

“And I Shall Be As God”

The Big Lie: Men and Their Claims of Deity

by G. Richard Fisher

A. W. Tozer observed, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”¹

The late cult apologist, Walter Martin, refashioning the Four Spiritual Laws made popular by Campus Crusade for Christ, had his Two Spiritual Laws: 1) There is only one God, and 2) You’re not Him. To most, it is a logical proposition. No human is timeless and eternal with the ability to create from nothing. No human controls the universe. All humans are mortal and passing. The Bible is very clear that all of us are simply the “offspring of God” (Acts 17:28-29), meaning we are just creatures created by Him and that each one of us is part of the human family. We are mortal and only God Himself is eternal and immortal.

However, some people have made the claim that they are indeed God on earth.

What is more startling and unbelievable is that these “God” players garner followers because the fallen human mind is attracted to lies. Adolph Hitler in his 1925 book, *Mein Kampf*, proposed that people will believe the big lie more than they will small lies. As hard as that may seem, Hitler wrote, the bigger the lie the more believable:

“All this was inspired by the principle — which is quite true within itself — that in the **big lie** there is always a certain force of credibility; because the broad masses of a nation are always more easily corrupted in the deeper strata of their emotional nature than consciously or voluntarily; and thus in the primitive simplicity of their minds they more readily fall victims to the **big lie** than the small lie, since they themselves often tell small lies in little matters but would be ashamed to resort to large-scale falsehoods. It would never come into their heads to fabricate colossal untruths, and they would not believe that others could have the impudence to distort the truth so infamously. Even though the facts which prove this to be so may be brought clearly to their minds, they will still doubt and waver and will continue to think that there may be some other explanation. For the grossly impudent lie always leaves traces behind it, even after it has been nailed down, a fact which is known to all expert liars in this world and to all who conspire together in the art of lying.”²

There are many who have believed the “big lie” that a human could be

God. Those who practice lying, along with those who follow liars and lies, should tremble at the Apostle John’s words: “But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie” (Revelation 22:15).

TALES OF ANCIENT AND MODERN “GODS”

In ancient Egypt, some Pharaohs promoted themselves as gods and some Mesopotamian kings did the same. Chinese and Japanese emperors were sometimes seen as gods.

Eastern mystics claim that we are all divine. Wicca teaches that humans and objects of nature are all supposed to be gods or goddesses. We could look at Joseph Smith Jr., who taught that faithful Mormons will become “Gods.” Smith proclaimed:

“Here, then, is eternal life — to know the only wise and true God; and you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves.”³

And Smith further taught:

“God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens! ... We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and

take away the veil, so that you may see."⁴

While some current LDS leaders try to sidestep these theological declarations,⁵ such remain as the bedrock of other Mormon teachings, including their elaborate temple rituals. Mormons also teach that both Jesus and the Holy Ghost are separate and distinct Gods from the Father. Jesus is said to be the first and literal offspring of the Father and that the Holy Ghost is a "Spirit Person" or "Spirit Man."⁶ This is an ancient heresy called Tritheism.

Then there are men like Rev. Ike (Frederick J. Eikerenkoetter) who died in 2009 of a stroke at age 74. Despite his own mortality, his theological repertoire would repeatedly address the god in all of us. Ike was a New Thought advocate who created catchy phrases like, "You can't lose with the stuff I use." He often referred to money as "green power" and was a materialist. He, like many of the "God" players, mutated Acts 3:6 to read, "Silver and gold I have much."

LITTLE GODS?

Then there are the Word-Faith protagonists with their assertions that we are all "little gods." Michael Moriarty writes:

"The fact that certain charismatic preachers are openly teaching that they are gods or little gods is shocking. Faith teachers and positive confession charismatics speak about Christians as being in 'God's class' or 'incarnations of God.' Other influential charismatic leaders, such as [Earl] Paulk, refer to believers as 'little gods.' Not too long ago these claims would have gotten a minister fired, or at the very least would have stirred up a group of concerned parishioners to challenge these teachings and encourage their preacher to seek professional counseling. Times have certainly changed. Today's average Christian is very vulnerable to false teaching. The fact that so many different winds of doctrine blow through the church on a regular basis is proof

enough. But to think that Christians are actually welcoming teaching into their ranks that espouse that they are gods is very frightening."⁷

Mystics and Word-Faith teachers dispense deity without respect of persons and it seems everyone is allowed to join the parade of gods and goddesses. This is a polytheism not seen in even extreme forms of ancient paganism where gods remained separate from humans.

Popular televangelist Benny Hinn is a prime example of trying to make his followers into gods simply by his pronouncement. His statements are widely known:

"So, I'm Benny Jehovah."⁸

"The new creation is just like God. May I say it like this? You are the little god on earth running around."⁹

hear me, I am not part of Him, I am Him! The Word has become flesh in me!"¹²

"God came to earth and touched a piece of dust and turned it into a god. ... Are you a child of God? Then you're divine! Then you're not dust anymore. Are you a child of God? Then you're not human! ... I [Jesus] loved you enough to become one of ya! And I love you enough to make you one of me!"¹³

While Hinn may not be making such declarations any more, he has never publicly disavowed or repented of these heretical teachings. For many years, Hinn pushed the little-god teaching. Hinn was right when he said such teaching is "a shocking revelation" — heresy is shocking. While Hinn claimed that the Hebrew language backed his "little Messiah" teaching, it does not.

**It has been said, in cliché, that
"God made man in His image and
man has returned the favor."**

"Say after me: 'Within me, is a God-Man.' Say it again: 'Within me, is a God-Man.' Now let's say [it] even better than that. Let's say, 'I am a God-Man.' ... This Spirit-Man within me is God — is a — is a God-Man. Say after me: 'He's born of heaven. He's a super being.'"¹⁰

"When you say, 'I am saved,' what are you saying? You're saying, 'I am a Christian.' ... When you say, 'I am a Christian,' you are saying, 'I am Messiah' in the Hebrew. I am a little Messiah walking on earth in other words. That's a shocking revelation."¹¹

"When I stand in Christ — I am one with Him; united to Him; one spirit with Him. I am not,

It has been said, in cliché, that "God made man in His image and man has returned the favor." It seems like there is a propensity in humanity to make God into man's image and likeness.

FATHER WHO?

There are many who have put themselves on the throne of Deity as being the one and only God. This article will mention three in particular. The first God-pretender was a man who gave himself the name of Father Divine. Father Divine was born in 1876. At the apex of his fame, it was claimed that he had a million followers. Less than 50 years after his death in 1965, he and his International Peace Mission Movement are largely unknown.

Father Divine originally called himself Reverend Major Divine, but most historians believe he was born George Baker in Georgia. By all accounts his first claims to be the Eternal Father began as early as 1912. He took such meticulous care in his appearance that he was referred to as “the well-dressed God.” Appearance meant everything to Father Divine. Following his declaration of godhood he personally ascribed Exodus 34:14 which says, “For the LORD whose name is Jealous, is a Jealous God,” and began calling himself Reverend Major Jealous Divine. The verse, of course, means that Yahweh would tolerate no rivals and that He was zealous for His Name. Father Divine used it far differently. The verse actually condemns people such as Father Divine who brutalize the Scriptures and take divine titles.

Father Divine was arrested numerous times in the 1930s. He also established communities in New York and Philadelphia. In 1946, Father Divine, who was black, married his second wife, Edna Rose Ritchings, a 21-year-old white Canadian woman. He named her Mother Divine. According to teaching within the cult, Mother Divine was the reincarnation of Father Divine’s first wife. Father Divine was willed a luxurious 72-acre estate and mansion called Woodmont in Gladwyne, Pennsylvania. His aging widow (now in her late 80s) still resides there.

Mother Divine believes that God, coming to earth as a black man, raised the self-esteem and self-worth of the black community and in turn humbled the white community. It was, according to Mother Divine, kind of a stroke of genius for God to do it this way. The elevation of the black soul and the humbling of whites is the “apologetic” she still presents publicly.

A variety of video clips with Father and Mother Divine can be viewed on YouTube.¹⁴ But it must be stressed regarding Father Divine, that the truth is, “God is dead,” or more correctly we could say “the God pretender is dead.” Woodmont is open to the public on Sunday after-

noons throughout April-October of the year. Woodmont is a museum to the dead “God.” Because Father Divine is buried there, it is a mausoleum to a faker.

Jack Mitchell comments on Father Divine’s unique combination of heresies:

“Father Divine’s words were transcribed and published in the magazine *New Day* as sacred scripture. He taught that heaven was now on earth; holy communion was celebrated at banquets with God himself; the church age and water baptism were obsolete; and there was no clergy-laity separation. Sin, sickness, and death were consequences of unbelief, for true victory and holiness were possible in this life.”¹⁵

Father Divine’s view of the obsolescence of the Church and Communion is shared by disgraced doomsday prophet Harold Camping. On those subjects the false “God” and false prophet agree.

THEOLOGY BENT AND BROKEN

Another more current and sinister fraud claiming to be God is Wayne Bent, also known as Michael Travesser. Bent (or Travesser) is a former Seventh-day Adventist who formed a religious community called “Strong City” in Union County, N.M. Bent was bold in his claim as he stated, “I am the embodiment of God. I am divinity and humanity combined.”¹⁶

National Geographic produced a feature documentary on Bent and Strong City during the time that this “God-man” was being tried in court for molestation of very young followers. On Dec. 18, 2008, Bent was convicted of criminal sexual contact with a minor. He was sentenced to eight years in prison. This actually played well with followers as Bent compared his circumstances to the betrayal, sufferings, and death of Jesus. His sentence is currently under appeal.

Yet another candidate for God was Wallace Fard. Fard is the actual

founder of The Nation of Islam, known as the Black Muslims. He was very elusive and has been called by some the mystery man. Most researchers think that Fard was born in Oregon to Hawaiian immigrants in 1891, while another historian says Fard was born in New Zealand in 1893. The FBI reports that he allegedly used 58 aliases during his lifetime. Originally Fard made no direct claim to deity, however that changed over time. Apologist and professor Steven Tsoukalas informs:

“There are two phases to Fard’s doctrine of God. At first Fard taught that God is Allah and that he was on a divine mission from Allah. There was no hint in his theology that he himself was God. In fact, he claimed less — he was the reincarnation of Noble Drew Ali. Later, with Elijah Muhammad’s encouragement, Fard began to see himself as Allah in the flesh. ... In Fard’s later teachings we see his direct claim to deity as well as Elijah Muhammad’s recognition that he was God in the flesh.”¹⁷

Fard referred to himself loftily as “Supreme Ruler of the Universe.”¹⁸ The most well known representative of the Black Muslim group today is Louis Farrakhan, also known as Louis Eugene Walcott.

In a side-by-side chart titled, *Christianity, Cults & Religions*, produced by Rose Publishing, it is stated concerning the God of the Nation of Islam:

“Officially, there is one God, Allah, as described in the Qur’an. But Elijah Muhammad’s teachings are also true: God is a black man, millions of Allahs have lived and died since creation, collectively the black race is God, and Master Fard is the Supreme Allah and Savior.”¹⁹

This elusive self-proclaimed God-man taught that 6,000 years ago a black scientist by the name of Yakub was involved with experiments in genetic manipulation. The white race was the awful result of a genetic experiment gone terribly wrong. The

inferior whites were extremely immoral and violent and, in time, were somehow able to conquer and enslave the black people. Fard mysteriously disappeared in 1934. Noted Nation of Islam authority and author Karl Evanzz reports "that Wallace D. Fard died in Chicago in 1971 at the age of 78."²⁰

Fard had many conflicting doctrines. Tsoukalas also reveals:

"Fard's use of theologically contradicting sources (the Qur'an, the Bible, Baptist theology, Jehovah's Witnesses' theology, and Freemasonry) evidences not only his attempt to meld all these into one but also Fard's unschooled theological mind leading other unschooled theological minds into believing his spiritual homogenization."²¹

We could refer to Fard as the really mixed-up "God." It is interesting to note that Fard and Father Divine were dueling gods claiming to be the one and only true God at the same time.

Father Divine, Wayne Bent, and Wallace Fard are just three of the many God pretenders and are a picture of all who went before them and all who will come after them with their preposterous and blasphemous claims. Three so-called Gods could not agree on what to believe. They should serve as a cautionary tale. The Apostle Peter says they are reserved under punishment for the day of judgment "especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. ... having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children" (2 Peter 2:10, 14).

MORE CONFUSION

Throughout the history of the Church there have been variations on the godhood theme. Some, like Father Divine and those mentioned above, have proclaimed themselves God the Father while others declared themselves God the Son, or some variation of the Second Coming of Christ. Still

others have promoted themselves as the Holy Spirit. Some have combined variations of the three. Ann Lee (1736-1784), founder of the Shaker cult, was believed to be "the second coming of Christ in female form."²² Another more modern contender is Puerto Rican Jose Luis De Jesus who goes by the name "The Man Christ Jesus."²³ In spite of the nuances regarding the persons of the Trinity, the blasphemy is the same.

A fringe category of these perverted ideas would be myth maker and Roman Catholic philosopher Peter Kreeft, who articulates his church's doctrine that an object is actually God and worthy of worship. This is a step into animism (a belief that inanimate objects possess divine life). In a flight of religious and superstitious fervor and fancy, Kreeft alleges, "we move from Christ to the Eucharist — again, to the even more concrete. We see Christ as *Eucharistic*, Christ in the *Eucharist*; but we see *Christ* in the Eucharist. We worship the Eucharist because it is *Christ*."²⁴

So, according to Kreeft and Catholicism, we should worship a piece of bread because that bread is Jesus Christ. This is mystical frenzy and not reality. To put Christ into bread and make bread into Christ is to take Him off of His throne of intercession and multiply Him into thousands, if not millions, of pieces of bread wherever hosts are "consecrated" around the world.

CAN GOD HAVE HUNDREDS OF RIGHT HANDS?

Another subplot of playing God is perpetuating the fraud that a particular person is the next best thing to God. These are God's right hand men — or so they would like us to believe. They claim they are elite and the "right hand" of God Himself with special insights, powers, and abilities. Suicide cult leaders Jim Jones — who was greatly influenced by Father Divine — and David Koresh are prime examples. Both brought a reign of terror and death on their followers.

Jesus is at the right hand of God, meaning that He is, in all reverence,

God's exclusive "right hand Man," as we are told in Hebrews 1:1-4. Even angels cannot share that honor.

It would take an encyclopedia to chronicle the Charismatic extremists and cult leaders who present themselves as God's special prophet, God's anointed, or God's unique voice on the earth. Other "right hand" men are the self-proclaimed super-apostles, men like C. Peter Wagner,²⁵ who claim to be on the same level and maybe even higher than the biblical prophets and apostles.

These false prophets bludgeon and control their followers and propose to silence their critics with their favorite verse, "touch not the Lord's anointed," as if they truly are the Lord's anointed. Using that verse (1 Chronicles 16:22) in such a way as to avoid accountability conveys manipulation and control. Looking at the field of players who often disagree with one another as to what God is saying, we can easily conclude that God's right hands are contradicting one another and sending mixed messages. God cannot be in any of that because He is "not the author of confusion" (1 Corinthians 14:33). The pope of Rome, along with the bishops, is a group who claim to fit into this category of special anointed rulers. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, as it speaks to the governance of the organization, alleges that "Christ governs her through Peter and the other apostles, who are present in their successors, the Pope and the college of bishops."²⁶

Also in this category are groups with individual leaders who claim to be a Bible character. The favorite ones over the years seem to be John the Baptist or Elijah. Alexander Dowie (1847-1907) in a lofty claim put himself out there as Elijah,²⁷ as did William Branham (1909-1965). Branham, who was a Pentecostal superstar-turned-heretic, also declared himself to be God's final prophet to the Church. At the height of his career he dispensed numerous false prophecies and claimed to be the living fulfillment of Malachi 4:5-6, thereby taking on the role of Elijah or an Elijah-like figure.²⁸

WHY DO THEY DO IT?

Scripture tells us of the divine judgment upon one who accepts the profane flattery (Acts 12:21-23) of being called Deity. Bible commentator Matthew Henry writes:

“Many heathen princes claimed and received Divine honours, but it was far more horrible impiety in Herod, who knew the word and worship of the living God, to accept such idolatrous honours without rebuking the blasphemy. And such men as Herod, when puffed with pride and vanity, are ripening fast for signal vengeance. God is very jealous for his own honour, and will be

because he was the chief speaker” (vv. 11-12).

Luke goes on to reveal that Paul and Barnabas were deeply troubled at such a suggestion:

“But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out and saying, ‘Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them’ (vv. 14-15).

Kathryn Lindskoog has surveyed the field and notes just from human observation that there is a bent in humans toward “The Pinocchio Syndrome.”³⁰

The Pinocchio Syndrome is the inclination for people to lie or present themselves as better than they really are. There are some who make a career out of self-exaltation even to the point of criminality. Christians cannot seem to wrap their minds around the fact that churches are ideal places in which to lie and perpetuate fraud. The average Christian is trusting and tends not to question or judge. Lindskoog notes:

“The reason that spiritually evil people are often found in churches and other respectable institutions is not that churches breed liars; it is that churches attract liars. Many evil people go to churches for protective covering, for an aura of godliness.”³¹

Behind the mask of all God fakers is the reflection and emulation of Satan himself. The context of Isaiah 14 is judgment on Babylon and its king. As Isaiah discloses the evils of the king of Babylon and declares judgment on him and his nation, we are shown the one who is the power behind the throne. Isaiah reveals that Lucifer, Son of the morning, is the one really driving the leader of Babylon (Isaiah 14:12). The prophet shows that the prime motivation of Lucifer (or Satan) is to try to take God off the throne of the universe and usurp that very throne for himself:

“For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High’ (Isaiah 14:13-14).

However, the Lord has one reply to these outrageous and vast fantasies: “Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit” (v. 15). Satan’s primary sin was the

Christians cannot seem to wrap their minds around the fact that churches are ideal places in which to lie and perpetuate fraud. The average Christian is trusting and tends not to question or judge.

glorified upon those whom he is not glorified by.”²⁹

Likewise, Scripture tells us of the Christian response by those to whom such commendation was bestowed. That very thing happened to the apostles Paul and Barnabas in Acts 14 and they were horrified and shocked by it. God used Paul to heal a man at Lystra, and in the wake of this miracle, Luke tells of the people’s response toward Paul and Barnabas:

“Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, ‘The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!’ And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes,

The tearing of their clothes was a sign of deep grief, distress, and sadness and was an obvious display of intense rejection of this pagan act of blasphemy. Historians indicate that those in mourning would tear at and around the neckline of the outer clothing. It was an external show of intense shock and emotion.

Those who claim divinity might believe it themselves or simply know what sells. Power, prestige, and financial rewards can also be a motivation in a society that is impressed by celebrity and drawn to extravagant claims. Those who claim to be divine might also be under a strong delusion or demonic control. But the “why” is not as important as the “what” of a Christian’s response.

sin of pride. Is it any wonder that those who imitate Satan by trying to imitate God are caught in so many moral and financial scandals because pride goes before a fall? (Proverbs 16:18, 29:23)

NO MYSTERY AS TO WHERE IT ALL STARTED

The accounts in the Old Testament are for our instruction and a warning (Romans 15:4, 1 Corinthians 10:6). The very first sin committed by a human was in this exact area. Eve thought she could not resist when Satan promised her that by listening to him rather than God she could be just like God (Genesis 3:5). In other words, Satan was telling Eve that God did not want her to be like Himself. Then Satan added that Eve could be just like God by listening to him. Bible commentators C.F. Keil and Franz Delitzsch, speaking of the situation with Eve, label this "A truly satanic *double entendre*, in which a certain agreement between truth and untruth is secured!"³² It was Satan who boastingly said to Jesus, "fall down and worship me" (Matthew 4:9). Satan longs to be worshipped and to help cultivate that same longing, in one way or another, into the hearts of people. It is the height of arrogance and pride to declare oneself as being worthy of worship.

REGAINING OUR FOCUS

In recent years there has been a revolution in the ability to read ancient inscriptions. Bruce Zuckerman wrote in a recent *Biblical Archaeology Review*:

"One of these new technologies, called Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI), allows for unprecedented control of how an image is displayed, especially in terms of the play of light so crucial to bringing out hidden details that are often the key to proper interpretation. For the first time, control of the light has been placed in the hands of the viewer rather than the photographer. In fact, an RTI image is almost like seeing the real thing — only it's better. ... It involves

taking a series of successive images all around an object with the light for each picture situated at a different angle and height but always from about the same distance."³³

The intensity and drive of scholars to study inscriptions on rocks should put us to shame and drive us to be more intense in our doctrinal studies. The Church at large needs to re-engage itself in a serious look at the biblical doctrine of God. God is not a limited human being. He is Spirit and those who want to worship Him must do so in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). He is limitless and all humans are limited. We can only truly worship God on the basis of His truth or we are in self-delusion and worshipping our fantasies. Certain men for evil and nefarious reasons have bitten into the fruit of trying to be God or declaring themselves God. Whether deluded or knowingly, they have pawned themselves off as something they are not, nor ever could be.

GOD LIKE NO OTHER

God is wholly other. He is outside of time and space, and cannot be contained. He truly is the great I Am. William Evans was one of the foremost Bible teachers in America. Evans, while laying out arguments for the existence of God, never believed we could prove the existence of God to those who did not want to be convinced. Philosophical arguments were not enough. Evans laid out the typical arguments from first cause, from morality, from congruity (the facts fit), from universality of belief, and so forth, but taught these logical arguments were *probable* evidences, somewhat valuable but not absolute.

Evans wrote:

"It does not seem to have occurred to any of the writers of either the Old or the New Testaments to attempt to prove or to argue for the existence of God. Everywhere and at all times it is a fact taken for granted. 'A God capable of proof would be no God at all' (Jacobi). He is the self-existent One (Exod. 3:14) and

the Source of all life (John 5:26). The sublime opening of the Scriptures announces the fact of God and His existence: 'In the beginning God' (Gen. 1:1). Nor is the rise or dawn of the idea of God in the mind of man depicted. Psa. 14:1: 'The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God,' indicates not a disbelief in the existence, but rather in the active interest of God in the affairs of men — He seemed to hide Himself from the affairs of men (See Job 22:12-14). The Scriptures further recognize that men not only know of the existence of God, but have also a certain circle of ideas as to who and what He is (Rom. 1:18, 19). No one but a 'fool' will deny the fact of God."³⁴

It could be added that an even greater "fool" says he is in fact God, for that one is under great condemnation. If he believes it, he is deluded and if he says it and does not really believe it, he is a fraud of the first order.

Like all standard books on doctrine or systematic theology, Evans lays out the natural attributes of God. Those attributes include His omniscience or all-knowingness (God exhaustively knowing past, present, and future), His omnipotence or all power, His omnipresence (God being everywhere present at once), and His immutability or unchangeableness and eternity (God always was and always will be and ever remains the same). Only in fantasy, delusion, or science fiction could a human ever possess these attributes. What is extremely helpful is that Evans, in his book on doctrine, buttresses every attribute with multiple Scripture verses. Truly, the True and Living God is unlike any other — and He has told us so.

Many years ago there was a song by The Platters titled, "The Great Pretender." It told of one who said he was "adrift in a world of my own." It is easy to think that of all the past and present *contenders* for the office of God deep down really know they are only *pretenders*. They are perpetuating

the big lie and are counterfeit make-believe gods. If they do not know that, they are horribly deluded and have seared consciences. The Apostle Paul spoke of those who had defiled minds and consciences (Titus 1:15). It is possible for a person to lie to and deceive himself to the point that he actually believes his own lies (2 Thessalonians 2:10-11). Sadly, many naive and undiscerning people have followed the God pretenders. Even more sadly, they have accepted their leader's eternal fate as declared by the prophet in Isaiah 14:15.

WHAT TO DO AND PERSEVERE IN DOING

Big lies that promise the follower inside knowledge or added powers can be attractive to the fallen mind. In light of these things, we need to pray for those under the influence of these evil men, as well as pray for and support apologetics ministries attempting to reach out by literature, audio visuals, testimony, and conferences. Paul told Titus that false teachers must be stopped (Titus 1:11). Individuals need to plead with the leaders of their local church to introduce biblical studies on the doctrines of God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, as well as studies on the Trinitarian doctrine of God. Extremes begin with small detours. A small detour from the biblical doctrine of God and we are on our way to full-blown heresy. If we are wrong about God, we will be wrong about everything else. Concern for apologetic ministries and team effort with those ministries will be used by the true and living God to slice through the darkness promoted by those trying to wear a "God" mask and a "God" costume and proclaim their own deification. It is, after all, what Tozer concluded, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." We need to get with it and stay with it.

Endnotes:

1. A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*. Harrisburg, Pa.: Christian Publications, Inc., 1961, pg. 9.
2. This quotation is taken from James Murphy's translation of *Mein Kampf*, Volume 1, chapter 10, cited in "Big Lie"

- on Wikipedia, bold in original. Document accessed at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Lie.
3. Joseph Smith Jr., *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Company, 1976, pg. 346.
4. *Ibid.*, pg. 345, italics in original.
5. See, for example, statements by the late LDS president Gordon Hinckley in David Van Biema, S.C. Gwynne, and Richard N. Ostling, "Kingdom Come," *Time*, August 4, 1997, pg. 56.
6. Anonymous, *Gospel Principles*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1978, pg. 9; Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Company, 1966, pg. 359.
7. Michael Moriarty, *The New Charismatics*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Publishing House, 1992, pp. 327-328. See pages 106-108, 321-322, 327-338 in this volume for additional evaluation of the "little gods" teaching. Also for numerous first-hand quotations by Word-Faith teachers (contrasted with other worldviews) on our becoming gods, see "Claiming to be God - Quotes from false teachers and false prophets," Spiritual Research Network, Inc., Web site. Document accessed at: www.spiritual-research-network.com/claimingtobegod.html.
8. Benny Hinn, sermon given at the "Spiritual Warfare Seminar," Jubilee Christian Center, San Jose, Calif., May 2, 1990.
9. Benny Hinn, "Praise-A-Thon," Trinity Broadcasting Network, Nov. 6, 1990, originally broadcast live in April 1990. During this same discourse he refers to anyone who questions his teachings as "morons."
10. Benny Hinn, "God's Super Being," Orlando Christian Center broadcast, Trinity Broadcasting Network, Oct. 20, 1990.
11. "Praise-A-Thon," Nov. 6, 1990, op. cit.
12. Benny Hinn, *Our Position in Christ*, six tape audiocassette series, "Our Position in Christ," Part 1, Tape #A031190-1.
13. Benny Hinn, Orlando Christian Center broadcast, Trinity Broadcasting Network, Dec. 1, 1990.
14. See, for example, "Bygone History: Father Divine." Video accessed at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=wtQzbYaAHcQ&feature=related.
15. Jack Mitchell in J.D. Douglas, Editor, *New 20th-Century Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 1991, pg. 324.
16. Quotation from "Inside a Cult," National Geographic Documentary at 0:30 timemark. Video accessed at: <http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/player/national-geographic-channel/all-videos/av-5991-6255/ngc-inside-a-cult.html>. Also cited in "Lord Our Righteousness Church" on Wikipedia. Document accessed at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord_Our_Righteousness_Church.

17. Steven Tsoukalas, *The Nation of Islam*. Phillipsburg, N.J.: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishers, 2001, pg. 41.
18. *Ibid.*, pg. 42.
19. *Christianity, Cults & Religions*. Torrance, Calif.: Rose Publishing, 2010, fanfold pamphlet, pg. 9.
20. See Kelli B. Kavanaugh, "Mystery man," March 5, 2003, metrotimes Web site. Document accessed at www.metrotimes.com/editorial/story.asp?id=4650.
21. *The Nation of Islam*, op. cit., pg. 36.
22. See Daniel G. Reid, Robert D. Linder, Bruce L. Shelley, and Harry S. Stout, Editors, *Dictionary of Christianity in America*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1990, pg. 639.
23. See "Jose Luis De Jesus, The Man Christ Jesus," Ministerio Internacional Creciendo en Gracia (International Ministry Growing in Grace) Web site. Document accessed at: www.cegenglish.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=19&Itemid=27.
24. Peter Kreeft, *Ecumenical Jihad*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1996, pg. 162, italics in original.
25. For additional information on C. Peter Wagner, see G. Richard Fisher, "Mountaintops and Other Tall Tales - Examining the Fantasy World of Modern-day 'Apostle and Prophet' C. Peter Wagner," *The Quarterly Journal*, October-December 2011, pp. 4-11.
26. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*. New York: Doubleday, 1994, pp. 250-251.
27. See Philip L. Cook, *Zion City, Illinois*. Syracuse, N.Y.: Syracuse University Press, 1996, pp. 57-58, 145-146.
28. C. Douglas Weaver, *The Healer Prophet, William Marrion Branham*. Macon, Ga.: Mercer University Press, 1987, pp. 128-129.
29. Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry Concise*. Electronic version by Epiphany Software, 1995, The Death of Herod, Acts 12:20-25. This is an abridged version of Henry's full six-volume work, *Matthew Henry Unabridged Commentary*.
30. Kathryn Lindskoog, *Fakes, Frauds & Other Malarkey*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Publishing, 1993, pg. 258.
31. *Ibid.*, pg. 223.
32. Carl F. Keil and Franz Delitzsch, *Commentary on the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1985, Vol. 1, pg. 95, italics in original.
33. Bruce Zuckerman, "New Eyeballs on Ancient Texts," *Archaeological Views in Biblical Archaeology Review*, November/December 2011, pg. 28.
34. William Evans, *Great Doctrines of the Bible*. Chicago: The Bible Institute Colportage Association, 1912, pg. 13.

