

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

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THE CONTROVERSY BETWEEN CREATIONISM VERSUS EVOLUTION

Prof. John E. Dahlin, Editor

In the light of my letter to the editor of *The National Geographic Magazine* (printed also in this issue of *The Discerner*), I will enlarge upon the matter with our readers. It may not be well-known by most of our Christian friends that the battle of those supporting Creationism as another model to be taught in our public schools, is a valid position which they advocate. The fact is, that our opponents are not only deeply entrenched in their position, but they have gained also certain advantages through the ruling of several courts in recent years. Most of the court cases supporting creationism have been ruled on unfavorably by several of the judges. The policy of the creationists is to bring into the public schools textbooks which offer an alternative to evolution.

Very successful debates have been held in various cities by the exponents of both views. It appears that the representatives of creationism have come out best in the discussion of this subject. It has irritated those who have presented the evolutionary theory, and they have resorted to making many derogatory statements with the purpose of discrediting the defenders of divine

creationism with the hearers of these debates. This attitude on their part is anti-scholarly and unworthy of those who pose as intellectuals. It is unfortunate that the decisions of the courts have mostly gone against the people known as creationists. This kind of ruling by the courts appears contradictory to our constitution, and of the men who wear the black robes of the judiciary. The tide may turn in time as the creationists have on their side outstanding scholars, who have given a brilliant account of themselves by their arguments before the various courts. It is well to point out, however, that the inroads of secular humanism are very wide in our country. They could more correctly be called atheistic humanists. The present writer has read articles by many of the representatives appearing on both sides, and it is his opinion that those representing evolution have failed miserably to make their case. This I illustrated in my letter to the editor of *The Geographic Magazine*. These people, in their debate, have chosen to hide in the theory of millions of years in order to establish credence for their faulty theory of man's origin. Their attitude seems to be one of dishonesty on their part in

order to sustain the shaky theory of evolution.

What Remedy Is In Sight To This Present Dilemma?

Frequently, President Reagan has discussed the current situation and the best way to meet the present situation. The remedy lies in the appointment of justices to our highest tribunal, who are willing to bring about a change in this vital matter before the court. It means the appointment of men to the court who stand firmly on our constitutional base. Moreover, it involves persons who are willing to maintain our historic positions and traditions. We are certain that our President will appoint such justices when he has the opportunity to do so. Even if not more than two new justices are named to the high court, it will be sufficient to overrule the past position of the courts. This will restore to the majority on the court those who will uphold the court cases on the matter of creationism. In other words, it will grant the right of those who advocate both models on creation, which will be offered in the schools on the origin of man. Several of the justices on the Supreme Court are inflexible with regard to the subject matter. A few are octogenarians, while several others are approaching that age-bracket. The inexorable law of change will come very soon within our national judiciary.

Moreover, those who logically present the merit and need for a balanced treatment of the conservative element within our land, will prevail over the one-sided treatment of those who advocate both models of the origin of man, within the textbooks of our public schools.

Other encouragements might be mentioned, as e.g., a number of creationist organizations have been formed in recent years within the United States, and also in many other nations. It is the opinion of this writer that the tide will change in favor of including creationism in the textbooks used in the schools. This is not the time to surrender the field to the evolutionary element, who temporarily are in control of public education. At present they are trying to discredit those who believe in the Biblical story of the creation of man. On the whole, the American people are fair-minded, and do not wish to stifle a very considerable number of people in our society. Even many secular scholars in recent years have moved away from the evolutionary concept of man's origin. There is no logic or reason to allow the anti-creationists to get the priority in determining what should be taught in our public institutions. A fair decision will come in the foreseeable future to the present controversy on this issue.

LETTER TO GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

November 10, 1985

National Geographic
Milton E. Garrett, Editor
17th and M. Sts.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Dear Editor Garrett:

I have been a subscriber to the National Geographic Magazine for several decades, and on the whole I have appreciated the general content of each issue through the years. The November issue was extremely disappointing, however, in that 70 pages were devoted to bolster the shaky

theory of evolution as being scientific and factual. You wrote a kind of introduction to the extended discussions in this issue. The general theme is: "The Search For Our Ancestors." It appeared that you endorsed the presentation in the November issue.

There are millions of conservative people in our country who wholly accept the Biblical presentation of the origin of man. In addition, I know a number of secular scholars who completely reject evolution as a correct explanation of man's origin. Recently, the distinguished scholar, Colin Patterson, senior paleontologist of the British Museum, wrote on the following subject: "Evolution, A Theory In Crisis." He is completely non-theological with reference to the subject treated. He documents the fact that not only have paleontologists failed to produce transitional forms demanded by evolution, but the hypothetical reconstruction of major evolutionary developments look more like fantasies than series conjectures. He goes on and continues to cast doubts upon the evolutionary theory, and states that it is contradictory to facts.

I once listened to a famous lecturer, who spoke to a large audience of students of state universities and colleges. His subject was "The Antiquity of Man" and he had arranged huge panels, 9 in number, in that big auditorium. These many varied panels sought to illustrate the multitude of tools and artifacts from primitive man up to the modern man of our time. He tried to impress upon the youth that millions of years were involved in the long climb upward for man. After his lecture, I went up to him and I raised the question: "At

which point did you try to be factual, and when did you allow speculation to prevail?" He answered: "I tried to be factual all the way." I informed him that I have taught Ancient History in colleges, and I have found no evidence of man's history covering millions of years. The panels were designed to convey the story of man from his primitive status up to the present time. I held him to the question: "How long do you think that man has been here as we try to understand his record here on earth?" I pressed him for an answer regarding the antiquity of man, that is, when a record may be verified. He replied to my question with the statement, "30-thousand years." I shook hands with him saying, "We are not so very far apart." I think that 10-thousand years would be a more realistic date, and I pointed out that old Biblical chronologies were not meant to be given as a detailed explanation of man's history. I also said that this is verified when the Biblical chronology skips over a number of generations as, e.g., when a son is mentioned, it often refers to a great grandson, not the immediate son. I continued the discussion by insisting that it was not fair to tell the students that all this record involved millions of years, when you now settle for a relatively short period of time. We find no transitional evidence of man's slow climb upwards. Why has the matter of evolution failed to function in recent generations? All species continue to produce after their kind as the Bible states so very clearly. When the Biblical record is correct with reference to nations, cities, rivers, and also human individuals, what logic is it to ascribe man's origin

in a figurative manner, and trade off a literal story of man as being in a figurative pattern?

The evolutionary theory dethrones God as the Creator, and it contradicts the Divine revelation in the Scriptures. Jesus referred to the creation of man by God directly, and not by means of an evolutionary process. By the theory of evolution man has been degraded to a highly developed animal. That strips him of respon-

sibility for his actions.

I protest against featuring such articles in a nationally respected magazine. If such articles reappear, I will cancel out my subscription, and I believe that thousands of others will do likewise.

My prayer is that my response will be helpful in this discussion.

Sincerely,
John E. Dahlin

THE WRITTEN WORD AND THE LIVING WORD

*by Dr. Robert P. Lightner,
Dallas Theological Seminary, Dallas, Texas*

How wonderful that God has spoken! How terrible that even though God has spoken and given man His Word, indeed two Words, these Words of God are so often rejected. And, of course, with their rejection the entire Christian faith falls. These Words from God are two impregnable forces, the pillars upon which Christianity stands or falls. To attempt to speak of Christianity, in the true sense of that term, without an inspired Written Word of God and an absolutely divine Living Word is sheer nonsense. These two are inseparable from each other and from biblical Christianity. They constitute the bedrock of orthodoxy.

Denial of the Bible as the Word of God is common in our day. Unfortunately, the denial does not stop with a rejection of the Bible as God's Word. In fact, it only begins there, as it always has. Invariably, those who reject the Bible as God's Written Word also reject Jesus Christ as the Living Word. Liberal and neo-orthodox sympathizers have always

rejected both Words as they are presented in the Bible. Unfortunately, an increasing number of evangelicals are coming to believe that they can reject certain portions of the Bible as being free from error and yet at the same time maintain belief in the Christ of Scripture. This, it would seem, is an impossible position. To accept the Written Word as less than totally inerrant logically leads to a Living Word who is less than the "very God, of very God," as the ancients put it. Neither Word can be held in isolation from the other.

Contrary to any approach which depreciates either Word from God, the Bible testifies to a beautiful and perfect harmony between the two flawless Words.

Both Words Came From God

The Written Word of God and the living Son of God have both been given to man by God. They both unquestionably constitute divine revelations from Him. The very same God who revealed Himself by speaking to

and through the writers of Scripture has spoken with fullness and finality in His Son—the Living Word (Heb. 1:1, 2).

Christ, the Living Word, not only revealed God to man (John 1:18), He, in His own Person, was the revelation of God (Heb. 1:2). The same is true of the Bible, God's Written Word. Without doubt, it reveals the person and work of God while at the same time it is His own divine revelation. Repeatedly, the human penmen of Holy Writ testify that God spoke unto them and the Spirit of God was upon them as they wrote.

Likewise, the Lord Jesus Christ is said to have been sent forth by God the Father when the fullness of time had come (Gal. 4:4). It was God who "sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" (John 3:17). There is great significance in the fact that the Living Word was so concerned that men know the true source of the Written Word that He attributed to God what Moses had said and recorded (Matt. 22:31, 32).

Both Words Claim the Same Authority

The testimony of the Bible to its own inspiration and therefore its absolute authority is abundant. While many do not accept this clear and consistent witness which Scripture gives to its own authority, rarely is it debated or denied that such claims are made by the Bible.

Since God gave the Word, it would seem self-evident that its authority would be the same as the one who gave it. The Written Word is as eternal as God and therefore as authoritative as God Himself (cf. Isa. 55:11;

I Peter 1:25). Since the Written Word claims to come from God, to disbelieve the same is tantamount to disbelieving God and accusing Him of falsehood.

Christ, the Living Word, did not hesitate to claim the very authority of God the Father for Himself on numerous occasions. He did not need to appeal to tradition or any of the other sources appealed to for authority by the scribes (cf. Matt. 7:28, 29). He spoke with final, irrevocable and ultimate authority. Frequently, we hear Him say, "Verily, I say unto you" as He claims to fulfill the law and the prophets.

Christ accepted and claimed the very authority of God, yet He did not hesitate to subscribe and to submit to the authority of the Written Word. The authority which He claimed for Himself and the authority which He claimed for the Scriptures is identical. These two are so interwoven that to reject one is to reject both—to receive one is to receive both. To His religious critics He said, "The scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35).

Both Words Complement Each Other

The Written Word bears abundant testimony to the Living Word. In fact, apart from the Bible's witness to Christ, we would know pitifully little about Him. Only scant reference is made to Him in noncanonical historical sources. He is the very center and circumference of the Bible. It is completely unintelligible without recognition of Him. His promised advent to the earth, miraculous birth, sinless life, sacrificial death for sin, bodily resurrection from the grave and future literal return to earth for His own, forms the very sum and substance of Holy Writ.

The Living Word complements the Written Word just as highly as it complements Him. No stronger evidence exists for the total inerrancy and absolute authority of Scripture than the Saviour's own testimony. For Him, God's Word was "truth" (John 17:17). Every "jot and tittle" would be fulfilled according to His testimony (Matt. 5:18). He embraced all the inspired books of the Old Testament canon, and only those books, as the very Word of God, not only before His critics (Matt. 23:35) but also to His own disciples after His resurrection (Luke 24:44). Too, the Living Word promised the ministry of the Holy Spirit whom He would send to inspire the New Testament Scripture which was not yet written when He was here (i.e., John 14:26; 15:26, 27; 16:13, 14). There can be no question about it, the Living Word ascribes inspiration to the whole of the Written Word, its various parts, and even to the very words and letters.

Both Words Include The Human Element

Herein lies the amazing miracle! It is this miraculous, supernatural aspect of both Words which has accounted for the widespread rejection of both. "How," modern man in the scientific space age asks, "is it possible for a sinful woman to give birth to one who is sinless?" Likewise, how is it possible for sinful human beings to write a Book which is God-breathed and without error? The answer to both these queries is that neither is possible apart from divine intervention, and that is precisely what God did—He intervened supernaturally through the Person of the Holy Spirit and protected both the Living and

the Written Word from error. This kind of supernaturalism is what the unbelieving mind rejects and what the philosophies of the world do not allow for in their closed systems. The Living Word was "made flesh" (John 1:14). He was born, grew to manhood, experienced the privations common to humanity, yet without sin. That He was human is clearly taught in Scripture. That unto His perfect human nature there was joined a fully divine nature is also abundantly evident in the Bible. To deny either one of these is to discredit the Written Word. Though Mary, His mother, did not conceive of Joseph but of the Holy Spirit, she was just as depraved as Joseph was, and apart from divine intervention would have passed the sin nature on to Christ. Through miraculous conception and the preservation of the infant in her womb by the Holy Spirit, the Lord Jesus Christ though fully human was kept from any taint of sin. He was "without sin" (Heb. 4:15). He "knew no sin" (II Cor. 5:21). Only of Him could it be said "in Him is no sin" (I John 3:5). He was "undefiled" (Heb. 7:26).

Just as truly as humanity was involved in the Person of the Living Word, so it was in the production of the Written Word. The penmen of the Bible were human. They were not sinless humans either. The same Holy Spirit who protected the Lord Jesus Christ from sin also kept the human writers of Scripture from including error in what they wrote. Peter described his divine control by saying the men were "moved by the Holy Spirit" (I Peter 1:21). They were carried along, led and protected by the Holy Spirit of God. Without in any sense losing their humanity, they

were protected from all error and omission in the production of the Written Word.

All of this highlights the inconsistency of trying to differentiate in Scripture that which pertains to making men "wise to salvation" from that which does not. Today, a frightening number of evangelicals is attempting to separate in Scripture that which they feel is central from that which they wish to call "peripheral." They wish to allow for the possibility of error in those matters which do not pertain to salvation (i.e., scientific, historic, and geographic data). But is it not true that the same fallible humanity touched the whole of Scripture? If the Holy Spirit would and did keep the writers from error sometimes, why did He not do so at all times? By the same token, if humanity presumes fallibility, then the Lord Jesus Christ was not infallible because He was human. There can be no mistake about it; both Words from Christ were touched by sinful humanity. What is said, therefore, about the effects of that sinful humanity upon the one must, it would seem, also be said of its effect upon the other.

How and on what basis can the student of Scripture determine when the words of the original autographs of the Bible were free from error and when they were not? What precisely constitutes a truth which may be classified as central to the witness of the Bible and what may be said to be peripheral? On what basis are questions such as these to be answered if not on the basis of man's subjective determination. He who disclaims inerrancy for parts of Holy Scripture or who even allows for the possibility of

error in any part of Scripture has set aside the Bible's own testimony to itself, as well as the testimony of the Living Word, and has put himself in their place.

Those who do not believe in the inerrancy of the Bible are often ready to admit that those who first received the Scriptures, and the Christians of later centuries, did believe in the Bible's total and unique authority. But today, these evangelicals argue we live in a "world come of age," and we no longer need to hold such a rigid view. Even though they insist on the possibility of the Bible being wrong on "peripheral" matters, yet they do not feel this destroys belief in the basic reliability of the Bible. God, they argue, did not intend that the Bible should be a textbook on the "peripheral" matters with which it deals, but man may expect God to have given him an errorless Word in religious matters—matters of faith and life—because this is the main purpose of the Bible.

The folly of such a division between "peripheral" and central matters in the Bible is that man, the receiver, becomes the deciding factor. Why and on what basis is such a division of the content of Scripture made?

Through the Holy Spirit, God was pleased to protect the human authors of Scripture from all error and omission as they wrote and to overshadow Mary as she gave birth to the Christ child. By the same Holy Spirit, God brought into existence the church. What He thus produced is already in His reckoning without spot or wrinkle. Since individual members of the church are left here with the same capacity to sin with which they were born, they are not perfect in their

walk before others. But in the sight of God each member of the family of God is complete, perfect, clothed in the very righteousness of His Son. In a day yet future those who have this perfect standing before God and who are already seated in the heavens with Christ will be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. Then corruption will put on incorruption.

In conclusion, it should be pointed out that these two Words from God never contradict each other. That is, the Living Word never leads an individual to do something contrary to the Written Word. Only perfect harmony prevails between them because they both come from the same source and because the Living Word came to do the will of the Father and to fulfill the Written Word. Those who accept the Bible for what it claims to be—the very Word of God—are often criticized for worshipping a book. They are accused of substituting the Bible for Christ. The Saviour's view of the Scriptures should dispel all such arguments. The Saviour made no distinction between parts of Scripture. He insisted that it all bore witness to Him (John 5:39; Luke 24:25-27). Those who charge the one who believes in the total inerrancy of

the Written Word with bibliolatry therefore must also charge Christ, the Living Word, with the same. Nowhere in His teaching did He ever give the impression that to embrace His own view of Scripture was to detract or diminish one's view of Him. Without ever relinquishing His own authority as the God-man, He consistently taught the absolute authority of Scripture, which, He insisted, spoke of Him.

Perhaps our devotion to the Written Word sometimes gives the impression that we are worshipping a book, but surely this ought not be true, even though that book be the Holy Bible. The Written Word is the inerrant means to the end that the inerrant Living Word may be worshipped. It is He whom we are to love, worship, and serve, for it is He who gave Himself for us, and it is the Living Word who has charged His own to hold fast the Written Word while they herald it forth to a lost world.

Robert P. Lightner holds a Th.D. from Dallas Theological Seminary, where he is Associate Professor of Systematic Theology. Reprinted from his book *The God of the Bible*, Baker Book House © 1978; used by permission.

A Review of

APOCALYPSE DELAYED: THE STORY OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

*By James Penton, Toronto: The University of Toronto Press, 1985.
432 pp., \$24.95. Reviewed by Jerry Bergman, Ph.D.*

The author is a fifth generation Witness with impeccable credentials, including a Ph.D. in history. He has written a work which is currently the most up-to-date general treatment of

the Witnesses from an historical and sociological standpoint. Most books about the Witnesses focus either on theological concerns or some specific aspect of their history. Some, such as

Barbara Harrison's, *Visions of Glory*, focused on her own individual involvement with the Witnesses. Others, such as Beckford's sociological study, deal specifically with the Witnesses in Britain, and is based on his Ph.D. thesis.

Penton's work, in contrast to these, is a general up-to-date survey of the Witness movement as a whole. Most similar studies of the Witnesses are now one, two or more decades out-of-date.

Penton's work not only is one of the better of those recently published, but also includes extensive discussions of issues that have confronted the Witnesses during the last decade, one of their most tumultuous. It will likely even take the place of the standard sociological, historical work on the Witnesses first published in 1945 by Professor Stroup. If a library wishes a book on the Witnesses, this is by far the single most important, non-theological, general work. Most people who wish to read about the Witnesses, especially those in secular institutions, are more interested in a general history and an evaluation. It is highly recommended for all libraries, even smaller ones, as the one work to have on the non-theological aspects of this controversial religious sect.

For church college libraries and others that want a comprehensive, readable book on the Witnesses, it is a must. The only work which discusses most of the many serious splits, schisms and internal problems of the Watchtower Society which have occurred in the last decade, it is for this reason indispensable. These splits have revealed more about the Society than all events that have oc-

curred within the past half a century.

This work is unusual in many other ways. The Watchtower Society claims that works critical of the Witnesses are worth little because they start their research with an anti-Witness bias. Their purpose, the society claims, is only to try to question various aspects of the Witnesses. Penton's position for the first fifty years or so of his life was a highly supportive Witness. His first book about them was extremely favorable, the second far more critical. The development of his disillusionment, mostly occurring from 1979 on, is chronicled in the preface. Essentially, at the suggestion of Herbert Richardson of St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto, he produced a study which served as an overview of Witness history. In doing so, Penton admits that he "began to research the history of the movement in the United States in a way that I had not previously done . . ." The result was that "He became more and more doubtful of traditional Witness claims to spiritual authority." His concerns brought him to the Watchtower headquarters for answers. He personally knew a number of prominent persons there, including some governing body members, the official "rulers" of Jehovah's Witnesses. What he found was, in his words, "quite distressing" (xiv). Essentially, large numbers were "loyal Witnesses," yet believed there were serious problems in the Watchtower Society, both doctrinal and otherwise. The governing body as a whole, though, arrogantly refused to even attempt to understand these concerns, and actually acted to suppress those who articulated them. Soon thereafter Prof. Penton was forced

out of the movement.

This illustrates what the writer has observed over and over, i.e., the Watchtower Society seems to consistently alienate their most capable apologists. Their publications, even though printed in the tens of millions in over 100 languages, are riddled with blatant errors and inaccuracies.

Most books about the Witnesses specifically discuss primarily theology. Penton's book, although it includes a detailed discussion of the major Witness doctrines (Ch. 7) its focus is on the *basis for* and *history of* their doctrinal authority. His concern in this is their organizational structure, their relations with the world, health problems, their attitudes towards learning, the Witness community as a whole, and a detailed history of the movement. It is not only by far the best single published work on these aspects of Witnesses, but covers numerous areas and topics which very few, if any, previous works discuss. For example, an extensive discussion on the reasons why the Witnesses discourage education is included. It is also one of the first books which discusses in depth the psychological concerns and problems of the Witnesses. It, thus, in many ways breaks new ground. No rehash of the many serious problems with their ideology, but a review of several uncharted topics and areas. His historical research and discussion is also extensive, more than many other works, and probably only Joseph Zigmunt's 1,000 page Ph.D. dissertation in sociology at the University of Chicago on the Witnesses and a few others are more detailed.

Many of the clear problems and

contradictions of the Society are delineated, including cases of open dishonesty, finageling, not the least of which is their attempt to partially acquiesce to Adolf Hitler, even stating in their published publications that they essentially agree with his goals and policies. It was only after the Nazi regime refused to cooperate with the Witnesses that they became so vehemently anti-Nazi.

Most of the numerous flip-flops of the Watchtower on doctrinal issues are also thoroughly documented. The Watchtower magazine, it is pointed out, is to be accepted by Witnesses as authoritative and is the final arbitrator in terms of doctrine and policy. This is well documented, as well as the degree of authoritarianism of the organization. Adherence to the Society, even if the Society later proves to be wrong, is imperative. Penton makes extensive use of not only outside authorities, but quotations from the Witness publications themselves.

In summary, although many of these historical works on the Witnesses dwell on the Rutherford and Russell era, Penton's book, although it treats this era fairly well, is the first that focuses on the problems which are now major issues in the Society, especially the disputes during the Franz and Knorr years. The extensive discussions include material which is found in no other single volume. This reviewer was aware, through his own research, of most of the disputes and issues the author discusses and can thus appreciate his review of these topics. But researchers who are not extensively involved in communication

with the various Witnesses dissonants and researchers will find no single, comprehensive source of this important material save this work.

This work is one of the most extensive, contemporary, up-to-date

reviews of the Witness movement. Penton, as an historian, focuses on history. It is of use in discussing doctrine with Witnesses, but serves primarily as an important adjunct to the many extensive discussions of Witness doctrine currently in print.

THE SATANIC SOURCE OF ALL PAGAN RELIGIONS ALL CULTS, AND HUMAN PHILOSOPHIES

By Homer Duncan

It should be evident to all thinking people that a gigantic conflict is taking place between God and Satan for the minds and souls of men.

God is holy; Satan is a monster of iniquity.

God is love; Satan is the embodiment of hate.

God is truth; Satan is a liar and a deceiver.

God is light; Satan is darkness.

God is the creator; Satan is the destroyer.

God gives life; Satan is a murderer.

God seeks to save men; Satan wishes to damn them.

For everything God has that is genuine, Satan has a counterfeit. (1)

Satan's inordinate desire is to set himself above the throne of God. (2) If he is to do this, he must completely destroy the Christian faith. Though he always does his work through treachery and deceit, his methods are devious. He does not use the same method on all people. Since the Bible is the foundation of the Christian faith, Satan seeks to undermine that foundation. He always makes his first attack on the Word of God. (3) He seeks to undermine the integrity

of God.

The Bible not only tells us about the love, mercy and grace of God, but also it tells us about sin, sorrow and suffering. The Bible reveals that Satan is the real and powerful adversary of God, and of his people. It reveals Satan's character, his schemes and his devices. (4)

At the present time a large majority of the people in the world have been deceived by Satan; they are under his dominion; they are his prisoners. (5) During the period of the Great Tribulation Satan will be successful in deceiving the entire world. (6)

The Lord Jesus Christ called Satan a liar and the father of lies. (7) Satan is not omniscient, but he sees the handwriting on the wall, and his wrath is great because he knows his time is short. (8) The Bible tells us in the last days Satan will do all in his power to deceive those who are perishing. "They will perish because they refuse to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in

wickedness." (9) Since Satan is the father of lies, we would expect him to tell lies, and to put it into the heart of his minions to tell lies. Since he is a deceiver, we can expect him to deceive, and we can expect those rejecting God's truth to be deceived.

What Are Some of Satan's Methods?

Satan seeks mind control, and he does this primarily through false religions, false cults and false philosophies.

The World's Great Religions

It is commonly believed and taught that all religions are like windows to let in the light of God. Nothing could be further from the truth. Such thinking is the result of Satanic deception. What a contrast there is between what men believe in and what the Bible teaches!

All world religions (except Hinduism) have a founder; only Biblical Christianity has a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. The adherents of the different religions consider it to be a meritorious act to visit the tombs of the founders of their religion, but only Christianity has an empty tomb. Christ, and Christ alone, is the risen One; He alone is the Lord of life.

All religions say, "This do and you will be saved." The Bible points us to the finished work of Christ as the basis of our salvation. Since grace is a principle that is contrary to the thinking of the natural men, all human religions tell men they must work; that they must merit salvation, but the Bible teaches us that we are saved by the merits of Another, even the merits of Christ. Instead of Christians being clothed in their own filthy selfrighteous rags, (10) they are clothed with the perfect righteousness of Christ. (11)

Cults

In addition to the proliferation of old line cults such as Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh Day Adventists, Mormons, and Christian Scientists we now have more than three thousand new cults in the United States. Most of these cults can be divided into two categories: (1) Those which claim to be Christian, and (2) those that are based on oriental religions.

All that we have said about pagan religions is true of the cults. The so-called "Christian" cults either add to the Word of God, take from the Word of God or pervert the Word of God. These cults claim to believe in and go by the Bible, but in every instance they put their literature above the Word of God.

All of the cults which are based on oriental religions are not only cults; they are a part of the occult. The "New Age Movement" with its hundreds of branches fits into this category.

Then we have pseudo-Christian religions such as the Roman Catholic Church. Many of our Christian leaders speak out boldly against Communism, but very few have courage to lift their voices against Roman Catholicism. I am not saying that all Catholics are lost, and that they are going to Hell, but I am saying if they are saved, they are saved in spite of the system and not because of it. Every honest Christian should recognize the Roman Catholic system is satanic.

Satan's Fifth Column

Liberalism or modernism is Satan's Fifth Column within the Church. Liberalism denies all of the fundamentals of the Christian faith.

Neo-orthodoxy has deceived many since it uses Christian terminology with modernistic meanings.

Then there are the quasi-cults. I will not name one of them in particular, because I do not wish to be involved in a lawsuit! There are many good people in the churches commonly known as "The Church of Christ." I list them as a quasi-cult since they preach a gospel of salvation by works.

Since the prosperity cult tells people what they want to hear, they have a large following.

The "super-grace people" have helped many have a better understanding of the Word of God, but when they try to improve on the grace of God, and teach "that everything goes" they are teaching heresy. I know of two preachers who have been ruined by their doctrine.

The Most Dangerous Philosophy In America

Yes, all of the people and groups mentioned above have been deceived by Satan. Their leaders either have been deceived or they are deceivers, but the biggest and most dangerous deception in the United States at the present time is the double-barreled deception of Secular Humanism and the Theory of Evolution. Why do I say, "double-barreled"? Because both are an integral part of the same vicious circle. These two philosophies cannot be separated. The one springs from the other, and of necessity sustains the other. The Apostle Paul speaks of men believing "the lie." (9) What is "the lie" to which Paul refers? It is the lie that man is sufficient in himself and does not need God. This was Satan's first lie to Adam and Eve. It is the same lie that

is propagated today through the theory of evolution and the philosophy of secular humanism. Of their own will Adam and Eve chose to believe Satan's lie rather than to believe the truth of God. It is tragic that men continue of their own will to believe Satan's lie rather than to believe the truth of God. It is bad enough to believe a lie; it is worse to propagate the same. The theory of evolution is based on outright lies and subtle deceptions.

Perhaps you are thinking I should not be so harsh in my appraisal of evolution. What do you think is worse, to call men liars, or to make God to be a liar? The Apostle John tells us, "Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar." (12)

God's Great Purpose in Creation

Why did God create the universe with all of the vast solar systems? Why did He create the earth and all things therein? The book of the Revelation chapter three and verse eleven answers that question. "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

God, the Almighty God, the Everlasting God, the only true and living God created all things that He might receive glory, honor and power. All things were created for His pleasure.

The natural man, the unregenerate man, fallen man is angered at such a thought as this. He must devise some scheme whereby he can escape the authority of Almighty God. Like a drowning man grasping at a straw, he grasps the Satanic deception of evolution.

The Free Moral Agency of Man

God made man as a free moral agent. This means man has the power of choice, the power to will. He can choose to believe God, or he can choose to believe Satan. He can choose to serve God, or he can choose to serve Satan. Of their own will Adam and Eve chose to believe the Devil's lie rather than to believe the truth of God. Today, men with all of their vaunted learning, choose to believe Satan's lie rather than to believe the truth of God.

If Satan cannot deceive you in one way, he will try another way. Many are deceived through false religions and cults. Others are too sophisticated to be deceived in this way, and fall for the twin Satanic lies of evolution and humanism. If you do not believe the theory of evolution is filled with Satanic lies and deceptions, order a copy of my booklet, *Evolution; True or False*.

As we approach the end of the age, the intensity of the conflict increases. Satan will win the first round of the

battle. His man, the Antichrist, will be the world dictator, but his time is short and his doom is sure. The Lord Jesus Christ will return as King of kings and Lord of lords, and to set up the kingdom of God on the earth. (13)

Are Christians to sit quietly with folded hands waiting for the Lord to return? No! We are not spectators in the battle; we are to be good soldiers of Jesus Christ. We will not last long if we are not rooted and grounded in the Word of God, if we are not filled with the Spirit of God, if we do not know how to pray, and if we do not put on the whole armor of God.

Make your own choice. You can be the victim or the victor.

Notes

1. Duncan, Homer, SATAN'S STRATEGY, Lubbock, Texas, p. 47
2. Isaiah 14:13
3. Genesis 3:1
4. 2 Corin. 2:11
5. Isaiah 14:17
6. Rev. 12:9
7. John 8:44
8. Rev. 12:12
9. 2 Thess. 2:11
10. Isaiah 64:6
11. Phil. 3:9
12. I John 5:10
13. Rev. 19:16, 20:6

BOOKS IN STOCK

BAHA'I, by Frances Beckwith. 64 pages, \$2.95. Here is a Christian response to Baha'ism, the religion which aims toward one world government and one common faith.

REST FROM THE QUEST, by Elissa Lindsey McClain. 180 pages, \$5.95. Here is an inside look at the New Age Movement by one who was born into it and spent 29 years searching for truth and reality. Here is a truly fascinating book!

AMERICA BETRAYED!, by Marlin Maddoux. 156 pages, \$5.95. If you do not think that Humanism is taking its toll through the public schools, the media, and through organizations such as the A.C.L.U., you must read this one—it's an eye opener!

SATAN AND HIS GOSPEL, \$1.50 — **DIVINE HEALING**, \$1.00. Two books which are in our catalog but, which have not been available, are now in stock at a higher price.

NEW AGE GLOBALISM, by Dr. Ed Rowe. 138 pages, \$5.95. Exposes the precise teachings of many humanist writers under a variety of headings so the reader can discover how thoroughly the enemy has infiltrated our social institutions in preparation for the new one world government.

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PERTINENT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

John E. Dahlin, Editor

QUESTION . . . What constitutes the main arguments by those who demand that the Biblical model of creationism be included in the textbooks for the public schools?

ANSWER . . . Those who support this alternate model of creationism insist that fairness should be provided in the treatment of the subject in the public schools. This viewpoint is based on the fact that millions of Bible-believing people should have their position included in the discussion of the subject. God's creation of man directly is taught in the Word of God and needs equal treatment with those who advocate evolution as the explanation of man's origin.

QUESTION . . . Why do those who support the theory of evolution become intolerant toward those who insist there should be an alternate model included in the textbooks?

ANSWER . . . They hold that evolution is the only scientific and rational way to explain the origin of man. This kind of philosophy has controlled the treatment of the subject in the public schools during many decades. It is clearly evident that those who advocate evolution have been blinded by the continuous explanation of man's origin in the textbooks. It is a known fact, however, that a number of secular scholars reject the theory of evolution because of a lack of facts for the establishment of this theory. Fairness demands an equal treatment of both views on the subject in the classrooms.