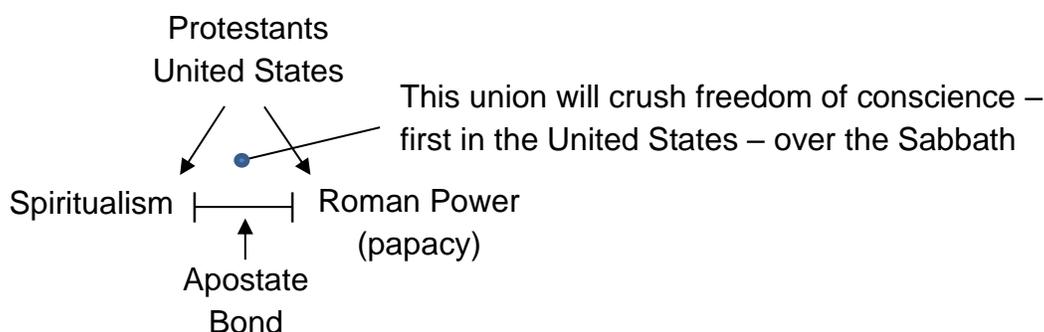


Mysticism and the Paranormal

Introduction

Seventh-day Adventists often quote this Ellen G. White thought:

“Through the **two great errors**, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of Spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. **The Protestants of the United States** will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of **Spiritualism**; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the **Roman power**; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in **trampling on the rights of conscience**.¹



This will be a sign of the very last days: “**Then** we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan, and that the end is near.”²

- **When** (a timing issue) this occurs, two things are evident:

1. Its time for “*marvelous workings of Satan*.”

“The **coming of the Lord is to be preceded by ‘the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders**, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness.’ 2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10. And the apostle John, describing the miracle-working power that will be manifested in the last days, declares: ‘He doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do.’ Revelation 13:13, 14. **No mere impostures are here foretold. Men are deceived by the miracles which Satan’s agents have power to do, not which they pretend to do.**”³ (cf. fifth trumpet – Revelation 9:1-11)

2. The end of our stay on planet earth is near. This is especially the last five months before probation closes.

¹ White, Ellen G.; *The Great Controversy*, p. 588.

² White, Ellen G.; *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 451.

³ White, Ellen G.; *Darkness before Dawn*, p. 19.

Many get excited whenever the Vatican emphasizes Sunday or a rest day.
“The Sunday Laws are coming!!!”

- **Fact:** The Sunday issue has been emphasized by the Catholic Church for centuries, and more pointedly since Pope John Paul II published the apostolic letter *Dies Domini* in 1996.
- Few focus on what must happen before the Sunday Laws come. An increasing interest in mysticism, especially in the United States, is one example, as we will see.
- In addition, how can there be a sudden influence of spiritualism unless it has already infiltrated cultural norms?

Who was listed in Mrs. White’s quotation as being responsible for this union?
Protestants – that’s interesting. They will develop a unique sympathy with Spiritualism.
This bonding will occur as an end-time sign **in the United States!**

That’s our emphasis today.

With the deepest concern, Mrs. White said: “Modern spiritualism ... is but a revival in a new form of the witchcraft and demon worship that God condemned and prohibited of old. It is foretold in the Scriptures, which declare that **‘in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.’** I Timothy 4:1.”⁴

An American Issue

Two years ago, the Christian Post (the web’s most comprehensive Christian news site) published an interesting Barna study of practicing Christians. 61% believed in a “new spirituality”:

- Accepting that all people pray to the same God, regardless of their religious background.
- Accepting that you are at the mercy of Karma, so enjoy life and help others to do the same.
- *Barna* noted that there is a shift away from Biblical Christianity to a “shared world view,” which they called *situational pluralism*. This, *Barna* said, has led to a moral decline in the U.S.⁵ There was no clear moral standard – just aiming for “happiness.”

⁴ White, Ellen G.; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 686.

⁵ <https://www.christianpost.com/news/survey-61-percent-of-practicing-christians-agree-with-some-new-spirituality-beliefs.html>

Compounding this lack of a secure future hope that Christianity provides is the never-ending *anxiety-producing* political chaos and media uncertainty. Many millennials (18 to 30 years of age) are turning to **astrology and witchcraft** for “relief” and “hope.” **Reality is too tumultuous!** This reaching out to something “bigger than anything” on earth for meaning has now reached the 50% mark for this age group.

- They see astrology as a science with positive mystical answers.
- Meaning comes by **placing one's self in the context** of some **symbolic hope**, with a “possible future” that would be blissful.⁶

Pope Francis criticized the practices of using horoscopes and fortune tellers. But he didn't address the Catholic belief in mysticism, miracles, apparitions, the power of relics and praying to people who have died.⁷

This search for meaning has actually gripped all age groups. “Spiritual Tourism” is flourishing. Religious “attractions” are hosting 330 million visitors each year – many seeking renewal or craving some “spiritual discovery” that will “freshen” their minds and lives.⁸ Many travel or take pilgrimages to experience:

- The supernatural at apparition sites
- The counsel of Tibetan monks – some over distances through “prayer” via an “aide”
- The impressive architecture of massive cathedrals and mosques to feel renewed
- The places that Jesus lived and died – trying to contact some spiritual reality

All as examples of seeking some comfort, some newness, some hope!

United States – the Cross versus the Goat – Christianity vs Satanism

“Witchcraft is becoming mainstream in much of America” according to *World Net Daily*. Throughout this country there are increasing numbers of covens of witches. A third-degree Wiccan high priestess said: This “belief” is a “mysterious, nature-focused religion that rewards faith and patience with magic.”⁹

Pastor Carl Gallups, author of *When the Lion Roars*, says:

- Occult practices are playing right into the hand of the prince of darkness.
- Jesus Christ, as Lord and Savior, is being rejected.¹⁰

⁶ <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/why-millennials-are-ditching-religion-for-witchcraft-and-astrology-2017-10-20>

⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69S1AVVf73o>

⁸ <https://www.10best.com/interests/explore/modern-pilgrims-more-people-are-traveling-for-spirituality/>

⁹ <https://www.wnd.com/2017/08/season-of-the-witch-media-cheer-growth-in-occultism/>

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

Pastor Karl Payne, author of *Spiritual Warfare: “Christians, Demonization and Deliverance*, says: “Christians should learn how to resist the devil and his minions rather than try to explain their existence away.” They should “run from them.... I would urge Christians not to dabble or allow themselves to be titillated by the occult. **Seeing how close you can get to a fire without smelling like smoke or getting burned” is frightful.**¹¹

The largest **occult tool** on the planet is in Salem, Massachusetts, headquarters of The Satanic Temple and scene of the historic Salem witchcraft trials. It is in the form of a Ouija Board that weighs 9000 pounds with a 400-pound pointer.

- It is called Ouijazilla.¹²
- The brains behind it comes from the Talking Board Historical Society, dedicated to contacting spirits on “the other side.”

Wiccans espouse what God has condemned: “*There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee*” (Deuteronomy 18:10-12).

- Associated with Ouijazilla is a group called the “Magic Resistance,” an alliance of 13,000 witches worldwide.
- They are collectively and periodically casting a spell on President Trump and his supporters, hoping for a catastrophe.¹³

Occult symbols are everywhere (e.g., the goat symbol, candles, crystals, black attire). Americans are becoming desensitized by these images of evil. Television exorcisms have become entertainment. Karl Payne observed: “**Familiarity can deaden inhibitions.**” **Curiosity can easily draw one into the magnetic attractions of the occult world.**

- Spiritualists and occultists demean, and even censor, orthodox Jews and conservative Christians in the public square.
- “We are living in decidedly prophetic times.... We are living in an era of unprecedented ‘value replacement’ – evil is now called good, and good is now called evil.”¹⁴

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² <http://ouijazilla.com/index.html>

¹³ <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/The-Encroaching-Darkness.html?soid=1101818841456&aid=2k7OcVLYrYY>

¹⁴ <https://www.wnd.com/2017/07/wicked-within-u-s-plunges-toward-glorifying-occultism-and-demons/>

Is this affecting secular leaders?

- Globalist insider, Theodore Malloch (a leader from within the U.N., Wall Street and several universities), answers that: **“Luciferianism” is driving elites.**
- Malloch was President Trump’s first pick for United States ambassador to the European Union. He said that many individuals in the European Union hierarchy and in the Democrat Party see Lucifer as a “liberator, a guardian and guiding spirit.”

The Lucis (Lucifer) Trust, begun by spiritualist Alice Bailey in 1922, helped design the **worship room** at the United Nations. It is mystical and paganistic. Her Trust is an Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) within the U.N. Bailey also helped start another group called World Goodwill to “cooperate in the world of preparation for the reappearance of the Christ.”¹⁵

Theodore Malloch notes that John Podesta (Chief of Staff for President Clinton and counselor to President Obama, plus a personal friend of Hillary Clinton) leaked personal emails through Wikileaks that contained bizarre references to the occult and allusions to child abuse.

- Podesta was also involved with Marina Abramovic, who conducts “spirit cooking” with the vilest human body fluids.
- Malloch noted that the Luciferian global elites are infuriated with Christianity.

The detestable Luciferian beliefs and practices are at the **top levels of government.** Intriguingly, the “community organizer” Saul Alinsky, a mentor of Hillary Clinton, wrote *Rules for Radicals*, honoring Lucifer as the first radical when he obtained a kingdom!¹⁶

The Rise of Satanism

The Satanic Temple (TST) is a “religion” in Europe and, now, in the United States. It is powerful and driven by activism, and its members have publicly stood on the steps of many governmental institutions to shout, “Hail, Satan.”

- From a handful of members in the United States in 2012, it now claims tens of thousands.
- They have been classed as serious, intelligent thinkers.

This is a new spinoff of the “Church of Satan,” founded in 1966 by the flamboyant Anton Szandor LaVey.

¹⁵ *One Earth*, the magazine of the Findhorn Foundation, October/November 1986, Vol. 6, Issue 6, p.24.

¹⁶ <https://www.wnd.com/2017/12/top-insider-exposes-luciferian-origin-of-globalist-empire/>

- His “church” was never political.
- TST is unabashedly out to get its way legally and through the media. They want to be in the public spotlight!

Most TST chapters take the Biblical stories and reinterpret them to their agenda and beliefs. An example:

- Eve was curious, so she went to the prohibited tree. Curiosity is a positive trait.
- She was offered the fruit of enlightenment.
- By eating it, she was liberated from servitude or slavery and exercised free choice.¹⁷

It was in April of 2019 that the United States federal government recognized, for the first time in history, a satanic organization as a church – the TST. It is now tax exempt.

Its leaders proudly say that The Satanic Temple has the same access to public spaces as other religious organizations, can affirm its standing in court when battling religious discrimination, and is enabled to apply for faith-based government grants.”¹⁸

Though they say they don’t worship Satan, they commissioned the making of a Satanic monument, depicting the sex-crazed human-goat Baphomet with two children looking up intently into his face. Part of his genitalia is exposed.

- It was initially commissioned to be installed alongside a Ten Commandment statue displayed at the Oklahoma State Capital.
- After litigation, it was decided that it could only be removed **if** the Ten Commandments went also. And that’s what happened!

The Baphomet is a takeoff from the ancient Greek god Pan that came into existence at the time of the prophet Daniel. The meaning of various depictions on the statue represents evil, honoring Satan!¹⁹ The Daniel 8 rough he-goat is tied to this!

The final resting place of Baphomet is still under “legal” discussion. However, The Satanic Temple was successful in putting another evil statue in Belle Plaine Veterans Memorial County Park in a Minnesota town. It is a black box with Satanic goat symbols on its sides and an upside down helmet on its top, located in a “free-speech zone.”²⁰

¹⁷ <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6616577/The-rise-Satanism-America-members-dont-ACTUALLY-worship-devil-push-activism.html>

¹⁸ <https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2019/04/26/satanic-temple-recognized-as-church-with-tax-exempt-status/>

¹⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Statue_of_Baphomet

²⁰ <https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2017/07/11/belle-plaine-satanic-monument/>

“We are living in an age of peril, when ungodliness is common. Even professed Christians do not believe their Bibles.... We are now at the ebb-tide of faith in the world. Antichristian ideas, customs, and practices prevail, and ... that which is of most value, that which God esteems most highly, is treated with contempt. Well may the God-fearing inquire: What shall the end of these things be? Love for Christ and love for one another is fast dying out of the hearts of men.”²¹

Contacting the “Other World”

Ever since Saul’s illicit “contact” with “Samuel” through the witch of Endor (I Samuel 28), there have been Biblical warnings relating to contacting “the nether world.”

- Most Protestant Christians look with askance at such acts.
- Yet, the belief in a post-mortem living soul is an overarching conviction of most.

The internet is full of self-help methods to communicate with the dead²² or to tap a power ***beyond our present reality***.

- 50% of U.S. citizens believe that places can be haunted by spirits.
- 25% believe that some people can move objects by their thoughts (telekinesis).
- Greater than 50% of *young adults* favor the psychic services industry.²³

The old word “spiritualism” is being replaced with “paranormal,” which encompasses a broad mystical alternative “faith.” In addition, there is an ***accelerating reset*** within Christianity to want a ***deeper emotional worship experience***, called ***“spirituality.”***

“Spirituality” promotes a Christian worship that ***blends*** certain mystical rites with a traditional liturgical experience. It “represents ... a religious inoculation against genuine Christianity.” Demons are very happy to step into those rites. They are dubbed “religious inclinations.”²⁴

Contact with powers that are not from God but from Satan has curious attractions ***that stimulate man’s sinful nature***. There is already a natural bent toward evil. Like two magnets – there is a point, as they are moved closer together, that the union occurs with a force that is difficult to break.

- “Spirituality” seeks to make some objective contact beyond our present reality.
- Spells that break the boundaries that God has given man carries him into a realm that restricts the ***gift of choice***.

²¹ White, Ellen G.; *The Youth Instructor*, July 19, 1894.

²² <https://www.ranker.com/list/how-to-contact-past-relatives-jacob-shelton>

²³ <http://www.uscatholic.org/articles/201309/paranormal-activity-do-catholics-believe-ghosts-27887>

²⁴ <https://www.wnd.com/2017/10/surge-in-spiritism-most-americans-believe-in-paranormal/>

“There are ***few who have any just conception of the deceptive power of spiritualism*** and the danger of coming under its influence. Many tamper with it merely to gratify their curiosity. They have no real faith in it and would be filled with horror at the thought of yielding themselves to the spirits' control. ***But they venture upon the forbidden ground, and the mighty destroyer exercises his power upon them against their will.*** Let them once be induced to submit their minds to his direction, and he holds them captive. It is impossible, in their own strength, to break away from the bewitching, alluring spell. Nothing but the power of God, granted in answer to the earnest prayer of faith, can deliver these ensnared souls.”²⁵

The mind changes: “Your former connection with spiritualism makes your danger greater than it otherwise would be, because ***your judgment, wisdom, and discrimination have been perverted.*** You cannot of yourself always tell or discern the spirits; for Satan is very wily. God has placed you in connection with His church that they may help you.”²⁶

“Spells can have power” according to Father Vincent Lampert, the designated exorcist for the archdiocese of Indianapolis since 2005 and also the pastor for St. Malachy in Indianapolis. “I think there’s power, but it’s not coming from God,” Lampert said. “Anyone who would dare say they want to challenge that God is in charge is using the power of evil as their own. They should realize that we can’t use the devil; the devil uses us. People can’t control it and the devil ends up using them for his own purposes.”²⁷

Extraterrestrial Spirit Contact

Since the invention of the radio at the turn of the twentieth century, there has been a growing investment of money, technology and research into “radio communications” with extraterrestrial life (beings).

- After the U.S. Planetary Society was formed in 1980, advanced equipment with a vast array of projects began. Billions of dollars have been spent, with radio antennas up to one thousand feet in diameter, which continue to pry the heavens.
- So far, only “suspicious signals” have been received. This has led skeptics to call this blind search “The Great Silence.”

However, so passionate are many scientists that the International Academy of Astronautics has a long-standing committee aimed at what to do if alien-like beings were discovered. In July of 2015 a “Breakthrough Message” competition was opened,

²⁵ White, Ellen G.; *The Great Controversy*, p. 558.

²⁶ White, Ellen G.; *Testimonies*, vol. 3, p. 419.

²⁷ <https://www.ncregister.com/blog/armstrong/exorcists-warn-about-dangers-of-wiccan-spell-to-bind-donald-trump>
cf. <https://www.charismanews.com/culture/64529-is-it-really-so-dangerous-to-play-with-the-occult>

with a \$1,000,000 prize pool to create the proper message **from this planet** to be beamed into space. It would have to be “representative of humanity and planet earth.”²⁸

There are numerous Biblical accounts where God’s angels and Christ Himself have appeared to man in the “form of men.” May we say, extraterrestrial contacts?!

1. Three “*men*” appeared to Abraham (Genesis 18:2). Most expositors believe they were Christ and two angels.
2. Daniel, in an emotionally and physically draining encounter with Christ and Gabriel, was finally permitted to see them as “*the sons of men*” and as having “*the appearance of a man*” (Daniel 10:16, 18).

As previously noted, the fearful encounter Saul had with a demonic power from the spirit realm was a literal human/spirit contact (I Samuel 28:7-25). What if there was contact between humanity and an alien race from the satanic realm? How would earthlings react? Christians are aware of Paul’s warning:

- “*And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.*” (II Corinthians 11:14 – NET). ***This demon even appeared to Christ the man*** (Luke 4:1-13)!
- Satan was once “*Lucifer,*” meaning “*light bearer*” (Isaiah 14:12-14, Ezekiel 28:13-19). He became an angel of darkness (II Peter 2:4, Jude 6). Paul suggests that he will deceptively appear to mankind as an “*angel of light.*”

“Satan came as an angel of light in the wilderness of temptation to deceive Christ; and he does not come to man in a hideous form, as he is sometimes represented, but as an angel of light. He will come personating Jesus Christ, working mighty miracles; and men will fall down and worship him as Jesus Christ. We shall be commanded to worship this being, whom the world will glorify as Christ. What shall we do? – Tell them that Christ has warned us against just such a foe, who is man’s worst enemy, yet who claims to be God; and that when Christ shall make his appearance, it will be with power and great glory, accompanied by ten thousand times ten thousand angels and thousands of thousands; and that when he shall come, we shall know his voice.”²⁹

The Roman Catholic Church has a deep interest in the spirit world!

It has “authenticated” many apparitions where individuals have allegedly seen and heard Mary, the mother of Jesus, or Jesus Himself. These “sightings” are not observed by others – only the *visionaries*.

²⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Search_for_extraterrestrial_intelligence

²⁹ White, Ellen G.; *The Review and Herald*, December 18, 1888.

- They represent visitations by “heavenly beings” to human beings, conveying messages that would “aid planet earth’s citizens.”
- Since there is no Biblical record that Mary was taken to heaven, this belief is problematic to that church. Making it more so is the fact that it was not such dogma of the Catholic Church until November 1, 1950, when Pope Pius XII declared it so.³⁰

Yet, in places of apparitions, there are pilgrimages and “healings.” The “Assumption of Mary” [translated without seeing death] to heaven is celebrated as a national holiday on August 15 of each year **by many countries**. Stunning is that allegiance to a non-Biblical belief, even in the secular world.

The Vatican’s Clandestine Plans

The Vatican has been preparing for the arrival of an “alien savior,” which will be connected with “Petrus Romanus, the final pope.”³¹ It predicts that supernatural things **will** soon occur by quoting, “*And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and **fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven***” (Luke 21:11).

But God has more to say: “*And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan **with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness***” (II Thessalonians 2:8-12).

In 1981 the Vatican moved its team of astronomers from Italy to Arizona. Indian land was set aside on top of Mt. Graham (SE Arizona). The air there is pristine clear.

1. By 1993 the first telescope was installed – the Vatican Advanced Technology Telescope (VATT). Then came the Sub-millimeter Telescope (SMT). These were followed by the installation of a **L**arge Binocular Telescope with a Near-infrared **U**tility with **C**amera and **I**ntegral **F**ield Unit for **E**xtragalactic **R**esearch: acronym LUCIFER – perhaps the most powerful land telescope in the world.
2. This observatory is manned by twelve Jesuit astronomers and astrophysicists. It sits at the 11,000-foot elevation.
3. The Vatican gives \$1,000,000 each year to this facility – no strings attached.

³⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assumption_of_Mary

³¹ *Exo-Vaticana*, pp. 337-338.

Objectives: *To merge science with faith.* The Jesuits call it the “Future of faith.” What are they seeking? Extra-terrestrial intelligent life – they hope.

- These priests believe that extra-terrestrial brother(s) will be discovered soon.
- They also said that ET beings ***are already contacting some individuals on earth.***³²
- Jesuit Malachi Martin, before his death in 1999, said that many already know what is “now approaching earth.”³³

Stunningly, the Mt. Graham observatory is in collaboration with Arizona State University. Since 2009 they have been studying communications with:

1. Deceased people
2. Spirit guides
3. Angels
4. Other worldly entities
5. Extra-terrestrials
6. Universal intelligence
7. God

Have certain Jesuit priests already had contact with demonic beings? Have there been spiritualistic manifestations between Catholic leaders and principalities and powers under satanic control? The weight of evidence suggests “Yes.”

Intriguingly, in his 1987 speech, Ronald Reagan told the United Nations General Assembly: “I occasionally think how quickly our differences worldwide would vanish if we were facing an alien threat from outside this world.”³⁴

As previously noted, the Catholic Church officially prohibits communication with the dead in seances or by Ouija boards.³⁵ It officially fears that its members might pull up the wrong spirit.³⁶ Yet that church encourages its followers to pray to the saints – obviously, they have already “screened” them!

Catholic Jesuit Philipp Schmidt wrote in the early 1960s that “Christianity believes that God may, and sometimes does, permit a departed soul to appear in some visible form

³² *Ibid.*, p. 20.

³³ *Ibid.*, p. 21.

³⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Potential_cultural_impact_of_extraterrestrial_contact quoting: Hoberman, J. (2 November 2008), “*The Cold War Sci-Fi Parable That Fell to Earth.*” *New York Times Movies*. *The New York Times*. Archived from [the original](#) on 24 December 2012. Retrieved 28 March 2012.

³⁵ *Catechism*, paragraph 2116.

³⁶ <https://threeminuteapologetics.blogspot.com/2011/12/can-catholics-attend-seanceswhy-can.html>

to people on earth.” “Their purpose may be to teach, or warn, or request some favor for the living.”

However, Schmidt wrote: “**attempts to speak to dead relatives** were “not in keeping with the wisdom of God.... Human beings can’t control the supernatural – only God can. Spiritualism is hostile to all the world’s religions, and the miracles attributed to Christ and the saints stand on a level high above all spiritistic interpretation.”³⁷

Catholics, therefore, believe that:

- Spirits can contact man, but man shouldn’t contact the spirits outside the prayers to the saints.
- When individuals contact departed souls in purgatory, they **become unhappy individuals**.
- “Experiences with the supernatural – auditory or visual – are appearances God has allowed.”

Msgr. Wayne Prist of Chicago said: “Catholics are more susceptible to such stories because we believe in the communication of saints and purgatory. We have a whole tradition of apparitions, so even if we want to dismiss it, we can’t, because it’s so much a part of our **tradition**.”³⁸

Expositor White notes: “The deification of the dead has held a prominent place in nearly every system of heathenism, as has also the supposed communion with the dead. The gods were believed to communicate their will to men, and also, when consulted, to give them counsel. Of this character were the famous oracles of Greece and Rome.”³⁹

Life After Death – “Tradition”

Seventy-three percent of Americans believe in “life after death.” What happens in that “life” is interesting: 82% of those who believe this say that one’s existence is in a spirit form only. Most of these **assume** that those spirits could make contact with people on this earth.⁴⁰

Though we are told “*faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things **not seen***” (Hebrews 11:1), the growing culture of anxiety and the increased intensity of society is reaching a point that people are exploring beyond themselves, beyond reality, “Give us a sign, some hope, of something better, of something objective!”

- Many are seeking guidance in ways that are at variance to God’s Word.

³⁷ <http://www.uscatholic.org/articles/201309/paranormal-activity-do-catholics-believe-ghosts-27887>

³⁸ *Ibid*.

³⁹ White, Ellen G.; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 684.

⁴⁰ <https://ropercenter.cornell.edu/blog/paradise-poll-ed-americans-and-afterlife-blog>

- They are searching for answers somewhere in that extraterrestrial realm where Satan lurks.

There are over 3,000 paranormal **“investigations”** going on presently in the United States. The public interest in these is partly reflected by the proliferation of ghost-hunting television programs.

- Most investigators believe that the paranormal is “imbued with spiritual significance.”
- As confidence in organized religion has been declining, people are seeking new forms of *spirituality*.

People want to be freed from the boundaries of doctrine and institutions.

- They label that other reality “the afterlife,” “the spirit realm” and “the other side.”
- Paranormal investigators are attempting to communicate with those “spirits.”⁴¹

“It is Satan’s most **successful and fascinating** delusion – one calculated to take hold of the sympathies of those who have laid their loved ones in the grave. **Evil angels come in the form of those loved ones and relate incidents connected with their lives, and perform acts which they performed while living.**”⁴²

This is pointed and alarming. As of December 2019, there were 4,851 paranormal societies in the United States, represented in every state.⁴³

- “Paranormal” sounds more scientific than “spiritualism” or even “spiritism.”
- The eerie thought of “spirits of dead relatives” has been replaced by “ghosts,” which adds mystery and cultural fascination to the nether world.

Mainstream science and organized religion tend to marginalize the paranormal. But the interest is also high among “Christians” who don’t attend church. Studies have shown that these individuals see this interest as “spiritual.”

- Their search and contact are called **“evidence-based spirituality.”**
- The **quest** makes people feel connected to “a divine, supernatural or transcendent order.” And – that is partially true.

The existential conviction: If you could prove the existence of those spirits, then you could connect now with that “afterlife.” That, many claim, would affirm the religious belief they have had all along. It would open the avenue to something greater.

⁴¹ <https://academic.oup.com/socrel/article/76/4/389/2461450>

⁴² White, Ellen G.; *The Signs of the Times*, August 26, 1889; *Last Day Events*, p. 161.

⁴³ <http://www.paranormalsocieties.com/>

All such “seekers” cannot stand on “faith” that a greater power exists but are driven to discover “objective evidence,” “irrefutable evidence” of the supernatural. The background of these “seekers” is diverse (atheists, Catholics, Protestants, agnostics).

- They all merge into one broad group, looking for “spiritual meaning” beyond their past religious experience, and the restrictions of present reality.
- All seem to validate that there is life after death unrelated to the Biblical resurrection teachings.

Perhaps the greater tragedy lies in the failure by these “seekers” to answer if their “contacts” with that “other reality” could be demonic. All assumed that it was some divine God experience.

Another Dimension

Spiritual Formation is a relatively new “shaping process” within Protestantism of an individual’s spiritual self. Its objective: a new Christ reality when one bonds with others and become “united – whole.”

- Sounds wonderful? Caution! How does this occur?
- Through **spiritual disciplines**, especially with **periods of contemplation** (e.g., certain meditative practices, mantra repetitions and breath prayers).
- **All are oriented to a focus on self and something one does.**

Evangelical Richard Foster is credited with bringing this to the Protestants in 1978 in his book *Celebration of Discipline*.” He later (1989), with others, started a promotional organization called Renovare. Its roots lie within the disciplines of the Jesuit world. The Spiritual Formation movement is a para-church trend that quickly enamored the evangelical and Protestant worlds – beginning with its leaders.

- It is a *mystical* form of spirituality.
- It connects **sensory experiences** which moves one into an **altered state of consciousness**. Individuals then perceive a closer connection with God through something they do.

One doesn’t have to leave their religious persuasion to have this “reawakening.” Thoughts from some of its leaders:

- “At the center of our being is a point of ‘nothingness’ untouched by sin.”
- It is a point of “pure truth” – the “pure glory of God.”

- This inner truth needs to be nourished by the “spirit of contemplation.”⁴⁴

“God is in everyone and everyone is part of God.” This contradicts the Bible:

1. “*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*” (Jeremiah 17:9 – KJV).
2. “*But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away*” (Isaiah 64:6 – NKJV).

Spiritual Formation even carries a Hindu message that God is in all things and God is all things. Richard Foster said that meditative prayer (contemplative prayer) creates a “spiritual space” or “inner sanctuary.” “Let everything go to concentrate within that space and on [to] the God point.”

- The goal is to contact a “higher conscience” – some spiritual ecstasy.
- Then God’s voice can be heard, and everything becomes unified.
- One is liberated from thinking – it morphs into a feeling experience.

This is truly one form of contacting ***another reality*** – a paranormal experience. In many ways it is a form of self-hypnosis. This occurs through many techniques.

1. Repetition of a word or phrase (like the Catholic mantra, “Holy Mary, mother of God, blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus).”
2. Praying with the rhythm of breathing, leading to an altered state of consciousness.
3. Repetition of words in a song for a period of time.
4. *Lectio Divina* – read or repeat a Bible verse or phrase over and over until a single word or phrase resonates with you. Then ponder this word or phrase. Then talk to God about this word or phrase, then rest in silence for a period of time.

Catholic Thomas Keating said that it is ***not to understand*** the Bible verse, it is to ***bring the mind into the center of an intense experience!***

There are myriads of ways to become detached and then attached to another reality. But – those who promote it never question if the practice and objective is Biblical. It is self-hypnosis.

Some form of contemplative prayer (i.e., Spiritual Formation) has found its way into every Christian denomination. If this is so vital to “reclaim a godly dimension” in our lives, why is it not mentioned as a practice in the Bible?

⁴⁴ <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?id=8280>

- There is no esoteric tradition that will give you more of the Holy Spirit.
- Many of these practices are similar to rites of Hinduism, Buddhism AND Jesuit traditions.⁴⁵

*“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.... **For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father**”* (Ephesians 2:13, 18). Not a focus on self but the God above all gods.

“For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man” (Ephesians 3:14-16).

Exploring ones inner space has been projected through astrology, the signs of the Zodiac, metaphysics (the science of dealing with intelligent forces or unknown powers), energy healing, walking the Labyrinth Journey, Centering Prayer, Jesuit spiritual exercises, chanting mantras, and even some martial arts classes and Kundalini energy through many Yoga practices.

- Ray Yungen of the insightful Lighthouse Trails notes⁴⁶: “It is important to note here that the purpose of **contemplative prayer** is to enter an **altered state of consciousness** in order to find one’s true self, thus finding God. This true self relates to the belief that man is basically good. Christian proponents of contemplative prayer teach that all human beings have a divine center and that all, not just born-again believers, should practice contemplative prayer. The belief is that in the heart of man we find God (i.e., that we are God).”⁴⁷ That’s what Satan wants to be. That’s what the antichrist claims to be. The devil wants us to think that we can be gods also.

Of deep concern is the area of Energy Healing, since it is being increasingly practiced by Christians. Words from an ancient Hindu language called Sanskrit are used to identify psychic energy.

- There are allegedly seven *chakrao* or energy centers that go up the spine – the seventh is at the top of the head.
- These *chakras* act as conduits or conductors of a serpent energy called Kundalini.
- When the energy goes up the spine and hits the crown, the individual gets enlightenment where he merges with the “Spirit.”

⁴⁵ *Lectio Divina*, A Lighthouse Trans Publication.

⁴⁶ lighthouse Trails.org

⁴⁷ Yungen, Ray; *Five Things You Should Know About Contemplative Prayer*, A Lighthouse Trails Publication.

This enlightenment or self-realization is his awareness that “he is God.”

This occurs through a process called Reiki. It stimulates this energy path that can also “bring healing.” This occurs when a Reiki Master (often an *enlightened* friend) is in a meditative mode and touches the individual while meditating.

- An ecstatic flow/feeling “flows” from the Master to the individual – its real!
- It is described as a “wonderful sense of warmth and security.”

It is addictive, and people come back for it again and again. Over one million people practice this in the United States. There are even Reiki journals and training programs for children to learn this practice.

- One’s “higher self” is discovered.
- It is claimed to be “spiritual.”⁴⁸
- There have been experiences where a Master is aware of spirit beings on either side of them while touching another.

This practice makes contact with the demonic world!

Reality Check

What if a demonic being “landed” on planet earth and was clearly superior to earthlings? What if such a being had nothing but good in mind, healed diseases, spoke of peace and world unity with a persuasive power that human beings never saw before? What if such a being appealed to all religions and people and the world perceived him as Messianic?

“Through the agency of spiritualism, miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and many undeniable wonders will be performed. And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power.”⁴⁹

- We ***will have*** objective proof that a “supernatural” has “contacted planet earth.”
- It is even possible that it will positively affect friends, family and those near us.

“Many will be confronted by the spirits of devils personating beloved relatives or friends and declaring the most dangerous heresies. These visitants will appeal to our tenderest sympathies and will work miracles to sustain their pretensions. We must be prepared to

⁴⁸ Yunger, Ray; *The Truth About Energy Healing*, A Lighthouse Trails Publication.

⁴⁹ White, Ellen G.; *The Great Controversy*, p. 588.

withstand them with the Bible truth that the dead know not anything and that they who thus appear are the spirits of devils.”⁵⁰

- How might you react if this occurred?
- What if you were all alone and this happened? There is a pastor in this Conference that has had supernatural beings appear to him, talking with him in his bedroom.

“It was by satanic aid that Pharaoh’s magicians were enabled to counterfeit the work of God. Paul testifies that before the second advent of Christ there will be similar manifestations of satanic power. ***The coming of the Lord is to be preceded by ‘the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness.’*** 2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10. ***No mere impostures are here foretold. Men are deceived by the miracles which Satan’s agents have power to do, not which they pretend to do.***”⁵¹

- In Revelation 13:4 the sea beast is given power by Satan. The earth beast speaks as a dragon (Revelation 13:11). Mrs. White does not make a distinction between the United States (earth beast) and Satan in many of her writings!⁵²
- This is a major issue to watch as we study events currently transpiring.

Between the sixth and seventh plagues is an interlude warning of the last spiritualistic move before Christ comes. Three evil spirits that look like frogs will come out of the mouth of the dragon, beast and false prophet.

- They go out to the leaders of the whole world with miracles and a message.
- These apostate forces will lead ***all*** the political powers on earth to war against God’s people in a common cause. This is described further in Revelation 17:12-14.⁵³

This begins the onset of universal hatred against God’s people. Satan and his minions will appeal to the paranormal in his last desperate moves to destroy God’s people.

A warning and a promise:

“The great controversy between good and evil will increase in intensity to the very close of time. In all ages the wrath of Satan has been manifested against the church of Christ; and God has bestowed His grace and Spirit upon His people to strengthen them to stand against the power of the evil one. When the apostles of Christ were to bear His

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 560.

⁵¹ White, Ellen G.; *Darkness before Dawn*, p. 19.

⁵² *Ibid.*, p. 50.

⁵³ LaRondelle, Hans K., Th.D.; *How to Understand the End-Time Prophecies of the Bible* (First Impressions; Sarasota, FL 34243 – 1997), p.

gospel to the world and to record it for all future ages, they were especially endowed with the enlightenment of the Spirit. ***But as the church approaches her final deliverance, Satan is to work with greater power.*** He comes down 'having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.' Revelation 12:12. He will work 'with all power and signs and lying wonders.' 2 Thessalonians 2:9. For 6000 years that mastermind that once was highest among the angels of God has been wholly bent to the work of deception and ruin. ***And all the depths of satanic skill and subtlety acquired, all the cruelty developed during these struggles of the ages will be brought to bear against God's people in the final conflict.*** And in this time of peril the followers of Christ are to bear to the world the warning of the Lord's second advent; and a people are to be prepared to stand before Him at His coming, 'without spot, and blameless.' 2 Peter 3:14. At this time the special endowment of divine grace and power is not less needful to the church than in apostolic days."⁵⁴

Our greatest challenges:

1. Know the Scriptures and plead for the fruits of the Spirit and the gifts to deal with the hour of trial.
2. Have enough self-control to not believe our senses when they are contrary to the Bible – like airplane pilots, who follow their instruments regardless of what they may "feel."

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⁵⁴ White, Ellen G.; *The Great Controversy*, pp. ix-x.