

# THE DEVICES OF SATAN

By Jerry Healan

*The Apostle Peter warned, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour, " 1 Per 5:8. To be sober means to be discreet, while to be vigilant means to keep awake and watch. Are you employing these tactics in your life or have you gone to sleep and has Satan gotten the advantage over you? This treatise is prepared for you to examine yourself to see whether you have fallen victim to Satan or not.*

An interesting statement is made in Rev. 12.9, "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, **WHICH DECEIVETH THE WHOLE WORLD**: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

Isn't it amazing that the very first book of the Bible (Genesis) begins with the deception of the woman in the Garden of Eden, and when we get to the very last book of the Bible, (Revelation) deception is still going on? Shouldn't this tell us something about the serpent, Satan? Shouldn't this warn us that something is extremely wrong and that we should take another look at things? Is it always the other religions, the other faiths that are in error while your own faith is the one true faith?

I was a member of a church some years ago, comprised of people who believed they made up the one true church that alone had the truth, the inside track to salvation and to the Kingdom. Why does anyone choose to be a member of a certain church or faith? Isn't it usually because they believe that they have the keys to salvation and the Kingdom? Surely no one attends a church believing that they are deceived and do not have salvation in that way of life and faith which they embrace in that congregation or group of congregations. Surely they believe that their church or study group has an inside track on salvation, or they wouldn't be attending there. One man used to quote, "A deceived person doesn't know that he is deceived." Isn't that true? A deceived person may eventually find out that he has been deceived, but during the time that he is deceived, he doesn't know that he is. The Apostle Paul encouraged, "Put on the whole armour of Yahweh, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil," Eph. 6.11 Paul also wrote, "To whom you forgive anything, I forgive also: for if I forgave anything, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of the Messiah, lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices," 2 Cor. 2 10-11

## THE MEANINGS OF WORDS AND NAMES

Words and names have meanings that we sometimes overlook or have a tendency to misunderstand in their overall scope and concept. This is especially true concerning the Scriptures. It would be very instructive to take the descriptive words concerning Satan the devil and look at them under a magnifying glass, which would certainly increase our scope of understanding.

The word "wiles" in Eph 6:11 has been translated from the Greek word "methodia." It is #3180 in Strong's Exhaustive Concordance (Greek Dictionary). Its meaning is given as: traveling over, i.e. travesty (trickery). It is also translated as "lie in wait." "Travesty" means: **1.** a grotesque or farcical imitation for purposes of ridicule, burlesque, and **2.** a crude, distorted, or ridiculous representation (of something), (Webster's New World Dictionary). Notice also that the

word "wiles" has to do with "trickery." Webster's New World Dictionary defines "wiles" as: **1.** a sly trick; deceitful artifice; stratagem, **2.** a beguiling or coquettish trick, and **3.** craftiness, guile. Do you see what we can already learn about Satan just by researching one word "*wiles*" and its various meanings? His character misrepresents that which is good and pure with ridicule, burlesque, a crude, distorted or ridiculous representation. How does he do it? He does it through sly tricks, deceitful artifices and stratagems, beguiling or coquettish tricks, craftiness and guile.

What does "coquettish" mean? **Coquet**, **1.** to behave as a coquet, flirt **2.** to **trifle** or daily....**Coquette**, a girl or woman who merely from vanity tries to get men's attention and admiration; flirt. (*Webster's New Word Dictionary*) A harlot is a coquette, isn't she? Doesn't Scripture reveal that there is a great harlot who sits on many waters? (Rev. 17:1) This great whore has caused the whole world to wonder at the beast (v. 8). Scripture says that she has committed fornication with the kings of the earth and has made the inhabitants of the earth drunk with the wine of her fornication (v. 2). Here is a spiritual application of the word "coquette."

Let's look at one more word associated with "coquette" which is the word "trifle." Trifle's etymology is given thusly, **n.** [ME. < OFr. *truffle*, mockery, dim. of *truffe*, deception] **1.** something of little value or importance, trivial thing, idea, etc., paltry matter. (*ibid*) Now how would "trifle" apply spiritually? Could it be that Satan causes us to focus on trifling things and make them into the "more important things" in our mind? While, on the other hand, the important things are made to appear as "trifling" to us?

Now let's focus on the word "devices" found in 2 Cor. 2:11. "Devices" comes from the Greek word *noema*, which means a *perception*, i.e. *purpose*, or (by impl.) the *intellect*, *disposition*, etc. It is #3540 in *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*. It is also translated into our English as *mind* or *thought*. It comes from #3539 "*noieo*" which means, to *exercise the mind* (*observe*), i.e. (fig.) to *comprehend* and *heed*. "*Noieo*" is variously translated as consider, perceive, think, and understand.

## THE GARDEN OF EDEN

Now let's apply this to the scenario presented to us in the Scriptures concerning the incident in the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve were "naked" and not ashamed (Gen 2:25). But when they ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, their eyes were opened and they knew that they were naked (Gen. 3:6-7). What was wrong with them being naked? They were the only two humans around. When Yahweh made them, He made them naked and allowed them to continue in their nakedness Scripture says, after the whole creation was completed, it was very good (2:31), so there, was nothing wrong with that nakedness Yet, when they took of the fruit, they knew (perceived) their nakedness and made aprons of fig leaves in order to cover themselves (3:7).

However, when Yahweh came walking in the garden in the cool of the day, they ran and hid. Why? Adam said, "I heard Your voice in the garden and I was afraid, because **I was naked**; and I hid myself," Gen. 3:11. How is it that he still considered himself naked? Didn't he cover himself with fig leaves? His physical nakedness was covered, but his statement revealed that his nakedness now went further than skin deep. His nakedness now was a concept developed in the mind, the intellect, the perception (*noema/noieo*).

What had the serpent done? Hadn't he used trickery, a stratagem, a coquettish trick to deceive the woman into taking the forbidden fruit? There were two trees in the midst of the garden--the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (which represented corruption, sin, death, vanity). Which is better to choose--life or death? Life should be full of movement, awareness, stability, strength, production, enjoyment, even pleasure. But death is full of darkness, chaos, confusion, failure of strength, failure of freedom of movement, cessation of life, etc. Life is the choice of reality. Life is the choice of wisdom and understanding. Death is a trifle compared to life. Death is empty, vain, uselessness, nothingness.

The serpent employed a coquettish, trifling trick to beguile the woman into taking the fruit of emptiness, vanity, grief, suffering and death. Yes, the serpent utilized a coquettish trick to parade the tree of the knowledge of good and evil before the woman. He made vanity (a trifling thing) to appear as if it were wonderful and the thing to be desired to make one wise. We shall find out just how he did it.

### THE SUBTLE SERPENT

Scripture says, "Now the serpent was more SUBTLE than any beast of the field which Yahweh Elohim had made," Gen. 3:1. The word "subtle" is #6175 in *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*. Its definition is given as, '**aruwm, pass. part of 6191**; *cunning* (usually in a bad sense):-crafty, prudent, subtle. #6191 = '**aram**, a prim. root, prop. to *be (or make) bare*; but used only in the der. sense (through the idea perh. of *smoothness*) to *be cunning* (usually in a bad sense):- x very, beware, take crafty [counsel], be prudent, deal subtly.

One of the interesting things about this is that when Scriptures say of Adam and Eve, "And they were both NAKED, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed," (Gen. 2:25), the word "naked" comes from the same root word #6191 '**aram**. The word to describe Adam and Eve's nakedness is #6174 in *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* which is defined as, '**arowm**; from 6191 (in its orig. sense), *nude*, either partially or totally:--naked.

E. W. Bullinger comments about this: "They were both naked (**'arum**), the man and his wife, and [knowing only good, 2.17] were not ashamed [before G-d]. But the *Nachash* was more wise (**'arum**) than any living being of the field which J-hovah Elohim had made, and [knowing evil, and not ashamed (2.25) to question the truth of G-d's word] he said unto the woman..." Adam and Eve, in their original nakedness, were good; and knowing no evil, they were not ashamed of their nakedness. The serpent was more naked, in a spiritual sense, because he knew evil and was not ashamed of it, but rather relished it. He wasn't even afraid of or ashamed of contradicting Yahweh's word. This explains how Adam and Eve could have had their nakedness covered with fig leaves, yet still considered themselves naked before Yahweh. That nakedness became a spiritual condition of the mind rather than the outer physical nakedness of the body.

*Webster's New World Dictionary* defines "subtil or subtle" as, **1.** thin; rare; tenuous; not dense or heavy [a *subtle* gas] **2. a)** capable of making or noticing fine distinctions in meaning, etc. [a *subtle* thinker] **b)** marked by or requiring mental keenness [*subtle* reasoning] **3.** delicately skillful or clever, deft or ingenious [a *subtle* filigree] **4.** not open or direct, crafty; sly **5.**

delicately suggestive, not grossly obvious [a *subtle* hint] 6. working insidiously, not easily detected [a *subtle* poison].

Satan the serpent is insidious. He is very skillful, deft, clever and sly. He is a subtle thinker who is able to make or notice fine distinctions in meaning. Let's take, for example, what he said to the woman, "Yea, hath Elohim said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?' And the woman said unto the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, Elohim hath said, 'Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.' And the serpent said to the woman, 'You shall not surely die: for Elohim does know that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as Elohim, knowing good and evil.'" Gen. 3:1-5.

## CONTRADICTION

Notice the tactic, the device of the serpent, which was employed here. First, he begins with a question, and then contradicts or denies the very words of Yahweh, the Creator. Jude warns, "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that you should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints," v. 3. Jude is writing to the New Testament assembly. He is warning them (us) that we need to earnestly contend for the ORIGINAL FAITH. What was wrong? What had happened?

"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, impious men, **turning** (can also be translated as "perverting") the grace of our Elohim into lasciviousness, and **denying** (can also be translated as "contradicting") the only Sovereign Yahweh, and our Sovereign Yahshua the Messiah," v. 4. These are the tactics of the serpent, Satan, "to pervert, corrupt, twist, deny and contradict." He did that to deceive the first woman, Eve, and he has done that to also deceive the bride of the Messiah.

The Apostle Paul warns, "Would to Elohim you could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. For I am jealous over you with pious jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to the Messiah. But I fear, lest by any means, AS THE SERPENT BEGUILLED EVE THROUGH HIS SUBTILTY, SO YOUR MINDS SHOULD BE CORRUPTED FROM THE SIMPLICITY THAT IS IN THE MESSIAH," 2 Cor. 11:1-3.

The Apostle Peter also warned, "But there were false prophets also among the People, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying (contradicting) the Sovereign That bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of (blasphemed). And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingers not, and their damnation slumbers not... Yahweh knows how to deliver the pious out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: but chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed; they are not afraid to speak evil of (blaspheme) dignities (the glorious ones). Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before Yahweh. But these, as natural brute beasts made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of (blaspheme) the things that they understand not, and shall utterly perish in their own corrup-

tion; and shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls; a heart they have exercised with covetous practices, cursed children; which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam, the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; but was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet. These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest, to whom the mist of darkness is reserved forever. For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Sovereign and Saviour, Yahshua the Messiah, they are again entangled therein and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened to them according to the true proverb, 'The dog is turned to his own vomit again' and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire," 2 Pet. 2:1-3, 9-22.

As the Apostle Paul writes, the New Testament Assembly is to be the bride of Yahshua, but warnings throughout the Scriptures reveal Yahweh's people are deceived time and time again to turn to corruption, emptiness and vanity. Yahshua, Jude, Peter, Paul and others warned the New Testament Assembly that deception and corruption would come to many, even among themselves. The subtle serpent would send his own emissaries to utilize subtle, coquettish tricks to lure the believers away from the truth, from eternal life to a life of vain pursuits and death. Believers today may think themselves covered, but when Yahshua returns, they will realize their error, as Adam and Eve did, and they will run and hide because of their nakedness.

## THE NAME SATAN

At this point, we need to look into the meaning of the name of the perpetrator of deception and evil--Satan. Satan is a Hebrew word. Its meaning is described in Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #7854 of the Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary: from 7853; an *opponent*; espec. (with the art. pref) *Satan*, the arch-enemy of good. It is also variously translated as adversary and withstand. #7853 is defined as: **an**, a prim. root, to *attack*, (fig.) *accuse*. It is variously translated as, (be an) adversary, resist. The meanings of this name reveal the very nature of Satan the Devil. He is the arch-enemy of everything that is good. He withstands and resists that which is good. He utilizes the tactics of accusations and attacks (whether true or false) to accomplish his means. He stands as an opponent and adversary against the Creator and His chosen people.

The first part of the name or word Satan also comes from another Hebrew word "set" (sayte). "Sat/set" [sayte] is #7846 in *Strong's*. It is defined as: from #7750; a departure from right, i.e. *sin* and is variously translated as revolter, that turns aside. Satan is the king of those who depart from that which is right, those who turn aside to sin. He is the great revolter or rebel. He is sin (the transgression of the law [1 Jn. 3:4]) personified.

"Sat/set" comes from #7750 which is the Hebrew word (soot), and is defined as: a primitive root; to *detrude*, i.e. (intrans. and fig.) become *derelict* (**wrongly practise; namely, idolatry**) and is usually translated as turn aside to (emphasis mine).

Satan is also called a serpent. One of the Hebrew words for serpent is "tan". "Tan" is #8565 in Strong's and is defined as: an unused root prob. mean. to *elongate*; a *monster* (as preternaturally formed), i.e. a *sea-serpent* (or other huge marine animal); also a *jackal* (or other hideous land animal) also being variously translated as dragon, or whale.

One of the first things that comes to mind concerning the definition as a "sea-serpent" is the "leviathan." Yahweh prophesies, "In that day, Yahweh with His sore and great and strong sword, shall punish leviathan, the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and He shall slay the dragon that is in the sea," Isa. 27:1. "Leviathan" is #3882 in Strong's. It is defined as: from 3867; a *wreathed* animal, i.e. a *serpent* (espec. the *crocodile* or some other large sea-monster); fig. the constellation of the *dragon*; also as a symbol of *Bab*. It is also translated as "mourning." #3867 is the Hebrew word "lavah"; a prim. root; prop. to *twine*, i.e. (by impl.) to *unite*, to *remain*, also to *borrow* (as a form of *obligation*) or (caus.) to *lend*. It is variously translated as: abide with, borrow (-er), cleave, join (self), lend (-er). This accounts for the first part of the word "leviathan" which is "levia", but it leaves the last part ("than") unmentioned. It is made up of the same Hebrew characters as "tan", namely, (nt). It is important to keep this in mind as we continue on with the descriptions of Satan. The word "leviathan" would carry the important meaning of the sea-serpent (tan/than) that joins or unites (lavah/levia) with something. Satan is the leviathan. He is the serpent that unites one with the wrong practices of idolatry. This produces a nakedness that is beyond the natural physical nakedness in which Adam and Eve were created. It is a spiritual nakedness introduced by the serpent Satan to cause one to wrongly practice, namely IDOLATRY.

## THE GOLDEN CALF

Upon Israel's deliverance out of Egypt, they were brought to the foot of Mt. Sinai where Yahweh proposed to make a covenant with the people if they would promise to obey Him (Ex. 19:1-8). After personally delivering His commandments, statutes and ordinances (Ex. 20-23), the people promised that they would obey all the words that Yahweh had spoken (Ex. 24:3-8). Moses was called up into the mount in the midst of the cloud where Yahweh further instructed him concerning the building of a tabernacle, the establishment of the Aaronic priesthood and certain rituals that were to be performed (Ex. 24:18, and chapters 25-31). While Moses was in the mount, the people began to lose faith, questioning where Moses was and expressing doubt as to whether Moses would even come back (Ex. 32:1). They besought Aaron to make them mighty ones (elohim) to go before them. Aaron had them break off the golden earrings, etc., fashioning a golden calf from the jewelry. He built an altar for it, proclaimed a feast, offered offerings to it and the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play (Ex. 32:1-6).

Israel had just been delivered out of Egypt where the Pharaoh had been worshipped as the incarnate son of g-d. He was represented by the apis calf or bull. All of the pagan idolatrous nations represented their g-ds or elohim as a form of a calf or bull. Israel had quickly turned to idolatry. When Moses came down to the camp, he and Joshua (Yahshua), the son of Nun, heard the noise of the partying and saw the idolatrous abomi-

nation to which Israel had turned (Ex. 32:15-19). Moses angrily cast the tablets of stone, wherein Yahweh had written His commandments, breaking them to pieces. He took the golden calf, burned it with fire, ground it to powder and cast it into Israel's water making them drink thereof (Ex. 32:19-20).

Ex 32:25 says, "And when Moses saw that the People were NAKED; (for Aaron had made them NAKED unto shame among their enemies:)"... The people had quickly "turned aside," "turned out of the way," "become derelict in their duty," "wrongly practiced, namely idolatry" becoming NAKED, not only physically, but in a spiritual manner. This is after the manner of Satan. Satan causes a deep, intense NAKEDNESS that goes further than skin deep. It is a SUBTLE NAKEDNESS that is of the spirit. One can be physically clothed as Adam and Eve had clothed themselves with the fig leaves. As long as it remains physical to the eyes of man, it appears as if the nakedness is covered. But there is a subtle nakedness that is associated with the mind that does not become apparent until Yahweh discloses Himself. Then the nakedness appears because it is spiritual in nature.

### THE SPIRITUAL NAKEDNESS

E. W. Bullinger makes a comment concerning Ex. 32:1 which says, "And when the People saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the People gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, 'Up, **make us elohim (g-ds)**, which shall go before us, for as for this Moses, the man that brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.'" Bullinger comments: "...**make us g-ds**. The great sin of today (1 Cor. 10:7, 11), made now not of materials, but made by imagination, and worshipped by the senses." (*The Companion Bible*, p. 34). Bullinger is referring to the writings of Paul who warned, "**Neither be ye idolaters**, as were some of them; as it is written, 'The People sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play'... Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come," 1 Cor. 10:7, 11. Bullinger had tremendous insight when he stated that the great sin of today was that the idols were not now necessarily made of materials, but **MADE BY IMAGINATION**. How could Satan deceive the New Testament assembly so easily that it could not be detected? He could do it through his subtlety, intellect and through the use of skillful mental keenness which notices fine distinctions in meaning (see the definition for the word "subtle" again). Paul also warned, "Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted" (1 Cor. 10:6). What happened to Israel was a warning to us. It was a situation of examples or ensamples (Gk.=tupos=types) for those of us upon whom the end of the age has come.

# The Devices of Satan

## PART II

### NEW TESTAMENT APOSTASY

Revelation, chapters 2 and 3, gives an overview of the history of the New Testament assembly. There were seven assemblies named in those chapters, each possessing identifying characteristics. Even though all seven assemblies have possibly co-existed down through history, we do know that they did co-exist at the time that the prophecy was given to the Apostle John. It appears that the order in which the messages are given to each assembly is also an order of the history of the assembly as it existed down through the ages. It seems that the individual spirit of a certain assembly has prevailed during certain eras of history. The first assembly and prevailing spirit was that of Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7). They were evidently a very hard-working, patient assembly that could not tolerate any form or association with the works of idolatry. But they left their first love. What was the first love of the assembly? Wasn't it to go everywhere and witness to the righteousness and fulfillment of the Scriptures by Yahshua? Didn't they declare His faithfulness everywhere?

Time and other conditions work against us all. Daniel was inspired to prophesy that a little horn would rise up out of the fourth beast kingdom (Dan. 7:8, 20-21). This little horn would wear out the saints of the Most High who were given into his hand (Dan. 7:24). In chapter 8, another little horn was prophesied to rise up which would "destroy the mighty and the holy People" (Dan. 8:24). The word "destroy" can also be translated as "corrupt." In Rev. 13:7, the beast was allowed to make war against the saints and to overcome them. Time and adversity seems to have eventually overcome many of them and they left their first love.

The Smyrna assembly (and era) evidently resisted the beast and its little horns to the death. They loved not their lives in this world, but were willing to suffer in the same manner of the Messiah in order to gain eternal life. It appears that most of them were persecuted right out of existence in this present evil world.

The Pergamos assembly held steadfast to Yahshua's name and did not deny Yahshua's faith, but they began to allow those who held the doctrine of Balaam and also the Nicolaitans to dwell in their midst. Balaam taught Balac how to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, causing them to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit fornication. Peter warned that Balaam loved the wages of unrighteousness. The Greek word used for "stumblingblock" is "skandalon" from which we get our English word "scandal." It can also be translated as trap-stick, snare, occasion to fall and offence. Since Pergamos dwelt where Satan's seat was, it is not difficult to see how Satan could begin to easily influence the saints to allow idolaters into their midst.

The message to Thyatira reveals another step in the downward spiral into idolatry. There is a "Jezebel" in her midst who teaches Yahshua's servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed to idols. There are many in this assembly who know the "depths" of Satan (Rev. 2:24). This word "depths" comes from the Greek word "bathos" which also means *profundity*, i.e. (by impl.) *extent*; (fig.) *mystery*. One of the definitions for "profundity" or



"profound" is: marked by intellectual depth. There are those in Thyatira who know and teach the profundity, the deep intellectual mysteries, the subtleties of Satan. They are held in a mystery, just as the things of Yahweh and Yahshua are held in a mystery. One mystery leads to death, while the other leads to life everlasting. But Satan has deceived many with his own mystery

The next assembly era is Sardis, which receives a frightening indictment. They have a name as if they live, yet are dead. This can only apply to a name of idolatry, the name of a false elohim. Yahshua warns that most of the names (of the members) in Sardis will be blotted out of the book of life; however, he states that there are a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments and will walk with Yahshua in white. He promises to confess the names of the faithful before His Father and before His angels.

Those of the Philadelphian assembly and era keep Yahshua's word and do not deny His name. They evidently undergo a great deal of persecution for this steadfastness because Yahshua promises to make those of the synagogue of Satan come and worship before their feet, causing them to know that He has loved them. Yahshua promises to write upon them the name of His Elohim, the name of the city of His Elohim, new Jerusalem and Yahshua's own new name.

It is apparent that the Smyrna and Philadelphian eras undergo persecution for holding fast to the truth and pure worship for which they are exonerated, while the other assemblies have lost their first love and have allowed satanic idolatry in their midst.

When we finally get to the Laodicean assembly, a lukewarm condition exists because they are rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing. But Yahshua says that they don't even know they are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and NAKED. Nakedness means they are practicing IDOLATRY! However, they are absolutely BLIND to this condition. How has this come about? Remember that there is one called Satan! Paul had warned that, as the serpent had beguiled Eve through his craftiness, even so their minds were become corrupted from the simplicity that is in the Messiah. (2 Cor. 11:3). He also warned, "For if he that comes preaches another Yahshua, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another evangel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him" (2 Cor. 11:4).

## ANOTHER SAVIOR

Satan is crafty and subtle He is mentally keen and insidious, capable of making or noticing fine distinctions in meaning, etc. Balaam had taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel Satan has sent his emissaries into the New Testament assembly to cast stumbling blocks before the assembly. Jude warned, "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For **there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, unrighteous men, turning the grace of our Elohim into lasciviousness, and denying the only Sovereign Yahweh, and our Sovereign Yahshua the Messiah,**" 3-4. Yahshua had warned of false prophets and false messiahs who would come to deceive. We have already seen that those stumbling blocks were cast before the assembly as reported in Rev. chapters 2 and 3.

Author Raymond Capt writes, "It is of interest to note that the Druids revered a form

of the cross. It was their custom to search diligently for a large, handsome oak tree, having two large arm like branches. When viewed in conjunction with the trunk of the tree, they formed a cross. This 'cross' was then consecrated by cutting characters for the word 'Hesus' spelled 'Yesu,' upon the right branch. Upon the middle trunk they cut the word, 'Taranus,' upon the left branch, 'Belenus,' and over them all the word 'Than,' meaning G-d. Hesus' or Yesu was the Supreme G-d whom they worshipped as the great 'All-Heal' and they believed in Him as the 'Saviour' of the world. In both the Druidic religion and the Hebrew religion of patriarchal times we can see a parallel preparation for the coming of Chr-st. The Old Testament prophets proclaimed that the promised Messiah would come as a babe, grow to be a great teacher, and finally be revealed as the Redeemer. Through the ministry of the Druids, the same doctrines were believed, with the expectation of the same Saviour, Hesus (Jesus). In the ancient British tongue, 'Jesus' had never assumed its Greek, Latin or Hebrew form, but remained the pure Druidic 'Hesus' or 'Yesu.' Talisen, a Welsh bard of the sixth century wrote: 'Chr-st, the Word from the beginning was in the beginning our Teacher, and we never lost His teachings. Christianity was a new thing in Asia, but there never was a time when the Druids of Britain held not its doctrines.'" (*Stonehenge And Druidism*, pp. 78-79) Mr. Capt further reveals on page 6 of said book that this sacred oak was the Celtic Zeus. What is revealed here is that the Hesus of Druidism is equivalent to the Greek Iesus, the Latin Jesus and the modern day Jesus.

## THE SACRED OAKS

James G. Frazer writes, "Now of all European trees, none has such claims as the oak to be considered as pre-eminently the sacred tree of the Aryans. Its worship is attested for all the great branches of the Aryan stock in Europe. We have seen that it was not only the sacred tree, but the principal object of worship of both Celts and Slavs. According to Grimm, the oak ranked first among the holy trees of the Germans, and was indeed their chief god. It is certainly known to have been adored by them in the age of heathendom, and traces of its worship have survived in various parts of Germany almost to the present day. Amongst the ancient Italians, according to Preller, the oak was sacred above all other trees. The image of Jupiter on the Capitol at Rome seems to have been originally nothing but a natural oak-tree. At Dodona, perhaps the oldest of all Greek sanctuaries, Zeus was worshipped as immanent in the, sacred oak, and the rustling of its leaves in the wind was his voice. If, then, the great god of both Greeks and Romans was represented in some of his oldest shrines under the form of an oak, and if the oak was the principal object of worship of Celts, Germans, and Slavs, we may certainly conclude that this tree was one of the chief, if not the very chief divinity of the Aryans before the dispersion; and that their primitive home must have lain in a land which was clothed with forests of oak. (*The Golden Bough*, pp. 291-292)

It is interesting that all of these pagan deities, Zeus, Jupiter, Taranus, Belenus and Hesus (Jesus) were worshipped in the sacred oaks, for Yahweh issues indictments against such things: "And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners *shall be* together, and they that forsake Yahweh shall be consumed. For **they shall be ashamed of the oaks which ye have desired**, and ye shall be confounded for the gardens that ye have chosen. For ye shall be

as an oak whose leaf fades, and as a garden that has no water. And the strong shall be as tow, and the maker of it as a spark, and they shall both burn together, and none shall quench *them*" (Isa. 1:29-31). Notice that Isaiah says they have forsaken Yahweh and desired the oaks. He also writes, "The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and Yahweh alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of Yahweh of Hosts *shall be* upon every *one that is* proud and lofty, and upon every *one that is* lifted up, and he shall be brought low: and upon all the cedars of Lebanon, *that are* high and lifted up, and **upon all the oaks of Bashan**, and upon all the high mountains, and upon all the hills *that are* lifted up, and upon every high tower, and upon every fenced wall, and upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures" (Isa. 2:11-16).

This condemnation has everything to do with idolatry, paganism and heathenism. Hosea writes, "My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declares to them: for the spirit of whoredoms has caused *them* to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their Elohim. They sacrifice upon the tops of the mountains, and burn incense upon the hills, and **under oaks**, poplars and elms, because the shadow thereof is good: therefore your daughters shall commit whoredom; your spouses shall commit adultery" (4:12-13). Would there be any connection between this Scripture and the immoral sexual practices of our world today? The increase in teenage pregnancy is phenomenal in our nation (which is supposed to be a Christian nation) and world at large. Well over half of the marriages end in divorce, most of them because of adultery.

Hesus (Jesus) was an oak of Bashan. Those who love the name "Jesus" openly hate and despise the name Yahweh, the true and proper Name of the Creator. They have forsaken Yahweh and turned to love the oaks that Yahweh warns against. However, the world has been deceived by Satan and isn't even aware of the tie-in with the Celtic oak. The assembly has been beguiled by Satan and led to worship another messiah. Satan has "turned aside" the many, "uniting them with idolatry."

## THE ENCHANTING SERPENT

If we go back to the excerpt from Raymond Capt's book, *Stonehenge and Druidism*, we will find that the word which was written over the names Yesu (Hesus), Taranus and Belenus was the word "Than" meaning "God." **Than** is a purely Hebrew word for the sea-serpent! The worship of this sacred oak was and is, in fact, serpent worship.

In Gen. 3:1 we read, "Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which Yahweh Elohim had made." The Hebrew word for "serpent" is "nachash." It is #5175 in *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* being defined as: from 5172; a snake (from its hiss) #5172 is presented as the same Hebrew word "nachash" and is defined as: a prim. root, prop. to hiss, i.e. whisper a (magic) spell, gen. to prognosticate and is variously translated as divine, enchanter, (use) enchantment, learn by experience, diligently observe, etc.

The serpent whispers a magic spell. He uses whispers, magic spells and enchantments in order to mislead others. "Magic" is the use of charms, spells, and rituals in seeking or pretending to cause or control events, or govern certain natural or supernatural forces, sorcery, witchcraft (*Webster's New World Dictionary*).

Satan has been deceiving and misleading this world through the use of enchantments, charms, spells, rituals, sorcery and witchcraft which causes his adherents to think that they can control events or even govern certain natural and supernatural forces.

## THE SPIRITUAL CALF

The incident with the golden calf in the wilderness was an example for our day and age as Paul warns, "Now all these things happened to them as a warning to others: and they are written for our instruction, upon whom the end of the age is come" (1 Cor. 10:11). He had previously used the incident of the golden calf as an example, "Now these things were our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, 'the People sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play'" (1 Cor. 10:6-7). The quotation Paul employs here comes directly from Ex. 32:6, which is related to the incident with the golden calf.

Most of the professing Christian world does not know where the word "God" came from, but many of the teachers and ministers do. In an effort to overthrow the growing movement of the true and proper Names, a booklet was produced by Garner Ted Armstrong of the Church of God International which explains the true origin of the word "God." Armstrong writes, "Take, for example, our English word 'God.' Where did it come from? *The Encyclopedia Britannica*, eleventh edition, says, 'God. The common Teutonic word for a personal object of worship...The word 'God' [German 'Gott' from 'Guth,' which was related to Taurus, the Bull) on the conversion of the Teutonic races to Christianity, was adopted as the name of the one Supreme Being, the Creator of the universe... 'God' is a word common to all Teutonic language. In Gothic, it is *Guth*, Dutch has the same form as English; Danish and Swedish have *Gud*, German *Gott*. According to the *New English Dictionary*, the original may be found in two Aryan roots, both of the form *gheu*, one of which means 'to invoke,' the other 'to pour', the last is used of sacrificial offerings. The word would thus mean the object either of religious invocation or of religious worship by sacrifice. It has also been suggested that the word might mean a 'molten image' from the sense of 'pour.'" (Vol. 12: p. 169"--*What is God's Name?* p. 6).

Here is a man who has discovered the root origins of the word "god," which has been utilized as the name of the Creator, and yet he thinks nothing about it. He simply explains it away thusly: "Gott" and related terms, then, were merely Teutonic sounds for "deity" or "things that are worshiped," and are therefore the equivalent of the Hebrew *Elohim*, the Greek *Theos*, and the English *God*.

Notwithstanding the pagan origins of the word itself, it is important to understand that words are merely sounds, or written characters, which convey thought, meaning, understanding, to the human mind. Today, when a modern Englishman or American addresses 'God' in prayer, he is thinking to address the Father of Jesus Christ; the great God who is Ruler of the universe, the Member of *Elohim* Who created all things *through* His *Logos*, or Spokesman of His Divine Family. Surely, no modern American or Briton thinks he is using a word which connotes a molten image, or means 'to pour,' no matter the ultimate Aryan roots of the English word." (ibid, pp. 6-7).

I agree with Garner Ted Armstrong on the fact that no one in the modern day world thinks that when he uses the word "God" that he is thinking to address "Taurus, the Bull" or a "molten image" no matter the ultimate Aryan roots of the English word. But Armstrong also knows the Scripture in Rev. 12:9 which states, "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." Remember,

a deceived person doesn't even know that he is deceived, does he?

Notice how Armstrong seeks to explain away the use of the word "God" by saying that words are merely sounds and written characters which convey thought, meaning and understanding. Notice the complaint that Armstrong had against his own father when he found out that he was employing the same tactics that he, himself, is seeking to justify: "I was especially shocked when he (Herbert W. Armstrong) told me, and wrote in a letter, of how, when he spoke with Arab heads of state, like Egypt's late President Anwar Sadat, he could not speak about 'God and Jesus Christ.' He said, 'Their word for 'God' is 'Allah.' So, when I speak to them about God, I use the word, 'Allah.' But the Bible said we are to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God *in Jesus' name*. It was the *name* of Jesus that infuriated the Pharisees.

"My father said he spoke to the Jews about the 'Messiah,' rather than using the name of Christ. Again, there was disagreement between us." (*The Origin and History of the Church of God, International* p. 45).

Question: How is it that Garner Ted Armstrong (GTA) can excuse and justify the Teutonic races for adopting their own "pagan" name for the Creator and yet condemn his own father for allowing other races to do the same thing?

Question: How is it that GTA can continue to justify utilizing the name "Jesus" as the name that the Pharisees heard when he knows that such is not the case? He knows that the Savior was never called "Jesus" during His whole lifetime and that the Savior's true name is the same as Yahshua, the son of Nun, and Yahshua the High Priest. The modern day English equivalent to the name Yahshua is Joshua, not Jesus.

Question: Why does GTA stand against the use of the word "Messiah" (which is the more accurate, original and true) preferring and arguing for "Christ" the English equivalent to the Greek "Christos"?

Isn't it strange that he publishes one booklet in 1992 justifying and agreeing with usage of pagan names on the one hand (in *What is God's Name?*) and condemns it in another (in *The Origin and History of the Church of God, International*)? Isn't this duplicity? GTA continues, "It is also important to understand that God does not frown upon everything created by 'pagan' (or non-Hebrew) cultures. *He forbids only those things that are contrary to His laws and things that misrepresent Who and What He is!*" (*What is God's Name?* p. 7).

Good statement! The word "God" in reality and its original meaning, totally misrepresents Who and What He is!