

**Review: E. M. Storms, *Should a Christian Be A Mason?*,  
Kirkwood, MO, Impact Christian Books, 1980 (1999 ed.)**

Pages: 111

**Two Unreconcilable Enemies**

The author deserves commendation for her investigation into Freemasonry's pagan mystery roots and core incompatibility with true Christianity. In the one deception is the rule and secrecy paramount, enforceable by extreme and private oaths. The other commands wide publication in the open, prizing transparency and honesty.

Due to the subtle nature of quoted Masonic and occultic writings care is required to see the deceptions, e.g.: Satan is merely a neutral, impersonal force [see Daniel 11.38] despite being the 'anti-Divinity'; symbolism and equality of the goat-like gods (i.e. Pan, Mendes, He-Goat, Baphomet [a good reference to Matthew 25.33 is given]) who represent a force known as the ouroboros (i.e. a serpent figure devouring its own tail) or the Holy Ghost; confession of Jesus Christ as God by some Masons though not an official dogma; a high regard for the Bible though knowledge of the Kabbalah (Yetzirah and Zohar texts) are needed for real understanding, also the 'book' of nature as an interpreter (i.e. the theistic evolutionist's "67<sup>th</sup> book of the Bible" idea).

The symbolism of Masonry is condemning, e.g. the phallus ('Creative Principle') as an object of worship, represented by the obelisk structure, point within a circle, yodh inside a triangle, 'G' inside the square and compass, etc. The pentagram was the star Sirius then various pagan gods down the line; today it is a common symbol of witchcraft. With one-point down it is Mendes (Satan).

Using Dr. Albert Mackey's *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, the last chapter is a sermon by one Dr. Alva J. McLain who makes a few simple points: Freemasonry is a religion but not identical to Christianity (the only true religion); its adherents do worship a god; salvation can be earned apart from Jesus Christ.

A lecture on the 32<sup>nd</sup> degree by (deceased) ex-Mason Reverend Jim Shaw is also included. The details are banal, what is interesting is how quickly one could advance in Masonry; it is claimed by using proxy candidates the 32<sup>nd</sup> degree could be gained in a month.

A second appendix is a practical Withdrawal Petition, laying out the false pretense under which the Mason was taken in (i.e. incompatibility with Christianity) and a personal decision to forsake Masonry in light of scripture (e.g. II Corinthians 6.14).

The cover's advertisement of 80 000 plus copies/sales, plus having gone through 19 printings indicates its message has stood the test of time.

This work may not change the mind of a non-'Christian Mason' but should warn those considering joining, especially Christians or those looking for Christ in what may seem a harmless Christian-like organisation merely out 'to make good men better'.

### I) Compromise for the Christian?

Straight from the beginning Freemasonry is identified by its own sources (*Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*) as derived from, and a continuation of the Mystery Religions. These focus on secret initiations into the worship of specific gods as opposed to the public worship of a common god or gods by the masses. These deities usually died and rose again, their celebrations held on the Autumnal and Vernal equinoxes<sup>1</sup> respectively.

In chapter five it is proved the legend of Masonry, Solomon's Temple and Hiram Abiff is a myth.

A number of specific gods are found in the 'Chief of the Tabernacle' degree including Isis (Egypt), Orpheus, Dionysos (Greece), Ceres, Mithras (Persia) and Adoni (Syria). Originating from Babylon [and before that Babel with Nimrod], this polytheistic religious system interestingly acknowledges one Deity above all others.

The obvious concern raised is a Christian would have to *willingly accept* initiation into the mysteries of Freemasonry.

The 'Elu of Fifteen' degree states Freemasonry opens its portals wide<sup>2</sup> to invite Protestant, Catholic, Muslim and Jew to believe in this one god.

All can come to the Masonic altar and be united in prayer whilst undergoing his own private investigation of who the Supreme Being really is. No religious disputes are countenanced though in the Lodge which would effectively shut down a Christian's witness. References to the Deity (e.g. G. A. O. T. U., Legislator, Great Architect, Grand Warden of Heaven, etc.) are therefore necessarily non-specific.

The [13<sup>th</sup>] 'Royal Arch of Solomon' degree blasphemously states Jehovah of the Hebrews was a lesser god, in keeping with the view the masses' feeble intellect was not able to grasp the nature of the true god. God in the common sense is also called Bal, Bala, Molech and Malek. This dogma is expanded in the 'Knight of the Rose Croix' degree for Christians who are really worshipping Bel, Moloch, Zeus, Osiris, Mithras or Adonai. Also the Statue of Olympian Jove and the Statue of Venus as the Virgin Mary<sup>3</sup>.

Finally, the secret name of the Freemason's supreme deity is given, a blasphemous compound of three:

JAH-BUL-ON (J.B.O) for Jehovah, Baal and On.

Postmodernism is Freemasonry in practice, its dogmas truth is unknowable (who can arbitrate?) and no one has the right to interfere with another's religion [except if said religion has a tenet of 'interfering' with others!].

## II) Occult and Kabbalistic Connection?

Exclusive belief in and acceptance of the Bible is denied at the first degree, Entered Apprentice. The Bible is called a 'modern addition' to the ancient [Masonic] symbol [singular]. It is further sullied by inclusion with other religious books during worship services.

With the Bible's authority stripped, final authority is founded upon thousands of years of *oral tradition*.

This can largely be found in two highly valued books, the Sepher Yetzirah (Book of Forming) and the Zohar (Book of Splendor) which are traditions of Jewish Rabbis. Authorship of the Zohar is attributed to Moses de Leon in Spain, 1275.

The Kabbalah views the Bible as an allegorical book to be interpreted via gematria and occult formulae which uncovers 'Names of Power' to summon demons for example.

The source of Kabbalistic doctrine are the above books, and Masonry's search for light leads them directly back to the Kabbala! The [30<sup>th</sup>] degree 'Knight Kadosh' proclaims Masonry as a child of the Kabbalah. The [28<sup>th</sup>] degree 'Prince Adept' declares the Kabbalah taught 'the doctrine of the Unity of God' and that '*The Kabbalah is the key to the occult sciences*'. The [32<sup>nd</sup>] degree 'Master of the Royal Secret' states 'The Occult Science of the Ancient Magi...is found enveloped in the enigmas...in the Rites of the Highest Masonry.' The same degree mentions the grand ('religious dreams') of the Illuminati is

borrowed from the Kabbalah, all the Masonic associations owe to it their Secrets and their Symbols'.

II Peter 1.20 is given as an appropriate scripture to preclude the Holy Spirit using occult means for understanding the Bible. Finally, it is stated the apprentice witch is given an in-depth study of the Kabbalah.

### III) Religious Teachings of Masonry

Some simple and obvious points are made as a counter to the assertion Masonry is not a religion-they must believe in a God, they believe in good and evil, and their meetings take places in *temples*. From Albert Mackey, "...it's sublime ceremonies...who can deny that it is eminently a religious institution?"

The Royal Arch (of Solomon) degree is plain, "Every Masonic Lodge is a temple of religion and its teachings are instruction in religion."

Two main religious Masonic doctrines are discussed, the identity of Satan and Jesus Christ.

Interestingly, for the initiate Satan is defined as a *force*<sup>4</sup> to be exploited as an instrument of free will and liberty in achieving a kabbalistic universal equilibrium. This is manifested under the guise of two representative beliefs, atheism and idolatry. Although the negation of God, Satan is certainly not a personal and evil being. However a more advanced [19<sup>th</sup>] Pontiff degree teaching contains the most self-condemning quote (from Pike):

"LUCIFER, the *Light-bearer!* Lucifer, the Son of the Morning! Strange and mysterious name to give to the Spirit of Darkness! Is it *he* who bears the *Light*, and with its splendours intolerable blinds feeble, sensual, or selfish Souls? Doubt it not!"<sup>5</sup>

A connection is also drawn between the ancient worship of the sun as the ultimate light-giver, and the serpent, or Satan as the light-bringer to mankind. The sun was considered the only god in the mystery religion of Asia Minor (Pergamos<sup>6</sup>) and was transferred from there straight to Rome.

Next the similarities between the horned god Pan, he-goat of the Sabbat, Goat of Mendes, and the baphomet are pieced together. These gods progress to a more obvious identification with Satan: Pan is the Greek god of fecundity, from the Egyptian Goat of Mendes<sup>7</sup>. The he-goat is said to have appeared at witches Sabbats. The Baphomet is a goat idol of the Templars. On the authority of Levi, these manifestations synthesis into what is known as the *anti-divinity*, which can only be Satan.

The Bible knew of this association-in Matthew 25.33 the goats, being of the evil one, are separated from the sheep.

Albert Pike [quoting from Occultist Eliphas Levi] writes a further blasphemes with “the body of the Holy Spirit is said to be the Serpent devouring its own tail [the cerberos].” This is the most potent force in nature which was adored under the hieroglyphic figure of Baphomet or the goat of Mendes.

In Masonry the name of Jesus Christ is not applied to the Deity and is at best agnostic, though it is actively removed from scripture references and ceremonies. Notwithstanding, Masons are free to assign even Divinity to 'Eminent Reformers' if they choose.

A sobering warning concludes (for the Christian and non-Christian), that false religious doctrine opens the door for demonic activity.

#### IV) Deceptive Symbols

As derived from the Kabbalah, symbolism in Masonry is designed to deceive. This is stated openly in the [30<sup>th</sup>] degree, 'Knight Kadosh' which openly boasts those in the Blue Degrees would labour in vain to undeceive its religious teachings, and that the truth is only found with the Adepts, or Princes of Masonry. Those who are misled deserve to be so.

Symbolism is largely founded upon the worship of nature-it is the *Master Mason's Word*<sup>8</sup>. The Mystery religions worshipped nature, particularly the sun, but also the generative organs-phallus and ctesis. The former became prominent with Phallic Cults, embodied today in Egyptian obelisk structures, in Masonry the 'G' inside the square and compass<sup>9</sup>, etc.

Another example is the point within a circle; the Blue Degree's interpretation is God within His creation, or the believer bounded by acceptable conduct. In reality it is the phallus impregnating the ctesis.

Pike states the 'Creative Principle' of Freemasonry worship is identical to the 'Generative Principle' of the [Egyptian] Mystery Religion, meaning Freemasons worship the phallus! Through the phallus they give worship to the 'Active Force' of the universe.

The next symbol is the pentalpha, or pentagram<sup>10</sup>. This was represented by various things: the blazing star, dog star, Sirius, Anubis, Horus and Hermes. It is *not* a symbol of the five points of Divine Providence (i.e. spirit, air, water, earth and fire), or the star that guided the Magi.

The sign of the pentagram sums up all the mysteries of Magic. It is stated one point in the ascendancy represents 'white' magic, two 'black' (in this case the Goat of Mendes).

## V) Self-Destructive Oaths

Three paths are divulged (the Blue Degrees) showing the depravity of Masonry-initiates come under pain of excruciating deaths for revealing any secrets. The Shriners have a particularly barbaric oath – to pierce to the centre their eyes a 3-edged blade, and have their feet flayed. Shriners pray to *Allah* for ability to keep their vows.

In 1833, Masonic Oaths were prohibited by the U.S. Congress for being unlawful, subversive and blasphemous.

In the Prince of Mercy [26<sup>th</sup>] degree, the junior initiate expounds on the elements of communion, looking forward to when *all* mankind come together in one universal brotherhood. Due to the recycling of organic matter by nature, the Mason eats and drinks the bodies of the dead including their great 'reformers'. This is in effect a Eucharistic, fleshly interpretation devoid of spiritual truth. It is a syncretistic combining of Confucius, Plato, Mohammed, etc. with Jesus. This is Masonry's 'Great Lesson' or 'Magnum Opus' behind Christian Communion.

#### VI) Come Out and Be Separate

All Christians have faults hard to admit and this work is aimed at 'Christian' Masons admitting and correcting theirs. Various testimonials and references are given, that livelihoods would be lost, the sense of Masonry was only evil continually, many Ministers and good men are Masons, and the whole system is anti-Christian. Both the Philadelphian Reformed Presbyterian Church (Synod) and Pope Leo XIII (Praeclara Gratulationis Publicae) have outright condemned it<sup>12</sup>.

A Dr. James M.Gray is quoted-he poignantly points out the Mason is unlikely to be convinced by presentation of these facts, but they should be most influential on Christians contemplating joining the Lodge.

#### VII) Freemasonry and Christianity



A sermon given by Dr. Alva J. McClain at First Brethren Church of Philadelphia for Christians, covering five main points:

- i. Masonry claims to be a religion yet there is only one true religion, Christianity. Masonry explicitly claims it is not the Christian religion, and nothing in it would be incompatible with Jewry.
- ii. The Masonic religion is more 'universal' than the Christian religion.
- iii. Masonry does not confess Jesus Christ as Lord and God. It actively removes this name (e.g. 'by Jesus Christ' in I Peter 2.5). The deity of Masonry is continually referred to in the encyclopedia as 'G.A.O.T.U.'
- iv. Disobedience to Christ is required for acceptance, i.e. , in the swearing of a destructive oath by the Entered Apprentice. The oaths are in secret, asymmetric, have penalties attached, and are accompanied by superstitious ceremonies.
- v. Masons can attain heaven *apart* from Jesus Christ, albeit via 'faith, hope, and love'.

The Masonic text used is *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* by (medical) Dr. James Mackey, 1873 (vol. I) and 1878 (vol. II).

Appendix I) Lecture of the 32° by former 33° Mason James D. Shaw

A deep dive into the 'Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret' degree, giving the reader a taste of what a high degree of Masonry offers. There are surprising revelations such as:

\*Joseph Smith received the three Blue Degrees in one day.

\*Interestingly, all 32 degrees can be obtained within only 33 days, via proxy ceremonies-one candidate performs required rituals for all at each degree.

\*Like most groups there is the practical side; membership to simply get ahead in life!

\*The great Masonic symbols were inherited from the Aryans.

\*Ancient Masons described the deity as Ahura Mazda.

\*Harmony is for the true word-it makes possible the Empire of Masonic brotherhood.

Unfortunately the above are couched in disappointment; this occult knowledge is trashy, banal and hollow.

## Appendix II) Withdrawal Petition

A practical tract to have in conclusion. Simple and fair-spirited, it lays out the false pretense under which the Mason was taken in (i.e. ultimate incompatibility with Christianity) and contains a personal decision to forsake Masonry with scriptural injunction (II Cr 6.14).

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<sup>1</sup>Days of equal light and darkness due to the alignment of the equator with the sun.

<sup>2</sup>See Matthew 7.14.

<sup>3</sup>This is quite accurate as Peter is found as a statue of Jupiter and the Madonna abounds in Rome.

<sup>4</sup>See Daniel 11.38.

<sup>5</sup>Exalted as light but causing the fall, Satan is like the benefactor in the Roman Catholic doctrine of *felix culpa*.

<sup>6</sup>See Revelation 2.13.

<sup>7</sup>Greek name for the ancient Nile city Djedet, or Domain if the Ram Lord Djedet.

<sup>8</sup>This parallels the modern 67<sup>th</sup> book heresy whereby 'scientific' investigation possesses an equal authority to the Bible.

<sup>9</sup>The connection here is the Hebrew letter yodh (י) is substituted for the Masonic 'G'. Yodh (within a triangle) is the image of the Kabbalistic Phallus, the Creative Energy of the deity.

<sup>10</sup>The pentalpha is a logic puzzle where ten stones are placed on the intersections of a pentagram abiding by certain rules.

<sup>11</sup>Shriners are at least Master Masons who have joined the appendant body called 'Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine (A.A.O.N.M.S.)' These wear red fez', symbolising Christian martyrs of North Africa whom the Muslims slew.

<sup>12</sup>A strange coincidence both condemnations were made in June, 1894.