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The Quarterly

# JOURNAL

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PERSONAL FREEDOM OUTREACH



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## Salvation in the Watchtower

### Do Jehovah's Witnesses Benefit from "One Mediator Between God and Men?"

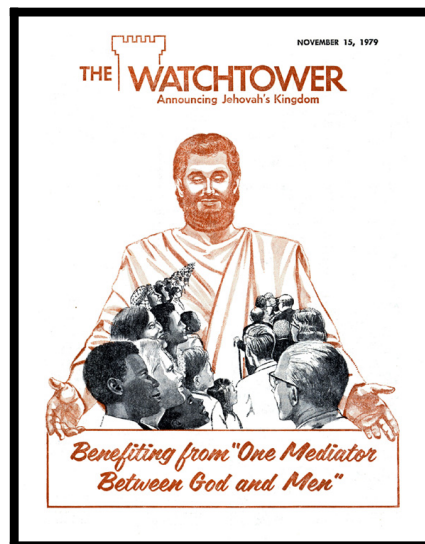
by Stephen W. Ignatius

Jesus loves everyone. He laid down the glory He had with the Father (John 17:5) to become a man, the kinsman redeemer to die for everyone's sins. (See Isaiah 47:4 where the kinsman redeemer, In Hebrew [go'al], is called by the divine name YHWH.)

John 3:16 says: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Satan hates all people and wants them dead — spiritually dead — by keeping them separated from God. If Satan can get a person to do something which God says will kill him spiritually, then he has succeeded. He succeeded in the Garden of Eden by persuading Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit. Pay close heed to any Bible verse which mentions a consequence or penalty involving death.

The Watchtower Society says to come to the Watchtower for salvation (**The Watchtower**, Nov. 15, 1981, pg. 21). The Society teaches that its anointed class is saved by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. All other people, referred to as the "great crowd," who are not anointed, are saved through



their relationship with the anointed.

The Watchtower also teaches that "Jehovah God will justify, declare righteous, on the basis of their own merit all perfected humans who have withstood that final, decisive test of mankind" (**Life Everlasting in Freedom of the Sons of God**, pg. 400).

The Watchtower says the great crowd is not under the new covenant

(**Aid to Bible Understanding**, pg. 389), for they are neither spirit-begotten, nor heaven-bound. This means the Watchtower teaches that they are not under the shed blood of Jesus Christ and therefore are not saved by His blood.

Instead, the Watchtower teaches, those in the great crowd are saved by their association with the anointed:

"...then by their associating with the Little Flock of those yet in that covenant, they come under benefits that flow from the new covenant" (**The Watchtower**, April 1, 1979, pg. 31).

and

"...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" (**The Watchtower**, Aug. 1, 1981, pg. 26).

This is another gospel, as warned against by Paul in Galatians 1:8.

What the Bible really teaches is that  
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# EDITORIALS

## HEALERS OR STEALERS?

I get frustrated reading books like **Authority to Heal** by Ken Blue. I am sorry that InterVarsity Press printed it. It's frustrating to see men — even well-intentioned ones — try to re-create New Testament miracles and doing such a pathetic job.

Blue tries to be a spokesman for the "signs and wonders" movement and puts forth the view that truly effective evangelism can take place only when accompanied by miracles and healings. A telling critique of the "signs and wonders" movement has been printed by Dallas Theological Seminary in its publication, **Bibliotheca Sacra** (see, "An Appraisal of the Signs and Wonders Movement," by Ken Sarles, **Bibliotheca Sacra**, Jan.-Mar. 1988).

In **Authority to Heal**, Ken Blue parrots the ideas and theories of John Wimber and C. Peter Wagner. Wagner claims to have the gift of "leg lengthening," so one can imagine how the Scriptures are used and abused by this movement. The book is confusing and, in places, contradictory. Blue states that Jesus never viewed sickness as anything but bad and that "sickness is an enemy, not a friend" (pg. 28). He then says "Jesus never preached surrender to sickness and neither should we" (pg. 31). Yet on page 31, Blue sanctions Joni Eareckson Tada's experience and makes an exception for her. Throughout the book he makes a number of exceptions.

Blue's suggestion that Paul's thorn in the flesh was just an idiomatic way of saying that some external problem was "a pain in the neck" is bizarre and foolish. Paul used the most forceful words to say that his physical infirmity was like a wooden stake driven into his body. He speaks of that "thorn" as an infirmity in II Corinthians 12:9. The physical infirmity in Greek is **astheneia**, literally weakness of body. All the verbal gymnastics in the world cannot explain that away.

The number of non-healings and "progressive" healings that Blue reports are the best refutation of his premise.

Another novel view in this book is that "the term salvation is itself interchangeable with the term healing in the New Testament" (pg. 140). Just a check of something as basic as **Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words** shows that there are three main words translated as "healing" in the New Testament. Those words are **therapeuo**, **iaomai**, and **sozo**. The word "salvation" can be correctly translated as the word "deliverance" and comes from the Greek root **soteria**.

Is Blue purposely misleading his readers or has he himself been misled? If one follows his line of logic and

equates salvation with healing, then one can only conclude that salvation must be at times progressive and at times incomplete, like the hit-and-miss healing experiences which he communicates in his publication.

Three things frustrate me about these types of healing books and the healers who promote them:

1. I wonder about those who used to be healers and now have left it behind for politics, hospital administration and other things. How can they divorce themselves so easily from that which they once claimed was the answer to the world's ills? Was the healing just a way to get public attention and a stepping stone to "better things?" How can they just walk away from it? Pretend it never happened? Can a secular calling be higher than a divine calling?

2. Why is it that healers only perform in emotion-packed, staged meetings or on television where collections are solicited and books and tapes are hawked along with holy rags and holy oil? Healers today certainly cannot say what Peter said in Acts 3:6, "Silver and gold have I none!" Blue and others can quote Matthew 10:8 ("Heal the sick") as an absolute for today even though verse 6 indicates that command was limited to Israel. However, none insists on Matthew 10:9-10, part of which says "Neither gold, silver or brass in your purses." They are selective in what they quote and misquote.

Why aren't the healers emptying out the hospitals and the convalescent homes where they are really needed? Could it be because "miracles" do not qualify for Medicaid or Blue Cross insurance?

I object that Ken Blue has a chapter in his book to teach us how to heal. I can hardly imagine Peter saying, "O.K. fellows, I'll teach you how to heal — but first buy my book." I think the idea of teaching healing in five easy steps is an affront to the Holy Spirit. I Corinthians 12:11 says emphatically that the Holy Spirit "distributes His gifts individually as He wills." I can see some misguided soul picking up on these five steps and causing havoc.

In Blue's chapter, "Getting Started," he gives "post-prayer" direction (pg. 135), which should be subtitled, "Getting Out of a Jam When Nothing Happens." He says, "For the most part, however, the symptoms associated with illness and injury disappear progressively." I just cannot imagine Jesus saying to the leper, "Now I have healed you brother — but your symptoms will disappear progressively."

3. The healers all use the cliché, "God can do anything." Of course He can. But the real point is not  
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# NEWS UPDATE

## PERSONAL FREEDOM OUTREACH TO RETURN TO FORMER MINISTRY STATUS

The planned merger of Personal Freedom Outreach and Watchman Fellowship has been called off. In April, PFO's directors began discussing its working relationship with Watchman Fellowship and voted unanimously on May 1 to cancel all merger plans.

While both ministries had approached the merger in the hopes of giving the Christian body a more effective countercult ministry through a combined effort, the work patterns and structure of the two ministries presented problems that could not be overcome.

As a result of the merger's cancellation, PFO Quarterly Journal readers no longer will receive the Watchman Expositor. However, the Journal will continue to be published each January, April, July and October. Likewise, Watchman Fellowship will cease distributing PFO's Journal to its Expositor readers.

—MKG



## NAUVOO CHRISTIAN VISITORS CENTER OPENS

In April, the Nauvoo (Ill.) Christian Visitors Center, one of Personal Freedom Outreach's major projects, became a reality.

Loans to buy the building in downtown Nauvoo were

secured last September. Restoration was finished during the winter and the Center's doors were officially opened to the public on April 23. Colleen Ralson, a former Mormon, is the Center's director.

The Center's mission is to focus on presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to give people the facts about the early history of the Mormons in Nauvoo. Nauvoo is currently a hotbed of Mormon tourism and Mormon proselytizing of out-of-town visitors.

The Center is a joint project of Personal Freedom Outreach and Watchman Fellowship. Both ministries ask for the prayers and financial gifts of their supporters in making this project successful.

—MKG



## LDS LEADER MARION ROMNEY DIES

Marion Romney, member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' Council of the Twelve, died May 19. He was 90 years old.

Romney was a member of the council for 37 years and served as a General Authority of the LDS church for 47 years. As the PFO Journal went to press, no successor had been named.

—KAM



## MOON'S SON BACK FOR A VISIT?

Unification Church founder Sun Myung Moon believes that one of his church members from Zimbabwe is the reincarnation of his late son, according to a report in the March 30 issue of The Washington Post. The incident is said to have some Unification Church members upset. Moon's son, Heung Jin Nim, died in an automobile accident in 1984. He was 17 years old.

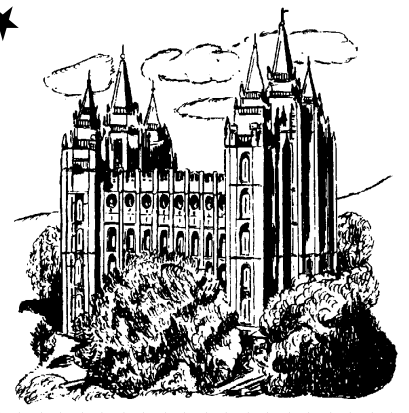
The Post article reported that last fall a senior at the Unification Church's seminary in Barrytown, N.Y., purportedly began to hear and relay messages from Moon's dead son. A former seminary student and former church member, Dick Richard, has also stated that in

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# A Habitation

# of Devils?



by Rev. Wesley P. Walters

There has been a serious misunderstanding among some of us who wish to reach Mormons with the Gospel and it needs to be set right. It concerns the recent teachings of J. Edward Decker and William J. Schnoebelen of Saints Alive in Issaquah, Wash.

The misunderstanding centers around the idea, which Schnoebelen appeared to be espousing at meetings presided over by Decker, that "the Salt Lake (Mormon) Temple is in fact a perfectly designed habitation of devils" (1987 Capstone talk).

Schnoebelen supported this idea by pointing out that this temple has spires that end in a trapezoidal shape. That shape is held by Satanist Anton LaVey and others to be a "consummate satanic art form." Trapezoids are thought to "draw demons like flypaper."

In addition, there is a repetitious use of the number six, a number which occultists identify with Satan, in the design of the building. There is also the use of the upside-down pentagram, a five pointed star with its single point facing down. These as well as other features were pointed out as marking the satanic design of the temple.

When we heard some of these comments, we thought these Saints Alive leaders were trying to get us to adopt occult principles and make them a part of our thinking. However, since we recognized that there can be no real Christian occultism, we spoke of it as pseudo-Christian occultism, which would indeed be a serious perversion of Christianity. We expressed to Saints Alive our deep concern about and objections to this and received a clarification.

Decker wrote us in a March 28 letter that Schnoebelen indeed "made reference to the trapezoid as a 'consummate satanic artform.' It was here that the phrase, 'They ... draw demons like flypaper' was used," Decker added. Then he continued by stating, "Please note that **nowhere** did Bill say that HE believed this or that Christians in general should! **He stated repeatedly that it was a 'magic...esoteric...satanic' belief.**" (emphasis his)

In further clarification Decker added, "(Schnoebelen) never said, nor attempted to prove, that such beliefs are supported by the Bible. **He was simply noting the fact that this is part of the satanic 'world view.'**" (emphasis his) We were overjoyed to have this clarification and hasten to share this with our readers.

In his letter, Decker faulted us for thinking them to be teaching a kind of "pseudo-Christian witchcraft." We confess that there was probably some obtuseness on our part, but we feel that this was partly due to a certain lack of clarity in their speaking and writing.

Here are just a few examples. When Jerald Tanner wrote an article in which he objected to the idea that trapezoidal shapes attract demons, he argued that if that were the case we should burn our dollar bills because the great U.S. seal on the back contains a trapezoid. Decker and Schnoebelen replied that this would not be necessary because "the principles" Schnoebelen shared apply only to architecture, and "do not function when we are talking about drawings." It is only "three dimensional" trapezoids that have such attraction for demons. "Only images such as statues, bas-

reliefs or buildings have intrinsic evil power."

Tanner, along with us, thought that the Saints Alive leaders were teaching that it was true that certain shapes, symbols and numbers attract demons, and that therefore such forms contain "intrinsic evil powers." We could not square this with the Bible's teachings that even an idol itself is "nothing" (I Corinthians 8:4; 10:19). It is merely "a block of wood" (Isaiah 44:19). While worship given to an idol is really given to demons (I Corinthians 10:20), the demon is nowhere said to **inhabit** the idol, nor is the idol regarded as having any "intrinsic evil power" at all. We are delighted to learn that Decker and Schnoebelen were merely recording how a Satanist would view the matter, though we wish they would have pointed this out more clearly.

Again, when Schnoebelen was speaking last year about the power of trapezoids to attract demons, he said that a number of houses built around the turn of the century had trapezoidal roofs. Then he stated, "These buildings, **because of the way they were built**, this late 19th-early 20th century type of architecture that was in vogue, were just incredible, powerful things that **draw demon spirits**, and that's why so many of them got haunted." (emphasis ours)

This certainly sounds as if Schnoebelen is saying that the trapezoidal "satanic art form" really does attract demons — especially when he adds, "In all cases you will find that these kinds of houses tend to attract these things." However, this was an oral

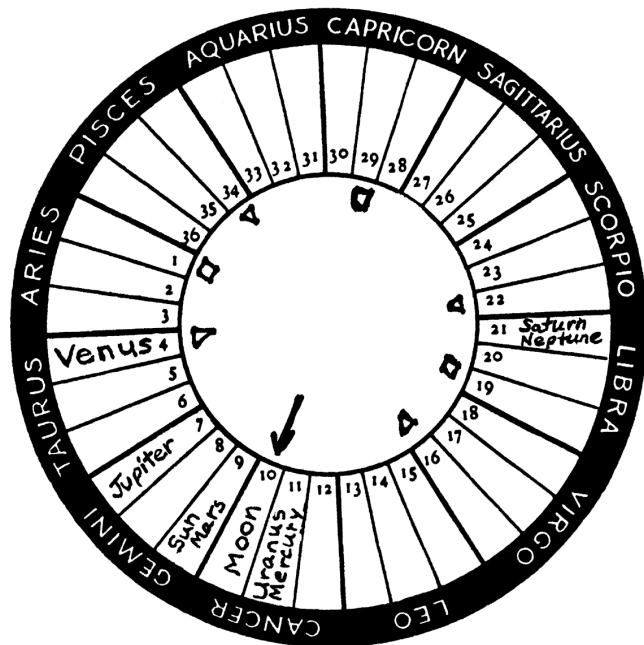
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Seeking Guidance from

# The Stars of Heaven

## A Christian Examination of Astrology and Horoscopes

by M. Kurt Goedelman



While many people have abandoned astrology in their quest for guidance in favor of such occult practices as "channeling," looking to the stars remains popular.

About 2,000 newspapers in the United States still carry daily horoscope columns, although many papers print a disclaimer with the columns, saying that they are for amusement only. Taking astrology more seriously are the supermarket tabloids, astrological books and thousands of full- and part-time astrology "professionals" who are consulted by individuals who want a more customized plotting of their life's course. A recent book by Donald Regan, former Treasury Secretary and White House Chief of Staff under President Reagan, which tells of first lady Nancy Reagan's dependence on an astrologer for advice in scheduling the president's activities would indicate that the influence of astrology reaches into the most powerful levels of society. Even in this modern age, astrology is big business. A Cable News Network (CNN) report cited astrologers as claiming that "At least 300 of the Fortune 500 use astrologers in one way or another."

### WHAT IS ASTROLOGY?

Astrology is the study of the relative position of heavenly bodies and their purported effect on the destinies of

people and society. Astrologers believe that when one examines and understands the bearing of these bodies, he is able to use this information to guide his life and to predict the course of events.

Astrology books appeal to the human psyche with promises such as: "Know your own children. Understand your mate better. Understand the designs that are behind human character. Understand yourself better, too. You'll have more control over your own destiny. Learn more about this fascinating science of astrology."

However, encyclopedias address astrology not as science, but as "an original term synonymous with astronomy, subsequently applied to a pseudoscience, which professes to explain the events of human life by the influence of the stars or planets."

Astrology is thought to have originated in the ancient land of Mesopotamia, an area of the Middle East where the modern nation of Iraq is. Astrologers were numerous and influential in the Roman Empire. In the Middle Ages, astronomy, the science that describes the stars and planets and explains their motions, was studied as a subsidiary to astrology. At the turn of the 16th century, Nicholas Copernicus (1473-1543), the founder of modern astronomy, began to lecture

on the subject. His discovery that the other planets in our solar system revolve around the sun, not the Earth, greatly discredited the "science" of astrology, being that astrology considered the Earth as the center of our solar system.

Modern astrologers respond to this scientific debunking of their system by saying that "although astrological charts are based on a concept which places the earth at center of the wheel, this does not render them invalid, as study of an Individual chart would show. This is because an average man is the center of his own universe, which seems to revolve around him. As far as earth-man is concerned in his daily physical needs, the sun and moon encircle his environment to bring him night and day, cycles and seasons." (**The Stars of Heaven**, Introduction, by the Holy Order Of Mans.)

Also pivotal to astrology is the zodiac, a belt of twelve constellations. The zodiac has divided the constellations into twelve equal parts called signs or "houses." These twelve signs bear characteristics correlative to their names of the constellations which include: Capricorn, a goat (Dec. 22-Jan. 19); Aquarius, the waterbearer (Jan. 20-Feb. 18); Pisces, the fishes (Feb.

(continued on next page)

19-March 20); Aries, the ram (March 21-April 19); Taurus, the bull (April 20-May 20); Gemini, the twins (May 21-June 21); Cancer, the crab (June 22-July 22); Leo, the lion (July 23-Aug. 22); Virgo, the virgin (Aug. 23-Sept. 22); Libra, the scales (Sept. 23-Oct. 23); Scorpio, the scorpion (Oct. 24-Nov. 21); and Sagittarius, the archer (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Although a distinction must be applied between the constellations and the signs of the zodiac, even though they bear the same set of names, they are not identical to each other. As noted in **Stars, Signs, & Salvation in the Age of Aquarius** by James Bjornstad and Shildes Johnson:

“Today, whenever an astrologer states that you are born under a certain sign, he does not mean that you are born under that actual constellation with that particular name. Likewise, he does not mean that the sun appears to be in that constellation in its apparent, annual course through the celestial zodiac. At one time the latter statement would have been true, but, due to the ‘precession of the equinoxes’ (a very slow event, caused by the wobbling of the earth on its axis, taking 25,800 years to complete its cycle), the sun no longer appears to be in the constellation bearing the same name as the astrological sign — it now is in another constellation (or at least appears to be).” (pg. 14)

The first point of the sign, Aries, begins at the vernal equinox, the point at which the center of the sun crosses the celestial equator from north to south. Evidence points to the theory that the zodiac was first formed in Mesopotamia around 2100 B.C.

Finally, in astrology, each house of the zodiac is governed by a planet. The sun, moon — both are considered planets in astrology — Jupiter and Venus are thought to be favorable to man and his labors, while Saturn and Mars are adverse. Mercury is said to

contain conflicting influences toward man. Thus the position of the stars and planets in a celestial house at the time of a person’s birth shapes his future.

### EXAMINING THE EVIDENCE FOR ASTROLOGY

Given astrology’s claims of deep insight, it is wise to see if its claims are defensible.

Astrologers tell the skeptic to consider such figures as Jeane Dixon, whose column appears in many daily newspapers, or perhaps the most famous astrologer and seer of all time, Michel Nostradamus (1503-1566), whose popularity has been revived through books and a television movie about his prophecies. The fulfilled prophecies of these two and others are cited as evidence of astrology’s validity.

Astrologers also point to apparent similarities between people born under the same astrological sign. Taking it a step further, some astrologers claim to know of case studies of twins or astro-twins — those born at exactly the same time and locale — who share an uncanny number of traits and experiences. However, this evidence does not hold up under scrutiny.

Take the prophecies, for example. Only those which have been fulfilled or appear to have been fulfilled are cited. Countless unfulfilled prophecies by these seers are ignored or forgotten.

One of the predictions that catapulted Dixon to international attention was the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963. However, very few remember her Jan. 1, 1968 prediction that “Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy is not now thinking of marriage.” On Oct. 19, 1968, she stood firm and reiterated her prediction. The following day, Oct. 20, Mrs. Kennedy was married to Aristotle Onassis. She has fared no better with predictions on World War III, on when the Vietnam conflict would end, and the nominations and appointments of

prominent political figures. (See further, **Twentieth Century Prophecy** by James Bjornstad.)

Nostradamus’ prophetic abilities also appear impressive on the surface. Current accounts of Nostradamus’ predictions make them appear to be detailed and precise.

Nostradamus wrote all his predictions in quatrains, four-line bits of verse that often read like riddles delivered in a curious mix of French, Latin and other languages. The quatrains contained references to cities, people, nations and other subjects. It is safe to say that all left great latitude for interpretation. Several writers over the years have tried to interpret his quatrains and crack open his purported prophetic secrets. The fact is, prophecies attributed to Nostradamus are nothing more than someone’s best guess as to what he was saying and two different best guesses might yield entirely different prophecies, which only enhances the probability that one prophecy might be construed as having been fulfilled.

One Nostradamus prophecy purportedly said that by the close of the 18th century the Italian city of Venice would surface as a great worldly power and influence. This did not happen by the close of the 18th, nor by the 19th century. Another said that by 1700, China would subdue the whole northern section of the world.

Another Nostradamus quatrain had been interpreted to forecast a great earthquake in Southern California on May 10, 1988. Many Southern Californians, either because they believed the forecast would come true or weren’t sure and just wanted to play it safe, decided to take a trip out of the area around that date.

The earthquake did not occur. Astrologers offered the excuse that Nostradamus’ calculations were off because he did not know of the existence of several heavenly bodies, namely Uranus, Neptune and Pluto,

which would have affected his calculations.

It also has been shown that there are those who wish to help Nostradamus by adding years to his prophetic dates. (See further, **Horoscopes and the Christian** by Dr. Robert A. Morey, pp. 20-21; and PFO Newsletter, Vol. 3, No. 2, April-June 1983.)

Astrology fares no better when the evidence regarding twins is examined. While even the most skeptical will admit that identical physical twins share many characteristics, astro-twins are another matter. Research cited by Dr. Morey in his book, **Horoscopes and the Christian**, (pp. 24-28), demonstrates that many of the examples of astro-twins presented by astrology supporters are distortions of the truth or outright lies.

A case study cited by Morey comes from the publication "Astrology: The Space Age Science." Two unrelated women met for the first time in a hospital room. They both had the same name of Edna, shared a birth date, delivered a baby at the same time, both gave their baby the same name and both babies weighed the same. Further, it was claimed that their husbands had the same name and birth date, drove identical cars, worked at identical jobs and were members of the same religious denomination. The list went on and on. However, facts obtained from one of the women showed that the similarities were not as numerous as claimed. Found to be untrue were the claims about the babies' identical birth times, the husbands' identical jobs and cars, and the women's identical birth dates. This last point even disqualifies the women from being astro-twins.

Finally, a study of physical twins hurts, rather than helps, the case for astrology, since both twins should have the same horoscope. While many similarities do exist, even a simple look into the lives of twins demonstrates that their lives and even their deaths are different.

Imagine how many examples could be cited of twins (triplets, etc.) who have had a sibling die at birth, while the other has lived a normal-length life. Research on a more scholarly and scientific level also is being performed with physical twins apart from the implications of astrology. (For detailed articles on this see further **Newsweek** magazine, Nov. 23, 1987, pp. 58-69.)

Another way astrologers try to defend their beliefs is to point out celebrities who consult the stars. The most timely example of this is the recent uproar over President and Nancy Reagan's purported reliance on astrology, rumors of which date back to the 1960s. The Sept. 9, 1980, issue of the *National Enquirer*, which like other supermarket tabloids depends heavily on stories about astrology and predictions of the future, ran a story which said:

"Enquirer In-Depth Probe Reveals... Ronald Reagan Believes in Astrology. Ronald Reagan — who may soon control the nation's destiny — is a staunch believer in astrology who regularly consults astrologers before making major decisions, an Enquirer probe reveals."

The article went on to state that, according to one astrologer, the selection of George Bush for Reagan's running mate was attributed to astrological charts which showed Bush to be the most compatible prospect for Reagan.

Another well-known story is that Reagan was sworn in as governor of California at 12:01 a.m. of the first day of his term in 1967 because of astrological factors. The story goes further to say that the ideal time, astrologically, was 12:10 a.m., but Reagan moved it back to 12:01 so as not to arouse too much suspicion and yet be within minutes of the most auspicious time. Reagan's official explanation for the unusual swearing-in time was that he wanted to become governor as quickly as possible to prevent his predecessor from making any last-minute

job appointments.

Reagan recently has denied that he relies on astrology to make any policy decisions but did admit that his wife has consulted an astrologer on scheduling matters.

Personal Freedom Outreach in 1983 wrote to the White House asking whether Reagan consulted astrologers. The White House reply, dated Nov. 3, 1983, was an emphatic denial: "In answer to your inquiry, the President does not consult astrologers, he has no official astrologer, he did not commission any astrologer to advise him in the selection of a running mate, nor is he responsible for the rubbish which passes for reportage in publications of dubious credibility such as the *Enquirer*."

PFO concurs that the *National Enquirer* is of dubious credibility, yet the example is a telling one.

#### **ASTROLOGY IN THE BIBLE**

Many of those who practice astrology also claim to practice Christianity and see not conflict but harmony between the two belief systems. Jeane Dixon is among those who make such a claim. She says that each morning she asks God to reveal to her anything that would enlighten and make for a better mankind. (See **A Gift of Prophecy** by Ruth Montgomery, pg. 6.) Dixon claims to be a devout Roman Catholic who attends Mass regularly.

Some astrologers go so far as to say that the Bible itself endorses astrology. The most frequently cited example is the claim that the magi written of in Matthew's gospel were astrologers. But a careful reading of the account shows that that notion has to be read into the account because it is not explicitly stated. While one may assume that the following of the star made the magi astrologers, the movement of the bright light mentioned in Matthew 2:9 indicates that this may have been more than a planetary conjunction and not something an astrological chart

would have forecast.

Another Bible passage astrologers cite in their defense is, when read in context, actually a condemnation of astrology. Isaiah 47:13 says: "You are wearied with your many counsels; Let now the astrologers, Those who prophesy by the stars, Those who predict by the new moons, Stand up and save you from what will come upon you."

Sounds good, the astrologers would say. Read on:

"Behold, they have become like stubble, Fire burns them; They cannot deliver themselves from the power of the flame; There will be no coal to warm by, Nor a fire to sit before! So have those become to you with whom you have labored, Who have trafficked with you from your youth; Each has wandered in his own way, There is none to save you" (Isaiah 47:14-15).

### FURTHER PROBLEMS

Copernicus' findings, as mentioned above, were only the beginning of scientific debunking of astrology. Here are some more:

**Speed and refraction of light:** No allowance is given, when figuring the position of the planets in casting horoscopes, that the planet is no longer where we see it in the sky when we see it. Because of the great distances light reflected off those planets must travel to get to our eyes on Earth, we see the planet where it was when that light first bounced off of it minutes or hours ago. It no longer is there.

**Discovery of new planets:** Astrology was founded on the premise that there are seven planets: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, the moon and the sun. However, with the invention of telescopes came the discovery of three more planets — Uranus, Neptune and Pluto — and numerous moons circling around many of the planets. These are all bodies that ancient astrol-

ogy did not account for. If the seven bodies of classical astrology influence our destinies, why not those discovered later?

**Precession of the equinoxes:** Primitive astrologers supposed that Earth's rotational axis was always directed toward the star Polaris, the north star at the end of the handle of the Little Dipper and almost at the north celestial pole. What scientists have since discovered is that the gravitational pull on the Earth from both the moon and the sun causes the Earth's axis to continually shift. In the future, the north celestial pole will move away from Polaris and toward another star. This movement causes our view of the sky to change gradually over time and its effect is called the "precession of the equinoxes." Modern astrologers ignore this phenomenon because it causes their zodiacal constellations to shift out of their familiar places. Thus when astrologers say the sun is in one house (the time of year when the sun would have "appeared" in that constellation several thousand years ago when astrology was developed) it no longer is in that house today.

Dr. Morey examines the precession of the equinoxes and the problem it presents to ancient astrology. He comments:

"Since the signs of the zodiac are determined by the equinoxes, the backward march of the equinoxes means that we all must move one sign backward in the zodiac. Those who thought they were born under Cancer were really born under Leo! We have all been reading the wrong horoscope columns because we all have been told the wrong signs!" (**Horoscopes and the Christian**, pp. 38-39)

### SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

Merrill Unger, in his book, **Demons in the World Today**, tells of the editor of a large daily newspaper who was forced to publish an outdated horoscope column when the new one did

not arrive in time for publication. Not one of his 100,000 readers complained of the old horoscopes' irrelevance. The editor concluded he could spare himself the cost of new horoscopes and repeat the old ones.

Most importantly is not the fact that science can prove or disprove astrology or that astrology works or doesn't work. What is important to Christians is what the Lord has said concerning such practices. Astrology can be regarded as nothing less than occultic. It is an attempt to gain knowledge of the future and an attempt to help better one's self apart from the God of the Bible. Some who practice astrology move on to other "guidance" methods, such as channeling and seances.

The God of the Bible abhors these practices and is emphatic in His declaration that man is to abstain from them. Leviticus 18 and 19, Deuteronomy 18 and Isaiah 47:11-15 are only a few examples of His warnings. While some astrologers claim that their talents and abilities are a gift from God, God would never give as a "gift" what He calls an abomination.

Psalm 19:1 announces that "the heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands." The heavens declare God's glory. Man need not look to them for direction or guidance. God has given man a written record that will do for him what astrology cannot do: Help him understand himself and those around him and, most importantly, find God. For such directions, one can only look to the Bible. ❁

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### Editors Note

For additional, more detailed information on astrology, PFO recommends: **Horoscopes and the Christian** by Dr. Robert A. Morey (\$3.00) and **Astrology, Revival in the Cosmic Garden** by Michael Van Buskirk (\$1.00). These publications are available from PFO-Midwest. Please add 65 cents for postage to each order.

(from page 3)

“mid-November, I was told there was a black brother from Africa who had been prepared by Jesus ... and that Heung Jin Nim had assumed his body.”

The development is said to be “the biggest theological upheaval in the 34-year history of the Unification Church.” Many members have agreed to go along with the belief “because it came from Rev. Moon, the Messiah.”

Moon and his Unification Church have not in the past taught reincarnation. While the reports of this man being Moon’s son reincarnated may be the result of media misinterpretation, the Unification Church has always supported participation in spiritualistic practices, as evidenced in the church book, **Divine Principle and Its Application** by Young Oon Kim.

—MKG



### AIRLINES PROMOTING CULT-INFLUENCED MATERIALS

Jesus said that the cults would “come to you.” (Matthew 7:15) Anyone who has found a Jehovah’s Witness at his door or been approached by a Moonie at a stoplight will vouch for the accuracy of Christ’s prophecy.

Air travelers breathe a sigh of relief upon making their way unmolested past proselytizing Hare Krishnas in an airport terminal. However, some of those same travelers will again encounter heresy and cult-influenced teachings on the plane when they read the complimentary magazines.

For example, the April 1988 issue of **Spirit**, Southwest Airlines in-plane magazine, had a cover story called “Crystals: The Rock of New Ages.” Actresses Shirley MacLaine and Jill Ireland and country singer Crystal Gayle are quoted in the article as prominent people who look to and promote the “powers of crystals.” Last November Gayle opened her own Nashville shop which sells raw and polished crystals and leaded glass objects. The article does admit that crystalology’s “current boom is anything but scientific.” And that “The crystal craze is an outgrowth of ‘New Age’ spiritualism, a loose network of beliefs in reincarnation, astrology, channeling (communicating with souls in the afterlife), and miracle cures.” However, despite these warnings, the crystal issue is still presented in a favorable light.

Those finding themselves on an American Airlines flight will be introduced to **The SyberVision Catalog**; a

magazine of numerous self-help items for sale. These products are cited as “helping high achievers reach even higher.” Categories include sports, health and fitness, and personal achievement, to name a few.

One full-page ad announces “Bring excitement back into your marriage.” “The Neuropsychology of Successful Marriage,” a set of eight audiocassettes with study guide, claims to help one “learn the ‘secrets’ of remarkably successful marriages.” The series features the “break-through research” of Dr. Brent Barlow, currently a professor at Brigham Young University. Scanning the magazine further, one will find additional selections available from other BYU faculty.

—MKG



### MORMON THEOLOGY REFLECTED IN TIMELINE

A recent edition of **Biblical Archaeology Review** featured a full-page ad for “The World History Chart.” The chart, almost three feet tall and eight feet wide presents 6,000 years of world history. The producers, International Timeline, Inc., claim there “never has been a clearer, more concise overview of our history, archaeology, theology and mythology than with The World History Chart.” The reference tool has taken years to compile and presents 15 major civilizations from 4,000 B.C. to the present. It appears to be all it claims — an “invaluable teaching and reference tool.”

However, in a subsequent edition of the magazine, in the “letters to the editor” column, a reader from Idaho wrote in to question the chart. At first he thought the International Time Line appeared to be a “legitimate educational tool.” However, the reader says, “upon examining the chart, I found the inclusion of the ‘Nephites.’ This chart, according to International Timeline, Inc., was made by Mr. Ron Carlio of Salt Lake City; the manufacturer states that, while it ‘is not a Mormon chart, there are a few items on it that are influenced by Mormon theology.’”

Fellow readers then were warned that there is no evidence, not even the slightest degree according to reputable scholars, to validate the existence of the Nephite culture. A detailed list of qualified organizations which likewise dispute the Mormon claim on the basis of history and archaeology was also provided.

The letter writer also correctly questioned the ad’s appearance in such a reputable publication, stating that its inclusion “in **BAR** lends too much credibility to a chart that contains absolute fabrications.”

—MKG

## Salvation

(from page 1)

salvation comes with the forgiveness of sin. Sin is what separates man from God (Isaiah 59:2). A man whose sins are forgiven stands uncondemned before God.

Before Jesus' death on the cross, a man gained forgiveness by bringing a substitutionary sacrifice to the temple. Then the man would confess his sins upon the sacrifice, thus transferring his sins onto the sacrifice. Then the animal was slain and the blood taken into the temple by the priest, who would sprinkle it for the remission of sins.

This fulfilled that man's obligation under the law in anticipation of his being covered by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. God used animal sacrifices to establish a type of Christ, someone whose blood was shed for the remission of man's sins (Hebrews 9:22).

Each year, on the Day of Atonement, the Jewish high priest entered the Holy of Holies to make a sacrifice for the sins of the people. The high priest took with him the incense and coals for the fire symbolizing the prayers of the people. The sins of the people were confessed upon a goat, which then was led out into the wilderness and let go. This symbolized the removal of the nation's sins as far as east is from west (Hebrews 10:12).

But Christ fulfilled the law and his death did away with the need for periodic animal sacrifices and the annual Day of Atonement. Upon seeing Jesus, John the Baptist said: "Behold, the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Christ is our unblemished Lamb. He has entered the heavenly Holy of Holies and made a blood sacrifice for the remission of the world's sins.

No man can claim to be unblemished, as Christ is. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), which disqualifies any man from being able to save anyone else. No church can save a man's soul, either, for every church is made up of individuals who have sinned.

Therefore, the Watchtower's anointed class could not save men unless it fulfilled the following criteria:

1. It had shed blood for the remission of man's sins (Hebrews 9:22).
2. Its members were without sin, for the sacrifice must be without blemish (1 Peter 1:18-20).
3. Its members were YHWH, God (Isaiah 43:11).

The Bible says that anyone who tries to gain salvation by any means except through Jesus Christ is a thief and a robber (John 10:1). Before dying on the cross, Jesus' last words were, "It is finished" (John 19:30). The word "finished" can be translated "completed" or "paid in full." Thus a man's debt,

sin, is paid in full. That sinner has been bought by the shed blood of Jesus Christ and has been given the free gift of eternal life (Romans 3:24, 5:16, 5:18). When a person insists upon paying for a gift it ceases to be free, but is earned.

By eliminating Jesus as mediator for the great crowd, the Watchtower also has cut Jesus out as prayer intercessor. The high priest took the incense into the Holy of Holies representing the prayers of the people. If the high priest entered the Holy of Holies without the incense, he would die.

Paul, writing in 1 Timothy 2:5, says, "For there is one God and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus." The Watchtower agrees that there is one God, but does not agree on one mediator or one hope (Ephesians 4:4). The Watchtower says that Jesus is the mediator only for the anointed class (**The Watchtower**, April 1, 1979, pg. 31).

Jehovah's Witnesses will not pray to Jesus, even though Stephen (Acts 7:59) and Paul did (2 Corinthians 12:8-11). Witnesses have been taught that they will become demon-possessed if they do so.

Satan has found a useful tool in Watchtower theology, which teaches that man can attain salvation through means other than the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Those who join the Watchtower will find spiritual death rather than salvation. ✨

## Editorials

(from page 2)

what God can do or might do but rather what He does do in accordance with His Word. If God indicates in His Word that the purpose of miraculous gifts was to validate and authenticate the apostles and their ministry, He is free to do that. If God in His Word indicates that sign gifts functioned to confirm Paul's apostleship (Acts 14:3; Romans 15:18,19; 2 Corinthians 12:12), He is free to do so. If God indicates in His Word that the foundational gifts were necessary for the establishment of the church in the first century (Hebrews 2:2-3), He is free to have it that way. God can do anything. We must not say God could not have done these things.

And so, defunct healers, the teaching of healing, staged healing for profit and the cliché, "God can do anything," wrongly used are all concepts that frustrate me. Christians

need to sharpen their discernment and opt for biblical salvation and as well as insist on truly biblical categories for growth and evangelism. Let's reread the Great Commission. The so-called "New Wave" healers like Blue are not new at all. Men have been trying to imitate and re-create New Testament miracles in this country since before the turn of the century.

While I do not agree with his rejection of the supernatural, James Randi's book, **The Faith Healers**, is an excellent debunking of many of the modern faith healers that exposes their gimmicks and tricks of the trade. Randi is a former magician who has spent years following, researching and examining the con games used by so many faith healers today. The church should have been doing the exposing work a long time ago and not left it up to the outside world.

—GRF

presentation, where thoughts can tumble out without the clarity that can be achieved in writing. It is a great relief to have Decker's assurance in writing that Schnoebelen was only presenting the matter from a Satanist's outlook and not from a Christian perspective.

As Schnoebelen himself has pointed out, when he was involved in witchcraft, he viewed the steeples on Christian churches as gigantic phallic emblems. Satanists even try to say that the "free-standing stone" (the Hebrew is **matsebah**, a memorial stone) of the Bible is a "symbol of pagan, phallic worship," as Decker and Schnoebelen noted in their reply to Tanner. However, such memorial stones could not be given such an interpretation when Jacob set up such a memorial stone to the Lord at Bethel, and when Moses set up twelve such stones beside the altar of the Lord at Mount Sinai. It is only when they memorialize Baal or some pagan deity that they are to be considered evil and destroyed, but not because they are in themselves "phallic" symbols. What would the defiled minds of Satanists see in the pillars that stood in front of the temple of the Lord built by Solomon?

No Christian can view either church steeples or the Bible's standing stones in such a manner. We cannot let satanic interpretations ruin and defile our Christian understandings. Just because Satanists emphasize the number six, Christians should not mistake the six-winged seraphs that fly before God's throne crying "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty!" as some sort of satanic beings. The five-pointed star is one of the symbols used by Satanists, but God has crested many kinds of five-pointed starfish in the oceans which are not to be regarded as in a satanic form because they are in the shape of a pentagram! They do not even have a label indicating which point should face down.

These satanic interpretations placed upon shapes and symbols and numbers by Satan worshipers is something

like the man who went to a psychiatrist. When the analyst showed him a series of ink blots, the man saw in each one some kind of lewd sex act. The analyst then told the man, "You have a serious sex problem," to which the man replied, "Why do you say that? You're the one who's showing me all those dirty pictures!"

We are relieved to learn, therefore, that Decker and Schnoebelen have merely been informing people in the talks how Satanists see "all those dirty pictures" in the Salt Lake Temple. It is not that the shapes, symbols and numbers really make the temple a habitation of devils. It is that this is the way a witch could regard it, just as he could regard a building with a steeple as a center of phallic activity.

The Scripture in Revelation 18:2 from which the phrase "a habitation of devils" is taken has nothing to do with shapes, symbols and numbers attracting demons. In that passage, it is only after the whole city of Babylon has been "burned up" with fire (Revelation 17:16) and completely "fallen down" into a heap of shapeless ruins that it becomes a habitation of demons and a "prison" for every unclean spirit.

Due to some popular but erroneous teaching by some about not keeping an "accursed thing" in the house, some Christians may be led to think there is biblical endorsement for the principles of Satanism. However, a little background in one Bible story will show that this is not the case.

What is called an "accursed thing" in Joshua 7 is really the King James Version's rendering of the Hebrew word **herem**, which means something that has been designated by God either to be exclusively His or to be destroyed. It is usually rendered "devoted" (to God's use or to destruction) and has no satanic connotation.

God had expressly told Joshua that everything in Jericho, the first city to be captured in Canaan and thus a kind of "first fruits," was to be regarded as herein (Joshua 6:17,18). What Achan took was not a given shape or form; it was not even an idol. It was a piece of clothing and

some silver and a bar of gold. God had expressly laid claim to all the silver and gold in Jericho to be put "into the treasury of the Lord's house" (Joshua 6:24), so there was nothing intrinsically wrong with it, nor did it carry a curse or any demonic power.

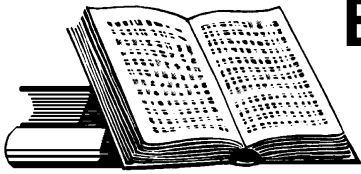
Achan's sin was in stealing that which God had designated for Himself, either to be destroyed (as in the case of the garment), or to be devoted to His exclusive use (as in the case of the gold and silver). For Achan, out of covetousness and greed (Joshua 7:21) to flatly disobey God and steal what God had designated as His own, meant that Achan had made himself harem, that is, devoted to be destroyed (Joshua 6:18), and so he and all his family and possessions were destroyed (Joshua 7:24-26).

His death was related to covetousness, stealing and disobedience, not to any evil influence from the objects. Any conclusion that suggests that if one keeps a "cursed thing" in his house then he has opened a door to Satan is a total misunderstanding of the passage. It was not Satan to whom Achan's possession of the "cursed" (devoted) thing opened the door, it was to God's anger and his own destruction. The fruits of sin are the accursed things we must beware of.

We apologize for misinterpreting what our Christian brothers were saying. However, we hope that in their future addresses they will speak with greater clarity, so that it will be evident that when they are sharing with the audience the satanic view, they are not promoting it as a principle for Christians to believe.

In fact, it is our belief at PFO that they have already spent sufficient time making God's people aware of how Satanists would look at Mormon architecture. It is time now to emphasize the Christian "world view." It is time to remind Christians as well as non-Christians that the real consummate evil of Mormonism is that it leads precious immortal souls to worship other gods in place of the one, true God of the Bible and thus making them subject to eternal judgment.





# BOOKS IN REVIEW

**WHAT YOU KNOW MIGHT NOT BE SO**  
220 Misinterpretations of Bible Texts Explained  
by David C. Downing  
Baker Book House, 215 pages, \$8.95

Baker Book House provides a handy biblical reference tool with David Downing's **What You Know Might Not Be So — 220 Misinterpretations of Bible Texts Explained**. This book is a worthwhile addition to the "Bible difficulties" section of any Christian's library.

Downing graduated from and is English professor at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, Calif. Many readers will recognize Westmont as the academic home of cult-watcher Ronald Enroth.

The book tackles misunderstandings and misconceptions of biblical subjects ranging from the children of Adam

and Eve, to man being made in God's image, to the witch of Endor. Also examined are some of those so-called "Bible contradictions," which are many times used by those trying to disprove the inspiration of Scripture. Another classification explored are words and phrases that have been attributed to Scripture, but are not found there.

There is a detailed index of Scripture references and endnotes in the back of the book. However, the individual studies are not referenced to the endnotes, which leaves the reader to cross-check for himself to see if an endnote exists for the reference he is reading. While many do contain endnotes, many others do not. The book also lacks a table of contents.

This book can be used for examining one topic at a time or read from cover-to-cover to test knowledge of biblical concepts. Many will find themselves saying, "Gee, I didn't know that!" as they read it.

—MKG



**Editors Note:** The above publication is available from PFO-Midwest. Please add \$1.00 to the price listed to cover postage. This book is also available to those who help to financially support us this quarter. Please see the "Helping Us Help You" flyer for details.

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