

SECTION SEVEN

Questions and Answers About Freemasonry

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Section VII: Questions About Freemasonry

1. Can Research Be Done About Freemasonry?

- a. "Masters of Lodges, officers and coaches are continually being asked questions by those of inquiring minds which they are all too often unable to answer. The necessary information can be obtained only from the continual and persistent study of the writings of those Masonic students who have placed their thoughts and researches upon the written page, thus conforming to the admonition to the 'well informed brethren' to impart knowledge to the lesser informed. (emphasis added)

(Quoted from: Freemasonry Its Hidden Meaning, Sect. VI, Doc. #1, p. 2)

COMMENT: Masons are admonished to "study" their Craft through reading. Non-masons can do the same. The Curator and Librarian of the Grand Lodge Empire State (New York) declared that anything published by Macoy Publisher is reliable in studying Masonry.

- b. "Questions and Answers: One Hundred and Sixty Questions and Answers compiled from the Works of Albert G. Mackey And many other Eminent Masonic Authorities by C. E. Patterson Pertaining to the Symbolism of Masonry and its Connection with the Bible The following questions and answers are intended to convey to the average Mason the information every Mason desires without taking the time to do the research. It is the ultimate desire of Masons to be well informed not only on the exact phraseology of the ritual but also its esoteric meaning. It is for the benefit of these members of the Craft seeking more Light that this work is especially arranged. copyright 1935, A. J. Holman Co., Philadelphia, Pa., Copyright renewed 1962, by A. J. Holman Co."

(Quoted from the Holy Bible, A. J. Holman Company, Sect. VI, Doc. #7, p. 34)

COMMENT: The Masonic Altar Bible says that research can be done, and it presents the results of such research. These answers have been **"compiled from the Works of Albert G. Mackey And many other Eminent Masonic Authorities."** Many Masons will argue that there are no authorities in Masonry; this disclaimer seems more gauged to avoid accountability for what they teach and practice, than because there are in reality no men who speak with confidence and authority about the nature of the Craft.

- c. **"The status of Negro Masonry in this country was perhaps never better defined than it was by Albert Pike in 1875, when he said, 'Prince Hall Lodge was as regular a Lodge as any Lodge created by competent authority. It had a perfect right to establish other Lodges and make itself a Mother Lodge. I am not inclined to meddle in the matter. I took my obligations from white men, not from negroes. When I have to accept negroes as brothers or leave Masonry, I shall leave it. Better let the thing drift.' This very frank statement by Albert Pike sums up the exact feeling that is exhibited toward Negro Masonry at the present time."** (emphasis added)

(Quoted from: History and Evolution of Freemasonry, Sect. VI, Doc. #15, p. 63)

COMMENT: Current positions in Freemasonry are often taken and/or taught on the authority of notable Masonic scholars, such as Pike. It is possible, by reading these authorities, to establish a legitimate "Masonic opinion" on many topics.

- d. **"...the search for the truths of the Builder, for the revelation of the so called 'secrets of Masonry,' will lead the seeker to study the great volume of literature that is available in the library of every Grand Lodge in the world and that can be obtained from many other sources."**

"...the Grand Lodge...(should) require all newly made Brothers to read at least one standard work with explanations or interpretations of both the outer and inner meanings of Masonry..."

"In a magnificent volume, The Secret Teachings of All Ages, Manly Palmer Hall declares..." (emphasis added)

"In his Mystic Masonry Dr. J. D. Buck quotes from the Legenda of Sir Albert Pike regarding concealment of the true wisdom in the Ritual..." (emphasis added)

(Quoted from: The Meaning of Masonry, Sect. VI, Doc. #22, p. 82-83)

COMMENT: All of the "Masonic writers" quote from certain "standard works", which reflect the truth about the Masonic Lodge. The ignorance of many Masons of these documents does not discredit them, any more than the ignorance of most Christians of the great creeds of the church discredit their contribution to the Body of Christ.

- e. "I have now reached the end of my labors, but the subject has by no means been exhausted. To do full justice to the Higher Degrees of Freemasonry would require volumes. But to the busy man of affairs, who demands his information in highly condensed form, who has not time to do intensive research work in fields extraneous to his regular vocation, doubtless this little book will appeal. To those who love to dive deeply into the sea of knowledge, I recommend the writings of Mackey, Pike, Gould, Clegg, Conover, Addison, Macoy, Sachse, Kuhn, Parvin, and Carson, from all of which I have liberally drawn... (emphasis added)

(Quoted from A History of The York and Scottish Rites of Freemasonry, Sect. VI, Doc. #16, p. 64)

COMMENT: These same names reappear throughout one's research into Masonic doctrine and practice. They are the authors of the "standard works" in Freemasonry. They do accurately represent what Masonry is. Anyone who says that the Masonic Lodge cannot be studied because "no one speaks for the Lodge" is either:

- 1) A Mason who is trying to conceal from non-Masons the truth about the Lodge.
 - 2) A non-Mason who is afraid of the Lodge.
 - 3) A non-Mason who is in sympathy with the New Age, humanistic, anti-Christian spirit of the Masonic Lodge.
 - 4) Ignorant (having not learned) or stupid (unable to learn).
- f. In A Modern Mason Examines His Craft: Fact vs. Fiction, published in 1981, the author states:

"Why is there such an emphasis on secrecy in a day-and-age when every aspect of the Craft's ceremonies can be obtained by the curious non-Mason in one hundred different books?"

2. What Is The Current Attitude About Albert Pike in the Masonic Lodge?

- a. "Only the first half of the lecture is here used, because the particular dissensions with which it dealt in the second half have, happily, ceased to exist; but this part of the address is one of the clearest and noblest expressions of the Meaning of Masonry ever uttered or imagined." (emphasis added)

"Albert Pike found Freemasonry in a log cabin and left it in a temple. He was the master genius of Masonry in America, both as scholar and artist. No other mind of equal power ever toiled so long in the service of the Craft in the New World. No other has left a nobler fame in our annals." (emphasis added)

"So passed Pike. No purer, nobler man has stood at the altar of Freemasonry or left his story in our traditions. He was the most eminent Mason in the world, alike for his high rank, his rich culture, and his enduring service. Nor will our Craft ever permit to grow dim the memory of that stately, wise, and gracious teacher -- a Mason to whom the world was a Temple, a poet to whom the world was a Song." (emphasis added)

(Quoted from: "The Meaning of Masonry", Preface
Little Masonic Library, Sect. VI, Doc. #5, pp. 27-28)

COMMENT: "The greatest statement on the meaning of Masonry" was made by Pike, says the Macoy Publishing Company. Masonry will never allow his memory or his contribution to the Craft to be forgotten. What he meant and means to Masonry has never been surpassed by anyone else. Anyone who ignores Albert Pike's writings and their influence on modern and present-day Masonry is foolish.

- b. "And it was in that year, after years of high intellectual toil, that Pike published Morals and Dogma, -- a monument of industry, scholarship, and genius. Time does not permit me to review that book here, except to say that there is no other like it for richness of thought, beauty and grace of style, and a certain large, gentle, far-seeing, finely-posed sagacity of simple moral and Masonic wisdom....The further one goes into the book the richer it seems to be, as though one were climbing a tower and looking out upon an ever-widening horizon, until at length he attains to the sublime Doctrine of the Equilibrium.." (emphasis added)

"By such large and prescient wisdom Albert Pike lived and labored, and it is therefore that he still lives, not only as a part of the great body of influence and law, as a spirit subtly coloring and giving beneficent tendency to this order, and through it to this age, but as a distinct and memorable figure whom we recall this Knight -- tall, stately, with long white hair, his large brown eyes full of kindly light, his face blushing like a child's at merited praise -- a vision of spiritual refinement and intellectual beauty." (emphasis added)

(Quoted from: The Men's House, Joseph Fort Newton, Sect. VI, Doc. #2, pp. 14-15)

COMMENT: Regardless of the Masonic scholar they all look to Pike as the standard of excellence in Masonic writing, scholarship and service. Re-read this quote. It is fulsome praise for one loved, honored, respected, and referenced by modern Masonic teachers and leaders.

- c. "The status of Negro Masonry in this country was perhaps never better defined than it was by Albert Pike in 1875, when he said, 'Prince Hall Lodge was as regular a Lodge as any Lodge created by competent authority. It had a perfect right to establish other Lodges and make itself a Mother Lodge. I am not inclined to meddle in the matter. I took my obligations from white men, not from negroes. When I have to accept negroes as brothers or leave Masonry, I shall leave it. Better let the thing drift.' This very frank statement by Albert Pike sums up the exact feeling that is exhibited toward Negro Masonry at the present time." (emphasis added)

(Quoted from: History and Evolution of Freemasonry, Sect. VI, Doc. #15, p. 63)

COMMENT: When trying to deal with a difficult issue Masons often resort to Albert Pike.

- d. "I have now reached the end of my labors, but the subject has by no means been exhausted. To do full justice to the Higher Degrees of Freemasonry would require volumes. But to the busy man of affairs, who demands his information in highly condensed form, who has not time to do intensive research work in fields extraneous to his regular vocation, doubtless this little book will appeal. To those who love to dive deeply into the sea of knowledge, I recommend the writings of Mackey, Pike, Gould, Clegg, Conover, Addison, Macoy, Sachse, Kuhn, Parvin, and Carson, from all of which I have liberally drawn... (emphasis added)

(Quoted from: A History of The York and Scottish Rites of Freemasonry, Sect. VI. Doc. #16, p. 64)

COMMENT: In virtually any list of Masonic authorities recommended for study, Albert Pike's name will be prominently listed. As with any investigation, what people have said before a question is raised will have far more weight than what they say after the question is raised. Regardless of what Masonic leaders say now about Pike, for years they have reverence, honored, read and quoted him. They still do.

- e. "Through the rituals and lectures of the Degrees of the Scottish Rite, the modern Mason comes to know and to appreciate the great teachers of the past, the noble philosophers, the inspired seers, and the illuminated mystics, whose lives and teachings have contributed so largely to the essential progress of mankind. The wonderful work of that most learned Sovereign Grand Commander of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, General Albert Pike, has greatly advanced the philosophical side of modern Masonry. His scholarship has pointed the way to the restoration of esoteric Mystery. To his genius the Order is indebted for a broader and deeper vision of the origin and destiny of the Fraternity. Through him the modern Brother comes to realize the place of Freemasonry in the descent of the sacred Mysteries of antiquity." (emphasis added)

(Quoted from: The Lost Keys of Freemasonry, Sect. VI, Doc. #11, p. 45)

COMMENT: The admiration of, dependency upon and reverence of Pike by modern Masonic writers is obvious here. Later, we will review Manley Hall's obituary, published in 1990 by the national journal of the Scottish Rite which praises Pike and Hall.

- f. **COMMENT:** A Bridge to Light is a modernization of Morals and Dogma, authorized and published by the same Scottish Rite governing body that published Morals and Dogma. In the Foreword, C. Fred Kleindnecht, 33rd Degree Sovereign Grand Commander The Supreme Council, 33rd Degree Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Southern Jurisdiction United States of America, states:

"The apex of our teachings has been the rituals of our degrees and Morals and Dogma, written by our beloved Sovereign Grand Commander Albert Pike. The latter, once widely read, has become less so today....Many factors have conspired to bring about this condition, but chief among them has been a shift in educational priorities in America, particularly after World War II as the teaching of science and technology began to overshadow the humanities....Thus man come to Morals and Dogma sadly deficient in the foundation Pike rightly expected his readers to have.

(Quoted from: A Bride To Light, Sect. VI, Doc. #20, p. 72)

COMMENT: This is fulsome praise for someone whom Dr. Gary Leazer argues modern Masons do not follow. The copyright date of these comments is 1988. In the Foreword, C. Fred Kleinknecht continues:

"A Bride to Light seeks to overcome this difficulty by presenting passages from Morals and Dogma which best reinforce the teachings of the ritual of the degrees. It is hoped that these degree summaries and the accompanying citations from Morals and Dogma will encourage our members to investigate more fully the profound teachings of the Rite and learn how to apply them in their daily lives..."

"I believe that the publication of this work could truly be the dawning of a new day in our Jurisdiction."

(Quoted from: A Bride To Light, Sect. VI, Doc. #20, p. 72)

In the Introduction, the author of A Bridge to Light states:

"Always difficult, the changes in educational emphasis in America made the lectures in Morals and Dogma almost incomprehensible to many. Thus after 1974 it was no longer given to the candidates. This was, in certain respects, an unfortunate decision. Contained within its pages are some of the most profound teachings of the Rite. At least partially as a result of its complexity, few books have had such a wide distribution and yet been so little read.

"These teachings are not a random collection of moral precepts but are rather an organized and coherent system of doctrine relating to the perfectibility of human conduct...Pike expresses this idea in Morals and Dogma: 'Step-by-step men must advance toward Perfection and each Masonic Degree is meant to be one of those steps' (p. 136) and '...to that state and realm of...Perfection...all good men on earth are tending...' (p. 538)" (emphasis added) (p. 538 refers to the page number in Morals and Dogma quoted by A Bridge to Light)

"(A Bridge to Light) was designed to act as a bridge between the ceremonies of the degrees and their lectures in Morals and Dogma....There may be the need for repetition in studying the lectures in Morals and Dogma. Great will be the reward to him who persists in this effort, however, and the result must be a clearer understanding of Masonic conduct."

"Each summary concludes with a review of the duties and lessons of that particular degree contained in Morals and Dogma."

(Quoted from: A Bridge To Light, Sect. VI, Doc. 20, p. 73)

COMMENT: Originally published in 1988 and reprinted in 1989 and 1990, this official publication of the ruling body of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry is ample proof that Albert Pike is still an authority respected and studied by Masons. Reading the comments quoted in Document #20, Section VI, it will be seen that Freemasonry continues to support the occultism of the ancient mystery religions.

- g. "There is need for a more modern discussion of the actions and thoughts of Sovereign Grand Commander Albert Pike's Morals and Dogma and for a concise interpretation of its significance. The monumental work was published in 1871, over 100 years ago. It was an inspired and classical compilation of Pike's own research and the writings of others, but that now should be related to our language and style and setting in time." (p. xvii)

"Morals and Dogma, combined with our rituals, provides Initiates, members and students with spiritual lessons of tremendous value, philosophies of the ages and down-to-earth basic truths that can enrich and activate human behavior." (p. xix)

"These summaries and commentaries are designed to increase the participation and input of our members -- not to supplant Morals and Dogma -- but to stimulate its research as a source of knowledge and inspiration." (p. xix)

(Quoted from: Clausen's Commentaries on Morals and Dogma , Sect. VI, Doc. #23, p. 89)

Comment: This book is authored by Henry C. Clausen, 33rd Degree, Sovereign Grand Commander, The Supreme Council, 33rd Degree, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A. That is the highest office which can be held in Freemasonry. It is the same office held by Albert Pike. It is the same office held by C. Fred Kleindnecht quoted above from the foreword of A Bridge to Light. This book is copyright in 1974 by The Supreme Council (Mother Council of the World) of the Inspectors General Knights Commander of the House of the Temple of Solomon of the Thirty-third Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America. This is the same body that published Morals and Dogma, A Bride to Light and Clausen's Emergence of the Mystical which will be discussed later.

The publication by the official body of Scottish Rite Freemasons within the past twenty years of two books meant to modernize and increase the understanding and use of Morals and Dogma clearly affirms the position which Albert Pike and his Hindu esoterism holds in the Masonic Craft.

- h. In a publication entitled, Headquarters of the Mother Supreme Council of the World, The Supreme Council of the Thirty-third and Last Degree Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., copyrighted 1976, the following appears:

"This souvenir booklet will provide authoritative information concerning the House of the Temple..."

"The Pike Room: This room is a memorial to Illustrious Brother Albert Pike, who was Grand Commander of this Supreme Council from 1959 until his death in 1891, at the age of 82 years. During these 32 years as Grand Commander he wrote and compiled many books, became familiar with many languages, among them the Sanskrit which he mastered late in life. The original manuscripts of most of Pike's writings in his own hand and penned by quill pens fashioned by himself are in this room.

General Pike is recognized as one of the greatest Masonic scholars, philosophers and historians of all time. Among the outstanding works to his credit is the ritualistic development of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. His renown as a jurist, orator, philanthropist, philosopher, scholar, soldier and poet extends to many parts of the world.

Through his diversified activities and writings he is known and revered by hundreds of thousands the world over." (p. 29)

COMMENT: By the admission of Masons this "souvenir booklet will provide authoritative information". That authoritative information establishes Albert Pike as one of the leaders of modern and contemporary Freemasonry.

- i. In A Modern Mason Examines His Craft: Fact vs. Fiction, published in 1981, L. C. Helms quotes extensively from Mackey and Pike:

1. "Albert Pike wrote in his monumental work, Morals and Dogma ..." (p. 20)
2. "As Albert Pike so aptly stated..." (p. 26)
3. "Adapted from Mackey's Encyclopedia...Mackey, in compiling his list of landmarks, restricted it to those customs that he felt had gained universal acceptance..." (p. 32)
4. "Albert Pike alludes to one answer to these queries when he discusses 'Tokens' and 'Signs' in his tome Moral and Dogma (p. 41)

5. "Albert G. Mackey defined 'initiation' in his celebrated Encyclopedia of Freemasonry..." (p. 43)
6. "Mackey further elaborates on this point..." (P. 48)
7. "The principle side degrees, as enumerated by Albert Mackey are..." (p. 53)
8. "...the Scottish Rite did not assume a dominant position until it came under the mentorship of Albert Pike..." (p. 54)
9. "Who have we produced to take the place of Albert Pike, Carl Claudy, Joseph Fort Newton, Roscoe Pound, Robert Freke Gould and Albert Mackey?" (p. 77)

COMMENT: This book is published by Macoy Publishers and Masonic Supply Company. Remember, the librarian and curator of the Grand Lodge of New York said that "anything published by Macoy is reliable about the Craft." Mr. Helms is not a leader of Freemasonry. He is a rather ordinary Freemason. Who does an ordinary Freemason go to when he wants authoritative information about his Craft? He goes to Albert Pike, Albert Mackey, et al!

- j. Dr. Robert A. Morey wrote The Origins and Teachings of Freemasonry in which he states:

"Pike claims that the Patriarchs, Joseph, Moses and Jesus were actually Hindu in belief....Their belief in Divine Principle was taken out of the Bible and it is now hopelessly corrupt...According to Pike, Christianity is not only false, it is positively evil. The following is a summary of what Pike said about Judaism and Christianity:

'Christianity never taught equality; Christians are hypocrites; Muslims are more trustworthy than Christians; the churches and the priesthood govern men by imaginary terrors; Protestants created a mean and miserable God in the imagination of people; the teachers of Christianity are the most ignorant of the true meaning of what they teach; to superimpose the Bible upon Masonic symbols is absurd; Catholicism is despotism and superstition; the early Christians lost the Truth...the Hebrew and Christian God is cruel, bloodthirsty, savage, angry, jealous, revengeful, wavering, irresolute, barbaric, short-sighted, capricious, unjust, vindictive; the Jews are ignorant, narrow-minded, and vindictive with a lower, meaner and more limited idea of God; the New Testament gives only a vulgar faith; Christian is a religion of Hate and

Persecution; The God that Christians worship is just the pagan gods under a new name, a Baalim..." (documented from direct quotes from Morals and Dogma , pp. 42-44, The Origins and Teachings of Freemasonry)

In a letter copied in Section X, Doc. #7, pp. 12-12, Dr. Morey states:

"At the House of the Temple where he is buried, Pike is still lifted up as the voice of modern Masonry. Pike was an Eastern occultist who sought to turn Freemasonry into a Hindu temple. He even induced Masonic infant baptism with the child being baptized in the name of Shiva, Krishna, and Brahmin under the sign of the triangle.

Given its present occultic teachings, no Christian in good conscience should be a Mason. I was a Southern Baptist until I moved to New York City and joined Calvary Baptist Church under Dr. Stephen Olford. I hope that the Southern Baptists get their house in order so that people like me would feel free to return."

COMMENT: Dr. Morey is the founder and president of Research & Education Foundation. He is the author of over thirty books. He has doctorates in fields of philosophy, theology, apologetics, the cults and the occult. Dr. Morey and I disagree about the origins of Freemasonry. However, we are in total agreement about the nature of modern Freemasonry. Dr. Morey suggests a conference to help Masons eliminate the occult from their Craft. I do not believe that it is possible to eliminate enough from Freemasonry to make it not anti-Christ. Christians simply need to come out of the Lodge.

- i. The New Age was the name of the official magazine of the Scottish Rite until recently when it was changed to The Scottish Rite Journal. Several random quotes from The New Age confirm Pike's position of honor, respect and influence in current Masonry:

"Grand Commander Albert Pike, he is without parallel without equal...Most of all every brother of the Scottish Rite knows, Albert Pike was among the greatest American Freemasons." (January, 1983, p. 17)

"At many places in his book Morals and Dogma, Albert Pike encourages Masons to reason, to be not blind followers of a religious or other demagogue." (July, 1986, p. 20)

3. What is the plan of salvation of the Masonic Lodge?

- a. "A Mason...is evolved through ages of self-purification and spiritual transmutation."

"As the Master Mason labors in accordance with his vows, he slowly weaves this spotless robe out of the transmuted energy of his efforts. (emphasis added) It is this white robe which must be worn under the vestments of state, and whose spotless surface sanctifies him for the robes of glory which can be worn only over the stainless, seamless garment of his purified life.

When this moment arrives and the candidate has completed his task -- when he comes purified and regenerated to the altar of wisdom, he is truly baptized of the fire and its flame blazes up within himself." (emphasis added)

(Quoted from The Lost Keys of Freemasonry, Document #3, Section VI, p. 20)

COMMENT: Repeatedly the works righteousness basis of the Secret Doctrine of the Masonic Lodge will be affirmed by Masonic writers. The white lambskin apron is worn as a "badge" of innocent, achieved through the efforts of self purification and self perfection through the initiation into deeper and deeper Masonic truths. The only robe of righteousness which any man will wear is that one fashioned by Christ's righteousness being manifested in his life. The distortion of the Revelation 19:8 is obvious in the above quoted statement.

- b. "I have spoken of the new birth as it is intimated in the symbolism of Instituted Mysteries, but have made it obvious by various allusions that it is not confined thereto, nor is it peculiar to one creed or one ecclesiastical system. It has been insisted upon in every age and experienced among all peoples, though it has not been called invariably by the same name. Even among savages in Africa I have heard somewhere that there is a tradition concerning regeneration." (emphasis added)

"The Secret Doctrine of the Union is foreshadowed by all these Rites. At this point a question arises as to what is involved precisely in the idea of union with God. If we accept the philosophical doctrine of Divine Immanence, there is a sense in which that union exists always."

"It is after these three preliminary states that a soul passes the threshold and so enters upon grades of real experience, which are shadowed forth in the secret Orders by revelation of symbols."

(Quoted from A New Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, Sect. VI, Doc. #4, p. 26)

COMMENT: The ancient mysteries taught that God revealed Himself to man through a series of emanations, i.e., transmutations from spirit to material. Man now, in order to return to God must proceed through these emanations in a reverse direction. The Masonic initiation degrees is one set of those emanations, so Masonic scholars say. The "new birth", according to the Masonic Lodge comes through initiation into one of the ancient mysteries of which Masonry is one.

- c. **"Master Mason -- 110. What is the symbolism of a Master Mason, and how represented?**

The Master Mason represents man, when youth, manhood, old age, and life itself, have passed away as fleeting shadows, yet raised from the grave of iniquity, and quickened into another and better existence. By its legend and all its ritual, it is implied that we have been redeemed from the death of sin and the sepulchre of pollution; and the conclusion we arrive at is, that youth, properly directed, leads us to honorable and virtuous maturity, and that the life of man, regulated by morality, faith, and justice, will be rewarded at its closing hour, by the prospect of eternal bliss."

(Quoted from a series of question and answers in the Masonic Altar Bible, Sect. VI, Doc. #7, p. 36)

COMMENT: The "prospect of eternal bliss" is conditioned upon the actions, i.e., the works, of the Mason. This denies the depravity of man and the necessity for the Blood Atonement of Christ. The only way for man to be rescued from "the death of sin and the sepulchre of pollution" is through the Blood of Jesus Christ. Any other doctrine is anti-Christ.

- d. **"Every soul must 'work out its own salvation,' and 'take the Kingdom of Heaven by force.' Salvation by faith and the vicarious atonement were not taught, as now interpreted by Jesus, nor are these doctrines taught in the esoteric Scriptures. They are later and ignorant perversions of the original doctrines.**

In the Early Church, as in the Secret Doctrine, there was not one Christ for the whole world, but a potential Christ in every man. Theologians first made a fetish of the Impersonal, Omnipresent Divinity; and then tore the Christos from the heart of humanity in order to deify Jesus; that they might have a God-man peculiarly their own." (emphasis added)

(quoted from Symbolism of Freemasonry, J. D. Buck, Sect. VI, Doc. #8, pp. 39)

COMMENT: One of the favorite devices of Masonry is to give the illusion of a Biblical basis to the Craft by quoting phrases from the Bible, but giving them totally unBiblical meanings. The Apostle Paul's statement "to work out your own salvation", contextually and exegetically, had nothing to do with any man becoming his own saviour.

"Jesus is no less Divine because all men may reach the same Divine perfection. Again, it will be urged, 'There is no other name given under Heaven or amongst men whereby ye can be saved.' But this is the Ineffable Name, which every master is to possess and become, and salvation and perfection are synonymous. It has also been shown that every act in the drama of the life of Jesus, and every quality assigned to Christ, is to be found in the life of Krishna and in legend of all the Sun-Gods from the remotest antiquity." (emphasis added) (p. 63)

(quoted from Symbolism of Freemasonry, J. D. Buck, Sect. VI, Doc. #8, pp. 39)

COMMENT: Here it is stated openly and blatantly, the perfection for which the Mason strives is his salvation. Jesus Christ is no different from any other "Messiah" says the Lodge.

"This principle of Justice is Law Universal, and this principle of Brotherhood and the perfectibility of man's nature through evolution necessitate Reincarnation. The number of souls constituting Humanity, though practically innumerable, is nevertheless define. Hence the doctrine of pre-existence taught in all the Mysteries applies to 'every child of woman born;' all conditions in each life being determined by previous living." (emphasis added)

(quoted from Symbolism of Freemasonry, J. D. Buck, Sect. VI, Doc. #8, pp. 39)

COMMENT: The way to salvation is repeated incarnations until the perfect state of Masonry is achieved.

"Masonry does not preach a new religion, it but reiterates the New Commandment announced by Jesus, which was also announced by every great reformer of religion since history began. **Drop the theological barnacles from the Religion of Jesus, as taught by Him, and by the Essenes and Gnostics of the first centuries, and it becomes Masonry.** (emphasis added) Masonry in its purity, derived as it is from the old Hebrew Kabbalah as part of the Great Universal Wisdom-Religion of remotest Antiquity, stands squarely for the Unqualified and Universal Brotherhood of Man, in all time and in every age. To Christianize Masonry, or to narrow it to the sectarian bounds of any Creed, is not only to dwarf and belittle it, but must inevitably result, as among warring sects, has always resulted with religions, insetting brother against brother, and Lodge against Lodge, and result in final dissolution."

(quoted from Symbolism of Freemasonry, J. D. Buck, Sect. VI, Doc. #8, pp. 39)

COMMENT: Masonry says that the "theological barnacles", the excess baggage, which has been added to the teachings of Jesus is that He is the only Saviour and that man cannot save himself.

"The consummation of initiation is the Perfect Master, the Christos, for these are the same. They are the goal, the perfect consummation of human evolution."

(quoted from Symbolism of Freemasonry, J. D. Buck, Document #8, pp. 39-40)

COMMENT: The doctrine of the salvation and perfection of man through a series of emanations results in the doctrine of reincarnation. (see subsequent section of these questions) Once again the denial of the Blood Atonement and the establishment of a works righteousness are cardinal doctrines of the Masonic Lodge and its Secret Doctrine. Salvation is a product of evolution, says the Masonic scholar, not biological evolution, although the doctrine of evolution is at the root of this theory, but the spiritual evolution of repeated incarnations until one reaches perfection.

- e. "There are many of our Brethren who have paid dues for twenty, thirty or forty years, and now when bad health has developed and their earning power is gone, their pride will not let them come to us, and we must go to them. **My Brethren, if you could read the letters that I receive from these Brethren who have arrived at the very time of life when they could enjoy the happy reflections consequent upon a well spent life, and could die in the hope of a glorious immortality; and you and I are guilty of letting them go suspended, (emphasis added) you would realize that is time that we should awake and rededicate ourselves to the great teachings of Freemasonry. That includes being kind and helpful to each other and most especially to our less fortunate Brethren. Yes, my Brethren, let us Awake -- Rededicate.**"

(Quoted from: the Annual Address of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas, 1961, Sect. VI, Doc. #9, p. 41)

COMMENT: Here is a practical illustration of the point made above. Salvation is expected because of being in proper relationship with the Lodge. Note that the Grand Master laments that men who "could die in the hope of a glorious immortality" are to be regretted because they have been suspended for non-payment of dues. **This has to be the ultimate debtor's prison -- eternity in hell because you failed to pay your Masonic dues and died out of fellowship with the Masonic Lodge.**

"Each year we behold the havoc of the scythe of time; but all men, whether Jew or Gentile, whether accepting the Nazarene as the Saviour or only as a great teacher, have found comfort in the Resurrection. **Thus, those who have left us have arrived not at the end -- but at the beginning.**" (p. 24, "Report of Committee on Fraternal Relations") (emphasis added)

(Quoted from Report of committee on Fraternal Relations, Annual Report Grand Lodge of Texas, 1961, Document #9, Section VI, p. 41)

COMMENT: What comfort is there for the Jew who dies without Christ? The implication is that no matter his opinion of Christ, the Jew may find comfort in the resurrection. That denies the Blood Atonement and institutes a works righteousness plan of salvation through affiliation with the Masonic Lodge. Universalism is one of the cardinal doctrines of the religion of Freemasonry.

"An old Chinese philosopher of the Fourth Century B.C. was once chided by friends for failing to mourn properly over the death of his wife. He said 'at the hour of her death I did feel very badly but -- I soon realized that she had already existed without form of substance before her birth. Then substance was added to her spirit, and the substance took its natural form, and the next stage was birth. Now, by another change, her spirit has left her substance -- a change as natural as the sequence of spring, summer, autumn and winter. She is now peacefully and naturally in Eternity.'" (IBID)

(Quoted from: Annual Report Grand Lodge of Texas 1961, Sect. VI, Doc. #9, p. 41)

COMMENT: Salvation is a function of the pre-existence of the soul, this quotation states. The soul which is incarnated returns to God when the body dies. This is universalism, and this is the root of the doctrine of reincarnation.

- f. "This statement is not to be construed as an attempt to introduce Christian theology into Masonic teaching. Masonry is Universal and recognizes no CREEDS, taking truth wherever it is found. That Jesus, the man, lived is conceded by even a vast majority of non-Christian creeds, the Jew acknowledges him to have been a Great Teacher. Some Christian creeds declare him to have been 'conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,' others refuse this dogma, attribute to him no supernatural birth and claim he 'achieved Christhood.' Occult teaching largely agrees what this latter thesis and points to him as a 'prototype' of the perfect man -- the goal toward which the ENTIRE HUMAN RACE is evolving. We are here referring to the Master strictly in that sense -- one who has Mastered himself in the fullest sense of the expression." (emphasis added)

(Quoted from The Lost Word Its Hidden Meaning, Sect. VI, Doc. #11, p. 49)

COMMENT: In order to establish an alternate plan of salvation the Deity of Jesus Christ must be denied or must be equated with a similar deity which other "Avatars" had. The Masonic Lodge at different times does both.

"Krishna -- The story of Krishna is recounted in the Vidas of the Hindus....(Note the introduction of the analogy of the lamb with purity, thousands of years prior to the Hebrew Scriptures.)"

"Osiris and Isis and Horus -- "The beginning of the Osirian legend predates 4000 B.C.... There is some question among authorities whether Osiris was originally thought to be a god who descended to earth and ruled as a human king, or a king who ascended to heaven and became a god."

"Jesus -- "Jesus is sometimes mystically referred to as 'the widow's Son.'"

"We have reviewed the outstanding events in the lives of three of the saviors. There are many more 'saviors' in recorded history." (emphasis added)

"The Messiah Concept -- Beyond reasonable doubt the Messiah Concept had its origin in the early stellar cult, but that was succeeded by the lunar cult which in turn gave place to solar worship."

"Many Masonic authorities are of the firm conviction that the Hiram legend is an outgrowth of the legend of Osiris." (emphasis added)

"It is not our intention to review the endless arguments as to the divinity of either Krishna or Jesus. (emphasis added) Regardless of whether or not they were mystically conceived, there is little room of argument that the stories told about them and their legendary background partake of the incidents and are of the essence of the legend of the 'Dying God,' and it has been determined that the origin of that legend is the journey of the sun through the zodiacal signs of the heavens."

"At this point it seems appropriate to inquire into the features which the legends of Krishna, Jesus, Osiris and Hiram have in common." (emphasis added)

(Quoted from The Lost Word Its Hidden Meaning, Sect. VI, Doc. #11, pp. 49-51)

COMMENT: This is blasphemy. The equating of Krishna, Osiris and Hiram with the Lord Jesus Christ is blasphemy. No believer in the Lord Jesus Christ should be a part of an organization which has myths of this nature. This is mainstream Masonic doctrine. Whether Southern Baptist Masons are ignorant of this doctrine or not is irrelevant. The fact remains that

the Craft to which they have sworn their devotion and their "brethren" with whom they are bound in the "mystic tie" is not ignorant of it and embrace it warmly. This statement is the ultimate statement of humanism, i.e., the deification of man and the dethronement of God.

"What then is this thing called 'SALVATION'? From what are the various saviors intended to 'save' man?"
(p. 156)

"It is but to be brought from the material to the spiritual; that we must be 'saved' from the material because all man's thinking, all his actions for untold millennia, have been directed toward the material and physical...man must return to his forgotten inherent spirituality. The saviours save only when it is recognized they are but examples pointing the way to travel." (emphasis added)

"Fortunately, for the seeker of Light as well as the Masonic Order, we need not accept this dismal outlook, for we can turn to numerous Masonic authorities who will verify our thesis of a secret doctrine in Freemasonry which far transcends its moral and ethical teachings."

"The degrees of initiation are but the degrees of the evolution of the God in man." (emphasis added)

(Quoted from: The Lost Word Its Hidden Meaning,
Sect. VI, Doc. #11, pp. 52-53)

COMMENT: The Secret Doctrine of the Masonic Lodge is the doctrine of salvation and perfection of man through initiation into the Lodge and then through progression through various degrees. Masonry is a modern day restatement of the Gnostic heresy repudiated by Paul and John in the Word of God.

- f. "Take the Master Jesus for example. He could, and did (1) heal the sick, restore sight to the blind, and raise the dead -- but he also could have used this power for destructive purposes, as the black magicians have done throughout history; (2) transmuted one substance into another, as water into wine, or the ingredients of bread into bread, and thus feed five thousand from a few loaves -- but he never did this to make a fortune for himself; (3) levitate his body to walk on the water, and still the tempest -- but his employment of this power was always exercised for the benefit of others; (4) rise from the dead in his light-body and become visible to

his mother and his disciples. **The Master Jesus had learned to use these personal powers**, but there is no instance where he used them for self-aggrandizement of any kind. He used them always to help and benefit others. He had the fullness of knowledge and the fullness of love for humanity to use them for beneficent purposes."

(Quoted from: The Meaning of Masonry, Sect. VI, Doc. #21, p. 82)

COMMENT: The blasphemous nature of this comment about the Lord Jesus Christ is obvious.

"Jesus declared with finality: 'Ye must be born again,' 'born of the Spirit,' for the development in time and eternity of the same personal powers that all the great masters and teachers of a blind humanity came to possess and use for the benefit and instruction of mankind. When a person has attained this level of soul development he does not have to be reborn into a mortal body; he then can dwell permanently in the Celestial Lode Above, that 'borne from which no traveler returns.' **He has completed his human evolution; he has attained 'salvation.'**"

(Quoted from: The Meaning of Masonry, Sect. VI, Doc. #21, p. 82)

COMMENT: The Masonic author declares that "being born again" is the cycle of incarnation, death, reincarnation, until the soul of the true Mason reaches the state of perfection achieved by Jesus Christ, after which he can live in heaven for eternity. This perfection is achieved through being born again and again, each time under a new sign of the zodiac, until he achieves perfection.

"Masons should have an incentive to know more about the Doctrine of Avatars (An 'Avatar' is the incarnation of a divine messenger, like Jesus and Buddha and others.) **because Modern Speculative Masonry, in common with every great world religion, has its legendary hero, Grand Master and Exemplar Hiram Abiff.** No doubt many sincere Christians who become members of the Masonic Order wonder if there is any place in the Masonic program of the Builder for him whom they call Jesus Christ. The answer to this question can be covered in a twofold manner."

1. ...Jesus of Nazareth had attained a level of consciousness, of perfection, that has been called by various names: cosmic consciousness, soul regeneration, philosophic initiation, spiritual illumination, Brahmie Splendor, Christ-consciousness....Masonry emphasizes no one Avatar in its Ritual more than another;"
2. Do not think that because no savior appears at such in the Ritual, modern Speculative Masonry does not countenance the advent of divine messengers (Avatars). The Great Light describes the advent life, and teachings of one, the last Great One, of the long succession of divine incarnations.

...Grand Master Hiram Abiff was and is but a symbol of masterhood, Avatarhood, a man whose spiritual illumination and life should be a beacon light and a way-shower for all Masons..."

(Quoted from: The Meaning of Masonry, Sect. VI, Doc. #21, p. 83)

COMMENT: Masonry is a religion and thusly "has (things) in common with every great world religion." Jesus Christ, according to the Secret Doctrine of the Masonic Lodge, is only one among many Saviors. That is why His Name cannot be used in the Lodge. He has no special place for He is not special to the Lodge. He is just another of a series of divine incarnations.

"The ancient wisdom declares that every man, as an immortal soul, is his own savior, because if he does not save himself he will not be saved, and this is the view of modern Masonry -- man is the builder of his own immortal soul by both faith and works within the Lodge of his own body." (emphasis added,

"Therefore Masonry teaches that redemption and salvation are both the power and the responsibility of the individual Mason. Saviours like Hiram Abiff can and do show the way, but men must always follow and demonstrate, each for himself, his power to save himself.....The reader who succeeds in getting back to the real teachings of the masters, including Jesus of Nazareth, will find unanimity of thinking on this matter."

(Quoted from: The Meaning of Masonry, Sect. VI, Doc. #11, pp. 83-84)

COMMENT: Here is the truth. Here is the foundation of the Mormon heresy that every man can become a god. Every man must become his own saviour and therefore, he will become his own God. This is blasphemy.

"Why do Masons recoil from this view of Masonry?

1. Because of educational defects, they lack the background knowledge that is necessary for a fuller understanding of and greater interest in the cryptic, or 'occult,' passages and allegories of the Ritual...
2. They are too much engrossed and preoccupied with material interests...
3. The ordinary benefits of Masonry that come within experience and comprehension afford sufficient satisfactions and leave no time or incentive for probing deeper into the occult phases of Masonry."

(Quoted from: The Meaning of Masonry, Sect. VI, Doc. #11, pp. 83-84)

COMMENT: Many Masons will be offended by what other Masons say about the "real" meaning of their Craft. But, they will not obey the Scriptural admonition to avoid even the appearance of evil. If they loved Jesus above all else they would flee from the Lodge.

"If Jesus existed 'from the foundations of the world,' that simply means that he 'pre-existed' as a 'man made perfect' prior to his last incarnation as Jesus of Nazareth; and what was true of Jesus is also true in principle of every man who is born into flesh. Jesus, it must be added, is 'our elder Brother.' He came from God earlier than any of us did; but we follow the same natural law on the level of time that he did and we have the same destiny that he achieved on this same path." (emphasis added)

(Quoted from The Meaning of Masonry, Document #21, Section VI, p. 85)

COMMENT: Jesus Christ was "re-incarnated" many times? Such an idea is blasphemous. Yet, it is the truth of the teaching of the Masonic Lodges emanations and degrees. The plan of salvation espoused by the Masonic Lodge in the symbolism of the Blue Lodge degrees is totally and completely antagonistic to the teachings of the Word of God.

4. What Does The Masonic Lodge Say About the Word of God?

- a. "Lest any misunderstanding arise in the mind of the reader because of these repeated references to the 'Holy Bible,' it should be noted that substitution of the 'Holy Bible' for the 'Volume of the Sacred Law' is a modern adaptation of the English speaking Lodge. Obviously ANY Sacred Book is meant, for many jurisdictions using the term 'Holy Bible' recognize jurisdictions where the Koran, Hebrew Bible (Old Testament only) or the Vedas are regarded as the 'Sacred Volume.'" (emphasis added)

"The entire worth of the Bible as a guide to morals and ethics is contained in the decalogue, the 'eleventh commandment' -- 'love thy neighbor as thyself' and the 'Golden Rule' -- 'And as ye would that men should do to you do ye also to them likewise.'" (emphasis added) These could easily have been incorporated into the Masonic Ritual, saving the initiate the labor of seeking them out for himself, for what more can one learn of morals and ethics throughout the whole of the Bible, and what more is taught of them throughout the whole of Masonry?" (emphasis added)

"The Bible verifies, confirms and elaborates the truths of which Masonry informs in its degrees. It is in fact the Key to the Secret Doctrine in Freemasonry..."

(Quoted from: The Lost Word Its Hidden Meaning, Sect. VI, Doc. #11, p. 47)

COMMENT: How much comment is required to address the attitude that "the entire worthy of the Bible" can be found in only two or three chapters. The New Age movement, of which the Masonic Lodge is one of the chief components, has at its first object the destroying of the confidence of God's people in His Word. This started when the New Age movement started, in the Garden of Eden with the question, "Hath God said?"

"Certainly no theological doctrine of one people exclusively enjoying a divine revelation could ever have arisen -- a doctrine which has blinded us for centuries to our noble inheritance of universal human aspiration, not limited to the history of the experience of any one people."

(Quoted from: The Lost Word Its Hidden Meaning,

Sect. VI, Doc. #11, p. 48)

COMMENT: The denial, not only of the inerrancy of Scripture, but the uniqueness of it, cuts at the very heart of the message of Jesus Christ. This is the message of the Masonic Lodge: Jesus Christ was one saviour, but not the only One; the Bible is one book of the Law, but not the only one. In a democratic republic, any individual has the right to believe that; in a Southern Baptist church anyone who does must declare that they are not a Southern Baptist.

- b. **"We teach a belief in no particular creed, as we teach un-belief in none.** In all religions there is a basis of Truth; in all there are fragments at least of pure Morality. All that teach the cardinal tenets of Masonry, we respect; all teachers and reformers of mankind, we admire and revere." (Vol. V, p. 46)

"We do not tell the Hebrew that the Messiah whom he expects was born in Bethlehem nearly two thousand years ago, and substituted a better faith in the place of the law of Moses. And as little do we tell the sincere Christian that Jesus of Nazareth was but a man like us...**Masonry, of no one age, belongs to all time; of no one religion, it finds its great truths in all.**" (emphasis added) (Vol. V, p. 46)

"Thus it disbelieves no truth, and teaches unbelief in no creed...It is not a religion, but a Worship; and one in which all civilized men can unite; for it does not undertake to explain, or dogmatically to settle those great mysteries, that are above the feeble comprehension of our human intellect." (Vol. V, p. 47)

(Quoted from: "The Meaning of Masonry", by Albert Pike, Sect. VI, Doc. #12, p. 57)

COMMENT: Contempt for Truth is taught in the espousal that there is no false creed. If nothing is false, then nothing is Truth. If no creed is wrong, then no creed is right. If the Vedas, and the Koran are the "word of god", then the Bible cannot be True. Masonry says, "it does not undertake to explain, or dogmatically to settle those great mysteries, that are above the feeble comprehension of our human intellect." It therefore denies the doctrine of revelation. Curiously, a Craft that argues that revelation cannot be trusted, argues that reincarnation is the way to salvation.

- c. "In the arrangement of their system the early Masonic fathers took the Holy Bible as their guide. They did not as it commonly supposed make the Holy Bible one of the landmarks an act which initiates the introduction of religious dogmatism into the society....It is, of course, the privilege of every man to conceive religion as his conscience may dictate and if **there are men who accept Freemasonry as their religion** and who zealously try to live up to its precepts and who strive to obey its obligation of serving man on earth and God in the universe then **those men should have the right to accept Masonry as the religion to which they can subscribe without being pointed out as moral recluses, whose future happiness is seriously impaired because of their lack of affiliation with some denominational society.**" (emphasis added)

(Quoted from: History and Evolution of Freemasonry, Sect. VI, Doc. #15, p. 61)

COMMENT: The Bible is a "piece of furniture" in the Masonic Lodge. It is not the Word of God; it is a guide to life. It is not the Revelation of God; it is a moral code. It does not reveal the way to Salvation through Jesus Christ; it reveals how man can "save himself through morality". Each of these distortions of the Word of God is taught by the Masonic Lodge. **Furthermore, it is affirmed that a man can take Freemasonry as his religion.** If a man can take it for his religion, then it must be a religion. Therefore, no Christian can be a Mason and a Baptist at the same time.

"At the present time there are strong indications of a tremendous revolution in the moral and religious world, **the universal result of which points to the establishment of a religion of humanity.** When that time shall come it cannot be doubted that Freemasonry will shine with a lustre undimmed." (p. 299)

(Quoted from: History and Evolution of Freemasonry, Sect. VI, Doc. #15, p. 61)

COMMENT: "A religion of humanity"! This is the goal of secular humanism and is almost a direct quote from "The Humanist Manifesto". Freemasonry is the forerunner of this "religion of humanity." It is anathema to the faith of Jesus Christ. This new religion will deify, man and will eliminate belief in God, the Father, God, the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit.

"The religion of Masonry knows neither creed nor dogma nor sectarianism. Every Lodge is the home of harmony. Every altar is a sacred anvil on which is tempered the bonds of brotherhood. The Mason is taught to see God in everything, to behold Him in every page of nature's book, to use reason for his lamp, education for his guide, and humanity as his chief interest. Masonry discards as nonessential much of the formalism which envelops the old religious ideas, and establishes as its tenets those great truths to which all men can subscribe."
(emphasis added)

(Quoted from: History and Evolution of Freemasonry,
Sect. VI, Doc. #15, p. 61)

COMMENT: "The religion of Masonry"! The truth is out, not only is Masonry a religion; it rejects the Word of God. Read again the quote from above, **"Masonry discards as nonessential much of the formalism which envelops the old religious ideas, and establishes as its tenets those great truths to which all men can subscribe."** The "formalism which envelops the old religious ideas" is the belief that the Bible is the Word of God, and that it Alone is the Word of God.

"Those early founders of Masonry conceived a system of moral religion at whose shrine all men might worship, the Christian, the Catholic, the Protestant, the Confucion, the Buddhist, the Mohammedan, as well as others who are willing to acknowledge a supreme being and live a life of moral rectitude. Thus there has been evolved a religious society, which has been charitable enough to recognize good whether it be found in the Bible or Koran, or in the Moral Code of those who have sought the higher things of life."
(emphasis added)

(Quoted from: History and Evolution of Freemasonry,
Sect. VI, Doc. #15, p. 62)

COMMENT: The equating of the Koran with the Bible, trivializes the Word of God. If the Koran is true, then the Bible cannot be; if the Bible is true then the Koran must be false. They are mutually exclusive in their view of God, even though the Koran contains much of the Old Testament canon.

"Roscoe Pound, the distinguished jurist, who gave the subject much unbiased study, suggests the following which may be safely recognized as landmarks of the fraternity:

- (1) belief in God
- (2) belief in the persistence of personality
- (3) **a 'Book of the Law' as an indispensable part of the furniture of the Lodge** (emphasis added)
- (4) the legend of the third degree
- (5) secrecy
- (6) the symbolism of the operative art
- (7) that a Mason must be a man, free born, and of age..."

(Quoted from: History and Evolution of Freemasonry, Sect. VI, Doc. #15, p. 62)

COMMENT: The Bible is not looked upon by the Lodge as the Word of God; it is a symbol of the Word of God and that only as a piece of furniture -- a decoration -- in the Lodge. Masonry is not founded upon the Bible of Christianity; it is founded upon the religion of man. **The presence of the Bible in the Masonic Lodge is used to "hoodwink" Christian Masons into betraying the God of the Word.**

- d. "The idea that the Bible was inspired or the word of Jahweh probably had its basis long anterior to the production of the Hebrew Scriptures. The feeling that all writing was inspired or holy existed more or less from great antiquity, because only a very few people could read or write and those few were secluded priests of religion."

"To the original superstition about the sacredness of writing, the Israelites added the impetus of authoritative commands, with anathema on violators,..."

"The Holy Bible; Volume of the Sacred Law. The place of the Bible in Freemasonry is as difficult to fix as are some of the beliefs averted to above. While it might be possible for all men to agree upon a name for Deity sufficiently general and non-committal, there is no possibility of having any two creeds adopt the sacred book of one of them...."

The Bible is not an integrated book, but a collect of books written over about a thousand years and, more particularly, it embraces the writings of two

different dispensations, the Hebrew and the Christian, which have only certain things in common....

"Freemasonry supposedly recognizes only the doctrine of the Old Testament and its theme of Judaism or monotheism....The Bible is open to so many different interpretations that it has been impossible to have any part of it read in the public schools, notwithstanding its unquestioned literary value and the ethics and wisdom in many parts. But nothing from the New Testament could be read in a class containing Jews or Moslems or other non-Christians, and hence, the whole of the New Testament has to be rejected in the public schools of a Christian country!" (emphasis added)

"Freemasonry is likely to be disturbed at times by religious extremists, who do not give the universality of Freemasonry due consideration."

"The prevailing Masonic opinion is that the Bible is only a symbol of Divine Will, Law, or Revelation, and not that its contents are Divine Law, inspired, or revealed. So far, no responsible authority has held that a Freemason must believe the Bible or any part of it." (emphasis added)

(Quoted from: Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia, Sect. VI, Doc. #21, pp. 79-80)

COMMENT: What comment needs to be made? This modern Masonic authority, published in 1961, affirmed by Masons of high degree and of fraternal prominence, declares for all the contempt with which the Lodge looks upon the Word of God.

- 94 in Masonic literature
- e. "And yet, like everything else in Masonry, the Bible, so rich in symbolism, is itself a symbol -- that is, a part taken for the whole. It is a sovereign symbol of the Book of Faith, the Will of God as man has learned it in the midst of the years -- that perpetual revelation of himself which God is making mankind in every land and every age. Thus, by the very honor which Masonry pays to the Bible, it teaches us to revere every book of faith in which men find help for today and hope for the morrow, joining hands with the man of Islam as he takes oath on the Koran, and with the Hindu as he makes covenant with God upon the book that he loves best.

"For Masonry knows, what so many forget, that religions are many, but Religion is one -- perhaps we may say one thing, but that one thing includes everything -- the life of God in the soul of man, and the duty and hope of man which proceed from His essential character. Therefore it invites to its altar men of all faiths, knowing that, if they use different names for 'the Nameless One of a hundred names,' they are yet praying to the one God and Father of all; knowing, also, that while they read different volumes, they are in fact reading the same vast Book of the Faith of Man as revealed in the struggle and sorrow of the race in its quest of God. So that, great and noble as the Bible is, Masonry sees it as a symbol of that eternal Book of the Will of God... (emphasis added)

"None the less, much as we honor every book of faith in which any man has found courage to lift his hand above the night that covers him and lay hold of the mighty Hand of God, with us the Bible is supreme. What Homer was to the Greeks, what the Koran is to the Arabs, that, and much more, the grand Old Bible is to us." (emphasis added)

(This same quotation appears in the Masonic Altar Bible copyright 1924, 1925, 1929, 1930, 1932, 1933, 1935, 1939, 1940, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1957, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1967, 1968, published by A. J. Holman Company, p. 5; it also appears in the Little Masonic Library Volume III, pp. 153-210; it also appears in the Little Masonic Library Volume IV, pp. 171-219 in an article entitled, "The Three Degrees and Great Symbols of Masonry", by Joseph Fort Newton)

(Quoted from: The Men's House, Sect. VI, Doc. #2, pp. 9-10)

COMMENT: This sentimental, yet contemptuous statement, accurately summarizes the attitude of the Masonic Lodge about the Word of God. It is repeated very often in many different Masonic articles. It is the standard opinion of Freemasonry of the Word of God. Here is the true attitude of the Masonic Lodge toward the Word of God: "So that, great and noble as the Bible is, Masonry sees it as a symbol of that eternal Book of the Will of God...". (emphasis added) What Christian could ascribe to this doctrine of the Bible? What Southern Baptist can be a pastor, deacon, Sunday School teacher or choir member with integrity and ascribe to this doctrine of the Bible?

Even those most liberal professor in a Southern Baptist Seminary would reject this concept of the Bible!

- f. In the February, 1968, New Age magazine (page 17) (the official publication of the Scottish Rites of America and recently renamed The Scottish Rite Journal) Leonard Wenz stated:

"The Bible is not today what it once was. Current higher criticism has made obsolete the idea that the Bible is a unique revelation of supernatural truth."

5. What is the Masonic concept of God?

- a. "God -- ...Used here, reluctantly, for want of a better short descriptive word, 'God' will be understood to mean that Supreme, Impersonal Intelligence which we credit with being the directing force of the Universe. In Freemasonry this handicap is partially overcome for us by the descriptive phrase: 'Supreme Architect of the Universe.' (emphasis added)

(Quoted from: The Lost Word Its Hidden Meaning, Sect. VI, Doc. #11, p. 46)

COMMENT: I have argued elsewhere that the god of the Lodge is Lucifer himself. That the god of the Lodge is not the God of the Bible is clearly stated here. Who is this "Supreme Architect of the Universe"? He is not the Personal, Creator God of the Old and New Testaments for sure!

- b. "Monotheism has been espoused as the sole religious dogma of Freemasonry by some authors, the most prominent of whom is probably Dr. Roscoe Pound, and it has occasionally been advocated with such warmth as to indicate especial merit or sanctity as against all other concepts of Deity, though such authors fail to state why. This, obviously, violates Masonic principles, for it requires belief in a specific kind of Supreme Deity and excludes such widely held creed as Trinitarian Christianity. Judaism is the classical illustration of monotheism and leaves no room for a Saviour, Son, or Holy Spirit."

(Quoted from: Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia, Sect. VI, Doc. #21, p. 80)

COMMENT: The Hindu faith has over one million gods. How can a Mason bow his knee to an altar with a man who would deny the uniqueness of the Lord God

Almighty. The polytheism of the Masonic concept of God should warn every Christian to beware.

- c. In the April, 1945, New Age magazine, John H. Boyd stated:

"When we talk to God, we are talking to ourselves, for God and man are one and the same through the ties of love."

6. Is Freemasonry a religion?

- a. "In Morals and Dogma Pike offers the following definition: Freemasonry is the subjugation of the Human that is in many by the Divine; the conquest of the appetites and passions by the Moral Sense and the Reason; a continual struggle, effort and warfare of the spiritual against the material and sensual. That victory, when it has been achieved and secured, and the conqueror may rest upon his shield and wear his well-earned laurels, is the true HOLY EMPIRE.'

The time has arrived for Masonry to make its position clear, to not only admit, but rather to declare, that it is religious...An attitude to the contrary may have been excusable in the past, as the vast majority of Masons, ignorant of the esoteric teachings, were equally ignorant of the fact that those teachings constitute religion. (emphasis added) This has never been true of the Great Masonic Scholars of the past, all of whose writings show their recognition of the religion in Masonry."

(Quoted from: Freemasonry Its Hidden Meaning, Sect. VI, Doc. #1, p. 3)

COMMENT: The Little Masonic Library, a five-volume set of books published by Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply House, declares that the finest statement of the "meaning of Masonry" was made by Albert Pike. That being the case, it is clear that Pike understood the religious nature of the Craft, although he would elsewhere argue that it is not a religion.

- b. "Masonry is the Universal Religion only because, and only so long, as it embraces all religions. For this reason, and this alone, it is universal and eternal." (emphasis added)

"Furthermore, the Sacred Books of all religions, including those of the Jews and the Christians, were and are no more than parables and allegories of the real Secret Doctrine, transcribed for the ignorant and superstitious masses. All commentaries written on these Sacred Books, whether on those of Moses, the Psalms and the Prophets of Judaism, the Gospels of the Gnostics and Christians, or those written on the Sacred Books of the East --the Vedas, Puranas, and Upanishads -- **all either make confusion more confounded when written by one ignorant of the Secret Doctrine, (emphasis added) or, when written by initiates, but ring the changes on, or further elaborate the parables and allegories.**"

"It is, furthermore, easily demonstrable that the Secret Doctrine came originally from the far East, and is the Primitive Wisdom Religion."

(Quoted from: Symbolism of Freemasonry, Sect. VI, Doc. #8, p. 38)

COMMENT: Dr. Buck claims that Freemasonry is the "universal religion" because it embraces all of the religions of the world. This kind of religious syncreticism -- incorporating into a new religion all of the precepts of old religions -- is forbidden by the Word of God.

- c. "At the present time there are strong indications of a tremendous revolution in the moral and religious world, the universal result of which points to the establishment of **a religion of humanity**. When that time shall come it cannot be doubted that Freemasonry will shine with a lustre undimmed."

"The religion of Masonry knows neither creed nor dogma nor sectarianism. Every Lodge is the home of harmony. Every altar is a sacred anvil on which is tempered the bonds of brotherhood. The Mason is taught to see God in everything, to behold Him in every page of nature's book, to use reason for his lamp, education for his guide, and humanity as his chief interest. Masonry discards as non essential much of the formalism which envelops the old religious ideas, and establishes as its tenets those great truths to which all men can subscribe."
(emphasis added)

(Quoted from: History and Evolution of Freemasonry, Sect. VI, Doc. #15, pp. 61-62)

COMMENT: Seeing God in everything is pantheism. The enthronement of "reason", rather than revelation, in the hearts of men is the modus operandi of the Masonic Lodge. The religion of Freemasonry argues that education and information are the ways to perfection and salvation rather than transformation and intimacy with God as espoused by the Bible and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This "new religion of humanity" is spoken of by Dr. Allan Boudreaux; Boudreaux says: "In this new Aquarian age,...many individuals and groups are working in various ways for the eventual restoration of the mysteries, an increasing number of aspirants are beginning to recognize that Freemasonry may be the vehicle for this achievement." (See Section IX, p. 10, this study)

7. What Does The Masonic Lodge Teach About Reincarnation?

- a. "...Obviously it is 'Astrology' and not 'Astronomy' which is recommended to the Mason as a subject of study. I say 'obviously' because ancient secret doctrine, which is concealed in Masonic allegory and symbolism, teaches EVOLUTION as surely as Darwin ever taught it; REINCARNATION and the LAW OF NECESSITY or KARMA, which are included in, and are a part of, the teaching of scientific astrology. Neither need the Christian Mason shudder on being told Masonry embraces such teaching. If he feels any repugnance at the thought it is because those who today profess those teachings, such as the Buddhist and the Hindu, have distorted these Divine truths as greatly as Christianity has the sublime teaching of the Master Jesus.

There is no NEW religion. There is but ONE RELIGION. The ancient Hebrew believed in evolution, reincarnation and karma, as well as astrology. That book we call the 'Holy Bible' is still full of references to all three, in spite of the fact that much has been expurgated." (emphasis added)

(Quoted from: Freemasonry Its Hidden Meaning, Sect. VI, Doc. #1, p. 6)

COMMENT: The implication that anything has been removed from the Word of God is offensive. The assertion that reincarnation is taught in the Word of God is blasphemous. The thought that men are continuously "reincarnated" until they reach

perfection contradicts the entire Biblical revelation and particularly Hebrews 9:27 which states: "For it is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment."

- b. **"...the fundamental doctrine of the mysteries is Pre-existence...It should be understood, however, that the various Orders of Initiation do not always and all begin their work of transmutation at the same point."**

"Whosoever is capable of election to the Kingdom of Heaven is a fit and proper person to be made a Mason."

"The idea of re-embodiment, and more especially that form which restricts the mode of its operation within a single planet of the solar system, occurs definitely in only one Masonic Rite -- as it happens, being that of Memphis."

"There is one form of Sacramentalism which characterizes the highest Orders of Initiation, and is found -- at least as an implicit -- in all their Grades. It is usually overlooked because it is easy to miss the great things unless they are in patent evidence and are written --so to speak -- in the starry heavens. **It is comprised in the simple statement that all true initiation is concerned with communicating, by the mediation of symbols, a new life, the pageant of an inward generation."**

"...the Mystery now in question is presented to the Candidate as the final evolution of the traditional history in the Third Craft Degree. I have referred to it at length in these pages, and it will be enough if I remind my readers that **he who was Master Builder under the aegis of the Old Law rises under the New Law as Christ.** The Christ of Nazareth rises in the power of the Word made flesh, but the Candidate at a memorable moment in Masonic Ritual is raised, and it is not in his own power. (emphasis added) His story is to continue thenceforward like that of Craft Masonry itself, which is left at a loose end and requires a sequel to complete it."

"I believe that this calls for translation into another form of language, but the fact is sufficient for my purpose that **it presents regeneration as a beginning and not the end of a process.** (emphasis added) Those who having experienced it proceed on the path which it opens and walk thereafter through another world of live, even as the Entered Apprentice

-- from the moment of being made a Mason...We are dealing with veridic experience in both cases, but the doctrine of the New Birth is one of awakening from material life into that of the soul..."

"I have spoken of the new birth as it is intimated in the symbolism of Instituted Mysteries, but have made it obvious by various allusions that it is not confined thereto, nor is it peculiar to one creed or one ecclesiastical system. It has been insisted upon in every age and experienced among all peoples, though it has not been called invariably by the same name. Even among savages in Africa I have heard somewhere that there is a tradition concerning regeneration." (emphasis added)

"The Secret Doctrine of the Union is foreshadowed by all these Rites. At this point a question arises as to what is involved precisely in the idea of union with God. If we accept the philosophical doctrine of Divine Immanence, there is a sense in which that union exists always."

"It is after these three preliminary states that a soul passes the threshold and so enters upon grades of real experience, which are shadowed forth in the secret Orders by revelation of symbols."

(Quoted from: A New Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, Sect. VI, Doc. #4, p. 25ff)

COMMENT: This modern Masonic document, published in 1970 reveals the truth of the occultism of the Masonic Lodge.

- c. "This principle of Justice is Law Universal, and this principle of Brotherhood and the perfectibility of man's nature through evolution necessitate Reincarnation. The number of souls constituting Humanity, though practically innumerable, is nevertheless define. Hence the doctrine of pre-existence taught in all the Mysteries applies to 'every child of woman born;' all conditions in each life being determined by previous living."

(Quoted from: Symbolism of Freemasonry, Sect. VI, Doc. #8, p. 40)

COMMENT: There is only one man who pre-existed his birth and that is the Man, the Lord Jesus Christ. Pre-existence of the soul is the heresy of the Mormon church, obviously borrowed from the esoteric doctrine of the Masonic Lodge.

- d. "This is purely an astrological allusion. It is the thesis of the teaching of Karma and Reincarnation that man is reborn time and time, and time again. Each reincarnation, or rebirth, is under on the signs of the zodiac, successively. Hence to reach perfection man must perform the 'twelve labors' i.e., be born, and labor through a material life-time under each of the zodiacal signs. Allegorically this is depicted by Hercules (humanity) performing his 'twelve labors,' upon the completion of which Prometheus is bound."

(Quoted from: The Lost Word Its Hidden Meaning, Sect. VI, Doc. #11, p. 50)

COMMENT: The heresy of reincarnation, coupled with the heresy of astrology, demonstrate conclusively the Luciferian origin of the Masonic Lodge, and its incompatibility with Christianity.

- e. "It is a mistaken idea that a man has only one change, one brief period of three score and ten years in which he can prove that he is worthy and well qualified to sit in the Celestial Lodge with the Brethren who have gone this way before him."

"Heaven cannot grant them more than they have earned on earth."

"...We have more than one chance to achieve life's Masonic goal, the sublimest possibility named in the Ritual, immortality, defined as permanent residence in taht 'undiscovered country from whose borne no traveler returns.'"

"The writer is not the first to declare that the teaching of reincarnation, of rebirth into flesh again and again, is implied in the teachings of Masonry."

"Though Jesus also taught this same divine wisdom to those of his disciples who could comprehend it, yet with the rise to dominance in the fourth century A.D. of the so-called 'Christian Church' this divine knowledge was suppressed as heresy; and it is still regarded as heresy by every Christian Church on earth, whether 'Fundamentalism' or 'Liberal.'"

"If Jesus existed 'from the foundations of the world,' that simply means that he 'pre-existed' as a 'man made perfect' prior to his last incarnation as

Jesus of Nazareth; and what was true of Jesus is also true in principle of every man who is born into flesh. Jesus, it must be added, is 'our elder Brother.' He came from God earlier than any of us did; but we follow the same natural law on the level of time that he did and we have the same destiny that he achieved on this same path."

"If you are searching for Light in Masonry, that 'hieroglyphic Light that none but craftsmen ever saw,' you could read the literature published by --

1. The Self-realization Fellowship
2. Astara Foundation
3. The American Philosopher Society
4. Soulcraft Fellowship"

"No thinking man and Mason can rightly say that he was but one chance to reach the goal of the Builder and despairingly conclude that it is too remote for him to be troubled with its disciplines. As a man and Mason he has many chances; if now he is unwilling to express active faith in Masonic teachings and courage because he too inevitably and ultimately will be drawn after exposure to its sublime teachings in a vast series of lives, he shall arrive at that destiny, the Perfect Ashlar which is the final product of the Builder's art."

"To cite but a few names of the hundreds of illumined men of whose lives we have record as we look back over the pages of human history: Confucius of China, Gautama of India, Jesus of Nazareth, Apollonius of Tyana, Francis Bacon of England, Balzac of France, Dante of Italy, Behmen of Germany, Whitman of America."

"What were the characteristics of mind and soul that are common to all of these men and women?

1. When they were around thirty-five years of age, all had an experience in which they thought themselves suddenly immersed in a flame of rose-colored light...
2. At the same instant of the perception of this inner Light, these men experienced feelings of joy, assurance, triumph, and 'salvation'; they became keenly aware of a moral exaltation and intellectual illumination....
3. These men at the time of their illumination acquired the knowledge and certainly of the presence of a soul within and of its immortality...

4. With this certainty of the presence and perpetuity of the soul came complete loss of the fear of death...
5. These men at this moment lost any sense of sin that had existed prior to illumination...
6. It must be noted, however, that all those who experienced this sudden, intellectual, moral, and spiritual powers greatly exceeded and excelled even those of the elite among the masses..."

"I am convinced that the illumination of these men is the same thing as the 'Light,' 'More Light,' 'Further Light,' and 'All the Light' that Masons symbolically seek on being made builders."

(Quoted from: The Meaning of Masonry, Sect. VI, Doc. #22, pp. 58-90)

COMMENT: Heresy, blasphemy and humanism all rolled into one vehicle: the Masonic Lodge and its Craft.

8. Has Masonry Changed and/or Can It Be Changed?

The Twenty-fifth Landmark of the Masonic Lodge is that nothing can be changed in Freemasonry or it ceases to be Freemasonry. The fact is that nothing of substance has changed in the Lodge, the Lodge does not want to change, and that Southern Baptists ought to be about the business of getting Southern Baptists out of the Lodge and/or Lodges members out of leadership in Southern Baptist churches. We might just as soon try to reform the Mormon Church to make it compatible with the Gospel, as try to reform the Masonic Lodge.