

Battle of the Bibles: The Word of God vs. The Word of Lucifer

Summary Statement:

The corruption of the written Word of God commenced within the first few centuries after Christ and the Apostles passed away. Distorting the word of God put out the eyes of the Church so that when the papal anti-Christ walked onto the stage of history men did not recognize him. Rather he was hailed as a great moral leader in the crumbling western Roman empire. Persecuted by the anti-Christ masquerading in the garments of the gospel, true believers fled to the remote places of the earth taking the written word of God with them.

Today, the corruption of the Scriptures is also putting out the eyes of the Church, at the very moment the revived papal anti-Christ is about to re-ascend the stage of the world. He will be hailed as a great spiritual peacemaker who can resolve the conflict between the warring religions of the world. In particular, the New Age versions teach that men can become gods just as Christ became a god. Fallen angels, masquerading as loved ones who died, will support this delusion. This false theology is preparing the world to receive Lucifer as Christ. It will be the crowning delusion.

Avoiding Deception: It is Written

Immediately after his baptism, Jesus Christ went into the wilderness to fast and pray as he contemplated how he would implement the most crucial part of the plan of salvation - teaching the fallen race by his example in word and action how to overcome sin, before submitting to his substitutionary death for mankind. Satan tried to thwart the ministry of Jesus at its inception. Taking advantage of the fact that Christ had come in the form of a human being Satan assailed Christ with three fierce temptations that his cunning mind could invent. His response to each temptation was to shield himself with the word of God - it is written. We must use the same defense as Christ used if we are to defeat the common enemy.

Lucifer's Game Plan in Eden

To defeat Christ in the wilderness, Lucifer used the same game plan he had successfully used against Eve and then Adam. He first instilled doubt in Eve's mind by misrepresenting to her what God had said in half-truths. He next led her into the sin of presumption that she would become like God. He then won her allegiance by offering her the chance to establish her very own kingdom on earth built on her conceptions of good and evil. Here is a summary of how Lucifer's deceptions worked by distorting the word of God,

First Distortion:

In Genesis 2: 16 God has said:

16. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat:

Notice: God said, 'Eat of every tree *except one*.' In Genesis 3:1 we read how the serpent distorted this word,

1. And he (the Serpent) said to the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of *every* tree of the garden?

Here is the clever perversion: One word was changed. God said don't eat of *one* tree; Lucifer said you can't eat of *every* tree. Eve, in her pride of self-knowledge took the bait and entered into conversation with the devil to "set him straight." Of course, she did not know that she was communicating with the evil one that they had been warned about. But with a little reflection, she *could have known*. Anyone perverting the word of God is of the devil and is doing the work of the devil. The talking serpent misrepresented what God said - that was her first clue something was amiss.

Second distortion:

In the last clause of Genesis 2:17, God said

17. But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die.

Notice God said, "You will *surely* die." God did not say *when*, or *how soon after transgression*, man would die. Surely expresses certainty, not timing. Man of course had an immediate spiritual death. In Genesis 3: 4 Lucifer stated,

4. And the Serpent said to the woman, "You shall not surely die."

When Lucifer said you shall *not* surely die, it appeared to be a direct contradiction of the word of God. And this should have alarmed Eve that she was communicating with the fallen angel they had been warned about. But Lucifer was capitalizing on insufficient information Eve had. She was led to focus on the "timing" of death, not on its "certainty." Her duty was to take God at his word and maintain fast loyalty.

The Third Distortion.

In Genesis 3: 5 Lucifer said,

5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil

When Lucifer said "Your eyes will be opened" he undermined her faith in the honesty of God, implying that God had *unfairly hidden* something from the holy pair. He now served as her self-asserting benefactor: believe me and I will become your enlightener opening your minds to hidden knowledge. The quest for esoteric knowledge has plagued mankind ever since.

His next deception was "You will be like God." This was a double lie. First, it tempted Eve into thinking she could evolve into a god herself; something he had himself aspired to. Secondly, he said, "You will be like God, knowing good and evil." Knowing the difference between good and evil does not automatically make you a god. What was unsaid was that they would become evil and incapable of doing good. Moreover, the offer of "knowing good and evil" was a temptation for them to build their very own kingdom on earth using their very own conceptions of what is right and what is wrong. The temptations

of the devil to Christ go much deeper than we normally consider. They reveal the methods Lucifer used in his initial rebellion in the heavenly courts.

Lucifer's Game Plan in Heaven

From the beginning of the Great Controversy in Heaven Lucifer determined to win the allegiance of the created beings by distorting the words, the character, and laws of God. If he had approached the angels with bold lies, he would have been shunned. His cunning mind decided to mischaracterize the statements and actions of God to lead angels (and hopefully, other created beings inhabiting planetary worlds), to first doubt, then distrust, and then rebel against their sovereign Lord and Creator.

The Word of Lucifer

By distorting the word of God Lucifer transformed it into the word of Lucifer - half lies that perverted and twisted the word of God. What we call the Great Controversy is really, a battle between the *Word of God* and the *Word of Lucifer*, for when Lucifer twists any part of the Word of God it becomes the Word of Lucifer.

Historical Panorama of the Old Testament

The Hebrew Prophets: 1500-397 BC

After man sinned, God could no longer speak to man directly so he had to do it by revelation through holy men led by the Spirit of God. As man's memory faded, the word of God was reduced to writing. God outlined his plan of salvation to his prophets and revealed himself to man by acting in the stream of history. He called Abraham out of Babylon so that he could preserve the fading faith in the Creator-God. His descendants failed to walk in his path of righteousness and were exiled to Egypt for 430 years.

God used Moses to free Israel from the bondage imposed by the Pharaohs who forgot the righteous administration of Joseph. After the Exodus God gave Moses the Magna Charter of all freedoms – the Ten Commandments. He also gave Moses the history of the earth from Creation to the flood. The Torah and Ten Commandments became the written Word of God to man.

At the time of the Babylonian captivity, some exiled priests formed the sect of the Pharisees and they were seduced by Satan to pervert the written revelation to Moses. They invented the fable that Moses did not write down for future generations everything God had said to him. In addition, he passed on an oral tradition that only the initiated few knew and could selectively transmit to others. This collection of oral traditions amalgamated with pagan Gnostic philosophy became known as the Cabala and the Talmud.

In short, this mystic tradition rejects the concept that salvation comes through the merits and grace of the Messiah to come. Rather man can regain unity with the pantheistic 'spirit' of the universe by esoteric knowledge. Pythagoras popularized this teaching among the Greeks after he visited the Pharisees in Babylon around 540 BC. He taught that man can liberate his soul from 'evil matter' and re-unite with the 'World Soul' by pursuing a course of studies he called the 'liberal arts.'

This conflict between the written inspiration of the prophets and the Oral Traditions of the Pharisees became the **Battle of the Bibles**. Just as poison is most effective when diluted and camouflaged by wholesome food, Lucifer sprinkles his distortions and lies here and there. He interprets the Word of God while concealing his poison. The word of Lucifer is every distorted verse and teaching, scattered among the real word of God. Modern translations do not become, in their entirety, the word of Lucifer. We refer only to those verses or passages altered by additions or deletions.

Septuagint: 285 BC

God fought back. In the Providence of God, Alexander the Macedonian conquered the world, reducing it to a Greek-speaking population. God Then influenced the Greek ruler of Egypt to request that Jewish scholars write a Greek Bible. The Septuagint was produced in 285 BC in Alexandria, by 70 scholars - hence the name Septuagint.

The Apocryphal Books: 200 BC to AD 50

After the book of Malachi was written in 397 BC God did not communicate with the nation of Israel through prophets for 400 years. This silence was not by God's choice, for the prophet Isaiah says our sins separate us from God. God in mercy often gives no further light lest we reject it and lose eternal life. During the 400 years of famine for the Word of God, false prophets, Jewish historians, and philosophers, wrote false messages from God. Those which are not primarily of a historical nature, we call Apocryphal books.

Many of these Apocryphal books were numbered with the canon of OT Scriptures but they were the word of Lucifer. Apocrypha means hidden or secret. Hence, Apocryphal books are hidden or secret books. They contain so-called wisdom and history too esoteric for the ordinary person to understand. Like the Cabala, they can be understood only by the initiated who are learned in the Masonic religious ritual coming from the Tower of Babel.

Philo of Alexandria

Between 25 BC and AD 50 a Jewish philosopher by the name of Philo made a Herculean attempt to synthesize the Jewish Scriptures with Greek philosophy - especially the Gnostic philosophy of Pythagoras and Plato. He treated the OT writings as allegories to reconcile them with Greek philosophy. He taught that Hebrew Scriptures could not be interpreted literally or understood as they were written. These teachings had a tremendous influence on early Christians. Especially among Jewish Christians and early gentile Christian philosophers.

Philo was a key agent in the history of heresy. He was used by Lucifer to subvert the Jewish OT. Many Christian philosophers followed him and began to treat the NT as allegories. These false teachers invented nothing new. All they did was refine and develop what Philo taught.

Battle of the Bibles in the New Testament Era

The Temptations of Jesus

In AD 27 God broke his silence and the prophet John the Baptist appeared as Christ's forerunner. At the baptism of Christ, both the Father and the Holy Spirit testified to his sonship and divine origin. Before Christ began his ministry, Satan tried to defeat him by tempting him to sin by various stratagems. He craftily misapplied the Word of God and attempted to instill doubt in

Christ's mind that he was indeed the Son of God. In Matthew 3: 16, 17 we read that the Word of God was heard testifying that Jesus was the Son of God,

16. 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:

17. And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

But in Matthew 4: 5, 6 Lucifer came to Christ and tempted him saying,

5. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple,

6. And said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

The first corruption was to add the word "if" to cast doubt on the declaration of God that Jesus was his Son. How significant was this? As a man, Christ had to believe in faith the testimony of God about who he was. He could not entertain doubt on this point by giving credence to the "if" of Lucifer. This was a direct attack on the divinity of our Savior. Similarly, every created being must believe by faith that God is their Creator and they are not the product of evolution.

The second corruption was made when Lucifer quoted Ps. 91: 11, 12 when he tempted him to cast himself off a high building, believing the angels would protect him from harm. He misquoted it and manipulated it in such a way as to make it appear that it approves a sinful course of action: that one can act presumptuously and God will send his angels to protect you. David wrote,

9. Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;

10. There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

11. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

12. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Lucifer left out the context of the promise and the words "to keep you in all your ways." The context was *because you have made the Lord your refuge and habitation, and you obediently follow the ways of God*, he would give his angels charge over you. While we believe in faith that the Lord is our protector we cannot say: *Lord I am going jump off this mountain to prove you mean what you said*. By removing portions of the Word of God, Lucifer created the Word of Lucifer out of it, which if we follow, will destroy our faith. Christ rebuked Lucifer by quoting an example of presumptuous behavior recorded in Deuteronomy 6:16 "Do not tempt the Lord as you did at Massah when you thirsted;" The context of Moses' rebuke of the Israelites was, 'in light of God's mighty works of deliverance, you should not say - give us water and we will believe you are leading us.'

Mark this well, the object of Lucifer in perverting the Word of God was to attack the divinity of Christ just as he had done in heaven. He tried to instill doubts in the human mind of Jesus the incarnation of God, that he was really the Messiah - the Christ. Gnostic heresies teach that because matter was evil, God did not manifest in the flesh. Hence Jesus was not the divine

member of the Trinity who incarnated into flesh to die for us. Paul and John attacked this heresy during their lifetimes.

Corrupting the commission of God to Christ. In his last temptation, Lucifer tried to bargain with Christ. He said 'Bow down to me and I will give you the kingdoms of the world.' Christ came to defeat Lucifer and regain the kingdom Adam had rashly cast aside to retain domestic tranquility. The work of salvation that the Godhead commissioned Christ to undertake involved living a perfect life and then dying for the sins of mankind. Lucifer teased, you don't have to endure the agony of death. I will give you what you came for, only bow done to me. Of course, Lucifer knew that if Christ had altered the commission given to him and avoided death, mankind could not have been saved.

The First Century Church

The Battle of the Bibles Intensify

Having failed to lead Christ into temptation and sin, Lucifer moved on to seduce and deceive his followers: He would continue to attack belief in the *divinity* of Christ as well as his *office as Creator and Creator-Redeemer*. Lucifer's most effective role weapon in doing this was to corrupt the word of God. Christ and the Apostles transmitted the pure OT text to his believers and after his death and resurrection, the Apostles wrote and transmitted the pure NT text to us in the Greek language. A line of faithful believers would choose to preserve and live by the pure Word of God, while a line of unfaithful believers would corrupt the Word of God to draw away disciples to themselves as Paul predicted.

But Lucifer lost no time in attempting to corrupt the Word of God. In the first century, he successfully induced Christian philosophers to corrupt Christianity by incorporating Gnostic concepts that provided a substitute for salvation through esoteric knowledge and ritualism.

Warnings by the Disciples

Paul had warned the early church that the time would come when some of the elders of the Church would pervert the Word of God to lead away believers from following Christ and to follow them by adopting their traditions and human doctrines.

This warning is most effectively stated in Acts 20: 17, 28-30:17,

17. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church.

28. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

29. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

30. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

31. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years, I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

In 2 Thess. 2: 6,7 he said the mystery of iniquity was at work. In 2 Cor. 2: 17 he stated that people were already corrupting the Word of God:

17. For we are not as many, which corrupt the Word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

In 2 Cor. 11: 3, 4 he stated that when men corrupt the Word of God they create *another gospel*, and preach *another Jesus*,

3. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

4. For if he that cometh preaches another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

What did Paul mean by when he said that men would come “preaching another Jesus”? The gospels teach that Jesus was the Son of God and had come to fulfill the promise to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:15. But almost from the birth of the Christian Church, Jewish Christians were seduced by the teachings of the Pharisees that Christ was not the divine Messiah - that he was at best a human teacher or prophet. They based this conclusion on the pagan doctrine of Gnosticism - that the flesh, being matter, was evil and so God could not possibly come in the flesh.

The Apostle John attacked this false doctrine which was based on the amalgamation of Christianity and paganism. To question the fact that Christ came in the flesh was the work of Lucifer, the power behind the antichrist. In 1 John 4: 1-3 he wrote,

1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

3 And every spirit that confesses not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

John’s Warning was Amplified in Revelation:

Paul died in AD 64. But so widespread was the apostasy in the 32 years after his death that John was moved by the Holy Spirit in AD 96 to close out the canon of Scripture by warning that those who were corrupting the Word of God by altering its text would receive the curses found in the Bible and at the end lose eternal life:

18 For I testify unto every man that hears 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:

19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

The prohibition not to add or take away words from the letters that the Apostles wrote to the churches, reveals that that was exactly what the false brethren within the Church had already commenced to do as Paul alluded to in 2 Cor. 2: 17.

The Second Century

The Received Text vs. the Gnostic Text

The early Christians strenuously tried to transmit the pure Word of God to us. Soon after the death of John, the last of the Apostles, Jewish and Gentile Christian teachers in Alexandria, following in the footsteps of Philo and the Pharisees, accelerated the corruption of the Scriptures with pagan Gnostic philosophy.

A. Champions of the Received Text.

What the faithful believers preserved and handed down to us is called The Received Text. Its first champion in the second century was Polycarp. He was supported and followed by Irenaeus, the Antioch Christians, and the stalwart Pre-Waldensian Christians.

Polycarp

Polycarp (69-155). Studied under John, the last of the Apostles. Born in Smyrna he died a martyr. They tried burning him at the stake but the fire could not burn him so they stabbed him with a spear. He compiled, edited, and published the New Testament. As a direct link to John, he authenticated the true N T Bible at a time when the Word of God was being perverted and corrupted by the Gnostic Christians and Jews. Visiting Rome, he passed by Marcion without acknowledging his presence. When Marcion accused him of ignoring him he told him to his face that he was the firstborn of Satan.

Irenaeus (130-202)

God raised faithful Christians like Irenaeus of Smyrna, a student of Polycarp, who forcefully and courageously defended the pure text handed down from the Apostles. He served as a bishop in Lugdunum, Gaul. Now Lyon France. Irenaeus wrote *Against Heresies* in 175 or 180 to eradicate Gnosticism in the Church. Gnostics claimed they had a secret oral tradition from Jesus. He stated that false teachers “mutilated the Scriptures.” He wrote *Against Heresies* in AD 175,

Wherefore also Marcion and his followers have betaken themselves to mutilating the Scriptures, not acknowledging some books at all; curtailing the Gospel according to Luke, and the epistles of Paul, they assert that these alone are authentic, which they have themselves shortened.

In other words, these heretics took many of Paul’s letters, crossed out what they disagreed with, and copied the remainder alleging it was a genuine copy of Paul’s epistle. They did the same for Luke’s gospel. These early versions of the New Testament were laced with heresies that denied the divinity of Christ.

Antioch Christians Fight Back

The Antioch Christians founded a Christian Academy to preserve the Scriptures. The Catechetical School of Antioch (170) emphasized the literal interpretation of the Bible. They opposed the Allegorical School of Alexandria. Followed the Typological School: OT events are types of NT. that are fulfilled in Christ etc. These ideas influenced the early Church and were transmitted down to the Reformation era.

Pre-Waldensians

Calvin's heir in Switzerland, Beza of Geneva, said that the Waldensian church was organized as early as 120. By 157 they had translated the Greek text into Latin which was called the Italic.

They also translated the Hebrew OT and Greek NT into Latin, Gallic, Italic, Gothic, and Celtic. They spread the Gospel to Italy, France, the Gothic people (known as Germans a few centuries later), England, Scotland, and Ireland.

B. Advocates of the Gnostic Text

Jewish and Christian heretics in the second century created what was called The Gnostic Text. The Gnostic Text reflected the heresies of Philo and the teachings of Greek philosophers. Paul had warned in Col. 2: 8: “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” The first champion of the Gnostic text was Marcion. He was followed by conning Gnostic heretics such as Justin Martyr, Tatian, Clement of Alexandria, and his Alexandrian School of Christian Gnosticism.

Marcion (85-169)

Marcion was the son of a bishop in Pontus (Asia Minor against the Black Sea). He lived in the closing years of John and was one of the first recorded Christian philosophers who attempted to corrupt the Scriptures. He tried to reconcile Christian theology with Greek philosophy. He taught that God was not the Father of Jesus. He did this by making corrupt copies of the Gospels and Paul’s writing that taught another gospel. He struck out references to the divinity of Christ, creating the first heretical “Arian” gnostic bible, although the term would not arise until 200 years later when bishop Arius perfected this heresy.

Marcion collected 11 books in his NT Canon. By altering the writing of Luke and Paul to suit his Gnostic and "Arian views.” Eventually, the Christian scholar Marcion was thrown out of the church in 144 AD because he taught the doctrines of Gnosticism. Maricon’s Gnostic Text followed Plato and taught that the flesh was evil and that Christ was not born in the flesh. Moreover, they taught that Christ was not the divine Son of God. He taught that the NT is not related to OT. Marcion was followed by Justin Martyr.

Justin Martyr (100-165)

Justin Martyr was born in Napoli, Judea, the year John died, 100AD. He was a pagan philosopher who converted to Christianity. Unfortunately, he never completely threw off the robes of pagan philosophy when he converted and tried to blend pagan Gnostic philosophy and Christianity.

Tatian (120-180)

Justin Martyr’s pupil Tatian, was a pagan philosopher from Assyria who had converted to Christianity. He developed his heretical teachings and wrote a four-part harmony of the Gospels called the *Diatessaron* - meaning four in one. In the *Diatessaron* he tried to create one narrative that put the life, teachings, and works of Christ in chronological sequence. This would have been an invaluable resource except for the fact that he was guided by Gnostic principles and left out passages like the genealogies of Matthew and Luke that show Christ to be the Messiah and Son of God. He also inserted events that were not found in the gospels. In this century a Syrian Bishop wrote that he had to throw out 200 copies of Tatian’s *Diatessaron* gospels because, he said, they taught another gospel.

Clement of Alexandria (150-215).

Tatian's best-known pupil was Clement of Alexandria (Titus Flavius Clemens). He headed up the Gnostic School of Christian Philosophy in Alexandria and institutionalized heresy. He even boasted that he would not hand down Christian teachings pure and unmixed, but rather clothed with precepts of pagan philosophy.

Clement collected a vast number of the early versions of the New Testament writings that had been corrupted by pagan Gnostic teachings since the days of Justin Martyr and freely quoted from them as though they were the true gospels. He was adept in the Greek Philosophies of Plato and the Stoics which he weaved into his Christianity. Studied Jewish esotericism and Gnosticism.

The Alexandrian School of Christian Gnosticism

The Catechetical School of Alexandria was founded by Mark the Apostle. But unfortunately, this conservative school was diverted into pagan heresies. It opposed the Catechetical School of Antioch. The first known Dean of the Catechetical School of Alexandria was Athenagoras (176). Clement of Alexandria was a well-known dean. It was one of the two major centers of Biblical theology and Exegesis. They attempted to create a humanist morality. The humanist Christian philosophers taught that Socrates and Plato were forerunners of Christ. But in reality, the differences are as vast as the heavens are from the earth. These baptized pagans offered a manmade salvation by works of merit. On the other hand, Christ offered salvation by grace through His sacrificial death and transforming power.

The Third Century

A. Champions of the Received Text

The Foremost of these courageous Christians was Tertullian.

Tertullian (155-240):

Tertullian of Carthage became known as the Father of Latin Christianity. He opposed Gnostic Christianity. He first used the term Trinity: Three persons one substance. Tertullian opposed the Greek philosophers. He called them the fathers of Heresy and opposed Marcion and the creeping Gnosticism in the Church.

B. Advocates of the Gnostic Text

The Third Century was a crucial turning point in the Battle of the Bibles. The Most influential heretics leveled all before them. They laid the groundwork for the arrival of the Papal Anti-Christ who was to become the greatest advocate of the gnostic bibles.

Ammonius Saccas (170-243)

Ammonius Saccas of Alexandria studied under Clement. taught Neoplatonism to Plotinus and Origen. Ammonius took Clement's Gnostic teachings to a new level by systematizing them.

Origen (182-254)

Clement of Alexandria's greatest blow against Christianity was to graduate a pupil from his Christian-pagan Academy by the name of Origen. Origen was born to Christian parents in Egypt. Origen did more to synthesize Christianity and Pagan philosophy than any other heretics. He was

a prolific writer. He created early Textual Criticism. Origen studied Greek philosophy and reconciled Greek Gnosticism and Christianity. He was eventually excommunicated. He taught the Gnostic and Arian doctrine that Christ is not divine. He taught that Christ was no more divine than any other man, for the soul of every man pre-existed with the world soul of the universe. He taught a pantheistic origin of the universe.

Origen believed in the pre-existence of souls. He believed that there would be a final reconciliation of the Devil and all souls to God. He held with Plato that matter is evil Gnostic. By grafting these pagan ideas into Christianity, he left very little for future heresies to invent. He taught that the Bible was full of allegorical stories, and could not be understood by the plain reading of the text. He wrote,

The Scriptures are of little value use to those who understand them as they are written.

Origen adopted Plato's belief that matter was evil a step further. He believed that the literal words of Scripture were evil. Just as the *evil body conceals the good soul within*, so the *evil words of Scripture* conceal the truth within. Hence, he argued, one must not follow the plain meaning of the Scripture *but its hidden meaning*. But this made truth subjective. But this question, whose hidden meaning was the truth? The doctrine of papal infallibility was to answer this question.

Pampilius (260-309)

Pampilius of Beirut studied in Alexandria and then settled down as Presbyter of Caesarea. He followed and defended Origen. While in prison for 2 years he collaborated with Eusebius on writing a defense of Origen.

The Fourth Century

A. Champions of the Received Text

The most well-known of the champions of the original and pure gospel texts was Helvidius.

Helvidius (c383).

The Latin Scholar Helvidius is significant. In 383 he railed against the perpetual virginity of Mary. For this, he was attacked and berated by Jerome in a tract called *The Perpetual Virginity of Mary*. Helvidius accused Jerome of using corrupt Greek gnostic manuscripts to prove his point.

B. Advocates of the Gnostic Text

As the papal anti-Christ began to assert himself, his path to dictatorship in the church was opened by heretical historians and theologians.

Eusebius (260-340)

Origen influenced Eusebius, the bishop of Caesarea. Eusebius became a church historian and popular translator of Gnostic versions of the Bible. In his early days when he stood for the truth, he complained that the corrupted scriptures were so prevalent that agreement between the sacred copies of Scripture was hopeless; especially as those who were corrupting the scriptures deceitfully claimed that they were correcting them. Constantine requested Eusebius to write a Greek Bible for his new Greek Empire in the east. He made 50 copies, but it was based on the

Gnostic teachings and it was set aside. Two copies were found centuries later and were named by the place where they were found.

Arius (256-336)

Arius of Libya believed that Christ was a created being who was given authority to Create, but was not God. He started what became known as the Arian faith. Banished for heresy he became a missionary to the barbarians who were pouring into the Roman Empire. Arianism almost eclipsed Catholicism and even conservative Christianity in Europe were it not for the victories of Justinian and Clovis (507) against the barbarian tribes that supported it.

Constantine 272-337

Son of a Roman General and peasant woman who grew up in Britain when his father was ruler of that region of the Western Empire. He was sympathetic to Christianity which he felt made the best soldiers and citizens. He forged an agreement with the Papacy in 311 for mutual support. In 324 Constantine established Catholicism as the religion of the empire. In this newly formed Union of the pagan state and Church, he presided as first bishop at the Council of Nicea 325.

Constantine formed the Greek Empire in 330 by moving the capital of the empire to Constantinople. As we stated he commissioned Eusebius in 331 to write 50 Bibles in Greek for use by the Greek bishop in Constantinople. Eusebius followed the Gnostic Text of Tatian and Clements. It was not popular and fell into disuse. Two survived and were discovered later: One was found in the Vatican in 1481 and was labeled *The Vaticanus*. The other was found in a Monastery in Sinai in 1844 and was called *The Sinaiticus*.

The Fifth Century

A. Champions of the Received Text

The faithful Christians were beginning to flee into the protected environment of the wilderness mentioned in Revelation 12:6 and 13. They shall remain nameless until the great consummation when the righteous dead are resurrected to eternal glory. Their legacy to us is the received texts they took with them and preserved and published clandestinely.

B. Advocates of the Gnostic Text

Jerome (347-420).

Jerome of Dalmatia followed Origen's Gnostic heresies. He was secretary to Pope Damasus who asked him to write a Latin Bible, which was duly produced in 405. His Latin Bible was called the Vulgate for it was in the vulgar language of the people. Unfortunately, it was based on the Gnostic Texts of Clement and Origen and Eusebius.

The Fatal Sixth Century

A. Champions of the Received Text

In this century we also have many un-named champions of the received text. They can be collectively labeled as Waldensians. Other conservative Christians were to be found in the remote regions of Scotland and its islands.

Waldensians (538-Reformation)

It was then that God preserved the true church and the pure Scriptures through the Christians who fled into the valleys and mountains of the Swiss Alps. Over 1900 manuscripts were preserved in the common languages of the early Europeans.

Columba (521-597)

Columba of Iona Scotland, became the apostle to Scotland, Ireland, England, and Europe. He collected many early manuscripts of the received text and preserved them

B. Advocates of the Gnostic Text

The Papacy: 538

When the Papacy came into power in 538 it adopted the Gnostic/Arian Bibles because the corrupted text did not identify the Popes as the anti-Christ. These gnostic bibles allowed for the worship of idols and of Mary as the mediator.

The Pre-Reformation and Reformation Era

A. Champions of the Received Text

John Wycliffe (1331-1384)

John of Wycliffe translated Bible into Middle English 1382 to 1395. Corrected Catholic errors but had mainly Vulgate to go by.

Fall of Constantinople (1453)

In 1453 the fall of Constantinople resulted in many scholars fleeing to the west. The Received Text in Greek was transmitted to the West giving impetus to the Reformation.

Erasmus (1466-1536)

Erasmus of Rotterdam wrote the Greek New Testament in 1516 using manuscripts from Constantinople. He reproduced the Received Text in his 3rd. Edition of the Greek NT. The OT came out in 1522. He believed that he had reproduced the NT as it had been written by the apostles.

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Luther used Erasmus' 1519 edition of the NT to publish the German Bible NT in 1522.

William Tyndale (1494-1536)

Tyndale used Erasmus's 3rd edition of 1522 for his English NT. His OT was finished in 1536. Ellen White stated that the Spirit of God led Tyndale to use the purest Greek text in writing his English version. He used the Erasmus Greek text that was drawn from the Received Text.

John Calvin (1509-1564)

John Calvin was of Waldensian stock. His aunts and uncles were all Waldensians. He translated the *Waldensian Bible* in 1535.

More English translations

The *Coverdale Bible* came out in 1536. The *Great Bible* was commissioned by Henry VIII and was produced by Miles Coverdale in 1539. The *Geneva Bible* was produced by Protestants in Geneva fleeing Queen Mary (1553-1558). The NT English was published in 1557 NT. The

whole Bible in 1560. In 1568 Queen Elizabeth commissioned the Bishop's Bible. It was entitled the authorized version but was not popular.

Theodore Beza of Geneva (1519-1605)

Wishing to undo the damage done by the 1582 *Jesuit Bible*, Elizabeth asked Beza to refute the preface and annotations of the *Jesuit Bible*. He recommended Thomas Cartwright, who wrote a response to the Jesuits. Meanwhile, Beza, who had become the heir and successor of Calvin, produced a Greek version of Erasmus's 1516 Bible in 1598.

King James Versions

King James came to the throne in 1603. In 1604 over 1000 Puritan ministers wrote to him to reform the liturgy and produce a more accurate Bible to replace the existing Bible written by various individuals. King James approved the plan and 54 Puritans and other churchmen were divided into 6 companies and given different sections of the Bible to reproduce from the Greek Text and the best commentaries in Europe. The work of one company was passed on to another until all six companies had reviewed every portion of the work. The *King James Version* came out in 1611. It was considered the greatest work of the English language. It was translated into almost every modern language.

B. Advocates of the Gnostic Text

The Vaticanus Codex B

In 1481 the Vaticanus one of the 50 written for Constantine in Greek was found in the Vatican. It is virtually the same as Jerome's Latin translation.

The Jesuits

Lucifer was not inactive in the face of the wonderful work the Reformation was doing. In 1534 Ignatius of Loyola formed the Society of Jesus. It was modeled after the ancient Masonic secret societies - almost identical in ritual to the Masonic societies. It was designed to allow them to rise to power in the Catholic Church. The pope ordained their company as a special militant arm of the church in 1540. Their special task was to undermine the Reformation by infiltrating the Protestant Churches. They were an intellectual order and became teachers and confessors to kings and the heads of the universities of Europe.

The Council of Trent.

In 1545-1563 The Papacy convened the Council of Trent to figure out how to undermine the Reformation. It decreed in 1546 that only the Vulgate could be read by Catholics. Pope Sixtus declared it infallible. Pope Clement later revised this infallible Bible.

The Jesuit Douay Version

In 1582 the Jesuits translated the Vulgate Latin NT into English. Written at Rheims, the goal was to win England back to Rome. The University moved back to Douay in 1593 where the OT was published in 1609-1610 giving the complete Bible, which was called the *Douay Version*. The Jesuits commenced a campaign to counter the influence of the Tyndale Bible. Waves of Jesuit priests trained at Rheims, France, were sent to England. The Douay version had wholesale revisions by Bishop Challoner in 1749-52.

Baruch Spinoza (1632-1677)

Spinoza a Jewish atheistic philosopher introduced the modern textual crisis of the Bible using the allegorical method of Gnosticism. His influence was as great as Philo in the First century in perverting the Word of God. Spinoza influenced Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, Coleridge and Freud.

The French Jesuit Catholic Biblical Critics**Richard Simon (1683-1712)**

Richard Simon published in 1689 and 1695 four books which laid the basis for modern Biblical textual criticism. Father of Biblical Criticism.

Jean Astruc (1684-1766)

French Catholic physician Astruc published a little book suggesting that the different names used for God in Genesis suggested there were different writers.

Scottish Catholic Alexander Geddes (1737-1802)

Alexander Geddes suggested that the Pentateuch, the five Books of Moses, were fragments of manuscripts of Mosaic origin put together by different people in the reign of Solomon.

The German Pantheist Gnostics**John Eichhorn (1752-1829)**

German critics John Eichhorn Semler and Dewitt carried Richard Simon's Jean Astruc's and Alexander Geddes' theories much further. These six Gnostics began the work of discrediting the Received Texts in Hebrew and Greek. Simon and Eichhorn collaborated in producing a Hebrew dictionary.

Johann Mohler (1796-1838)

Catholic Scholar Johann Mohler did more to destroy the Received Text than any other modern critic, he opened the door for Protestants to embrace Catholicism through higher criticism.

Johann Griesbach (1745-1812)

Johann Griesbach attacked the received text of the NT by a deceptive approach. He divided the ancient manuscripts into three groups: 1. Those of Constantinople; 2. The Alexandrian, and 3. The Western or Vulgate text. Unfortunately, he contended that the Constantinopolitan text was identical to that of Origin's Gnostic and was the true received text! He discarded the multitude of true Receptus Textus documents that proved the contrary.

Friedrich Schleiermacher (1768-1834)

German theologian, philosopher, and Biblical scholar Friedrich Schleiermacher is known for his attempt to reconcile the criticisms of the Enlightenment with traditional Protestant Christianity. He also became influential in the evolution of Higher Criticism. His work forms part of the foundation of the modern field of hermeneutics. Because of his profound effect on subsequent Christian thought, he is often called the "Father of Modern Liberal Theology." Schleiermacher is considered an early leader in liberal Christianity.

Karl Lachmann (1793-1851)

The biblical critic Karl Lachmann initiated the fallacious argument that “the older the manuscript, the more worthy it is.” This was a grave error, seeing that there were two streams of texts one corrupt and the other pure. It was not the age of the text but its source which determined its value and trustworthiness. He constructed the Greek NT from the oldest Manuscripts.

Greg Winer (1789-1858)

Greg Winer argued that in translating the language and idioms of the Greek NT the pagan thought forms and not the idioms and phrases of Hebrew prophets must be followed. This greatly distorted the meaning of NT verses. For example, Paul in Philippians speaks of “His glorious body.” This becomes the “body of his glory.” His Greek Grammar of the NT Greek influenced the Revisers of the KJV in 1871-1881 and the American Standard Version of 1901.

Constantin von Tischendorf (1865-1872)

He was an eminent Bible scholar and had a dominating influence on all future editions of the Bible, He followed Lachmann: “The text is to be sought only from ancient evidence and especially from Greek manuscripts. Without neglecting the testimonies of Versions and Fathers.”

He discovered the *Sinaiticus* (dated 325) in a Monastery in Mt. Sinai in 1844 which was discarded in a waste paper basket. He deemed it to be the most ancient manuscript in Greek. In 1859 he went back and obtained the rest of the manuscript and used it to produce a Greek text of the NT with 3505 changes. But it was the most corrupt and untrustworthy as being one of the 50 manuscripts produced by Eusebius for Constantine,

Banning and Restoring the Jesuits

1773 European nations demanded the disbanding of the Jesuits but it was too late. The damage was done and their ideas prevailed in Biblical Criticism. 1814 Pope restored the Jesuits who then began to dominate the universities and courts of the royalty.

English Jesuits War Against the KJV

Nicholas Wiseman 1802-1865)

Nicholas Wiseman, born in Seville Spain, was responsible for the rebirth of Catholicism in the English world. He was bishop of Westminster. In 1850 he defected to Rome and became a Cardinal. His now disproven theories of the Old Latin Manuscripts influenced the Oxford movement and gave great impetus to the war against the Received Text and KJV.

John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

Newman was an English clergy and professor at Oxford who defected to the Church of Rome in 1845 and became a Cardinal in 1879. He did more to bring about the greatest religious and political revolution in the English world since the Reformation. He started the Oxford Movement which was a drive to reunite the Anglican Church with Rome. Newman and Faber defected to the Catholic Church and took 150 Clergy and eminent laymen with them. He and Edward Pusey were invited to sit on the Revision committee, but they refused.

In 1833 the Church of England believed that the Reformation was the work of God and that the Pope was anti-Christ. By 1883 They believed the Reformation was an unfortunate rebellion, the

Protestant Church anti-Christ, and the Pope successor of the apostles. He followed the German Jesuit Gnostics and higher critics in the Continent. Newman and Edward Pusey popularized the Gnostic doctrines of Clement of Alexandria and Origen - that the Bible must be understood as an allegory. Thus, they undermined the stronghold of Protestantism in England, the KJV, and its Received Text pedigree. They formed a Jesuit secret Society to promote their stealth agenda, believing with Clement that mental reservation and bold lies to gain ground for their beliefs were morally acceptable. Newman preferred the Gnostic Vulgate. He surmised, "The Received Text was made and authorized by Royal commands which cannot be supposed to have any claim upon our interior consent." He concluded that the Authorized Version cannot be relied on for pure doctrine.

John Henry Newman was requested by Rome via Cardinal Wiseman in 1847 to rewrite the KJV bringing it into Harmon with the Gnostic Vulgate. While Newman declined to sit with the NT Revision Committee his disciple John Hort presented his views on the committee. Before the English people could be led back to Rome, and made to follow the higher critics of Germany, the course of their thinking had to be changed. Newman and his Jesuit cohorts accomplished this.

Edward Pusey

Edward Pusey (1800-1882) professor of Hebrew at Christ Church Oxford and a cadre of Jesuit allies, led England back into the camp of Rome through the Oxford Movement 1833-1883, and its Tractarian agenda. After the Tractarian movement was prohibited Pusey turned to introducing Ritualism into the High Church and made it fashionable. He was assisted by Wescott and Hort.

Frederick Faber (1814-1863)

Fabre was an associate of Newman at Oxford. As priest and professor, he declared war on the KJV calling it "that stronghold of heresy" in England.

W. E. Moulton (1835-1898)

Cambridge Professor W.E. Moulton translated Winer's Grammar of the NT into English. He wrote an NT Greek Concordance. He chose the majority of the members of the revision committee. His History of the Bible glorified the *Jesuit Version* of 1582 and advocated using the Vulgate as a guide in revising the KJV.

Broke Wescott (1825-1901)

Brooke Wescott was a Cambridge professor and High Church member who, with John Hort, schemed to undermine the Received Text to facilitate a reconciliation with Rome. He co-authored the Gnostic Greek text which was influenced by his beliefs in spiritualism. He founded the Psychic Society of England to communicate with the dead.

John Hort (1828-1892)

Hort followed the Lachmann principle of selecting the oldest Gnostic manuscripts for their New Greek Text. The oldest documents do not necessarily tell the truth for we know from the church fathers like Polycarp and Tertullian that the most corrupt manuscripts were produced within 100 years of the Apostles.

Samuel Tregelles (1813-1875)

Samuel Tregelles, an English biblical scholar followed Tischendorf and Lachmann, using the oldest but corrupted Gnostic manuscripts in his Greek NT.

The Foundation for Modern and New Age Versions of the Bible

The Revision Committee (1871-1881)

The Revision Committee of 1871 to 1881 was given the yet unpublished Gnostic Greek Text of B. F. Wescott and J. A. Hort on the pretense that they were looking at revisions of the Textus Receptus. Wescott and Hort believed that the true text was in the *Vaticanus* and this was supported by the newly found *Sinaiticus*. One writer remarked ‘The Revision of 1881 was the most calamitous blunder of the age, for the text of Westcott and Hort was the most vicious Revision of the original Greek in existence.’ Westcott and Hort were friends of the Spiritualist Madame H.P. Blavatsky. They had a common interest in necromancy and the creation of a supernatural religion and their influence on each other was mutual. Blavatsky referred to Wescott as “the best... the most erudite. Such a learned commentator,” and would quote his book *On the Canon* to support her spiritualistic beliefs. []. G.A. Riplinger, *New Age Bible Versions*, AV Publications, Munroe Falls, 1993, p. 414.

New Age leader Vera Alder wrote,

H.P. Blavatsky was one of the foremost to resurrect the ancient Mystery teachings and interpret them for our time in a set of books which have become the Bibles, as it were, of the modern metaphysician or occultist. []. G.A. Riplinger, *New Age Bible Versions*, AV Publications, Munroe Falls, 1993, p. 27.

Lucifer’s war against the Word of God has come full circle, leading us back to his first attempts to corrupt the Scriptures in the cauldron of Gnosticism in Alexandria, Egypt. An article in *The Encyclopedia of the Unexplained* explains how Wescott and Blavatsky have each influenced the New Age Bible versions,

Blavatsky exhumed her Luciferian doctrines from Philo’s School in Alexandria, Egypt. This same school also produced manuscripts of the Old and New Testaments – altered to conform to their esoteric teachings. The graveyard hunts of Wescott’s ‘Ghostly Guild’ brought up these very manuscripts and used them to alter the traditional Old and New Testaments. New Age versions mimic the New Age because they both made their debut on the same stage – at Philo’s School. []. G.A. Riplinger, *New Age Bible Versions*, AV Publications, Munroe Falls, 1993, p. 27.

The American Revised Version Followed the Vaticanus

A group of ministers in America led by German-born Philip Schaff, who were sympathetic to Rome, and the pantheistic influence of the German Theological schools, undertook to create a Revised Standard version for America. The committee sat from 1871-1901. A revised version of the New Testament was published in 1900, and the Old Testament in 1901. They were virtually a duplicate of the *Vaticanus*. They were designed to create an ecumenical Bible for Rome and Protestants.

Summary

For nearly 1800 years, Christendom, from its humble but fiery beginnings in the upper room had but two Bibles to choose from: **The Received Text**, which combined the Canon of the Old

Testament with the newly formed Canon of the New Testament was founded on salvation by grace, and the **Gnostic Text**, which amalgamated the pagan philosophy of salvation by Gnostic esoteric knowledge and works of merit, with the pure gospel. Gnosticism is essentially Pantheism. Both teach that the totality of the universe is God. B.G. Wilkinson wrote in 1930 that Pantheism teaches that,

“the totality of the universe is God.” God is in the grass, the trees, the stones, earth, man, and in all. Pantheism confounds God with matter. Gnosticism is essentially pantheistic.... Both Gnosticism and Pantheism are at war with the first verse of the Bible, which reads, “In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth.” This verse places God before matter, makes Him the Creator of matter, and hence apart and distinguished from the material universe. [] B.G. Wilkinson, *Our Authorized Bible Vindicated*, Takoma Park, D.C., 1930, pp. 150,151.

In short, the **Gnostic Text** creates a substitute salvation - how to reunite the human spirit with God. Salvation is through esoteric Gnosis or knowledge.

The **Received Text** was preserved by Providence among the true believers who fled into the wilderness to escape the wrath of the papal dragon. It was the foundation of the versions produced by the Reformers and received its most perfect form and beauty of language in the King James Version in 1611. The **Gnostic Texts**, coming out of the heretic cauldron of the Judaizing Christians of Alexandria, Egypt, were championed by the Union of Church and State established by Constantine and the bishops of Rome. It became the only Bible recognized by the Church Empire of the Vatican. It received its final formulation in the Jesuit Douay version of 1582.

Biblical Criticism, starting with the French Jesuit Biblical Critics in the seventeenth century and continuing with the German Pantheist Gnostics in the eighteenth century who taught the development of humanity through the self-evolution of the absolute world spirit, opened the door for modern spiritualism to enter the apostate Protestant Churches. Drs. Brooke Westcott and Fenton Hort were prominent members of the *Ghostly Guild* which was established to investigate supernatural phenomena. They wrote a New Testament Greek Text that was based on the **Gnostic Texts** and they glorified the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus.

Westcott and Hort became a driving force in the revision of the King James version in England and the subsequent proliferation of the Modern New Age versions of the Bible. The revision made the revised version almost indistinguishable from the Douay version of the Bible and this influenced all subsequent modern versions of the Protestant bibles. In America, the German-born Philip Schaff, a disciple of both Westcott and Hort and the German pantheistic/spiritualist school of Higher Criticism, became the driving force in revising the King James Version in America. Almost all modern translations of the Bible printed in America became tainted with the Gnostic Texts. This aberrant form of Gnostic Christianity became known in Europe and America as the New Protestantism. It was a new perverted form of the gospel. G.B. Wilkinson contended that this perverted form of the Gospel undermined the authority of the Scriptures, denigrated the divinity of Christ, and introduced a pantheistic “body of Christ” (the church), which undermined the doctrine of salvation by Grace, replaced it with the concept of an evolving theory of salvation based on esoteric knowledge, which permitted the church to create new evolving doctrines that were superior to the written word of God,

The New Protestantism rejected the sole authority of the Scriptures. They held that the church was instinct with a *mysterious life* which they called the Person of Christ. They taught that this *life* came into all humanity when Jesus was manifest in the flesh; not simply the flesh of Jesus of Nazareth, but in the flesh of humanity. They held that this *life* was progressive, and therefore, from time to time, it led the church to new doctrines. The Bible was secondary. This *life* was communicated through the *sacraments*, and the participant in the sacraments graduated from one experience to a higher experience. So Christ had two bodies – His own body in which divinity and humanity were united, and His “theanthropic” life common to all believers, which life constituted the body of the church or Christ’s second body. This new Protestantism captured most of the Church of England, permeated other Protestant denominations in Great Britain, and flooded the theological seminaries of America. One college professor, alarmed at the atmosphere of paganism that had come into American universities and denominational colleges, investigated them and reported that “ninety percent or more teach a false religion as well as a false science and a false philosophy. [] G. B. Wilkinson, *Authorized Bible Vindicated*, 1930, Takoma Park, D.C. pp, 150,151.

In this passage, we can see how Lucifer reintroduced the same deceptions in these last days that he used effectively against Eve. The reference to “making the Bible secondary” and subordinated to tradition is simply his attempt to cause Eve to doubt the Word of God and accept the word of Lucifer. It duplicates Lucifer’s misquoting the words of God to Adam and Eve and violates the prohibition in Revelation 22:19 against adding or subtracting anything from the Word of God. Mediating spiritual *life* through the “sacraments” is simply another of his lies that man can achieve salvation through esoteric knowledge, ritual, or works of merit. That the believer’s ‘participant in the sacraments could graduate him/her from one experience to a higher experience,’ is just another rendering of his lie that Eve could *become* like god through some pantheistic evolutionary process. It was the first occurrence of man’s attempt to achieve “Enlightenment” through a gnostic or esoteric experience. Lucifer’s Enlightenment proved to be destructive falsehoods.

Jesus said, “Thy word is truth.” If the Word of God can be changed by the whim of men, it is no longer truth. Christ, his Apostles, and the Old Testament prophets spoke under divine inspiration of prophetic events to be unfolded in the turning of the wheels of history. These prophecies are signposts along the highway of time to guide us to a safe harbor at the Second Coming of our Lord. They were given also to save us from the lying delusions of false prophets. Of what value would this prophetic revelation be to us if the words foretelling the events and the meaning of the events were arbitrarily changed? None at all. The gnostic theory of allegorism tries to explain a Scripture passage upon the supposition that its author, whether God or men inspired by the Holy Spirit, intended something “other” than what is literally expressed, confounds the Word of God. The idea that only the initiated can discern the hidden meaning behind the words of Scripture opens the door to anyone laying a false claim to infallibility to set himself up as a dictator. This was the source of the intellectual, political, and spiritual bondage of the Dark Ages.

The courageous stand of the Reformers, that the authority of Scripture trumped the traditions of the Church, opened a new era for spiritual and political liberation. It is no coincidence that the Authorized King James Version was translated in 1611, just in time for the Puritans departing Holland and England to carry it with them across stormy seas to lay the foundations of the greatest and freest Republic the world has ever known. Whereas the 1611 Authorized Version of the Word of God had much to do with laying the firm foundations for freedom and liberty in

America, the Gnostic, spiritualistic, pantheistic, and New Age versions of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries having seduced America's churches have destroyed those foundations. With the antichristian influences of Europe flooding into the young nation, Founding Father, Rev. Jedidiah Morse warned his fellow colonialists in 1799,

Our dangers are of two kinds, those which affect our religion, and those which affect our government. They are, however, so closely allied that they cannot, with propriety, be separated. The foundations which support the interests of Christianity are also necessary to support a free and equal government like our own... To the kindly influence of Christianity, we owe that degree of civil freedom, and political and social happiness which mankind now enjoy. In proportion as the genuine effects of Christianity, are diminished in any nation, either through unbelief, or the corruption of its doctrines, or the neglect of its institutions; in the same proportion will the people of that nation recede from the blessings of genuine freedom, and approximate the miseries of complete despotism... Whenever the pillars of Christianity shall be overthrown, our present republican forms of government, and all the blessings which flow from them, must fall with them. [] Rev. Jedidiah Morse, Election Sermon, 25 April 1799, Charlestown, MA, as cited by K. Alan Snyder, *If the Foundations are Destroyed: Biblical Principles and Civil Government*, Principle Press, Marion, 1994, pp. 1,2.

This is where America is today, and indeed the world. We are at a crossroads. We can return to a sound foundation based on the Authority of the Word of God, and restore our culture and Institutions of freedom, or we can continue down the pathway garnished by the alluring deceptions of the word of Lucifer that promises Enlightenment but delivers darkness and death. The choice is ours, and our duty, very clear.