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THE LODGE, THE CHRISTIAN AND THE BIBLE (Part 2)

by Eddy Gilpin

(Editor's Note: In the last month's issue, a brief history, some definitions and quotations concerning Masonry's being a religion were given. Before continuing with Part 2 of this article, it might be well to review the first installment.)

The question of the god of Masonry has likewise been raised before. Masonry claims that its reference to "The Great Architect of the Universe" is merely a synonym for the one true God of the Bible. But is that the case? Again, we quote Masonic writers concerning this matter. (All emphasis mine-EG).

"All prayers in Mason lodges should be directed to the one deity to whom ALL MASONS refer as the Grand Architect of the Universe."⁴¹

"As Masons, we believe in God, the Father, Almighty. As Christian Masons we may believe in a symbolical triune essence, and that Jesus Christ is His Son, Our Lord. As Moslem Masons we are equally entitled to believe that Mahomet is His prophet. With these subsidiary and secondary beliefs Masonry has nothing to do, giving her members a perfect liberty to INTERPRET THE GODHEAD AS THEY PLEASE."⁴²

"I for one can never understand how anyone who takes an exclusive view of Christ as the only complete revelation of God's truth can become a Freemason without suffering from spiritual schizophrenia."⁴³

"It (Masonry) reverences all the great reformers. It sees in Moses the Lawgiver of the Jews, in Confucius and Zoraster, in Jesus of Nazareth, and in the Arabian Iconoclast, Great Teachers of Morality, and Eminent Reformers, if no more...WE UTTER NO WORD THAT CAN BE DEEMED IRREVERENT BY ANYONE OF ANY FAITH. WE DO NOT TELL THE MOSLEM THAT IT IS ONLY IMPORTANT FOR HIM TO BE-

LIEVE THAT THERE IS BUT ONE GOD, and wholly unessential that Mahomet was His prophet...To every Mason there is A GOD...."⁴⁴

Notice from the foregoing that the prayers offered in every Masonic Lodge are offered to "the one deity to whom ALL Masons refer as the Grand Architect of the Universe," and, that Masonry includes in that definition of the "Grand Architect of the Universe" whatever interpretation its members see fit to include. Thus, the "Grand Architect of the Universe" is NOT the God of the Bible, but an all-inclusive god of universalism. The Mason is forbidden to say that Allah is different from Jehovah and that Mohammed was no more a prophet than Joseph Smith. Yet, all of these are included (as is Jesus) under the "umbrella god" of Masonry, the Grand Architect of the Universe. While it may be true as stated that "To every Mason there is a God," it is also true that to Masonry that being includes any and every form of whatever and whomever any of its membership deems worthy to be worshipped. Thus, it is NOT the God of the Bible that Masons address when they refer to the Grand Architect of the Universe.

Further, it should be noticed that the god of Masonry has a name besides that of "Grand Architect". In his book, The Brotherhood - The Secret World of the Freemasons, Stephen Knight states: "...the assurance given to candidates that the name Great Architect of the Universe can be applied to whatever Supreme Being they choose is worse than misleading: it is a blatant lie...Two-thirds of Freemasons never realize the untruth of the line they are fed as to the identity of the Great Architect, because it is deliberately kept hidden from them."⁴⁵ He goes on to state that "The true name, although not the nature, of the Masonic God is revealed only to those Third Degree Masons who elect to be 'exalted' to the Holy Royal Arch."⁴⁶ He reveals further not only the name of this god, but also its origin. He states:

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"When Will They Ever Learn?"

by Eddy Gilpin

"I would not predict we are near the end of the age, although I personally think we are." These are the words of noted televangelist Billy Graham which appeared in the Jonesboro Sun (September 30, 1990). In that same Associated Press article (written by David Briggs), "the Reverend" Charles Taylor (host of "Today in Bible Prophecy") predicted that the then-coming conflict in the Middle East would usher in "the Lord's return to earth", "the rapture" and the "seven-year period of tribulation". He stated, "Saddam Hussein is just kind of an activator bringing it all together. It's time to rejoice for the Christians. We're going home." Well, Mr. Taylor, at last count, you were still here. When will these people ever learn?

Since the beginning of the Gulf War, there have been myriads of predictions concerning the "end times". Staunch supporters of premillennialism have heralded Iraq as Biblical Babylon of the book of Revelation, Saddam Hussein as "the antichrist" and this war as "the countdown to Armageddon". From the aforementioned article comes this statement by Billy Graham (the same Billy Graham, you recall, who, as the president's "spiritual advisor", spent the night at the White House when "Desert Shield" became "Desert Storm"): "History has gone full circle and we are coming back to these lands. This is not another Korea, it is not another Vietnam—it is something far more sinister and far more difficult." In the light of recent occurrences, it is the opinion of this writer that Mr. Bush needs to opt for a new "Spiritual Advisor" (preferably one who knows something about the Bible). And, by the way Mr. Graham, what was that about not predicting that we were "near the end of the age"? It sounded like a prediction to me. When will they ever learn?

It was William Miller, the founding father of what has become known as the Seventh-Day Adventists, who predicted that the world would end sometime between March 21, 1843 and March 21, 1844. After this prediction failed, one of his followers, Samuel Snow, predicted

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"When Will They Ever Learn?"

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the return of Christ would occur on October 22, 1844. Obviously, this prediction likewise failed miserably. Yet, today there are some 4 million people in the world who call themselves Seventh-Day Adventists. When will they ever learn?

It was Charles Taze Russell, founding father of the sect known as the Jehovah's Witnesses, who predicted that the Lord would return in 1914. When this prediction failed, he admitted a miscalculation and predicted that return to occur in September, 1917. Obviously, this too failed to come to pass (although they claim that He did come "secretly" in 1917). After the death of Russell, Joseph F. "Judge" Rutherford replaced him. In 1920, he wrote the book Millions Now Living Will Never Die, in which he prophesied that 1925 would mark "the return of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the prophets of old." Again, this prophecy failed miserably. Yet, the "Jehovah's Witnesses" boast of almost 3 million members worldwide. When will they ever learn?

In 1970 Hal Lindsey published his book of sensationalistic prophecy known as The Late Great Planet Earth. In it he asserts that the Lord would return during the generation when Israel was restored as a nation. In 1948, Israel claimed its restoration as a nation. Thus, accounting forty years to be a Biblical generation, the Lord should have returned in or before 1988. Mr. Lindsey's book is false to the core. Yet, there are more than 10 million copies in print.

When will they ever learn?

In 1987 there was a book circulated among religious circles entitled 88 Reasons Why The Lord Will Return In 1988. It was yet another futile attempt to distort Bible prophecy into saying what yet another "Doomsday Chicken Little" wanted it to say. And, again, many believed unreservedly this "sky-is-falling" prophecy. When will they ever learn?

Just this year, in the month of February, this writer received a brochure entitled "God's Judgment Day Is Near—In October of 1992, Jesus Will Come Again." Just as with the aforementioned "predictions", this, too, is an overly-dramatic misrepresentation of Scripture declaring that the time of "the end" is known and near. And yet, without a doubt, many people will read this pamphlet, accept it without reservation or examination of the Scriptures and prepare themselves for what will probably be another "disappointing" outcome. When will they ever learn?

The Bible, dear reader, plainly states that no man knows the day of the Lord's return (Mt. 24:36). Bible prophecy does not point man to the day of His coming, only the assurance of His coming. His return will be as "a thief in the night" (I Thes. 5:2). The Bible nowhere reveals a "rapture" of His saints (neither the word nor its concept are found in the Bible). Void, as well, is the Bible of any references to a future earthly kingdom of Jesus on the earth. Jesus now reigns as King over His kingdom, the church (Mt. 16:18, 19; Acts 2:29-36). When He returns in the clouds (Acts 1:11; I Thes. 4:13-18), it will not be to establish a kingdom on earth. Rather, He will then relinquish His kingdom back to God (I Cor. 15:23-25). At His coming, the earth and everything herein will be destroyed (II Pet. 3:10-12). How then could there possibly be a kingdom on earth and a "1,000-year reign" therein? Jesus Himself said, "My kingdom IS NOT OF THIS WORLD" (Jn. 18:36).

History reveals a vast horde who have prophesied and proclaimed "the end of time". It is replete with predictions of "the antichrist", from Mussolini to Stalin, from Krushchev to Khomeini, and, yes, even Saddam Hussein. Men from William Miller to Charles Russell, from Billy Sunday to Billy Graham, and countless others have come and gone (and are still going) who have claimed (or claim) to know when and, with precision, what manner our Lord will return. Again we ask, "When will they ever learn?"

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The Lodge, the Christian and the Bible

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"In the ritual of exaltation (to the Royal Arch-EG), the name of the Great Architect of the Universe is revealed as JAH-BUL-ON—not a general umbrella term open to any interpretation an individual Freemason might choose, but a precise designation that describes a specific supernatural being—a compound deity composed of three separate personalities fused in one. Each syllable of the 'ineffable name' represents one personality of this Trinity:

JAH= Jahweh, the God of the Hebrews.

BUL= Baal, the ancient Canaanite fertility god associated with 'licentious rites of imitative magic'.

ON= Osiris, the Ancient Egyptian god of the underworld."⁴⁷

In his brief survey of Masonry, L. James Rongstad stated the following concerning Jah-bul-on:

"The Mason in the Royal Arch Degree (York Rite), a degree through which the Knight Templar is to pass on his way to the supposed 'Christian Degree' has another secret name revealed to him at his initiation ceremony. The name of the True God, 'rediscovered', is 'Jah-Bul-On'. This is the Royal Arch Mason's 'Trinity'. 'Jah' is an abbreviation for the Hebrew name of God: JAHWEH, or JEHOVAH. 'Bul' or 'Bal' is the name for the Assyrian deity, and is mentioned throughout the Old Testament as 'Baal' or 'Baal-peor'. (This is the idol God told the Israelites to avoid at all costs). 'On' is the Egyptian sun god."⁴⁸

The above quoted Stephen Knight likewise published the reaction of Albert Pike (the often quoted Masonic authority) upon his learning of Jah-Bul-On. He states: "He was disquieted and disgusted by the name, and went on: 'No man or body of men can make me accept as a sacred word, as a symbol of the infinite and eternal Godhead, a mongrel word, in part composed of the name of the accursed and beastly heathen god, whose has been for more than two thousand years an appellation of the Devil.'" ⁴⁹ But, Mr. Pike, accept it or not, the fact that you are a part of the Lodge makes you accountable to all its precepts. The same is true also for all members of the Lodge. Can it even be imagined then in one's wildest dreams that a Christian can be a part of such?

Knight reveals the reactions of some Royal Arch Masons to whom he spoke (as he states, no less than fifty-seven of them) when he mentioned Jah-Bul-On. Notice his report:

"Most of them spoke quite freely, 'explaining without hesitation their views, reactions and answers to the criticisms and queries I raised. However, all but four (of the fifty-seven-EG) lost their self-assurance and composure when I said, 'What about Jah-Bul-On?' Some, although they had previously told me they had been exalted to the Royal Arch, and therefore must have not only received the lecture on the name but also studied the passages and enacted the ritual relating to Jah-Bul-On, said they had never heard of it. In most cases the interviewees very rapidly brought the meeting to a close when I asked the question. Others laughed unconvincingly and extricated themselves from having to reply by jauntily saying such words as, 'Oh, that old chestnut', and passing quickly on to some other subject, normally going on the offensive with something like, 'Why are you so interested in Freemasonry in particular? Why don't you look into Christianity or something? Why do people always pick on Freemasonry?'—thereby diverting the conversation from the course I had plotted. If I insisted on returning to Jah-Bul-On, almost invariably the interview would be unceremoniously terminated. Others said that although they had heard of the word, they did not know what it meant. To them it meant God, and previously erudite Freemasons, with a precise knowledge of every other aspect of Masonry we had discussed, suddenly became vague and claimed ignorance of the most central of all Freemasonic subjects." ⁵⁰

Again, let it be asked of the member of the church (or anyone for that matter) who is a member or is perhaps contemplating membership in the Lodge, "Can you, in all good conscience, uphold such teachings knowing what the Bible says concerning such?" And, let it also be said again, that very few of those who are Masons know of or understand this aspect of Masonry, because it has not been revealed to them by the Lodge. Thus, their denial of such based upon their knowledge of Masonry is not conclusive evidence that such is not true. But, again, does their ignorance of Jah-Bul-On or any other aspect of this religion safeguard them from the consequences of belonging to such in the eyes of God? Certainly not! (See Ezek. 3:18). Ignorance is not a shield against punishment for wrong.

Next in our survey of Masonry, let us look at the prayers that are offered in Masonic Lodges. Notice these quotations from Masonic authorities concerning prayer:

"In the opening of the lodge, THE GREAT ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE MUST BE WORSHIPED, and his blessings upon the work about to be done must be supplicated; at the same time, prayer should be offered for peace and harmony in the closing of the lodge." ⁵¹ (Emphasis mine-EG).

"The chaplain of the masonic lodge who prays as the voice of the lodge DOES NOT PRAY IN THE NAME OF THE CARPENTER OF NAZARETH OR THE NAME OF JEHOVAH or the name of Allah. HE PRAYS TO THE GRAND ARTIFICER OR THE GREAT ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE. Under that title men of all faiths may find each his own deity. FAILURE TO MENTION ANY DEITY BY NAME IS NOT DENIAL, BUT MERELY THE PRACTICE OF A GRACIOUS COURTESY, so that each man for whom prayer is offered can hear the name of his own deity in the all inclusive title of Great Architect." ⁵² (Emphasis mine-EG).

More quotations could be given, but these will suffice to show that Masonic prayer ritual is not in accordance with the Bible. Notice from these quotes that prayer both opens and closes the lodge meeting. But, to whom is that prayer directed? Not Jehovah God. For it is expressly stated that the chaplain does not pray "in the name of the Carpenter of Nazareth or the name of Jehovah." To whom, then, is this prayer directed, and by whose authority is it offered? It is to the "all inclusive" Great Architect of the Universe which, admittedly, is not "the Carpenter of Nazareth", "Jehovah" or "Allah", but a being that is inclusive of them all. The Bible reveals that prayer is to be offered to God the Father through His Son Jesus. It is in the name of (by the authority of) Christ that prayer is to be offered. (Note Col. 1:3; Rom. 1:8; Col. 3:17; I Pet. 3:12; Prov. 15:29; Jn. 9:31). Notice also that it is said that the reason no specific name is mentioned is it is "the practice of a gracious courtesy, so that each man for whom prayer is offered can hear the name of his own deity in the all inclusive title of Great Architect." What a mockery of prayer! A Christian does not have the right to extend such "gracious courtesy" in the mockery of prayer. Surely it can be seen from this that a child of God can have nothing to do with this work of the devil.

Although Masonry makes great claims about its basis on and in the Bible, its attitude toward the Bible leaves much to be desired. The following quotations (again, from Masonic authorities themselves) reveal the attitude which Masonry has toward God's word. (Emphasis mine-EG).

"The Bible is used among Masons as a symbol of the will of God, however it may be expressed, and therefore, WHATEVER TO ANY PEOPLE EXPRESSES THAT WILL MAY BE USED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE BIBLE...Thus in a lodge consisting entirely of Jews, the Old Testament alone may be placed upon the altar, and Turkish Masons make use of the Koran. Whether it be the Gospels to the Christian, the Pentateuch to the Israelite, the Koran to the Musselman, or the Vedas to the Brahmin, IT EVERYWHERE MASONICALLY CONVEYS THE SAME IDEA—THAT OF THE SYMBOLISM OF DIVINE WILL REVEALED TO MAN." ⁵³

"The Kabala alone consecrates the alliance of the Universal Reason and the Divine Word; it establishes, by the counterpoises of two forces apparently opposite, the eternal balance of being; IT ALONE RECONCILES REASON WITH FAITH,—it has the keys of the past, the present, and the future...THE BIBLE WITH ALL ITS ALLEGORIES, EXPRESSES IN AN INCOMPLETE AND VEILED MANNER ONLY..." ⁵⁴

A number of others could be added to those above, but these suffice in revealing Masonic thought concerning God's Word. According to Masonry, the Bible is merely "a symbol" of God's will and, thus, whatever one chooses to convey that symbol to him is God's word. Hence, the Bible is merely "a symbol among symbols" rather than the complete revelation of God to man (Ps. 119:105; II Tim. 3:16, 17). It is also seen that in the eyes of Masonry "the Bible...expresses in an incomplete and veiled manner only." Incomplete? Can anyone who claims to be a child of God give credence to such a system as this?

(The remainder of this article and the sources for each reference will be included in the next issue.)



Every child of God, by divine appointment, is his brother's keeper. If we are too selfish to help save others, we are too selfish to be saved. By helping others, we help to save ourselves.

Don't You Trouble Trouble

*Don't you trouble trouble
Till trouble troubles you.
Don't you look for trouble;
Let trouble look for you.*

*If care you've got to carry
Wait till 'tis at the door;
For he who runs to meet it
Takes up the load before.*

*"Fear not," the flowers whisper;
"Since thus he hath arrayed
The buttercup and daisy,
How canst thou be afraid?"*

*Then don't you trouble trouble,
Till trouble troubles you;
You'll only double trouble,
And trouble others too.*

—Author Unknown

There is only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, and that is your own self. So you have to begin there, not outside, not on other people. That comes afterwards, when you have worked on your own corner.

Although God demands a whole heart, He will accept a broken one if He gets all the pieces.

Falsehoods not only disagree with truth, but usually quarrel among themselves.

—Webster

**CONTRIBUTIONS
CHURCHES**

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THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

1. The Bible is its only guide (Romans 1:16; I Thess. 2:13).
2. Wears a Biblical Name (Romans 16:16).
3. Established at the right place (Isaiah 2:2,3; Acts 2).
4. Established at the right time (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2).
5. Established on the right person (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:36).
6. Saved are in it (Ephesians 5:23; Acts 2:47).
7. Its members are enrolled in heaven (Hebrews 12:23).
8. Membership in it is obtained by obedience to God's commands including baptism (Acts 2:41-47; I Corinthians 12:13).

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

1. Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).
2. Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).
3. Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).
4. Confession (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).
5. Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).
6. After the above five steps, faithful Christian Living (I Peter 2:11, 12; Revelation 2:10).

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