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Channeled Apocalyptic: Intercepted Dispatches or Disinformation?

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Early in World War II, the British captured a German machine which translated coded messages. They called this machine "Enigma." After months of work, cryptographers managed in 1940 to break the code. When they fed intercepted German transmissions into the machine, out came what seemed to be information about troop and supply movements. However, a great question remained: were these messages intercepted dispatches or disinformation? Were these authentic messages from the German High Command to the troops across Europe, or were the Germans leading the Allies into a trap?

Today, messages about the world's end or rebirth are purportedly being "channeled" to the world through spirit mediums who call themselves "channelers." "Spirits" claiming to be angels, aliens, even God the Father or Jesus Christ are sharing information about what will happen in the next few years. Again the question arises: are these intercepted dispatches or disinformation?

Given that these messages conflict in many ways with "the law" and "the testimony" (Is 8:20), our starting point, as Christians, must of course be that they are from "the father of lies" (Jn 8:44) or his cohorts, not from "ascended masters" or "archangels." The adversary's purpose is to decieve not only his faithful dupes, but "even the elect, if that were possible" (Matt 24:24). However, we know from our study of Revelation that the Accuser tends to work by *counterfeiting* God's works, or the works he expects God to do. Like the magicians in Pharaoh's court, he tries to mimic God's acts, twisting them to his own use.

Church history reveals that the devil often counterfeits God's deeds even before God's real thing appears. For example, in this century, the

fullness of the Latter Rain has yet to fall, yet it was on the first day of 1900 that Satan offered the Christian world "the gift of tongues," so-called, and today his "signs and wonders" are sweeping the world, fooling hundreds of millions.

This does not mean, of course, that the devil is omniscient, or even prescient, but neither is he stupid. James 2:19 says, "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." Why do they tremble? Is it because they know the Scriptures and know what is coming? Is it possible that based on their knowledge of Scripture and of the world's condition, they know the time of Christ's return is near, so they are preparing a disinformation campaign, preparing to deceive as many as possible?

Even though he does not have the benefit of the Holy Spirit leading him "into all truth" (Jn 16:13), "even the devil can quote Scripture." We are told "he knows that his time is short" (Rev 12:12). From Scripture's prophecies, and also from his intimate knowledge of how God has worked through history, he can estimate—whether accurately or not—when the end will come, what's next on the prophetic time chart. He doesn't need a Bible scholar to convince him of the validity of the "year/day principle": he's seen it in action. He can guess enough about what is to come to prepare a strategy for the final battles.

Why Is This Happening? We know the "Channeled Apocalyptic" coming from channelers around the world is not accurate—Satan is trying to deceive. However, we may well ask, why he is trying to deceive in this way at this time? Is he preparing people to be fooled by great deceptions he himself is about to spring on them, impersonations of Christ or other figures, fire from heaven, miraculous signs? Could he be preparing people to accept alternative explanations of what he believes God is about to do? Is he merely fanning the flames of "millennial fever" in hope that another great disappointment will lead multitudes to despair of Christ's return? Or are these purported channelings of "spirit entities" by thousands of channelers no more than a hoax, a carnival trick?

Jesus warned us that "'false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles" (Matt. 24:24), and we are seeing this prophecy fulfilled before our eyes. Indeed, the "prophecy business" probably has more practitioners now than at any time since the Black Plague devastated Europe in the 14th century.

What Should We Do? Should we study these "prophets," these "channelers," weighing their words, searching for grains of truth? Frankly, we shouldn't; they don't deserve it. Jesus also said, "Wherefore

if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matt. 24:6–7). There is no truth being "channeled" which we need to know. If there is any truth in these messages, it is merely part of the deception. We don't need Satan to interpret prophecy for us. I've devoted many hours to researching this report, and I greatly wish I had instead spent those hours in the Word. Most of these "channelings" are warm, fuzzy nonsense, idiotic to anyone who can think logically, but despite that they can be seductive, even hypnotic. Unless one is filled with the Spirit and firmly grounded in the straight truths of Scripture—especially eschatology and the state of the dead—one can be seduced. Even those who are sound can pick up speculations which may become part of their expectation of what is to come. On the other hand, as God's remnant people, we have an obligation to be ready to warn those who are making a mistake, and if we know whereof we speak, we are better able to present this warning

In this paper I'll be focusing on New Age "channeling," but including a brief look at two other deceptions which are impacting heavily on the Christian world: the supposedly "Christian" apparitions of Mary which are occurring with ever-greater frequency and the best-selling book *The Bible Code*. Mary's messages also come through "channels," albeit "Christian" ones. The Bible Code was purportedly placed in the Bible by God Himself—using a computer—and His "message" is now "channeled" with the aid of a computer. Another interesting source of millennial prophecy is the secular prophets, from Nostradamus to Edgar Cayce and Jeanne Dixon, but as they are not recent phenomena, they will not be included here. Charismatic prophecy and interpretations of tongues might also be included, but they are not often published and not all that influential at present.

The Same Old Lies

At heart, the "channeled" lies of the New Age spirit mediums are the same lies presented by the serpent in the Garden of Eden. "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" (Gen. 3:4–5). Why change a winning formula? "Ye shall not surely die" points to Satan's most basic lie: "You are immortal; your soul is immortal; you cannot die." Whether through continued existence in some "spirit world" or through reincarnation or some other explanation, the "channeled entities" agree

that eternal death is impossible. Even "Christian" apparitions of Mary or Jesus or "the Archangel Michael" agree that we are immortal, though of course they assign the wicked to eternal torment. "For God doth know" is a blatant accusation that God is a liar: there is a difference between what He knows and what He has told us; His Word is not sure; we do not have "a more sure word of prophecy" (II Pet. 1:19). "Your eyes shall be opened" suggests the lie that this world is not the real world, but an illusion: the real world is a spirit world or another dimension, some nebulous Nirvana from which we've come and to which we will return. "Ye shall be as gods" is the lie that we are evolving toward godhead, an unwarranted pride and ambition similar to Satan's own, revealed in Isaiah 14:14: "I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

"Knowing good and evil" is the Gnostic lie: there is some secret, esoteric knowledge, available only to adepts, which contradicts the plainly-revealed word of God. "Good and evil are complimentary and intertwined"; "without evil we would not recognize good"; "in every good there is a bit of evil, and in every evil a spot of good"; "good and evil are relative"; "there is no such thing as evil"; "there is no Law of God—God only wants you to love and be happy"—all of these are frequently channeled demonic lies. Satan's lies from the Garden of Eden recur time after time in the "channeled" New Age writings.

Are These Lies New? If one studies New Age teachings within the context of the history of alternative religions, one discovers that very little of it is new. This discovery greatly decreases the impressiveness of the "channeled messages"—if some space alien is "channeling" as news some idea thrashed out a century ago, those who know their history grow skeptical. The great-grandfathers of the New Age were people like Franz Mesmer, who popularized hypnotic trances and spiritualist séances in 18th century France, and Emanuel Swedenborg, the 18th century Swedish scientist and mystic whose occultic and metaphysical ideas were based on "visions" written out in many books. Another influence was Freemasonry, which popularized ideas from medieval alchemy.

Literary Influences. One influence on New Age ideas not often considered is the teaching of literature to college students. Of the major Romantic poets of England in the early 19th century, William Blake's ideas were based on Swedenborg's; Wordsworth was a "worshipper of nature" and pantheist who believed children come from God with dim memories of life in heaven; Byron and Shelley were heavily involved with the occult; Keats believed in faerie-lore and was much influenced

by Greek ideas; Coleridge wrote poems about spirit-beings and opium visions. In America a generation later, such Transcendentalist writers as Emerson and Thoreau combined the neo-platonic idea of the "world-soul" and Eastern ideas such as reincarnation and pantheism with nature worship. These immensely influential writers—especially Emerson—influenced both the 19th century liberalization of main-line Protestantism and the rise of spiritualism. Because they offered first-rate writing with spirituality but without Christianity, they were beloved by the intellectual elite which had turned away from the Bible. These English Romantics and American Transcendentalists were enjoying a wave of popularity in college English departments in the 60s and early 70s, when "Age of Aquarius" ideas were developing, and for those who had studied the literature, many of these ideas seemed familiar, even sanctioned.

Spiritualism. A generation after the Transcendentalists came modern spiritualism, beginning in 1848, with waves of popularity in the 1850s and 1870s. Spiritualism helped to accustom people to the use of mediums in trances to contact the dead and to "automatic writing," whether with or without human assistance. In the early 1920s Sherlock Holmes's creator Arthur Conan Doyle became an evangelist for spiritualism, and so did Episcopal bishop James Pike in the late 1960s. Pike even participated in séances on television, convincing millions of Christians that God must have been wrong when He said, "do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your interpreters of dreams, your mediums or your sorcerers . . . They prophesy lies to you" (Jer. 27:9–10).

Theosophy. Perhaps the most important influence on New Age "channelers" was Madame Blavatsky's Theosophy, which went through several stages, all of which are still found in New Age ideas. Blavatsky's first stage emphasized spiritualistic phenomena and the use of its power, and though she outgrew that, it is still seen in the current interest in "channeling" and in those "channelers" who channel the "spirits of the departed" from "beyond the veil." In her second stage, Blavatsky turned to the religious myths of Egypt and Greece, to the Gnostic and Hermetic traditions, and these too are extremely popular among some New Age groups. In her third stage, Blavatsky emphasized the Eastern religious traditions of reincarnation, meditation, and evolution toward godhead. This aspect of her teaching is perhaps the most influential today. Blavatsky's work in India also encouraged a Westernization and reformation of Hinduism and Buddhism, trimming them of their obvious idolatry so that their ideas would be more acceptable to the Western mind. All of the Indian gurus who have become

popular in the West, from Krishnamurti to Rajneesh, owe a good deal to Blavatsky.

Bailey and Ballard. Several early 20th century groups which evolved from Theosophy have also influenced New Age thought. Alice Bailey, who began the Full Moon Meditation movement, wrote many books which she claimed were "channeled" from the Tibetan master Djwal Kul, and these are still in print. Bailey's work is not included here because she died in 1949, but she "channeled" a good deal about the Second Coming (as her "contact" wanted her to see it). The 'I AM' movement began in the 1930s, led by Gary Ballard. 'I AM' teaches that the goal of humanity is evolution toward "ascension" to join the "Ascended Masters" in the next world. These "Ascended Masters," such as Jesus, Seth, and Saint Germain, are among the most popular "channeled entities." (Indeed, there is much more interest today in such speakers than in departed relatives.)

New Thought. A final influence on New Age ideas is the New Thought movement, stemming from the "metaphysical" ideas of Phineas Quimby in the mid-19th century. New Thought denies the concept of "Ascended Masters" who direct our evolution, preferring instead to see our "positive thinking" as the power behind change, progress, and healing. However, like Theosophy, it teaches that there is an inner reality which transcends the "illusion" of what we see around us. Several New Thought groups claim to be Christian. Worth noting among these is the Unity School of Christianity, which claims that the entire Bible is an allegory of how we ourselves can become Christ. Many "channels" have been influenced by this group. Norman Vincent Peale, founder of the magazine *Guideposts*, helped to make these ideas acceptable to liberal Protestants. [The above background information is drawn in part from Richard Kyle's *The Religious Fringe: A History of Alternative Religions in America*, chapters 4 and 8.]

New Age. "New Age" teachings include a wide variety of interests and influences, and the menu is very much á la carte. Among the frequently-found themes one finds in New Age literature are reincarnation, environmentalism, and apocalypticism—whether that be the end of the world, a new stage of human and world evolution, or some combination. While Christ is often mentioned favorably, Christianity is generally presented as a sad misunderstanding of Christ's teachings which has caused untold misery. The primary religious influence is Eastern: sanitized versions of Hindu, Buddhist, and Zen beliefs. These, of course, being based on reincarnation and the gradual evolution of the human soul, are not often apocalyptic, so the

"channeled" writings I'll be quoting—which concentrate on apocalyptic themes—show less Eastern influence than most.

A great many fads are embraced by various New Age exponents—and they provide an income for thousands. Crystals of various sorts are sold and used for "healing." The "auras" around people—glows of various colors—are read and analyzed and changed through magical movements. The "chakras"—inner sources of spiritual and physical energy—are adjusted and strengthed. Other forms of divination—tarot cards, the I-Ching, Celtic rune stones, bones—are consulted in the age-old search for knowledge of the future. There are also many kinds of massage available, ranging from the violent to the sexual to a sort where the body is never physically touched. There are aromatherapy, biofeedback, and past life regression (where under hypnosis one travels back to an earlier incarnation, usually as some famous person—though recently past lives as Indian medicine women have been popular). Many New Agers are also interested in Wicca—which purports to be an ancient worship of the earth. This is often combined with goddess worship, druidism, witchcraft, and even Satanism. These fads sometimes are referred to by "channeled spirits."

Is Channeling a Hoax? In attempting to determine if "Channeled Apocalyptic" is intercepted dispatches or disinformation, there is another question we must ask: are authentic messages from demons being "channeled" or is "channeling" a hoax, a scam? As with faith healing and fortune-telling, probably many of the "channelers" are quacks. It's relatively easy for a showman to work up a knowledge of New Age ideas, add a few of his own, develop an "entity" to "channel," and fake a trance. If he can gain a little information about the audience, he'll seem amazing. Practice makes perfect, and New Age adherents tend toward gullibility—they desperately want the "channel" to be "the real thing." Athough there is seldom much money to be gained, there is a certain demonic pleasure to be had in fooling an adoring audience, moving them to tears or laughter or donations.

Conscious or Trance Channeling? A book which examines this question is Michael F. Brown's *The Channeling Zone: American Spirituality in an Anxious Age*, published this year by Harvard University Press. Brown, who holds an endowed chair in anthropology at Williams College, traveled the country interviewing and observing "channelers" and even participating in sessions. While he refuses to speculate on the source of their information, he concludes that many "channelers" definitely seem to be in a trance state while "channeling."

However, Brown also points out that there is disagreement over whether or not "trance channeling" is better than a new method which is being called "conscious channeling." "Conscious Channeling" seems to be something like "speaking in tongues": one is conscious, not in a trance, but one relaxes, lets go of oneself, and the words come to mind or mouth and need only be spoken or written. With "conscious channeling" there are no circus performances, no strange voices. The "channeler" can interrupt the "entity" to ask questions or comment and knows what is said. With genuine "trance channeling," the "channeler" often utters embarrassing animal-like grunts and suffers from painful-looking facial contortions while entering the trance, seems "possessed," and usually claims to have no memory of what was said during the trance. "Conscious channeling" is less exciting for the audience, but also less intimidating. A variation of "trance channeling" is "hypnotic channeling," where a psychologist hypnotizes the "channel," freeing the "channel's spirit entity" to speak and be questioned.

Some of the "channels" quoted in what follows are recorded during a trance, after which a transcript is made (Sheldon Nidle is an example). Others simply type what seems to flow into their minds (as does Annie Kirkwood).

Propagation. I should point out that there are a great many "channeled" books in print, most published by small presses or self-published. A few become best-sellers, as with Annie Kirkwood's *Mary's Message to the World*, but most do not. There are several thousand channelers in this country, and probably several hundred thousand who buy their books or attend their channeling sessions. Channeling is an important part of the New Age Movement, but a great many people who follow New Age ideas are interested in, say, aromatherapy or the mother goddess and never read channeled books. What is more, given the Eastern flavor of many New Age ideas, it's not surprising that only a small number of these books deal with end time events. "Channeled Apocalyptic" holds perhaps five percent of the channeled writing market.

Nevertheless, thanks to the influence of people like Shirley Maclaine, many people are learning what the evil one wants them to learn by reading these books. They are being prepared for something. For a deception? For a disappointment? Who knows?

A Channel for Every Audience. In studying "Channeled Apocalyptic," it is interesting to note the way the deception is tailored to the audience by the great deceiver. For those interested in science fiction, "extraterrestrials" are "channeled"; for those who prefer an

Asian slant, perhaps an ancient Tibetan lama. For those who have repudiated things Christian but harbor a sentimental fondness for Christ, "Jesus" has been "channeled" many times, as have "Michael," "Gabriel," and even "God." (I don't recall anyone "channeling" John or James or Paul or Isaiah: far too likely to say something "judgmental," I suppose.) When Annie Kirkwood "channels" "Mary" or "Jesus," they spout New Age ideas. When "Mary" appears to Catholic children, on the other hand, she tells them to say the rosary and promises to ask her Son to have mercy on them. When "Jesus" appears to Catholics, He asks them to honor His mother.

Sometimes "channels" try to expand their markets by "honoring," as they say, several traditions. For example, Sheldon Nidle "channels" an alien from Sirius, but he also presents a universe which has a place for "ascended masters," the "Christ presence," "angels," and more, trying to expand his audience. This avoids the potential embarrassment of someone saying, "The channel I saw last week said the Ascended Masters are in charge of this planet, but you say it's aliens and that Ascended Masters don't exist. Why should I believe you?"

So then, what are the spirits saying about the days to come? What is in store for the world, according to the "father of lies"?

A Time of Trouble / A Time of Growth

There is general agreement among the "spirit entities" that terrible times are coming, a time of trouble. Perhaps two-thirds of the world's population will be killed, though non-Christian "channelers" say these can be reincarnated. Catholic "channelers" say God's faithful people, who do what Mary asks, will be spared. Others say those who prepare for the changes by raising their "vibration level" or becoming "spiritually conscious" will survive.

Kryon. "Kryon" is an "entity" who "channels" information through Lee Carroll. His purpose on Earth at this time is to rearrange Earth's magnetic energy grid—an enterprise which will have both disastrous and beneficial effects. It doesn't matter if some are killed by this alignment, however. Kryon says, "Some will stay, and those who can't will reincarnate and re-emerge with the correct alignment" (23).

Later he says, "1. Your millennium is coming to an end.

- "2. It was prophesied in many cases that this would also be the end of all life on Earth, for a termination was in order . . . The preparation time . . . would have been another 1,000 years . . .
- "3. *This has now been changed!* You will not be terminated. You will not necessarily go through horrible wars and planetary upheaval

that would have culminated in you leaving by the year 2001. You have earned the right to stay and control your own destiny completely, well into the first century of the new millennium. This you have done yourselves by raising the vibration of the planet through thought consciousness over the last 60 years (at the eleventh hour, you might say)" (101). [All italics within quotes in this essay are in the works cited.] Note how this prepares readers to see the time of trouble God has promised not as His final call to repentance, but as the work of powerful spirits working in their behalf, calling them to "higher vibrations," to efforts to transform the planet by thinking loving thoughts.

New Age Mary. Annie Kirkwood is neither a Catholic nor a Christian, but in her book *Mary's Message to the World* she claims to "channel" both Mary and Jesus. Her "entities" spout New Age ideas with a thin Christian veneer which makes them more palatable to lapsed Catholics and marginal Christians. In Kirkwood's best-selling book, Mary says, "The time is drawing near when you will be shaken and frightened, not because of any punishment, but to renew the land and the minds of mankind. The Earth will shake and will be moved by violent forces which will cause many to lose their physical lives" (2). Note again how this is presenting catastrophe—the widespread destruction of the wicked by the during the Last Plagues—as part of a retooling process, frightening but nothing to worry about. Satan is preparing people to say no when God calls. "There is a dividing and splitting of galaxies. . . . Now, the growth affects your solar system, and the planets will realign to new places and points. During this realignment, the Earth will be turned and shaken, and you will have many catastrophic events" (3).

Catholic Mary. In his book *The Final Hour*, Michael H. Brown, a devout Catholic, reports on "Marian apparitions" from around the world and relays what "Mary" is saying through the many people who are "channeling" her words. These speakers do not call themselves "channels," but in effect they are. Brown calls them "seers."

Brown writes, "we may indeed be living in what biblical scholars refer to as the apocalyptic or last times. . . . If so we're not speaking about the end of the world but the end of an era—a period that will record radical change in the way we live, think, and believe, along with certain social, political, economic, and perhaps even geophysical upheavals" (11). He mentions that in the "apparitions" at La Sallette, France, in 1846—note the date and consider what else was happening in the world at that time—"The Virgin also issued warnings about

working on the Sabbath and about using Christ's name in vain" (16). Lucia, one of the women to whom "Mary" appeared at Fatima, Portugal, in 1917, reports that "Mary" said, "The time is coming when the rigor of My Justice will punish the crimes of diverse nations. Some of them will be annihilated. At last the severity of My Justice will fall on those who want to destroy My Reign in souls" (70). Could that include Christians who don't believe she is "Queen of Heaven"?

To Matous Lasuta of Turzovka, Czechoslovakia, Brown reports, "Mary" said, on June 1, 1958, "There would be earthquakes and even mountains would move. The air would be filled with demonlike forms that symbolized sin—terrifying humanity. [To New Age "channelers" these are not demons but helpful "aliens."] Then nature will calm down, . . . 'and a bright spot will appear—but the world will not be recognizable. Everything will be destroyed. It will be difficult to find life and living beings. God will punish the wicked and those who will have blasphemed Him"" (109).

In an appearance to a nun in Akita, Japan, in 1973, "Mary said, "'Fire will fall from the sky and will wipe out a great part of humanity, the good as well as the bad, sparing neither priests nor faithful... The only weapons which will remain for you will be the Rosary and the Sign left by my Son" (176). Note how those believing in Mary's power are being prepared to be unsurprised if faithful priests are killed in this tribulation.

In an "apparition" to Mafalda Caputo of Oliveto Citra, Italy, January 10, 1986, "Mary" said, "Mankind takes more command from the demon than from Jesus. The Madonna said Jesus is going to come down soon. A lot of nations could disappear from the world. That's why the Madonna has been appearing.'.. it was emphasized that any possible chastisements would be not out of sheer heavenly anger but as a way of refreshing us" (301–302).

The Ecuadoran teenager Pachi said, following "Mary's" appearance to her, "Many cities are going to disappear. New York City will disappear" (320).

What Causes the Calamity? / What Can We Do?

There is general agreement among these "channeled spirit entities" that whatever causes this calamity, it is not the return of Christ and not the end of the world. Most attribute the calamity either to a natural event, such as a collision with a comet or a shift of the magnetic pole which melts the icecaps, or to the efforts of the spirit world to help us evolve. Most say we need changing. Many say our raised spiritual

consciousness in this century has made the change possible or prevented our total destruction. Catholic channelers say the calamity is a chastisement for our sins which can be lessened or avoided if we repent and unite under the pope's leadership.

Kryon. In a sentence both chilling and delightfully ironic, the "entity" Kryon says, "There is no greater sign of enlightenment on a global level than (1) the desire for tolerance, (2) the desire for peace, and (3) the elimination of everything that gets in the way of number 1 and number 2" (26). And in the quest for "tolerance" and "peace," what would be "eliminated"? In the light of *The Great Controversy*, should we ask, perhaps, who would be "eliminated"? The "elimination," in the name of "tolerance," of those who are intolerant of sin in their own lives is a process which has plagued humanity and plagued the church since the days of Cain and Abel.

New Age Mary. Speaking through Annie Kirkwood, the New Age "Mary" says, "In the next few years you will see the hand of fate deal out some mighty blows to Earth. You will have earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, many large and damaging storms and tidal waves of unheard of proportions. Look for strange happenings in the sky, along with strange appearances of stars. The polar ice caps will begin to melt and break apart" (4). Sounds like Mary has been reading Matthew 24. "You will see religions begin to crumble and there will be derision amongst the church elders. The Catholic church will begin to lose much of its power. There will be a call for the unity of all religions as church leaders find their numbers falling. This is because many will begin to seek their knowledge through spiritual means and through the work of the mind. The churches which grow will be those who profess to the world the idea of the One God" (16). How should we respond to this call for unity? Trust your intuitions! "Mary" says, "Look into your heart to find answers which will come into your mind at the appropriate time. Have faith in your ability to hear the Truth as it is spoken" (5). Here we find the method of not only the New Age, but the Pentecostal churches: trust the inner voice.

This New Age "Mary" says we will receive help from "the world beyond": "It will be in these years that some of the aliens will suddenly appear to your world leaders and offer help. It will be as if the Angel of the Lord had come to help. But surely you who have the knowledge beforehand will see the workings of the whole Universe to save mankind.

"With a new attitude, your world leaders will be ready to hear of ways to save the populations and of the coming turning of the Earth.

The extraterrestrials, as you call them, will be of much help, but still your leaders will not want to give any hint that these negotiations are transpiring.

"The people of the world will be in a mood of humbleness and genuine seeking of God. This is good, for through last-minute seeking, many will be spared their spiritual lives and advancement" (25).

What can we do? "Mary" says, "There are many preparations to be made. One is to love not only yourself, but the world" (102). She adds, "Total acceptance without criticism is needed to love unconditionally" (104). It is significant that "uncritical acceptance" is the virtually unanimous recomendation of "channelers." By contrast, I John 4:1 says, "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

The New Age "Mary" says, "Whether you pray facing the east or facing an altar, or on Saturday or Sunday, it is all worshi. . . The dogma and rituals are not as important as the worship which is done in your heart and mind. . . . All religions are manmade, inspired by the Creator. All words which have been written in the Holy Books have been written by men in unity with the Creator" (145).

"Taking up arms and fighting for your religion and your dogma is wrong, abusive, and ugly. . . . There is no chosen people or special chosen church. There are many chosen people and many churches. It is for each person to choose how he will worship his Creator. . . . Any religion is correct if it leads you to worship the Creator through your heart and mind" (146–147). I beg to differ. God's Word says otherwise.

Washta. In Sheldon Nidle's You Are Becoming A Galactic Human, the "channeled entity" is "Washta," an extraterrestrial counselor from the Sirius system. Washta says, "When the collapse of the planet's electrical and magnetic fields occurs, it will also allow all atoms on Earth to be changed. The atoms in your body will be modified to form a new body—a body that is semi-etheric—and the veil of consciousness around you will be removed. You will no longer be living in the limited 3rd-dimensionsl reality. You will now be human beings living in the reality of the galactic light. . . . As your atmosphere is compressed and all materials become denser, the big danger will be from nuclear materials since there is the possibility for either nuclear chain-reactions or huge and deadly radioactive explosions of fissionable materials. This compression of nuclear energy could possibly cause massive fire storms in addition to explosions around the planet, or nuclear chain reactions" (37).

What can we do? Washta says, "Be prepared to act in unison for the good of humanity in thought and deed! For it will not take a huge number of humans, acting as a unified group around your globe, to bring this great energy of change and consciousness to the planet and allow it to be safely anchored in such a way that it supports everyone—even those who still sit in denial of it" (55).

What will this mean for God's people? Washta says, "What we would say to those in the churches is that the clue to this whole process is the energy of love. If they are truly coming from an aspect of love and not just doing service to make a good appearance, then they can be a prototype for a true advocate groulf their core is not based upon this pure spiritual and loving energy, however, and they cannot perceive Earth's needy situation in a totally non-dogmatic, non-judgmental, and open way, then they are involved in a dogma, and are limiting their purposes. Religion is not meant to ignore present circumstances or prohibit change. It must be a helpmate for all times and all experiences, allowing an ever-increasing consciousness. . . .

"Many churches are now beginning to understand that they must address modern circumstances and expand their energy patterns so that they move out of their dogma and into a more open light. . . . However, if you wish to maintain yourselves as part of a spiritual group only (and not believe in extraterrestrials), we would ask that you to [sic] listen to the energies of the Spiritual Hierarchies themselves. These various angels, archangels and ascended masters will be leading spiritual groups towards unifying with planetary advocate groups" (199–200). That is to say, demons posing as aliens who have come to help us will be trying to "unite" us to "save the planet" from the coming judgment of God. Here we find the prophecies of Revelation from the opposing viewpoint.

Washta says, "The Galactic Federation now believes it is essential to alter the present make-up of governance on Earth to a nonhierarchical structure, since fully conscious humans are cooperative and will want to govern themselves in a democratic way" (214). "Nonhierarchical" is coded language. It means, "without God over us."

The New Age often twists the gospel to fit its own message. I'm convinced that the devil's favorite Bible verse is "God is love"—his minions certainly quote it often enough. However, he ignores "God is holy; God is just; God is righteous; God is jealous; God is our Substitute, and God is wrathful against those who harm His children." Washta says, "The essence of the Christ light is love and compassion. When people are immersed in this white light energy and they use it as the

source for all that they do in raising their consciousness, they will see that this energy has the capability to protect them from any dark vibrations" (222).

Catholic Mary. The "apparitions" of "Mary" appearing to Catholic "seers" are also, I believe, demonic voices, but they are deceiving people primarily by turning them from Christ to Mary. For the evil one, there's no need to lead people further than that. Wherever they turn, if it is not to God, and God alone, he has them fooled. As "Mary" said to Lucia, one of the Fatima "seers," 'Jesus wishes to make use of you to have me acknowledged and loved, . . . 'He wishes to establish in the world the devotion to my Immaculate Heart . . . My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God'" (38).

On April 12, 1947, "Mary" appeared to "Bruno Cornacchiola, a former Catholic who'd come under the spell of both Communists and anti-Catholic 'christians,' [and] plotted to stab the Pontiff and save the world from the 'evils' of the papacy, the 'idolatry' of communion with saints, and the 'fraudulent' idea that Mary was the Mother of God." "Mary" said, "I am she who is related to the Divine Trinity,' . . . 'I am the Virgin of Revelation. You persecute me, and now it is time to stop! Come and be part of the holy fold which is the celestial court on earth' . . . She explained that Hail Marys said with love and faith were 'like golden arrows that go straight to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.' She pleaded for Christian unity, telling Bruno that there should be one flock and one shepherd" (67).

"During the apparition, which lasted an hour and twenty minutes, she also confirmed the reality of her assumption into Heaven."

Appearing in 1947 to Pierina Gilli, a nurse, in Montichiari, Italy, "Mary" said, 'I wish the 13th of each month to be celebrated as the day of Mary. On the twelve preceding days, special prayers of preparation should be said. . . . My Divine Son, tired of continuing offenses, wanted to act according to His justice, so I placed myself as a mediatrix between Him and the human race, especially the consecrated souls. . . . I have interceded that He may be merciful once more. Therefore, I ask for prayer and penance to atone for these sins'" (75–76). One thinks of the angel of Revelation twice telling John to bow to no one but God and wonders how anyone could be deceived by such a request. However, many people do not know their Bible that well, and many who do fail to receive it as God's Word.

When "Mary" appeared as "Our Lady of All Nations" to a woman in Amsterdam named Ida, she said, "I have come to tell this depraved and degenerated world, all of you unite. I will lead all the dispersed flock

back to one fold. . . . then she pointed to a globe that looked like it was ready to burst. Indicating the sky eastward, where there were many stars, she said, 'That is where it will come from.'

"A meteor? A comet? An asteroid?

"... She saw a rent that ran diagonally across the earth. Great misery and distress, she was told, were '*immanent*.' During an apparition on December 7, 1947, she saw thick clouds over Europe and titanic waves. 'They will first have to perish by the flood,' the seer was told, which she was further informed would constitute the 'desolation'" (77).

Michael H. Brown writes, "Two-thirds of mankind would be gone. . . . According to Mateus, the Virgin said that 'all my children will receive and carry the sign of the cross on their foreheads. [So, is the "sign of the cross" the "mark of the beast"?] This sign only my chosen ones will see. These chosen ones will be instructed by my angels how to conduct themselves. My faithful will be without any kind of fear during the most difficult hours'" (109).

According to Conchita, one of the "visionaries" of the "Marian apparitions" at Garabandal, Spain, "the Chastisement [that is to say, the Seven Last Plagues] is conditional. . . . a terrific wave of heat will strike and no motor will be able to operate, presumably because of massive electromagnetic interference. The world would seem motionless, perhaps knocked for a moment out of orbit. . . . Desperate to quench their thirst, people will seek water but in many places it will have evaporated. . . . 'The Blessed Virgin,' Conchita informed interrogators, 'said in 1962 that there will be only two more popes after Paul VI" (139–140).

When "Mary" appeared in the air to crowds above a Coptic Orthodox Church in Zeitun, Egypt, in 1968, Brown writes, "for the first time in Egyptian history, Catholics, Orthodox, and Moslems prayed together in public. The Moslems chanted from the Koran. 'Mary, God has chosen thee. And purified thee; He has chosen thee. Above all women.' . . . The main message seemed to be ecumenism, . . ." (166–167). It's a frequent theme: one worldwide church under Mary.

When "Mary" appeared in Akita, Japan, in 1973, she said, "I alone am able still to save you from the calamities which approach. Those who place their confidence in me will be saved." [178] She said that "People would be 'transported from one place to another' by evil spirits and 'in all places there will be extraordinary wonders, because true faith has died and a false light shines on the world. . . .

"'On occasion, the dead will take on the form of righteous souls, and be brought back to life, preaching another Gospel contrary to that of the true Jesus Christ'" (177–178).

"The earth will tremble in a most frightful way and all humanity will stagger," [Mary] told Italian seer Elena Leonardi on April 1, 1976. 'An unforeseen fire will descend over the whole earth, and a great part of humanity will be destroyed.'

Brown writes, "another visionary, the Yugoslavian known simply as 'Julka.' . . . saw various stages of chastisement, starting with a strong warm wind and ten claps of thunder that would strike with such force they would shudder throughout the world. It was like a terrific hurricane. She also envisioned the air afire and a series of earthquakes.

"The whole atmosphere of the earth, from the ground to the sky, was a gigantic sheet of flame,' according to Julka. After that the sun turned 'red as blood' and a great [188] darkness rose like a mist. In that darkness came a bright yellow light with Jesus enveloped in white clouds" (187–188).

Despite such visions, Brown stresses wherever possible that this punishment is conditional. He writes, "In locutions to Jelena Vasilij, Mary seemed to downplay the negative possibilities. 'I have always said: Punishment will come about if the world is not converted. Call all mankind to conversion. Everything depends on your conversion'" (249). Consider the pressure such talk would put on the Catholic church and its allies to do everything possible to see that everyone follows this order.

One of the best known figures in the Marian movement was Father Stefano Gobbi, a mystic who received "locutions" from "Mary." Brown writes that she said to Gobbi, "Satan had succeeded in waging war at the Church's very summit, threatening, said Mary, 'the rock on which the Church is founded.'

"Through the power of God she had let Satan fall under the illusion that he'd conquered the Church, when suddenly she obtained from God a great new hope, Pope John Paul II, 'who had been prepared and formed by me.' He was to be a stumbling block for all God's enemies, 'the rock against which the great division will take place.' The Virgin was going to defeat Satan by drawing up her army from the simplest of believers" (256).

"'My daughter,' said Mary to Jolanda Cimmino, 'wear the rosary around your neck. It will protect you from the devil. He tempts you and often he takes on my resemblance, deceiving you, as it has already happened on other occasions.'

"Satan, she said, was 'making fools of you'" (303). Note that when "apparitions" accuse other apparitions of being demonic, it strengthens their own standing—surely a false apparition would not dare to call another false apparition false! But in fact, this is just one of the evil one's tricks.

Finally, Brown reports a message from Jesus through Gianna Talone, of Scottsdale, Arizona: "On June 5, 1989, she was given this inspiring message by "Jesus": '. . . Through faith in Me and the One Who sent Me, trust, love, and prayer, all beauty and peace can be re-established, preventing chastisement! All goodness can be restored if you open your hearts and believe and practice what I teach you. The chastisement shall be a result of misbelief, lack of love, lack of faith, lack of respect and from the lack of your mercy! To an anonymous Midwestern visionary known as Mariamante, Mary said, 'You will know by the sign in the heavens which is me that the time is at hand for the instantaneous conversion of the multitude. This I will accomplish through a tremendous outpouring of grace upon the earth given at the hands of God to me for this purpose. This will be the triumph of my Immaculate Heart of which I spoke at Fatima. You must do all that I tell you now. It is very important that you follow my instructions, as this will be an aid to many in softening their hearts in order to be receptive to such grace'" (332-333). Frankly, I teach a lot of Catholic students who love Jesus and accept Him as their Savior, and I consider them my brothers and sisters. I know, though, that words such as these will lead many millions astray in the days to come.

The Golden Age to Come

There is general agreement among the "entities" being "channeled" that what will follow is a Golden Age, the beginning of the Age of Aquarius, perhaps, or the beginning of the millennial reign of the Church. It will be a time of peace and harmony and love because those who disagree have been converted or eliminated. We will no longer be subject to death or aging or suffering. We can be whatever we want to be merely by thinking ourselves that way. We will know much more than we know now and be able to do things which now seem miraculous. It is, in short, heaven on earth, but without Christ's return and without His judgment of the wicked.

Kryon. According to the magnetic grid arranger Kryon, "As the grids adjust over the next years, you will be given more enlightenment. . . . For the first time you will be able to grasp completely the power that is available through the love energy, and use it for planetary

healing" (23). He adds, "Tolerance is a key ingredient to enlightenment" (111).

New Age Mary. The New Age "Mary" channeled by Annie Kirkwood says, "Heaven is a state of mind. It is not a location, but a way of viewing the events around you. Heaven is wherever you are on the Earth plane or in spirit. Heaven is like a mood or mind-set" (175–176).

This "entity" says a good deal about the age to come. "Humanity will have communication with the spiritual world. New cells will come forth and you will be able to use more of your mind. Mankind will have powers that are not known now. There will be the ability to communicate with all worlds by your mind. Humans will be able to communicate with the animals in this method" (186).

Mary says, "It is time for an evolutionary period to come to Earth. The coming era in mankind's life is a time of evolution. This will be a period of great growth in the species of man and many species of animal. . . . Man will change drastically. He will evolve into a new species" (243).

"Mary" says that during this Golden Age, a new sun will be added to the sky, and this will change our cells, so we will need less food. "Man will evolve into a more mental being. He will be able to hear sounds which are not presently heard. He will see through particles of light which are hidden to him now. With his mind, man will hear and speak. He will have better use of his psychic abilities. That which you call intuition will be strongly activated in all mankind" (243–244).

"New people will populate Earth. These people will be a new species of man, as I have told you. The new species will be more aware of the spirit and soul. He will be closer to the Divine, for he will retain a remembrance. All men will be considered brothers. Love and goodwill are elements which will be in vogue. Peace will be the rule of the day—peace with man, with nature, and with God.

"This will be the era of 'one thousand years peace' which has been foretold. Man will have declined in numbers and will abhor anything which will take away from the population. As there will be direct communication with the spirit world, much knowledge will be gained."253 "The eating of flesh will abate and not be the problem it is now. There will be new animals, without intelligence, for the purpose of providing food" (252–253). In essence, what is being promised here is heaven without God's law and so without God. Changed minds, changed spirits are promised, but given that they come from a liar, how are they to be judged?

Washta. Washta, the alien from the Sirius system, agrees with the New Age "Mary entity." "The new wondrous times that you are about to enter will allow the reclamation of your fully [sic] consciousness potential. This fact is forecast in the biblical revelations, and it is an age when you will talk and walk with all who have lived on your planet. . . .

"Yes, psychic abilities such as telepathy and telekinesis, clairaudience, clairvoyance, etc., are a former heritage of every human. You are also heir to new concepts about how you should empathetically relate to one another, and how these correct personal human relationships will determine constructive practices in governing your society in a peaceful and caring way. With these personal and societal changes will also come new technologies and a new science that can be safely known and applied. In effect, a whole new planet, a whole new galactic civilization and a whole new galactic human, are about to be born. . . . You are on the verge of these great changes and new beginnings because of our future 'first contact' landings on Earth. This Spiritual Hierarchy and Sirian-led first contact will enable your entire solar system to take its place in the Galactic Federation so you will become all that we have just described—a galactic civilization" (39-41). Again, these "first contact" landings are the appearances of demons masquerading as space aliens. These appearances have been prepared for by popular science fiction movies, and television series.

Washta goes on, "This transformation means that your body can rejuvenate itself and be virtually ageless. Your semi-etheric body will respond in many ways like a thought form because your mind will be able to change your body as easily as it changes thoughts. However to you, this body will appear and act as if it were still the original type of gross physical body that you have not" (58).

"You will also have the ability to communicate within your own being, with other people, plants and animals including Lady Gaia herself. You will also have full communication with those who have died in previous times as well as those who might today be called angels or archangels. In short, you will become both a being of spirit and a being of the physical" (70).

Catholic Mary. Michael H. Brown writes about the "Marian apparitions" to Catholics, "As Frére Michel points out, 'she is not talking about the "end of the world" properly speaking, which is identified with the return of Christ in glory for the last judgment. This indicates only that we are entering the last great period of the world's history, without being able to judge how long it will last."

"Lucia herself never excluded the possibility of the secret relating, however, obliquely, to the return of Jesus" (154–155).

To Father Stefano Gobbi, "Mary" said, "Even in this Second Coming, the Son will come to you through His mother,' said Mary. . . . 'He will come to establish His kingdom in the world, after having defeated and annihilated His enemies'" (259).

The Day of His Coming

There is general agreement among the "powers of the air" that the beginning of these things is already underway and will conclude sometime between the end of the century and 2013. The year 2000 is of course a portentous date, the millennium's end. 2013 is probably a date which keeps recurring because the Maya Indians believed, on the basis of their convoluted calendar system, that the world would end on the equivalent of December 21, 2012. (New Agers who find this date significant ignore the fact that the Maya also believed the world was created on August 11, 3114 BC, some 5,100 years ago.) The date 2014 occurs several times in *The Bible Code*, but the actual Hebrew year stretches from 2013–2014.

Kryon. Kryon says, "My process will take ten to twelve Earth years to accomplish. From now through the year 2002 will be the gradual change. Around the year 1999 you should know exactly of what I am speaking" (23). "I depart on 12/31/2002 . . . All adjustments will be in place by this date. . . . [101] You will have at least 10 to 15 years after I leave to work within my finalized adjustments" (100–101). That is to say, Kryon predicts the elimination of most of humanity by 2012 to 2017.

Emmanuel. The "entity" calling itself "Emmanuel," "channeled" by Pat Rodegast, says, about the person we might call the Anti-christ, "So the leader of the future must be an intuitive being, a world figure whom everyone respects, whose mind is clear because it is at the service of truth. This is a being of courage, of exciting ideas, of passion, and one who can laugh a great deal at the nonsense that seems to be now regarded as the stabilizing governmental practices of your country. A free soul will guide the world into the millennium." Emmanuel sees this person taking power "By popular acclaim. . . . In eight to ten years" (the book was published in 1989). It is interesting to note the hedging of bets: "[Editors' note: we hesitated to include this because Emmanuel seems to have his own interpretation of Earth time.]" (98–99). Evidently the "spirits" are not entirely trustworthy.

John Paul II. It is not fair, perhaps, to include the Pope among these many "channels," but his book *As the Third Millennium Draws Near*, in which he calls for the dedication of the last three years of this millennium to the members of the Trinity, is worth reading. He writes, "*Mary Most Holy*, the highly favored daughter of the Father [as in "This is my beloved son"], will appear before the eyes of believers as the perfect model of love toward both God and neighbor. . . . Her motherhood, . . . will be felt most intensely during this year as a loving and urgent invitation addressed to all the children of God so that they will return to the house of the Father when they hear her maternal voice: 'Do whatever Christ tells you" (cf. Jn 2:5)." This seems to be referring to 1999, near "the eve of the year 2000" (262). The "appearance" mentioned here may not refer specifically to an "apparition," but it is widely believed that the Pope has access to some of the "secrets" Mary has entrusted to some of the "seers" of Fatima and other sites.]

Washta. According to Washta, the "counselor from Sirius," "We are here to share the fact that your solar system is presently poised to enter a vast region of light called the photon belt sometime during a period between March of 1995 and December of 1996. This photon belt—a huge mass of light—will be the vehicle for your restoration to full consciousness and for the complete transformation of your DNA and chakra systems. These unbelievable changes will forever alter not only yourselves, but also your planet and your solar system. This is because the photon belt will move your solar system into a higher dimension (from 3rd to the 5th), allowing your planet, within the solar system, to move to a new position in space closer to the Sirius star system" (27).

"You will first enter through what is called the null zone. This procedure will take roughly 5 to 6 days to complete including approximately 3 days of total darkness. Following this action, you will move into the main part of the belt itself and experience unending daylight (24 hours a day). This journey normally lasts around 2,000 years and ends when your solar system exits at the other end of the belt by going through the null zone exit for the same 5 to 6 day period. . . .

"However, in this cycle, the Supreme Creator Force (God) has arranged for your solar system to enter an interdimensional rescue bubble that will thrust it out of the photon belt through the 5th dimension and into a position about three light years from the Sirian star system (at present Sirius is approximately 8.3 light years from Earth). This bubble will be reached around the years 2012–2013 AD. That period of [33] approximately 17 years (1996–2013 AD) will mark

the end of your 24-hour daylight experience and bring the return of an approximate 12-hour daylight / 12-hour nighttime schedule" (30–33).

We should not take these dates too seriously, however. Washta says, "the exact moment for first contact has not yet been decided, nor a specific date set for the photon belt entry to begin. . . .However as you know, the time lines of the universe that you experience are not set in specific and total finalities" (53–54).

Catholic Mary. Michael H. Brown reports the apparition of Satan to Irish boys Tom Cliffe and Barry Buckley, August 22, 1985. "To their great relief the demon disappeared after a minute, but Mary warned that if the world did not improve, 'the devil will take over God's Church in ten years.' Mankind had ten years to improve, Mary said in another message—meaning the deadline was somewhere around 1995" (279). I guess our probation has closed without our realizing it.

Brown also writes, of apparitions of "Mary" to Christina Gallagher, at Carns, Ireland, "Christina felt the chastisements would begin to unfold in 1992, perhaps invisibly at first, and would be completed by the year 2000, if not sooner" (283).

Brown writes, of the Canadian "seer" Jim Singer, "During his apparitions of the Light, he was told that something was coming in seven years, and since the particular apparition occurred on January 13, 1991, that meant 1997. It seemed to concern the final hour of Satan's extended power. 'Three days remain for you, by your free will, to consecrate your hearts to Me, to enjoy My rewards and victory over the malefactor,' said the enigmatic message. 'Three days remain for you to allow the malefactor seven years of his particular aggression and oppression among you. . . . Only by your conversion and sincere love will you be protected'" (325). This seems to suggest that the world will have only three days to unify as one church, or face seven years of tribulation.

"... [The Ecuadoran teenager] Pachi was told the beginning of the events in her secret would be just before a month of two full moons. There will be two full moons in September of 1993, July of 1996, and January of 1999" (325).

The Bible Code. The best-selling book The Bible Code offers several dates for catastrophic events, set out in the Bible by God's own computer. Author Michael Drosnin writes, "I checked every year in the next hundred years. Only two years, 2000 and 2006, were clearly encoded with 'World War.'

"The same two years were also encoded with 'atomic holocaust.' They were the only two years in the next hundred encoded with both 'atomic holocaust' and 'World War.'

"There is no way to know whether the code is predicting a war in 2000 or 2006. The year 2000 is encoded twice, but 2006 is mathematically the best match. And there is, of course, no way to know if the danger is real" (123).

Drosnin writes, "The code seems to warn that over the next hundred years there will be a series of 'great earthquakes' around the world. Three years are clearly encoded with 'the great terror': 2000, 2014, and 2113. The distant year is the best match. [Note that 2014 is very close to 2012, the end of the Mayan calendar, which many New Age people think to be the time of the "great change."]

"The long-envisioned Apocalypse, if real, will begin not in some mythical, far off land, but in real cities, in the real world.

"The United States, China, Japan, and Israel are all encoded with 'great earthquake' and years in the near future.' [The Bible Code has "S.F. Calif." and "1906" and "fire, earthquake" and "city consumed, destroyed" together.]

"Crossing 'great earthquake,' right below 'L.A. Calif.,' is the year 2010. And the same year, '5770' in the Hebrew calendar, is encoded again with the name of the city, actually overlapping 'fire, earthquake'" (138–141).

"The Bible code warns that a collision with the Earth may be a real danger.

"There are a series of near encounters indicated, right up to the time [the comet] Swift returns in 2126.

"But the first year clearly encoded with 'comet' is only 10 years away—'5766,' in the modern calendar 2006.

"Running across 2006 is a chilling statement: 'Its path struck their dwelling.' The warning that overlaps the year ends with the words 'starlike object.'

"Right above 2006 is an apparent confirmation of the time: 'Year predicted for the world'" (153).

"Other probabilities are encoded. Both '5770' and '5772'—the years 2010 and 2012—also appear with 'comet.'

"'Days of horror' runs across 2010. 'Darkness' and 'gloom' cross 'comet' right below.

"Earth annihilated' states the hidden text right above the year 2012 (155).

"[155] But where 2012 is encoded there is also a statement that the disaster will be prevented, that the comet will be blocked: 'It will be crumbled, driven out, I will tear it to pieces, 5772."

Satan? Sin? Law? Right and Wrong?

There is general agreement among the New Age's "channeled spirit entities" that the devil, sin, the Law of God, the great controversy between Christ and Satan, and eternal death as punishment for sin are human inventions. The Catholics' "Marian apparitions" follow their church teachings on these questions.

Bartholomew. Mary-Margaret Moore "channels" an "energy" called "Bartholomew." Bartholomew's views on moral issues are characteristic of "channeled" writings and of New Age teachings in general. Note how similar his comments are to what the serpent said in the Garden of Eden. He says, "there is no such thing as TRUTH in the way that we think of it" (iii). "You run from Self, and Self is your only real Savior! You are looking for a Savior and you already have one. It is *you*" (19). "There is no 'wrong' and there is no 'right'; there is simply choice!" (29). "Your life has been based on the supposition that there is something wrong with you that you've got to fix. I would like to suggest that there is nothing wrong with you, and you certainly don't need to be fixed. Your inner tension comes from *not loving* certain parts of yourself" (36). "Again, religion would tell you that there are sins in the world that have to be overcome; but it is my experience that when you love your 'children' (emotions), you love *all* those parts of yourself that have been labeled sinful, . . . it's all there in a beautiful ever-changing pattern, and *that is the wonder of it!* (41).

New Age Mary. The New Age "Mary" says, through Annie Kirkwood, "I will be appearing in many places in these last few years and so will other Angels of God. They will come to answer questions and to give advice. Many will think them devils, and many of your religious leaders will confuse the people and give wrong advice. They will denounce the spiritual realm which will show itself to mankind. When will you on Earth realize the satans and devils have always been only in your mind?" (27).

"Another fallacy which is believed on Earth is that there is a heaven, a hell, and a purgatory. Heaven and hell are simply mental states, both on Earth and here. . . . If you believe you are in heaven, you will find things pleasant. If you are in fear and believe in hell, you will truly live in fear" (195–196).

The following quotes are purportedly "channeled" through Kirkwood from Jesus Himself. "Eternal life is a gift of the Father. It is through His Love that you have eternal life, not because you believe in me or profess to my testimony, but simply because of the Great Love God has for His creation. There is nothing you must do to have eternal life. . . . Each of you has lived before. There have been lifetimes of work and service given to God. There have been many wasted lifetimes given to your own pleasures also" (264).

"Sin is simply another way of saying a 'spiritual mistake'" (269).

"The beast of the Earth had power to cause fire to come down from heaven. Through signs and powers this beast gained much. Of those who had the mark of the beast, 666 were allowed to sell and trade. Many people today think this is the mark of the devil. . . .

"The devil is the race-consciousness of greed, power, and wealth from ill-gotten gains. It is drugs and addictions of all kinds. It is abuse of children, women and men. . . .

"These preachers who are shouting from their pulpits about the war with the devil are simply playing into the belief of evilness. They are aiding the race-consciousness which wishes to survive. These preachers bring fear, hostility and these kinds of emotion to the people. . . . You need no longer be afraid of the beast, because you recognize that he is an illusion. . . . So you can tell others that there is no devil, it is a fallacy. It is not real. This belief in a devil will deter you from your spiritual goals. You will lose your spiritual growth if you continue to believe in the devil" (278–280). Well, if Jesus says so, that's good enough for me!

Washta. Where did Satan come from? The space alien Washta explains: "Hence, Archangel Michael established the energies that would create a being of darkness, as called for under the divine plan. That is what the so-called 'war in heaven' refers to. This being of darkness was created by God's plan so that eventually the dark energy patterns could be transformed back to light after many physical lifetimes lived on planet Earth. This transformation could eventually lead to a great series of immortals living in light" (152–153).

Catholic Mary. The Catholic apparitions are much more traditionally Christian, but with some interesting distinctives. Michael H. Brown writes, "Mary says at Medjugorje . . . 'Satan exists! He seeks only to destroy! (2/14/82) . . . A great struggle is about to unfold, a struggle between my Son and Satan (8/2/81). . . . The present hour is the hour of Satan. The hour has come when the demon is authorized to act with all his force and power'" (5).

Brown frequently reminds his readers of the possibility of "apparitions" being satanic, and in this he echoes several of the "apparitions" themselves. He writes, "Assuming a case *is* true we must always be aware of that other distinct possibility: that certain of the supernatural events are being orchestrated *not* by Heaven but by sinister forces that seek to dilute the bona fide phenomena and lead us on a wild goose chase. In other words, the battle is so treacherous that Satan is not beyond masquerading as the Virgin to confuse and discourage us.

"Every single event, no matter how good it seems at first, must be weighed and discerned by means of extensive prayer. And we also should remember that there are always cases of collective suggestion and hysteria.

"It's already clear, from cases you'll read, that wherever Our Lady appears the devil also turns up. In some cases Satan or his demons actually materialize as full-bodied apparitions, attempting to disrupt the events. In other cases they're an invisible but influential force" (9).

The revelations of "Mary" to the "seer" Maria Esperanza are interesting: "There are many anti-christs, she said; one was Saddam Hussein. An anti-christ was always rooted in pride. The situation in the world was going to improve, but not before certain trials. 'The yellow races will stand up, and that's very serious and I'm very afraid, because they would like to take over the world,' claimed Maria. 'It's a very difficult time for humanity, but man will survive. The justice is coming. A very hard moment will come very soon—1992, 1993, 1994—1994,' she told me. 'But it will make us better people.'

"After that, said Maria, 'Jesus will have a great surprise.' He is living 'with His mother among us. We will see Him in glory with rays of light. He will brighten the whole world with His rays" (205).

Brown writes, of "Mary," "But she also warned against false apparitions, explaining that no authentic ones would be continued after she stopped appearing in Medjugorje. Those who made such fraudulent claims were the 'false prophets' of latter times. 'Many pretend to see Jesus and the Mother of God, and to understand their words, but they are, in fact, lying,' she said. 'It is a very grave sin, and it is necessary to pray very much for them'" (219).

Reporting on "Marian locutions" given to Father Stefano Gobbi, Brown writes, ""She warned that while much of her plan would be carried forth by apparitions, the devil would succeed in infiltrating and imitating them. He would seduce God's people 'by false manifestations of the supernatural in order to bring about deception and confusion on

all sides. He will succeed in working many prodigies which will beguile the minds of even the good" (256–257). [This prepares people to accept most apparitions, even while considering some demonic.]

Reporting on the visions of two Irish "seers," Brown writes, "What seemed to bother Beulah most were the impressions she received of the Anti-Christ. During an apparition from Mary she saw Pope John Paul II looking worn out, his eyes sunken; and it was as if he were being replaced by a dark-complected young man with a short black beard and golden vestments. Beulah saw a devil come out of the ground, a devil with the sharp features of Lenin. The devil went into the body of the young man.

"When Christina Gallagher saw an image of the Anti-Christ, he was a man 45 to 50 years old, with very piercing eyes but nothing especially horrific about his physical visage. 'I heard the echo, "Anti-Christ, Anti-Christ," she says. 'He's not Irish or English. He struck me as foreign. His skin was darker but he didn't have squinty eyes. There are many anti-christs and through them an army will unite and resurrect a leader" (296).

The Ecuadoran teenager Pachi says, of her "apparitions," "(Mary) does speak of the Anti-Christ . . . He's already in the world. He's acting all over the world through various fields—not directly, but through such things as science. People don't know him. He is *going* to act directly and we're *going* to know him. He's very, very intelligent, and will look like a humble good man and he's going to be very attractive, even beautiful, and have a very attractive personality, and he will get to people through television and all the ways of the world. But especially to youth in music and drugs. It is the work of Satan. He is very young yet. He's going to act directly in a terrible way after the punishment" (320–321).

What Then Shall We Do?

What then are we to make of these "channeled" messages? To return to our earlier questions, are they due to demons preparing us to accept satanic impersonations of Christ, of Mary, of people from other worlds? I believe they may well be. Is Satan preparing the world to accept alternative explanations of the time of trouble, blaming it on natural phenomena? I believe that too is a probability. Is it possible that Satan is preparing the world for another "great disappointment"? I believe he would be delighted to lead Christians to set dates for Christ's return, in hope of their losing faith, and this certainly fits in well with the millennium's end. Is "channeling" a hoax? I believe that much of it

is, but I also think that some portion of it is actually based on messages flowing in from an outside source, though that source is not the one named but "the father of lies" and his minions.

We are warned, in II Thes. 2:9–10, that "The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved." The following two verses, however, tell us that God allows this so that those sitting on the fences will decide whether they serve the true God or Ba'al. "For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness." These "apparitions" and "channelings" are the work of demons, but we mustn't forget that God may be using them to accomplish His will. Our work is to preach the Word, to make disciples, to warn the world of these deceptions, so those who turn to God in faith and obedience will not be fooled.

What of our opening question? Are these "channelings" intercepted dispatches from the Enemy or disinformation? Frankly, we don't know for sure. I suspect they are disinformation, but they may reveal as well something of Satan's plans. Little or none of that is being "channeled" is original. The "channelers" are not saying things that are new. How much more impressive it sounds, though, when it is "channeled" from "the other side," rather than being simply theorizing, mere wishful thinking.

We are told, of the land beast of Rev. 13: "And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honour of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived." These things are coming to pass right now; we are seeing these signs, and we will see more of them in the few years left to this sinful earth. We needn't fear these things. They are signs that our "redemption draweth nigh." Our hope is not in the mutterings of demons, but in the God who, as Isaiah 44:25–26 says, "foils the signs of false prophets and makes fools of diviners, who overthrows the learning of the wise and turns it into nonsense, who carries out the words of his servants and fulfils the predictions of his messengers."

We know whom we have believed. As Daniel says, "The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy" (Dan. 2:45). Hold fast to these things.

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