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newsletter

Christian — Who Is Your Covering?

A CHRISTIAN LOOK AT THE SHEPHERDING MOVEMENT

by STEVE COLEMAN

Many Christians are asking "Who is my covering?"

Until recently, the word "covering" was not found in most Christian literature. The popularity of the discipleship and Shepherding Movement, however, has brought this subject out in the open.

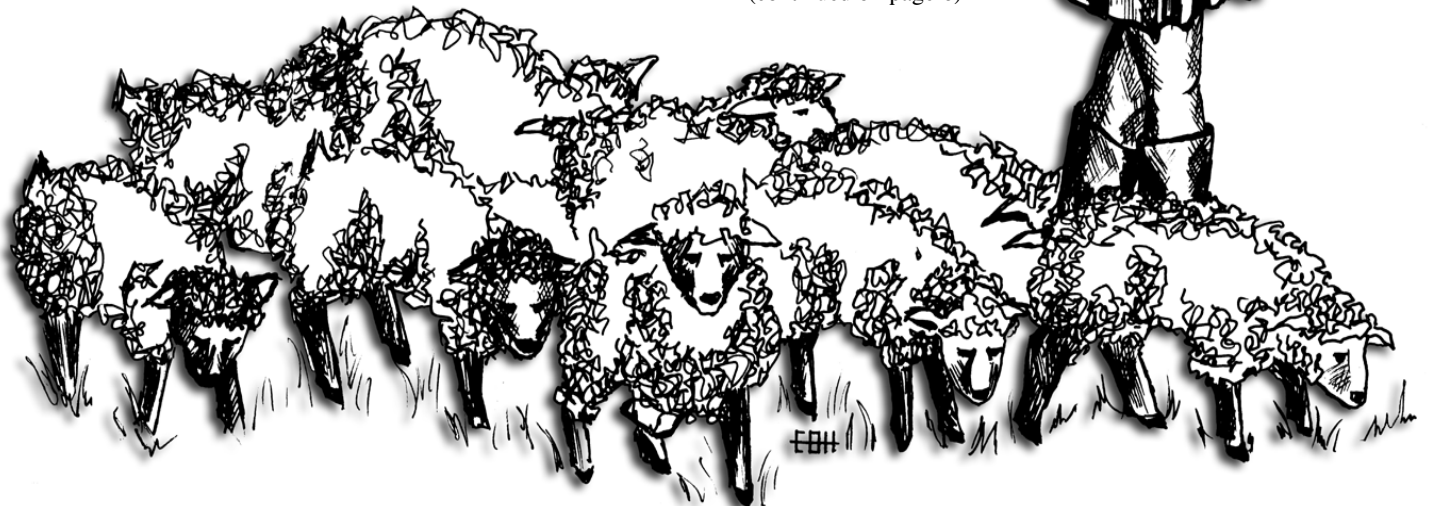
The Shepherding Movement arose in the early 1970s in an attempt to solve shortcomings in the modern church. Many newly converted Christians were not properly "discipled," or taught how to grow in the faith. They were largely on their own to study the Bible, learn how to pray, and to learn how to live a lifestyle that is pleasing to the Lord. As a result, many converts became "casualties," and dropped out of the church.

Shepherding was an attempt to correct the situation by saying that each Christian should have a shepherd for everyday guidance. This shepherd became the person's spiritual leader, counseling him and even making decisions for him. It was taught that the shepherd was "God's delegated authority" and therefore his advice was always to be followed. The shepherd was like "God's ambassador" who communicated God's messages to the disciple. To disobey

God's messenger would be to disobey God, and therefore a person was to trust in the shepherd's judgment rather than his own.

Because of the tremendous amount of authority given to a shepherd, Christians were taught to seek God to find the shepherd that the Lord wanted for them. It was stated that when the right shepherd was found, he became the person's "covering," or protection. Because of the "divine relationship" with this shepherd, a person was supposed to be protected from his making wrong decisions affecting the disciple. The shepherd is also supposed to protect the disciple from Satan, who might influence a person into making a bad decision.

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EDITORIALS

FROM THE

"WELL, I SURE DIDN'T SEE THAT!"

DEPARTMENT

Writers for the Watchtower Society consistently try to deny the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ. They give their readers carefully filtered material supporting their theology.

Because faithful Witnesses believe that Jehovah is speaking directly through Watchtower Society literature, they accept without question the ideas contained therein.

Thus the writers have capitalized on the Witnesses' mind set to present as the truth misquotations, misrepresentations, half-truths, quotations from demons and outright lies.

Former Witness Darrell Pollick pointed out another recent article in which Watchtower Society writers skirted references to Christ's deity.

Nearly half of the April 8, 1982, issue of *Awake!* magazine is devoted to an article on "The Greatest Man Of All Time" — Jesus Christ. On page 5, it quotes some of the world's most influential men speaking about Jesus. Among those quoted are Mahatma Gandhi, Blaise Pascal, Jean Jacques Rousseau and Napoleon Bonaparte.

No footnotes were given, making it difficult to determine the source of the quotes. However, Pollick found that the quote attributed to Napoleon was taken from pages 542-543 of *Halley's Bible Handbook*. Sadly, the Watchtower writers' citation of the quote used only a small section of the actual quote.

The *Awake!* article stated, "Napoleon is reported to have said: 'Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and myself founded empires, but upon what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ alone founded his kingdom upon love.'"

What the Watchtower Society writers edited from *Halley's Bible Handbook* were other statements from Napoleon, which appear directly before and after the quote they cited. These statements include: "I know men, and I tell you, Jesus is not a man. He commands us to believe, and gives no other reason than his awful word, **I AM GOD**" and "I tell you, the death of Christ is the death of God. I tell you, **JESUS CHRIST IS GOD**" (emphasis added).

Again, the Society's writers have found direct references to Jesus' deity and have ignored those parts that disagree with their ideas. Jehovah's Witnesses need to realize that no matter how many misquotations, misrepresentations and half-truths they use, it still will never change the Biblical fact that **JESUS CHRIST IS GOD!**

Our prayer is that those who profess a faith that denies that Jesus is God will come to know this Scriptural truth this side of eternity (John 8:24).

—MKG



DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS CLARIFICATION

In the January-March 1983 edition of our newsletter, the article "Dungeons and Dragons, Trouble for a Mere \$10.95," mentioned the case of a student at Michigan State University whose disappearance had been linked to his participation in D&D.

However, the article failed to mention that, in the end, no connection could be made between the student's disappearance and D&D. We regret that our article did not make that fact clear.

Ironically, the mere suggestion that D&D was linked to the disappearance proved to be a boon to the game. TSR Hobbies officials reported that their sales took off soon after the reports surfaced.

—KAM



Letter

To The Editor

Sirs--

I (we) do not want any more of your publication "Personal Freedom Outreach." Please remove me from your mailing list. Since this is unsolicited mail, further delivery of any material from you to me will be reported to U.S. Postal Service as a violation of my rights.

Thank you.

*Mr. & Mrs. S.S.
Charlestown, NH*

P.S. Your magazine title aptly fits the Scripture that warns of those who are promising the Christian freedom, yet they themselves exist as slaves of corruption. The only light emanating from your magazine is when it is added to the kindling on a cold night, then it turns to black ash.

HELPING US HELP YOU

If you'd like to help support Personal Freedom Outreach and pick up handy witnessing materials, read on!

For every \$10 donation, we will send a copy of Dr. Robert A. Morey's books *Horoscopes and the Christian* and *Reincarnation and Christianity*.

These books give an excellent summary of how Christians should view two widely accepted beliefs. They are a must for every Christian's library.

Those sending \$20 will also get Dr. Morey's book, *How to Answer a Jehovah's Witness*. This book has valuable photocopies of important Watchtower documents, a section with questions for Witnesses regarding the deity of Jesus and a list of

ministries from which more information can be obtained.

Those sending \$50 will get *Walter Martin's Cult Reference Bible* and a copy of Robert and Gretchen Passantino's *Answers To The Cultist At Your Door*.

Your tax-deductible donation to Personal Freedom Outreach goes toward publishing this quarterly newsletter, writing and research for articles and tracts, producing audio-visual material and defraying office expenses.

Personal Freedom Outreach draws no financial support from any church or denomination. It depends solely upon the prayers and gifts of those who believe in the ministry that the Lord has given to us.

NEWS UPDATE

THE UPHEAVAL IN SDA

The publication of Geoffery Paxton's *Shaking of Adventism*, sent shock waves throughout the Seventh-Day Adventist Church on the magnitude of a major upheaval. Now, another "earthquake" has shaken some of the top Adventist officials.

The latest shakeup centers on an alleged financial scandal.

Of 163 church administrators examined, only 46 will emerge unscathed. The rest face anything from indictments on charges that they took part in a scam to fleece the SDA Church of millions of dollars, to defrockings, demotions and published reprimands in Adventist publications.

The alleged scam arose largely through the construction projects of Dr. Donald J. Davenport, an SDA physician who got Adventists to invest their own and the church's money in a series of construction enterprises.

These projects consisted largely of the construction of U.S. post office buildings across the country which were leased to the government and the leases then sold to the SDA Church through its administrators. The administrators reportedly received 2% finder's fees for funneling church money into the project. The administrators were to receive as much as 80% interest, but instead a total of \$68 million allegedly was bilked from various participants, with some \$21 million coming from church money.

The IRS, SEC, FBI and Justice Department have all initiated investigations, and some conference administrators face possible indictments on fraud charges.

This shock comes hard on the heels of the defection of numerous Adventists and Adventist churches from the denomination. That exodus was precipitated largely by the discovery that the Adventists' founder and prophetess, Ellen G. White, stole a major portion of her ideas and writings from other authors.

Mrs. White claimed that her ideas and words came directly from God and that she was not dependent upon the writings of others, as the preachers of the sectarian denominations were. As knowledge of the fact that she possessed a 12,000-volume library leaked out, an extensive search for copies of those books was made. Like those of the Mormon Church, the archives of the Seventh Day Adventist Church were guarded against free access by members and non-members alike. However, as information about these books leaked out, and duplicate copies were located and carefully examined, the extensive nature of her purloining became increasingly clear. It is now estimated that 80% to 90% of her five-volume series, "The Great Controversy," was derived from other human sources.

Rev. Walter Pea's exposure of this borrowing, summarized and documented in his book, *The White Lie*, has resulted in his break with the SDA Church.

—WPW



MORMON PROFESSOR FACES CRIMINAL CHARGES

Twenty-four criminal charges have been filed against Einer C. Erickson, geologist and former professor at the Mormon Church's Brigham Young University.

Erickson is widely known throughout the Mormon Church for his taped lectures in defense of the Book of Mormon and other Mormon scriptures. Though these lectures are filled with mis-statements and factual errors, Mormon missionaries have repeatedly used these tapes to convince prospective converts that archaeology and ancient documents verify the Mormon claims.

Erickson was indicted by a federal grand jury in Las Vegas on

12 counts of aiding or assisting in the preparation of a fraudulent income tax return, and 12 counts of mail fraud.

The charges against Erickson stem from his staking out hundreds of claims in the Nevada desert and selling them to investors who hoped to profit from silver mining operations on the sites. When the sites failed to yield the anticipated profits, they were donated to various charities, with the major portion going to BYU.

In making the donations, the value was escalated up to 10 times the actual value, IRS spokesmen claim. Since most of the more than 900 investors were in the 50% income tax bracket (earning over \$65,000 annually), a number were able to write off a greater amount than their entire income. Some property which was given an appraised value in six figures was worth only \$6, the IRS said.

The IRS has demanded that BYU open up all its records of charitable gifts for the past five years to IRS scrutiny. BYU has refused, and has appealed a court order for such IRS investigation to the U.S. Supreme Court.

—WPW



FORMER CHILDREN OF GOD 'QUEEN' TELLS HER STORY

Deborah Davis, daughter of Children of God leader Moses David Berg, has gone public with the story of her experiences in that cult.

Mrs. Davis left the Children of God, now known as the Family of Love, in 1978.

She told her story at a conference on cults in Santa Barbara, Calif., last November.

According to articles in *Eternity* and *Cornerstone* magazines, Mrs. Davis witnessed sexual perversion and occult practices as part of the Family of Love's everyday routine.

Mrs. Davis said that she was dethroned as "queen" of the cult when she refused her father's request to start up an incestuous relationship with her.

Berg, who has repeatedly made predictions that the United States would be destroyed, has now said that America's demise is imminent and has ordered his 10,000-plus disciples to flee the Northern Hemisphere. Berg himself is believed to be living in Peru.

Mrs. Davis has written a book on her experiences. The book is expected to be published soon.

—KAM



RAY FRANZ TO AUTHOR BOOK

A former Watchtower Society Governing Body member, Ray Franz, is reportedly writing a book about his experiences with the Society. Franz, a third-generation Witness and nephew to current President Fred Franz, was disfellowshipped in December 1981 for sharing a meal with former Witness Peter Gregerson.

David Henke of Watchman Fellowship, Columbus, Ga., says that when Franz was questioned concerning the Society's use of spirit medium Johannes Greber, he replied that such a revelation would pale by comparison with things that would be revealed in his forthcoming book.

The book is expected to be published as early as this spring.

—MKG

ARE “DOCTRINES OF DEMONS” SYNONYMOUS WITH DOCTRINES OF JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES?

by William I. Cetnar

Despite the proliferation of religions, philosophies, sects and cults, there is still only one choice: Serving Christ or serving Satan (Matthew 12:30).

Once the beliefs are analyzed, it is apparent that false religions

offer little variety among themselves. Here are 10 major doctrines common between spirit medium Johannes Greber (and occult practitioners in general) and the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society.

Read them and see for yourself.



DOCTRINES OF DEMONS

1. **JESUS CHRIST IS NOT GOD.** “Christ was therefore the *Son of God*, and claimed to be nothing more. He was not the Deity. Not once did He say: ‘I am God’” (*Communication With the Spirit World of God*, pg. 330).

2. **JEHOVAH ALONE IS GOD — THE FATHER.** “I am Jehovah thy God. Thou shalt have no other gods besides me” (ibid., pg. 331, also see pg. 333).

3. **JESUS CHRIST IS A CREATED BEING.** “At that time you were told that Christ is the highest of the spirits created by God and the sole one to be created directly” (ibid., pg. 301).

4. **MICHAEL IS a god.** “In mystic and occult writings, Michael has often been equated with the Holy Ghost, the Logos, God, Metatron, etc. ... Michael derives originally from the Chaldeans by whom he was worshipped as something of a god” (*Dictionary of Angels* by Gustav Davidson). *Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary* defines a Chaldean as a person versed in occult arts. Chaldean is synonymous with Babylonian.

5. **CHRIST’S BODY WAS NOT RESURRECTED.** “The ‘resurrection of the dead’ has therefore not the slightest reference to *the resurrection of the physical body*. ... *Not even Christ’s natural body was raised*” (*Communication With the Spirit World of God*, pg. 385).

6. **BODY OF JESUS WAS DEMATERIALIZED.** “Similarly [to the body of Jesus], the bodies of Enoch and Elijah have been dissolved into od” (ibid., pg. 385).

7. **THERE IS NO ETERNAL HELL.** “I hope I have convinced you with my explanations, that there is no authority in the Bible to support your inhuman and untrue doctrine of an everlasting Hell” (ibid., pg. 379).

8. **HIGHER POWERS OF ROMANS 13 ARE NOT THE EARTHLY GOVERNMENTS.** “In the case of temporal authorities also, obedience is due them only to the extent that their laws do not conflict with those of God. ... Paul is not speaking here of temporal authorities but of the spiritual ones which God assigns to every man” (ibid., pp. 414, 415).

DOCTRINES OF JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES

1. **JESUS CHRIST IS NOT GOD.** “So again we note that Jesus never spoke of himself as God or called himself God. He always put himself below God rather than on an equality with God” (*The Word — Who Is He?* pg. 40).

2. **JEHOVAH ALONE IS GOD — THE FATHER.** “In the Scriptures ‘father’ means life-giver, and Jehovah God is the Life-giver to all who life forever. ‘One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.’ (Eph. 4:6)” (*Jehovah*, pg. 8).

3. **JESUS CHRIST IS A CREATED BEING.** “That Jehovah was truly the Father or Life-giver to this firstborn Son and, hence that this Son was actually a creature of God, is evident from Jesus’ own statements. He pointed to God as the Source of his life, saying, ‘I live because of the Father’” (*Aid to Bible Understanding*, pg. 918).

4. **MICHAEL IS a god.** “Scriptural evidence indicates that the name Michael applied to God’s Son before he left heaven to become Jesus Christ and also after his return” (ibid., pg. 1152).

5. **CHRIST’S BODY WAS NOT RESURRECTED.** “Many Christians have the idea that our Lord’s glorious spiritual body is the very same body that was crucified and laid away in Joseph’s tomb: ... This is a great mistake ... Our Lord’s human body was, however, supernaturally removed from the tomb; because had it remained there, it would have been an insurmountable obstacle to the faith of the disciples, who were not yet instructed in spiritual things — for ‘the spirit was not yet given.’ (John 7:39.) We know nothing about what became of it, except that it did not decay or corrupt” (*Time Is At Hand*, pp. 128-129). “Hence Jesus Christ was not resurrected with the sacrificed human body” (*Things In Which It Is Impossible For God To Lie*, pg. 355).

6. **BODY OF JESUS WAS DEMATERIALIZED.** “Whether it [body of Jesus] was dissolved into gases or whether it is still preserved somewhere as the grand memorial of God’s love, of Christ’s obedience, and of our redemption, no one knows; — nor is such knowledge necessary” (*The Time Is At Hand*, pp. 129-130).

7. **THERE IS NO ETERNAL HELL.** “The teaching about a fiery hell is thus acknowledged to be a belief shared by persons alienated from God. It can rightly be designated as a ‘teaching of demons’” (*Is This Life All There Is?*, pg. 96).

8. **HIGHER POWERS OF ROMANS 13 ARE NOT EARTHLY GOVERNMENTS.** “From 1928 onward, God’s spirit revealed to them that ‘the higher powers,’ to whom every Christian soul must be subject, are not the ruling authorities of this world but are forever Jehovah God and Christ Jesus, His ‘Commander to the peoples’” (*The Watchtower*, Jan. 15, 1946, pg. 27).

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A 20TH CENTURY LOOK AT

Nostradamus

WAS HE GOD'S PROPHET DURING THE 16th CENTURY?

by KEITH A. MORSE

The Man Who Saw Tomorrow, a television documentary being shown on the Home Box Office cable network, is another sign of revived interest in the 16th-century seer Nostradamus.

The movie, narrated by Orson Welles, offers interpretations of some of Nostradamus' predictions. At first glance, Nostradamus appears to have had an uncanny ability to forecast events far in the future: events surrounding Napoleon, Adolph Hitler, the Kennedy brothers and others. He even predicted the time of his own death.

He also made numerous prophecies concerning the end times, the advent of the Antichrist and the Millennium.

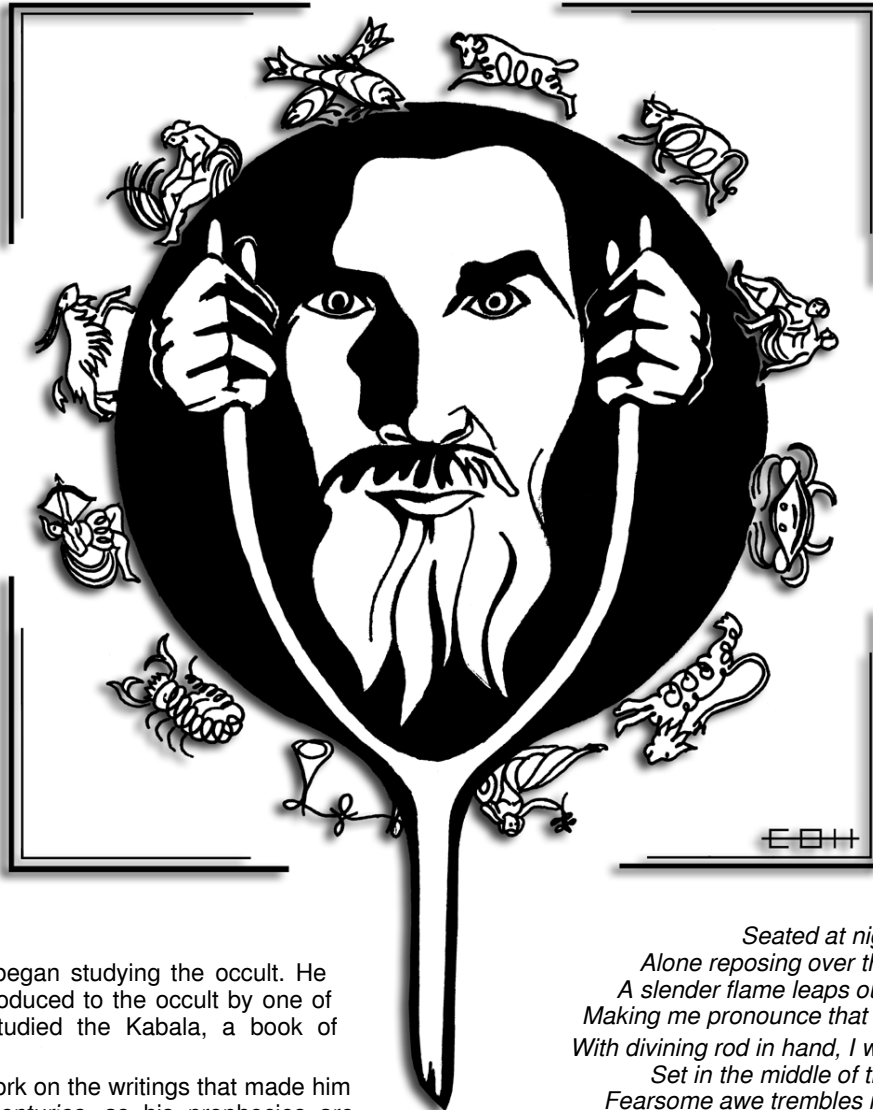
Nostradamus was born in 1503 in France. His parents were Jewish converts to Catholicism. He became a physician and gained renown as such for his treatment of people during the plague of 1525.

In his early adult years, he began studying the occult. He probably had already been introduced to the occult by one of his great-grandfathers, who studied the Kabala, a book of Jewish occult teachings.

Nostradamus did not begin work on the writings that made him so famous until 1554. *The Centuries*, as his prophecies are called, were published in 1556. *The Centuries* consists of 10 sets of four-line poems, with each poem purportedly containing a prophecy.

The Cyclopaedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature, Vol. VII (Harper and Bros. Publishers, 1894) describes Nostradamus' prophecies as being "written in quatrains of rough, rude, unintelligible and incorrigible French, in tottering and halting meter, with rugged, harsh and often unmanageable rhymes, clattering or jingling at the ends of the alternate lines. ... They remain for the most part incapable of comprehension and are scarcely rendered more perspicuous by the English version."

The prophetic quatrains found in Nostradamus' *The Centuries* are so vague and so numerous as to guarantee him a certain amount of success. The quatrains' cloudy composition invites a multitude of interpretations. Their sheer numbers put the law of averages clearly in Nostradamus' favor.



Nevertheless, interest in Nostradamus has survived, even grown in the past 10 years. Christians might wonder if Nostradamus' prophetic "successes," combined with the durability of his reputation, might qualify him as a prophet of God.

A brief look at his methods and a few of his prophecies will prove otherwise.

The first two quatrains in Century I, as translated in H.C. Roberts' book, *The Complete Prophecies of Nostradamus* (Nostradamus Co., Oyster Bay, N.Y.), plainly describe the means by which Nostradamus obtained his prophetic inspiration:

*Seated at night in my secret study,
Alone reposing over the brass tripod,
A slender flame leaps out of the solitude,
Making me pronounce that which is not in vain.
With divining rod in hand, I wet the limb and foot,
Set in the middle of the branches.
Fearsome awe trembles my hand, I await,
Heavenly Splendor! The Divine Genius Sitteth By.*

The use of a divining rod has been a common occult practice in Europe and America. Its most common use has been as an aid in finding water. Nostradamus used his divining rod, held over a bowl of water, to conjure messages, which he read in the water or possibly to summon a demonic being, whom he called "The Divine Genius," who gave him the prophecies.

Nostradamus also attributed some of his prophetic abilities to astrology, which he also probably learned at his great-grandfather's knee. The use of astrology is clearly forbidden in the Bible and no truly biblical prophet would ever rely on it (see Isaiah 47:11-14).

It is apparent that the "Divine Genius" was less than inspired on all occasions. While some of Nostradamus' quatrains appear to have come true, provided they are interpreted in the right way, others have missed the mark completely. For example, here are

(continued on page 7)

One of the leaders of the Shepherding Movement summed it up like this:

"We are protected by the authority to which we submit: Unsubmitted, we are unprotected."¹

What does the Bible say about this subject? Has a "shepherding doctrine" been hidden? What does the Bible say about "covering"?

DEFINITIONS OF "COVERING"

The Shepherding Movement is presumably trying to use the word in a biblical sense, since all major shepherding teachers use the Bible as their basis of authority. If the Bible is the basis for Christian doctrine, then we must say that any doctrine contrary to the Bible is heresy.

What we must do, then, is to use the word "covering" in the context in which it is meant.

There are three major Hebrew words which have been translated as "covering." For someone to act as our "covering," this must encompass part or all of the meaning of these words, depending on the sense which is intended.

The first Hebrew word, *sakak*, means "to cover or hedge in."² Figuratively, the word means "to protect," having the meaning of "to cover, defend, hedge in, join together, set, or shut up."³ In other words, men can protect themselves by joining together, shutting themselves up or fortifying their position, or hedging themselves in so that the enemy cannot see or reach them.

The Bible says the Lord, and not a man, is our covering in the *sakak* sense. Psalm 91:3 says the Lord does the following things:

"He rescues you from the snares of fowlers hoping to destroy you; he covers you with his feathers, and you find shelter underneath his wings" (Jerusalem Bible).

The second Hebrew word that means "to cover" is *kasah*. The primary meaning of this word is "to cover for clothing or secrecy."⁴ It also means "to cover over, conceal."⁵ Proverbs 10:12 says that "love covers all offenses" (JB). A leading biblical commentator says that by love we will "overlook the offense that is given us, and cover it, and by this means strife is prevented."⁶ The sin thus is not removed, but merely concealed.

The third Hebrew word we find is *kaphar*. The King James Bible translates this word as "to make atonement," and from the same root word we get Yom Kippur, or "Day of Atonement."⁷ This root also means to "cover over, pacify, make propitiation."⁷ As opposed to *kasah*, which means "to cover something over," *kaphar* means to completely "wipe it out, annul it, and make it non-existent."⁸

The word *kaphar* is used in context with the blood offering of the Old Testament. Aaron, the first high priest of Israel, was commanded to slaughter the goat as the sin offering for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat. This was to make atonement for the holy place because of the sins of Israel (Leviticus 16:15-16).

THE IMPLICATIONS OF "COVERING"

What sense of the word "covering" are people referring to when they say, "I am the covering"? In material published by the Shepherding Movement, it is apparent that "covering" is used in the sense of "protection" (*sakak*). According to the teaching, having a shepherd is like having a "divine insurance policy." Losses suffered as a result of mistakes are "covered" because a person is in submission to a shepherd.

Although the Shepherding Movement does not guarantee that a shepherd will never steer a person wrong, it does say that God will make things right because the disciple was "in submission."

It is obvious, however, that the claims of shepherding are not only for *sakak* covering, but also for *kaphar* covering.

Derek Prince, in his book, *Discipleship, Shepherding, Commitment*, says:

"Also, as Christians, we do not obey those in authority because they are right; we obey them because they are in authority, and all authority ultimately stems from God Himself."⁹

If this is true, then the implication is that people could do something that is normally considered sin, that is, something that is out of God's will. A person may know it is sin, but does not have to worry about it because he is "covered" by a shepherd. A person will not be judged for the sin, but for his submission to the shepherd.

If this is the case, then how would a sin become an act of obedience? The only answer is that this transformation occurs through the process of "covering."

In summary, then, "covering" works like this:

We obey our shepherd, but our action is against God's will.

We are "covered" by our submission to a shepherd.

Because of our submission, the sin becomes an act of righteousness.

If our sin could be transformed in this way, it could only be through *kaphar* covering. Only through *kaphar*, or atonement, could sin thus be removed, annulled and wiped out.

In other words, the Shepherding Movement teaches that atonement or propitiation comes through the shepherd and the authority to which we are submitted.

CHRIST IS OUR TRUE COVERING

These Hebrew words are important because they have different meanings. It has been confusing to the church because we have only one word, "covering," which describes all three of these meanings. Christians should ask, however, what kind of "covering" they are being asked to accept.

God wants Christians to cover (*kasah*) people's sins through love. Christians still acknowledge that a person has sinned, but forgive the sinner just as God forgives each Christian.

However, the idea that a shepherd can protect a Christian (*sakak*) is unscriptural. The Bible says: "The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped" (Psalm 146:3).

As unscriptural as the teaching about *sakak* covering is, it is a far worse error to say that a shepherd is a Christian's atonement (*kaphar*). Imagine how grieved Jesus Christ is when others claim to be the "covering" after He gave His life to be the covering for sins.

First Peter 1:18-19 says, "you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ" (New American Standard Bible). The Christian's allegiance thus belongs to the one who paid for redemption, and He is the one who must be obeyed.

Romans 3:25 says that Jesus Christ was publicly displayed by God "as a propitiation in His blood through faith."

It has been shown that the words "covering," "atonement," and "propitiation" have the same meaning, and are expressed by the same Hebrew word (*kaphar*). Thus, if these synonymous words are substituted into Romans 3:25 it can be seen that:

Our propitiation comes in the blood of Jesus through faith.

Our atonement comes in the blood of Jesus through faith.

Our covering comes in the blood of Jesus through faith.

It should be apparent why the Shepherding Movement is in such error: it has applied to men what rightfully belongs to God. Instead of saying the Lord is the covering, it claims that shepherds are the covering. While the Bible says people can trust God for strength and guidance, the Shepherding Movement says that a man is necessary too.

In short, the Shepherding Movement casts doubt on God's ability to care for the Christian.

Let us trust in the Lord as our covering. Proverbs 3:5-6 says:
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him. And He will make your paths straight" (NASB).

When people put their total trust in the Lord, then other Christians can give the help and advice they need to learn how to grow as a Christian.

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ENDNOTES:

1. Charles Simpson, "Covering of the Lord," *New Wine*, Vol. 5, No. 12, Dec. 1973, pg. 29.

2. Robert Young, *Analytical Concordance to the Bible*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1970, pg. 209.
3. James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. New York: Abingdon Press, 1965, pg. 82 of the "Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary."
4. *Ibid.*, pg. 56 of the "Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary."
5. Francis Brown, S.R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs, *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament: With an Appendix Containing the Biblical Aramaic*. Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1968, pg. 491.
6. Matthew Henry, *Commentary On The Whole Bible*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Publishing House, 1961, pg. 749.
7. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*, op. cit., pg. 497.
8. John F. Walvoord, *Daniel: The Key to Prophetic Revelation*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1971, pp. 221, 222.
9. Derek Prince, *Discipleship, Shepherding, Commitment*. Ft. Lauderdale Fla.: Derek Prince Publications, 1976, pg. 18.

NOSTRADAMUS

(from page 5)

five of Nostradamus' false prophecies, as listed in Robert A. Morey's book *Horoscopes and the Christian*:

- He predicted that by 1792, Venice, Italy, would become an influential power in the world.
- He predicted the downfall of the Roman Catholic clergy in 1609.
- He predicted that a persecution of the Catholic clergy would arise in 1792, one more severe than that of the Catholic Church in North Africa. Since the Catholic Church of North Africa ceased to exist, the continued existence of the Roman Catholic Church would appear to refute that prophecy.

- He predicted a persecution of astrologers in 1607. None occurred.
- He predicted that China would subdue the "whole northern section of the world" by 1700.

These are only five of the times when Nostradamus' predictions fell short of the mark. Regardless of any quatrains that did correctly foretell the future, Nostradamus has failed the Biblical test of a true prophet found in Deuteronomy 18:22. God's prophets have no less than a 100% accuracy record.

Christians should put no stock in any of Nostradamus' prophecies or attempts to interpret them. First of all, Nostradamus admittedly used occult methods (a divining rod and astrology) to obtain his prophecies. Secondly, his track record is less than perfect. For prophetic insight, inasmuch as we can understand it, the Holy Bible is all we need.

DOCTRINES OF DEMONS

(from page 4)

9. **THE BIBLE IS NOT INSPIRED OR DEPENDABLE.** "I availed myself of this contact with the source of truth to seek enlightenment above all in regard to the text of the Bible as we know it to-day; for on the occasion of my first experience with the world of divine spirits my attention had been called to the fact that the books of both the Old and the New Testament contained a great deal of spurious matter which had given rise to the many erroneous ideas prevailing in the Christian churches of our day. Subsequently I learned about these falsifications in detail. ... In the rare instances in which a text pronounced correct by the divine spirits can be found in none of the manuscripts available to-day, I have used the text as it was given to me by those spirits" (*The New Testament* by Johannes Greber, pg. 15).

10. **THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH TODAY IS NOT PREACHING THE GOSPEL.** "The later Church which banished the Divine spirits became, under the influence of the Powers of Evil, a church of spiritual slavery in which the leaders arrogated to themselves an authority which clashed with the will of God, and by virtue of this authority, barred the direct path to God to the faithful" (*Communication With the Spirit World of God*, pg. 426).

9. **THE BIBLE IS NOT INSPIRED OR DEPENDABLE.** The original writings of the Christian Greek Scriptures, commonly called 'The New Testament,' were inspired. No translation of these sacred writings into another language, except by the original writers, is inspired. ... It could not accurately render the precise meaning of the inspired originals. ... In presenting this translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures [the NWT] our confidence has been in the help of the great Author of The Book" (Foreword to the *Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures*, pp. 7, 9).

10. **THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH TODAY IS NOT PREACHING THE GOSPEL.** "Also, in the year 1918, when God destroys the churches wholesale and the church members by the millions, it shall be that any that escape shall come to the works of Pastor Russell" (*The Finished Mystery*, pg. 485).

GREBER NEW TESTAMENTS AVAILABLE

Personal Freedom Outreach has copies of Johannes Greber's New Testament for sale. This book should be used only for research and witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses, and not for personal devotions, due to the demonic source of its translation.

Those purchasing the Greber New Testament from PFO will

also receive 8-1/2 x 11 photocopies of conflicting letters from the Watchtower Society concerning the availability of this translation. (For more information see *PFO Newsletter*, Jan.-Mar., 1982.) The translation, along with the letters, serves as one of the most effective ways to prove to Witnesses that all is not what it appears to be in Bethel.

The cost is \$6.00 plus 65¢ postage. For shipment via United Parcel Service, please send \$1.50 for postage.



BOOKS IN REVIEW

WHEN YOUR MONEY FAILS...

by Mary Stewart Relfe, Ph.D.

Ministries Inc., Montgomery, Ala., 245 pages, \$4.95

Christian bookstores are reporting rising demand for a paperback book called *When Your Money Fails...* published in 1981 by Mary Relfe.

Mrs. Relfe's premise, stated on the front cover, is that "the 666 system is here." She finds the number 666 everywhere, from credit cards to labels in Chinese shirts and Italian shoes to an elementary algebra book titled "666 Jellybeans."

However, it should be noted that the number 666 always follows 665, and because we live in a world of numbers, one could make a case for any number.

The last third of the book is most revealing, as Mrs. Relfe divulges where her teachings come from. It is clear from these pages that the book is more eisegesis than exegesis of Scripture.

After the deaths of her 27-year-old son and her husband, Mrs. Relfe began an experience that she claims "the married couple could never know." Through 12 to 16 hours of study a day, leaving Bibles spread on her husband's side of the bed, she came to know the dimension of "being married to Christ."

She says that in "living like a monk," closed in for over three months, awakening at 2:30 a.m. for study, she received divine "revelations" through visions and dreams. Christ Himself appeared to her to confirm the truth of mid-tribulationism, she says, and this revelation is needed to purify the church.

Mrs. Relfe says that she longed to be a New Testament prophet all her life. Now she says she comes as a prophet giving divine revelation.

She holds that there is no future for national Israel. She says the church at large is a failure and a "social club." She states that "salvation requires more than believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Her view of salvation is unclear, however, and she fails to define her terms.

Mrs. Relfe names Anwar Sadat as the Antichrist. Then she states that if he should die, another Egyptian will replace him as the Antichrist. She appears to be simply covering her tracks.

The author calls George Orwell's *1984* a prophecy. She relies heavily on this book and says 80% of it has been fulfilled.

She refers to touch phones as being part of the Antichrist's "system." She speaks of such bizarre matters as the Antichrist's supposed ability to "melt" dogs, erase people's minds and burn up their bodies in less than a minute. She also suggests that people buy a lot and dig a well in order to have a place to go in the imminent collapse.

Mrs. Relfe quotes from various contradictory sources and claims that "elite scientists" know more about the end times than the church. This is reminiscent of the John Todd phenomenon of the early 1970s with new window dressing. (See *The Journal of Pastoral Practice*, Vol. 3, No. 4, pp. 99-103.) Mrs. Relfe presents the old doomsday scenario with new actors.

One wonders why after getting information straight from the top, the author had to write 245 pages to try to prove her point. The book is based on Mrs. Relfe's "revelations," yet she piles up quotes of various economists. Anyone knows that the predictions of economists are speculative and less certain than the weatherman's. This book is a hodgepodge of speculation, contradictory dates, science fiction, paranoia, false prophecies, misapplied, misinterpreted scripture and extrabiblical revelation that mark it as dangerous.

Mrs. Relfe's warning on pages 196 and 197 should be sounded regarding her own work: "Fear the writer whose research is oriented toward selling books, catchy titles — no substance. A little truth sprinkled with error is more dangerous than untruth for it is more believable." As a credible book, *When Your Money Fails...* fails completely.

—GRF

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