

THE WORLD OF THE **CULTS AND OCCULT** HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND REFUTE THEM

"CHURCH OF CHRIST" MORMONISM SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES THE OCCULT PARAPSYCHOLOGY

THE WORLD OF THE
CULTS AND OCCULT
HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND REFUTE THEM

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS APOLOGETICS.....	1
THE HEATHEN ISSUE.....	4
THE 19th CENTURY: THE SPAWNING GROUND OF THE CULTS AND THE OCCULT.....	7
THE "CHURCH OF CHRIST" RESTORATION MOVEMENT.....	11
MORMONISM.....	20
HOW TO WITNESS TO JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES.....	23
THE OCCULT AND PARAPSYCHOLOGY.....	26

Introduction

What Is Apologetics?

This question should concern us for God has called us all to do the work of apologetics.
(I Pet. 3:15; Jude 3)

I. We do three things in apologetics:

- A. We DEFINE a doctrine.
- B. We DOCUMENT it from Scripture and Church History.
- C. We DEFEND it by refuting all opposing views and answering those who attack it.

II. There are two ways of doing apologetics:

- A. Theoretical Apologetics: Developing a Christian world and life view of everything in life. Applying the Lordship of Christ to all of life.

metaphysics	science	mathematics
epistemology	psychology	human sexuality
ethics	biology	history
aesthetics	zoology	etc.

- B. Applied Apologetics: Refuting modern systems of unbelief.

The biblical doctrines under attack today:

theism	Christianity	morals
mono-theism	the historical Jesus	truth
personal/infinite God	absolute values	miracles
creation ex nihilo	original sin	significance
uniqueness of man	marriage	the supernatural
the Bible	meaning	etc.

Heathen groups on the attack:

atheists	cultural relativists	Satanism
agnostics	existentialists	ethical relativists
free-thinkers	politically correct	liberals
skeptics	pagan religions	evolutionists
know-it-alls	cults	magic users
secular humanists	occult	witchcraft
Marxists	New Age	feminists
socialists	neo-paganism	etc.

III. The way that Jesus taught his disciples to do apologetics:

- A. **PRECEPT:** He taught them what to say and how to do apologetics.
- B. **EXAMPLE:** Then He showed them how to do it by debating the Scribes, Pharisees, etc.

IV. What Christians must do to prepare themselves and their children apologetically:

Every church and school should do the following:

- A**-ppropriate the funds needed
- P**-rovide the resources required (books/tapes)
- O**-bligate teachers to use those materials
- L**-earn the Christian world and life view
- O**-bserve those who have already done this
- G**-rab people's attention (skits/mock debates)
- E**-ducate them about apologetics
- T**-rain them to debate the heathen (precept and example)
- I**-dentify the movements on the attack today
- C**-ritique modern apostate thinkers and systems
- S**-ystematically refute them one by one

V. The Big Picture:

- A. Your apologetics should flow out of the Christian world and life view. You are applying the biblical view of life to all of life when you do apologetics.
- B. What are the essential concepts of the Christian world and view?
 - Creation
 - Fall
 - Redemption
- B. These three concepts form the glasses through which all of life must be interpreted. If you examine all my books, you will discover that all of them are consciously written from the standpoint of Creation, Fall and Redemption.

VI. Apologetics Sunday:

Just as many churches across this land observe "Missions Sunday," why not begin to observe "Apologetics Sunday?"

One Sunday out of the year should be set aside and placed on the church's calendar as "Apologetics Sunday." On that day, the pastor or a guest speaker will preach on the subject of defending the faith. Special "apologetic" projects could be presented and the people made aware of the great need today for Christians to "stand up for Jesus." Ask your pastor if you can observe "Apologetics Sunday" in your church.

Conclusion

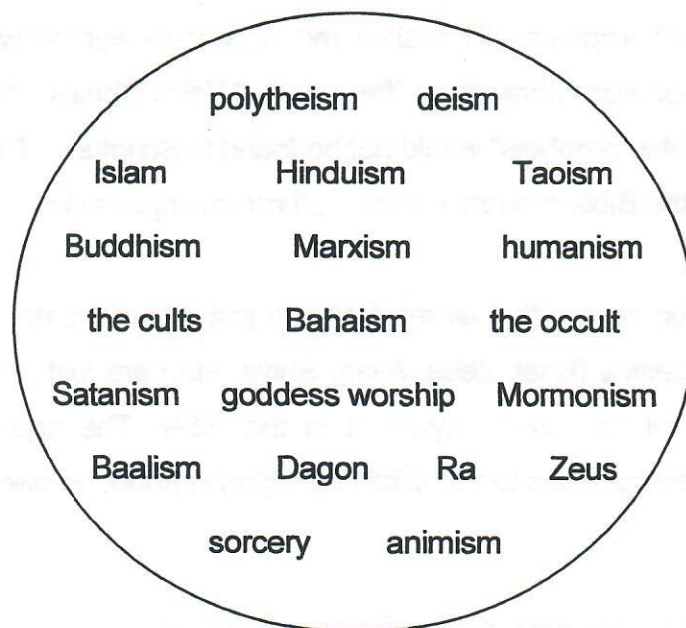
Apologetics is every Christian's obligation as well as privilege (Jude 3). Since we are living in a post-Christian age, we must be steadfast in defending the Faith once and for all delivered to the saints.

Chapter One

The Heathen Issue

What should be our attitude toward and judgment of non-Christian religions in general?
The following diagram will help us to view the cults and the occult in the right context:

Comparative Religions



Professional skeptics often challenge Christians by asking:

"But what about the heathen?"

"Are they all going to hell?"

"How can a loving God send the heathen to hell just because they do not believe in Jesus?"

First, it is interesting to note that unbelievers in the Bible never raised these questions. Why not? The Judaism of the O.T. and the Christianity of the N.T. were both so clearly *exclusive*, that such questions were superfluous. There is no salvation outside of biblical religion. "Salvation is from the Jews," according to Jesus (John 4:22) and thus not from the Samaritans, the Greeks, the Romans, the Indians, the Chinese, etc. The modern idea of being *inclusive* of all religions was unknown to the prophets and the apostles.

Second, the Bible clearly teaches that:

- all gods - other than the biblical YHWH - are "false gods"
- all Christs - other than the biblical Jesus - are "false Christs"
- all prophets - other than the biblical prophets - are "false prophets"
- all apostles - other than the biblical apostles - are "false apostles"
- all gospels - other than the biblical gospel - are "false gospels"

If all gods, all Christs, all prophets, all apostles and all gospels were viewed as equal by the Biblical authors, then such phrases as "false gods," "false Christs," "false apostles," "false gospels," and "false prophets" would not be found in Scripture. The fact that they are found throughout the Bible renders religious *pluralism* impossible.

The modern humanistic dogma that all religions are just different paths to God and that the names of pagan deities (Baal, Zeus, Allah, Shiva, etc.) are just different names for the biblical God cannot be found anywhere in the Bible. The open hostility of the prophets, Jesus and the apostles to non-biblical religions cannot be swept aside with the mere wave of the hand.

There are two ways of answering the question posed above:

CHRISTIAN	HUMANIST
1. God is the measure of all things.	1. Man is the measure of all things.
2. We begin with God.	2. We begin with man.
3. The Bible is the only way to discover the eternal fate of unbelievers (sola scriptura).	3. Human reason, feelings or experience are the only ways to discover the eternal fate of unbelievers.
4. Man was created in fellowship with the true God.	4. Man evolved from lower primates and did not have any religion.
5. The original religion of mankind was biblical monotheism.	5. The first religions of mankind were polytheistic and involved spiritism and astral worship.
6. Polytheism arose as man rebelled against or forgot his original religion.	6. Monotheism was invented later by the Egyptians and perfected by the Jews.
7. Monotheism was first; polytheism second.	7. Polytheism was first; monotheism second.

Since this is only a brief overview of the eternal fate of the heathen (for a full treatment, consult my books: *Studies In The Atonement*, *The Battle of the Gods*, and *Death and The After Life*), we will only deal with a few of the biblical texts that bear directly on this issue:

Deut. 32:15-22 cf. I Cor. 10:14-22

Rom. 3:10-18

Psa. 9:17 cf. Psa. 147:19-20

Rom. 10:9-15

John 4:22-24

Gal. 4:8

John 14:6

I Thess. 1:9

Acts 4:12

II Thess. 1:7-8

Rom. 1:20 cf. 2:1

Conclusion

Apologetics is not a special task for a few Christians. All Christians are called to defend the Faith (Jude 3). When they are challenged as to why they believe in the Gospel, they must be prepared to give a solid answer (I Pet. 3:15).

Chapter Two

The 19th Century: The Spawning Ground of the Cults and the Occult

Introduction

While secular humanism claims that history manifests only chaos, the Bible teaches that history manifests Providential order. Thus if you look closely at history, you will find that things do not happen willy-nilly. There is always a reason why things happen (Ecc. 3:1).

Why was the 19th century the spawning ground of the cults and the occult?

To answer this question, we must understand what influenced people at that time to leave Christianity and to embrace cultic and occultic teachings. As we do this, we will discover that the rise of the cults and the occult did not happen in a vacuum, but in the midst of a “mega-shift” in Western culture.

A mega-shift takes place when a culture is radically altered by new advances in economics, politics, religion, information, war, etc. The mega-shifts which took place in the 19th century created a situation which was conducive to the rise of the cults and the occult. The rise of the cults and the occult also happened because the Christian church was not aware that mega-shifts were taking place in Western culture.

Because the church was not aware of the mega-shifts taking place all around it, it lost millions of people to the cults and the occult.

1. The industrial revolution was a mega-shift. The population centers moved from the farm to the city as society moved from an agricultural economy to an industrial economy. The population mega-shift created the cheap labor force needed for the factories.

2. This mega-shift was disastrous for the local church because people moved either to the big cities or they immigrated to North America. They no longer had the traditional ties to their local church.
3. Because of the new economic base, the small farm was no longer needed. The new, vast "single-product" farms created famines that forced mass migrations from Europe to North America. Famines in Ireland, Italy, Germany, etc., forced millions of people to immigrate to other countries.
4. There was a mega-shift in philosophy and religion. The Bible, Christianity, and religion in general came under fierce attack by secular thinkers. Religious liberalism joined secular scholars in attacking the Bible. Christianity was discredited in most universities.
5. There was a mega-shift in information technology. With the invention of the telegraph and the daily newspaper, news began to travel quickly from country to country.
6. A mega-shift took place when the steam engine was invented. Not only did steam run the new factories, but millions of people could now afford to immigrate to America on huge steamships.
7. There was a mega-shift in politics. As the reign of kings came to an end and democracies began to flourish, freedom of religion was allowed in many countries for the first time.
8. There was a mega-shift in which the industrial/military complex introduced new weapons of mass destruction. The 19th century had more wars and battles than any century preceding it. Reports of these battles were in the newspapers daily. The end-time "wars and rumors of war" seem to be fulfilled.

9. On November 13, 1833, a spectacular meteor shower hit the earth. On that one night, over 200,000 brilliant shooting stars lit up the sky. "Prophecy experts" pointed to them as "signs in the sky."
10. The dust from the eruptions of large volcanoes in 1815 and 1883 darkened daylight and turned the moon blood red. "Prophecy experts" claimed that these were definitely "signs in the sky" that Christ's return was near.
11. The "end of the world" became a popular topic. Date setting became the rage in prophetic circles.
12. False prophets stepped into this situation with the claim that they actually knew the exact date for the end of the world and how best to prepare for it.
13. The mega-shift in information technology meant that for the first time, a false prophet could cheaply print and distribute his message in thousands of magazines and books.
14. The mega-shift in politics created the necessary freedom of religion which allowed false prophets to spread their teachings worldwide.
15. The mega-shift in population centers gave them a "churchless" audience.
16. The grinding poverty, abysmal ignorance, savage wars, relentless crime, filthy slums, brutal factories, etc., made it appear that things could not get any worse. The end was near!

Conclusion

The rise of the cults and the occult in 19th century was due to societal mega-shifts and natural phenomenon, which together created a perfect climate for false prophets to win converts. Whether we like it or not, mega-shifts are taking place in our culture today. Will the Church deal with these new mega-shifts?

The following chart puts together the people and movements of the 19th century.

The Timeline of 19th Century False Prophets			
1763	Thomas Campbell	(1763-1854)	"The Restoration Movement"
1772	Charles Fourier	(1772-1837)	Jesus people communities
1782	William Miller	(1782-1848)	Millerite Movement
1788	Alexander Campbell	(1788-1866)	Church of Christ
1801	Brigham Young	(1801-1877)	Mormonism (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints)
1802	Phineas Quimby	(1802-1866)	Mind Sciences / New Thought
1805	Joseph Smith	(1805-1844)	Mormonism (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints)
1805	John Thomas	(1805-1871)	Christadelphianism
1809	Albert Pike	(1809-1891)	Scottish Rite Freemasonry
1819	Mirza Ali Muhammad	(1819-1850)	Bahatism
1821	Mary Baker Eddy	(1821-1910)	Christian Science
1827	Ellen G. White	(1827-1915)	Seventh Day Adventists
1831	Madame Blavatsky	(1831-1891)	Theosophy
1836	Margaret Fox	(1836-1893)	Spiritism
1839	Kate Fox	(1841-1892)	Spiritism
1845	Myrtle Fillmore	(1845-1931)	Unity School of Christianity
1852	Charles T. Russell	(1852-1916)	Jehovah's Witnesses
1854	Charles Fillmore	(1852-1948)	Unity School of Christianity
1877	Edgar Cayce	(1877-1945)	Association for Research and Enlightenment (Reincarnation)

Chapter Three

The "Church Of Christ" The Restoration Movement

The "Restoration" Movement began in the 19th Century under the leadership of Thomas Campbell, Barton Stone, Walter Scott and Alexander Campbell (1788-1866). The importance of these "Restorers" was based on their claim that:

1. The Christian Church disappeared in the 1st Century. The "true" Gospel was lost at that time.
2. The Roman Catholic Church and all Protestant Churches are apostate organizations and are not to be viewed as "Christian" churches.
3. All the historic creeds and confessions are worthless and should be ignored.
4. God raised up Alexander Campbell to "restore" the "true" Gospel and to re-establish the Christian Church. He restored the pure "Apostolic" Church.
5. The Millennium was going to be ushered in during their lifetime by the "Restoration" Movement.
6. The "true" Gospel teaches that "baptism unto remission of sins" is essential for salvation. The "Restorers" spoke of this as "baptismal regeneration."
7. The "baptism" given by all other churches is not saving. You have to be re-baptized in accordance with the Campbellite doctrine of baptism to be saved.
8. Only Bible names should be used in the name of a church. It is wrong to use such names as Baptist, Catholic, Presbyterian, etc.

(Even though they first called themselves "Reformed Baptists," they later took up such names as "Disciples of Christ," "the Church of Christ" and "The Christian Church.")

9. Nothing should be allowed in the Church unless there is a "book, chapter and verse" for it. On this basis, the "Reformers" were opposed to the use of musical instruments in worship, missionary societies, etc.

(This point has led to thousands of church fights and splits. The "Churches of Christ" split off from the "Disciples of Christ" over such issues and have never stopped splitting since that time.)

10. Some Campbellite theologians have denied the omniscience of God by teaching that God does not know the future. (For example see: *The Gospel Plan of Salvation* by T.W. Brents, published by the Gospel Advocate Company in Nashville, Tennessee.)

Significant Dates in Campbellite History

- 1809** Thomas Campbell censured by the Presbyterian Church for false teaching.
- 1809** Thomas Campbell writes "Declaration and Address" for the "The Christian Association of Washington." It functioned as a "creed" for the young movement.
- 1809** Alexander Campbell arrives in America and joins his father's association.
- 1811** The Association becomes an independent church after being rejected by the Presbyterians once again.
- 1812** The Campbells are re-baptized by a Baptist preacher at Buffalo Creek. This was fifteen years BEFORE Scott originated the doctrine of "baptism unto remission of sins."
- 1813** The Campbells join the Redstone Baptist Association.
- 1820** Alexander Campbell represents the Baptist Church in a debate with John Walker, a Presbyterian.

- 1823 August: - The Redstone Baptist Association prepares to censure the Campbells for false doctrine, but they resign and set up an independent Baptist Church.
- 1823 October - Alexander Campbell debates McCalla still claiming to represent Baptists. The Campbells now call themselves, "Reformed Baptists."
- 1827 November - Walter Scott preaches "baptism unto remission of sins." William Amen was the first one "baptized unto remission of sins." Scott's followers call themselves the "Christians."
- 1832 Campbell's "Disciples of Christ" openly unite with Scott's "Christians."
- 1849 Controversy over missionary societies splits the "Restoration" movement.
- 1860 Controversy over musical instruments splits the movement.
- 1906 The "Churches of Christ" listed as a separate denomination apart from the "Disciples of Christ" and the "Christian Church." The Campbellites popularize Scott's doctrine of "baptism unto remission of sins."
- 1920 Over a hundred controversies split the movement on such issues as musical instruments, head coverings, communion cups, schools, orphanages, Sunday School, divorce, re-marriage, etc.

The Campbellite Origin Of The Major Cults

1. Campbellism and Mormonism

The evidence is clear that Mormonism arose out of the Campbellite "Restoration" Movement.

- A. The leading figures in early Mormonism were originally preachers in Campbellite churches and many of them had personally worked with Alexander Campbell: Sidney Rigdon, Parley Pratt, Oliver Crowder, Orson Hyde, Lyman Wight, Edward Partridge, John Corril, Isaac Morely, John Murdock, etc.
- B. So many thousands of "Disciples of Christ" joined the Mormons that Alexander Campbell called Mormonism "Satan's counterfeit" of the Disciples of Christ.

C. Joseph Smith was taught the "Restoration" concept and its peculiar doctrines by Sidney Rigdon. When Joseph Smith adopted most of the points of the "Restoration" Movement, he put himself as the "Restorer" of the Gospel and the Church in the place of Alexander Campbell:

- The Church and the "true" Gospel was lost in the 1st Century.
- All subsequent churches are apostate.
- Joseph Smith "restored" the Church and the Gospel.
- A church should use Bible names. The Mormons first called themselves the "Church of Christ." Most Mormon denominations still use such names.
- You must be baptized "unto remission of sins" by a Mormon priest to be saved.
- Smith challenged Alexander Campbell to a public debate on the issue of who was the true "Restorer."

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Journal Of Discourses, vol. II:17, 18; vol. XI:3.

Joseph Smith: An American Prophet (by John Evans), 211; 214-216.

2. Anti-Mormon Scholars:

Shadow Or Reality (by the Tanners), pp.66-68.

Origin of Campbellism (by J. Milburn).

3. Campbellite Sources:

Memoirs of Alexander Campbell, vol. II: 344-347.

2. Campbellism and Christadelphianism

Dr. John Thomas, a prominent "Disciple of Christ" and personal friend of Alexander Campbell, decided that if we should throw out the creeds and use only Bible names, then why should we believe in the Trinity? He went on to deny the deity of Christ, the personhood of the Spirit, the bodily resurrection of Christ, Christ's physical return to this world and the immortality of the soul. He taught

"soul sleep" and denied the doctrine of Hell. He did not believe in a paid clergy, but each member was viewed as a minister.

He was able to persuade many other "Disciples" to join him in establishing the "Christadelphians" or "Brethren in Christ." His movement was composed of Campbellite and Millerite churches.

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3. Campbellism and Jehovah's Witnesses

Benjamin Wilson was a "Disciple of Christ" who followed Dr. Thomas into Christadelphianism. Although he never studied Greek, he published a Greek-English interlinear called *The Emphatic Diaglott*.

It was Wilson who introduced Charles Taze Russell to those very doctrines, which have become the central theology of the Jehovah's Witnesses. The Watchtower Society even published and used Wilson's interlinear for many years. Campbellism through Christadelphianism is the origin of the Jehovah's Witnesses.

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Apostles Of Denial (by Ed Gruss), pp. 14-16; 193-196.

The Doctrinal Errors Of Campbellism

While there are many doctrinal issues that divide the Evangelical from the Campbellite, the greatest point of controversy is their view of baptism.

The Evangelical believes that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Human works, such as baptism, church membership, etc., are not necessary for salvation. While obedience to God's Law has a role to play in the assurance of salvation, it has no role to play in the way of salvation. Baptism, like circumcision, is an outward rite that symbolizes an inner state. While both ceremonies symbolize regeneration, they do not accomplish it.

In opposition to evangelical doctrine, Campbellite theology teaches "baptismal regeneration." It is claimed that water baptism by immersion of adults only unto remission of sins does not merely symbolize regeneration, but it actually accomplishes it. Faith is not enough. Obedience to God's Law must also take place or salvation is not possible. Unless you are baptized in the exact way they dictate (immersion, adults only) and for the exact purpose they have in mind (unto remission of sins), not only is your baptism invalid but you are not yet saved—no matter how sincerely you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior!

To add baptism to faith is nothing more than adding works to grace, which is impossible according to Rom. 11:6. The attempt to evade this by claiming that baptism is part of faith is not linguistically or grammatically possible. If obedience to God's commands, such as baptism, is what "faith" is, then why stop with baptism? What about all the other commands of God such as "love your wife?" A works-based-salvation can never say when enough works have been done! No assurance of salvation is possible.

The Reasons Why Baptism Is Not Essential For Salvation

1. If the Campbellite doctrine is true, then the Restorers were not saved men! Thomas Campbell, Alexander Campbell, Walter Scott and Barton Stone were never baptized "unto the remission of sins." While they repudiated their infant baptism when they were re-baptized by the Baptists, they never repudiated their Baptist baptism or were re-baptized according to Campbellite baptism.
2. Jesus never baptized anyone. If baptism is essential for salvation, then Jesus never saved anyone. (John 4:1-2)
3. Paul did not view baptism as part of the Gospel (I Cor. 1:14-17).
4. John's baptism did not save anyone even though it was "unto remission of sins" (Mk. 1:4 cf. Acts 19:1-5).
5. Since there is only one God, there is only one way of salvation (Rom 3:28-30). This means that whatever is necessary for salvation today was also necessary during O.T. times.
6. The Gospel of justification by faith alone apart from obedience to God's commands is taught in both O.T. and the N.T. (Rom 1:1-2).
 - Abraham before the Law (Rom. 4:1-5)
 - David after the Law (Rom. 4:6-8)
 - Habakkuk in the Prophets (Rom. 1:17)
7. Baptism is the N.T. parallel of circumcision just as the Lord's Supper is the parallel of the Passover (Col. 2:11-12). Since circumcision was not essential for salvation, then neither is baptism.

8. Abraham was saved BEFORE he was circumcised in order to emphasize that salvation was by faith alone, apart from obedience to God's commands, and that the Gentiles would be saved by faith alone, apart from obedience to any commands, such as baptism (Rom. 4:9-11, 16, 23-5:2).
9. Cornelius was saved and baptized by the Holy Spirit before he was baptized (Acts 10:44-48). This passage clearly refutes baptismal regeneration.
10. Baptismal regeneration:
 - makes salvation depend on the availability of water;
 - makes salvation depend on the availability of a Campbellite preacher;
 - confuses the symbol with the reality;
 - makes faith and obedience the same thing;
 - is based on a superstitious and magical view of baptism.
11. The thief on the cross was saved without baptism. The Campbellite argument that he was saved under the O.T. way of salvation is not possible seeing that Christ had already died on the cross and finished the atonement before the thief died. The thief belongs on the N.T. side of the cross and not on the O.T. side.
12. Campbellites claim that the word "unto" in Acts 2:38 (*eis* in the Greek) always means "in order to obtain" and is always "forward looking." In this way they make remission of sins follow the act of baptism in a cause-and-effect relationship. Baptism CAUSES forgiveness of sins.

The problem with this idea is that Greek scholars do not see this as the meaning of "eis." Liddell and Scott, Thayer, A.T. Robertson, Dana and Manty, Vine, etc., state that "*eis*" is often used in the sense of "in reference to something already previously existing or accomplished." In this sense, baptism is done AFTER and BECAUSE of remission of sins. Once our sins are forgiven, then you should be

baptized. That the Greek scholars are correct is seen from the way "*eis*" is used in the N.T.:

- Matt. 3:11: "baptism unto (*eis*) repentance."
You get baptized because you have repented. You do not get baptized so you can obtain repentance. The order is, "repent and be baptized."
- Matt 12:41: "they repented at (*eis*) the preaching of Jonah."
Obviously, the preaching came first and then the people repented in response to that preaching.
- Matt. 28:19: "Baptizing them in (*eis*) the name of the Father and of Son and of the Holy Ghost."
The Triune God exists before one is baptized.
- Mk. 1:9: "baptized of John in (*eis*) Jordan."
Jesus did not come into possession of the Jordan River as He was baptized. The Jordan existed long before baptism was invented.
- I Cor. 10:2: "baptized unto (*eis*) Moses."
Moses existed before the "baptism" in the Red Sea. The people were not "baptized" in order to obtain Moses. Their "baptism" was in response to his leadership.

Conclusion

As long as the Campbellites teach that baptism is essential for salvation, they will be viewed as a "cult" by evangelical Christians. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, apart from obedience to any of God's commands. Works are the evidence of salvation - not the basis of it.

Chapter Four

Mormonism

Remember do not argue over doctrines or Scripture. The **authority** of Joseph Smith as a "prophet" of God is the **real** issue.

Establish the following points:

Step 1 Joseph Smith was only one of many 19th Century "prophets." There was nothing unique about his claims.

Step 2 He was a part of a movement called "Restorationism" in which many people claimed to be "restoring" a gospel which had been "lost" since the 1st Century. Alexander Campbell, Charles Russell, Ellen G. White, and many others claimed to be "God's latter-day prophet."

Step 3 Down through the ages, thousands of people have claimed to be "God's prophet." Either they are all false or only one is right. How can we know if someone is a false prophet?

A. Circular reasoning proves nothing:

Mormon: *"Joseph Smith was a prophet of God."*

Christian: *"How do you know that?"*

Mormon: *"Because God spoke to him."*

Christian: *"But how do you know that?"*

Mormon: *"Because he was a prophet of God."*

B. Subjective feelings prove nothing:

Mormon: *"Joseph Smith was a prophet of God."*

Christian: *"How do you know that?"*

Mormon: *"Because I have a burning witness in my heart."*

Christian: *"But what if your burning witness is only indigestion!"*

- C. We need a way to find out the truth that is:
- objective, not subjective.
 - neutral, not biased.
 - based on facts, not circular reasoning.
 - found in historic documents, not speculation.

Step 4 Deut. 18: 20-22 gives us the answer. If someone claims to be a prophet:

- A. Examine his prophecies.
- B. If they failed to happen,
- C. Then he is a false prophet.

Step 5 Since Joseph Smith claimed to a prophet, there are only three options:

- A. He was a false prophet.
- B. He was a liar, i.e. a crook.
- B. He was a true prophet.

Which position is true? By what means can a normal person find out if Smith was a true or false prophet? **THE ONLY WAY TO KNOW IS TO EXAMINE HIS PROPHECIES.**

Note: But even if you decided that Smith was a true prophet, there are over 100 groups claiming to be the church set up by Joseph Smith. All of them claim to be the "true" followers of Joseph Smith! How do you know which group to join?

The following are only five of the many prophecies made by Smith. Just one false prophecy is enough to discredit him. These prophecies come from such Mormon documents as *Doctrine and Covenants*, *The Pearl of Great Price*, *History of the Church*, *Journal of Discourses* and Mormon newspapers, magazines, sermons, diaries, etc.

- A. Smith prophesied that people live on the moon, they dress like Quakers, live to be a thousand years old and are six feet in height. Brigham Young also claimed that people live on the sun!

- B. Smith prophesied that the ten lost tribes of Israel are living in a tropical valley at the North Pole. The Apostle John is still alive and lives with them there.
- C. Smith prophesied that the Second Coming of Christ and the end of the world would take place in 1891.
- D. Smith prophesied that a temple would be built on the "temple lot" in Independence, Missouri, within the generation of those living in 1832.
- E. Smith prophesied that he would return from Salem, Massachusetts, with "many people" and "much treasure."

These are only five of sixty-four false prophecies given by Smith.

Step 6 Be prepared for the following tricks.

- A. "I do not care what you show me. Smith could not have said these things because he was a prophet of God."
- B. "So what if Smith did say these things! Moses, Jonah and Jesus were "false" prophets, but we still believe in them."
- C. "But I have a burning witness in my heart."

Conclusion

- Fact #1 - Smith claimed to be a prophet.
- Fact #2 - His prophecies were false.
- Conclusion - Therefore, he was a false prophet.

Chapter Five

How to Witness to Jehovah's Witnesses

Remember not to argue over doctrine or Scripture. The only real issue is the **authority** of the Watchtower Society as God's prophet and God's organization on earth.

Step 1 Before you begin, ask them if they will promise not to lie to you. In *Aid To Bible Understanding*, (p. 1060), they are told that they can lie to those "who do not deserve the truth." Have them sign a statement that they will not lie to you.

Step 2 Tell them that the historic documents and facts have the final say.

Step 3 Establish the following facts:

- A. The Society has claimed to be God's prophet. (WT 4/1/72, pp. 197, 200, etc.)
- B. The only way to prove it is to examine the record of the prophecies made by the Society. (WT 4/1/72, p. 197)
- C. Deut. 18:20-22 tells us that if someone gives a false prophecy, he is a false prophet. (*Aid To Bible Understanding*, p. 1348)
- D. The Society has used this method to refute other groups. (*Awake*, 10/8/68, p.23)

Step 4 Beware of the following tricks:

- A. "The WT never claimed to be a prophet."
- B. "Okay. I admit that the WT claimed to be a prophet and made some mistakes, but we all make mistakes."
- C. "A false prophet is someone who does not admit his false prophecies."

D. "This is old light. Let us discuss new light for the Bible says the light gets brighter and brighter."

E. "I do not care about all this. It is not important. Let us study the Trinity."

Be firm that the issue of the authority of the WT must be resolved before going on to study what it teaches.

Step 5 Ask them what happened on the following dates. Then present the WT documents. Be prepared for some J.W.'s to deny that the WT ever said anything about these dates.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1799 | The beginning of the time of the end. |
| 1874 | Christ's invisible return to earth. |
| 1878 | Christ's kingly office begins.
The power of the Kingdom begins.
God rejects all the churches. |
| 1914 | Armageddon (the end of the world).
6,000 years since Adam completed. |
| 1915 | Armageddon. |
| 1918 | Armageddon and the destruction of the churches. |
| 1925 | Armageddon and the Resurrection.
Beth Sarim built. |
| 1931 | Christ's return switched from 1874 to 1914. |
| 1975 | Armageddon and the end of the world.
6,000 years since Adam switched from 1914 to 1975. |
| 1986 | The time of peace and safety.
Armageddon. |

CONCLUSION

Since the Society claims to be God's prophet, but its prophecies failed to happen, then the Society is a false prophet. Since the Society is a false prophet, it has no authority to speak for God—so, why follow it? Look to the Bible instead!

Chapter Six

The Occult and Parapsychology

Introduction

The occult has to do with those rites, ideas, practices and miraculous feats connected with witchcraft. The word "occult" itself means "hidden" or "unseen." It was used to describe those satanic rites that were forbidden by civil law during the Middle Ages. Those who desired to practice witchcraft did so while "hidden" or "unseen" to escape prosecution.

I. Revival of Spiritism

The 19th Century witnessed the revival of witchcraft in the West. It was renamed "spiritualism" or "spiritism." Later, Theosophy renamed it pseudo-scientific "psychic forces." With the beginning of the Society for Psychical Research (SPR), witchcraft was viewed as an issue of the scientific investigation of the natural mental abilities of man. It became popular to study psychic phenomena.

It was J.B. Rhine in the 1950s who took psychical research and renamed it as E.S.P. (Extra-Sensory Perception).

Such terms as "parapsychology" were later developed to describe the miraculous feats that psychics could do, such as Uri Geller's bending of spoons or levitating objects.

II. Why Do People Get Involved in the Occult?

- A. To contact the dead.
- B. To see the future.
- C. To obtain power.
- D. To contact Satan or demons.

- E. To satisfy curiosity or the need for excitement gained through frightening experiences.

III. Satan and the Occult

- A. Satan is an extra-dimensional energy being composed only of "mind," having no body or material essence.

- B. Satan, and those energy beings who rebelled against God, fled to this world. They were the first "E.T.s."
 - Satan has always tried to counterfeit God's miracles by producing His own supernatural feats (Matt. 24:24; II Thes. 2:9; Rev. 13:11-17).
 - God has always condemned occult practices as demonic (see chart).

IV. Parapsychology and the Bible

Modern parapsychologists claim that all supernatural feats are the result of natural human abilities. There is thus no difference between "satanic" and "divine" miracles. Jesus is viewed as a great psychic who healed people by His own mental abilities or powers. But both the prophets (Gen. 41:16), Jesus (John 5:19,30) and the apostles (Acts 3:12-13) stated that these miraculous feats did not come from their own power but from God. On the other hand, they clearly stated that there are demonic forces who could also do supernatural feats such as fortune telling (Acts 16:16-18). Those in contact with the demonic forces can do miraculous feats (Matt. 24:24).

V. Satanic Counterfeits of Divine Miracles

Modern occultists redefine biblical miracles by using parapsychological terminology. For example, what the Bible calls "prophecy," an occultist would call "pre-cognition." In the following chart, there is a contrast between divine and satanic miracles and the parapsychological terms that are used today to describe events that *seem* to parallel biblical miracles.

Miracle	Divine	Satanic
Precognition	Biblical prophecies (ex. Mic. 5:2; II Pet. 1:20-21)	Fortune tellers, psychics, false prophets, astrologers, etc. (Deut. 13:1-4; Isa. 47:9-14)
Levitation	II Kings 6:6; John 6:16-21; Acts 1:9	Matt. 4:5,8
Teleportation	Gen. 5:24; II Kings 2:11; John 6:21; Acts 8:39-40	Matt. 4:5,8
Molecular transformation	Exo. 7:14-21; John 2:1-11	Exo. 7:22
Creation of matter out of nothing	II Kings 4:1-7; John 6:1-13	Apportation possible, but not creation ex-nihilo
Manipulation of weather	I Kings 17-19; Ex. 9:13-26; Mark 4:35-41; etc.	Job 1:19; Mark 4:37
Spontaneous human combustion (SHC)	II Kings 1:9-12; Num. 16:35	Job 1:16; Rev. 13:13
Manipulation of animals and insects	Exo. 8-9; I Kings 17:6; Mark 11:1-7	Exo. 8:7
Telepathy	Matt. 9:4; Acts 5:1-11	Satan can blind the mind (II Cor. 4:4), put ideas in it (Matt. 16:22-23), or takes ideas out of it (Matt. 13:19)
Dream interpretation	Gen. 40:4-22; 41:15-32	Gen. 41:8; Dan. 4:6-7
Visions and revelations	Eze. 40:2; II Cor. 12:7	Matt. 4:8
Out-of-body experiences	Eze. 37:1; 40:1-2; II Cor. 12:2-4; Rev. 4:1	T.M., Yoga, drugs, near-death experience (OBE)
Power to cause sickness and death	Exo. 9:1-12; 11:1-8	Job 2:7; Mark 9:17-29
Power to heal sickness	Acts 3:6-13	Christian Science, T.M., psychic healers, etc.
Creation of life from non-life	Exo. 8:16-17	Can't really do this (Exo. 8:18-19). Hallucinations possible (Exo. 7:11; Rev. 13:13-15)
Exorcism of demons	Acts 16:16-18	Matt. 12:27
Signs, wonders, miracles	Heb. 2:4	II Thes. 2:9; Rev. 13:13

VI. The Tools of the Occult

A. One list of occult tools is 108 pages.

B. Present popular tools:

- Ouija Board
- Fortune Telling (palm reading, crystal ball, tealeaves, tarot cards, psychic games, etc.)
- Séances (trumpets, drums, balls, table rapping, etc.)
- Levitation
- Psychic Phenomenon (dream interpretation, dowsing, psychometry, healing, etc.)
- Apportation (teleportation of people or objects from one place to another)
- Satanism (Church of Satan)
- Materializations (ectoplasmic manifestations)
- Astral-Projection (out-of-body experiences)
- Transcendental Meditation (T.M., Yoga)
- Drug Abuse
- Astrology

VII. The Bible and the Occult

The following chart reveals that all occult practices are condemned in Scripture as being satanic in origin and power. Thus, they are an abomination to God and forbidden to His people.

Divination	Sorcery	Astrology	Enchanter	Medium
The use of the occult to discern the future, answer questions or to interpret dreams	The practice of using occult tools and arts	Looking to the stars for the future and for daily guidance	The caster of spells and curses	A demon-possessed person who serves as the contact in the spirit world

Wizard	Human Sacrifices	Soothsaying	Witchcraft	Monthly Prognosticators
A male medium	The appeasement of occult forces by human sacrifices	Magicians who perform psychic acts	Female mediums or spiritists	Predicting the events of the forthcoming month by the moon and astrology

Conclusion

The Christian cannot have anything to do with the world of the occult. While modern humanists call it "E.S.P." or "psychic experiments," Christians must avoid it at all costs.

The satanic origin and power behind the occult must be boldly pointed out by Christians. The present occult revolution may be the preparation of the world for the coming of the anti-Christ who will produce "psychic miracles" to deceive the world (II Thess. 2:9-12; Rev. 13:13).

The Christian does not fear the occult because "greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4). While we do not "fear," we do have a healthy respect of occult powers.

SEMINAR NOTES

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OTHER RESOURCES

INTRODUCTION—WHAT IS APOLOGETICS

INTRO TO DEFENDING THE FAITH/BOOK
THE NEW ATHEISM AND THE EROSION OF FREEDOM/BOOK
HOW TO KEEP YOUR FAITH WHILE IN COLLEGE/BOOK
COST OF DISCERNMENT/AUDIO CASSETTE

THE HEATHEN ISSUE

A DEFENSE OF ORIGINAL SIN/BOOK
STUDIES IN THE ATONEMENT/BOOK
BIBLICAL ANTHROPOLOGY/AUDIO CASSETTE

THE SPAWNING GROUND OF THE CULTS

1800'S SPAWNING GROUNDS OF THE CULTS/AUDIO CASSETTE

THE "CHURCH OF CHRIST"

NATURE AND EXTENT OF GOD'S KNOWLEDGE/BOOK
"CHURCH OF CHRIST" DEBATE/AUDIO CASSETTE
ARE THE "CHURCH OF CHRIST" CHURCHES A CULT?/AUDIO CASSETTE
ARE THE "CHURCH OF CHRIST" CHURCHES A CULT?/BOOKLET
BAPTISM/AUDIO CD

MORMONISM

BATTLE OF THE GODS/BOOK
A DEBATE WITH A MORMON APOLOGIST/AUDIO CASSETTE

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS

HOW THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS RELATE TO EACH OTHER/BOOK
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISM/AUDIO CASSETTE
IS THE SABBATH DAY FOR TODAY/BOOKLET
IS THE SABBATH DAY FOR TODAY/AUDIO CASSETTE

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

DEITY OF CHRIST/AUDIO CD
DEITY OF CHRIST/VIDEO CASSETTE
TRINITY/BOOK
TRINITY/AUDIO CASSETTE
DEATH AND THE AFTERLIFE/BOOK
SOUL SLEEP AND CONDITIONALISM/AUDIO CASSETTE

THE OCCULT AND PARAPSYCHOLOGY

SATAN'S DEVICES/BOOK
TRUTH ABOUT MASONS/BOOK
AN INTRO TO THE CULTS/AUDIO CASSETTE
OPEN LETTER TO A WITCH/TRACT