

The Unmasking of Satan

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Introduction:

To the world, Satan is the mythical caretaker of a mythical hell, a comic figure in a red suit with forked tail and horns. Beneath this shallow and ignorant concept, however, is a *wicked underworld* where he is *worshipped* and *feared*, and where the souls of men are *enslaved* to his will.

In Philosophy, Satan is merely an *impersonal concept*, intellectually regarded as the invention of a puritanical guilt-complex. *Enlightened thinkers* dismiss such superstition as *unreasonable to the rational mind*. In religion, the devil is a mystery, the object of both derision and pity. He is either eulogized or despised. Concerning evil, he is considered its *influence* and its *victim*.

Satan's true identity is revealed only in the Bible. He is the origin of all sin, the source of all misery, and the center of all strife. He is the reason for sorrow, bitterness and grief. He is the *devil*, and he is *alive and well!* His wickedness separated man from Eden's sublime estate and plunged mankind to the depths of human despair, yet he conducts his damnable business with scarcely a notice:

“The Devil” (Author unknown)

Men don't believe in a devil now, as their fathers used to do. They've opened the door of the broadest creed to let his majesty through. There isn't a print of his cloven foot, or a fiery dart from his bow, to be found on earth or anywhere, for the world has voted it so.

But who is mixing the fatal draught that kills both heart and brain, and loads the earth each passing year with ten hundred thousand slain? Who blights the bloom of the land today with the fiery breath of hell? If the devil isn't, or never was, won't somebody please rise and tell?

Who dogs the steps of the toiling saint and digs the pit for his feet? Who sows the tares in the field of time when God is sowing pure wheat? But the devil is voted just not to be, and of course, the thing is true; but who is doing the kind of work the devil is supposed to do?

Won't somebody step to the front right now and immediately begin to show how the frauds and the crimes of the day spring up, for surely we want to know! The devil was fairly voted out, and of course, the devil's gone; but simple folk would like to know, who carries his business on?

1. The Doctrine of Satan:

A. The Identity of Satan:

1. His Origin:

His first estate was neither evil nor earthly; he was created as *Lucifer*, a most beautiful and powerful heavenly creature. In the context of a contemporary prophecy concerning the king of Tyrus, Ezekiel reveals a secondary, *spiritual* prophecy describing Satan himself:

“Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the

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holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee”
(Ezekiel 28: 12-15)

He is described as the *anointed cherub that covereth*; created, not as the devil, but rather of the heavenly order of *living creatures* identified in the Bible as *cherubim*. Lucifer was created to *cover*, or grace the throne of God. The *tabrets and pipes* are thought by Dr. Harold Wilmington to describe some sort of musical instrument; Lucifer was apparently created with a special capacity to sound the praises of God. It is no coincidence, then, that the base and lewd music of today which honors him is so powerful!

2. His **Sin** and **Fall** from Heaven:

“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!” (Isaiah 14: 12)

Why did God so severely judge this mighty cherub? Remember that God’s purpose in creation is to *glorify His own name*. Ezekiel reveals that Satan’s *pride* led to his terrible sin:

“Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee”
(Ezekiel 28: 17)

Wicked Pride Led Lucifer to Challenge **God Almighty**:

“For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High” (Isaiah 14: 13-14)

Is there any hint of Satan’s *motive* for this prideful rebellion? He is said to have been in *Eden, the garden of God*, and to have been *upon the holy mountain of God*, and to have *walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire*, which indicate that he had extraordinary access to all of creation, and to God’s divine work in the heavens. Was he so moved with envy and jealousy upon viewing Eden, a paradise so magnificent, and with beauty that eclipsed his own, that he attempted to usurp and overthrow the very God of Heaven? It is certain from the scriptures that Satan did not covet God’s attributes of mercy, love, or holiness, only His *power*.

3. Satan’s **Nature**:

a. His **Character**:

He Is a **Murderer** and a **Liar**:

“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8: 44)

He Is the **Deceiver** and the **Tempter**:

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“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (Revelation 12: 9)

“For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain” (1 Thessalonians 3: 5)

He Is as a **Roaring Lion**:

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

He Is **Persuasive** and **Eloquent** of Speech:

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God” (2 Thessalonians 2: 3-4)

b. His **Personality**:

Satan is not, as liberal theologians say, merely an evil influence, or the product of a guilty conscience; he is a *real* person, and possesses a *real* body. Satan is the father of a hellish threesome, and the instigator of all that is wicked, vile and sinful.

The *Antichrist* is the second person of the three, the incarnation of the devil himself, in *human form*, during the tribulation period. He is the *devil's rival* to our Lord Jesus Christ! He will not be an *opposite christ*, tempting man to choose hell and eternal torment over Heaven and eternal blessedness; he will be the *opposing christ*, seducing and deceiving men by *seeming* goodness, *divine* power and *feigned* righteousness.

The *False Prophet* is the *spirit of the devil* himself. His ministry during the tribulation will be, by working miracles, signs, and lying wonders, to *deceive* and *convince* the unsaved to receive the *antichrist* as God Himself!

“And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed” (Revelation 13: 13-15)

c. His **Intellect**:

Satan is the brilliant mastermind of evil. No human is his match! Many Christians have foolishly boasted of their plans to *take on the devil*, only to be caught in his snare and be brought to heartache and ruin. Sometimes his strategy is the bold confrontation of a *roaring lion*, but with most believers he disguises his purpose in a seemingly rational substitute for the truth, and presents himself as an emissary of heaven:

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“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light” (2 Corinthians 11: 14)

The devil is the architect of *godless education*. To subvert the influence of God upon man, Satan devised his *own system* of education which teaches a godless philosophy of science, politics, health and the arts. His success has been overwhelming; the Bible and prayer have been barred from public education in the United States and in most of the world. False science has embraced the *ludicrous hypothesis* of Evolution; society has renounced Biblical moral and ethical norms, plunging the world into history’s most devastating era of lawlessness and immorality.

Satan has learned that he can undermine Biblical truth by simply offering a *more attractive* form of religion, suited to the corrupt minds of unregenerate men. After the early church was founded, he began *misquoting* scripture and started his own religion! He entered the finest seminaries, moving the emphasis away from *the book, the blood, and the blessed hope*, substituting for them the damnable heresies of *good works, self-righteousness, and antagonistic higher criticism* (with its doubts about hell, wrath and judgement). He even sponsors his own versions of the Bible to question the deity of Christ.

d. His **Power**:

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places”
(Ephesians 6: 12)

He Works **Miracles, Signs** and **Lying Wonders** (2 Thessalonians 2: 9)

“Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live” (Revelation 13: 13-14)

He Controls **Worldly Empires**:

“And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it” (Luke 4: 5-6)

When Satan offered the kingdoms of the world, the Saviour neither denied nor rebuked the devil for making such an offer. Why not? Because through sin, Adam lost his birthright to dominion of the earth to Satan in the Garden of Eden. On the cross, our Lord Jesus purchased that birthright, and the earth will be restored to righteousness at His second coming.

Satan Has Even Used, by Permission, the Very **Elements of Nature**:

“And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD. While he was yet speaking, th ere came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of

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the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee” (Job 1: 12, 16, 19)

e. Satan’s **Weaknesses**:

He **Does Not Possess** the Attributes of God:

Satan is not *omnipotent*. As powerful as he is, Satan does not possess *all power*. He is subject absolutely to the divine power of God Almighty. He is a defeated foe.

Satan is not *omniscient*. God alone is *all-knowing*. Satan cannot look into the heart or mind of man; only God can do that.

Satan is not *omnipresent*. Only God can be *everywhere present*. Although the devil has a vast host of fallen angels to carry out his activities, he can only be in one place at a time.

Satan is *not immutable*. God alone is *eternally unchanging*. Satan will not conduct himself forever as he does now. While Jesus Christ is *“the same, yesterday, and to day, and for ever”* (Hebrews 13: 8), the devil is doomed to eternal torment in the Lake of Fire:

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever”
(Revelation 20: 10)

He **Cannot Make** a Christian Commit Sin:

“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace”
(Romans 6: 14)

While Satan *does* oppress, afflict and entice believers, he *cannot make* a Christian commit sin! The famous byline of a twentieth-century comedian was *“the devil made me do it.”* It reflects a cultural and religious philosophy that expects, even *accepts* sin because Satan is overpowering. This viewpoint is even expressed by some professing Christians. However, the Bible clearly teaches that sin is born out of man’s *own lusts!* :

“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death”
(James 1: 14-15)

No child of God must *sin a little every day*. God promises that He will not permit Satan to tempt the believer beyond his ability to resist, but will provide a way to avoid sin in every enticement of the devil:

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (1 Corinthians 10: 13)

B. The **Names** of Satan:

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The Bible lists more than twenty names and titles describing the devil. Below are a few of the most common:

Satan	(“adversary”)	Most common name, used more than 52 times in the Bible.
Devil	(“slanderer”)	Second most common name, used 35 times in the Bible.
Beelzebub	(“prince of devils”)	Matthew 12: 24
Apollyon	(“destroyer”)	Revelation 9: 11
Accuser of the Brethren		Revelation 12: 10
Prince of the Power of the Air		Ephesians 2: 2

C. The **Dominion** of Satan:

1. He Rules an **Unseen Spirit World**:

“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience” (Ephesians 2: 2)

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

2. He Controls **Fallen Angels**:

In his wicked attempt to overthrow the throne of God, Lucifer influenced a great host of angels to join him. God’s judgement cast them out of heaven along with the devil:

“And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (Revelation 12: 4, 9)

Some of These Fallen Angels Are Now **Bound**:

“For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment” (2 Peter 2: 4)

“And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day” (Jude 6)

Some Fallen Angels, Referred to as **Devils** in the Scriptures, Are Now **Loose** in the Earth:

a. Some Are Used as **Agents of Evil**:

They oppress, afflict, and tempt the saints of God. Although No child of God can be *possessed* by these devils (read 1 John 4: 1-6), they *can*, and *often do* possess and control unsaved people:

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“For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them”
(Acts 8: 7)

These fallen angels are employed by Satan to *ensnare* lost souls and *blind* the unsaved to the truth:

“And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will” (2 Timothy 2: 26)

“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them”
(2 Corinthians 4: 4)

b. Some Are Disguised as **Ministers of Light**:

“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works” (2 Corinthians 11: 13-15)

Such **Ministers Pervert** and **Misinterpret** the Bible:

“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction” (2 Peter 2: 1)

They Preach a **False Gospel**:

“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1: 6-8)

They Teach **False Doctrine**:

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils” (1 Timothy 4: 1)

D. Satan’s **Warfare**:

1. He Has Appeared in Heaven as the **Accuser of the Brethren**:

“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night” (Revelation 12: 9-10)

2. He Roams the Earth as a **Roaring Lion**:

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

“And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it” (Job 1: 7)

3. His **Onslaught** Against Man:

It's *nothing personal!* The devil, unlike a *loving God*, cares nothing about man. He has no lofty ambitions for man, no desire to see him attain goodness or nobility. His only interest in man is the promotion of his own wicked goals.

When he is finished and sin has run its devastating course, man is left broken, disappointed, abandoned and ridiculed by the same devil he has so faithfully followed in wickedness. Only the Lord Jesus Christ remains with outstretched arms and a forgiving Spirit to pick up the broken pieces.

4. Why Satan Wages Such a **War** for the Souls of Men:

a. His Motive Is **Pride** and a Lust for **Power**:

Satan's fall from heaven, quoted from Revelation 12: 9, above, is explained in Isaiah 14: 12-14. He did not covet God's attributes of love, mercy, long-suffering or grace; he wanted only God's *power!*

b. His perverted desire to be **WORSHIPPED**:

“And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine” (Luke 4: 6-7)

c. His Motive Is to **Grieve** and **Hurt** God:

Though he cares nothing for man, he knows that **God does**. His purpose is to ruin and wreck lives so as to grieve and hurt the heart of God.

d. His Fight to **Delay** His Own Eternal Damnation:

Every soul won to Jesus Christ represents a *step closer* toward the completion of the Church and the nearing of his own ultimate judgement. Satan knows that he is not going to be the *King of Hell!* Rather, his destiny is to suffer the full fury of God's *eternal wrath*.

E. Satan's **Future**:

1. He Will **Pour out His Wrath** on Earth During the Great Tribulation:

“Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time” (Revelation 12: 12)

2. He Will Be in the **Bottomless Pit** During the Millennium:

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“And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season” (Revelation 20: 2-3)

3. He Will Be **Loosed Again** on the Earth, after the Millennium:

“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea” (Revelation 20: 7-8)

Vast multitudes of people will be born during the one-thousand year millennial reign of Christ upon the earth, to live in an atmosphere of *absolute righteousness*, without the influence of evil. At the close of the age, Satan will be allowed a short season to tempt them. **Why?** It will be his final attempt to deceive those who, though having lived in a *perfect environment* for many years, have not accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour. Their fallen nature, having never been changed by the new birth (2 Corinthians 5: 17, Ephesians 2: 2-3), will be enticed, and many will follow the devil in a final revolt, ending with the Great White Throne Judgement of God:

“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20: 11-15)

4. Satan Will Be Cast Alive into the **Lake of Fire**:

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever” (Revelation 20: 10)

F. The **Believer’s Victory** over Satan:

1. By the **Resources** Provided Believers by God Alone:

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” (Ephesians 6: 10-18)

2. By the **Grace** and Through the **Shed Blood** of the Lord Jesus Christ:

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“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4: 13)

“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing” (John 15: 5)

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony”
(Revelation 12: 11)

“They Overcame” (Sam Ensor)

‘Twas not by cause nor creed believed, they missed the devil’s lair; nor doctrines, works, ere good or bad, that foiled the tempter’s snare. No dogma, dream or scheme of man could rob hell’s pit of strife; philosophy failed and religion slept while the race was run for life.

‘Twas not the counsel of the “modern” church, nor social gospel that was needed; no earthly voice for reform or change would their inward man have heeded. The victory came not by man’s device; “our best” was not suggested. The blood of Christ, the Lamb of God was the only price accepted.

2. Understanding the Basis of Cult Beliefs:

This brief summary of the cults is not intended to be an examination of all the world religions but an introduction to those belief systems which, while calling themselves Christian, or in some manner attempting to identify with Jesus Christ, corrupt the Gospel of Christ and affect the eternal destiny of souls.

What is wrong with the cults? Many follow a rigid code of ethics and conduct which is admirable. Most cultists are sincere in their beliefs and genuinely desire to know and please God. The danger lies not in their *sincerity*, but in their *theology!* It is entirely possible to be sincere, and yet be *sincerely* wrong. Religious theology which is based upon meritorious good works almost always demeans, denies or devalues the *deity, person and work* of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Cult theology is designed to appeal to *the mind* and not the heart. It is only *acceptable* or *comfortable* to the *flesh* because unregenerate men are *dead in sin*, having no spiritual life or understanding:

“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (1 Corinthians 2: 14)

To avoid being misled or confused by the twisted logic of the cults, the believer must know *what* he believes, *why* he believes it, and the *Biblical authority* for believing it. An FBI agent once observed, *“A counterfeit may only be exposed when compared against the authentic.”*

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isaiah 8: 20)

“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive”
(Ephesians 4: 14)

“Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a

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workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2: 14-15)

A. Identifying the **True Character** of Cult Theology:

1. The Influence of **Heresy** in Cult Founders and Leaders:

Usually founded upon the teachings of some charismatic, persuasive individual who represents him (or her) self to be a *prophet*, or *apostle*, or *emissary* of Jesus Christ, the cults practice a system of theology which is *very different* from the doctrines of historic Christianity.

Charles Taze Russell, founder of the Jehovah’s Witnesses, Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormons, and Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy, founder of the Christian Scientists, all developed belief systems which were such a maze of *apostasy* and *doctrinal confusion* that they were censored and branded as heretics by established, Bible-believing churches of their day. Their personal (*and legal*) reputations were so historically repugnant that their own followers mostly deny any connection with them today.

The papacy of Roman Catholicism is a history of murder, deception and debauchery unrivaled by even the most ungodly tyrants. The priesthood today is a hotbed of sodomy against children, and abhorrent behavior so perverse that catholic resources are being drained just to defend the wicked and buy the silence of its victims.

Sadly, the pulpits of many so-called mainline protestant denominations are being filled by Bible-rejecting, Christ-denying sodomites and perverts. Churches which once stood for Bible truth are being led into total apostasy while letting their own members die and go to hell from the church pews without any warning or a loving message of eternal redemption and hope.

2. The Cult **Assault** on Bible Truth:

Although doctrinal error is pervasive, and often results in beliefs which not only contradict the scriptures but seem to be a comical assault on good sense, the real danger in cult theology lies in heresy concerning salvation, forgiveness, heaven and hell. Error taught in opposition to these bedrock Biblical principles is leading people astray and sending souls to hell.

B. Comparing the **Counterfeit** (Cult Beliefs) with the **Authentic** (Historic, Settled Christianity):

For this study three criteria will be used to compare cult beliefs with the settled doctrine of historic Christian theological doctrine. First, does the religion preach *another gospel*:

“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1: 6-8)

Second, Does the Cult *Add To*, or *Take Away* from the Words of the Bible?

“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out

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of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book”
(Revelation 22: 18-19)

Third, *How Does the Cult Regard the Person, Work, and Deity of Our Lord Jesus Christ?*

Sadly, the effort to make a true comparison with these criteria is difficult because the cults must cloak their heretical beliefs by twisting the meaning of accepted Biblical terms, and in some cases by lying outright about what they really believe in order to establish credibility with *nominal*, or untaught Christians.

If, then, Jesus Christ is *anything* other than God, coequal with the Father in deity, power and person, and in *every* attribute the same as the Father, a cult is guilty of apostasy. If there is any other name, or any other way to be saved except by and through the atoning work of Jesus Christ on the cross, a cult is guilty of apostasy. Good works and church membership are the *result* of being saved, not the *means* by which one may be saved.

1. What Do the Cults Teach as the **Way of Salvation**?

In the Bible, the *Gospel* Is Described by the Apostle Paul as *the Way* of Salvation:

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Romans 1: 16)

Paul Also Described Precisely What the Gospel is:

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” (I Corinthians 15: 1-4)

a. Salvation as Seen by the **Mormons**:

While admitting that salvation is through the atoning blood of Christ, they add that it is conditional upon faith, repentance, baptism and enduring to the end and keeping the commandments of God. (“What Mormons think of Christ,” Page 24-26)

But What Does the Bible Say?

“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain”
(Galatians 2: 16, 21)

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

Mormons also have a far different *outcome* of salvation than Bible believers. The hereafter, as described by latter-day saints, is a *three-tiered* heaven; the *telestial*, the *terrestrial*, and the *celestial*. Their first heaven is for heathens who rejected their *gospel* and the inhabitants of hell;

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their *second* heaven is for *Christians* who rejected the mormon faith, along with the good members of all other religions; their *third* heaven is comprised of three kingdoms, the highest of which is **Godhood**, where such exalted mormons, through a *slow progression* are given their own *planets* to rule! (“Doctrines and Covenants” Section 130, Verse 22)

But What Does the Bible Say?

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14: 1-3)

“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20: 12-15)

The *inhabitants of hell* in heaven? Not according to the scriptures. Mormons *elevated to godhood* and *ruling a separate empire on a different planet*, and not with the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and the Father in the place prepared for believers? These are concepts which are foreign to the Bible and *opposite* the blessed hope of Christians who long to rejoice throughout eternity in the presence of the Saviour.

b. What **Jehovah’s Witnesses** Think of Salvation:

Often referred to as *“the apostles of denial,”* this cult denies **all** of the major doctrines of the Bible: They deny the *deity* of our Lord Jesus Christ; they deny the *trinity* (Father, Son, Holy Spirit); they deny the *personality* of the Holy Spirit; they deny the *inherent immortality* of the soul; they deny the *total depravity* of unregenerate man; they deny the *bodily resurrection* and *ascension* of Jesus Christ; they deny the *efficacy* of the *blood atonement* of our Lord Jesus; they deny the *finished redemptive work* of the Saviour; they deny the Biblical prophecy of the *second-coming* of Christ, and they deny the *eternal punishment* of those who *reject* the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jehovah’s Witnesses are taught that followers can fall away and be judged unfavorably either in this life, or at the battle of Armageddon, or during the thousand years of Christ’s reign, or even at the end of the world, into everlasting destruction.

(“From Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained,” Page 241)

But What Does the Bible Say?

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life” (John 5: 24)

“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand” (John 10: 28)

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“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8: 38-39)

2. What Do the Cults Think of the **Holy Bible**?

Orthodox Christians Accept Without Reservation or Apology What the Bible Reveals Itself to be:

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

“The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever” (Psalms 12: 6-7)

If the Bible of the historic Christian faith is *anything less* than **final authority** for all matters of faith and practice, the cult’s beliefs are apostate. True Christians accept Bible truth rather than the words of men. Any other *source*, or any other *voice* is rejected:

“God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged” (Romans 3: 4)

a. What Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy, Founder, **Church of Christ Scientist** Claimed:

Her textbook, *Science and Health, with Key to the Scriptures*, was presented as of divine origin, with no less *coauthor* than God Himself! She proposed that she was merely a scribe, writing down the *harmonies of heaven* as dictated by the Lord.
(“Christian Science Journal,” January 1901)

b. Joseph Smith, Founder, **Latter-day Saints** and His Fantastic Tale of the “Book of Mormon:”

A brief examination of this man’s notorious reputation is enough to alert anyone to the fraud, deception and bizarre behavior which has caused decent mormons to deny their own founder! He was a seer and treasure hunter, who along with his father and brothers dug up much of the countryside around Palmyra, New York, in search of Captain Kidd’s buried pirate treasure! Mystic *divining rods* and *peek-stones* were the tools of their expeditions.

In 1827, Smith claims to have received from a *resurrected personage* named Moroni, son of Mormon (for whom the book was named) some golden plates of *reformed Egyptian hieroglyphics* which contained the new revelations. Supplied with *supernatural goggles* which he called the *urim and thummin*, and which later mysteriously vanished, he translated them into his new book.

The Book of Mormon is called *Another Testament of Jesus*. It contends that Jesus came to the western hemisphere and preached the gospel, and The Book of Mormon is the record of His work here. Mormons who question these claims are no doubt embarrassed by the fact that there is no such thing as *reformed Egyptian hieroglyphics*, and by how their book, supposedly authored *one thousand years* before the King James Bible was translated in 1611 AD, plagiarizes many quotes from the Bible in perfect King James textual English. Dubious. Curious. Embarrassing.

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One example of mormon theology is that God *used to be a man* and that men *may become Gods* (Lorenzo Snow, in "Millennial Star," Volume 54.) Joseph Smith's version of God is that he *is an exalted man* ("Journal of Discourses," Volume 6, Page 3.) In the same publication (Volume 1, Page 123,) Orson Hyde said that God was once a child, and rose in a *school of advancement* until He reached His exalted position. Brigham Young taught that God is actually *Adam*, who came down to Eden with *one of his celestial wives* and that Adam is their *heavenly father* ("Journal of Discourses," Volume 1, Page 50.) Mormons maintain that there is no disagreement between their beliefs and that which is taught in the Bible; however Bible truth and mormonism differ in almost every respect.

3. What Do the Cults Think about the **Person, Work, and Deity** of Our Lord Jesus Christ?

a. Some of the Views of the **Church of Christ, Scientist**:

They teach that the material blood of Christ had no more power to cleanse from sin when it was shed at Calvary than when it was flowing in His veins. ("Science and Health" Page 330)

But What Does the Bible Say?

"Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" (Revelation 1: 5)

"Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission" (Hebrews 9: 12-14, 22)

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Peter 1: 18-19)

They say the *spiritual Christ* was infallible; Jesus, in the flesh was **not** Christ. ("Miscellaneous Writings" Page 84)

But What Does the Bible Say?

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world" (1 John 4: 1-3)

b. The Following Examples Are Just Two Blasphemous **Jehovah's Witnesses** "Revelations":

They teach that Jesus, as the only begotten son of God, would be a prince among *all other creatures* (they call Him a created being, not God.) In heaven, his other name was *Michael*. So, they equate our precious Lord to the order of archangels, as they also acknowledge *Lucifer* (Satan!) ("The Truth Shall Make You Free" Page 34-35)

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But What Does the Bible Say?

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth”

(John 1: 1-3, 14)

“Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily”

(Colossians 1:15-17, 19, 2: 9)

Jehovah’s Witnesses also teach that since no man has seen the Father, no man will ever see the Son of God in his glory. (“Let God be True” Page 186)

But What Does the Bible Say?

“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1: 9-11)

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4: 16-17)

c. And What Do the **Mormons** Think of the Redemptive Work of Our Lord Jesus Christ?

Latter-Day Saints are taught that those who break a covenant with God will be required to *pay their debt* for sin themselves, even demanding that the shed blood of Jesus Christ cannot cleanse it, but that they will have to atone for their sins by the shedding of their **own blood**.

(“Journal of Discourses” Volume 111 Page 247)

But What Does the Bible Say?

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1: 7, 9)

In Summary:

It is obvious that cult doctrines derive from the writings of founders and leaders apart from, and foreign to the theology of the Christian Bible. Unscriptural beliefs must be supported from within because there is no support for them in the scriptures. The question to be asked the cults then, is if God has promised to keep His word pure through all generations, and if *every word* of the Bible is *inspired* (“God-Breathed”)

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so that Christians may be “*perfect and thoroughly furnished unto all good works*” (2 Timothy 3: 16-17), **why** do the cults need any further sources of authority? It is only because they do not believe the Bible!

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables” (2 Timothy 4: 3-4)

“Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples. To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isaiah 8: 16, 20)

Do any of these things dictate that Christians should ridicule or despise individuals who are ensnared in the cults? Of course not. Most have been deceived about how to have a personal, experiential relationship with Jesus Christ and how to be saved. Additionally, most cultists are taught that Christians hate them, but that is a lie. Bible believers desire everyone to be saved and to know the joy of sins forgiven and the promise of eternal life in heaven. Any person caught in the web of cult deceit who will honestly and sincerely accept what the Bible says about Jesus Christ and the way of salvation, can be, and will be saved! It is the earnest prayer of every Christian.

It is the *Author's* earnest plea!