

REALITY QUEST

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NOTE: I have periodically written many diatribes on the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (The Mormons) and the christian religion. I have no personal vendetta against any person or any church. My only intention is to learn and share truth, as I see it, to those who care to read my many writings. I have yet to lose a debate on Mormonism or Christianity. A wise Mormon or Christian would maintain his or her intellectual distance when conversing with me on these two subjects. I have dedicated far more time to these two themes than most individuals who win degrees and doctorates in other subjects. (Anyone who has earned a degree in either of the two subjects mentioned won't find it necessary to debate me, for I am confident that their studies have realized the same end as my own.) I am not trying to imply that I know everything there is to know about these two subjects, however, I have read or spoken with few who have investigated these subjects with as much vigor and interest as myself.

Why, one might ask, has Chris spent so much time and energy studying these things? I was employed by a very wealthy man who had found out about my dealings with the mormon church, i.e., my getting into the personal files and desks of the leaders of the mormon church. He asked me if I intended on going through his personal files and desk. I responded, "You have not told me that you're my representative of God on earth. So, what interest would I have in going through your files?" He smiled. I became one of his most trusted employees. I was raised in Utah as a Mormon and in the United States as a Christian. I have witnessed the effects of both on the mind of a young person trying to be the best he can be. I have seen the hate, bigotry, and pride perpetuated in the name of religion. My soul has been assigned to hell by my family for rejecting "the true gospel of Jesus Christ". I was a personal example of what these particular religions can do to one's life, if the person is not a hypocrite, and lives by "every word which comes forth from the mouth of God, or his servants the prophets." In other words, these two issues were very important to me as a youth, and I wanted to make sure I knew everything I could about them.

It might be sad to Mormons and Christians, but it certainly isn't to me, that upon investigating and pursuing truth, I found it (truth) was quite different than what I had been taught. I had based my entire library of learning on faith. Faith in things that always left me with many questions and curiosities. After finally realizing that one can find out the answer, or at least form an answer, on practically anything, I embarked on my quest for reality. Because of my conclusions, I have been ridiculed by many. Some say I have been deceived by the devil. Others, think I am crazy and abnormal. Albert Einstien said, "*Great spirits, have always found violent opposition from mediocrities. The latter cannot understand it when a man does not thoughtlessly submit to hereditary prejudices but honestly and courageously uses his intelligence.*"

I write what I have studied and concluded. I do it because I want to help others who I was once like. It is one of the most joyous and fulfilling things I have ever experienced-searching for truth-and I will continue my quest until I die, regardless what any might do to my body or my name.

"THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS" TRUTH BEHIND A MYTH

In 1947, a young Arab shepherd boy happened on a cave which contained many old documents. These documents meant nothing to the young boy, who told few people of his find. It was some eighteen months later that the outside world learned of the boy's discovery. Little did this boy know, but he had found one of the greatest religious finds of the 20th century. Finally, documents which dated over 2000 years ago had been discovered. The documents were written by the Essenes, a splinter group of Jews who had left the main body of Jewry because they maintained that the Jews had corrupted the original teachings and doctrines of Moses, their esteemed prophet. The documents found by the shepherd boy were to be the beginning of many documents which were discovered upon excavation of the surrounding area known as Qumran.

At first, the christian world was very excited that perhaps something might have been written by the Essenes to prove the existence of their Lord, Jesus Christ, and otherwise offer a better understanding of the beginnings of Christianity. Yes, the documents threw a better light on the beginnings of Christianity, but it was a very dark light to the Christians who anticipated finding out something that would give them factual evidence of Christianity's birth. As for Jesus, it was finally discovered where this individual might have got his beginnings. The contents of the scrolls did not uphold the dogmatic perceptions which have evolved over the centuries in the christian religion. Upon finding this out, the christian world flexed its "political muscle" and managed to suppress most of the documents. I was intrigued in my studies of the Dead Sea Scrolls by the work of John M. Allegro. Allegro has edited some of the most important parts of the Essene documents. In 1961, he was appointed by King Hussein of Jordan, as the honorary advisor to the Jordanian government on the Dead Sea Scrolls found in their territory from 1947 onward. He is also a professor and lecturer at the University of Manchester in Near East and Old Testament studies. No other human being has had more contact with and auspices over the Dead Sea Scrolls. Mr. Allegro is outraged at the suppression of the documents. He once tried to publish a book containing many things contained in the scrolls which are contrary to the orthodoxy of Christianity only to have them edited out by his English publishers. He said, *"Many wished the Dead Sea Scrolls would go away; one learned professor expressed the fervent wish in my presence that they had never been found, indeed, that they remained 'at the bottom of the Dead Sea'... The great questions that have hammered on the door of critical scholarship for centuries have remained unanswered, and the potentiality of the Dead Sea Scrolls for illuminating a hitherto obscure area of first-century sectarian Judaism (i.e., Christianity, which is considered to be a protestant form of Judaism.) has remained virtually unexploited. The first desideratum (something desired as essential or needed) of any piece of honest research is the wish to know the answer, even though its revelation might be at the cost of long-cherished but insufficiently founded dogma."*

What could the christian community possibly gain from suppressing hundreds of documents and allowing only a few to be published? The answer: the loyal faith of their constituents. What could these documents possibly contain which would test the faith of the Christian? They contain some facts about the origination of the myth called "Jesus". What could possibly destroy a Christian's faith more than coming to the knowledge that they have put their faith in a myth. Could it be possible that Greek Mythology had a competitor? If Hercules, the only begotten son of Zeus, turned out to be nothing more than a fable, could it be possible that Jesus, the only begotten of the god of the Jews, is a myth also? In the not too distant future, Jesus will take his place as a "character" in the literary halls of christian myth. The Essenes tell us why.

The Essenes were Jews; and the Jews were Old Testament fanatics. The Old Testament with its pretended prophecies and myths, gave the Jews the hope that they were the "chosen people of god"-the only ones that lived on the earth. The Essenes believed, like the Protestants of the modern day christian faith, that the Jews had corrupted the "church of God" and that the Jewish priesthood leaders were corrupt also. Any Jew who read and studied the 'Prophets' of the Old Testament, i.e., Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, ect..., would conclude that "God" had condemned the church and its leaders for corruption. Why, therefore, didn't the majority of the Jews reject their leaders and follow the counsel of these "prophets"? The answer is simple: the lay Jews were illiterate and were forced to hear the "words of God" through the mouth's of their Jewish priesthood leaders. Only certain leaders, at certain times, on certain days could read from the Jewish scriptures. One would be a fool to think that the Jewish leaders would read "words of God" which

condemned them and their practices. When ever there was a man who stood up to the Jewish leaders, like Isaiah, Jeremiah, or even the man the Christians call Jesus, he was persecuted, hated and ridiculed by these jealous leaders. There is much more to the Jewish Torah (their scripture) than what has been presented to the world. If something had been written which condemned the Jewish leaders, it was simply not included in the final draft of the scriptures presented to the people as the word of god. I would here like to give a more recent example of this religious "white washing" by unscrupulous leaders:

The Mormon's accept a book called, the *Doctrine and Covenants* as the "word of God" as given through their prophet Joseph Smith Jr... Section 137 of this book is a vision which Joseph Smith had while he was at the mormon temple in Kirtland, Ohio, January 21, 1836. When the vision was put in the modern mormon scripture, it was edited precisely where one might get the idea that "God" wasn't too happy with the leaders of "his church".

In the modern mormon text the last words of the vision are: **"...in the celestial kingdom of heaven."** However, the *real* vision as found in the *History of the Church*, Volume 2, pages 380-381, (incidentally, the *History of the Church*, was edited countless times and most-about 60%- which has been attributed to Joseph Smith, are interpolations of later church leaders and historians- historian is hardly the word to describe religious scribes.) continues the vision in the following way: **"...I saw the Twelve Apostles of the Lamb, who are now upon the earth, who hold the keys of this last ministry, in foreign lands, standing together in a circle, much fatigued, with their eyes cast downward, and Jesus standing in their midst, and they did not behold Him. The Saviour looked upon them and wept. I also beheld Elder M'Lellin in the south, surrounded by a vast multitude, preaching to them, and a lame man standing before him supported by his crutches; he threw them down at his word and leaped as a hart, by the mighty power of God..."**

Obviously, this vision wouldn't prove to the mormon layman that his leaders were doing what was required of them by their lord. Furthermore, the Apostle mentioned, Elder M'Lellin, later left the mormon church and became one of its most bitter enemies, claiming that Joseph Smith was deceiving the people; and that the mormon prophet invented all his supposable visions. It was very apparent to whoever had the last say on what went into the final version of the modern *Doctrine and Covenants*, that including this portion of the vision would cause some problems with the faith of the general mormon public. I guess he who edited the *History of the Church* wasn't as smart!

My point is: the ancient Jewish Scribes and Priests "spoon-fed" their listeners whatever they wanted them to hear. A "Teacher of Righteousness", as the Essenes called him, could read and could have been one of the Jewish leaders. This "teacher", who is never called by name, led the Essenes away from the "corrupt" Jewish church and established the *true* "church of God" in the wilderness. It was in the wilderness (modernly known as Qumran) that these Jewish fundamentalists organized themselves. Eventually the other Jews, who were bowing down to the "evils" of the Roman government, and the "Beast" (the Roman government) didn't like what was going on the out skirts of their borders and went in and **"hung alive on a tree"**, i.e., crucified, most of the Essenes; including the **"teacher of righteousness"** who had led their cause so valiantly. All this occurred in 88 BC- 88 years before the supposable birth of the **"teacher of righteousness"**, who was eventually he **"...whom ye slew and hanged on a tree."** (*The Bible*, Acts 5:30). The only difference is: the Essene's prophet didn't come back to life!

These Essenes were a "People of the Book", studying the Law and the Prophets day and night. But they were not just observers; they believed they were required to play an active role in the establishment of the new Kingdom, and to use their predictive powers to fit themselves for their special calling. It was just north of Qumran at Jericho and the fords of the Jordan river that Joshua, in his role as Moses's successor, led the Israelites across to the promised Land. As the Red Sea had parted before Moses and the tribes fleeing from their Egyptian oppressors, so now the waters of the Jordan split to let the "chosen people" cross on dry land. In this repetition of history was a sure sign that God had chosen this people and Joshua as their prophet. As the tribes of Israel came into the land to take it by force and establish it as the land of God's people, the people needed to reaffirm their faithfulness to their god by renewing their covenants with him.

So now, a millennium and a half later, when the Essenes faced the most exacting challenge of all time, they gathered in the vicinity of the first crossing to renew their vows before God. They called themselves the "men of the New Covenant, or New Testament", and prepared themselves under their Teacher, another Joshua (in its Greek form: Jesus), to enter the Promised Land of the new era.

If only the whole text of the Dead Sea Scrolls would be translated and released. If only the "fanatics" and religious zealots of our time would take the time to research the true beginnings of their treasured religions. If only man and womankind would use their brains for what their "God" intended them to think! Only then will humans find peace.

A small Palestinian boy who looks down at the bloody face of his young mother who was just gunned down by Israeli commandos does not care whether or not God gave his ancestors the Gaza strip, or the West Bank for that matter. The Israeli child who screams in horror upon hearing that her father just got his head bashed in by a Palestinian rock, does not care if the "chosen people of God" loose a little bit of the land that they were supposedly promised. Neither does the little negro child living in Mississippi care that Jesus is the Christ when he looks in terror at the burning body of his father on a Klu Klux Klan cross. Or the Buddhist boy living in Utah whose father can not find a job or receive the charity of the people, who claim to be Christians, to feed his family, care that he hasn't received certain "ordinances" which will save him in the "Kingdom of God". These children want to live in a happy world where they can live out their childhood in peace and the security of knowing that perhaps God loves all humans the same.

The Dead Sea Scrolls are just one of countless factual evidences which, if accepted and studied, could change the thinking of human beings. The Jews and Christians have caused more bad than the good that they can be credited with. Why do they continue with an illusion that separates instead of unites?

"God" only knows!!!

MY WRITING STYLE

One will note that I hardly ever, if at all, use footnotes or include related works at the end of my articles. One might also see that I put the definition of some words in parenthesis. One might also conclude that I write in very simple terms, for the most part, and that my punctuation, grammar, and spelling are sometimes incorrect.

Well, undoubtedly, this novelist could compose this treatise in a fashion in which exclusively the eminently intellectual, well-read individual could conceive. However, ecumenically articulating, this sage does not anticipate trepidation in presenting this text to an ubiquitous congregation.

I can't stand to read books written in the manner that I wrote the preceding paragraph. Most authors feel it is necessary to show their "intelligence" by the amount of big words they use. I find most of these works, not only boring, but useless when the reader is not as fluent in vocabulary as the writer. I don't give a two-cent witch's wart if my writing is not accepted by the academia; I think that most college graduates have more "non" sense than they do common sense.

As for my lack of inserting footnotes and the like: It wouldn't matter if I documented the facts of my conclusions with every source available on the subject; what a fool believes, he sees! If any are interested in the research that I have done on any particular matter, then get a hold of me and I will prepare a text of footnotes, ect.... If one reads my writings posthumously (Ha. Ha, another big word meaning if I kicked the bucket), then do the research yourself if you don't believe me.

AN ORIGINAL JOKE

What does a polygamist cannibal call his wives? -----Food storage.

AN ORIGINAL QUOTE

"The beauty of the night, is that there is a moon, which reflects the light of tomorrow."
-inspired in a tent in Montana-

