

The Study of Cults

Introduction

Why Study Cults?

Simple Gospel 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

- 1. Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.
- 2. He was buried.
- 3. He rose again the 3rd day according to the Scriptures.

Paul's warning 2 Corinthians 11:4

>Another Jesus

>A different spirit

>A different gospel

Early Church Heresies

Denial that Jesus came as a man

2 John 7

For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

The worship of angels

Col 2:18

Don't let anyone declare you lost when you refuse to worship angels, as they say you must. They have seen a vision, they say, and know you should. These proud men (though they claim to be so humble) have a very clever imagination.

TLB

Justifying sexual immorality

Jude 4

For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

NIV

Exploiting Christians for money

2 Peter 2:3

These teachers in their greed will tell you anything to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago and their destruction is on the way.

 TLB

Scoffing that Jesus will return

2 Peter 3:3-4

First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."

NIV

Producing doubt about the resurrection

2 Tim 2:17-18

And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, 18 who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.

What does *cult* mean?

- Word comes from ancient Latin term meaning "cultivation."
- ➤ In modern times, it can simply refer to a group interest; i.e. *The Lord of the Rings*.
- Or, it can refer to strange religious groups with false teachings.
- Sometimes governments will even call Christian groups cults if those governments are opposed to Christianity.

What is a Religious Cult?

Definition without value judgments

- Churches are conventional religious organizations.
- Sects are deviant religious organizations with traditional beliefs and practices.
- Cults are deviant religious organizations with novel / abnormal beliefs and practices.
- New Religious Movements are cults and sects that are directly related to a love for new things and dislike a single on going tradition.

What does occult mean?

It comes from the Latin word meaning "hidden or secret things."

Whereas *cult* refers to a group of people, occult refers to a world view. It refers to any secret power gained through witchcraft, Satanism, neo-paganism, New Age, psychic channeling, etc.

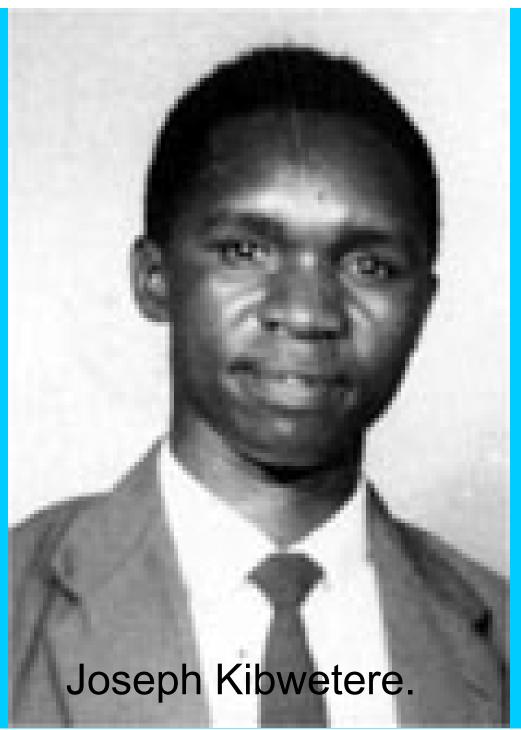
Some Bizarre Cultic Movements





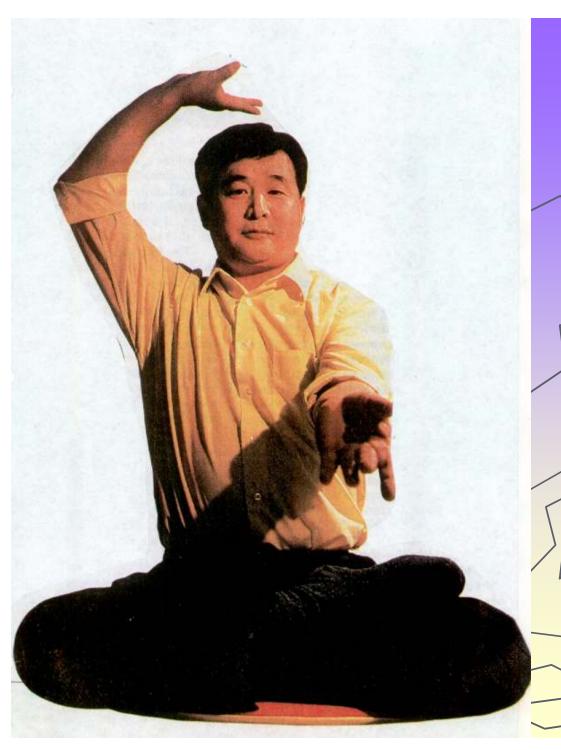


Suicides in Switzerland, 1994, and in Canada,1997.



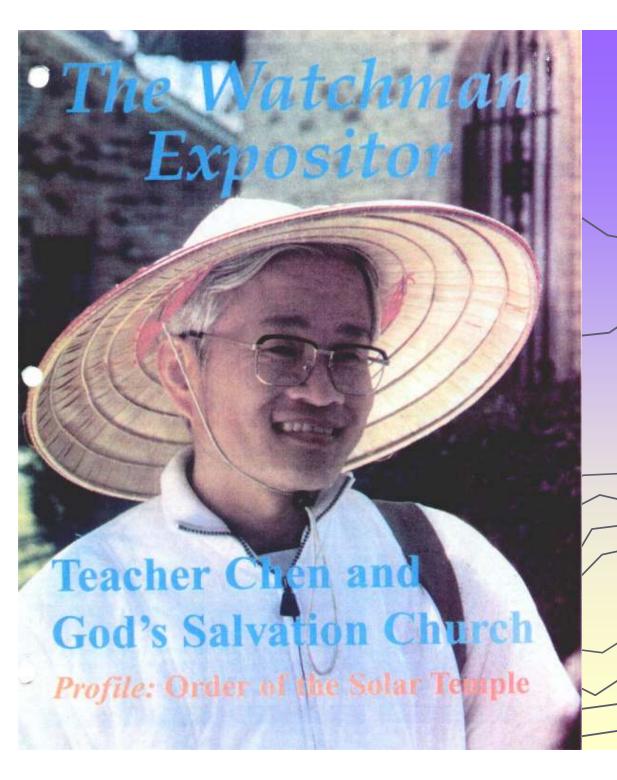
The Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God

On March 17, 2000, in Uganda, hundreds were murdered or committed suicide in a church fire. Then, mass graves were found, totaling 778 deaths.



Li Hongzhi

Leader of Falun Gong
Cult that teaches of
god-like energy deep
with in each Individual
and of
aliens from
outer space messing
in human affairs.



Teacher Chen

Founder of God
Saves
The Earth Flying
Saucer
Foundation.

Jose Luis de Jesus Miranda

Before he died in 2013, Miranda had 666 on his arm, as did many of his followers. He claimed to be Jesus and the anti-Christ, whom he said was misunderstood by Christians. Supposedly, he was the ultimate authority on the gospel. His organization – Creciendo en Gracia (Growing in Grace) has headquarters in Miami with thousands of followers in Central and South America, and now in the United States. He claimed that there is no more devil, no more sin, and no more need for prayer. He made people feel good about themselves. In return, he asked for allegiance and tithes. Some of his followers believe that he is immortal and called him Melchizedek.





Biblical Christianity

The word Christian/s

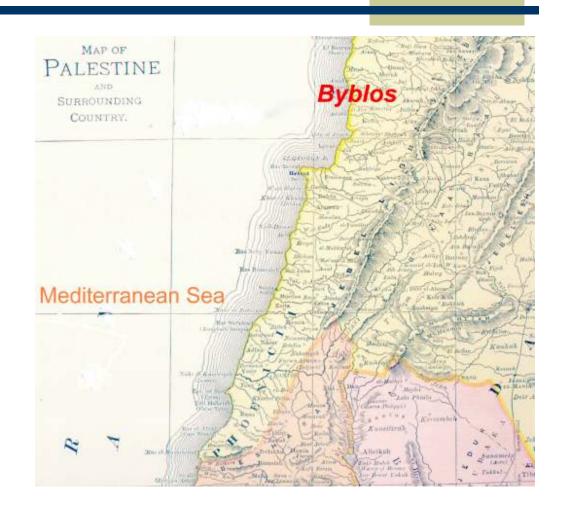
- Acts 11:26 "And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch."
- Acts 26:28 [King Agrippa to Paul] "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."
- 1 Peter 4:16 "If anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter."

The word Christian/s

(5546) Christianos (khris-tee-an-os) - a Christian, i.e. follower of Christ. From (5547) Christos (khris-tos) – anointed, i.e. the Messiah, an epithet of Jesus. From (5548) chrio (khree'-o) – to smear or rub with oil, i.e. (by implication) to consecrate to an office or religious service. (References from Strong's Concordance)

Origin of the word biblical

- Byblos –
 Ancient
 Phoenician
 City.
- ◆ Biblia 1st
 applied to
 bible by John
 Chrysostom



Biblical Christianity

"Biblical' means that the Christian believer searches seriously and carefully for the meaning of the Bible on its own terms, not changing its meaning to fit the times. Biblical Christians approach the Bible with reverence and respect, because they believe it is true and authoritative — that it contains God's very words"

- John Davis

What are Eight Essential Doctrines?

The Name of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Godhead: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Colossians 2:9 "For in Him (Jesus) dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily"

Lord = The Jehovah or Yahweh of the Old Testament.

Jesus = The name given to God when he was in human form. The name of the Son.

Christ = The Annointed One, Messiah, or the One who by His Holy Spirit lives in the believers and moulds our character.

The Lord Jesus Christ

(Yahweh) (Jesus) (Christos)

The Father Son Holy Spirit

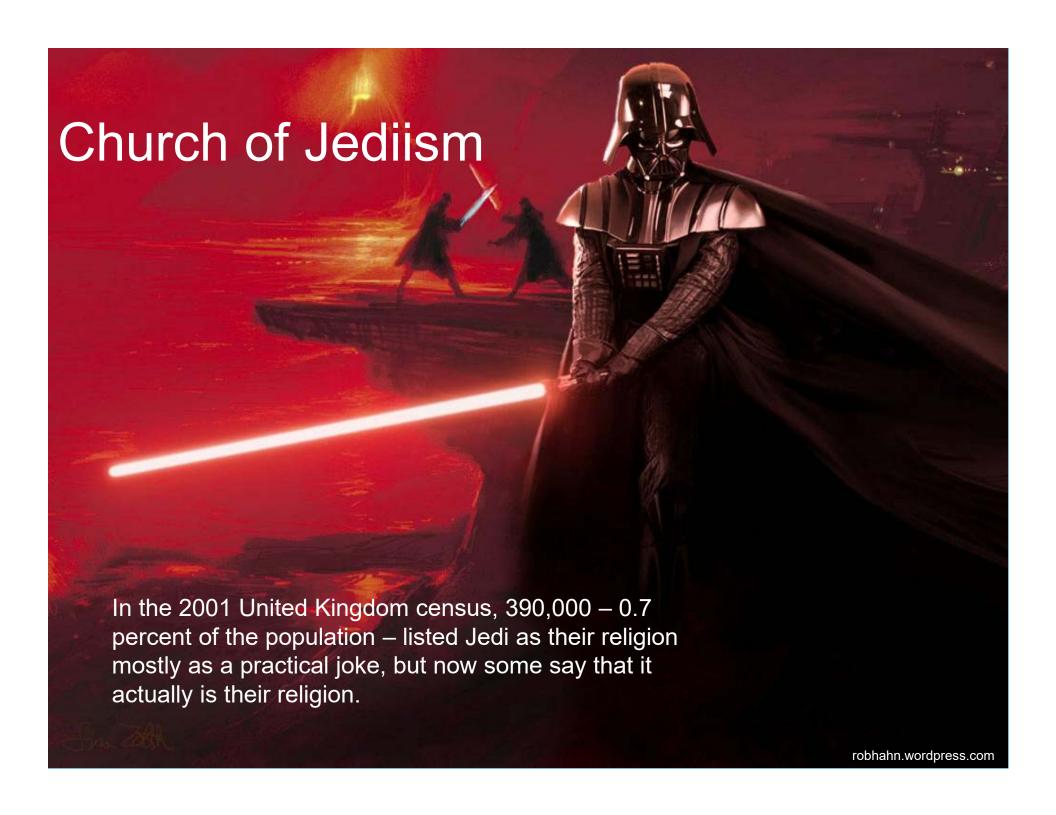
How can Christians Help?

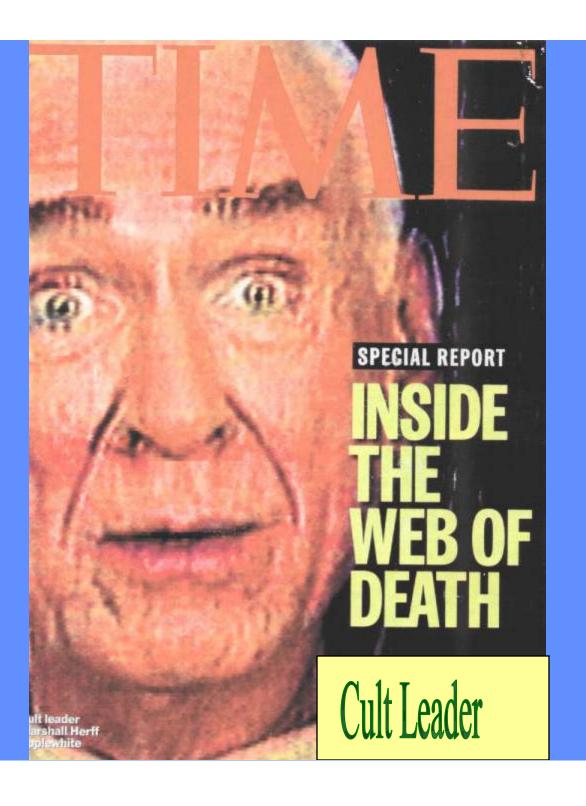
- 1. Prayer / Spiritual warfare 2nd Cr 10:4-5
- 2. Love John 3:16
- 3. Witness 1st Timothy 2:3-4
- 4. Training 1st Timothy 4:1-6



Overview of Modern Cults

Introduction





Heaven's Gate

Suicides near San Diego in 1997.

Three Problem Areas of Cults:

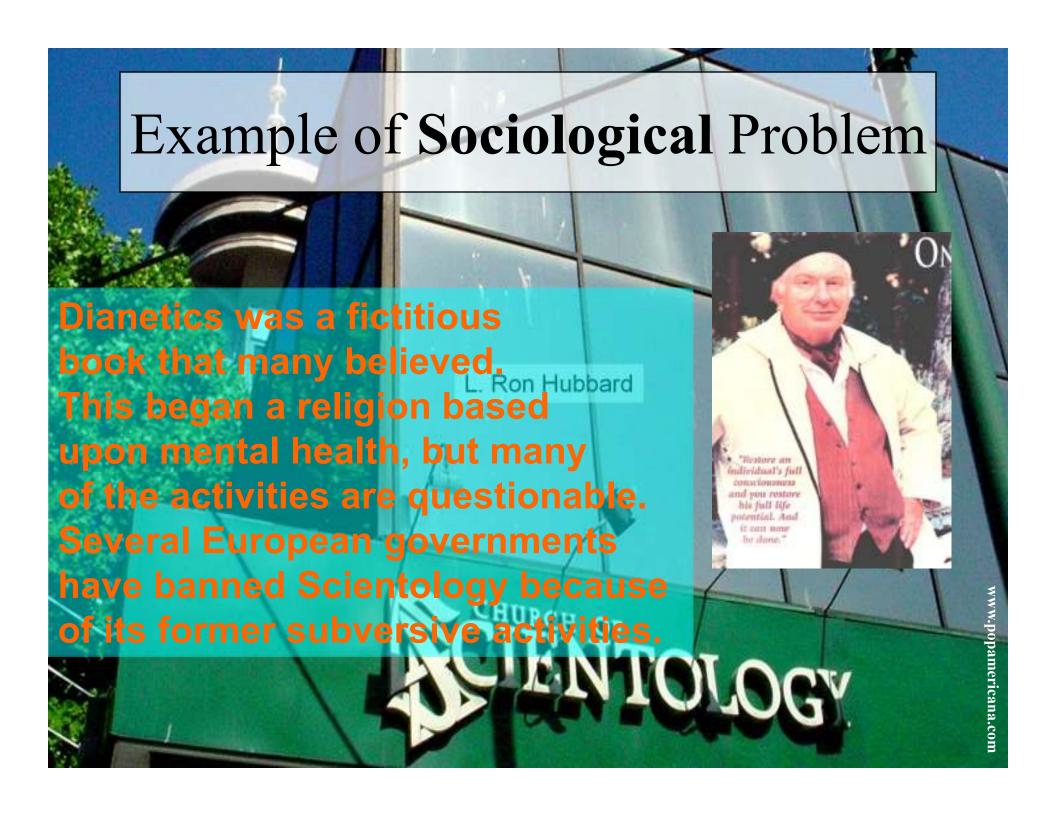
- 1. Sociological.
- 2. Psychological.
- 3. Theological.

Example of **Sociological** Problem

Christian Identity Movement

Groups like the Aryan Nations, Ku Klux Klan, or Phineas **Priesthood promote white** supremacy by twisting Scripture. Their serpent seed doctrine says that Satan had sex with Eve to produce Cain, and again Satan had sex with Rebekah to produce Esau. Descendents have no souls.

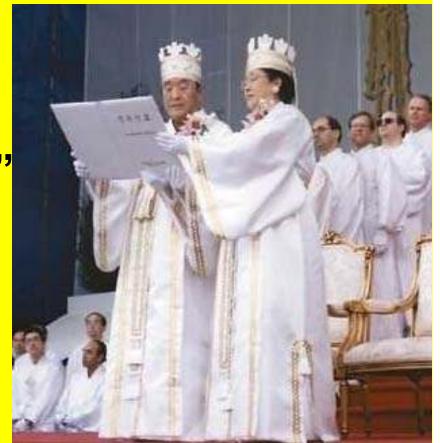




Example of **Psychological** Problem

Sun Myung Moon

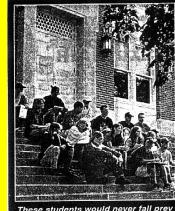
The Moonie cult manipulated people through "love bombing" and used "heavenly deception" to raise money.



Example of **Psychological** Problem

Jim Roberts

The Brethren lured in idealistic youth and demanded that they cut off all ties with family.



APLES, Fla. - A frightening cult is invading college campuses and luring unsuspecting young people into its seductive web, using mind control to force them to forsake their families, prowl the streets - and live on garbage!

to such a scheme

The Brethren, led by recluse Jim Roberts, prey on religious students using the Bible as a weapon. Cult members occupy abandoned buildings and forage dumpsters for food - earning them the nickname The Garbage Eaters.

The Roberts group is one of the most destructive cults in America today," says Ronald Loomis of the American Family Foundation. "The mind control utilized on the kids they recruit is incredibly

powerful. "The cult requires members to cut all ties with family and friends."

So powerful is their control submit to a life with outside bones or abscessed teeth go

By DAIVA FERNANDEZ

untreated. One child died from neglect. Members spend seven

hours a day studying the that insiders say followers Scripture and singing hymns. They give up all personal poscontact so restricted broken sessions, usually to Roberts, even discarding their names Like Jim Jones & Koresh groups,



(left) &



'Brethren' uses power! control to lure new members

and taking Hebrew ones. A former member says they weren't even allowed to smile.

Cult experts Jim Siegelman and Flo Conway, authors of Snapping (Stillpoint Press), warn the Roberts group traps kids using what their parents

taught - morality and respect for the Bible.

Like cult leaders David Koresh and Jim Jones before him, Roberts attracts imaginative, disciplined people with promises of eternal bliss.

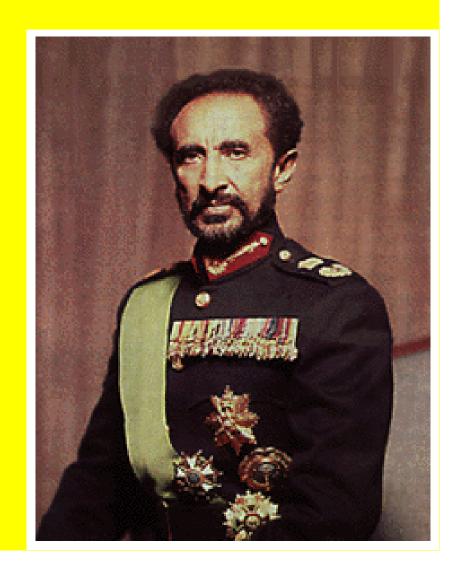
Explains Conway: "Parin terms of the kind of pro- tion can also be a sign o gramming these people go brainwashing techniques.

through 24 hours a day. While there's no easy way to pluck someone from the hold of a cult, say experts look out for dancing, singing drumming or other intense repetitive activities that go or for an abnormal amount o ents are up against artillery time. Lack of sleep and isola

Example of Theological Problem

Ras Tafari

Ras Tafari Mokonnen was crowned king of Ethiopia in 1930 and called himself Emperor Haile Selassie, Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Elect of God and King of the Kings of Ethiopia. His followers are called Rastafarians.



Example of Theological Problem

Yahweh Ben Yahweh

Born Hulon Mitchell Jr., he has been dubbed The "Black Christ" and founded the Nation of Yahweh. He was released from prison in 2001 after serving jail time for ordering the murder of those he dubbed as "white devils".



Eight Cult Characteristics

- 1. New Revelation that supersedes the Bible.
- 2. Christian terminology redefined.
- 3. Exclusivity the only ones with the truth.
- Authoritarian leader tense, strong-willed, magnetic personality.
- 5. Rules usually strict and unreasonable harsh penalties and discipline.

Word of Life cult

On October 11, 2015, in the town of New Hartford, New York after the Word of Life church service, a nineteen year old teen named Lucas Leonard was beaten to death in a long "counseling session" in which six church members, including his parents, were trying to get Lucas to confess his sins. His brother. Christopher, was also beaten. The parents, Bruce and Deborah, were charged with manslaughter. Four more members including the boy's half sister were charged with assault. Neighbors reported that the church was secretive and isolated.

Newsweek, http://www.newsweek.com/word-life-church-beating-abuse-384339 <accessed 10/24/15>

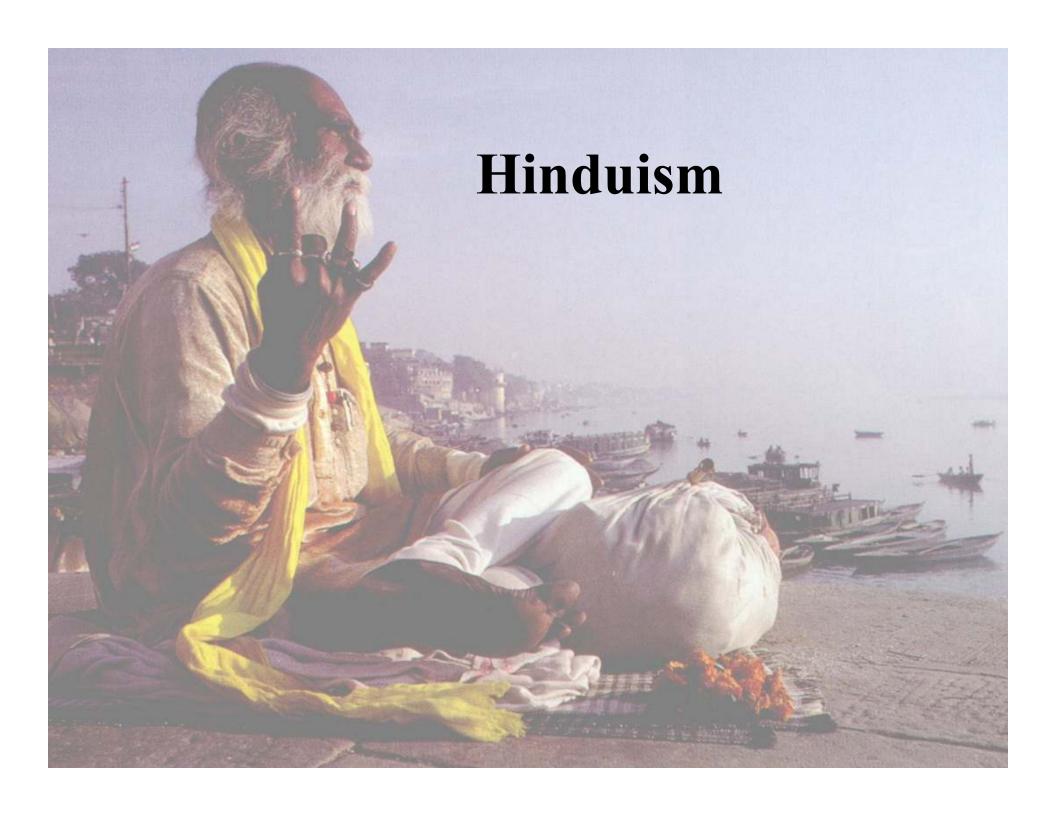


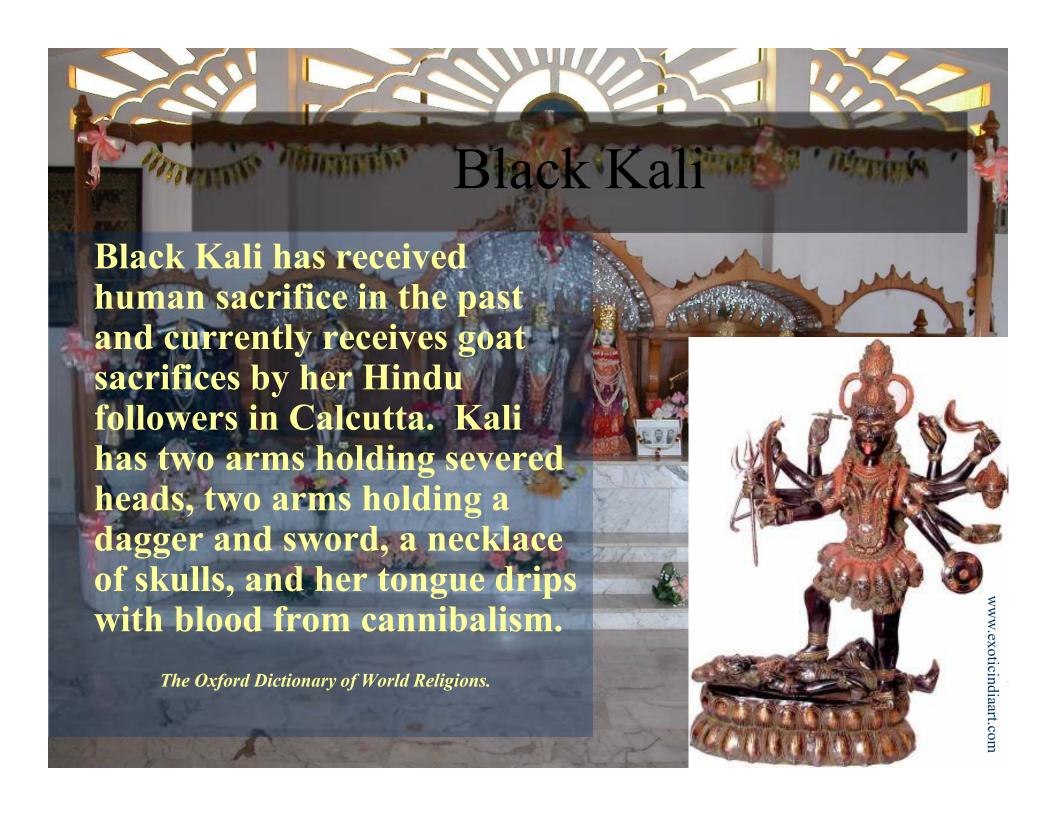


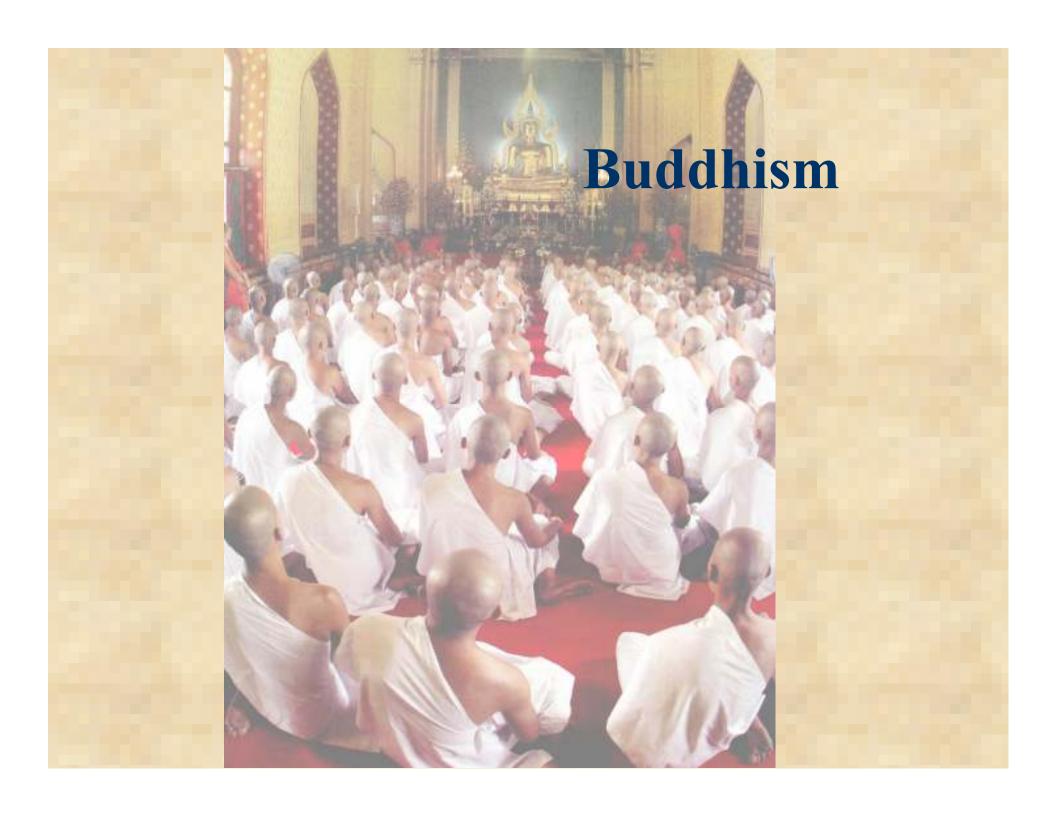
Eight Cult Characteristics

- 6. Deception in recruitment and fund raising.
- 7. Isolation from society in an emotional and psychological way.
- Use of mind control techniques.

Cults / World Religions





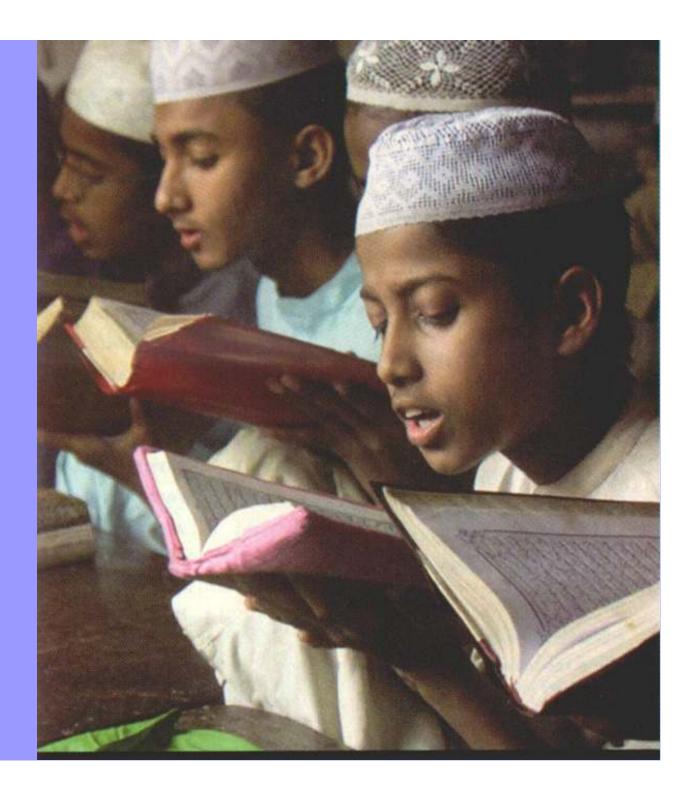


Shoko Asahara

Founder of the Aum Shinri Kyo cult that killed twelve and hospitalized 5000 in the 1995 subway nerve gas murders in Japan. He was given the death sentence and today, the group is called Aleph.

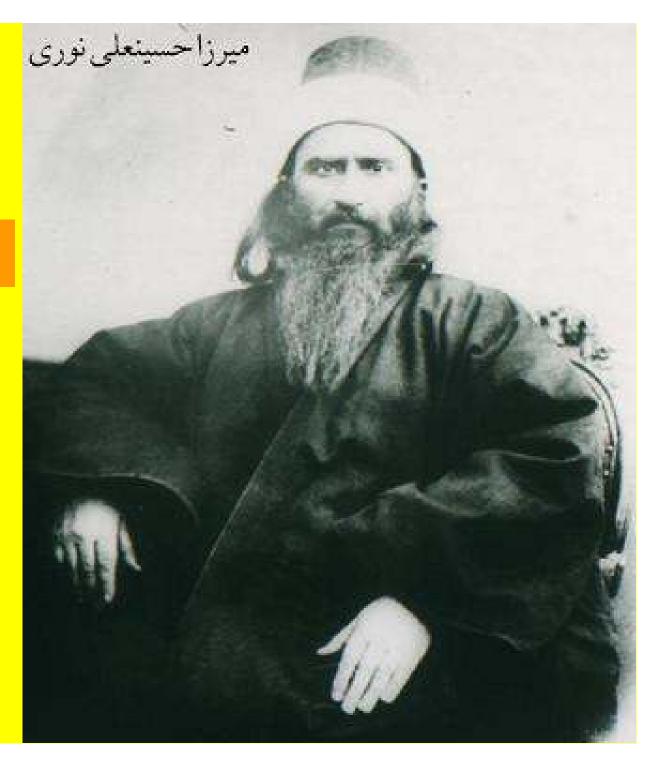


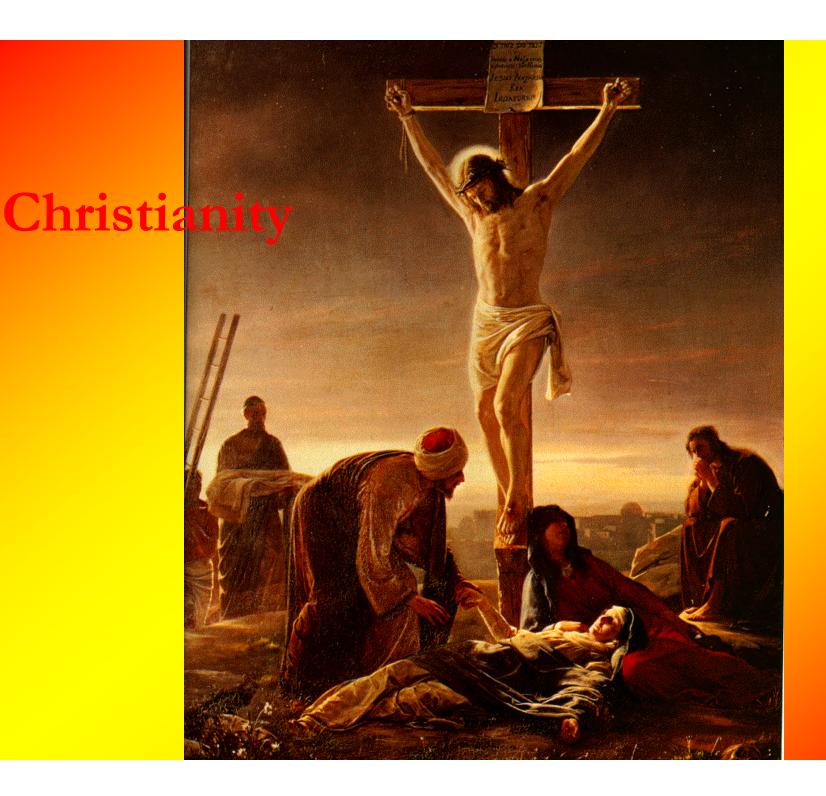
Islam

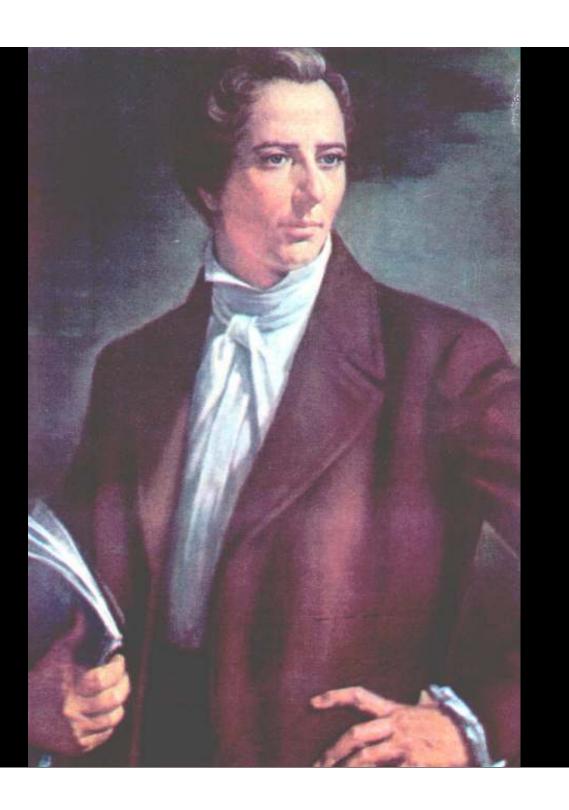


Baha'u'llah

Baha'ism





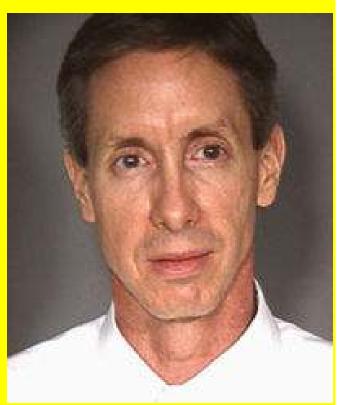


Joseph Smith And Mormonism

FLDS

Warren Jeffs

Leader and Prophet of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (FLDS). He was on the FBI's 10 most wanted and was arrested in Las Vegas on August 28, 2006. He is currently serving a life sentence. Some say he has 60 wives. According to an exmember, FLDS teaches that men must have at least three wives to go to Heaven.





What causes people to join cults?

Islamic Terrorist Cult Radical

Samira Ahmed Jassim

Helped recruit dozens of female suicide bombers in Iraq (2007 – 2008). The innocent women were drawn into the plot, first by being raped, then Samira approached them in a motherly fashion feigning to help. After awhile she convinced them that the best way to overcome their shame was to do something heroic for Allah. This would give them a good name in society. She played on their emotions until they agreed to become bombers for Allah.



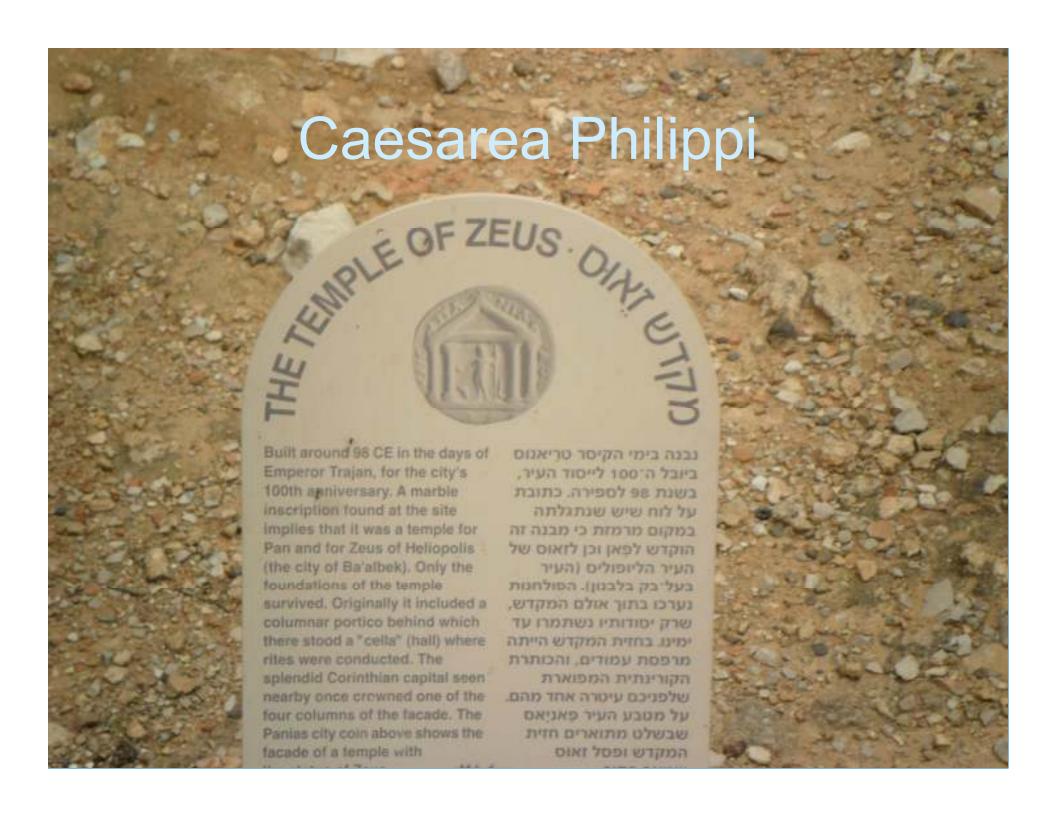
Who is the Jesus of the Cults and Religions?

Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?

Caesarea Philippi





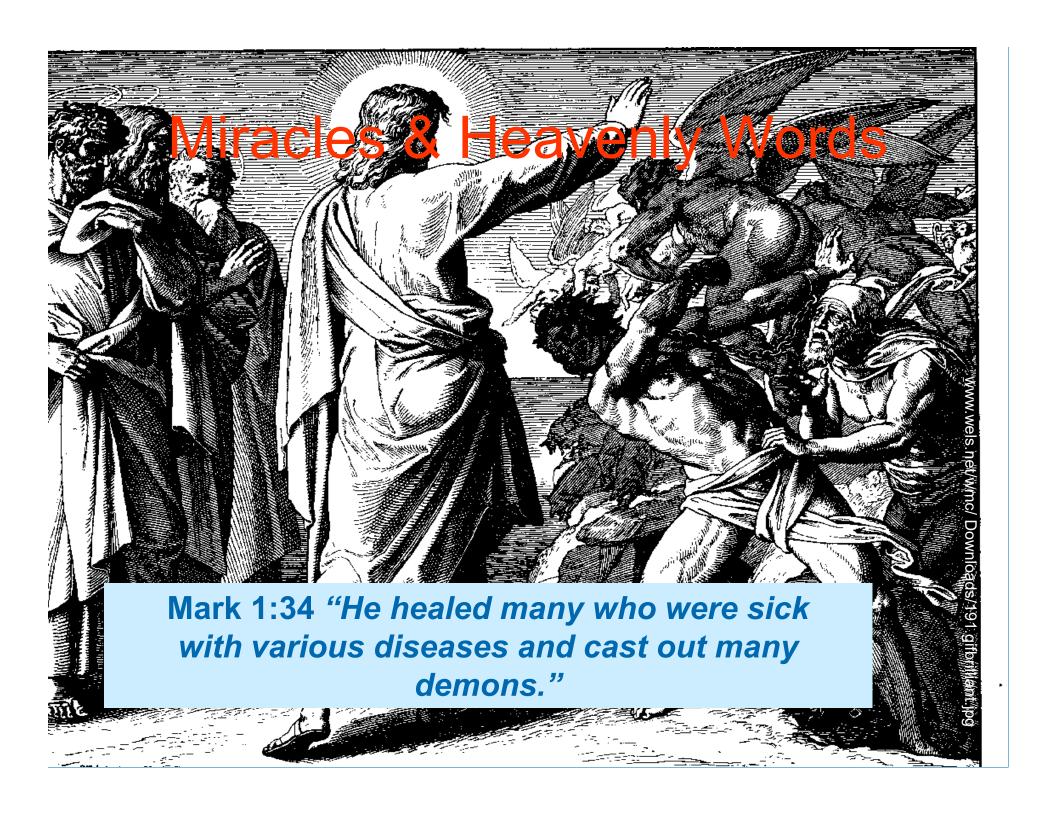


Virgin Birth

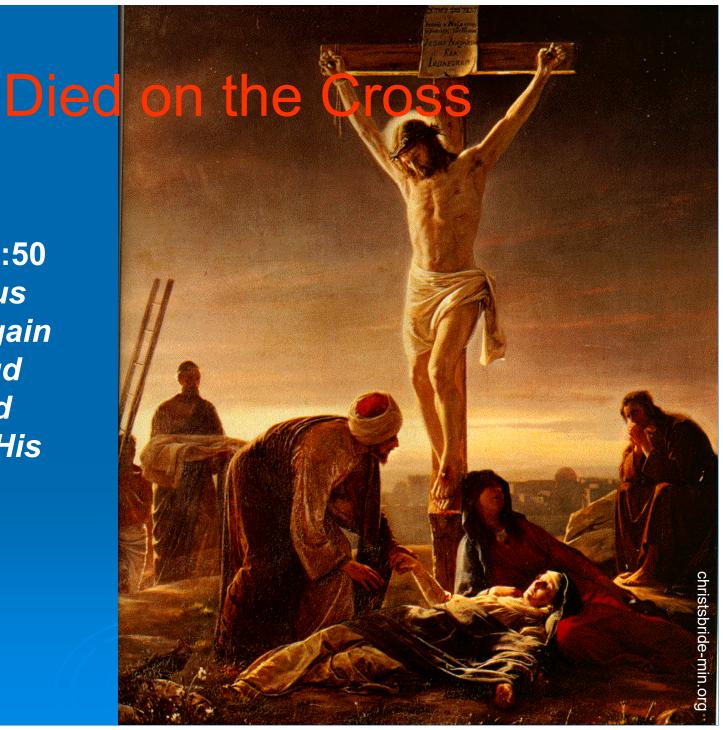
Luke 1:35 "The Holy Spirit will Come upon you, And the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God"





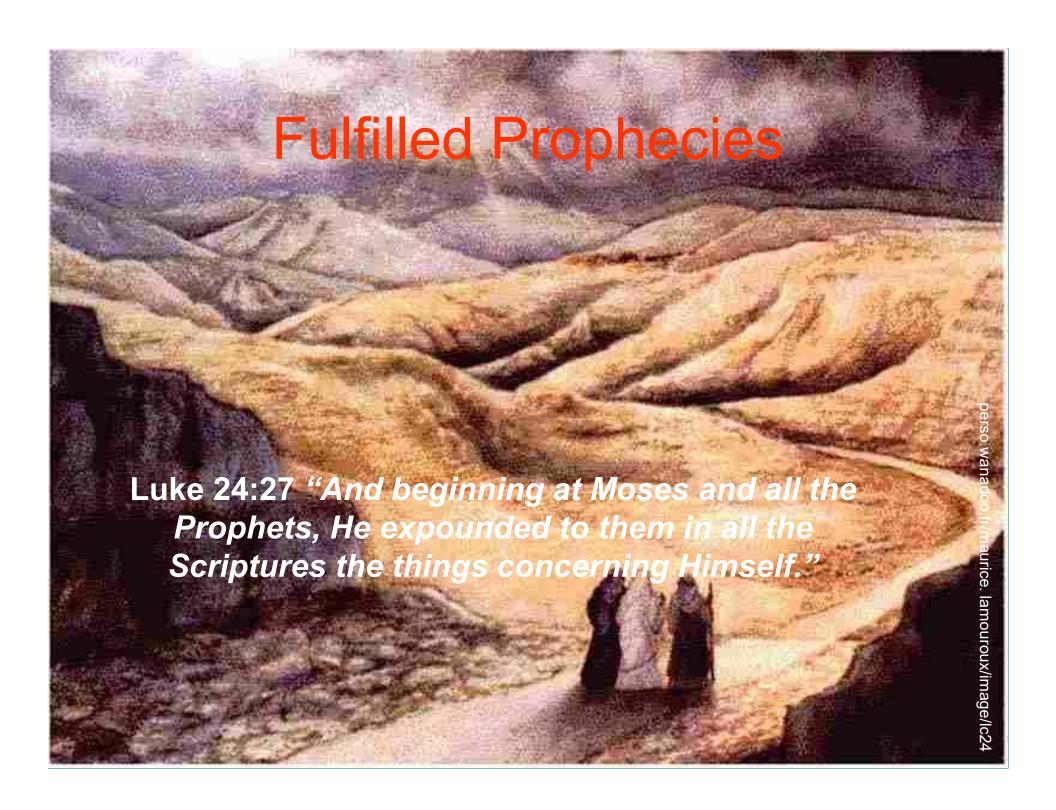


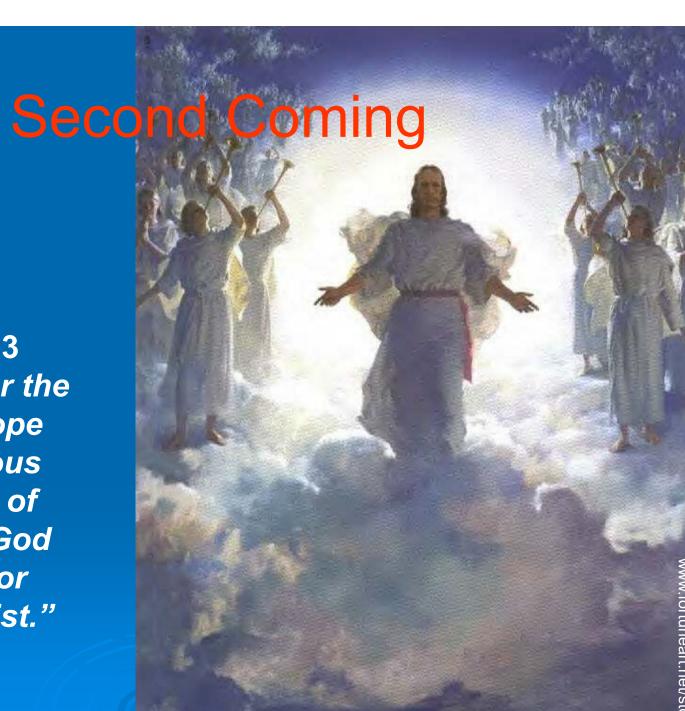
Matthew 27:50 "And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit."



Rose from the dead Mark 16:9 "Now when He rose early on the first www.bonnienguy.org/no.htm day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene."







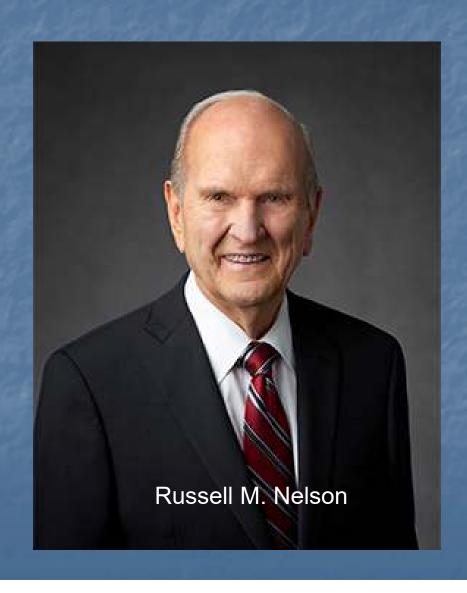
Titus 2:13
"Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."



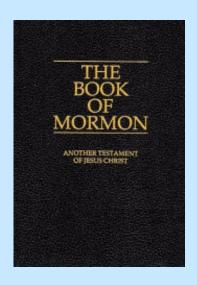
Answering Mormonism: Part One

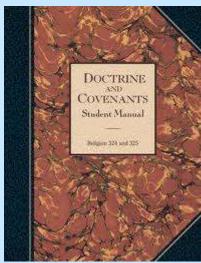
The Mormon Church Today

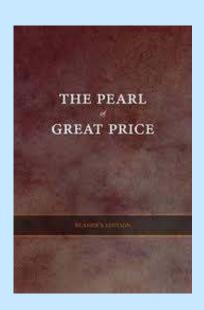
LDS President

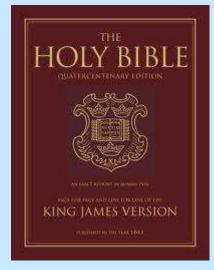


LDS Sacred Books



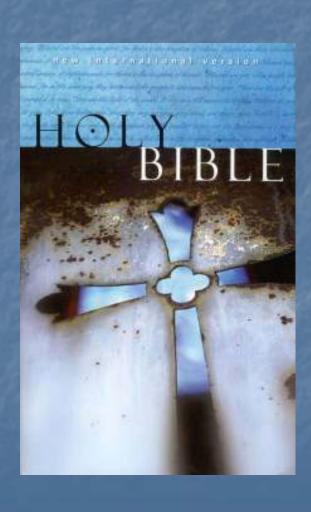






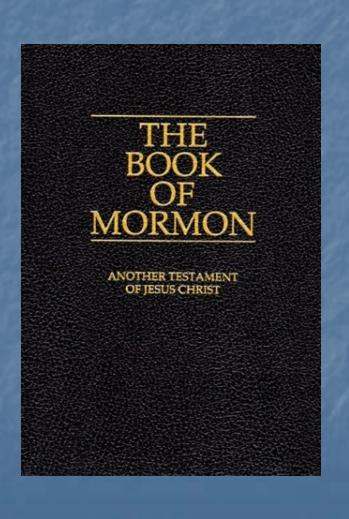
Brief Contrast

The Bible: Old & New Testaments

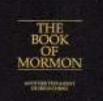


- Written over 1500 yrs.
- Over 40 authors.
- No. 1 best seller.
- Survived all attack.
- Over 300 fulfilled prophecies.

The Book of Mormon



- Written by one man, Joseph Smith.
- A story about the ancient Americas, Native Americans, and Jesus Christ.
- Jesus is one of many gods, and all Mormon males may become a god.

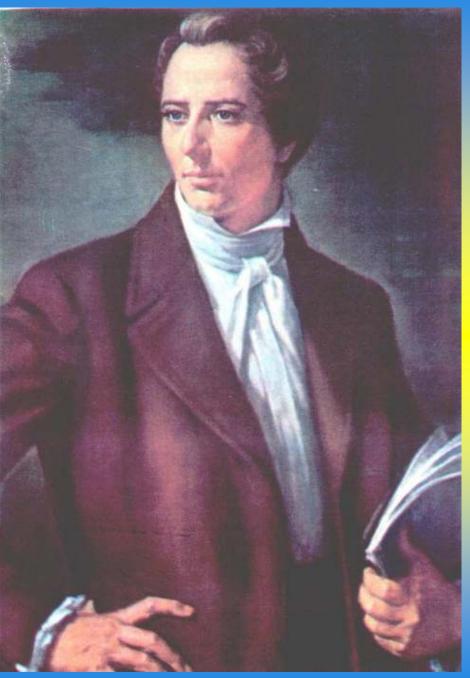


The Book of Mormon

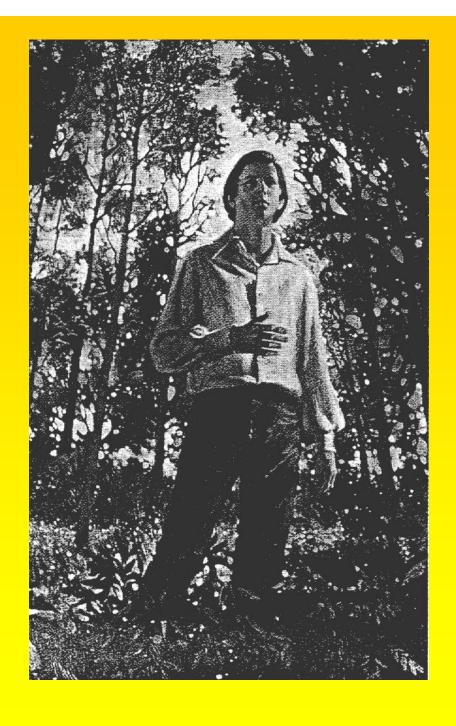


- Israelites came to Ancient America.
- Jesus came.
- A story of vast civilizations, wars, and a different gospel than the Bible.

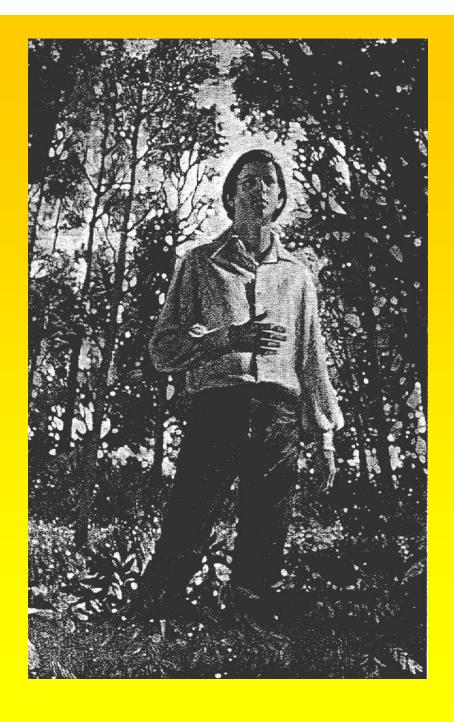
The History of Mormonism



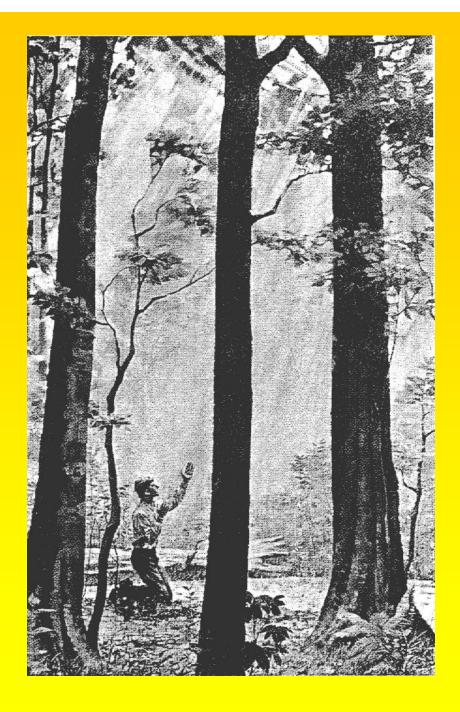
Joseph Smith Junior



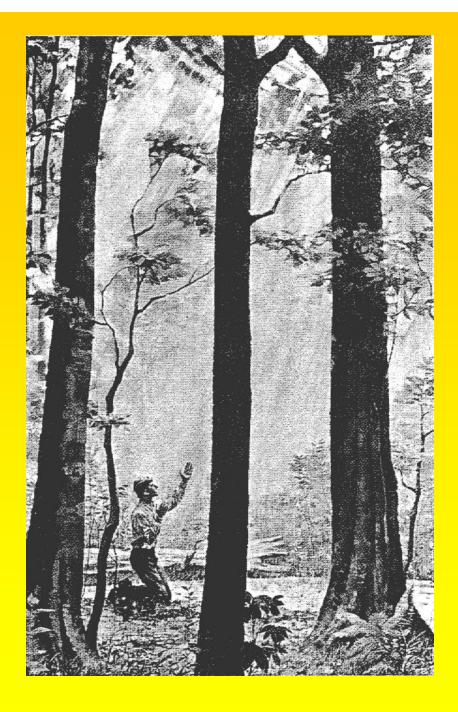
Joseph Smith Jr., who was a treasure seeker, story teller, diviner, and magician of sorts, tells us that he went into the woods near Palmyra, New York, in the Spring of 1820.



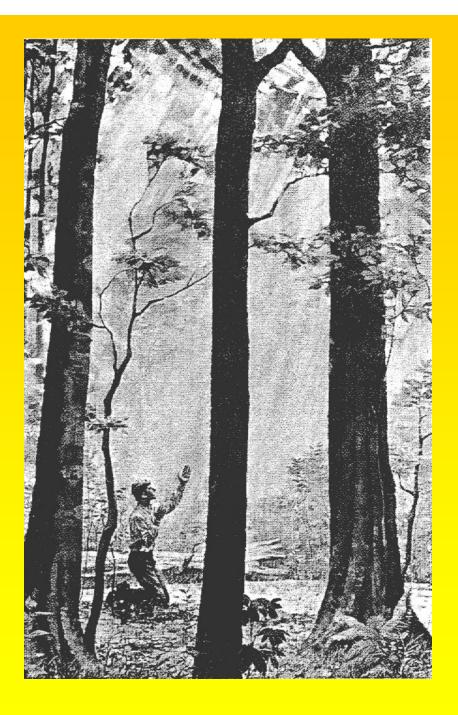
He says that he was about fourteen years old, and he decided to seek God about which denomination he should join.



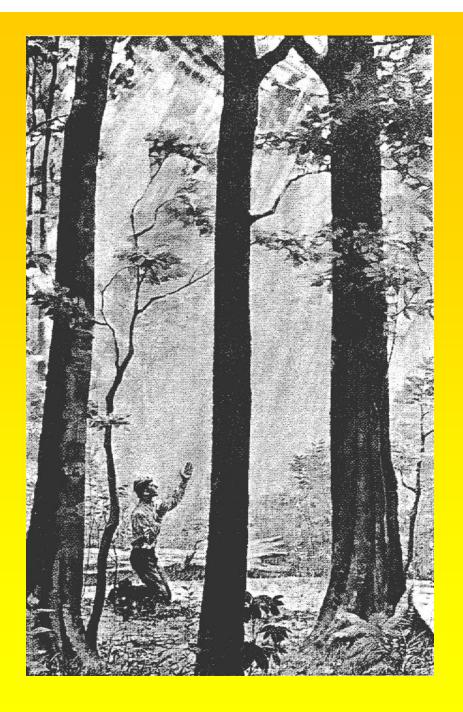
Smith says that as he knelt to pray a "thick darkness" from some supernatural force gathered around him.



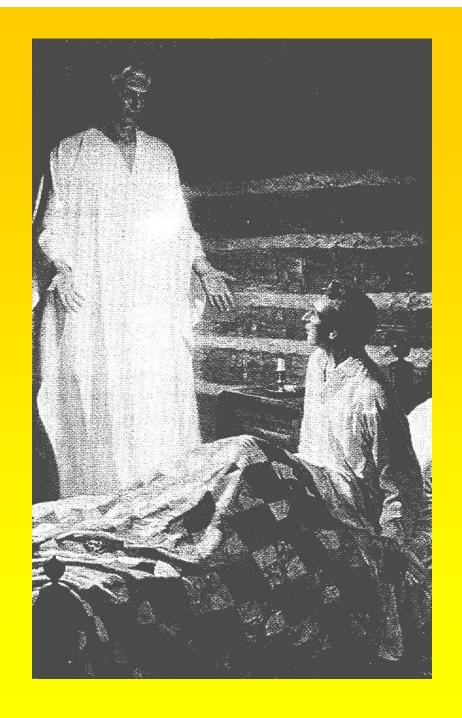
He was about to call on God to deliver him when suddenly he saw "a pillar of light" over his head.



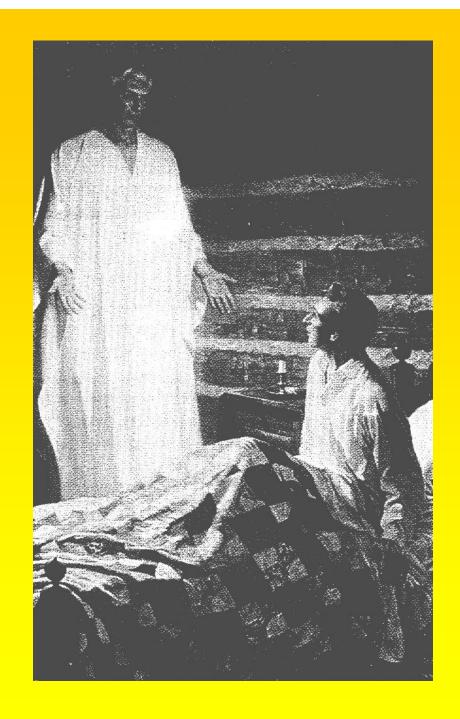
In the light were two beings he says were God the Father and Jesus the Son.



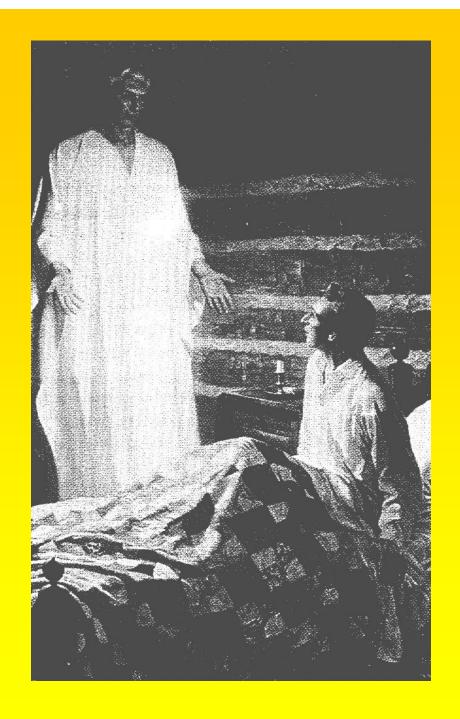
The beings told him not to join any denominations because they were all wrong and their creeds were an abomination to God.



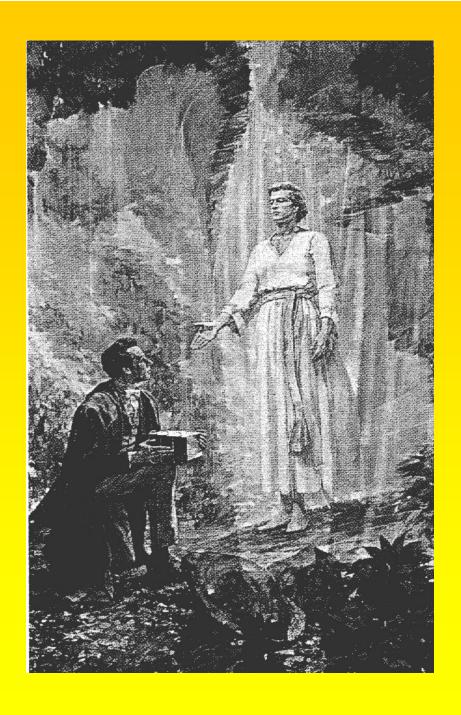
Smith claims that several years later, on the night of September 21, 1823, after seeking God's forgiveness for his sinful ways, that an angel named Moroni appeared to him three times.



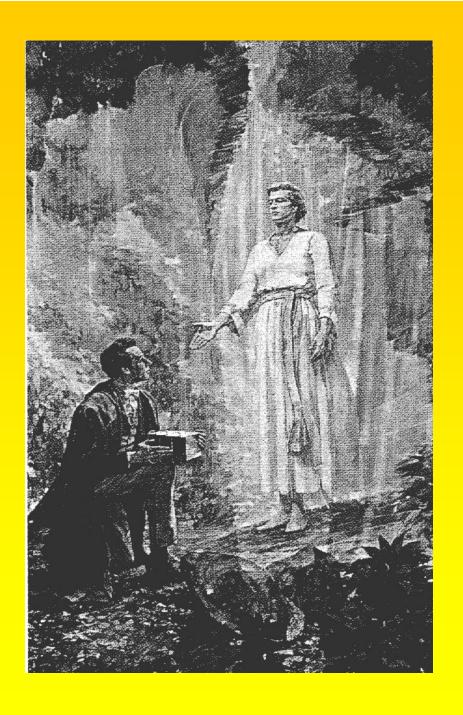
Moroni told Smith about a hidden book written on "golden plates." The book told about the lost tribes of Israel coming to America and the fullness of the everlasting Gospel.



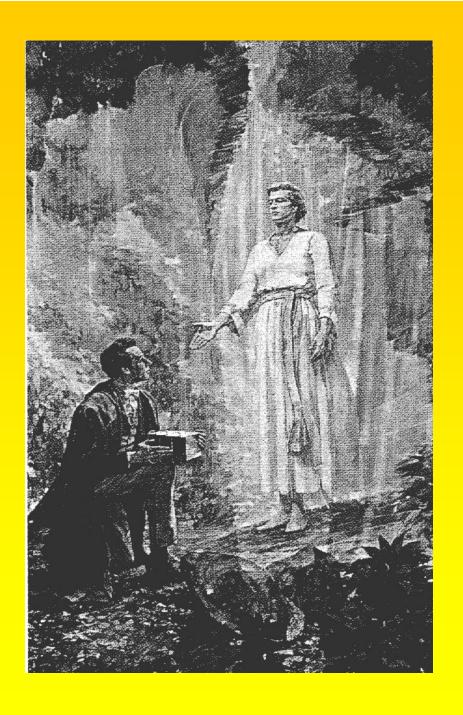
The angel also said that there were two ancient, magical stones that Smith could use to understand and translate the ancient language on the golden plates.



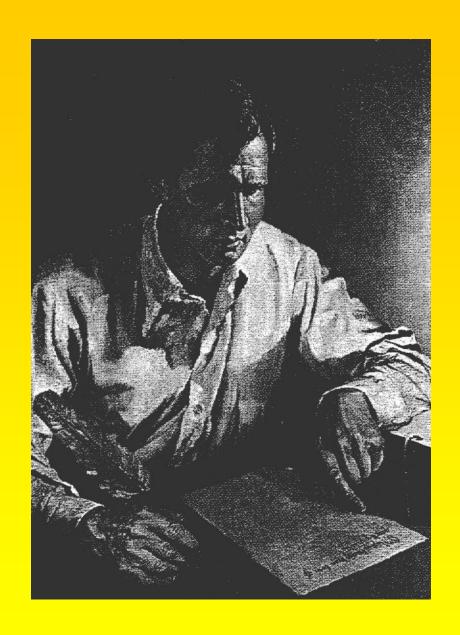
The next day,
Moroni
supposedly
appeared to him
again and told
him to confess
the vision to his
father.



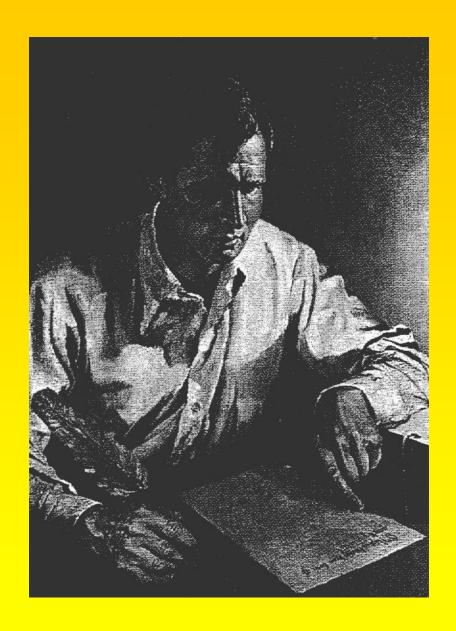
After Joseph Smith confessed to his father, he went and found the golden plates and magical stones hidden on the side of a hill in western New York state.



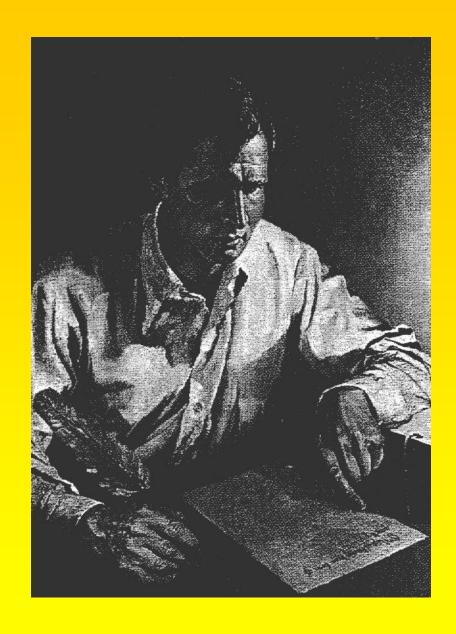
The angel Moroni did not allow Smith to take the golden plates at that time, but he was instructed to return each year to meet with the angel at that location.



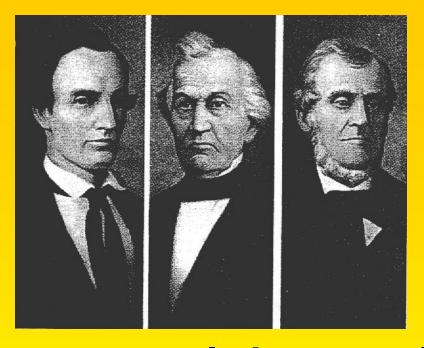
On September 22, 1827, Smith claims that he was commissioned by the angel to take the golden plates and translate them using the magical "seer" stones.



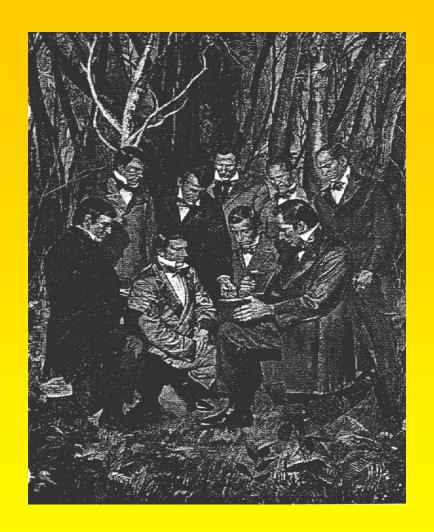
These stones were supposedly the ones that the Old Testament high priests used to know God's will, called the "Urim and Thummim".



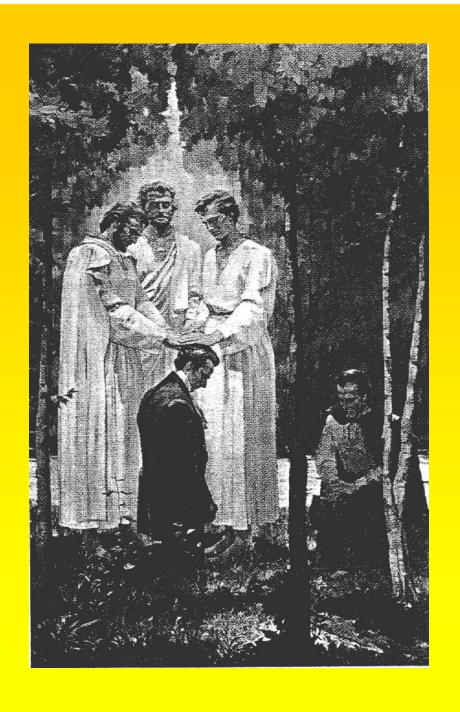
The golden plates were translated into what became known as the Book of Mormon. It was eventually completed and published in 1830. Later, the plates were taken by the angel to heaven.



The Witnesses: People began to listen to Smith's tales of golden plates, but had doubt. Soon he gained a following, but people wanted to see the plates. Mormonism teaches that three witnesses named Oliver Cowdery, Martin Harris, and David Whitmer went into the woods with Smith and there the angel showed them the golden plates.



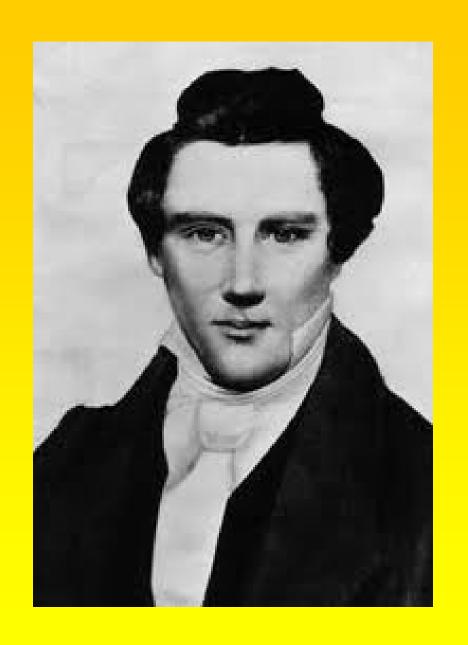
Later, Smith showed the plates to eight witnesses. They all signed a proclamation stating that they saw and handled the plates.



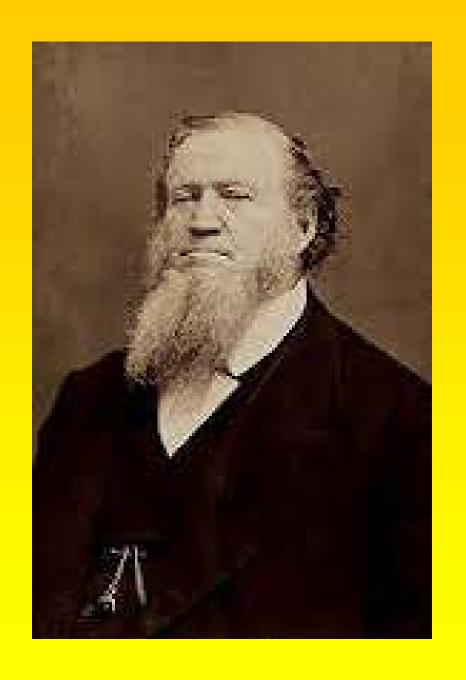
Smith claims that he and Oliver **Cowdery were** visited by John the **Baptist** and ordained in the **Aaronic Priesthood.** Later, he says that the Apostles Peter, James, and John came and ordained him in the Melchizedek Priesthood.



The number of Smith's followers grew but they had to move westward as a result of persecution by the unbelievers.



Smith kept writing and was eventually arrested and then martyred in 1844 in Carthage, Illinois.



Brigham Young then led the group to the present state of Utah. Today, Mormonism has million of followers.

The Core of Mormon Doctrine

Answering Mormonism

Fawn Brodie's book

Ex-Mormon, Fawn Brodie, wrote: "The moving power of Mormonism was a fable – one that few converts stopped to question." – *No Man Knows My History: The Life of Joseph Smith*

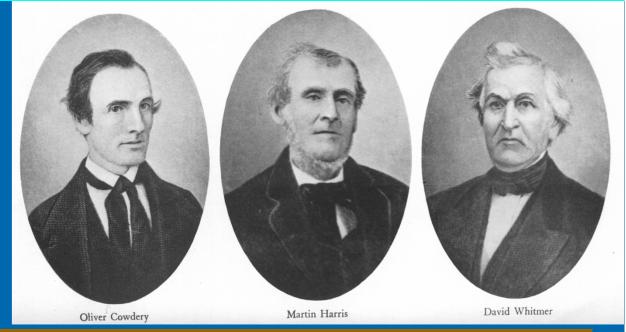
2 Timothy 4:3-4

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."

1 Timothy 1:3-4

"I urged you . . . Teach no other doctrine . . . Nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith."

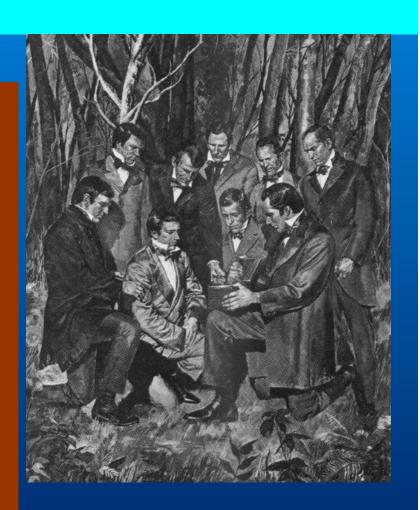
The Problem with the 3 Witnesses



- > All told different accounts of the golden plates.
- Martin Harris: Only saw plates with the "eye of faith". (12 religions)
- Oliver Cowdery: Accused Smith of lying, adultery, and teaching false doctrine. (2nd Elder, ordained with Smith by John the Baptist)
- David Whitmer: Excommunicated by Smith; claimed to be prophet of New Church of Christ. (Never did return)

The Problem with the 8 Witnesses

- Family ties: 3 were Smiths,4 Whitmers, & Hiram Page married a Whitmer.
- Two died & the rest left the Church by 1838.
- 2 tried to sue the Church for crimes.
- Report of coercion to Governor Thomas Ford of Illinois.



2 Corinthians 11:14

"For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light."

Galatians 1:8

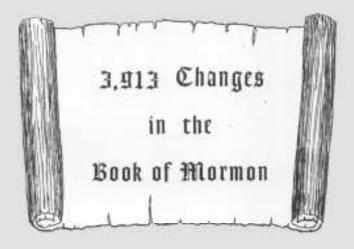
"But even if we or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we preached to you, let him be accursed."

Apostle Orson Pratt

"The Book of Mormon claims to be a divinely inspired record . . . This book must be either true or false . . . If false, it is one of the most cunning, wicked, bold, deep-laid impositions ever palmed upon the world, calculated to deceive and ruin millions who will sincerely receive it as the word of God . . . If true, no one can possibly be saved and reject it; if false, no one can possibly be saved and receive it."

-- Works, 1851

The book that Mormon founders considered the most accurate of any book on earth has since had thousands of grammatical and doctrinal changes.



A Photo Reprint of the Original 1838 Edition of The Book of Mormon With all the Changes Marked

By Jerald & Sandra Tanner

Ether 15:30-31

"And it came to pass that when Coriantumr had leaned upon his sword, that he rested a little, he smote off the head of Shiz. And it came to pass that after he had smitten off the head of Shiz, that Shiz raised up on his hands and fell; and after that he had struggled for breath, he died."

No evidence for Mormon 6

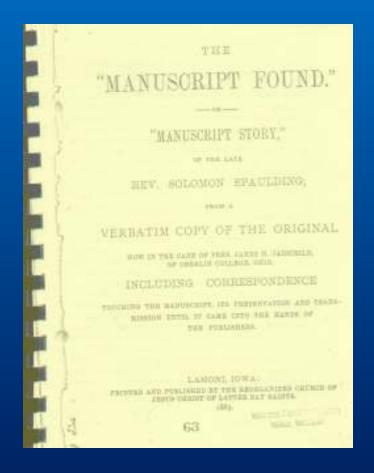
- Palmyra battle: In one day 230,000 Nephites killed, plus countless Lamanites near Palmyra, New York, circa 400 AD. (Where's the proof?)
- Civil War: 204,000 battlefield casualties.
- > WWI: 126,000 American casualties.
- > WWII: 405,000 American casualties.

Smithsonian Institute refutes claims of Mormonism:

- 1. American Indians came over Bering Strait land bridge.
- 2. Norsemen were first people to reach North America from the east around 1000 AD.
- 3. No horses, iron, steel, etc. prior to 1492.
- 4. No findings of ancient Egyptian or Hebrew writings in New World prior to 1492.

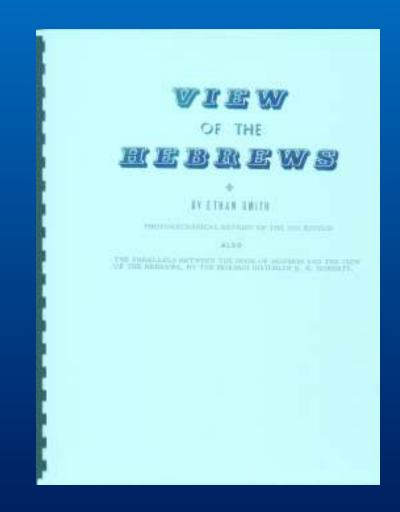
Manuscript Found - Spaulding

A novel written years before Smith's book of Mormon. A discovered manuscript shows that an ancient civilization once existed.



View of the Hebrews

A book written two years prior to the book of Mormon. It states a hypothesis about the American Indians being from lost tribes of Israel.





Answering Mormonism: Part Two

Some of the False Doctrines

1. They teach that God the Father has a body of flesh.

But the Bible teaches that God the Father is Spirit (John 4:23-24). A spirit does not have flesh and bone (Luke 24:39). Neither does the Father (Matthew 16:17).

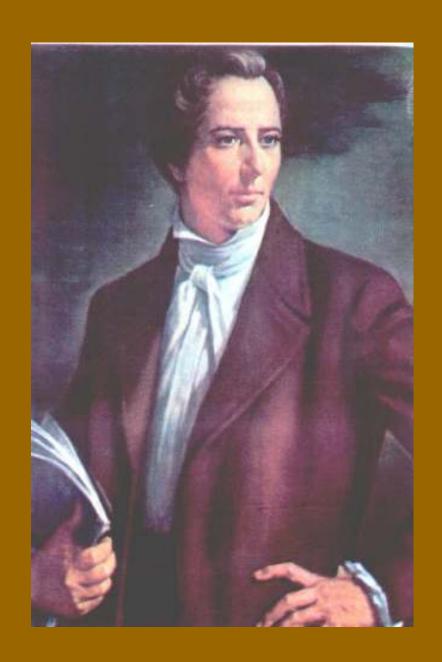
2. They are in the process of altering their teaching of polytheism, that male Mormons can each become gods and rule their own planets someday.

But the Bible has always taught that there is only one Lord and God (Deut. 6:4; Eph. 4:4-6; John 5:44; Isaiah 45:5-6). There has only ever been one God (Isaiah 43:10-11). The deception of becoming a god was a part of Satan's plot (Genesis 3:4-5).

Joseph Smith:

"God himself, who sits enthroned in yonder heavens, is a man like unto one of yourselves, that is the great secret . . . You have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves."

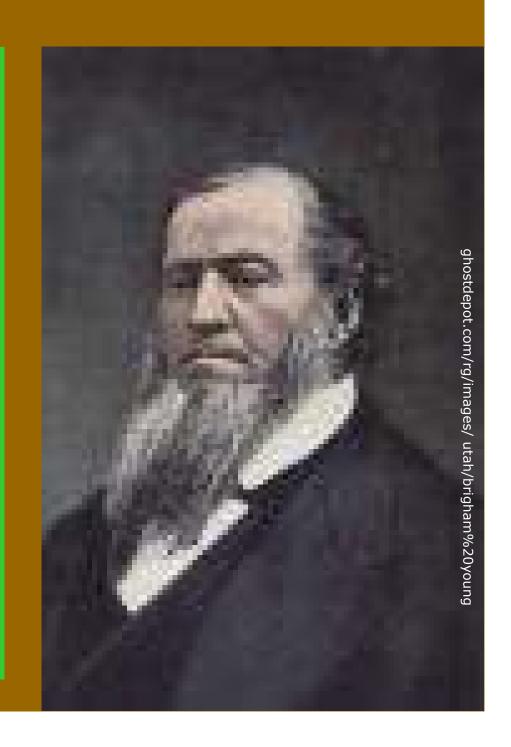
Times and Seasons,Vol. 5, pp 613-614



Brigham Young:

"He is our Father the Father of our spirits, and was once a man in mortal flesh as we are, and is now an exalted being."

Journal ofDiscourses, Vol. 7, p.333



3. They have taught that Jesus evolved into becoming a god.

But the Bible teaches that Jesus always remains the same (Hebrews 13:8) and that He is the true God. (1st John 5:20; Isaiah 9:6).

The Evolution of God doctrine

LeGrand Richards: (1966, Mormon Apostle)

"As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become."

-- Letters from LeGrand Richards

4. They teach that Satan is the spirit brother of Jesus.

But the Bible refutes this by showing that Jesus the only Son of God (John 3:16).

5. They used to teach that Jesus was born through physical sex with Mary.

But the Bible does not support this. It teaches that Mary was a virgin even at conception (Isaiah 7:14) and that it was the Spirit of God that did it (Luke 1:35).

6. They taught that the blood of Christ was not sufficient for some sins.

But the Bible teaches that the blood of Christ alone is sufficient to cover any and all sins (1st John 1:7, 9; 1st Peter 1:18-19).

7. They teach that salvation = faith + baptism + obedience + membership.

But the Bible teaches that salvation is strictly a faith issue with God because we can't become "good enough" to earn it (Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9).

8. They teach the need to keep genealogies in order to proxy salvation through baptism for the dead.

But the Bible teaches that taking note of endless genealogies is unproductive (1st Timothy 1:3-4; Titus 3:9).

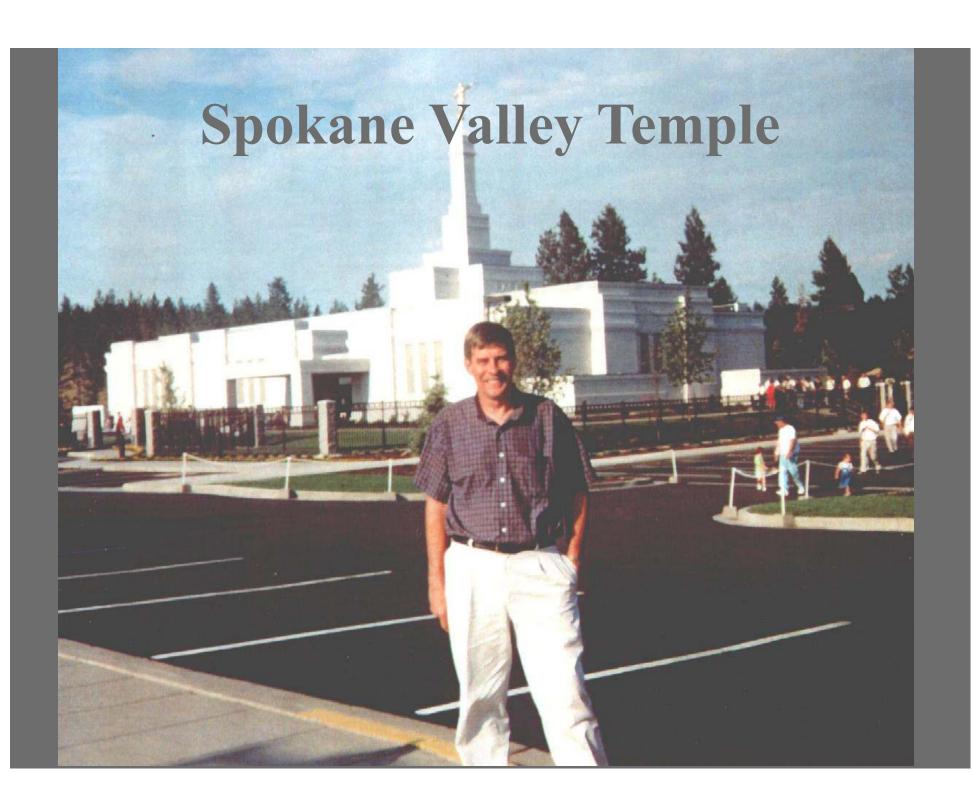
9. They teach the doctrine of eternal marriage between men and women.

But the Bible teaches that those who are resurrected to life will not be married nor will they marry (Matt. 22:30; Mark 12:25; Luke 20:34-35). The only marriage referred to at that time is the marriage of the Lamb of God (Jesus) to His church and this will remain a mystery to us until then (Rev. 19:7, 9).

Quote from *The God Makers* by Ed Decker & Dave Hunt

"There is no doctrine more central to Mormonism today nor more firmly held than that of eternal or celestial marriage, which must be performed for the living and the dead. This doctrine is causing thousands of divorces among Mormons."

-- The God Makers, p. 162



Problems with Reversals

False Perceptions

Growth and Retention

- LDS Church records count everyone who has ever been baptized, but actual retention rates are only about 1/3 of converts.
- According to various PEW statistical reports, LDS has been flat lining or even shrinking in the U.S.

Scholarly Problems:

- ➤ Stan Larson: A Ph.D. in New Testament; in 1986, he was forced to resign from LDS translation department after he claimed that Smith had plagiarized from the 1769 King James Bible in 3 Nephi 12, rather than getting it from the golden plates.
- ➤ David P. Wright: A Hebrew scripture specialist; in 1988, he was fired from BYU for believing that the Book of Mormon was a nineteenth century writing of Joseph Smith.

Scholarly Problems:

- Thomas S. Ferguson: the father of LDS Mesoamerican research, sadly concluded after a life time of research and writing books that the Book of Mormon was "a piece of fiction." (Mormon America, 1999, p. 272)
- Professor William Hamblin: A current professor at BYU, he believes that policies set by BYU administration currently eliminate students doing serious research on ancient book of Mormon studies. He has been denied numerous times. Students take minimal classes on the ethics of the book but are not allowed to authenticate its historicity. (How BYU Destroyed Ancient Book of Mormon Studies, www.patheos.com, 9/8/2015

Problems with Mormon Books

Book of Abraham - exposed as a fraud!

Mormon Book of Abraham Exposed









The pictures on the left are from ancient Egyptian papyri. Joseph Smith said he used the first three to translate the Book of Abraham found in the Pearl of Great Price.

The book tells about Abraham and his close experience of almost being sacrificed. It tells of the first Pharaoh, a righteous man, and then of decline of the Egyptians. It explains how Abraham received revelation about the star Kolob which is so important in Mormon theology.

The collection of Smith's papyri was lost for many years but rediscovered in 1967. Mormon apologists eagerly sought to have them translated to prove to the world the authenticity of the book and of Smith's ability to translate ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. Several Egyptologists translated the papyri and revealed that they had nothing to do with Abraham. Actually, they are about an ancient Egyptian funeral rite.

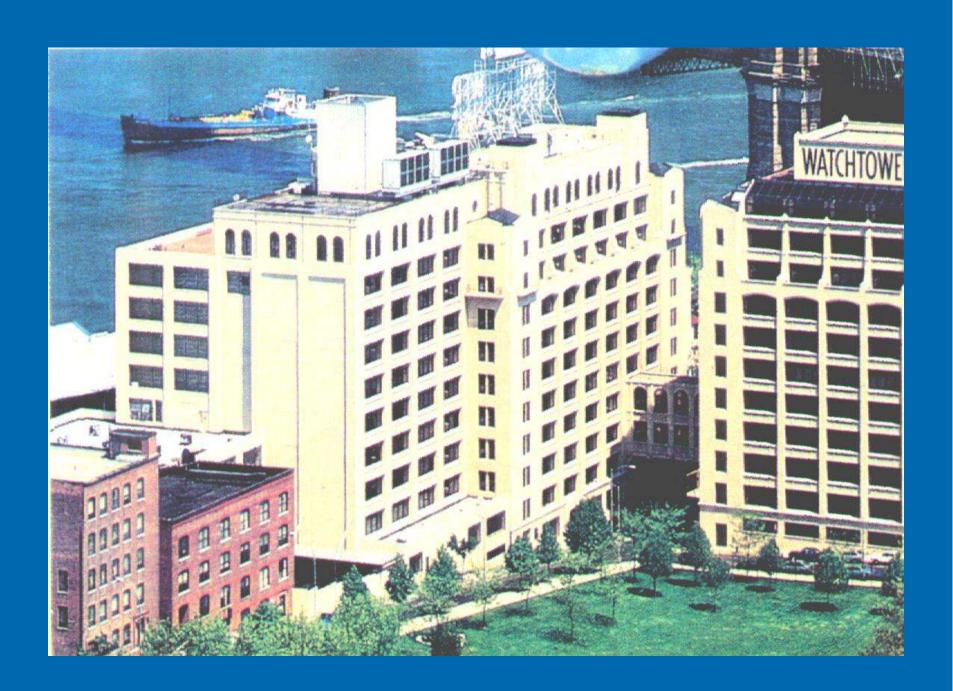
When confronted with this, a BYU professor Hugh Nibley figured that the bottom papyri must have been where Smith got the information. However, this made no sense since the length of this partial piece only reveals a few words and the Book of Abraham has thousands. Also, when deciphered, the papyri explains itself. It is the Book of Breathings which is a part of the Egyptian Book of the Dead filled with magic, pagan rituals and pagan gods. Mormons who know about this have no rational explanation. It appears to make Smith a phony which has serious implications.

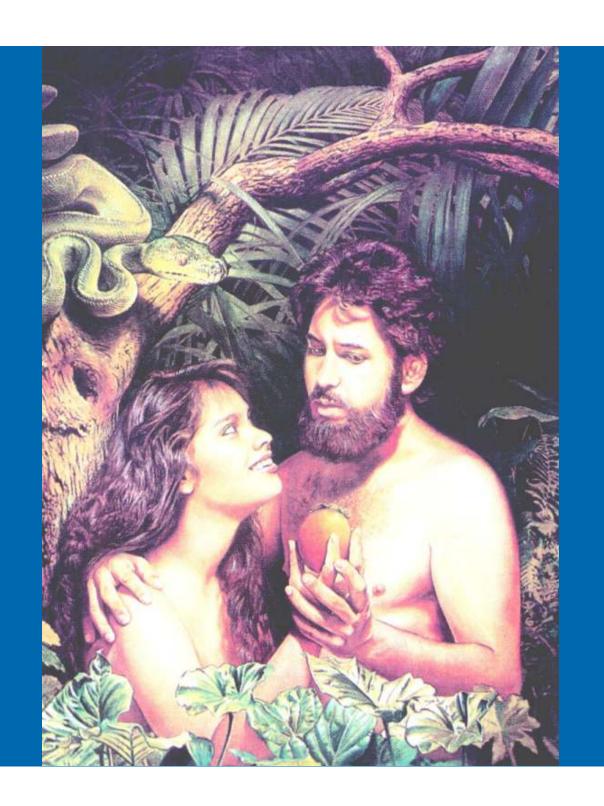


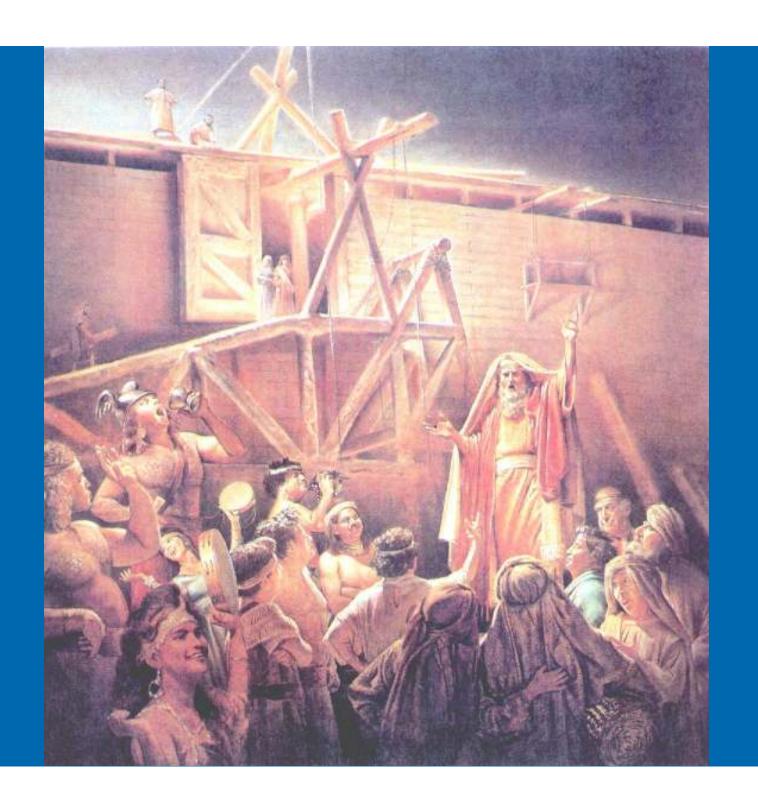
Answering Jehovah's Witnesses

The Watchtower Today

The History of the Watchtower





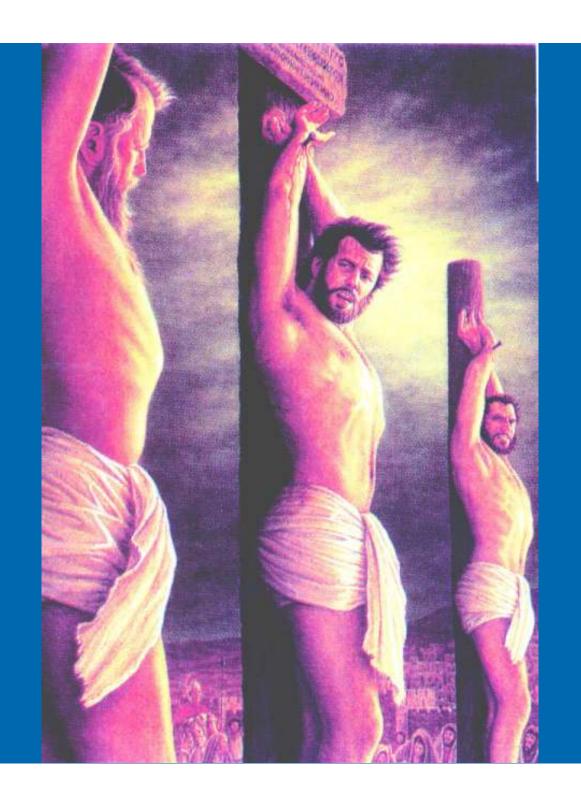


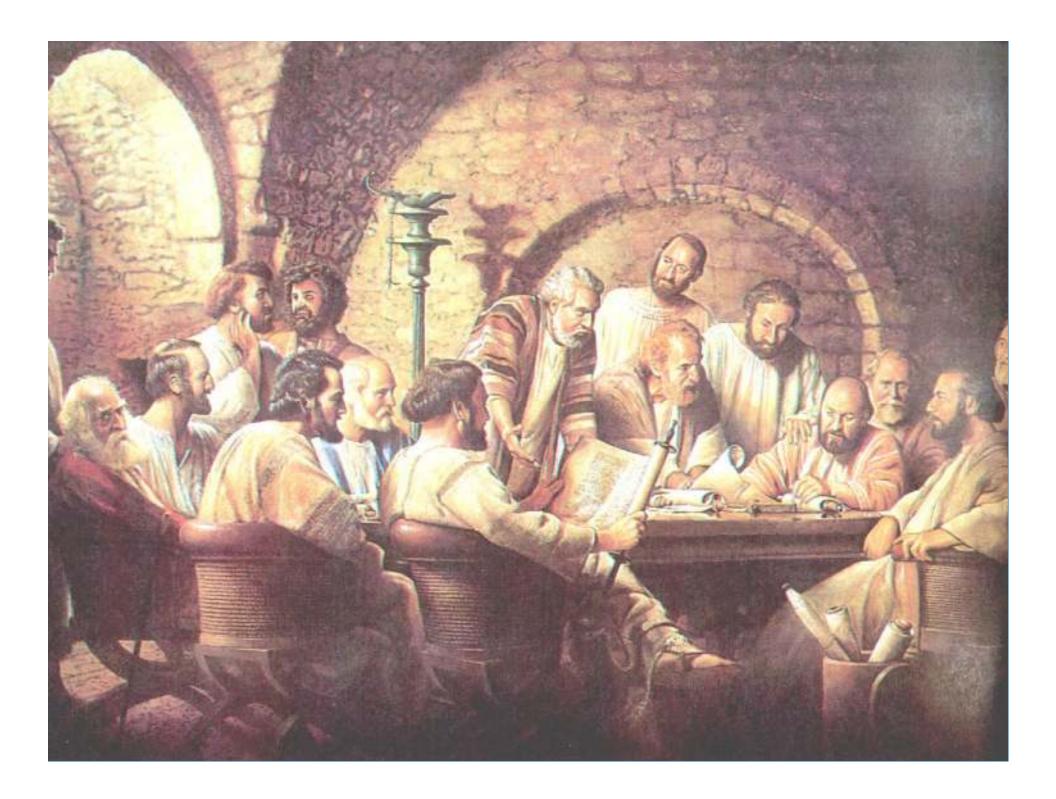


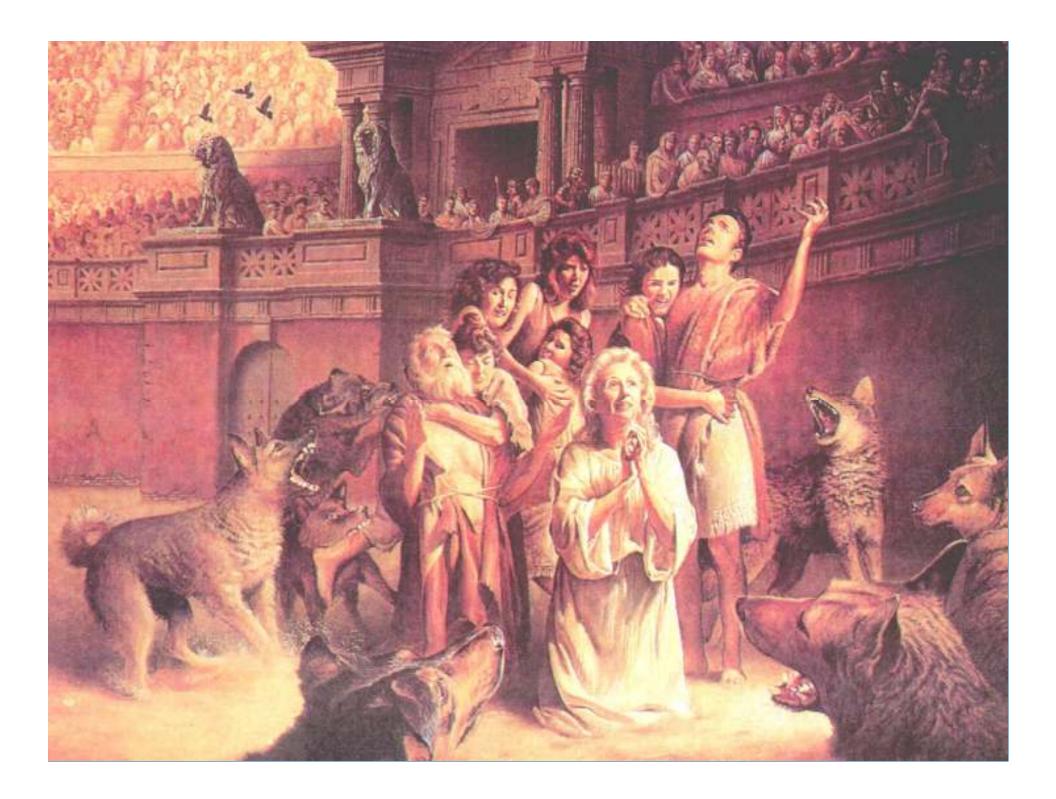
Witness" by raising him from the di on the third day. This confirmed to the witness Jesus had given pertaining the Kingdom was true. (Acts 2:31-4:10; 10:36-43; 17:31) After remain in the vicinity of the earth for 40 da during which time he appeared to apostles on numerous occasions, Jeascended to heaven.—Acts 1:1-3, 9.

Jesus had indicated that the estilishment of the Messianic Kingdom God would be in the far distant futu (Luke 19:11-27) That event would a mark the start of Jesus' "presence and the conclusion of the system of thing (Matt. 24:3) But how could his folloers on earth discern when these thir would occur? Jesus gave them a "sig













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Charles Taze Russell was born in 1852 in Pennsylvania. He was raised Presbyterian and then switched to a Congregational church. He became disturbed by some of the doctrines and left.



"Waterman, What of the Mark?" "The Marning Cometic."- fre. 222, 52

PITTSBURGH, PA. JULY, 1971 ternal by all these green of these Propin to give measures and say Watch Tower and a major of the person is a series to a IN PURE AND PETERSONIES, PR. The reserve of These Warter Time the man of real greet to desert to Table 16 Year to be seened to see the reserve to be seen and mar of Their, that there may be note been property. atory of Copies addressment of the integral or most team, about Ned now be teamy: "In our R nas (but the many territor) (but feet = 1 at he these many review, line as when

Now he was skeptical of **Christianity and got** caught up in the **Second Adventist** movement of the late 19th century. He, along with others, looked for **Christ to return in** 1874.



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When it didn't happen, he taught that Christ had returned invisibly and spiritually, but not physically.



Witchman, What of the Manter "The Marning Cometic."- fre. 520, 52

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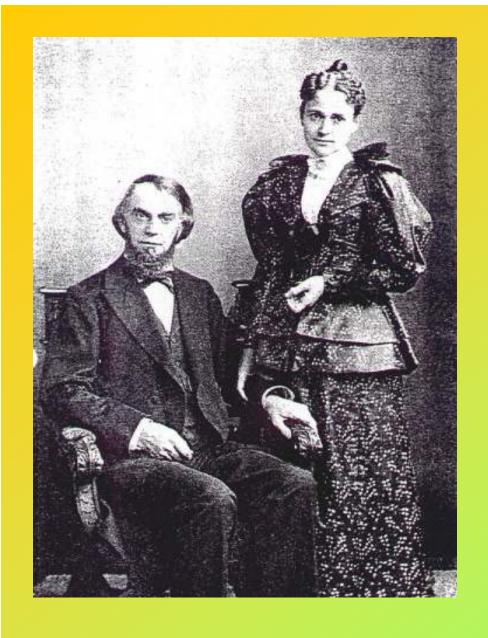
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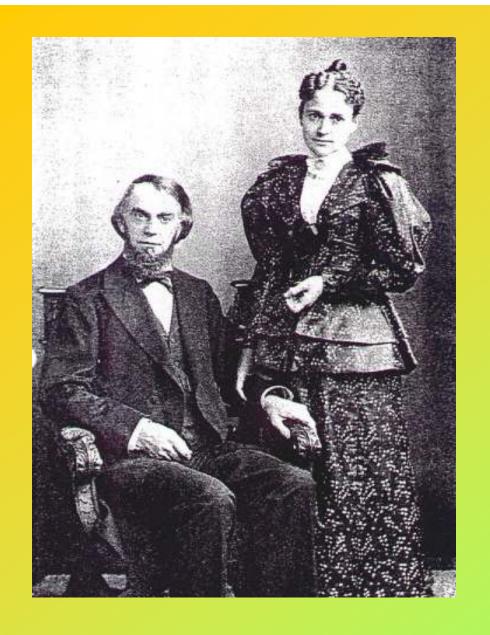
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PITTSBURGH, PA. JULY, 1971 ternal by all these green of these Propin to give measures and say Watch Tower makes on a majorer to approve the statement

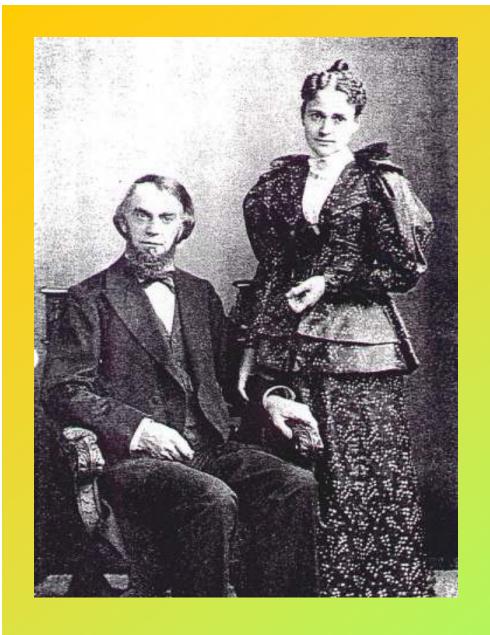
In the 1870's he began publishing a newspaper that would eventually become the Watchtower Magazine. By 1880, he had a sizable following of about 30 congregations.



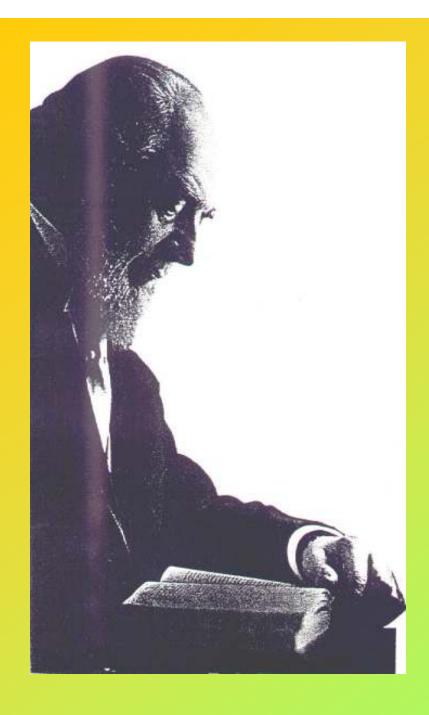
Maria Ackley married Charles Russell in 1879 and became a real support of him. She taught others that he was the "faithful and wise servant" mentioned in Matthew 24:45.



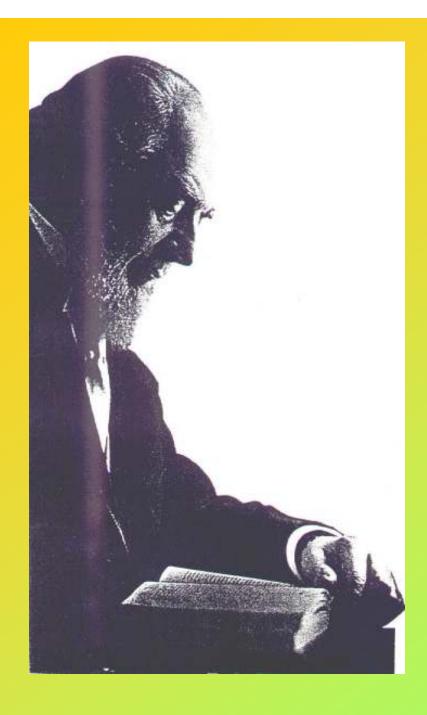
Eventually however, she became disillusioned with him. By 1897, she separated from Russell with accusations of his adulterous affairs.



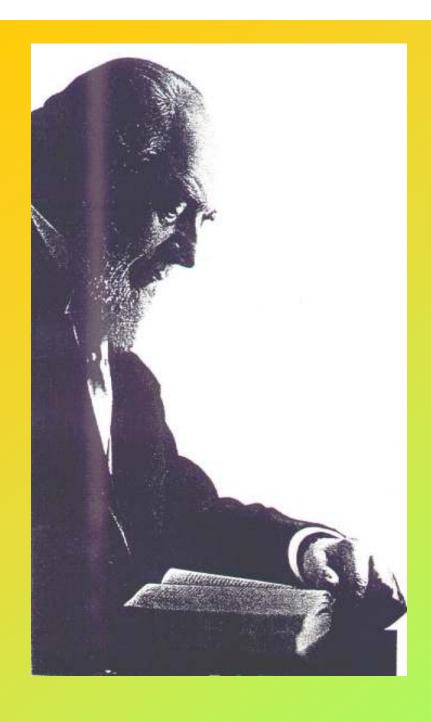
She finally divorced him and then taught that he was the "evil servant" spoken of in Matthew 24:48.



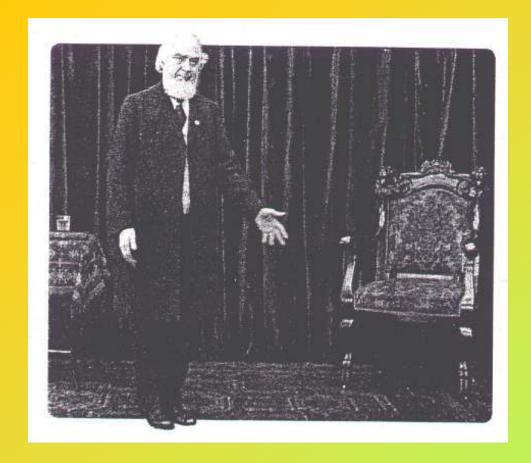
Russell's honesty and integrity were challenged many times with regard to money raising ventures and his mistranslation of Scripture.



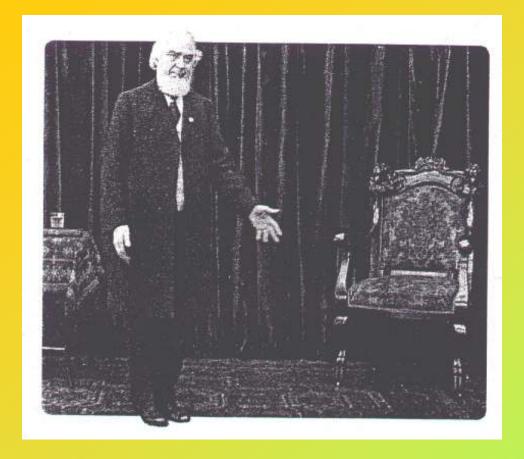
He once
perjured
himself in court,
not being able
to translate the
letters of the
Greek alphabet.



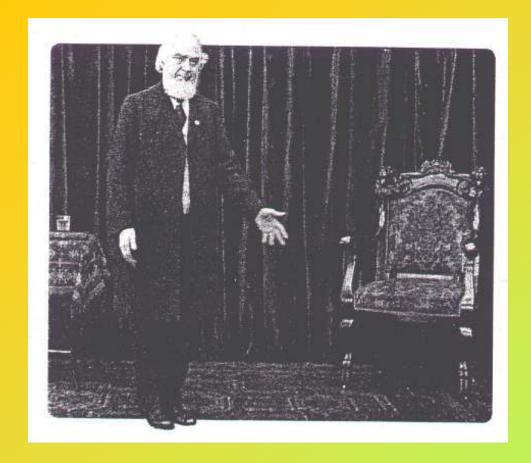
Although he was a prolific writer, he angered many by his teachings. He taught that reading his books entitled Studies in the **Scriptures** would profit someone more than reading the Bible itself.



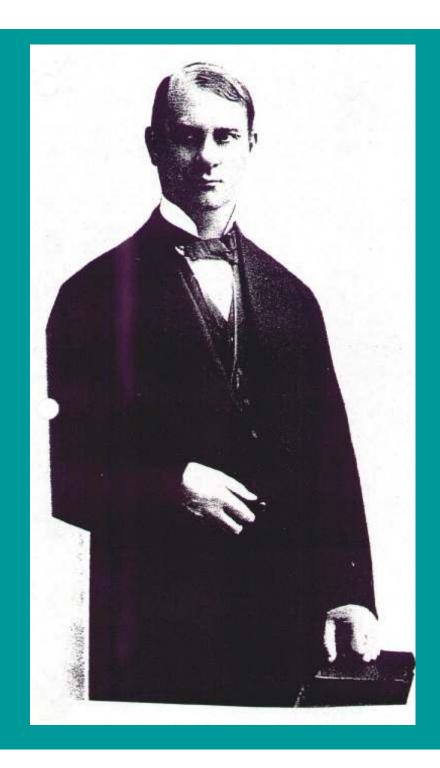
Russell, who had taught that Jesus returned in 1874 invisibly, eventually changed his mind and decided that 1914 was the date of Christ's return and the end of the world.



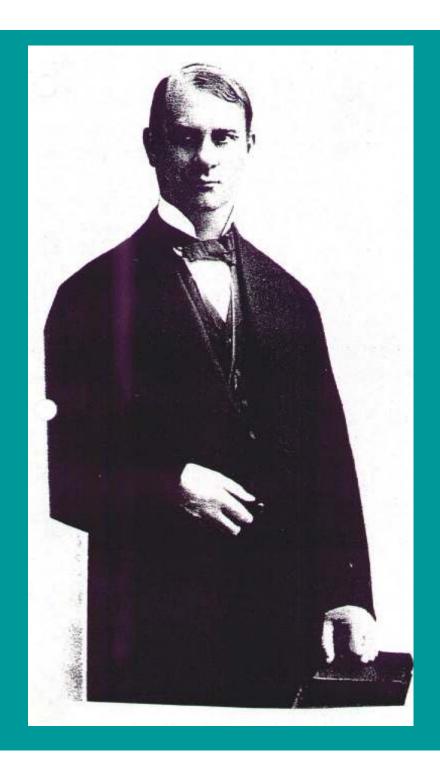
When 1914 came and went without significance, he taught (once again) that Christ's presence had returned invisibly and that 1914 was "the end of the Gentile times."



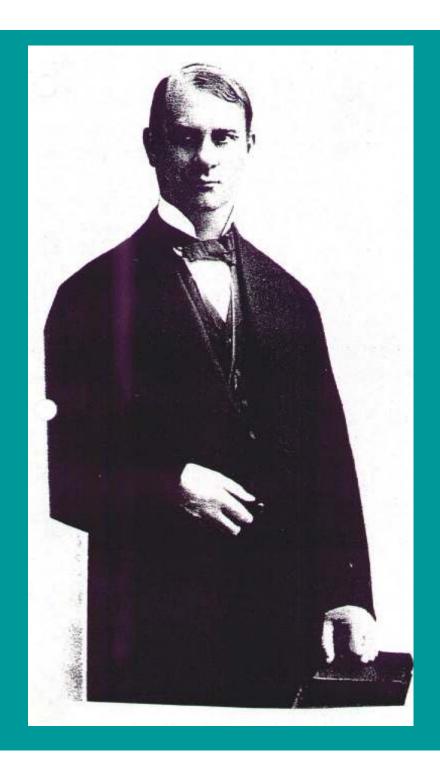
Later, it was taught that Christ's presence embodied the Watchtower organization in 1914.



Joseph Rutherford took over the **Watchtower in 1917** after Russell's death. **Under his** influence, the **Watchtower** became a major organization and was seen as God's voice on earth.

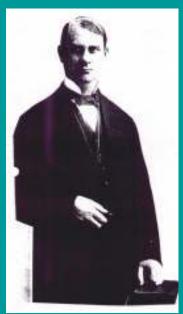


He also taught that Christ had returned invisibly and spiritually in 1914.



Beginning in 1918, Rutherford began predicting that the O. T. patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, plus other prophets would be resurrected and rule the earth in 1925.





Though that prophecy failed, he still believed they would soon return. In 1929, he had a special house, "Beth-Sarim" built for them in San Diego, CA, to occupy upon their return. They did not return, but he lived there until his death in 1942. The house was sold in 1948.

THE WORLD HAS ENDED

Millions Now Living Will Never Die

Free Lecture by

HON. J. F. RUTHERFORD

Member New York City Bar

to order that the people of Boston may have an opportunity to consider his convincing and heart cheering message, the International Bible Students have arranged for Mr. Rutherford to deliver his great tree lecture to the public.



Thousands of America's sons have gone to the battlefield. Many may die there. Judge Rutherford's fecture gives conclusive proof of future blessings for them, whether they die Christians or not. This message will bring joy and comfort to every heart.

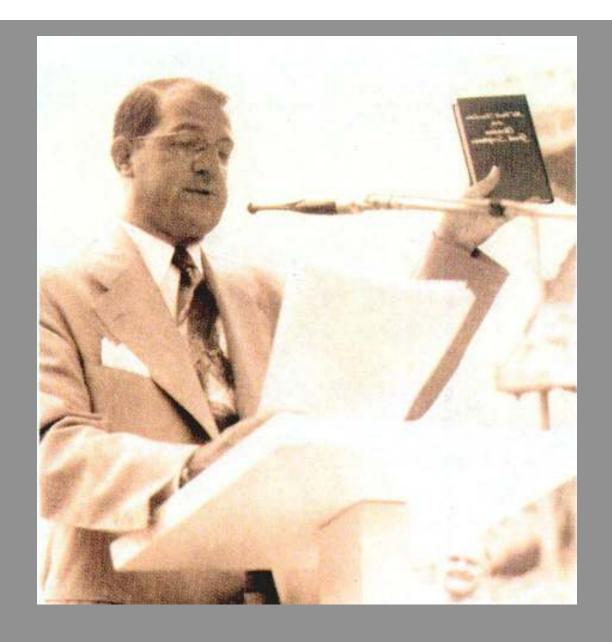
AT HIPPODROME NATIONAL THEATRE

TREMONT STREET NEAR BERKELEY

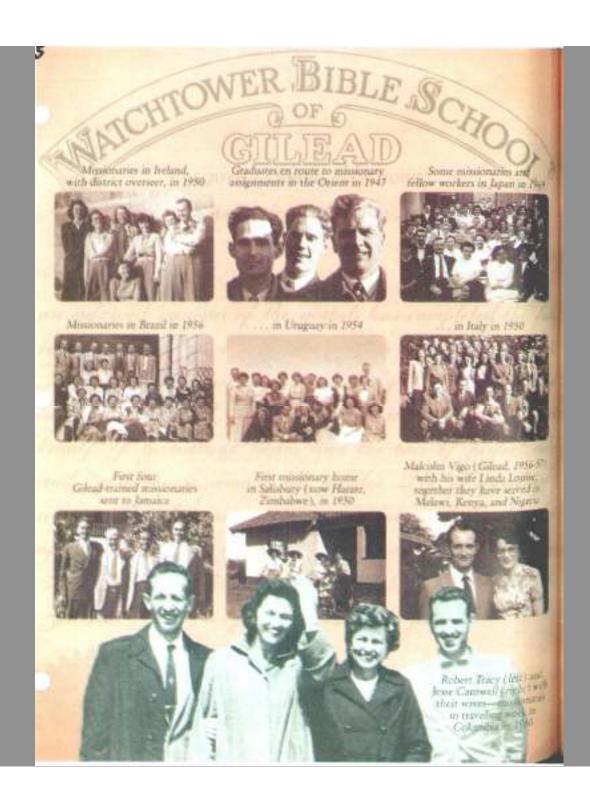
3 P. M. SUNDAY, MARCH 31

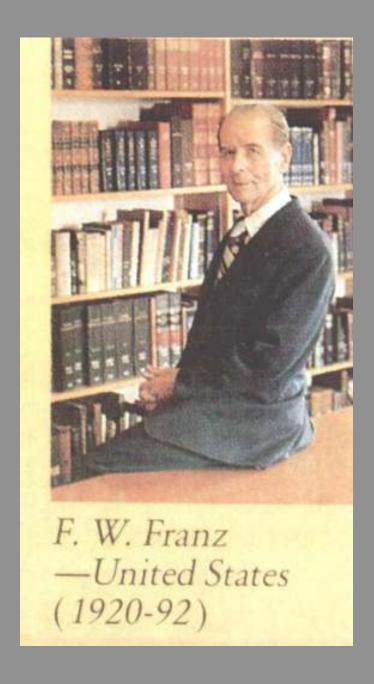
ALL SEATS FREE

NO COLLECTION

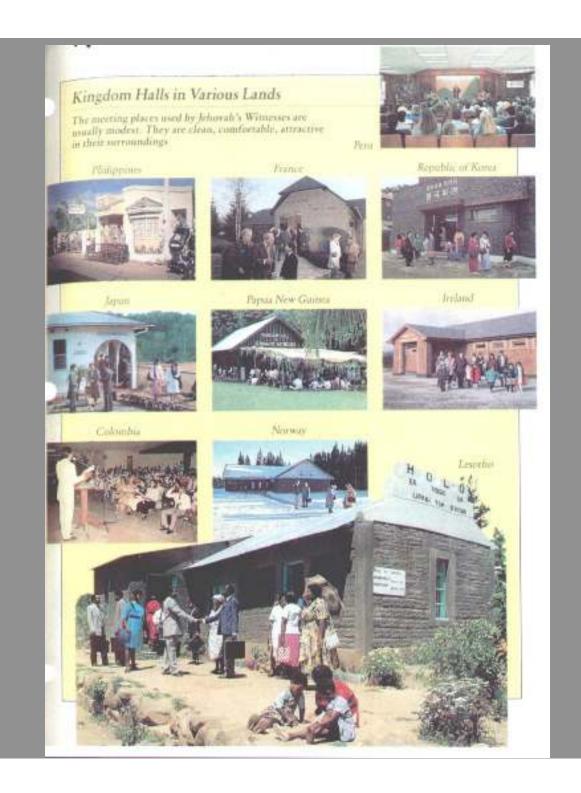


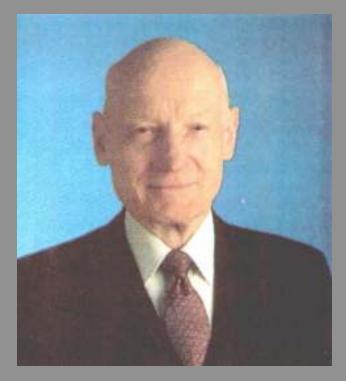
Nathan H. Knorr led the Watchtower from 1942 until 1977





Frederick
Franz led the
Watchtower
from 1977 to
1992.





Milton G. Henschel led the Watchtower from 1992 to 2000 at which time a major restructuring of leadership occurred.



Don Adams is the current president of the Watch Tower Society

Some False Doctrines

Six false doctrines?

1. They deny the doctrine of the Trinity.

But the Bible teaches that the Father is God (2 Peter 1:17), the Son is God (John 20:28), and the Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:3-4).

Six false doctrines?

2. They deny the Deity of Jesus Christ.

But the Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is part of the Trinity of God (Matthew 28:20; Colossians 2:9.

John 1:1 in the New World Translation

"In the beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god."

John 5:18 NWT

"On this account, indeed, the Jews began seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath but he was also calling God his own Father, making himself equal to God."

Six false doctrines?

3. They teach that the Holy Spirit is only an active force.

But the Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit has personality that comforts (John 14:26), sanctifies (Romans 15:16), etc.

Genesis 1:2 NWT

"Now the earth proved to be formless and waste and there was darkness upon the surface of [the] watery deep, and God's active force was moving to and fro over the surface of the waters."

John 16:13-14a NWT

"However, when that one arrives, the spirit of truth, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak of his own impulse, but what things he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things coming! That one will glorify me [Jesus], because he will receive from what is mine and will declare it to you."

Six false doctrines?

4. They say the Resurrection was merely a spiritual one.

But the Bible teaches that Jesus rose from the dead physically and in the same body (John 2:19; John 20:28).

Luke 24:39-41 NWT

"See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; feel me and see, because a spirit does not have flesh and bones just as you behold that I have . . . Do you have something to eat?"

Six false doctrines?

5. They deny that Jesus Christ will physically return to the earth.

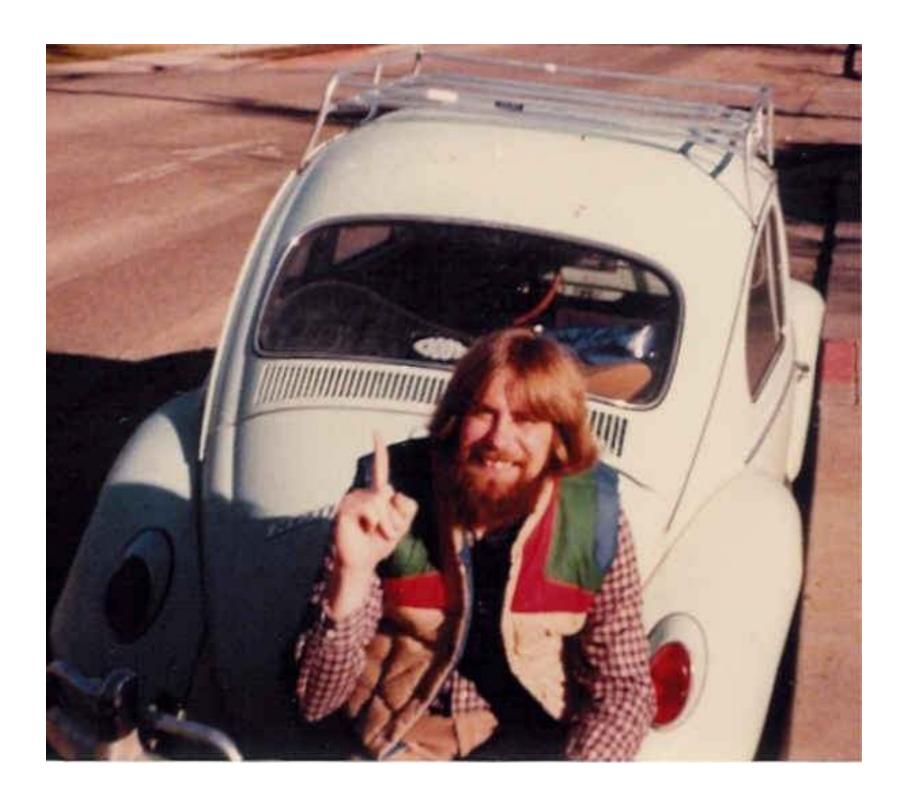
But the Bible teaches that Jesus will physically return just as He left (Acts 1:11).

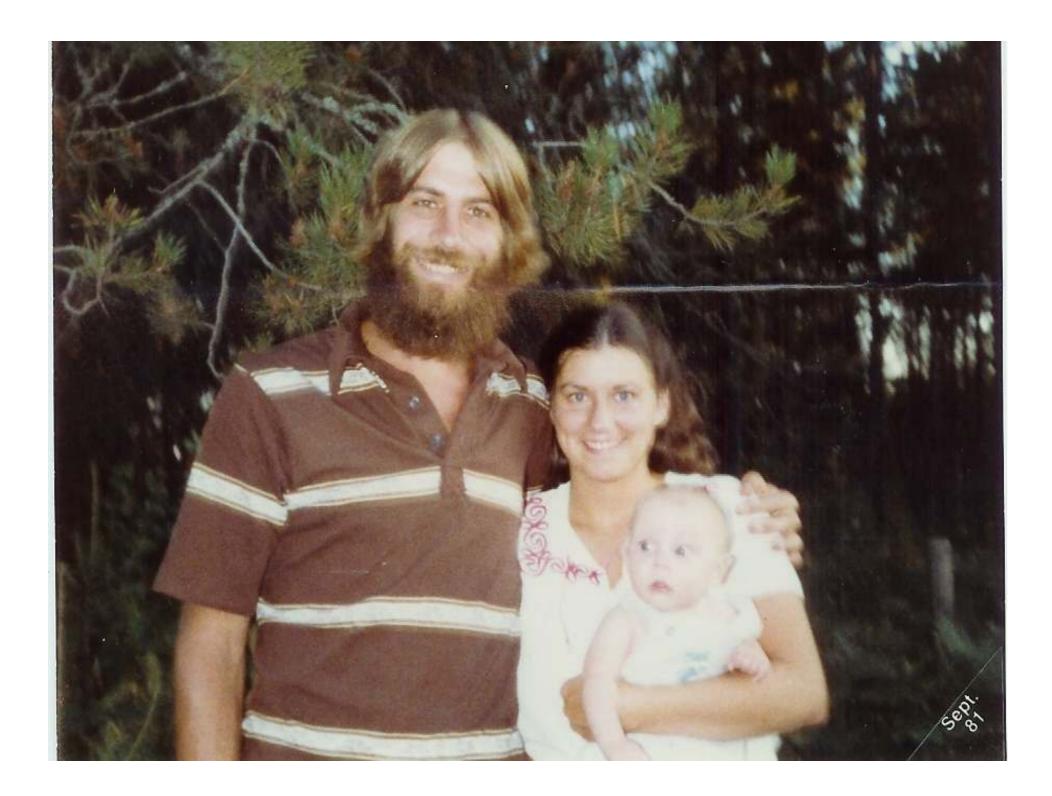
Six false doctrines?

6. They teach that the soul is not immortal.

But the Bible teaches that body and soul are different (Matthew 10:28) and that there is eternal awareness (Matthew 25:46).

Personal Testimony











Answering New Age / Occult

What is the New Age?

The New Age Movement

Western Secular Humanism

- No God
- -Evolution
- —Man supreme
- —Human potential
- —Man is basically good
- —Man can become God

Eastern Hindu Mysticism

- —Pantheism
- —Man is part of impersonal God
- —"The Inner Self"
- —Transcendental Meditation
- —Reincarnation
- —Higher Consciousness

The Occult

- —Spiritism
- —Channeling
- —Spirit Guides
- —Astrology
- -Mediums

Light and Darkness

John 8:12

"Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.

John 12:46

"I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness."

1st John 1:5

"This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is and in Him is no darkness at all."

Romans 13:12

"Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light."

Ephesians 5:11

"Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of **darkness**, but rather expose them."

What is the Occult?

- □ The word comes from the Latin word meaning "hidden or secret things."
- Whereas the word *cult* refers to a group of people, the word *occult* refers to a world view. It refers to any secret power gained through witchcraft, neo-paganism, psychic channeling, magic, astrology, Satanism, New Age, Animism, etc.

The battle of the ages

Each generation of God's people must battle the occult

2nd Timothy 1:7

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear; but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

The Occult Expresses Itself in our Culture

Step on a crack...



Ephesians 6:12

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

Activities



John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

2nd Corinthians 2:4

"For it was the God who commanded light to shine out of the darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

JOHN EDWARD CRUSSING OVER



The Stories Behind the Stories







Old Testament Scriptures

Leviticus 19:26 God's Word Version

"Never cast evil spells, and never consult fortune tellers."

Leviticus 19:31 God's Word Version

"Don't turn to psychics or mediums to get help. That will make you unclean. I am the Lord your God."

Leviticus 20:6-7 God's Word Version

"I will condemn people who turn to mediums and psychics and chase after them . . . Live holy lives. I am the Lord who sets you apart as holy."

Deuteronomy 18:10-13 gwv

"You must never . . . practice black magic, be a fortuneteller, witch, or sorcerer, cast spells, ask ghosts or spirits for help, or consult the dead. . .

Deuteronomy 18:10-13 gwv

". . . Whoever does these things is disgusting to the Lord. The Lord your God is forcing these nations out of your way because of their disgusting practices. You must have integrity in dealing with the Lord your God."

The Impact of Modern Wicca

More than 340,000 registered witches in the United States and many more that dabble in witchcraft

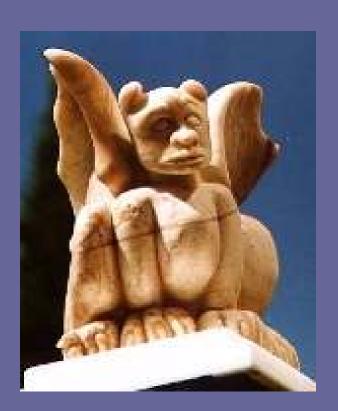
Definitions

- The word Wicca is from Old English. From this we get "witch" and "wicked". Witches define it as "wise ones" but the origin means "bent" or "twisted".
- Old Testament: the Hebrew word for witch means someone who has a familiar spirit (a demon).
- New Testament: the Greek word for witch or sorcerer is pharmakeia from which we get the word pharmacy.

The Great Goddess Diana



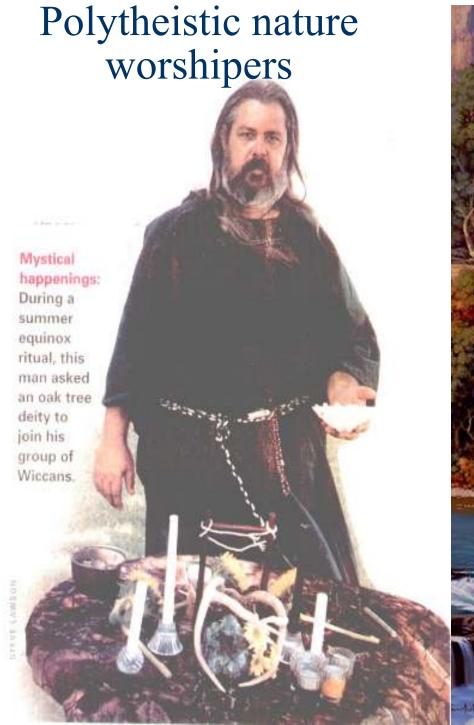
Acts 19 – At Ephesus

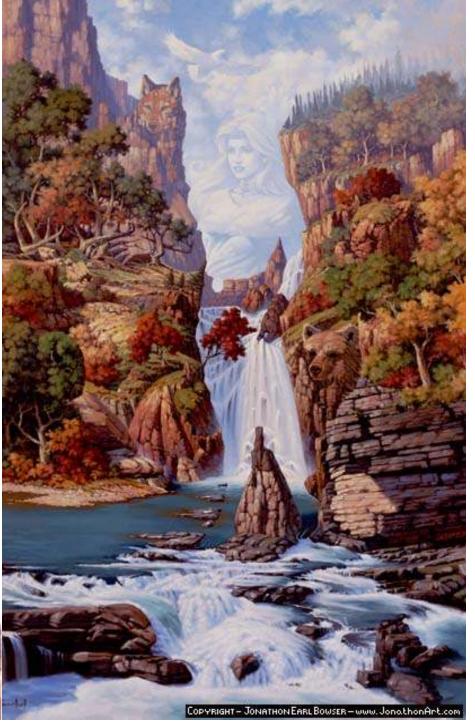


Medieval Times



Modern Times

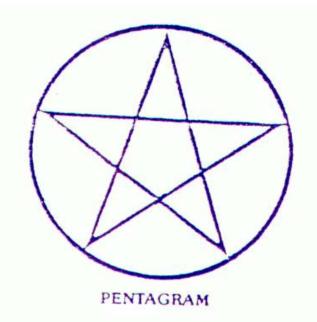




Romans 1:22-23, 25

"Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man – and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things . . . and worshiped the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever."

The pentagram: A five pointed star in an upright position: Top point symbolizes the creator being ruling above the four elements of life – air, fire, water, and earth. The circle, without beginning or end, represents the deity. The star within symbolizes an out-stretched human body. Together, they supposedly represent the deity's protection and wisdom.



Inverting the pentagram is a done by Satanists and symbolizes the elements or material world being superior to the creator.



White and Black Witchcraft



Bringing light into darkness

Jesus is the Light of the world!

Psalm 18:28

"For You will **light** my lamp; The LORD my God will enlighten my darkness."

Psalm 112:4

"Unto the upright there arises **light** in the darkness; He is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous."

Micah 7:8

"Do not rejoice over me, my enemy; When I fall, I will arise; When I sit in darkness, The LORD will be a **light** to me."

Ephesians 5:8

"For you were once darkness, but now you are **light** in the Lord. Walk as children of **light**."

1st Peter 2:9-10

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous **light**; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy."

Isaiah 9:2

The people who walked in darkness
Have seen a great **light**; Those who
dwelt in the land of the shadow of
death, Upon them a **light** has
shined."

Matthew 5:16

"Let your **light** so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

James 1:17

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the **Father of lights**, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."

Prayer and Proclamation

Father God, You loved the world and sent Your Son, Jesus, to save the world from sin. Lord Jesus, I proclaim, as the Scripture says, that You are the Light of the World. In You there is no darkness at all. I want to walk in Your light and not in darkness. . .

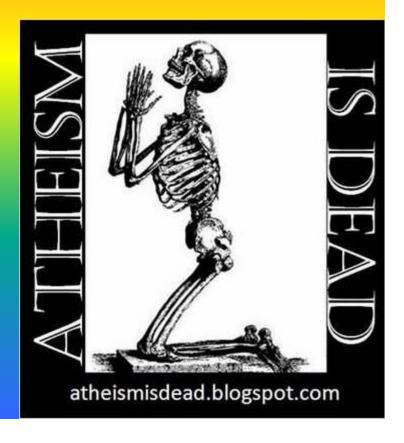
Please remove any darkness from my life. Forgive me and cleanse me from any action, word, or thought that has been offensive to You. Help me to cast off all the works of darkness and put on the armor of light . . .

Protect me from the darkness of the occult, and give me a spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind. I proclaim that You will light my lamp because you are gracious, full of compassion, and righteous. I am part of a chosen generation and have obtained mercy from God . . .

Thank You for calling me out of darkness into Your marvelous light. Thank You for every perfect and good gift. Help me to appropriate and use them. Thank You for lighting my life. Help me to walk as a child of the light. May my light shine before the faces of men that they might give You glory and turn from darkness to light! In Jesus' name, Amen!



Answering Atheism



Introduction

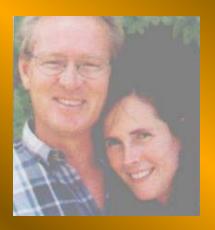
Touched by Compassion

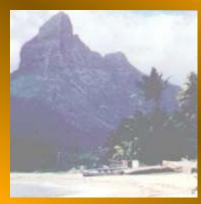


In early 2012, Patrick Green was threatening to sue over a nativity scene in Athens, TX. A serious eye condition forced him to retire early, putting his family in financial distress. Christians raised money to help his family with food. The simple act of kindness caused Green to reevaluate his worldview. He gave his life to Christ and dropped the law suit.

From Atheist to Evangelist

Confirmed atheist, Ian McCormack, died in a hospital in 1982, after being horribly stung by a box jelly fish in the Indian Ocean off Mauritius Island. For 15 minutes while clinically dead, Ian had visions of heaven . . .





From Atheist to Evangelist

... And hell – even though he was an atheist and "full-blown heathen" at the time. Now lan is a pastor in the Assemblies of God and missionary to the poor in Asia. He tells of God's marvelous love and salvation.



Terms

• Agnosticism

Agnosticism

Acts 17:23 "for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD."

-- Unknown = *agnostos* (*Greek*)

Terms

- Agnosticism
- Atheism
- Deism
- Gnosticism
- Panentheism
- Pantheism
- Polytheism
- Theism

Biblical References

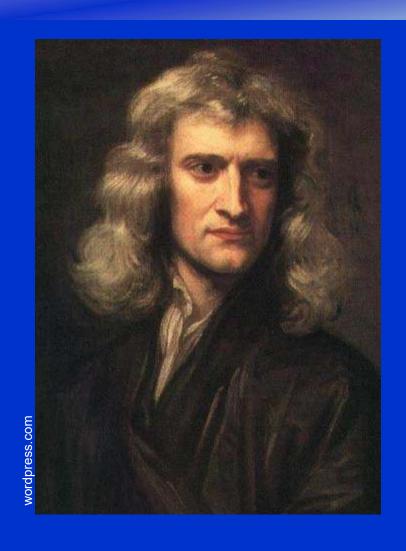
•Psalm 14:1and Psalm 53:1 both proclaim, "The fool has said in his heart there is no God." •Jeremiah 5:12, "They have lied about the Lord, and said, 'It is not He."

 Maimonides translated it this way: "They have denied the Lord, and said he is not."

-- Moses Maimonides, Guide for the Perplexed, page 282.

 Romans 1:22-23 "Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man – and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. ." •Romans 1:28 ". . . And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting."

Sir Isaac Newton





God or chance?

Some Arguments of Atheists

A. The Fact of Evil.

B. The Nature of God.

C. The Nature of Freedom.

Sartre said: "We were a heap of existents, embarrassed by ourselves. We had not the slightest reason for being there, any of us, each existent embarrassed, vaguely ill at ease, felt superfluous; that was the only connection I could establish between these trees, these gates, these pebbles.... I too was superfluous. I was afraid of feeling it . . . the word absurdity is now born beneath my pen... A gesture, an event in the little coloured world of men is never absurd except relatively speaking... in relation to the accompanying circumstances.

A madman's rayings are absurd in relation to the situation in which he finds himself but not in relation to his madness. But I a little while ago experienced the absolute; the absolute or the absurd... The moment was extraordinary. I was there motionless and frozen, plunged into a horrible ecstasy. But in the very heart of that ecstasy something new had appeared. I understood the nausea. The essential thing is contingency. By definition existence is not necessity. To exist is simply to be there. Every existent is born without reason, prolongs itself out of weakness and dies by chance." - Sartre, Nausea

Biblical and Philosophical Refutations

C. S. Lewis' argument

y argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line . . . Thus in the very act of trying to prove that God did not exist - in other words, that the whole of reality was senseless - . . . "

that one part of reality – namely my idea of justice – was full of sense.

Consequently atheism turns out to be too simple. If the whole universe had no meaning, we should never have found out that it has no meaning."

- Lewis, The Joyful Christian, p. 7

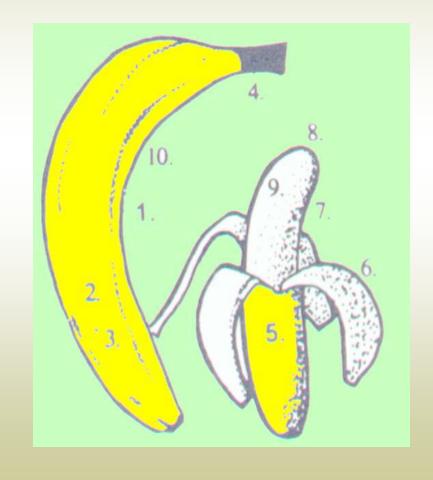
William Paley's Natural Theology

The nineteenth century Anglican Clergyman William Paley argued that if a man found a stone in a field, he may say that it had always existed. But, if the man found a watch, he would know by its intricate components that it had an intelligent designer. So it is, Paley argued, with creation itself.

Paley, W. Natural Theology, American Tract Society, New York, 9-10.

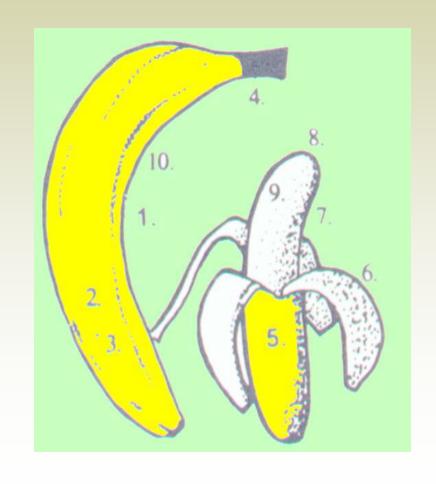
Banana: Problem for Atheists

- 1. Shaped for human hand.
- 2. Non-slip surface.
- 3. Outward indicators of inward state:
 green too early;
 yellow just right;
 black too late!



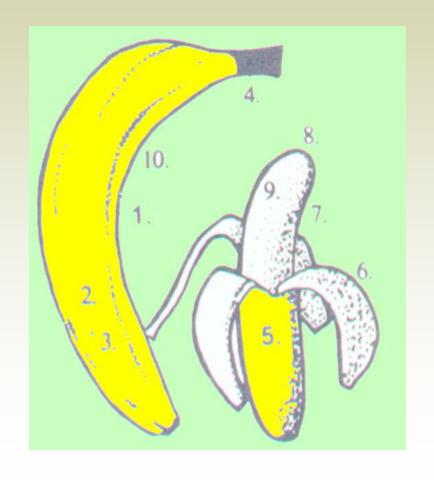
Banana: Problem for Atheists

- 4. Has tab for removal of wrapper.
- 5. Wrapper is perforated.
- 6. Bio-degradable wrapper.
- 7. Shaped for human mouth.

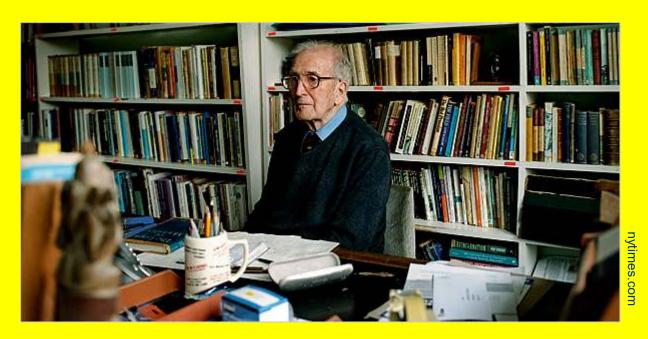


Banana: Problem for Atheists

- 8. Point at top for easy entry.
- 9. Pleasing to the taste.
- 10. Curved to make eating process easy.



Anthony Flew



The world's leading atheistic philosopher recently changed his mind and stated "I now believe that the universe was brought into existence by an infinite intelligence."

- There is A God: How the World's most notorious atheist changed his mind

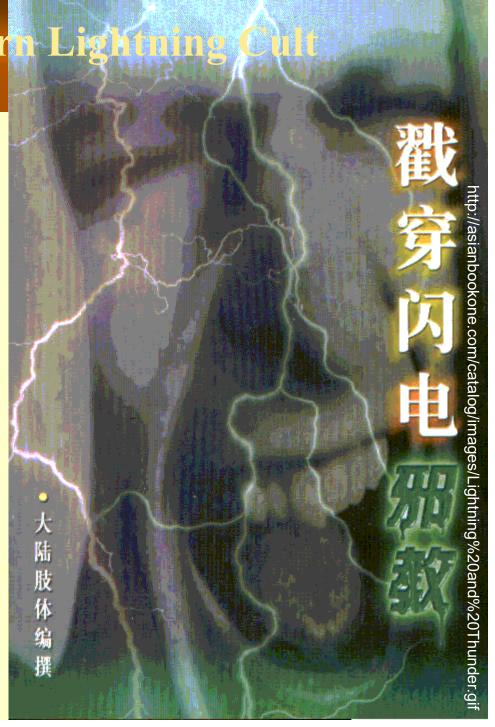
On Truth

See website article of On Truth



Profile of Eastern Light

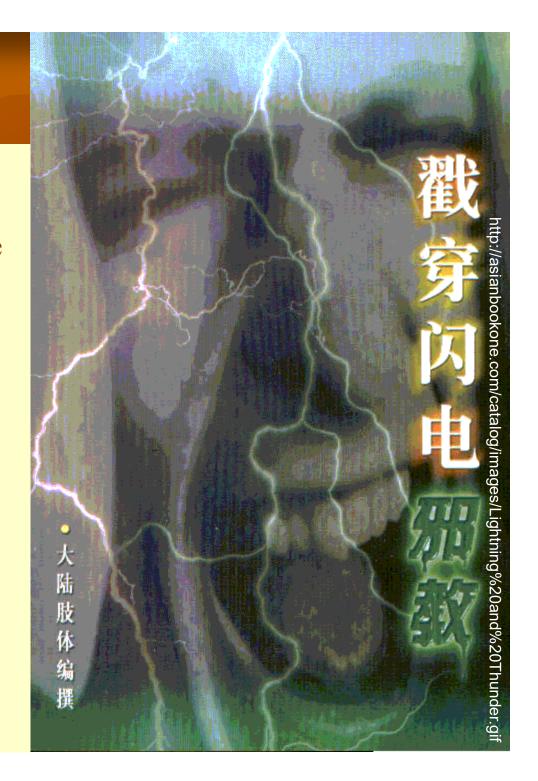
- Origin: Eastern Lightning
 (Dongfang Shandian) was founded
 by Zhao Weishan in 1993 in Henan
 Province of China.
- Key Scripture: Matthew 24:27 that the "lightning comes from the east."
- Theme: Jesus has come again, but this time as a female Messiah in China. (Many believe she is only an imaginary person.)
- Membership: Perhaps up to 1 million in China.



Basic Beliefs

- Nature of God: There is one God, no Trinity. Almighty God has manifested Himself in three eras: as Jehovah in the era of Law, Jesus in the era of Grace, and now as "Lightning" in the era of Kingdom.
- Red Dragon: Is China.
- Salvation: People must believe in this female Messiah to be saved.

"Eastern Lightning," http://www.imb.org/easia/classroom/religion/>



Basic Beliefs

- Another Testament: The Words of the Holy Spirit to All Churches – It's about 700 pages.
- Ten Administrative Guidelines: These replace the Ten Commandments.
- Resurrection: Jesus did not have a bodily resurrection.
- Converts: Must renounce their faith in Jesus.



Basic Tactics

- "Insider handbook": Detailed instructions to infiltrate churches and slowly convert members.
- Crime: Numerous recorded cases of kidnapping, brainwashing, torture, and murder.
- Recent Activities: Passing out leaflets in New York City and San Francisco, visiting Chinese churches in North America.



What They Overlooked

Matthew 24:27 "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also shall the coming of the Son of Man be."

Acts 1:11 "This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw <u>Him</u> go into heaven."

Revelation 1:7 "Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye shall see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him."

erucksack.tripod.com/ lightning.h

Strategies to Help