



PERSONAL FREEDOM OUTREACH

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newsletter

DESTROYING THE MEDIATORSHIP OF CHRIST

SALVATION IN THE WATCHTOWER WITHOUT CHRIST

by M. KURT GOEDELMAN

The Watchtower Society always has tried to downgrade the person of Jesus Christ and the atoning work of His death. Jehovah's Witnesses proclaim their belief that Jesus is not God but "a god" who was Michael the Archangel and possessed only some of the divine attributes.¹

Since Witnesses believe Jesus is not God, they consider Him unworthy of their worship. While every Witness is taught to view God the Son in this manner, many Watchtower followers are surprised to learn of what former Jehovah's Witness Duane Magnani calls a "secret doctrine of Jehovah's Witnesses": the teaching that Jesus Christ is not the savior and mediator for most Witnesses.²

Although hidden during earlier times, the Society's teaching on Christ's mediation now has become clear.

First, the Watchtower claims that Jesus did not come to Earth as Christ the savior, but was given this role at age 30. The Watchtower book *Things In Which It Is Impossible For God To Lie* says on page 211: "As regards to Jesus, according to the angel's announcement at Bethlehem he was to become a 'Savior, who is Christ the Lord.' When did he become Christ or 'Anointed One?' ... Not at birth, but at thirty years of age Jesus became Christ or Anointed One." Watchtower writers have given a new meaning to the angel's announcement by adding to the biblical text the word "become." Luke 2:11 clearly states that the angel announced "for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord." Scripture testifies that at His birth Jesus already was the Christ, not that He was to become the Christ.

However, the Nov. 15, 1979, *Watchtower*

emphasizes on pages 24-27 that Jesus Christ acts as a mediator only for a select few: those the Watchtower regards as the 144,000 anointed Christians. Members of this group, who also are referred to as "spiritual Israelites," are those who, according to Witness teaching, will reign in the heavenly kingdom. The April 1, 1979, *Watchtower* stresses on page 31 that in a "strict Biblical sense Jesus is the 'mediator' only for anointed Christians."

As one would expect, the Society must twist God's Word to support this doctrine. Two distinct examples of how the organization has changed God's word are found in separate citations of 1 Timothy 2:5,6. Watchtower writers said on page 26 of the Nov. 15, 1979, *Watchtower*: "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, a man, Christ Jesus, who gave himself a corresponding ransom for all (or, for all kinds of people, margin) - this is what is to be witnessed to at its own particular time." Again, in the same article, the passage is cited and made to state, "There is one God, and one mediator between God and men (not all men), a man, Christ Jesus, who gave himself a corresponding ransom for all" (emphasis added).

As the Society becomes more outspoken and dogmatic in its claim to be the sole channel for biblical truth, it also seeks to keep from its followers the fact that its founder, Charles T. Russell, openly taught that all Watchtower adherents belonged to this "anointed" group. Russell asserted: "Here I first saw that the great privilege of becoming joint-heirs with Christ and partakers with him of the divine nature was confirmed exclusively to those who would

share with him in self-sacrifice in the service of the truth."³

Hidden also from present-day Witnesses is Russell's teaching that Watchtower adherents would inherit the same divine nature possessed by Jesus. The October-November 1881 edition of *Zion's Watch Tower* says on page 297:

"We see then, that the Divine nature comes to the church, as to Jesus, as a reward from the Father Jehovah for the race of faith well run, for the crucifixion - sacrifice, of human nature ... We conclude then that the titles, Mighty God and Everlasting Father, are titles which fully understood, are very appropriate to Our Lord Jesus Christ. And we might add that so perfectly is his bride - body - church, associated with him, both in filling up the measure of the sufferings - being joined in sacrifice and also in Glory that shall follow, that the same titles are applicable to the Church as his body - for 'He that hath freely given us Christ, shall he not with him also freely give us all things?' 'Therefore all things are yours, and ye are Christ's and Christ is God's (el - powerful one) to rule and bless the nations - and the body with the head, shall share in the work of restoring the life lost in Adam, and therefore be members of that company which as a whole will be the Everlasting Father to the restored race."

Russell, in the following issue of his publication, again elevated his followers to Godhood. Announcing, "Ye are Gods," he concluded that "When we claim on the scriptural warrant, that we are begotten of a divine nature and Jehovah is thus our

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EDITORIALS

PUBLICLY CRITICIZING PUBLIC TEACHERS

We who serve the Lord in cult ministries know the cost of telling the truth. Even though we at PFO strive to speak the truth in a spirit of love, our words are not always interpreted as being loving. When our material exposes false teachings promulgated by groups generally recognized as cults, it usually is well-received. But from time to time we are criticized for exposing heresies spread by those generally considered to be within the Church. We have been told, "Your job is to expose heresy within the cults!" However, we see heresy as heresy, wherever and by whomever it is taught.

False teaching within the church is not new to Christians. Paul (Acts 20:28-31), John (1 John 4:1-3), Peter (2 Peter 2:1-3) and Jude (Jude 3) all warned against it. One does not become immune to Satan's deceptions immediately upon joining the body of Christ.

However, when approaching the heresies within the Church, some will cite Matthew 18:15, calling this the method to use in settling doctrinal disputes. Is this the proper method? Should one seek counsel or reconciliation before printing an article? Dr. Jay E. Adams, in his book *Grist From Adams Mill*, answers these questions. We think his comments bear reprinting here.

"Two brothers who differ may not break off fellowship so long as neither denies the Gospel and both are willing to discuss their differences. The discussion of differences, in the right spirit, whereby both seek to know what God Himself teaches rather than to cling to their own interpretation of it, ought to be an exciting and profitable exchange. 'Iron sharpens iron.' And, even when the two end up unable to come to an agreement, there is no reason for them to become disagreeable about it. They can agree to point out the differences and to work for the viewpoints which each holds. There may even be the necessity for one of them to speak against some publicly expressed views of his brother whose friendship he cherishes, but without breaking Christian fellowship. For instance, I appreciate much that Bill Gothard has done and believe that, on the whole, his work has been a blessing to many homes and to the church in general. I also hold him as a friend. But I don't agree with all that he teaches, and I feel just as free as he does to teach what I believe publicly, though it may differ with his viewpoint. Yet we have not broken friendship over our

differences. I am thankful that he is the kind of Christian brother with whom I can differ without it coming between us."

"Then, of course, some simply whine to everyone who will listen to them about how terribly their brother has slandered them: 'Look what he did: he wrote this article disagreeing with me.' Certainly no one should libel another in print or slander him in private conversation; both are surely against biblical norms (cf. Eph 4:32; James 4:11). If, in fact, that was done, he sinned and should be confronted about it, but the person sinned against also ought not go all over the place telling others about it, perhaps in the act himself slandering his brother. He should approach the one who wronged him in the spirit of Matthew 18:15 and Luke 17:3 to seek to bring about reconciliation."

"So often, the disagreement in an article is taken personally when no personal affront is intended or should have been inferred. Some Christian brothers are so sensitive that they take the mere fact of disagreement as a personal attack on them. Public disagreement over a view is not slander. But the one who complains about it to others should be careful because the complaint itself, wrongly leveled at the critic, may constitute slander."

"Any Christian who sets himself up as a teacher in the church of Christ and publicly teaches anything thereby opens himself up for criticism by others (cf. James 3:1). If they think what he is teaching is harmful to the church, they have an obligation to point it out just as widely as it was taught. Such public warning or debate on the topic should not be considered a personal attack at all. The teacher's plea that a critic should first have come to him about his disagreement on the basis of Matthew 18:15 does not hold. This passage has to do with personal wrongs known only between the two, who should privately discuss the matter that separate them. What a critic of a public teaching does in pointing out his disagreement with that teaching has nothing to do with personal affronts or lack of reconciliation; he is simply disagreeing at the same public level as that on which the teaching was given in the first place."

—MKG

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PSYCHICS HAD BAD YEAR, SAYS SKEPTIC

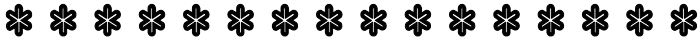
California has not slipped into the ocean. Mr. T was not struck by lightning and Sen. Edward Kennedy did not elope with his secretary.

None of this came as a surprise to Robert Sheaffer of the Bay Area Skeptics, a group dedicated to keeping track of predictions made by psychics. Among other predictions that did not come true in 1984, according to an Associated Press story about Sheaffer and his group, were:

- Jeanne Dixon's prophecy that Cuban agents would take over two small Latin American countries;
- her prediction that drug scandals would leave the outcome of the 1984 Olympics in doubt;
- and her prediction that Richard Burton was very likely to step back into Elizabeth Taylor's life. Burton died last August.

But Sheaffer admitted that even psychics are right once in a while. He cited psychic Ms. Mousalam's accurate prediction that a woman would run for vice president on the Democratic ticket, a forecast also made by columnist Jack Anderson.

—KAM



DISCUSSION OF WITNESS BELIEFS ALLOWED IN CUSTODY CASE

The Colorado Supreme Court ruled on Jan. 13 that trial judges may consider a parent's religious beliefs in deciding child custody.

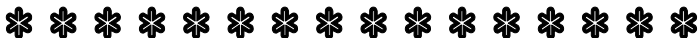
In reversing the state's Court of Appeals, the Supreme Court said that evidence about a parent's religious practices was admissible if it was likely that those practices would harm the child's physical or mental development.

The ruling came out of a custody fight between Carl and Laramie Short, who were divorced in 1980. At the time, their two sons were ages 2 and 4.

The trial judge agreed to admit evidence on whether the mother would comply with a court-ordered blood transfusion for the children in the case of a medical emergency. Evidence regarding other beliefs and practices of Jehovah's Witnesses and their potential effect on the development of the children was not admitted.

Custody was awarded to the mother, but the case has been sent back to a lower court for further hearings. The evidence that was disallowed now may be reintroduced.

—KAM



"I WANT MY MOON TV"

The Unification Church, in its effort to appear to be the "church down the street," is distributing videotapes to Christian pastors and others in the field of Christian education. The three 2-hour tapes explain Unification theology.

The series of lectures are presented by such Unification Church spokesmen as President Mose Durst and the Rev.

Patrick Hickey. The taped sessions, titled "The Unification Principles," cover such topics as "The Fall of Man," "The Purpose of The Messiah" and "The Second Coming." According to the January 1985 issue of *Today's World* magazine, Moon's followers are duplicating 9,000 tapes daily.

In addition to being a public relations tool, these tapes may be part of an effort to bolster Unification Church membership in the United States. According to articles in *The Washington Post* (Sept. 16-17, 1984) church leader Rev. Sun Myung Moon expressed disappointment in 1982 because there were only 2,000 members in the U.S. — a number far below the church's expectations.

If your home church has received a set of these tapes and would like to properly dispose of them, please send them to PFO-Midwest for placement in our research library.

—MKG



est PROGRAM RETIRED

Werner Erhard, founder of est, the "self-help" program that indoctrinated about a million people into a Hindu-oriented world view, conducted his final seminar in mid-December.

In place of est, Erhard will present "The Forum." An Erhard press release says The Forum promises, in two weekends and for \$525, "to hash out those very issues which are at the heart of the matter of being human." Erhard's releases added that The Forum was made possible by "a remarkable breakthrough in our work."

Another est official said, "The nature of the breakthrough involves what it means to be something."

In 1981, est reached the peak of its popularity with 58,000 sign-ups. By 1984, that number had fallen by about 10,000. est officials say there is no connection between the enrollment decline and the introduction of The Forum.

est officials also denied that the changes were related to an Internal Revenue Service audit that could cost the est organization about \$1 million or to divorce proceedings involving Erhard and his wife, who, according to court documents, is seeking a cut of Forum revenues.

—KAM



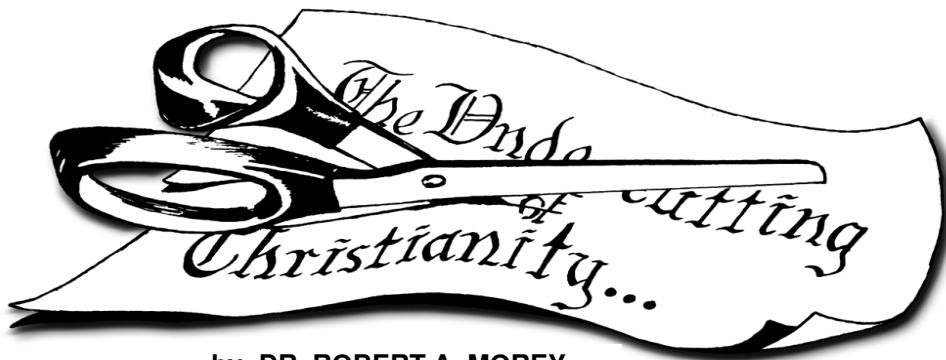
GROUPS CRITICIZE DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS

The role-playing game Dungeons and Dragons has been a factor in causing at least nine suicides and murders, say two citizens groups.

The two groups, Bothered About Dungeons and Dragons (BADD) and the National Coalition on Television Violence (NCTV) have asked that warnings be put on all books made for the game, which is manufactured by TSR Hobbies in Lake Geneva, Wis., and have urged that a counteradvertising campaign be launched to inform the public about the game's effects.

The evidence the groups cited came from police and newspaper reports and from interviews with relatives of the victims. The evidence documented a pattern of youths becoming

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by DR. ROBERT A. MOREY

Undercutting a religion is a perilous business. The disciplines of archaeology and textual criticism tend to crush pet theories under a pile of facts. The only safe way to undercut a religion is to maintain a fertile imagination and a dedication to endless speculation while avoiding any developments that discredit the theory.

Those who undercut religions use three basic methods. The first way is rather direct and calls for a bold spirit: Deny that the founder ever existed. Once the founder is viewed as the result of an overactive imagination, the religion can be dismissed as irrelevant. There never should be concern about "proving" the denial; one should just state it with great bravado and let the opposition run around trying to prove it wrong.

With a desire to discredit religion in general, the Rationalists of the 19th century set forth the position that such religious figures as Abraham, Moses, Buddha, Jesus and Paul never lived.

Because of the success of archaeology and related disciplines, no "up-to-date" scholar seriously questions that the founders of the major religions did in fact exist. All the archaeological evidence unearthed so far supports the historicity of the founders. Of course, there will be those who have not kept abreast of recent developments and are still educationally in the 19th century. One still hears now and then that Moses could not have written the Torah because there was no writing in his day.

When the evidence prevents one from denying that the founder existed, the second method is to be used: Drive a wedge between the founder and the religion that followed him. If a religion can be divorced from its founder by a demonstration that the religion does not believe or practice what the founder did, the religion has been discredited.

If it also can be established that the religion obtained its beliefs and practices from some religious leader who arose after the founder and who corrupted the teachings of the founder, so much the better. Many critics try to demonstrate that the leader actually derived his concepts from religions the founder viewed with hostility. Make the leader the "real" founder of that

religion.

Now for the third method: Categorically deny the reliability of the original writings of the religion and state that these writings were tampered with by corrupt religious leaders. While doing this, ignore the science of textual criticism at all costs. Never try to "prove" that the text was corrupted. Just state that it was and go on with the argument.

This method is particularly useful when faced with a statement in the original documents that contradicts your theory. Always remember to argue in a circle. Whenever the documents state something you can use, the documents are to be viewed as "reliable" and "authentic" at that point. But whenever the documents contradict the held position, always claim that those statements are "interpolations." In this way, anything that would refute the position can be dismissed.

Perhaps an illustration of how these methods have been applied to both Judaism and Christianity will prove helpful.

JUDAISM

1. Abraham, Moses, David, etc. never existed. They are myths.

CHRISTIANITY

Jesus, Paul and the Apostles never existed.

JUDAISM

2. Moses is not the founder of Judaism. The Torah is the work of subsequent leaders and does not reflect the beliefs or practices of Moses. The origin of Judaism is to be found in the ancient pagan religions. The Writings and the Prophets did not interpret the Law of Moses. They corrupted it.

CHRISTIANITY

Jesus is not the founder of Christianity. The Gospels are the work of subsequent leaders and do not reflect the beliefs or practices of Jesus. Paul and the apostles developed Christianity from the religions around them. The New Testament Epistles did not interpret the teaching of Jesus. They corrupted it.

JUDAISM

3. The Jewish Bible is historically unreliable. It is composed of groundless myths.

CHRISTIANITY

The Christian Bible is historically unreliable. It is composed of groundless myths.

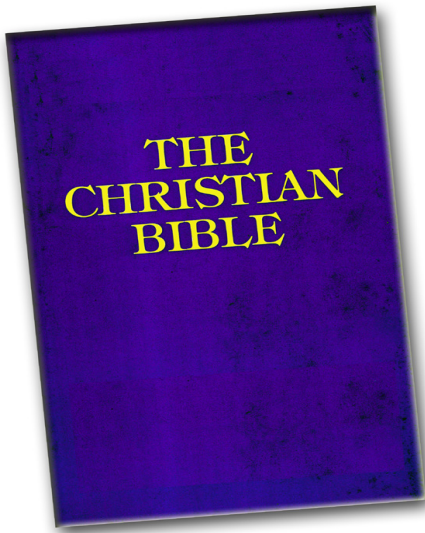
A CASE IN POINT

In the August 1984 issue of *Commentary*, Hyam Maccoby resurrects a theory originally developed by William Wrede in 1904 in his book *Paulus*. Wrede stated that Paul was the true founder of Christianity and that Paul's religion was not the religion of Jesus. This was further developed by Martin Bruckner in 1908. In his *Der Sterbende und Auferstehende Gotteiland* he claimed that Paul derived Christianity from the Greek mystery cults. This was repeated again by Wilhelm Bousset in his *Kyrious Christos* in 1913. It was answered by the great Princeton scholar Gresham Machen in his *Origin of Paul's Religion* in 1925. The Dutch scholar H. Ridderbos brought the debate up to date once again in 1958 in his *Paul and Jesus*. The facts are as follows.

- The historicity of Jesus and His Apostles cannot be denied.
- A wedge cannot be arbitrarily driven between Paul and Jesus.
- Christianity is the religion founded by Jesus and expounded by the Apostles (Paul included). It is always forgotten that the New Testament is composed of books written by such Apostles as Peter and John. There is no evidence that the Apostles who had lived with Jesus felt that Paul was contradicting Jesus.
- Christianity cannot be reduced to Jewish Apocalypticism. The attempt to identify the New Testament concept of the person and work of Jesus with various intertestamental movements or literature has borne no fruit whatsoever. Jesus did not fit the apocalyptic picture of the Messiah who was expected to come.
- Christianity cannot be reduced to the Greek mystery religions. There is no evidence that the mystery religions existed before the appearance of Christianity. None of them had the concept of a substitutionary atonement and bodily resurrection that is found in the New Testament. Further research since 1908 has demonstrated that the attempt to identify the annual fall (death) and spring (resurrection) festivals of pagan fertility gods such as Osiris, Attis, etc. with the New Testament concept of the person and work of Jesus can no longer be viewed as valid.

What is our response to Hyam Maccoby and the writers on which he depends? They merely repeat the old arguments from 1908. They do not give any evidence of having read Machen's classic work on Paul, which stands against their theory. They simply use the game plan outlined in the first section of this article. Thus they treat the New Testament as if the reliability

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TURMOIL IN TRANSLATION LAND



by REV. G. RICHARD FISHER

With the popularity of trivia and trivia games today, we could pose a Bible translation question: Which Bible combines parts of the four Gospels into one, adds apocryphal and non-canonical books and is the only New Testament that is claimed to be the recovered, uncorrupted Bible?

Answer: *The Christian Bible* by Carl Austin.

In a color brochure, Austin says his Bible "explains the unexplainable" and restores "the full significance of Jesus' teachings," which have been lost to mankind.¹

Eternity magazine, in a book review, capsulized Austin's new Bible in an article, "Books in Sight":

"Then there's also Babble in Babledom Something called *The Christian Bible*, recently published by National Publishing Co., should not pass the Truth in Packaging standards. Prepared by Carl Austin, a 77-year-old layman now residing in North Carolina, this 'Bible' 'improves' on the basic King James text (Austin used Strong's Concordance, he says, to find out what the translation should have been) and compresses the four Gospels into one. Then as a bonus he adds a number of non-canonical books like 'The Epistles of Jesus and King Abgarus,' 'The Fragments of the Lost Gospel of Peter' and 'The Shepherd of Hermas.' This is not the kind of book responsible Christian bookstores will sell."²

In another book, called *The Keys of the Kingdom*, Carl Austin claims that he has "uncovered new knowledge about the true meaning and intent of Jesus' ministry which has been hidden since the first Bible was established in the 4th century."³ This kind of elitism or restorationism is the claim of just about every cult that comes down the pike. It is a sure mark of error.

The errors and mistranslations in Austin's so-called Bible and writings are too numerous to deal with in this brief article.⁴

It would be helpful, however, to point out two major errors in Austin's system.

1. HIS PRESENTATION OF CHRIST

Antitrinitarianism – the rejection of the Christian and biblical doctrine of the triune God – has flourished from the 2nd-century Gnostics until today.⁵ Austin follows in this line of heresy when he says, "Christians are taught that Jesus was the son of Jehovah. Even less understandable is the explanation of the Trinity which would have us believe that Jesus was Jehovah in the flesh."⁶

Compare Austin's statement to that of Peter Toon, "...the word *kyrios* (Lord) was used in the Septuagint to translate the Hebrew name of God, YHWH (transliterated as "Jehovah" or "Yahweh"). In the first Christian preaching and teaching, texts from the Old Testament which refer to YHWH are attributed to Jesus without any preceding explanations (for example, Romans 10:9-13 and Hebrews 1:5-13) ... The supreme name of Lord is the name given to Jesus."⁷

Austin's Jesus is not a Jew by birth and is seen as an upwardly evolving spirit who had to be instructed by other spirits, one of which became his father. All of this was dictated to Austin by a "voice in his head." He says Jesus was the reincarnation of Zoroaster, founder of the Persian religion of Zoroastrianism in the 6th century B.C. The doctrine of reincarnation is at the heart of Austin's system, which denies Christ's atonement and bodily resurrection.⁸

2. HIS VIEW OF THE BIBLE AND CHRISTIAN HISTORY

Austin sees the Old Testament as an inferior document in no way foundational to the New Testament. His view is that the Jewish God is a creation of the Jewish people, "a god who ruled in fear of his wrath, who demanded love and obedience, who was vengeful, quick to anger, jealous, and had no compassion for any people on earth except the Israelites."⁹ His caricature of Jehovah God is bizarre and horrible.

Although Austin's writings are rambling and at times incoherent, it is clear that in regard to the above, he is knowingly or unknowingly parroting the doctrines of the 2nd-century heretic Marcion. Of that heretic, Phillip Schaff says:

"Marcion was the most earnest, the most practical and the most dangerous

among the Gnostics, full of energy and zeal for reforming, but restless, rough and eccentric. He has a remote connection with modern questions of biblical criticism and canon. He anticipated the rationalistic opposition to the Old Testament and to the Pastoral Epistles, but in a very arbitrary and unscrupulous way. He could see only superficial differences in the Bible, not the deeper harmony. He was utterly destitute of historical sense, and put Christianity into a radical conflict with all previous revelations of God; as if God had neglected the world for thousands of years until he suddenly appeared in Christ. He represents and extreme anti-Jewish and pseudo-Pauline tendency, and a magical supranaturalism which, in fanatical zeal for a pure primitive Christianity, nullifies all history, and turns the Gospel into an abrupt, unnatural, phantomlike appearance. ... He wrote a recension of the Gospel of Luke and the Pauline Epistles, and a work on the contradictions between the Old and New Testaments. Justin Martyr regarded him as the most formidable heretic of his day."

Schaff goes on to say that Marcion saw Jehovah as the "finite, imperfect, angry Jehovah of the Jews." That view is much like Austin's. Finally, "The God of the Old Testament is harsh, severe and unmerciful. Marcion rejected all the books of the Old Testament and wrested Christ's words in Matthew 5:17 into the very opposite declaration, I am come not to fulfill the Law and the Prophets, but to destroy them.' In his view, Christianity had no connection whatever with the past, whether of the Jewish or the heathen world, but has fallen abruptly and magically as it were from heaven."¹⁰

To deny the unity of the Bible is to rob the believer of all of the types and prophecies of the Old Testament. Surely Austin has violated the warning of Revelation 22:18-19.

To create a false dichotomy in seeing only wrath in the Old Testament and only love in the New Testament is to distort the fact that both God's love and God's wrath are taught in both testaments. Jesus' continued dependence on the Old Testament (Matthew 4:4, 7,10; Matthew 12:17-21; Luke 4:16-20) clearly shows us the unity of the Bible.

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MEDIATORSHIP

(from page 1)

father, it is claiming that we are divine beings – hence all such are Gods.” Absent from Russell’s assertion that we can become gods is any reminder of Satan’s lie to Eve in the Garden, “You will become like God!” (Genesis 3:5), Lucifer’s fall from glory for wishing to be as God (Isaiah 14:14ff) and words from Yahweh Himself, stating that “The gods that did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens” (Jeremiah 10:11).

When membership began to increase during the late 1930s, the Watchtower Society began to stray from Russell’s teaching of who belonged to the anointed. By the time the Aug. 15, 1945, issue of the *Watchtower* was published, Witnesses were told that they could not all currently be regarded as children of God. On page 253 of that issue, it was written: “he is not yet giving the ‘other sheep’ the standing of sons of his, sons of ‘The everlasting Father’.” (Isa. 9:6) But these faithful ones will become such during his thousand-year reign after Armageddon; and now, by virtue of the prospect of eventually becoming Jehovah’s perfect sons, they address him prospectively as ‘Our Father.’”

The Watchtower demonstrates its departure from biblical Christianity in its offering of little hope and no security of eternal life for the average Jehovah’s Witness. With Christ Jesus’ role as mediator greatly reduced and more than 2.5 million Jehovah’s Witnesses in need of a Savior, the Society can conveniently maintain its teaching of a “Christ class,” an entire group of mediators. This doctrine was clearly warned against by Jesus when He cautioned that false Christs would arise (Matthew 24:24).

In light of current Watchtower doctrine, the unanointed Jehovah’s Witness must look elsewhere for his salvation and for someone to intercede for him. Unanointed Witnesses are taught they will get these blessings from the “Christ class” – the remnant of the 144,000 now living on the Earth today.⁴

The Nov. 15, 1979, *Watchtower* magazine says on page 27, “To keep in relationship with ‘our Savior, God,’ the ‘great crowd’ (made up of other Jehovah’s Witnesses) needs to remain united with the remnant of spiritual Israelites.” The Aug. 1, 1981, *Watchtower* then addresses and defines the conditions for eternal life. On page 26, it states, “Your attitude toward the ‘wheatlike anointed brothers’ of Christ and the treatment you accord them, will be the determining factor as to whether you go into ‘everlasting cutting-off’ or receive ‘everlasting life.’”

Further, a false basis for this “Christ class” teaching has been smuggled into God’s Word by the twisted rendering of Scripture in the Society’s *New World Translation*. Second Corinthians 5:20 has been distorted to say: “We are therefore ambassadors **substituting** for Christ, as though God were making entreaty through us. As **substitutes** for Christ we beg: ‘Become reconciled to God’” (emphasis added). The in-house Watchtower publication *Organized To Accomplish Our Ministry* on page 6 quotes this twisted passage and seeks to establish in the minds of Jehovah’s Witnesses that the anointed remnant substitutes for Christ Jesus. In this way, the present Watchtower leadership – called the “anointed brothers” – seeks to keep rank-and-file Jehovah’s Witnesses enslaved to its wishes and direction. The Society’s leaders again have demonstrated that they will stop at nothing to propagate their “doctrines of demons.”

The Bible is clear in its message. One does not need an organization to interpret God’s Word, nor does anyone need to add to it to clarify its meaning. The eternal God, creator of the universe, became man and dwelt among us. He freely offered His human life, shedding His blood in atonement for our sins. The Apostle Paul clearly proclaims the Gospel: that Christ was crucified, died, was buried and on the third day arose from the grave. The sacrifice that Jesus made and His present mediatorship is not limited to a small number, but is available to all, with the added security that these have eternal life (John 5:24, 10:27, 28). Scripture is clear that there is only one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5, 6). The Watchtower claims the man Jesus is dead and the Society’s leaders must substitute for Him.⁵ Jesus is not dead, but fully alive and able to save completely those who come to God through Him (Hebrews 7:25).

ENDNOTES:

1. *The Watchtower*, December 15, 1984, pp. 26-29. *Let God Be True* (Second Edition), pp. 31-41.
2. For photocopies of key Watchtower quotes concerning this doctrine, write: Duane Magnani, Witness, Inc., P.O. Box 597, Clayton, CA 94517. Please include \$2.50 for printing and postage costs.
3. *The Watch Tower*, April 25, 1894 (special issue), pg. 111.
4. Current statistics show 9,081 of the anointed still alive. This figure is based on the number of Memorial Partakers – those who partake of communion when it is served yearly to the local Watchtower congregations – during 1984 as recorded in the *1985 Yearbook of Jehovah’s Witnesses*, pg. 31. See also *Watchtower*, January 1, 1985, page 25. For more information on the Watchtower’s annual Memorial, see PFO Newsletter, Vol. 4, No. 2, pg. 4.
5. Russell, Charles T., *Studies in the Scriptures*, Vol. 5, pg. 454.

AUSTIN BIBLE

(from page 5)

William Childs Robinson illuminates the interplay of wrath and mercy in both Testaments:

“The O[ld] T[estament] description of God as ‘slow to anger and plenteous in mercy’ is best understood as a blessed revelation full of wonder and awe. For only he who apprehends the reality of God’s wrath is overpowered by the magnitude of his mercy, as it is declared in Isa. 54:7-10 or in the ASV reading of Ps. 30:5, ‘His anger is but for a moment, his favor is for a lifetime.’ As mercy gets the upper hand in these O[ld] T[estament] passages, so the ultimate N[ew] T[estament] word is the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father made ours in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.”

“Accordingly, the way of escape from the wrath of the Almighty is abundantly presented in both testaments. While man’s puny efforts are insufficient, God’s own heart of love provides a way of salvation. He calls men to repent, to return unto himself, to receive his forgiveness and renewal. He receives the intercession of his servants – Abraham, Moses, Eleazar, and Jeremiah – for his people; and himself provides the O[ld] T[estament] sacrificial system by which his wrath may be averted.”

“In the N[ew] T[estament] the call is to faith, to repentance, to baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus who saves us from the wrath to come (1 Thess. 1:9-10). For when we are justified by his blood and reconciled by his death we shall be saved from the wrath by his life (Rom. 5:9-10). The most

poignant word about God’s punishment is that it is the wrath of the Lamb (q.v.) who took upon himself and bore the sins of the world.”¹¹

Carl Austin’s writings are rambling and repetitious without a trace of footnotes or documentation. Some other false teachings found in Austin’s writings are:

- Evolution of men from beasts.
- Spiritual guides or “Holy Spirits” who answer our prayers.
- Sin as being only man-oriented. It is defined by Austin as one man hurting another.
- Prayer defined as good thoughts toward others – well-wishing.
- Man’s own body is the only church needed.
- The inherent goodness of man seen as the only god. “Father in heaven” repre-

(continued on page 7)

sents man's goodness, a sort of mystical humanism.

- Kneeling in prayer absolutely wrong.
- Permission to address prayer to people in heaven.¹²

Austin denies the orthodox view of heaven and hell as well. Wherever Scripture disagrees with Austin's teachings he changes it to agree. We totally reject "Babble in Babledom" Carl Austin's gross distortion of God's Word. Austin's system is a bizarre metaphysical labyrinth in which he comes close to saying he is the third appearance of Jesus Christ.¹³ His *Christian Bible* is neither Christian, nor a Bible.

ENDNOTES

1. Carl Austin, Bible Foundation Brochure, Whispering Pines, N.C.
- 2 *Eternity* magazine, Nov. 1983, pg. 98. Austin says he was born near Philadelphia in 1909.

3. Carl Austin, *Keys of the Kingdom*, Whispering Pines, N.C., 1976.
4. For an excellent treatment of spurious books, see Edgar Goodspeed's *Famous Biblical Hoaxes or Modern Apocrypha* and H.S. Miller's *Studies in the Four Gospels*, chapter 5, "Apocryphal Gospels." Austin's Abgar legend dates to about the 4th century. These spurious books usually are appealed to in order to support some heresy.
5. B.B. Warfield, *Selected Shorter Writings*, Vol. 1, Presbyterian and Reformed Publishers, Phillipsburg, N.J., Article, Antitrinitarianism, pp. 88-92.
6. Carl Austin, "The Christian Light," Vol. 1, No. 2, Sept./Oct. 1984, pg. 4.
7. Peter Toon, *The Ascension of Our Lord*, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, Tenn., pp. 40-41.
8. For more information on the subject of reincarnation, see PFO Newsletter, Vol.4, No. 3, July/Sept. 1984, pages 4-5.
9. Carl Austin, op. cit. This claim occasionally has been taught by liberals. See *Neo Liberalism*

- by Robert Lightner, Regular Baptist Press.
10. Phillip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, Vol. 2, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Mich., pp. 482-485.
 11. Robinson in Everett Harrison, Editor, *Baker's Dictionary of Theology*, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Mich., Article, "Wrath," pg. 562.
 12. All of these incredible heresies are taught in the space of 14 pages in Carl Austin's booklet, *Prayer As Taught by Jesus of Nazareth*, Carl Austin Bible Foundation, Whispering Pines, N.C., 1976.
 13. This claim is made on page 24 of *Keys of the Kingdom*. This book is anti-Semitic as well. Jewish worship even in Christ's time is seen as akin to voodoo worship (pg. 21). Some of Austin's views are so incredibly weird one wonders whether to dignify them with an answer. For instance, when people especially good die, their spirits occupy healing shrines in Canada or France or they dwell in the bodies of whomever they please. People who were particularly bad remain disembodied after death in haunted houses or in stones.

UNDERCUTTING

(from page 4)

of statements in the Gospels depends entirely on whether they "fit" into their preconceived notions.

After looking at all the options, we can only conclude that no one has clearly established any historical, human source for Christianity. Perhaps we should be honest enough to admit that some of the concepts found in the New Testament were unique and that they cannot be reduced to anything in the Hebrew or Hellenistic world.

Any investigation into the origins of Christianity cannot neglect to examine the passages from the Law and Prophets which

Jesus and the Apostles interpreted in the New Testament. After all, the Apostles claimed that Jesus was the Messiah because He fulfilled the messianic prophecies in the Old Testament. They never appealed to apocalyptic works. If they were right, then Christianity developed from the Old Testament and not from contemporary Judaism or paganism.

Neither can we neglect the existential impact of the visions which the Apostles claimed to have received from God. These visions revealed new things to them. Why should we arbitrarily assume that these revelations were simply borrowed ideas from contemporary Judaism or paganism? Why can't they be new? Peter's vision

concerning the Gentiles (Acts 10) or the revelations which Paul claimed to receive from the heavenly Jesus (Galatians 1) and the other visions recorded in the New Testament can no longer be ignored.

In conclusion, there are no solid reasons for viewing Paul as the sole founder of Christianity. The attempt to do so has always come from individuals who wish to undercut Christianity. They cannot be viewed as impartial researchers, but as people with an ax to grind.

We must also beware of using a methodology to undercut another religion which, if applied to our own religion, would destroy it as well. What is sauce for the gander will always end up as sauce for the goose!

NEWS UPDATE

(from page 3)

deeply involved in the game, the groups said. Suicide notes and other details connecting the deaths with the game have been found with the bodies, the groups said.

Thomas Radecki, a psychiatrist at the University of Illinois School of Medicine and chairman of the NCTV, said: "The evidence in these cases is really quite impressive. There is no doubt in my mind that the game Dungeons and Dragons is causing young men to kill themselves and others. The game is one of non-stop combat and violence. Although I am sure the people at TSR mean no harm, that is exactly what their games are causing. Based on player interviews and game materials, it is clear to me that this game is desensitizing players to violence and also causing an increased tendency to violent behavior."

—KAM



KNOWLEDGE OF WORLD TAKEOVER CLAIMED

Given the number of conspiracy theories around today, it comes as no surprise to find another claim of the discovery of

the real "body of the octopus" controlling all the organizations in the world.

A-Albionic Consulting and Research, of Ferndale, Mich., claims to have the inside story on the world conspiracy and will reveal all in its upcoming newsletters. In its November 1984 Newsletter, "Premier Issue - the Project," the organization states: "Our major hypothesis, as indicated in the masthead, is that there is a master world conspiracy and that it consists of an ancient and evolving power group best identified as the New British Empire."

For those unaware of the significance of the N.B.E. and its control mechanism, the City, please see Carol Quigley and Knuth in the reading list. The City is the Bank of England and its surrounding governmentally autonomous financial district where sit the Ceasars of world finance to exercise the control of the global money cartel."

A-Albionic goes on to refute conspiritologists Gary Allen of the John Birch Society and Cleon Skousen for overemphasizing communism as the greatest threat. Then the claim is made again "that the N.B.E. functions as a multi-headed beast, or power organism in all areas of human endeavor." According to this extreme theory, the Illuminati, the Masons and the Knights of the Golden Circle are all controlled by the N.B.E. Regarding this new, far-fetched fantasy, we can only respond in the words of 1 Timothy 1:4: "Neither give heed to fables."

—GRF



BOOKS IN REVIEW

THE ORWELLIAN WORLD OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

by Heather and Gary Botting

University of Toronto Press, 213 pages, \$11.95

Books written by former Jehovah's Witnesses keep coming out. Hence, a new book with an original approach to the topic is getting rare. But Heather and Gary Botting have come up with one: a book that compares the Watchtower Society to George Orwell's vision of society of his book *1984*.

The parallels do exist. There is "Jehovah as Big Brother"; "Truth" as the Watchtower Society sees it and as *1984's* Party say it; treatment of those who question the Society's/Party's "Truth"; and Watchtower "doublethink."

While much of the Bottings' material on Watchtower doctrine, history, false prophecy and current upheaval can be found in other volumes, there are a few things pointed out in Watchtower literature that have escaped the eyes of other Watchtower watchers.

The book's style and use of illustrations from Watchtower and Awake! magazines and other Society publications make it easy and quick to read. A glossary and list of notable dates in Watchtower history are included and add to the book's value as a reference work.

There are a few typographical errors that should be cleared up for the sake of accuracy. For example, H.C. Covington, who once was the Society's legal counsel, repeatedly is referred to as H.G. Covington and the reference to Adventist William Miller's prediction that Christ would return in 1944 should read 1844.

The Bottings also might want to clear up their stand on the creation/evolution controversy when they critique the Society's book, *Did Man Get Here by Creation or Evolution?*, as they seem committed to evolution.

We applaud the Bottings for effectively showing that the Watchtower Society is not God's organization. It is a shame they

did not take time at the end of the Book to show people how to join God's true "organization," the Body of Christ, by making Him their Lord and Savior. While many books include this item, a Jehovah's Witness or other interested person may never see those works and this may be the only time he receives a presentation of the Gospel.

—MKG



HERESIES, THE IMAGE OF CHRIST THE MIRROR OF HERESY AND ORTHODOXY FROM THE APOSTLES TO THE PRESENT

by Harold O. J. Brown

Doubleday, New York, 477 pages, \$17.95

Cults have for centuries distorted the image of Jesus and posited a false Christ while Christians have defended the doctrines of His deity and the Holy Trinity.

Now, Harold Brown, former professor at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, has assembled a great body of research on the history of Christology. It tells the story of how succeeding generations of Christians tried to understand Jesus Christ and the Trinity.

In this book, readers will meet the Arians, the Monophysites, the Paulicians, the Bogomils and many others. Brown describes and traces the development of heresies concerning Jesus through the history of the Church. Then Brown shows "the positive side of heresy," or "what orthodoxy owes to heresy."

This reviewer is aware of no other book that deals so thoroughly with this subject. Brown pulls all the sources together and examines antitrinitarianism through the centuries. Brown does an admirable job in showing clearly from Scripture and Church history the true Christ.

The information in this book is heavy artillery against the antitrinitarian cults of today. Seventeen pages of extensive footnotes make this volume an excellent reference work for the serious students of Church history and the cult fighter who wants to be well-armed and well-informed.

—GRF



Editors Note: The two books reviewed in this issue are not available from PFO. Please check with your local bookstore for availability.



NEWSLETTER

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