

*"... Hereby know we the spirit of truth and the spirit of error"*

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# The DISCERNER

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## ARE WE WITNESSING THE BEGINNING OF THE END?

*Prof. John E. Dahlin, Editor*

God's prophetic time-table of the ages offers prediction that unprecedented developments will characterize the closing days of the present generation. The apostle Peter refers to the final period in the statement: "But the end of all things is at hand" (I Pet. 4:7). The same thought is taken up by Paul, who writes, "The night is far spent, the day is at hand" (Rom. 13:12). It is rather unfortunate that many editors, Bible teachers and pastors are saying that no one has the slightest information regarding the time when the age ends and when the return of Jesus Christ will take place. This is completely contradicted by the Scriptures. The apostle Paul writes, "Ye are not in darkness that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are the children of light: We are not of the night or darkness" (I Thess. 5:4-5). It is entirely true that no one knows the year, month, or day of our Lord's return. It is clear, however, that every alert believer may interpret the signs of the times, and the distinct developments which the Scriptures associate with the end of the age. We may remember when Winston Churchill predicted in the summer of 1944 that we had witnessed the beginning of the end. This

clear-minded British leader looked over the whole scope of developments that year, and he was able to predict correctly the time of the conclusion of World War II. The following May Hitler's Europe collapsed, and in August of that year Tojo's Japan surrendered to the United States. The war ended in the Eastern and Western hemispheres precisely as Churchill had predicted. He evaluated the signs of the times and the best information that was available.

### The Correlation of Signs and Events

Dispensationally considered, we may expect to witness a remarkable correlation, or agreement, of signs and events emerging in the three categories in which all prophecies may be classified. Paul mentions these categories when he refers to the Jews, the Gentiles and the Church of God (I Cor. 10:32). There you have the three categories. No generation, except the present one, has witnessed the remarkable correlation which we have witnessed in these areas mentioned. In the year 1948 NATO was born, that is, the Gentile nations in Western Europe came together politically, militarily, and economical-

ly. This had been predicted by Daniel, the prophet. The same year the nation Israel became sovereign for the first time since prior to the Babylonian captivity. This involved a period of 2,600 years. Liberal writers had stated it openly that God was through with Israel. They were completely wrong. Not only was the scattering of the Jews predicted, but it was announced that the descendants of Abraham would return to their ancient homeland. At present about one-third of the Jews in the world have returned to the land Israel. The nation has become the dominant people in the middle east. Here we witness a literal fulfillment of a prophecy given nearly two millenniums ago. Moreover, in 1948 the World Council of Churches was launched. This was the boldest and the largest federation of religious bodies in history. The present status of the WCC has disappointed millions who expected a completely different program would be initiated by this massive union. Without a doubt the WCC represents the apostacy of end-time Churchianity. In the Book of Revelation, this colossal union is referred to as the harlot church. (See chapters 17 and 18). The harlot, or spurious religion, is depicted in this area of Scripture. The present conglomeration of this great church union is pictured as the apostate church of the latter days. What we have mentioned verifies the correlation of the signs in all the areas of Bible prophecy. The Lord stated it significantly in the words, "When these things come to pass then look up, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand" (Luke 21:31).

#### **Dictatorial Governments Will Rise**

This development will pave the way

for the appearance of antichrist. In our time dictatorial forms of government control over one-half of the world's population. These masses live either under Communism or some other form of authoritarianism. This is precisely what the Scriptures predict for the end-times. Antichrist simply could not come forth through any other system of government except dictatorship. We may remember President Wilson said in 1917, "The world must be made safe for democracy." His idealism became an unfulfilled dream. The world moved in a completely different pattern, and this had been clearly predicted in the prophetic Scriptures. When conditions become unmanageable by present constitutional governments, the only other alternative is dictatorship. Anarchy simply cannot be tolerated. When Italy, Germany and France could not cope with the problems a few decades ago, they turned to dictatorships. The final pattern of authoritarian rule could emerge quickly in the present unstable world in which we live. Anarchy is a threat in the Philippines, in much of Asia, Africa, and also in the Middle East. All of Latin America is under the shadow of a complete authoritarian rule. If we are spiritually sensitive to prophetic matters, we can hear the rumbling of the forces of anti-christ in the distance.

#### **Total Moral Collapse Is Predicted**

Our Lord referred to a repetition of Noah's and Lot's days as the end period approaches. Those were days of violence on earth. It made necessary the intervention of God, who judged the entire earth with the great flood. Only eight people were saved through that catastrophe, namely, Noah and his family. The Ark, which God had commanded Noah to build, provided the salvation to these people and most living

creatures in pairs. Jesus clearly associated the end-time with the sins of these early generations of human history. Even in our land, violence is gaining momentum every day. The terrible bombings taking place in numerous places demonstrate a kind of violence with which governments cannot adequately cope. In addition, our prisons are overcrowded due to lack of money and space for increasing numbers who are incarcerated. This inevitably leads to an outburst of violence. Drunkenness and alcoholism are ruining millions of people throughout the world. Drug addiction has reached an abominable situation, including the involvement of teenagers and children. Our city streets are unsafe. Rape and murders take place continually. The police are unable to cope with the present increase in violence. Moreover, since abortion was made legal by the Supreme Court, over ten million unborn babies have been destroyed. No end-time sign is clearer than the present world-wide activities of lawlessness of every kind.

### **The Enormous Increase in Cultic Activity**

False systems and new religious philosophies are springing up in all parts of the earth. The *New Age Movement* is perhaps the most comprehensive evil that we have witnessed in our time. It is satanic in its operation. We urge you to read Dr.

Knuteson's article in the present issue. It is factual and enlightening on this new threat in the cultic sphere.

At the turn of this century there were only 5 identifiable cults in the United States. Specialists in cultic studies believe nearly 1500 have emerged in recent decades. Over 15 million people have been victimized. The old line cults as well as the more recent ones are flourishing. Jesus predicted this development for the latter days. He said, "Many false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many . . . For there shall rise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders, in-somuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Mt. 24:11, 24). Our organization has combatted these false groups for nearly 40 years mainly through the distribution of special literature exposing these many false systems.

### **Conclusion**

These end-time developments were referred to by our Lord, who predicted, "These are the beginning of sorrows [travail]" (Mt. 24:8). These signs which we have discussed constitute the prelude or introduction to the final period. Jesus provided a special emphasis in the statement, "When ye see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors" (Mt. 24:33). Indeed, we have witnessed the "Beginning of the End."

## **THE MARKS OF THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT**

*Dr. Roy E. Knuteson, Sr. Pastor, The Peoples Church  
Fort Collins, Colorado*

We are witnessing the emergence of a new cultic movement that is unlike anything that has ever existed before. It is a massive network of groups that may number into the thousands. This is the "New Age Movement" and its symbol is the rainbow which is displayed

everywhere on houses and cars today.

This movement is designed to amalgamate the majority of the world's population into one ecumenical faith based upon the concept of "collective consciousness." Those already involved see themselves as a part of "Universal Consciousness," and they fervently believe that this new awareness and openness will usher in a new age of peace and prosperity called "The New World Order."

Those who have studied the movement carefully see it as a "consciousness revolution" which is rapidly preparing the way for the coming world ruler whom the Bible calls the Antichrist. In fact, many of the movement's leaders openly speak of the "new Age Christ." Recently, these New-Agers attracted worldwide attention through their full-page newspaper advertisements which brazenly proclaimed: THE CHRIST IS NOW HERE!" This ad stated: "The LORD MAITREYA is known by Christians as the Christ. As Christians await the Second Coming, so the Jews the Messiah, the Buddhists the Fifth Buddha, the Moslems the Imam Madhi, and the Hindus await Krishna. These are all names for one individual. His presence in the world guarantees there will be no third world war."

Constance Cumbe writes in her book: "THE HIDDEN DANGERS OF THE RAINBOW" that: "the political goals of the movement include a mandatory New World Religion, establishment of a "universal credit card system," establishment of a New World Authority, World Health Authority, World

Water Authority, establishment of a universal tax and a universal draft." She says: "The New Age Movement truly meets the scriptural requirements for the Antichrist and the political movement that will bring him to world power."

### The Old Satanic Lie

While it is called: "THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT," a closer look will reveal that there is really nothing new about it at all, except its size. It is as old as the serpent in Eden, who promised: "You will be as God" (Genesis 3:5). It is also deeply rooted in ancient Hinduism. They claim that the universe is one great mind, which the Hindu's called "Brahman" or "Universal Soul." Our minds, they tell us, are a part of the great mind. This is "Atman" in Hindu theology. The object of this new mind revolution is to tap into the great mind through "altered states of consciousness." It is ancient occultism in a new garb!

In the last decade such thinking has become respectable. Physical phenomena such as ESP, psychokinesis, telepathy, and clairvoyance are now considered scientific realities and are taught as such in our State colleges under the title of "Parapsychology." Expressions like "planetary consciousness," "transcendent powers," and "transpersonal psychology" are code words among New-Agers today.

Years ago, the Rosicrucians, the Theosophists, and the Unity School of Christianity heavily promoted this diabolical lie about the mind-powers of and "universal self." Today, this is the underlying doctrine of the Science of Mind Churches, the Holistic

Health movements, and the Possibility Thinking philosophy. Now these occult teachings are world-wide in scope and touching nearly everyone.

### **Spiritual Experiences**

Recent surveys reveal that a majority of Americans claim to have had some kind of "spiritual experience." Many of these experiences were stimulated through the widespread usage of mind-altering drugs, hypnotism, mystic meditation practices, such as TM, and even through ecstatic tongues! The common glue that seems to bind all these New-Agers together is "mystical experience." A large portion of those within the movement also believe in psychic phenomena and advocate it as a means of spiritual encounter.

"Inner space," they claim, "is more important than outer space, and we can learn to live an important part of our lives in it." This is a substitute for biblical Christianity, and the bottom line of this kind of thinking is best expressed by Eric Fromm in his book "YOU SHALL BE AS GODS": "Man is God and the only sacred thing is self."

Some Christians will find it hard to believe that this is the conclusion of a world-wide movement. However, if they will investigate what is being taught in many public schools today through humanistic teachers, they will be shocked to discover the claims of the New-Agers everywhere. This also explains why the so-called "alternate lifestyles" of homosexuality, lesbianism, and free sex are condoned today. If man is God and there are no external and internal laws, then man is a law unto himself and sin has been eradicated!

### **The Five Marks of the Movement**

The New Age Movement is not a passing fad. We need, as Paul told the Ephesians, to: "be on guard" (Acts 20:31 NIV). Here then are some of the more prominent marks of this Satanic system of error.

#### **Evolution**

The underlying philosophy of The New Age Movement is the atheistic teaching of evolution, which is perhaps the most universal belief in the world. In addition to organic evolution, the New-Agers promulgate a doctrine of mental evolution. They claim to be the "new species" and that they are evolving through the use of mind-altering drugs and other mind-expansion techniques. Some are more highly evolved than others, they say, and these are the "Masters of Wisdom" or the gurus of the new age. They preach an "evolution of consciousness," and this is one of their key expressions that will no doubt be one of the lies of the Antichrist, which the world will believe.

#### **Reincarnation**

Deeply rooted in Eastern mysticism, the New Age Movement teaches the myth of reincarnation. Essentially, this is Satan's lie that man will not die (Genesis 3:4). Instead a person is endlessly reborn into new cycles of existence. Reincarnation is based on the Hindu idea of "Karma" which teaches that our behavior in this cycle of life will determine the progress (or regress) in the next life-cycle. The ultimate goal is to reach Nirvana (endless rest), or "godhead." Some, they believe, have already attained this higher state of "selfhood." This will be the boast of the Antichrist according to II

Thessalonians 2:4.

### "Wholeness"

Mark Satin, a New Age leader, said: "Planetary consciousness recognizes our oneness. It sees us as cells in the body of humanity as Planetary Citizens." He said: "We are beginning to see the emergence of a new collective consciousness." This doctrine of "wholeness" or "one-world consciousness" is viewed as: "true principle, not just in relation to work, health, and psychological growth, but throughout the fabric of life, according to Marilyn Ferguson, a prominent New-Ager. "Wholeness," she says: "represents the connectedness, the context of everything. All souls are one. Each is the spark from the original soul, and this soul is inherent in all souls."

What the New-Agers are also telling us is that there is neither good nor evil in this world, only "wholeness" or "brokenness," and it is their goal to establish this "wholeness." The tragic result of this kind of teaching is revealed in this testimony of a young therapist reported by Ferguson in "THE AQUARIAN CONSPIRACY": "I see that I am whole, there is nothing to overcome. In those moments of emptiness, of letting be, of complete contact with another, I know that I am all that I can be."

### Hostility

The Spiritual Counterfeits Project of Berkeley, California, another cult-exposing ministry, says: "The New Age Movement is not a fad, it will not go away, and is fundamentally hostile to Biblical Christianity. One of the stated goals of this movement is to outlaw all religious practices and

symbols. By promoting the "god-within" idea and the denial of the reality of sin, they see no need for Jesus Christ and the Bible doctrine of salvation through the atonement at Calvary. Ferguson boasts: "Now the heretics are gaining ground, doctrine is losing its authority, and knowing is superseding belief."

Constance Cumbey says: "The New Age Movement's deep and abiding hatred for Jews, Catholics, Protestant Fundamentalists, and Orthodox Muslims in particular, and Christians in general is reaffirmed in numerous David Spangler writings, as well as those of other current New Age writers." It is their purpose that religious freedom and the separation of church and state be abolished in the new age. "The Movement is working quickly, Cumbey says, to execute its scheme to control the world for 'Maitreya' and not so subtly calling it 'The Plan'."

Years ago, Alice Bailey, (A Theosophist and now prophetess for the New Age Movement) wrote: "The battle will be fought largely with mental weapons and in the world of thought . . . the coming struggle will emerge within the churches themselves and the fight will spread to thinking men and women everywhere, who, in a protesting revolt, have denied orthodox christianity and theology."

New Age thinking has infiltrated mainline denominations as evidenced by the fact that more and more churches are becoming involved in meditation exercises, holistic health, bio-feedback training, and creative visualization for inner healing. No longer is the question "What does the

Bible say?" Instead it is: "What do you think?" and "How do you feel?" It is hostile to the Word of God.

### Ecumenism

While expressing hostility to biblical Christianity, the New Age Movement claims to embrace all beliefs and religions on the premise of the "oneness" doctrine. Virginia Miller, a New Age astrologer, states: "Many people believe that mankind is on the verge of an evolutionary breakthrough, and we are standing on the threshold of a New Age. Called "Aquarian Age," it will bring about a new world order in which individuals will realize their true spiritual being and the interconnectedness of all life." Thus, the New Age Movement professes a broad-minded openness to all religions, while subtly engulfing them all.

How well they are succeeding is demonstrated by the use of "The Great Invocation" which was carried in a full-page ad in READERS DIGEST magazine last year. This ecumenical prayer is directed to "Maitreya, the Christ," to call his blessing upon the earth. This prayer has since been widely circulated and is used in many churches as an acceptable prayer for world peace!

Dave Hunt, in his book on the New Age Movement in prophecy, entitled: PEACE, PROSPERITY, AND THE COMING HOLOCAUST" states: "The peace movement, the anti-nuclear movement, and other huge

grassroots movements within the New Age Movement are not so much political as they are religious. Their religion is a universal one based on the deification of man—the belief that man is perfect and therefore can create a perfect world through working together. This philosophy seems to fit anywhere. One of the recurring claims of the New Age groups is that their system will not conflict with any personal religious beliefs. These groups will be intact after the rapture and will welcome the Antichrist."

It is the common consensus of all those who have analyzed this phenomenon that the New Age Movement may very well be the religious and political vehicle the Antichrist will use to deceive the world as revealed in Revelation 13. In the light of this brief overview, the timeless words of John provide the most fitting warning for Christians everywhere:

"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they be of God because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world" (I John 4:1-3 NIV).



*Some Thoughts about the Cult Challenge*

**HAVING MERCY ON THE CAPTIVES**

by *Scott Kammeyer*

I had my first encounter with a member of a cult not too long after I was saved. He was someone I'd known for a couple of years, a casual friend at the place where I worked. I'd begun to witness to him one night and discovered he'd been converted to this particular cult only a short time before I'd been saved. We agreed to get together to discuss the Scriptures. I arranged to go to his house for this purpose, a bit of a novelty in itself since he was a Jehovah's Witness. Most of you have had some sort of experience with the Jehovah's Witnesses and are aware that they can be resolute—one might even say obstinate—at times. I mention this not as an excuse but as an explanation, because after speaking with my friend for about fifteen minutes I found it necessary to explain to him that he was a hare-brained, cross-eyed, mule-faced, pointy-headed, fork-tongued, two-horned servant of the devil. I then concluded my witness for Christ by pounding my friend headfirst into the living room floor with a wide-margin Scofield Reference Bible.

Does the scene I've just described sound at all familiar to you? The last few lines were a bit exaggerated, of course, but unfortunately they were an accurate reflection of my emotion-charged attitude at that moment. I could defend myself by saying that hearing the Word of God so obviously misused and distorted caused anguish in me, which in turn blossomed into outrage. But it is also

true that being heartily contradicted also incited my fleshly nature to outrage. And nowhere are these two elements more potently combined than in a theological discussion with a member of a cult.

The cults seem to be pretty popular these days. I think most Christians find them interesting, if not fascinating, though this fascination sometimes tends to be morbid. It's as if we look upon cult members as little satanic gnomes tripping over each other trying to be the first to jump into the Lake of Fire. When we read a book or see a film about the cults, we have an expression on our faces not unlike what we have when visiting the zoo and gazing upon the snakes and sharks. Perhaps even the monkeys.

Further, we sometimes consider cult members and their beliefs and activities with an amused and knowing attitude, being assured that any halfway intelligent walking monument to holiness and soundness of mind—such as ourselves, for instance—would reject such doctrines without hesitation.

There are plenty of books on the market, most of them good, that examine the teachings and practices of individual cults, and it's not my intention to do so here. Instead, I wish to focus attention on the basic attitude and tone of true Christians toward those in the cults.

For the purposes of this article, "cult" refers to both psuedo-

Christian organizations, such as the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Mormon Church and the Unity School of Christianity, and non-Christian movements like the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (Hare Krishnas) and ECKANKAR, which use the Christian Scriptures in an attempt to validate and support their teachings. In other words, cult means essentially any religious movement that distorts the Scriptures in the process of propagating doctrines and practices which are either non-Christian or in the spirit of the Anti-christ, or both.

Christians are to "contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3). If Christians don't contend for the one true faith against the distortion of Satan and ungodly men, who will? Who's left? Who else is qualified? Don't expect to see Mike Wallace go crashing into the next meeting of the Mormon high command saying, "All right, you guys, what about Isaiah 44:8?"

Along the same line, Christians must also "fight the good fight of faith" (I Tim. 6:12). "Fight" and "contend" are words that require someone or something in opposition. As Christians we should, as God leads, talk with those who have a controversy with the truth, as it were. But if our internal attitude toward an individual cult member is one of disdainful anger or mocking superiority, we cannot keep it out of our facial expression, no matter how hard we try. Consequently, our defense of the faith will have all the spiritual power of "a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal" (I Cor. 13:1).

Contending for the faith is especial-

ly important during this time of widespread proliferation by both old and new cults. The fastest growing religious group in the United States is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (or Mormons). There are at least 25 cultic groups operating in the United States with listed memberships of from 1,000 to 4.6 million. Although much of this membership is overseas, total membership of the various cults in the U.S. alone numbers in the millions.

Besides these vast numbers in the cults, there are uncountable multitudes who are affected by the cults' doctrines and activities. Because of the wide variety of interpretations espoused by the various cults, many a sincere unbeliever may despair of ever being able to determine whether the Bible is true, since it seemingly allows such divergent beliefs. Keep in mind that many of the cults, such as the Christian Science Church, the Seventh-day Adventists, the Mormons, the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Unitarians, for example, are considered by the general secular public to be legitimate branches of Christianity. For this reason also, the sincere unbeliever may think it difficult, if not impossible to determine just what the Bible teaches as well.

Besides this doctrinal confusion, the aggravating and tenacious proselytizing techniques of certain cults leave a bad feeling in the hearts of many unbelievers toward anything having to do with Christ and the Bible. It's a mistake to think that the cults only blind the eyes of their own members. A strong but Christlike witness by God's people is greatly

needed in order to clear away the dust and debris the cults have stirred up around the Bible.

So what difference does it make what a Christian's attitude toward a cult member is as long as that Christian is contending for the faith and defending sound doctrine? Basically, the answer lies in II Timothy 2:5: "And also if anyone competes as an athlete he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules."

As far as a Christian dealing with cult members is concerned, the essential ground rules are these: "And the Lord's bondservant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition; if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will" (II Tim. 2:24-26).

Therefore, for example, if we explain the ramifications of Galatians 1:7-9 to a Mormon believer, we have done well. But if we fling each word from the passage to him like a dart, we have stepped beyond the rules and into error. When we angrily quarrel with a cult member, regardless of how obstinate he may be, or if we insult him and look down on him, we have broken God's rules; not to mention the fact that we have driven the cult member just a little bit farther away from Christ. I strongly urge every Christian to thoroughly assimilate II Timothy 2:24-26. You should stamp these words on the palm of your hand, or scribble them on your fingernails, or paste them to

your eyelashes—whatever it takes to lastingly imprint them on your heart and mind.

It also helps to keep in mind that the cult members are human beings, made in the image of God, who have been snared by Satan and false teachers. God loves these people, just as He loved us before we were saved and were "still helpless" (Rom. 5:6). For this reason alone we should treat them with respect. In addition, God has many people in the cults—either immature believers who have been swayed by deceitful doctrines or those whom God will save in due time (see Jude 22, 23).

Consider briefly a couple of reasons why Christians' attitudes toward cult members sometimes veer quite wide of the Biblical mark. Perhaps the primary reason this happens is simply because of the intense emotion we experience upon hearing God's Word misused, distorted or attacked. God's Word is not only true, it is *holy*; and we are right to be upset when it is abused. However, we must take care that our blood doesn't boil away into bitterness and bile. Then we might find it a little too easy to see cult members as faceless enemies, as shameless attackers of the obvious truth. Separating their humanness from our thinking, we stereotype them as contemptible, stupid and immoral representatives of Satan. Then, when we get into a situation where we have an opportunity to speak with a cult member, instead of being kind, patiently teaching and gently correcting, we try to blow him out of the water rather than attract him to the Living Water. We need to remember the mercy God has shown us, and speak as merciful servants of Christ, not as fire-breathing oracles.

The second major cause of at-

titudinal error is simply pride. There are two basic ways pride manifests itself in Christians in a cult context. In the first instance, we compare ourselves to the cult member. We might think something like, "Well, here I am; I read the truth in plain English, understood it, and accepted it. I wasn't fooled by any of this mumbo jumbo. Now look at this ignoramus over here—dressed like a brush salesman and can't even read English right. Well, Lord, there's nothing I can do but try and straighten this boy out for You." With such an attitude, it's virtually impossible to be kind.

The second manifestation of pride is what I call the Daniel Webster Syndrome. Daniel Webster, of course, was a renowned orator and lawyer during the nineteenth century. There was a famous story written about him in which he verbally outmaneuvered the devil himself. The Daniel Webster Syndrome, therefore, is simply a case where a Christian decides that, by virtue of his extensive Bible knowledge and superior persuasive powers, he's going to argue that cult member right out of Satan's hands and into Heaven. So this Christian jumps into a witnessing opportunity with both feet in his mouth.

The fact is, we can't argue anyone into Heaven, especially a member of a cult. Only the power and grace of God can open the eyes of one so blinded by Satan. Trying to argue someone into Heaven this way can actually be a hindrance to the gospel of Christ.

Perhaps the best way to deal with these types of pride is to remember that it is only through God's grace you aren't a member of a cult yourself. Stop and think about it for a

moment. How many of us, before we were saved, were filled with spiritual discernment and understanding? How many of us sought after God? Not one of us (Rom. 3:9-18). But God shielded us from the cultic grip while we were helpless; then He "made us alive together with Christ" (Eph. 2:5). What amazing grace indeed! Now we must be instruments of God's grace to snatch His people snared by the cults out of the fire; we must be spokesmen of His mercy to retrieve those who are doubting.

However, the time for doing this is rapidly running out. "The end of all things is at hand" (I Pet. 4:7). "The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand" (Rom. 13:12). The present tremendous growth and activity of the cults is, in itself, evidence that the present age is nearly at an end. There is simply no time left to allow the cultic smoke screen to continue to billow. I implore every Christian to study the Word of God, especially concerning the means of salvation, so that each one might "be ready in season and out of season" (II Tim. 4:2) to share the gospel and contend for the faith. I beseech every Christian who hasn't already done so to pray for the Lord's leading as to what He would have you to do concerning the cult challenge. And then do it, because "He will not fail you nor forsake you" (I Chron. 28:20).

Finally, and above all, ask the Lord to give you a heart of mercy and love for the cult members. I myself am helped in my compassion by considering what it would be like for various individuals to die and appear on the threshold of eternal damnation, where their misguided sincerity or smugness will turn into unspeakable

agony and regret as they realize, too late, that they were wrong. I can imagine few things more terrible.

Without question, the cults present a great challenge to Christian love, perhaps the greatest challenge there is. But it is a challenge we must meet, for the sake of the gospel and for the

sake of the captives in the cults. It is a challenge we can only meet as we call on and walk in the wondrous power of our great and awesome triune God.

*(from Baptist Bulletin, Dec. 1983. Used with permission by editorial office.)*

## CREATION IS THE FOUNDATION

by Henry M. Morris, Ph.D.

It is high time that people in general, and Bible-believing Christians in particular, recognize the foundational significance of special creation. Creation is not merely a religious doctrine of only peripheral importance, as many people (even many evangelical Christians) seem to assume. Rather, it is the basis of all true science, of true Americanism, and of true Christianity. Evolutionism, on the other hand, is actually a pseudo-science masquerading as science. As such, it has been acclaimed as the "scientific" foundation of atheism, humanism, communism, fascism, imperialism, racism, laissez-faire capitalism, and a variety of cultic, ethnic and so-called liberal religions, by the respective founders and advocates of these systems. The creation/evolution issue is, in a very real sense, the most fundamental issue of all.

### Foundation of True Science

Evolutionist presuppositions permeate the writings of modern scientists. Stanley D. Beck says: "No central scientific concept is more firmly established in our thinking, our methods, and our interpretations, than that of evolution" (*Bioscience*,

V. 32, October 1982, p. 738).

But it was not always thus. Beck himself, after defining and discussing the basic premises of science (that is, the existence of a real world, the capability of the human mind to understand the world, the principle of cause-and-effect, and the unified nature of the world), admits that "each of these postulates had its origin in, or was consistent with, Christian theology" (*Ibid.*, p. 739). That is, since the world was *created* by a divine Creator, and man was created in God's image, therefore nature makes orderly sense, man is able to decipher its operations and true science becomes possible. If the world is merely the chance product of random forces, on the other hand, then our human brains are meaningless jumbles of matter, and electricity and science becomes nonsense. Consequently, the great founding fathers of true science (Kepler, Galileo, Pascal, Newton, Boyle, Brewster, Faraday, Linnaeus, Ray, Maxwell, Pasteur, Kelvin, etc.) were almost all creationists and believed they were glorifying God as they probed His works. Yet today such scientists would not even be considered scientists at all, because they believed in the primeval special creation of all things by God!

## Foundation of True Americanism

Although not all of America's great founding fathers were Bible-believing Christians, almost all of them were true creationists, believing that God had created the world and man and all natural systems. The colonies had been settled and developed largely by Christian people who had come to this continent to gain freedom to believe and do what the Bible taught, and they all acknowledged that the foundational belief was belief in special creation. The historian Gilman Ostrander reminds us that: "The American nation had been founded by intellectuals who had accepted a world view that was based upon Biblical authority as well as Newtonian science. They had assumed that God created the earth and all life upon it at the time of creation and had continued without change thereafter" (*The Evolutionary Outlook, 1875-1900*, Marston Press, 1971, p. 1).

Note that these great pioneers were *intellectuals*, not ignorant emotionalists. They laid great stress on education and science, founding many schools and colleges, in confidence that true learning in any field must be Biblically governed. Christian historian Mary-Elaine Swanson, says: "In colonial times, the Bible was the primary tool in the educational process. In fact, according to Columbia University professor, Dr. Lawrence A. Cremin, the Bible was 'the single most primary source for the intellectual history of colonial America.' From their knowledge of the Bible, a highly literate, creative people emerged." (*Mayflower Institute Journal*, August 1983, p. 5) In a July 4 address in 1783, Dr. Elias

Boudinot, then president of the Continental Congress, stated that his reason for advocating an annual Independence Day observance in America was the great precedent set by God himself. "No sooner had the great Creator of the heavens and the earth finished his almighty work, and pronounced all very good, but he set apart (not an anniversary, or one day in a year, but) one day in seven for the commemoration of his inimitable power in producing all things out of nothing." (Address to the New Jersey Society of the Cincinnati, July 4, 1783).

The fact of creation was also clearly implied several times in the Declaration of Independence itself ("endowed by our Creator," "created equal," "Nature's God," etc.). Attorney Marshall Fester has pointed out that at least the first 24 state constitutions recognized Christianity as the religion of their states (*Mayflower Institute Journal*, August 1983, p. 1).

Yet today, the Bible, Christianity, and creationism have been banned from the schools of the states which had been founded to teach these very truths! All this has been done in the name of a gross distortion of the First Amendment. The amendment which was intended to prevent the establishment of a particular national denomination (e.g., Catholic, Anglican), has instead been so twisted as to establish evolutionary humanism as the quasi-official religion of our public institutions.

## The Foundation of True Religion

The true religion must necessarily be based on worship of the world's true Creator. Other religions may deify great men, or man-made

systems, or the world itself, but these are all merely variant forms of humanism as men "worship and serve the creature, rather than the Creator, *except the Bible!* That is, they all start with the universe already in existence and then try to delineate how the primeval space/matter/time universe somehow developed into its present array of complex systems. This attribute characterizes both ancient paganism and modern humanism; these and all other atheistic, pantheistic or polytheistic religions are merely various forms of evolutionism. Only in Genesis 1:1 (the foundation of all foundations!) is there a statement of the creation of the universe itself. Without this foundation, true religion is impossible.

Now although creation is the foundation, it is, of course, not the complete structure. Orthodox Judaism and Islam, like Christianity, believe in one eternal Creator, as revealed in Genesis 1:1, but they have rejected Him as Savior. In addition to the general revelation seen in the creation, God has explicitly revealed Himself through both His Word and His Son. Those who reject either or both, even though they believe in one God as primeval Creator and, like Christianity, are monotheistic, cannot know God in His fullness. He must be known as gracious Redeemer as well as omnipotent, but offended, Creator. Thus, Biblical Christianity is the only truly creationist religion.

#### Foundation of Christology

By the same token, neither can one know Christ as He really is if one knows Him only as Redeemer. Faint-hearted Christians often justify their lukewarm attitude toward creation

by saying that it is more important merely to "preach Christ." They forget that we are preaching "another Jesus" (II Cor. 11:4) if we do not preach Him as He really is, along with His *complete* work. The threefold aspect of the Person and Work of Jesus Christ is beautifully outlined in the majestic declaration of Colossians 1:16-20.

- (1) Past Work, Creation: "By Him, were all things created." Col. 1: 16.
- (2) Present Work, Conservation: "By Him, all things consist." Col. 1: 17.
- (3) Future Work, Consummation: "By Him to reconcile all things." Col. 1:20.

The great scope of this threefold work is "all things in heaven and in earth." Jesus Christ was Creator before He became the Sustainer (or Savior) and Reconciler; and the awful price of reconciliation, "the blood of His cross," is the measure of mankind's terrible offense against our Creator. That offense, furthermore, consists essentially of rejecting His Word, and thus denying that He is really the Creator. One truly "preaches Christ" only when he first of all presents Him as the Almighty Creator, from whom man was alienated when he repudiated God's veracity in His Word. Only when this is first understood is it really meaningful to speak of God's forgiving grace and saving love, His incarnation and redemptive sacrifice as Son of Man.

(CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE)

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## PERTINENT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*John E. Dahlin, Editor*

**QUESTION** . . . How can Christian people meet the complexity of the false philosophies and dangerous teachings in our time?

**ANSWER** . . . It is not enough to be knowledgeable in this area, although it is important. But superior knowledge is not sufficient in coping with the widespread error of today. A complete dedication and surrender to Jesus Christ should take precedence, in order to be directed and enlightened by the Lord in meeting the unprecedented problem of apostasy in our generation. Spiritual equipment is needed more than any other armor in meeting the enemies of our historic faith.

**QUESTION** . . . Is it likely that the dangerous trend of the expansion of false teachings may moderate in the near future and even become discredited?

**ANSWER** . . . The New Testament does not provide any hope for better days as the end-time approaches. Paul writes concerning this matter: "Evil men and seducers (imposters) shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (II Tim. 3:13). No other New Testament writer suggests that a better time will finally prevail. Second Timothy, Chapter 3 is a classic presentation of end time conditions. It begins with the statement: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come" (II Tim. 3:1). It is wishful thinking that false philosophies will recede in the latter days.