

THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR RELIGION
Matthew 6:24

Introduction:

1. "What is the most popular religion in the world?"
 - a. The correct answer is "Satanism."
 - b. All who are not serving GOD are serving Satan (Mt. 12:30; 7:13,14).
2. There are specific religious groups that openly swear allegiance to Satan.
3. Satanism is centuries old, but it has had a resurgence in our day.
4. There are several reasons for the renewed interest in Satan worship:
 - a. Many denominations have become so liberal they no longer meet spiritual needs.
 - b. The spirit of our age is selfish and self-entered.
 - c. Hollywood has bombarded us with movies pushing Satanism.
 - d. Popular novels such as those by Dan Brown and J. K. Rowling have popularized the occult.
 - e. Popular music, especially heavy metal and rock groups, have espoused Devil worship.
 - f. Games such as Dungeons and Dragons, ouija boards, etc. open the door to Satanism.

Discussion:

- I. MODERN DAY SATANISM BEGAN WHEN ANTON LAVAY FOUNDED THE CHURCH OF SATAN IN 1966.
 - A. LaVay played the Devil in the cultic movie, "Rosemary's Baby."
 1. He wrote and published "The Satanic Bible" in 1969.
 2. He claimed to be an atheist who worshipped the Devil as a symbol of one's self.
 3. His teachings are the direct opposite of the teaching of Jesus.
 - B. Nine statements in the Satanic Bible sum up LaVay's "creed."
 1. Satan represents indulgence instead of abstinence.
 2. Satan represents vital existence instead of spiritual pipe dreams.
 3. Satan represents wisdom instead of hypocritical self-deceit.
 4. Satan represents kindness to the deserving instead of love wasted on ingrates.

5. Satan represents vengeance instead of forgiveness.
6. Satan represents responsibility to the responsible instead of concern for the ignorant and weak.
7. Satan represents man as an animal who is more vicious than other animals because of his greater development.
8. Satan represents indulgence in sin since indulgence brings gratification.
9. Satan is the best friend Christianity has for he has kept it in business through the centuries.

II. TRADITIONAL SATANISM VIEWS SATAN AS HE IS PRESENTED IN THE BIBLE.

A. Their practices are a parody of “Christian” rituals and beliefs.

1. Their symbols are the pentagram and the inverted cross.
2. They meet in covens of 13 under cover of darkness.
3. They celebrate “the black mass” by drinking the blood of animals.
4. A black mass begins with a blasphemous sermon renouncing GOD and His Son.
5. A naked girl on an altar is symbolically sacrificed when an animal is killed above her and the blood falls on her.
6. Christian hymns are sung backward.
7. Prayers are offered to Satan or to various demons.
8. The black mass often ends in a drunken orgy.

B. In the Middle Ages, human sacrifices were common.

1. In the 1980’s there was widespread investigation of Devil worshippers who were accused of using children in day care centers.
2. Some reports proved to be hoaxes, but much was kept secret and some were prosecuted.

C. One is initiated into a Devil’s coven by making a pact with the Devil.

1. The pact must be signed in one’s own blood; then one’s name is recorded in a secret book.
2. The initiate is “baptized” in a mixture of salt, water and sulphur.
3. Sexual relations are often involved in the initiation ceremony.

III. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT SATAN AND SATAN WORSHIP?

A. Satan is an evil being whose goal is to lead men to destruction.

1. He tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3).
2. His ultimate end is Hell where he will be tormented forever and ever (Rev. 20:10).
3. Those who follow him will be tormented with him (Mt. 25:41).

B. Satan's names and titles in the Bible reveal his character:

1. He is the Devil which means "accuser" or "slanderer" (1 Pet. 5:8; Job 1:6-12).
2. He is Satan which means "adversary" (1 Pet. 5:8; Rev. 12:9).
3. He is a murderer, a liar and the father of lies:

"You are of your father, the Devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources for he is a liar and the father of it" (John 8:44).

4. He appeared as a serpent in Eden and is often described as a serpent or dragon (Gen. 3:1; Rev. 12:9).
5. He is the Tempter for he tempts all to sin (Mt. 4:3; Jn. 13:27).
6. He is called "the ruler of this world" (Jn. 12:31); "the god of this world" (2 Cor. 4:4); and "the prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2).

C. His power was limited by the death and resurrection of Jesus (Heb. 2:14,15):

"Inasmuch as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the Devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" (Heb. 2:14, 15).

Conclusion:

1. Many who have rejected Christ would be shocked at the thought that they have chosen to follow Satan.
2. Others who profess to believe in Christ would never dream of serving Satan, but if their commitment is half-hearted, they are Satan's servants.
3. Jesus said: "No man can serve two masters" (Matt. 6:24).
4. Are you serving GOD or Satan?

