

PRAYER STUDY #97

Teachings of the Cults

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book; and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and out of the holy city and from the things which are written in this book.

Revelation 22:18-19

Cults: religious movements that have extra unscriptural doctrines and teachings and/or false scriptural teaching from the inerrant teaching of the Holy Bible, although they generally recognize parts of the Bible as Truth.

Occult: matters regarded as involving the action or influence of supernatural, demonic powers or some secret knowledge of them

Mormonism's Basic Teachings(*Every Wind of Doctrine*, Hobart Freeman)

1. **Polytheism**-God the Father was once the flesh and bones man Adam(Brigham Young espoused this doctrine. The God-Adam doctrine has later been refuted by some Mormon leaders.) All the gods were former men. Faithful Mormons also become gods and produce celestial children.

REFUTATION: Isaiah 44:6, Romans 5:12, 1st Corinthians 15:22, Genesis 13, Numbers 23:19, John 14:6

2. **Pre-existence of the soul**-All human beings have pre-existed as spirit children produced by the gods. These spirits are waiting for human bodies to inhabit. That's why Mormons previously stressed polygamy, i.e. so that they could produce more human bodies for these souls waiting in heaven to be born.

REFUTATION: Genesis 1:26-27

3. **Polygamy**-Women cannot be saved or at best must be servants in the hereafter unless married to a man. According to Joseph Smith, Jesus was a polygamist and married to Mary and Martha and to Mary Magdalene. Smith had many wives. Brigham Young had 25.

Although Polygamy was abolished by law in 1890, there are still sects, as recently seen, that practice this.

REFUTATION: 1) God's blessing on the Adam and Eve as "one flesh"-Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:3-6. 2)Cain's sinful descendents introduced polygamy-Genesis 4:16-19. 3)Polygamy, although often practiced in Old Testament times, was never condoned by God-Exodus 21:10-11, Deuteronomy 21:15, Deuteronomy 17:17,

Leviticus 18:18. 4)Scripture points out the evils of polygamy when it does appear-Genesis 16:5; 30:1; 1st Kings 11:1-8.

4. **The Denial of the Virgin Birth**-According to Brigham Young, Adam came down and had sexual relations with Mary instead of letting any other man do it.

REFUTATION: Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-35, Philippians 2:5-8

5. **Salvation by works**-Mormons state that justification by faith in Jesus(accepting Christ for salvation) has been "an influence for evil since the early days of Christianity." Mormons believe you are saved by individual effort and obedience to the laws, and baptism is also necessary for salvation but others can stand in proxy for one who has died and has not been baptized. Although Joseph Smith said that clergy and members of apostate churches would go to Hell, universal salvation is a central doctrine of Mormonism since all men are sons of the gods. Children are incapable of sinning and are not born in sin.

REFUTATION: Ephesians 2:8-9, Galatians 2-3, Romans 1:17, Romans 3:20-21 & 28

6. **The inspiration and authority of Scripture**-The book of Mormon, allegedly translated from golden plates hidden by Prophet Mormon about 400 AD is filled with extensive quotations from the King James Version of the Bible which was not even published until 1611. It is full of historical inaccuracies(ex. Jesus is said to have been born in Jerusalem.) There are references to steel swords and ship compasses that had not even been invented yet. There is no

archaeological evidence of any kind that there was the ancient American civilization that the book teaches existed. The claim that the American Indians are descendants of the Jews is totally false, and the hieroglyphics said to have come from the golden plates represent a language that experts say never existed. It is thought that the Book of Mormon was plagerized from an unpublished manuscript of Solomon Spaulding, a retired minister, who wrote a number of stories similar to those of the Book of Mormon.

Jehovah's Witnesses

Charles Taze Russell was the founder of the Jehovah's Witnesses. He was a member of the Congregationalist but rejected the teachings of this church on Hell and eternal punishment. He was heavily influenced by the Seventh Day Adventist. Russell was not the most outstanding role model. He was taken to court on fraudulent charges involving wheat, on a divorce suit on grounds of adultery, on attempt to avoid alimony payment, and on perjury and falsehood. He claimed that he alone had the true revelation and all other churches were "the Devil's organization."

The followers of the Jehovah's Witness organization meet in Kingdom Halls(not churches)and consider every member a "minister." The Witnesses believe that all churches, governments, and religions are under Satan's control, and they refuse to salute the flag. According to church teaching, Abel was the first Jehovah Witness. Since Pentecost, God has been calling out 144,000 who will rule and reign with Christ during the Millennium and then go to haven. Christ has already returned. He came back in 1874 but was invisible. 1914 and World War 1 marked the beginning of the end of the world. After the Battle of Armageddon, the unsaved dead will be raised and given a second chance. Those who do not wish to be saved and become Jehovah's Witnesses will be annihilated. Apart from the 144,000 "Bride class" who will reign in heaven with Jesus, those others saved will remain on earth as God's servants on the new earth forever.

Jehovah's Witnesses' Main Teachings(Every Wind of Doctrine, Hobart Freeman)

1. **A denial of the Deity of Christ**-According to Jehovah's Witnesses, Jesus is not God. He is a created being and in actuality the archangel Michael. He is not equal with God.

REFUTATION: Micah 5:2, John 1:1, John 10:30, Philippians 2:5-7.

2. **A denial of the Personality of the Holy Spirit**-The Holy Spirit is not a personal being, but merely an “active force.”
REFUTATION: Zechariah 4:6, John 16:7-15, Acts 5:3-4, 1st Corinthians 3:16

3. **A denial of the bodily resurrection of Christ**-Witnesses contend that Jesus was resurrected only in the spirit. He simply materialized temporarily in appearances to the disciples.

REFUTATION: Luke 24:36-46, Acts 2:23-32, 1st Corinthians 15

4. **The rejection of Hell and the eternal punishment of the wicked.** Witnesses believe that man’s soul is not immortal. They believe that the wicked will be annihilated if they choose not to accept the Jehovah’s Witness doctrine after their “second chance.”

REFUTATION: Ezekiel 18:4, Malachi 4:1, Isaiah 66:24, Matthew 25:46, Mark 9:43-48, Revelation 14:9-11, Revelation 19:2-3, Revelation 20:10-15, Luke 16:19-31.

5. **Witnesses believe that Christ has already returned invisibly, not in a visible body.**

REFUTATION: Matthew 24:23-30, Acts 1:10-11, Matthew 24:36

EXCELLENT SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Every Wind of Doctrine by Dr. Hobart Freeman

The Pagan Roots of Jehovah’s Witnesses by Lorri MacGregor

Unmasking Mormonism by Selwyn Stevens

The Missionaries Asked Me to Pray about the Book of Mormon by Marshall Almarode and Heather Duncan

Witnessing to Jehovah’s Witnesses by Lorri MacGregor

The God’s of the Latter-day Saints by Marshall Almarode

The Kingdom of the Cults by Walter Martin