

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your correspondence to the Al Denson Show and for tuning in every week to our program. My prayer for you is to be encouraged in your daily walk with Christ through the words of this booklet. Our hope is that in turn you will tell others of what God is doing through our ministry to youth and parents on TV. I am convinced you will not find another program on any network anywhere that deals with issues today's youth and their parents are facing, and provides answers from a Godly perspective.

In addition, we would love for you to help us by going to our web site at www.aldenson.com. Here you can write to us, order additional material like this booklet, check out all my music, have a daily bible study, and stay up to date on the ministry. You can also send us a prayer request and questions for the TV show. But more importantly, please continue to be in prayer with us as we work together to help those that are in need.

Thanks for watching and God Bless!

Sincerely,



An Outreach of Celebration Ministries

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Wicca:



The Deceptive
Side of Evil



Most artists create for only a brief moment in time. That phenomenon was once known as "15 minutes of fame". Yet even in a fickle world, there still emerge a talented few that transcends time and trends. With nearly 15 years as a major label recording artist and seven hit

albums to his credit, Al Denson is that kind of artist.

But the attention and acclaim his artistry has brought him over the years are anything but the routine rewards of worldly success. Rather, they are the fruits of a life of purpose and passion, and a mission that has always reached far beyond merely making music.

The millions of young people Al has performed for, befriended, counseled, consoled and clowned around with in his career already know that. And thousands more are finding out every day.

This past year has seen Al expand his efforts to a global audience through the reach of his daily syndicated television production, "The Al Denson Show." "You've got to reach out to people where they are with the most powerful means and this form of media allows you to build trust and a rapport," says Al. "This has all been so amazing. I can't imagine what lies in store when the Lord finally calls me home, but I don't have to wait for heaven to receive rewards. I get them every time a kid comes up to me and says, 'I heard what you said, and I accepted Christ.' You can't ask for anything more or better than that."

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Wicca The Deceptive Side of Evil

"The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons." (1 Timothy 4:1) This "doctrine of demons," the Scripture warns us about is the occult. The

occult is the dark world of mystic arts that draws unsuspecting millions into the spirit world and Satan worship. The word "occult" means "secret, hidden" and because the truth about the occult is hidden it is very easy for unsuspecting people, especially young people, to be deceived. Most who get caught up in the occult don't have a clue as to the seriousness of their involvement.

Many people begin dabbling in the occult with things they foolishly believe to be innocent and fun. Things like Ouija boards, occult games, rock music which promotes the occult, fortune telling, astrology, crystals, pyramids, meditation, visualization, spirit guides, consulting psychics, hypnosis, parapsychology, channeling, anything involving the New Age Movement, or the Human Potential Movement. Dangerous dabbling can lead to Satanic rituals and Satan worship as people easily become prisoners of the most cruel, deceptive, and powerful enemy known to mankind.

Satan has always had a way of making evil look good but what he is doing today among middle and high school students is the one of the most deceptive tricks he has ever used. Witchcraft, or Wicca is sweeping campuses

across America. There is probably not a secondary school in America today where there isn't a professing witch. Just look at the number of movies and television programs today which target teenagers and have something to do with witchcraft or magic. Teens practicing Wicca deceptively use Christian terms to describe their beliefs and practices, and this is very

confusing to other teenagers. Wicca claims to promote only love, belief in god (not the God of the Bible), and says Satan is a creation of Christians, not witches. They lure teens with promises of power, love, and magic, oaths, and secrets.

We must understand Satan hates teenagers and is out to destroy each one. Kids today are hungry to be loved and accepted and to belong. They are looking for meaning in life and power for living. We know that these things can only be found in Jesus Christ, but the "god of this world," the great counterfeiter himself, is pulling kids by the thousands into his dark kingdom and a nightmare from which many never wake up.

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The book, *Teen Witch* by Silver RavenWolf, a high priestess, is a “how to” guide in the basic beliefs of Wicca and gives detailed instructions on rituals and spells. This is an extremely popular book among teenagers today. In the book, RavenWolf says that “witches embrace God,” while promoting that teens use angels and talk about God as a way to deceive their parents so they won’t know their children are involved in witchcraft.

The history of witchcraft can actually be traced back to several centuries before the coming of Christ, but Wicca experienced a modern revival in 1949. Gerald Gardner published his *High Magic’s Aid*, a novel about “The Craft,” in 1949 under the pen-name, “Scire.” In 1951 the Witchcraft Act of 1736 was replaced in Britain and witchcraft was no longer a crime. As a result, Garner was able to publish two other works under his own name. In America there have been followers of

witchcraft for hundreds of years, but its greatest growth took place in the 1960s and 1970s. Raymond and Rosemary Buckland are credited with Wicca’s successful spread into American society. This couple were followers of Gardner and came to this country in 1962. In the last forty years, these followers, in an attempt to avoid what they consider to be negative stereotypes, have preferred to refer to their religion as “Wicca” (an Old English term for “witch”) instead of witchcraft because they believe most people see witches as ugly, evil, and devil-worshipers.

The theology of Wicca varies from group to group and even from coven to coven. However, there are a few basic doctrines that most Wiccan covens believe and practice:

Creation

Wicca’s total foundation is based on a fairytale that starts, “Long, long ago, the world slept in the arms of the dark void. From the place of nothingness, Spirit drew together and created Our Lady of Infinite love...As the Lady danced light catapulted from her hair, giving birth to the stars and the planets. And so the creation of the world continues.” The story goes on to say that when Lady’s dancing slowed she sought a companion to share the wonders of the world and Spirit created the god as her “life-mate and companion.”

Creation of God

Wicca teaches that Spirit made god “half-spirit, half-animal, so that together the Lord

and Lady could populate our planet.” Witches believe that the Lord and Lady “gave birth to the birds, animals, fishes, and people.” They also created the “angels and power spirits” to protect and guide humans.” Witches believe that Allah, Jesus, and Buddha, are all faces of the masculine side of god whose name is Lord, and that the feminine side of god is Lady.

Creation of Witches

The myth continues by saying “The Lord and Lady saw the need for healers among their own kind. And so they drew forth energy from the realm of the angels, the realm of the power animals and the realm of the humans to create Witches.”

Evil

Wiccan groups do not accept the existence of evil. They explain that Wicca can be defined as a pagan mystery religion with a polarized deity and no personification of evil. In the *Principles of Wiccan Beliefs* it is stated, “We do not accept the concept of ‘absolute evil,’ nor do we worship any entity known as Satan or The Devil as defined by the Christian tradition.”

Hell

Witches do not believe in hell. When Witches die, they go to “Summerland.”

Devil

Witches claim that they do not believe in the devil and that Christians created the devil. They may not call the one they worship “Devil,” but when conjuring up spells they call

on “Spirit” and pray to the Lord and Lady.

Summerland

This is the Wicca version of heaven. Witches believe that this is where souls go after they die to celebrate the afterlife and continue their spiritual education. They also believe they are the “Hidden Children, back from the dead.”

Autonomy

Witches have no central authority or liturgy; various traditions have their own rituals, philosophy and beliefs. They believe that all religions lead in the same direction, simply taking different paths to get there. Witches feel that all should therefore be free to choose their own path.

Reincarnation

Witches believe that when they die they are reincarnated. This means that after you are dead for a while, you come back as someone else. This is an especially dangerous doctrine for teens with severe emotional problems who may commit suicide in hopes of a better next life.

Communicating with Spirits

Witches recognize the “outer worlds and inner worlds.” They call this “spiritual world, the collective unconscious.” They believe the interaction of these two worlds is the basis for “paranormal phenomena and magical exercises.”

Communion

Their communion is often referred to as “Cake and Ale” and is consecrated in the magic circle.



Oath of Secrecy

Witches swear an oath of secrecy upon their initiation or self-dedication ceremony.

Creed

Called the “Witches’ Pyramid,” this is the witches creed and structure of learning that the witches follow. They are...

- To Know: To search for truth
- To Dare: To not be afraid of the unknown
- To Will: To concentrate on being the best
- To Be Silent: This is the most dangerous part of the oath because of the vow of secrecy. Witches believe if they tell others about their magic, especially “unbelievers,” then much of their strength will be gone. Therefore they share only with those of like mind. Remember, the definition of the word “occult?”

Rituals

Wicca is basically a fertility cult and there are eight festivals or “Sabbats” that track the movement of the Sun through the year. Sabbat means “to frolic and say farewell to the seasons of birth and death.” Here are three examples of Sabbat:

Samhain: October 31st (are we surprised?) to November 11th. Witches believe this is the time that the veil between the worlds of the living and dead are opened—this is Witches’ New Year. Samhain is the mystical “Lord of Death” or the “Grim Reaper.”

Winter Solstice: Around December 21st. This celebrates the rebirth of the god. The light

and candles are used to lure him out of his mother’s womb.

Imbolgc: February 2nd. The “Candlemas.” Witches honor the goddess and her recovery from giving birth to the god.

RavenWolf suggests to teenagers that Wiccan rituals are totally harmless, but the American Council of Witches produced the “Principal of Wiccan Beliefs” which in part states they “value sex as pleasure to be utilized as a source of energy in worship and magical practices.”

Magic

Many of these rituals involve divination or magic. In his Book of Shadows, Gerald Gardner listed eight ways to raise magical power (singly or in combination):

- Meditation or concentration
- Chants, spells, and invocations
- Trance and astral projection
- Incense, wine, and drugs
- Dancing
- Blood control by binding parts of the body with cords
- Scourging
- Ritual sex

Spells

Witches will not tell a teen that trying to cast a spell is playing with fire, but RavenWolf gives this warning: “There are rules in spell-casting, and if you break the rules, you may pay more than you had originally anticipated.”

Regarding Experience verses Dogma: From the book, Drawing Down The Moon, page

173 - “By creating our own divinities we create mental steps for ourselves, up which we can mount toward realizing ourselves as divine. The lack of dogma in the Craft, the fact that one can worship the goddess without believing in Her, that one can accept the goddess as ‘Muse’ and the Craft as a form of ancient knowledge to be tested by experience; these are precisely the things that have caused the Craft to survive, to revive, and to be re-created in this century.”

Regarding Goddess Worship: From Drawing Down The Moon, pages 10-11, 202, and Man, Myth and Magic, Vol. 14, page 1866 - This worship of the goddess sometimes manifest itself as the worship of “the Mother Goddess in her three aspects of Maiden, Mother, and Crone.” Sometimes it is the worship of “what we potentially are.” In many covens the high priestess is seen as the personification of the “Mother Goddess who is the

principal deity of witch-lore.”

Regarding Feminism: From Drawing Down The Moon, page 205 - While not all feminists are Wiccan, many find the philosophy of Wiccan to be a compatible philosophy. “Women who have come to the goddess ‘outside the channels of Neo-Paganism and the Craft’ are beginning to find rituals and concepts that allow for the same idea. They are finding the goddess within themselves and within all women. And, as might be expected, those feminists who have found joy in rituals, and who have discovered that the concept of ‘goddess’ feels right inside, are often drawn into the Craft.”

Regarding Horned God: From Drawing Down The Moon, page 11 - Some Wiccan covens worship not only a Mother Goddess, but also a masculine deity. “Many Craft traditions also worship a god, related to the ancient horned lord of animals, the god of the hunt, the god of death, and lord of the forests.”

Witches believe if they tell others about their magic, especially “unbelievers,” then much of their strength will be gone.

You shall have no other gods before me.

Followers of Wicca do not believe the Bible to be the Word of God, so it becomes very difficult to point out the error of Wicca from a Biblical standpoint. However, from the Christian perspective, God has condemned Wicca's theology for thousands of years. Here are some verses that show us what God has to say about Wicca and its beliefs and practices:

Witchcraft and Magic (Enchantments) are Condemned

Leviticus 19:26,31 - "Do not practice divination or sorcery. Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God."

Deuteronomy 18:10-12 - "Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or cast spells, or who consults the dead. Anyone who does the things is detestable to the Lord..."

II Chronicles 33:6 - "He sacrificed his sons in the fire in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, practiced sorcery, divination, and witchcraft, and consulted with mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the Lord, provoking Him to anger."

Worship of Other gods (or of goddess) is Condemned

Exodus 20:3 - "You shall have no other gods before Me."

I Kings 11:4-6 - "As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. He followed Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites. So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the Lord..."

Esteeming Nature Above God is Condemned

Romans 1:21-25 - "For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen."

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Satan and His Influences of Evil Are Real

Zechariah 3:2 - "The Lord said to Satan, 'The Lord rebuke you Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you!...'"

Matthew 4:1-11 - "Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and nights, He

was hungry. the tempter came to Him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.' Jesus answered, 'it is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

Then the devil took Him to the holy city and had Him stand on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down. For it is written: He will command His angels concerning You, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' Jesus answered him, 'It is also written: Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 'All this I will give to you,' he said, 'If You will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away from Me Satan! For it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.' Then the devil left Him, and the angels came and attended Him."

Any thinking Christian should be able to see that Wicca is anything but harmless and that any involvement in the occult is serious business to God. We know God is more powerful than Satan but Satan and his demons do have supernatural power. They use that power to deceive, blind, trap, and destroy teenagers. As powerful as he is, Satan cannot destroy some-

one at will. However, when we dabble in things God has clearly told us to avoid at all cost ("Abstain from all appearance of evil." I Thessalonians 5:22), and when we allow a spirit of rebellion in our lives ("For the sin of rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft..." I Samuel 15:23), we are leaving ourselves unprotected, and making ourselves vulnerable to Satan's deception and attack.

If you are a Christian and realize you have allowed yourself to be deceived by Satan and have involved yourself in any form of Satan worship, whether it be Wicca, or anything else to do with the occult, the only hope you have is to call out to Jesus. He is the only One who can forgive you and rescue you from Satan's power. You can do that by praying a prayer something like this:



"Dear God, I know that I have sinned against You by being involved in the things of Satan. Because of what Jesus did on the cross for me, I'm asking You to forgive me. In Your name and in Your power, I renounce my involvement with Satan at this very moment. I renounce the devil and his influences in my life by the power of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. I trust Jesus as my only hope for deliverance. Please God, give me the power and the will to stay away from all of those involved in Satan worship. Please protect me from Satan and all his demons and set me free from all their influence and power. With all that is within me, Jesus, I call out to You for Your help. In Jesus's name I pray, Amen." Remember, the words aren't as important to God as the intent of your heart. You must be willing to give God back His rightful place in your life. You need to submit yourself to the nurture and care of the church and to other Christians who can encourage and love you and also hold you accountable for your walk with Christ.

Or perhaps you have come to the end of this booklet and you realize that you, too, have been deceived by the one the Bible calls, "the father of lies." The difference is you have

never had the experience of having your sins forgiven and having a personal relationship with the God who created you. The Bible says this is the biggest need every human has, but the problem is that God created the human heart with just enough room for only one God. From the time of Adam and Eve, all humans have wanted to be their own god (boss), so as a result there has been no room in our hearts for the God who knows us the best and loves us the most. The Bible calls wanting to be our own boss, sin, and this makes us all sinners.

Sin carries with it a death penalty. God says sin must be paid for, so God's only Son, Jesus Christ, chose to come to earth and die on a cross in our place so we might have our sins paid for and be forgiven. Salvation is a free gift we can either accept or reject. If we reject it, then the only other option is to pay for our own sin in a real place that the Bible calls Hell for eternity. But to accept Jesus' death as payment for our sin, we must be willing to repent of being our own boss, and we must be willing to turn the control of our life over to Christ in order to be saved.

If you would be willing to do that right now you can pray a prayer something like this:

"Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner and that my sin has separated me from holy God. Right this minute, I repent of my sin and I accept Your death on the cross as payment for my sin. Please forgive me and come into my heart and save me right now. I give the control of my life to You, Jesus, and I renounce, in Your name, any involvement I have had in any kind of Satan worship. On the basis of the blood You shed on the cross for me, I ask you to set me free from any power or influence Satan has had over me. Help me to live for You from this day on. Thank you for saving me, Lord Jesus. Amen."

The moment you asked with a sincere and humble heart, God will do exactly what He promises to do. You will belong to Him and have a new life and a new start. When you are

saved, the Bible says you are "a new creature in Christ." (II Corinthians 5:17) The Bible also promises all Christians that, "greater is He (Jesus) who is in you, than he (Satan) who is in the world." (I John 4:4) It is important you know God has made each of His children a promise when He said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

Is Satan powerful? Yes, he is, but Satan is also a defeated enemy. The only power he can have in a life is what is given him, whether willingly or through ignorance. When you belong to Christ and stay under His Lordship in your life, you have no reason to fear. Satan and his demons are terrified of Jesus, so stand against them in the name of Jesus, and empowered by God, they will have to flee. (James 4:7)

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