

# A History of Important Occult Events

## Occultism Reborn

### Introduction

The original lie in the Garden of Eden was that man could be like God, but without having to obey him. This is still the prime lie of Satan: self-determination to divinity. Paul alludes to this in Rm 1:25.<sup>1</sup> Throughout history Satan has tempted men and women to take up this lie and rebel against God - why need God if you can be a god on your own. This lie is the essence of mysticism - the belief that there is a divine spark within all men and that by certain disciplines they can fan this into a flame and be as God, and mysticism is the essence of all occult forms of religion.

The forms Satan uses to tempt people into this lie are many and various. The reason for this is twofold.

#### *Varied approaches*

The more varied the techniques, teachings, rituals and practices, the more likely all types of people will fall for the basic ruse. If there were but one form, very few folk would take it up.

#### *Post-flood idolatry development*

The generation of the different forms began after the flood when man again began to rebel against God.

When man had begun to drift again from worshipping the true God, cities and civilisations soon followed. In Genesis 10 we learn that Nimrod descended from Ham and Cush. He was the first to build cities and develop an empire in Mesopotamia: 'And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (that is the principal city).' [Gen 10:10-12]. Nimrod was a ruthless tyrant and hunter of men who turned people away from God and founded Babylon - forever associated with idolatry and rebellion against God.

Being deified (as many founders of cities were) Nimrod and his images were worshipped, as was his wife the beautiful Semiramis. As a male sun-god and his consort (the moon goddess) they set the pattern for all future mythologies. After the confusion of tongues at Babel, the name of Nimrod underwent various changes in the different tongues, giving rise to the many names of sun-god deities in vogue in the ancient world. In the Bible some of these are: Bel [= Baal], Marduk, [= Hebrew 'Merodach'], Tamuz, Chemosh, Moloch. From these developed the more famous names from Egypt, Greece and Rome: e.g. Osiris and Apollo. Each new development of civilisation (fanning out from Sumeria): Sumerian, Babylonian, Canaanite, Hittite, Assyrian, Indian, Chinese, Egyptian, Persian,

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<sup>1</sup> Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonour their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for **the lie**, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. The definite article is in the Greek text

Peloponnesian, American, Greek, Roman, Danubian, Celtic, Scandinavian and so on, all built their own nuances above the basic Sumerian subset, hence the various equivalent gods. Thus new forms of occult<sup>2</sup> religion were being developed as the centuries passed, each with their own idiosyncrasies.

### Key propositions

- The origin of all cults and religions is the first lie of Satan - that man can be like God.
- The basis of all cults and religions is mysticism, the means whereby the lie is worked out; this is a false hope to release the god-force inside a person.
- The second foundational point is idolatry. In mysticism this is essentially worshipping yourself; being your own god. But mankind sought to worship others and the pantheons were formed.
- All religions are founded upon rebellion against the true God. Indeed, their ethos is that man becomes god, or becomes united with the eternal cosmic principle, by following their specific precepts.
- In early religions, the basis of worship was nature deities and animism. Cult gods had to be placated when angry and their favours sought for prosperity, especially fertility. This pattern was repeated in different civilisations that appeared as man spread abroad after the flood.
- Patterns emerged early on in the pantheon of gods. The foundational forces of nature were deified and worshipped: sun, moon, fire, sky, thunder, storms etc. In many early religions the key god was the sun god along with his consort, the moon goddess. It is speculated that Nimrod was the earliest post-flood pattern for this, but the pattern was probably established by pre-deluge idolaters (as inspired by Satan).
- Another key element was a serpent deity or demon to be feared. This is common in Indian and South American mythology.
- The earliest religions included occult practices, i.e: magic (witchcraft or shamanism),<sup>3</sup> divination<sup>4</sup> and spiritualism<sup>5</sup> to such a degree that they were occult religions; worship systems based upon Satanic lies striving to be like god by using secret knowledge.

### The blow to occultism

The Gospel of Jesus Christ was a hammer blow to occult religions. All of them fell fairly quickly to the preaching of the apostles and their followers. Polytheists, animists, monists, philosophers, pagan monotheists all fell under the power of the Gospel, which quickly dominated the Roman imperial world of the first century and even beyond into India, China and Britain.

As the church progressed, despite much persecution, even the occultism of the Roman Empire was conquered when Constantine made Christianity the state religion. Over the centuries, occultism regressed further and further into the shadows. There were rare attempts to bring it forward in this or that revival, but these were short-lived and civilised people began to dismiss even the thought of it. Despite occasional flare-ups, where the motives are very questionable,<sup>6</sup> pagan occultism and especially Satanism was considered a

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<sup>2</sup> 'Occult' is here defined as, secret or hidden knowledge and practices concerning the supernatural.

<sup>3</sup> The attempt to control natural elements and the environment.

<sup>4</sup> Occult means of trying to foretell the future. There are many formats for this including: oracles (prophecy), astrology, Tarot cards, numerology, augury, etc..

<sup>5</sup> Attempting to communicate with the dead (necromancy), or rather with demons; it is usually called 'Spiritism' in the USA. [It includes: channelling, mediums, seances, Ouija boards.]

<sup>6</sup> The Salem witch trials, for example, have been blamed on food poisoning and political intrigue. The persecution of witches in the 17<sup>th</sup> century is a moment of madness that cannot be blamed on Christianity but on people with ulterior motives.

thing of the past. To Georgian and Early Victorian civilised people it was considered impossible that paganism and occultism could possibly be revived in the west – but then it was.

This paper will demonstrate exactly how and when Satanism, occultism and false religions (idolatry) were revived.

This is important to understand and it shows how by drip-feeding lies and false practices society can become dominated by idolatry in a few generations. Young people today consider Christianity to be a thing of the past; a supercilious tradition; something to be ignored and lambasted. Yet niche occult cults and practices are eagerly followed. Shops dedicated to occultism began to appear in high streets all over Britain in recent decades. So-called spiritual healers of the occult sort are a dime a dozen. Wicca claims to be the fastest growing British religion, and it was only formed in 1948-54.<sup>7</sup>

So the modern world is very occult indeed. Some towns, like Brighton, are swarming with witch's covens right under the noses of the oblivious locals. Occult principles are taken for granted by moderns without question. Some towns, again Brighton, even have official occult ceremonies, like the 'Burning to the Clocks' at New Year, while Hallowe'en has now replaced Christmas in popularity. Corporations openly use occult symbols in their firm's logo. Entire locations are built on occult principles, such as federal buildings in Washington DC or government buildings in Tel Aviv.

But occultism will not stop here. It is going to grow and dominate the world. This is the warning of Scripture: that Satan will gather a world empire under his total control, ruling by totalitarian power, bringing hedonism and affluence to some, but slavery to others, and seeking to destroy the church of Christ.

The culmination of this despotic kingdom will not last long. When Satanists in power think that they have gained all their desires, then the Lord Jesus will return in glory and power with his angels and the trumpet of heaven to destroy them all by the mere breath of his mouth. Then the world will end and be destroyed by fire and the Day of Judgment begin, followed by a new restored world where all those who have believed in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour will dwell in blessedness forever.

So Christians need to beware this encroaching occultism and be on the lookout. Sadly, I find that Christians in the main seem to have no discernment about this and are complying with the ever-increasing satanic measures being rolled out by governments without even a whimper. The fake Covid crisis is but the latest means to accelerate the satanic take-over of western societies under the control of Luciferians in corporate power.

I have explained the Luciferian nature of those in real power (national governments are about third down on the list of power structures), so this does not need to be developed here. The various factions of the globalist power structures<sup>8</sup> are led by psychopaths committed to Satan, with no empathy for human beings.

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<sup>7</sup> The claim of Wiccans that it is the oldest religion is utter rubbish. It is a recent collection of ideas collated by Gerald Gardner, admittedly based on some older forms learned from various sources, and then artificially blended. But even if it were ancient, Christianity (which they call 'the new religion') goes back to Creation. Occultism can only go back to early Babylonia after the flood.

<sup>8</sup> We could mention: Talmudic Zionists, Marxists, Globalists, Corporatists, Bankers, Technocrats, Eugenicists, Illuminati, etc.

So where we are now, in the increasingly satanic control of society that is openly killing people with vaccines, wrong Covid treatment and end of life care pathways, is not the end of the road but the acceleration of a satanic strategy to control the world. This paper shows how this gradual development has come about.

Christians have got to start to wake up and understand what is really going on or they will be unwitting, but guilty, pawns in this satanic take-over.

## Overview of Occult Breakthroughs

The purpose of this overview is: firstly, to describe the various important events and put them into context, but more importantly, to show how the modern period, in this case say after 1750, saw a massive increase in occultism and Satanism of all sorts. This culminated in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and 20<sup>th</sup> century to where we are now: massive open acceptance of Satanism in every area of society and government. This would have been thought impossible to our godly ancestors. Even the British armed forces have openly accepted overt Satanists into their ranks, allowing them to practice their rituals, when once every soldier was given a NT on registration and chaplains were provided for regiments.

TIME PERIOD	EVENT	FEATURES & EFFECTS
Creation plus 1656 years	<b>Global Flood</b>	
<b>Post Flood</b> , 1656+ years after creation	<b>Tribal divisions</b> based upon Noah's three sons: Shem, Ham & Japheth.	<b>SEMITIC NATIONS:</b> Jews, Arabs, Syrians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians. <b>JAPHETIC NATIONS:</b> Indo-Europeans. <b>HAMITIC NATIONS:</b> Egyptians, Sumerians, Phoenicians, Hittites, Canaanites, Africans, Chinese, Mongols, South Sea Islanders.
	Establishment of <b>Nimrod's Empire</b> .	Idolatry based on ante-deluvian mysticism.
1757 years after creation	<b>Tower of Babel</b> .	Attempt to gain practical godhood. Judgment of confusion of tongues. Rebellion against God. Within a century or so, mankind had gone from a fresh start after the flood right back to the violent, occult, idolatrous practices of the ante-deluvian peoples that God judged.
<b>Post Babel Proto-History</b>		
<p>Note: Dates are very difficult here. The Bible establishes Mesopotamia as the seat of civilisation (modern archaeology varies). This is supported by archaeological digs which posit Sumeria (Ubaid, southern Mesopotamia i.e. south Iraq; hence 'Ubaid Period') as the seat of civilisation (equates to Akkadian peoples) and first empires. Dates can only be determined (at best) by artefacts, usually pottery as this survives better. 'Older' artefacts in one place can merely mean that even older artefacts in an earlier place have not yet been discovered or have been destroyed. Oldest dated occupation is Jericho which officially goes back to around 10,000 BC; but the Bible would put the founders of Jericho as being pioneers from Sumer. The first cities founded by Nimrod are in the Shinar plain (Sumeria or Chaldea = Babylonia): Babel, Erech, Accad, Calneh, after this: Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah (Gen 10:10-12).</p>		
Early Sumerian civilisation - pre 5000 BC (official dates).	<b>Mesopotamian (Sumerian) civilisation: idolatrous priest cults.</b> [Nimrod religion.] (Indo? tribes)	Establishment of original forms of pagan occult mysticism. Evidence of black magic rites. Astrology - link of Nimrod with Orion. Use of the pentagram sign.
10,000 BC (official dates are confusing here).	<b>Canaanites</b> - Fertility cults - <b>Baal</b> worship.	Animists, nature deities, idolatry, sacrifices and rituals; human sacrifice.
<b>Post Sumeria</b>	Start of pagan pantheon.	Idolatry.
Officially posited	Australian aborigines.	Animists.

as 50,000 BC		
Officially posited as 7,500-5700 BC	The Catalhoyuk, Anatolia.	
Officially posited as 7,200-5000 BC	'Ain Ghazal civilisation.	
Officially posited as 7,000-5700 BC	The Jiahu culture. Henan, China.	
5000+ BC	<b>Egyptian civilisation and mythology &amp; priestly cults</b>	Polytheist, occult rituals. Astrology.
5500-3500 BC	<b>Danubian civilisation.</b> (Europe).	
3500 BC	<b>Akkadian Empire.</b>	Polytheism.
3250+ BC	<b>Indian mythology - Proto-Hinduism</b> (Dravidian tribes in Indus valley).	Polytheistic nature religion. Various sects.
2700-479 BC	<b>Ancient Greek civilisation.</b>	Polytheism. Precursors to Roman pantheon.
2600 BC – 900 AD	<b>Mayan civilisation.</b>	Polytheism. Animism.
2600-1900 BC	<b>Indus Valley civilisation.</b>	Polytheism.
Late Sumerian civilisation - post 2170 BC	<b>Old Babylonian Empire. Babylonian / Assyrian idolatrous priest cults.</b> (Semitic tribes)	Astrology. Magic. Spiritualism. Divination.
Unknown period, probably pre 2100 BC.	<b>Mystical and healing techniques</b>	Meditation, Qigong, acupuncture and other yoga methods later associated with Taoism and Buddhism are practiced in India or China.
2100-1600 BC	<b>Ancient British occult religion</b>	Bronze age culture or earlier which built the stone circles of Stonehenge and Avebury (not the later Celtic Druids); probably as astronomical structures. Bell-Beaker people?
1800 BC	<b>Enuma Elish</b> written (Babylonian creation myth).	
1760 BC	<b>Gilgamesh Epic.</b>	
<b>17<sup>th</sup> century BC</b>		
From this point dates are more certain.		
1600-1046 BC	<b>Chinese civilisation.</b>	Polytheism. Animism. Divination.
1600 BC	<b>Egyptian Book of the Dead.</b>	Divination. Spiritualism.
<b>16<sup>th</sup> Century BC</b>		
1500+ BC	<b>Indian mythology / Vedas - Hinduism</b> transported to India by Nordic Aryan tribes (Indo-European & Iranian people). Vedic then Sanskrit. <i>Vedas, Bhagavad Gita, Ramayan, Mahabharata.</i>	Nature deities, no idols, sacrifices and rituals. Karma & reincarnation. Incarnation of deity Vishnu in Krishna.
1550-1450 BC	<b>Rig-Veda, Sama Veda and Yajur Veda</b> written.	Key Hindu texts.
16 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> c. BC	<b>Chinese <i>chi</i></b> [or <i>qi</i> ]	In the Shang dynasty, exercises to develop the body's energy (chi) developed. [See Tai chi, martial arts, Qigong & Taoism.]
<b>15<sup>th</sup> Century BC</b>		

<b>14<sup>th</sup> Century BC</b>		
1360 BC	<b>Akhenaton's monotheistic sun worship in Egypt,</b>	Amenhotep IV - religious and cultural revolution: shunned the god Amon and his priests, and began the cult of the sun disk, the Aton. He declared that Aton was the one god except for Re, the sun god. He also said that he was the only one who could speak with Aton, so there was no need for priests. He even changed his name to Akhenaton, which means 'servant of the Aton.'
1344 BC	<b>Tutankhamun</b>	Akhenaton's successor who revived polytheism.
<b>13<sup>th</sup> Century BC</b>		
1200 BC	<b>Greek (Hellenic) mythology &amp; oracles (Aryan tribes).</b>	Polytheism. Divination, superstition.
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Century BC</b>		
	Chinese mysticism, Taoism [or Daoism] develops according to some Chinese scholars. Probably it started much later and this period was still nature worship and divination.	Pure mysticism - do nothing. No gods. 'Being' (Tao) not works count. Later Taoism degenerated into polytheistic nature worship and divination/magic.
	<i>Tao-te-ching</i> , bible of Taoism	This period claimed by some Chinese scholars, most western scholars place the writings in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> century.
1122	<b>I Ching</b> (Chinese book of Changes).	Used for Taoist divination. First known book to write about chi. Basic principles of yin - yang expounded (positive negative, male female principles in life).
	<b>Taoist yoga</b> - based on mystical Chi (life force / energy). Developed gradually out of Buddhist and Taoist principles [at this time many ideas were developing which became part of systems codified later.] Tai Chi [or Taiji Quan]. Occult Chinese medicinal practices using Qigong [or Chi Kung]. Kung fu [or Wu Shu or martial arts] in principle. Acupuncture	<b>Tai chi</b> = exercises to release chi to improve the body. <b>Qigong</b> seeks to stimulate the flow of chi along the invisible channels, meridians, that course throughout the body for healing and health. <b>Kung fu</b> is exercises for the application of chi in sport and fighting. Various forms of <b>acupuncture</b> .
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Century BC</b>		
1000 BC	Brahminism / Philosophical Hinduism ( <i>Upanishads</i> ).	Very broad span of beliefs. Embraces polytheism, monotheism and monism. Monotheism (Brahman), but many other gods of Hinduism (Vishnu, Shiva, Krishna and demi-gods). Caste system, priestly domination, sacrifices.
1000 BC	<i>Atharva Veda</i> .	
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Century BC</b>		
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Century BC</b>		
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Century BC</b>		

753+ BC	<b>Roman mythology.</b>	Polytheism, divination, astrology, superstition.
700 BC	<i>Ramayana.</i>	Hinduism.
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Century BC</b>		
c. 604-531	<b>Lao Tze.</b>	Chinese philosopher. The <i>Tao-te-ching</i> was attributed to him. Some Chinese scholars place him in the Zhou dynasty 1122-934 BC.
c. 600+	<b>Zoroaster (Zarathustra).</b>	Persian religious leader, founder of Zoroastrianism, writer of <i>Avesta</i> . Dualism.
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Century BC</b>		
550 BC +	<b>Jainism, Mahavira (599-527 BC).</b>	Offshoot of Hinduism. Karma, no god, high ethics, kill nothing, monastic.
C570 BC +	<b>Confucianism.</b>	Confucius ('Kung Fu-tse', 551-478 BC) did not try to set up a new religion, but one flowed from him, he was mostly political & practical. Yin & Yang principle. Emperor worship, sacrifices, nature gods, ancestor worship.
550-331 BC	<b>Persian civilisation.</b>	Zoroastrianism. Paganism. Polytheism.
540 BC	<i>Mahabharata.</i>	Hinduism.
C530 BC	<b>Pythagoras.</b>	Scientist, philosopher, musical scales. Transmigration of souls (reincarnation). Supposed mystic
500+ BC	<b>Celtic mythology (<i>Mabinogion</i>).</b>	Animists.
500 BC	<b>Buddhism, Siddhartha Gautama.</b>	Reincarnation, meditation, no god, monastic.
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Century BC</b>		
450 BC	Further development of astrology & the zodiac in Mesopotamia.	The plane of the elliptic through which the sun, moon and planets move.
400 BC +	<b>Platonism - Plato (428-348 BC)</b>	Idealism, dualism, focus upon the spiritual 'world of forms'.
400 BC	Druids in England. <b>Celtic religion.</b>	Human sacrifice (possibly), nature religion, occult, male priesthood. However, NB Molmutine Laws. Earliest form of Common Law.
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Century BC</b>		
300 BC - 800 AD	<b>Mayan civilisation (Central Mexico).</b> But see 2600 BC.	<i>Maya</i> means 'water sorcerer'. Nature worship, polytheism, sacrifices, pyramids. Snake god - Kukulcan.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Century BC</b>		
Late 3 <sup>rd</sup> c. BC	<b><i>Tao-te-ching</i> ('The Way of Life').</b>	Mystical writings collected and attributed to <b>Lao-tse</b> .
250 BC	<i>Abhidharma</i> (part of the Tripitaka).	Buddhism.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Century BC</b>		
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Century BC</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> c. BC - 2 <sup>nd</sup> c. AD	<b>Middle Platonism - Albinus, Numenius, Plutarch.</b> Resembles Gnosticism.	Remote transcendent god, angelic intermediaries, world-soul, polytheism.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Century AD</b>		



0- 3 <sup>rd</sup> c.	<b>Mithraism</b> (Persian sun god Mithras).	Mystery religion, dualistic.
6	<b>The Sefer Yetzirah</b> was edited. [The earliest Kabbalistic book.]	
1 <sup>st</sup> c.+	<b>Gnosticism.</b> <b>Nag Hammadi</b> scriptures.	Spiritual knowledge hidden except to the initiated by degrees. Worship of angels as intermediaries. Dualism. Monism.
1 <sup>st</sup> c.	<b>Essenes.</b>	Mystical ascetic sect of Judaism.
1 <sup>st</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> c.	<b>Hermetism.</b>	Combination of Greek philosophy with oriental religions.
1 <sup>st</sup> c.+	<b>Zoroastrianism very popular.</b>	Dualism, rituals, sacred fire, priestly cult.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Century</b>		
166	Buddhism formally established in China.	
c.2 <sup>nd</sup> c.	Alchemy.	Magical properties of metal alloys; search for occult elixir of life.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Century</b>		
200	<b>Sepher Yetzirah.</b>	First book of the Cabala compiled.
3 <sup>rd</sup> c.	<b>Manichaeism - Mani</b> (216-276).	Syncretism of Judaism, Christianity, Zoroastrianism, Gnosticism.
3 <sup>rd</sup> c.	<b>Neoplatonism - Plotinus, Porphyry.</b>	Combination of Platonic dualism and oriental mysticism.
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Century</b>	<b>Qigong.</b>	Formal beginning of this specific Chinese chi exercise.
5 <sup>th</sup> Century		
400	<b>Babylonian Talmud.</b>	
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Century</b>		
502-557	<b>Kung Fu</b> methods fully developed and written down.	During the Chinese Liang Dynasty.
Late 6 <sup>th</sup> c.+	<b>Islam</b> Mohammed (569-632), <i>Koran</i> .	Monotheistic twisted copy of Nestorian Christianity & Judaism. High legalistic ethics within Islam. Anti-idolatry. Various sects. Violent. Expansionist.
6 <sup>th</sup> c. +	<b>Shintoism, Japanese idolatry.</b>	Ancestor worship, rituals, nature worship.
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Century</b>		
560+	<i>Eddas.</i>	
600	<i>Welsh Mabinogion.</i>	
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Century</b>		
700	<b>Sufi</b> mysticism begins.	
760	<b>Tibetan Book of the Dead.</b>	
8 <sup>th</sup> c.	<b>Parseeism.</b>	Followers of Zoroaster who fled Persia for India (Bombay).
8 <sup>th</sup> c.+	<b>Viking mythology.</b>	Polytheism.
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Century</b>		
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Century</b>		
900	Bogomils begin in Bulgaria	Roots of Cathari. Claimed (by its enemies) to be Manichaean sect. Catharis spread throughout Europe to threaten Catholicism by 1000.
950	<i>Necromonicon</i> of Abdul Alhazred.	

<b>11<sup>th</sup> Century</b>		
1026	<b>Acupuncture.</b>	Taoism. The 'brass man' [a model of the human body showing key points used in acupuncture] built by Dr. Wang Wei-Yi. Before this many acupuncture theory, principles, and treatment techniques disagreed with each other,
1050	<b>Order of Hospitallers.</b>	Founded in Jerusalem.
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Century</b>		
1100	<b>Albigensian Cathari sect</b>	In Albi, France. In 1208 Albigensian ruthless crusade suppresses Cathari 'heresy'. 1244 Massacre at Montesegur, France. Many, if not most, of these were genuine Christians smeared with Manichaeism.
1119	<b>Knights Templar.</b>	Founded in Jerusalem.
12 <sup>th</sup> c.	<b>Zen Buddhism.</b>	Mysticism based on meditation.
12 <sup>th</sup> c.	<b>Cabala (Kabbalah) fully developed.</b>	Jewish mysticism based upon Biblical numerology. <i>Zohar</i> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> book of Cabala completed 1275.
<b>13<sup>th</sup> Century</b>		
1200-1400	<b>Medieval Mystics.</b>	
	Meister Eckhart (1260-1327).	German Dominican mystic. Neoplatonism.
	John Tauler (1300-1361).	German Dominican mystic. Scholasticism & mysticism.
	Nicholas of Basle (Free Spirit Movement).	Claimed to be a new Christ, source of authority. Burnt as heretic 1395.
1222	<b>Nichiren (Buddhism).</b>	
13 <sup>th</sup> c.	<b>Roger Bacon (1214-1292).</b>	English sorcerer monk. Alchemy. Invents eyeglasses and gunpowder (first known in ancient China).
<b>14<sup>th</sup> Century</b>		
1326-1521	<b>Aztec civilisation. Mexico</b>	Animists.
1360	Earliest known Satanic cults.	Black masses in France.
1329	Tarot first appears in Germany.	
<b>15<sup>th</sup> Century</b>		
1438-1532	<b>Inca civilisation in ancient Peru.</b>	Human sacrifice. Placating nature gods. Snake god.
1486	The <i>Malleus Maleficarum</i> published. [Instructions to witch hunters.]	
15 <sup>th</sup> c.	<b>Sikhism - Guru Nanak (1469-1539)</b>	Unity of religions, brotherhood of man. Later a military cult - Singhs.
15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> c.	<b>Paracelsus (Philippus Bombastus von Hohenheim, 1493-1541)</b>	Swiss Catholic mystic and medical doctor, innovator and lecturer. Alchemy, discovered zinc. Cabalism, Hermeticism, Gnosticism. Some credit with being founder of Rosicrucianism. Model of the Faust legend.

<b>16<sup>th</sup> Century</b>		
1510	Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa's <i>De Occulta Philosophia</i> published.	
1517	Reuchlin's <i>De Arte Cabalistica</i> published.	
1531	Agrippa's <i>Three Books of Occult Philosophy</i> published in Paris.	
16 <sup>th</sup> c.	<b>John Dee</b> (1527-1608). Dee wrote <i>Calls of Enoch</i> .	Spiritualism, magic.
1575	<i>Arbatel of Magic</i> first appears.	
1564	Dee wrote the <i>Morias Hieroglyphica</i> (Hermetism).	
1584	Reginald Scott, <i>Discoverie of Witchcraft</i> .	
16 <sup>th</sup> c.	<b>Nostradamus</b> (1503-1566).	Occult prophet, visionary, writer.
16 <sup>th</sup> c.	<b>Roman Catholic mystics.</b>	
	Theresa of Avila (1515-1582).	Spanish Carmelite mystic & reformer.
	John of the Cross (1542-1591).	Spanish Carmelite mystic. <i>Dark Night of the Soul</i> .
16 <sup>th</sup> c.	<b>Lutheran mystics</b>	
	Jakob Boehme (1575-1624).	German mystic. Mystical, astrological, alchemical ideas.
	Valentin Weigel (1533-1588).	Pantheism, mysticism, Gnosticism.
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Century</b>		
1606	Trithemius' <i>Steganographia</i> published.	
1614	The first Rosicrucian tract.	
1618	Johan Baptista Grosschedel published <i>The Magical Calendar</i> .	
1652	Thomas Vaughan published an English translation of the Rosicrucian <i>Fama and Confessio</i> .	
1677	Christian Knorr von Rosenroth published the first volume of <i>Kabbala Denudata</i> .	
1688	<b>Emanuel Swedenborg born.</b>	
17 <sup>th</sup> c.	<b>Quakers</b> - George Fox (1624-91)	Universalism, syncretism of occult / mystical ideas and Christianity.
17 <sup>th</sup> c.+	Development of <b>Rosicrucianism</b>	Mysticism and occult practices.
17 <sup>th</sup> c.	<b>Mme Le Voisin executed 1680</b>	Innovator of modern Satanism.
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Century</b>		
1776	<b>Johan Adam Weishaupt formed the 'Order of Perfectibilists', later 'The Illuminati'.</b>	
1781	Antoine Court de Gobelien published ' <i>The Book of Thoth</i> ' (Tarot).	
18 <sup>th</sup> c.	<b>Shakers</b> - Ann Lee (1736-1781)	Developed out of Radical Quakerism. Outright mysticism and spiritualism.
18 <sup>th</sup> c.	Development of <b>Freemasonry</b>	Hidden Luciferic worship. Interfaithism and global purpose for enlightened mankind.
18 <sup>th</sup> c.	<b>Hell Fire Clubs</b>	Satanist hedonists, prohibited by George I 1721.
18 <sup>th</sup> c.	<b>Mesmerism</b>	Hypnotic trances of Franz Anton Mesmer (1734–1815). Passivity leading to demonic invasion.

18 <sup>th</sup> c.	<b>Swedenborgianism</b> - E Swedenborg (1688-1772)	Syncretism of Neoplatonism & Christianity. Denies Trinity & atonement. Influenced psychic movements.
18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> c.	<b>Voodoo</b> flourishes.	Shamanistic religious cults originating from Dahomey (Benin) via slave trade in Haiti and West Indies. Syncretistic combination of native magic / polytheism and Roman Catholicism.
<b>19<sup>th</sup> Century</b>		
1823	<b>Book of Mormon.</b>	
1827+	<b>Mormonism</b> , Joseph Smith (1805-44)	Anti-christian sect. <i>Book of Mormon</i> . Baptism for the dead, thus trace ancestors. Men become gods.
Mid 19 <sup>th</sup> c.	<b>Baha'i</b>	Unity of faiths, high ethics.
1819-1850	<b>The Bab</b> (Baha'i).	
Mid 19 <sup>th</sup> c.	<b>Eliphas Levi</b> (1810-75) pseudonym of Alphonse Louis Constant,	French occultist who was largely responsible for the revival of interest in magic in the 19th century.
1830+	<b>Phineas Quimby</b> (1802-1866)	Mystical and Gnostic occultism, witchcraft, spiritualism, faith healing. Mind sciences, hypnosis.
1843+	<b>Modern spiritualism starts</b> in the US	Andrew Jackson Davis 1843. Fox Sisters 1848.
1855	Levi published <i>Transcendental Magic</i> .	
1856	Levi published <i>Le Dogme et Rituel de la Haute Magic</i> .	
1866+	<b>Christian Science</b> - Mary Baker Eddy	Writings influenced by Quimby. 1 <sup>st</sup> church 1879.
1871	<b>Albert Pike, <i>Morals and Dogma (Freemasonry)</i>.</b>	Confirms that Freemasonry is Satanism.
1872	<b>Jehovah's Witnesses</b> , Charles Taze Russell (1852-1916)	Anti-christian sect, millennial.
1875	Initiation of <b>Theosophy</b>	Open Luciferic worship. Interfaithism global purpose for enlightened mankind. Gnosticism, pantheism, oriental mysticism.
1877	<b>Isis Unveiled</b> , HP Blavatsky.	
1888	Papus' <i>Tralho Elmentaire de Science Occulte</i> published.	
1889	<b>Unity School of Christianity</b> founded.	Syncretism of mysticism, Gnosticism, Hinduism, occult and Christianity. Influenced by Quimby.
1889	Samuel Liddell MacGregor Mathers' edition of <i>Key of Solomon</i> published.	
1890	WB Yeats joined the <i>Golden Dawn</i> .	
1890	<b>New Thought</b> - Warren Evans (1817-89), Julius Dresser (1838-93).	Arose out of Christian Science and was based upon Quimby's ideas of occult healing and Swedenborg.
1890	First volume of <i>The Golden Bough</i> by James Frazer was published.	

1891	<i>Gypsy Sorcery and Fortune Telling</i> , Charles Godfrey Leland.	
1895	<b>Vedanta Society</b> arrives in the US.	Hindu sect. Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902) disciple of Sri Ramakrishna (1836-86). Main western Hindu sect. Unity of religions.
1897	Levi's <i>Le Clef des Grandes Mysteries</i> published.	
1898	Aleister Crowley joined the Golden Dawn.	Crowley is the most famous, most influential and most evil modern magician.
1898	Samuel Liddell MacGregor Mathers published <i>The book of the Sacred Magic of Abra-Melin the Mage</i> .	
1899	CG Leland published <i>Aradia, the Gospel of the Witches</i> .	
Late 19thc.	<b>Psychoanalysis</b> psychological probing to resolve personality problems. Leads to focus upon unknown mental factors, opening up to spiritual realms, passivity, hypnosis.	Freud (1856-1939), Jung (1875-1961), Adler (1870-1937). With Jung, especially, leads to a focus upon the occult.
Late 19thc.	<b>Ordo Templi Orientis (OTO)</b>	Sexual magic. Satanism, started in Germany. [Freemasonry connection.]
1887	<b>Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn</b> founded	Wm. Westcott & Sam Mathers. Lucifer worship. [Freemasonry connection.] Celtic and Rosicrucian influences. Levi's magic.
1896	<b>UFOs first sighted in US</b>	
Late 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> c.	<b>Edgar Cayce</b> (1878-1945)	Spiritualist occult writer and medium.
<b>20<sup>th</sup> Century</b>		
1903	The Societas Rosicruciana became the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn.	
1904	<b>The Book of the Law was dictated to Crowley.</b>	
1909	Max Heindel published <i>The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception</i> .	
1910	The Rider-Waite-Smith <i>Tarot</i> deck was published.	
1913	Austin Osman Spare publishes <i>The Book of Pleasure</i> .	
1913	<b>Anthroposophy</b> (Rudolph Steiner, 1861-1925) offshoot of Theosophy.	Mysticism aided by practical objects (e.g. music, lights).
1913	<i>The Book of Pleasure</i> , Austin Osman Spare.	
1919	<i>The Blue Equinox</i> , Aleister Crowley et. al.	
1921	<i>The Witch Cult in Western Europe</i> , M Murray.	
1923	HP Lovecraft first mentioned the <i>Necronomicon</i> in <i>The Hound</i> .	
1928	<b>Manly P Hall's, <i>An Encyclopaedic outline of Masonic, Hermetic, Qabbalistic and Rosicrucian symbolical philosophy: being an interpretation of the secret teachings concealed within the rituals, allegories and mysteries of all ages.</i></b>	Usually shortened to 'The secret teachings of all ages'. Hall [1901-1990] was a famous Canadian mystic, lecturer and astrologer. He was also a Freemason (Scottish Rite) then 33 <sup>rd</sup> degree.

1929	<b>Magick in Theory and Pracxtice.</b> Aleister Crowley (1875-1947).	Start of Modern Satanism. [Freemason]
1930	<b>Rastafarianism</b> (Marcus Garvey)	Heile Selassie as Messiah [ <i>Ras Tafari</i> = 'Lion of Judah'], Ethiopia = promised land. Dietary laws, herbalism, ganja (marijuana).
1933	<i>God of the Wicthes</i> , M Murray.	
1934+	<b>Urantia Society</b>	New religion, anti-christian, spiritualism, reincarnation etc.
1934	Hall founded the Philosophical Research Society in LA to study religion and the occult.	
1936	Hall's <i>The Dionysian artificers</i> .	
1937	Hall's <i>Freemasonry of the ancient Egyptians</i> .	
1937	Israel Regardie published <i>The Golden Dawn</i> .	
1939	First meeting of FUDOFSI took place in Paris.	
1944	Hall's <i>The secret destiny of America</i> .	Influenced President Robert Reagan.
1948	<i>The White Goddess</i> , R Graves.	
1949-61	<b>Gardnerian Book of Shadows.</b>	The central text for Wicca.
1950	Hall's <i>Masonic orders of fraternity</i> .	
1953	Liu Gui-zheng publishes <i>Practice On Qigong Therapy</i> ,	The term Qigong (Chi Kung) was adopted as the popular name for the traditional Chinese exercise system.
1954	<i>Magick Without Tears</i> , Crowley.	
1954	<b>Gerald Gardner (1884-1964) published his early works on Wicca.</b>	Origin of Wicca, a nature religion. Revival of ancient white witchcraft concocted with eastern occultism and oriental ideas.
1954	<b>Unification Church, Moonies</b>	Sun Myung Moon, syncretism of Christianity & Taoism. Moon is Messiah.
1955+	Start of <b>Scientology</b> , [Dianetics] L Ron Hubbard (1911-86)	Manipulative cult. New religious philosophy. Dianetics = form of psychotherapy.
1956	<i>Initiation into Hermetics</i> , Franz Bardon.	
1960s	Drug culture / <b>Hippie Movement</b>	Rejection of traditional worship, openness to occult ideas.
1960s	<b>ISKON</b> [Int. Soc. For Krishna Consciousness] Swami Prabhupada (1896-1977).	Hare Krishna Hindu cult: saffron robes, chanting mantras, ascetics.
1960s	<b>Transcendental Meditation</b> Maharishi Mahesh Yogi	Hindu Mysticism. Emphasis upon mind focus through meditation.
1962	<b>Beginnings of the Findhorn community</b> led by Eileen and Peter Caddy and Dorothy MacLean.	An eco-village based on Monist spiritual principles.
1963	<b>Alex Sanders</b> initiated into Wicca but then founds his own coven merging many aspects of ceremonial magic into Wicca. Becomes a celebrity. Elected 'King of the Alexandrian Witches' (a new order) in 1965.	Sanders becomes the modern face of witchcraft after his self-publicity with appearances on the television.
1965	Witches Patricia Crowther and Eleanor Bone criticise Alex Sanders in the Press.	

1965	Alex Sanders unofficially marries (handfasted) <b>Maxine Sanders</b> (nee Morris). They are officially married in 1968. Maxine was a prominent witch even after they separated being known as the 'Witch Queen'.	
1965	<b>The Three Pillars of Zen</b> , Philip Kapleau.	
1966	<b>Anton Standor LaVey</b> founds the <b>Church of Satan</b> .	
1968	<i>Principia Discordia</i> .	
1969	<b>LaVey</b> publishes <b>The Satanic Bible</b> .	
1970s+	<b>New Age Movement</b>	Multifarious forms of magic, spiritualism and mysticism.
1970s	Alex Sanders founds the 'Ordine Della Luna'.	
1971	<i>Wisdom of the Mystic Masters</i> , Joseph Weed.	
1972	Findhorn becomes a Scottish charitable trust.	
1972	John C Lilley publishes <i>Programming and Metaprogramming in the Human Biocomputer</i> .	
1975	<i>Illuminatus Trilogy</i> published.	
1977	Timothy Leary publishes <i>Exo-Psychology</i> .	
1977	<i>Cosmic Trigger and Prometheus Rising</i> published.	
1978	<i>Liber Null</i> published.	
1979	<b>The Confessions of Aleister Crowley</b> .	
1979	<b>The Spiral Dance, Starhawk</b> .	
1979	<i>Drawing down the moon</i> , Margot Adler.	
1981	<i>Alchemy</i> , Marie-Louise von Franz.	
1981	<b>Archetypes and the Collective Unconscious, Carl Jung</b> .	
1981	<i>The magical Philosophy</i> , Denning and Phillips.	
1982	Edward Peters, <i>The Magician, the Witch and the Law</i> .	
1983	<i>Divine Horsemen: The Living Gods of Haiti</i> published.	
1988	Donald Michael Kraig published <i>Modern Magic</i> .	
1988	<i>The Alchemist</i> published.	
1989	Michael Bertiaux publishes <i>Voudon Gnostic</i> .	
1989	Aryeh Kaplan, <i>Meditation and Kabbalah</i> .	
1989	Gerald Suster, <i>Crowley's Apprentice</i> .	
1989	Isaac Bonewits, <i>Real Magic</i> .	
1990	WE Butler, <i>Lords of Light</i> .	
1990	Gabor Klaniezay, <i>The uses of supernatural power</i> .	
1992	Israel Regardie, <i>The eye in the triangle</i> .	
1992	Peter Carroll, <i>Liber Kaos</i> .	
1992	Robert Anton Wilson, <i>Prometheus Rising</i> .	
1994	James A Eshelman, <i>The mystical and magical system of the A.A.</i> .	

1995	Chic and Tabitha Cicero, <i>Self-initiation</i>	
1996	Mary Greer, <i>Women of the Golden Dawn.</i>	
1996	<b>Nancy Watson, <i>Practical solitary magic.</i></b>	
1997	<b>Lon Milo Duquette, <i>Angels, Demons and gods of the new millennium.</i></b>	
1998	RA Gilbert, <i>The golden dawn scrapbook.</i>	
1998	Dolores Ashcroft-Nowicki, <i>The ritual magic workbook.</i>	
1998	<b>Manley P Hall, <i>The secret teachings of all ages</i> reprinted; first appeared in 1928 (qv).</b>	
1999	Lon Milo Duquette, <i>My life with the spirits.</i>	
2000	<b><i>Do what thou wilt, A life of Aleister Crowley.</i></b>	
2000	Dion Fortune, <i>The training and work of an initiate.</i>	
2000	Richard Kieckhefer, <i>Magic in the Middle Ages.</i>	
2000	Georg Luck, <i>Ancient pathways and hidden pursuits: religion, morals, and magic in the ancient world.</i>	
2002	Jason A Newcomb, <i>21<sup>st</sup> century mage.</i>	
2003	Chic and Tabitha Cicero, <i>The essential golden dawn.</i>	
2003	Lon Milo Duquette, <i>The magick of Aleister Crowley.</i>	
2005	Rodney Orpheus, <i>Abrahamadabra: understanding Aleister Crowley's thelemic magic.</i>	
2005	Nikki Bado-Fralick, <i>Coming to the edge of the circle: a Wiccan initiation.</i>	
2006	Aleister Crowley et. al., <i>Aleister Crowley and the practice of the magical diary.</i>	
2006	<i>Bonewits' Essential guide to Druidism.</i>	
2006	<i>Bonewits' Essential guide to witchcraft and Wicca.</i>	
2008	Jason A Newcombe, <i>The new hermetics.</i>	
2008	John Dee, <i>Five books of mystery.</i>	
Note: this is not a complete list; I have omitted many items. I could have added a great many more items in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century but I have to be selective.		

## Summary of argument

Occultism, idolatry and iniquity were the cause of the global flood. Man's thoughts were only evil continually (Gen 6:5). The cause of this was satanic temptation and control.

When God started again, by building the nations of the world through the family of Noah (whom nations deified), at first there was righteousness but very quickly this collapsed into two streams: the godly line and the ungodly line, those that descended into iniquity by following Satanic temptation. Ham and Canaan are evidence of unrighteousness even in the close family of Noah (Gen 9:22, 25).



As people began to build cities and congregate subsequent to the collapse of the Tower of Babel and the judgment of God to disperse, they also began to multiply idolatry. The earliest example is Nimrod establishing the early Babylonian Empire in Sumer. Babylon became synonymous with idolatry, occultism and Satanic influence.<sup>9</sup>

This is when idolatry, first centred on king deification, started to codify the occult by establishing a shamanic priesthood, ritual sacrifices, fertility cults, divining soothsayers and conjuring spirits. Thus the early formulas of satanic magic were codified, as was the first pantheons. In turn this led to the establishment of multiple religions, cults and sects as regions nuanced these basic formulas. This was the first height of occultism.

This situation proliferated and solidified over roughly 2,000 years until the time of Christ (historians would say 5,000+ years).

With the Gospel of Christ things changed. Occultism began to retreat as the church expanded to all corners of the globe. Though Christianity may have become formalised, nevertheless the power of the Gospel held back the powers of occultism. Certainly, there were waves of occult reactions here and there, but there was no worldwide established occult power. Occultism only reigned in animist tribes or in secret enclaves.

This equates to the restriction placed upon Satan by God (Rev 20:1-3). Satan was not allowed to deceive the nations into establishing occult kingdoms and world empires; Satan was bound during the Gospel period.

However, in God's plan Satan was allowed to be loosed to gather mankind into full apostasy and rebellion against God in open idolatry (Rev 20:3, 7-9). This is the resurrection of paganism and occultism in a world that considered these things were dead and gone, that Christian civilisation was untouchable. This equates to the wound that was healed (Rev 13:3, 12). This is the beast, the earthly manifestation of Satan, coming back into power after being considered dead. It is the start of open worship of Satan in the world (Rev 13:4).

So the rebirth of occultism as a major factor in the world is part of an end-time strategy that culminates in a world empire where Satan rules. It is the rebirth of Babylon (Rev 14:8). This brings mankind to the point of harvest and the end of the world bringing in Final Judgment (Rev 16:18).

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Early Babylon</b> Original birth of occultism and idolatry. C. 2200 BC onwards.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Gospel</b> Downfall of occultism and idolatry. From the birth of Christ.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Revived Babylon</b> Rebirth of worldwide occultism and idolatry. From c. mid-1800s</p>
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Thus I have made the point many times that the Devil was released from bondage some time in the mid-1800s. This was when occultism began to flourish openly once again. The flourishing accelerated and massively multiplied in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as the timeline shows.

The sheer number of occult initiatives that emerged in the late 1800s and 20<sup>th</sup> century to date is proof that Satan is very active in the world. This is also connected with the massive rapid development of technology, which is a vital part of Satan's ability to control the world. Each technological development, claimed to be for the benefit of humanity, develops a dark side, which enables satanic destruction on ever-larger scales. The atom

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<sup>9</sup> There is a reason why modern Jewry has the Babylonian Talmud as its chief authority.

bomb and nuclear power is a classic example of this. Satan loves death and modern technology gives him huge power over causing many deaths. Recent technology, such as 5G radiation, gives him both the ability to cause massive death on a global scale immediately, but also to do this by deception; the two characteristics of the Devil.

So the timeline in this paper gives categorical evidence of the massive build up of occultism in the last 150 years. The evidence is clear to see.

## Conclusion

We are living in an age today where occultism has been fully rejuvenated in society. Victorians believed that paganism and occultism was completely vanquished in the west, but it only took a few decades to gain a foothold in the midst of their own society. Today, occultism is unapologetic and rampant everywhere.

Christians are so ignorant about this that they have allowed occultism into their churches under the guise of various Charismatic doctrines and aberrant practices. We even see open necromancy in America ('grave sucking') practised by ungodly church leaders. So great is the satanic deception accepted in churches. Once Pentecostal churches that practised witchcraft in their church meeting and allowed witches and mediums to congregate (e.g. Azusa Street) were utterly condemned as beyond the pale. Westminster Chapel's Campbell Morgan called Pentecostalism the '*last vomit of Satan*'. Even Topeka Pentecostal pioneer Charles Parham called it witchcraft and condemned William Seymour for allowing it to happen. Today these same churches are embraced and their practices copied under a Charismatic banner.

Other churches that adopted a different brand of occultism in the lineage of PP Quimby, New Thought and the Mind Sciences (such as Word of Faith), also follow openly occult principles (such as visualisation or channelling).

Yet more churches follow another line of occultism following Agnes Sanford, leading to inner healing and emotional healing with its corresponding occult doctrines.

John Wimber brought in yet another occult stream but this time gained from Quakerism, the Shakers and New Age mysticism mixed with oriental mysticism. His greatest early influence in '*doing the stuff*' was from a confessed former witch who became a Calvary youth leader for a time until he returned to witchcraft (Lonnie Frisbee).

Another source of occultism in the church is found in the New Apostolic Reformation which contains all sorts of mysticism and pagan ideas, including some aspects of Mongolian occultism dealing with demonic forces (e.g territorial spirits).

There have been huge outbreaks of occultism in the churches in recent decades, such as the Toronto Blessing, The Pensacola Revival and the Lakeland Revival. I have explained the specific occultism in several papers.

The point is that satanic occultism is now everywhere and it has infected the churches. You need to understand this and remove yourself from such things. Those that do not do this will not survive.

Remember that 'occult' means 'secret'. Satanic deception through occultism in churches is not normally paraded openly, but is a hidden stealth movement. Wisdom and discernment are required to see through this. As I have explained before, the church has, sadly, completely failed to show any discernment in recent years. This means that individual

Christians must be vigilant and watchful all the time. Far too many believers have followed favourite pastors without question and have been completely led astray.

NB. In what follows, not all followers accepted all the items listed.

Those that followed the original Signs and Wonders movement<sup>10</sup> allowed themselves to be guided by leaders that believed in occult items such as: the evil eye, dryads, coloured auras, the 'Eastern paradigm' (Oriental mysticism), Mesmerism, Roman mysticism, kundalini yoga, OT type prophecy,<sup>11</sup> idolatrous Mary worship (e.g. Wimber), channelling, automatic healing and visualisation.<sup>12</sup>

Those that followed the schools influenced by Quimby<sup>13</sup> accepted occult forms such as: Mesmerism, mysticism, Eastern pagan ideas, Chinese chi teachings, denial of pain and death, open syncretism of Christianity with Eastern religions, denial of sin, necromancy, visualisation, channelling, spiritualism, automatic healing and more.

Those that followed notions taught by Quakers, Shakers, Kenyon and Sanford<sup>14</sup> held occult beliefs that included: mysticism (inner light), OT type prophecy, witchcraft, visualisation, channelling, inner healing or emotional healing, reincarnation, spiritualism, denial of the Biblical atonement, forgiving sins of others at a distance, kundalini yoga, angel spirit guides (demons), telepathy, coloured auras, automatic healing and more.

Those that followed classic Pentecostalism and the Holiness Movement accepted: exorcism based on human presumption, false tongue-speaking (common in the occult), OT type prophecy, false healing methods, false word of knowledge as prescience (telepathy), necromancy, witchcraft (e.g. Azusa St), goddess fixations,<sup>15</sup> mysticism, Mesmerism, accepting the Zodiac as Scripture (e.g. Branham), angel spirit guides, sacramentalism (fetishes) and more.

All this is even before we itemise the massive overt occult deceptions found in Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Swedenborgianism, multiple cults, etc.

This short sample shows the depth of satanic influences in what is claimed as Christianity, and how far gullible churchgoers fall into deception. It serves as a serious warning to be watchful, prayerful and full of discernment.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Wimber, Wagner and many others.

<sup>11</sup> The authoritative ministry of the OT prophet is finished and completed in Jesus. There are no authoritative prophets telling people what to do (cf. the priesthood of all believers). Church prophecy is now restricted to powerful spiritual teaching and exhortation and occasional foretelling as a warning.

<sup>12</sup> See my paper 'Unholy Alliances'.

<sup>13</sup> Christian Science, Religious Science, New Thought, Unity, Word Faith etc.

<sup>14</sup> Wimber, Word Faith etc. hold to some of these.

<sup>15</sup> Many Pentecostal women leaders were idolised to the point of worship, despite their gross sins (e.g. public affairs and divorces) and unbiblical ministry.

<sup>16</sup> See 'A summary of occult inroads into the Charismatic Movement'.

## Appendix One

### Synopsis Time Chart - Key Periods

Rough Time Period	Events & people
Pre-5000 BC (Biblically, c2200 BC).	Sumerian civilisation: start of polytheistic occult religion.
6 <sup>th</sup> Century BC	Buddha, Jainism, Lao Tse, Confucius, Zarathustra, Pythagoras, Celtic myths.
1 <sup>st</sup> c.	Gnosticism, Hermetism, Mithraism, Alchemy, Zoroastrianism.
6 <sup>th</sup> c.	Islam, Shintoism, Sufism, Kung Fu.
12 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup> c.	Cathari, Knights Templar, Zen, Cabalism, Roger Bacon, Medieval mystics.
16 <sup>th</sup> c.	Paracelsus, John Dee, Nostradamus, Catholic mystics, Lutheran mystics.
18 <sup>th</sup> c.	Rosicrucianism, Freemasonry, Shakers, Mesmerism, Swedenborgianism, occult development, Satanism developments, Voodoo.
19 <sup>th</sup> c.	Explosion of occult and mystical development, new religions, new church cults, new Christian sects, UFOs, spiritualism.
20 <sup>th</sup> century	Explosion of new occult and mystical development. Start of Wicca. Start of what becomes New Age, drug culture. Occultism goes into overdrive after the 1960s.
21 <sup>st</sup> century	Occultism becomes mainstream. Satanic principles begin to be manifested by national governments. Clearly government leaders are psychotic.

## Appendix Two

### Features of Occult Religion

The occult is frequently divided into three streams: divination (fortune-telling), magic and spiritualism [i.e. communicating with demons masquerading as dead people; in the US the word 'Spiritism' is more common].

#### **Alchemy**

Came to the West in about the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, and it flowered in the 4<sup>th</sup>. The writings of alchemy repeatedly allude to Hermetic philosophy and the legends of Osiris. Claims that it arose in ancient Egypt are disputed. Alchemy taught that metals had magical properties when in alloy forms. The great goal of alchemists was to transmute base metals into gold, a second objective was to find the elixir of life - a liquid which would confer immortality. Alchemy is often used as a figure for spiritual perfection and purity; however, New Agers use it as a term for the Old World order which manipulated the environment.

#### **Animism**

The belief that everything has a soul: animals, plants and minerals included is called animatism. Animism goes a step further - the fear of demons or evil spirits residing in natural objects. Thus an erupting volcano represents the anger of the god living in that mountain. This led to seeking knowledge or power from certain spirits to prevent harm from other spirits or to guarantee fertility. Witch doctors, shamans and magicians head up tribal actions in this, using spells, charms, potions, trances, dancing, prayers, drugs and such like. Animism is basic occultism.

#### **Baphomet**

This symbol of a winged, androgynous, goat-headed demon, was used by the Knights Templar to represent Satan. A torch between the horns symbolises spiritual illumination, so the figure also represents Satan as Lucifer, the light-bringer.

Through the ages the symbol has been called many names including: the Goat of Mendes, The Black Goat, The Judas Goat, The Scapegoat. Baphomet represents the powers of darkness combined with the generative fertility of the goat. The symbol is placed on the wall above the altar of Satanic meetings.

#### **Cabala (also Kabbalah, Kaballa, Kabbala, Qabbalah, Cabbalah)**

Jewish mysticism that began in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It is a means of interpreting the law (Pentateuch) according to secret, esoteric knowledge. One of its key techniques is to discover hidden meanings in the words and letters of the Hebrew Bible. Cabala has greatly influenced various streams of occultism and Masonry.

#### **Chanting**

A wide variety of types and techniques here. Usually the basic methodology is repeated singing of short stanzas or lines of verse used to induce a state of passivity or heightened sensory awareness, especially if mixed with drug use.

**Divination (fortune-telling)**

One of the three aspects of the occult.

Attempts to discern the future by various means [Tarot cards, spiritualism (mediums), I Ching, tealeaves, auguries, crystal ball gazing, numerology, astrology, palmistry, phrenology etc.].

**Fertility cults**

The veneration of reproductive energy. Animal, plant and human sexuality is worshipped, often as part of the annual cycle of seasons. Rituals often involve symbols of reproductive organs and sex: wands, daggers, goblets, cauldrons; some cult ceremonies use sexual intercourse as part of the ritual.

**Fertility rituals**

Mixture of sexual immorality and demonic worship. E.g. Baal worship.

**Freemasonry**

A secret society, claimed to be ancient, that purports to be a friendly society committed to charitable works. Ostensibly it has three degrees, the highest being Master Mason. It has several oaths and rituals, involving apron wearing, and a secret handshake.

This façade hides the fact that Freemasonry is an evil, anti-democratic, Satanic order. The fact that Satan is worshipped is hidden from junior members (the first three degrees) and in fact the ranks rise to 33<sup>rd</sup> degree. Albert Pike, once the chief Freemason in America, wrote *Morals and Dogma* which explains the mystical and Satanic aspects of Freemasonry, which centres in worshipping a composite god called Jahbulon (Yahweh, Baal and Osiris).

Freemasons have captured many of the institutions of society (the police, royalty, magistracy, judiciary, armed forces, secret services, politicians etc.). Historically it became allied with Talmudic Zionists acting as a sort of Gentile Judaism.

**Goat of Mendes**

Satan assumes the form of a goat when he presides over the witch's sabbat. The goat's head is a direct symbol for Satan, which is also called a Baphomet figure.

**Gnosticism**

Gnosticism was a cultic heresy that plagued the early church and was particularly combated by the apostle John. It taught a blend of mysticism and ritual by which leaders imparted a special, revealed knowledge (Greek: '*gnosis*') to disciples whereby one escaped this evil world of the flesh to ascend gradually to the spiritual world of God. The adepts thus had their divine spark fanned into a 'god-consciousness' by which they transcended material things (equated with evil) and lived in a spiritual world, which was the only true reality.

Rituals included: hymns, repetitive chanting, drugs, meditation, ecstatic experiences and so on. Many aspects were similar to practices now found in the New Age variations. Full enlightenment was by a continual ascent up a never-ending path, requiring constant new experiences of revelation.

### Hermetism, Hermetic Philosophy

- THE 'HERMETICA': 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century writings of Greek and Egyptian origin concerning the Egyptian god Thoth and the Greek god Hermes (Mercury). They combine Greek philosophy (especially Platonic thought) with Oriental religions.
- 'HERMETIC CHAIN': In Theosophy, the idea that certain highly spiritual people have preserved esoteric teachings and passed them on to the next generation.
- 'HERMES TRISMEGISTUS': In Theosophy, the 'Thrice-Greatest Hermes' (a character in the Hermetica). A combination of the Egyptian god of wisdom (Thoth) and Hermes; a powerful deity who can stop the evil forces in the world.
- 'HERMETIC AXIOM': of Hermes Trismegistus - '*As above, so below*'; i.e. the relationship between the earthly heavenly realm; the Platonic concept that the earthly corresponds to the ideal forms of the spiritual.

### High Places

Ascent to get nearer to God; places for ritual sacrifice. Common in Baal and Ashtoreth worship in the ancient Middle East.

### Lucifer (Latin for 'light-bearer')

In the Bible (Isa 14:12), it is the term of judgment for the king of Babylon, but is transferred commonly to Satan by extension, once the chief of God's angels who fell as a result of pride, the 'Son of the Morning'.

For occultists, Lucifer is a principle or force; a magical agent that can be used for good or evil. The horned god Pan represents this force as a force of generation or fertility.

### Nature religion

- Animism.
- Fertility cults.
- Gaia worship.
- Pantheism: teaching which identifies God with the universe, or regards the universe as a manifestation of God.
- Panentheism: doctrine that God is greater than the universe and includes and interpenetrates it. Not a personal God.
- Monism: doctrine that denies the existence of a distinction or duality in some sphere, such as that between matter and mind, or God. Everything is God (= pantheism).

### Magic

One of the three aspects of the occult.

Attempts to manipulate nature and the future. The art and science of causing a change to occur in conformity with one's will without any visible change in the environment. This is often done by using spells, rituals or incantations. The summoning up of demonic forces (often thought to be helpful spirits) is done to achieve greater power or knowledge.

### Meditation

Takes various forms. Some are a specific way of meditating based upon a secret mantra (repeated slogan such as 'Om' pronounced 'aum') for a short period repeated regularly; such would be as in Transcendental Meditation. Other methods are focused upon getting into a state of passivity to supposedly seek oneness with God. In fact, such altered states of consciousness merely make one easily suggestible and manipulated and a target of demons.

**Medicine Man**

A cult 'priest' who magically manipulates spiritual power as a quasi-impersonal force. Shaman. Witch-doctor.

**Male god (= the sun)**

Pan (horned god), Adonis, Apollo, Baphomet, Cernunnos, Dionysius (Bacchus), Lucifer, Osiris, Thor.

**Mother Goddess (= the moon)**

The deity worshipped by many modern Witches, especially those in Wicca. She is manifested as Artemis (Diana), Aphrodite (Venus), Isis, Hecate, Kore, Astarte and is the consort of the male god who is usually identified by witches as Pan (the Horned God), or sometimes Lucifer. Pan is also equivalent to Adonis, Apollo, Baphomet, Cernunnos, Dionysius, Lucifer, Osiris, Thor etc.

The Mother Goddess represents the moon while the Horned God represents the sun. Witchcraft ceremonies include the resurrection of Pan, who dies each year and is brought back to life. The Mother Goddess is also identifiable with the Earth goddess Gaia of the New Age.

**Mystery Religion**

A religion which hides its secrets from outsiders. Only the initiated (usually bound to secrecy) learn the doctrines and practices of the group. Very often, junior initiates are kept in the dark about the truths explained to higher adepts.

**Mysticism**

In essence, mysticism boils down to the belief that God is hidden deep inside man's being as a 'divine spark'. The various forms of mystical practice endeavour to fan this spark into a flame in order to achieve divine union, being lost in God, becoming divine. In mysticism knowledge of God is achieved immediately (i.e. without indirect means, such as scriptures) by spiritual experiences. Mysticism underlies all forms of occult religion.

**Pantheism**

The doctrine that God is merely present in nature. This is also called 'Monism' - the notion that God is all and all is God. Matter is an extension of God. Pantheism underlies many forms of mystical religion, especially Hinduism. It is a foundational idea within the New Age Movement.

**Passivity**

The state when the mind is not in full control of personal decisions; an altered state of consciousness [a state of mind other than full consciousness, such as sleep, drug haze, coma or meditation] similar to hypnotic trance. This leads to increased suggestibility and a propensity to foreign manipulation.

Passivity and abandonment of self-control is the first requirement to receiving a mystical experience, the problem is that the person is thus open to demonic invasion internally or abuse by others externally. Cult leaders encourage passivity to better manipulate gullible followers. This is often done by brainwashing techniques, repetition or drugs.



## Satanism

- Occult groups do not envisage Satan / Lucifer as a devil, but as a god, as the god, or as the alternate god in a dualistic universe. Satanists either see Satan as a personal god to worship and procure favours from, or an impersonal, symbolic force; a personification of human appetites - indulgence.
- Satanism is to be distinguished from Witchcraft. Only some Witches are directly opposed to Christianity (most are just focused upon ancient occult deities), in which case they are usually Satan worshippers.
- The practices of Satanists (as exemplified by Crowley and others) are abhorrent and perverted in the extreme. Drug and sexual abuse is common.
- Satanists often practice ritual sacrifice and there is strong evidence that children have been ceremonially sacrificed according to certain writings.
- There are essentially three forms of modern Satanism: solitary Satanists, illegal cults and neo-Satanic (legal) churches.

## Shaman, shamanism

One of the names used to describe practitioners of sorcery – the ability to manipulate or control the spirit world through Black Magic who, as an agent of divine or spiritual beings, may be at once a medicine man, a visionary, an occult diviner, and a genuine sacerdotal cult leader. Other names include: magician, wizard, witch, witch-doctor, warlock (male witch), sorcerer.

Occult power and insight may be derived from spirits with which the prophet or diviner is related in a trance or ecstasy, or else in dreams, visions, or auguries and oracles that make known the divine will. To occupy such a position, a strenuous course of training is frequently required involving some knowledge of therapeutics (healing), leechcraft (use of leeches in healing), trepanation (operating on the skull), herbs, poisons, and perhaps sleight of hand and similar techniques, together with the development of psychical and occult qualities.

Differences between shaman and priests

Shaman	Priest
Relies on his own initiative, using his psychic and occult methods of divination, healing etc. Self-determination.	Serves in the temple or shrine, as the formal representative of the community in relations with the gods and the sacred order. Acts according to set patterns laid down.
Officiates in his own name.	Acts as an intermediary. Guards the sacred tradition trusted to his care.
Direct access to the spirit world at his command.	Supplicates and conciliates supernatural forces superior to himself, at the whim of the gods.

## Spiritualism ('spiritism USA)

One of the three aspects of the occult.

Communing with spirits being; often masquerading as dead people.

This action is often performed in the presence of a medium or clairvoyant who claims to have the power of personally being able to communicate with spirits. These have always proved to be fake.

Real communication with spirits is done in genuine occultism, usually in the rituals of shaman, magicians or witches.

### **Symbols**

- Amulets: an object worn to ward off evil spells; Egyptian.
- Talisman: an object on which is engraved a symbol to harness powers to protect the owner.
- Ankh: a cross with a top loop; Egyptian symbol of life.
- Athame: a ritual knife or sword with a black handle used in witchcraft ceremonies.
- Circle.
- Pentagram, (5 pointed star).
- Pentacle (pentagram within a circle).
- Cup or chalice.
- Runes.
- Sigil: a symbol, or seal used in witchcraft.
- Tarot cards.
- Wands.
- Cauldron.
- Witch's Ladder.
- Altars.

### **Talisman**

An object, typically an inscribed ring, amulet or stone, that is thought to have magic powers to protect and bring good luck.

### **Witchcraft**

- 'Witch' is the Old English *wicca* (masculine), *wicce* (feminine), *wiccian* (verb). Current senses of the verb are probably a shortening of 'bewitch' (gain control over someone by casting a spell on them).
- Is basically a form of magic mixed with nature worship and fertility rituals. 'Witchcraft', 'sorcery' and 'magic' are virtually synonymous.
- *Wicca* is a modern reworking of ancient witchcraft established by Gerald Gardner (1884-1964).
- White witchcraft or white magic is sorcery used for supposed good purposes, such as healing. This is just a delusion. All witchcraft involves demons and is dangerous in the extreme.
- Black magic is conducted to bring harm to others.

## Appendix Three

### The Great False World Religions

Religion is here defined concisely as a pattern for the worship of God which includes a certain code of ethics for its followers. We can only be brief here as a full treatment would require a book in itself, many of which are available elsewhere. We will not treat the more minor religions, even though some have a world-wide base: such as Rajneeshism or ISKON. Neither will we treat the more modern cults which have assumed a world-wide popularity, such as Wicca. Finally, some religions which were once universally popular but are now virtually forgotten will also be ignored; this would include: Mithraism and Zoroastrianism.

For further details see:

- Paul Fahy; Why all religions do not lead to God.
- Paul Fahy; Comparison of religions.

#### *Chief sources*

- The New Oxford Dictionary.
- The Oxford World Encyclopaedia.
- Personal knowledge.
- Mather & Nichols, 'Dictionary of cults, sects, religions and the occult'.

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### Monotheistic

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#### **Islam**

##### *Name*

- Signifies 'submission' to God's will.
- Adherents are called 'Muslims' or 'Moslems'. They used to be called 'Musselmen'.

##### *Key People*

- Mohammed (or Muhammad, 570-632), who claimed to be the successor of Moses. He succeeded in destroying the inherent idolatry in the Arab world and welded the various warring tribes into a single community.
- Muhammad was followed by ruling chiefs called Caliphs (the chief Muslim civil and religious ruler, regarded as the successor of Muhammad) and Sultans (a Muslim sovereign below a Caliph).

##### *History*

- After Mohammed's death, conquests by Muslims led to a great empire spreading from the Middle East into Africa, north India and Spain. It only failed to conquer Europe when Charles Martel defeated the Muslim army at Poitiers in 732.
- There are two main sects: the majority *Sunni*, holding that the first three caliphs were all Mohammed's legitimate successors, and *Shi'ite* or *Shia*, who believe that Ali was Mohammed's first true successor. Holy teachers have a greater authority in Shia. Other sects include: *Alawite* (as per the ruling family in Syria), *Ismaili* (headed by the Aga Khan), and *Sufism* (a mystical group beginning in the 6<sup>th</sup> century but taking a hold in 17<sup>th</sup> century Iran). There are multiple other subdivisions.
- Militant Islam became a political feature in the 1980s in Iran after Ayatollah Khomeini took power and Islamic fundamentalism spread to Algeria, Egypt, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

### *Scriptures*

- The Koran (or Quran); recited by Mohammed in classical Arabic but written down later by followers. Its 'revelations' appear in 114 chapters called 'suras'.
- Mohammed was charismatic but illiterate and his original writings were re-worked and edited by scholarly disciples in different editions.
- The Old Testament is revered as inspired.

### *Teachings*

- The prime basis for Islam's ideas are Judaism and Nestorianism. Jesus is only recognised as a prophet, not as the Son of God.
- God is 'Allah'. This was based on the pre-existing Arabic moon god.
- Beliefs include: creation, heaven, hell, the fall, angels and Jinn (demon spirits), the day of judgment and divine predestination.
- Jihad ('effort') is the Muslim's sacred duty. While it is sometimes taken to mean the inner struggle to submit, it really means the holy war undertaken by Muslims against unbelievers until the world is conquered for Allah.
- While it is claimed that Islam is peaceful, the Koran gives clear instructions to destroy infidels who do not convert. Its history over centuries proved it to be the most violent and bloodthirsty religion in the world. It engages in slavery and demeans women.

### *Practices*

There is no organised church or priesthood, but mullahs (Islamic clerics), imams (prayer leaders) and ayatollahs (high-ranking religious leader among Shiite Muslims, chiefly in Iran) are given authority. Meetings for prayer and preaching take place in a mosque.

There is a high, legalistic ethical content to Islam's teachings and no racial prejudice. A Muslim's five duties are:

- He must say, at least once in his life, '*There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet*'.
- Prayer, preceded by washing, five times a day facing Mecca.
- Giving alms to the poor.
- Keeping the fast of Ramadan.
- Attend Mecca once in one's life, if possible.

In addition, drinking, gambling and eating pork is forbidden; circumcision is also practised. Polygamy is permitted, but losing favour.

### *Further information:*

- Paul Fahy; *Islam: Theology and history*.

## **Baha'i**

### *Name*

- The name means, 'light' or 'splendour'.
- Baha'i is an offshoot from Islam, and is despised and persecuted by Muslims.

### *Key People*

- Two prophets (according to Baha'i) came after Mohammed; the first was Mirza Ali Mohammed, known as the 'Bab' ('Gate', 1819-50). His followers were, at first, known as 'Babists'.

- The second was Mirza Hoseyn Ali Nuri, who called himself 'Baha'u'llah ('the Splendour of Allah', 1817-92), who declared himself to be the long expected messiah or Madhi (an expectation lifted from Judaism and tailored to Islamic theology) in 1863.
- The Bab was supposed to be the forerunner of the messiah, but the Bab viewed himself as the manifestation of God and compared himself to Christ.

### *History*

- Founded in 1844, the Bab was soon martyred by the Turks.
- Baha'u'llah was imprisoned, tortured and sent into exile.
- The first missionary to America arrived in 1893 and now there are more followers in the US than in any other region. By 1994 there were over 5 million members worldwide, many of whom are students.

### *Scriptures*

- Various writings of Baha'u'llah.
- Adherents are not opposed to using Bible texts to suit their purpose.

### *Teachings*

- *God* - is known through manifestations, the latest being Baha'u'llah. Other manifestations have been Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Zoroaster, Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha) and Mohammed.
- *Sin* - Mankind is essentially good if proper ethical teaching is available. Some teach that sin does not exist. Adherents are careful not to speak evil of others, based upon Jesus' teaching on the Sermon on the Mount.
- Essentially, Baha'i teaches peace and unity amongst men, sexual equality and the common source of all religions.

### *Practices*

- There are no sacraments or rituals and no professional clergy, but some lay leaders become full-time teachers.
- Individual rather than group prayer (as in Islam) is stressed.
- There are 19 fast days each year.
- Members should abstain from alcohol and drugs.
- They must also make a pilgrimage to Haifa, Israel, where the world headquarters are situated.
- Adherents are activists in ethics and society doing much humanitarian work.

## **Judaism**

### *Name*

- Based upon 'Judah' meaning 'praise'.
- It is the religion of the Jewish people.

### *Key People*

- Abraham, whom God made a covenant with.
- Moses, the great prophet and leader.
- Samuel the greatest prophet.
- David, the great king.
- Elijah, the most powerful prophet and Elisha his successor.
- All the subsequent writing prophets of the Old Testament.
- Ezra and Nehemiah in the Restoration.

### *History*

- The father of the Hebrews is Abraham who was called out of Ur in the Chaldees (Mesopotamia) whom God made a covenant with. This continued with his son Isaac and grandson Jacob. God became known as the 'God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob'.
- Israel became a nation when it was delivered from the yoke of slavery in Egypt by the power of God under the leadership of Moses. Jacob had gone there in a time of famine and his clan multiplied when his son Joseph was vizier, but Jews later became slaves.
- After travelling for forty years in the wilderness due to disobedience under Moses, Israel under Joshua crossed the River Jordan and conquered the Canaanite lands of Palestine defeating the many Canaanite kingdoms.
- For a time Israel was ruled by judges in a theocratic system but then desired a king. The first king was Saul, who failed God but the second great king was David, who defeated Israel's enemies and established a great kingdom, followed by his son Solomon, who built the temple.
- After Solomon's death there was rivalry and the kingdom was divided into two parts: Israel, or Samaria or the Northern Kingdom; Judah and Benjamin or the Southern Kingdom.
- Due to idolatry, God gave both kingdoms up to exile in foreign lands. Israel was conquered by the Assyrians in 721 BC; Judah was conquered by the Babylonians in 586 BC.
- After 70 years of probation, God allowed the Jews that desired to leave to return to Jerusalem from Babylon in the reign of Cyrus, the Medo-Persian emperor. This was under Nehemiah and Ezra.
- After 400 years of mixed fortunes, when Israel was dominated by the Maccabees, the Seleucids and then the Romans, the Messiah appeared in Israel, Jesus Christ. However, the religious leaders of the Jews rejected Christ and Israel was judged by God and the kingdom was removed.
- After the cross, and especially after the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD, Judaism became dominated by Pharisees and the Babylonian Talmud was established as the main authority instead of the Torah. This was the rule of rabbis.

### *Scriptures*

- Ostensibly the Torah, or the Five Books of Moses (the Pentateuch).
- In reality, modern Judaism's chief authority is the Talmud. Only a minority group holds to the Torah (Torah Jews).

### *Teachings*

- The teachings of the Talmud, a large collection of writings by various rabbis.
- Worship of one God.
- Jews believe that as a result of the covenant made by God with Abraham, they have a unique relationship with God so that they are the Chosen People. In fact, this was rescinded by Christ, the Jewish Messiah (Matt 21:43).
- Ethics are supposedly determined by the Ten Commandments and 613 other laws in the Torah or Pentateuch. However, the Talmud contradicts the Torah and allows multiple acts of wickedness.
- Jews are still awaiting their messiah, having rejected God's Messiah (Jesus).

### *Practices*

- Circumcision.
- Seven feasts centred on the three great feasts (Unleavened Bread, Weeks, Tabernacles)

- Multiple minor rituals arising from rabbinic teaching. E.g. kosher diet, kippa (cap) on the head, prayer shawls, praying to the Wailing Wall, etc.
- Meeting occurs in a synagogue on the Sabbath (Saturday) since the destruction of the temple (which nullifies all Jewish rituals as null and void).

*Further information:*

- Paul Fahy: *The Pharisees*.

## **Zoroastrianism**

*Name*

- Based upon its founder Zoroaster.

*History*

- The other key monotheistic religion in history was Zoroastrianism; a fire religion centred in Persia (Iran) founded by Zarathustra (or Zoroaster) in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC.
- Zoroastrianism survives today in isolated areas of Iran and in India, where followers are known as Parsees.

*Teaching*

- Dualism: In Zoroastrian mythology, the supreme god, Ahura Mazda, created twin spirits, one of which chose truth and light, the other untruth and darkness.
- Later formulations pit Ahura Mazda (now called Ormazd) against his own evil twin (Ahriman).

*Scripture*

- The Zendavesta.

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## **Polytheistic**

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### **Confucianism**

*Name*

- From its founder - Confucius, the Latinised form of Kung Fu-Tse (551-478 BC).

*History*

- Confucius was the contemporary of Buddha but the opposite of his metaphysical and radical ideas; Confucius was eminently conservative and practical and (like Buddha) ignored the supernatural.
- His main focus was the reform of feudal government to promote happiness.
- Confucianism sprang from Confucius, but he did not intend to found a religion; indeed as time went on it became more and more a faith of ancestor worship and appeasing of nature gods by sacrifices.

*Scriptures*

- The writings attributed to, or edited by, Confucius, especially his 'Analects' or selected sayings.

*Teachings*

- The need for virtue, 'the golden rule', simplicity, a return to the wisdom and peacefulness of the past.
- Yin & Yang.

- Lao Tse was the teacher of Confucius and Taoism complements Confucianism and the two gradually merged into current Taoism. Lao Tse was the mystic who focused upon the unseen order, while Confucius was the pragmatist who set moral axioms rather than religious dogmas.
- Confucius concentrated on right behaviour; if everyone behaved correctly everything else would sort itself out. Lao Tse focused upon the individual aligning himself with the Tao, then good conduct would follow.

#### *Practices*

- Majors on ceremony, politeness, reverence for spirits, prayer unnecessary, fatalistic.

#### **Hinduism**

- Many sects, many gods, basically pantheistic.
- Two main streams: Sankhya & Vedanta.

#### *Sankhya*

- Dualistic, atheistic, no beginning, no creator, 2 eternal realities:
- *Atman* - ultimate universal soul; neither produces or is produced.
- *Prakiti* - produces the world, at end of each cosmic period all is dissolved into original elements, into *prakiti*, and evolution begins again.

#### *Vedanta*

- Non dualistic, Atman incorporates soul and matter in unity. More widely accepted.
- In both systems the universe evolves from *prakiti* (basic material stuff).
- Various modern offshoots, all are pantheistic and evolutionary.

From these are numerous Hindu sects each with different belief systems and different gods. It is a diverse family of devotional and ascetic cults and philosophical schools, all sharing a belief in reincarnation and involving the worship of one or more of a large pantheon of gods and goddesses, including Brahma, Shiva, and Vishnu (incarnate as Rama and Krishna), Kali, Durga, Parvati, and Ganesh. There are estimated to be 3 million gods since gods are absorbed as they appear. Christ is worshipped by some Hindus as a god.

Sects take the character of the chosen god. Thus Kali sects have historically been violent thugs (the word originated from the Hindu 'thuggee' for bandit) using sacrifices. Kali represents destructive, primal energy, and is associated with disease and death. She is often depicted as a fearsome and bloody figure bearing weapons. Followers of Krishna focus upon devotion to god and god-realisation within (mysticism) and are generally peaceful. The orange-robed Hare Krishna temple sect is one example of this. Krishna devotees are now very common in Hinduism and this is the example that has enticed many westerners.

#### *Name*

- The religion of the Hindu people.
- Chiefly centred in India (Hindustan) but adherents all around the world.

#### *History*

- A major religious and cultural tradition of the Indian subcontinent, which developed from Vedic religion.
- Hinduism developed over a period of about 50 centuries.
- Hinduism is practised primarily in India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal.
- There are an estimated 705 million Hindus in the world.



### Scriptures

- The Vedas. (Sanskrit, 'wisdom'). The most authoritative of the Hindu sacred texts, regarded as *shruti*, the product of divine revelation. The basic four collections of *Vedas* consist of the *Rigveda* ('The Veda of Verses'), hymns of praise to the nature gods, particularly Agni, the fire god, and Indra, the warrior god; the *Yajurveda* ('The Veda of Sacrificial Texts'), a collection of sacrificial rites; the *Samaveda* ('The Veda of Chants'), containing the melodies and chants required for special sacrifices; and the *Atharvaveda* ('The Veda of the Fire-Priest'), which consists of occult formulas and spells. Later on, commentaries were added, stemming from different schools. The *Brahmanas* are detailed explanations of the sacrifices, for the use of priests. The *Aranyakas* are works suitable for the hermit, while the Upanishads are mystical and philosophical works.
- Brahamanas, (commentaries on the Vedas).
- The Upanishads. Sanskrit, 'sitting near', (i.e. at the feet of a master). A collection of more than 100 Hindu sacred texts composed in Sanskrit at an uncertain date (probably after about 400 BC). They contain a distillation of the teaching of the Vedas and the Brahamanas and are therefore known as the Vedanta ('the end of the Vedas'), but are more philosophical and mystical in character. Scholars identify in the Upanishadic era the first emergence of a concept within Hinduism of a single supreme God (Brahman), who is knowable by the human self (*atman*). Hence the Bhagavadgita, although part of the later Mahabharata epic, is often classed with the Upanishads as providing the highest and most essential Hindu teaching.
- The Bhagavad Gita (contained within The Mahabharata). A poem composed between the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC and the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD and incorporated into the Mahabharata. Presented as a dialogue between the Kshatriya prince Arjuna and his divine charioteer Krishna, it stresses the importance of doing one's duty and of faith in God. Also called Gita.
- The Mahabharata. ('The Great Story of the Bharatas'). One of the two great epics of Sanskrit literature in India and regarded as one of the Hindu sacred texts. Comprising 110,000 couplets, it is probably the longest single poem in world literature. Its central theme is the struggle between two families of cousins, the Kauravas and the ultimately successful Pandavas, for control of Kurukshetra, the region north of Delhi. The *Mahabharata* is not the work of a single poet but representative of the whole range of ancient Indian poetry, probably compiled between 400 BC and 200 AD.

### Teachings

- Unlike most religions, it requires no one belief regarding the nature of God: it embraces polytheism, monotheism, and monism.
- More important are the beliefs concerning the nature of the Universe and the structure of society. The former is described by the key concepts of *dharma*, the eternal law underlying the whole of existence; *karma*, the law of action by which each cause has its effect in an endless chain reaching from one life to the next; and *moshka*, liberation from this chain of birth, death, and rebirth.
- *Moshka* is prescribed by the ideals of *varna*, the division of mankind into four classes or types, the fore-runner of caste; *ashrama*, the four stages of life; and personal dharma, according to which one's religious duty is defined by birth and circumstance. Hindu society was traditionally based on this caste system which creates a multitude of evils as it spurns the lower classes.

### Practices

- Too many to mention.

- Some sects focus on multiple rituals and ceremonies while other mystical sects focus on personal meditation without any rituals at all.

## **Shintoism**

### *Name*

- The name Shinto was adopted in the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD to distinguish it from Buddhist and Confucian cults. In Chinese/Japanese, 'the Way of the Spirits'.

### *History*

- A Japanese religion dating from the early 8<sup>th</sup> century.
- During the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD, the spread of Confucianism introduced ancestor worship to Shinto, and in the 6<sup>th</sup> century Buddhist beliefs became incorporated into the ancient religion.
- During the 19<sup>th</sup> century the rise of the unified Japanese state saw the development of state Shinto where the emperor came to be worshipped as a descendant of the Sun-goddess Amaterasu. State Shinto was not classed as a religion but as a code of conduct requiring loyalty and obedience to the divine emperor; it informed all public life and encouraged extreme nationalism, until it was rescinded by the emperor (under US pressure) in 1945.
- It was replaced by the older form, 'shrine Shinto', the worship of *kami* in shrines or sanctuaries, tended by priests. In the home, the *kami* are housed within a *kamidana*, or 'godshelf'. Personal worship involves purification rites and daily prayers to the *kami*.
- Shinto is regarded as the religion of life, while Buddhism is seen as that of death; marriages are therefore celebrated according to Shinto tradition, while people generally choose Buddhist rites for funerals.

### *Scripture*

- There is no official Shinto scripture, although the *Kojiki* (Records of Ancient Matters) and *Nihon-gi* (Chronicles of Japan), 8<sup>th</sup>-century compilations based on oral tradition, contain myths and stories about creation and the gods.

### *Teaching*

- It incorporates the worship of ancestors and nature spirits and a belief in sacred power (*kami*) in both animate and inanimate things.
- Things that inspire awe – twisted trees, contorted rocks, dead warriors – are believed to enshrine *kami* ('spirits'). In early times each clan had its *kami*.
- With the supremacy of the Yamato, its Sun-goddess, Amaterasu, enshrined at the temple at Ise, became paramount.

### *Practices*

- Shinto is tolerant and adaptable, laying emphasis on high standards of behaviour and on daily rituals, rather than on doctrine.
- Shinto offers no code of conduct, no philosophy.
- It stresses ritual purity; at simple shrines worshippers rinse hands and mouth, bow, and offer food and drink.

## Taoism (or Daoism)<sup>17</sup>

### *Introduction*

Since Taoism has had such a huge effect on western society in the last 30 years (martial arts, acupuncture, Tai Chi, Qigong, macrobiotic diets etc.), we need to give greater coverage to this subject, especially as little is usually understood about it and it's history is confused.

### *The name*

Taoism means 'the way' and claims to teach the way to life, the way of being, a means of 'balancing the inner spirit'. It is a spiritual approach to living in order to produce stability individually and socially.

### *History*

The history of Taoism is difficult to nail down as differing scholars claim differing dates for key events. Furthermore, the basic philosophy of Taoism was understood and practised in many ways, each reflecting a different historical or social situation; consequently, Taoism is very diverse, adaptable and resilient. In addition to this, Taoism has existed alongside Confucianism for virtually all of its history, and apart from a few zealots on both sides, most Chinese folk practised both according to taste.

Chinese scholars claim that the principles and practices of Taoism date back to the earliest primeval times, but this is often to undergird claims of ancient authority for certain practices striving for modern popularity (such as Qigong or Tai Chi). Dates for certain practices are listed below. It does appear, however, that Taoism was a philosophical development of an ancient tradition of nature worship and divination. In addition there was a syncretism of original, ancient Taoist mystical principles and the later ideas of Buddhism. These combined to form many of the modern practices associated with Taoism, such as Qigong or Kung Fu. Then around 500 BC the assimilation of Confucianism also contributed to the practical outworking of Taoism.<sup>18</sup>

Indian Buddhism began to be absorbed into Chinese culture when the Han emperor became a devout Buddhist around 58 AD. Ancient Indian techniques of meditation and Qigong became fused with Taoism; indeed the influence of Zen Buddhism began a new era of Qigong.<sup>19</sup> The key instigator of this was a Taoist called Zhang Dao-Ling who combined traditional Taoist principles with Buddhism, called 'Dao-Jiao'. China also invited Tibetan monks to preach their own branch of Buddhism, which also became absorbed into Taoism. Traditional Taoism had been mainly concerned with healing and improving health (Chinese Medicine, Qigong) but the Indian and Tibetan versions were focused upon control of mind and spirit to escape reincarnation. Their Qigong (control of chi) was deeper and sought to control internal bodily functions.

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<sup>17</sup> Sources: Yang, Jwing-Ming, *Qigong for Arthritis*, YMAA Publication Center, Jamaica Plain. Scott Suvow, *History of Acupuncture in China*, (1998). Jon Fishman, *The History of Acupuncture*, (2000). *Pears Cyclopaedia* 2001-2. *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, CD 97. *Wikipedia*. *The Catholic Encyclopaedia*. J. Domínguez, M.D. *Taoism*, (1998). Judith A. Berling, *Taoism, or the Way*, Article in *Focus on Asian Studies*, Vol. II, No. 1, *Asian Religions*, p9-11, Fall 1982. Asia Society, (1996).

<sup>18</sup> The 'Three Pillars' of Chinese thought are: Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism.

<sup>19</sup> **Interesting note:** the original training practices of deep Qigong theory were kept secret in Buddhist temples for sole benefit of committed monks. It was only in the 20<sup>th</sup> century that the practices of Qigong have become widely available and open to the west after the overthrow of the Qing dynasty and the founding of the Chinese Republic in 1911.

By the time of Christ Taoism had become an overly regulated departure from its origins resulting from the Confucianism influence. Another problem was the original verse of the Tao-te-Ching had no verb tense or proper grammar and is variously interpreted.

Taoism is divided into a philosophical tradition (Tao-chia), associated with the Tao-te-Ching, Lao-tse, Chuang-tsu, Lieh-tsu, and a religious tradition (Tao-Chiao) that features organised doctrine, formal cultic activity and formal religious leaders. Though interrelated, there is also tension between the two forms.

The traditional origins of philosophical Taoism supposedly arose in a time of feudal warfare and conflict in the 'Warring States' period (481-221 BC). Lao-Tse sought a way to end this and wrote a few pages of short verses, which was the original form of the Tao-te-Ching. There followed various commentaries on this until Taoism was conjoined with Confucianism and Buddhism. Religious or esoteric Taoism was a movement or organised religious communities that came together in the 2nd century AD, whose common objective was immortality. Though incompatible with the basic proposition of philosophical Taoism, it took its lead from the idea of the perfected ones (Hsien), those who were in harmony with the Tao. Lao-Tse was raised to being a revealer and saviour. Spiritual techniques were then elaborated covering: diet, sex, breathing, alchemy, magic, visualisation etc, all focused on aiding the process of becoming immortal.

Taoism has deeply affected China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan and Vietnam.

From all this we can posit the following snapshot of Chinese religious history:

Time Period	Religious Situation in China
Pre 2000 BC	Animism, ancestor worship, nature worship.
2000 BC	Dualism, Yin / Yang emerging.
1122 BC	<i>I Ching</i> - dualism codified
604 BC	Taoism
551 BC	Confucianism
440 BC	Taoism adopted as state religion, Three Pillars
2 <sup>nd</sup> c. BC	Buddhist impact gradually appears
58 AD	Buddhism formally accepted

### Key people

- Originated with the legendary Fu His, the mythical First Emperor of China. He is reputed to be the inventor of writing, fishing and trapping. There are claims that he lived circa 2852 BC, 3322 BC or even 6000 BC.
- Lao-Tse (or Lao Tsu or Laozi; lit. 'old philosopher'; his real name was Li-Uhr): different scholars place Lao-Tse at different historical periods, some even doubt he ever existed at all. The usual tradition is to place him as an older contemporary of Confucius. He was a minor court official in the Zhou dynasty.
- Kang Sang Tse (570-543 BC), one of the first disciples and expositors of Lao Tse.
- The legendary 'Yellow Emperor', (Huáng Dì) a Chinese mythical character said to be the ancestor of all Chinese people. Among his accomplishments, Huáng Dì has been credited with the invention of the principles of Traditional Chinese Medicine.
- Chuang Tse (or Zhuangzi; 330, BC) who wrote *Nan-Hua*.

### Scriptures

- *Tao-te-ching* - ‘The Way of Life (or Being)’ or ‘The Way to Virtue Classic’; purported to be written by Lao-Tse. Most western scholars place the writing or collection of this in the late 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC. Some Chinese scholars state it arose in the Zhou dynasty (1122-934 BC).
- *I Ching* - ‘The book of Changes’ written in 1122 BC. It is still widely used for divination by the throwing of yarrow sticks and comparing the patterns resulting with diagrams in the book. First known book to write about chi and yin - yang.
- *The Nei Jing* - The earliest book on Chinese medicine, composed around 305-204 BC.

### Teachings

- *Tao*: the power that envelops, surrounds and flows through all things, regulating natural processes, nourishes balance and harmonises opposites (Yin/Yang). In essence, Tao (pronounced ‘dow’) is an impersonal god/ruling force. There is no personified deity in Taoism, neither is there a creation. The Tao as the origin of all creation and life force is unknowable in its essence but observable in its manifestations.
- *Goal*: Since there is no god, there is no point in prayer. Life’s problems are resolved through meditation and observation. The goal is to become one with the Tao force.
- *Ethics*: There is a high ethical standard. Non violence, moderation, humility, compassion, contentment with one’s lot.
- *After death*: The aim is to be an important ancestor in heaven. There is a hell, as a sort of purgatory, with nine stages of punishments each governed by a demon king. Prayers can help people escape this judgment.
- *Yin-Yang*: the dualistic principle of life, the two major forces in nature, complementary opposites:

Yin	Yang
Darkness	Light
Night	Day
Female	Male
Passivity	Activity
Water	Fire
Cold	Warm
Earthly	Heavenly

[This is represented by the familiar circular Yin Yang figure divided into a black and white icon.] The interaction of these two forms life, a third aspect. Yin and Yang need to be in perfect balance or there is disorder. It is represented in the *I Ching* by broken and unbroken lines forming 8 trigrams and 64 hexagrams. The thinking in the *I Ching* is the fundamental philosophy of Taoism and Chinese Medicine.

Basic to Taoism is the notion of chi (or ‘qi’) which refers to ‘energy’ or ‘life-force’. [Very similar to ‘the force’ of Star Wars which can be used for internal peace or fighting.] There are three natural energies: that of heaven, of earth and of man. The practices of Taoism are based on the interrelationship of these.

Philosophical Taoism is based upon minimal action, simplicity, ‘doing nothing’, ‘being’, action through inaction; in modern terms, going with the flow rather than against it. This approach to life is called Wu Wei (lit. ‘no action’) and Tsu-jan (‘self-so’, spontaneity, no purposeful action).

### Comparison with Confucianism

Taoism	Confucianism
Spiritual	Practical
Internal	External
A state of mind.	A system of ethics.
Goal: personal alignment with the Tao.	Goal: the need for virtue.
Focused on the inner life of the individual leading to inner harmony with the Tao.	Focused upon the actions of the individual leading to social stability and harmony.

### Practices

- *Qigong* [or Chi Kung]: special exercises to control chi for medicinal purposes. *Qigong* seeks to stimulate the flow of chi along the invisible channels, or ‘meridians’, that course throughout the body for healing and health. Breath training was mentioned in the *Tao-te-ching*. Inferences to *Qigong* date back as far as 1122 BC; more detailed references arose in writings from 200 BC onwards. Various monks or doctors wrote works adding to the exercises, including Taoist monk Jun Qian (3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD) who used the movements of animals to create the *Wu Qin Xi* (‘Five animal sports’) to help people increase their Chi circulation through certain movements; the physician Ge Hong (*Bao Pu Zi*) in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD and Tao Hong-Jing (*Yang Shen Yan Ming Lu*) sometime between 420-581 AD. Various other writers continued to add exercises such as: Chao Yuan-Fang and Sun Si-Mao; all sort to regulate chi by breathing, herbal, exercise or other therapies.
- *Tai Chi* [or Taiji Quan]: exercises to release chi to improve the body and prolong healthy life. This originates from Chang San-Feng in the Song dynasty (960-1279 AD). Tai Chi emphasises internal *Qigong* training (*Nei Dan*, ‘Internal Elixir’), i.e. balancing the body’s chi.
- *Kung fu* [or ‘Wu Shu’ or ‘Gongfu’ or ‘martial arts’]:<sup>20</sup> exercises for the application of chi in sport and fighting. There are now many different schools and methods using a multitude of weapons or just bare hands and feet. The foundation of *Kung Fu* developed between 502-557 in the Liang dynasty when the emperor invited the Buddhist monk (and former Indian prince) Da Mo to preach Buddhism in China. The emperor did not like Da Mo's Buddhist theory, so the monk withdrew to the Shaolin Temple where he developed *Kung Fu* to strengthen the sickly monks, writing two classic books. As the monks trained, they not only became fitter and healthier but also stronger. This training was then integrated into fighting exercises. The Shaolin monks created five animal styles of *Kung Fu* imitating the tiger, leopard, dragon, snake and crane. Shaolin is the opposite of Tai Chi, emphasising external *Qigong* training (*Wai Dan*, ‘External Elixir’).
- *Acupuncture*: the release of pressure, or adjustment of chi circulation, in the body by inserting fine brass needles at key points. Certain points control certain organs. Some writings (the *Nei Jing*) claim this dated from the reign of the Yellow Emperor (2690-2690 BC). In the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD Hua Tuo used acupuncture for anaesthesia in surgery. The first systematisation of acupuncture also came in the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD when Huang Fu Mi organised the ancient literature in his 12-volume work, *Systematic Classics of Acupuncture and Moxibustion*.<sup>21</sup> Only in 1026 was the relationship between the 12 organs and the 12 chi meridians fully clarified and acupuncture theory systematised

<sup>20</sup> Note: the name ‘Confucius’ is really ‘Kung Fu Tse’.

<sup>21</sup> Moxibustion is electrical stimulus or heat produced by burning specific herbs during acupuncture.

when Dr. Wang Wei-Yi designed and built the 'Brass Man' demonstrating the key points and wrote *Tong Ren Yu Xue Zhen Jiu Tu* or 'Illustration of the Brass Man Acupuncture and Moxibustion'. Using his system to cure the emperor in 1034 made his fame certain. Subsequently acupuncture flourished. G. Soulie de Morant introduced acupuncture into Europe.

- Macrobiotic diet.
- Meditation.
- Study of nature, experimentation.
- *The religious aspect of Taoism*: has priests, temples, personal altars, incense burning, regulations, rituals, shamans (to 'travel' to the spirit world to perform healing rituals; alchemy; herbalism), mediums (to communicate with ancestors), oracles (to speak the words of a spirit, a seer, local village judge) and Emperor worship (the emperor was the only man able to communicate directly with the Tao, and so became a god/ruler). Some are pure animists, spirits being the supposed manifestation of the one Tao. This is a reversion to the ancient Chinese nature worship and witchcraft, wrapped up in Taoism, which practises witchcraft, demonology, visualisation and spiritualism.

The variations and techniques of controlling chi through Qigong and Kung Fu seem to know no end. Each generation proliferated the various methods, writings, exercises, breathing and so on. There are hundreds of styles to choose from, all claiming the same benefits.

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## Pantheistic

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### New Ageism

- This composite movement emerged from the mysticism of the 1960s.
- This cannot be properly analysed here since it comprises a huge number of varying teachings, methods, practices and texts.
- Essentially it is a mixture of eastern religions, mysticism, occultism, Theosophy, Alchemy and Hermetism tailored to suit the individual. There is no central school or scripture.

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## Atheistic

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### Buddhism

*Name:*

- Based upon the title of the founder, 'Buddha'.
- 'Buddha' means 'enlightened' in Sanskrit.
- It is more of a philosophy than a religion.

*Key People*

- Siddhartha Gautama, entitled the Buddha [c.563–c.480 BC].
- Born an Indian prince, he renounced wealth and family to become an ascetic, taking religious instruction until he attained enlightenment (nirvana) through meditation beneath a bo tree in the village of Bodhgaya.
- After achieving enlightenment he taught all who came to learn from him, regardless of sex, class, or caste, until his death.

*History*

- Founded by Siddhartha Gautama, entitled the Buddha, in north-east India in the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC as a reaction against the sacrificial religion of orthodox Brahminism.

- There are two major traditions, namely: *Theravada* (often called *Hinayana*), and *Mahayana*; and emerging from the latter, *Vajrayana*. These lead to a multiplicity of, often contradictory, practices and beliefs. The rituals, ceremonies, temples and practices of much modern Buddhism, especially Japanese Buddhism, is completely opposed to the iconoclastic simplicity of Siddhartha's original teachings.
- There are approximately 300 million adherents of Buddhism worldwide.
- Buddhism was made the national religion in India by the emperor Asoka in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC, and from India it spread over much of Asia.
- It is still a major force in many parts of the continent, but ironically there are now few Buddhists in India, where the religion barely survived the Muslim invasions in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

### *Scriptures*

The three 'jewels' of Buddhism are:

- The Buddha.
- The doctrine (*dharma* - the eternal law of the cosmos, inherent in the very nature of things;<sup>22</sup> in Sanskrit, literally 'decree or custom').
- The *sangha* (the Buddhist monastic order, including monks, nuns, and novices).

### *Teachings*

- Human mistakes and human suffering are linked in a relentless cycle of cause and effect (*Karma*).
- The basic teachings of Buddhism are contained in the 'four noble truths': all existence is suffering; the cause of suffering is desire; freedom from suffering is *nirvana*. The means of attaining *nirvana* is prescribed in the 'eightfold path' that combines ethical conduct, mental discipline, and wisdom. Central to this religious path are the doctrine of 'no self' (*anatta*) and the practice of meditation.

### *Practices*

- Meditation.
- Ethical conduct.
- Multiple practices and rituals (e.g. gongs) in the various forms of modern Buddhist sects.

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<sup>22</sup> Slightly different to *dharma* in Hinduism and Jainism. In Hinduism, *dharma* is seen as the cosmic law both upheld by the gods and expressed in right behaviour by humans, including adherence to the social order. In Buddhism, it is interpreted as universal truth or law, especially as proclaimed by the Buddha. In Jainism, it is conceived both as virtue and as a kind of fundamental substance, the medium of motion.



## Appendix Four

### The Main Cults emerging out of Christianity

See: Paul Fahy: Christian cults, sects and aberrant movements.

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