, not do they have any position. They can be won by sharing with them in their suffering with love and tears
24. Women in general are involved in bringing up the children. It’s important to win her to Christ for she will influence her children
25. When witnessing to women, present their position in Christ, how Jesus and the Bible respects women.

26. Muslims are superstitious – dealing with witchcraft, fortune-telling and charms. It's important to be covered with prayer before and after witnessing
27. Respect their dreams. Most converted Muslims have seen Christ in a dream or a vision. It usually takes supernatural revelation to bring them out of Islam.

### **The Unification Church**

- “Rev” Sun Myung Moon
- Born Jan 6, 1920, North Korea
- Confucian Parents; converted to Presbyterian faith 1930
- Continued his “spiritual quest” until 1936
- Claimed: Jesus appeared to him Easter Morning April 17th, 1936
- Commanded to complete the mission that Jesus failed.

Moon also claimed to have faced-off against the devil himself and emerged victorious. Here he interrogated Satan about the fall.

*“After nine years of search and struggle, the truth of God was sealed into [Moon’s] hands. At that moment, he became the absolute victor of heaven and earth. The whole spirit world bowed down to him on that day of victory, for not only had he freed himself completely from the accusation of Satan, but he was now able to accuse Satan before God. Satan totally surrendered to him on that day, for he had elevated himself to the position of God’s true son. The weapon to subjugate Satan became available to all mankind.”* Sun Myung Moon, “Message to the World Unification Family”, Washington, D.C.: The Holy Spirit Assoc., for the Unification of World Christianity, 1964, p. 4

- Satan told him that spiritual death occurred when he had sexual relations with Eve.
- Eve’s sexual relations with Adam caused humanity to fall physically
- The cross offered humanity only spiritual salvation.
- Humanity was still in need of physical salvation.

Moon claimed he was born the sinless “Lord of the Second Advent”  
His having sexual relations “cleansed” women physically; the offspring from these unions would be sinless.

- Moon was arrested for irresponsible sexual activity in North Korea August 10, 1948
- Excommunicated from the Presbyterian Church
- Married Kim X Feb 22, 1949 while still married
- Sentenced to 5 years in North Korea for bigamy
- Freed by the United Nations forces during the Korean war October 14, 1950

“Revelations” were recorded by Moon in “The Divine Principle” (1951-52)  
The Moonies consider this volume more authoritative than the Bible

- Established the “Unification Church” on May 1st, 1954 in Seoul, Korea, 1954
- Arrested July 5th, 1955 for irresponsible sexual activity
- Released October 4th, 1955 because the eighty women involved exercised their right of silence in court
- Married current wife (Hak Ja Han) in March 1960 (he was 40, she was 17)

Together they are known as “The True Parents”, their wedding the fulfillment of Revelation 21:9 and the beginning of a “The New Age”

*“I came to America primarily to declare the New Age and new truth...This is why God appeared to me and told me to go to America to speak the truth.”*

Sun Myung Moon, quoted in Fredrick Sontag, “Sun Myung Moon and The Unification Church”, Nashville: Abingdon, 1977, p. 133

“I am now in the position of Lord of the Second Advent to the world...But with my emergence as the victorious Lord of the Second Advent for the world, a new order has come into being.” Sun Myung Moon, CAUSA Seminar Speech, Aug, 29, 1985, Cited in Walter Martin, “Kingdom of the Cults”, 2003, p. 379

Moon and his wife supposedly cleanse couples from sin by officiating at their marriages, Children born are guaranteed to be sinless

### **The Plan to “Restore” Christianity**

- 21-year campaign divided into 7-year segments – Began with his marriage in 1960 (1960, 1967, 1974)
- 1976 rally in Yankee Stadium; incessant rained deterred crowds
- Moon claimed the event was the church’s crucifixion, death, and resurrection

### **Legal Problems**

- Moon in trouble with IRS in 1983; sentenced to 13 months for tax evasion
- Unification Church spent 4.5 million \$ to clear Moon’s name in mass-mailing campaign.
- 300,000 pastors in U.S. received packages
- Induced fear that other pastors could be arrested
- Moon received pastoral support

Moon’s release from prison (1985) was celebrated with a banquet by 1700 clergy  
Baptist Jerry Falwell was the main speaker

### **Training and Fundraising**

- Newly recruited members are required to complete a 21-day training course
- “Reverend” Moon is affectionately called “Father”
- Mass fundraising campaigns
- Often use deceitful tactics to raise money

*“If you tell a lie to make a person better, then it’s not a sin...Even God tells lies very often; you can see this throughout history.”* Sun Myung Moon, “Master Speaks”, March 19, 1978, p. 6

Mobilized Fundraising Teams (MFT) often work 14 or more hours a day with little sleep and sparse food. This has been the cause of numerous vehicular accidents in which several MFT workers have been killed.

Moon receives annually:

- 100 million \$ from Japan
- 35 million \$ from the U.S.
- 20 million \$ from Europe

Estimated that the church controls 10 billion \$ worth of business

### **Unification Theology**

Unification theology is an amalgam of dualism (using Taoist philosophy) and the Bible This concept explained in “The Divine Principle”

The I Ching (The Book of Changes) 2800 BC-2737 BC claimed to be the key to unlock “difficult biblical mysteries”

*“This truth must appear as a revelation from God himself. This new truth has already appeared! God has sent His messenger...His name is Sun Myung Moon.”* Dr. Young Oon Kim, “Divine Principle, San Francisco: The Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity, 1960, 3rd Ed., 1963, p. 16

Moon claimed that the Bible was an outdated method for expressing truth in our modern scientific age

- All spiritual and physical entities (including God) are described in dualistic terms.
- Man can be divided into dualistic halves; created this way because that is how God exists
- The “Trinity” = Jesus and the Holy Spirit become one body centered on God
- Creation is seen as God’s “second self”, the “visible God” (This is Pantheism / Panentheism)
- According to Moon, Lucifer participated in the creation of the world

#### **Jesus According to the Unification Church:**

- Jesus a man just like us except without original sin
- All men equal in “divinity” to Jesus
- Jesus was not virgin-born
- The crucifixion was an unplanned mistake. It was not in the will of God (according to Moon).

*“...redemption by the cross has been unable to remove our original sin.”*

Dr. Young Oon Kim, “Divine Principle, San Francisco: The Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity, 1960, 3rd Ed., 1963, p. 142

*“Today the Christian gospel preaches salvation by the blood of Jesus. How ridiculous that is in the sight of God!”* Moon, “Master Speaks”, April 8th, 1978, p. 12

“Reverend” Moon also denies the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ, claimed that Jesus was trapped in a particular level of paradise waiting for His release (by Moon)

#### **The Holy Spirit (According to Moon)**

- The female aspect of God; the bride of Christ
- Disincarnate spirits a valid substitute for the Holy Spirit

#### **Unification Church Claims Refuted**

- Moon’s visitation by Jesus Christ on Easter Morning, April 17, 1936 is bogus
- This is a false date given by a false prophet.
- In the 1930’s Easter fell just twice on April 17; in 1932 and 1938

What really happened in the Garden of Eden was very different from what Moon claimed (Genesis 3, Romans 5 & 8)

#### **The Efficacy of the Blood of Christ**

*“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.”* Ephesians 1:7

*“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness, by whose stripes ye were healed.”* 1 Peter 2:24

*“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.”* 1 Peter 3:18

*“Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.”* Hebrews 1:3

*“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”* Revelation 13:8

*“Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him, he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.”* Isaiah 53:10

“Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is also in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:12-14

“And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most pitiable.” 1 Corinthians 15: 17-19

“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: That Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve, after that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present...” 1 Corinthians 15:3-6

“Reverend” Moon’s claims about the Bible are unjustified (see section on Mormon and Islamic claims that the Bible is corrupt and incomplete)

### **God Doesn’t Lie**

*“In hope of eternal life, which God that cannot lie, promised before the world began.”* Titus 1:2

*“That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us.”* Hebrews 6:18

*“Wherefore, putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another.”* Ephesians 4:25

### **Unification Theology Refuted**

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” Genesis 1:1(God is separate and distinct from His creation)

*“Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens all alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself.”* Isaiah 44:24

*“I have made the earth and created upon it: I, even my hands have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded.”* Isaiah 45:12

### **The Trinity**

- There is only 1 God – 1 Timothy 2:5
- The Father is God – 1 Peter 1:2
- The Son is God – Romans 9:5
- The Holy Spirit is God – Acts 5:3-4

### **Panentheism refuted**

If the visible world was God’s “second self”, God would be mutable (changing)

*“For I am the LORD, I change not...”* Malachi 3:6

*“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and forever.”* Hebrews 13:8

*“If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, and the sign or wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams:”*

Deuteronomy 13:1-3

### **The Church is Christ's Bride**

*"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."* 2 Corinthians 11:2

*"And he saith unto me, Write, blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God."*

Revelation 19:9 [So Revelation 19 in context has nothing to do with Moon and his wife)

### **Contact with the Dead**

*"And when they say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep and mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? For the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."* Isaiah 8:19-21

### **The Lord of the Second Advent? No.**

"Salvation is of the Jews." (John 4:22) Moon is Korean!

## **The Cult of Scientology**

L. Ron Hubbard

- Born March 13, 1911, Tilden, Nebraska
- Raised on a small ranch near Helena, Montana
- Became a popular science fiction writer of the 30's and 40's

### **Scientology as a Religion**

- Has its own set of scripture
- Holds a worldview
- Seeks spiritual enlightenment
- By biblical standards, a false religion

*"Writing for a penny a word is ridiculous. If a man really wanted to make a million dollars, the best way would be to start his own religion."* L. Ron Hubbard, at a New Jersey Science Fiction Convention, 1949, as quoted by Time Magazine, April 5, 1976, p. 57.

- In May 1950, Hubbard released "Dianetics: A Modern Science of Mental Health."
- The Church of Scientology of California was incorporated on Feb. 18, 1954

*"Scientology is evil, its techniques evil, its practice a serious threat to the community, medically, morally and socially; and its adherents sadly deluded and and often mentally ill...Scientology is a delusional belief system, based on fiction and fallacies and propagated by falsehood and deception..."* "Report of the [Australian] Board of Inquiry into Scientology", 1965, cited by David V. Barrett, "Sects, Cults and Alternative Religions", Blandford, 1996, p. 260

*"[Scientology is] the world's largest organization of unqualified persons engaged in the practice of dangerous techniques which masquerade as mental therapy."*

"Report of the [Australian] Board of Inquiry into Scientology", 1965, cited by David V. Barrett, "Sects, Cults and Alternative Religions", Blandford, 1996, p. 260

### **Hubbard's Claims About Himself:**

- Traveled extensively in Asia
- Studied science and Mathematics George Washington University
- Graduated from Columbia College
- Attended Princeton and Sequoia University
- Wounded in battle, resumed studies in philosophy
- Reclassified in 1949 for full combat duty
- Twice pronounced dead

- 1950 Given perfect score on mental and physical fitness reports

### **Facts About Hubbard**

- Attended high school while supposedly traveling Europe
- Never crippled, wounded or blinded
- Sequoia University a non-recognized diploma mill in a 2-story house in Los Angeles; closed down in 1958 by the California Legislature
- Attended George Washington – placed on academic probation for low grades
- Failed his only class on molecular and atomic physics
- 3 months in military course at Princeton; no evidence of his obtaining a degree from Columbia
- From Russell Miller's "Bare Faced Messiah: The True Story of L. Ron Hubbard", and former Scientologist Bent Corydon, "L. Ron Hubbard, Messiah or Madman?"

*"The organization clearly is schizophrenic and paranoid, and this bizarre combination seems to be a reflection of its founder. The evidence portrays a man who has been virtually a pathological liar when it comes to his history, background and achievements."* Los Angeles Judge, Paul G. Breckenridge, Quoted in David V. Barrett, "Sects, Cults and Alternative Religions", Blandford, 1996, p. 260

### **Scientology's Doctrines**

- The mind is divided in 3 categories:
- The 1. analytical mind, 2. the reactive mind, 3. the somatic mind
- Analytical mind – the perfect computer
- Reactive mind – works on totally stimulus / response basis
- Reactive mind holds a mental picture images of past experiences called engrams
- Engrams: "This single source of aberrations and psychosomatic ills"
- The problem: reactive mind (which stores the engram) frequently interrupts analytical mind
- Engrams make man react insanely in society
- Must rid the mind of all engrams
- Even engrams acquired in past lives
- This may take years

Engram-free person call "a clear". "Clears" are on their evolutionary journey to becoming "Homo novis" – an individual with god-like abilities and capacities

Engrams are detected with a device called an "e-meter"

### **Thetans**

- Timeless entities (80 trillion years old)
- reincarnates in interplanetary life-forms
- reached earth as man
- dwell somewhere in the skull

When person dies, the Thetan reports to an implant station (one is on Mars) - receives a strong "forgetter" implant and is shot back to earth. Thetans have been known to fight each other over a body.

- The goal is to break the cycle of birth and rebirth
- a cleared Thetan must learn to gain control of his environment and become an "Operating Thetan" (OT)
- OT's able to control MEST (mass, energy, space, & time) through astral projection
- All of Hubbard's Scientology writings since Dianetics are considered scripture. Their "Holy Book" is a collection of writings of and about great teachers including St Luke The Hindu Vedas are a key theological authority

Taosim / Buddhism - *"You are studying an extension of the work of Guatama Siddhartha, begun about 2,500 years ago...Buddha predicted that in 2,500 years the entire job would be finished in the West...Well, we*

*finished it.*” -L. Ron Hubbard, Taped Lecture, “Scientology, Definitions III, 1966, recorded in Advance Magazine, Dec., 1974, p. 5

“Truth is relative to environments, experience and truth.”

L. Ron Hubbard, “Axioms and Logics”, Los Angeles, American St Hill Organization, 1973, p. 5

Hubbard’s view of truth is both Self refuting and Unbiblical (John14:6, 17:17)

**Contradictory:** Scientology allows for Monotheism or Polytheism

- Hindu Brahman - a close parallel to Scientology’s understanding of the Supreme Being
- A pre-clear - part animal, man, God
- Man to evolve into *Homo Novis* - a god-like being
- Refuted: Isaiah 43:10-11
- Sharp contrast between God and man in Scripture

### **Scientology’s View of Christ**

*“You will find...the Christ legend as an implant in pre-clears a million years ago.”*

L. Ron Hubbard, “Professional Auditors Bulletin 31, Cited in Kingdom of the Cults, 2003, p. 364

### **Distinction made between “Jesus” and “Messiah” (Christ)**

Claimed: Messiah = “one who brings wisdom”, I.e. a messenger; Many Messiahs have come and gone

Refuted: Messiah = “Anointed one”

Scientology: - Jesus and Buddha *“just a shade above clear.”* (KOTC, p. 363)

### **The Jesus of Scripture:**

- Is eternal (Micah 5:2)
- Is Immutable (Hebrews 13:8)
- Is God (John 1:1,14)
- Is the only Messiah (Matthew 24:3-5, 11)
- Is mankind’s only salvation (John 14:6, Acts 4:12)
- Revealed His sources (Luke 24:44). The Hebrew Scriptures alone; nothing to do with the Vedas, Buddha or anything else.

*“All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.”* John 10:8 [The doctrine of Avatars is destroyed by this verse]

### **Scientology’s View of Man**

- Man is “basically good.”
- Our bodies are not really us
- Man-kind has evolved over millions of years
- “Despicable” to tell people they have to repent

### **The Biblical View of Man**

- Man is basically evil (Jer. 17:9, Roms 3:10)
- 1 nature with two parts, (Gen. 2:7, Eccl. 12:7, 1 Corinthians 15)
- Mankind was created suddenly, supernaturally
- Jesus told people to repent

Hubbard claimed knowledge of man’s evolutionary progression including the Piltdown stage. This was just before Piltdown was discovered to be a hoax!

*“This inference could be drawn even without such remarkable evidence as the fact that a human being, growing from zygote to adult, evolves through all the forms which the whole species is supposed to have evolved through.”*

L. Ron Hubbard, “Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health”, Bridge Publications, Inc., 1978 ed., p.24 [This concept was proven false back in 1874 at a university court in Jena]

### **Scientology's View of Salvation**

- Freedom from birth and rebirth
- Salvation achieved by erasing engrams through auditing
- OT III Section three - Hubbard's 1967 discovery:

*"The head of the Galactic Federation (76 planets...95,000,000 years ago) solved overpopulation (250 billion or so per planet) by mass implanting. He caused people to be brought to Teegeeack (Earth) and put an H-bomb on the principle volcanoes...and then the Pacific area ones were taken in boxes to Hawaii and the Atlantic ones to Las Palmas and there "packaged". His name was Xenu."*

[The result of Hubbard's investigation into this formerly undiscovered data was that] *one's body is a mass of individual Thetans stuck to oneself or to the body...Thetans believed they were one. This is the primary error... by [a] BODY THETAN is meant a Thetan who is stuck to another Thetan or body but is not in control...a CLUSTER is a group of body Thetans crushed or held together by some mutual bad experience."*

Church of Scientology International v. Steven Fishman and Uwe Geertz, United States District Court, Central District of California, Case 91-6426HLH(Tx), pp 76-100, cited in KOTC, p. 367-368

Hubbard's Scientology was born at the height of the UFO / flying saucer craze  
Scientifically and biblically it can be shown that life only exists on earth  
There is absolutely no evidence of life elsewhere in the cosmos

*"Through one man sin entered the world[cosmos] and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all have sinned."* Romans 5:12

Is God making aliens suffer for Adam's transgression? (This doesn't make sense!)

*"And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living."*  
Genesis 3:20

### **A Scam**

- Originally taught that our individual Thetans needed to be cleared
- Now body Thetans and clusters of Thetans need to be rid of
- Keeps people bound to the church longer seeking salvation (and paying \$\$)

**Incarnations and reincarnations** are the Scientologist's supposed dilemma

Hebrews 9:27 answers reincarnation:

*"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"*

If salvation could be achieved through reincarnations, the cross would be unnecessary

*"Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world, I am not of this world."* John 8:23 [This verse effectively refutes both the Mormon doctrine of preexistence and the Scientologist's Thetan claims]

## **Eastern Religions and the New Age Movement**

C.S. Lewis noted that in the final conflict between religions, Hinduism and Christianity would offer the only viable options because Hinduism absorbs all religious systems, and Christianity excludes all others, maintaining the supremacy of Jesus Christ.

### **Review of Biblical History:**

God created a perfect world (Genesis 1:20-31)

The Fall of mankind (Genesis 3)

*"And the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God doth know that in the day that you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'" Genesis 3:4-5*

The Flood (Genesis 6-9)

**After the flood:**

- Rebellion at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)

- The people scatter all over the globe.

*“So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.”* Genesis 11:9

*“Syria and Palestine naturally became the cultural intermediaries through which Mesopotamian influences streamed into Egypt in the period before the first dynasty.”*

William F. Albright, “Archaeology of Palestine”, 1971, pp. 71-72

*“Egyptian civilization as a whole did indeed arise with remarkable suddenness, probably under the influence of cultures of the Levant and Mesopotamia”* “Ancient Mysteries, Peter James and Nick Thorpe, 1999, p. 204

*“And what of the greatest catastrophe legend of all, the worldwide story of a Great Flood? The Flood story still remains one of the most baffling, unsolved mysteries of our distant past...[The local flood theory] doesn't quite reach to the heart of the flood problem – which is why there are so many similarities to the flood legends globally...we no longer have a natural event that could plausibly explain their origin.”* Peter James and Nick Thorpe “Ancient Mysteries”, 1999, pp. 13-15

We are interested in India and the beginnings of Hinduism (in which the New Age movement has its roots).

*“These discoveries establish the existence in Sind (the northern most province of the Bombay Presidency) and the Punjab, during the fourth and third millennium B.C., of a highly developed city life; and the presence, in many of the homes, of wells and bathrooms as well as an elaborate drainage system, betoken a social condition of the citizens at least equal to that found in Sumer, and superior to that prevailing in contemporary Babylonia and Egypt...”* Sir John Marshall, as cited by Will Durant, “The Story of Civilization, Our Oriental Heritage”, Simon and Schuster, 1954, p. 394-395

*“Strange to say, the lowest strata of these remains showed a more developed art than the upper layers – as if even the most ancient deposits were from a civilization already hundreds, perhaps thousands of years old.”* Sir John Marshall, as cited by Will Durant, “The Story of Civilization, Our Oriental Heritage”, Simon and Schuster, 1954, p. 394-395

- (2000 BC) The Dravidians occupy the Peninsula

- The Aryans descended onto the Peninsula from the Caspian region

- Aryans conquered the Peninsula, adopted animism, worshipped spirit-gods in rivers, rocks, trees, etc

*“The first caste system therefore was was not by status but by color, it divided long noses from broad noses, Aryans from Nagas and Dravidians; it was merely the marriage regulation of an endogamous group.”* Will Durant, “The Story of Civilization, Our Oriental Heritage”, Simon and Schuster, 1954, p. 398

### **Vedic India (2000 – 1000 B.C.)**

- Veda = “Knowledge”
- Songs passed down from generation to generation
- Probably collected and arranged 1000 – 500 B.C.

### **Of the many Vedas that once existed only four have survived:**

- Rig-Veda (Knowledge of the hymns of Praise)
- Sama-Veda (Knowledge of the Melodies)
- Yajur-Veda (Knowledge of the Sacrificial Formulas)
- Atharva-Veda (Knowledge of the Magic Formulas)

### **Each of the Four Vedas Divided into Four Sections:**

1. The Mantras – or hymns
2. The Brahmanas – or manuals of ritual, prayer, and incantation or the priests
3. The Aranyaka – forest texts for hermit saints
4. The Upanishads – confidential conferences for philosophers

*“This is one value of the Vedas to us, that through them we see religion in the making, and can follow the birth, growth and death of gods and beliefs from animism to philosophic pantheism, and from the superstition of the Atharva-Veda to the sublime monism of the Upanishads.”*

Will Durant, “The Story of Civilization, Our Oriental Heritage”, Simon and Schuster, 1954, p. 403

### **Philosophy of the Upanishads**

- Upa (near), Shad (to sit) – “Sitting near” the teacher
- 108 Poems composed 800 – 500 B.C.
- Pantheistic
- Instructions on how to escape Karma and unite with the Universal Soul
- Loaded with “absurdities and contradictions”

### **The “Secret” Doctrine of the Upanishads**

- “The first lesson that the sages of the Upanishads teach their selected pupils is the inadequacy of the intellect.” Durant p. 412
- Must realize that our true nature is not the body or mind, but the Atman (soul).
- Second Step – realize Brahman; the all-embracing intangible essence of the world
- Third Step – Realize that Atman and Brahman are one

### **YOGA - Unification**

- Ascetic elimination of all personal desires
- Individuality is suppressed, denied, forgotten
- Perceived unification with the Soul of the World.
- Rebirth is escaped
- Absorption into Being, reunion with the temporarily separated part with the Whole

### **Buddhism’s Origins**

- Gautama Buddha (Siddhartha) born 563 B.C. in Lumbini near the Nepal / India border
- Born into aristocracy
- Saw poverty for the first time in his early 20’s
- Age 29, left wife and son to seek nirvana & find the cause of suffering
- Studied under 2 YOGA masters – unsatisfied
- Tried extreme asceticism (fasting, standing for weeks, etc)
- Age 35, entered a trance, remembered previous incarnations His “divine eye” was opened
- All ignorance and desires were extinguished

### **Buddha’s Conclusions:**

1. Existence is Suffering
2. Desire causes suffering
3. Ridding all desire ends suffering
4. Desire can be eradicated by following the 8 – Fold Path:

1. Right Belief – understand the 4 Truths, 2. Right resolve – Pure Motives, 3. Right Speech - Truthful Talk, 4. Right Conduct – Peaceful, 5. Right Livelihood – occupation harms no one, 6. Right Effort – seek knowledge w/ self control, 7. Right Thought – active, self critical mind, 8. Right Concentration – meditation and Raja YOGA

### **Buddhism comes to China**

- Bodhidharma (A.D. 480 528) studied Buddhism in India 40 years
- Returned to China encouraged emperor to adopt “wall meditation”
- Bodhidharma lost use of legs, removed eyelids to prove devotion

### **Buddhistic Theology**

- Buddhism is non-theistic
- Heaven, hell are conditions of feeling, not loci
- Man deified
- 100’s of rules and regulations developed
- Handed down orally until 245 B.C.

- Recorded in 3 parts (The Tripitaka)

### **Theravada Buddhism – Conservative**

- Atheistic, monastic
- seeks Nirvana

### **1st Century AD - Mahayana Buddhism**

- Liberal
- Polytheistic,
- Buddha worship
- Occult rituals

### **Tantric Buddhism**

- Minor variant to Mahayana Buddhism
- Borrowed from Hindu belief in Shakti – sexual power
- Unification of human and divine accomplished through ritual sex

### **In India: - Hinduism experiences revival, return to Vedic Literature; philosophy of Maya developed**

The work Mahabhrta: contains Bhagavad Gita

Focuses on developing indifference to desire, pleasure, pain

1 God expressed in many forms (a type of polytheism)

Doctrine of Avatars (Brahman incarnated)

i.e. Krishna (god manifest as a person on the earth)

### **Gnosticism: The Heresy fought by the early church**

#### **(Secret “Knowledge”)**

- 52 ancient manuscripts found in Nag Hammadi, Egypt, 1945 contain the “Secret” gospels:
- Gospel of Thomas
- Gospel of Philip
- Gospel Truth
- The Gospel to the Egyptians
- The Apocalypse of Peter
- The Apocalypse of Paul
- The Letter of Peter to Philip,
- The Thunder, Perfect Mind,
- Testimony of Truth.

*“It is in the Testimony of Truth that we read the Garden of Eden scene from the point of view of the serpent. God is made out to be a jealous, raging man while the serpent is seen as the speaker of divine wisdom.”* James Garlow and Peter Jones, “Cracking the Da Vinci Code”, Cook Communications, 2004, p. 163

### **Major Themes among the 52 Texts Found at Nag Hammadi:**

- Genesis creation account rejected
- The Creator Jahweh is mocked as a blind fool; the first and mightiest of all oppressive patriarchs
- Freedom from Moral constraints (because they were created by Jahweh)
- There is no sin; the fall of Genesis 3 is liberation
- The Gnostic Jesus comes with the same message; not to free us from sin but ignorance
- Brings us the hidden knowledge that we are divine.

*“Gnosticism is a system of direct experiential knowledge of God...the soul and the universe;...in the early centuries of this era, amid a growing Christianity, it took on the form of the Christian faith, while rejecting most of its specific beliefs. Its wording is therefore largely Christian, while its spirit is that of the latest paganism of the West.”* Duncan Greenlees, “The Gospel of the Gnostics”, Mandras, India: The Theosophical Publishing House, 1958, p. vii

### **Regarding the Judas “Gospel”:**

*“Here is a book that turns the theology of traditional Christianity on its head and reverses everything we ever thought about the true nature of Christianity.”* p. 119

### **The Gnostics Refuted by early church apologists through:**

- Bishop lists showing apostolic succession
- Appeals to the openness of orthodox teaching
- Uniform agreement on the fundamentals of the Christian Faith
- Appeals to a more ancient authoritative body of literature (the Old and New Testaments)

### **The medieval Church Adopts Eastern meditative Practise:**

In A.D. 270 an Egyptian monk named St. Anthony became the 1st Christian hermit

Nearly 80 years later the 1st monastery was built

Hermits for the 1st time were brought together under one roof

*“The meditation practices and rules for living of these earliest Christian monks bear strong similarity to those of their Hindu and Buddhist enunciate brethren several kingdoms to the east...the meditative techniques they adopted for finding their God suggests either a borrowing from the East or a spontaneous rediscovery. The ways of the Desert Fathers influence Christian Monasticism to this day.”*

Daniel Goleman, “The Meditative Mind”, Los Angeles, CA, Tarker/Putnam Inc., 1988, p. 53

*“Development of Christian meditative disciples should have begun in Egypt because much of the intellectual, philosophical, and theological basis of the practice of meditation in Christianity also comes out of the theology of Hellenistic and Roman Egypt. This is significant because it was in Alexandria that Christian theology had most contact with the various Gnostic speculations which, according to many scholars, have their roots in the East, possibly India.”* Father William Teska, “Meditation in Christianity”, Himalayan Institute, 1973, p. 65

### **AD 747 – Tibetan Buddhism;** an amalgam of Buddhist and Tantric ceremonies, Hinduism

- The Lamas form a special priestly class
- Tibetan Buddhism teaches that divinity is in all (Pantheism or Panentheism)
- The Dali Lama is the supreme embodiment of this important “truth”

### **The Beginning of Zen Buddhism**

- AD 1191 Eisai brought Buddhism to Japan (Rinzai Sect – instant enlightenment)
- AD 1227 Dogen begins Soto sect (gradual enlightenment)

Zen differs from older Buddhism; Nirvana may be achieved without reincarnation

- Logical thought is eliminated through Zazen and Koans
- Zazen = Seated meditation, causes one to see himself as part of the divine whole
- Koans = 1700 meaningless questions and imponderable thoughts

### **1300’s – Cloud of unknowing written - An Amalgam of Eastern religious practice and Christian belief**

Fast-forward to the 1800’s:

- The Age of Unbelief
- Charles Lyell: “Principles of Geology” (1831)
- Charles Darwin: “On the Origin of Species” (1859)
- Karl Marx: “Communist Manifesto” (1848) “Das Kapital” (1873)

*“Humans are essentially religious creatures and they don’t rest until they have some sort of answers to the fundamental questions. Rationalism and secularism don’t answer those questions.”* Time Magazine, Dec. 7, 1987

Arnold Toynbee (1889 - 1975) predicted that in 2000 the West will still dominate Earth, but in the 21st century India will conquer her conquerors. Religion worldwide will regain its earlier importance, and world events will return to the East where civilization originated.

*“India will teach us the tolerance and gentleness of mature mind, understanding spirit and a unifying, pacifying*

*love for all human beings.*” Will Durant, *The Story of Civilization*

### **Phineas Parkhurst Quimby (1802-1866) wrote “Mind Cure”**

#### **Helena Petrovna Blavatsky:**

- Adopted Hindu Philosophies
- Believed in Karma / Reincarnation
- Founded the Theosophical Society in 1875

**Mary Baker Eddy** founded the “Science of Health” organization in 1866 - 1 month after the death of P.P. Quimby. There is a marked similarity between the writings of Eddy and Quimby. Her book, “*The Science of Health with Key to the Scriptures*”, Published 1875; promoted the Hinduistic denial of physical reality (Maya)

*“Interestingly, if a medieval monk were to meet a modern Christian Scientist as the latter studied his weekly Lesson-Sermon, the monk would identify immediately with him. The Scientist's daily reflective study resembles that of the monk's daily meditation of sacred texts, called lectio divina (“divine study”). Both meditate on the words, hoping to reach beyond them to the reality they signify.”* Christian Science: A Sourcebook of Contemporary Materials, The Christian Science Publishing Society, 1990, p. 21

**Alice Bailey** (June 16, 1880 – December 15, 1949)

- Followed Blavatsky
- Coined the term “New Age”

*“A major theme of Aquarius is that God is within. The goal of the age of Aquarius is to bring this idea into meaningful reality.”* Marion Weinstein, “Positive Magic: Occult Self Help”, Custer, WA: Phoenix Publishing, 1978, p. 19

**Unity School of Christianity** is the world headquarters of the Unity movement, founded in 1889 in Kansas City, Missouri, by Charles and Myrtle Fillmore. Quotes below from [www.bransonunity.org/whatisunity.htm](http://www.bransonunity.org/whatisunity.htm):

*“We encourage people to explore and apply Unity teachings based on their own spiritual understanding. We believe this spiritual understanding is enhanced through reflective prayer and meditation. The five basic ideas that make up the Unity belief system are:*

- *God is good and everywhere present.*
- *The spirit of God lives within each person, therefore, all people are inherently good.*
- *We create our life experiences through our way of thinking.*
- *There is power in affirmative prayer, which we believe increases our connection to God.*
- *Knowledge of these spiritual principles is not enough. We must live them.”*

The Unity School of Christianity produces a copious amount of written material  
“Wee Wisdom” is meant to indoctrinate small children into New Age philosophies

#### **Thomas Merton (1915-1968)**

*“The God he [Thomas Merton] knew in prayer was the same experience that Buddhists describe in their enlightenment.”* - Brian C. Taylor, “Setting the Gospel Free”

*“It is a glorious destiny to be a member of the human race, ... now I realize what we all are.... If only they [people] could all see themselves as they really are ... I suppose the big problem would be that we would fall down and worship each other.... At the center of our being is a point of nothingness which is untouched by sin and by illusions, a point of pure truth.... This little point ... is the pure glory of God in us. It is in everybody.”* – Thomas Merton

*“I'm deeply impregnated with Sufism.”* Thomas Merton, Quoted in Rob Baker and Gray Henry, Editors, “Merton and Sufism”, Louisville, KY, Fons Vitae, 1999, p. 69

*“Asia, Zen, Islam, etc., all these come together in my life. It would be madness for me to attempt to create a*

*monastic life for myself by excluding all these. I would be less a monk.*” Merton, *ibid.*, p. 41

*“His [Merton’s] change of mind with regard to the higher religions was not the result of tedious comparison and contrast or even concerted analysis. It was an outgrowth of his experience with the Absolute.”* - Raymond Bailey, *Thomas Merton of Mysticism*

### **M. Scott Peck (1936 – 2005)**

*“God wants us to become Himself (or Herself or Itself). We are growing toward godhood. God is the goal of evolution. It is God who is the source of the evolutionary force and God who is the destination.”* M. Scott Peck, *The Road Less Traveled*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1978, pp.269-270

Quotes from **M. Scott Peck, “Further Along The Road Less Traveled”:**

- *“I spent 20 years in Zen Buddhism which prepared me for Christianity.”*
- *“Zen Buddhism should be taught in every 5th grade class in America.”*
- *“Christianity’s greatest sin is to think that other religions are not saved.”*

### **Henri Nouwen (1932-1996)**

*“Today I personally believe that while Jesus came to open the door to God’s house, all human beings can walk through that door, whether they know about Jesus or not. Today I see it as my call to help every person claim his or her own way to God.”* Henri Nouwen, *Sabbatical Journey*

**The New Age Movement Goes “Mainstream” – guaranteed to help people achieve secular goals such as:**

- Creativity
- career goals
- relationships
- health
- simple relaxation
- peacefulness

*“Almost any form of meditation...will take you to an experience of yourself as source...”*  
Shakti Gowain, Author of “Creative Visualization”

*“If you want to lead your enterprise into the twenty-first century, read this powerful book.”* Ken Blanchard, co-author of *The One Minute Manager*, his endorsement of the book, “*The Corporate Mystic*”

*“This important book [“The Corporate Mystic”] will sweep you into a different level of consciousness – one of a spiritual perspective and feeling – so necessary in future leadership.”* Dr. Stephen R. Covey, author of *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*

*“...meditation was a way to attain peace of mind and reduce stress in a corporate environment. So I decided to try it ... I discovered how to come into a new sphere of consciousness ... you move into a realm you may not have even known existed.”* John Randolph Price, *Science of Mind* magazine, August 1989, p. 24

*“The enemy of meditation is the mind.”* Barry Long, “*Meditation: A foundation Course*”, Barry Long Books, 1995, p. 13

*“...from every culture, religion and race, the mystical experience has a recurring pattern ... the core experiences are often indistinguishable from each other.”*  
- *A Most Surprising Song*, Louann Stahl

*“The classical experience of enlightenment as described by Buddhist monks, Hindu gurus, Christian mystics, Aboriginal shamans, Sufi sheiks and Hebrew kabalists is characterized by two universal elements: radiant light and an experience of oneness with creation.”* - *The How to Think Like Leonardo da Vinci Workbook*, Michael J. Gelb

### **Reiki**

*“Imagine my surprise during my first Reiki class when I observed the astral images of guides and healing spirits pouring forth bright shimmering rays of healing energy at the hands of novice practitioners ...”* Reiki News Winter 1994 p. 12

*"Reiki once belonged to everyone. The Reiki guides want it to be so again."* Essential Reiki ©1995 p. 56

*"During every attunement ceremony, I am always aware of the presence of my Reiki guides ..."*  
Reiki News Vol. 2, Issue 1 p. 37

### **Term-Switching**

*"One of the biggest advantages we have as New Agers is, once the occult, metaphysical and New Age terminology is removed, we have concepts and techniques that are very acceptable to the general public. So we can change the names to demonstrate the power. In so doing, we open the door to millions who normally would not be receptive."* Dick Sutphen, *Infiltrating the New Age into Society*, What is (Summer, 1986, p. 14), cited in Martin, "The New Age Cult", p. 63

### **New Age Acceptance**

*"Over the past decade, bookstores have emerged as the most important centers of unchurched spirituality."*  
Robert C. Fuller, *Spiritual but not Religious*

### **Self Deification**

*"Kneel to you own self. Honor and worship your own Being, Chant mantra always going within you. Meditate on your own self. God dwells within you."* Swami Muktananda, as quoted by David Eastman, "Kundalini Demystified", *Yoga Journal*, Issue 64, Sept/Oct., 1985, p. 30

*"[T]here is a oneness in God that unites all women and men ... The goal of all true spirituality is to achieve an awareness of our oneness with God and with all of God's creation."* William Shannon, *Silence on Fire*

*"The most important book"* she ever read (from Gary Zukav's website, speaking of Oprah's endorsement of Zukav's book *New Age book*, "The Seat of the Soul")

*"One of the biggest mistakes humans make is to believe there is only one way. There are many diverse paths leading to what you call God."* Oprah Winfrey, cited by LaTonya Taylor, "The Church of O", *Christianity Today*, April 1, 2002, vol. 46, No. 4, p. 38

"The Secret" was endorsed by Oprah. The Secret claims that humans can alter reality with the power of our minds. Is this so?

*"Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?"* Matthew 6:27

*"Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black."* Matthew 5:36

### **New Age practices and the Christian Church**

The New Age is not slowly trickling into the church... ..it's flooding in!

*"Not since Gnosticism at the dawn of the Christian era has there arisen a philosophy as pervasive and threatening to orthodox Christianity as the New Age movement...It would be difficult to find any area of life, which has not been touched or redirected to some degree by the concepts of the movement."* Evangelical Scholar David L. Smith, "A Handbook of Contemporary Theology", Victor Books, 1992, p. 273

### **The "Gnostic" Heresies have made a tremendous comeback The powerful refutations of the early church are being ignored**

Leonard Sweet, Professor of Evangelism, Drew University - A Key figure in the Emerging Church Movement

*"Mysticism, once cast to the sidelines of the Christian tradition, is now situated in postmodernist culture near the center.... In the words of one of the greatest theologians of the twentieth century, Jesuit philosopher of religion/dogmatist Karl Rahner, "The Christian of tomorrow will be a mystic, one who has experienced something, or he will be nothing." [Mysticism] is metaphysics arrived at through mind body experiences. Mysticism begins in experience; it ends in theology."* Leonard Sweet, "Quantum Spirituality: A Post Modern Apologetic", Dayton, OH: Whaleprints, 1st Ed., 1991, p. viii p. 76

*“People want to know God. They want less to know about God or know about religion than to know God. People want to experience the “Beyond” in the “Within”. Post moderns want something more than new products; they want new experiences, especially new experiences of the divine.” Leonard Sweet, “Soul Tsunami”, Zondervan, Publishing, 1999, p. 420*

*“In order to guide persons having this experience [divine oneness], Christian spiritual directors may need to dialogue with Eastern teachers in order to get a fuller understanding.” - Thomas Keating*

*“To him [Keating], as a Trappist monk, meditation was second nature. He invited the great Zen master Roshi Saski to lead retreats at the abbey. And surely, he thought, there must be a precedent within the church for making such simple but powerful spiritual techniques available to laypeople. His Trappist brother Father William Meninger found it in one day in 1974, in a dusty copy of a 14th-century guide to contemplative meditation, “The Cloud of Unknowing.”, Newsweek, Sept. 2005, “Spirituality in America”*

The Cloud of Unknowing - Rediscovered in 1974 - Now the basis for Catholic spirituality

*“The basic method promoted in The Cloud is to move beyond thinking into a place of utter stillness with the Lord ... the believer must first achieve a state of silence and contemplation, and then God works in the believer’s heart.” - Tony Jones*

*“Choose a single, sacred word or phrase ... Without moving your lips, repeat the sacred word inwardly, slowly and often.” - Former Catholic Priest, Brennan Manning, “The Signature of Jesus”*

*“I would like to say that we Christians should not hesitate to make use of the good techniques that our wise friends from the East are offering.” “We should not hesitate to take the fruit of the age-old wisdom of the East and “capture” it for Christ.” - Basil Pennington, Finding Grace At The Center*

*“Many Christians who take their prayer life seriously have been greatly helped by Yoga, Zen, TM, and similar practices ...” - Basil Pennington Finding Grace At The Center*

## **The Emerging Church**

- PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE
- Sold over 30 million copies
- Over 400,000 churches worldwide participated in Purpose Driven program
- Endorsed by practically every evangelical leader

*“The Bible tells us to ‘pray all the time.’ One way is to use ‘breath prayers’ throughout the day ... You choose a brief sentence or a simple phrase that can be repeated to Jesus in one breath ... Pray it as often as possible.” “Best Friends with God” from Purpose Driven Life*

Rick Warren uses Brother Lawrence as an example of practicing the presence of God (i.e., breath prayers) – “The Purpose Driven Life”, p. 88

*“It is said of Brother Lawrence that when something had taken his mind away from love’s presence he would receive “a reminder from God” that so moved his soul that he “cried out, singing and dancing violently like a mad man.” Gerald May, citing from The Practice of the Presence of God by Brother Lawrence, Image Books, 1977, p. 34.*

*“It is particularly difficult to describe this type of prayer in writing, as it is best taught in person. In general however, centering prayer works like this: Choose a word (Jesus or Father, for example) as a focus for contemplative prayer. Repeat the word silently in your mind for a set amount of time (say, twenty minutes) until your heart seems to be repeating the word by itself, just as naturally and involuntarily as breathing.” Gary Thomas, Sacred Pathways*

*“Gary has spoken at Saddleback, and I think highly of his work ... he tells them [readers] how they can make the most of their spiritual journeys. He places an emphasis on practical spiritual exercises.” Rick Warren*

Helen Schucman, and psychologist William Thetford "scribed" the book "A Course in Miracles" by means of a process coming from a divine source through a form which Schucman referred to as "inner dictation". Schucman said the source of her channeling was Jesus Christ.

**Excerpts from "A Course in Miracles":**

"Do not make the pathetic error of "clinging to the old rugged cross."

"The journey to the cross should be the last "useless journey."

"The recognition of God is the recognition of yourself."

When God created you he made you part of Him."

"There is no sin: it has no consequence."

"The Atonement is the final lesson he [man] need to learn, for it teaches him that, never having sinned, he has no need of salvation."

For Christ takes many forms with different names until their oneness can be recognized."

Jerald Jampolsky endorsed "A course in Miracles" when he dedicated his own book, "Love is Letting go of Fear" to Helen Schucman and William Thetford:

"This book is dedicated to Helen and Bill, who have been both teachers and friends to me. It was because of their joint willingness that "A Course in Miracles" came into being, a work which provides the foundation for this book."

*"Dr. Gerald Jampolsky, a noted psychiatrist and dear friend of mine, was for twenty-five years a very strong agnostic. Then one day, without warning, his life totally changed, and he became a believer in God."* Robert Schuller, "The be Happy Attitudes", 1985

*"Our very survival 'as a species depends on hope. And without hope we will lose the faith that we can cope.'"* Robert Schuller (quoting author Rene Dubos), "Self Esteem: The New reformation, 1982

*"Hope is as essential to your life as air and water. You need hope to cope."* Rick Warren, PDL, 2002

*"What is the basic, driving force in life?"* Robert Schuller, "Self Love", 1969

*"What is the driving force in your life?"* Rick Warren, PDL, 2002

*"Yes, God is alive and he is in every single human being."* Robert Schuller, "Hour of Power", Nov 9, 2003

*"The Bible says, 'he rules everything and is everywhere and is in everything.'" Rick Warren, PDL, 2002*

*"The twenty-first century will be the time of awakening, of meeting the Creator within. Many beings will experience Oneness with God and with all life. This will be the beginning of the golden age of the New Human, of which it has been written; the time of the universal human, which has been eloquently described by those with deep insight among you. There are many such people in the world now - teachers and messengers, Masters and visionaries - who are placing this vision before humankind and offering tools with which to create it. These messengers and visionaries are the heralds of a New Age."* Neale Donald Walsch, "Friendship with God: An Uncommon Dialogue", p. 295-296

Neale Donald Walsch's "God" greatly endorses the teachers of Robert Schuller.  
So does Rick Warren

**Neale Walsch's P.E.A.C.E. Plan:**

- Permit ourselves to acknowledge that some of our old beliefs about God and about life are not working.
- Explore the possibility that there is something we do not understand about God and about life, the understanding of which could change everything.
- Announce that we are willing for new understandings of God and Life to now be brought forth, understandings that could produce a new way of life on this planet.
- Courageously examine these new understandings and, if they align with your personal inner truth and knowing, to enlarge our belief system to include them.

- Express our lives as a demonstration of our highest beliefs, rather than as a denial of them.

The Five Steps to Peace, Conversations with God Website, [www.cwg.org/5steps/5stepstopeace.pdf](http://www.cwg.org/5steps/5stepstopeace.pdf)

### **Rick Warren's P.E.A.C.E. Plan, Announced at Saddleback Church, Nov. 2, 2003**

- Plant Churches
- Equip Leaders
- Assist the Poor
- Care for the sick
- Educate the next generation

*"Before you were born, God planned this moment in your life. It is no accident that you are holding this book."*  
Rick Warren, PDL, 2002

*"[T]his book has arrived in your life at the right and perfect time...Everything happens in perfect order, and the arrival of this book in your life is no exception."* Neale Donald Walsch, "Conversations with God: Book 2, 1997

Aldous Huxley is the single most quoted writer in Marilyn Ferguson's "The Aquarian Conspiracy.

*"If Paul had kept his experience of doubt and depression a secret, millions of people would never have benefited from it. Only shared experience can help others. Aldous Huxley said, 'Experience is not what happens to you. It is what you do with what happens to you.'" - Rick Warren, PDL, 2002, p. 248*

Rick Warren endorsed the writings of Henri Nouwen. Schuller was a great admirer of Nouwen and made his students watch videos of him

*"We should be returning to a no-holds-barred approach to worship and teaching so that when we gather, there is no doubt we are in the presence of a Holy God. I believe that both believers and unbelievers are hungry for this. It isn't about clever apologetics or careful exegetical and expository preaching...Emerging generations are hungering to experience God in worship."* Dan Kimball, "The Emerging Church", p.116

### **Worship Inseparable from Doctrinal Truth:**

*"My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes. My tongue shall speak of thy word: For all thy commandments are righteousness."* Psalm 119:171-172

*"I will praise thee with my whole heart: before the gods I will sing unto thee. I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness. And for thy truth: For thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."* Psalm 138:1-2

Rick Warren endorses Kimball's ideas

*"This book is a wonderful, detailed example of what a purpose-driven church can look like in a postmodern world.... Dan's book explains how to do it [reach an "emerging generation"] with the cultural-creatives who think and feel in postmodern terms. You need to pay attention to him [Kimball] because times are changing."*  
—Rick Warren, from the foreword.

*"God has raised up a parachurch movement to reemphasize a neglected purpose of the church....The Discipleship/Spiritual Formations Movement ... developing believers to full maturity. Richard Foster and Dallas Willard have underscored the importance of building up Christians and establishing personal spiritual disciplines."* Rick Warren, The Purpose Driven Church, Warren calls this movement, "a valid message for the church" and "a wake up call."

**Sue Monk Kidd** is a former Baptist and best-selling author. Her first two books were written from a Christian perspective

She was featured in Virtue, Today's Christian Woman, and Moody Monthly, Monk-Kidd was profoundly

influenced by the writings of Catholic mystic Thomas Merton

*"The minister was preaching. He was holding up a Bible. It was open, perched atop his raised hand as if a blackbird had landed there. He was saying that the Bible was the sole and ultimate authority of the Christian's life. The sole and ultimate authority. I remember a feeling rising up from a place about two inches below my navel. I was a passionate, determined feeling, and it spread out from the core of me like a current so that my skin vibrated with it. If feeling could be translated into English, this feeling would have roughly been the word no! It was the purest inner knowing I had experienced, and it was shouting in me no, no, no! The ultimate authority of my life is not the Bible; it is not confined between the covers of a book. It is not something written by men and frozen in time. It is not from a source outside myself. My ultimate authority is the divine voice in my own soul. Period."* Sue Monk Kidd, "The Dance of the Dissident Daughter", p. 76

*"We also need goddess consciousness to reveal earth's holiness...matter becomes inspired; it breaths divinity. Earth becomes alive and sacred...Goddess offers us the holiness of everything."* Monk Kidd, p.163-163

### **Richard Foster uses Sue Monk-Kidd as an example of what he is promoting.**

*"We should all, without shame, enroll in the school of contemplative prayer."*  
Richard Foster, Celebration of Discipline

*"I also want to give a word of precaution. In the silent contemplation of God we are entering deeply into the spiritual realm, and there is such a thing as a supernatural guidance that is not divine guidance. While the Bible does not give us a lot of information on the nature of the spiritual world, we do know...there are various orders of spiritual beings, and some of them are definitely not in cooperation with God and his way!...But for now I want to encourage you to learn and practice prayers of protection... "All dark and evil spirits must now leave."* Richard Foster, "Prayer: Finding the Heart's true Home", Harper, 1992, p. 18

*"At the outset I need to give a word of warning, a little like the warning labels on medicine bottles. Contemplative prayer is not for the novice. I do not say this about any other form of prayer. All are welcome, regardless of proficiency, or expertise, to enter freely into adoration and meditation and intercession and a host of other approaches to prayer. But contemplation is different. While we are all equally precious in the eyes of God, we are not all equally ready to listen to "God's speech in his wondrous, terrible, gentle, loving, all embracing silence."* Richard Foster, "Prayer: Finding the Heart's true Home", Harper, 1992, p. 156

*"...the life of contemplative prayer, ... Loved and in communion with all things, the soul is born in and out of the secret silence of God. This silence at the heart of mysticism is not only the meeting point of the great traditions but also where all hearts might meet."* Alan Jones, Reimagining Christianity

*"It used to be that Christian institutions and systems of dogma sustained the spiritual life of Christians. Increasingly, spirituality itself is what sustains everything else. Alan Jones is a pioneer in reimagining a Christian faith that emerges from authentic spirituality. His work stimulates and encourages me deeply."* Brian McLaren, back cover Reimagining Christianity

In a Chicago Sun-Times article, "Maverick minister taps new generation," the question is raised, Who will be the next Billy Graham? The article suggested Rob Bell as the possible replacement. While that may seem like a far-fetched notion to many, the article quotes emerging leader Brian McLaren as saying it "could very well be true."

*"For a mind-blowing introduction to emergence theory and divine creativity, set aside three months and read Ken Wilber's "A Brief History of Everything."* Rob Bell, Velvet Elvis, p. 192

*"A Brief History of Everything" is published by Shambhala Publications, named after the term, which in Buddhism means the mystical abode of spirit beings. Wilber is one of the most respected and highly regarded theoreticians in the New Age movement today."* Roger Oakland, Faith Undone, p. 110

*"Yoga, Zen, centering prayer, kabbalah (Jewish mysticism), TM, tantra (Hindu-based sexuality), and kundalini yoga"*, from Wilber's website, suggested spiritual practices

*"I started using the phrase "listening prayer" when I talked about my own experiences in meditation. I built myself a prayer room—a tiny sanctuary in a basement closet filled with books on spiritual disciplines, contemplative prayer, and Christian mysticism. In that space I lit candles, burned incense, hung rosaries, and listened to tapes of Benedictine monks. I meditated for hours on words, images, and sounds. I reached the point of being able to achieve alpha brain patterns, the state in which dreams occur, while still awake and meditating."*, Mike Perschon, writer for Youth Specialties

*"Mystics in every religious tradition speak of alpha states of consciousness and the lure of Divine Light, although they do so in their own metaphors and images. In their own ways they have learned how to enter alpha as they pray or worship. They learn how to become enlightened."* Laurie Cabot, "Power of the Witch"

*"...a theology of mysticism provides some hope for common ground between Christianity and Islam. Both religions have within their histories examples of ecstatic union with God... Could [the Sufis] have encountered the same God we do in our Christian mysticism?"* Tony Campolo, "Speaking My Mind", Nashville, TN, Thomas Nelson, 2004, pp. 149-150

**Henri Nouwen** believed that people could be saved apart from Christ. He saw "great treasure" for the Christian spiritual life in Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam

Campolo called Nouwen *"one of the great Christians of our time."* (Tony Campolo, "Speaking My Mind", Nashville, TN, Thomas Nelson, 2004, p. 72)

### **Refuting Pantheism: God is not the Universe**

*"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."* Genesis 1:1

*"Thus shall ye say unto them, the gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens. He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion."* Jeremiah 10:11-12

*"...before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour."* Isaiah 43:10-11

### **Vain Repetitions are not the way to God**

*"But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking."* Matthew 6:7

*"Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon the earth: therefore let thy words be few."* Ecclesiastes 5:2

*"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give an account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."* Matthew 12:36

*"This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:"* 2 Peter 3:1-2

### **The Holy Spirit is not in Everyone**

*"In whom ye trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."* Ephesians 2:13-14

*"But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness."* Romans 8:9-10

### **Man is not Inherently Good**

*"Behold I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."* Psalm 51:5

*"Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Not one."* Job 14:4

*"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."* Romans 3:23

*"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"*

Jeremiah 17:9

### **We Cannot Save Ourselves**

*"When his disciples heard it they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld them and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."* Matthew 19:25-26

### **Salvation through Jesus of Nazareth Alone**

*"Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."* Acts 4:10-12

### **Is the Emerging Church a "Cult"?**

#### **Extra-biblical Revelation:**

*"Mysticism begins in experience; it ends in theology."* Leonard Sweet, "Quantum Spirituality: A Post Modern Apologetic", Dayton, OH: Whaleprints, 1st Ed., 1991, p. viii p. 76

#### **False Salvation Basis:**

*"The Church's fixation on the death of Jesus as the universal saving act must end, and the place of the cross must be reimagined in Christian faith. Why? Because of the cult of suffering and the vindictive God behind it."* Alan Jones, "Reimagining Christianity", Hoboken, NJ: Wiley & Sons, 2005, p. 132

*"Alan Jones is a pioneer in reimagining a Christian faith that emerges from authentic spirituality. His work stimulates and encourages me deeply."* Brian McLaren, back cover Reimagining Christianity

*"The god whose moods alternate between graciousness and fierce anger...the god who extracts the last drop of blood from his Son so that his just anger, evoked by sin, may be appeased, is not the God revealed by and in Jesus Christ. And if he is not the God of Jesus, he does not exist."*

Former Catholic Priest, Brennan Manning, "Above All", Brentwood, TN: Integrity Publishers, 2003, p. 58-59

#### **Flawed Christology:**

*"Jesus almost certainly was not born of a virgin, did not think of himself as the Son of God, and did not see his purpose as dying for the sins of the world."*

Marcus Borg, "The God We Never Knew", New York, NY, Harper Collins, 1998, p. 25

*"To think that the central meaning of Easter depends upon something spectacular happening to Jesus' corpse misses the point of the Easter message and risks trivializing the story."* Marcus Borg, "Easter About Life, Not Death", Washington Post / Newsweek "On Faith" Column, April 7th, 2004 available online at <http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith>

*"To link Easter primarily to our hope for an after life, as if our post-death existence depends upon God having transformed the corpse of Jesus, is to reduce the story to a politically-domesticated yearning for our survival beyond death."* Marcus Borg, "Easter About Life, Not Death", Washington Post / Newsweek "On Faith" Column, April 7th, 2004 available online at <http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith>

Brian McLaren said that he has "high regard" for Marcus Borg; Rob Bell references and praises Borg in his popular book "Velvet Elvis"

*"Marcus Borg is a key force in the emerging "new paradigm" of Christian faith."*

Walter Brueggemann, Professor at Columbia Theological Seminary. He was one of the contributors of the

Richard Foster's heretical "Revovare Spiritual Formation Bible". Brueggemann's statement cited on United Theological Seminary website, <http://www.united.edu/portrait/borg.shtml> in reference to Marcus Borg's book, "The Heart of Christianity"

### **Denouncing Others:**

*"We have experienced two major sources of criticism during our transitions. The first is Christians from more traditional backgrounds...Not all of our traditional backgrounded Christians have been critical – just the ornery ones. Our second source of criticism is traditional church pastors. Again, not all traditional church pastors – just the meaner ones."* Dan Southerland, "Transitioning: Leading Your Church Through change", Zondervan, 2000, p. 116 \*Rick Warren has used this work by Southerland to help them transition into his new paradigm

*"...Saballat is Nehemiah's greatest critic and number one enemy. Let me put it plainer than that. Sanballat is a leader from hell...We all have some Sanballats in our churches. This is the guy who opposes whatever you propose...You cannot call this guy a leader from hell to his face – but you can call him a Sanballat."* Dan Southerland, "Transitioning: Leading Your Church Through change", Zondervan, 2000, p. 116

### **There is a segment within pressing Christianity pressuring folks into embracing New Age spirituality:**

*"In the wider ecumenism of this Spirit being opened for us today, we need to humbly accept the learnings of particular eastern religions...What makes a particular practice Christian is not its source, but its intent...This is important to remember in the face of those Christians who would try to impoverish our spiritual resources by too narrowly defining them. If we view the human family as one in God's Spirit, then historical cross-fertilization is not surprising...selective attention to Eastern practices can be of a great assistance to a fully embodied Christian life."* Tilden Edwards, "Living in the Presence", Harper Collins, 1994, pp18-19

### **Dangerous Times Ahead**

*"There is a material difference... between expecting some kind of apocalypse – from which only those who have achieved higher consciousness will emerge unscathed – and claiming to commit the apocalypse yourself. The former is a major theme in New Age thinking, the latter only appears in carefully selected extracts."* Rebecca Boren, "The Seattle Weekly", Jan 7-13, 1987, p. 22

*"When you combine that expectation of world destruction with reliance on direct revelation from spirit guides and add a philosophy that embraces "do your own thing" as a guiding principle, you are asking for trouble."* Rebecca Boren, "The Seattle Weekly", Jan 7-13, 1987, p. 22

### **The Antichrist will be the supreme embodiment of man's divinity**

*"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition."*  
2 Thes 2:3

*"who opposeth and exalted himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."* 2 Thes 2:4

"Caesar is Lord!" Christians refused to accept that any but Christ was Lord

Martyrdoms at Carthage: Perpetua (180 – 202 A.D.) and Felicitas martyred in the persecution at Carthage – refused to confess Caesar as Lord.

Perpetua martyred at the age of 22 while holding her infant.  
See Neander, "Ecclesiastical History", vol. i p. 109, (Clark's ed.)

*"...others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:"* Hebrews 11:35

Tribulation "the great one" will precede the second coming of Jesus Christ

We have work to do in the meantime...