

DOCTRINE OF DEMONISM

- I. Demons are fallen angels who, of their own volition, chose Satan's side during the angelic revolt. Cp. the 5 “I wills” of Satan in Isa.14:12-14
- A. Satan, who is himself a demon, is their ruler and rules with discipline and organization. Mat.12:24; Eph.6:10-12
 - B. Like Satan, the demons were created sinless. Eze.28:11-19
 - C. This is substantiated since exactly one third of all the angels chose to follow Satan and fell becoming demons. Rev.12:4
 - D. An unspecified number of these demons are imprisoned in Tartarus for violating their angelic domain in the antediluvian infiltration of the human race. Gen.6:1-4 cp. Jud.1:6; 2Pet. 2:4,5).
 - E. All angels are masculine in gender, therefore all demons are males.
 - F. They share Satan’s viewpoint and destiny. Mat.25:41

II. Biblical vocabulary of demonology:

A. Greek:

1. δαμόνιον/daimonion – a demon, demons. This word occurs 63x; ex. Mar.1:39; Jam.2:19; etc.
2. δαίμων/daimon - a demon, an evil spirit. Used 1x; Mat.8:31
3. δαιμονίζομαι/daimonizomai - to be possessed by a demon; demoniacs; used 13x; Mat.4:24; 8;16; etc.
4. δαιμονιώδης/daimoniodes – demonic or demon like. Used 1x; Jam.3:15 regarding human viewpoint, which is cosmic wisdom sponsored by demons.
5. ἀγγέλως/angelos – its primary meaning being a messenger, human or angelic, depending on the context. This word is generally used of elect angels or of men, but is sometimes used of fallen angels, the messengers or angels of Satan. Ex.: men: Luk.7:24; elect angels: Luk.1:30; fallen angels or demons: Mat.25:41; Rev.9:11; 12:9.
6. πνευμά/pneuma - spirit or spirits. This word is generally used for God the Holy Spirit, but is also used for the human spirit and for demon spirits. Ex.: for God the Holy Spirit: Luk.4:18; Joh.3:8; the human spirit: Luk.1:47; Rom.1:9; demon spirits: Mat.8:16; Luk.11:26.
 - a. ἀκάθαρως/akatharos + πνευμά/pneuma - unclean spirits; refers to their permanent state of defilement and separation from God hence, it denotes “**their state of being**”. Mat.10:1; Mar.1:23-27; 3:11; Luk.4:33
 - b. πονηρός/poneros + πνευμά/pneuma - evil spirit, bad, of evil character manifested by their pernicious actions hence, it denotes “**their nature**”. Luk.7:21; 8:2; Act.19:16
 - c. πλάνος/planos + πνευμά/pneuma - deceitful spirits, seducing, misleading, deceiving into error hence, it denotes their “**method of operation/activity**”. 1Tim.4:1

B. Hebrew:

1. שְׁדִים /shed - demons. Used 2x and only in the plural. They are associated with idols and notes that the idol was nothing, but the demons behind it were real. Deu.32:17; Psa.106:37 cp. vs.36
2. שְׂעִיר /sha-iyd - goat demon, satyrs; used 2x; it is represented by the

inverted pentagram i.e., the horned hunter of the night. Lev.17:7; 2Chr.11:15

3. אֱלֹהִים /-elohiym - gods, demons, idols. This is the Hebrew word used in the plural to identify the Godhead in GENESIS 1:1 and in about 2,324 other verses. It is also used to identify false gods in at least 204 other verses. Whether it is the Godhead (Trinity) that is in view, or false gods, depends on the context. Example passages where it is used for false gods and/or idols: Gen.31:19,30; Exo.20:3,23.
4. טְמֵאָה /tum-ah + רוּחַ /ruach - unclean spirit. Zec.13:2

III. The abode of demons.

- A. The majority of the demons are unconfined and free to operate under Satan within the realm of God's permissive will.
- B. They have access to the heavenlies. Eph.6:12 cp. Job 1:6
 1. The first heaven = earth's atmosphere.
 2. The second heaven = outer space.
 3. The third heaven = the throne room of God; the place where God chooses to manifest His essence.
- C. They freely roam the earth. Job 1:7; 1Pet.5:8
- D. Those who violated their domain of Genesis 6 are incarcerated in Tartarus (a special compartment in the abyss; abyss is a synonym for the pit, hades or hell), and will be released for 5 months during the 7 year tribulational period. 2Pet.2:4-5; Jud.1:6,7; Rev.9:1-11
- E. They operate in the heavenly realms attacking and fighting against the elect angels. Dan.10:12-13,20
- F. They and their ruler Satan are kicked out of the heavenlies and confined to the earth mid-way in Daniel's 70th week. Rev.12:7-12

IV. Activities of demons.

- A. Solicitation to do evil, as seen in the example of Satan, their leader. Gen.3:1-7; Mat.4:1-3; Act.5:3; 1Thes.3:5; Rev.20:8
- B. Deception, as seen in the terms "*deceitful spirits*" (1Tim.4:1) and "*lie signs and lie wonders*", "*deception of unrighteousness*" and "*an operation of deception*". 2Thes.2:9-11 cp. Joh.8:44; 2Cor.11:3; Rev.12:9; 20:7-8.
- C. Accusing of believers: their ruler's title, Satan, means accuser. Job1:9,10; 2:4,5; Rev.12:10).
- D. The propagation of false doctrine, called "*doctrines of demons*" and "*schemes*" of Satan. 1Tim.4:1,2; 2Cor.2:11
- E. The promotion of idolatry and various false religions that are closely linked with doctrines of demons.
 1. Behind every idol there stands a demon. 1Cor.10:19,20 cp. Gen.31:19,30
 2. Demons are sometimes called "*gods*". Gen.31:19,30; 35:2-4; Exo.12:12; 15:11
 3. They are false gods that are represented or portrayed by idols; idolatry is expressly forbidden; the worship of an idol is the worship of the demon for which it stands. Exo.20:3-5; 23:13,24; 34:17; Lev.19:4;

4. These idols representing demons are the symbols of false religion; they are used by the demons to promote evil:
 - a. The phallic (illicit sex) cult. Judg.2:11-14; Jer.7:9
 - b. Child sacrifice. Lev.18:21; 20:1-5; 2Kin.23:10; Psa.106:37,38).
 - c. Promotion of the occult, spiritism, astrology, necromancy/witchcraft, fortune-telling (divination), magic, etc. Act.16:16-18; Exo.22:18; Lev.20:27; Deu.18:9 cp. 22; 1 SAMUEL 28:6-25
 - d. Promotion of the worship of the queen of heaven. Jer.7:18; 44:15-30
 - e. Promotion of other idolatrous worship and sacrifice. Deu.32:17; 1Kin.11:4-8
- F. Scripture refers to actual demon possession of unbelievers as a fact. Mat.9:32; 17:14-18; Mar.7:24-30; Luk.8:2
- G. They actively influence negative and unwary believers. Act.5:3
- H. Demon influence is the infiltration of Satanic thought or policy into the soul of the individual who is negative or lukewarm to BD and can come through:
 1. Temptation:
 - a. Temptation originates with the spiritual forces of Satan. Gen.3:1ff; Mat.4:1ff; 1Thes.3:5
 - b. The avenue of temptation is the STA. Jam.1:14
 - c. Demons recognize the proper time and place for various temptations. Luk.4:13; 1Cor.7:5
 2. Propagation of false doctrine.
 - a. Demons have their own system of doctrine that is called darkness and is in contradiction to the light of Divine viewpoint. 1Tim.4:1ff
 - b. Various apostate individuals are used to infiltrate the church with these pernicious/destructive teachings. 2Cor.11:13; 1Tim.4:2; 2Pet.2; Rev.2:20
 - c. Such doctrines then become dogma in apostate churches and organizations. 1Tim.4:3; Rev.2:14-15
 3. Reversionism, which corresponds directly with demon influence. *See Doctrine of Reversionism*
 - a. Stage 1: Reactor factors produced by the STA (hate, jealousy, arrogance, frustration, boredom, unhappiness, discontent, depression, fear, etc).
 - b. Stage 2: A frantic search for happiness. This may be evidenced by the pursuit of alcohol, drugs, or illicit sex. It is also manifest in the love and pursuit of money. It is seen in individuals who are addicted to alcohol, drugs, work, frantic shopping sprees, etc. However, it may manifest itself in other ways. One example would be fanatic, emotional religious activities.
 - c. Stage 3: Intensification of stage 1.
 - d. Stage 4: The emotional revolt of the soul. In this stage, the emotions rule the soul. Decisions are made based on what one feels, on the emotions. Example: parents who raise their children based upon what they feel rather than on sound doctrine. Emotions are a very dangerous area for all of us. They often involve manifestation of the "I feel" syndrome. The emotions were designed only as responders;

they are not designed to rule the soul. Don't get the idea that you are not to have any emotion. But your emotions are to function as responders; they are not to rule the soul.

- e. Stage 5: Negative volition to Bible doctrine along with repeated sinning eventually leads to hardening of the heart and scar tissue of the soul. This is one reason why rejection of any doctrine is so dangerous to the believer. God has elevated His Word above even His name. Whenever, a believer consistently rejects a particular doctrine, support for that doctrine is withdrawn from the soul and further progress to spiritual maturity is impeded.
 - f. Stage 6: Scar tissue eventuates into a void/vacuum in the individuals thinking, which is replaced with doctrines of demons being sucked into the soul.
 - g. Stage 7, Reverse process reversionism. Under the presence of the doctrines of demons, the individual begins to call good evil and evil good. For example, people reject the truth of sound doctrine but embrace emotionalism, or tongues, or concepts of eastern mysticism and other philosophies of the new age movement. Another example would be those who believe that homosexuality is a perfectly good and acceptable alternate lifestyle; God calls it an abomination/detestation (Lev.18:22). Only individuals under the blackout (emptiness, vacuum) of the soul can think that it is good or even acceptable. There are as many examples of reverse process reversionism in today's society as there are points of truth. Isa.5:20
4. The purpose of demonic influence is to bring individuals into oppression of satanic slavery and his desires through failure to isolate their STAs and rejection of BD. 2Tim.2:22-26
- I. Influence of world rulers. Dan.10:10-20

V. Principles of demon possession:

- A. Demon possession is a fallen angel entering and controlling the body of an unbeliever. (Under demon influence a demon controls or attempts to control the thinking of the person being influenced while actual possession is absent.)
- B. Possession does not occur apart from the volition of the individual involved. (Influence can occur under circumstances described in IV.)
- C. It was one basis for capital punishment in Israel. Lev.20:27
- D. It can produce physical and/or psychological maladies. Mat.12:22; Mar.9:14-18; as inferred upon Jesus in Joh.7:20
- E. It can produce supernatural strength. Mar.5:1-4; Luk.8:29
- F. A believer cannot be demon possessed, only influenced; every believer is the temple of God the Holy Spirit. 1Cor.6:19; 1Joh.4:1-4 “..*greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.*”
- G. Strictly speaking, there are no formulas for exorcisms in the Bible such as promoted in the Roman Catholic Church and among the Jews.
- H. The Lord Jesus Christ and the apostles cast out demons through Divine authority. Mat.8:16; Mar.3:14,15; Act.16:16-18; 19:13-16
- I. Exorcism was (and still is) practiced by the Jews. Mat.12:24-27; Act.19:13-16

- J.** Demon possession can produce special knowledge. Act.16:16
- K.** Demon possession can be accomplished by:
 - 1.** Idolatry, religious reversionism; the modern tongues movement is a prime example. Isa.8:19,20; 28:11 cp. 1Cor.13 and 14
 - a.** Isaiah 8:19 reveals the demonic nature of the gibberish produced by demon possessed mediums and spiritists.
 - b.** The Jews were not to consult such individuals; those who do not speak according to the law and the testimony have no light. Isa.8:20
 - c.** The apostle Paul makes it clear that the gift of tongues was a temporary gift which ceased with the completion of the perfect canon of Scripture. 1Cor.13:8-13
 - d.** “Tongues” was the gift of languages that allowed first century believers to spread the gospel in languages that they had not studied; it did not involve unintelligible speech such as uttered by the demon possessed spiritists and mediums cited in Isaiah 8:19. 1Cor.14:7-10
 - e.** The modern tongues movement is also heavily involved in extra-biblical “prophecies” and the so-called “word of wisdom”.
 - f.** The gift of prophecy was also a temporary gift for the first century. It allowed those with the gift to teach Church Age doctrine pending the completion of the New Testament.
 - g.** The modern tongues movement wants to make speaking in unintelligible gibberish the criterion for salvation; they say, “No tongues, no filling of God the Holy Spirit.”
 - h.** But a person who does not have the Holy Spirit, is not saved at all. Rom.8:9
 - i.** So the Charismatics illegitimately make their gibberish talking a sign that one is saved.
 - j.** However, the gift of languages (tongues) was not a sign to believers, but to unbelievers. 1Cor.14:22
 - k.** Even when the gift was extant, not every believer possessed it. 1Cor. 12:28-30
 - l.** Just as there are no apostles and prophets around today, there are also no legitimate miracle workers and healers (this does not mean that God Himself does not still perform miracles and unexplainably heal), and the gift of tongues has ceased. 1Cor.13:8-10
 - m.** It, like the gift of miracles and healing, was designed to authenticate the gospel message to unbelievers and to allow the spread of the good news prior to the completion of the New Testament canon.
 - n.** Individuals who are associated with the so-called tongues movement are at best self-deluded and at worst demon influenced or demon possessed.
 - 2.** The use of illicit/hallucinogenic drugs. In Gal.5:20, the word translated sorcery/ φαρμακεία is related to the use of drugs.
 - a.** In the ancient world drugs were one of the chief means of making contact with demons.
 - b.** Demon contact and possession were also practiced by the American Indians (peyote, mescal).

1. Artificial (augury): relies on skills in reading signs or omens (card readers, chicken bones, astrology, etc.).
 2. Inspirational: depends on a medium under the possession and influence of a demon(s).
 3. The Romans were given to augury while the Greeks generally went the possession route.
 4. All such fortune telling activities are connected with demons and are forbidden by the Word of God.
- B.** This means that fortune-tellers such as Jeanne Dixon, Edgar Cayce, and Nostradamus are evil; under the Law, the death penalty was prescribed for less than 100% accuracy by one who claimed to be a prophet. Deu.18:20-22
- C.** People such as Jean Dixon, Edgar Cayce, and Nostradamus were not able to make predictions with 100% accuracy; a close study of such individuals reveals their association with demons. For example, Cayce practiced telepathy, fortunetelling and clairvoyance/channeling. He taught reincarnation, He believed that he was himself the reincarnation of a cousin of Luke. He taught that Jesus was a reincarnation of Adam, Melchizedek, Joshua, and Zend (the father of Zoroaster). He taught that God was both male and female, a Mother/Father God. He taught that Jesus and His mother Mary were twin souls. He taught that Mary also was of a virgin birth. He taught that God does not know the future. All of these things are doctrines of demons.
- D.** Divination may come in the form of:
1. Astromancy: astrology.
 2. Hepatoscopy: reading livers (the lobe of the liver is a reflector of the gods).
 3. Bellowmancy: shooting arrows (chance/luck).
 4. Rhabdomancy: using a witching staff. Hos.4:12
 5. Necromancy: contacting the dead.
 6. Hydromancy: cup divination using liquids.

VIII. Demonism is characteristic of evil rule. 2Kin.21

- A.** The cosmoskrator demons (those behind world forces) attempt to influence world rulers. Eph.6:12 :10-18 cp. Dan.10:13
1. Elect angels such as Michael and Gabriel are assigned to oppose the representatives of Satan. Dan.10:13,20 cp. 11:1
 2. Under Satan, demons are the princes over unrighteous nations; the demons in Daniel 10 are called the prince of Persia and the prince of Greece.
- B.** Satan himself is depicted as the one behind the evil ruler of Tyre. Eze.28:12
- C.** He is the one who deceives peoples and nations; this is done with the assistance of his demon "army". 2Cor.4:3,4; Rev.20:7,8

IX. Demonism and the Great Tribulation:

- A.** The antichrist (and by application, certain other demonic activity) is restrained by God the Holy Spirit in this dispensation. 2Thes.2:7,8

- B.** Satan and all of the demons will be confined to the earth; Satan becomes extremely angry, resulting in more intense persecution of the Jews. Rev.12:7-17
 - C.** Both the antichrist and the false prophet will be possessed. Rev.13:1-18
 - D.** Under God's permissive will, they will bring an operation of deception upon reversionists; this deception will include supernatural signs and wonders. 2Thes.2:9-12
 - E.** An army of demons will be released from the abyss (Tartarus) to inflict pain for five months on the followers of the antichrist. Rev.9:1-11
 - F.** All fallen angels will be removed at the Second Advent for 1,000 years. Rev.20:1-3,7,8

- X.** The final doom of all demons:
 - A.** It is known to all demons. Jam.2:19; Mat.8:29; 25:41).
 - B.** All will be confined to the lake of fire forever. Mat.25:41; Rev.20:7-10

- XI.** Further miscellaneous observations on demonism.
 - A.** The sorcerers and magicians of Egypt were engaged in the production of counterfeit “miracles” through demonism. Exo.7:8-12ff
 - B.** The household idols (teraphim) of Gen.31:19,30 were considered to be “good luck charms.”
 - C.** Pagans and apostate Jews wore protective jewelry (good luck charms). Jud.8:21-27; Gen.35:1-4
 - D.** Rote repetition in prayer is characteristic of paganism (cp. Mat.6:7); rosary beads are a feature of many different demon sponsored religions (Buddhism, Catholicism as a couple of examples). Idols and idolatry are a distinctive feature of the RCC.
 - E.** Heathen nations and their religions involved idolatry and demon worship. Psa.96:3-5
 - F.** The Law prescribed the death penalty for demon possession and the practice of the occult. Lev.20:27
 - G.** The Lord Jesus Christ controls the events of human history and at times this is accomplished through judgment on demons. Exo.12:12
 - H.** Satan disguises himself as an angel of light (2Cor.11:14), and in so doing provides a counterfeit to every increment of principle established in BD.
 - I.** The demons understand and believe in the unity of the Godhead, but their belief did not result in appropriate application. Jam.2:19,20

- XII.** Some precepts of Orthodox (what the Bible teaches) Christianity that are generally denied or distorted by demonically inspired false religions/cults. *(A cult technically is any system of religious worship or sect. An occult, is a system that is esoteric/secret and is generally described theologically as a system of worship that promotes worship of Satan in repudiation to the Person and work of Christ and thus denies faith in Him for salvation. However, today the term cult under Christian theology has taken on the added nuance of occult i.e., any system of worship or philosophy that denies faith in the whole Person of Christ as Savior.)*

- A. The doctrine of Godhead.**
1. The Word of God clearly teaches that there is One Triune God who exists in three persons and who has revealed Himself in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 2. These three persons are one in essence; they are co-equal and co-eternal.
 - a. Co-equal means that all three members of the Godhead or Trinity are equally God.
 - b. Co-eternal means that all three (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) have existed eternally. In the gospel of John, we see that if one could go backward into eternity past, he would find God the Son existing eternally as God with the Father. The humanity of God the Son was born of a virgin in time, and was permanently united with His Deity.
 3. Cults and false religions generally deny that God the Son is in fact God and in various cults, He may be denied entirely, or is simply called a good man, or a prophet, but never God. *Ex. Judaism and Islam.*
 4. Cults generally deny the personality of God the Holy Spirit, teaching that He is nothing more than an impersonal force.
 5. Many of the cults teach that we can ourselves become gods, or that we already have the divine within us.
 - a. Hindu swami Vivekananda taught that:
 - 1) The basic nature of human beings is divine, not fallen i.e., there is some good in all of us. Cp.Rom.7:18
 - 2) God, the underlying reality, exists in every being.
 - 3) All religion is a search for self-knowledge, a search for the god within ourselves.
 - 4) We should not think of ourselves as needing to be saved because we are never lost; at worst we are living in ignorance of our true nature as gods.
 - b. Prior to Vivekananda, Ramakrishna taught that all religions are one and tried to incorporate Christianity as a sub-sect of Hinduism.
 - c. This thinking was also part of the message that Vivekananda brought to America.
 - d. These precepts of Hinduism are found in many false religions and cults that do not actually call themselves Hindu.
 - e. For example, the cult commonly known as Mormonism teaches that one can become a god through following Mormon doctrines.
 - f. Much of Hindu philosophy is incorporated in the New Age cult or movement.
- B. The authority of Scripture.**
1. The Word of God clearly teaches that it is inspired by God and literally God breathed i.e., verbal plenary/complete inspiration/enlightenment. 2Tim.3:16
 2. This verbal plenary inspiration extends to the sixty-six books which are contained in the Old and New Testaments.
 3. While some demonically inspired religions may claim the Bible as part of their religious literature, they either deny verbal plenary inspiration or claim greater authority for other books.

4. Generally speaking, cults distort the Word of God while often giving lip service to the Bible, but are governed by the writings and/or teachings of the cult leader or leaders.
- C. Salvation.
1. The Word of God clearly teaches that salvation comes on the basis of faith in Jesus Christ. Eph.2:8,9; Gal.2:16; Joh.3:16
 2. The various cults and false religions teach:
 - a. That salvation is not necessary since we are not lost.
 - b. That salvation comes through good works and rigid self-denial.
 - c. That salvation is nothing more than release from an endless cycle of death and rebirth (reincarnation).
 - d. That there is no such thing as salvation.
- XIII.** Some demonically inspired religions and cults. (It is important to notice that each of these distorts the truth, including the one way of salvation.)
- A. Hinduism: Hinduism is one of the oldest false religions and also one of the most complex.
1. During its history, Hinduism has spawned a variety of “offshoot” religions. (This once again demonstrates Satan's policy of something for everyone.)
 2. It is, in reality, not one religion, but a family of religions or sects that hold to diverse beliefs. Some sects are theistic (one God), some monistic (all reality, both matter/material and spiritual/idealism/thinking, is seen as one unified whole in which there are ultimately no distinctions), some pantheistic (all matter and forces of the universe is God; identifies everything with God and God with everything), some polytheistic (many gods), and some atheistic (the belief that there is no God). The majority of Hindu sects are polytheistic (the number of false gods worshiped may run into the thousands).
 3. While there are many other sects (hundreds), almost all believe in:
 - a. Brahman (the creator), Vishnu (the preserver), Shiva (the destroyer). This is the unholy trinity of Hinduism.
 - b. Submission to fate.
 - c. That all men and women are part of Brahman (this is the concept of a great interrelated “one”).
 - d. Reincarnation
 - 1) The notion that people (souls) are reborn again and again into many different lives.
 - 2) This doctrine of demons is refuted by. Heb.9:27
 - e. Transmigration: Reincarnation generally restricts rebirth of the soul from one human body to another; transmigration allows for transfer of the soul from one life form to another (man to cow; man to bug, etc.).
 - f. Karma (Karma is an old Sanskrit word that means works or actions).
 - 1) In Hinduism, it refers principally to that which a soul has acquired in past lives.
 - 2) It is alleged that if one has acquired good karma he/she will be reincarnated into a desirable state (a high position in life).

- 3) But if one has acquired a debt of bad karma then he/she will be reincarnated into a less desirable state.
- 4) Bad karma is not defined as sin against a holy God, but merely as unenlightened thoughts and actions.
- 5) Karma and reincarnation are essentially a system of salvation by works where one gets an unlimited number of tries to reach the goal.
- 6) Of course, the notion of personal salvation in the biblical sense is foreign to Hinduism; Hinduism defines salvation as:
 - a) The realization of one's own godhood.
 - b) The progressive working out of that realization through many lives.
 - c) The eventual escape from the wheel of reincarnation through final merging with (and complete dissolution into) the impersonal god Brahman.
 - d) "Salvation" in Hinduism is simply deliverance from the endless cycle of birth, death, and rebirth.
 - e) This "salvation" is accomplished by good works that produce favorable karma.
 - f) In contrast, Christianity teaches that true salvation comes only through faith in Jesus Christ. Rom.5:1; Gal.2:16; Act.4:12
- g. Maya (all is illusion).
4. Eastern gurus constitute a large class of Hindu occultists who have come to the United States to spread the teachings of Hinduism, especially the so-called "spiritual" practices that are said to be necessary for mankind to achieve "enlightenment".
 - a. Through practices such as yoga and meditation (transcendental and other forms), disciples are told that they can reach an altered state of consciousness that will allow them to achieve a form of spiritual "enlightenment" and thereby realize their true nature as being one essence with the highest Hindu god, Brahman.
 - b. The guru's claims to represent God and to offer higher forms of spirituality (which they say are desperately needed in the west) are contradicted by the content of their teachings.
 - c. Despite their claims to represent God and Jesus Christ, and not to contradict Christian doctrine, the teachings of the gurus constitute doctrines of demons which are clearly hostile to Bible doctrine.
 - d. These gurus promote psychic development, spirit (demon) contact and possession; they promote a variety of occult practices which are forbidden by the Word of God.
 - e. The recent guru phenomena constitutes a revival of occult practice and philosophy.
 - f. Their teachings include themes of shamanism, spiritism (the belief that the dead survive as spirits that can have contact with the living), psychic development, witchcraft practices, and other forms of paganism.

7. As with Hinduism, salvation is defined as release from the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth.
 8. It is accomplished by personal efforts that create good karma.
- D. Confucianism:** Confucianism (founded by Confucius) is a religion of optimistic humanism.
1. Confucianism gives an idealistic view of life and stresses the goodness of human nature.
 2. Ancestor worship is a principal doctrine of Confucianism.
 3. Ancestor worship is the veneration/adoration of the spirits of the dead by their living relatives.
 4. Supposedly the continued existence of the ancestors in spirit is dependent upon the attention given them by their living relatives.
 5. The notion is that if the family provides good things for the ancestors, then the spirits of the dead relatives will cause good things to happen to their living relatives.
 6. If, however, the ancestors are neglected, it is believed that all kinds of evil can fall upon the living.
 7. Consequently, it is a feature of this religion that the living exist in constant fear of the dead.
 8. Confucianism is not a religion that attempts to relate man to God or effect reconciliation between man and God.
 9. Rather is secular and humanistic in its approach, supporting an ethical system, that attempts to teach men and women how to get along with others.
 10. Thus the emphasis of Confucianism is earthly, not heavenly.
 11. Since it teaches the ethical philosophy of self-effort, Confucianism leaves no room or need for God.
 12. Salvation is not an issue in this ethical system.
 13. In Confucianism, man can do it all himself.
 14. The Word of God, on the other hand, teaches that man exists in a sinful condition in which it is impossible for him to save himself; his condition is hopeless and he is in need of a Savior. Rom.3:23; Joh.3:3-18
- E. Taoism (pronounced Dowism).**
1. The central feature of Taoism is the Tao.
 - a. The term is virtually undefinable.
 - b. A famous Taoist saying is, "Those who know, don't say and those who say, don't know."
 - c. So Taoism says that the Tao is a mysterious term that is beyond all understanding, imagination, and the senses.
 - d. Yet Taoism says that the Tao is the so-called way of ultimate reality, the ground of all existence; according to Taoism, it is the way by which one should order his life, even though it is said to be beyond knowing.
 - e. Taoism teaches that the way to get in harmony with the Tao is through practicing the attitude of Wu Wei, which literally means inaction.
 2. This is in definite contrast to the command of the Word of God that we are to be zealous for good works. Ti.2:14

3. The concept of Yin and Yang are prominent in Taoism as they also are in Confucianism.
 - a. Although all things emanate from the Tao, there are elements that are contrary to each other, such as good and evil, life and death.
 - b. Yin and Yang picture that the whole world is a half and half mixture of good and evil, and that there is evil in good and good in evil.
 - c. This is symbolized by ☯.
 - 1) White pictures good and black pictures evil.
 - 2) Notice that good and evil are intertwined (closely related).
 - 3) Notice also that there is good in evil and evil in good (pictured by the black dot in the white and the white dot in the black).
 4. But in the Word of God, darkness pictures evil, and light pictures righteousness; furthermore, there is no darkness or evil whatsoever in God. 1Joh.1:5; Joh.8:44
- F.** Shintoism: (The national religion of Japan; because of its extremely nationalistic nature, this religion has seldom, if ever, been seen outside of Japan. It is included here because it shows that Satan has something for everyone, including special religions such as this one to appeal to just one nation.)
- G.** Islam: Muhammad (or Mohammed) founded this religion about 600 A.D.
1. Islam is a monotheistic religion; it prescribes belief in one God whose name is Allah.
 2. Allah is all-knowing and all-powerful, and is the sovereign judge.
 3. But Allah is not a personal God; he is so far above man that he is not personally knowable.
 4. There are four inspired books in the Islamic faith: the Torah of Moses, the Psalms of David, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the Quran (Koran). Moslems believe that all except the Quran have been corrupted by Jews and Christians.
 5. Prophets: Islam believes that God has spoken through numerous prophets. The six greatest are Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammed. Muhammed is the last and greatest.
 6. Islam specifically rejects the Doctrine of the Trinity.
 7. Islam is a legalistic religion that places emphasis on salvation by works: in order to be saved, one must become a Moslem and keep the precepts of Islam.
 8. While Islam regards Jesus as a prophet, it rejects the Doctrine of the Trinity, the Deity of Christ, Christ as the Son of God and the Savior of mankind, Christ's crucifixion, and the notion that men are born in a sinful fallen condition, needing a Savior.
 9. Thus man is sinful by action only, not by nature.
 10. To the Moslem, sin is simply a lack of obedience to Allah.
- H.** Mormonism (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; LDS).
1. Founded by Joseph Smith on April 6, 1830 at Fayette, New York.
 2. The Mormons claim that they are the restoration of the true church established by Jesus Christ.
 3. Some precepts of Mormonism:

- a. There is no salvation outside the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon Doctrine, page 670).
 - b. There is no salvation without accepting Joseph Smith (Doctrines of Salvation, page 189,190).
 - c. According to Brigham Young, the Latter Day Saints are to be the redeemers of all mankind. He said, “Believe in God, believe in Jesus, believe in Joseph Smith, his prophet, and believe in Brigham Young his successor and you will be saved (Journal of Discourses, 6:229; 7:289).
 - d. The Mormons believe in many gods and teach that God Himself was once a man, who became a god.
 - e. Moreover, all Mormon males have the possibility of attaining godhood (Joseph Smith, The King Follet Discourse, pages 8-10.)
 - f. The Mormon Church teaches that all men (including Jesus Christ) were preexistent spirits who take their place in a body at birth; they say that the intelligent part of man (the spirit) was never created by God, but existed eternally.
 - g. In Mormonism, there is a general salvation for all mankind, and an individual salvation for each person.
 - h. There is no such thing as hell or everlasting punishment: each person will eventually go to one of three levels of glory:
 - 1) The celestial kingdom: this is reserved for Mormon's who have the Melchizedek priesthood (and for their wives, however many they may be). People in this category are those who will become gods.
 - 2) The terrestrial kingdom: This is for those who have believed in Jesus Christ but who have failed the requirements of exaltation in the Mormon Church.
 - 3) The telestial kingdom: This is for those who have no testimony of Christ.
 - i. However, in Mormonism Jesus Christ is not the unique Son of God (Joseph Smith said regarding Jesus Christ, “His humanity is to be recognized as real and ordinary—whatever happened to Him may happen to any one of us. The Divinity of Jesus and the Divinity of all other noble and stately souls, in so far as they too, have been influenced by a spark of Deity—can be recognized as manifestations of the Divine.” King Follet Discourse, page 11).
 - j. Brigham Young said, “No man or woman in this dispensation can enter into the Celestial Kingdom of God without the consent of Joseph Smith.”
 - k. Mormon salvation is a works system involving keeping the laws and ordinances of the Mormon (LDS) Church.
4. Changes in the Book of Mormon.
- a. Joseph Smith said that the Book of Mormon is “the most correct book on earth” (Joseph Smith, History of the Church, 4:461).
 - b. However, this “most correct book” has undergone some 3,000 changes from the 1830 edition to the modern edition.
 - c. Jehovah's Witnesses (Officially known as the Watchtower Bible and

Tract Society).

1. Founded by Charles Taze Russell.
 - a. In 1870, while he was still a teenager, and without any formal theological training, Russell organized a Bible class whose members eventually made him their pastor.
 - b. In 1879 he founded the magazine called Zion's Watchtower in which he published his own unique interpretation of the Bible.
2. There are no articles of faith or authoritative doctrinal statements given in any one place by the Jehovah's Witnesses.
3. Their theological views and beliefs are found primarily in two of their publications: Watchtower and Awake.
4. The cult contends that its ultimate source of authority is the Bible.
5. Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe the Doctrine of the Trinity:
 - a. "The trinity doctrine was not conceived by Jesus or the early Christians..." (Let God Be True, page 111). "The plain truth is that this (the Trinity) is another of Satan's attempts to keep the God-fearing person from learning the truth of Jehovah and His Son Christ Jesus (Let God Be True, page 93).
 - b. REFUTATION: "*Go you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*" (Our Lord Jesus Christ, Mat.28:19).
6. God the Holy Spirit:
 - a. Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe that God the Holy Spirit is God or a personality of the Godhead.
 - b. REFUTATION: "*Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.*" Mat.1:18
 - c. REFUTATION:
 - 1) The Holy Spirit has intellect:
 - a) He searches all things. 1Cor.2:10,11
 - b) He has a mind. Rom.8:27
 - 2) He has sensibility. Eph.4:30
 - 3) He has a sovereign will. 1Cor.12:11; Act.16:6,7
 - 4) He teaches. Joh.14:26
 - 5) He testifies. Joh.15:26; Rom.8:16
 - 6) He can be obeyed. Act.10:19-21
 - 7) He can be resisted. Act.7:51
7. God the Son:
 - a. Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe that Jesus Christ is eternal God, who came in human flesh through the virgin birth.
 - b. They say that He is a created being, an angel, who became flesh ("Jesus, the Christ, a created individual, is the second greatest personage of the universe", Make Sure of All Things, page 207. "He was a god, but not the Almighty God, who is Jehovah, Let God Be True, page 33).
 - c. Jehovah's Witnesses say that Jesus was the archangel Michael, the first creature created by God (Rutherford, The Kingdom Is At Hand, page

- 49).
- d. According to Jehovah's Witnesses doctrine, upon His resurrection, He went back to His former state as an invisible spirit, no longer having a body.
 - e. REFUTATION:
 - 1) The Lord Jesus Christ is eternal God. Joh.1:1-14 cp. 20:27-29
 - 2) He is not a created being; He is Himself the Creator of all things.
“For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created by Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.” Col.1:16-20
8. Eternal punishment:
- a. Jehovah's Witnesses teach that there is no hell as a place of eternal punishment because:
 - 1) It is wholly unscriptural.
 - 2) It is unreasonable.
 - 3) It is contrary to God's love.
 - 4) It is repugnant to justice (all points from Let God Be True, page 9).
 - b. REFUTATION:
 - 1) In Matthew, the Lord speaks of the eternal fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels. Mat.25:41
 - 2) Those who are commanded to depart into the eternal fire are clearly unbelievers. Mat.25:31-34 cp. vs.41; cp. also Mat.13:40-42
 - 3) Eternal punishment and eternal life are mentioned together; thus, eternal punishment must last as long as eternal life. Mat.25:46
 - 4) The beast and false prophet (who are clearly human beings) are tormented day and night, forever and ever in the same place as the devil and this place is the lake of fire. Rev.20:10
- I. There are many other false religions and/or cults that teach one or more of the precepts listed here: Hare Krishna, Children of God, The Unification Church (Moonies), The Way International, The World Wide Church of God (Herbert W. Armstrong), Unity, Christian Science, Freemasonry, etc., as we will expound upon two of the more renowned cults of our society.
- 1. Freemasonry: The Masons are one of the most widely accepted and least understood cults.
 - a. According to the Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry (published by Masonic authorities):
 - 1) All Masons unite in declaring it to be a system of morality, by the practice of which its members may advance their spiritual interest, and mount by the theological ladder from the Lodge on earth to the

Lodge in heaven. (In other words, Masonry is a works based system, whereby one can get to heaven. In fact, Freemasonry proclaims that by keeping the precepts of Freemasonry one can qualify himself to live forever with the "Great Architect".

- 2) Masonry is the realization of god by the practice of brotherhood.
 - 3) Masonry is that religious and mystical society whose aim is moral perfection on the basis of general equality and fraternity.
 - 4) Freemasonry is in its broadest and most comprehensive sense a system of morality and social ethics, a primitive religion, and a philosophy of life, incorporating a broad humanitarianism. It is a religion without creed, being of no sect but finding truth in all. It claims to seek truth, but does not define truth.
- b.** Many people believe that the Masonic Lodge is Christian in its orientation, but that is decidedly not the case.
- 1) In a predominantly Moslem country, one will find the Koran on the blue lodge altar.
 - 2) Masonry is, in fact, a mystery religion which is in many ways similar to the occult mystery religions of the ancient near east; adherents proceed through various degrees which convey the "knowledge" of the mysteries.
 - 3) The Masonic degree "Royal Arch" describes the lost name of God as JAH-BUL-LON: J (Jehovah, Hebrew) B (Baal, Babylonian) O (Osiris, Egyptian).
 - 4) The degree of "Knight Rose Croix" teaches: "The God of nineteenth-twentieths of the Christian world is only Bel, Moloch, Zeus, or at best Osiris, Mithras, or Adonai, under another name worshiped with the old pagan ceremonies and ritualistic formulas."
- c.** Never is it stated in Masonry that Jesus Christ is God or that salvation comes through faith in Him; in fact, Masons are forbidden to witness the gospel in the lodge.
- d.** Masonry proclaims that all men believing in a Supreme Being can gather around an altar united in prayer as brothers.
- e.** But the Word of God designates only believers as children of God and so brothers and sisters; all others are of their father the devil. Joh.1:12; 1Joh.3:2; Joh.8:44
- f.** Masonry proclaims that no one knows the truth; that God is the same by whatever name He is called; that no one has the right to interfere with another's religious beliefs by trying to convert them.
- g.** The official written policy of freemasonry is this: "Masonry has tried to create an atmosphere in which we shall never try to convert each other..."
- 2.** The Church of Scientology (Dianetics, L. Ron Hubbard):
- a.** Blends psychotherapy, Eastern mysticism, science fiction, and evolution.
 - b.** Proposes that human beings are eternal, omnipotent, omniscient, beings called Thetans.
 - c.** After creating the universe, the Thetans incarnated in the creatures

they made.

- d. As lower forms of life evolved even higher, we supposedly reincarnated repeatedly.
- e. By the time we became humans we had forgotten that we are Thetans.
- f. Scientology offers a psychotherapeutic process to allow us to realize that we are gods, by once again realizing our true identity as operating Thetans.
- g. Scientology says that it is despicable and utterly beyond contempt to tell a man that he is a sinner, that he is evil, that he must repent.
- h. Scientology says that hell is a total myth, an invention to make people unhappy.

XIV. Some additional demonically inspired philosophies to be on guard against.

- A. Silva Mind Control.
- B. EST (The Culting of American Business. This is now called “The Forum” and “Transformational Technologies”).
- C. Esalen Institute.
- D. Lifespring.
- E. Pacific Institute: similar to Lifespring.
- F. Transcendental Meditation (TM).
 - 1. Although widely perceived as nothing more than a harmless relaxation technique, eastern meditation is far more.
 - 2. It involves control and regulation of the mind.
 - 3. It is derived from occult methods which seek radical transformation of consciousness.
 - 4. While this altered state of consciousness allegedly leads to self-realization (called spiritual enlightenment), it is in this altered state of consciousness that contact is made with demons.
 - 5. One of the principal advocates of TM was the Hindu guru Maharishi Mahesh Yogi.
 - 6. Hindu gurus generally redefine Jesus Christ after their own image. (*The Jesus of the Bible is often ignored or ridiculed; Hindu guru Rajneesh said, “To tell you the truth, Jesus was a mental case, a complete fanatic with the same kind of mind as Adolph Hitler.”*)
 - 7. All of these teachers of false doctrine advocate some form of eastern meditation.
 - 8. Maharishi calls the “spirit” entities that give TM its power “the masters of the holy tradition, the custodians of eternal wisdom.”
 - 9. But these so-called masters are in reality demons masquerading as so-called spiritual masters of the past.
 - 10. The TM mantras/chants are in reality code names for demons; the repetition of the mantra is actually a call for the demon to possess the meditator.
 - 11. It is not surprising that those who practice such things often become demon possessed and generally come to espouse doctrines of demons especially with respect to the person and work of Christ.
 - 12. Under the guise that TM is a scientific relaxation technique, Maharishi

and others cleverly led westerners into Hinduism.

G. Yoga.

1. Yoga is the occult use of breathing exercises, physical postures, and meditation to allegedly improve mental function, health, and spiritual enlightenment.
2. Yoga is essentially an occult practice leading to the manifestation of psychic abilities, which are acquired through demon contact.
3. One goal of the practice of yoga is “spirit” contact; this is of course demon contact and may lead to demon possession.
4. The public perception of yoga as a safe, spiritually neutral practice is false.
5. It is difficult, if not impossible, to separate yoga practice from yoga theory.
6. The person who engages in yoga for health reasons may find himself converted to an occult way of life, with demon influence and/or demon possession.
7. The Sanskrit word yoga means literally to put oneself under a yoke or to seek shelter from a protective power.
8. The four stages of yoga:
 - a. One: Mental and physical exercises
 - 1) The mental are the greatest problem area.
 - 2) These mental exercises include meditation, concentration, and koaning (a litany involving the continuous repetition of a mantra).
 - 3) The physical exercises include breathing exercises and various bodily postures like the lotus position and the cobra position.
 - 4) The supposed goal of these exercises is to produce unity of mind and body; these “emptying of the mind” techniques invariably lead to trouble.
 - b. Two: The second stage of yoga involves control of the unconscious mind.
 - c. Three: Stage three is concerned with mastery of natural powers; this stage generally involves the use of occult magic.
 - d. Four: Stage four is to gain mastery of the “dark” arts: trance, materialization, excursion of the soul or astral travel, telekinesis (causing objects to move by "psychic" force), levitation, telepathy, spiritism.

H. Wicca.

1. Wicca is nothing more than an alternative name for witchcraft, which is specifically forbidden by the Word of God. Deu.18:10
2. Advocates of so-called white witchcraft generally prefer the name wicca.

I. Visualization or Guided Imagery:

1. Visualization attempts to program the mind to discover so-called inner power or guidance.
2. These techniques encourage the participant to make contact with an alleged “inner divinity” or “higher self” or “inner helper”, "spirit guide" or so-called "wise ones".
3. In this regard, visualization/guided imagery is often used to induce an

altered state of consciousness.

4. Practitioners claim that they can manipulate their personal environment to secure desired goals such as occult revelation, financial security, improved health, or improved learning ability.
 5. In this respect visualization or guided imagery is similar to hypnosis.
 6. The key word here is guided; guided imagery does not constitute “normal” function of the imagination.
 - a. In the normal use of imagination there is generally a discriminating or controlled use of internal thoughts.
 - b. Characteristics that distinguish guided imagery from normal imagination are the use of relaxation techniques of meditation, auto-suggestion, the attempted creation of new realities, and altered state of consciousness.
 - c. These sessions are often directed (or guided) by another person so that the participant is not in control.
 - d. As with hypnosis, the participant may have to be brought carefully out of the state of consciousness which is induced.
 7. These techniques are used to contact so-called spirit guides or inner advisors, and to channel them.
 8. Many human potential movement and occult New Age seminars employ these techniques.
 9. Visualization includes what are known as right side brain techniques (in the occult it is said that the right side of the brain is where human mystical ability resides).
 10. While guided imagery/visualization is promoted as nothing more than helpful relaxation technique, it is in reality an extremely dangerous occult practice. *An example from The Inner Classroom; Teaching with Guided Imagery by New Age educator Jack Canfield. In this example, Canfield used the TV series Kung Fu to help children make contact with their own personal “inner guide”.*
 11. Christian occult researcher and apologist John Ankerberg writes:
 - a. In November of 1988 we received a letter from a couple involved in researching a program used in elementary schools in Florida and in other states.
 - b. This program uses tapes called Quieting Reflexes and Success Imagery.
 - c. A little girl in this program had contacted an “inner guide” through the hypnotic visualization techniques used in this program. She innocently told her parents, “My wise person told me not to pray in the name of Jesus anymore.”
- J. Values clarification.**
1. Seeks to help students discover their own values.
 2. This technique is generally directed at the young, especially in school.
 3. The idea is that values are not to be imposed from outside the individual (for example from the Word of God or from parents).
 4. Rather, the belief is that each person must find his/her beliefs from within.
 5. The underlying assumption is that there are no absolute truths or values

(which takes us straight back to Hinduism).

6. Obviously, these kinds of attitudes result in situation ethics.
 - a. There is no absolute right or wrong.
 - b. What is right or wrong depends on the situation.
 - c. And even then, each person controls what is right or wrong for himself/herself.
 7. Obviously, there is no neutral ground in the Angelic Conflict; so some kind of values will inevitably be imparted.
 8. But they will not be the values of biblical Christianity.
 9. Example:
 - a. Educator Eric Buehrer reported on how he failed in trying to instruct his inner-city students that it was wrong to steal.
 - b. He attempted to use a values clarification approach as he had been trained to do.
 - c. During his first year of teaching, he told his students that he was going to help them grow in decision making ability through values clarification exercises.
 - d. He asked his students how many believed that it was okay to steal.
 - e. Over half of the class thought that stealing was fine.
 - f. So he attempted to clarify those values.
 - g. What happened was that the students clarified for him what their values were, and they had endless justifications for their beliefs that stealing was okay.
 10. A real problem with values clarification is that there are no moral standards, no absolute ethical standards of what is right and what is wrong.
 11. In this system of thinking, one person's values are believed to be just as valid as any other person's.
 12. So if a person believes that it is right to steal, then the system can only affirm that it is okay to believe whatever one wants to believe.
 13. The Hindu/pagan philosophies behind values clarification have penetrated the public school system on a extremely wide level.
- K. Shamanism.**
1. In traditional shamanism, the shaman functions as a healer, spiritual leader, and mediator between the "spirits" and people.
 2. A shaman serves as a spiritual leader because of his alleged ability to contact and control spiritual forces, often with the use of "power animals" or totems (an animal or natural object considered to be ancestrally related to a person or group; the object which symbolizes that animal or object).
 3. This tradition and practice is now seen in our society under the medical professions promoting "Holistic Healing". (Not the same as chiropractic, though some may incorporate it into their practice.)
 4. Although many people seem to be unaware of the facts, many practices of the New Age Movement and Holistic medicine are shamanistic.
 - a. Meditation/visualization.
 - b. Deliberate cultivation of altered states of consciousness.
 - c. Contact with the "spirit" world (demons).

- d. Spirit (demon) possession.
- e. Psychic or spiritistic healing.
- f. Dream work.

XV. Demonism and the New Age Movement. (Many of the techniques described above are also part of the so-called New Age Movement.)

- A.** The so-called New Age Movement (NAM) is, in reality, not new at all as Time magazine pointed out: "So here we are in the New Age, a combination of spirituality and superstition, fad and farce, about which the only thing certain is that it is not new..." December 7, 1987, p. 62.
- B.** The NAM is difficult to describe, but not impossible.
- C.** The NAM is an extremely large loosely structured network of organizations and individuals who are bound together by common values; these values are primarily based in mysticism, monism, and/or pantheism, but may also include gnosticism and polytheism.
 - 1.** Mysticism: A world view which asserts that it is possible to acquire knowledge of "spiritual" truth and/or achieve contact with the spirit world by means of meditation.
 - 2.** Monism: The world view that states that all is one.
 - 3.** Pantheism: The world view that all is God and God is all.
 - 4.** Gnosticism: The view that salvation comes through knowledge. In gnosticism, the material is viewed as evil and the spiritual is good. Therefore, the dedicated gnostic believes that the one who created the world must be evil.
 - 5.** Polytheism: The belief in many gods.
- D.** What may be true about parts of the NAM may not be true about the whole.
- E.** The NAM is replete with practices of spiritism and the occult.
 - 1.** The turbulent sixties, with its drug orientation, provided an environment for the blossoming of the NAM in the United States.
 - 2.** Since that time, there has been a steady influx of Oriental and Indian mysticism and philosophy.
 - 3.** Hinduism, one of the foundations of the NAM, absorbs tenants of all religious systems; on the other hand, true biblical Christianity excludes all others as sources of truth.
 - 4.** The NAM is to a great extent a revival of ancient occultism.
 - 5.** It holds ties to ancient Sumerian, Indian, Egyptian, Chaldean, Babylonian, and Persian religious practices.
 - 6.** It includes practices of modern Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Confucianism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, and others.
 - 7.** In addition, it embraces precepts of witchcraft, parapsychology, astrology and other aspects of spiritism and the occult.
 - 8.** One of the most used forms of spiritism in the NAM are so-called "spirit guides".
 - 9.** Some new agers view the spirit guides as simply "the god within".
 - 10.** Others view them as distinctly external; the disembodied spirits of deceased human beings who have the desire to help the human race.
 - 11.** These "guides" are in reality demons who indoctrinate all who listen with

doctrines of demons such as reincarnation.

12. The NAM advocates various methods (such as: yoga, meditation, chanting, ecstatic/extremely happy dancing, tantric/violent sex, drugs, etc.) to alter consciousness so as to make contact with these “spirit guides”.
 13. New Age theology denies the existence of absolute truth; that is, they deny that there is an objective absolute truth.
 14. They claim that truth is perceived individually; it is not uncommon for a New Ager, when confronted with the truth of the Word of God to say “That is your truth or reality, but this is mine.”
 15. Many advocates of the NAM embrace what has been termed monistic pantheism which says that all is one and all is God.
 16. The promise of divinity is exactly what Satan used to tempt Eve in the garden. Gen.3:5
- F.** Since it is highly oriented toward Hinduism, reincarnation is an important doctrine of the NAM.
1. It should then be obvious that the NAM is hostile toward biblical Christianity.
 2. In fact, the NAM, like Hinduism, will accept any religion except biblical Christianity.
 3. Hindu philosophy was first brought to the United States through the Theosophical Society which was founded by Helena Blavatsky in the latter part of the nineteenth century.
 4. She promoted spiritism, seances, a belief in reincarnation and other basic Hindu philosophies while manifesting a strong antagonism to Christianity.
- G.** The theology of the NAM assumes an evolutionary process, in which the world is waiting for more revealers of truth such as Buddha, Mohammed, Confucius, Zoroaster, Moses, Krishna, and ultimately one designated as Lord Maitreya who is believed to be a reincarnation of Buddha, the so called Enlightened One.
- H.** The New Age Movement in Education.
1. The strategic importance of education to the NAM.
 - a. Abraham Lincoln said: “The philosophy of education in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next.”
 - b. Brooks Alexander, co-founder of the Spiritual Counterfeits Project, says: “In the ideological contest for cultural supremacy, public education is the prime target; it influences the most people in the most pervasive way at the most impressionable age. No other social institution has anything close to the same potential for mass indoctrination. Marilyn Ferguson reported that of the many 'Aquarian Conspirators' she surveyed, 'more were involved in education than in any other single category of work. They were teachers, administrators, policy makers, and educational psychologists'”, Brooks Alexander, The Rise of Cosmic Humanism: What Is Religion?, SCP Journal, vol. 5, Winter 1981-82, p. 4.
 2. Parents should be aware that New Age advocates have infiltrated most teachers colleges and as a result, have infiltrated the public school

systems.

3. In many areas children are being taught New Age techniques of yoga meditation and centering under the guise of relaxation techniques that supposedly reduce stress and promote better learning.
4. Obviously demon possession does not sell in America, so the demons are being billed as wonderful helpers, friends and spirit guides who will lead you to godhood if you are willing to totally surrender to their leadership.
5. Under the pretense that spirit guides are simply “imaginary friends” some public school teachers are leading little children to meditate in order to relieve tension and then to invite such spirit guides into their lives as helpers.
6. The threat of the NAM cannot be underestimated in the public schools where children are taught “values clarification” in which moral, ethical, and spiritual values become purely subjective.
7. This is what is sometimes called situation ethics; in other words, there is no absolute right or wrong; what is right or wrong depends on the particular situation at hand.
8. Anything is possible if everything is God; there is no way to make any distinction between good and evil once you have deified yourself.
9. If you respond to the New Age "god within you" and recognize that you are yourself a god, then it follows that you can, in and of yourself, determine what is right and wrong.
10. The statement, “Well, that may be wrong for you, but it is right for me,” is common.
11. Children are also being taught globalism and guided imagery.
12. These “techniques” of the New Age are exceedingly dangerous.
13. The New Age in curriculum.
 - a. A description of the nature and purpose of New Age education is provided by New Age educators Jack Canfield and Paula Klimek: “The word 'education' comes from the Latin word 'educare' (to lead out). What teachers are now interested in leading out from within is the expression of self-the highest qualities of the individual student's unique soul.”, Education In The New Age, New Age, Feb. 1978, p. 270.
 - b. New Age writer Marilyn Ferguson shares her thoughts on the new curriculum: “Altered states of consciousness are taken seriously: 'centering' exercises, meditation, relaxation, and fantasy are used to keep the intuitive pathways open and the whole brain learning. Students are encouraged to 'tune in', imagine, and identify the special feeling of body awareness: breathing, relaxation, yoga, movement, and biofeedback”, The Aquarian Conspiracy, p. 315.
 - c. The curriculum is geared toward autonomy/independence. Ferguson says: “A major ambition of the curriculum is autonomy. This is based on the belief that if our children are to be free, they must be free even from us, from our limiting beliefs and our acquired tastes and habits. At times this means teaching for healthy, appropriate rebellion, not conformity.”, The Aquarian Conspiracy, p. 316. (*This is the same*

philosophy espoused by the false teachers of 2Pet.2:18-19; true freedom is freedom from God ordained authority allowing the desires of the STA to rule.)

- d. The apparent innocence of New Age terminology camouflages the true nature of the cult's philosophy and makes its basic ideas palatable to the masses. According to New Age activist Dick Sutphen: "One of the biggest advantages we have as New Agers is, once the occult, metaphysical/immaterial/spiritual, and New Age terminology is removed, we have concepts and techniques that are very acceptable to the general public. So we can change the names to demonstrate the power. In so doing, we open the door to millions who normally would not be receptive.", Infiltrating the New Age Into Society, What Is Summer, 1986, p. 14.
 - e. Jack Canfield and Paula Klimek advise their fellow educators on how to present meditation: "Centering can also be extended into work with meditation in the classroom. (Advice: if you're teaching in a public school, don't call it meditation, call it 'centering'. Every school wants children to be relaxed, attentive, and creative, and that is what they will get.)",
- 14. The New Age in the classroom.**
- a. New Age educator Beverly Galyean's Confluent Education is dangerous because it leads children to believe that they are perfect and divine. Douglas Groothuis describes one of her methods: "In a Los Angeles public school classroom, 25 first-graders lie still as their teacher tells them to imagine that they are perfect beings who are full of light and who contain all the wisdom of the universe within them. This exercise in 'guided mystery' is part of educator Beverly Galyean's curriculum of 'confluent education', and it reflects her belief that 'we are all God'", Douglas Groothuis, Woods Monthly, vol. 85, Feb. 1985, p. 20.
 - b. Writing in The Journal of Humanistic Psychology (vol. 21, no. 4 Fall 1981, p. 28) New Age educator Beverly Galyean says: "The ancients of all cultures filled their folkloric epics with tales of visions, dreams, intuitive insights, and internal dialogues with higher beings whom they say are the sources of ultimate wisdom and knowledge. By accepting as true the narratives of spiritual seekers from all cultures, we now have evidence of various levels of consciousness possible to human beings. From Delphi's 'Know thyself', through Scripture's 'You shall be as gods!', we are left with the certitude that we are, indeed, multi-dimensional beings capable of works beyond our imagining and that our primary purpose in life is to discover who we are and who we can become." (*This philosophy is prevalent in TV ads that promote that the young people today can be whatever they want to be and are only limited by themselves.*)
- 15. The New Age and textbooks.**
- a. According to Mel and Norma Gabler in their book What Are They Teaching Our Children?: "It is foolish to underestimate the power of

- textbooks, what students study. Seventy-five percent of students' classroom time and ninety percent of homework time is spent with textbook materials.”, Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1985, p. 22.
- b.** Paul Vitz conducted a federally funded, systematic study of the content of public school textbooks through the NEA in 1985 and his conclusion was: “Religion, traditional family values, and conservative political and economic positions have been reliably excluded from children’s’ textbooks.” Paul Vitz, Censorship: Evidence of Bias in Our Children’s’ Textbooks, Ann Arbor, Michigan: Servant, 1986, p. 1.
 - c.** Omitting such values from textbooks teaches children that these values are unimportant. Sir Walter Moberly said: "It is a fallacy to suppose that by omitting a subject you teach nothing about it. On the contrary, you teach that it is to be omitted, and that it is therefore a matter of secondary importance. And you teach this not openly and explicitly, which would invite criticism; you simply take it for granted and thereby insinuate it silently, insidiously, and all but irresistibly.”, Richard John Neuhaus, Belief Is In The Eye Of The Beholder, Religion and Society Report, August 1986, p. 2.
- I.** The New Age agenda calls for the unity of the planet under one world government and one world religion which will include aspects of all religions.
- 1.** When one recognizes that the majority of our political leaders are dedicated internationalists (one-worlders), he will not be surprised that the government enters into treaties that are detrimental to the interests of American workers while at the same time supporting policies that help open the door to a one-world form of government.
 - 2.** New Age methodology is both openly aggressive and quietly subtle in its penetration of society.
 - 3.** Some outwardly aggressive New Age groups include:
 - a.** The Green Party: The Green Party is a growing political power seeking to challenge traditional politics by emphasizing issues such as ecology, feminism, and disarmament. This organization is active in every nation of Western Europe, many Asian countries, Canada, Mexico, Costa Rica, Argentina, and Brazil; in the U.S. approximately 100 groups are linked through a national network and clearinghouse, the Committees of Correspondence.
 - b.** Greenpeace USA: Greenpeace is a nonprofit environmental organization with over 2.5 million supporters world-wide. The ultimate goal of the group is to engender a “planetary consciousness” in the world. They promote ocean ecology, disarmament, and the prevention of toxic pollution. While some of these agendas are worthy, the overall philosophy of this group is distinctly anti-God, and pro-internationalism.
 - c.** Planetary Citizens: This is an activist group committed to engendering “planetary consciousness” among New Age groups, the general public, and world leaders. Donald Keys of that group says: “Our goal is largely to orchestrate...a general awakening, a crossing of the threshold to global awareness...for as large a part of the population of the world

as we can...There has to be some critical mass of public awareness, of planetary consciousness, before politicians will move, before foreign offices will get into gear, before teaching changes in the schools”, All About Planetary Citizens: A Seminar in Four Parts.

- d. The Unity-in-Diversity-Counsel: This is a New Age “mega network” of over 100 networks and groups. It promotes global cooperation and interdependence on a worldwide scale.
4. It should be recognized that “planetary consciousness” is a New Age buzz phrase for one-worldism.
- J. The following are some examples of New Age thinking infiltrating churches.
 1. Positive Confession and Positive Thinking:
 - a. Gloria Copeland related her methodology for purchasing a new house she wanted: “I began to see that I already had authority over that house and authority over the money I needed to purchase it. I said, ‘In the name of Jesus, I take authority over the money I need (I called out the specific amount). I command you to come to me...in Jesus' Name. Ministering spirits, you go and cause it to come.’”
 - b. (Speaking of angels...when you become the voice of God in the earth by putting His words in your mouth, you put your angels to work! They are highly trained and capable helpers; they know how to get the job done.)”. This is from her book God's Will Is Prosperity, pp. 48,49.
 - c. Dr. Robert Schuller, addressing a large audience of Unity ministers in training, said: "I believe that the responsibility in this age is to 'positivize' religion. Now this probably doesn't have much bearing on you people, being Unity people, you are positive. But I talk a great deal to groups that are not positive...even to what we would call Fundamentalists who deal constantly with words, like ‘sin’, ‘salvation’, ‘repentance’, ‘guilt’, and that sort of thing.”, quoted by Dave Hunt, The Seduction of Christianity, p. 152. (*It is noted that Dr. Schuller does not use the word “positive” as regarding volition in the WOG, but in the sense of positive thinking.*)
 2. We are gods: Kenneth Copeland, though condemning the NAM, espouses the main ingredient in New Age thinking: “God is God. He is a Spirit...And He imparted in you when you were born again. Peter said it just as plain. He said, 'We are partakers of the Divine Nature'. That Nature is alive, eternal in absolute perfection, and that was imparted, injected into your spirit man, and you have that imparted into you by God just the same as you imparted, into your child, the nature of humanity. That child wasn't born a whale. It was born a human...Well, now, you don't have a human, do you? No, you are one. You don't have God in you. You are one”, The Force of Love, Tape BCC-56.
 3. Visualization and Guided Imagery have infiltrated teaching within churches.
 - a. Norman Vincent Peal called visualization (which is New Age meditation) “positive thinking carried one step further,”, in his book Positive Imaging: Revell, p. 1.

- 8.** Christ-consciousness: Generally when New Agers (and many liberal Christians) speak of Christ, they are not referring to the historical Jesus spoken of in the WOG. When they do speak of Christ, they usually refer to Him as one of several Christ figures in history. Be wary of expressions such as, “the Christ-spirit” or “Christ-consciousness”.
- 9.** Mystical Feeling: New Age thought emphasizes using feelings to determine truth. Shirley MacLaine admitted that she had no proof of reincarnation, but she felt it was true. Mysticism appeals to those who want to ignore their rational faculties and who ignore what the WOG says.
- 10.** World Unity: The NAM believes in the unity of all religions and the eventual cooperation of all governments. Thus New Agers are a strong force behind both the world peace and the ecumenical movements. We see these warning signs in movies (such as Star Wars), TV programs, books, cartoons, lectures, songs, etc.
- 11.** Tolerance: New Agers have great tolerance for any system of religious belief except biblical Christianity. They are dogmatically opposed to the notion of a personal God who rules the universe and is active in the affairs of men. They hate biblical Christianity and the WOG. Cp. Joh.15:18,19
- L.** The New Age Movement (NAM) is really not new; it advocates the many ancient deceptions of Satan packaged in more modern dress and terminology.
- M.** Many of the views of various sects of the NAM are similar, or coincide with, the views of Hinduism and/or various cults.

XVI. Final exhortation:

- A.** Demons promote false doctrine; if people do not speak according to sound doctrine, regardless of their testimonies or apparent piety or apparent holiness, do not listen to them. Rom.16:17,18; 1Cor.14:37,38; 1Tim.6:3; 2Tim.1:13; 4:3,4; Ti.1:7-14; 2:1; Act.17:11; 20:27-32
- B.** The believer is not to be occupied with the forces of darkness and his victory over them, but to be occupied with Christ. Luk.10:20
- C.** Avoid all occult associations such as the New Age Movement, yoga, transcendental meditation, spiritism, drugs, ouija board, seances, fortune tellers, palm readers, etc.
- D.** Avoid superstition and demonic concepts such as good luck; avoid good luck charms such as horseshoes, rabbits feet, icons, etc.
- E.** Understand that the philosophies of demons can infiltrate the teaching of even Christian churches and the distortion is sometimes subtle, though destructive under both Ph₁ and Ph₂ principles. 2Pet.2:1
- F.** The weapon of defense that +V has been given in the A/C is the WOG.
- G.** The knowledge of BD is indispensable in terms of understanding the enemy and how they operate. 2Cor.2:11
- H.** Jesus demonstrated the pattern in dealing with the forces of evil during His encounter with Satan. Mat.4:1ff
- I.** By putting on the full armor of God, we have the effective defense necessary to ensure victory in the A/C. Eph.13-17
 - 1.** Girding our loins with truth and putting on the breastplate of righteousness refers to the effective protectiveness of BD, even regarding our most

- vulnerable areas of weakness, which is activated by the applications of our personal righteousness/BD against unrighteousness. Vs.14
2. The gospel/good news of peace that is our footwear illustrates that the understanding of our salvation brings with it RMA (relaxed mental attitude), as we march forward in the Christian walk, even in the midst of our enemies, knowing that our steps are secure in the conflict. Vs.15
 3. The shield of faith is the invincible and invisible protection of our belief in BD and faith-rest in it that repels the demonic attacks against us. Vs.16 cf. 1Pet.5:8-9
 4. The helmet of salvation is our confidence in our so great salvation of Ph₃ deliverance and ultimate victory in Christ. Vs.17a cf. 1The.5:5
 5. It is the sword of the Spirit, the WOG that is the effective combination of being in FHS and adhering to BD that forms the proper defense tactics for the believer in time. Vs.17b,c cp. Heb.4:12
- J.** Prayer is an absolute necessity with regard to fighting the good fight. Eph.6:18a; 1The.5:17; Heb.4:16
- K.** Our focus in the A/C is to stay vigilant/attentive to our own Christian lives and on behalf of other +V around us. Eph.6:18b cp. 1The.5:6
- L.** We are to maintain an Esprit de corps with one another knowing that we are not alone in our fight. 1Pet.5:9
- M.** Finally, protect yourself by not embracing those who refuse to be a part of God's elite forces and totally committed to all of God's plan by applying the Doctrine of Separation, or you may end up being a casualty yourself. 1Cor.5:9-11; 15:33; 2The.3:6 the word "*command/παραγγέλλω*" is a military term used to transmit a message or order such as from the general to the troops.