

# The Quarterly Journal



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## The Clone Rangers Raising Cain Over Eve and the Raëlians

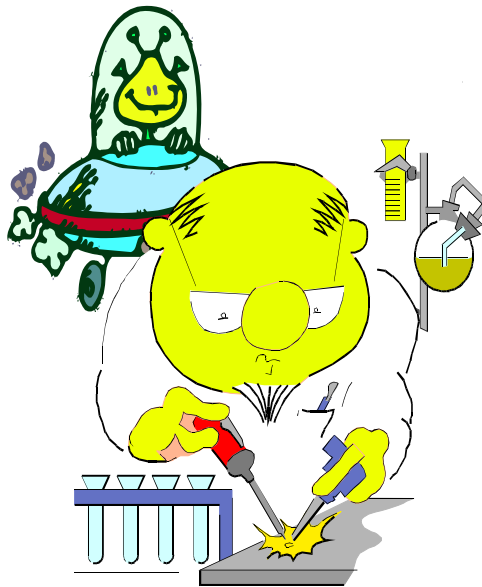
by G. Richard Fisher

"Transhumanist advocates believe humans will soon have the capability biologically, psychologically, intellectually, and socially to take a quantum leap into a world where both aging and disease can be eliminated," writes Sharon Fish Mooney.<sup>1</sup>

The mainstream media, while denigrating orthodox Christianity, seem to champion the fantastic, the weird, and the crazy. At the end of 2002 came reports of the imminent birth of a cloned human baby. Yet, after all the claims, all the news conferences, and all the hoopla, the Raëlians (pronounced *Rye-lians*) did not produce a shred of evidence that they had cloned a baby. It appears as though, in the mad rush for a story, members of the mainstream media not only got egg on their collective faces, but had the whole chicken farm dumped on them. The hype began to deflate after the initial days and turned into a classic example of what Paul was talking about when he described, in his epistle to Timothy, people who turn from the truth only to embrace fables.

### IN THE BEGINNING

Though the Raëlians were founded



in 1973, this UFO cult did not gain national attention until Geraldo Rivera reported on them in 1992. In his *Now It Can Be Told* broadcast titled,

"Raël and the Spaced Invaders," Rivera said, "Guess who's back? That's right: Messenger boy of the extraterrestrial, pseudo-prophet and certifiable space cadet Raël."<sup>2</sup> Personal interviews with founder Raël were shown with him in a white George Jetson-type jumpsuit that appears to be the official uniform of his followers, when they're wearing anything at all. Rivera spoke of Raël's past as a race car driver, journalist, and singer.

The mild-mannered Frenchman spoke in broken English about being taken to another planet in the fall of 1973 (the date most often reported) where space aliens told him he was the Messiah. He was renamed Raël, which he says means "light of God." It is chilling to note that in literal Hebrew the word would mean "evil god" (*ra-evil; el-god*).<sup>3</sup>

On their official web site, the Raëlians describe the group this way:

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# Editorials

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## THE DEMISE OF APOLOGETICS?

Dorothy Sayers satirizes in her book, *The Whimsical Christian*, "St. Lukewarm was a magistrate in the city of Laodicea under Claudius (Emp. A.D. 41-54). He was so broad-minded as to offer asylum and patronage to every kind of religious cult, however unorthodox or repulsive, saying in answer to all remonstrances: 'There is always some truth in everything.' This liberality earned for him the surname of 'The Tolerator.'"

One has to wonder if apologetics and apologetics ministries can continue much longer in their present state. In our post-postmodern age, truth is reduced to opinions and dies on the scaffold of the new tolerance. Scriptural truth is marginalized. Many in the Christian world have caught up with 19th-century philosopher Søren Kierkegaard, who defined truth as what was true for him.

Apologetics has been a deterrent to error since the early days of the Christian Church. Most know that the word *apologetics* comes from 1 Peter 3:15 and, in its simplest definition, is the defense of the faith. Apologetics is the what and why of belief and how those are used to promote Christianity.

The Church has always had vigorous apologists such as Athanasius who, in the fourth century, articulated and

defended the doctrine of the Trinity against the Arian heresy. This led to the Nicene Creed.

The Charismatic extreme cries foul and often accuses apologists of being "heresy hunters" or worse. They claim that calling attention to the gross theological errors of some of their "superstars" is a violation of the old decree, "touch not the Lord's anointed." This has not slowed apologetic research, denunciation of error, or the presentation of sound doctrine. It has, in fact, fed apologetics.

The trend killing apologetics is more subtle, pervasive, and deadly. Apologetics continued to thrive into the early 1990s, but that is changing. There has been a shift away from vigorous apologetics toward a soft, spongy, and non-descriptive "apologetic."

It is becoming more clear as to why this shift is occurring. The first reason is that everything is being reduced to a viewpoint. This is a direct result of pluralism, which teaches that truth is relative. Pluralism has a view-centered idea of truth. It states that each viewpoint is valid as long as it is true for the person who holds it.

Craig Blomberg and Stephen Robinson's book, *How Wide the Divide*, is a clear example of this shift. The book represents neither a complete orthodox Mormonism nor Evangelicalism. It is an "equal time" venue for a Conservative Baptist and a Mormon layman. The most  
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## CONTROVERSIAL CHURCH LEADER RESIGNS

Thomas “Kip” McKean, co-founder and undisputed leader of the controversial International Church of Christ (a.k.a., Boston Church of Christ), has resigned his position as World Missions Evangelist and Leader of the World Sector.

The resignation comes on the heels of a year’s sabbatical, announced Nov. 11, 2001, which read in part: “During these days Elena and I have been coming to grips with the need to address some serious shortcomings in our marriage and family. After much counsel ... as well as hours of prayer, we have decided it is God’s will for us to take a sabbatical and to delegate, for a time, our day-to-day ministry responsibilities so that we can focus on our marriage and family.”

International Church of Christ leaders said: “The term ‘sabbatical’ has been borrowed from the academic community. It simply means a leave of absence granted an individual for the purpose of rest, study or some other pursuit related to, but independent of, that person’s usual and customary responsibilities. It is granted with the expectation that the individual will at some later date resume the normal responsibilities that go with his role. For example, when a college president takes a sabbatical, he is no longer involved in the day-to-day activities of the college; however, he still remains the college president.”

With the sabbatical set to expire last November, a new announcement came forth detailing McKean’s resignation from his leadership position. While the sabbatical letter mentioned both McKean and his wife, the resignation letter is written in the singular and does not mention Elena.

Posted on the International Church of Christ’s official web site, and read to several of the movement’s congregations, the apology letter acknowledged “my leadership in recent years has damaged both the Kingdom and my family.”

McKean detailed other reasons for his decision, stating: “My most significant sin is arrogance — thinking I am always right, not listening to the counsel of my brothers, and not seeking discipling for my life, ministry and family. I have not followed Jesus’ example of humility in leadership. Other sins manifested themselves through my anger. My anger has often shut people down and, worse yet, fostered an environment where people were afraid to speak up. Additionally, I failed to build strong,

mutually helpful relationships. I did not respect those whose leadership gifts could have complemented my own. I was insensitive to the needs of weaker Christians and churches. I also caused some to operate from wrong motives and others to stumble because I focused more on numeric goals than on pleasing God. To my shame I allowed myself to be glorified more than calling everyone to give God all the glory.”

Speculation continues high on various anti-ICC web sites that this leadership crisis was precipitated by one of the McKean’s children leaving the movement.

At the time this article was written, there was no word on the makeup of the future leadership of this aberrational discipling movement. McKean offered only one remark at the close of his resignation letter about the future: “A new governance is being discussed and formed by the world sector leaders and other leading evangelists, elders and teachers. I shall give them my full support as they strive to follow the Scriptures and the principles of our Father in heaven.”

McKean has been given a full-time ministry position with the South Region of the Los Angeles International Church of Christ.

—SFC

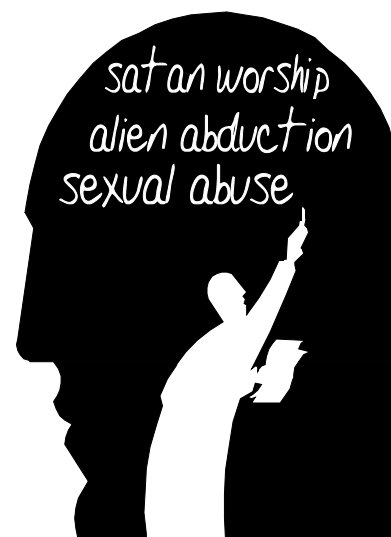
## DNA DISAFFIRMS LDS TEACHING

Modern science has landed one lifelong member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in hot water. Thomas Murphy, a graduate student from the University of Washington and chairman of the anthropology department at Edmonds Community College in Lynnwood, Wash., sought to test a fundamental precept of his faith using DNA analysis. His results, which are included in his doctrinal dissertation, were less than welcomed by the leadership of the Mormon church.

His findings revealed that genetic data discredits *The Book of Mormon’s* claim that native American Indians are descendants of the Israelites and the antagonistic Lamanites described in his church’s most prominent scripture. He concluded that “the Book of Mormon is a piece of 19th century fiction,” and that “we have to acknowledge sometimes Joseph Smith lied.” His judgments were initially posted on a web site run by LDS church members who openly debate Mormon historical claims. His article, “Lamanite Genesis, Genealogy, and  
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# Recovered Memory Therapy: DANGEROUS MEDICINE FROM THE WORLD

by David M. Tyler



Jane never knew about her tormented childhood until she began counseling. The counselor was on staff at the church Jane and her husband attended. Under the counselor's supervision, Jane remembered how her father had repeatedly raped her, impregnated her, and performed an abortion on her using a coat hanger. Yet in truth, Jane, at the time of the purported incidents, was a virgin and her father had received a vasectomy years prior to the alleged incest and impregnation.

Kathy had gone to a psychiatrist in an attempt to manage her reaction to a traumatic event her son had experienced. The psychiatrist used various techniques, including hypnosis and visualization, causing Kathy to remember years of abuse of which she had not been conscious. As counseling progressed, Kathy became convinced that she had repressed memories of having been in a satanic cult, of murdering and eating babies, and being raped. When Kathy realized that false memories had been planted, she sued the psychiatrist for malpractice.<sup>1</sup>

Both Jane and Kathy were victims of Recovered Memory Therapy (RMT), the practice of delving back into a counselee's past for repressed memories. The process is based on the presupposition that the mind is like a

video recorder and is filled with intact memories of past events that are hidden from the counselee. Through the use of hypnosis,<sup>2</sup> the therapist helps the subject "remember" these events.

Life's problems and man's sinful behavior always seem to have therapists digging around in the trash cans for solutions. And these unbiblical strategies come and go: from low self-esteem to multiple personality disorder to victimization to dysfunctionality to the current trend of recovered memories. Keeping in line with the treatment of the day, many therapists now believe that nearly everyone is a victim of some sexual abuse, and a great number of the recovered memories pertain to sexual abuse.

This lack of conscious memories, which purportedly are so traumatic that the mind has had to repress them, is cited as proof of the abuse. Other recovered memories may include those of abductions by extraterrestrials. *The New York Times* reported on a Harvard study which found "people who genuinely believed that they had been taken by extraterrestrials and had built elaborate narratives of space travel, mind control and erotic encounters with beings from other planets."<sup>3</sup> Other recovered memories involve satanic rituals or

traumas in a "previous" life. RMT therapists are not put off at all by bizarre "recollections." They either take them at face value or believe them to be symbolic of real experiences.

While opposition and lawsuits have slowed the impact of Recovered Memory Therapy, some psychotherapists still use it.

Over the past several decades the RMT movement has swept across America. Thousands of counselors enthusiastically participated. Countless cases of alleged abuses that had been repressed in people's subconscious have been claimed and reported. Incest and abuse support groups were formed as people "remembered" and "recovered" from their abusive pasts. Untold seminars, books, tapes, and testimonies accompanied the frenzy of the RMT movement. Afternoon talk shows showcased housewives, bricklayers, and celebrities telling their heart-wrenching stories of abuse by parents, pastors, teachers, and others. As a result, thousands of people, insisting that they were innocent, were hauled into court, publicly humiliated, and even imprisoned.

It is a strange and dangerous time when people are being accused, tried, and convicted with no more evidence of guilt than the word of the accuser.

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# Arnold Murray and the Shepherd's Chapel

## Examining the Strange Teachings of the Grandfather of Denial

by G. Richard Fisher  
with M. Kurt Goedelman

Morton A. Klein, national president of the Zionists Organization of America, once observed, "The bigger the lie, and the more frequently it is repeated, the more people will believe it."

Author and archaeologist Randall Price reminds us: "On September 11, 2001, Americans suffered their first major attack by radical Islam, yet Israel has suffered through the same kind of unrelenting attacks for over 50 years!"<sup>1</sup>

We can readily understand America's war with terrorism and the decades-old war between Israelis and Palestinians, but there is a war far more pervasive, far more deadly, and far more costly. It is the cults' war on the Church and biblical truth — and it is waged at the cost of people's eternal souls.

One front in that war is found in tiny Gravette, Ark.,<sup>2</sup> home of Arnold Murray and his Shepherd's Chapel. Murray spreads his teachings via television and cassette tapes to a nationwide following of people who have been known to send hate mail and make threatening calls to anyone who questions their leader.<sup>3</sup>

Murray himself takes an unrestrained posture against those who challenge him. While one of his programs was being taped, an off-camera critic in the audience shouted, "Blasphemy!" Murray reached behind his desk, opened his briefcase and said, "Here. Take this 9mm to that boy," referring to a pistol in his briefcase. The incident was broadcast on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show* as another example of the wacky world of

televangelism.<sup>4</sup> So much for Murray's claim that "I'm the sweetest man on television."<sup>5</sup>

Murray's bravado is not confined to his time in front of the camera. Once, when interrupted while speaking at a Gravette School Board meeting, he told the person who interrupted him, "We can do this outside if you'd like."<sup>6</sup>

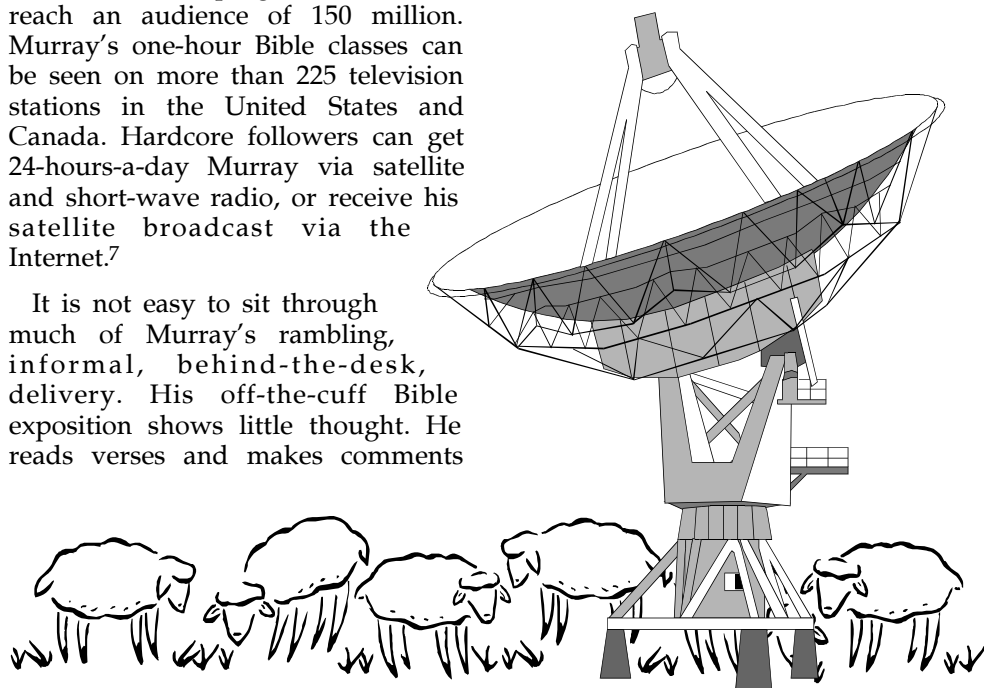
### A PROPHET WITHOUT HONOR

Murray hails from Oklahoma, where he was born in 1927. He is reported to have been a farmer and a postal clerk and to have served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Korea. He has been on television for nearly two decades and his programs are said to reach an audience of 150 million. Murray's one-hour Bible classes can be seen on more than 225 television stations in the United States and Canada. Hardcore followers can get 24-hours-a-day Murray via satellite and short-wave radio, or receive his satellite broadcast via the Internet.<sup>7</sup>

It is not easy to sit through much of Murray's rambling, informal, behind-the-desk, delivery. His off-the-cuff Bible exposition shows little thought. He reads verses and makes comments

apparently off the top of his head as he goes along. His monotone delivery is unimpressive. His hands are always busy and his fingers constantly moving and rubbing one another. Using *Strong's Concordance*, Murray throws around Greek and Hebrew words — sometimes mispronouncing them — and tries to appear to be a learned teacher.

Murray may be adored by his fans, but he seems to have little respect in Gravette. In that small town, he is seen as a big frog in a little pond. While the local press seems uninterested in reporting on its hometown preacher, he occasionally appears in the national media. For example, *The National Enquirer* describes him as one "who's built a twisted religious empire."<sup>8</sup> The publication also stated:



“Resident Josh Phillips told The ENQUIRER: ‘He resides in a huge mansion with great white columns out front. And he drives several luxury cars. Hardly anyone gets to see him because he stays away from ordinary folks.’ Of the sleepy backwater where Murray thrives, Phillips says, ‘The main activity in Gravette is leaving town in the morning and wishing you didn’t have to come back at night.’ Just how good a prophet is Murray? Well, he once predicted the coming of the Antichrist, a sign of the last days, no later than 1981!”<sup>9</sup>

The supermarket tabloid reported on Murray’s engagement to country singer Loretta Lynn in 1999. Their photograph appeared in the newspaper with Murray dressed as a Confederate general and Lynn wearing a fancy ball gown. Lynn reportedly became enamored with Murray after watching him on television following the death of her husband in 1996. Murray’s wife, Anna, died in 1997. One Murray follower posted on a personal web site photographs of the couple taken at Murray’s Passover 2000 meetings with the caption: “PO 2000 PM [Pastor Murray] and LL [Loretta Lynn]. Wasn’t it a thrill to see them both so happy?!” The couple’s engagement apparently has been a lengthy one. In September 2002, Murray was still introducing Lynn as “one of my very best friends — many would say it’s girlfriend” to his viewing audience.

### MYTHS AND LEGENDS

Along with his twisted exegesis and faulty translations, Murray promulgates other kinds of false teachings. An example is the Glastonbury myth. He tells his followers:

“We know from history that Jesus was with his uncle Joseph of Arimathea in Glastonbury when He was 12 or 13. ... It’s history for you to check out if you don’t understand.”<sup>10</sup>

It is mind-boggling that Murray, who so regularly rails against the teachings of men, endorses the Roman Catholic Glastonbury Abbey in Somerset, England, with its admitted

hagiography.<sup>11</sup> On the Glastonbury web site, they cite the story of Joseph of Arimathea on their myths and legend page.<sup>12</sup>

The Abbey also says Joseph supposedly caught the blood of Jesus in a cup and describes this story of the holy grail as “lore,” not as fact. “For safe keeping, Joseph is said to have buried the Holy Grail ... Shortly after he had done this, a spring, now known as Chalice Well, flowed forth and the water that emerged brought eternal youth to whosoever would drink it,” the web site says.<sup>13</sup> This is clearly a narrative much more at home with the likes of an Indiana Jones movie, than it is with biblical truth.

The Abbey further states that the legend of Joseph is intertwined with the “cult of the Virgin.”<sup>14</sup> One can only wonder why Murray wants to promote myths, legends, and lore. Perhaps the Apostle Paul has the answer when he said some will turn from truth to fables (2 Timothy 4:4). The word Paul uses is *myth*. Murray’s assertion that historical evidence sustains his claim is bogus; it is he who doesn’t understand.

Murray draws the Glastonbury legends from E. Raymond Capt, whose sensationalistic books he sells. Capt’s beliefs include pyramidology, British Israelism, claims of a lost chapter of Acts, legends of the British coronation stone, and the legends of Glastonbury. Murray considers his books to be factual.

### UNDERSTANDABLE OR NOT?

While Murray emphasizes how easy it is to understand the Bible, it isn’t long before he is leaving the impression that he is the only one who can properly interpret it. Murray refers to other preachers as “Bible-thumpers,” “one-verse Charlies,” and “ratchet-jaws.” Those who don’t subscribe to his interpretations are “numskulls,” “yahoos,” and “yo-yos.” Murray’s exposition carries the constant refrain, “That is to say... .” This is understood to mean that the Scripture verse says what Murray says it means.

Murray also denies that the canon of Scripture is closed by saying por-

tions of the Apocrypha are “biblical.”<sup>15</sup> Murray says, “I know from research that, [for] example, part — parts of the Apocrypha are — should be — should have been canonized.”<sup>16</sup>

The prime church accepting the Apocrypha as canon, or inspired Scripture, is the Roman Catholic Church, which did so at the Council of Trent in A.D. 1545. The Apocrypha was not authoritatively quoted by Jesus or the Apostles, nor was it considered canon by the Jews, Jerome, or the Reformers. Murray implies a special insight beyond the people of God who rejected the canonicity — either in part or whole — of the Apocryphal books.<sup>17</sup>

### CHURCH OF THE HOLY SATELLITE DISH

Like most cult leaders, Murray denigrates the validity of any church or Christian ministry other than Shepherd’s Chapel and claims exclusive access to the truth. He tells his viewers:

“Well, you’re in church when you study with us. This is — we are a church, okay? You’re in church when you’re studying. Television is simply an outreach of our church, all right? You’re in church.”<sup>18</sup>

In a May 16, 1991 broadcast he told viewers:

“I am a servant of the living God that carries the end time message, and it’s either time to wake up now, or go down with your boat, friend.”<sup>19</sup>

After coming under criticism for that statement, Murray tried to mute its impact by saying that all of his followers are servants of the living God and that they carry the same message. His followers, however, would not think of themselves as being anywhere near his level. All Murray’s caveats do is extend the elitism to his group. They are special because of his teaching. An end times message certainly suggests something unique and different from what others are teaching. One must accept this message or “go down.”

In one broadcast, Murray aired interviews of his followers from his Passover 2001 convention.<sup>20</sup> The euphoria is palpable as devotees talk of their joy, love, excitement, enthusiasm, and inspiration. Studying with Shepherd's Chapel is described as having one's "eyes opened." Clearly they are thrilled with Murray and his teachings. However, any cult worth its salt can produce shivers, quivers, and emotional highs.

Murray's annual convention is a setting for mass baptisms of members



*The Shepherd's Chapel in Gravette, Ark., pastored by Arnold Murray. Sunday morning services are held here on the first and third Sundays of each month.*

of his satellite flock. People come from all over the country.

One woman boasted, "We attended church all our life and I was sick one Sunday and we picked him up, found him, and we ain't ever went back to church. We joined Shepherd's Chapel."<sup>21</sup> Quitting one's local church appears to be a Murrayite badge of honor. Cults almost always encourage members to leave their local church. While some churches may be in error, God is not through with the local church. Murray gets support from his flock by suggesting: "It's real simple, you tithe where you're taught God's Word. And if people didn't, then

God's Word wouldn't come to them."<sup>22</sup>

### SOMEBODY CALL ME A DOCTOR

Apologist and journalism instructor William Alnor says, "The message Arnold Murray is spreading is cultic and lethal to one's soul. And from an earthly perspective his teachings promote bigotry against Jews, blacks and all non Anglo-Saxon people."<sup>23</sup> Alnor goes on to say that Murray "Bestows a special honor on himself, claiming

to be God's exclusive end time messenger for the world" and "Falsely claims to have a doctorate degree from a properly accredited university or seminary."<sup>24</sup>

Unlike most television preachers, Murray does not bask in the limelight of media attention and does not do interviews. For example, newspaper writer Melinda Welsh had her requests for an interview with Murray turned down. Murray, she was told, was "unavailable for comment."<sup>25</sup> The Christian Research Institute also has been rebuffed in its requests for information from Murray and his ministry. CRI's B.J. Oropeza wrote to

Murray asking for the details as to his degree. Oropeza states, "Mr. Murray sent me a letter (dated 6-11-91) stating that 'My gift to teach is the only credential that I will give.'"<sup>26</sup>

Murray and his defenders have bluntly rejected the complaints by Alnor, Oropeza, and other critics, calling them gossip. He contends:

"It is true that I have a policy of not publicly stating where I earned my doctorate because then 'critics' cannot judge me by association. I have always publicly stated that my credentials are my ability to teach God's Word. To the extent that our Heavenly Father blesses me with the ability to clearly teach His Word, then what higher ordination could there be?"<sup>27</sup>

Murray's rationale for his silence raises more questions than answers. If his doctorate were authentic and from a credible institution, one would not need to judge him "by association." Only a degree from a dubious institute could or would be questioned. Secrecy and silence are cultic traits. The argument that "our Heavenly Father blesses me with the ability to clearly teach His Word" is meaningless and the same kind of subterfuge used by faith healer Benny Hinn to shroud his lack of biblical training.

Not every Christian who holds an area of leadership in a teaching position (i.e., Sunday school teacher) needs to hold a seminary or Bible college degree. However, a teacher such as Murray, who claims to have "millions of serious Bible students" devoted to him, is a different matter entirely. Even his staunch defenders, perhaps unwittingly, exalt Murray into a place of unequalled stature:

"I will tell you that Pastor is a teacher of the scriptures like no other. He KNOWS the WORD so well that he reads with authority using intonations of the people in the scriptures. Only our Father could give such a gift. And He did. ... I have never had such a brilliant teacher, and I am a product of America's higher education system."<sup>28</sup>

## HOLY BAT CREEK STONE

There seems to be no end to Murray's claims of intellectual prowess and abilities beyond even the most respected scholars. Murray claims to have translated the Bat Creek Stone. Launching into self-congratulation, Murray says:

"It would be myself, in later years, that would translate the stone for what it properly says. I know Cyrus Gordon and some others — why he does not translate it properly, I know not. But that's his problem, not mine. I know him personally. I respect the man. He's quite a scholar. I think I understand why he translates it as he does. But the message is quite frankly — umm, the angel, I'm sorry — the lion of the tribe of Judah always faces right or east. That's why the resh is supposedly facing the wrong way. ... The stone says in perfect Hebrew, even having a Masoretic note attached, okay? That's awesome. 'Let the voice of God be the poker that draws these firebrands back to Him.' That is the proper, clear, undeniable translation of the stone. It can't be translated any other way and be complete."<sup>29</sup>

The above would be almost comical were it not so serious. The Bat Creek Stone was discovered in 1889 in an Indian mound in Tennessee. Photographs of it show an approximate 2-by-4-inch stone with a mere eight characters. Featured in a *Biblical Archaeology Review* magazine article, the best that can be said about the *one word* on the small stone is that it is ambiguous, uncertain, inconclusive, and possibly even a fraud.<sup>30</sup> Lowell Kirk, a longtime resident of Bat Creek and an accomplished historian, opts for the latter.<sup>31</sup> Even if the eight letters on the tiny stone were, in fact, Hebrew characters, anyone at any time could have scratched them on. All scholars agree that the one word is some form of the word *Judah*, therefore it could not be the 15 words suggested by Murray. He has made up nonsense. Murray's translation protractations are reminiscent of Joseph

Smith and his *Book of Abraham* papyri, in which Smith took a manuscript containing instructions for preparation of a body for burial and turned it into an account of the life of the Old Testament patriarch.

## LOST IN SPACE

Murray teaches the astrological myth of current relevant spiritual information in the stars — seen only by him. He discerns end-time scenarios in planetary alignments as he reads verbatim almost incomprehensible planetary data. He claims that "I truly believe that there is a Bible in stars, when you take the zodiac" and "God uses the [astrological] signs even though it is mythology."<sup>32</sup>

Murray appeals to fundamentalists and constantly touts the King James Version of the Bible and *Strong's Concordance*. But, most likely, Murray derives his astronomical ideas from E.W. Bullinger and his *Companion Bible*,<sup>33</sup> which he offers on his programs. It is disingenuous of Murray to berate the traditions of men while advertising, selling, and parroting the works of an ultradispensationalist such as Bullinger<sup>34</sup> who taught mystical meanings in numbers and another source of divine revelation, namely the constellations.

Consider one such example of Murray's astronomical ramblings:

"Saturn is the planet of Satan, okay? Jupiter is his son. What is Satan's son? Who was God's Son? God's Son was Jesus, Satan's son is Zeus. I'm breaking from biblical to mythology. But that is the meaning nevertheless. So who is Satan's son? The Antichrist, of course. Or there is that possibility that it could signify that. That and two bucks will get you a cup of coffee anywhere. But stay awake, all right? [Saturn and Jupiter] come to a standstill on January the 25th [2002]. I repeat, come to a standstill this January the 25th as almost — at almost the same instant: 14th hour and the 15th hour respectfully [sic]. ... What about this January the 25th? I don't know.

It's just going to be an interesting time. ... As a watchman there are benchmarks that come along where there are changes. ... Because things are about to happen."<sup>35</sup>

In all of this, the viewer is never told exactly what will happen, though the hint is that it has something to do with the Antichrist. Murray directs the attention of his followers to his ambiguous "Bible in stars" and away from the trustworthy written Word of God. Despite his warnings about other teachers of the Word, it is Murray himself who is a purveyor of the traditions of men, as well as a propagator of legends and myths. Obviously, Jan. 25, 2002, has come and gone like any other day.

## DOCTRINE BASHING

Anyone who digests a diet of Murray's broadcasts, watching as he pores over his teaching, is struck by his denials of both essential and non-essential doctrines. In fact, Murray could well be labeled the "Grandfather of Denial." Murray takes verses out of context and applies any meaning that suits his fancy. He twists and misinterprets Bible texts in ways that are difficult to believe. Charles Bridges alerts us that fundamental errors and heresies originate because "They are mostly based on partial or disjointed statements of truth. Truth separated from truth becomes error."<sup>36</sup>

## GOD'S IN HIS OFFICE

Foremost in Murray's theological repertoire is his denial of the Trinity, or triune nature of God. Murray teaches, with a slight nuance, the same heresy in regard to God that is promulgated by Oneness Pentecostals. Oneness Pentecostals deviated from the Assemblies of God and its strong Trinitarian position. They were vehemently opposed by the Assemblies' councils in 1915 and 1916.<sup>37</sup>

Murray clearly teaches modalism. However, he is not always clear about the exact form of modalism. But it is good to remember that many heresies begin with skewed views of the Godhead. Murray offers:

“So why not just simplify it instead of playing stupid games, and understand *there are three offices of the Godhead*. Like this little lady said. She said, ‘To my husband I am a wife, to my children I am a mother, that’s my office. To hundreds of third graders I am their teacher and have been down through the years. That’s a different office; none of them the same, but I’m still the *same person*.’ I like that. It’s simple and to the point.”<sup>38</sup>

Murray says, “Many of you may have had thoughts in the past about the Godhead. How does this — how does this three offices work? Well, John makes it very clear and he gives you solid ground to stand on.”<sup>39</sup>

He further states:

“Emmanuel, God with us. If you’ve seen the Son, you’ve seen the Father. That God was there, okay? He was literally there. Why? He loves His children and He took on the office of Savior.”<sup>40</sup>

“Again, this upsets some people — tough. You know, be that as it may, God has three offices. I hope you can see that.”<sup>41</sup>

Modalism muddles and denies the doctrine of the Trinity. It sees the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as only modes or manifestations of a singular person. This being, called God, shifts in and out of “offices,” according to Murray. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were only parts played and acted out by the one God. In modalism, God is a divine actor with three masks or three modes.

In Christological modalism, Jesus is viewed as the Father and Holy Spirit as well as Himself. Teachers of modalism say that Jesus prayed to Himself in John 17 and in the Garden of Gethsemane, and, as well, could not be seated at the right hand of the Father as Mediator. When Jesus said, “I and the Father are one,” what He really meant, say the modalists, is not, I and the Father are one in nature and essence, but, I and the Father are really one in the same person. That is,

I am the Father. One can search the Bible in vain to find Jesus ever saying anything like that.

In another form of modalism, the main actor is the Father, but the most persistent form is that Jesus is the one behind it all. The Bible clearly teaches three persons, not three costumes. Some motion pictures may have an actor playing several roles, thereby keeping the makeup men very busy, but the Bible does not present God in that way.

Ron Rhodes emphasizes that modalism sets forth “a different God, a different Jesus, and a different gospel.”<sup>42</sup> Rhodes adds that those espousing modalism have to be “categorized as a cult. Their differences with mainstream historic Christianity are not mere peripheral issues but relate to the foundational doctrines on which Christianity rests.”<sup>43</sup>

Jesus could not have identified God the Father as a Spirit in John 4 if the Father were there in a physical body acting as Jesus. To be honest, Jesus would have had to say God the Father is physical because He is Me! This modalistic version of God raises questions about the truthfulness and sinlessness of Christ in that in their view, Jesus was only pretending to relate to the Father. A further point to ponder is how Jesus could have forsaken Himself on the cross.

No one would suggest that the Trinity is easy to understand or fathom. The Bible simply presents it. As with many Bible doctrines we can have *sufficient* knowledge without necessarily having *comprehensive* knowledge. Such is the case with the triune nature of God. Deuteronomy 6:4 assures us that God is one, but this does not mean that God is simply a unit marked by singleness alone. The Bible reveals, that though one in nature, God is manifest in three distinct persons coequal and coeternal. Their oneness is based on their nature and essence.

The Bible reveals to us the Father who is God (Galatians 1:1-3), the Son who is God (Isaiah 9:6, John 1:1, 8:58), and the Holy Spirit who is God (Acts 5:3-9). This is not tritheism (three

gods), for tritheism denies the unity of the essence of God and holds to three distinct persons and three distinct natures. Murray hints that Trinitarians believe in tritheism saying, “It’s dangerous to worship multi-gods.”<sup>44</sup>

Trinitarianism is further distinguished from modalism because modalism teaches a Trinity of revelation and not an ontological Trinity, that is, three persons with the same nature.<sup>45</sup>

The Creed of Athanasius defines and defends the doctrine of the Trinity. It is a lengthy document that forever capsulized the Church’s view of the Bible’s teaching on the Godhead. The Creed did not create or originate the Trinity, but simply received and perpetuated what orthodoxy had always believed and taught. While not quoting the entire document, several crucial aspects should be noted:

“And the Catholic [true Christian] faith is this: that we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; Neither confounding the Persons; nor dividing the Substance. For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one: the Glory Equal, the Majesty Coeternal. ... So likewise the Father is Almighty, the Son Almighty: and the Holy Ghost Almighty. And yet they are not three Almighties: but one Almighty. So the Father is God, the Son is God: and the Holy Ghost is God. And yet they are not three Gods: but one God. ... And in this Trinity none is before, or after other: none is greater, or less than another.”<sup>46</sup>

Summarizing voluminous amounts of Scripture, James White declares:

“Within the one Being that is God, there exists eternally three coequal and coeternal persons, namely, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”<sup>47</sup>

Apologist Robert Morey contrasts the two heresies of modalism and

Arianism in this way:

"The relationship between Arianism and Modalism should not be overlooked. Whereas Modalists accept the deity of the Son, but reject His personhood, Arians accept His personhood, but reject His deity! Whereas Arians reject the deity of the Spirit, Modalists accept it. They too take the extreme opposite positions on many issues. ... Both Modalism and Arianism are *reactionary* theologies, i.e., they arose in response to the orthodox doctrine of the Trinity. ... Modalism emphasized the One to the exclusion of the Three, while Arianism emphasized the Three to the exclusion of the One."<sup>48</sup>

If Murray thinks he is not teaching modalism, he is in error for his words and statements indict him. He is further judged by his own words when he states, "if you write a falsehood concerning God, you're an idiot, 'cause you're hell-bound."<sup>49</sup>

### A GOD WHO IS LEARNING

Another major departure from orthodoxy is Murray's teaching that God does not know the future. Murray probably would not know to call this finite godism or open theism, but that is what it is.<sup>50</sup>

In a question and answer session, Murray reads a viewer's inquiry about God knowing the future: "My question is: 'God knows all things, so why did He tell Adam and Eve not to eat a certain fruit when He knew in advance that they would eat it?'" To this Murray responds: "He didn't know. He gave them the choice. That's what people have to understand. If God knew exactly who was going to sin and fall short we wouldn't be in this second Earth age. It would have been skipped."<sup>51</sup>

During another question and answer session, Murray addresses a similar query:

"The question is this: 'If God knows everything about where our life leads from start to finish...' He doesn't! I know that

you've listened to some of these people that say God is all-knowing. He knows — God is all-knowing to the point He knows exactly what He's going to do. But He doesn't know exactly what you're going to do. If God knew how many would trip up and fall, He would have — He would have put them in the Lake of Fire before this Earth age ever began."<sup>52</sup>

How differently the Psalmist saw God. The Psalmist said, "Great is the Lord. ... His understanding is infinite" (Psalm 147:5). Isaiah extolled God and declared that His understanding is comprehensive and not restricted by time: "Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things that are not yet done" (Isaiah 46:10). With Murray, God is reduced to a being who does not know much more than we do.

### STRAW APPLES

Often Murray gets totally off base in the quick construction and the heavy demolition of his own straw men. He misses simple truths by claiming Evangelicals teach what they do not. He ridicules those who teach that Adam ate an apple. One would be hard-pressed to find that concept stated in any commentary or book on Creation.

Then Murray alludes to the first sin being that of Eve having sexual relations with the serpent. He says if Adam and Eve had "eaten an apple they would have made a mask of fig leaves and placed it over their mouth. They didn't. They placed an apron around their loins, their private parts. Do you know the truth? I don't know, [but] you just heard it. I hope that you have eyes to see and ears to hear. And know the underst— and understand that that truth sets you free."<sup>53</sup>

The "Serpent Seed" doctrine is the cornerstone of Murray's theological system as he rambles on about Cain as the offspring of Eve and Satan, and the "Kenites" as the offspring of Cain. He rebukes anyone who says, "Well, I heard that that's a very bad doctrine," by saying, "Well, you've been lied to."<sup>54</sup>

### KENITE CONFUSION

Murray's "Serpent Seed" doctrine denies the oneness of humanity. Acts 17:26 declares: "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth." Mankind has one origin in Adam and Eve and blood types can be transfused from race to race regardless of color or ethnicity.

As for Satan being the father of Cain, Genesis 4:1 teaches without question that Adam was the father of Cain. Abel was the second born according to Genesis 4:2. They are called brothers in Genesis 4:8-9 and never *taam*, the Hebrew word for twins, as Murray teaches. Note, as well, Eve's description of her son Cain in Genesis 4:1, "I have acquired a man from the Lord." Though Cain would later reject the Lord, Eve expressed an inspired truth that shows Cain was not a "serpent seed" at birth, but rather a gift from God.

In Genesis 3:6 and 17 we find that *both* Adam and Eve ate of the tree. Murray is silent about the implications of his sex with the serpent mythology when it comes to Adam and teaches as though Eve were the only one involved. Genesis 3 is clear that disobedience to God's stated command to refrain from this one tree is the issue. We are not told the nature of the tree (Hebrew *ets*, a literal tree) simply because that is not the issue. Murray suggests that *ets* means backbone and then relates it to stiffness.<sup>55</sup> Obedience was the only issue facing Adam and Eve.

Murray creates an incredible scenario of Cain being the father of the Kenites. In his view then, the Kenites were the offspring of Satan through Cain and became the "serpent seed" race. His scenario does not stand up to biblical scrutiny.

What we know of the Kenites, we know from the Bible. Where Murray has gotten this myth is hard to tell, but we know it crops up in the teachings of heretical groups.

The Kenites were a nomadic people who, in Old Testament times, dwelt in the south of Israel and probably

consisted of a number of groups, as they are alternately referred to as Kenites and Midianites. Their relationship with ancient Israel was sometimes good and other times questionable. We know that David befriended them (1 Samuel 30:26-31).

Murray's constant classification of Kenites as evil is not supported by Scripture. We do not have huge amounts of specific material on the Kenites, but what we do know makes Murray's ideas impossible and clearly in error.

Consider the fact that Moses married into a Kenite family. This alone makes Murray's ideas silly. Moses' in-laws are called both Midianite (Numbers 10:29) and Kenite (Judges 4:11). Midian may have to do with geography and Kenite with the occupation of metalworking and metal-smithing. The Kenite designation may also have to do with tribal affiliation. What can be said with certainty is that the Kenites became worshipers of Yahweh, and God says nothing negative of Moses' marriage to Zipporah. We are told in Judges 1:16 that the Kenites allied themselves with Israel, which indicates they were committed to Yahweh.<sup>56</sup> There is no hint anywhere in the Bible that they are a devil race or a "serpent seed" and never once are they called that.

In 1 Chronicles 2:55, the Kenites are described as scribes. God would not have allowed his chosen people to have the "serpent seed" in their midst, copying their sacred books. Israel is constantly warned about the Canaanites, but never about the Kenites.

### CONNECTING DOTS AND CONNECTING HERETICS

Murray's "serpent seed" teachings closely resemble those of arch-heretic William Branham, who went so far as to give the details of a 10-foot, missing-link serpent who fathered Cain.<sup>57</sup> Branham in turn may have lifted his ideas from Daniel Parker and the Two-Seed-in-the-Spirit Predestinarian Baptists.<sup>58</sup> Branham had Baptist roots and his genealogy of "the Devil's children," according to Douglas Weaver, "shows similarities" to Parker's.<sup>59</sup>

Murray, however, takes a more sinister and vicious leap with his "Serpent Seed" doctrine and constructs a horrible anti-Semitic twist. Teaching that Cain's seed survived the flood, he twists and bends John 8:44 ("you are of your father the devil") to apply to Jews as the literal offspring of Satan. Murray has written, "Now, who stands in Jerusalem today? ... the sons of Cain, or those who will not accept Jesus Christ. ... The Kenites, that founded a new nation starting in 1948."<sup>60</sup> Murray has also stated that "in our day, this generation in which the Kenites returned to Palestine."<sup>61</sup>

The Israelis, then, are the sons of Cain and are the modern Kenites. Murray's theology borders on the inflammatory hate message espoused by the Identity Movement, Aryan Nation, and other white supremacists, conspiratorialists, and survivalists. It feeds the politics of hatred.<sup>62</sup> Murray might try to deny this anti-Semitism, but it is there. He may not be directly connected to the radical right, but the ideas are similar.

The subtle difference between Murray and the white supremacist movement is that Murray teaches that though the "tares" of Matthew 13 are the physical offspring of Satan (Cainites equal Kenites equal Jews), they are not to be rooted up now, but left alone until judgment. Murray argues to leave them alone for now and God will get them in the end. As such, his message is the same as the Identity Movement, but his method of response is totally different. With this distinction, Murray claims he is not "anti" any group.

In a bizarre interpretation of Matthew 13, Murray teaches that by accepting his view (that the literal seed of Satan is the tares and that the tares are the Kenites), one acquires the "key of David." The "key of David" is Murray's shorthand for the key to really understanding the Bible and having one's mind open to Murray's insights.

There is nothing new under the sun and we know that Satan at times repackages old errors and heresies. Epiphanius, Bishop of Salamis (c. 315-

403), was an early apologist who compiled arguments against 80 current heresies in a book titled *Medicine-Chest*.<sup>63</sup> Adam Clarke notes that Epiphanius wrote against the Cainites and Archontites. Clarke concludes that they "said that the father of the Jews was a demon ... that Cain had a demon for his father, the spirit which our Lord speaks of here; and that the Jews proceeded from the race of Cain."<sup>64</sup>

The logical implications do not seem to dawn on Murray or his followers. If the Jews are a literal demon race, where does that leave Jesus, John, Peter, Paul, and all the early Messianic believers? What would be the hope of evangelism in Israel today? Chapters 9 through 11 of Romans would be obsolete. In the end, Murray's view is a leap of religious fantasy.

Murray is somewhat inconsistent and says at times that Kenites are all the unconverted.<sup>65</sup> Somehow, one is a Kenite, and at the time of receiving eternal life then becomes an Israelite or a descendant of the twelve tribes. Americans can be Kenites and Israelites at the same time, or may just be one or the other.

Murray disqualifies Israel and the Jews, not only with John 8:44, but on a further count as well by resurrecting an old, elitist conglomeration called British-Israelism.

### JERUSALEM

In one presentation, Murray denies the identity and unity of Israel by applying Micah 5 to the United States and our invasion of Afghanistan.<sup>66</sup> This confused merging of things that differ is a result of Murray's mistakenly equating Europe and America with Israel. In Murray's world of code words, Jerusalem and Israel equal Europe, the United States, and Canada when he wants them to.

In clear, but erroneous, statements Murray teaches the indefensible and unbiblical doctrine called British Israelism. He states:

"You had the ten tribes that went north over the Caucasus Mountains, were called Caucasians,

settled Europe, and then later migrated here. That's to say, the House of Israel."<sup>67</sup>

"When all twelve tribes are mentioned it's important that you know. Many people might say, 'Well, why are we in America reading this today?' Very simple. That ten of those natural tribes went over the Caucasus Mountains, were later called Caucasians, settled Europe, and many of them migrating into the Americas forming this great nation. Do you think it's an accident that the U.S. of A. is a superpower of superpowers in these end times?"<sup>68</sup>

"The Assyrian, as you're going to find, would come. And he took those ten tribes, the ten northern tribes, over the Caucasus Mountains. They were later called Caucasians, Kelts or Celts."<sup>69</sup>

James Taylor describes British Israelism as:

"A nationalistic eschatological theory rather than a separate sect and movement. ... Three convictions are central. First, the OT prophecies must be literally fulfilled or God is a liar and unfaithful to his word. Second, British Israelitism believes that the prophecies require for their fulfillment the persistence, as a nation, of the 10 tribes of the northern kingdom of Israel under a king of David's dynasty. The tribes were taken into captivity in Assyria in the 8th century B.C. Third, they believe that the people of Britain and the USA are the descendants of the 10 tribes and are, therefore, the inheritors of God's promises. The lost tribes are to be identified with the Scythians, Cimmerians, and Goths who eventually, as the Angles, Saxons, Jutes, and Normans, reached England after being 'sifted through many nations' (Amos 9:9). As a result, it is claimed, the English language contains many words similar to Hebrew... . [British Israelitism] has also been charged with en-

couraging a false sense of racial security and pride. Few historians support its theories, and it can be dismissed on ethnological and philological grounds. Its method of interpreting Scripture allows serious distortion of truth to conform to modern-day events."<sup>70</sup>

Murray doesn't explain how a Semitic people can turn non-Semitic just by migration. Murray fails first in the area of genetics and sociology. He also fails in Bible, since there is no factual basis for the term "lost tribes of Israel." This is a lie repeated so often that people begin to think of it as the truth. Murray's ideas also fail the linguistics test since English and Hebrew are miles apart. They are not even written in the same direction.

Murray assumes the ten tribes were lost, which is an old canard and not based on historical and biblical fact. Before the Assyrian invasion of Israel in 722 B.C., many of the people of the northern tribes migrated south into Judah, according to 2 Chronicles 11:13-18; 15:8-9, 12; 30:18-20. Many of those taken into captivity would return, according to Isaiah's prophesy: "The remnant of Israel ... though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return" (Isaiah 10:20-22).

Anton Darms observes:

"British-Israel advocates evade the plain facts of the Bible with reference to the promise of Israel's return to their own land (Ezekiel 34:13, 14; 36:1-11). The thirty-seventh chapter of Ezekiel is unquestionable proof of God's purpose to unify both houses of Israel and to consolidate them into one nation after the Babylonian captivity."<sup>71</sup>

Cyrus, the Persian King, decreed that *all* the tribes in captivity could return (2 Chronicles 36:23). Under Ezra and Nehemiah, Jews from all the tribes returned as prophesied and an offering was made "twelve he-goats for the twelve tribes of Israel" (Ezra 6:17). Both Ezra and Nehemiah use the terms Jew and Israel interchangeably and they refer to Israel 62 times.

Representatives of all of the tribes show prominently in Ezra 2:70; 6:16, 21; 7:6-8; and Nehemiah 7:73; 12:44-47.

As Jesus sent the Apostles throughout the land of Israel, they were to go to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matthew 10:6; 15:24). All the house of Israel was present at Pentecost according to Acts 2:36 (both in Jerusalem and from the Diaspora). Of the 16 countries represented, and recorded by Luke (vv. 9-11), there is no mention of Britain.

Tribal identity still was being maintained at the time of Jesus. For example, we meet Anna from the tribe of Asher in Luke 2:36. In the 1880s, Jews from Yemen were identified with the tribe of Gad.<sup>72</sup> Many Jews in dispersion today have maintained awareness of their tribal identities. Since the word (or name) *Cohen* is derived from the Hebrew word for priest, it is believed they are of the tribe of Levi. There are priestly blessings given at the Western Wall in Jerusalem on regular occasions.

Gentiles are never referred to as Israel or Jews, and sharp distinctions between the two are made in Acts 13:46-48. James addresses his epistle to "The Twelve Tribes" (James 1:1), so apparently there is reason to believe they still all existed and none was lost. Abraham's land grant clearly applies to Israel and no other people group. Genesis 15:18 defines the borders. Moses in the Palestinian covenant restricts it all to the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 4:23, 26-27; 5:33; 11:16-17). The United States is just not Israel.

Knowing that there is hardly an aberrant group that has not been identified with the so-called lost tribes of Israel, Will Varner amply demonstrates the weaknesses of British-Israelism from the Scriptures, and adds:

"To summarize, it can be said, on the basis of Scripture, history and archaeology, that there is no such thing as the *ten lost tribes*. What was lost was the separate existence of the *kingdom* of Israel in the north. The tribes, however, continued to exist in the body of

the southern kingdom with the terms 'Jews' and 'Israel' applied to all of the covenant people after the captivity."<sup>73</sup>

Varner goes on to call the ideas of British-Israelism a "preconceived bias" that "fosters national pride and is helping to fuel the white supremacist, anti-Semitic groups." He then urges "not be led astray by the misinterpretations and fanciful imaginings of man!"<sup>74</sup>

David Baron called British-Israelism "wild guess-work" while Donald Barnhouse said it was "One of the most fantastic theories that has ever been spun in religious history."<sup>75</sup> Dr. A.C. Gaebelien noted that it should "be called 'Anglo-Ishmaelism' for it is an attempt to help God to fulfil His promises."<sup>76</sup>

## GETTING HELL OUT OF THE BIBLE

As do the Jehovah's Witnesses and Adventists, Murray teaches that unbelievers will be annihilated and cease to exist. He teaches:

"Now after the Great White Throne judgment and God blots certain people out, it could be possible that we won't remember certain people that are not there."<sup>77</sup>

Elsewhere he writes:

"We know man can kill our earthly bodies, but only our Father in heaven has the power to wipe out the existence of the soul ... God's emotions are so much greater than you can even imagine, and to roast one of his own children day and night would be something only Satan would conceive of."<sup>78</sup>

Murray above sets up a straw man by suggesting that eternal punishment should be called "roasting" or by suggesting that Evangelicals believe that God's own children would be roasted. Romans 8:1 assures us that God's children will not come into condemnation.

Murray exploits human emotion in making his appeal for annihilation:

"What kind of God do you serve? I mean here's heaven, here's the throne, we're in the eternity. It's beautiful. We're in spiritual bodies. There's not a tear being shed. But here within the site of the throne, what do we got? We got a big old lake over [there]. And there's old Uncle John just burning like a piece of bacon. And he's screaming his head out, 'Oh God help me!' And this is heaven? What's wrong with that picture? Do you understand now why God said I'm going to blot them out? And don't you understand that that's punishment enough? ... I think that most people know that we have a loving God, and I would not consider a God loving that's going to set up a Lake of Fire and we got to watch them poor suckers burn forever and call it heaven. I don't want to see it."<sup>79</sup>

Murray's logic minimizes God's fairness and justice. It also fails to take seriously our sin against a perfect and holy God. Robert Peterson cites Thomas Aquinas' response to this type of argument:

"Further, the magnitude of the punishment matches the magnitude of the sin. ... Now a sin that is against God is infinite; the higher the person against whom it is committed, the graver the sin — it is more criminal to strike a head of state than a private citizen — and God is of infinite greatness. Therefore an infinite punishment is deserved for a sin committed against him."<sup>80</sup>

To Aquinas' justification, Peterson adds:

"Sin is an attack on the infinitely holy God. He, therefore, justly set the penalties for sin in this world and the next. He righteously condemns sinners for Adam's sin and for their own. And he plainly teaches that he punishes the wicked forever. We conclude that he is just in so doing."<sup>81</sup>

Murray's logic is further deficient because while God's holiness does

demand justice, that justice was met on Calvary's cross for those who trust in Christ. This, the very essence of the Gospel, is a message that is lacking in Murray's Bible studies. Little, if any, time is spent by him declaring the wonderful and redemptive work of Jesus Christ. For Murray, proclamation of his unorthodox doctrine and bizarre interpretations is paramount.

In Gnostic-like fashion, Murray states that a sinner's stay in hell will be of a short duration. "Well, they've only got an hour in hell anyway. So be it."<sup>82</sup> This idea springs from Rabbinic Judaism, which taught that for less sinful people "the final torments of Gehenna would last for twelve months, after which body and soul would be annihilated, [but it] excepts from this a number of Jewish sinners, specially mentioned, such as heretics, Epicureans, apostates, and persecutors, who are designated as 'children of Gehenna.'"<sup>83</sup>

Murray, as do others who argue for annihilation, uses out-of-context verses from Ecclesiastes that speak of "life under the sun," that is, on Earth. Ecclesiastes is looking at life from the point of view of one who has left God out of the equation and is living with an earthly point of view and little else. These statements may appear true from that perspective, but when God is introduced in Chapter 12 the equation changes radically. Good hermeneutics must apply, but Murray is woefully lacking when it comes to employing sound biblical interpretation.

Some would argue that the Bible uses the vocabulary of annihilation when it speaks of hell. Words such as *perish* and *destroy* mean just that, they say. However, both the Hebrew and the Greek words used have a range of meanings, which makes the idea of a continued, ruined, and wretched existence a viable and likely rendering. A city may be ruined and even destroyed, but the rubble remains.

The burning of chaff and consuming of enemies are also seen as proof of annihilation, but these are clearly figures of speech and illustrations. Peterson suggests that annihilationists

miss the entire point of these analogies as these figures are not speaking of consumption. Jesus' words are an admonition that "warns of suffering. ... Hell-fire here speaks of anguish, not extinction."<sup>84</sup> We cannot take illustrations of terrible suffering and try to make them mean something else.

Matthew 25:41 and 46, as well as Revelation 14:9-11 and 20:10, show unending, conscious punishment for the unsaved. Millard Erickson's observations are worth noting:

"This lends the presumption that the punishment spoken of in Matthew 25:41,46 is also everlasting in nature. Is this fire everlasting, however? We can note, from Revelation 14:11, that the smoke curls up from this fire of torment forever. [Edward] Fudge and others like him contend that the smoke is everlasting, not the punishment. We must ask, however, how there can be smoke without something being burned? If these bodies are burned up, consumed, destroyed, how can there still be smoke? What would produce smoke, unless there was something to burn? For that matter, why would the lake of fire continue in existence, without something left to burn?"<sup>85</sup>

### GROUNDING!

Murray also denies the Rapture of the Church. His opposition to the Rapture is so fierce that he labels it cultic and says belief in the Rapture will surely condemn one's soul and stamp him with the mark of the beast. He ridicules and rails at those who talk of "flying away" labeling them idiots, biblically illiterate, peepers, and pipsqueaks.

While the *timing* of the Rapture may disrupt and divide some Christians — and is a futile speculative pursuit — the *fact* of the Rapture (and the return of Christ) and the resurrection of believers is too clear to miss. Consider 1 Thessalonians 4:17, which distinctly teaches being "caught up" and uses the words "in the clouds" (also see 1 Corinthians 15). These words must

be dealt with in some way because they can be translated "to seize" or "to snatch away," and it is Christ doing it.

Murray seems upset at such a belief as he caricatures and lampoons any who find comfort in meeting Christ in the clouds. He says they will be fooled and find it is really the Antichrist whom they meet. Murray teaches his followers that they should want to be left rather than taken away by the Antichrist. "You better pray you are the one left behind for that's the blessed one," he intones.<sup>86</sup> In Murray's strange world, Christ becomes Antichrist.

Murray repeatedly turns to his mockery of those who write about the Rapture:

"Again, I'll say it — it's obvious — their porch light is not the brightest one on the block. Their elevator misses the top floor because they write about something they're ignorant of. I wonder if it's just to make money. Gosh, I'd hate to be in their shoes on Judgment Day."<sup>87</sup>

Even if one is not a pre-, mid-, or post-tribulationist, he probably would not go to the wild extreme Murray teaches in his cassette, "The Mark of the Beast." Here, Murray pontificates that belief in an any-moment rapture is a constituent factor of the mark of the Beast. Titus 2:13 encourages us to be "looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus," as does 1 John 3:2-3. Murray seems to have a penchant for majoring on minor peripheral doctrines and abusing or denying the important ones. The doctrine of imminency can be a cleansing and motivating factor for the Christian, as the statements in Titus and 1 John affirm.

### MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO...

Murray also teaches that Genesis 1 teaches a "first" Earth age. He implies that the Earth is millions of years old and we were created and existed as soul bodies (somewhat akin to the Latter-day Saint church's pre-existence). As a result of the fall of Lucifer

(Satan) and the destruction it brought, God had to remake creation. Murray calls this re-creation the "second" Earth age. Between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2, he claims, there is a gap when the first Earth age was destroyed and the second Earth age created. Logic tells us that Murray sees something that is not there. He consistently belittles those who hold to a young Earth. "Ignorant Bible thumpers," they are called.<sup>88</sup>

He bolsters his biblical interpretations with what he calls irrefutable evidence. During one broadcast, he briefly shows a flat stone with a footprint impression. He says, "this is an imprint in a stone that is 50,000 years old from the first Earth age. ... It can't be denied, it's there, it's in rock."<sup>89</sup>

No one thinks to ask if the footprint is genuine, how he knows it is, or if it has been verified by geologists. During another broadcast, he displays what looks like the very same stone footprint (of the above cited broadcast) and says:

"And as you know, you've all seen the documentary of the angelic footprint that is ten million years old. And I'm being conservative. A certain university thinks this is fifty million years old."<sup>90</sup>

This sounds like the same kind of silliness that goes on in Jerusalem, where Muslims show the footprints of Jesus in a dome on the Mount of Olives.<sup>91</sup>

Just one verse of Scripture is all that is needed to refute Murray's claim of men before Adam. In 1 Corinthians 15:45, Paul declares: "So it is written, 'the *first man* Adam became a living soul' (emphasis added). The so-called gap theory (the teaching of another entirely different first creation between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2) was a 19th-century invention to try to accommodate the evolutionary theory while holding to the Bible.<sup>92</sup> Though taught by other false teachers such as Benny Hinn,<sup>93</sup> it is antiquated and indefensible. Flood geology explains the fossil record as well as anything.

In addition, Murray tries to prove the theory of pre-Adamic beings by emphasizing the English word *replenish* in Genesis 1:28 (KJV). This is a simple but common error addressed by the CRI's Oropeza in this way:

"Mr. Murray commonly uses King James English instead of examining the original languages whenever the English translation supports his view — but when it contradicts his view, he will attempt to support his view by means of the original languages. For instance, he uses the Old English word 'replenish' to mean 'repopulate' in Genesis 1:28 in order to support the widely disreputed 'gap theory.'"<sup>94</sup>

Oropeza continues:

"This theory alleges that there was an earth age of millions of years between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. Murray states that Adam repopulated the earth. ... However, the Hebrew word for 'replenish' is 'malah' which, in all 306 times it occurs in Scripture, simply means 'to fill,' not 'refill.' The *Oxford English Dictionary* demonstrates that 'replenish' simply meant 'fill' from the 13th to the 17th century when the King James Version was translated. This is why Murray does not refer to the Hebrew of this passage. This is just one of the many examples of how Murray deliberately deceives his followers by withholding the truth from them."<sup>95</sup>

### INSECURITY OF MURRAY'S BELIEVERS

Finally, Murray denies the hope of security of salvation while de-emphasizing grace. Whatever salvation Murray offers seems to be based on the efforts and works of his followers. "Do you love Him? Then He certainly loves you. Follow Him. Listen to Him," Murray counsels.<sup>96</sup> How contrary to the words of Scripture which tell us, "We love because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19, see also John 3:16). Murray has God's love conditionally based upon our attitude to-

ward Him, thereby undermining God's love and grace.

Murray further warns his flock to "Recognize the false from the true so you may come to the wedding, worthy and accountable to be accepted."<sup>97</sup> So it is our worthiness that gets us in.

Whatever Murray's followers have is reduced to eternal insecurity as they are taught that their relationship with Christ can be lost or forfeited. Murray's version of how one keeps eternal life is as follows:

"That is to say, stay true to Him. Reverence Him or you'll really have something to dread. ... How could the Lord God Almighty be also a stumbling stone? The difference between Christ and Antichrist. Christ naturally is our stone. He is our rock. He is our salvation. But if you fall off even — and you love Him, but you don't study the warnings that God has placed here in the strongest terms, and you fall off to this fake king that you've been promised will be set up — both here and in the New Testament, if you fall off to him, then Christ becomes a stumbling block to you and Christ Himself will have to fall upon you because you're a Satan worshiper if you go for the false christ. It's pretty heavy stuff, friend."<sup>98</sup>

Murray, at times, gratuitously mentions the love of God or the mercy of God, but his dominant theme is guilt and fear of eternal loss. His followers fear that if they dare believe in a rapture, they will be swept away by the Antichrist, and if they somehow "fall off" Christ, they will become Satan worshipers.

### THE SAME OLD SONGS

Murray tells his viewers: "I want you to check me out. I could be misleading someone."<sup>99</sup> We have and he is.

Despite Murray's claim to uniqueness, and that he teaches through the Bible verse by verse, wherever he instructs from the Bible he repeti-

tiously inserts his denial points and makes every text about those alone. The uninformed actually believe that Murray's views are found everywhere in the Bible when they are in fact imposed on Scripture.

Murray promises, as it were, 31,102 (approximate number of verses in the Bible) songs, but the songs all end up sounding the same with little variation. One comes to believe that Murray's denials are all the Bible is about.

The conclusions of Oropeza make a fitting summary:

"Based on the above evidence, by redefining the nature of God, Arnold Murray denies the Trinity. ... his views imply a subtle racism. He also teaches the distorted gospel of Anglo-Israelism, the serpent seed doctrine, and other heretical doctrines. He uses the original languages, numerics, symbols, and figures of speech whenever they can be manipulated to support his view, but ignores, or redefines them if they happen to contradict him. His antagonistic attitude toward orthodox Christianity is blatantly evident. Christians should stay far away from his ministry and teachings."<sup>100</sup>

### Endnotes:

1. Randall Price, *Unholy War*. Eugene, Ore.: Harvest House Publishers, 2001, pg. 36.
2. Gravette is a small town of 1,810 people tucked in the very northwest corner of Arkansas.
3. Bible studies and forum clubs of followers of Murray and the Shepherd's Chapel can be found on the Internet. Critics and skeptics who enter into dialogue on these sites and chat rooms are often met with disdain.
4. Comedy Central, *The Daily Show*, "God Stuff" segment for Feb. 9, 1999, video tape on file.
5. Arnold Murray, "Series 160: Isaiah," Shepherd's Chapel broadcast, April 1, 2001.
6. Bill Bowden, "Gravette keeps faith in Bible study," *Arkansas Democrat*, January 9, 1990, pg. 4B.
7. Broadcast statistics are posted on the Shepherd's Chapel web site ([www.shepherdschapel.org](http://www.shepherdschapel.org)). Currently Shepherd's Chapel 24-hour broadcast is found

- on Galaxy 4, Transponder 16.
8. Bennet Bolton, "Loretta Lynn to Wed a Neo-Nazi Preacher," *The National Enquirer*, December 28, 1999, pg. 24.
  9. *Ibid.*, pg. 25.
  10. Arnold Murray, "Series 194: John," commentary on John 1:31, Shepherd's Chapel broadcast, July 11, 2001.
  11. Hagiography is the writing or study of the lives of the saints.
  12. "Glastonbury Abbey - Myths and Legends." Document available at: [www.glastonburyabbey.com/myths.php](http://www.glastonburyabbey.com/myths.php).
  13. *Ibid.*
  14. *Ibid.*
  15. "Series 160: Isaiah," op. cit. Murray's statement is in response to a question from a viewer about the Apocrypha. February 16, 2001.
  16. *Ibid.*
  17. See further, Norman L. Geisler and William E. Nix, *From God to Us*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1974, pp. 96-100.
  18. "Series 160: Isaiah," op. cit. Murray's statement is in response to a question from a viewer about not attending a local church. February 15, 2001.
  19. Cited by B.J. Oropeza in "Arnold Murray and the Shepherd's Chapel," Christian Research Institute paper, DM-600, 12/17/91.
  20. Shepherd's Chapel broadcast of interviews by David Murray of those attending the church's Passover 2001 meetings in Branson, Mo. Exact date of broadcast unknown, video tape on file.
  21. *Ibid.*
  22. "Series 160: Isaiah," op. cit. Murray's statement is in response to a question from a viewer about sending her tithe to Shepherd's Chapel. February 1, 2001.
  23. William Alnor, "The Cultic Views of Arnold Murray and the Shepherd's Chapel," *Christian Sentinel*, September 1994, pg. 30. Also available at: [www.cultlink.com/sentinel/murray.html](http://www.cultlink.com/sentinel/murray.html).
  24. *Ibid.*
  25. Melinda Welsh, "The Proof is in the Preaching: Local TV Programming Viewed as Neo-Nazi," *Sacramento News and Review*, June 15, 1989, pg. 21.
  26. "Arnold Murray and the Shepherd's Chapel," CRI paper, op. cit., appendix.
  27. Pastor Arnold B. Murray, "In Answer to Critics." Document available at: [www.shepherdschapel.com/answers.htm](http://www.shepherdschapel.com/answers.htm).
  28. Becky (no last name given), "The Shepherd's Chapel, and the Watchman Fellowship Lies DEBUNKED." Document available at: [www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Galaxy/6694/watchmanlies.html](http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Galaxy/6694/watchmanlies.html). Upper case in original.
  29. "Series 160: Isaiah," op. cit. Murray's statement is in response to a question from a viewer from Tennessee. February 1, 2001.
  30. J. Huston McCulloch, "The Bat Creek Inscription — Did Judean Refugees Escape to Tennessee?" *Biblical Archaeology Review*, July-August 1993, pp. 46-55.
  31. Lowell Kirk, "The Bat Creek Stone." Document available at: [www.geocities.com/SoHo/Lofts/2712/Batcreek.html](http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Lofts/2712/Batcreek.html).
  32. Arnold Murray, "Tape #1083 - Current Events," Shepherd's Chapel broadcast, exact date of broadcast unknown, video tape on file.
  33. John Kohlenberger describes Bullinger's *Companion Bible* (Kregal Publishing, 1910) as "valuable though sometimes eccentric." ("How to Choose a Study Bible," *Christian Research Journal*, Winter 1996, pg. 15.) Murray also contends that the *Dake Annotated Reference Bible* was taken from the *Companion Bible*. Research shows the *Dake Annotated Reference Bible* to be filled with errors and heresies. (See further, G. Richard Fisher, "The Pentecostal Study Bible - Why Hasn't Anyone Said Anything About the Dangers of the Dake Bible?," *The Quarterly Journal*, October-December 1992, and M. Kurt Goedelman, "A Study in Smoke and Mirrors - Dake Bible Sales, Inc. Battles Critics," *The Quarterly Journal*, October-December 1994.)
  34. The ultradispensationalism of Ethelbert W. Bullinger (also known as Acts 28 Dispensationalism) teaches that the transition of God's redemptive plan from Israel to the Church occurred, not in Acts 2, but in Acts 28 at the conclusion of the Apostle Paul's ministry. As such, this movement does not practice water baptism or the Lord's Supper. Murray and the Shepherd's Chapel, however, do not employ this aspect of Bullinger's theology and observe both baptism and the Lord's Supper.
  35. "Tape #1083 - Current Events," op. cit.
  36. Charles Bridges, *A Commentary on Proverbs*. London: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1968, pg. 15.
  37. See further, Ron Rhodes, *The Challenge of the Cults and New Religions*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Publishing House, 2001, pp. 253-254.
  38. Arnold Murray, "The Shepherd's Chapel Question and Answer period," aired June 4, 1991, cited in "Arnold Murray and the Shepherd's Chapel," CRI paper, op. cit., italics in original.
  39. "Series 194: John," op. cit., commentary on John, July 11, 2001.
  40. *Ibid.*, commentary on John 1:14, July 11, 2001.
  41. *Ibid.*
  42. *The Challenge of the Cults and New Religions*, op. cit., pg. 275.
  43. *Ibid.*
  44. "Series 194: John," op. cit., commentary on John 1:14, July 11, 2001.
  45. See further, Henry Theissen, *Introductory Lectures in Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wm. Eerdmans Publishing, 1952, Chapter 9.
  46. J. Gordon Melton, *American Religious Creeds*. New York: Triumph Books, 1991, Vol. 1, pp. 2-3, brackets in original.
  47. James R. White, *The Forgotten Trinity*. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1998, pg. 26.
  48. Robert Morey, *The Trinity*. Iowa Falls, Iowa: World Publishing, 1996, pg. 477.
  49. "Series 160: Isaiah," op. cit., commentary on Isaiah 9:13, February 16, 2001.
  50. See further, G. Richard Fisher, "Gregory Boyd's Infinitely Intelligent Chess Player," *The Quarterly Journal*, July-September 2000.
  51. Arnold Murray, "Series 305: Song of Solomon." Murray's statement is in response to a question from a viewer about God's omniscience. Shepherd's Chapel broadcast, July 10, 2001.
  52. "Series 194: John," op. cit. Murray's statement is in response to a question from a viewer about God's omniscience. July 12, 2001.
  53. "Series 194: John," op. cit. Exact date of broadcast unknown, video tape on file.
  54. *Ibid.*
  55. Arnold Murray, "Mark of the Beast," Shepherd's Chapel, Tape #438. This cassette is Murray's free offer to new students.
  56. See further, Merrill C. Tenney, general editor, *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Publishing House, 1975, Vol. 3, "Kenites," pp. 782-784.
  57. C. Douglas Weaver, *The Healer-Prophet*. Macon, Ga.: Mercer University Press, 1987, pp. 123-126.
  58. Frank Mead, *Handbook of Denominations in the United States*. New York: Abingdon Press, 1965, pp. 52-53.
  59. *The Healer-Prophet*, op. cit., footnote 93, pg. 125.
  60. *The Shepherd's Bible Commentary* by Arnold Murray, quoted in "Arnold Murray and the Shepherd's Chapel," CRI paper, op. cit., ellipsis in original.
  61. Arnold Murray, "The Seed of the Serpent," Shepherd's Chapel, Tape #461.
  62. See further, Gerald Coates, *Armed and Dangerous - The Rise of the Survivalist Right*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1987.
  63. See further, Elgin S. Moyer, *Who Was Who in Church History*. New Canaan, Conn.: Keats Publishing, Inc., 1974, pg. 134.
  64. Adam Clarke, *The New Testament of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*. New York: Abingdon Press, 1987, New Testament Vol. 1, "Matthew to the Acts," pg. 581.
  65. "Series 160: Isaiah," op. cit. Murray's statements are in response to a question from a viewer about Kenites. April 1, 2001.
  66. "Tape #1083 - Current Events," op. cit.
  67. "Series 160: Isaiah," op. cit., commentary on Isaiah 48:19, April 1, 2001.
  68. *Ibid.*, commentary on Isaiah 2:5,

February 14, 2001.

69. *Ibid.*, commentary on Isaiah 9:12, February 16, 2001.

70. James Taylor in J.D. Douglas, general editor, *New 20th-Century Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House, 1991, pg. 123.

71. Anton Darms, *The Delusion of British-Israelism*. New York: Louizeaux Brothers, Bible Truth Depot, no date, pg. 47.

72. See further, Bertha Spafford Vester, *Our Jerusalem*. Lebanon, Middle East: Export Press, Inc., 1950, pp. 142-149.

73. Will Varner, *Jacob's Dozen*. Bellmawr, N.J.: The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, 1987, pp. 98-99, italics in original.

74. *Ibid.*, pg. 99.

75. Cited in *The Delusion of British-Israelism*, op. cit., pg. 206.

76. *Ibid.*, pg. 207.

77. "Series 194: John," op. cit. Murray's statement is in response to a question from a viewer asking if we will remember things of this life in the millennium. July 14, 2001.

78. *Shepherd's Chapel Newsletter #151*, quoted in "Arnold Murray and the Shepherd's Chapel," CRI paper, op. cit., ellipsis

in original.

79. "Series 305: Song of Solomon," op. cit., July 10, 2001.

80. Robert A. Peterson, *Hell on Trial*. Phillipsburg, N.J.: P&R Publishing, 1995, pg. 174, ellipsis in original.

81. *Ibid.*

82. "Series 160: Isaiah," op. cit., commentary on Isaiah 8:20, February 16, 2001.

83. Alfred Edersheim, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1965, Vol. 2, pg. 440.

84. *Hell on Trial*, op. cit., pg. 167.

85. Millard J. Erickson, *How Shall They Be Saved?* Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House, 1996, pp. 231-232.

86. "Series 160: Isaiah," op. cit., commentary on Isaiah 8:13-17, February 16, 2001.

87. *Ibid.*, commentary on Isaiah 3:12-13, February 14, 2001.

88. *Ibid.*, commentary on Isaiah 45:18, April 1, 2001.

89. Arnold Murray, Shepherd's Chapel broadcast. Murray's comments are in response to a question from a viewer from Arkansas regarding Genesis 1:28. Exact date of broadcast unknown, video tape on

file.

90. "Series 160: Isaiah," op. cit., commentary on Isaiah 45:18, April 1, 2001.

91. Eugene Hoade, *Guide to the Holy Land*. Jerusalem: Franciscan Printing Press, 1974, pp. 312-314.

92. A valuable refutation of the "gap theory" is found in Chapter 3 of *The Revised & Expanded Answers Book* by Don Batten (editor), Ken Ham, Jonathan Sarfati, and Carl Wieland, (Green Forest, Ark.: Master Books, 2002).

93. See further, G. Richard Fisher and M. Kurt Goedelman, *The Confusing World of Benny Hinn*. Saint Louis: Personal Freedom Outreach, 2002, pp. 162-168.

94. "Arnold Murray and the Shepherd's Chapel," CRI paper, op. cit.


95. *Ibid.*, italics in original.

96. "Mark of the Beast," op. cit., emphasis added.

97. "Arnold Murray and the Shepherd's Chapel," CRI paper, op. cit.

98. "Series 160: Isaiah," op. cit., commentary on Isaiah 8:13-14, February 16, 2001.

99. *Ibid.*, February 14, 2001.

100. "Arnold Murray and the Shepherd's Chapel," CRI paper, op. cit. 

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## RECOVERED MEMORIES

(continued from page 4)

Even some of the therapists' own number are not too sure. One psychiatrist likens it to the hysteria and superstitious zeal of the witch trials of the 16th and 17th centuries. It is sad to think how families have been torn apart and loved ones imprisoned on "evidence" provided by memories that come back in dreams and flashbacks.

In a move toward sanity, professionals have begun to question whether repressed memories are memories at all. Many insist that they are fantasies fueled by an overactive imagination coerced by an incompetent therapist. One such therapist candidly confessed that those, like himself, who interpret memories or dreams are nothing more than storytellers.<sup>4</sup> The result is that each therapist develops his own subjective truth.

A memory-recovery session might consist of the counselor suggesting the existence of hidden memories. The therapist asks the subject if he or

she ever has been abused. The subject replies, "No." The therapist says, "Let's explore the possibility that you were and don't remember it." The therapist explains how "studies" show that many problems such as bulimia, depression, sexual inhibitions, insomnia, and anxiety are related to repressed memories of early childhood abuse. The theory is that if one cannot remember a specific incident of abuse, but admits that it is possible that it could have happened, then it did. It lurks beneath consciousness and then becomes the cause of whatever has brought the individual to counseling.

Just about every person has trouble remembering certain parts of their lives. Most of us remember relatively little of our childhood years. What we do recall is often only bits and pieces. Psychologists, probing these gaps, rely on false interpretations and leading questions to fill in the spaces and make counselees receptive to the idea of some forgotten trauma. A person buys into the goal of therapy by becoming convinced that he or she may have been abused. The thera-

pist's goal is then to uncover the events.

Psychiatrists cannot agree on the legitimacy of unconsciously repressing traumatic memories. Under normal circumstances, people who have experienced traumatic events do not forget them. However, traumatic experiences may be forgotten if a person is rendered unconscious at the time of the trauma and/or has suffered a head injury that has damaged the brain. Memories may be lost because of some neurological trauma or disease. Also, there may be no long-term memory if the person is very young. An example would be a toddler who almost dies in an automobile accident, but doesn't remember it 20 years later. People can *forget*, but they don't *repress* memories.

Several studies present strong evidence that memories can be "created" and that repression, which is the conceptual base for RMT, has no scientific support. One researcher set out to plant a specific memory of being lost in a shopping mall around the age of five. Twenty-four people

between the ages of 18 and 53 participated in the study. These people were asked to try to remember childhood events that the researcher had learned from a parent or a close relative. A booklet was prepared containing one-paragraph stories about three events that had actually happened to the subject and one that did not happen.

The researcher constructed a false event using information about a believable shopping trip provided by the relative. The relative verified that the subject had not in fact been lost at about the age of five. After reading each story in the booklet, the subject wrote what they remembered about the event. If they did not remember it, they were instructed to write, "I do not remember this." Seven of the 24 participants (29%) remembered either partially or fully the false event constructed for them.<sup>5</sup> This study and other experimental procedures have produced similar results that demonstrate how people can be led to remember their past in different ways, and how external suggestions can produce false memories of events that never happened.

### RMT'S ROOTS

The origins of the RMT movement can be traced to the theories of Sigmund Freud.<sup>6</sup> One of these theories is his doctrine of the unconscious. Freud believed a person's mind has an unconscious repository where all of life's experiences are stored as intact memories. By the supposed mechanism of repression, the content of the unconscious is outside the person's awareness. Freud taught that the unconscious expresses itself in mysterious ways that can lead to emotional problems ranging from mild anxiety to major depression and personality disorders.

The RMT movement also draws from Freud's belief in the possibility and necessity of retrieving these repressed memories. This process requires a specially trained therapist who can somehow obtain reliable information from confusing expressions of the unconscious. The thera-

apist breaks down repression and exposes the causes of the problems that brought the subject to therapy. Freud's methodology is that of environmental determinism. This is the belief that where there is an effect, there must be a cause. The cause of man's problems is external; therefore, he is not responsible.

The Freudian philosophy that helped lay the foundation for the RMT movement was his idea about truth. Freud talked about "psychic" truth or reality. Historical truth is truth that can be objectively confirmed. Freud believed repressed memories, retrieved by techniques such as free association or slips of speech (i.e., the proverbial "Freudian slip"), were historical facts as well.

Nouthetic counselor and author Martha Peace reveals some of the dangerous and anti-biblical underpinnings of the founder of psychoanalysis:

"Unfortunately, Sigmund Freud looked into his own sinful heart for answers rather than turning to Scripture. It is well-documented that during the years Freud was formulating his famous theories he used cocaine, maintained an avid interest in the occult and numerology, and believed himself destined for fame."<sup>7</sup>

### SUPPORT FROM UNUSUAL QUARTERS

While the RMT movement is declining as a result of pressure from outside forces, such as ridicule and warnings of other professional organizations, insurance companies, the courts, the scientific community, and a growing number of "recanters" who realize that they had believed a lie, there are still advocates, including people in the Church.

The evangelical Church remained silent over the years while our culture became immersed in the ideas that gave birth to the RMT movement. The Church raised too few objections to the claims of environmental determinism,

the reliability of accessing the unconscious, and "psychic reality" as truth. Instead of theologically confronting these ideas, the Church accepted the ideas and took on practices that developed from the ideas. Church-based ministries, parachurch organizations, and Christian counselors embraced the idea that recovery of repressed memories was possible and constructive. The Church supported the RMT movement using Christian radio, seminars, publications, sermons, and individual practitioners.

The ideas of Sigmund Freud have infiltrated many sectors of the Christian Church. Freud's theories are openly espoused by such Christian authors as Larry Crabb, Gary Collins, Frank Minirth, and Paul Meier. However, while the Church's confidence in psychology grew, secular critics themselves were raising doubts. The titles of some of their books show the confusion and irony of it all and serve to tell the story: *Manufacturing Victims* by Dr. Tana Dineen; *The Myth of Psychotherapy* and *The Myth of Mental Illness* by Thomas Szasz; *Freudian Fraud* and *The Death of Psychiatry* by E. Fuller Torrey.

The Church began to Christianize the ideas of the RMT movement and gave birth to "recovery ministries." "Recovery" became the byword for the "therapeutic" Church. Recovery ministries, which offered the world's psychotherapeutic answers to hurting people inside the Church, soon became a means of church growth. Recovery-related books became the big sellers. For many Christians, the Christian counselor, the support group, Christian recovery literature, and television and radio have replaced the Church.

The Church is now paying the price. Christian counseling — essentially Christians doing secular counseling — replaced pastoral care by pastors and elders of the congregation. Psychology departments were opened and flourished in seminaries and Christian colleges.

Instead of viewing man and his problems through the lens of Scrip-

ture, the Church allowed Scripture to be interpreted through the lens of psychology. Those who championed this movement often sounded vaguely biblical. They quoted Scripture and blended theological ideas with whatever school of secular psychology they held to. The movement conditioned Christians to think of counseling as something best left to the experts.

Many Christians were left with the belief that God's Word is incomplete and insufficient in helping people with their deepest problems. Christians who are seeking help have been directed away from their pastors and other believers. It has diminished the Church's confidence in the Word of God. It has quenched the Holy Spirit.

However, there is another movement that has gained strength over the years among evangelical Christians. Pastors and laymen are rediscovering true biblical counseling.<sup>8</sup> A clear call must be made to summon the Church back to the sufficiency of Scripture as a means for helping people solve their problems. This movement refuses to integrate the philosophies of man with the wisdom of God's Word. Christians everywhere are realizing what they have always believed. They realize that the Word of God is the discernor of men's heart (Hebrews 4:12). They understand that the Holy Spirit is the agent of effective change (John 3:6). And they understand that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Jesus Christ Himself (Colossians 2:3). It is amazing to think that these basic truths would ever be criticized from within the Church itself.

The Bible is the greatest book ever written about psychology. It is authoritative and sufficient when it speaks about man, his nature, and his problems and their solutions. The Scriptures also speak sufficiently in answering the beliefs that propagated the RMT movement.

In Christian counseling, Christ is *all*. Christ is not just one side of the coin; He is both sides. He is the center of the plate, but He is also the rim. Christ must never be an appendage. If

we want to understand the nature and causes of a person's difficulties, we must inquire into the person's values, desires, thoughts, attitudes, and actions and understand the ways in which that person is unlike Christ.

A counselor must help people to replace un-Christ-like (sinful) habits of life with Christ-like (godly) habits of life. In addition, for Christ to be the *all* in counseling, the counselor must be committed to the sufficiency of Scripture (2 Peter 1:3). Christian counselors do not need extra-biblical insights to be effective in counseling. One reason is that man's knowledge is limited. Even Adam's understanding was limited and he needed God's revelation to understand God, himself, right, wrong, true, and false (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-17, 24).

Another reason counselors should not depend on man's insights is because of the depravity of man's nature. The Bible clearly teaches that every aspect of man has been affected by sin. Man's thought process is flawed (Jeremiah 17:9; Psalm 53:2; Romans 1:18, 22, 25, 28; 8:7). Therefore, our understanding of man and his problems can only be trusted when our thoughts and insights reflect the teachings of God's Word. It alone is our standard.

Christians, on the other hand, are commanded to guard their minds and hearts and to dwell on "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute" (Philippians 4:7-8). Manufacturing memories of imagined trauma and abuse is about as far from that goal as one can imagine.

The words of PFO director G. Richard Fisher provide a fitting conclusion:

"Scripture indicates that we are always to be in control, obeying God and making responsible decisions with a clear, sober mind (Philippians 4:8; 1 Peter 1:13-17). Scripture, discipline and, sometimes, suffering are the major components of real change and sanctification in the Christian life

(1 Timothy 4:7; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17). There is no shortcut to sanctification."

### Endnotes:

1. The cited examples of "Jane" and "Kathy" are based upon real incidents. The particulars stated have not been modified or enhanced, but the names of the actual persons have been changed and other explicit details omitted to provide anonymity.
2. For a Christian perspective of hypnosis, see *Hypnosis and the Christian* by Martin and Diedre Bobgan (Bethany House Publishers). The Bobgans state, "Hypnotism is demonic at its worst and potentially dangerous at its best" (pg. 53).
3. Diana Jean Schemo, "Harvard Advertises for People Abducted by Aliens," *The New York Times*, Dec. 18, 2002.
4. Robert T. Carroll, *The Skeptic's Dictionary*, "repressed memory therapy (trauma-search therapy)." Document available at: <http://skepdic.com/repress.html>.
5. Elizabeth F. Loftus, "Creating False Memories," *Scientific American*, September 1997, pp. 70-75. Also available at: <http://faculty.washington.edu/eloftus/Articles/sciam.htm>.
6. A concise and insightful study of Sigmund Freud, "Freud: The Darwin of the Human Psyche" by Ian T. Taylor, is available at: [www.creationmoments.com/resources/articles/a6608.htm](http://www.creationmoments.com/resources/articles/a6608.htm).
7. Martha Peace, *Attitudes of a Transformed Heart*. Bemidji, Minn.: Focus Publishing, 2002, pg. 30. Peace's volume contains helpful summaries of Freud, Abraham Maslow, and Erik Erickson (see Chapter 3).
8. In recent years, a movement is afoot which is committed to helping and counseling hurting souls and families for God's glory through the use of God's Word alone (apart from the integration of psychology and other non-biblical philosophies). This is called *nouthetic* counseling. Dr. Jay Adams writes that *nouthetic* counseling "contains three elements: change through *confrontation* out of *concern*. ... The goal of all Christian counseling is scriptural change leading to restoration to use." Publications such as *A Theology of Christian Counseling, Competent to Counsel* (Jay E. Adams, Zondervan Publishing), and *Introduction to Biblical Counseling* (John F. MacArthur, Jr. and Wayne A. Mack, Word Publishing) are valuable introductory resources for training in the principles and practice of biblical or *nouthetic* counseling. Also, PFO can assist in providing other resources, including newsletters and audio tapes, in the field of biblical counseling. 

"It is an atheist, non-profit, spiritual organisation; 'atheist' because it demystifies the old concept of god, 'spiritual' because it links us with our creators and infinity, and 'non-profit' because no member gets paid any salary, not even Raël himself."<sup>4</sup>

The web site further states that Buddha, Moses, Jesus, and Mohamed had been contacted and instructed by aliens as well. Raël was instructed that his mission was to build an embassy to interact with alien beings who are called Elohim.<sup>5</sup> All of this can be found in Raël's "bible" called, *The Message Given by Extra-Terrestrials*.

In the video interview with Rivera, it is disconcerting to hear Raël pro-pound his immoral teaching and say, "free sex is up to you."<sup>6</sup> Rivera's program inserts footage of a large outdoor field with a large number of Raël's devotees, some of them stark naked, lying in meditation. (With the use of a blurring device, the crass nudity is filtered out.) Some followers embrace and carry out the philosophy advocated by their leader. Jude's description of apostates who deny the Lord and promote immorality jumps to life (v. 4). Additionally, his narrative of people being like brute beasts that corrupt themselves (v. 10) and those who walk in their own ungodly lusts (v. 18) seems to apply directly to this cult.

Maybe this is why Raël could claim 28,000 followers<sup>7</sup> in the Rivera interview. Raël expects nothing of his followers except to give 3% of their income to him, denounce any previous church affiliation, and live any way they want.

Raël also put forth the alarming and anti-Semitic idea that Jewish people are part alien. The initial swastika logo supposedly given by the aliens was changed by Raël after Jewish reactions and demonstrations in the early 1990s. Unfortunately for Raël, Jews have human DNA and genomes, just like all other humans.

## RAËLIANS AND ROSWELL

One follower thinks the proof for Raël's message is clearly shown in a book on Roswell, N.M.<sup>8</sup> Roswell is the site of a purported UFO capture and government cover-up in 1947. The Raëlian spoke as though he believed Roswell were an open-and-shut case.

Kal Korff has done the most extensive and exhaustive study on all that is known about the "Roswell incident." Dealing with facts and using heavy documentation, Korff cuts through the rumors, myths, conspiracy theories, and nonsense. He presents what he thinks is the "final truth about what is easily the most famous UFO case involving the alleged crash and recovery of an alien spacecraft."<sup>9</sup>

In separating fact from fiction, Korff has provided a great service in bringing the Roswell claims back down to Earth. Unfortunately, the myth of Roswell refuses to go away because of gullible people. When legends, guesses, and rumors meet emotions, no amount of reasoning can make a dent.

Roswell returned to the nation's attention in 1995 when a London-based video producer named Ray Santilli released to the Fox network black-and-white footage of what was claimed to be a film of an autopsy on an alien corpse. The "alien" looked like a twin created for the 1975 NBC movie titled, "The UFO Incident." To date, Santilli has refused Kodak or any other filmmaker access to the film for investigation and analysis. A pathologist from Houston, Texas, and a German surgeon have both testified to the acted and orchestrated moves made by the "doctors" who performed the autopsy. They called the procedures wrong from a medical standpoint and a dead giveaway.<sup>10</sup>

### THE HEAVILY INVESTED, BLIND AND DEAF

The classic study of cases of deception by investment is by Leon Festinger, Henry W. Riecken, and Stanley Schachter. In their sociological study

of another UFO cult in the 1950s, they write:

"We have all experienced the futility of trying to change a strong conviction, especially if the convinced person has some investment in his belief. We are familiar with the variety of ingenious defenses with which people protect their convictions, managing to keep them unscathed through the most devastating attacks."<sup>11</sup>

Festinger writes that when the prophetic dates of the erstwhile UFO cult leaders Marian Keech and Daisy Armstrong failed, their followers dug in deeper.

Research and documentation gives Raël's birth name as Claude Vorilhon. Vorilhon claims his mother was abducted and placed aboard a UFO where she was inseminated. The result of that extraterrestrial sexual encounter was Raël.<sup>12</sup>

Apologist and author Ron Rhodes describes more of Vorilhon's fairy tale:

"These aliens allegedly told Raël that humans were 'implanted' on the Earth by advanced extraterrestrial scientists known as the 'Elohim.' (Raël wrongly claims that *Elohim* literally means 'those who came from the sky.')

The Elohim allegedly created humanity from DNA in their laboratories. In fact, we are told, this is what the book of Genesis was really talking about in its early chapters."<sup>13</sup>

God describes Himself in Scripture with the Hebrew word *Elohim*. It literally means the strong faithful one and is a description of the mighty Creator God who created the universe in Genesis 1. Other parts of the Old Testament affirm that God alone created the universe from nothing (not from alien substance) and the Sabbath was a memorial to that creation. The God of the Old Testament cannot be reduced to a bunch of aliens on a UFO communicating to clones on Earth. Such a suggestion is not only an outrageous fabrication, but is a heresy of the worst caliber. Vorilhon

is suggesting a kind of polytheistic science fiction.

*Baker's Dictionary of Theology* states the word *Elohim* "correspond[s] to *Theos* in Greek and to *God* or *Deity* in English."<sup>14</sup> The Bible is clear that God is a person with attributes (having a mind, emotions, and a will), and must be viewed just as the Bible presents Him. He is the Almighty Savior filled with compassion as He communicates Himself to us in Scripture. The highest revelation of God comes in the person of Jesus (Hebrews 1:1), who is not an alien, but made in the likeness of man and who took on sinless *human* nature.

Of the name and person of Elohim, Nathan Stone says:

"Elohim may be said to express the general idea of greatness and glory. ... The name *Elohim*, however, contains the idea of creative and governing power, of omnipotence and sovereignty."<sup>15</sup>

William Allen Dean tells us:

"Elohim occurs more than two thousand times in the Old Testament, and it represents God as being the Strong, Faithful One. The Strong One swears and pledges Himself and is able to keep His word."<sup>16</sup>

### OTHER UNUSUAL IDEAS

Vorilhon expresses a goal to build a "space station" of some sort in Jerusalem. It is supposed to be a welcoming center for his returning compatriots from beyond. Researcher and author William Alnor said of the wild scheme:

"The Israeli government since the mid-1980s has refused permission for him to build, and since then it has not stated if it ever will grant him permission. Chances are it won't. Vorilhon has faced scandal in his native France and elsewhere amidst lurid reports that his Raëlian Movement, an international UFO cult that claims thirty-five thousand members in eighty-five nations, has been involved in free love and group sex as part of its religious dogma. Vorilhon, how-

ever, defends the practices, calling them sensual meditation."<sup>17</sup>

Vorilhon puts forth a plethora of wild doctrines as he pummels and twists Scripture. Sharon Fish Mooney reports:

"Raël has taken his prophetic calling seriously. Two of his books have been translated into 25 languages; he claims over a million copies have sold. The content mainly consists of reinterpretations of major biblical doctrines, all with an extraterrestrial spin."<sup>18</sup>

Mooney goes on to show that Vorilhon has raided both Old and New Testaments with abandonment:

"Familiar Old and New Testament narratives are supposedly demystified in Raël's writings, and then scientized. The Genesis Flood, for example, was allegedly caused by exploding nuclear missiles. Noah's Ark was a spacecraft 'lifted above the Earth' (Gen. 7:17). The Tower of Babel was a rocket, designed for the conquest of space. The crossing of the Red Sea was made possible by a repulsion beam parting the waters. Ezekiel's creatures were wearing antigravity suits with small jet engines attached for directional purposes. The healing miracles of Jesus were performed at a distance with concentrated laserlike beams."<sup>19</sup>

### WORLD OF THE STRANGE

Alnor shows that Raëlian teaching blends science, pseudo-science, and science fiction:

"Denying the existence of God or the soul, Raël presents as the only hope of immortality a regeneration through science, and to this end members participate in four annual festivals so that Elohim can fly overhead and register the Raëlians' DNA codes on their machines. This initiation ritual, called 'the transmission of the cellular plan,' promises a kind of immortality through cloning. New initiates sign a

contract that permits a mortician to cut out a piece of bone in their forehead (the 'third eye'), which is stored on ice awaiting the descent of the Elohim. The initiates are also required to send a letter of apostasy to the church in which they were baptized."<sup>20</sup>

Alnor reveals Vorilhon's twist put on Satan and Jesus:

"The devil is actually a good guy, 'the bearer of light' who first revealed to humankind that the gods were not divine but simply people like themselves. Satan was also a scientist who helped create humanity in a laboratory. ... Jesus *was* actually crucified on a Roman cross, say Vorilhon, but he was later scientifically revived by other aliens and taken back to the Elohim planet. He didn't die for the sins of the world."<sup>21</sup>

Vorilhon has allowed his theology on Jesus to evolve:

"But now, a little more than ten years after that declaration, Vorilhon has a new spin on Jesus' crucifixion. He has altered doctrine just as he changed the cult's symbol. Jesus wasn't revived; he was cloned, the 'new Jesus was actually a clone of the original one.'"<sup>22</sup>

Others have elaborated on the corrupt sexual practices (of every description) endorsed by Vorilhon,<sup>23</sup> but suffice to say, there is no endorsement of morality and the traditional family in the Raëlian movement. Vices of the worst sort are allowed.

### THE BABY CLONE HOAX

Then came Clonaid, a company established by Vorilhon in 1997 and overseen by Raëlian Bishop Brigitte Boisselier since 2000. Boisselier takes the title CEO and Chemist.

On Friday, Dec. 27, Boisselier announced to the world (using the U.S. news media as her platform) that her firm had produced the world's first human clone. She appeared on numerous broadcasts day after day. Some media outlets immediately

questioned if the claim was a hoax. One newspaper ran a front-page story with the bold headline, "Cloned baby fact or fiction?" and reported "Boisselier offered no scientific proof, provided no photographs and did not produce the mother or child. She said proof — in the form of DNA testing by independent experts — would be available in perhaps eight or nine days."<sup>24</sup> As we'll see, truth and proof are not the strong suit of the Raélians.

The claim was that a healthy seven-pound baby girl had been delivered by caesarean section on Dec. 26 in an undisclosed location outside the United States. The baby was nicknamed Eve and supposedly an exact genetic copy of her 31-year-old American mother. Lawyers invaded from the get-go, clamoring about the baby's rights and child abuse.

CNN and other news agencies appeared initially to treat this announcement as if it were legitimate.

Now almost three decades after its founding and a decade following the Geraldo Rivera exposure, the Raélian movement had burst on the world scene with the help of worldwide media coverage. News reporters and studio anchors were eating out of their hands — at least for a few days. On or about Jan. 5, 2003, proof was supposed to be forthcoming. It did not.

## A LOOK AT CLONING

Present cloning attempts on animals have produced a high failure rate and produced offspring that are defective or are, even though apparently born healthy, given to genetic defects, abnormalities, and early diseases. A flow chart, prepared by the Associated Press, described for readers cloning in this way:

"1. The egg's nucleus — the part containing its DNA — is removed. 2. The egg is placed next to a skin cell from the woman's body. 3. The egg and cell are fused together with an electrical impulse and the nucleus from the cell becomes the nucleus for this 'fertilized egg.' 4. The reconstructed egg is then coaxed into

dividing and growing. It is placed inside a woman's uterus, where, if successful, it develops like any other pregnancy."<sup>25</sup>

No one really knows what the final outcome will be if this procedure is tried with humans. Worst-case scenarios have likened it to Frankenstein while best-case scenarios see it as the route to eternal life and the fountain of youth. It will turn out to be neither.

## MAJOR CONCERNS

Technically, cloning is not creation of any sort since all the chromosomes come from the mother and nothing is created that is not already there. It is a form of conception and birth untried by science (in the human realm) up until now. Conservative ethicists' major concerns with cloning experimentation would be the diminution of traditional marriage, more single-parent families, and the marginalization of conventional sexual intimacy in marriage.

Even the secular media warns of the negatives. *USA Today* reports:

"Lost in the hype surrounding claims of human cloning are hard scientific facts that show cloning animals is fraught with perils both before and after birth. Scientists are able to clone sheep, cattle, pigs, goats and mice, but not without significant errors that commonly result in oversized fetuses, placental defects, lung, kidney and cardiovascular problems, brain abnormalities, immune dysfunction and severe postnatal weight gain. Efforts to clone primates have proven even more difficult and might be impossible with current methods, scientists say. Of particular concern are embryos that appear normal and healthy but at the genetic level are a 'gallery of horrors,' says Tanja Dominko, who conducted primate cloning research at the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center in Beaverton."<sup>26</sup>

The national newspaper cited bio-ethicist Thomas Murray, who called cloning "narcissism run wild" and

said parents "must realize that a clone has a good chance of being brain-damaged. A narcissist might end up with a mentally retarded version of himself or herself. ... That is the very sad baggage that cloning will carry into the world."<sup>27</sup>

Some very liberal organizations seemed to have stayed objective and factual in their reports on cloning.

"There are religious objections to cloning," says Ontario Consultants on Religious Tolerance. "Most pro-life supporters believe that a fertilized ovum is a full human person. When its nucleus is removed during cloning, that person is, in effect, murdered. ... At the current stage in cloning research using adult DNA, the random appearance of genetic defects, noted above, appears to be an overwhelming problem. Such dangers would seem to put an indefinite halt on all ethical cloning of humans."<sup>28</sup>

## REPROACH BY THE MEDIA

By Sunday, Dec. 29, the tide had begun to turn against the Raélians. One British newspaper ran a story that illustrated the media's turnabout:

"The statement was treated initially with wary skepticism which has turned, over the last 24 hours, into open contempt. 'Nearly all scientists will regard Clonaid's claim as ludicrous,' said Lord Winston, the British fertility expert. 'This strange cult is publicity-seeking. We should take this with a huge amount of Christmas salt.'"<sup>29</sup>

However, Vorilhon continued to stay in the media and made it to the front page of *The Miami Herald* on Dec. 30. By this time the media was staying on the story because of its sensational overtones.

## PLAY IT AGAIN, RAËL

The Miami newspaper reported that the current exposure of the Raélians was not its first cloning problem. Apparently, Clonaid put out a commitment to a West Virginia couple promising a clone of their 10-month-old who had died from a heart defect

in 1999. The couple, Mark and Tracy Hunt, had fronted \$500,000 to create a cloning lab near their town. The paper reported:

"The U.S. Justice Department and the Food and Drug Administration considered stopping Clonaid in court, according to published reports. When federal investigators inspected the lab, they concluded the company was years away from attempting to clone a human."<sup>30</sup>

A grand jury is being considered to look into fraud charges and Boisselier, who had been an attention hound up to this point, could not be reached for comment.<sup>31</sup>

Vorilhon is no stranger to hoaxing. Jacques Vallee, who has spent his life studying, documenting, and writing about UFO hoaxes and media manipulation, reported that in the late 1980s, Vorilhon — whom he calls Claude Raël-Vorilhon — sought to convince a French commission that he had a "mysterious extraterrestrial talisman" from aliens in a cryogenic container. It was pure theater. Vorilhon then went among the missing and "[t]hree days later the French researcher had a telephone conversation with Francois Raulin. Neither of them had heard from Vorilhon, in spite of the latter's assurances that he would turn over the specimen to them for analysis."<sup>32</sup> The method of operation seems to be: make claims, make appearances, make promises, make tracks!

*U.S. News & World Report* documented that when Vorilhon bought "an off-the-shelf Bahamas company" in 1997, he announced a plan to clone a human. The cult leader then boasted:

"For a minimal investment of \$3,000 in U.S. funds, it got us media coverage worth more than \$15 million ... I am still laughing. Even if the project had stopped there, it would have been a total success."<sup>33</sup>

On Fox News channel's *The O'Reilly Factor*, ex-Raëlian Erick Lamarche told host Bill O'Reilly that the cloning

claims were fraudulent and a way for Raël to get publicity.<sup>34</sup> The *WorldNet-Daily* agreed and published an article entitled, "Raëlian leader: Clone claim possible hoax" and emphasized that the "Cult founder tells followers he likes publicity for sect regardless."<sup>35</sup>

On Jan. 2, Boisselier resurfaced and announced that "the parents were reconsidering whether to submit to testing" and that "a second cloned baby was expected to be born somewhere 'in Europe' ... She declined to name the country."<sup>36</sup> Three weeks later, headlines announced, "Raëlians' latest claim: Japanese clone is next."<sup>37</sup> Boisselier and the Raëlians had first doubled, then tripled, the ante. More claims, more promises, but no evidence.

The Raëlians and their clone claims suddenly seemed to fade when on Jan. 8, the *BBC News* headlined a story "'Clone baby' parents bar tests."<sup>38</sup> These tests certainly could have proven the claims of Clonaid, but Boisselier suggested that divulging the identities of mother and child could result in legal action to have the baby taken away. Legal wrangling in Florida over clone rights and child rights gave Boisselier a perfect out and cover for further ducking.

*Time* magazine, as well, weighed in with heavy doses of skepticism and sarcasm:

"So what happens when you cross science with a circus full of clowns and tricks and gaudy lights, where everything is for sale and nothing is for real? The science circus comes to town when a group like the Raëlians claims to be cloning children, announcing one arrival just in time to fill the holiday news vacuum. ... The Raëlians are to the labs of America what Enron was to the boardrooms, a rebuke to the premise that science can be self-policing. ... No one has yet succeeded in cloning a primate despite thousands of tries; efforts at a dog have so far failed as well. Even among other mammals, more than 90% of the embryos never implant or die before or soon after birth. ... The

challenges are too important to address in a climate of fear or ignorance or to be distorted by the greed or vainglory of renegade scientists with an alien agenda."<sup>39</sup>

*Time* further suggested that the Raëlian claim, if true, would be easy to prove:

"Proving that a baby is a clone — and not an ordinary child — is relatively straightforward. A sampling of 13 key sections of the genome will quickly distinguish between a clone (who shares all of a parent's DNA) and a normal child (who shares half)."<sup>40</sup>

*U.S. News & World Report* provided its readers with the judgment of Harold Varmus that "The smell of deception, fraud, and Barnum & Bailey circusism is everywhere in the air."<sup>41</sup> Varmus is the former director of National Institutes of Health and head of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

## THE DARK TRUTH

The Raëlians and their fanciful, undocumented claims fit well in the world of UFO hysteria. Leonard George writes:

"At present, there is no consensus among UFO researchers regarding the true nature of the phenomenon, when it started, the validity of the physical and biological evidence and the role of social and psychological factors. The area has attracted a number of hoaxers and spiritual visionaries over the years, which has made research more difficult. Matters are clouded further by unsubstantiated rumors that governments are withholding information about UFOs from the public. Whether or not there exists a truly anomalous signal amongst all this noise remains a mystery."<sup>42</sup>

## SATAN AND THE PINOCCHIO SYNDROME

If Vorilhon is not hoaxing or fabricating (many think he is and the facts

indicate as much), and is not hallucinating or on drugs, one has to consider the possibility that he is in touch with deceiving demon spirits. First Timothy 4:1-2 speaks of deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons. Malevolent spirits are described in the New Testament. No matter which of the above choices we select, the father of lies is behind each of them.

Regarding messages coming from those claiming either alien contacts or alien abductions, Ron Rhodes clearly describes the content that is communicated. It is not Christian content, and is vehemently opposed to Christianity:

“A key goal of the ‘aliens’ is to change the way human beings think about God and His Word (the Bible), and to replace exclusivistic Christianity with a religion of universalism. The ‘aliens’ never say anything that *affirms* the Bible as being God’s Word. The ‘aliens’ never say anything that even remotely glorifies Christ. The ‘aliens’ never say anything about man’s sin problem and a need for redemption. The ‘aliens’ never say anything about Christ’s redemptive work at the cross. The ‘aliens’ offer blasphemous reinterpretations of the incarnation of Christ — suggesting, for example, that aliens injected Mary with the sperm of a space creature from another world. Others suggest that Jesus Himself came from another planet. ‘Revelations’ from these so-called ‘space brothers’ not only consistently contradict the Scriptures but consistently promote a New Age worldview.”<sup>43</sup>

Any one of the criteria presented by Rhodes should cause a believer great alarm. The Raëlian message is not benign and innocent; its affirmations and denials are deadly to the soul.

John Ankerberg and John Weldon weigh in with equal concern:

“In many ways, ufology and its offshoots have become a new world religion, a universal ‘church of the stars’ so to speak. True believers look yearningly to

the heavens in hopes of some kind of alien contact that will bring permanent peace and prosperity to this unceasingly beleaguered planet. Popular culture has been so saturated with extraterrestrial and UFO themes (SETI, NASA, Star Trek, The ‘X’ Files, Close Encounters), that it would not take much in the way of credible evidence to convert the rest of the world’s hopes. ... Whatever the public may think they know about UFOs, what the public generally *doesn’t* know is that these cases have much in common with the world of the occult.”<sup>44</sup>

It seems that there is no end to the proliferation of doctrinal insanity in our world today. Attraction to and obsession with the paranormal seems to be at an all time high. As the Israelites were constantly drawn to “broken cisterns” (Jeremiah 2:13) devoid of life-giving water, so it is in our day. The Word of God is still a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalm 119:105), even as we travel through terrain littered with frustrated hopes, broken dreams, and pursuits of flying saucers and alien christs.

As we look at the picture of the mutant miniature Jesus look-alike (who is described as Elohim) shown on the Raëlian web site, Christians can’t help but recall the words of our Lord: “For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe it” (Matthew 24:24-26).

### Endnotes

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4. Document on Raëlian web site, “Quick Summary of the Messages.” Available at: [www.rael.org/int/english/philosophy/summary/body\\_summary.html](http://www.rael.org/int/english/philosophy/summary/body_summary.html).
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7. Estimates today boast of upward to 60,000 followers worldwide.
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21. *Ibid.*, pg. 111, italic in original.
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24. Malcolm Ritter, “Cloned baby fact or fiction?”, Associated Press report, *The News Press of Lee County Florida*, pg. 1.
25. Associated Press graph, “Company claims first human clone,” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, Dec. 28, 2002, pg. 5.
26. Tim Friend, “The real face of cloning,” *USA Today*, Jan. 17-19, 2003, pg. 2A.
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31. *Ibid.*
32. Jacques Vallee, *Revelations*. New York:

Ballantine Books, 1991, pp. 220-221.

33. Nell Boyce, "Clowns or Cloners?", *U.S. News & World Report*, Jan. 13, 2003, pg. 48, ellipsis in original.

34. Erick Lamarche on *The O'Reilly Factor*, Fox News channel, Jan. 2, 2003.

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DNA testing, Clonaid says," *Yahoo! News*, Jan. 2, 2003.

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## EDITORIALS

(continued from page 2)

telling part is the authors' conclusion on page 191: "Might we look forward to the day when youth groups or adult Sunday-school classes from Mormon and Evangelical churches in the same neighborhoods would gather periodically to share their beliefs with each other in love and for the sake of understanding, not proselytizing?" This certainly more than hints at a new "apologetic" or at least a new way of doing apologetics.

Nearly a decade ago, John MacArthur warned:

"Pluralism and diversity have been enshrined as higher virtues than truth itself. We are not supposed to say our beliefs are right and others are wrong. This is regarded as backward, outmoded, discourteous. In other words, we're not really supposed to *believe* our religious beliefs; we're only supposed to hold them as personal preferences. ... in the name of unity, such matters of doctrine are expressly *not* supposed to be contested. ... the specific *content* of faith is supposed to be a matter of individual preference" (*Reckless Faith*, pp. 92-93).

Consider two very prominent factors. First, *everything today is supposed to be view-centered*. It is chic to present many views which blur, if not erase, the line between essentials and non-essentials. We are in deep trouble when we lose that distinction. Gerhard Maier has reminded us: "Protestant Scholastic dogmatics distinguished constantly between what was essential to salvation in Scripture and what was not" (*Biblical Hermeneutics*, pg. 118). That the view-centered approach is capturing and taking over the field of apologetics is starkly apparent in the following books published by Zondervan Publishing House:

- *Five Views of Apologetics* (Steven Cowen)
- *Four Views on Hell* (William Crockett)
- *Four Views on Salvation in a Pluralistic World* (Timothy Phillips)
- *Are Miraculous Gifts for Today? Four Views* (Wayne Grudem)
- *Five Views on Law and Gospel* (Wayne Grudem)

Raymond Teachout writes:

"Doctrine is merely relegated to a world of views. Theological Journals are replete with articles advocating one view over another, written by authors taking part in 'theological debate.' ... Some colleges and seminaries are advocating the 'smorgasbord' approach, in which the teacher lays out before students various theological views without taking a position as to what the Scriptures teach" (*Breaking Down the Walls...and the Gospel*, pg. 112).

So apologetics is being hemmed in by the effort to present all views, no matter how out-of-step with historic orthodoxy those views might be. No longer is it right to insist on continuing in "the Apostles' doctrine" (Acts 2:42). This might be taken as proselytizing.

A case in point is the "finite god" view (God limited in knowledge) of Gregory Boyd being given equal time and the past refusal of his college to remove him. Boyd radically redefines God. Another is Robert Schuller, who invites Muslims and Buddhists to his Crystal Cathedral to share their points of view. We already know the Muslim point of view that Jesus is not deity and did not make atonement for sin. We know Mohammed hijacked the verses on the Holy Spirit in John 14-16 and said they applied to him.

Secondly, *everything is reduced to dialogue*. The American Baptists of New Jersey regularly discuss the topic: "Should unrepentant, practicing homosexuals be allowed into membership or should the denomination be a loving, welcoming community?" No one calls them on the false dichotomy. Loving Christ and the Scriptures dictates that we do not welcome blatant immorality. For all the months of discussion and dialogue, no decision has been reached. Each church is left to decide for itself. Annually, the Presbyterian Church USA discusses the acceptance of homosexual clergy and votes on it. Each year, the conservative wing defeats acceptance by a small margin. Southern Baptists have endured a move from the liberal wing to discuss whether Jesus is the only way to heaven. The conservative wing has rallied its forces to defeat the trend (at least for now).

The Bible has already settled these matters, but these denominations dialogue away. One might as well discuss whether unrepentant, practicing adulterers, pedophiles, drunkards, thieves, murderers, and rapists should be welcomed.

The Church is supposed to be about calling people to repentance, to grace, and to a God who redeems, changes, sanctifies, and delivers people from the addictions and mastery of sin. Church is about welcoming repentant, changing, imperfect, but growing people. Hospitals admit people to help them get better, not to prolong their illnesses.

The redemptive message has been lost in a dialogue of sappy tolerance, which is no more than appeasement of sin and an unleashing of sinners on the Church.

The Roman Catholic church, with its tolerance of pedophiles, is in the news because tolerance and dialoguing about sin makes one jaded, blind, inconsistent, and holding to double and triple standards. Given the current state of affairs, there could just as easily be dialogue about opening the priesthood to those who abuse children. However, Matthew 18 is clear that at some point the discussion ends.

It is not unheard of to go to an apologetics conference and be subjected to a cultist who is there to expound his view or to find that cultists on a panel are given equal time. There can be debates, but this is far different. In debate, one understands that both speakers and audience see their respective views as exclusive. Someone is right at least in the essential. In current dialogue, it is presumed that all viewpoints have equal merit. Apologetics uses debate to expose errors and uphold truth. Vigorous debate is far different from dialogue.

Today, to stand for truth in the essentials is to be accused of squabbling, nit-picking, and splitting hairs. Dialogue with sin and error will be the death of apologetics.

*Charisma* magazine (August 2002) advertised the "International Gathering of Champions," listing speakers who ran the gamut from Word-Faith, prophetic, mainline Pentecostal and Charismatic, all the way to Oneness Pentecostals. It was a smorgasbord of doctrinal heresy — and some truth. Apparently networking and dialoguing is more important than the nature of God and the Trinity. Getting along is more important than who God is or if Jesus became a sinner in hell.

When Paul entered Athens in Acts 17, he did not pretend that the Athenians' gods were on par with the God of Israel. Paul did not discuss the good qualities of both sides. Paul preached that Yahweh was superior to all the foreign gods and that they were being called to repentance. He was there to proselytize. Paul was politically incorrect. All through Acts, he debated and boldly declared the supremacy of Christianity. He did not apologize for his unique message of a unique, risen, solitary Savior. Neither should we. When Peter and Paul laid out apostolic commands for behavior, they left no mechanism for negotiating or voting on these commands.

Church discipline for heresy is seen as a relic of the past and almost barbaric. Heresy trials are unheard of

today and thought of as uncivil. Protecting congregations and the good of the majority is given low priority. Matthew 18, 1 Corinthians 5-6, and Titus 3 are hardly brought up. It would be good for many denominations to go back to their strong, glorious, spiritual past. Many historic statements, such as *The Hiscox Standard Baptist Manual*, not only have a Confession of Faith, but a section on Church discipline. Added to that is a section on the discipline procedures and council for accused ministers. Baptists used to take sin and doctrinal error very seriously. They did not negotiate, dialogue, or vote on it.

Jude 3 has been PFO's slogan since its inception. We are to "contend for the faith once delivered to the saints." The Greek word translated *contend* is intense. It speaks of struggle and contest. It speaks of enemies, battle, and endurance. The Greek root has to do with agony and relates to combat. Added to that word is the adverb, "earnestly." Apologetics is not for sissies.

Unfortunately, many are giving up the fight and giving in to a view-centered accommodation. However, one can contend without being contentious. One can speak the truth in love. One can answer with meekness and respect those who would ask. This does not mean that we pretend that all views are equally valid. We are, after all, at war with error.

The next decade will tell how washed out counter-cult ministries will become. God help us to insist on truth, hold onto truth, declare and defend truth, and keep on earnestly contending for the faith. If we do not, it may bring about the demise of apologetics.

We need to practice and endorse apologetics. We may not have to be as sharp and edgy as the Reformers, but it has to be done. The gift of discernment needs to be elevated, supported, and acclaimed.

—GRF

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## NEWS UPDATES

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(continued from page 3)

Genetics," was published last year in *American Apocrypha*, an anthology printed by Signature Books.

According to Michael Whiting, assistant professor at Brigham Young University and an authority on DNA, Murphy's research is "the first biological challenge" to *The Book of Mormon*. However, Whiting expresses reservations about Murphy's conclusions. While other dissenting LDS members applaud Murphy as "the Galileo for Mormons," Whiting said, "It's an inappropriate comparison. The difference is Galileo got the science right. I don't think Murphy has." In a recent *Los Angeles Times* article, Mormon scholars contended "that the lack of genetic evidence of an ancient Hebrew tribe in America does not undermine the Book of Mormon."

Whether right or wrong, Murphy found himself in trouble with his church. Last December, he was to face a Mormon disciplinary council where he expected to be excommunicated. LDS spokesman Dale Bills would not comment to the media other than to say, "Matters of church discipline are handled on a confidential basis between church members and their local leaders. Local church leaders determine what, if any, disciplinary action is appropriate."

However, when word of Murphy's impending hearing was picked up by the news media — both domestic and international — and Murphy's supporters staged rallies across the country, church leaders indefinitely postponed their Dec. 8 disciplinary meeting. Matthew Latimer, president of the Lynnwood Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, announced that it was "best not to proceed at this time" with its council against Murphy.

According to a report by the Associated Press, Murphy "is one of at least three scholars threatened with expulsion or excommunicated in the past few months, raising concerns among church observers about renewed efforts to purge dissident members."

Murphy is not the only one who has challenged the LDS church using genetic research. Living Hope Ministries, a Christian organization based in Utah, is currently producing a feature video that addresses the lack of DNA evidence for *The Book of Mormon*.

— MKG

## PEOPLE WHO WORSHIP IN GLASS HOUSES...

The old adage goes, "People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones." But what about people who worship in glass houses? Well, one thing is for sure, it's not what they shouldn't do, but what they have to do. What they have to do is use a substantial chunk of offering money for window cleaning. At least that's the case with Robert Schuller's Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, Calif.

For three weeks each summer, a crew comes together armed with industrial-strength ammonia, a diesel pump, and a 175-ton hydraulic crane to wash the church's estimated 11,000 windows. Tethered to the crane is a custom-built 4-by-10-foot metal basket with rotating brushes. The cost of the annual ablution: \$85,000.

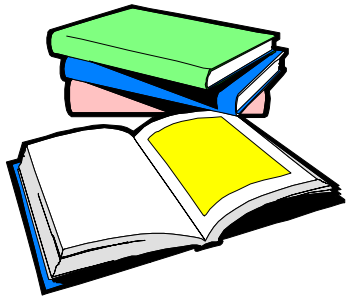
The towering structure, with its windows positioned at various angles, is a nightmare for any type of conventional window-washer. Yet, in the 1980s, that's just how it was done. Three church employees, hoisted by a rented crane, spent two months washing each glass pane by hand with a Windex-soaked paper towel.

Because of the cost factor, the cleansing comes only once a year. However, Edward Quiroga, the man in charge of the annual event, admits that, "It doesn't take but a month or six weeks before the windows need cleaning again." But he adds, "For the first couple of weeks, it's breathtaking, truly awesome."

—MKG

### PERSONAL FREEDOM OUTREACH — STATEMENT OF BELIEF

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



# Books in Review

## OVERCOMING FEAR, WORRY, AND ANXIETY

by Elyse Fitzpatrick

Harvest House Publishers, 224 pages, \$9.99

The most crippling effects of being involved with a cult or aberrant group are those generated by fear, worry, and anxiety. These emotions, often wielded at the hands of cunning and deceitful leaders and teachers, become strongholds for commitment. However, one need not be in a cult to be exposed to these emotional problems and their debilitating results. Satan can and does use the very same tactics against believers.

To this end, Elyse Fitzpatrick has written a wonderful, biblical, and insightful volume on fear and worry. Even if we deny it or fail to realize it, we all, in some capacity, struggle in one area or another with various circumstances that result in fear and worry. And for those who have left a cult or are in the process of doing so, the unknown can sometimes be overwhelming, and for some, even paralyzing.

Did you know that nearly all fear is classified as sin, although most may not think of it as such? Our Lord commands us not to worry: "Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows" (Luke 12:7). God knew that we would be faced with these emotions and believers are equipped with counsel from His Word.

Each chapter of Fitzpatrick's book cites multiple Scripture references, many of which should be committed to memory. She assists the reader to identify the real source of fears and worries, find specific strategies for overcoming anxiety, learn how to replace worry with joy, and rest secure in God's protective care of your life.

However, not all fear is wrong. In the chapter entitled "The Fear That Results in Blessings" the acrostic "FEAR GOD" is employed. We are told to: "Feed on His Promises. Etch Them on Your Heart. Adhere to His Commands. Rest and Rejoice in His Love. Go to Him in Prayer. Order Your Day. Depend on His Strength." At the end of every chapter is a section "For Further

Thought" in which questions are asked. This segment can benefit either personal reflection or a group study.

This work is not only for those faced with fears and worries, but also for those who don't think that they are bothered by these emotions. God's Word teaches us to look at and comprehend His promises. "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6).

—AMG

## THE FINAL WORD

by O. Palmer Robertson

The Banner of Truth Trust, 150 pages, \$7.95

This book tackles one of the more debated issues within the Church today: the perpetuity of tongues and prophecy. Few realize the importance of what's at stake: namely, the very authority and sufficiency of Scripture. Added to that, modern-day advocates of prophecy have lowered the standard of what it means to be a prophet of God to an acceptance of fallible prophets.

The debate does not just separate Pentecostal and non-Pentecostal camps. Evangelicals, as well, find themselves in the mix and divided. Works like Wayne Grudem's *The Gift of Prophecy in the New Testament and Today*, claim to offer a "new understanding." But, as Robertson shows, what really is offered is "a serious challenge to the finality of revelation as it is found in Christ and the Scriptures."

Robertson's volume cuts right to the heart of the issue, and provides readers with clear, concise, and biblical definitions of tongues and prophecy. In succinct style, the "whats" and "whys" of the revelatory gifts are examined. He presents and answers various objections to the cessation viewpoint. The largest chapter in the book dissects Grudem's work mentioned above. The book provides helpful "names and subjects" and "Scripture reference" indexes.

Although the book was written a decade ago, it remains current and a valuable biblical response to contemporary tongues and prophecy. Avid readers of this journal will recognize it as a repeated resource cited in our articles.

—MKG

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