

# The DISCERNER

" HEREBY KNOW WE THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH AND THE  
SPIRIT OF ERROR"

## AN INTERDENOMINATIONAL HERESY-EXPOSING QUARTERLY

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## EDITORIAL

Dr. Wm. A. BeVier

In recent issues I have made a presentation of some of the more recent changes that have taken place in several of the major cults in this country.

In this issue I would like to call attention to two of the more "minor" cults which have appeared within the last decade or so. These are only two examples of the many cultic groups now in existence. J. Gordon Melton, in his *The Encyclopedia of American Religions*, 3rd ed. (Detroit, MI: Gale Research, Inc., 1989), lists 1588 religious groups in the United States and Canada. Some of these are "mainline" or traditional denominations, but many are identified as sects or cults. Bob Larson, in his *Larson's Book of Cults* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishing, Inc., 1982), giving the "flourishing cults," identifies 65 distinct groups, and many of the "minor" ones are not included.

The two to which I would invite attention are relatively new, seem to be built around one individual in each case, have gained some following, but are bizarre in several aspects. However, both follow a pattern found in more traditional cults.

One is headquartered in Idaho and named Elijah House, Inc. The

Biblical text which they quote explaining their existence is Malachi 4:5, 6: "See I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers . . ." (NIV, except for punctuation).

Most careful students of the Bible believe Jesus clearly indicted that Malachi 4:5-6 (and also Isa. 40:3) was fulfilled in the ministry of John the Baptist. See Mt. 11:12-14, 17:10-13; Mk. 1:2-4, 9:11-13; Lk. 1:17 (Angel Gabriel to Zechariah).

This group gives a great deal of emphasis to prophecy and healing. As many cults and cultic groups, they present themselves as "Christians." Since they use this designation of themselves, it is fair to evaluate them by the Christian standard, i.e., the Bible.

Elijah House can be considered "ecumenical," since they conduct some of their counseling schools in Roman Catholic retreat centers and have a priest celebrate mass as a part of the program.

One of this group's leaders advocates that the anti-Christ will come from the Muslim world and lead a jihad ("holy war") against the

West. He also claims a prophecy that atomic bombs will land on Israel, and Iraq will be obliterated (the means not given). He also claims the Lord caught him up over the Philippines and he saw a continent the size of Australia arising in the western Pacific. He writes it is "... risky . . . to put dates on things, . . ." but he seemed to hear: "Some time before 1998." In seven years we can mark this man as another false prophet (though I'm sure he doesn't believe it at this time).

Another report this prophet gives is: "Last night I wrestled demonic beings from 3:00 A.M. until just before dawn, and the names the Lord gave me were Samyasa and particularly Azazel." **Azazel** is a Hebrew word coming from the root "to separate" (Tregelles, Gesenius' Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon) and used in the Bible only of the "scapegoat" in Leviticus 16. The Seventh-day Adventists and others have applied this word to Satan, but no reputable Hebrew scholar has made this mistake. See Unger's Bible Dictionary (1957 ed., p. 111), Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary (1963, p. 86).

After predicting dire things are to happen in this world, the "prophet" writes:

Perhaps these prophets and I are too alarmist. Perhaps we have not really heard God. Even if we have heard God, perhaps we got it partly right and mainly wrong. But wouldn't it be wiser to pray—just in case—than to write it all off as alarmist error?

Such uncertainty, indefiniteness, and doubt is never seen in any of the true Biblical prophets.

With theological perspectives such as these, would anybody be a part of or support such a position? Unfortunately, the answer is "Yes." The group reports they have recently purchased "another 38 acres" of land next to their existing property for a school facility and counseling center, and a donor has promised a "substantial financial gift." Their "Counseling School" is scheduled for four states and a location in Canada in 1991.

Evidently people are being attracted to this group and we probably will hear more about it in the future.

The second new cult to which I call attention is called The Nation of Yahweh and The People For Truth that operates from Miami, Florida.

Their leader, Hulon Mitchell, Jr., age 56, alias Yahweh Ben Yahweh, and 16 followers were arrested November 7, 1990 by FBI agents and were confined to the Miami Correctional Center without bail under a 1984 Federal law.

After the arrest the group has gone public, attempting to gain support for the release of their leader. Among the charges against Yahweh Ben Yahweh and his followers after a Federal grand jury indictment are 14 homicides, including a ritualistic sacrificial murder of a "white devil," two attempted homicides and a firebombing (*Bay State Banner*, Aug. 22, 1991).

*Newsweek* magazine (Nov. 19, 1990, p. 45) had an article about Yahweh Ben Yahweh ("God the son of God") captioned "Busting the Prince of Love," with subtitle "A Miami cult leader is charged with murder." The first line of the article

by reporter Charles Leerhsen reads: "Anyone who calls himself Yahweh should be viewed with skepticism."

Yahweh Ben Yahweh claims he is the leader of a lost black tribe of Israel and that the original Semites were not Jews (technically, Bible scholars would partially agree with him. Shem, son of Noah, was the first Semite—Gen. 10:21ff).

*Newsweek* reports much of Yahweh Ben Yahweh's significance rests in the fact that he can deliver some 12,000 votes from among his followers to politicians in the Miami area, and that he controls a number of pieces of property and business interests.

The People For Truth (also called Temple of Love) literature lists that among other holdings of Yahweh Ben Yahweh are Yahweh grocery stores, bar-b-que [Sic.] stand, restaurant, carpet & upholstery shop, roofing company, bus lines, sign shop, boutique, "Temple of Love Publishing Company, Inc.," audiovisual services, etc. and in the entertainment field recording productions, jazz ensemble, universal dance troupe, etc. ("As of May 31, 1989"). Other sources list motels, hotels, apartments, and a school ("university"). Two of the murders allegedly occurred when Yahweh Ben Yahweh's followers were evicting tenants from an apartment house.

His followers are trying to rally public support for his cause. Referring to his incarceration, one of their articles has the headline: "If it can happen to Yahweh Ben Yahweh, it can happen to you." This was the same line the Unification Church took when their leader, Sun Myung Moon, was arrested and convicted

for income tax evasion.

The People For Truth are mounting a petition campaign to obtain signatures calling for his release from this "unconstitutional" arrest and confinement.

One article they have distributed has a drawing showing Yahweh Ben Yahweh on a cross with the headline "The Crucifixion of Yahweh Ben Yahweh." A subtitle reads: "The Son of Yahweh is identified by 'Suffering' and 'Persecution.'" It is to be noted that on the garment he is wearing in the drawing is printed the emblem of Free Masonry. It is further claimed in the accompanying article that Yahweh is retaliating against America's persecution of Yahweh Ben Yahweh by causing physical disasters, such as came on Egypt before the Exodus of Israel. A long list of these disasters is given, including "UFO sightings."

A statement in one of their articles reads that there is a: "60 million black population" in America. They predict this "majority" will take over the White House in 1992.

One might consider this the ravings of a demented person until it is remembered he has thousands of dedicated followers, a financial and media base, and is using the issue of racism to stir up support, all in the name of religion with Biblical quotations to bolster their views. Testimonials in support of Yahweh Ben Yahweh have been obtained from former Federal Judge Alcee Hastings (himself removed from office for malfeasance, which some say was racially motivated), Louis Farrankhan (leader of a radical black movement), and the Urban League. On August 8, 1991, before

he was confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice Clarence Thomas had been approached to intercede in behalf of Yahweh Ben Yahweh (*The Capitol Spotlight*, 37:37, p. 1).

We, as Christians, need to be aware of these individuals and organizations—not to be alarmed about them, but in order to help some who might be enticed to follow such leaders. We are seeing fulfillment almost daily of our Lord's statement in Matthew 24:23-26:

"Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not."

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## NEW LIFE & HEALTH MINISTRIES

by *Ewald Eisele*

I responded to an advertisement which offered a free Bible study. If the organization offering the Study had left off the word "health" I would not have been suspicious. But, after many years of dealing with the cults, I was.

To date, I have received twenty-one lessons. Lesson one did not have the marks of a cult, but in the remaining lessons it became clear that a cult was involved. The first indication was in lesson two. Before sending for the lessons I had a feeling that, because of the "health," the cult was Seventh-day Adventism. Lesson two confirmed my intuition when there were references to 'the law' and what to do about it.

Lesson four, question no. 6 with its note, and question no. 8 with its note, indicated that the author never took a course in logic.

Let me illustrate by quoting the question no. 6 and its note.

6. Why does the Apostle Paul tell us Christ is our Redeemer? The answer is to be found and it says, in

Colossians 1:14, 16, which I will quote: Verse 14—"In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins." Verse 16—"For by Him were all things created, that are in the heaven, and that are in the earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him and for Him."

The note that follows this question is this: "Let us sum up what this text tells us.

1. We have redemption through Jesus' blood.
2. The preaching of the cross is the preaching of the power of God.
3. The power of God is the power that creates.
4. Therefore the cross of Christ has in it creative power and this power is the power that redeems.

Now, I do not see the logic in this author's thinking. Not that the first three statements are wrong. We do have redemption through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The preaching of the cross is "the power

of God" to the saved (I Cor. 1:18). But where do we learn, from these two texts, the statements numbered 3 and 4? In logic the 'therefore' indicates the logical result of former statements or declarations. This is not true here. The 'therefore' statement in No. 4 is **not** the conclusion that can be gotten from the other statements.

The reason I mention it is that this is only one example of unclear thinking that seems to be one of the marks of every cult.

To conserve time and space I will not cover each lesson but I will point out some errors. In the introductory remarks to lesson seven, we are told that Adam and Eve had the impression that by disobeying God, they themselves would become gods. That was news to me. In Genesis 3:5 the serpent said, "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be AS GODS, knowing good and evil" [emphasis mine]. Not be gods, but be **as gods** in the knowledge of good and evil.

The remainder of the lesson dealt with their pet doctrine of "soul sleep." Naturally there was no reference made to II Cor. 5:17 or Phil. 1:23, where that teaching of the Seventh-day Adventists is refuted, to say nothing of other Scriptures where it is also negated. In the same lesson students are asked, "When will God's people receive everlasting life?" The place where the answer is supposed to be found is I Thess. 4:15-17. It seems that the Adventists never have seen, among other Scriptures which deal with this, I John 5:11-12!

Lesson eight had errors regarding II Peter 1:16-19 as well as

mistakes in the history lesson of the destruction of Jerusalem in A. D. 70.

Lesson twelve began with the consideration of the prophecies of Daniel, especially the one relating to the 2300 days, which is found in Daniel 8:14. In Seventh-day Adventism, the entire prophetic system hangs on what they believe of their tradition regarding an unBiblical view of the 2300 days, the sanctuary and its cleansing. If they are wrong on these things their entire **theory** breaks down. According to their **original theory** the sanctuary (the earth) was to be cleansed at the end of the 2300 days, which was 1844.

In the book, *Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, which is a review of 27 fundamental doctrines of the Adventist Church, and which was published by their own publishing house in 1988, it is stated of Ellen G. White, page 216, "As the Lord's messenger, her writings are a continuing and authoritative source of truth which provide for the church comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction." In Mrs. White's book published in 1888, *The Great Controversy*, chapter 23 states, "In common with the Christian world, Adventists then (1844) held that the earth, or some portion of it, was the sanctuary. They understood that the cleansing of the sanctuary was the purification of the earth by the fires of the last great day."

The sanctuary (which had to include all of earth) was to be cleansed by fire at **the return of Christ**. When He failed to return, they introduced what is now the keystone of their entire system of Biblical interpretation, The Investigative Judgment **theory**, men-

tioned in lesson 17. The position, held by Adventists without reservation, is that Jesus, when He ascended in Acts 1:9, entered the Holy Place in the sanctuary in heaven. When He did not appear in 1844, they declared that He moved from the Holy Place into the Most Holy Place in the heavenly sanctuary. *Seventh-day Adventists Believe* puts it very clearly on page 312, "In 1844, at the end of the prophetic period of 2300 days, He entered the second and last phase of His atoning ministry." But then on the next page they contradict that statement pointing out what the Bible states: "When Jesus, the Passover Lamb of God, calls out, 'It Is Finished!' He dies for the sins of the world." If it was finished, why do they claim that there is a "second and last phase of His **atoning work**?"

There were several other things involved with this theory, such as the door to salvation being shut except to those who knew of His move (only Adventists did). Also, that no work was to be done on the Great Day of Atonement when the sanctuary in the Old Testament was cleansed, Leviticus 16. Many Adventists believed that it was a sin to work during the 'cleansing' but were forced to give up this position, for obvious reasons. Other odd positions were involved, all of which were abandoned.

Now what does the Bible say to all of this? After all, the Word of God is our final authority, not the theories of some denomination! First, what about this one who they call Jesus? This Jesus certainly cannot be the Jesus of the Bible. The Jesus of the Bible took the sins of the world on Himself when He

died on the cross. It was there that He said, "It is **finished**." And it **WAS!**

Also, according to Hebrews 1:3 and Revelation 3:21, when Christ ascended, as recorded in Acts 1:9, He sat down on the right hand of God. God's throne has **always** been in the Holy of Holies in heaven. Also, Hebrews 6:19-20 states that Jesus entered "within the veil," and within the veil is where the Most Holy Place was because it was there that God's presence ever abode. Therefore, when Jesus ascended He went **directly** to the Holy of Holies, not in 1844.

The only conclusion possible is that the Seventh-day Adventists have another Jesus other than the one who died on the cross.

Another one of their 'truths' in this lesson is concerning Revelation 14:6-7. In my Bible an angel is flying in the heavens and crying, "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: . . ." Now hear this explanation which must come from a perverted mind, and I quote: "Note that it is 'God's' judgment. This doesn't mean that it is His judgment just because He is presiding. In speaking of a trial, we never say that it is the judge's trial, but rather, it is the trial of the person who is being investigated, or tried. **In this case, it is God who is on trial before the universe, in the person of His professed people**" [emphasis mine]. End of quotation. This is a perversion of the Word of God which borders on blasphemy.

Naturally the Sabbath question was presented. So was their distorted view of the scapegoat of Lev. 16, which they assign to Satan, making **him** the ultimate sin-bearer

of the sins of the world.

The Sabbath was really emphasized in lesson 19 to which was added a separate 4-page production with the title, **The Story of Constantine—The Man Who Changed The Christian Church.** To condense the four pages is very simple. They make the claim, which is as old as the hills and not new with them, that Constantine, and ultimately the Roman Catholic Church, changed the Sabbath to Sunday. I know of no one today who thinks that Sunday is the Christian Sabbath. Sabbath is still Saturday. The Bible makes it very plain: "Wherefore the children of ISRAEL shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout THEIR generations, for a perpetual covenant. IT IS A SIGN BETWEEN ME AND THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL for ever . . ." (Exodus 31:16-17) [emphasis mine]. Real Christians are NOT under the law and this is a very central point of the Gospel that the Adventists have missed. They should read Paul's vindication of the Gospel of grace

from any additions of law-conditions, which destroy its conditions of pure grace: his letter to the Galatians.

Do not be taken in by these lessons. Seventh-day Adventism is a cult in spite of the prolific use of Scripture in their writings. They have not obeyed, neither are they now, obeying the admonition of Paul to young Timothy in I Tim. 4:7, "But refuse profane and old wives' fables . . ." such as have come from the pen of Ellen G. White, their prophetess. Incidentally, in 21 lessons there has been no mention of health. There was no mention of an Adventist publishing house, such as Review and Herald Publishing Association, until lesson 18. These lessons, with a title "The Word of Truth," were mailed from Goldendale, Washington. The Adventists are very deceptive. They try very hard not to identify their cult because they know who they are and what they believe will not be acceptable to Bible-believing Christians. Beware!

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## JOHN WIMBER

*By Roy Livesey*

For a deceiver of the spiritual kind inside the Church, we now present our up-date of John Wimber, one often signaled in our previous books and issues of *NEW AGE BULLETIN*. Just as there is found no one to compare with Jack Chick and Alberto Rivera when it comes to exposing Rome on such an immense scale, it would be difficult to find an individual with more influence in promoting ecumenism and pentecostal/charismatic deception within the Church, than John Wimber.

Whether he realizes it or not, Wimber is Rome's Pied Piper today. He has played a key part in Rome's *Evangelisation 2000* program this far. His "Third Wave," following on from the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements (the First and Second Waves), builds on these previous deceptions. His "Signs and Wonders" and "Power Evangelism," with prophecy power now added to his famous healing-power, look set to further serve Ecumenism and Rome in the 1990s. Wimber, claiming he is not a charismatic, has a normally



quiet way with him. This has helped to give him an influence over a broad range of the professing church worldwide.

With Wimber's different approach, but with essentially pentecostal and charismatic teaching, many churches are experiencing Wimber's sinister pull on their people. Dr. M. H. Reynolds, Jr. has reported ("*Foundation—A Magazine of Biblical Fundamentalism*," Jan.-Feb., 1991, Fundamental Evangelistic Association, P.O. Box 6278, Los Asos, CA 93412, U.S.A.; subscription \$8 per year, U.S.; \$12 per year overseas) on the January 1991 "*Revival Fire*" conference at Wimber's Anaheim, California, Vineyard Christian Fellowship. Drawing on a long experience, Dr. Reynolds writes that he cannot recall ever having attended another conference through all these years "which more deceptively mixed truth and error."

Rock music is these days more or less totally acceptable to the professing church, even if many of the older generation still do not like it. The "*Revival Fire*" conference revealed these false spirits from its outset. All the main meetings began with the use of "Christian Rock." Sometimes the music was deafening and produced all kinds of body gyrations on the part of many present. At other times, the beat would slow and the sound was reduced to almost a whisper.

Like the children in the disco, the congregation can be controlled by the music. In the fairy tale of the Pied Piper the children followed the music wherever the piper went. In "*The Pied Piper of the Pentecostal Movement*," we read a quotation by Howard Goss from "*The Winds of*

*God*" (p. 212). Goss identifies the year of his conversion as 1903 under Charles Parham's ministry at the beginning of pentecostalism, and he became the first General Superintendent of the United Pentecostal Church, a denomination which by 1987 reported more than 1,000,000 members worldwide. By then it was "Rock." Goss described pentecostal hymns as "jazzed up." Commenting upon this music Goss admits: "Without it the Pentecostal Movement could never have made the rapid inroads into the hearts of men and women as it did. Neither could we have experienced a constant victorious revival over the 50 years."

Wimber's emphasis by 1991, having taken the pastors from the Kansas City fellowships, renowned for their prophecies, under the Vineyard wing, has shifted from teaching healing to teaching people to prophesy. We soon find leading "prophets" confirming that what the church is doing is OK. The undiscerning believer soon gets the convenient confirmation that the "good" kind of rock music is OK. In all circles involved with the occult there is found the belief that some spirits are "evil" and some are "good," and the Vineyard churches of John Wimber are no exception. As in the occult circles I once knew, so with Wimber's followers. It is always comforting to have somebody "up-front" to confirm to you that you're on the right lines. One such Vineyard-accredited "prophet" had this to offer at the November "*Harvest*" conference in Denver, Colorado:

"The Lord has appointed me as a lookout and shown me some things that I want to show you and tell you . . . The Lord spoke to me and said,

'What you saw in the Beatles—the gifting and the sound that they had—was from Me. It did not belong to them. It was my purpose to bring forth through music a worldwide revival that would usher in the move of my Spirit in bringing men and women to Christ . . . Now I'm looking for those who I can place that anointing back upon. And, as surely as I place it upon them, they will come forth with a sound that is distinctive that will turn the hearts of men and women and capture their hearts.'"

These so-called prophets are able to confirm what is needed by the Vineyards and their followers in the short-term. Longer term they look for a theology. Do they seek to put a more certain seal on what is being taught? It has been said that you can prove anything with words from the Bible. Dr. Jack Deere seems to be a significant figure when it comes to working out Vineyard theology. For 12 years he was a faculty member at the Dallas Theological Seminary, and along with Dr. Peter Wagner he is one of the top theological figures of the Power Evangelism movement.

An interview with Dr. Deere in Australia was reported in "*John Wimber—Friend or Foe?*", an examination of the current teaching of the Vineyard Ministries movement, reprinted from "*The Briefing*" (April 1990, St. Matthias Press, 5 Stanton Road, London SW208RL). These remarks were made during the visit of Wimber and his team to Sydney. During a question and answer session following one of the seminars taught by Deere, he was asked, "What is the Gospel?" Since his answer seemed vague and evasive, Graham Banister

questioned him further in a personal interview afterwards. The following is Banister's report:

"Let me briefly explain the background to this interview. The Thursday workshop provided a time for questions, and during this time I challenged some of Dr. Deere's teaching. In the ensuing dialogue, he asked me what I thought the gospel was. I replied that it was about Jesus Christ who died for our sins, was buried and raised on the third day and that it is this gospel by which we are saved (I Cor. 15). His reply was that this was not the gospel. Somewhat confused, I decided to take up the matter at a future time, hence, the following revealing interview.

After introducing myself, I said to Dr. Jack Deere, "I wonder if you might tell me why you felt my explanation of the gospel was defective yesterday? To which he replied, "I'm not really very prepared to talk about that." I must admit that I was a little surprised at this initial response, considering he had just finished speaking to five and a half thousand people on false teachers. Added to this was the fact that two days earlier he had informed us of the many ancient languages in which he had become proficient in order to fully understand the Bible. I wouldn't have thought someone with such impressive credentials would need to do all that much preparation for a friendly discussion on the content of the gospel. Given his lack of preparation, I then asked, "Well, just off the top of your head, what do you think the gospel is?" Jack Deere replied, "I'm not prepared to make a formal statement about that." My next question was, "**Could you**

perhaps tell me informally what you believe to be the gospel?" Jack Deere answered, "I'm not sure." Somewhat stunned, I said, "I find this quite surprising—that you are not sure what the gospel is."

Jack Deere then commented, "I used to be just like you . . . thinking the gospel was simply justification by faith." I responded, "Are you saying that the gospel is more than justification by faith?" "Yes," he said. "What would you add to it?" I asked. "Deliverance," he said. Then I asked, "What do you mean by Deliverance?" He explained, "Things like demons and healing and . . ." Pausing for a deep breath, I said, "So, let me get this straight. You would add as an essential part of the gospel things like the exorcising of demons, and healing?" He nodded. "Sort of like what John Wimber was saying last night at the evangelistic rally that it's the complete package—the Word and the works of Jesus?" "Yes," he said. "But you're not sure exactly what should be included?" I asked. "No," he said, "not yet."

Not sure of what to say next, I asked, "Would it be fair to say that you're in a state of flux since you joined the Wimber thing?" He quickly responded, "We're always in a state of flux—you are too . . ." "But on the gospel message?" I asked. "Surely that's one thing we should have worked out . . . Don't you think we can reduce the gospel to some sort of summary statement like Paul does in say I Corinthians 1 and 2 or I Corinthians 15 or I Thessalonians 4 or Romans 5 or . . .?" There was no response except a shrug of the shoulders.

Continuing to be amazed, I said,

"Are you saying that you couldn't go back into that pavilion and tell those people the gospel?" He replied, "No, not yet." I responded, "When do you think you could do it?" And he said, "Maybe five years, maybe ten . . ."

After this we chatted on about a few other things but I remained stunned that one of the leading minds, if not the leading theological mind in the Signs and Wonders Movement, did not know what was the gospel!

From statements by John Wimber over the years, it is clear that he has been on a voyage of discovery. We have been watching Wimber for more than five years. Like our own pentecostal/charismatic pastor of five years ago, excited by "the new thing God is doing," Wimber is a searcher. Like me in my own occult search before that, excited at the "new messages" we were receiving from the spirit world, Wimber is a searcher. Such searching is without regard to the revelation of God's Word by the Holy Spirit.

The difference with Wimber is that he has millions following his every move. Is it not this which makes John Wimber so useful as the spiritual pied piper *inside* the Church for the ecumenical and religious purposes of Rome? Is it not this which puts Wimber in the class of significance alongside the Dalai Lama and those influential leaders of the world's faiths *outside* of the professing Christian church who have beaten a path to Rome and to gatherings like "Assisi 1986"? Is Wimber not being mightily used to help rebuild a one-world religion headed by Rome? Isn't this religious

aspect of the One World Order one which, if God be willing, looks now to be within Rome's grasp?

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## ISLAM REVEALED

(*A Christian Arab's View of Islam*)

By Dr. Anis A. Shorosh, 313 pages, \$9.95

Reviewed by Ewald Eisele

The book is in two parts. Part one has the title: "Islam: The Evidence Examined." Part two is: "The Great Debate." Some very positive things may be said about the overall format.

The Foreword, written by Dr. Adrian Rogers, gives the reader background information about the author. The Introduction, six pages, relates the background of the "Great Debate" which is the second part of the book. Footnotes are not used, so notes on the text are added at the end of the book. There is an excellent eight-page bibliography as well as a valuable four-page glossary of terms and phrases relating to an understanding of Islam. My preference of Scripture, as readers know, is the King James Version. However, the author uses the New King James Version throughout, so those whose preference is the same as mine will have to compare the two for themselves.

Let me begin with some of what Dr. Rogers wrote in the Foreword:

In 1948, when Anis was only fourteen years old, the Jewish army swept into his hometown of Nazareth. Anis's father was killed while trying to return home. His body was never found. Anis's uncle was killed in the battle of Nazareth. Anis's mother gathered up her children at night and fled with them on camelback across the Jordan River to Jordan. Anis's

biography, *The Liberated Palestinian*, tells the story of his dramatic conversion while an embittered refugee, and how Southern Baptist missionaries influenced him to come to America where he earned college and seminary degrees.

The author states on page xvi of the Introduction that this book is the result of his study and research conducted for two debates which he had with Mr. Ahmed Deedat, "one of the foremost Islamic spokesmen in the world" (Foreword, page ix).

The first chapter, The Religion of Islam, has twenty-five pages filled with the basics which will always be of value to anyone having any contact with Muslims. From page twenty-one: "Nearly one out of five human beings claim the Muslim religion. Islam is an Arabic word which means submission or surrender. As Muslims use it, Islam becomes a description of the religion of surrendering one's life to Allah, the one true God."

The foundation of Islam is the Quran, also spelled Koran in some writings. It is, ". . . held in the greatest esteem and reverence among Muslims as their holy scripture. They dare not touch it without first being washed and purified. They read it with the greatest care and respect, never holding it below their waist" (page 21). Some Muslims, in order to earn the title of Hafiz memorize and

repeat the entire book—next to the Quran is Tradition. "While the former is regarded as supreme, the whole system of Islamic government is largely founded on the latter" (page 22). Then comes the Sunna which is really part of the tradition but it is important because it is a command or an example set by Muhammad. The Sunna is believed to be on the same level of importance as the Bible but the Quran is superior to both. The remaining Foundations are Ijma and Oiyas.

The Quran is written in Arabic prose, and lest there be some in Islam who would refute the author's translation, he quotes in writing, in Arabic script the actual words, sentences or verses used. This is done throughout the book, because this book is not only an informational tool for the Christian, but also an evangelistic effort to reach Muslims.

There is in this chapter a section on the Creed of Islam. Covered are these subjects: Allah (God), Angels, The Holy Books, Prophets, Resurrection and the Judgement. The author adds a sixth belief which is not part of the creed but is accepted by many Muslims: Predestination.

Also detailed are the Five Pillars or Duties of Islam. Here again the author adds one additional Pillar: The Jihad, or Holy War.

For the most part, Christians think of Islam as being solidly unified. However, Islam is almost as fragmented as Christianity. The section, Sects of Islam, will open the eyes of many as to the number, names and activities of the various sects.

Then the Feasts and Fasts of Islam are detailed. There is one page given to the Muslims and the

Gospel. On page 41, Dr. Shorosh has a challenging statement: "The myth of an impregnable Islam is no longer valid. Muslims can, will, and are coming to Christ." The chapter closes with a page concerning Muslims in North America and four pages concerning Muslims in the world, 893,230,200 strong. One hundred-thirteen nations are listed. Actual Muslim population is given and then percentages of the country's population that is Muslim. There are three listed at 100% with many in the 80% to 90% range.

I doubt that there will be many who will read chapter one only once. Not only is there important information but it is given in an understandable and fascinatingly interesting way.

Chapter two is: "The Life of Muhammad." Noted first of all is the fact that there is no ancient non-Muslim biography of Muhammad. The two sources are Islamic but have been translated into English and published by Oxford University Press in 1955.

From his birth at Mecca in A.D. 570 to his death at Medina in A.D. 632, at the age of 63, his life is given in interesting detail. His marriages, 11 in all, his children, problems, wars, losses and victories are all related. This is not a dry biography. This chapter is also one to be read more than once. An interesting insight is given on page 50 of Muhammad's home life by Ayisha, the youngest of his eleven wives. The prophet's eleven wives were an exception since the common Muslim was only allowed four, and then only if he treated them equally. He was allowed his eleven because Allah, "commanded it to be so" (page 63).

The chapter closes with a section, "Is Muhammad Mentioned in the

Bible?" Muslims say yes but that the passages were, "removed by Jews and Christians" (page 75). Muslims, in fact, admit that the Bible is divinely inspired and uncorrupt. In this section the author quotes passages in the Bible which Muslims believe contain prophecies concerning Muhammad. Dr. Shorrosh effectively refutes that claim.

Chapter three is, "Jesus Christ According to Islam." One of the favorite sources used by Muslims to support their erroneous views of Christ and the Holy Bible is the spurious Gospel of Barnabas. This "Gospel" is examined in detail in chapter five.

This chapter begins with this on page 82: "Islam recognizes Christ Jesus to be far more perfect and sinless than any human being ever has been or could be. The Quran itself does not give to any of the prophets, not even to Muhammad, any of those special characteristics pertaining to Christ.

"Isa is the name given to Jesus in the Quran. Both Christians and Muslims have wondered for centuries why He is not called Yesu' as the Gospels have in Arabic." There follows a detailed reason for this different spelling. Of course they see in the Quran many statements concerning Him and these are quoted in English as well as in Arabic. Some of the things said are true, e.g., His miraculous birth. Others are rather far-fetched traditions, e.g., Jesus spoke at His birth. However, on page 89 is the testimony, "The Quran testifies very clearly that Jesus is the Word of God." But then, on page 91, "Jesus is Allah's Mediator and Messiah." Always the source is Allah, not the God of the Bible. Christians need to realize that Allah and the God of the

Bible are not the same. For instance, on page 95, under the section, "Jesus Heals and Raises From the Dead," there is a quotation from the Quran. The words are evidently from Jesus: "I heal him who was born blind, and the leper, and I raise the dead, by Allah's leave." Allah, not God.

On page 97 Dr. Shorrosh states that, ". . . one of the most controversial subjects among Muslims and Christians in the entire theological debate," is the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. He has a quotation from the Quran of the actual wording of the birth, death and expected resurrection of John the Baptist and then notes when practically the same words are used of Jesus, in the same chapter of the same book in the Quran, they are denied as stating that Jesus actually died.

The chapter closes with a chart comparing Jesus and Muhammad. Before the chart, Dr. Shorrosh on page 101, has this positive statement, "It is obvious from the above references that Jesus Christ emerges from the Quranic passages, as well as the Hadith's pages, as a formidable, fascinating, and divine figure indeed. In fact, the Quranic description of Jesus of Nazareth stands second only to the Bible."

Chapter four is: The Crucifixion: Fact or Fiction? On page 109 it is stated, "The cross, in Islam's estimation, was not a historical event or the basis for a doctrine of redemption." It continues later on the same page, "Muslim theologians disagree on the matter of how another took the place of Christ. Many stories have arisen about it. One is that when the Jews determined to kill Christ, God took Him to heaven. Because leaders feared an uprising of the people, they

killed a man by crucifixion and sought to deceive the people by saying that he was Christ." There are evidently many versions to this story and several are related on the following pages. The chapter continues with a commentary on several statements in the Quran and the prophecies and records of fulfillment in the Bible. Included are the testimonies of secular historians: Flavius Josephus, the Jewish Talmud, and Roman and Greek historians.

There is on page 133 a summary of a nine-page essay written by three American medical doctors and printed in the Journal of the American Medical Association, March 21, 1986 (p. 1455 ff.). I have read that essay some years back and I highly recommend that readers ponder well this brief summary or make an attempt to obtain the original.

Chapter five is: Islam Unveiled. This chapter is divided into nine sections and each section into several sub-sections. This is the longest chapter in the book. Throughout these sections there are copious quotations from the Quran to document the statements Dr. Shorosh makes. There are also documenting quotations from the Bible. One of the outstanding features of this book is the more than adequate documentation. Though this is a most important chapter as well as a very interesting one, I will only note the main sections without any comment on them. I would hope that by this time you will have decided that you must read for yourself this most important book.

The main sections have the following titles: The True Sources of Islam; The Old Testament; Quoranic Problems; Women's Inferiority in

Islam; Sword and Slavery in Islam; The Gospel of Barnabas; The Mystery of Pbih Unveiled; The Early Advances of Islam; and Islamic Growth Today.

Chapter six is: The Quran Exposed. This chapter should be of special interest to anyone, Muslim or not, who is familiar with Arabic. However, one does not have to be familiar with the language to gain valuable insights. The sources, grammar, mistakes, misquotes of the Bible and the twisting of the truth are all considered and can be understood without knowing Arabic.

Chapter seven is: The Bible. A short chapter ending with the author's concluding thoughts regarding the two faiths which have been contrasted on every page.

As mentioned, the book is in two parts. Part Two concerns the Great Debate. On page 235 a footnote explains, "Chapters 8-10 are edited from the transcript of the original debate which was held at Prince Albert, in London, England, on December 15, 1985. Material in brackets is added for clarity." The transcript of the debate is in itself worth the price of the book.

The amount of information in this book is amazing. No one should be without this source. For even if there is only a remote opportunity for witnessing to a Muslim, Christians need the help that is available here. As stated earlier, Muslims can and are being won to the Lord Jesus Christ. This book is an excellent tool to help in reaching them.

You may order this important book from our office, \$9.95 plus \$1.05 postage for a total of \$11.00.

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**America Shattered:** Unmasking the Plot to Destroy Our Families and Our Country - by Texe Marrs. There are, as most of our constituents know, many books on the New Age. So many times the question is asked, "What! Another New Age book? Why are there so many? What more can be said?" Introducing this one I can only say you had better read this one and you will see why it has been written. Texe Marrs has written other books on the New Age, they have all been good, and they have all served a very important and definite purpose. He is continuing his good track record with this one with one exception. This one is really one that every Christian needs to read. If you will read this one and not be moved to do something about the sewage that is being forced on us by our government, schools, media and entertainment world, then you have already thrown in the towel and are ready to capitulate to the devil's crowd.

The book is in six parts with each part divided into anywhere from seven to eighteen sections. The beautiful part is that each section listed in the Table of Contents so

that there is a quick table of reference in the event that you want to find a particular subject.

Everything that Marrs quotes from New Age writers is documented. There are literally dozens of quotes from their own writings which prove that what is revealed in this book is not given just to make interesting reading. It is that, but the main thrust is to show exactly where we as Christians and also as a nation are headed.

Special features of the book include the entire text of the EEOC ruling on New Age training required by employers (signed, incidentally, by Clarence Thomas), a 3-page chart contrasting New Age doctrines with Biblical truth, and an insightful guide on how to reach New Agers for Christ. The message of this book is that we should and we can make a difference. Don't know how? Part Five, "How To Combat the New Age Flood of Filth" and Part Six, "How to Defeat the New Age: Guidelines for Overcomers: will give all of the ammunition that you need. Order by name. 128 pgs. \$6.95 plus \$1.05 postage.