

World Religions

2 Peter 2:1 “...there shall be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord.....”.

World Religions

World Religions 5-12.doc

The original outline of information which follows was supplied to me by another Bible teacher as a basis for this course. It is my belief that much of the material was taken from Josh McDowell & Don Stewart's book "Handbook of Today's Religions." I have more than doubled the amount of material originally supplied, and in doing so have given credit for quotes I have added from other sources. The quotes added or paraphrased are followed or preceded by an appropriate identification within parenthesis, they are:

The Compact Guide to World Religions, Dean C. Halverson, General Editor (**DH**). Published by Bethany House Publishers, copyright 1996 used by permission.

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In 10-09 I changed the course title from Apologetics 11-00 to World Religions 11-00 to more correctly reflect the subject matter.

In May of 2012 I made corrections to the outline format, but there were NO changes to the material.

I. Introduction

A. Why study comparative religions?

1. **To be better equipped as Christian witnesses**, we must strive to understand the beliefs of non-Christians
2. Religion is universal: "**Religion is one of the things that distinguishes man from animals.** Apes and dolphins, as far as we know, have no religions, but no groups of human beings have ever been discovered which do not have religious beliefs." - Richard Cavendish, The Great Religions
3. **Religion has an indispensable aspect in all human life:** "Religion gives to a person what he can obtain from no other source – a confidence in the outcome of his life's struggles through a personal connection with a superior power or powers in the world." – Robert Hume, The World's Living Religions
4. **To help us understand that all religions are not the same**
 - a. They are different in dynamics (how they motivate people)
 - b. They are different in deities (their god or gods)
 - c. They are different in doctrines (what they believe about God and how they worship)

B. Who will we study?

1. Islam
2. Hinduism
3. Buddhism
4. Confucianism/Taoism/Shintoism
5. Jehovah's Witnesses
6. Mormonism
7. Catholicism
8. Baha'i
9. Unification Church of Sun Myung Moon (The Moonies)

C. What will we study?

1. **Historical perspectives** - The time frame of the beginning of the religion and the development of the faith
2. **Personalities/Sects**
 - a. The individuals involved in the creation of the religion
 - b. The emergence of differing groups within the religion
 - c. The differing influence and doctrines of each sect
3. **Doctrines/Scriptures**
 - a. What do they believe
 - b. What do they worship
 - c. What practices do they demand from their followers
 - d. What are their sacred writings
4. **A comparison of that religion to Christianity**
5. **Sphere of influence and current statistics**

II. Islam

Preliminary notes:

- "Islam" is from the Arabic term for "submission"
- "Muslims" ("one who submits") are adherents to Islam
- Muslims object to Islam being referred to as "Mohammedism" because it implies the worship of Mohammed rather than God (Allah)
- "Muhammed" is a different spelling for "Mohammed"
- Their sacred scriptures are called the "Koran" which is the same as "Qur'an" (meaning "the recitation")

A. Historical perspectives and personalities

1. The history of the Arabic nations

- a. According to the Bible - Shem's descendants Eber gave rise to 2 family lines
 - (I) Peleg - from which Abraham descended
Gen. 11:17-26
 - (II) Joktan - from which came many other Arab groups Gen. 10:25-31
- b. Many Arab tribes trace their ancestry to Ishmael, the firstborn son of Abraham by Hagar

2. The Abrahamic connection

- a. Abraham was born in Ur of the Chaldees (the area of Iraq) - Gen. 11:31
- b. Abrahams' first son was Ishmael - born of Hagar
 - (I) God promised that Hagar's seed would "not be numbered for its multitude" - Gen. 16:10
 - (II) God promised that Ishmael would beget 12 princes and become a great nation - Gen. 17:20
 - (III) Ishmael is the father of the Arab nations
- c. Abraham's second son was Isaac - born of Sarah
 - (I) Promised seed of Israel
 - (II) Had 2 sons of his own
 - (A) Jacob – obtained the birthright belonging to his brother through deceit
 - (B) Esau,
 - (1) Was bitter against Jacob
 - (2) Married Ishmael's daughter, thus extending the line of Abraham's seed to the Arabs
 - (III) The Arabs claim that because of the connection to both Ishmael and Isaac they have more right to the land of Israel than the Jews, who descended from the man who stole the birthright from Esau and their father being Abraham
- e. Abraham is honored
 - (I) Buried in Mecca (Ka'aba)
 - (II) Importance of Mecca:
 - (A) It was important economically because it was a gathering place for the caravans of traders.
 - (B) It is important spiritually because it was the location of "the Ka'bah, a cubical structure that, at the time of Mohammad, contained 360 deities. Each Arabian tribe had hand-picked its own deity and came to Mecca each year to

pay homage to its god.” (DH p. 104)

3. The beginning of Islam

- a. Time and place: The year 610 A.D., in the area known today as Saudi Arabia
- b. Started by Mohammed in the city of Mecca, and moved to the city of Medina after he and his followers were persecuted in Mecca for their monotheistic beliefs.
- c. The man, Mohammed
 - (I) “Born around 570 A.D. in the city of Mecca in Arabia, Mohammad’s father died before his birth. His mother died when he was six. He was raised first by his grandfather and later by his uncle.” (McS p.378)
 - (II) At age 25, married a wealthy 40-year old widow named Khadijah
 - (A) Married 25 years until her death in 619 or 620 A.D.
 - (B) At the time of his death, Mohammed had 12 wives and 2 concubines
 - (1) Originally not more than 4 wives were allowed according to the Koran (Sura 4:31)
 - (2) A convenient new revelation in the Koran permitted it to be so (Sura 33:36-40)

Note: “Abrogation” - the destruction or annulling of a former law by an act of the legislative power, by constitutional authority, or by usage. It is taught in 3 places in the Koran; e.g., Sura 2:100, 106 - “And for whatever verse we abrogate or cast into oblivion, we bring one better or like it” (Also, Sura 13:39, 16:101)

- d. Muhammad seemed to be “profoundly dissatisfied with the polytheism and crude superstitions of his native Mecca, he appears to have become passionately convinced of the existence and transcendence of one true God....There can be no matter of doubt, moreover, that at some period of his life he absorbed much teaching from Talmudic sources and had contact with some form of Christianity..” (McS p.378)
- e. Mohammed’s visions & revelations
 - (I) “In the year 610 A.D., at the age of 40, Muhammad, received his first revelation from the angel Gabriel. This was the beginning of a series of revelations that were eventually compiled in Islam’s sacred scripture, the Qur’an (Koran), which means ‘recitations.’ Muhammad is said to have doubted

initially the origin of these new revelations. he thought that perhaps he had been possessed by demons or 'Jinn' as they were called. His wife, Khadijah, however, reassured him that his visions were of divine origin, and that he should teach what had been revealed to him." **(DH p. 104)**

(II) The nature of the messages

(A) Cambridge History of Islam: "Short messages or revelations that Mohammed at times heard spoken to him, but for the most part is said to have found them in his heart." **(McS p. 379)**

(B) The messages had a common rhyme in their ending

(C) At first they were committed to memory and recited by his followers being passed on by oral recitation rather than by written record. Later they were recorded in what is known as the Qu'ran (Koran).

f. His monotheistic message was not well received in Mecca by the merchants who were making their living on the continual flow of religious pilgrims making their way annually to Mecca to honor one of their gods. "Eventually, about 100 Muslim families were forced to flee to a city named Yathrib (now called Medina), which is around 200 miles north of Mecca. Mohammad followed these families shortly thereafter, fleeing Mecca in the year 622 A.D. Muslims now look to the year of his flight to Yathrib as the beginning of the Muslim calendar. This event July 16, 622 A.D. is known as the Hijrah (also spelled Hegira), which means 'a series of migrations'. [Thus, the year 630 A.D. would be the year 8 A.H. (in the year of the Hijrah) to a Muslim]. After several successful sieges and military victories against Mecca, and after making treaties with the Quraysh tribe, Mohammad and his army took control of Mecca in 630 A.D. without a struggle. He personally destroyed the idols surrounding the Ka'bah, (sacred Black Stone). Within a year of Mecca's submission to Mohammad, he was able to unify all the tribes of the Arabian peninsula under the religion of Islam." **(DH p. 104).**

g. "In his early years in Medina, Muhammed was sympathetic to both the Jews and Christians as well. But they rejected him and his teaching. Upon that rejection, Muhammed turned from Jerusalem as the center of worship of Islam, to Mecca, where the famous black stone, Ka'aba was enshrined. Muhammed ...declared it was a shrine for the one true God, Allah. ...Between the return to Mecca and his death, the prophet zealously and militantly propagated Islam, and the

new faith quickly spread throughout the area.” (McS p. 380-381)

- h.** First followers
 - (I)** Mohammed’s wife, Khadijah
 - (II)** His cousin, Ali
 - (III)** His friend, Abu Bakr, a wealthy merchant
 - (IV)** Slaves, the poor, the oppressed
 - (V)** Mohammed’s daughter, Fatima (helped in the recording of the words of Mohammed)
 - (VI)** Later, some of the wealthy
 - (A)** Because of early advocacy of the worship of the “three daughters of Allah”
 - (1)** Deities mentioned originally in the Koran in Sura 53:19
 - (2)** Compatible with Arab polytheism
 - (B)** This verse now known as a “Satanic verse”
 - (1)** This (and others) have been deleted from the Koran, as a result of Gabriel chiding Mohammed for claiming divine inspiration of the verse
 - (2)** Mohammed supposedly wrote the verse under the influence of Satan
 - (3)** Muslims today deny that the Satanic verses ever existed
- i.** Moslem/Non-Muslim relations
 - (I)** Changing attitudes in general
 - (A)** Sura 2:256 - “Let there be no compulsion in religion”
 - (B)** Sura 5:33 - “Punishment of those who wage war against God and His Apostle”
 - (C)** Sura 9:5 - “Fight, and slay idolaters wherever you find them”
 - (II)** Jews and Christians, specifically
 - (A)** Both are called “People of the Book” (Sura 5:5, 19)
 - (B)** Jews are then called “people who will listen to any lie” in Sura 5:41
 - (C)** Christians are called “enemies” in Sura 5:14
 - (D)** Muslims forbidden to have Jewish or Christian friends - Sura 5:51
 - (E)** Christians and Jews usually fared well under Muslim rule, as long as Islam was not

challenged as heresy

Note: Except for Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) and Raymond Lull (1235-1315), there were no significant evangelistic missions to Muslims until Henry Martyn spread the gospel in Muslim India in the early 1800's.

B. Sects—Groups within Islam

Muhammad died without leaving any instruction as to who should be his successor. He left behind a following that needed a leader. How this person was to be determined brought about great division among the followers. The two main branches of thought were that of election by consensus, and that of a descendant through direct bloodline to Muhammad.

“The Sunni Muslims insisted that Muhammad’s successor should be elected. The Shi’ite (or Shia’h) Muslims thought he should come through Muhammad’s bloodline, which would have meant that Ali, Muhammad’s cousin and son-in-law, would have been his successor. The Sunnis were the ones who got their way. “
(DH p. 104-105)

- 1. Sunnis - (Means "The practice of the Prophet")**
 - a.** They are the largest of the Islamic groups (80% of Muslim population) considered as the mainline group of Islam
 - b.** Specific distinctions
 - (I)** Believe that the Islamic people are to be governed by consensus (Ijma)
 - (II)** The Khalifa (also spelled Caliphate) is the elected head of state and religious leader
 - c.** Their decision making and faith is based on the following:
 - (I)** The Qur’an (Koran)
 - (II)** The Sunna – from which they get their name “Sunnis”. The Sunna (the record of the behavior and practices of Muhammad while in Medina), and the Hadith (Muhammad’s spoken decisions or judgments). The Sunna fills in many areas where the Qur’an is silent
 - (III)** The Ijma, a consensus of opinion of what the Medina communities thought was in or shortly after the time of Muhammad.
 - (IV)** Qiyas, the use of analytical reason or the consensus of opinion of the local Muslim community

2. **Shi'a or Shiites** (Means "the party of Ali")
 - a. Founded by Ali, who was the fourth Caliph to follow Muhammad, was an early convert, and Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law married to his only daughter, Fatima.
 - b. Considered to be the fundamentalists of the Muslim groups
 - c. Specific distinctions
 - (I) "When their movement began they believed that Allah spoke through an 'Imam', the Muslim equivalent of the Catholic Pope. Believe that the Inam (rather than the Khalifa) should be a descendant of the prophet
 - (II) There is an organized clergy in the Shi'a that is not found in the Summi
 - (III) The Shi'a believe that equal credence should be placed on the words of Fatima, daughter of Mohammed
 - (A) Whereas the Sunni do not accept her words as the basis for their faith
 - (B) Nor do the Sunni consider her words equal to the words of Mohammed
 - (IV) The Inam is considered to be both the religious head of the group and the political head of the people (Ayatolla)
 - (V) The Shi'a look more to the spirit of the Qur'an than to the letter of the words themselves
 - (VI) The interpretation of the Qur'an by the Inam is considered of equal value to the Qur'an itself
 - e. Their radicalism has often been attacked as creating a rift and dividing Islam

3. **Suffis**
 - a. A third branch of Islam
 - b. Grew in response to Islamic orthodoxy. People were yearning for a form of worship that was much less mechanical and more personal in relationship to the divine.
 - c. Follow more closely to the mysticism of Mohammed
 - (I) Shunning worldly pleasures
 - (II) Sought total reliance on God and not man
 - (III) Practice more solitary meditation, as did Mohammed himself
 - d. Some groups of Suffis have developed mystical rituals
 - e. Some consider the Baha'i to have grown out of this sect

- (I) Their roots are certainly from Islam
- (II) They have grown far from current traditional Islamic thinking

C. Sphere of influence and statistics

1. The spread of Islam

- a. Began with the conquest of Jerusalem in 638 A.D.
- b. Extended east and west for the next 120 years

2. “Islam makes us approximately 20% of the world’s population trailing only Christianity in number of believers. The four nations with the largest number of Muslims today are : Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India” (DH p. 103).

3. Major groups comprising the world community of Islam

- a. Arabs (North Africa and Middle East)
- b. Sub-Saharan Africans (from Senegal to Somalia)
- c. Turks and Turkish peoples (Turkey, Central Asia)
- d. Iranians
- e. Afghans
- f. Indo-Muslims (Pakistan, India and Bangladesh)
- g. Southeast Asians (Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines)
- h. A small percentage of the Chinese
- i. Europeans - In Europe, Islam is the 2nd largest religion, after Christianity
- j. A growing number in the U.S.

D. Doctrine– beliefs = (iman)

Remember that the term “Islam” means to be in submission to the will of Allah. The person who submits is called a Muslim. This religion can be divided into their beliefs (iman) and their obligations (deen).

1. Doctrine of the Prophets

“According to the Qur’an, God has sent a prophet to every nation to preach the message of there being only one God. In all, 124,000 prophets have been sent, according to tradition. Most are unknown, but many include biblical characters such as Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Moses, David, Solomon, Jonah, John the Baptist, and Jesus.

Each prophet was given for a particular age, but Muhammad is the only prophet who is for all time. He is considered to be the ‘Seal of the Prophets.’ “ (DH p. 106)

- a. The Creator has periodically chosen human beings to reveal his message & revelations to humankind
- b. Mohammed is considered to be the last of the prophets
- c. The words of all of the other prophets are contained in the Qur'an

2. The Doctrine of Jesus

“For the Christian the resurrection of Jesus Christ as the incarnate Son of God is the vital cornerstone of faith, yet the Muslim does not hold to either of these truths – that Christ is the son of God or that he rose from the dead. In fact, Muslims do not even believe Jesus was crucified; rather, many believe Judas was crucified in His place. Others believe Jesus was on the cross but did not die. They believe He was a sinless prophet although not as great as Muhammad... Islam denies the doctrine of the Trinity... They acknowledge Jesus as being called the Messiah...They acknowledge the many miracles of healing Jesus did, and they believe He is going to return to earth to establish Islam throughout the earth. He is called “the word of God” (Sura 3:45) and “the Spirit from God” (4:171). Thus they have a high view of Jesus. **(McS p. 395) But:**

- a. They do NOT believe Jesus is the Son of God – to say so is blasphemy to a Muslim
- b. He is the son of a woman, Mary
 - (I) The birth of Jesus is considered a miraculous conception
 - (II) Mary was a virgin when Jesus was conceived
- c. He is one of the major prophets.

3. Doctrine of the Word

“Four of the highest-ranking prophets were given books of divine revelation. Those four are Moses, who was given the Tawrat (Torah), David, who was given the Zabur (Psalms), Jesus, who was given the Injil (Gospel), and Muhammad, who was given the Qur'an. Of those four books, Muslims contend that only the Qur'an has been preserved in an uncorrupted state.” **(DH p. 106)**

- a. They believe the Qur'an is the inspired word of God, and is his most recent and final word to man, thus it supercedes all others.
- b. The words were revealed to the prophet, Mohammed
 - (I) Even the repetition of the words of the other

prophets are said to have come by revelation to Mohammed

- (II) Mohammed passed on his words to his followers
- (III) His words were not written down until 40 years after his death

c. The Qur'an

- (I) 114 chapters
- (II) Placed in order by size, not by chronology

4. Doctrine of God

“The central doctrine of Islam is that God is one and that no partner is to be associated with Him. To associate a partner with God is to commit the sin of ishrak (also spelled shirk), for which the Qur'an offers no forgiveness (Surah 4:48). Obviously, as a result of this central doctrine of Islam, the doctrine of the Trinity is offensive to Muslims.” **(DH p. 106)**

a. There is one God and his name is Allah.

- (I) Allah (name implies one and only one true God). A singular entity with no partnership. They deny the one God in three persons held by Christianity.
- (II) Creator of all the universe and humankind
- (III) Shehad (the bearing of witness of a singular God)

b. God is referred to as

- (I) all-knowing, all-powerful, and the sovereign judge. He is said to be merciful & compassionate yet his central attribute is one of justice not grace and power not mercy. He is seen as the source of both good and evil and his will is supreme.

“As both good and evil come from Allah, it makes their God very unpredictable (apt to change suddenly, inconsistent). Whatever Allah chooses becomes right; this makes any true standard of righteousness or ethics hard to understand if not impossible to establish. This is unlike the God of the Bible who is righteous. The very word righteous means, ‘a standard.’” **(McS p. 393)**

- (II) “He is not a personal God, for he is so far above man in every way that he is not personally knowable...Although Allah is said to be loving, this aspect of his nature is almost ignored, and his supreme attribute of justice is thought to over-rule love.” **(McS p. 389)**

“To the Muslim it is blasphemous to call Allah or God your father. To do so is the same as saying that your mother and Allah had sexual intercourse to produce you! In addition, while calling God “Father” is to evoke thoughts of love, compassion, tenderness and protectiveness to Christians, it is not so to the Muslim mind. To him, a father is strict, shows no emotion, never expresses love, and is bound to his family by duty and for what his family can provide for him, not by devotion.” (McS p. 393)

- (III) God's relationship is based on a singular religion
 - (A) Religious belief in one God is said to have taken several directions as God has given successive revelations to the people of the world
 - (B) They believe God communicates to his humankind through religion
- (IV) Islam is thought to be the last and most all-encompassing religion, and therefore was designed to supersede all other religions

5. Doctrine of Angels

“In the gap between the God of the Qur’an and humankind exists a hierarchy of angels. The archangel Gabriel is of the highest rank, succeeded by the rest of the angels.

Each person has two angels assigned to him or her, one to record the person’s good deeds and the other to record the bad deeds.

At the bottom of the hierarchy are the jinn, from which we get the word “genie.” Muslims believe that the host of jinn were created from fire, are usually bad, and are able to possess people.” (DH p. 106)

- a. Their existence is fundamental to Islamic teaching
- b. Gabriel or Jibril
 - (I) The leading angel
 - (II) Appeared to Mohammed
 - (III) Delivered the revelations in the Qur’an to Mohammed
- c. Satan or the Devil
 - (I) A fallen angel called “Al Shaytan” equal to the devil in meaning.
 - (II) Could also be a Jinn
 - (A) Creatures between angels and men

- (B) Can be both good and evil
- d. Angels are created beings (created of light, not substance)
 - (I) No bodily functions - e.g., eating, sexuality, etc.
 - (II) Each was created for a specific purpose

6. Doctrine of final Judgment

“The God of the Qur’an has decreed that there will be a day when all will stand before Him in judgment. On that day, each person’s deeds will be weighed in the balance. Those whose good deeds outweigh their bad deeds will be rewarded with Paradise; and those whose bad deeds outweigh their good will be judged to hell. Whether one’s good deeds outweigh one’s bad deeds is a subjective matter, though, known only by God. As a result, a Muslim has no assurance that he or she will be accepted by God.” **(DH p. 106)** Salvation for the Islamic is based on human effort. Those who oppose Allah will be tormented in hell. The time in hell can be either short term or permanent but no true Muslim will remain in hell forever.

They believe that those who are admitted to Paradise will recline on soft couches where quaffing cups of wine are handed to them by maidens called “Huris” of which a man may marry as many as he wishes. **(McS p. 390)**

7. Doctrine of Man & Sin

Islamist believe that man is inherently good by nature whereas Christianity professes that man is sinful by nature. Sin to the Islamist is thought of in terms of having rejected correct guidance and is by act only (not by nature), and is forgiven through repentance. No atonement is necessary for sin. Christianity views sin as the cause of death both physically and spiritually. Sin, for the Christian separates him from God making atonement necessary for fallen man to have right relationship with God.

8. Doctrine of Atonement

“According to the Islamic tradition, Jesus did not die on the cross. Instead, He ascended to heaven, and Judas died in His place on the cross. Muslims believe that it is disrespectful to believe that God would allow one of His prophets—and especially one of the most honored of the prophets—to be crucified. Christians believe that Jesus died a physical death and gave His life as the substitutionary atonement for our sins. He then rose from the dead in a physical but immortal body and appeared to hundreds of witnesses (1 Cor. 15). God’s specific purpose for sending Jesus into the world was for

Him to be crucified and to die for our sins (Matthew 20:28; John 3:16; Romans 8:3; 2 Cor.5:21; 1 Peter 1:19-20). Jesus voluntarily gave His life for us (John 6:51; 10:11-17). The end was not that of dishonor but that of the highest exaltation (Acts 2:29-33; 5:30-31; Philippians 2:8-11).” (DH p. 108)

9. Doctrine of Kismet

“A central teaching to Islam – the belief in God’s decrees or Kismet, the doctrine of fate. This is a very rigid view of predestination that states all good or evil proceeds from divine will...From this concept comes the most common Islamic phrase, roughly translated, “It is Allah’s will.” (McS p. 390)

E. The obligations (deen) of Islam include:

1. “To recite the Shahadah.

The word shahadah means ‘to bear witness.’ When reciting the shahadah, one says, ‘I bear witness that there is no God but Allah, and that Muhammad is His messenger.’ Saying the shahadah with sincerity is all it takes to become a Muslim.” (DH p. 106)

2. Supplication or Prayer - Salat

“A Muslim is required to say 17 cycles (rak’a) of prayer each day. These cycles are usually spread over 5 times of prayer per day—dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, dusk, and two hours after sunset. Muslims may pray either individually or in a group.” (DH p. 107)

- a. The only required communal prayer- Friday at noon (Friday is considered the Sabbath) when they are expected to gather together in a mosque.
- b. All prayers are done while facing Mecca
 - (I) Qibla (the direction) is marked by a niche, or mihrab, in the mosque.
 - (II) Symbolizes both unity and uniformity
- c. Before prayers, Muslims are required to perform ablutions (washing the face, arms and feet)
- d. To a devout Muslim, prayer is better than sleep

3. Taxation - (Zakat)

- a. The Koran spells out the necessity for a percentage (2.5%, one-fortieth) of everyone's income being utilized to
 - (I) Support the needy
 - (II) Fulfill the objectives of the community
- b. Taxes are required
- c. Taxes are payable by the end of the Ramadan fast
- d. Non-Muslim residents are not to pay Zakat but pay Jizyah (another type of tax)

4. Fasting - (Sawm)

- a. There is a required time of fasting in commemoration of Muhammad's receiving the Qur'an during the ninth lunar month of Ramadhan.
- b. It is done each month of Ramadan for the whole month (9th month of the Islamic calendar)
- c. Fasting takes place from sun-up to sun-down
- d. No food or drink allowed during the daylight hours
- e. No smoking or sexual activity during that time
- f. The fasting is said to develop
 - (I) Self-control
 - (II) Devotion to Allah
 - (III) Identify with the poor and needy

5. The Pilgrimage (Hajj)

- a. All Muslims are to make a trip once in their lifetime to Mecca
- b. It is considered a requirement for salvation
- c. If you are old or infirm, you can send someone else in your place
- d. The purpose of their visit
 - (I) Heighten their faith
 - (II) Solidify their faith
 - (A) Show repentance, thus bringing Allah's forgiveness
 - (B) Brings Muslims together from all walks of life and all areas of the world
- h. "Each pilgrim must wear the white garments called 'ihram', which have the effect of eliminating all class or status distinctions during the Hajj. The process of visiting several sacred sites usually takes more than a week. After the pilgrimage, the pilgrim is entitled to be referred to as a Hajj." (DH p. 107)

F. Other beliefs

1. Concerning the Flesh

- a.** No pictures allowed
 - (I)** The Koran forbids representations of human and animal figures
 - (II)** Only the leaders can have their likeness done in an art form
- b.** The Koran also denounces
 - (I)** Usury (interest)
 - (II)** Games of chance
 - (III)** Consumption of pork
 - (IV)** Alcohol
 - (V)** Lying
 - (VI)** Stealing
 - (VII)** Adultery
 - (VIII)** Murder
- c.** Punishment for a crime is designed to match the crime itself
 - (I)** The Old Testament principle of an "eye for eye"
 - (II)** Killing is punished by death
 - (A)** Unless it is accidental
 - (B)** Unless blood money is paid to the relatives of the deceased
- d.** Slavery is permitted, but a slave can earn his freedom
- e.** You may have more than one wife, but are limited to a maximum of four

2. Concerning Brotherhood

- a.** Each person in society has a responsibility assigned to him and must fulfill it in order to be a part of the community
- b.** If the community itself has not fulfilled its responsibility, then all of the members are held responsible by Allah
- c.** It is the responsibility of all Muslims to care for their brothers

3. Concerning Jihad (“Holy War”)

- a.** Any battle that is said to protect the faith is a holy war
- b.** If you die in a holy war, you fulfill the doctrine of Forbearance and Forgiveness
 - (I)** You are promised a position in heaven
 - (II)** That is why a Muslim will gladly sacrifice his life in a holy war - it is the fastest and most reliable way to heaven

4. Concerning Forbearance and Forgiveness

- a. The relationship between the Creator and a Muslim is called "Forbearance and Forgiveness"
- b. The Muslim is accountable for
 - (I) What he does
 - (II) What he fails to do
 - (III) The letter of the law
 - (IV) The spirit of the law
 - (V) His last act on earth
- c. Muslims are taught that even though a person may do good, they are never guaranteed a place in heaven
- d. Forbearance and Forgiveness are based upon
 - (I) The believer's recognition (knowledge) of and acceptance of what he has done
 - (II) The believer's genuine repentance with an intent not to repeat the misdeed

5. Concerning the place of women

“The primary object of marriage is the propagation of children, and partly for this reason a man is allowed four wives at a time and an unlimited number of concubines. However, it is laid down that wives are to be treated with kindness and strict impartiality; if a man cannot treat all alike he should keep to one. The husband pays the woman a dowry at the time of marriage, and the money or property are hers to keep. The husband may divorce his wife at any time, but cannot take her back until she has remarried and been divorced by the second husband. A woman cannot sue for divorce on any grounds, and her husband may beat her. In this matter of the status of women lies a great difference between the Muslim and Christian world. It is written in the Sura 4:31, “Men have authority over women because Allah has made the one superior to the other and because they spend their wealth [to maintain them]. So good women are obedient, guarding the unseen [parts] because God has guarded [them]. As for those from whom you fear disobedience admonish them and banish them to beds apart and beat them; then if they obey you seek not occasion against them.” (McS p. 394)

G. Some Do's & Don'ts in witnessing to a Muslim (DH p. 108-109)

1. DO:

- a. Love and respect your Muslim friend
- b. Pray with them, with their permission
- c. Consult the Bible to explain and support what you believe. If possible, offer to study the Gospel of John with them.

- d. Meet with them individually to avoid the peer pressure they will feel within a group of other Muslims.
- e. Point to Jesus as often as you can without being offensive. A former Muslim said, "It is vital for the Muslim to see Christianity not as a religion but as a living, new relationship with God."
- f. Use Jesus' parables and stories which seem to influence Muslims more than logical argument.
- g. Read at least a few portions, if not the entire Qur'an so that you will become familiar with the Muslim concept of God.
- h. Be patient, persistent, and prayerful. Muslims are notoriously slow in turning to Jesus for salvation.
- i. Handle the Bible with respect. The custom in Islamic countries is to not lower the Qur'an below the waist. They also keep the Qur'an on the highest shelf in the house, for nothing should be placed above the Qur'an. Also, they consider it a sign of disrespect to write in the Qur'an or the Bible.

2. DON'T:

- a. Don't be critical of Islam, Qur'an, or Muhammad. In fact, try to avoid such subjects altogether.
- b. Don't take your Muslim friends to church until you know they are ready for it. There is much that happens at a church service that the typical Muslim would find dishonoring to God and therefore offensive to them (for example, men and women sitting together, and casually touching each other). If you do take a Muslim to church, discuss with him or her what to expect beforehand. It is best to take them to an informal Bible study first.
- c. Don't argue with your Muslim friend. Understand that a Muslim cannot lose an argument, because he or she would then lose face.

III. Hinduism

A. Historical perspective

- 1. Began in India is estimated to make up around 13% of the world's population, and 82% of the population of India. Nepal is the only nation where Hinduism is the state religion.
- 2. The name "Hindu" is the Persian name for the Indus River
- 3. The religion dates back over 3,500 years to around 1500 B.C. in what is now India.
- 4. "It began as a polytheistic (multiple gods) and ritualistic religion. The rituals were at first simple enough to be performed by the head of a household. However, they became increasingly complex resulting in the necessity to create a priestly class and to train those priests to perform the

rituals correctly. During this time, the “Vedas” were written to give the priests instructions as to how to perform the rituals. As a result of the emphasis on the rituals, the priests became the sole means by which the people could approach and appease the gods. This gave the priests much power and control. Eventually, the people revolted, and the form of Hinduism that emerged emphasized the importance of internal meditation as opposed to the external rituals.” **(DH p. 87-88).**

5. “Between 800 to 300 B.C. the “Upanishads” were written. The Upanishads, also called ‘Vedanta’ (the end or conclusion of the Vedas), are the Hindu equivalent of the New Testament. The Upanishads expound the idea that behind the many gods stands one Reality, which is called ‘Brahman’. Brahman is an impersonal, monistic (all is one) force. The highest form of Brahman is called ‘nirguna,’ which means ‘without attributes or qualities.’ The Hindu concept of God continued to develop. God became a personal as Nirguna Brahman (God without attributes) became “Saguna Brahman (God with attributes). This latter form of God is also known as “Ishvara.” **(DH p. 88)**
6. “According to Hindu tradition, Ishvara became known to humanity through the ‘Trimurti’ (literally meaning, “three manifestations) of Brahman. Those manifestations include Brahma (the Creator), Vishnu (the Preserver), and Siva (the Destroyer). Each of the three deities has at least one ‘devi,’ or divine spouse. Furthermore, Ishvara became personified even further through the ten mythical incarnations of Vishnu, called ‘avatars.’ It is estimated that there are millions of other gods in Hinduism.” **(DH p. 88)**
7. Over the years, Hinduism has developed into many sects (separate and distinctive belief groups)

B. Sects (this following section is found in **McS p. 283-284**)

1. Sects who worship Shiva, god of Song and Healing
2. Sects who worship Durga, divine Mother and goddess of motherhood
3. Sects who worship Vishnu, god of Space and Time
4. Some common beliefs among most all sects
 - a. The eternal Trimutri (three in one god) - Brahman
 - (I) Brahma - the Creator
 - (II) Vishnu - the Preserver
 - (IV) Shiva - the Destroyer
 - b. Submission to fate because man is not outside but a part of Brahman.
 - c. The Caste System - as determined by the laws of Manu
 - d. The law of Karma - From good must come good, and from evil must come evil

- e. Reincarnation - A chain of rebirths for each soul through which virtuous living can allow you to rise to a higher state
- f. Nirvana - the final stage reached upon the freeing of the soul from the continuation of rebirthings (reincarnations).
- g. Yoga - Self-discipline, which enables one to control the body and the emotions.
- h. Dharma
 - (I) The law of moral order
 - (II) Each individual must find and follow it, in order to reach Nirvana

C. Hindu Scriptures

1. Time frame

- a. Written over a 2,000 year period
- b. Voluminous in size and content
- c. Reflect the practice and belief of the time written

2. Divided into two classes

- a. Sruti – “What is heard,” refers to the eternal truths of religion which the rishis or seers (religious leaders) saw or heard. They are independent of any god or man to whom they are communicated. They are the primary and final authority of religious truth. It is recorded in the Vedas writings.
- b. Smriti – “What is remembered,” possess a secondary authority, deriving their authority from the sruti whose principles they seek to expand. As recollections they contain all the sacred texts other than the vedas. They include
 - (I) Vedangas – codes of law such as the Laws of Manu
 - (II) The Ramayana (Rama’s way) the story of Rama, said to be a righteous king and the incarnation of the god Vishnu
 - (III) “The Mahabharata (the great story) the second epic consisting of some 100,000 verses composed over an 800 yr. period beginning about 400 yrs. B.C.” (McS p. 286). Within the Mahabharata epic is the most popular of all Hindu scriptures—the Bhagavad-Gita (song of the blessed lord), the main character of which is Krishna. (DH p. 91) The Bhagavad-Gita is said to be the most sacred, known and read book. “It consists of dialogue between Krishna, the 8th avatar of Vishnu and the warrior, Arjuna who is about to fight his cousins. The question Arjuna asks Krishna is: “How can he kill his blood relatives?” The story evolves around man's duty which if carried out will

bring nothing but sorrow. The significance of the story is that it endorses Bhakti - devotion to a particular god as a means of salvation. Since Arjuna decides to put his devotion to Vishnu above his own personal desires. The Gita ends with Arjuna devoted to Vishnu and ready to kill his relatives in battle. The poem offers hope of salvation for all through the way of devotion. Thus those who could not achieve salvation because of their caste, gender, financial situation, works or knowledge can now find salvation through devotion. **(McS p. 287)**

(IV) The Puranas – the genealogies and legends of the gods, goddesses, demons and ancestors. In these stories the heroes display all the desirable virtues, which has helped to form the Hindu moral code.

3. The books of the Scripture

The Vedas

(I) Means "wisdom" or "knowledge"

(II) The oldest of Hindu scriptures

(III) Transmitted orally at first and then written later

(IV) Contains hymns, prayers and rituals

(V) “There are four Vedas: **(DH p. 91)**

(A) Rig Veda

(B) Sama Veda

(C) Yajur Veda

(D) Atharva Veda

(VI) Each Veda is divided into 4 parts **(DH p. 91)**

(A) Mantras - hymns of praise sung during their worship, also called “samhitas”

(B) Brahmanas – explanations of the verses

(C) Aran-yakas – reflections on their meaning

(D) Upanishads – mystical interpretations of the verses.

Composed during the period of 800-600 BC. The term conveys the idea of "secret teaching" – mystical and less specific. The Upanishads are said to have influenced Buddha

D. Doctrines

1. **Brahman** - “Hindus see ultimate Reality, Brahman, as being an impersonal oneness that is beyond all distinctions, including personal and moral distinctions. Since Hindus also consider Brahman to be an impersonal force of existence, the universe is seen by most Hindus as being continuous with and extended from the Being of Brahman.” **(DH p. 89)**

2. **Moksha** -- (liberation) – “This liberation is achieved through realizing that the concept of the individual self is an illusion, and that only the oneness of

Brahman is real.” (DH p. 90)

- a. “The liberation of the soul from the wheel of Karma
 - b. The chief aim of all Hindus
 - (I) To be freed from Samsra (the binding cycle of life)
 - (II) To be freed from Karma with its endless cycles of birth, death and rebirth
 - c. When one achieves this liberation he enters a state of fullness and completion
 - d. It can be attained in life or in death” (McS p. 288 points a-d)
 - e. It is achieved through 3 paths
 - (I) Jnana marga – by knowledge
 - (II) Bhakti marga – by devotion in worship public and private
 - (III) Karma marga- by ritual works--the course of actions
 - f. We can see that the way of enlightenment to a Hindu is determined by his own effort as he loses his own identity, and works his way to oneness with the universal Self, whereas for the Christian salvation is an act of God reaching out to man bringing us into a personal relationship with Himself.
3. **Atman** - the soul or true self; that part of each living thing that is eternal. The concept is one that teaches a Hindu is extended from, and one with Brahman.
4. **Maya**
- a. Means "illusion"
 - b. Suggests that the world is similar to a dream
 - (I) The dream is real to us because we have it
 - (II) But a dream is only a psychological reality
 - (III) The Hindu may say the world is maya meaning that the world is real, but not necessarily as we see it - we cannot see all true reality with our human eyes
5. **Karma** (Means "action") – “In Hinduism, one’s present state of existence is determined by his performance in previous lifetimes. The law of Karma is the law of moral consequence, or the effect of any action upon the performer in a past, a present or even a future existence. Thus as one performs righteous acts, he moves towards liberation from the cycle of successive births and deaths.” (McS p. 289)
- a. As one performs evil, he moves further from liberation. This is very similar to the law of sowing and reaping.
 - b. The goal of all Hindus is to achieve enough good Karma

- (I) To remove himself from the birth/rebirth cycle
- (II) To achieve eternal bliss

6. Samsara – (Reincarnation)

- a. Refers to transmigration or rebirth
- b. One passes through a wheel of life, death, and rebirth
 - (I) Experiencing suffering as the result of sin or ignorance in past lives
 - (II) During successive rebirths
 - (A) The soul moves from one body to another. Karma is carried with the soul from its previous existence
 - (B) “A person’s karma determines the kind of body—whether human, animal, or insect—into which he or she will be reincarnated in the next lifetime.” (DH p. 90)

7. Caste system (McS p. 289-290)

- a. Its origin
 - (I) Brahma created the first man, Manu
 - (II) From Manu came four types of peoples, as determined by Brahma
 - (A) Brahmins
 - (1) Came from Manu's head
 - (2) The best people - the holy people
 - (B) Kshatriyas
 - (1) Came from Manu's hands
 - (2) They are the rulers and warriors
 - (C) Vaisyas
 - (1) Came from Manu's thighs
 - (2) They are the craftsmen
 - (D) Sudras
 - (1) Came from Manu's feet
 - (2) The remainder of the people
- b. The Brahmins
 - (I) Honored by all people including the royal family
 - (II) They work as priests and philosophers who study the sacred writings. Their incomes are subsidized by the state
- c. Kshatriyas
 - (I) They are the upper middle class
 - (II) They are involved in government and professional life
 - (III) Lower in status than the Brahmins
- d. Vaisyas
 - (I) The middle class

- (II) They are the merchants and farmers
- (III) Lower in status than Brahmins and Kshatryas
- e. Sudras
 - (I) Lower class
 - (II) Their duty is to serve the upper classes as laborers and servants
 - (III) They are excluded from many religious rituals
 - (IV) They are not allowed to study the Vedas
- f. The caste system has grown over the years, and now there are thousands of subcastes in existence. It is still an integral part of India though it has been outlawed by the Indian government.

8. The sacred cow

- a. The Hindus worship the cow
- b. They believe it possesses great power
- c. It is desirable to many Hindus to reincarnate as a cow

E. Comparison to Christianity

1. Who is God

- a. The Hindu god(s)

Note: It has been estimated that there are millions of gods

 - (I) Undefinable
 - (II) Impersonal
 - (III) A philosophical absolute
- b. The Christian God
 - (I) Definable as the Supreme Being in that we know His attributes and character as revealed in the scriptures
 - (II) A personal Creator and Savior
 - (III) Actively involved in the practical aspects of our lives and not just the philosophical

2. Man's standing

- a. The Hindu man
 - (I) Sees himself as an impersonal manifestation of an impersonal Brahman
 - (II) Sees himself as without self or self-worth
- b. The Christian man
 - (I) Sees himself as an individual created in the likeness of God Himself
 - (II) Man has
 - (A) Personality

- (B) The ability to receive and give love
- (III) Man is of infinite value to God
 - (A) God sent His only Son, Jesus to die for us and redeem us
 - (B) God did this, even though we were in sin and rebellion

3. What is sin

- a. The Hindu man
 - (I) Sees no sin against God
 - (II) Sins are merely the acts of ignorance
 - (III) Sins are overcome by following the prescribed guidelines
- b. The Christian man
 - (I) Sees sin as rebellion against God
 - (II) Sin is overcome by the atoning blood of Jesus Christ

4. What is salvation

- a. The Hindu man
 - (I) Gains his salvation through works
 - (II) Has a choice of 3 paths to salvation
 - (III) Salvation is the escape from the endless cycles of birth, death and rebirth
- b. The Christian man
 - (I) Gains salvation through faith in Jesus (The Way)
 - (II) Cannot gain salvation by works
 - (III) Understands that salvation is a gift of grace to all who will receive it
 - (IV) Salvation is eternal life with God in heaven and escape from eternal life in hell

(DH p. 92)	HINDUISM	CHRISTIANITY
GOD	Impersonal	Personal
HUMANITY	Continuous in the sense of being extended from the being of God	Discontinuous in the sense of being separate from the being of God; continuous in the sense of being made in the image of God.
HUMANITY'S PROBLEM	Ignorance	Moral rebellion
THE SOLUTION	Liberation from illusion and ignorance	Forgiveness of sin and reconciliation with the

		personal holy God
THE MEANS	Striving to detach oneself from the separated ego and seeking to be aware of one's unity with the divine through self effort	Repenting of sin and trusting in the completed and substitutionary work of Jesus Christ
THE OUTCOME	Merge into the Oneness; the individual disappears	Eternal fellowship with God; the person is fulfilled in a loving relationship with God

F. Suggestions for Evangelism (DH p. 92-95)

1. **Offer Jesus' Forgiveness** - Forgiveness is a real need for Hindus because it is not available in their belief-system, which is based on the law of karma. Consider using the following passage: Matt. 11:28-30

Mat 11:28-30 **Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 11:30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**

2. **Keep God's Personhood in Mind** - meaning that we be sensitive to the fact that a Christian has a personal relationship with God. Thus when we sin we are rejecting God's moral authority its consequences brings a separation in our fellowship with Him. To restore that fellowship we confess our sin and ask for His forgiveness which He graciously gives because of our acceptance of Jesus as the atonement for our sin.
3. **Ask and Listen** - Don't assume you know what your Hindu friend believes. Remember their beliefs vary greatly. Pay special close attention to how they describe the path to enlightenment. More than likely the terms they use will indicate that it is accomplished through their effort rather than God's grace. Consider discussing the following passages:

Rom 3:19-24 **Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 3:21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ**

Jesus:

Eph 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

4. **Have a Humble spirit** - Remember that Hindus see Christians as spiritually inferior because of our materialism and eating meat. Focus on God's forgiveness and the peace it has brought to your life to know you will spend eternity with God in heaven.
5. **Focus on Jesus** - Give your friend a New Testament and encourage him to discover who Jesus is. You might want to remind him of what Gandhi said, "I shall say to the Hindus that your lives will be incomplete unless you reverently study the teachings of Jesus" (Hingorani, 23). Encourage them to read Luke and John.
6. **Be aware of differing definitions** - For example, an Hindu would understand the Christian expression of "being born again" as referring to reincarnation, which is something from which they wish to be liberated.

IV. Buddhism (all of the following notes came from either McS chapter 3 or DH pgs. 54-68)

A. Historical perspective

1. **Began in India** approximately 500 years before the death of Christ
2. **It is an outgrowth of Hinduism**
 - a. The people rebelled against the caste system and the perpetuation of reincarnation
 - b. Buddhism began as a sect of Hinduism which denied the authority of the vedas
3. **Its founder - Siddartha Gautama**, who became "**the Buddha**," or "**enlightened one**" was not acclaimed as such until some time after his death.
 - a. His life (563-483 B.C.) coincides with the time when the people of Judah were exiled in Babylon. Son of a Rajah (ruler), born in Northeast India
 - b. The prophecy

- (I) A sage of his father's court prophesied at his birth that he would
 - (A) Be a great king, if he stayed at home
 - (B) Be the savior of mankind if he left home
 - (II) His father wanted him to be a king
 - (A) He kept him at home
 - (B) He surrounded him with wealth & pleasures. He married and had a son but was still confined to his home.
 - (C) Kept him isolated from anything painful or ugly
- c. His time came
- (I) He told his father that he wanted to see the world. Though his father tried to keep him from seeing anything troubling he encountered what has been called the "4 passing sights." This changed his life forever.
 - (A) His father had the streets cleaned
 - (B) All of the old and infirm were to stay out of sight
 - (C) Even so, he saw the 4 sights:
 - (1) An old man
 - (2) A sick man
 - (3) A funeral
 - (4) A monk begging for food
 - (II) The sight of these "**Four Passing Sights**" caused him to leave his home and family to seek enlightenment. The night he left became known as "the Great Renunciation." He committed himself to discovering the source of suffering and how to eliminate it. In his quest he practiced extreme asceticism (self denial). After six years he was so weak that he nearly drown while bathing in a river. This brought him to the realization that the practice of asceticism did not bring him to enlightenment as to how to end suffering.
- e. The Enlightenment
- (I) He walked to a city named, Bodh Gaya, and sat under a fig tree vowing not to rise until he had gained enlightenment. Here he went into a state of deep meditation. After a period of time (length not known for sure) he reached enlightenment. The fig tree was then called the Bodhi, or the bo tree, the tree of wisdom.
 - (II) He reached Nirvana - the highest degree of God-consciousness
 - (III) Changed his name to Buddha ("Enlightened One")
 - (IV) Buddha told his experience to five monks. He called his path to enlightenment the "Middle Path" as it avoided the extremes of both affluence and asceticism.

- (V) He traveled to Benares where he preached his first sermon—the contents of which have become known as the Four Noble Truths and eight fold path. With the monks' assistance the word of his enlightenment was spread, and before long he had thousands of followers in India who were unhappy with Hinduism.
- (VI) The city of Godh Gaya is now the site of the holiest shrine in the Buddhist world, the Mahabodhi (“great enlightenment”) Temple.
- f. After 45 years of spreading his message, Buddha died at age 80 probably from food poisoning.

B. Sphere of influence and statistics

1. **The number of Buddhists** worldwide has been estimated at between 150 and 300 million about 6% of world’s population
2. **Geographical groups**
 - a. India
 - b. Sri Lanka
 - c. Thailand
 - d. Cambodia
 - e. Burma
 - f. Laos
 - g. Japan
 - h. Taiwan
 - i. Tibet
 - j. Nepal
 - k. Mongolia
 - l. Korea
 - m. **Vietnam**

C. Sects & Divisions:

“For two centuries Buddhism did not spread beyond the borders of India. Then came King Ashoka, who ruled India from 274-232 B.C. Ashoka was a warrior-king who, during one battle, became so revolted by the bloodshed that he resolved to renounce all such fighting. He converted to Buddhism and began sending missionaries to other parts of India and other countries to spread Buddhism. Around this same time a major division began to develop within Buddhism. The primary issue was whether enlightenment is accessible to everyone or to only a few. Those Buddhist who said enlightenment is accessible to everyone were

called “Mahayana (‘the greater vehicle’), and those who said it is accessible to only the committed few (for example, monks) were called “Hinayana” (‘the lesser vehicle’). Being offended by the negative connotation of the term “Hinayana,” the Hinayana group began to refer to themselves as the “Theravada Buddhists,” which means “the teaching of the elders.” The difference in emphasis between the two branches is illustrated in the difference between whether one strives to become a “bodhisattva” or an “arahat.” The bodhisattva (a Mahayana concept) is one who has attained enlightenment but, out of compassion for the unenlightened masses, refuses to enter nirvana in order to come back and guide others along the path. The arahat (a Theravada concept), on the other hand, is one who is more concerned with his own enlightenment than with that of others. **(DH p. 56)**

1. **Theravada**

- a. Strictly interpret Buddha’s teachings
- b. See him as a man, not God
- c. They have preserved the most original form of Buddhism
- d. **Believe there can be only one Buddha**
- e. Escaping the cycle of rebirth and death is dependent upon one’s own effort and may best be accomplished by entrance into a monastery where one can attain disengagement from the world and its false desires
- f. One’s life goal is simply to reach nirvana and exit this life, without regard for others

2. **Mahayana**

- a. View Buddha as a historical manifestation of a universal Absolute, or Buddha essence. Is to be worshipped as a God.
- b. More liberal and concerned about others
- c. Consider themselves the “greater vehicle” of salvation
- d. There have been many manifestations of the Buddha essence and that there is to be at least one more, called the ‘Maitreya Buddha.’
- e. They teach that the Bodhisattvas can help people along the path and can even transfer their own extra karmic merit to such seekers.
- f. The important goal is to help others reach nirvana, even to the point of postponing one’s own salvation

3. **Vajrayana** (Tibetan or Tantric Buddhism)

- a. Is called the “diamond way” - changeless and pure “Vajrayana” means “the diamond vehicle,” and refers to the purity of the spiritual power being tapped into and the ability of the techniques to cut

- through illusions quickly so as to gain enlightenment. **(DH p. 57)**
- b. It is the most esoteric (private, limited to a small group who have knowledge) of the sects
- c. Incorporates occultic techniques for the development of spiritual power
- d. Meditative techniques: Yoga, hand gestures, spells, chants
- e. Sexual philosophy:
 - * Erotic love opens the mind to religious experience
 - * Uniting of male and female energies through intercourse and sexual rituals
- f. Vajrayana Buddhism is the predominant religion of Tibet. Perhaps the most recognizable representative of Buddhism is the Tibetan Dalai Lama who is considered to be the 14 reincarnation of Avalokiteshvara, the Bodhisattva of compassion.

4. **“Besides the three branches of Buddhism** mentioned above, there is also a distinction between the “official” version of Buddhism and the “folk” version. The two are very different from each other. Folk Buddhist are “animistic” in that they believe spirits influence and control people’s lives. They believe that people must appease the spirits in order to have success, and that they should seek the guidance of the spirits through various forms of divination. When speaking to a Buddhist one may need to make sure you know which version of Buddhist they are. **(DH p. 57)**

D. Doctrines

1. Four Noble Truths

- a. The existence of **suffering**
 - (I) Birth is painful
 - (II) Death is painful
 - (III) Disease is painful
 - (IV) Not having what we desire is painful
 - (V) Having what we don't desire is painful
- b. It is the **craving desire** for pleasures of the senses that causes suffering
 - (I) We want things now
 - (II) We want things later
 - (III) We crave prosperity
 - (IV) We crave happiness
- c. **To end suffering**, we must
 - (I) Give up & get rid of every craving
 - (II) Have no passion
 - (III) Have no desire

c. **We end our pain through the Eight-fold Path**

2. **The Eight-fold Path** – divided into three areas. It is not necessary that each step be done in sequential order. Rather they are to be developed simultaneously with each other.

WISDOM – (Panna)

- a. **Step 1:** Right views - accepting the Four Nobles Truths and the Eight-fold path
b. **Step 2:** Right resolve - renouncing pleasure of the senses, harboring no ill will toward anyone, harming no living creature

ETHICAL CONDUCT – (Sila)

- c. **Step 3:** Right speech - do not lie, slander or abuse anyone, nor engage in idle talk
d. **Step 4:** Right behavior
(I) Do not destroy any living creature
(II) Take only what is given
(III) Do not commit any unlawful sexual act
e. **Step 5:** Right occupation - earn your livelihood in a way that does not harm anyone

MENTAL DISCIPLINE – (Samadhi)

- f. **Step 6:** Right effort
(I) Strive to prevent evil qualities from arising within you
(II) Abandon evil qualities that you now have
(III) Strive to acquire good qualities
(IV) Increase & perfect the good qualities that you have
g. **Step 7:** Right contemplation - be observant, strenuous (zealous), concentrating, alert, free of desire and free of sorrow
h. **Step 8:** Right meditation – When you have abandoned all sensuous pleasures, all evil qualities, both joy and sorrow, you must then enter the four degrees of meditation, which are produced by concentration.

3. **The veneration of Buddha** (After his death, Buddha was deified)

4. **“The chief goal of all Buddhists - to reach Nirvana.** Nirvana is the equivalent of salvation. Buddha described nirvana with the following words:

‘There is a sphere which is neither earth, nor water, nor fire, nor air, which is not the sphere of the infinity of space, nor the sphere of the infinity of consciousness, the sphere of nothingness, the sphere of perception, or non-perception, which is neither this world, neither sun nor moon. I deny that it is coming or going, enduring, death or birth. It is only the end of suffering.’

Nirvana does not mean that the person is annihilated when entering such a state, because, as Buddha reasoned, there never existed any person to be annihilated in the first place. Also keep in mind that unlike the Hindu, Buddhist do not believe in the necessity of reincarnation or the continuation of the essence. Rather the Buddhist believes that upon reaching nirvana the 5 parts of the human being (called “skandhas”) which include:

- the physical body
- emotions
- perception
- volition (the power to choose)
- and consciousness

at death simply cease to exist as a cohesive unit. In a sense the parts of the person are dismantled in the way a car might be dismantled whereby it no longer is able to function as a car”(DH p. 59-60). Thus there would be an end of suffering and the unending cycle of reincarnations which was the goal of Buddha. It appears that those who don’t reach nirvana because of bad karma (actions on their part and the consequences of them both in this life and past lives) continue to repeat the reincarnation cycle.

E. The Buddhist Scriptures

“The issue of what was to be considered scripture marked another reason for the split between Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism. **The Theravada Buddhists** considered the canon (those writings which are considered authoritative) to be closed with the Pali Tripitaka. ‘Pali’ refers to the language in which it was written, and ‘Tripitaka’ (also spelled Tipitaka) means the ‘three baskets’ of teachings, which include Buddha’s sermons, rules for monks, and philosophical teachings. The length of the Tripitaka is around 70 times that of the Bible.

The Mahayana Buddhists, on the other hand, saw the canon as remaining open. Thus, they include in their scriptures writings from Indian, Chinese, Japanese, and Tibetan sources. Some of the more popular Mahayana scriptures include the Lotus Sutra (Saddharma-pundarika) and the Perfection of Wisdom (Prajna-paramita), which in turn includes the Diamond Sutra and the Heart Sutra.

The sacred scriptures of **Vajrayana Buddhism** are the Kanjur (108 volumes) and the Tanjur (225 volumes).” (DH p. 60)

Suggestions for Evangelism (following notes are abbreviated from DH pgs. 64-67)

- 1. Acknowledge and Affirm Your Common Ground** -- There are some similar beliefs upon which a Christian can build relationship with a Buddhist. They include:
 - desire can cause suffering
 - personal peace will be found when we abide in that which is everlasting
 - it is best to live a moral life
 - self-discipline has spiritual value
 - meditation and prayer are important
 - compassion is a virtue that should be nurtured

- 2. Focus on the Issue of Desire** -- Buddha taught that to end suffering we needed to abandon all desire. To do that one must desire to eliminate desire. This seems to be a contradiction. Gently point out that Jesus said, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled” (**Matthew 5:6**). According to Jesus, the issue is having right desire, not eliminating desire altogether.

- 3. Be Open About Your Faith in a Personal God** -- Since Buddhist believe that ultimate reality is an impersonal Void or Emptiness (sunyata), the Christian’s personal relationship with God can have strong appeal. A Christian can know and feel the love of a personal God, we can know God hears our prayers and experience answers to those prayers, and we can experience His peace and joy in our lives. All these things a Void cannot do.

- 4. Point to God’s Permanence** -- The Buddhist concept of permanence requires that in order to gain permanence in the Void he must cease to exist as an individual and disappear into the Void. As a Christian we can find permanence in God without having to deny our existence as a person. Rather we are joined to God forever. Consider **John 6:27-29** where Jesus talks about working either “for food that spoils” (impermanence) or “for food that endures to eternal life” (permanence). This we can receive through faith in Jesus Christ.

- 5. Be Clear About the Matter of Sin and the Opportunity for Forgiveness** -- Keep in mind that to the Buddhist though they have no less than 5 moral precepts (sila) which are:
 - abstaining from killing any form of life
 - sexually immoral behavior
 - lying

- stealing
- taking of intoxicants

they do not recognize the same kind of consequence to breaking these precepts as a Christian does when he breaks a commandment. For the Buddhist sin is a matter of ignorance (a mental issue) and karma (an issue of an impersonal moral principle, similar to a natural law). Therefore, sin carries no consequence in relationship to the Void. Sin is our problem, not the Void's. The Void is not concerned about whether a person suffers because of their sinful actions. A person's ignorance is their problem which must be dealt with over many lifetimes. Also because karma is an impersonal principle similar to a law of nature, the consequences to our moral actions are inevitable. Thus sin cannot be forgiven as there is no forgiver. In the same way that one does not ask forgiveness from the law of gravity—a natural law—neither is it possible for the law of karma to forgive.

For the Christian there is a vertical dimension to our sin because we have a personal relationship with our just, and holy God. Our sin issues from a rebellious heart against the will of God. Thus when we sin it causes our fellowship with God to be broken. We can repent of our sinful heart and seek God's forgiveness. This we can do knowing God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins...(1 John 1:9).

6. Use Bridges to the Good News -- "There are concepts within Buddhism that can be used as bridges to help Buddhists understand the good news of Jesus Christ.

One bridge has to do with the doctrine of the bodhisattva. A bodhisattva is one who, out of compassion, has refused to enter nirvana in order to assist others along the way to enlightenment. The part of this concept that is significant as a bridge to the Gospel is that the bodhisattva is able to transfer his extra karmic merit to the one who believes in him. Just as Christ is able to give us His righteousness if we will place our trust in Him.

Another bridge is a story from Buddhist literature that could be used to illustrate the meaning of Christ's crucifixion:

Prince Mahanama, of the Shakya clan and a cousin of Buddha, had great faith in the teachings of Buddha and was one of the most faithful followers. At the time a violent king named Virudaka of Kosala conquered the Shakya clan Prince Mahanama went to the King and sought the lives of his people. However, the King would not listen to him. He then proposed that the King let as many prisoners escape as could run away while he himself remained underwater in a nearby pond.

To this the King agreed, thinking that the time would be very short

that he could stay under water.

The gate of the castle was opened as Mahanama dived into the water and the people rushed for safety. But Mahanama did not come up, sacrificing his life for the lives of his people by tying his hair to the underwater root of a willow tree (The Teaching of Buddha, 254-255).

Note the images in the above story that illustrate the significance of Christ's sacrificial death:

- Enslavement: The issue is that of enslavement—the Shakya clan was enslaved to a wicked king; humanity is enslaved to sin (**John 8:34; Romans 6:6,16**).
- One Died for All: The death of one resulted in freedom for all—Mahanama's death resulted in the freedom of the Shakya clan from bondage to the king; Christ's death resulted in our freedom from bondage to sin (**Matthew 20:28; Romans 5:18-19**)
- Motivated by Love: The act was freely chosen, and the motivation was that of love—as Jesus Christ voluntarily chose to die out of love for all humanity (**John 10:11-18; 13:1, 34**)
- Salvation Is Free: The salvation offered is free for the taking—those in the Shakya clan could receive their freedom from bondage simply by running from the kingdom; today people can receive the gift of salvation simply by placing their faith in the atoning work of Jesus Christ (**Romans 3:20-24; Ephesians 2:8-9**).

V. Far-Eastern Religions: Confucianism, Taoism, and Shintoism

A. Confucianism

Note: Confucianism is the official ideology of the Chinese state. It has never existed as an established religion with a god or gods, church or priesthood.

1. Historical perspective

- a. The ancient Chinese were nature-worshippers
 - (I) Sun, moon, wind, etc. all were spirits to be worshipped
 - (II) Over all spirits and people was one Supreme Ruler called Shang Ti
 - (III) Over Shang Ti was the highest and greatest god - god of all gods, called T'ien, who lived in heaven
- b. The Chinese also worshipped other spirits

- (I) Spirits of their ancestors
- (II) Spirits of all great sages and national heroes of China
- (III) Emperor worship (emperors were considered very holy)

2. The man Confucius (Chinese K'ung Fu-Tzu) circa 551-479 B.C.

- a. Born in the state of Lu (present day Shantung province) into a feudal society where the working class of people worked for the land owners
- b. He was well educated, particularly in the areas of philosophy and poetry
- c. Began a career as a travelling teacher after the death of his mother
- d. His fame increased as his ideals spread:
 - (I) The only remedy for disorder and lack of moral standards was to convert people to the principles of the sages of antiquity
 - (II) Lectured on the ancient classics
 - (III) Rulers could only be great if they themselves led exemplary lives
 - (A) Guided by moral principles
 - (B) Resulting in a prosperous, happy state
- e. At age 50, he was appointed to an administrative government position, resulting in reforms which led to prosperity
- f. Jealous neighboring rulers maneuvered him out of office in 496 BC
- g. Confucius returned to Lu in 484 BC and spent his remaining years writing commentaries on the classics

3. Doctrines and Writings

- a. Confucius did not put his principles of philosophy in writing - they were handed down by his disciples
 - (I) Lun Yu ("Analects") - His life and teachings
 - (A) A collection of maxims compiled by his disciples
 - (B) The basis of his moral and political philosophy
 - (II) Ch'un Ch'iu - ("Spring & Autumn Annuals")
 - (A) Compiled by Confucius himself
 - (B) Commentary on Chinese history from 722-481 BC
 - (III) Shih Shu ("Four Books") - A combination of the teachings of Confucius and his disciples
- b. Confucius was greatly venerated both during and after his

lifetime

- (I) He himself had little belief in the supernatural
- (II) He has been revered as a spiritual being by millions
- (III) He enjoined all individuals to observe carefully their duty toward the state
- (IV) He was regarded as the restorer of ancient morality
- c. Man's proper outward acts are to be based on the **Five Virtues**, which constitute the whole of human duty
 - (I) Kindness (benevolence for the good of the people)
 - (II) Uprightness (righteousness) -- The Confucian "golden rule": "Do not do unto others what you would not they should do unto you"
 - (III) Decorum (propriety) - always to behave with courtesy toward the people you rule
 - (IV) Wisdom - to let knowledge and understanding be your guide
 - (V) Faithfulness - integrity and sincerity
- d. The keynote of Confucian ethics is "jen"
 - (I) Translated as "love," "goodness," "humanity," "human-heartedness"
 - (II) It is the supreme virtue of humanity at its best
- e. Filial piety - devotion to family, even after death

4. Personalities and evolution of Confucianism

- a. After Confucius' death, 2 major schools of thought emerged
 - (I) Mencius - continued the ethical teachings of Confucius
 - (A) Stressing the innate goodness of human nature
 - (B) Man becomes depraved by contact with evil
 - (C) Introduction of mysticism into Confucianism
 - (II) Hsun-tzu - main proponent of ritualism in Confucianism
 - (A) People are born with an evil nature, but it can be regenerated through education
 - (B) Properly directed emotion produces inner harmony
 - (C) Use of rites and music to develop disciplined desires
- b. A revival of Confucianism occurred during the Han dynasty (206 BC - AD 220)
 - (I) Confucius' works taught in national academies
 - (II) A system of education was built upon his teachings
- c. Neo-Confucianism
 - (I) During Sung dynasty (AD 960-1279) Confucianism

- was mixed with Buddhism and Taoism
 - (II) Introduction of theories of the universe and the origin of human nature
 - (III) Exploration of the metaphysical (supernatural)
 - (IV) Leaned more and more in the direction of Buddhism
 - (V) Confucianism and communism - AD 1949
 - (A) Communism put aside many Confucian-based traditions
 - (B) The family system de-emphasized
 - (C) Fewer Confucian publications
 - (D) Official campaigns against Confucianism in the 1960's and 1970's
5. Comparison to Christianity
- a. Confucianism does not recognize any religion or god officially
 - b. Outward acts (the Five Virtues) cannot produce inward holiness – compare with Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5
 - c. The “whole of human duty” is found in Micah 6:8
 - d. The Wisdom to guide us is Jesus Christ Himself - 1 Cor. 1:24; Proverbs 2
 - e. Humans are not innately good - Rom. 3:10-12
 - f. Education cannot regenerate man - only the Holy Spirit can

B. Taoism

1. Historical perspective and personalities

- a. The founder - Lao-Tze (570-490 BC)
 - (I) A contemporary of Confucius (although little known of his life, unlike Confucius)
 - (II) A philosopher at odds with Confucius
 - (A) Confucianism seeks to perfect people within society - from secular to sacred
 - (B) Taoism turns away from society to the contemplation of nature
 - (1) Freedom from political and social restraint
 - (2) Return to primitive way of life
 - (C) Taoism embraces the metaphysical (supernatural)
 - (D) Confucianism's goal is to become a servant of society; Taoism's goal is to become immortal
 - (E) Taoism revived belief in personal deities
 - (III) At age 90, Lao wrote a little book of about 25 pages called the Tao-te Ching (Book of Reason & Virtues) This book, coupled with a book written by one of Lao's

contemporary philosophers, Chuang-Tzu, formed the basis for Taoism

2. Doctrines and development of the religion

- a.** The concept of the Tao (the “Way”)
 - (I)** It is the underlying pattern of the universe to which all must conform
 - (II)** It cannot be described in words or conceived in thought
 - (III)** One must strive to achieve unity with the Tao and derive power from it
 - (A)** By spontaneous compliance with the impulses of one’s own essential nature
 - (B)** By emptying oneself of all doctrines and knowledge
 - (C)** Thus transcending of all mundane distractions, including the distinction of life and death
 - (IV)** The Tao is regarded as ever-changing: the sum total of all things which are and which change
 - (V)** Life is regarded as a beautiful and frightening panorama of transformations
- b.** The development of alchemy
 - (I)** Lao’s followers later began experimenting with various elixirs in order to find a formula for eternal life
 - (II)** Developed into the use of magic arts, charms, potions, and laws of hygiene
 - (III)** Introduction of so-called “faith-healing”
 - (IV)** After 2nd. century AD, under the influence of Buddhism: Developed a concern for spiritual afterlife, rather than bodily immortality
- c.** The religion of China today is a blending of Taoism, Buddhism and Confucianism
 - (I)** This cross-fertilization of thought came during the Ming dynasty (AD 1369-1644)
 - (II)** It was effected by many great religious thinkers - most notably, Lin-Chao-en (1517-1598)
 - (III)** Marxism through Mao and westernization continue to affect the development of Chinese religion

3. Comparison to Christianity

- a.** The contemplation of nature and worship of various deities are all in direct contrast with the one, true, living God
- b.** Belief in the metaphysical (supernatural) is often coupled with

- occultism
- c. Eternal life cannot be brought about by any physical or spiritual means, but only by faith in Jesus Christ
- d. Jesus Christ proclaimed Himself the “Way” (Jn. 14:6) - not the Tao
- e. The “impulses of one’s essential nature” do not return one to God, but are identified as sin nature in the Bible, which separates us from God (Taoism does not recognize sin)
- f. The Bible explicitly declares the importance of doctrine (2 Tim. 3:16) whereas Taoism teaches that one should free themselves from doctrine.
- g. God is immutable (non-changing) - the direct opposite of the Tao

C. Shintoism - the religion of Japan

1. Historical perspective

- a. The writings, arts, music, religions and agriculture of Japan originated in China and came to Japan by way of Korea
- b. The ancient Japanese already had a religion, which was broadly animistic (spirit worship) in nature and was much later named Kami-no-Michi
 - (I) It is better known by its Chinese name “Shinto”
 - (A) Shen - Chinese for “good spirits”
 - (B) Tao - From Lao-tze, meaning “the Way”
 - (C) **Shinto - “The Way of the Good Spirits”**
 - (II) Ancient Japanese believed they were the only people on earth
 - (III) Originally a simple religion - No images, sacred books, commandments or priests
 - (IV) Worship of the spirits of the stars, moon, sun, rain, etc. (like the ancient Chinese)
 - (A) Worship of their Mikado (ruler), who was regarded as a descendent of the Sun Goddess
 - (B) Worship of the mountains and valleys and subsequent nationalism
 - (V) Further development and definition of the religion
 - (A) The introduction of the principles of Confucianism brought about ancestor worship
 - (B) About 1300 years ago, the King of Korea sent Buddhist missionaries and a golden image

- of Buddha to Japan
- (C) The appeal of worshipping the image became widespread and nearly drove out Shintoism
- (D) The Sugendo movement linked Shintoism and Buddhism, introducing the use of magical arts, spiritualist healing, fire-walking rites, etc.
- (E) The war heroes (Knights) of Japan took the teachings of Confucius and developed their own set of ethics and honor, called Bushido
 - (1) Rules of virtue
 - (2) Later, the practice of killing oneself when one's superior officer died
 - (3) The carrying of swords to defend one's honor and the regard of the sword as sacred
 - (4) The Bushido was done away with by the Japanese government in 1868
- (F) The effects of the various belief systems
 - (1) Shintoism produced a national love of nature
 - (2) Buddhism produced a national love of art
 - (3) Confucianism produced a national love of learning

2. Religion in Japan today

- a. Shintoism revived in the 18th century
- b. It was fueled by nationalistic sentiment and intended for the disestablishment of Buddhism
- c. Emperor worship was restored
- d. The Japanese deemed themselves superior to others because they were descended from the gods
- e. In 1946, after WW II, Shintoism was separated from the government and the emperor renounced all claims to divinity
- f. Sectarian Shinto is comprised of 13 major and numerous minor sects, which are divided into at least 4 main groups
 - (I) Those maintaining the traditions of ancient Shinto
 - (II) Those that emphasize adherence to Confucian ethics
 - (III) Those who practice the worship of mountains
 - (IV) Those primarily devoted to purification rites

3. Doctrines and practices

- a. Religious Shinto life centers around the local shrine

- b. Differing emphases per shrine; e.g., martial arts, wonders of nature, deities (kami)
- c. Shrine worship
 - (I) A trough of water is provided inside the entrance for purification rites (cleansing of face and hands)
 - (II) The worship hall
 - (A) A bell is rung and the hands are clapped to alert the kami to the believer's presence
 - (B) The kami's dwelling place is in the main hall, behind the worship hall
 - (III) Individual visits to shrines are a matter of occasion (e.g., starting a business, embarking on a journey, a new baby, etc.)
 - (IV) Festivals are the occasions in which a particular shrine takes on meaning for all of its worshippers at once
 - (A) Floats, parades, booths, sideshows
 - (B) Sale of rice wine (saki)
 - (C) Priests present offerings and prayers for the safety and prosperity of the neighborhood

4. **Statistics**

- a. In the early 1990's, more than 110 million Japanese participated in the various Shinto sects
- b. Of these, 3.4 million profess Shintoism as their sole or major religion
- c. The Shinto sects have approximately 101,000 priests and 81,000 shrines

5. **Comparison to Christianity**

- a. The true God does not dwell in temples made of stone - Acts 7:48, 17:24
- b. Getting their god's attention - compare 1 Kings 18:27
- c. Worship of the creature rather than the Creator - see Rom. 1:25

VI. **Jehovah's Witnesses**

A. **History**

1. Charles Taze Russell is the recognized founder of what is officially known as the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, the Jehovah's Witnesses. He was born on February 16, 1852, in the state of Pennsylvania, USA.
2. "At an early age he rejected the doctrine of eternal torment, and entered upon a

long and varied career of denunciation aimed at “Organized Religions.” (WM p. 34)

3. “In 1870, while still in his teens and without formal theological education, Russell organized a Bible class whose members eventually made him ‘pastor.’” (McS p. 44)
4. “In 1879 he founded the magazine “Zion’s Watchtower” in which he published his own unique interpretation of the Bible...” (McS p.44)
5. Zion’s Watchtower and Tract Society published 7 books (six were written by Russell) and the seventh “The Finished Mystery” was published in 1917 after his death in 1916. The publishing of “The Finished Mystery” caused a split in the church.
6. Joseph Franklin Rutherford, the society’s legal counselor, became the second President of the Watchtower Society and leader of the larger group from the church split. It was under his leadership that the group became known as the “Jehovah’s Witnesses.”
7. “Rutherford died in 1942 and was succeeded by Nathan H. Knorr. It was during Knorr’s presidency that the society increased from 115,000 to over 2 million members. In 1961, under Knorr’s leadership, the society produced its own English translation of the Bible entitled ‘The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures’. When Knorr died in 1977, Frederick W. Franz, spokesman for the translation committee, became the new president of the Watchtower following in Knorr’s footsteps.” (McS pg. 44)

B. Claims of the Jehovah’s Witnesses (following is paraphrased from McS pg. 45)

Jehovah’s Witnesses are zealous and sincere in their claim to accept the Bible as their only authority. However, their theology denies every cardinal belief of historic Christianity including the Trinity, the divinity of Jesus Christ, His bodily resurrection, salvation by grace through faith, and eternal punishment of the wicked.

The less than humble Charles Russell made the following statement concerning the relationship of his writings and the Holy Scriptures: “Be it known that no other system of theology even claims, or has ever attempted to harmonize itself every statement of the Bible, yet nothing short of this can we claim” (Studies in the Scriptures, 1:348).

The above claim along with what follows indicates that the Watchtower sees itself as the organization through which God has chosen to speak to the world. Their publications indicate:

‘It is God’s sole collective channel for the flow of Biblical truth to men on earth (The Watchtower, July 15, 1960, pg. 439). The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society is the greatest corporation in the world, because from the time of its organization until now the Lord has used it as His channel through which to make known the glad tidings (The Watchtower, 1917, pg.22, quoted: Studies in the Scriptures, pg. 144).

F.W. Franz, president of the Watchtower, relaying how their interpretations come from God, stated, ‘They are passed to the Holy Spirit who invisibly communicates with Jehovah’s Witnesses -- and the Publicity Department’ (Scottish Daily Express, Nov. 24, 1954).”

Charles Russell believed that his publications were the only way to understanding the Bible. He made the following statement:

“Furthermore, not only do we find that people cannot see the divine plan in studying the Bible by itself, but we see, also, that if anyone lays the ‘Scripture Studies’ aside, even after he has used them, after he has become familiar with them, after he has read them for ten years—if then he lays them aside and ignores them and goes to the Bible alone, though he has understood his Bible for ten years, our experience shows that within two years he goes into darkness.” (Charles Taze Russell, *The Watchtower*, Sept. 15, 1910, pg. 298).

C. Authority (McS pg. 45-46)

There are not “articles of faith” or authoritative doctrinal statements issued by the Watchtower. Their theological views are found in their various publications, including “The Watchtower” and “Awake”. They consider the doctrine that proceeds from these works as being authoritative. They contend their ultimate source of authority is the Bible... Although they contend the Bible is their final authority, we find they constantly misuse the Bible to establish their own peculiar beliefs. This is accomplished chiefly by quoting texts out of context while omitting other passages relevant to the subject. For all practical purposes their publications take precedence for them over the Bible.

D. What they believe:

1. THE DOCTRINE OF GOD:

a. The Trinity

They state, “The trinity doctrine was not conceived by Jesus or the early Christians.... The plain truth is that this is another of Satan’s attempts to keep the God-fearing person from learning the truth of Jehovah and His Son Christ Jesus” (Let God Be True, pgs. 111 & 93).

Their teaching is that neither Jesus nor the Holy Spirit are God, and therefore there is no trinity.

BUT

The Bible teaches that there is but one God:

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

Isa 43:10-11 Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that **I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. 43:11 I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no savior.**

Isa 45:6 That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is **none beside me.** I am the LORD, and **there is none else.**

Isa 45:21-22 Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; **there is none beside me. 45:22** Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: **for I am God, and there is none else.**

The Bible teaches that there are 3 distinct Persons in the Godhead

John 5:18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him {speaking of Jesus), because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his **Father**, making himself equal with God. **[this verse teaches that Jesus the Son was equal with God the Father]**

Acts 5:3-4 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the **Holy Ghost**, and to keep back part of the price of the land? 5:4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? **thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. [these verses teach that the Holy Spirit is God]**

Phil 2:11 **And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. [here we see God the Father]**

In the above 3 passages we see that Jesus is God, the Holy Spirit is God, and the father is God.

In Genesis 1:26 and 11:7 we see God referred to in the plural.

Gen 1:26 And God said, **Let us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Gen 11:7 Go to, **let us** go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

In the two passages above we see Jehovah speak of creation and His description of Himself is plural. It is obvious that God would not be referring to creating man in the image of Himself and of angels as though He were

talking to the angels. Therefore, He must have been speaking to His Son and the Holy Spirit who are equal to Him in substance and position as God. **Three Persons, same substance, and co-equal all one God eternal.**

b. Jesus Christ

The Jehovah's Witness believes that Jesus is a created being and not God in human flesh as believed by Christians. Their publications say the following about their belief in who Jesus is:

- “Jesus, the Christ, a created individual, is the second greatest personage of the Universe. Jehovah God and Jesus together constitute the superior authorities” (Make Sure of All Things, pg. 207)
- “He was a god, but not the Almighty God, who is Jehovah” (Let God Be True, 1946 pg. 91)
- “As chief of the angels and next to the Father, he [Christ] was known as the Archangel (highest angel or messenger), whose name, Michael, signifies, ‘Who as God’ or ‘God’s Representative’.” (Studies in the Scriptures, Vol. V, pg. 84)

Their belief is that Jesus is not equal to Jehovah God (The Father), but was made by Jehovah God with a substance different than that of the Father. They believe Jesus was Michael the Archangel before he came to earth. They believe that he had a brother named Lucifer who rebelled against the Father while Michael remained loyal. (examine J. Rutherford, ‘The Kingdom Is At Hand,’ pg. 49)

The following states their belief that Michael was transformed into a man during the earthly existence of Jesus: “The life of the Son of God was transferred from his glorious position with God his Father in Heaven to the embryo of a human” (Let God Be True, pg. 36) It is their belief that upon His resurrection He was an invisible spirit no longer having a body.

BUT

The Bible teaches that Christ the Son is eternal, uncreated God:

Isa 44:6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; **I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.**

John 8:58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Before Abraham was, I am.**

Rev 1:17-18 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; **I am the first and the last: 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was**

dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

The Bible does NOT teach that Jesus was the incarnation of Michael, the Archangel. Nor does it teach that Christ reassumed the name of Michael after he ascended into heaven as is believed by the Jehovah's Witnesses. In fact, nowhere in the Bible is Michael said to have become Christ or vice versa. In fact the Bible teaches a sharp distinction between the position of Christ and that of angels.

Hebrews 1:1-14 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; 1:4 Being made **so much better than the angels**, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. 1:5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? 1:6 And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, **And let all the angels of God worship him.** 1:7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. 1:8 **But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever:** a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. 1:9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. 1:10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: 1:11 They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; 1:12 And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail. 1:13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? 1:14 Are they [speaking of the angels] not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

c. The Resurrection of Christ

The Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Jesus rose from the grave as a spirit person, with Jehovah permitting him to materialize in a different bodily form for the benefit of his disciples.

“The Firstborn one from the dead [speaking of Christ] was not raised out of the grave a human creature, but he was raised a spirit.” (Let God Be True, pg. 272) **(WM pg. 52)**

“Therefore the bodies in which Jesus manifested himself to his disciples after his return to life were not the body in which he was nailed to the tree. They were merely materialized for the occasion, resembling on one or two occasions the body in which he died...” (The Kingdom Is at Hand,

pg. 259). (WM pg. 52)

BUT

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ rose in the same body that was laid in the tomb, which explains the marks of crucifixion, the empty tomb, and the empty grave clothes.

Luke 24:39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for **a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.**

John 20:1-9 The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. 20:2 Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him. 20:3 Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. 20:4 So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. 20:5 And he stooping down, and looking in, **saw the linen clothes lying**; yet went he not in. 20:6 Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, 20:7 **And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.** 20:8 Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed. 20:9 For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.

John 20:20 And when he had so said, **he showed unto them his hands and his side.** Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. **[the disciples saw the wounds in His body]**

John 20:25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

John 20:27 Then saith he to Thomas, **Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.**

d. God The Holy Spirit

The Jehovah's Witnesses believe that the Holy Spirit is not a Person, but an impersonal, active force of God (Let God Be True, 2nd edition, pg. 108; The Watchtower, June 1, 1952, pg. 24)

BUT

The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is an eternal Person, possessing all the essence of God.

Acts 5:3-4 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? **5:4** Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. [as we said before these verses teach that the Holy Spirit is God, but they also show the personality of the Holy Spirit as it was to the Holy Spirit that they lied. One lies to a person not an invisible active force]

John 14:16-17 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; **14:17** Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

2. THE DOCTRINE OF MAN

The Jehovah's Witnesses believes that a person's soul is an inseparable part of the body, so that when a person dies there is no continued existence of the soul. They also believe that the teaching of the immortality of the soul finds its origin with Satan. Since they believe there is no continued existence of the soul after death, Jehovah's Witnesses who die will eventually be recreated from Jehovah's memory to inhabit His kingdom (Make Sure of All Things, 1953 edition, pgs. 349, 352, 311; Let God Be True, 2nd edition, pgs. 74-75).

BUT

The Bible teaches that there is life after death, there is immortality of the soul, and the resurrection is the returning of the soul back to the body. This event takes place upon the return of Christ.

Ecc 12:7 Then shall the dust ["dust" refers to the body which was made from the dust of the earth] return to the earth as it was: and the spirit ["spirit" here is a reference to the spirit of man not the Holy Spirit] shall return unto God who gave it.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 speaks to the disposition of the body and human spirit upon the death of the body. In Luke 16:19-31 we see the account of the eternal existence of man's soul.

Luke 16:19-26 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and

fared sumptuously every day: 16:20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 16:21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 16:22 And it came to pass, that **the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 16:23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.** 16:24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 16:25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 16:26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

The passage above shows the eternal existence of what Christians believe is the soul of man. In this case Lazarus, the beggar's , soul was in the comfort of Abraham's bosom, another name for "Paradise". While the rich man's soul was taken to a compartment of hell where he was in torment. This account was given prior to the resurrection of Christ when paradise was taken to heaven.

Luke 23:39-43 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. 23:40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? 23:41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. 23:42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. 23:43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, **To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.**

The passage above speaks to the continuation of existence after death. Here Jesus promises the repentant thief eternal life with Him in Paradise. If the body is in the grave returning to the dust, and the spirit of man has gone back to God who gave it, then that which is eternal in man must be his soul.

2 Cor 5:6-8 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather **to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.**

Phil 1:21-24 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 1:22 But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. 1:23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, **having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:** 1:24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.

The two passages above speak to the immortality of man's existence after

the death of the body, and the eminency with which the believer is brought into the presence of God. The following passage speaks to the existence of the soul and demonstrates it being reunited to the body after death as Elijah brings a dead child back to life.

1 Ki 17:17-24 And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. 17:18 And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son? 17:19 And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed. 17:20 And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son? 17:21 And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, **let this child's soul come into him again.** 17:22 And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and **the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.** 17:23 And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth. 17:24 And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.

3. THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION

The Jehovah's Witness believes that Christ's death only purchased for mankind the earthly life and blessings lost when Adam sinned (Studies in the Scriptures, Vol. 5, pg. 145).

BUT

The Bible teaches that the death of Christ satisfied the wrath of God against sin, and purchased for man the opportunity for forgiveness of sin, and an inheritance which is laid up for the Christian who has accepted the sacrifice of Christ as the atonement for his sin.

Eph 1:3-14 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places **in Christ:** 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, **the forgiveness of sins,** according to the riches of his grace; 1:8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; 1:9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: 1:11 **In whom also we have**

obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: 1:12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 1:14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

The Jehovah's Witness believes that Christ's death only provides an opportunity for a person to attain eternal life through obeying God's laws, and that there is no assurance of eternal life (Studies in the Scriptures, Vol. 1, pgs. 150, 152).

BUT

The Bible teaches that Christ made salvation from sin available to all who accept by faith His sacrifice for their sin.

1 Pet 3:18 For **Christ also hath once suffered for sins**, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in him** should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Eph 2:8-9 For by grace are ye **saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

The Jehovah's Witness believes that the sacrifice of Christ applies only to the 144,000 elite Jehovah's Witnesses (the "Israel of God" as they refer to this group) and not to the rest of the Jehovah's Witnesses (Aid To Bible Understanding, pg. 389).

BUT

The Bible teaches that Christ died for all men:

2 Cor 5:15 And that **he died for all**, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

1 Tim 2:5-6 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 2:6 **Who gave himself a ransom for all**, to be testified in due time.

Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that **he by the grace of God should taste death for every man**.

1 John 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also **for the sins of the whole world.**

The Jehovah's Witness believes that works are required to enter paradise. Thus to enter one must:

- study the Bible
- change their behavior to God's way
- fellowship with other Jehovah's Witnesses
- be baptized a Jehovah Witness
- being a preacher and witness of God's kingdom

(From Paradise Lost To Paradise Regained, pgs. 242-249)

BUT

The Bible teaches that salvation is received by faith, and not works wherein man might boast upon himself. It is a gift of God offered to man. Man must only receive the gift by faith to enjoy all its benefits. Thus man can only glory in God's work on man's behalf.

Eph 2:8-9 For **by grace are ye saved through faith;** and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 2:9 **Not of works,** lest any man should boast.

Acts 4:10-12 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. 4:11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 4:12 **Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**

Acts 10:42-43 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. 10:43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name **whosoever believeth in him** shall receive remission of sins.

Rom 3:21-24 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 3:22 Even **the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe:** for there is no difference: 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Finally, the Jehovah's Witness does NOT believe in the reality of the

possibility of eternal torment in hell (Make Sure of All Things, 1953 edition, pgs. 154-155).

BUT

The Bible teaches that hell is a real place of everlasting torment for the wicked who rejects the gift of salvation through the sacrifice of Christ.

Mat 13:41-42 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 13:42 And **shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.**

Mat 13:49-50 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, 13:50 And **shall cast them into the furnace of fire:** there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Mark 9:47-48 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes **to be cast into hell fire:** 9:48 **Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.**

Rev 20:11-15 **And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

E. Some other beliefs & facts about the Jehovah's Witnesses.

The following items are listed as additional information concerning this cult group. No effort will be made to refute their beliefs though no belief listed here is accepted among fundamental Christians.

- Several times the leadership of the Jehovah's Witnesses have predicted the date of Armageddon. All dates have come to pass without fulfillment. They were: by Charles Russell on 1914, 1915; Rutherford 1916; Knorr 1975.
- They believe man is a two part being: body and soul. No immortal soul thus man is like a beast. (Let God Be True, pg. 59-60)
- They believe where the Bible refers to hell it is speaking of the grave or tomb. (Let God Be True, pg. 72)

- They do not believe in a visible return of Jesus Christ.
- They refuse to pay homage in any way to the flag of any nation or even to defend their own individual nation from assault by an enemy.
- They believe those who are Jehovah’s Witnesses that are not part of the 144,000 elite will be part of the “great crowd” which refers to the majority of those who will not live in heaven but will live in a restored Paradise on Earth after Christ’s return.
- The place where Jehovah’s Witnesses gather to meet is called a “Kingdom Hall”.

F. Witnessing to a Jehovah’s Witness - (paraphrased from a tract published by the American Tract Society from their Christian Resource Series)

1. We must recognize the problem of authority. For the JW their authority is the Watchtower’s interpretation of the Bible. They are taught not to trust their own interpretation or anyone else. Thus when confronted with questions they cannot answer they will defer to the Watchtower who will give them answers.
2. Therefore, to bring them out of darkness we must destroy their blind obedience to the Watchtower by demonstrating that the Watchtower is not reliable.
3. You must show from using scripture and the Watchtower’s own statements that it is a false prophet. Be sensitive to place the JW on your side against the Watchtower’s attempt to mislead both of you. To do this:
 - Establish from scripture that a true prophet of God will always be infallible (Deut. 18:20-22; Matt. 7:15-20)
 - Demonstrate that in 100 yrs. of giving prophecies the Watchtower has 100% failure rate. (see Dr. Robert Morey’s book “How to Answer a Jehovah’s Witness, Bethany House Publishers, 1980 for a list of failures).
 - Just as the Watchtower has been false in its prophecies, it is also false in its doctrines.
4. Do not argue over doctrine or scripture text until you have accomplished step 3 above.
5. After instilling doubt about the Watchtower’s authority, share your personal testimony of salvation in Christ. Point out appropriate scriptures on salvation as you share.
6. Be sure to demonstrate love and concern for them. We may hate their false doctrine, but must love them.

Chart of Jehovah’s Witness teaching vs. Bible truth.

This material was primarily prepared by Rev. Lew Davis, CTC director in Peru. His source text is not indicated but will be added as soon as possible to this introduction.

What They Teach	What the Bible Says
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About God's Divine Name:	About God's Divine Name:
1. Jehovah's Witnesses say that the Watchtower Society is God's visible representative on earth and should be obeyed as the voice of God. (p. 205)	1. The "voice of God" is found only in the Scriptures. (II Tim. 3:16, I Cor. 2:13) Obedience should be to God and His Word and not some organization founded in the seventeen hundreds. (Psa. 119)
2. They say that Scripture by itself is not enough to know the things of God. (p. 328,332,333)	2. Scripture is completely sufficient to provide the knowledge that leads to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and to grow spiritually. (II Tim. 3:15-17)
3. They teach that you can only know the true meaning of scripture by studying the literature put out by the Watchtower Society. (p. 328)	3. Every person has the ability to understand Scripture. (II Tim. 3:15-17) The Holy Spirit helps us to understand. (John 16:12-15, I Cor. 2:9-12)
4. They tell you that a person should not interpret scripture for themselves. They should just submit their minds to what the Watchtower Society says. (p. 328)	4. Believers are told to test what they are told by checking the Scriptures just as the Bereans Christians did. (Acts 17:11)
5. They say "Jehovah" is the only name which God should be called. (p. 149,191)	5. Scripture uses many names for God. "The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (Exo. 3:16) Our Father (Matt. 6:9) Abba (Rom. 8:15) "Jehovah" is not the correct word in the Old Testament. It really should be "Yahweh". It comes from "YHWH" as the name of God.
6. They teach that the proper use of the name "Jehovah" is absolutely necessary for salvation. (p. 149, 196, 197.)	6. Salvation is in the name of Jesus. (John 1:12, 3:16, Acts 10:43, I John 3:23-24) Jesus is the only way. (John 14:6, Acts 4:12, I John 5:13)
7. God should be called "Jehovah" in the New Testament also. (p. 194,195)	7. The New Testament, even in the Greek always uses the work "Lord". It never uses "Jehovah" even when it quotes the Old Testament.
8. Jehovah's Witnesses tell you that you must be a witness to "Jehovah" only. (p. 199- 208)	8. We are told to be witnesses of Jesus Christ, not "Jehovah". (Acts 1:8, 2:32, 3:15, 4:33)

9. They also teach that Jesus is not Jehovah like the Father is. (p. 197-198)	9. Jesus is the same as their “Jehovah”. He is referred to as YHWH (their Jehovah) in Scripture. (Isa. 40:3) He did things only Yahweh could do. He created the universe. (Isa. 44:24, Col. 1:16)
About Jesus Christ:	About Jesus Christ:
10. Jehovah’s Witnesses teach that Christ was the “firstborn of all creation” and that He was created billions of years ago. (p. 408- 409)	10. Christ was NOT created, but is the Creator. (Isa. 44: 24, Col. 1:16) When the Bible uses “firstborn” it means Christ is “first in rank” and “preeminent” over all creation.
11. They say that when Christ was created He was the Archangel Michael. (p. 218)	11. Christ is not Michael because Christ created the angels. (Col. 1:16) No angel can be called God’s son. (Heb. 1:5) No angel can rule the world. (Heb. 2:5) and Christ rules all. (Rev. 19:16)
12. They teach that this created angel (Christ) then created all other things in the universe. (p. 408-408)	12. God Almighty - all by Himself (not with an angel’s help) - directly created the universe. (Isa. 44:24) Since the New Testament teaches that Christ did the creating, this shows that He is also God Almighty. (Col. 1:16)
13. Jehovah’s Witnesses say that Jesus is A mighty God but that He is not God Almighty like the Father is. (p.212-213,416-417)	13. Both the Father and Jesus are called “Mighty God” in Scripture. (Isa. 44:24) They are both “Almighty God”. (Isa. 45:5, 40:3) They are equally divine.
14. Their literature teaches that Jesus is a lesser god than the Father, because he said, “The Father is greater than I” in John 14:28. (p. 214, 219, 410, 420, 425)	14. Jesus is equal with God in His divine nature. (John 10:30) He placed Himself in a lower position for a while when He took on the form of a servant and human likeness. At the time Jesus said “The Father is greater than I”, he was in the servant position. (Phil. 2:6-11)
15. They say that Jesus is a lesser god than the Father because John	15. Jesus is eternally the Son of God. (John 3:16-17, Pro. 30:4, Heb.

<p>3:16 calls Him the “only begotten son”. (p. 418)</p>	<p>1:2) This means He eternally has the same nature - a divine nature just as the Father.</p>
<p>16. They teach that because Jesus referred to the Father as “my Father” and “my God” in John 20:17, that He can not be God in the same sense that the Father is. (p. 212-213, 426)</p>	<p>16. It was only in His human form that Jesus called the Father “my God.” In His divine nature, He could never refer to the Father as “my God,” because He was fully equal to the Father regarding His divine nature. (John 1:1, 10:30, 20:28)</p>
<p>17. They say that because Jesus did not know the day or hour of His second coming (Mark 13:32), that He can not be God like the Father is. (p.407)</p>	<p>17. When Jesus said He didn’t know the day and hour of His return, He was speaking from His humanity which was limited. Now He would speak from His divinity and know the time of His return. As God, Christ knows all things according to Matt. 17:27, Luke 5:4-6, John 2:25; 16:30; 21:17.</p>
<p>18. According to them, Jesus is not to be worshipped like the Father is, but is to be shown respect. (p. 214-215)</p>	<p>18. Jesus is to be worshiped. The same Greek word (proskuneo) which is used of worshiping the Father (John 4:23) is also used of worshiping Jesus (John 9:38, Heb. 1:6, Matt. 8:2). Jesus was often worshiped in the New Testament.</p>
<p>19. They teach that Jesus was raised from the dead as an invisible spirit creature with no physical body. (p. 334-335)</p>	<p>19. Jesus was raised in a visible, physical body of flesh and bones. (Luke 24:39)</p>
<p>20. They say that Jesus just “materialized” to the disciples in various bodies to prove He had resurrected. (p. 335)</p>	<p>20. Jesus appeared to the disciples in the exact same body that was buried in the tomb. It even had the wounds from the crucifixion. (John 20:27, Acts 2:31, I Cor. 15:35-44)</p>
<p>21. The Jehovah’s Witnesses teach that Christ had a spiritual and invisible second coming in 1914. They say He has been ruling as King since 1941 through the Watchtower Society. (p. 340-345)</p>	<p>21. Christ’s second coming is yet to come and will be visible to every eye. (Dan. 7:13, Zech. 9:14, 12:10, Matt. 16:27-28, Matt. 24:30. II Tim. 4:1) Jesus will come again as King of Kings” in a blaze of</p>

	glory. (Rev. 19:16)
About the Holy Spirit:	About the Holy Spirit:
22. The Jehovah's Witnesses teach that the Holy Spirit is not a person but an it. (p. 380-381)	25. They say that because different people can be "filled " with the Holy Spirit at the same time, this means the Spirit is not a person. (p. 380)
23. They say that the Holy Spirit is not God, but it is God's impersonal "active force" that helps Him accomplish His will in the world. (p. 381)	23. The Holy Spirit is not only a person but He is fully God. He is called God in Acts 5:3-4. He has all the attributes of God, including omnipresence (Psa. 139:7), omniscience (I Cor. 2:10) and omnipotence (Rom. 15:19).
24. They think that the Holy Spirit is just an "it" because He doesn't have a name. (p. 380-381, 407)	24. Not all Spiritual beings are given names in the Scriptures. They are often identified by their character. Demons, for example are called "unclean" or "wicked" spirits. Likewise, the Holy Spirit is identified by His character, which is holy. (John 16:7-14)
25. They say that because different people can be "filled " with the Holy Spirit at the same time, this means the Spirit is not a person. (p. 380)	25. Eph. 3:19 speaks of "being filled with the fulness of God". Eph. 4:10 speaks of Christ filling the universe with His presence. In Mat. 28:19 Jesus commissioned the disciples to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit thus indicating the 3 distinct personages of the Godhead. In John 4:24 Jesus described the nature of God as Spirit. Thus we come to understand that God is Spirit in essence which is manifested in 3 distinct personages. Jesus being the one manifestation which became flesh (John 4:2-3). The Holy Spirit is the manifestation of God which lives within believers (1 Cor. 6:19 & 2 Cor. 6:16). Thus at one time there are 3 persons of the Godhead, (Father-Son-Holy Spirit),

	each capable of manifestation in what ever form, while being only one God (Mark 12:32; 1 Cor. 8:6; Eph. 4:6; 1 Tim. 2:5). We understand there to be only one God who's essence is Spirit being manifested in 3 persons. This we call the Trinity of God.
About the Trinity:	About the Trinity:
26. They think that because the word "Trinity" is not found in the Bible that the doctrine could not be true. (p. 405-426)	26. The word "Trinity" is not found in the Bible but the concept is clearly taught. (Matt. 28:19) There is one God (Deut. 6:4), yet there are three persons (II Cor. 13:14) who are called God, [the Father (I Pet. 1:2), the Son (John 20:28), and the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3-4)].
27. Jehovah's Witnesses say that God is not a God of confusion and because they can't understand the Trinity then it must not be true, because it is un-reasonable to them. (p. 407-426)	27. For humans to understand everything about God they would have to be God. Scripture says that humans can not possibly know everything about God. We can not possibly understand the Trinity in full. (Rom. 11:33, I Cor. 13:12, Isa. 55:8-9)
28. They think that Trinitarians believe in "three Gods in one God" or "three Gods in one person." (p. 405-426)	28. Those who believe in the Trinity do not think there are three Gods in one God, and they don't think there are three Gods in one person. Rather we believe in three persons in one God. (Matt. 28:19).
29. They also think that the doctrine of the Trinity was adopted by the church 300 years after Christ died. (p. 405)	29. The doctrine of the Trinity is derived directly from Scripture. (Matt. 28:19, II Cor. 13:14). The church has believed in the Trinity ever since Christ died.
About saved people:	About saved people:
30. Jehovah's Witnesses think that only 144,000 people will go to heaven. Those will all be Jehovah's Witnesses and they are called the	30. Christ never restricted the Kingdom of Heaven to only 144,000 people. He taught that all people should seek His Kingdom and that

<p>“Anointed Class.” (p. 166-168)</p>	<p>whoever will can find it. (Matt. 9:35-38, Mark 1:14-14, Luke 12:22-32)</p>
<p>31. They believe that after the 144,000 go to heaven, all the rest of the Jehovah’s Witnesses are the “other sheep” and they will live forever on a paradise earth. (p. 116-117)</p>	<p>31. A heavenly destiny awaits all who believe in Jesus Christ. (Eph. 2:19, Phil. 3:20, Col. 2:1). Jesus affirmed that all believers will be together in “one flock” under “one Shepherd” in heaven. (John 10:16)</p>
<p>32. Their doctrine teaches that only members of their “Anointed Class” are “born again”. (p. 76-80)</p>	<p>32. Scripture teaches that everyone who believes that “Jesus is the Christ is born of God” (Born again). (I John 5:1) “Everyone who believes” is all inclusive.</p>
<p>About Salvation:</p>	<p>About Salvation:</p>
<p>33. Jehovah’s Witnesses believe that salvation depends on works. They think “grace” is more or less the opportunity for human beings to earn their salvation by total obedience to the Watchtower Society. Grace does not involve a free gift of salvation. (p. 356-359)</p>	<p>33. Salvation is by faith through grace and it does not take works. (Eph. 2:8-9, Titus 3:5, Gal.2:16) The word “grace” refers to God’s unmerited favor. God freely gives us salvation as a gift - and this gift is received by believing in Jesus. (Acts 16:31)</p>
<p>34. They also say that “faith” is necessary for salvation - but they then say that works must be added to it. (p.132)</p>	<p>34. Close to 200 times in the New Testament salvation is said to be by faith alone - with no works in sight. (John 3:15, John 5:24, John 11:25, John 12:46, John 20:31, Acts 16:31)</p>
<p>35. They teach that “faith” involves calling on the name of Jehovah only. (p. 149)</p>	<p>35. Romans 10:13 refers to calling upon the Lord Jesus - not Jehovah - for salvation (see vs. 9-12 for the context). (The Watchtower Society has mis-translated this verse in their translation of the Bible.) Acts 16:31 is a good cross-reference: “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved” NIV</p>
<p>36. They think there is no assurance of salvation. (p. 358-359)</p>	<p>36. Believers are secure in their salvation. Eph. 4:30 says that we are sealed for the day of redemption</p>

	by the Holy Spirit. (John 10:28)
About the Soul of man:	About the Soul of man:
37. They do not think that man has a soul that is separate from his physical body that lives after the body dies. (p. 375-379)	37. Man does have a distinct soul. The moment a Christian dies his soul goes to be in the presence of God. (Phil. 1:22-23, II Cor. 5:8) The moment a non-Christian dies his soul goes to a place of great suffering. (Luke 16:19-31)
38. Jehovah's Witnesses teach that man is not conscious of anything after death because he has no immaterial nature that survives death. (p. 169-175)	38. Human beings are conscious following the moment of their death. An example is Rev.6:9-10, where disembodied "souls" of believers are under God's altar carrying on a conversation with Him. (Luke 16:19-31)
39. Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Hell is not an eternal place of suffering, but is just the common grave of all humankind. (p. 170-171)	39. Hell is a place of suffering (Rev. 20:15) and those who go there suffer for eternity. (Matt. 25:46) The suffering of the wicked are just as eternal as the eternal life of the believers. The same Greek word is used for "eternal" in both cases. (Rev. 14:9-11)
40. They teach that unbelievers are annihilated at death and no longer exist in any form. (p. 172-174)	40. If you were annihilated you would avoid punishment. Torment cannot, by definition, be anything but conscious distress. (Rev. 14:9-11) A punishment that is not felt is not a punishment. Scripture indicates conscious eternal torment for the wicked. (Matt. 25:46)
About Controversial Issues:	About Controversial Issues:
41. They think a blood transfusion is the same as eating blood because it is similar to intravenous feeding. They think that references in the Bible (Gen. 9:4) which prohibit eating blood also prohibit blood transfusions. (p. 70-76)	41. The Bible does prohibit eating blood in the Old Testament. But a blood transfusion is not the same as intravenous feeding because the blood does not function as food. It merely replaces the body's supply of fluid. Also in the New Testament

	Peter was given a vision that all kinds of food were good for eating.
42. Jehovah's Witnesses never celebrate birthdays because in two birthdays mentioned in Scripture (Gen. 40:20-22, Matt. 14:6-10), someone was put to death. Therefore they think birthdays are evil. (p. 68-70)	42. These verses prove that the men in these scriptures (Pharaoh and Herod) were evil, not that birthdays were evil. Scripture does not command us to celebrate birthdays but it does not command us not to celebrate them either.
43. They teach that wearing a cross is a form of idolatry. (p. 89-93)	43. Wearing a cross is not a form of idolatry because the cross itself is not worshiped. The cross just represents a worshipful attitude toward Christ and a commitment to the message of the cross (that Christ died for us).
44. They also believe that Jesus was crucified on a stake instead of a cross. (p. 89)	44. Jesus was crucified on a cross. The Greek word is "saturas". John 20:25 says nails were used in His crucifixion - one for each hand. If it had been a stake only one nail would have been needed. Also Jesus described crucifixion as involving outstretched arms. (John 21:18-19)

The Watchtower Society's False Prophecies

The Watchtower Society claims to be a prophet of God. However, it has consistently made false prophecies throughout its history. The Jehovah's Witnesses try to cover this mistake by two wrong approaches.

1. They say that some of the apostles or prophets held the wrong views and weren't condemned for prophetic errors. Therefore the Watchtower Society should not be condemned either for its false prophecies.

The truth is that the Bible clearly teaches that whenever an apostle or prophet speaks as God's mouthpiece, there is no possibility of error because they are communicating direct revelation from God. (Deut. 18:18, II Sam. 23:2, I Cor. 2:13)

2. They sometimes just apologize for the Watchtower's errors in prophecy hoping you will drop the subject.

The truth is that no such understanding exist in Scripture. Nowhere does it say that if you apologize for a false prophecy then you are no longer a false prophet? Scripture is firm - a Biblical prophet must be 100 percent accurate. (Deut. 18:22). False prophets were stoned to death for their false prophecy.

Some False Prophecies made by the Watchtower Society

- ◆ The Watchtower Society predicted that in 1874 the second coming of Christ would occur.
- ◆ The Watchtower Society predicted that the year 1914 would mark the overthrow of human governments, and the full establishment of the kingdom of God on the earth.
- ◆ The Watchtower Society predicted that in 1925 that certain Old Testament saints – including Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob - would rise from the grave and come to live in San Diego.
- ◆ The Watchtower Society predicted that in 1975 human history would end and the thousand-year reign of Christ would begin.

VII. Mormonism

Galatians 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

A. History

1. The founder of the Mormonism, also known as The Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints, was Joseph Smith, Jr., who was born December 23, 1805. He was the fourth of ten children living in the state of New York. Though most of his family were Presbyterian he questioned which denomination was right as there seemed to be so much strife between them.
2. In 1820 at the age of 15 he received his first vision. In this vision he said that two glowing persons appeared to him, God the Father and Jesus Christ. It was during this experience that he inquired of God as to which denomination was right. Allegedly God told him not to join any of them, for they were all wrong, and their teachings were an abomination in His sight; that those who followed were all corrupt; that : “they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof” (Joseph Smith, “The Pearl of Great Price, 2:18-19).

3. On the evening of September 21, 1823, Joseph is said to have received his second vision in which a personage appeared at his bedside. This personage said his name was, “Moroni”, and that he was a messenger from God to reveal ancient gold plates inscribed with the history of the inhabitants of the Americas. Along with the plates were two stones used to translate the characters on the plates. Supposedly, the next day Joseph found the two plates buried on a hillside, but was told that they would be given to him only when he became worthy. The following is the description of this encounter in Joseph’s own words taken from “The Pearl of Great Price”, by Joseph Smith, 2:50-54:

“...a personage appeared at my bedside, standing in the air, for his feet did not touch the floor...Not only was his robe exceedingly white, but his whole person was glorious beyond description....[He] said unto me that he was a messenger sent from the presence of God to me, and that his name was Moroni; that God had a work for me to do; and that my name should be had for good and evil among all nations, kindreds, and tongues, or that it should be both for good and evil spoken among all people. He said there was a book deposited, written upon gold plates, giving an account of the former inhabitants of this continent, and the source from whence they sprang. He also said that the fullness of the everlasting Gospel was contained in it, as delivered by the Savior to the ancient inhabitants; Also, that there were two stones in silver bows—and these stones, fastened to a breastplate, constituted what is called the Urim and Thummim—deposited with the plates; and the possession and use of these stones were what constituted “seers” in ancient or former times; and that God had prepared them for the purpose of translating the book....While he was conversing with me about the plates, the vision was opened to my mind that I could see the place where the plates were deposited, and that so clearly and distinctly that I knew the place when I visited it....Convenient to the village of Manchester, Ontario County, New York, stands a hill of considerable size, and the most elevated of any in the neighborhood. On the west side of this hill, not far from the top, under a stone of considerable size, lay the plates, deposited in a stone box....I looked in, and there indeed did I behold the plates, the Urim and Thummim, and the breastplate, as stated by the messenger....I made an attempt to take them out, but was forbidden by the messenger, and was again informed that the time for bringing them forth had not yet arrived, neither would it, until four years from that time; but he told me that I should come to that place precisely in one year from that time, and that he would there meet with me, and that I should continue to do so until the time should come for obtaining the plates....on the twenty-second day of September, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven [1827], having gone as usual at the end of

another year to the place where they were deposited, the same heavenly messenger delivered them up to me with this charge: that I should be responsible for them; that if I should let them go carelessly, or through any neglect of mine, I should be cut off; but that if I would use all my endeavors to preserve them, until he, the messenger, should call for them, they should be protected.”

4. A small Bible Tract entitled, “The Mormon Mystique”, published by the American Tract Society in Garland, Texas states that, “on March 20, 1826 Joseph Smith was found guilty of fraud in Bainbridge, New York. He had been selling his services by claiming to find buried treasure through the use of a ‘seer stone.’ When he failed to produce for several of his customers, he was convicted as an imposter.

Joseph allegedly retrieved the golden plates on September 22, 1827. On April 7, 1829 he gained the help of Mr. Oliver Cowdery who wrote as Joseph translated the plates using the ‘seer stones.’ “ [“The publication of the translation of the plates was financed by a New York farmer named Martin Harris who was told by Smith that the writings on the plates was ‘reformed Egyptian’ with the completion of the translation finally being placed on sale on March 26, 1830 (**McS pg. 66**).] The Bible Tract goes on to say that, only three witnesses originally testified to seeing the actual gold plates—Oliver Cowdery, Martin Harris, and David Whitmer. Later, each of the three either left the church, or discredited Joseph Smith, or disavowed ever seeing the plates.

In late, 1829 or early 1830, Peter, James, and John allegedly appeared to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery restoring to them the ‘Melchizedek priesthood.’ With this authority Joseph organized his church on April 6, 1830.

A branch church known as “The United Order of Enoch” formed in Kirtland, Ohio. It was in Kirtland that three important events occurred:

- Joseph supposedly received revelation from God that forbade the use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, hot drinks, and excessive eating of meat
- The first temple was dedicated in 1836
- Joseph became acquainted with a new convert, Brigham Young

Internal divisions and external conflict eventually led to the slaughter of many Mormons and the jailing of Mormon leaders in Richmond, Missouri. The courts ordered a change of venue (location of where they were to be tried), Joseph and his fellow prisoners escaped from their guard, crossed the Mississippi River and founded the town of Nauvoo, Illinois.

Here Smith and his followers flourished until internal dissention produced dissidents who published articles exposing the church leadership’s polygamy (having more than one wife). Smith ordered the destruction of the dissident’s printing presses. He fled from local militias that had surrounded Nauvoo. The

terrified residents pleaded with Joseph to return and avert an imminent attack. He did return and was taken to Carthage, Illinois along with his brother, Hyrum, to face charges for rioting.

The night before the preliminary hearing, militia stormed into the second floor cell where Joseph and his brother were held. Both men were killed in a hail of bullets, but not before Joseph killed two men and wounded another with guns that had been smuggled to them.

Led by Brigham Young, a remnant of Nauvoo citizens migrated to Salt Lake City, Utah...”

5. “After the death of Smith the leadership went to Brigham Young, the President of the Twelve Apostles, who convinced the majority of Mormons that he was their rightful successor. He led the westward in a journey that saw many hardships including Indian attacks, exposure to natural hardships, and internal strife. On July 24, 1847, they arrived at Salt Lake Valley in Utah which became the headquarters of the Mormon church. Young died in 1877 leaving approximately 150,000 members. Today, they have over four million worldwide.

B. Their claims:

1. They claim that they are the restoration of the true church established by Jesus Christ. They are, in their belief, the only true church.
2. They believe there is no salvation outside their church and without accepting the teachings of Joseph Smith (Doctrines of Salvation, pgs. 189-190)
3. They accept four sacred sources of authority: the Bible, the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and The Pearl of Great Price. They also accept a present prophet’s words as a source of authority.
 - They “believe the Bible to be the Word of God in so far as it is translated correctly....” (Articles of Faith of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Article 8). They therefore, place more trust in their own 3 writings than they do in the Bible. They believe that the Roman Catholic church deliberately polluted the Bible and removed doctrines. This opens the door for Mormons to add their own new non-biblical teachings.
 - Their “Doctrine and Covenants” is a record of 138 revelations revealing some of Mormonism’s distinctive doctrines such as baptism for the dead and celestial marriage (**McS pg. 68**).
 - “The Pearl of Great Price” contains the “Book of Moses,” which is roughly

equivalent to the first six chapters of Genesis, and “The Book of Abraham,” a translation of an Egyptian Papyrus that later proved to be fraudulent. It also contains an extract from Joseph Smith’s translation of the Bible; extracts from the “History of Joseph Smith,” which is his autobiography; and the ‘Articles of Faith’.” (McS pg. 68)

- The living prophet is the individual who is the head of the church. It has been said by Ezra Taft Benson, the President of the Council of the Twelve Apostles, that the living prophet is “more vital to us than the standard works.” This type of thinking rules out any necessity for followers to think for themselves or question the direction of the church leaders. One of their publications states:

“[Lucifer]...wins a great victory when he can get members of the Church to speak against their leaders and to do their own thinking.... When our leaders speak, the thinking has been done. When they propose a plan—it is God’s plan...” (Improvement Era, June 1945, pg. 354).

C. Their Doctrine

1. Doctrine of God

- a. “The Mormon concept of God is contradictory to what the Bible teaches. The Mormons believe in many gods and teach that God himself was once a man. Mormon males have the possibility of attaining god-hood. Joseph Smith made this clear in “The King Follett Discourse” pgs. 8-10:

God was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens...It is the first principle of the gospel to know for certainty the character of God, and to know that we may converse with him as one man with another, and that he was once a man like us, yea, that God himself, the father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ did. Here then, is eternal life—to know the only wise and true God; and you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves, and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all Gods have done before you.”

BUT

The Bible teaches that there is only one true God and that God the Father is Spirit and not flesh and bones:

Isa 43:10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that **I am he: before me there was no God formed,**

neither shall there be after me.

1 Cor 8:4 As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that **there is none other God but one.**

- b. Concerning Jesus Christ: They believe Christ prior to his earthly ministry, was the first born spirit child of the Heavenly Father and Mother (Mormon Doctrine pgs. 278, 589). Thus Jesus is not the unique Son of God but simply our brother. He is set apart only in that he was the firstborn of God's spirit-children.

BUT

The Bible teaches that Christ is Eternal God, not the product of a conception. He was in existence as God prior to His earthly existence as God in human flesh.

John 1:1-2 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

- c. Other beliefs they have concerning the Doctrine of God and what the Bible says:
 - God the Father is simply a man who achieved god-hood. (History of the Church, Vol. 6, pg. 305). Christians believe God the Father has always been God. Psalm 90:2

Psa 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

- They believe the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are 3 distinct Gods (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pgs. 370, 372) Christians believe there is only one God, but three distinct persons in the Godhead.

Deu 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

Isa 48:12-13 Harken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; **I am he**; I am the first, I also am the last. 48:13 Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together.

Isa 48:16 Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now **the Lord GOD**, and **his Spirit**, hath sent me.

Mat 3:16-17 And **Jesus**, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the **Spirit of God** descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: 3:17 And lo a **voice from heaven**, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

- They teach that God the Father has Eternal Wives through whom spirit children have been and continue to be born (Mormon Doctrine, 1966, pg. 516; “The Seer”, Orson Pratt, pgs. 37, 158). Christians know that God the Father has no wife and stands alone as God.

Isa 46:9 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and **there is none else**; I am God, and **there is none like me**,

- They believe that Lucifer (Satan) was originally the spirit brother of Christ (The Gospel Through the Ages, pg. 15). The Bible teaches that Satan was originally a created angel who rebelled against his Creator. Ezekiel 28:11-19 is a reference to Lucifer where we see he was the anointed Cherub, a created angel. In Col. 1:16 and John 1:1-3 we see Christ as the eternal God creator of all that there is.

Ezek 28:11-19 Moreover the word of the **LORD** came unto me, saying, **28:12** Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord **GOD**; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. **28:13** Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. **28:14** Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. **28:15** Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. **28:16** By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. **28:17** Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. **28:18** Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. **28:19** All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

Col. 1:16 speaks of Christ as creator:

Col 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

2. The Doctrine of Man (“The Bible teaches” is taken from “The Mormon Mystique” Christian Resource Series, by the American Tract Society)

- a. Mormons believe that each person’s essence, has always existed and was never created. Thus man is as eternal as God is. (Journal of Discourses, Vol. X, pg. 5; Vol. VI, pg. 6; The plan of Salvation booklet, pg. 3; Doctrine and Covenants, 93.29)

BUT

The Bible teaches that all men are a creation of God and had no prior existence before their earthly life:

In Genesis 2:7 we see that God formed man from the dust of the earth and breathed into him the breath of life and he became a living soul. There is no indication here that man had any prior state of existence. The same is true for Eve who was made from man as we see in the following passage:

Gen 2:18-25 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. 2:19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. 2:20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. 2:21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 2:22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 2:23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. 2:25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

In Job we see man had no existence when God formed the earth. Man has not always existed.

Job 38:1-7 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, 38:2 Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? 38:3 Gird up now thy loins like a man;

for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. 38:4 **Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.** 38:5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? 38:6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; 38:7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

- b. Mormons believe that Adam's fall in the Garden of Eden was a "fall upward" that was not sinful, but rather necessary for the propagation of the human race (Journal of Discourses, Vol. 13, pg. 145; Vol. 10, pg. 312; Pearl of Great Price, Moses 5:10-12; Doctrines of Salvation, Vol. 1, pgs. 114-115).

BUT

The Bible teaches that Adam's sin in the Garden caused spiritual and physical death for all persons. For in Adam all have sinned. Adam being the father of the human race passed on the sin nature to his offspring throughout all mankind. Thus we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

Rom 5:12-21 Wherefore, as by one man [**Adam**] sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: 5:13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. 5:15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. 5:16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) 5:18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: 5:21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

- c. Mormons believe that a baptized Mormon convert has his Gentile blood purged and replaced by the blood of Abraham by the Holy Spirit. Thus he becomes the actual offspring of Abraham (History

of the Church, Vol. 3, pg. 380; Journal of Discourses, Vol. 2, pg. 269)

BUT

The Bible teaches that true believers in Jesus Christ become the offspring of Abraham in the sense that they become the heirs of the promises of God, as did Abraham.

Gal 3:26-29 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 3:29 **And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

3. The Doctrine of Salvation (McS pg. 71-72)

Articles 2 and 3 of the Mormon Articles of Faith spell out their doctrine of salvation:

- #2 – We believe that men shall be punished for their own sins and not for Adam's transgression.
- #3 – We believe that through the atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.

James Talmage explains the meaning: "The extent of the Atonement is universal, applying alike to all descendants of Adam. Even the unbeliever, the heathen and the child who dies before reaching the years of discretion are all redeemed by the Saviour's self-sacrifice from the individual consequences of the fall...of the saved not all will be exalted to the higher glories. No one can be admitted to any order of glory, in short, no soul can be saved until Justice has been satisfied for violated law...In the kingdom of God there are numerous levels of gradation provided for those who are worthy of them (Articles of Faith, pgs. 85, 91).

Thus in Mormonism there is a general salvation for all mankind and an individual salvation for each person. There is, to the Mormon, no such thing as hell or everlasting punishment. Everyone will eventually go to one of three levels of glory:

- the celestial kingdom (highest level) which is reserved for the Melchizedek priesthood members who will become gods
- the terrestrial kingdom (middle level) for those who failed the requirements of exaltation
- the telestial kingdom (lowest level) for those who have no testimony of Christ

BUT

The Bible teaches that salvation is a free gift from Jesus Christ our Lord. Eph. 2:8-9 makes this clear. Furthermore, when Jesus was asked, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” (John 6:28) He replied, “This is the work of God, that you believe on Him whom He has sent” (vs. 29). Salvation is received by grace through faith as we believe in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sin.

D. The Book of Mormon (McS pg. 72-73)

The Book of Mormon is claimed to have been translated by Joseph Smith under the power of God, and to be the most correct book of any on earth. Yet a comparison of the latest edition with the first edition (the 1830 edition that was supposed to be translated by the power of God) will show **more than 3,000 changes**.

To make matters worse for Mormon scholars:

- No cities found in the Book of Mormon have been located
- No names in the Book of Mormon have been found in New World inscriptions
- No genuine inscriptions have been found in Hebrew in America
- No genuine inscriptions have been found in America in Egyptian or anything that could correspond to Joseph Smith’s “reformed Egyptian.”
- No ancient copies of the Book of Mormon scriptures have been found.
- No mention of the Book of Mormon persons, nations, or places have been found.
- No artifact of any kind, which demonstrates the Book of Mormon to be true, has been found.

E. How to Witness to a Mormon (from the American Tract Society, Mormon Mystique tract).

1. Don’t start with a Mormon missionary, you will do better to work on friends who are Mormon.
2. Realize that they may use the same terms but have very different meaning in their way of thinking. Make sure you are both meaning the same thing. Ask for and give definitions.
3. Be committed to the long haul. You must build bridges, relationship, if you are to have any success. Inquire as to how they became a Mormon, what they think about the Bible, and what they know about the Mormon doctrinal beliefs.

4. Be bold in your contacts with Mormons. They respect authority. Be bold but not unkind.

5. Use the Book of Mormon to discuss God. Though it has many differences from the Bible it presents a somewhat accurate view of God. As they are taught to distrust the Bible try to work with theirs at first. Ask such questions as:
 - Do you believe God has a body?
 - Do you believe he had a father and mother?
 - Does your book teach that God and Christ are really two gods?
 - Do you believe that “As man is, God once was; as God is, man can become?”
 - In actuality the Book of Mormon cannot support any of the above claims. The following scriptures from their book do support an accurate picture of God:
 - 2 Nephi 11:7, 26:12, 31:21b
 - Mosiah 15:2-5
 - Alma 11:22-29
 - 3 Nephi 11:27b, 36
 - Mormon 9:9-11, 19b
 - Moroni 8:18

If you can cause him to question what they teach by what his own book teaches, you may be able to take him to looking to your Bible for the truth.

6. When your friend’s doubt is fully kindled, share the Christ of the Bible that you know and love

F. Chart of Mormon teaching vs. Christian Truth

This material was prepared by Rev. Lew Davis, CTC director in Peru.

What Mormons are taught	What the Bible teaches
About God:	About God:
1. According to Mormons, God is a deity who was created (fashioned) by the sexual union of his divine mother and father. There is an infinite number of earths and gods, God the Father of	1. God was not created or fashioned in any way. He has always existed. As John 5:26 says, “For as the Father hath life in Himself; even so gave He to the Son also to have life in Himself.” (Col.

Jesus Christ is just the creator and ruler of this earth only.	1:17) God is ruler over all the universe, not just this world. (Jer. 23:23-24)
2. “God (Elohim) himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man...All you have got to learn is how to be gods yourselves, the same as all gods have done before you.” (Journal of Discourses, Vol. I, p.50)	2. God was never an exalted man. He has always been God “from everlasting to everlasting.” (Psa. 90:2b) He is the alpha and omega. (Rev.1:8)
3. “God is increasing in knowledge and power..” (Brigham Young, <i>Deseret Weekly News</i> , 22:309)	3. God can not increase in knowledge and power. He already has all knowledge and power. “For I am the Lord, I change not...” (Mal.3:6)
4. They have taught that “Adam is our Father and Our God.” (Brigham Young, <i>Journal of Discourses</i> , 1:50)	4. Adam was a human being and never a god. We have only one God. He created Adam. (Gen. 1:27)
About Jesus:	About Jesus:
5. They teach that Jesus is the first begotten spirit child of Elohim.	5. Jesus was not begotten of God. He was born in a human body as the only begotten Son of God. He was conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of the virgin Mary. He was the Son of God not a spirit child. (Matt. 1:18, Matt. 3:17, Luke 1:35, John 1:1, John 1:14)
6. Their doctrine says that Jesus was created, or fashioned, by a physical sexual union between Mary and Elohim. They say Mary was one of his wives.	6. Jesus was not created. He is God and has always existed. “His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity. (Micah 5:2)
7. The Mormons teach that “Jesus became a God... through consistent effort”. (M.R. Hunter, <i>Gospel Through the Ages, Deseret</i> , 1945, 51, in McElveen, 154)	7. Jesus is God, has always been God, and will always be God. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Heb. 13:8)
About the Trinity:	About the Trinity:
8. The Mormons reject the idea of the Trinity. They believe in henotheism which is the worship of one principle God (Elohim) among many gods.	8. Even though the word “Trinity” is not in the Bible, the doctrine of the Trinity is seen. (Matt. 3:13-17) There are not many gods. There is only one. (Deut. 6:4, Mark 12:29, Deut. 4:35, Deut. 4:39, Isa. 45:5-6)
9. Though they don’t believe in the Christian Trinity they are tri-theistic.	9. There are not three earth gods. There is only one God. God is three persons

That means the believe there are three separate earth gods - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. (McConkie, <i>Mormon Doctrine</i> , 317)	in one. They are all called God. (II Cor. 13:14, I Pet. 1:2, John 20:28, Acts 5:3-4, Matt. 28:19)
10. They are polytheistic, which means they accept the idea that there are many additional gods on countless other worlds.	10. There is only one God. (Deut. 4:39, Mark 12: 29, Zech. 14:9, I Cor. 8:6, I Kings 8:60)
About the Holy Spirit:	About the Holy Spirit:
11. He is a man with a spiritual body consisting of matter.	11. If the Holy Spirit consisted of matter then He could not dwell in the believer. He is Spirit, not material or physical. God is Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God, therefore the Holy Spirit is Spirit. (Acts 5:3-4, I Cor. 3:16, John 3:6b)
About Salvation:	About Salvation:
12. Mormons teach that “a man can be saved only so fast as he gains knowledge of the laws of God.” (<i>The Restored Church</i> , by William Edwin)	12. God saves those who believe not those who grow in knowledge. (I Cor. 1:21, John 1:12)
13. Mormons teach that eternal salvation depends on baptism and obedience to the ordinances and discipline of the Mormon Church, and upon a life of good works. “Man is justified by works.” (McConkie, <i>Doctrinal New Testament Commentary</i> , 3:260)	13. We are not saved by any of our works, but by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Salvation is a gift of God. If salvation really could come through our works then we could boast but it does not. (Titus 3:5, Eph. 2:8-9, John 3:15, John 11:25, John 12:46, John 20:31)
14. Mormonism is almost universalistic, teaching that all will be saved except a very few “sons of perdition.” Some Mormons teach that all will be saved.	14. “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat” (Matt. 7:13)
15. They teach that “there is no salvation outside the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.” (McConkie, <i>Mormon Doctrine</i> , 670)	15. Christ died for the whole Body of Christ which is made up of all who believe in and profess Jesus Christ s Lord. He did not die for just a group who follows certain rules. (Rph. 5:25-27, John 10:15, John 17:9-11) Christ also said that He died for the whole

	world - for each individual. (Isa. 53:6, John 1:29, I Tim. 2:6, I John 2:2) The deciding factor for salvation is not what church you belong to, but whether you are a believer or not (born again). (John 8:24, I Tim. 4:10)
Death:	Death:
16. Mormon doctrine teaches that salvation is possible after physical death.	16. When those who are “dead in trespasses and sins” die physically and are unrepentant, they enter into the state of eternal death. (James 5:20) Eternal death is an everlasting punishment from which you can not be rescued. (I Thes. 1:7-9) At the final “Great White Throne Judgment” all those wicked dead will be cast into the Lake of Fire. (Rev 20:13-15, Jude 7, Matt. 18:8, Matt. 25:41)
17. They say that people go into a “waiting” area and then are eventually assigned one of three kingdoms where opportunities exist for advancement to a higher kingdom.	17. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Only those who die in their sins are waiting - waiting for the Lake of Fire. After you die comes the judgment, not another chance. (II Cor. 5:8, Heb. 9:27)
Hell:	Hell:
18. Their doctrine teaches that hell is not permanent, but just a temporary purgatory.	18. Hell is permanent. It is everlasting destruction. (Matt. 25:41)
19. They think that the vast majority of people who go to hell will be punished, pay the penalty for their sins, and be raised after the millennium and inherit a “degree of glory”.	19. Hell is eternal separation from God. There can be no glory separate from God. Those in hell will eternally pay the penalty for their sins. (II Thes. 1:9)
20. They also teach that the only ones to inherit literally the eternal hell are the “sons of perdition”. These “sons of perdition” are Mormons who have left the Mormon church and maybe adulterers or murderers.	20. All who refuse the gift of eternal life will inherit eternal hell. (Rev. 21:8)
Sin:	Sin:
21. They think that good works cancel the penalty of sin.	21. Only the blood of Jesus can pay for our sins. “By the works of the Law no

	flesh will be justified in His sight. (Rom. 3:20)
22. They teach that the Fall of man was good because it helped bring spiritual growth and maturity for man.	22. The Fall of man was a result of sin. Sin is never good. Man was created with the capacity of immortality if he had not sinned. Original sin meant that all born of man would be born in sin. (Psa. 51:5)
23. Some Mormons teach that there is no original sin. (John Widstoe, <i>Evidences and Reconciliation</i> , 195, in Cowan, 75)	23. Adam's sin condemned all mankind. "One trespass was condemnation for all men." (Romans 5:18)
Man, satan, and demons:	Man, satan, and demons:
24. Man was first created as a spirit by Elohim and one of his wives through physical sex, so they are spirit beings who already exist and are looking to live in physical bodies when humans have sex and produce a baby. These spirit beings want to live in these bodies because that is the only way they can do good works and gain exultation or godhood.	24. Man was created by God from the dust of the ground and God breathed life into him. and he became a living soul (Gen. 2:7) God made man in His image so He made man with a spirit; a spirit being did not enter the body when God formed it. (Gen.1:26)
25. They teach that "it is not natural for man to be evil." (John Taylor, 3rd president, <i>Journal of Discourses</i> , 10:50)	25. Mankind has a natural inclination to be evil and do wrong. As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." (Romans 3:10-12, I Kings 8:46, Mark 7:15, 21-23, Jer. 17:9)
26. Mormons say that satan is one of the innumerable spirits created by Elohim and his wife, therefore a spirit brother of men, women, and even Christ Himself.	26. Lucifer, who became satan, was created as an angel of light. He was not a disembodied spirit.
27 Because of satan's rebellion, he is not permitted to come live in a body, as he would have one day just like all	27. Lucifer, or satan, was not and never will be like humans. He was created different from humans by Gods. There

humans.	is no account of an angel coming to dwell in a human's body. As satan, he is able to possess or indwell humans, but he does not become a human spirit.
28. They teach that "the kingdoms of this world made war against the kingdom of God... and they prevailed against it." (Orson Pratt, <i>Journal of Discourses</i> , 13:125)	28. Nothing will prevail against the church of God. "I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." (Matt. 16:18)
Polygamy:	Polygamy:
29. They have written that "Abraham received concubines, and they bore him children, and it was accounted unto him for righteousness." (D&C, 132:37)	29. The Scripture does not say polygamy made Abraham righteous but faith in God did. "Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness." (Rom. 4:5)
The Indwelling of God:	The Indwelling of God:
30. "The idea that the Father and the Son dwell in a man's heart is an old sectarian notion, and is false. (D&C, 130:3)	30. "Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My work; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him.'" (John 14:23)
Creation:	Creation:
31. Mormons believe that matter has always existed. What they are really saying is that God did not create matter, He just used it and rearranged it during creation. "There really is no beginning because God and matter are eternal." (Wallace, <i>Can Mormonism Be Proven Experimentally?</i> , 163)	31. Matter did not always exist. God created it. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Gen. 1:1)
The Gift of the Holy Spirit:	The Gift of the Holy Spirit:
32. Mormon doctrine says that you may not receive the gift of the Holy Spirit until after you have been baptized as a Mormon. "Cornelius could not receive the gift of the Holy Spirit until after he was baptized." (Joseph Smith, <i>Teachings</i> , 199)	32 The gift of the Holy Spirit is a free gift to everyone who believes. Baptism is not a requirement, but first being a believer in Jesus Christ (not some church doctrine) is a requirement. Cornelius himself received "the gift of the Holy Spirit" before he was baptized. (Acts 10:43-48)
Hatred of Enemies:	Hatred of Enemies:

<p>33. In Missouri, Mormons were taught to “pray for our enemies, that God would damn them, and give us power to kill them.” (B. F. Johnson, cited in <i>Changing World</i>, p. 485, also see <i>Journal of Discourses</i> 5:32, 95,107, 7:122)</p>	<p>33. Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you.” (Matt. 5:43-44) “Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. (Rom. 12:17)</p>
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An additional item of interest:

At one point Joseph Smith needed more money and considered taking the manuscript for the Book of Mormon to Canada to sell it to a publisher. He decided to consult the Lord about what to do. So he got his seer stone and put it inside a hat and then said the stone gave him a revelation from God that he should send the manuscript to Canada and sell it to get some money. He sent it by some brethren but they had no luck selling the book. No publisher would pay them for the manuscript.

When they returned to Joseph Smith they were really confused because Joseph Smith had told them that God sent them to sell the manuscript, and it did not happen. When they asked Joseph about it, he said he did not know why it happened, but he said he would inquire of God again. Here is the revelation he said he received from God:

“Some revelations are from God: some revelations are of man: and some revelations are of the devil.”

The revelation to go to Canada and sell the manuscript was not of God, but was of the devil or the heart of man. Joseph Smith had claimed it was of God just as he claimed many other revelations were of God, including the Book of Mormon. Joseph Smith is claimed to be a prophet by the Mormons and therefore never wrong. How then could he have been wrong this time? How do we know he was not deceived by Satan more than this time? Why would a “prophet of God” need to use a “seer stone” instead of speaking directly with God? There are far too many doubts concerning the divine inspiration of their doctrine to place faith in Mormon teaching.

VIII. ANIMISM (notes taken from DH pgs. 37-52)

A. Definition

The term “animism” comes from the Latin word “anima,” which means “soul” or “breath.” As such, it refers to that which empowers or gives life to something. Animism is the religion that sees the physical world as interpenetrated by spiritual forces—both personal and interpersonal—to the extent that objects carry spiritual significance and events have spiritual causes.

Thus, if there is an accident or sickness, there are spiritual reasons behind such things.

The animistic form of a religion is called “folk religion,” such as “folk Hinduism” or “folk Islam.”

B. Growing Movement toward Animism

Most of the world’s religions have a concept of God that makes him distant, abstract, or unknowable. Thus even those who believe in a supreme being seek to fill the void between this God and their everyday lives and needs.

Often this void is filled with a belief in and dependency on spirits. This provides people a way to cope with everyday needs and problems. Animism promises the power to take care of such situations.

It has been estimated that as much as 40% of the world’s population is involved in some form of Animism.

C. Common Animistic Beliefs and Practices

- 1. One God Beyond the Many Spirits.** Most animistic religions teach that there is one Supreme Being who exists beyond the intermediate ancestors, spirits, and gods. This Supreme Being is either too far removed from His creation or too abstract to be known. It might be that the Supreme Being uses the intermediate spirits to do His will and to serve as His representatives, but He still cannot be approached or known directly.
- 2. The Ultimate/Immediate Division.** The animist views the “formal” religions—Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, etc.—as being relevant with respect to the ultimate issues, such as who is God, what is humanity’s problem, and what happens after death. They see those religions as being irrelevant, however, when it comes to addressing the immediate issues of everyday life. This division between the ultimate and the immediate realms is why an animist can be a practicing Roman Catholic, but also consult a “shaman” (an animistic priest who communicates with the spirits) in order to be healed.
- 3. The Spiritual Realm.** According to animism, the spiritual realm with which we must deal consists of both **personal spirit-beings** and an **impersonal spiritual energy**.
 - **The Personal Spirit-Beings.** Animists believe there are two different kinds of spirit-beings: Those that had been embodied (such as deceased ancestors) and those that had not (such as spirits

and gods). The spirits are often seen as being mediators between us and God, able to intercede on our behalf. But to mediate on our behalf they must first be given homage. Spirit-beings possess specific powers and are localized geographically. Some spirits exert their powers over human endeavors (such as a business, marriage, or community relations, and war), while others exert their powers over aspects of nature (such as storms etc.).

- **An Impersonal Spiritual Force.** Besides the personal spirit-beings, animistic religions also teach that there is an impersonal spiritual energy that infuses special objects, words, and rituals. Such energy gives these objects the power that people need to accomplish their desires. Animists will often attribute magical powers to an object.

4. **The Concept of Sin.** Animists are not concerned so much about offending the supreme God; instead, their concern is of a more immediate nature in that they are afraid of offending the local spirits. An offended spirit, it is believed, will inevitably exact retribution in the form of injury, sickness, failure, or interpersonal strife. Animists live in constant fear of these powers.
5. **Contacting the Spirits.** Divination, which is “the practice of giving information...which is not available by natural means”, is the means by which a person discovers either how he or she has offended some spirit or which person has cast a curse on him or her. Divination is also the means by which one discovers how to resolve the problem. Methods of divination are numerous and varied; they include tarot cards, throwing of cowry shells, astrology, omens, dowsing, rituals, necromancy (contacting the dead), and interpreting dreams and visions.
6. **The Afterlife.** There is no universal and consistent doctrine throughout the many animistic religions as to what happens to a person after death. Many see the person’s spirit as continuing to exist after death either by being reincarnated into another life on earth or by “graduating” to a higher spiritual level. The belief is also common that the person who dies becomes an ancestral spirit. The family must then continue to give offerings to that ancestor because it has the power either to protect or to plague the family.

D. Suggestions for Evangelism

1. **Be Sensitive to the Animist’s Perspective.** In dealing with someone who comes from an animistic perspective, it is important to refrain from scoffing at their view of the world.

2. Be Aware of the Influence of Secularistic Thinking in Our Lives. We must be careful that we do not take lightly the influence of the spiritual world. Often we dismiss people who are dealing with demons and spirits as being strange or emotionally out of balance. This attitude is not Biblical.
3. Find Common Ground. There are several concept which Christianity shares with the Animists. Use them to build common ground. Both share the belief in the existence of the supernatural. Both believe that offending the supernatural carries consequences. Both hope there is a way to escape the consequences of their behavior. Often the animist believes in some form of a Supreme Being who is above spirits and spiritual powers.
4. Highlight the Differences. First, in Christianity God is not distant or silent and has made Himself known to us through Jesus Christ. Second, through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ, God has paid for—removed, covered, taken care of—the consequences that we have incurred as a result of our offenses against Him.
5. Model Trust in God Alone. The animist is coming from the perspective that God is distant and that He does not care about our everyday concerns or, if He does care, He can act only through the spirits. Placing one's faith in a locket, or other object which is to have some special power, is animism. Animists might interpret their clutching on something, such as a locket, as clutching on to that which God has provided for them. In reality, however, that object has become a replacement for God.

The way to get the animist to question his or her object of trust is first to discuss how dependence on animistic powers is an addiction that leads to bondage. The more power we experience, the more we crave that power. Such power eventually begins to “own” us.

We need to demonstrate through our lives that God is intensely interested in every aspect of our lives. We can rest, therefore, in His power to provide for our needs. Peter exhorts, “Cast all your anxiety (care) on him because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7).

We must point the animist to Scripture. Go to Matthew 10:29-30, for example, and point out that Jesus said that God is not only aware of each sparrow that falls to the ground but that He is even aware of the number of hairs on our heads. If God is concerned about such insignificant matters as sparrows and the hair on our heads, then how much more is He concerned about us, for we “are worth more than sparrows” (Matthew 10:31).

6. Be Ready for God to Work in Mighty Ways. God does not seem to be shy about showing His power to animists who are seeking after Him. So be ready to be amazed by the way God will work. Also be prepared or Him to quickly change from demonstrating His power to that of learning to trust Him and to be conformed into His image.
7. Turn Their Hearts Toward Desiring a Relationship With God. Animists need to understand that God can meet both their immediate and their ultimate needs. The most urgent issue, though, is their need to break their addiction to power—and to the “powers”—and to be in a relationship with God. Share the following scripture passage with them:

Mat 6:28-33 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: 6:29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 6:30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? 6:31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 6:32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

The above passage shows that God is active in nature, not the spirits. It shows that God cares about meeting peoples everyday needs. Finally, it shows the importance of seeking God’s kingdom and relationship with Him first. We need to seek the person not His hand.

8. Address Their Fears. They live in fear of the spirits so we must help them to understand that God is greater than the spirits and He will protect us (Col. 2:15; 1 John 4:4).
9. Be Clear About Who Christ Is and Who We Are in Him. Jesus Christ is the creator of all things (John 1:1; 1 Cor. 8:6; Col.1:16-17; Heb. 1:2, 10). As such, He is infinitely greater and more powerful than Satan and his demons, for they are created beings. The power of Jesus Christ over the demons is most clearly seen in the Gospel of Mark, for there are more cases of Jesus demonstrating His power over demons in Mark than any other Gospel. See Mark 1:24-27, 34,39; 3:11-12; 5:1-13; 7:25-30; 9:17-29). As a believer in Christ we are secure in Him knowing that “the evil one cannot harm us.” We also know that the believer has the presence of the Holy Spirit living in him which gives us power over the temptation of sin.

10. Point Out the Deceptive Nature of the Spirits. Satan's act of deceiving humanity with the lure of power began in the Garden of Eden when the serpent promised that Adam & Eve "would be like God" (Gen. 3:5). He is a liar and the father of lies.
11. As always be sure to pray for your animist friends and for yourself as you witness to them. Satan never gives up ground easily. But greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.

IX. Catholicism

In the following section we will present some of the major differences between Protestant theology and Catholicism. In each section the belief held by Catholicism will be presented and then the corresponding Protestant belief. Except for some additions by RevC this information is quoted selectively from a transcript of a recorded interview between John Ankerberg, Dr. Walter Martin, and Jesuit Professor Father Mitchell Pacwa.

A. The Catholic belief on Justification of the sinner:

1. Catholicism teaches that there is a preparation of the sinner **before** he can be justified; then there is the moment at baptism when Justification itself takes place, followed by a lifetime of becoming **more** justified. The preparation before Justification begins with God who gives prevenient grace. This prevenient grace, also called "sanctifying grace," is a power God infuses into the sinner. This power begins to transform and change the person internally, so that he comes to know he is a sinner, begins to consider God's mercy, develops hope, trust, and loves God. During this preparatory period, the sinner realizes he can accept or reject God's grace. If he freely assents to cooperate with God's grace, he will be further inclined to detest his sins and desire to be baptized and receive Justification.
2. When a man decides to cooperate with God's power within him, he can live a life sufficient enough to merit what Catholicism calls 'congruous merit'—merit that makes it 'fitting' for God to bestow Justification on him. Catholics are quick to point out that they have never taught that a sinner in his own strength can merit Justification. But Catholicism does teach that in cooperation with Christ's strength, the **sinner can live a life that is meritorious enough** that it makes it fitting, for God to grant Justification.
3. For the Catholic the good works of the justified man are not mere signs of his religious conversion; rather they are themselves the causes of an increase in the degree and reality of man's sanctification. To those who **work** well until the end, and trust in God, eternal life is to be offered. Both as a grace, and as

a reward promised by God Himself, to be **given to their good works and merits**.

4. Because man's cooperation with God's grace will always be imperfect and tainted with sinful acts that might destroy Justification, throughout his life man can only hope he will be finally justified and cannot enjoy the certainty he is going to be in heaven.

So in short, for the Catholic believer more than faith is needed for salvation. A person must have faith and works and can never know for sure he is saved. They further believe that serious sin will cause one to be cut off from Christ and lose their justification.

B. The Protestant belief on Justification

1. In Protestantism, Justification is an act of God's grace, a judicial declaration acquitting the sinner of guilt and delivering him from condemnation. It's a **free** forgiveness of sin and a sure title to eternal life. The transformed life is vital in Protestant theology, but it is not that which justifies a man. Rather, the transformed life comes as the immediate result of being justified, which Protestants call "sanctification."
2. Protestants believe a man cannot merit Justification in his own strength, or merit it by working in cooperation with God's prevenient grace. If he could, salvation wouldn't be totally the gift of God. Rather, Protestants teach that through faith, the sinner reaches out to Christ and the merits of Christ are imputed, or transferred, from Jesus' account (so to speak), to the account of the sinner. Protestants believe it is solely the merits of Christ's sacrificial death on cross, which are imputed or transferred to the believer, that cancel out the sinner's debt of sin. That's why for Protestants Justification is an act that can take place in a single moment—the moment the sinner, through faith, asks for the benefits of Christ to be applied to his life.
3. In short Protestants believe that Justification is by faith alone. It is not a matter of a man's works of righteousness or personal merits. In Catholicism the work of Christ is not enough to justify a man, man must cooperate with the work done by Christ through his own works of righteousness that together place God in a position where it is "fitting" that God would justify the man.
4. For the Protestant, faith is not just intellectual assent to certain facts about Christ's salvation; rather, faith is a knowledge of the facts plus a total trust or resting of one's eternal destiny in Jesus Christ, who is the sole reason and

grounds upon which God justifies us. Christ then is the sole reason for our justification. Faith opens the door to salvation but it is Christ alone who saves us. The following illustration may help:

Picture a burning building and a person trapped on the third floor. When that person is urged to jump, to have faith that the firemen below will catch him in their net, if he jumps, it will **not** be the person's faith which saves him; rather it will be the net and the firemen holding the net who catch him. In salvation, it is not the component of faith which saves us; rather, it is Christ who saves us. Our faith merely decides to allow Christ to rescue us and commits us into Christ's hands.

Consider this question: "How much do you think your 'faith' would save you if, after you jumped off the third floor, on the way down you discovered that firemen were only standing in a circle and weren't holding any net? At that point, it would be very clear that your faith can not do anything to save you. What you need is a real net with real firemen holding it. The same is true spiritually. Our exercise of faith does not help Christ to save us. Faith is nothing more than your decision, your exercise of your free will, asking Christ to save you. We are saved through faith; by Christ. Christ does the saving and the justifying, faith merely asks Him to do so.

C. The Catholic belief concerning the difference between "venial and mortal sins."

- 1. Venial sins** are not so serious that they involve the destruction of justifying grace. (Keep in mind that the Catholic believes you can lose your justification)
- 2. Mortal sins** are so serious that the grace of justification can be destroyed within man. If a man commits a mortal sin and destroys his justification, in order for him to regain it, Catholicism teaches he must come via the Sacrament of Penance, which involves confession, absolution, and satisfaction.
- 3.** Protestants believe that sin is sin and whether serious or not so serious any sin makes man guilty before God and worthy of condemnation. Justification cleanses man of sin. Justification means, "just as if I never sinned!"

Some Protestants would say that if you were ever justified you cannot lose

your standing with Christ. Others would say that is true in so much as you remain in faith believing that it is possible to lose your justification should you willfully choose to denounce your profession of faith in Christ. This would be a very rare occurrence but possible based on 2 Peter 2:20-21.

D. The Catholic belief concerning the office of “Pope”

1. The Catholic Church teaches that our Lord conferred on St. Peter the first place of honor and jurisdiction in the government of His whole Church and that the same spiritual supremacy has always resided in the popes or bishops of Rome, as being the successors of St. Peter. Consequently, to be true followers of Christ, all Christians, both among the clergy and laity, must be in communion with the Pope of Rome where Peter rules in the person of his successors.
2. This doctrine is supposedly based on Matthew 16 where it states, “Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give to thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth it shall be bound also in heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth, it shall be loosed also in heaven.”
3. The “New York Catechism” says, “The Pope takes the place of Jesus Christ on earth. By divine right, the Pope has supreme and full power in faith and morals over each and every pastor and his flock. He is the true Vicar of Christ, the Head of the entire Church, the father and teacher of all Christians. He is the infallible ruler, the founder of dogmas, the author of and the judge of councils, the universal ruler of truth, the arbiter of the world, the supreme judge of heaven and earth, the judge of all, being judged by no one, God Himself on earth.”

E. Protestant belief concerning the office of “Pope”

1. Christians reject the Roman Catholic interpretation. They point out that in the very passage appealed to before Jesus spoke to Peter, He has asked His disciples whom men were saying that He was. To this Peter replied, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” Jesus agreed with Peter’s statement and used it to teach that He Himself will be the Rock, the foundation upon which the Church will be built. For Jesus says, “Thou art Peter”—**petros**, a small stone—“and upon this **petra**”—great massive rock, referring to Peter’s truthful declaration of Christ’s deity—it is upon this truth that Jesus says He will build His Church.

2. Other arguments against the Roman Catholic interpretation include that there are no Scripture verses that teach how the office of Pope is to be transmitted by Peter to his successors. Why is it that the Apostle Paul never mentions the office of Pope in any of his epistles when he teaches about the offices in the Church? When Jesus gave Peter the keys to the Kingdom, doesn't Scripture show that Jesus gave the same keys to other apostles? Does Scripture teach that the keys are a declaratory authority to announce the terms of which God will grant salvation, or, as Roman Catholics teach, an absolute power to admit or exclude someone from heaven? When Peter appears at the council of Jerusalem, in the book of Acts, why is it that the Apostle James leads the Church and not Peter?

3. The actual history of the Popes of the Roman Catholic Church has many examples where supposedly infallible men who were Vicar of Christ on earth made repeated mistakes and often overruled and contradicted one another. Such records can be found in the Vatican library by reading Platina, the historian of the papacy and the annals of Baronius.

F. The Catholic teaching on Mary.

1. Roman Catholicism gives at least seven titles to Mary:
 - a. That Mary is the **mother of God**.
 - b. They claim that Mary is full of grace, and therefore, free of original sin and kept from all actual sin. That she was herself **immaculately conceived**.
 - c. They believe Mary is **perpetually a virgin**, meaning that she was a virgin not only before, but during and after the birth of Jesus.
 - d. They claim Mary was **bodily assumed into heaven** where she now reigns with Christ.
 - e. Though not yet officially sanctioned, Catholicism has given Mary the title of "**Mediatrice of all graces**," meaning that it was because of her powerful prayers that the Spirit of Christ was given to the Church, and that it is through her intercession that the graces of Christ are made available to all members of the mystical body.
 - f. She is proclaimed **Queen of Heaven**
 - g. Another title not yet officially sanctioned, but still given to Mary, is that she is **co-Redemptrix with Jesus**. The Pope taught this is saying, "Mary offered Jesus to the Father for all the children of man who are defiled by Adam's unfortunate fall," and "By bearing her immeasurable sorrows, she has 'supplied what was lacking in the suffering of Christ' for His body, the Church."

2. Dr. Walter Martin points out how the seven titles are seven steps to recognition as part of the Godhead.
 - a. She is assumed into heaven bodily which parallels the resurrection of Christ
 - b. Her Immaculate Conception parallels the virgin birth of Christ
 - c. The perpetual virginity—free of actual sin—parallels the sinlessness of Christ during his earthly life
 - d. The Queen of Heaven parallels Christ as King of the Universe
 - e. Mediatrix of all Graces parallels Christ as Mediator
 - f. Co-Redemptrix of the Universe participates with Christ in the redemption of mankind.
 - g. Dr. Martin also pointed out that to call Mary the Mother of God is misleading. Granted Mary is the mother of God the Son, but that is all. To call her the Mother of God can lead to the interpretation that because God is Trinity, Mary is the Mother of the Trinity. Though this is not yet a teaching of the Catholic Church, Dr. Martin points this out as another possible interpretation if taken the wrong way and thus the title is misleading. Mary is the mother of Jesus who is God the Son.

G. The Protestant belief concerning Mary.

1. Protestants maintain that all Christians believe God is eternal and without beginning, therefore, He has no mother.
2. Protestants believe it is not biblical to teach that Mary was conceived without original sin and committed no actual sin during her life. Only a sinner needs a Savior, and Mary must have been a sinner since she stated, “My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” (Luke 1:47)
3. To say Mary is “Full of Grace,” does not mean as Catholicism implies, that Mary is sinless. Scripture also says, Stephen, Elizabeth, Barnabas, and others were “Full of Grace.” Yet no one claims they were sinless.
4. Protestants do not believe that Mary was a perpetual virgin. The Bible, according to Matthew 12 and Mark 6, plainly shows Mary had other children.
5. Protestants insist that Scripture nowhere teaches that Mary was assumed bodily into heaven.
6. Protestants insist that Mary cannot be co-Mediatrix or co-Redemptrix with Jesus, since the Bible states that there is only one mediator between God and

Man, the man Christ Jesus, and only Jesus can forgive a man's sin.

H. The Catholic doctrine concerning Confession.

1. At the Council of Trent the Catholic Church stated, "The Universal Church has always understood that the complete confession of sins was also instituted by our Lord, and by divine law is **necessary** for all who have fallen after baptism. Because our Lord Jesus Christ left behind Him priests as His own vicars, as rulers and judges to whom all the mortal sins into which the faithful of Christ may have fallen should be brought, so that they, in virtue of the power of the keys, may pronounce the sentence of remission or retention of sins."
2. After a Roman Catholic has been baptized and come into the Roman Catholic Church, if he commits a mortal sin, he must come back and regain his salvation—his justifying grace that was obliterated when he committed mortal sin—by the Sacrament of Penance. Penance as defined by the Council of Trent, includes three things:
 - a. One is **contrition**—you must be sorry for your sins
 - b. You must **confess** you sins to a priest. That is your mortal sins not your venial sins.
 - c. You must **do works of satisfaction**.

Not until after the works of satisfaction are completed does the forgiveness that the priest announces take effect. You must do your works first to be forgiven.

I. The Protestant belief concerning Confession.

Protestants do not believe that it is necessary for a person to confess his sins to a priest **before** God will forgive him. Protestants believe that all believers have been given the right access to God through Christ and are able to go directly to God in prayer. They hold to 1Timothy 2:5 which instructs everyone to confess their sins to Christ alone, the only Mediator between God and man.

J. The Catholic belief concerning Purgatory.

The Catholic Church says purgatory is a place where Christians go at death, who are guilty of venial sins. Such Christians suffer in purgatory until fully purified. Not only are Christians purged of venial sins, but they must also pay any temporal punishment still due because of other sin. Catholicism states that a person does not

remain and suffer in purgatory forever, as one does who is in hell. Rather, after a person's soul is cleansed of imperfections, he then goes to heaven.

K. The Protestant belief concerning Purgatory.

1. Protestants maintain that Scripture says there is only a heaven and a hell, but no purgatory. Protestants believe it is an affront to the grace of God to teach that He only forgives part of the penalty for sin, and yet there still remains some penalty that the sinner needs to pay. If the sinner must pay for even the temporal punishment of his sins, then Jesus really didn't pay it all at the cross. Protestants point to such passages as, "The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin." (1John 1:7; see also Heb. 10:14; 1John 2:1-2)
2. Catholics also admit that there is no scripture text which mentions purgatory.

L. The Catholic doctrine on Indulgences.

1. The Catholic Church at the Council of Trent instructed Christians to profess: "I steadfastly hold that purgatory exists, and that the souls there detained are aided by the prayers of the faithful. I also affirm that the power of indulgences has been left in the Church by Christ, and that the use of them is especially salutary for Christian people."
2. Father Pacwa stated, "it is not my prayers and works and righteousness by my own power that does any good for any soul in purgatory. It is only because of my belonging to Christ that anything I do can have a good effect for anybody else, and that it can be transferred to them, because they are members of the body of Christ. I can do penance for them."
3. Another Catholic theologian stated, "The faithful on earth can, by good works performed in the state of grace, render atonement for one another." In other words, Catholics teach that it is possible of someone on earth by their own works of righteousness to atone for the sins of someone in purgatory.

Dr. Walter Martin points out, "what your dealing with here is the imputation of the prayers of the saints and of the Virgin Mary, and of the sacrifice of the Mass to the benefit of the souls suffering in purgatory."

M. Protestant belief concerning Indulgences.

1. Protestants deny that any person today can atone in any way for the sins of another. Protestants hold that Christ alone can forgive the eternal and temporal punishment which every man deserves. They believe that a

Christian can help another, can suffer helping others, and even pray that God will help others. But Protestants strongly deny that one Christian can merit any part of redemption for another—especially the remittance of another person’s temporal punishment in purgatory. Protestants believe each man must make his own spiritual decisions during this life. His eternal destiny rests on whether or not he believed on Christ. The Bible says, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.” Once a man dies his eternal fate is sealed.

2. Dr. Martin stated, “It’s a little difficult for Protestants to swallow what turned out to be the biggest money-making proposition in the history of the Roman Catholic doctrine—namely, to actually pay money for the masses and to sell indulgences.

N. The Catholic belief concerning Penance.

1. The Catholic Church says that after baptism, if a man or woman commits mortal sin, they loose their salvation, and in order to regain it a person must come via the Sacrament of Penance.
2. As stated in point H, 2 above, Penance involves three parts:
 - a. Contrition
 - b. Confession
 - c. Works of satisfaction

Roman Catholics believe that more than faith is needed in order for a person to obtain forgiveness. They insist there must be both faith and works.

O. The Protestant belief concerning Penance.

1. Protestants believe man cannot merit Justification or forgiveness by working in cooperation with God’s power. If he could, salvation and forgiveness wouldn’t be totally the gift of God. Protestants believe that Catholicism’s Sacrament of Penance **infers** that the sacrifice of Christ **was not sufficient** to atone fully for man’s sin, and that Christ’s sacrifice must be supplemented by man’s good works.
2. Protestants believe that it is solely the merits of Christ’s sacrificial death on the cross, which are imputed or transferred to the believer, that cancel out the sinner’s debt. That’s why for Protestants, Justification and forgiveness take place in a single moment—the moment the sinner through faith asks Christ

for forgiveness of his sin.

3. Dr. Martin points out that biblical theology does not mention the word “penance” at all.

X. Baha’i

The Baha’i teach the belief that everyone should search independently for the truth. In this way they are similar to the Unitarians and other New Age religions. Since the ultimate authority in what a person believes rests with the individual, you will find that different Baha’is believe different things at times. Therefore an individual may say they do not believe some of the things quoted in this paper. This may be the case, but the information in this paper is what is accepted by the Baha’i Faith and stated in their divine Manifestations and the interpretations of them by their spiritual leaders such as ‘Abdu’l-Baha, Shoghi Effendi, or their Universal House of Justice.

The following material was prepared by Rev. Lew Davis, CTC director in Peru.

What the Baha’i believe and teach	What the Bible says & teaches
About God:	About God:
1. Baha’is say that God is unknowable. His unspecified and can only be described in very general terms. You can only know God through historical records of His manifestations, never personally.	1. God is knowable and He wants us to have a personal relationship with Him. Christians talk to God daily through Christ and there is on-going direct personal knowledge and intimacy. (John 17:3)
2. The only way to really know anything about God is through His manifestations and those are conflicting. They teach that He was manifested as Jesus, Mohammed, Buddha, Baha’u’llah, and many others.	2. Jesus said He is the only way - not any of these other false prophets. (John 14:6) Without the benefit of one of the “manifestation” of God, Enoch knew God and walked so closely with God that God just took him. (Gen. 5:24)
3. God can not incarnate Himself. “The descent of God into the material world is absolutely	3. Jesus was God incarnate. (The Bible says it six time in John 6:33-58 alone also in Phil. 2:1-9)

impossible.”	
4. They describe God as “the Most Exalted, the Inaccessible, “ Supreme Singleness”.	4. God is exalted and above us but He has always reached out to mankind to draw him close because He wants a personal relationship with us. In numerous Scriptures, God refers to Himself with the plural pronoun. The work “Elohim” is plural. (Gen. 1:26)
5. Their conversation with God consists of praying and talking to God and praising Him but it is not a two-way conversation because they think God would never talk back with them.	5. God has spoken many times to individuals. He spoke to all the prophets. (Heb. 1:1)
6. They teach that God does not work within the believer personally to sanctify him like the Triune God of the Scriptures does.	6. Our God is an intensely personal God and He works within the life of a believer through the person of the Holy Spirit to sanctify that person and change him into the image of Christ. (I Cor. 6:19, Phil.2:13)
7. The Baha’i believes that there is a immense gulf between the believer and his God.	7. Though there is a gulf between God and man, Jesus bridged that gap and now, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and through the Bible (which is the Word of God) people can study and learn of God and His will and grow in personal relationship to Him. II Pet. 3:18)
8. The only way one can have a personal experience with his God is through mysticism.	8. Mysticism is not the way Jesus Christ bridges the gap between people and God. Because on the Cross, He paid the penalty of divine justice against sin (Rom. 3:23-26, II Cor 5:17-21) He reconciled people to Himself so that through faith people can be on intimate terms with God.
About the Trinity:	About the Trinity:
9. They teach that there is no Trinity because God is “singleness”.	9. God is one God but that does not exclude the truth of the Trinity. It is

	evident throughout the Scriptures. You can see the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in many Scriptures. (John 15:26, Acts:5:31-32, Matt. 3:13-17)
About Jesus:	About Jesus:
10. Many Baha'i claim to be followers of Jesus but they claim that Jesus was just one of many manifestations of God. They leave out His claim of being the only way to God.	10. Jesus is the third Person of the Godhead. He is eternally authoritative. He is the only way to God (Matt. 24:35, John 14:6).
11. Jesus Christ returned in 1817 as Baha'u'llah (Mirza Husayn) who was born as a regular human.	11. Jesus has yet to return. When He does return it will be directly from Heaven not by human birth. (II Thes. 1:7-10)
12. Most Baha'i teach that Baha'u'llah was the Messiah written about in Isaiah and the rest of the Old Testament.	12. Jesus is the Messiah written about by the Prophets. No one else fills the requirements, not even Baha'u'llah. He was not Jewish. ("Of the stem of Jesse" Isa. 11:1-2) He did not set up an immediate worldwide kingdom. (Zech. 14) He did not die for our sins - nor did he claim to as did Jesus. (Isa. 53:6)
13. They teach that God was in Jesus but that Jesus was not God. "True Christians worship the God in Jesus not God in the person of Jesus." (<i>World Order</i> , Fall, 1978, p. 16)	13. Jesus is God in person. "Thomas said to Him [Jesus] 'My Lord and my God!'" (John 20:28)
14. Baha'i teaches that it is in vain and idolatrous to worship Jesus. (<i>World Order</i> , Fall, 1978, p.16)	14. Jesus accepted worship of His person throughout the Gospels. "Then those who were in the boat worshipped Him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'" (Matt.14:33)
15. Their writings say that Jesus never once said that, "I am God's only Son." (<i>World Order</i> , Fall, 1978, p. 14)	15. [Jesus is speaking of Himself] "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son...whoso does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only

	Son” (John 3:16,18)
16. God could never be a man as Jesus was. (<i>World Order</i> , Fall, 1978, p. 12)	16. “He who has seen Me has seen the Father” (John 14:9, cf., Phil. 2:6-8)
17. They also teach that “Jesus was <u>not</u> the only-begotten Son of God come down from Heaven, crucified and resurrected, nor the unique Savior.” (<i>World Order</i> , Summer, 1978, p. 39)	17. Jesus is the Savior. He is the only Savior and He is the only begotten Son of God. (John 6:38-40, Acts 4:12, I Cor. 3:11, I Cor. 15:3-4)
18. Their writings say that Jesus was not God the Creator” (<i>World Order</i> , Summer, 1978, p. 39)	18. “Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made” (John 1:3, cf., Isa.44:24, Col. 1:16, Heb. 1:1-3, 10)
God’s Word:	God’s Word:
19. Written revelation is incomplete and continuing. Religious truth is ultimately relative and must be interpreted to the age in which you live.	19. Written revelation is complete and has ended. Religious truth is absolute and truth does not change due to the age in which you live.
20. They interpret and misinterpret God’s Word in a biased way. They interpret by assuming things that are not true and they interpret assuming the Bible is non-literal throughout. (for example, cf. Beckwith, Baha’i, 1985, pp. 23-25 and chapter 4)	20. Christian interpretation of God’s Word is to be done with universally accepted rules of interpretation called the science of hermeneutics. The Bible is many times literal in what it writes.
Salvation:	Salvation:
21. They teach that Jesus was just one of many manifestations of God and He never intended to die for sin and He never did and He never could.	21. Jesus was the Divine Savior who came to atone for our sins by dying on the Cross. (I John 2:2)
22. To the Baha’i forgiveness of sin and salvation rest upon personal merit and lawkeeping. “For ‘the essence of faith is fewness of words and abundance of deeds.’ From the Law man discovers what he owes God. And only in striving to fulfill	22. The Bible teaches that it is humanly impossible for us to keep God’s Law. It also teaches that we are justified by faith alone. “I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life.” (John 6:47, Rom.3:28, Gal. 2:16, Gal 3:10, Titus

the Law does he come into the right relationship with God.” (Schaefer, pp. 93-100)	5:5)
23. The Baha’i deny the mediatorial atonement of Christ.	23. [Speaking of Christ] “He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.” (I John 2:2)
24. They teach that the Biblical concept of rebirth or regeneration is simply to “conform” to the Baha’i doctrine and belief in the Manifestations. (<i>The Katib-I-Iqan</i> , p. 118)	24. Not only does the Bible teach about new birth, but it teaches that it is essential to be saved. Jesus Himself said, “You must be born again.” (John 3:3, II Cor 5:17)
25. To them, salvation is by works and belief in the Manifestations (nine or more). No repentance from sin or new birth is required.	25. Salvation is by grace through faith in Christ alone; repentance from sin and new birth are vital (Eph. 2:8, John 3:3)
Man, Sin, and the Fall of man:	Man, Sin, and the Fall of man:
26. In Baha’i, all men are “sons of the Supreme Being”	26. Not all men are sons of God. You are simply a creature of God until you are born again, then you are grafted in as a son of God.
27. All men are capable of perfecting themselves according to the Baha’i and man’s imperfections can eventually “be transformed into human perfections.” (Schaefer, p. 95)	27. Mankind has a natural inclination to be evil and do wrong. As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.” (Rom. 3:10-12, I Kings 8:46, Mark 7:15, 21-23, Jer. 17:9)
28. The Baha’i do not believe in original sin. They say that the Biblical account of the Fall is just an allegory and that the idea of original sin is just a corruption by the Apostle Paul. Their writings teach “all souls are created according to the nature of God and all are in the state of purity at the time of their births.” (<i>Baha’i</i>	28. Adam’s sin condemned all mankind. “One trespass was condemnation for all men.” (Rom 5:18)

<i>World Faith</i> , p. 388)	
29. The Baha'i teaching declares that man has a pure and perfect spiritual nature, but that the physical nature "is the source of all imperfection".	29. The Bible teaches that man's physical being is fallen but it is not the source of "all imperfection". The source of all imperfection is man's inner being, just as Christ taught. (Mark 7:20-23) Man's whole nature is corrupted - his mind, will, emotions, spirit, etc.
30. The Baha'i do not believe in Heaven and Hell like the Christian does. He simply thinks Hell is remoteness from God and Heaven is nearness to Him. They seem to think that Hell is a very slow progression toward God and Heaven involves a rapid progression toward God. "Heaven and Hell: These are not places. Heaven is knowing about God and doing what He wants. Hell is not knowing about God or not doing what He wants. A person who is happy and obeying God is in Heaven. A person is in Hell when he dislikes others or himself, or is always unhappy." (Simple, p.21)	30. Heaven is a real place and so is Hell. They both literally exist. Although you will be close to God in Heaven and remote from God in Hell, that is not all there is to Hell. It is a place of eternal torment and it will be a permanent abode for those who die without accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior. (Rev. 21:8) Hell is permanent and everlasting destruction. (Matt. 25:41) Those in Hell will pay the penalty for their sins. (II Thes. 1:9)
31. Baha'i offer a second chance for salvation after death. Prayer for the dead is offered and recommended. A dead person can pray for himself and advance spiritually according to their doctrine. (Pain, p. 126-128)	31. When those who are "dead in trespasses and sins" die physically and are unrepentant, they enter into the state of eternal death. (James 5:20) Eternal death is an everlasting punishment from which you cannot be rescued. (I Thes. 1:7-9)
Other Beliefs:	Other Beliefs:
32. They teach that "the process of creation had no beginning and it can have no end." (<i>Gleanings From the Writings of Baha'u'llah</i> , p. 61)	32. "Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, in all their vast array." (Gen. 2:1, cf. 2:2-3, 1:1)
33. "The universe has no beginning." (Abdu'l-Baha, <i>Christ's Promise Fulfilled</i> , p. 67)	33. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Gen. 1:1)
34. The greatest name is	34. The name of Jesus is above all

<p>Baha'u'llah. (Abdu'l-Baha, <i>Christ's Promise Fulfilled</i>, p. 54)</p>	<p>names, "Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father," (Phil. 2:9-11)</p>
<p>35. The Baha'i say that Jesus did not preach that we should have faith in Him. (Sabet, p. 114)</p>	<p>35. "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote of Me...this is the work of God, that you believe in Him who He sent." (John 5:46, John 6:29)</p>
<p>36. They sometimes teach that the Holy Spirit is the mediator between God and man. (Pain, p. 43)</p>	<p>36. "For there is one God, and one Mediator also between God and man, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony born at the proper time." (I Tim. 2:5-6)</p>
<p>37. Their doctrine says that "all of you were created from water and you will return to the earth." (Miller, <i>Aqdas</i>, p. 63)</p>	<p>37. "The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." (Gen. 2:7)</p>
<p>38. The Bab (Syid Ali Muhammed) taught that believers must read only the Bayan and books written by eminent Babi scholars referring to the Bayan. All other books were to be burned, including the Bible. Believers were to own no more than 19 books.</p>	<p>38. Jesus instructed us to read the Bible. "Search the Scriptures: for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me." (John 5:39)</p>

XI. The Unification Church (The "Moonies")

Sun Myung Moon (originally Yong Myung Moon), founded the Unification Church which is also known as The Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity, and the Unification Movement. The Unification Church (UC) is a multibillion dollar worldwide enterprise with 700 to 900 front organizations making money for them. The ultimate purpose is to help Moon achieve his long-term goal of ruling the world as the Lord of the Second Advent. The UC is attempting to influence Christianity, as are the Mormons, by changing their own theology and trying to stress that they are just like all Christians and that there are alleged “areas of agreement”. But their “areas of agreement,” just as with the Mormons, lies only in their use of similar terminology though that terminology has totally different meaning than in mainline denominations and Christianity. Moon’s “acceptance” of the Bible is not a true acceptance because he teaches a “new revelation” and “new truth which is contained only in the *Divine Principle* and in the *Completed Testament*. Moon promised his followers that he would convert the world by first winning America but his efforts have been a miserable failure in America. That is what has prompted him to call Americans “stupid, lazy, evil, and dirty dung-eating dogs”. Since Moon is over 80 years of age and since his organization is in a state of disarray, it is evident that he will not accomplish his “mission”. He will probably be succeeded by one of his organizations called the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification. Moon’s children and organizations have both been involved in a series of scandals and many long-term members have recently left the Unification Movement in the United States and other areas of the world. Moon is still able to buy influence in many areas of the world due to his vast supplies of funds.

II Col. 11:13-15 “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder: for satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.”

This material was prepared by Rev. Lew Davis, CTC director in Peru. We are grateful for his contribution.

The comparison of their teachings with that of the Bible

What the “Moonies” teach	What the Bible teaches
About the Bible:	About the Bible:
1. “We are responsible to convey our message to the Christians first. Until our mission with the Christian church is over, we must quote the Bible and use it to explain the Divine Principle. After we receive the inheritance of the Christian church, we will be free to teach without the	1. The Bible is the only book from which a Christian should derive and teach doctrine. The Bible is the only Word of God and no other book is. (II Tim. 3:16-17; Mark 7:13; Rom. 10:17; II Cor. 2:17; I Thes. 2:13; Heb. 4:12)

Bible.” (<i>Our Response</i> , pp.75-76)	
2. The teachings of Sun Myung Moon are the ultimate source of authority for Unification Church members. Despite UC claims to the contrary, the Bible is not held in high regard. They consider it merely a fallible and primitive human witness. (<i>Unification Theology and Christian Thought</i> , pp. 97, 113-119; <i>Divine Principle</i> , pp. 9-10, 16, 131, 236; <i>The Way of the World</i> , Dec. 1975, pp. 9-10)	2. The Bible is the only book which is the inspired Word of God. The Bible is the only book in which we can find the words of eternal life. (John 5:39) No man is to add to the Holy Scriptures and claim they have authority over Scripture. (Rev. 22:18-19; Deut. 4:2) The Bible is not merely a human witness but is orchestrated by God. (Psa. 19:7; II Sam. 23:2; Isa. 1:2; Jer. 1:7,9; Eze. 2:7; Luke 1:70; Mark 12:36; Rom. 7:12; I Pet. 1:10-12)
3. The Unification movement teaches that the Bible is only symbolic. “The <i>Divine Principle</i> clearly shows how the Bible is symbolic...The story from creation to Abraham...is not literal...Unless you know the true meaning behind it, the Bible can reveal very little.” (<i>Master Speaks</i> , 7(2), p. 1)	3. Thousands of archeological evidences prove the reality of Scripture. It is not just symbolic. (II Tim. 3:16) Jesus literally healed blind men and literally cast out demons. Those passages of Scripture which are symbolic are clearly shown to be symbolic and should not lead one to assume that the whole of Scripture is to be taken symbolically. Taken to the extreme, that would lead one to assume the concept of Jesus Himself is just symbolic.
4. For UC members, the Bible is replaced by the <i>Divine Principle</i> , which they call the “real word of God.” They say it is only the beginning of new revelation. It is one-third of a larger writing which makes up “The Completed Testament.” (<i>Master Speaks</i> , 4, p. 11)	4. There are no new revelations of God outside of the Bible. The Bible is God’s complete word. The Bible, along with the person of Jesus Christ, is God’s chosen tool to reveal Himself to mankind. If there were more written revelation to come after the Bible, why would God warn so strongly not to add to His Word? (Rev. 22:18-19; Pro. 30:6; Deut. 4:2; Deut. 12:32)
About the Church:	About the Church:
5. “We know those who hate the Unification Church most are the	5. If anyone is a Christian, they do not have satan in them. I John 5:18

<p>Christian people. They hate us because satan is in them. The satanic power is mobilizing Christian churches to come against us.” NBC documentary, May 17-18, 1975 (citing <i>Master Speaks</i>, April 14, 1974, quoted in Sontag, p. 173)</p>	<p>says that if a man has been born of God “that wicked one (satan) toucheth him not.” (II Cor. 6:15-16; I Cor. 6:19; Col. 2:15; Luke 11:21-22; Acts 26:18; Col.1:13; Luke 10:19)</p>
<p>6. They call themselves “true Christians”, but what “true Christian” is to them is someone who takes part actively in the Unification Church (or God’s new dispensation). Moon himself stated that there are major differences in Christianity and the UC. He said, “the points of difference are complete, not just vague.” He also stated that “God is now throwing Christianity away and is now establishing a new religion, and this new religion is the Unification Church.” (<i>Time</i>, Sept. 30, 1974, p. 68)</p>	<p>6. Their claim as Christians is part of their plan to gain converts from Christianity. A true Christian is someone who accepts Jesus as his Lord and Savior, not someone who takes part in any organization.</p>
<p>7. Moon says that if Christians do not accept the revelations in the <i>Divine Principle</i> as well as the Lord of the Second Advent (Moon), they will be damned. (<i>Divine Principle</i>, pp. 533-535)</p>	<p>7. If Christians, or any other people, do not accept Jesus Christ, they will be damned for He is the only way to salvation. He is the only begotten Son of the God. (John 3:16,18; I John 4:9)</p>
<p>8. Moon once stated, “Already the Unification Church has exceeded Christianity. From now on Christianity must obey the Unification Church.” (<i>Master Speaks</i>, Dec. 25,1974)</p>	<p>8. The Christian Church is under the headship of Christ - not the Unification Church - and should be obedient to Christ alone. (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22; Eph. 4:15; Eph. 5:23; I Col. 11:3)</p>
<p>9. “In Unification theology, the cross actually becomes synonymous with satan. The cross is a symbol of satan...A Christian is someone that you don’t like...They (Christians) are the enemy.” (<i>Enroth</i>, pp. 119-120)</p>	<p>9. Jesus Christ was not defeated. The Cross does not symbolize His defeat, but His triumph over satan, sin, and the grave. Galatians 6:14 tells us that we should “glory in the Cross.” I can’t imagine God telling us to glory in a symbol of satan. It is no wonder that those who are not</p>

	saved misunderstand the Cross because we are told in Scripture that they think the Cross foolish. Their minds are blinded. I Cor. 1:18) If someone considers a Christian his enemy, it is because that person is on satan's side.
About God:	About God:
10. The God of the UC is and odd, seemingly finite creature who seems to have trouble controlling his emotions and accomplishing his objectives.	10. God is Infinite and Almighty. He accomplishes all of His objectives. Everything He purposes, comes about. (Jer. 4:28; Jer.49:20; Jer. 50:45; Jer. 51:29; Eph. 1:9; Lam. 2:8; Isa. 14:24; Isa. 14:27; Isa. 46:11)
11. They teach that God is dependent on man for His well-being. "Even almighty God cannot experience the value of love, life and His ideal when He is alone." (Moon, <i>Christianity in Crisis</i> , p.4)	11. Only someone who is less than perfect is dependent on anyone or anything. God is not dependent on us for His well-being. God is perfect in all His ways. (Matt. 5:48) Goes does not need us but He chooses to commend His love toward us, even while we were still sinners. (Rom. 5:8)
12. Their doctrine teaches, "In a way God fears man...because of man's ability to betray." (Moon, <i>Christianity in Crisis</i> , p.4)	12. God is dependent on no one and He fears no one. We are compared to a speck of dust in comparison to God. Does that sound like someone God should fear? (Isa. 40:15)
13. Their doctrine also teaches that "God lost everything. God lost his love, happiness, peace and even the whole creation" at the Fall and at the crucifixion. If man does not "restore" God, He will remain "lost". They say God is "a being to be pitied" and that you should "not expect God to comfort you. You must comfort Him! Our Father is most miserable." (<i>New Hope</i> , p.45, 73, 39; <i>Master Speaks</i> , 3, p.14)	13. God is not to be pitied. He pities us and has mercy on us. God does not need restoration. He restores us. (Psa. 23:3, Mark 9:12) We do not comfort God. He comforts us. Jesus sent the Comforter for that very purpose. (John 14:16; John 14:26; John 15:26)
14. "By us and through us it will be	14. God could not give liberty, if

<p>possible to ...liberate even God.” (<i>Master Speaks</i>, 430, p.11)</p>	<p>God Himself did not have liberty. In Him there is liberty. “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” (II Cor. 3:17; Luke 4:18)</p>
<p>15. Moon teaches that God Himself is largely responsible for the Fall of man, and, therefore that God Himself fell. “God is taking the major responsibility for the fall of man...God is not denying it, but is taking first responsibility.” (<i>Master Speaks</i>, 4(2), p.8)</p>	<p>15. God is righteous and just. He is completely above any unjust or deceitful treatment; all His ways are “upright”. As such, God could not be responsible for the Fall of man or the fall of satan. (Deut. 32:4) God is faithful in dealing with His people. (Neh. 9:8; Psa.11:7; Psa. 119:64; Psa. 145:17; John 17:25)</p>
<p>16. In the Unification theology God is not a triune being. The Trinity to them is composed of man, woman, and God in proper orientation. (<i>Divine Principle</i>, p.76)</p>	<p>16. Those who reject the Trinity, deny the very nature of God. It shows they have no real understanding of the character of God. Though the word “Trinity” is not found in the Bible, the concept is taught throughout the Scriptures. (Matt. 28:19) There is one God (Deut. 6:4), yet there are three persons (II Cor. 13:14) who are called God - the Father (I Pet. 1:2), the Son (John 20:28), and the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3-4)</p>
<p>17. They teach that God can be controlled by people. “What he (God) needs is love...By true love we can enjoy the privilege of controlling Him. If we can do that, we can control our own fate, because we can control God who controls our fate.” (Moon, <i>New Hope</i>, p.29)</p>	<p>17. We can not manipulate or control God. “And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, What doest thou?” (Dan. 4:35)</p>
<p>18. UC members are taught that Moon and his wife are the “True Parents” and that “All the spirit world acknowledged that Moon was the Lord of Creation, the Messiah. Thereupon, every spiritual creature, even God Himself had bowed down</p>	<p>18. God is the Lord of Creation, He is the Absolute Source of all life and being. (Col. 1:17) God is our Father. If you are born again, you are a true son of God and not Moon and one of his wives. (Gal. 4:4-5; Eph. 1:5; Rom. 8:14,15,16)</p>

<p>and worshipped him (Moon).” <i>(Contemporary Christianity, Vol. 5, no.3, January-February, 1976, p.5): Master Speaks, Dec. 23, 1971, p.3)</i></p>	
<p>About Jesus:</p>	<p>About Jesus:</p>
<p>19. UC members will say that they believe in Jesus, that they love Jesus, that they pray to Jesus, that they work for Jesus, and that they would even die for Jesus. Unfortunately they do not refer to the same Jesus that the Bible teaches and that Christians know. They are referring to Moon himself because they believe he is the “Lord of the Second Advent” (the symbolic return of Jesus).</p>	<p>19. Just because a person says he believes in Jesus, it is not necessarily true. You must make sure the Jesus they believe in is the Jesus Christ of the Bible and that they believe what the Bible teaches about Him. The return of Jesus Christ shall not be symbolic but He will literally return as Himself and not as someone else symbolically. When Jesus returns, all the earth will know it is Him. “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name in heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)</p>
<p>20. For all practical purposes they teach that Jesus Christ is of little relevance for today because he has been replaced by Moon. <i>The 120 Day Training Manual</i> emphasizes that Moon has completely superseded Jesus, since Jesus failed his mission. (Sontag, p. 192)</p>	<p>20. Jesus did not fail His mission. He Himself said, “It is finished (completed).” No one can replace or supersede Jesus Christ. (Phil. 5:21)</p>
<p>21. Their doctrine teaches that Jesus was not God. According to Moon, Jesus was only a created man and could only attain what any man could attain and no more. They do not consider Jesus as God incarnate. “He can by no means be God Himself.” “Jesus is no different from other men.” “Jesus ranks among us as our elder brother.” “He was a chosen man, but he was a man.” <i>(Divine Principle, p.210-211, Kim, Divine Principles and Its Application, (1968), p.75, Kim, The</i></p>	<p>21. Jesus Christ is not merely a good man, nor is He an angel, a preexistent spirit, or God’s highest creation. He is not just a spiritual prophet, our elder brother, or a manifestation of God. He is the Incarnate, Second Person of the Trinity, the Promised Messiah. He is Emmanuel, God with us. Because Jesus is God, He has all authority. (Matt. 28:18; Col. 1:15-18; Eph. 1:21; John 1:1; Col. 2:9)</p>

<p><i>Divine Principles</i>, p.65, <i>Master Speaks</i>, 7, p.4; 1, p.2)</p>	
<p>22. Although they do not talk about it in public, their theology teaches that Jesus was a failure. They say, “it seems like he accomplished very little...how much he really did accomplish?...nothing. Nothing was accomplished, nobody, no disciples at all, nothing, just death. Christianity started after his death anyway.” (<i>Master Speaks</i>, 382, p.3)</p>	<p>22. Jesus was not a failure. He completed what He came to earth for. “I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work You gave me to do.” (Matt. 4:1-11; Matt. 17:5; John 3:35; John 4:34; John 17:4)</p>
<p>23. They teach that “God was not happy at all to see the resurrected Jesus.” and that “in Jesus' case...His death not only ended his own life, but ended his influence on the whole world.” (<i>Master Speaks</i>, 3, p.15)</p>	<p>23. God was pleased with the Resurrected Jesus Christ. So pleased that He seated Him at His right hand. (Phil. 2:9-11) Jesus’ death on the Cross did not end His life, but started His resurrected life. Jesus, according to historians, is the most influential life to ever live.</p>
<p>24. Their leaders teach that “Jesus could not accomplish the providence of physical salvation because his body was invaded by satan.” (<i>Divine Principle</i>, p.148) Moon also teaches that “It is a great error to think Jesus was God Himself. Jesus is no different from other men.” (<i>Divine Principle</i>, p.20)</p>	<p>24. God can not be invaded or inhabited by satan. Jesus is God and not just a man. Thomas said, “My Lord and my God.” (John 20:28; II Pet. 1:1; I John 5:20; Col. 2:9; Isa. 9:6; Acts 20:28; Rom. 5:9; II Thes. 1:12)</p>
<p>25. Moon openly boasts of his “divine, spiritistic powers”and teaches that Jesus was crucified because Jesus used occult practices to perform His miracles. (<i>Master Speaks</i>, 4 (2), p.11)</p>	<p>25. Jesus did not use occult powers to perform His miracles. He used the power of the Holy Spirit. He was often accused of the same thing by religious leaders of His own day. (Deut. 18:9-13; Rev. 21:8)</p>
<p>26. Moon teaches that he and his followers are or can become superior to Jesus. “We are greater than our predecessors, even greater than Jesus.” “You must be greater and better than Jesus himself.” “You can compare yourself with Jesus Christ,</p>	<p>26. Jesus is over all. He is superior to all men and no man can become superior to Jesus. As Rom. 9:5 says, “...Christ, who is God over all, forever praised.” (Matt. 10:24; Phil. 2:9-11; John 1:14; John 14:6)</p>

<p>and feel you can be greater than Jesus himself.” (<i>Master Speaks</i>, 430, p.9; PD 73, p. 2; 423, p.4)</p>	
<p>27. Their teachings imply that Jesus was an illegitimate child and not virgin born. “Jesus was born of a father and a mother, just as anyone else is.” Young Oon Kim states, “Joseph was not the father” - he suggests Zechariah, the husband of Elizabeth, as Jesus’ father. (Kim, <i>Unification Theology and Christian Thought</i>, pp.113, 116)</p>	<p>27. Since the virgin birth of Jesus is essential Christian doctrine, any one trying to establish their own doctrine must attack this basic truth of the Scripture. Jesus had no earthly father. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary. (Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-37)</p>
<p>28. They teach that Jesus’ physical body was not resurrected but that he was just resurrected spiritually. (<i>Master Speaks</i>, 4 (2), p.9)</p>	<p>28. Jesus was resurrected spirit, soul <u>and</u> body. His resurrected body even bore the marks of His crucifixion. His physical body was not to be found in the tomb. His physical body was seen by numerous witnesses and He was touched by the disciples. He even fed His physical body before He ascended. (Luke 24:13-34) Jesus Himself said that His physical body would be resurrected. (John 2:19)</p>
<p>29. Moon teaches that Jesus was ignorant of the truth. “Even Jesus wasn’t enough to understand the truth. Father (Moon) found it, found the truth. I have talked with many masters, including Jesus...They have subjected themselves to me in terms of wisdom.” (Sudo, <i>The 120 Day Training Manual</i>, p. 114, <i>Master Speaks</i>, 3, p.4)</p>	<p>29. Jesus said, “My teaching is not my own. It comes from Him (God) who sent me.” He is “the way, the truth and the light” according to John 14:6. (John 7:16; John 8:45; John 16:7; John 17:8; John 18:37; Luke 9:27; Luke 12:44; Matt. 22:16; Mark 12:14)</p>
<p>30. UC doctrine teaches that Jesus needs to be saved. “We are in a position to save and liberate Jesus Christ and end his anguish. We can be in a position to liberate even God.” (<i>Master Speaks</i>, 405, p.6; <i>The Way of the World</i>, Dec. 1973, p.14)</p>	<p>30. Jesus did not need salvation. He brought life. (John 1:4) He did not need salvation because He was sinless. (II Cor. 5:21; I John 3:5)</p>

<p>31. Their doctrine teaches that Jesus was not the Messiah. “Therefore we must understand that while Jesus came as Messiah, he couldn’t be Messiah when he was here on earth... Even when Jesus was arisen, he wasn’t the Messiah...Therefore, poor Jesus. He couldn’t be Messiah on earth.” They teach that several weeks after his resurrection Jesus was approved somehow to become the Messiah in the spirit world only and that Moon is the Messiah on earth. (Sudo, <i>The 120 Day Training Manual</i>, pp.284,286)</p>	<p>31. People testified of Jesus being the Messiah, so do angels, and so did Jesus while He was on the earth. (Matt. 16:15-17; Luke 2:11; John 4:25-26) Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies in the Old Testament about the Messiah.</p>
<p>32. Their doctrine teaches that Jesus was not the Savior. “We must know today very clearly, that Jesus Christ, the son of God, the Messiah, did not come to die on the cross, That was not the way to save the world.” (Master Speaks, 405, p.4; <i>The Way of the World</i>, Dec. 1973, p.14)</p>	<p>32. “...now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man (Jesus) really is the Savior of the world.” (John 4:42; Phil. 3:20) Paul calls Jesus, “our Savior Jesus Christ” in II Tim. 1:10 and again in Titus 1:4. “And He(Jesus) said unto them, ‘O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?’” (Luke 24:25-26; Rom. 3:21-28; Eph. 1:7; I Cor. 15:3)</p>
<p>33. Moon teaches that Jesus Himself will not return literally as Jesus, but that it is symbolic. He says that he is Christ returned symbolically. Moon also says that he is greater than Jesus the person. He also teaches that he (Moon) is man’s salvation by being the Second Coming of Christ. (<i>The Christian Century</i>, Dec. 4, 1974, p.1140)</p>	<p>33. Matthew chapter 34 clearly teaches that Jesus Himself will return literally. He will not send someone else nor will He just come symbolically. The Second Advent (Second Coming) is at some future date when all prophecies are fulfilled. Only Jesus is our salvation - not Moon or any other person or thing.</p>
<p>The Holy Spirit:</p>	<p>The Holy Spirit:</p>
<p>34. They teach conflicting information about the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>34. There is no scripture stating that the Holy Spirit is female. The Bible</p>

<p>Sometimes they teach that the Holy Spirit is a female spirit. “There are many who receive revelations indicating that the Holy Spirit is a female Spirit... The Holy Spirit came as the True Mother.” “The Holy Spirit who worked with Jesus was the element of the original Eve...a female element of God.” (<i>Divine Principle</i>, pp.215-216)</p>	<p>gives neither male or female for the Holy Spirit, though it does use the masculine pronoun when referring to the Holy Spirit. The Bible does not say that “the Holy Spirit who worked with Jesus was the element of the original Eve.” Be careful because many false religions have female gods.</p>
<p>35. Sometimes they teach that the Holy Spirit is just an “it” or an “impersonal element” or “essence”. “When you are speaking of the Holy Spirit, it is all right to say ‘it’. You don’t need to say ‘she’. If it’s just wind or power, we can say ‘it’.” (<i>Master Speaks</i>, 3, p.20)</p>	<p>35. The Holy Spirit is not an ‘it’ He is the Third Person of the Trinity and He has all the attributes of personality - mind (I Cor. 2:10), emotions (Eph. 4:30), and will (I Cor. 12:11). He does things only a person could do, such as praying (Rom. 8:26) and speaking to people (John 15:26).</p>
<p>About Salvation:</p>	<p>About Salvation:</p>
<p>36. To the UC, salvation involves men and women undoing the results of the Fall under the leadership of the savior, Moon, who symbolically prepares the way. Moon’s concept of salvation centers around the family.</p>	<p>36. The Bible’s explanation of salvation centers around the Blood of Jesus Christ - not around the family. “In whom (Jesus) we have redemption through His blood...” (Eph. 1:7; I John 2:2)</p>
<p>37. Moon allegedly succeeded where Jesus supposedly failed. Moon married and produced sinless offspring and he says Jesus failed to bring salvation because he failed to marry and have sinless offspring. (<i>Divine Principle</i>, pp.179-180)</p>	<p>37. Jesus did not fail; He succeeded. Moon could not have produced sinless children. The Bible says that all born to man are born in sin because Adam’s sin condemned all mankind. “One trespass was condemnation for all men.” (Rom. 5:18; Rom. 3:10-12; I Kings 8:46; Mark 7:15, 21-23; Jer. 17:9)</p>
<p>38. The Principle of Indemnity is a central doctrine of UC. This doctrine teaches that in order to achieve salvation and restoration that a person must pay back to God whatever Moon says they owe Him.</p>	<p>38. We do not have to pay back God or Moon or anyone else for our salvation. As Eph. 2: 8-9 says, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any</p>

<p>(<i>Master Speaks</i>, Dec. 14,1971, p.3)</p>	<p>man should boast.” Any who teach any other than salvation as a free gift of God, are accursed. (Gal. 1:8-9)</p>
<p>39. Moon elevates himself to godhood. He says, “I have paid a great amount of indemnity, and because of this I have the right to forgive another’s sin.” (<i>Master Speaks</i>, 3, Mar.- Apr., 1965, p.16)</p>	<p>39. Claiming to be able to forgive sins is blasphemous except for God. Mark 2:7 says, “...who can forgive sins but God alone.” No other than God can forgive sins. (Matt. 1:21)</p>
<p>40. Moon teaches that people fell because they exalted themselves rather than God, and therefore “they must be saved by debasing and sacrificing themselves and thereby exalting God.” (<i>Master Speaks</i>, Jan. 11, 1972, p.17)</p>	<p>40. We are not saved by debasing ourselves, by sacrificing ourselves, or by any other work we could perform. We are saved by accepting Jesus Christ as the Son of God.</p>
<p>41. To the UC, the sin of fornication is a sin “worse than (physical) murder,” because you are not just killing one person but you are (spiritually) killing all of your descendants. Detailed accounts of your sexual history has to be submitted to Moon. Moon says that fornication is unforgivable and dooms you to Hades. (Sudo, <i>The 120 Day Training Manual</i>, pp.127-128; <i>Master Speaks</i>, 369, May, 20, 1973)</p>	<p>41. Fornication is a sin but it is not an unforgivable sin. There is only one eternal sin spoken of in all the Bible. That is the sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. All other sin can be forgiven and is readily forgiven and forgotten by God when we sincerely ask Him to forgive us. (Matt. 12:32) Dying without accepting Jesus is what dooms you to Hades.</p>
<p>42. UC members are told how “satanic” they are and that the only way to serve God is to “kill” themselves in service to him. They are told that satan’s blood runs in them. Moon emphasizes the importance of dying, if necessary, and having one’s blood shed to advance the cause of the Unification Church. Moon also counsels that a person commit suicide and therefore die as a ‘martyr’ so he will not commit a future sin which can’t be</p>	<p>42. Yes we were once dead in sin, but the Bible does not say that the blood of satan ran in us. Now that we are saved, the Blood of Jesus is our blood of the New Covenant and we are part of this New Covenant. (Mark 14:24) We become partakers of the Blood of Christ in the Lord’s Supper (Communion). (I Cor. 10:16) We are not told to “kill” ourselves in service, but to die to self and live for Jesus. Christ does say that it may be necessary to suffer and die for His</p>

<p>forgiven. (<i>Master Speaks</i>, 318, Jan. 18, 1973, pp.4-5; 319, Jan. 19, 1973, pp.1-4)</p>	<p>name's sake but not for some religious establishment or so that we won't commit a future unforgivable sin. We do not have to die to establish Christ's church. He died for the church and He will establish it. (Rom.8:36; John 13:38; Mark 8:35; Acts 9:16)</p>
<p>43. UC doctrine teaches that faith alone can not save you. "A man is no more justified by faith alone than he is saved by faith alone." (<i>The Way of the World</i>, Mar., 1978, p.47)</p>	<p>43. Salvation is a matter of faith in Jesus alone. (John 6:28-29; John 1:12; John 3:16; Acts 10:43; Rom. 1:17; Heb. 11:6)</p>
<p>44. Their doctrine teaches that "no individual can enter heaven, but (only) as a family. In order to be a family, you must have three (spiritual) sons or daughters." (<i>Master Speaks</i>, 2, pp.10-12; Jan. 9, 1972, p.4)</p>	<p>44. Every person is judged individually. Entering heaven is not dependent on three other people. Every individual person who believes in Jesus will have eternal life. (John 3:36)</p>
<p>45. Moon teaches that God never intended Jesus to die on the Cross. "Do not believe in the Christ on the cross...The cross is the symbol of satan's victory." "Nothing like salvation can come from the cross...By the crucifixion, everything was denied and lost." "...on the cross, salvation was not given." "We must grimly realize...that Jesus did not come to die on the cross." Moon teaches that Jesus was crucified because he disobeyed God, used occult powers, and failed to find a wife." (<i>Master Speaks</i>, 2 (2), p.1; 4 (2), p.6; 418, May 19, 1974, p.2; Dec. 27, 1971, p.6; <i>The Way of the World</i>, Dec., 1973, p.13)</p>	<p>45. Jesus specifically came to die on the Cross and he stated it often. As I John 2:2 says, Jesus came to be "the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." (John 12:27; I Cor. 2:2)</p>
<p>About Man:</p>	<p>About Man:</p>
<p>46. They teach that "God and man are one. Man is incarnate God...So man, the object of God, is as</p>	<p>46. Man and God are not one. Man is not God. Man is a creation of God. We are not as important in</p>

<p>important in value as God Himself.” (Moon, <i>Christianity in Crisis</i>, p.5) Moon also says that the “Man whose mind and body have formed a four position foundation of the original God-centered nature becomes God’s temple and forms one body with Him. This means that man attains deity.” “A perfected man...is so valuable as to even possess deity.” (<i>Divine Principle</i>, p.43; p.209)</p>	<p>value as is God Himself. As the Scripture states, “What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous? Behold He putteth no trust in His saints, yea, the heavens are not clean in His sight. How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water?” (Job 15:14-16)</p>
<p>47. In UC theology, the existence of death was part of God’s original purpose in creation. “God created man to grow old and turn to dust; this would occur even if man had not fallen.” Death was not caused by the Fall to the UC. (<i>Divine Principle</i>, p.168)</p>	<p>47. Death was not part of God’s original purpose. It was a direct result of man’s sin and the Fall. Rom. 5: 12 tells us that “sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men...” God told Adam and Eve not to eat of the Tree in the midst of the Garden or they would surely die. (Gen. 3:3)</p>
<p>48. Moon also denies the Biblical hell and replaces it with a temporary purgatory. He teaches that God will save all mankind and abolish hell completely. He says that satan and his demons will be restored to serve in the lowest position. “God will not desert any person eternally. By some means...they will be restored.” (<i>Divine Principle</i>, p.190; <i>Master Speaks</i>, 6, p.4)</p>	<p>48. Hell is real, it is literal, and it is eternal - not a temporary place. (Matt. 25:46; Jude 7; Luke 16:28; Matt. 5:22; II Pet. 2:4)</p>
<p>About the Occult:</p>	<p>About the Occult:</p>
<p>49. Moon once stated to a group of Christians, “Spiritism is of minor importance.” But what he teaches seems to be vastly different. He says, “From childhood, I was clairvoyant and clairaudient.” He teaches that members should cultivate spiritism and psychic powers. Members are encouraged to become mediums and told that</p>	<p>49. The Bible gives numerous strong warnings against occult practices and God demands the death of those who participate in such practices. (Deut. 18:10-12; Deut. 32:16-18; Psa. 106:35-40; II Chr. 33:2-6; I Cor. 10:20; Isa. 47:9-11; Acts 13:6-11; Acts 19:8-20; I Tim. 4:1) The New Testament also reveals that when an evil spirit is cast out of one with</p>

<p>“spirits are free to associate with you and contact you at any time. “ Members are even encouraged to pray to the spirits. (Neil Salonen, reported in <i>Christianity Today</i>, July 20, 1979, p.3; p. 39; <i>Master Speaks</i>, 3 (2), p.8; 3, pp.4,15; 1, p.1)</p>	<p>clairvoyant, or “psychic abilities”, that person loses that “psychic ability,” therefore, those powers are not human but given by demons. (Acts 16:16-19)</p>
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