

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

DECEPTION IN THE END TIMES

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PART 4: LIES FROM THE DEVIL

THE DEVIL GOT INTO A RAGE

The Devil has possessed men and women down through the centuries who were willing to persecute and kill Christians, burn down their homes and destroy Bibles. However, they continued to multiply even as Satan raged against them. Eventually the Devil and his leadership of demons recognized the only way to destroy the Word of God was to pollute it with false doctrine and bad translations.

Revelation 12:7-17

THE Gnostic CRISIS (135-160 AD)

The Devil instructed his religious department to destroy the Christian faith by mixing it up with other belief systems; this is known in theological circles as “syncretism.” Any person familiar with the teachings of the Kabbalah will immediately recognize the mixture of Kabbalistic doctrine into the Christian faith.

It is interesting that the Bishop Ireneaus (130-202 AD) of the Roman provincial capital of Lugdunum¹ had been a disciple of Polycarp (69-155) A.D., who was the bishop of Smyrna. Polycarp had been a disciple under the Apostle John, and before John had died he had ordained Polycarp the bishop of Smyrna. Thus Ireneaus was a second generation leader after the apostles, who identified the four original leaders of Gnosticism

1. Simon Magus, Also known as Simon the Magician as recorded in Acts 8:9-24. After Simon had been part of the Christian community for some time, the apostles in Jerusalem disfellowshipped him for heresy and he moved to Rome, where he took up his witchcraft again and became a famous magician before he died.
2. Saturnilus of Antioch, who was active in the church of Antioch until 150 A.D.
3. Basilides was active in the church of Alexandria, Egypt around 130 A.D.
4. Valentinus was active in the church in Rome from 135-165 AD.

The core teaching of Gnosticism is that Jesus did not come in the flesh, but in a ghost-like form, an illusion. Since he never came in the flesh, he also never died on the cross. “Gnosis” is the Greek word for knowledge and the leaders of this doctrine claimed the knowledge they had received was a mystical supernatural wisdom by which the initiates were brought to a true understanding of the universe and were saved from this evil world of matter.

¹ Lugdunum was a Roman founded city in the province of Gaul in 43 B.C., located in East Central France close to the border of Switzerland. Its present name is Lyons.



Any person who is familiar with the syncretism of Freemasonry recognizes that the foundation for this deviation of the Christian faith was based upon Satan's lies expressed in the Kabbalah.

According to Gnosticism, the high, good God is the head of the spiritual world of light, often called the "pleroma," which means "total divine power." Fragments from that world have become imprisoned in this visible world of darkness and evil. The fallen elements of the pleroma are represented as the lowest of a series of aeons, or spiritual beings coming forth from the high God. To rescue this fallen portion (mankind), the seeds of light in the visible evil world, the Messiah came bringing the true knowledge. This doctrine negates the Biblical teaching of original sin by Adam and Eve.

By following Jesus' teaching, those capable of receiving it are restored to the pleroma. Mankind has been divided into two categories: those who are "spiritual" can be restored and those who are materialistic cannot receive the message of the Messiah.

The majority of the Christian leaders at that time rejected Gnosticism and it was swept aside to the dustbin of history. But Satan's religious department kept the files and in time it was reintroduced into the Christian church throughout the different centuries with slight variations:

- ❖ Islam – 610
- ❖ Swedenborgianism – 1787
- ❖ Mormonism – 1820
- ❖ Jehovah's Witnesses – 1870
- ❖ Theosophy – 1875
- ❖ Scientology – 1952
- ❖ There are many other offshoots but these are the most well-known.

Satan religious department has a large staff of fallen angels that are well educated. Once a person has been recruited, he is given full support from fallen angels to head up one of their new religions, who will make personal appearances and transfer the doctrine they have developed. Their advertising department is worldwide and they have millions of demons who will go out and sell this new religion.

The original Gnosticism had to contend with the young vibrant apostolic church; the arrival of Islam in 610 A.D. did not face much opposition from the Christian church since it had been weakened from within for centuries. **2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 1 Timothy 4:1-2; 2 Peter 2:1-3**

THE EARLY CHURCH

The Devil knows the Bible very well but he does not believe what it says. At the temptation of Jesus, he quoted the Bible in an effort to trip up Jesus. **Luke 4:1-13**

The Devil is a fallen angel who can only be in one place at a time. I believe he followed Jesus for the 3.5 years while Jesus ministered on earth in order to find a way to defeat Him. Satan must have heard Jesus tell that his second return was known only to the Father and no man knew when this was going to happen.

Matthew 24:29-36

Even though Jesus was clear on the subject of his second coming, the disciples pressed Him for the date of His return and were rebuked for doing so. **Acts 1:4-7**

In order for a modern day Christian to understand the mindset of the apostolic church, Jesus had talked about the Great Tribulation, but he had not told them about the reign of the Antichrist and the Book of Revelation did not come into existence until 90 AD. **Matthew 24:15-22**

Jesus spoke about false Messiahs and not to believe when someone stated that Jesus was here or there. **verses 23-28**

With the horrible persecution from the Jewish leadership and the Roman government believers could not help but to believe they were living in the Great Tribulation spoken by Jesus.

The mindset of the apostles that Jesus would return during their lifetime was passed on to each successive generation of believers.

Where does the concept of the “Catholic Church” come from? The word “Catholic” means “universal” and it was first used by Ignatius (35-117), who was the third bishop of the church in Antioch. The third generation of Christian leaders were in fellowship with one another but there was no central leadership. All who held to the true teaching of the apostles were considered part of the Catholic Church.

MONTANISM

The Devil had a meeting with the director of his religious department to figure out a way of deceiving the Christians by sending an angel of light to tell them that the coming of Jesus was imminent. They needed some Christians that could be deceived and selected Montanus.

The movement of Montanism is named after Montanus who lived in the province Phrygia, which is located in modern day central Turkey. Paul traveled through this province during his missionary journeys. **Acts 16:6; 18:23**

Bishop Jerome stated that Montanus had been a pagan priest in the fertility cult that worshiped the goddess Cybele. Around 156 A.D., Montanus said he entered into an ecstatic trance when he was overpowered by the Holy Spirit, who told him that the dispensational age of the Holy Spirit had just begun. This was a blatant lie, since the Holy Spirit came down in power on the day of Pentecost about 122 years earlier. **Acts 2:1-5**

The Devil never adheres to the truth and Montanus was either taken in by an unholy spirit from Satan or he had never heard of the Day of Pentecost. Shortly thereafter Satan’s department of religion secured the service of two women,

Priscilla and Maximilla, who claimed to have the gift of prophecy. They claimed the Holy Spirit moved through them and said that the end of the world was at hand, that the heavenly Jerusalem was going to land in Phrygia, and Christians should come and be part of the city of God.

As I stated earlier, Satan's department of religion has never been short of resources and millions of demons were sent out to convince Christians to join this new "move of God." Montanus and the two women prophetesses became a hot commodity as people flocked to hear the latest prophecy and to have hands laid on them so they could speak in tongues and perform miracles. This is quite similar to the Toronto movement and Todd Bentley in Lakeland, Florida.

Since they believe that Jesus was coming soon, Montanus received a prophetic word that the people needed to prepare themselves for this event. People were told to start living a strict lifestyle with no worldly pleasures. Young people should not get married or engage in sex but live a life of celibacy. Everyone needed to fast and become vegetarians. This is along the same lines given to Ellen White, founder of the Seventh Day Adventists in the mid 1800's)

The movement took off and started to spread from church to church in the Roman Empire. The Bishops of the different churches held meetings to discuss the matter and officially condemned Montanus and his followers. The movement began to lose its momentum when Montanus and Priscilla passed away and Maximilla finally died in 179 A.D.

Most of the Christians in the different churches rejected the movement. After 170 A.D., sect members had traveled to Rome and caused great turmoil among the Christians there. It also reached Carthage in North Africa, where apologist, author and theologian Tertullian (160-225) became a follower of Montanus.

The Devil could only keep the movement going for a while and the movement died when people realized that Jesus had not come back as predicted.

SATAN NEVER WASTES A LIE

Satan's department of religion saved their files on this false ruse and decided to bring it back some other time in the future where it could cause more destruction in the Christian Church. They found men and women who were willing to spearhead other satanic movements and destroy the lives of Christians.

William Miller made a prediction in 1833 that Jesus would come back on October 22, 1844. He deceived hundreds of thousands of people and Ellen G. White was among his disciples.

Ellen G. White shaped a remnant of the Millerites into the Seventh Day Adventist denomination. She in turn predicted the return of Christ in 1845, and when that failed to materialize, she failed with a second date in 1851.

Charles Taze Russell founded the Jehovah's Witnesses. He and other leaders later on predicted the return of Christ numerous times: 1878, 1914, 1925, 1932, 1951, 1975, 2000 and the latest is for 2033.

Harold Camping, the potentate of Family Radio predicted in the late 1980's that Jesus would come back to earth in 1994. When that prediction failed, he reset the date to May 21, 2011 and when Jesus did not show up on that day, he reset the date again to October 21, 2011. He offered a lame excuse after the third failure that anyone can make a mistake. He promised not to set another date and continues his iron grip on Family Radio without remorse or shame.

The Devil is not satisfied with deceiving millions of people and that a large majority of them have ended up in hell. The main core of the Christian Church has continued to inflict damage to his kingdom and in the next sermon I will show how he changed tactics to counter this threat. **1 Peter 5:8-9**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?