
DISCERNMENT NEWSLETTER

“...how is it that ye do not discern this time?” Luke 12:56

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Letter from Zimbabwe

By David Grewe
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Dear Families, Colleagues and Friends,

After a brief sunny and warm week the temperatures have again gone below 10°C at night accompanied by gusty winds. We shiver while you sweat. Our cold weather comes from South Africa where they have been experiencing abnormally low temperatures. Of course, their air originates in Antarctica!

The picture attachment shows some Zimbabweans dressed as doppelgangers.



They don't really look like the “real” doppelgangers that presumably visit some villagers. A full-page article in the *Daily News* describes the work of a man named Tsikamutanda who “moves from province to province cleansing villages of goblins, doppelgangers and other associated aliens” for a fee. This man says that many people live with these aliens in their homes and could also include snakes and other small animals. Fortunately for him, he does occasionally find the latter and is pictured holding a squirrel.* (They can BITE, you know!) The definition of doppelgangers is vague. It could mean another person who looks like you but behaves differently—perhaps badly. Maybe in the USA they only appear on the 13th floor of buildings—including hotels—or in the 13th row of airline seats?

Last Sunday, with Jewel away in Johannesburg, after church I went out to the Bulawayo dams park and

hiked up a steep hill to visit a cave. This is the area where some type of cave people lived. Searching for drawings and artifacts there were only some rusted cans on the ground by the traces of a campfire. However, drawings on cave walls are very abundant elsewhere around here. They depict animals like giraffes, elephants, etc.

Well, it finally happened! I had warned Jewel about this before we moved here and she laid down the law, so to speak. In her absence last Saturday, the step daughter of our grounds keeper—the girl being 6 months pregnant—needed to be driven to the hospital because of a bloody discharge. Doing so, I entered the maternity ward into a crowd of young mothers, their mothers and nurses and assistants. My attention was called to a bashful, black curly-headed young lady who asked if she could be my African wife. I was flattered but you know the answer! As for the pregnant girl, she delivered a 1-2 kg baby girl 10 minutes after we arrived at the hospital.

Last week the Academy of Music hall was busy every day and evening with fund-raising recitals and concerts. I was amazed at one girl, Sharon de Kock, who played her violin magnificently. However, looking at her resume, I learned that the training of this ‘local girl’ included symphony experiences in several countries, the University of Cincinnati and the Dayton Symphony Orchestra. Watch and listen for her in the future.

My recital there on Thursday night consisted of singing just 2 songs. One was a classic Christian song and the other was an 18th century English folk song. I thought that by far I would be the oldest “student” presenting but a man older than I sang “Danny Boy” ahead of my songs. Talking with him I learned that his wife had suddenly died of a stroke 2 months previously. Since he was a chorister, he decided to take voice lessons to enable him to do solo work. He had a nice singing voice, too. His late wife's demise reinforces my determination to help prevent and/or treat embolic strokes.

I purchased a glucose meter in the city and attempted to sample one droplet of blood from the tarsal veins of 6 Guinea pigs. One of them died of a

heart attack while Jewel held it. The blood from the others was not enough to measure so I put the 5 pigs in a box and took them to a vet. Dr. Stephanage is a man built like a rugby player or football linebacker, being about 6 feet 6 inches tall and weighing about 250 pounds—all muscle. How could this giant do anything with my tiny Guinea pigs? He could. While a technician held each one he showed me that the ear veins, when pricked with a hypodermic needle, yielded sufficient blood to take measurements. And, since this occurred at 10:30 am, we had tea during the procedures. (Tea drinking is taken seriously here and at the University; all academic departments have persons who furnish tea at tea time in the morning. Even during this winter break I occasionally visit the Applied Physics department to take tea with them because of their congeniality).

Just a little bit more: The *Sunday Times* newspaper from South Africa stated that South Africans are “Fecklessly ignoring our responsibility.” That sounded serious so I look up what ‘fecklessly’ meant. Its definition is “lacking purpose or vitality; careless and irresponsible.” The article further stated that “South Africans turn a blind eye to the example of the ant.” Now you know what is being referred-to: personal, long and short term savings. Remember to keep those 401k accounts going, MEDies!

And, finally, I have adjusted to the spoken and written English here somewhat but was puzzled by the “FILTER WHEN SAFE” sign hereabouts. The word “filter” is evolved from the Middle English word for the material known as felt that was once used to remove particles from liquids, e.g., coffee grounds, etc. Keith, of course, knows that “filter” in England refers to entering a thoroughfare from a side road. Makes sense, I guess. So, why is the storage compartment in the rear of a car called a “boot” instead of a “trunk”? Maybe because the elephants here have reserved that word to mean their nose?

Weighed and Found Wanting: Rick Warren’s Daniel Plan

By Warren B. Smith

“Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.” (2 Cor. 2:11)

Who would have believed it? Occult/New Age doctors

being invited into the church to teach Christians how to be healthy? Charles Spurgeon must be rolling over in his grave. On January 15, 2011 a fifty-two week health and wellness program—the Daniel Plan—was initiated at Rick Warren’s Saddleback Church. More than six thousand people attended the well promoted and carefully staged event. Warren took the opportunity to announce that his own personal goal was to lose 90 pounds in 2011. The Daniel Plan website states that “the Daniel Plan envisions starting a movement so the result is better physical and spiritual health for current and future generations.”¹ It describes how Rick Warren “recruited three best-selling authors” to create and oversee the Daniel Plan Curriculum—Dr. Mehmet Oz, Dr. Daniel Amen, and Dr. Mark Hyman.² Although these three physicians are all involved with New Age teachings, they describe themselves respectively as a Muslim, a Christian, and a Jew.

On their church’s Daniel Plan website, Saddleback pastor Brandon Cox tried to defend Rick Warren’s indefensible decision to recruit three New Age doctors to implement a Christian health and wellness program. In his “Pastoral Response” to the question “Why did Saddleback Church choose to use these Doctors who have been linked to other beliefs?,” Cox wrote:

“Pastor Rick knows each of these Doctors personally and has the utmost trust in their ability to advise us about matters related to physical health.” In a statement reminiscent of Little Red Riding Hood’s “grandmother,” Cox goes on to state: “These Doctors are helping us as friends, but are in no way advising our church on spiritual matters.”³

By repeating and emphasizing the term “physical health” three times in the response, Saddleback was obviously trying to distance itself from Oz, Amen, and Hyman’s New Age beliefs. But the “we’re only using them for physical health purposes” defense was not convincing. All three physicians are alternative medicine/holistic health practitioners who teach the indivisibility of “mind, body, spirit” in achieving optimum well-being. In other words, their New Age spiritual beliefs are necessarily embedded in their medical practice, their best-selling books, and their public appearances.

Dr. Mehmet Oz

Dr. Oz is the cardiovascular surgeon who was featured on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* for five years before gaining his own popular daytime TV show. He also has a daily talk show on Oprah & Friends satellite radio

and writes columns for several magazines including Oprah's *O Magazine*. Operating out of Columbia University's Presbyterian Hospital, Dr. Oz is like a modern-day shaman as he mixes traditional medicine with a wide variety of occult/New Age practices. In *The Way of the Shaman*, a "foremost resource and reference on shamanism," Michael Harner—an anthropologist who "has practiced shamanism and shamanic healing" for several decades⁴—gives the following definition of a shaman:

A shaman is a man or woman who enters an altered state of consciousness—at will—to contact and utilize an ordinarily hidden reality in order to acquire knowledge, power, and to help other persons. The shaman has at least one, and usually more, "spirits" in his personal service.⁵

The following is a sampling of what Dr. Oz subtly, and not so subtly, incorporates into his medical practice and into his life. For instance, Dr. Oz's prominent endorsement is displayed on the front cover of self-described psychic Ainslie MacLeod's book *The Instruction: Living the Life Your Soul Intended*. Juxtaposing the phrase "spiritual well-being" with the word "purpose," Oz writes: I recommend this book to those who seek greater spiritual well-being and a better understanding of their life's purpose.⁶

In Oz's endorsement of another Ainslie MacLeod book, *The Transformation: Healing Your Past Lives to Realize Your Soul's Potential*, Dr. Oz makes it clear that his approach to physical health is inextricably bound up with his beliefs regarding spiritual health. They cannot be neatly separated out as Rick Warren's Saddleback staff would have everyone believe. Dr. Oz's front cover endorsement states:

Ainslie MacLeod is at the frontier of exploration into the soul and its profound influence on our physical selves.⁷

In *The Transformation*, MacLeod's spirit guides tell MacLeod's readers "that we are standing on the brink of the greatest leap in human consciousness in 55,000 years."⁸ Later, in a psychic reading that MacLeod gives to one of his clients, his spirit guides refer his client to Dr. Daniel Amen for help.⁹ Amen, of course being one of the other two Daniel Plan physicians. In *The Instruction*, among other things, MacLeod teaches readers how to meditate and contact spirit guides. In fact, spirit guides are referred to a whopping 175 times in the book—40 times before you even get to Chapter 1. In his introduction, MacLeod describes how the skeptic in him used to read a book like his and think—"Who died and made this guy an expert?" In his own case, MacLeod said the answer was his spirit guides—

one of them being his deceased Uncle John.¹⁰

Dr. Oz's New Age affinity for psychics, spirit guides, past lives, and contacting the dead was showcased on his March 15, 2011 program—just two months after the launch of the Daniel Plan—titled, "Psychic Mediums: Are they the New Therapists?" The promo on his website read: "Can talking to lost loved ones heal your grief? Hear why psychic John Edward believes you can talk to the dead."¹¹

On a January 6, 2010 *Dr. Oz Show*, Dr. Oz revealed what he believed to be "the most important alternative medicine treatment" for his viewers in that coming year. His #1 "Oz's Order" was to "Try Reiki"¹²—an occult bodywork practice that incorporates the channeled guidance of spirit guides. Dr. Oz was reported in one press release as stating: "Reiki is one of my favorites, we've been using it for years in the Oz family, and we swear by it."¹³

On a video on Dr. Oz's website, New Age leader Deepak Chopra teaches viewers how to meditate.¹⁴ Chopra's 2009 book *Reinventing the Body, Resurrecting the Soul* features Dr. Oz's back cover endorsement.¹⁵ Dr. Oz is a personal practitioner of Transcendental Meditation,¹⁶ which was founded by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. He has also practiced Yoga for over twenty years¹⁷ and is devoted to the New Age teachings of Emanuel Swedenborg—teachings that resonate with the mystical Sufi branch of the Muslim faith that he and his wife most identify with.¹⁸

Dr. Oz wrote the Foreword to "US"—a New Age book written by his wife Lisa, who is a Reiki Master¹⁹—a book that opens with a quote on oneness by New Age patriarch Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. In his Foreword, Oz credits his wife's spiritual influence while also mentioning that a number of years ago he "matriculated at Oprah University."²⁰ Dr. Oz endangers those who put their trust in him by interjecting his occult/New Age beliefs into his medical practice.

Presumably, the "Open Heart meditation" given to Ainslie MacLeod by his spirit guides²¹ is not used by Dr. Oz before he does open heart surgery. One thing is for spiritual sure, Dr. Oz may be a skilled cardiovascular surgeon but spiritually he is overlooking one of the most important aspects of the heart. God, speaking through the prophet Jeremiah, warns: "*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*" (Jeremiah 17:9). Multiple references in the Bible also warn about

the extremely dangerous and deceptive nature of “familiar” and “seducing” spirits that Dr. Oz is in the process of normalizing through his extreme influence in the world and now in the church (see Leviticus 19:31; Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 1 Timothy 4:1; etc.).

Dr. Daniel Amen

Dr. Amen is a child and adolescent psychiatrist, best-selling author, and medical director of the Amen Clinics for Behavioral Medicine. In his book *Change Your Brain, Change Your Life*, he encourages readers to “Learn and use self-hypnosis and meditation on a daily basis.”²² In *Change Your Brain, Change Your Body*, Amen, a self-professed Christian, specifically recommends a Hindu Kundalini form of meditation called Kirtan Kriya. He instructs his readers to chant “sa ta na ma” repeatedly while simultaneously doing repetitive finger movements.²³ In a New Age world that says “everything happens for a reason” and “there are no accidents,” the first five letters of this Hindu meditation spell the name of Satan. The last three letters just so happen to be the abbreviated letters of the American Medical Association (AMA). Is this pure coincidence, some kind of cosmic joke, or spiritual mockery?

In his book *The Brain in Love* (formerly titled *Sex on the Brain*), Dr. Amen recommends tantric sex to his readers. He writes that tantra “is a term applied to several schools of Hindu yoga in which sex is worshipped.”²⁴ He states that “[s]ome tantra yoga teachers recommend meditative practices that also share elements with Kundalini yoga, where subtle streams of energy are raised in the body by means of posture, breath control, and movements.”²⁵ He later adds:

After you have agreed to safe boundaries, you can take sex to a new level by investing in a few books or magazines. I write for *Men's Health* magazine and it is always filled with great sex tips for couples. *Cosmopolitan* and other magazines have playful ideas as well. Books on tantric sex or role-playing games can also be fun.²⁶

Dr. Amen’s fascination with tantric sex and Kundalini yoga is very similar to the teachings of Indian gurus like Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh and Swami Baba Muktananda. Dr. Amen’s New Age sympathies are also evident in his willingness to write the Foreword to author Lucinda Bassett’s *The Solution*. In her book, Bassett quotes New Age leaders Marianne Williamson, Eckhart Tolle, the Dalai Lama, Neale Donald Walsch, and others. She describes Walsch as “a spiritual

messenger whose best-selling books and lectures profoundly touch the world.”²⁷

Dr. Mark Hyman

Dr. Hyman is the chairman of the Institute of Functional Medicine and author of the best-selling book *The UltraMind Solution*. With its front cover endorsement by Dr. Mehmet Oz, *The UltraMind Solution* offers practical medical advice while at the same time recommending a number of New Age resources to his readers. For example, he recommends the website of New Age author and guided imagery proponent Belleruth Naparstek.²⁸ Her books and materials are designed to help people meditate, become more psychic, and connect with spirit guides. Her website describes how her materials are used worldwide by patients, hospitals, HMO’s, government agencies, etc. Dr. Hyman and New Age leader Dr. Bernie Siegel are listed as two of Naparstek’s “contributing health and mind-body health practitioners.”²⁹ Siegel, of course being the New Age leader Rick Warren used to introduce the idea of hope and purpose in *The Purpose-Driven Life*. Like Dr. Oz and Dr. Amen, Dr. Hyman recommends meditation and yoga to his readers.³⁰

Dr. Hyman endorsed a New Age book entitled *Power Up Your Brain—The Neuroscience of Enlightenment*. It is co-authored by shaman/medium Alberto Villoldo and neurologist David Perlmutter. The Foreword from the publisher states:

And now two men, two seers—a shaman and a scientist—are combining their experiences and expertise to explore the totality that includes all of the spirit world and all of the scientific world—as One.³¹

David Perlmutter writes:

For it had become clear to us that access to the Great Spirit or Divine Energy—that natural force which is called by so many names—is available to all. In a sense we are all shamans, and the most advanced teachings in cellular biology are validating lifestyle activities that for centuries, have been paving the way to enlightenment through meditative practices not just for the chosen few but for all who care to learn. Our collaboration explores the implications of this not only for individuals but for all of humanity.³²

Villoldo—who spoke at a 2011 Palm Springs Prophets Conference with New Age leader Barbara Marx Hubbard³³— writes:

During my years studying with the shamans, I learned about their belief in the Divine Mother, which we each have

the potential to discover in nature. This was not the bearded old man whose image I had come to associate with “God.” Rather, this was a force that infused all creation, a sea of energy and consciousness that we all swim in and are part of. I came to understand that our Western notions of the divine are perhaps a masculine version of this life force that infuses every cell in our bodies, that animates all living beings, and that even fuels stars.³⁴

Power Up Your Brain includes a chapter recommending various “Shamanic Exercises” that include an invocation to the “Great Serpent.”³⁵ Dr. Hyman’s back cover endorsement of this book sits alongside New Age leaders Bernie Siegel and Greg Braden.

In his endorsement, Hyman betrays his belief in shamanism and the inextricable New Age link between *physical* and *spiritual* health. He writes:

The shaman and physician for millennia were the same person until the 19th century when they were split apart in the name of science. Now through the lens of 21st-century science, Villoldo and Perlmutter bring them back together, illuminating the web that links together our physical and metaphysical energy. For anyone feeling a loss of energy of body or soul, *Power Up Your Brain* is your guide to restoration and rejuvenation of your deepest energies.

Also referring to “restoration” in *The UltraMind Solution*, Dr. Hyman lists three New Age centers in his “Resources” section. Under the heading of “Restorative and Educational Retreats,” he recommends the Omega Institute, the Kripalu Center for Yoga & Health, and the Shambhala Mountain Center.³⁶ Ainslie MacLeod—the Dr. Oz endorsed psychic—is a “faculty member” at both the Kripalu Center and the Omega Institute.³⁷ The Omega Institute offers a number of workshops led by key New Age leaders like Neale Donald Walsch, Marianne Williamson, Deepak Chopra, Eckhart Tolle, and Alberto Villoldo. Classes such as “Conversations with God,” “Contacting the Spirit World,” “How Shamans Dream the World into Being,” and “Bootcamp for Goddesses,” are readily available to those following Dr. Hyman’s advice.³⁸ And at the Dr. Hyman endorsed Kripalu Center, New Age leader Deepak Chopra offers a workshop on his Dr. Oz endorsed book, *Reinventing the Body, Resurrecting the Soul*. In case people can’t make it to Saddleback Church, Dr. Daniel Amen also teaches a workshop at Kripalu.

Key Scriptures Regarding Rick Warren’s Daniel Plan

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers. —2 Corinthians 6:14

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. —Ephesians 5:11

Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord’s table, and of the table of devils. —1 Corinthians 10:21

Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother’s way. —Romans 14:13

Shepherding the Church into a New Age/New Spirituality

In the 1990’s, a well-known Christian leader rightly warned that alternative medicine and holistic health can provide an easy entryway for deceptive New Age teachings. He further warned that changing your diet can also end up changing your worldview. In other words, sometimes losing weight can also mean losing your soul. Speaking from his leadership role with the Christian Medical Association, Dr. David Stevens also urges great discretion regarding alternative health practitioners. He states: “Not only do we have to make a choice; we also have to evaluate the trustworthiness of each messenger and the validity of the message.”³⁹

The Christian Handbook to Alternative Medicine also warns: “Consider carefully not only the therapy but also the character and worldview of those offering the treatment.”⁴⁰ Thus, it is definitely “buyer beware” when it comes to mixedbag physicians like Oz, Amen, and Hyman. But that doesn’t seem to matter to Rick Warren as he openly aligns himself with these New Age doctors and promises to make their joint Daniel Plan a worldwide phenomenon. Instead of sounding a warning trumpet and protecting the church from three New Age physicians, Warren praises them and trumpets his ungodly alliance with them.

One can only wonder if the prophet Daniel’s vision of the end days included a look at Rick Warren’s Daniel Plan—a compromised pastor and three New Age doctors with their psychics, spirit guides, tantric sex, necromancy, Yoga, Reiki, Transcendental and Kundalini “sa ta na ma” meditations and more—all in Daniel’s name. If so, it is no wonder *the Bible records that he “fainted” and became “sick”* for a number of days (Daniel 8:27).

It doesn’t make any difference in God’s scheme of things if Rick Warren stands slim and trim in front of an adoring church audience after losing 90 pounds. What may be remembered is that in the midst of all the self-congratulatory statistics and frenzied media

hoopla, a finger suddenly appeared on the wall behind Rick Warren and wrote the following:

... Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. —Daniel 5:27

(Article excerpted from Warren Smith's new book, *A "Wonderful" Deception*. Used with permission.)

Endnotes

1. Week 11: *Re-Focusing The Daniel Plan* (<http://www.saddleback.com/thedanielplan/?category=Week%2011>).
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3. *Pastoral Response*, Brandon Cox, *Saddleback Church*, (<https://www.saddleback.com/thedanielplan/toolsandresources/pastoralresponse/>).
4. Michael Harner, Ph.D., *The Way of the Shaman*, (New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers, 1980, 1990), back cover.
5. *Ibid.*, p. 25.
6. Ainslie MacLeod, *The Instruction: Living the Life Your Soul Intended* (Boulder, CO: Sounds True, Inc., 2007, 2009), front cover.
7. Ainslie MacLeod, *The Transformation: Healing Your Past Lives to Realize Your Soul's Potential* (Boulder, CO: Sounds True, Inc., 2010), front cover.
8. *Ibid.*, front flap.
9. *Ibid.*, pp. 243-244.
10. Ainslie MacLeod, *The Instruction*: , op. cit., p. 9, 12. 1
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14. "Meditation Techniques Demonstrated by Deepak Chopra," *The Dr. Oz Show*, added to videos on 2/25/10, (<http://www.doctoroz.com/videos/deepak-chopra-meditation>).
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17. *Ibid.*
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19. "'Try Reiki,' Dr. Oz Tells Millions on TV," 1/9/10, *The Reiki Digest*, op. cit.
20. Lisa Oz, *US*, op. cit., p. x.
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22. Daniel G. Amen, M.D., *Change Your Brain, Change Your Life* (New York, NY: Times Books, a division of Random House, Inc., 1998), p. 302.
23. Daniel G. Amen, M.D., *Change Your Brain, Change Your Body* (New York, NY: Three Rivers Press, a division of Random House, Inc., 2010), p. 223.
24. Daniel G. Amen, M.D., *The Brain in Love* (New York, NY: Three Rivers Press, a division of Random House, Inc., 2007), p. 144.
25. *Ibid.*, p. 145.
26. *Ibid.*, p. 148.
27. Lucinda Bassett, *The Solution: Conquer Your Fear, Control Your Future* (New York, NY: Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., 2011), p. 146.
28. Mark Hyman M.D., *The UltraMind Solution* (New York, NY: Scribner, a division of Simon & Schuster, Inc., 2009), p. 402. (Belleruth Naparstek's website recommended by Dr. Hyman: <http://www.healthjourneys.com/>).
29. Our Practitioner Bios, Health Journeys, (http://www.healthjourneys.com/practitioner_bios.asp).
30. Mark Hyman, *The UltraMind Solution*, op. cit., p. 384.
31. David Perlmutter, M.D., F.A.C.N., Alberto Villoldo, Ph.D., *Power Up Your Brain: The Neuroscience of Enlightenment* (New York, NY: Hay House, Inc., 2011), p. xiv.
32. *Ibid.*, p. xviii.
33. The Prophets Conference (<http://www.greatmystery.org/>).
34. David Perlmutter, Alberto Villoldo, *Power Up Your Brain*, op. cit., p. xxi.
35. *Ibid.*, p. 154.

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40. *Ibid.*, p. 123. Note: Thanks to Jennifer Pekich, Ray Yungen, and Lighthouse Trails for initially breaking this "Daniel Plan" story.

You can find more articles and books by Warren Smith at his website – www.mountainstreampress.org

Only Scripture

By Pastor Anton Bosch

One of the non-negotiable essentials of orthodox Christianity has always been the completeness of Scripture. By completeness we mean that the Bible (66 books) is the complete and final revelation of God to man. Nothing is to be added to the Scriptures, nothing is to be taken away from it, and nothing is to be placed above, or next to it (in authority or priority). The Bible stands on its own, is complete, and is the final measure by which every other doctrine, statement, creed or revelation is to be judged.

Over the centuries various groups have strayed from the principle of the completeness of Scripture. Most notably the Roman Church places the Apocrypha, the Magisterium, Canon Law, the Ex Cathedra statements of the Pope and a bunch of other stuff at the same level, or higher than Scripture.

One of the things that most cults have in common is that they all have their books, prophecies, and teachings that are equal to, or that supersede, the Bible.

Some historic churches hold their traditions, creeds and council decisions as equal to Scripture. Many also believe the teachings of deceased teachers above God's Word. Most (not all) Charismatic and Pentecostal churches place prophecy, visions, revelations, experiences, and the teaching of special gifted leaders (often called apostles or prophets), above the Bible.

This is an old problem, but it has recently been escalating to new levels. Many evangelicalists who previously held to the completeness, inerrancy and sufficiency of Scripture are abandoning those truths.

Others who previously would have denied that they add to Scripture now openly and boldly defend their move beyond Scripture. I quote two examples:

C Peter Wagner is the "grand-apostle" and "founder" of the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) which now

embraces almost all Charismatics and Pentecostals and a huge portion of Evangelicalism. According to Wagner "...the NAR embraces the largest non-Catholic segment of world Christianity. It is also the fastest growing segment, the only segment of Christianity currently growing faster than the world population..."[i]

Wagner therefore represents a huge portion of modern Christendom and has in the last week openly stated that the NAR rejects the completeness of Scripture: "Some object to the notion that God communicates directly with us, supposing that everything that God wanted to reveal He revealed in the Bible. This cannot be true, however... He also reveals new things to prophets..." He continues to say that he does not believe that the Bible is complete in its 66 books, and that all this new revelation supplements what is written in the Bible[ii].

Tom Horn is one of the writers and teachers that has taken the church world by storm with his wild speculations about mutant life forms in the Old Testament, alien visits and abductions, as well as all sorts of fantastical science fiction sold as new Christian revelation (sounds very similar to Scientology – and it is). In addition to his own wild imagination and twisted use of Scripture, Horn has based many of his doctrines on apocryphal books as well as astrology. He strongly defends his use of extra-biblical sources and many evangelical Christians agree with him. He is endorsed by many Evangelical pastors and leaders.

These are but two of dozens, if not hundreds, of examples of "Christian" leaders rejecting the truth that the Bible is complete and closed.

So, is the Bible complete? Does God continue to reveal new truths that were not revealed to the holy men who were moved by the Holy Spirit to produce the Scriptures (2Peter 1:21)?

Well, we need to examine the Bible's testimony in this regard. Hebrews 1:1-2 says: "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son." These verses deal with three aspects of God's speaking: The agents through whom God spoke, the method God used to speak, and the timing of when God spoke.

God spoke to the fathers in the Old Testament through prophets who acted as mouthpieces for God. But the text clearly says that that has changed. God is no longer speaking through prophets but through His Son. Yes, God still uses people to expound His Word and to speak to His people but all man can, and should say, is repeat what God has already said. For that reason, Paul goes to great lengths to prove that his writings are the things Jesus Christ told him to write (Galatians 1:12, 1Corinthians 11:23, 1Corinthians 15:3 etc.). John does the same in 1John 1:1-5, Revelation 1:1-2 etc. And so does Peter in 2Peter 1:16ff.

Those who claim that God still uses prophets like He did in the Old Testament clearly are dissatisfied with God only speaking through His Son (in the New Testament) and want to return to the Old Testament when He spoke through prophets.

Hebrews announces that God no longer speaks through men, but through His Son; and also that the way in which God speaks (the method) has changed. It says that in the Old Testament God spoke in various ways. He spoke through thunder and lightning, a donkey, visions, dreams, prophets (good and bad), through signs, types, angels and so on. He even wrote on tables of stone and on a wall. But He has now reduced all those different methods down to one single means: His Son.

Please note, this is not my opinion, but is clearly and obviously what the text teaches. Once again, to insist that today God continues to speak through the methods of the Old Testament, is to reject the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thirdly the text speaks to timing. It says that God spoke at "various times." Various times refers to the fact that not one of the OT prophets received a full revelation. Each one received a piece of the total revelation and God spoke sporadically. Sometimes there were a number of prophets all speaking at the same time and at other times God was silent for long periods of time. But this is contrasted with the fact that He has spoken through Jesus Christ and that in Christ we have the full and final revelation of God's message to man. Once again note that the text is drawing a clear contrast between a partial and sporadic revelation and a once for all, full and final, revelation.

Now look at the grammar. In the Greek the words "God... has... spoken" is in the first aorist indicative. Aorist marks a completed, one-point action. The verse is correctly translated into the past perfect in English. God is not still speaking he HAS spoken. He is done, He does not continue - He has spoken.

So to suggest that God continues to speak and give more revelation is a clear contradiction of Hebrews 1:1-2. Yes, we talk about God speaking through the sermon, some experience or His Spirit. If we mean He is reminding us of what has been said through Jesus Christ, we are correct. If we mean he is telling us new things that are not written in the 66 books, we are misled and hearing some other voice that is not His.

Endnotes:

[i] C Peter Wagner. The New Apostolic Reformation. An Update. August 18, 2011. <http://www.globalspheres.org/>

[ii] Ibid

NOTE: This article was also published on the Herescope blog and will be a continuing series. See <http://herescope.blogspot.com/2011/08/only-scripture.html>