

# **The Shocking Truth about SATANISM**



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# **The Shocking Truth about Satanism**

*Your Bible plainly says that the time  
will come when people will follow seducing  
spirits and doctrines of demons, and will  
actually worship the devil! We have now  
entered that time!*

~~by [redacted]~~  
and  
~~Vance H. Collins~~

**H**ow utterly HORRIFYING! Millions were *shocked* to learn of the grisly ritualistic killings that occurred near Matamoros, Mexico, wherein at least thirteen victims were systematically tortured, killed, and dismembered in diabolical Satanic cult rituals!

But even more horrifying is the fact that this type of gruesome crime is being perpetrated *all over the United States!*

All of us have heard of the practice of voodoo, black magic, and weird animalistic rituals among far-off primitive tribes and in heathenistic nations of the distant past. But shocking as it may seem, such things are being practiced NOW, in the twentieth century, *in this country!*

You need to be aware of the terrifying threat this scourge imposes upon the safety and well-being of your children. You need to know of the diabolic subtlety that is employed in luring young people into the occultic trap; of the incredible harm, the mental and emotional suffering, that often results from tampering with the occult; of the occurrence of teenage suicide that has been linked to obsession with the Satanic themes of "heavy metal" bands.

Satanism, demonism, witchcraft, and occultic practices of every type are running RAMPANT throughout the length and breadth of our land—and your Bible indicates that it is going to get *worse!*

The shocking truth about Satanism may disturb you; but you need to be aware of the facts, and you need to know what you can do to protect yourself and your family.

### **The Horrifying Facts**

Years ago, numerous *bloodless* bodies of farm animals were repeatedly discovered in rural areas around the country, many of them having been castrated, dismembered, or in some way mutilated. Mystified police officers had no idea of the malevolent activity that lay behind these bizarre occurrences.

But later the truth emerged, as investigations of similar occurrences around the country repeatedly pointed to *Satanic cult activity*.

In more recent years, Satanic ritualistic activities have been reported in *every state in the nation!*

Increasingly, we see Satanic graffiti on highway overpasses, in cemeteries, on walls and old buildings. Hundreds of reports of the bodies of mutilated animals have crossed police desks in recent years, and preschools and day care centers around the country relate shocking and consistent stories of weird demonic rituals.

The October-November 1986 edition of *Passport* magazine reports: "In California alone, the reports have been staggering. In the Los Angeles area there have been 64 preschools and 27 neighborhoods with reported Satanic activity over the last two years. In Orange County there have been at least six murders with Satanic ties in the last year-and-a-half."

All of us have known for a long time about the reports of millions of children missing. Perhaps most of us didn't realize that there are *two million children a year* reported missing—many of them entirely *too young* to be runaways! As a ghastly testimony of what probably happens in these mysterious disappearances and abductions, *five thousand unidentifiable bodies of children* are found every year in our country!

Perhaps you are familiar with the McMartin Preschool case in Manhattan Beach, wherein children told authorities of hundreds of gruesome stories of Satanic rituals and sexual abuse, finally resulting in charges against two persons with 100 counts of child sexual abuse.

Or perhaps you remember the case of convicted mass murderer Richard Berkowitz, better known as "Son of Sam," who confessed to participation in Satanic cult ritualistic activity.

These are just a few of the many horror stories that have been connected with Satanic activity. But what do we *not* know? How many of those thousands of children whose mutilated bodies are found every year were victims of Satanic cults? How many of them had been tied and gagged, laid on an altar, and brutally murdered—either butchered or burned alive—as human sacrifices intended to appease the devil?

How many "missing children," including newborns, are never reported missing? How many mangled bodies of infants and small children are never found? If we are horrified by what we *do* know about Satanism in this country, just how horrified would we be if what we *do not* know were suddenly made known?

Think of it! Much of what we know about Satanic activity in this country was discovered *accidentally*. Is anyone so naive as to believe that all Satanic killings are discovered? No doubt, only a *fraction* of the crimes and grisly murders committed by Satanists are ever reported!

Further, crime investigators may disregard statements about occultic rituals, and document only the actual crimes. Satanism, as long as it does not involve illegal activity (such as torture, murder, sexual abuse, etc.), is not considered a crime, and its practice is protected by our Constitution!

The Church of Satan, founded April 30, 1966, in San Francisco, California, is considered a legitimate religious organization. The cult's founder, Anton S. LaVey, is author of *The Satanic Bible*, *The Complete Witch*, and *The Satanic Rituals*, which provide "direction" for Satanism's 10-20 thousand American adherents.

Members of the cult deny association with Satanist groups that engage in criminal activities. Yet, the cult's leaders admit that "The Church of Satan stands as a gathering point for all those who believe in what the Christian Church opposes..." Further, the group's *Nine Points of Satanism* states that "Satan represents all of the so-called sins, as they lead to physical, mental, or emotional gratification."

Perhaps members of the Church of Satan are telling the truth when they deny involvement in criminal activities. But then, can anyone who takes the Word of God seriously expect the truth from a group that names itself after the "father of LIES"?

Whether members of the Church of Satan are involved in heinous crimes or not, and whether they admit it or not, the fact remains: *The worship of Satan promotes evil!*

But why would anyone decide to worship the devil? What is behind the growing interest in the black arts, witchcraft, spiritism, and the occult in general? What could lead a person to involvement in all kinds of bizarre rituals, animal mutilation, ritualistic child abuse, abusive sexual behavior, and human sacrifice?

### Widespread Danger

Just look at what is passed off as "entertainment" in America. Since the release of *The Exorcist* and *Rosemary's Baby* in the early '70s, Satanism and demonic possession have been popular themes in movie houses around the country.

Tens of thousands of youngsters in our country are familiar with "Jason," the demoniacal "star" of the *Friday the 13th* series who keeps returning from death only to slaughter, mutilate, disembowel, and decapitate dozens of human beings. And who hasn't heard of "Freddy Krueger," the murderous "ghost" who uses the razor-sharp blades attached to his fingers to rip his victims to shreds? This nightmarish character is so popular, little children can now have their very own "Freddy" dolls.

Then there's the *Poltergeist* series, *Halloween*, *The Amityville Horror*, the *Psycho* series, *The Omen*—and literally dozens of movies dealing with Satanic cults, demonic possession, cannibalism, witchcraft, and supernatural evil of all sorts.

These movies, in spite of their "R" rating, can easily be obtained by minors at almost any video store. According to a television news report, horror films of every type are popular among preteens, who often gather on weekends or at spend-the-night parties to spend hour after hour watching one grisly scene after another.

Such activity is obviously not healthy, and may be one of several causal factors in many of the cult-related crimes of recent years.

According to one news report, 24-year-old Sara Maria Aldrete, one of the two leaders of the Matamoros cult, may have been influenced by *The Believers*, a 1988 film about demonism and Satanic activity.

Of course, the "experts" will probably debate for years whether or not such films contribute to deviant behavior, just as they argue over whether hardcore pornography contributes to the occurrence of violent sexual crimes. But any thinking person should be able to see that the things we put into our minds affect the way we think, the way we behave.

Perhaps even more alarming than movies with Satanic themes is the widespread interest in "New Age" spiritism, and the appearance of occult bookstores and supplies shops all over the country.

Just go to your local bookstore, and you will likely find both a "New Age" and "Occult" section, each having multiple shelves filled with books about "channeling," reincarnation, witchcraft, pyramidology, ESP, clairvoyance, necromancy, out-of-body experiences, encounters with "extraterrestrials"; how-to books on "developing latent psychic powers," hypnotism, establishing contact with "spirit guides," and so on.

Thousands of Americans are turning to Eastern religions to tap their "inner powers." Anyone wishing to do so can buy books or attend

seminars to learn how to achieve alternate states of consciousness and contact "spirit guides."

Indeed, many have established contact with so-called "spirit guides"—and have suffered the consequences!

Many professionals working in the mental health field have long known that obsessions with astrology, tarot cards, necromancy, and the like, lead directly to chronic depression and other mental-emotional disorders.

Psychiatrists who recognize the unnerving reality of *demonic possession*, who have actually encountered this phenomenon in their practice, report that many, if not most, such cases are connected with an obsession with the occult!

Dr. M. Scott Peck, a psychiatrist who has witnessed cases of demonic possession, writes: "It seems clear from the literature on possession that the majority of cases have had involvement with the occult—a frequency far greater than might be expected in the general population. It is difficult to discern which comes first: the occult involvement or the possession. I do not mean to imply that most people who involve themselves with the occult will become possessed. But they do seem to increase their chances" (*People of the Lie*, page 190).

Dr. Peck, describing two cases of possession he had personally witnessed, writes, "In one patient the process seemed to begin with involvement in the occult at the age of twelve. In the other the process apparently began at the age of five with something more ghastly than what one would ordinarily consider occult" (*ibid.* pages 190-191).

Clearly, anyone dabbling with the occult, or attempting contact with "spirit guides," or involved with witchcraft, necromancy, or Eastern mysticism, is *tampering with DANGEROUS powers*—powers that can twist, distort, DESTROY the human mind—powers that can lead to mental and emotional torment, insanity, suicide!

Do you see why we are hearing more and more about grisly ritualistic killings, teenage suicides, missing children, and violent sexual crimes? Put it all together: A rash of movies with Satanic themes; the appearance of occult bookstores and supplies shops all over the country; the rapid spread of New Age spiritism; the popularity of heavy metal bands; the gigantic, unsolvable drug problem.

Can we now see why so much Satanic activity goes on in our country; why we hear of so many gruesome ritualistic crimes; why

we see more and more evidence of human sacrifice?

But why are so many obsessed with witchcraft, voodoo, black magic, astrology, sorcery, necromancy, and other forms of occultic practice? Where did occultism and New Age spiritism come from?

Believe it or not, Satanism, occultism, and New Age spiritism are not new, but are modern versions of some very ancient religious practices—practices *condemned* in the pages of your Bible!

### Abominable Practices

Before the people of Israel entered the promised land, God commanded them, “But of the cities of these people, which the Lord thy God doth give thee for an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth: But thou shalt utterly destroy them; namely, the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee” (Deuteronomy 20:16-17).

God said that NOTHING was to be saved alive! But why? What was so bad about these peoples that God commanded their *utter* destruction?

Notice verse 18: “That they teach you not to do after all their *abominations*, which they have done unto their gods; so should ye sin against the Lord your God.”

God knew that the abominations of these cities would survive even if only a tiny remnant were allowed to remain alive. That’s why He commanded that *nothing* be saved alive.

But what were their abominations? What could have been so bad that God commanded their *utter* destruction?

The answer is found in Deuteronomy 12:29-31: “When the Lord thy God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land; Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou inquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. Thou shalt not do so unto the Lord thy God: for every abomination to the Lord, which He hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even *their sons and their daughters have they BURNT IN THE FIRE to their gods.*”

How **HIDEOUS!** No wonder God commanded their utter destruction! They were so perverted, so depraved, they were actually *burn-*

*ing* their own children in sacrifice to their *demon* “gods”!

But do we not see the same kind of evil being perpetrated today? Are not Satanic cults targeting infants and little children—just as they did in ancient times? Reportedly, some cults even have their own “breeders”—women who are impregnated for the specific purpose of having babies for use in sacrificial rituals.

Can you see why God commanded the utter destruction of the cities occupying the promised land? They were practicing the “arts” we call witchcraft, necromancy, sorcery. Their attempts to appease the “gods” (demons) for special favors had led them to total depravity.

When God commanded the destruction of these cities, He knew what powerful forces the people of the land were tampering with; and He knew that if any were allowed to remain alive, they would teach their ways to Israel, and Israel would succumb to the same seductive forces, would turn from worship of the true God, and would eventually imitate the horrible abominations of the heathen.

Almighty God said to Israel: “When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. *For all that do these things are an ABOMINATION unto the Lord:* and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee” (Deuteronomy 18:9-12).

These were *abominations*, not “minor” sins. Witchcraft was not to be considered a “harmless” hobby, as it often is today. God commanded, “Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live” (Exodus 22:18).

God further stated, “He that sacrificed unto any god, save unto the Lord only, he shall be utterly destroyed” (Exodus 22:20).

Clearly, any involvement in black magic, voodoo, astrology, necromancy; any attempt to appease, invoke, or in any way gain the attention of any so-called “god,” was strictly condemned by Almighty God in ancient Israel.

Such practices are also condemned in the New Testament. Paul says, “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry [which involves demonism], *witchcraft*, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and

such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19-21).

The book of Acts tells us about two sorcerers, and both were sharply rebuked by Christ's apostles. One of them, Simon, who "...used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one" (Acts 8:9), offered money for the spiritual gift God had given to the apostles.

"But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee" (Acts 8:20-22).

The other sorcerer is named in Acts 13:

"And when they [Paul and company] had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus: Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

"Then Saul (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Spirit, set his eyes on him, And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou *child of the devil*, thou *enemy of all righteousness*, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

"And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand" (Acts 13:6-11).

Notice Paul's description of the sorcerer: "...full of all subtilty and all mischief...child of the devil...enemy of all righteousness..."

Obviously, both Simon and Barjesus (or Elymas) had evil motives; both were of a spirit contrary to God's Holy Spirit. The same kind of unholy spirit is common among witches and sorcerers today—and your Bible plainly indicates that this same spirit will lead to all manner of wickedness in the fast approaching prophetic time period called the GREAT TRIBULATION!

## Who, What is the Devil?

Is there a devil? Is he *real*, an actual living, functioning, thinking, spirit being, living in a different dimension from we humans, yet just as real?

The answer is YES, and the answer is based on clinical, laboratory, scientific evidence; on the veracity of the Bible itself, on biblical history, on archaeology, on geology, and on the testimony of too many thousands of eye witnesses to count!

First, GOD EXISTS! There are literally thousands of incontrovertible proofs of the existence of a divine, all-wise, all-powerful, Creator Being! These thousands of proofs are represented by the whole picture of the *true* science of historic and dynamic geology, biology, mineralogy, physics, and a host of other disciplines.

Quickly, here are SEVEN PROOFS GOD EXISTS, into which all the hundreds of other proofs may be included: (1) Creation itself; the universe, our solar system, the earth and all life upon it, demands the existence of a Creator. (2) *Laws*, such as the laws of the conservation of matter, the laws of thermodynamics, the laws of biogenesis; gravity, the magnetic polarity of the earth, isostasy; too many active, living, powerful, dynamic laws to begin to count, *demand the existence of a Great Lawgiver!* (3) *Life*, in all its myriad forms, demands the existence of a Great LIFEGIVER! (4) The intricacy of DESIGN; the solar system; all the physical sciences which deal with everything from astrophysics to nuclear physics, from biology to astronomy, from geology to paleontology, from mineralogy to microbiology. (5) The SUSTAINING of all these forces and energies; the laws which operate so dependably—never failing, never changing; these required a "hands on" SUSTAINER! (6) ANSWERED PRAYER is a great proof of God—and the fact that *demons are cast out* of people in the name of Christ PROVES there is a God of great POWER, Who is ALIVE! (7) FULFILLED PROPHECY—the scope of all history from the most ancient civilizations, documented by the archaeologists' spade, attested to by the great prophets of the Bible, is a great PROOF OF GOD!

Each of these seven is a VAST subject, capable of being expanded into literally HUNDREDS OF BOOKS of encyclopedic length! Yes, God DOES EXIST and the proof of Him is everywhere about. Paul wrote, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all

ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

“For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things” (Romans 1:18-23).

God is revealed by studying His *creation*, as the seven proofs above indicate! Then, one must study God’s *Word*; come to see its divine inspiration, its authenticity! God’s Word has much to say about Satan; about his original state, his appearance; how he was worshipped by ancient civilizations, how he is worshipped today, and how *Satanism* will become even more rampant in the future! In this book, you will truly see the SHOCKING truth about Satanism!

### The Origin of Satan

Many treat the entire subject of the existence of a “devil” as humorous; perhaps quaint, folksy—a capricious tale from mythology with which people can have “fun.”

Who has not seen the weird costumes at Hallowe’en time with wicked-looking horns, red body stocking, long, pointed tail and pitchfork? Who does not recall people referring to a naughty child as “a little devil,” or eating “devil’s food cake,” or seeing geologic phenomena referred to as “the devil’s punch bowl”? A familiar exclamation to some is, “the devil you say!” and a man down on his luck is said to be a “poor devil.”

Everyone laughed when Flip Wilson quipped, “The devil made me do it!” But there is nothing funny about the devil. He is *real*. He is the embodiment of all evil; an intelligent, perverted spirit being who opposes all righteousness; the father of lies and deceit, and the *accuser* of the brethren of God’s church.

Originally, the fallen archangel who is called Satan was a beautiful, wondrous cherub, assigned the fabulous position as one of the honor guards about God’s own throne. Notice the description of this great

archangel: “...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 workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee from the day thou was created.

“Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth: and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou was *perfect* in thy ways from the day that thou was created till iniquity was found in thee.

“By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

“Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness...” (Ezekiel 28:12-17). Here, the prophecy against the king of Tyre blends into an anti-typical reference to Satan’s origins.

Anciently, Lucifer (meaning, “Light Bringer,” or “Shining Star of the Dawn”) was one of three archangels placed about God’s throne. The other two are named Gabriel and Michael, and each had under his control *one third* of the countless millions of angels: “And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew a third part of the stars of heaven [see Revelation 1:16-20], and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman [a type of the church, and reference to the virgin Mary] which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born...” (Revelation 12:3-4).

Notice Isaiah’s reference to Satan: “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!

“For thou hast said in thine heart, ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars [all other angels] of God: I will also sit upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the clouds; I will *be like the most high!*’ ” (Isaiah 14:12-14).

Lucifer, one of the three great archangels, was a *created being*; a *spirit* being, given never-ending life as a *spirit*, originally assigned to a great position next to God’s throne. The Bible says Lucifer was extremely beautiful; that he somehow became corrupted by that beauty—that jealousy, vanity, greed, ego—a desire to *overthrow God*



from His throne, to *steal* God's position—possessed him. He influenced his angels, and a titanic battle beyond our human ability to imagine ensued!

This was the *real* "star wars"! A mind-boggling struggle took place in which the whole universe was *wrecked*! As we saw in Revelation 12, Lucifer's angels *fought* against God, and the other two archangels and all their hosts. The result was Lucifer being *hurled back down to this earth*, where he wrought *terrible destruction*! Do you believe the words of your Saviour? Jesus said, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven!" (Luke 10:17).

Originally, this earth was a place of order, beauty, harmony. Notice the proof: "In the beginning God *created* [Hebrew: *bara*] the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form [Hebrew: *tohu*] and void [Hebrew: *bohu*]; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters" (Genesis 1:1).

When we are ushered onto the scene of the Adamic creation, we see a *ruined world*, lifeless, the continents submerged beneath the seas—utter blackness; thick clouds mantling the earth like a Venusian atmosphere. God's first act of REcreation (for that is what it was—the original creation of earth could have been *billions* of years earlier) was to command, "Let there be light!" (Genesis 1:3).

The word "was" is an erroneous translation. Many Bible commentaries and other study helps make this clear. The word should have been rendered "*became*." Let's notice the biblical proof: "For thus saith the Eternal that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it; He hath established it, He created it *not in vain*, He formed it to be inhabited: I am the Eternal; and there is none else! (Isaiah 45:18). Here, the *identical Hebrew word*, which is rendered "vain" is used as was used in Genesis 1:1! So *internal* biblical proof tells us that, even though we see a vain, empty, waste, lifeless, chaotic, water-filled earth of darkness when God begins the creation week in Adam's time, the earth was *not* created that way, originally! He said He did *not* create the world "tohu," yet Genesis 1:1 says it was "tohu," or void, waste!

How did the world *become* dark, lifeless, chaotic, since it was not originally created that way? As a result of Satan's *rebellion*! Like a foretaste of what *ultimately* awaits Satan, God forced His former archangel and all his rebellious angels to be *confined to this earth* for an unimaginable period of time *prior to the creation of man*!

Geologic evidence proves beyond the shadow of a doubt that the earth underwent many, many inundations; that the bulk of all the rocks of the earth are *sedimentary* in nature [water-deposited]; that the continents may have been joined in one great land mass at some remote period.

Paleontology absolutely proves there were *many* great "die offs" of various creatures, and that each one occurred *suddenly*, as the result of a great catastrophe. I would urge those who are curious about the *true* geologic history of the earth to read books like *The Deluge Story in Stone* by Nelson; *How the World Began* by Price; *Evolutionary Geology and New Catastrophism* by the same author; *The Genesis Flood* by Whitcomb and Morris; *Ages in Chaos* by Immanuel Velikovsky, and others.

No single fact of geology presents clearer proof of the sudden, catastrophic disappearance of billions of creatures than the end of the age of dinosaurs! Much of the world's oil reserves are nothing more than the fossil relics of these bygone ages, wherein this earth teemed with life of hundreds of extinct species which were *suddenly buried* by massive catastrophes, including massive floods!

For perhaps billions of years, Satan and his demons ruled over an earth which contained no humans; perhaps only pre-adamic life forms, which *could* have included the dinosaurs, and many thousands of species, including pterodactyls, gigantic lizards, amphibians; perhaps the bulk of the billions of animals that were buried in catastrophes in the past, and whose bodies have provided mankind with his vast reserves of fossil fuels; oil, natural gas, and coal.

From the time of the earlier *perfect* state of earth, as described in Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14, uncounted billions of years may have elapsed until the day God's Spirit brooded over the "face of the *deep*," which was utterly black; stygian beneath thick, lowering clouds. During all these millennia, the earth underwent lengthy geologic periods; the continents were raised and lowered, drifted this way and that; mountains were formed, then sunk; new mountains formed again.

Today, one may find fossil forms of life on the very highest mountains on earth, including the Alps and Rockies; fossils like ammonites, graptolites, trilobites—shellfish, snails, clams which were once dwellers on the bottom of shallow seas.

For aeons, Satan and his demons beheld only *blackness*; storm-tossed *seas*, following the final inundation prior to Adam, when God said, "Let the dry land appear," and the continents were raised once

again. Had earlier inundations been the result of Satan's continual rebellion? Had God visited the ancient, pre-adamic world from time to time, only to behold the chaos which Satan had produced, and then *destroyed* the works of Satan by a flood? Perhaps we shall discover a clue, in a little-understood event.

### Christ Witnessed Against Satan During the Flood!

A strange occurrence took place during the Noachan deluge. Notice, "And the angels which kept not their first estate [principality], but *left* their own habitation, He hath *reserved in everlasting chains* under darkness unto the judgement of the great day" (Jude 6). These are the *demons*, who were once righteous angels, but who followed Satan in his rebellion, and who are "chained" by God's power *to this earth!*

Notice what happened! "For if God spared not the *angels that sinned*, but cast them down to hell [Greek: *tartaroo*, meaning a condition or place of *restraint!*] and *delivered them into chains of darkness*, to be *reserved unto judgement*; And spared not the old world [the pre-flood period], but saved Noah the eighth...a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly..." (II Peter 2:4-5).

When Satan was cast out of heaven with one third of all the angels, it was following a titanic clash of super-powerful spirit beings—a climactic battle of inter-galactic *space!* He and his angels [now demons] were *chained* by God's command to this wrecked, lifeless, water-covered earth! Then, countless thousands of years later, following perhaps more than FOUR BILLION YEARS of being on this earth with NO HUMANS AROUND, God created Adam and Eve, and human history began.

Instantly, as we shall see, Satan tried to *wreck* this new creation; to thwart God's plan! As always, He failed. But he *almost* succeeded, for the *whole world* became corrupt, except for Noah! Men had become totally perverted; were engaged in every sort of evil, bestial behavior, including *cannibalism!* God found but *one man* who was righteous before Him—Noah! He proposed to *destroy all mankind*, now *wholly* corrupted by Satan (except for Noah), by a massive *flood!* Then, as the *whole world* was *once again inundated* with water; as Noah and his family were being protected of God, a strange thing happened! Christ Himself, the member of the Godhead who DID THE

CREATING (John 1:1-14; Hebrews 1:1-14), came down to this earth and gave powerful WITNESS against Satan and his demons *during the flood!*

Notice it! "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened [made alive] by the Spirit: *by which* [through which agency; by means of which] He went and preached to the *spirits in prison*; [Greek: *tartaroo*, meaning *this earth*, where they were "chained," or "in prison"] which sometime were disobedient..." (I Peter 4:18-20).

Notice that the phrase "which sometime were disobedient" merely explains *which* spirits this verse identifies. Plainly, Christ went somewhere, and *preached to spirits* which had been *disobedient!* Now, WHEN did Christ do this? "WHEN ONCE THE LONGSUFFERING OF GOD WAITED IN THE DAYS OF NOAH," answers your Bible! Notice the rest of this verse, "while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water..." (I Peter 3:18-20).

During the period when Noah was preparing the ark for the survival of his family, and thus the preservation of the human race, Christ came down to this earth in spirit, and gave powerful witness against Satan and his demons, testifying to the great watery *destruction* that was soon coming, perhaps reminding them of the interminable times during which they wandered to and fro over the heaving waves which covered this earth—warning them about the horrifying fate awaiting them!

And what is that fate? Jude gives us a clue. Speaking of false teachers who are influenced by Satan and his demons; who are like types of the same, Jude wrote, "These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; *raging waves of the sea*, foaming out their own shame; *wandering stars* [the Bible uses stars as symbols of angels in many places!] to whom is reserved the BLACKNESS OF DARKNESS FOREVER!" (Jude 12-14).

Even as Satan and his demons had already had a taste of countless thousands of years of enduring nothing but storm-tossed waves, inky blackness, with *no humans around*, so Christ may have powerfully *reminded* them of that fact; predicted their ultimate fate—to wander like "wandering stars" to whom is reserved *inky blackness—stygian*

*darkness, for all eternity!*

About a thousand years prior to this strange occurrence, Adam and Eve became the first, and perhaps only human beings, to ever *see* Satan in his *real form*!

### How Satan Appealed to Human Nature

Believe it or not, the traditional, mythological concepts of Satan's appearance are, like everything else the devil has concocted, all *lies*! I will give a brief explanation here; for a much fuller explanation, I urge you to be sure to get a free copy of my brochure, *Satan's Greatest Deception*.

'Now the serpent [Hebrew: *nachash*] was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Eternal God had made. And he said unto the woman, 'Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?' ' (Genesis 3:1).

Here, Satan began subtly *implying* that God was *unfair*! He was *putting into Eve's mind* the thought that God would have *denied them anything to eat*! In her beguiled innocence, Eve thought to *reason* with this strange looking creature who spoke to her: "And the woman said unto the serpent [*nachash*], 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.' "

This was the tree which symbolized the "knowledge of good and evil." Was it a *real tree*? The Bible says so. Very probably it *was* a real tree, with real fruit. That we are to understand the metaphorical value of this encounter between the first family and Satan is obvious. However, many doubters have chosen to "spiritualize away" any actuality of this very real experience—fantasizing that perhaps the first sin was *sex* between Adam and Eve.

That this is sheer nonsense is evident from God's own Word by simply reading Genesis 2:24-25, and Genesis 1:27-28, together with Hebrews 13:8. God *instructed* them to come together in marriage, as "one flesh" and to "be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth."

No, the tree was *real*, all right. Certainly it was not an apple tree, and the protrusion in a man's throat, which is a part of the "voice box" is *not* an "Adam's apple," or the mythological piece of "apple" that allegedly stuck in his throat when he tried to eat it!

After Eve in her naivete tried to explain, "...the serpent [*nachash*] said unto the woman, 'Ye shall not surely die: 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' " (Genesis 3:5).

Note all that was implied! Satan contradicted God; saying Adam and Eve *would not surely die*! Was this subtle inference concerning the Satanic and purely *pagan* doctrine of the "immortality of the soul"? Certainly, it is the *first recorded lie*! Christ called Satan the "father of liars" (John 8:44).

Then, Satan implied God was *withholding vital knowledge*; in other words, being *deceitful*, and only telling Adam and Eve a *part* of the truth. Satan might have well have said, "God knows better than that," or "God knows more than He's telling you."

He appealed to Eve's *vanity*, telling her she was "just as good as God" and had every right to be "equal" with God, to be "as God, knowing good and evil." He appealed to her sense of *inferiority* and *insecurity*, making her think God was *unfair* to withhold something from her which was beautiful, and to be *desired*! He promised her a *better life* than she presently had—*eye-opening* knowledge; superior intellect, wisdom; "the straight dope," coming to understand the "whole scene"! He promised *instant* gratification—no waiting, no months or years of work before the payoff; she could have it *RIGHT NOW*! " '...in the day ye eat thereof...' "

What happened? "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise..." (Genesis 3:6).

With Satan's subtle suggestions ringing in her ears; with *his thoughts* dominating her mind, the woman *looked* closely at the forbidden fruit. Sure enough! The tree *looked good*; the fruit was ripe, beautiful, succulent and tasty-looking!

"And I am told *I can't have that*!" She might have thought. "But *why*? Why, that just *isn't fair*!" Her lower lip may have protruded a little, and she may have been emotionally *moved* by this new revelation! Why, God was *depriving* them of something that was *beautiful* and *good*!

Try an experiment. Place a two-year old child in the middle of a room, and put a couple dozen toys of every shape, size and description about; games, trucks, cars, tinker toys—anything you can find. Then, take some old worn out rag doll—a homemade, ugly-looking thing, which looks ready to be thrown out—and casually place it

among all the new, shiny, glittering toys. Explain to the child, "Now, Johnnie, you may play with *all these toys but one*; you can play with the jacks and ball, the blocks, the tinkering toys, the toy train, everything—but you *must not touch this old rag doll*, you must leave it alone."

Then exit the room, and watch through the keyhole!

How long do you think it will be before little Johnnie is playing with the rag doll? *Human nature* is rather *predictable*, isn't it? Being a collection of vanity, jealousy, lust, greed, inferiority, selfishness, self-pity, and a desire for power, money, and self gratification, it is easily attracted to "forbidden fruit." Satan knows this, and plays on human nature.

Continuing, "...she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons..." (Genesis 3:6-7).

When Eve *lusted*, she broke the commandment against coveting (Exodus 20:17). Since coveting *is idolatry* (Colossians 3:5), she broke the commandment against idolatry (Exodus 20:3). God was her only Father, and in disobeying His direct commands, she broke the commandment about honoring her Father (Exodus 20:12). Since the fruit of the forbidden tree was *not hers*, she *stole* the fruit, thus breaking the commandment against stealing (Exodus 20:15).

But to break only *one commandment* is to be guilty of breaking *all* of them! "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all" (James 2:10). (Write for my free book, *The Ten Commandments*.)

### From Neutrality to Hostility

God says, "Because the carnal [physical, fleshly] mind is *enmity against God*: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Romans 8:7).

See how *easily* Satan was able to appeal to Eve's sense of *fairness*; how *easily* he managed to get her mind on self pity, on physical appetite, on vanity—desiring to "be wise?" He had said, "Why, you will be *like God is*, to know good and evil!" But to Eve, the word "evil" had only piquant, mysterious meaning! It made her tingle with excitement; with apprehension, curiosity! *What was EVIL?* She *wanted*

to *experience* this "evil," to know all about it! As she allowed Satan's subtle inferences to color her thoughts, it was only a short step to the bold, brazen move to reach out and *take* that which she had been forbidden to eat?

When Adam and Eve were created, they had no reason to doubt God. They were not hostile, or afraid. Read the entire account from Genesis 1:26 to the end of chapter 3. Earlier, when God talked with them, they were naked and unafraid, just as a tiny child is utterly unaware of any shame in nakedness. How many little toddlers have gone outside following a bath when their mother is distracted, and are found heading down the street wearing not a thing?

Yet, the minute Adam followed his wife, took and ate the fruit, they both became ashamedly aware of their nakedness! Suddenly, what had been perfectly natural, wholesome, normal, beautiful—was *ugly*. After all, they had *complete privacy*; they were the only humans on earth, in the world's "biggest bedroom," the Garden of Eden!

But notice, "And they heard the voice of the Eternal God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife *hid* themselves from the presence of the Eternal God amongst the trees of the garden" (Genesis 3:8).

For thousands of years, men have plaintively whined, "But *why does God hide Himself?* Why can't we *see* God?" Yet, look at another example: When the Israelites received the law at the foot of Sinai, they saw the huge clouds, heard the thunder, saw the lightning—an awesome display. They cried out to Moses, "Speak *thou* with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die...and the people stood afar off" (Exodus 20:19-21).

It is *man* who has "hidden" himself from God! But more than that, man has *erected a barrier* between himself and God! Notice, "Behold, the Eternal's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But *your iniquities* [lawbreaking!] have separated between you and your God, and *your sins* have *HID HIS FACE FROM YOU*, that He will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity" (Isaiah 59:1-4).

Adam and Eve had no reason to be ashamed of their bodies, no reason to *hide* from God! Until, that is, they had *allowed Satan's thoughts* into their minds, had followed his subtle enticements, had

given in to their vanity and lust! They then felt *soiled*, DIRTY!

How many people, as children, cheated on a test in school, stole marbles from a five and dime counter, took a candy bar, or stole money? And what did they *feel* as a result, but hot-cheeked shame, anxiety, uneasiness; a feeling of being *dirty*, and *soiled*?

*Guilt* is a terribly uncomfortable feeling—being under condemnation, wondering what the consequences will be—it upsets your whole being, causes the stomach and various glands to react! Guilt can *make you sick*!

Where Adam and Eve would have joyfully called out to God, walked unashamedly to Him; eager to hear His words, to exult in His company, to *learn* from Him, to gaze upon Him in unabashed love and admiration; now, they were *afraid*! When they explained they knew they were naked, that they were afraid, God said, "...Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldst not eat?"

"And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat..." (Genesis 3:8-12). Do you notice the reasoning? Adam did not *repent* of his sin; did not merely acknowledge, humbly, "I did, Lord, and I am deeply sorry, and ashamed of myself! Please forgive me!" No, Adam was arguing it was somehow *God's fault*! After all, had not *God* given him the woman? The woman had led him, deceived him—he had followed her example! But God *gave* Adam the woman. Already, Adam was *using Satan's twisted reasoning* which always results in *blaming God*!

"And the Eternal God said unto the woman, what is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The *serpent* beguiled me, and I did eat..." (verse 13).

Each shifted blame. Neither admitted, straight out, "I have sinned! I was wrong!" Each tried to "explain things," to reason around to the point that the finger of blame pointed in some other direction! See how they had come under *Satan's influence*?

### What Did Adam and Eve See?

Now, to understand more, you need to remember Lucifer had been a "cherub" that stood around God's throne. Study Ezekiel 1, and 10, and you will see the fantastic apparition of God's throne that appeared to Ezekiel, wherein four cherubim transported the God of Israel about the universe. Write for my brochure *Satan's Greatest Deception* for

a *full* explanation.

Cherubim had four visages: that of a man, a lion, an eagle, and an ox. The primary appearance seems to have been that of an *ox*. (Ezekiel 10:14). The calf that ancient Israel demanded be made was the representation of the "host of heaven" which God commanded Israel NOT to worship; the calf of an *ox*.

In many ancient civilizations, the four visages of cherubim are seen in art, literature, and the monuments. The famous "winged bulls" of Sargon's palace; similar representations of ox-like creatures, featuring a man's head, eagle's wings, and lion's claws and tail, adorned palaces in ancient Babylon, Assyria, Egypt, and many other nations.

Calf worship continued throughout much of the middle and far east; is extant among hundreds of millions of Hindus today—in India, where the *cow* is sacred! But such worship was actually *worship of the devil*, who appeared, NOT as a little garter snake wrapped around a tree, but as a *nachash*, something *entirely different*!

Granted, God cursed the serpent! Notice, however, "And the Eternal God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life..." (Genesis 3:13-15). Apparently, the creature which appeared to Eve was *not* crawling in the dust, on its belly, but *standing upright*!

The Hebrew word for "serpent" (Genesis 3:1) is *nachash* which means "to whisper, hiss; a magic spell; to prognosticate, divine, an enchanter." The word connotes *no hint of physiognomy*, or appearance, but deals with *character*; with the effects of "whispering divination," or "enchanted prognostication." But the Hebrew word for "snake" is *tanniyim*, from a root word which means "sea monster," or "sea serpent," or "serpent."

Actually, we would better understand had the translators rendered the passage: "...and God said to the whispering enchanter," that it would crawl on its belly *from that time forth*, indicating the creature that appeared to Eve *stood upright*.

There is a close relationship between "seraphim" and "cherubim" in the Bible. Read Isaiah 6, together with Ezekiel 1 and 10, and notice the differences and similarities. Seraphim are created angelic beings possessing *six wings*, covering their faces and feet (as a sign of humility in the presence of Divinity) with two pairs, and flying with the other (Isaiah 6:2). The Hebrew word *saraph* is used of the "fiery flying

serpent," a type of the devil, in Isaiah 14:29, the same chapter that refers to "Lucifer" as "son of the morning," or shining star of the dawn. "Saraph" means "burning," or "poisonous serpent," and is the *very same word used in Isaiah 6 translated "seraphim," which is merely the plural for "saraph!"*

Since Isaiah's vision shows that the two "seraphim" were in the presence of God, and yet Lucifer was called one of the "cherubs that covered," meaning one next to God's throne, it is possible that *both* types of spiritual creatures are used to typify Satan.

What Eve *saw* in the garden may have been a dragon-like creature, standing upright, perhaps glittering with a covering of precious jewels of every kind—a mesmerizing, fascinating, whispering enchanter. The creature may have *changed* from one visage to another right before her eyes!

### Mythological Dragons

Who is not familiar with the story of "St. George and the Dragon," and other mythological tales of men or boys fighting with winged, fire-breathing monsters, which are at once *serpentine*, and yet have wings, claws, and huge bodies—yet *speak*? Think of childhood myths, such as Jack and the beanstalk, Jack the Giant Killer, and others. All these myths have something in common: The dragon, or fearsome giant or monster, guards a castle on a craggy hill wherein lies a *fortune* in gold, jewels; the goose that lay the golden egg—whatever.

Where did the myths originate?

When Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden, God placed *cherubim* to guard the entry into Eden! They possessed "flaming swords" which turned this way and that (Genesis 3:24) to keep people from ever entering the garden. (For fuller explanation, please write for the brochure, *Satan's Greatest Deception*). These Cherubim were in place *until the destruction of the garden, which did not take place until the flood of Noah—about one thousand years later!* By then, the human population could have numbered into the tens of *millions!* One sixth of all human history from creation until today had passed.

Did ancient sojourners attempt to enter the garden, only to be turned away by creatures appearing as an ox, or a lion, or a man, or an eagle, or portions of all four? How else do we explain God commanding the ancients *not to worship the "host of heaven"*, and the creatures which *were worshipped* by ancient Babylonians,

Assyrians, and dozens of cultures in the mideast? What is the famed "Sphinx" guarding the tombs of the Pharaohs, but a man-headed lion? The "gods" of Egypt featured men with eagles' heads, oxen with lions' claws and tail; every conceivable mixture of the *four visages of cherubim!*

The chief "god" of central and south American Indian cultures (Mayan, Aztec, Incan, Toltec, etc.) was *Quetzalcoatl*, which was a "*winged flying serpent*," *quetzal* meaning "winged bird", and *coatl* meaning "serpent"! The connection is too obvious to deny.

Satan is called a "dragon" in prophecy; a "flying, fiery serpent" in Isaiah; a "cherub that covereth," in his original state; and is named Abaddon, Apollyon, the Tempter, the Accuser of the Brethren, and described by Peter as "a roaring lion" (I Peter 5:8).

It is clear from looking at the bizarre forms of religion in many societies *today* that the whispering, enticing "dragon" is *being worshipped* by the *millions!* Look at *China*, and their many dragon symbols, dragon societies; tattooing of dragons, serpentine forms used in parades and celebrations of various "times," particularly, the Chinese new year! To an extent, the same is true in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Cambodia, Vietnam, and all of the Maylasian peninsula. More than *five hundred million* worship the *ox* in India—calling mere *cows* "holy"!

We in the West pride ourselves on being "Christian" societies; emancipated from such nonsense as dragon worship; calf worship; the worship of winged serpents and man-headed lions. But a serious study into the *shocking origin* of many so-called "Christian" customs would absolutely STUN most people into disbelief! There is no more *immediate* example of this than the so-called "Christian" celebration called "Hallowe'en" or the "Evening of All Hallows," or "All Saints." Is it any wonder Hallowe'en is one of the *most important* celebrations of modern Satanists, who resort to bizarre, sickening, *human sacrifices* in their devilish rituals?

Hallowe'en is an outstanding example of how an apostate church *adapted* Satanic, *pagan* rituals, dressed them up in "Christian" clothing as a counterfeit, and palmed them off on the professing "Christian" church! But dressing up like ghosts, demons, or the imagined (lying) appearance of Satan himself, and acting out avarice, greed, threatened destruction of property, together with the accouterments of Satanism; jack o' lanterns, witches, black cats—is not "Christian," but *pagan to the core* and is *of the devil!* You need to

look into the *real* origins of the *other* professing "Christian" holidays as well! Write for my free booklets on Christmas and Easter, if you are not *afraid of the shocking truth*, and you are interested in *avoiding* the whispering deceits of the devil!

### How Satan Has Tried to Overthrow God

John wrote, in vision, of the whole plan and purpose of God from the very earliest beginning of creation in the 12th chapter of Revelation. The first verse begins with a visionary picture of God's *true church*, as a *woman*, who is about to give birth to a man child, Christ! Notice, "And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a *great red dragon*, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

"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...for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

"And she brought forth a man child, who was to *rule all nations with a rod of iron*: and her child was caught up unto God, and to His throne...and there was *war in heaven*: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

"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 12:1-9).

As we have seen, Lucifer tried to overthrow God, and was hurled down to this earth, a perverted, avaricious, cunning, evil, powerful being now *changed* from his position next to God's throne as "light bringer" into a "prince of darkness," or the "prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2). The universe was *wrecked* in the great "star wars" that ensued, and Satan and his fallen angels, now demons, were forced to remain in "chains of darkness" on this earth for perhaps *billions of years* during which the earth experienced tumultuous changes; the burial of billions of creatures, whose fossil bodies now provide modern man with his fossil fuels.

At the moment God *recreated* the earth (Genesis 1-3), Satan was *right there*, immediately slipping in, influencing Eve, and through her, Adam, attempting to *wreck* and *ruin* God's beautiful creation. Yet, God *allowed* this to happen for a very great PURPOSE.

### Free Moral Agency

Few understand that God is *reproducing after His own kind*; that creation was not finished with Adam—it had only *begun*! God created man in His own image merely as a physical *prototype*, for man is intended to be *begotten* of God, to *grow* in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ; to overcome Satan, this evil world, and human nature by the power of God's Holy Spirit, and to finally be *born of God* either by a resurrection, or by being instantaneously *changed* at the second coming of Christ (I Corinthians 15:50-52). If you have not yet read the *whole* story of the fabulous PLAN OF GOD for mankind, please write immediately for my free booklet, *What Is Your Destiny?*

You see, *character* is something which *cannot be instantly produced*! The history of Satan proves it. Lucifer was a created spirit being; an exalted archangel, near God's throne. Yet, "iniquity" was found in him; he became vain, prideful, resentful of God's power and position. He seethed with jealousy, vanity, lust, and greed. He allowed these emotions to pervert his mind; to give rise to evil desires, sinful plots.

But God Almighty is the very epitome of RIGHTEOUS CHARACTER! There is no force, no other being which *rules over God*! God is SELF-governed! Character is the ability to discern the difference between good and evil, and the *will power*, together with God's Spirit, to FORCE the self to CHOOSE THE GOOD!

God said, "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore CHOOSE LIFE, that both thou and thy seed may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19).

Man has a *choice*. That choice carries with it the fact that each person possesses *free will*, free moral agency! The choice is *ours*, and no one else *can* make it for us! Listen! The following statement is *axiomatic*! Satan the devil CANNOT cause you to sin against your will; he CANNOT FORCE YOU TO DO ANYTHING! God WILL NOT FORCE YOU TO OBEY AGAINST YOUR WILL! Only *YOU* can make each decision. That is the very meaning of free moral agency.

James says, "Resist the devil, and he will FLEE FROM YOU!" (James 4:7) Why? Because Christ *in us* is more *powerful* than the devil. Demons *fear* God! "Thou believest there is one God [or, that "God is One"?], thou doest well: the devils [demons] *also believe*,



and tremble!” (James 2:19).

No Christian need be in terror of Satan. We need to understand his power, his evil influence, his subtle enticements. Paul, writing about the need for Christians to be in a *forgiving* attitude, said, “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices” (II Corinthians 2:11). Peter described him as a “roaring lion, walking about, seeking whom he may devour: whom *resist* steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world” (I Peter 5:8-9).

Few recognize that this is *Satan’s* world! He is called “the prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2), and “the god of THIS WORLD” (II Corinthians 4:4), and has caused *spiritual blindness* to darken the minds of the millions!

Satan is the author of much of this world’s *music*! Certainly, the horrifying stories of teens committing *suicide* after hearing “heavy metal” music is adequate proof. Satan is author of much of this world’s *entertainment*; of its art, science, and literature. He is the author of *wars*, and evil inventions of death and destruction! Yet, Satan has never been able to do a thing God did not specifically *allow*!

Satan has *never yet* accomplished a single act that was not *permitted* by God! Satan *fears* God, and *must obey Him* when God utters a command! Read the first two chapters of the book of Job, and see how Satan could only have *limited* power over Job; how God ordered Satan to spare Job’s life, and Satan *had to obey*!

When Satan tried to tempt Christ, he subtly twisted scripture, tried to appeal to hunger, vanity. Christ answered with the *truth* of scripture. Then, when Satan asked Christ to bow down and worship him, Christ gave a COMMAND! “Then saith Jesus unto him, GET THEE HENCE, SATAN; for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve!” (Matthew 4:10). Satan was *forced* to slink away, cowering in fear. God the Father *allowed* the tempter to come, subtly try to cause Christ to sin. But Jesus Christ *resisted* every lying, whispering, subtle enticement of Satan, and then ordered him away. Satan HAD TO OBEY!

And so it is with us. Even as Jesus Christ cast out demons with His word, so He gave His disciples (later, apostles) power over demons through His name. But few are truly aware of struggles against Satan. Most tend to think only in terms of emotional, mental, physical, financial “problems,” and never clearly *identify* the enemy!

God shows the very *first* thing He will do at the beginning of the

one thousand-year reign of Christ on this earth is *hurl Satan into a symbolic “bottomless pit,”* perhaps a “black hole” in the universe! Notice! “And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years” (Revelation 20:1-2).

So *remember!* Satan CANNOT harm you so long as you have the protection of God’s angels; so long as you have Christ *living within you* through the power of God’s Holy Spirit; so long as you are living a life of *overcoming*, through prayer, Bible study, and thoughtful contemplation and meditation about the things of God.

### What Lies Ahead?

Let’s notice what is plainly prophesied to occur in the last days—just before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

The apostle Paul wrote, “This know also, that in the LAST DAYS perilous times shall come” (II Timothy 3:1).

Just look at the conditions surrounding us: Our cities are ravaged by crime, plagued by the drug scourge. Every day we hear of rape, arson, child molestation, theft, vandalism, murder. And these are problems we face “at home.” Even more horrifying is the prospect of nuclear power in the hands of some power-crazed hate monger like Muammar Kaddafi.

Indeed, we are living in *perilous times*!

Paul continues: “For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

“For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres [the Egyptian *sorcerers*] withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith” (verses 2-8).

Notice what else is prophesied for the “latter days”:



Paul writes, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the *latter times* some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to SEDUCING SPIRITS, and DOCTRINES OF DEMONS!" (I Timothy 4:1).

Our age is characterized by pride, vanity, bigotry, rebellion, callousness—the things Paul warned of. And now, tens of thousands are turning to the occult and New Age spiritism, are attempting to invoke the powers of the spirit world, are learning to contact "spirit guides." *They are giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons!*

Your Bible warns of a time of unparalleled wickedness, a time of rampant idolatry, murder, immorality; a time when people will practice SORCERY and actually WORSHIP THE DEVIL (Revelation 13:4)!

When that time comes, Almighty God will unleash His awesome wrath! Tens of thousands will die! Yet, many of the remaining wicked will refuse to repent.

Speaking of that time, John writes, "And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not *worship devils* [demons], and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their *sorceries*, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts" (Revelation 9:20-21).

Notice that *demon-worship* and *sorcery* are among the sins that will kindle God's wrath, resulting in the horrible plagues of the Day of the Lord!

Even now, thousands are following seducing spirits and doctrines of demons; many are turning to the occult, to New Age spiritism, to Eastern religions—but the worst is yet to come!

The time is coming when Satan the devil, the great arch-adversary "which deceiveth the whole world" (Revelation 12:9), will again be cast out of heaven. He will set out to deceive, destroy, and wreak havoc throughout the earth.

"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).

The final expulsion of Satan the devil from heaven will mark the beginning of the prophetic time period called the *Great Tribulation!*

"Then shall be *great tribulation*," Jesus said, "such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Matthew 24:21-22).

When that time comes, the devil will give great power and authority to the "beast," the human leader of the revived *Roman Empire*, who will speak "great things and BLASPHEMIES" (Revelation 13:5). As never before, deception will engulf this earth! Not only will people worship the beast; they will *worship the DEVIL* as well (verse 4)!

Satan the devil is called "the DESTROYER"! He tried to *destroy* Jesus Christ at His birth (Revelation 12:4), at the beginning of His earthly ministry (Matthew 4:1-10), and at the conclusion of His earthly ministry (John 13:2).

When the devil is cast down from heaven the second and final time, he will again set out to *destroy*. As he tried to destroy Christ, he will try to destroy Christ's church (Revelation 12:13-14). And when his efforts are thwarted, he will "make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (verse 17).

In the very end of the age, the devil, knowing his time has run out, will make one final, all-out attempt to *destroy* humankind and God's purpose in putting man on this earth. No doubt, his great wrath will incite the entire demonic realm, including the vilest, most demented, most *powerful* demons, to violent aggression!

John wrote, "And I saw three *unclean spirits* like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon [*the devil*], and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils [*demons*], working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty" (Revelation 16:13-14).

Notice, the powers of darkness will reach throughout the length and breadth of our planet, working miracles, deceiving, swaying whole nations! No doubt, sorcery, demonism, and the occult in all its wicked shades and hues will explode into a world-wide phenomenon, as wizards and warlocks discover power they never dreamed possible.

But what about the professing Christian world? Will Satan and his demented cohorts work primarily through the occultists and those who proudly name themselves after the devil?

Turn to and read Revelation 17, the entire chapter.

In vision, John sees a "great whore" whose name, "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND

ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH," is written on her forehead, and who is said to be "drunken with the blood of the saints, and the martyrs of Jesus..." This woman, representing the great "universal church," carries "a golden cup in her hand full of *abominations and filthiness of her fornication*," and has made the nations drunk "with the wine of her fornication" (Revelation 17).

The "wine of her fornication" represents her mixture of Christian concepts with abominable *pagan* customs, and the "drunkenness" of the nations represents widespread religious and spiritual *deception*.

The "universal church" and her protesting daughter churches reject God's weekly and annual Sabbaths, having replaced them with *pagan* customs and celebrations; embrace the pagan doctrine of the "immortality of the soul" with its accompanying "heaven" and "ever-burning hell" doctrines; declare that God is a Trinity, or "one God in three persons," a description many ancients used of their "gods"; and adorn their church buildings with steeples and crosses—symbols used in pagan worship long before the birth of Christ.

But the great "mother church," with her images and icons, her mysticism, her veneration of "saints," and her celibate priesthood, resembles paganism far more than her protesting "daughters." In fact, Catholicism so closely resembles paganism, pagans can "convert" and remain pagans while appearing to be "true" Catholics! Their idols and their phallic and fertility symbols are in place. All they need do is change the names of their demon "gods" to the names of the "saints."

Believe it or not, such "conversions" have occurred in recent centuries! The religion of *Santeria*, which means "saint worship," was brought by African slaves to the Caribbean islands. Its adherents appeal to the "Seven African Powers" through use of animal sacrifice. In order to please their Catholic masters, the slaves simply changed the names of their "gods" to the names of the "saints."

Authorities believe that the Matamoros cult practiced a form of *Santeria*, or a mixture of *Santeria* and other forms of pagan "magic."

But even aside from the undetected influx of occultists into the church's membership, the church itself claims *documentation* of dozens of mysterious "Eucharistic miracles," including levitation, ecstasies, visions, bleeding "hosts" (Eucharistic bread), hosts transforming into visible flesh upon "consecration," and the appearance of "stigmata" (wounds in the hands and feet and on the forehead—supposedly resembling Christ's wounds).

Other "miracles" Catholics claim include the famous apparitions of "Mary"; cures, prophecies, bilocation, "saints" living without sleep, or living on the Eucharist alone for many years; and hundreds of resurrections of persons who had been dead for years, who had been hanged, drowned, or mutilated—some of whom were supposedly raised in order to testify in criminal cases or to confirm some religious "truth."

Today, Catholics are urged to return to the "faith once and for all delivered." They are urged to read and study the material available through Catholic publishing firms, to refamiliarize themselves with Catholic dogma, to rediscover "authentic" Catholic miracles in order to boost their faith.

Think about it. What would happen if millions of Catholics were to begin witnessing such miracles? What effect would a *miracle-working pope* have on the Roman Catholic world, or, for that matter, on the religious world in general?

God's Word speaks of a great *false prophet*, who will align himself with the "beast," and will perform *miracles*, and will DECEIVE many (Revelation 19:20)! He will appear with great power, and with "signs and lying wonders" (II Thessalonians 2:9).

But wait! Surely this prophecy of the great false prophet can't refer to the leader of a great *Christian* professing church, can it?

Remember, Satan and his evil cohorts are not to be found *only* among the witches, the sorcerers, the necromancers, and the astrologers. Rather, the devil, appearing as an "angel of light," is to be found among *his* ministers, who *appear* as "ministers of righteousness" (II Corinthians 11:14-15).

Yes, the time is coming when a great false prophet will perform incredible signs and wonders, and will *deceive* many! He will appear as a "minister of righteousness," but will in fact be one of the devil's own!

No doubt, when that time comes—when Satan the devil is cast down for the final time—demonic activity will reach an all-time high! Sorcery, witchcraft, voodoo, and demon worship—whether labeled "Christian" or "Satanic"—will run rampant throughout this earth!

But the Satanic realm will not prevail. Jesus Christ, as King of kings and Lord of lords, will conquer the forces of evil. The devil will be bound (Revelation 20), and Mystery Babylon will suffer the fate of her ancient predecessor. Upon her fall, a mighty angel will proclaim, "...for by thy *sorceries* were all nations deceived" (Revelation 18:23).

In the meantime, it is important that we realize that very real evil powers dwell in this world. But more important, we need to know how to protect ourselves from them.

### You Can Avoid Demon Possession

Demonic possession is a very real phenomenon! Demons are real spiritual entities that are capable, under certain conditions, of entering and taking *possession* of the human mind!

You should not spend too much time dwelling on demonic possession, thinking about demons, or worrying about whether demons may be affecting your thoughts. On the other hand, you should be aware of the reality of demonic activity, and you need to know how to avoid demonic influence and possession.

Normally, people need not worry about demon possession, for possession is possible only under certain conditions. Just what are those conditions? Why are people who dabble with the occult more susceptible to possession?

The answer to the last question is quite simple. First, curiosity leads to involvement, which may seem “innocent” or “harmless” at first. Second, involvement leads to *fixation*—an obsession, or preoccupation. Third, the obsessed person realizes he has made contact with, or has access to, a very real supernatural power (this realization may occur early in the process). He then becomes dependent on the power. Finally, his dependency opens the way for possession.

But even in the “dependency” stage, a person can be led step-by-step into all kinds of aberrant behavior—from chanting and burning incense to animal sacrifice; from animal sacrifice to drinking blood; from there to bizarre sexual rituals, and, possibly, *human sacrifice*!

True, most occultists never engage in animal sacrifice, and would never dream of participating in human sacrifice. But some do! Apparently, those involved in the killings near Matamoros, Mexico did not intend, at first, to go all the way to human sacrifice.

But they did go all the way! And because they did, at least thirteen people, who would have been alive today—who would have been spending time with their families, enjoying life—are moldering in their graves!

If you value your health and well-being; if you value your life and the lives of your loved ones, then **STAY AWAY FROM THE OCCULT!**

Even seemingly “harmless” games and pastimes, such as Oija

boards and “Dungeons and Dragons,” can open the way for demonic activity. **Avoid them!**

Strive to control negative emotions; avoid violent rage and unrestrained anger, and teach your children the same. Unrestrained “temper tantrums” and violent, uncontrolled outbreaks of raging anger can open the way for demonic influence and possession.

Encourage your children to involve themselves in wholesome activities, such as sports and games that contribute to the growth and development of young minds and bodies. Spend less time in front of the TV set and more *quality* time with your children. Plan family outings, fishing and camping trips, nature walks, cook-outs—fun, wholesome activities that help develop strong family ties and healthy parent-child relationships.

Certainly, your children should be aware of the evils of this world; of the soaring crime rate, of environmental pollution, of the detrimental effects of drug abuse, and so on, but the greater emphasis should be placed on the good things of life.

The apostle Paul wrote, “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, *think on these things*” (Philippians 4:8).

By following these simple guidelines, you can insure yourself and your family against the horrible mental derangement and emotional suffering associated with demonic influence.

Finally, there’s one other important step you need to be aware of. It is the surest and most important insurance anyone could possibly have.

James wrote, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and *he will flee from you*” (James 4:7).

That’s the best insurance you could possibly have. By submitting yourself to God, and by resisting the evil influence of Satan, you can *rest assured* that the devil will FLEE from you!

And that’s a *promise* you can rely on—a guarantee of the sure Word of God. □