



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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Editor's Note: The publications featured in PFO's *Books in Review* section are available from **Personal Freedom Outreach** (P.O. Box 26062, Saint Louis, Missouri 63136). Please add \$2.00 to the price listed for shipping and handling. Due to occasional price changes by the publishers, the retail amounts listed are subject to change without notice. These publications are also available to those who help to financially support the work of PFO. Please see our funds appeal flyer for details.

The major religions are: Baha'i, Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Taoism, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Shinto, Sikhism, and tribal religions.

There are thumbnail sketches of Aleph, Ahmahdiyya Islam, Cao Dai, Christian Science, Falun Gong, ISKCON (Hare Krishna), Jehovah's Witnesses, Juce, Mormonism, Nation of Islam, Rastafarianism, Scientology, Soka Gakkai, Tenrikyo, Unification Church, Wahhabite Islam, and Wicca.

If you have ever wondered what the red dot on an Indian woman's forehead means, or whether all Buddhist monks practice martial arts, or if all Jews want to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem, this is the book for you.

—GRF

SEARCHING FOR THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

by Randall Price

Harvest House Publishers, 226 pages, \$11.99

This is a great book. The author, Randall Price, is a Middle East expert (Th.M. Old Testament and Semitic Languages and Ph.D. Middle Eastern Studies) and has lived in Jerusalem doing graduate studies at the Hebrew University. He is president of World of the Bible

Ministries and author of numerous books including, *The Stones Cry Out*, *Secrets of the Dead Sea Scrolls*, and *The Battle For The Last Day's Temple*.

Price answers all the questions one might think to ask about the Ark of the Covenant and many that one might never know to ask. The book covers all of the Old Testament materials on the Ark in detail — following all its biblical journeys — and looks into archaeological studies as well. Price delves into Intertestamental history, Josephus, the Talmud, Jewish legends, and mythology. He crisscrossed several continents and interviewed Israel's leading archaeologists and rabbis in research for the book.

Price takes on the eccentrics such as Ron Wyatt, Graham Hancock, David Lewis, and the wild claims made by others. Some have wondered if the Ark was taken to heaven. Price deals with that issue. This book is an antidote to cults and cultic claims bolstered by Ark legends.

The joy of this book is its accessibility. The writing style is reader-friendly. Detailed, technical, and even heavy material is written so that any reader can grasp it. It is a page-turner and a pleasure to read. With its pictures, footnotes, and detailed index, it is the definitive work on the Ark of the Covenant. It could be used in a homeschool curriculum.

Get this book. You will not be sorry you did. It needs to be in the library of every Bible student and could even be grist for a group or church study.

—GRF

PERSONAL FREEDOM OUTREACH — STATEMENT OF BELIEF

- I. THE BIBLE AS THE DIVINELY INSPIRED, INERRANT WORD OF GOD: IT IS IN ITS ENTIRETY THE SOLE AUTHORITY FOR ALL MATTERS OF CHRISTIAN BELIEF AND PRACTICE.
- II. THE ONE TRUE GOD. IN THE ONE TRUE GOD THERE EXIST THREE PERSONS, BEING: THE FATHER, THE SON JESUS CHRIST, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- III. JESUS CHRIST: HIS DEITY, HUMANITY, VIRGIN BIRTH, SINLESSNESS, DEATH AND BODILY RESURRECTION; WHO WILL PERSONALLY AND VISIBLY RETURN AGAIN TO EARTH.
- IV. THE PERSONALITY AND DEITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- V. THE EXISTENCE AND PERSONALITY OF SATAN, HIS TOTAL OPPOSITION TO GOD, AND HIS POWER OVER THE UNREGENERATE.
- VI. THE COMPLETE AND TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF ALL MEN WHICH MAKES THEM HOPELESSLY LOST WITHOUT THE NEW BIRTH OBTAINABLE THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.
- VII. THE FINAL ESTATE OF MAN: FOR THE SAVED, EVERLASTING LIFE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND FOR THE UNSAVED, EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT BECAUSE OF THEIR UNBELIEF.
- VIII. THE GOSPEL, BY WHICH WE ARE SAVED BEING SUMMED IN THE DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.
- IX. THE CHURCH BEING THE BODY OF CHRIST, UNITED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, CONSISTING OF THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOR. A LOCAL CHURCH IS AN ORGANIZED ASSEMBLY OF BELIEVERS UNITED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING OUT THE GREAT COMMISSION OF CHRIST.
- X. THE GREAT COMMISSION OF CHRIST BEING TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO ALL MEN, BAPTIZING AND DISCIPLING THOSE WHO HAVE BELIEVED.