



Books in Review

CULTS, RELIGIONS, OCCULT & DENOMINATIONS PACK

by Rose Publishing

PowerPoint® Presentations, \$99.00

Teaching Sunday school or Bible study classes on the cults, occult, world religions, and even Christian denominations has never been easier, thanks to a series of three separate presentations by Rose Publishing. These excellent tools use Microsoft's PowerPoint® software (version 2001 or higher) and each has ample material to allow for several sessions. Each presentation includes teacher's notes and class handouts provided in PDF file format (viewed and printed through Adobe® Reader® software, version 4 or higher). PowerPoint® and Adobe® Reader® programs must already be installed on the computer. The presentations do not come with these applications.

The three presentations are available as a collection or individually. The titles and individual prices are: *Christianity, Cults & Religions* (\$49.99), *Christianity, Cults & The Occult* (\$39.99), and *Denominations Comparison* (\$39.99). The price for the collection is \$99.00.

The *Christianity, Cults & Religions* presentation examines the beliefs of 20 world religions and prominent cults. Making up the roster of world religions are Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. Included in the cults section is Mormonism, The Watchtower Society, Scientology, Baha'i, Unity School of Christianity, and several more. One feature of the presentation is what is called the "Bible Button." When viewing a slide describing a particular cult's belief, the user can scroll the cursor to a Bible icon in the lower right of the screen. When the icon is clicked, a new slide appears describing the biblical position of this same doctrine. A "Go Back" icon in the lower right of the new screen will return to the previous frame.

The *Christianity, Cults & The Occult* presentation surveys beliefs and groups that slant toward the occult and supernatural. Eleven movements are examined and include Wicca, Satanism, Spiritualism, Voodoo, and Freemasonry. The origin, beliefs, practices, and symbols

of the various entities are shown. A section detailing the scriptural warnings against occultism is also provided.

The *Denominations Comparison* examines 12 major denominations and/or churches. The entries are divided into two groups: liturgical and non-liturgical. Included are Catholics, Lutherans, Presbyterians, and Methodists in the first group; and Adventists, Baptists (and Anabaptists), and Pentecostals in the second. Groups can be selected individually from an opening menu, or one can go through the entire program. Each group's positions on the Trinity, salvation, view of Scripture, sacraments, and heaven and hell are examined. Information on the denomination's founder and current membership also are provided. A final segment provides a historical time line, called the "Denomination Family Tree." Definitions for underlined theological terms can be obtained with a mouse click. A mouse click on the "Back" button returns the user to the previous slide.

These are outstanding resources for the Christian apologist to use and draw from. At the very least, they should be found on the reference shelf of every local church's library.

—MKG

POCKET GUIDE TO WORLD RELIGIONS

by Winfried Corduan

InterVarsity Press, 144 pages, \$7.00

This small-print book carries a huge amount of material in its 144 pages. It is a fast track to fast facts. Corduan, who is an evangelical Christian and professor of religion and philosophy at Taylor University in Upland, Ind., does not attempt to refute the religions he covers, but only inform. He does it well.

The author gives the name or names of the religion, the numbers of followers, key symbols, history, major beliefs, sub-groups, worship practices, clothing, diet, calendar, and much more.

For anyone needing quick facts and current information, this is the book to get. It is for busy people, as well as students and clergy.

The *Pocket Guide* introduces 13 major religions and gives brief descriptions of 17 other religious movements.

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