

CHRISTIAN ANSWERS

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ARE PSYCHIC MEDIUMS COMMUNICATING WITH GHOSTS OR DEMONIC SPIRITS?



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HOW PSYCHIC MEDIUMS OPERATE

Psychic mediums claim to communicate with dead people. Famous psychic mediums like James Van Praagh, John Edward, Sylvia Browne, and Char Margolis often do this on national TV. In fact, these individuals have made fortunes by their self-proclaimed ability to communicate with the dead. As we examine how these psychics actually do what they do, we will discover what is really going on.

Psychic's Goal:

James Van Praagh claims the spirits often want to make contact with the living in order to assure their living loved ones that they are okay. They can allegedly see their loved ones mourning over their deaths, so they want to bring comfort by conveying that death is not the end and that they are in a good place.

Once living people hear from their dead relatives or friends through a psychic medium, Van Praagh claims, everything changes in their perspective. "With the knowledge of no death, they are free to live life. In an instant, a life overwrought with grief becomes a life ready to live each day and each moment with newness." They are now at peace.

Van Praagh claims that "the biggest fear mankind has is of death. If we can abolish

the fear of death, we can begin to live life to the fullest." He claims, "Most people who come to me want closure with a loved one that has passed over or need proof that there is life after death. What I supply is the evidential detail. That's what helps them realize there is no death."

Another reason the spirits often seek contact with the living Van Praagh claims, is that they may personally be in need of forgiveness. They cannot rest peacefully or spiritually progress to the Other Side until earthly issues have been resolved. One of Van Praagh's goals is to help spirits seek and receive forgiveness for whatever wrongdoing they have committed during earthly life.

Psychics Describe Their Methods:

Psychic mediums consider themselves to be bridges between the physical world and the spiritual world. They claim their goal is to act as intermediaries between the living and the dead. This is easier said than done.

The reason for this, psychics say, is that human beings on earth are composed of atoms and molecules that vibrate at a relatively slow rate because they are in physical bodies. By contrast, those in the spirit world (the Other Side) are allegedly composed of atoms and molecules that vibrate at a very fast speed. In order for the two worlds to communicate, spirits must slow their rapid vibrational rate while human psychic mediums must increase their slow vibrational rate.

John Edward provides an analogy. Though a helicopter has two to four blades, you cannot see them because they are spinning too fast. This is like the high vibrational rate of spirits. In contrast, a living human being's slow vibrational rate is like the blades of a slow-turning ceiling fan. You can see them clearly. During a psychic reading, Edwards says, the spirit slows down its vibration as the psychic medium speeds his up. Communication allegedly takes place in the space between

the two worlds. Edward claims, "As I speed up and they slow down, across the great divide between our two worlds we meet somewhere in the middle and communicate."

Edward claims that because of the space between the two worlds -a great gap- communication can be difficult. In the midst of this gap, spirits allegedly send psychic thoughts, feelings, and images, and the psychic medium's task is to interpret those thoughts, feelings, and images back to the living.

One must keep in mind, Edward claims, that spirits no longer have physical bodies, including mouths, tongues, and vocal cords. They cannot enunciate words, so they send thoughts, feelings, and images. The psychic medium expresses these thoughts, feelings, and images to the living.

Edward claims he goes through a series of exercises to help raise his vibrational rate. He begins by meditating, centering himself so that his "energies" are fully focused on the task at hand. As a Catholic, he also prays the rosary. He claims the spirits once showed him rosary beads turning into musical notes. He interpreted this as a symbolic message that the rosary is music to their ears. The rosary, Edward claims, brings us close to the spirits and brings the spirits closer to us.

Van Praagh describes the process a bit differently. He claims that once the spirits slow their vibrational rate, they are able to send thoughts to the psychic medium telepathically. He uses an analogy of a radio station: *It's like a radio station...I actually will tune into, if you will, a certain energy. A frequency of the person's voice. I'm hearing their voice. And by hearing that voice, I receive impressions. Sometimes it's a scene of something. Sometimes it's a*

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"exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict" (Titus 1:9)

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THE GOSPEL IN BRIEF

There is one, and only one, eternal, true, holy God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Matt 28:19). He created everything by His word. God has told us the truth about Himself in the word He has given us, the Bible, which He commands us to obey. God is compassionate and just to all. God is pure and Holy; sin is destroyed in His presence (Numbers 14:18). However, we have all sinned, falling short in the evil we do, and the good we fail to do. Yet our problem is not just what we do, but also who we are; we are selfish, corrupt, and estranged from God. Because God is just, He will punish sin impartially, yet God still bestows his love to all men. So our Savior, Jesus, the only begotten Son of God (the God-man, John 1:1,14), was graciously sent to suffer and die on the cross for our sins and to purify us from all unrighteousness by the sacrifice of His body and blood. He was born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, and was physically raised from the dead and ascended into heaven. Jesus will physically return to judge the world. God commands everyone to repent and to believe in Him. God's Spirit lives in each of us who believe in Him to guide us into truth, convict us of our sins, and to work in us to sanctify us to live a more holy life, pleasing our Lord. God's children will dwell forever with God, and those who reject Jesus will suffer eternal torment. There is no other way for anyone to come to God except through Jesus (Jn. 14:6). Please do not depend on anyone else, your own efforts, your religion, but simply put your faith in Christ our Master. So as Rom. 10:9 says, "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart the God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." You are urged not to despise God's mercy but call out to the Lord and trust ONLY in Him.

THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR



Larry Wessels

Greetings to one and all in Christ Jesus. We meet again this time to discuss the supernatural phenomena of psychic powers and the existence of ghosts. I discovered the day (May 16, 1981) God and His mercy ordained that I should be "born again" (John 3:3-8) by the power of His Spirit (Titus 3:5) that a real supernatural realm actually existed. I realized that day **that God was really real and really existed** and almost at the same time I suddenly understood that **likewise a malevolent being was also in actual existence, namely the Devil, called Satan.** Wow, talk about a contrast of emotions—the overwhelming joy of knowing the Biblical God and His love while realizing the grim and foreboding reality that I'm in a world inhabited by Satan and his legions (Revelation 12:1-17). What a wake up call to find that I am in love with the Living God but I am now in the middle of a **cosmic war** between those who would follow and serve God and those who would rebel against God and follow the Devil (and most people are following the Devil, Matthew 7:13-23)!

The Bible gives us a clear picture of the spiritual realm that surrounds the world we live in, namely, God, angels and demons. Go to our website **Biblequery.org**, click "Experience" and see our back newsletters or write our ministry for a free copy of one of our back newsletters which deals specifically with this. Just ask for *Christian Debater Guide*, volume 3, #2, entitled "**Spiritual Warfare**" with the lead article written by Thomas Ice, Ph.D. Tyndale Theological Seminary and a Th.M. from Dallas Theological Seminary. This is very useful Biblical information.

Biblically and in my own experience I can testify that **psychic phenomena** and "**ghostly**" **phenomena** are interrelated and are definitely connected to the demonic realm. Dr. Ron Rhodes, our lead article writer, is an outstanding Christian author and apologist who has done the body of Christ a great service over the years with his many books and radio broadcasts. His insight into these issues will help Christians deal with these age old devices of Satan (Deuteronomy 18:9-14).

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN ANSWERS ?

Our ministry name is derived in part from Peter 3:15 which states, "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (KJV). This is the goal of **Christian Answers** in an increasingly anti-Christian society here in America and throughout the world; giving answers and reasons why the Christian faith can be trusted and believed.

The Biblical commands to "fight the good fight of faith" (1 Tim. 6:12), to be "set for the defense of the gospel" (Phil. 1:17), to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3), to "be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict" (Titus 1:9), to "put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not" (Rev. 2:2), to "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves." (Matt. 7:15), to "examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good" (1 Thess. 5:21), "with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth" (? Tim. 2:25), to follow the example of Paul and Apollos who "vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was Christ." (Acts 18:28). These are but a few of the marching orders for the call to ministry, discernment and evangelism.

The inerrant Word of God (? Tim. 3:16-17) whereby the gospel is preached, which is "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth" (Rom. 1:16), is the weapon of our evangelism. As Hebrews 4:12 states, "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow: it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." This is the evangelical missionary methodology of **Christian Answers**— to bring the Biblical perspective to a culture that is almost completely ignorant of it; to bring Christian truth, Christian answers to those who, as the prophet Isaiah said, have made "lies...and falsehood" their refuge (Isa. 28:15); to smash lies and falsehoods with the "hammer" of God's word (Jer. 23:29); see also Proverbs 30:5-6, Psalm 138:2b, Isaiah 40:8, John 5:39-47, 1 Cor. 14:37, and Acts 17:11.

Christian Answers utilizes all outreach that God allows us including television, radio, audio CDs, video DVDs, speaking engagements, and the printed page. The materials we have been able to produce have been used by churches, Bible teachers, Christian apologists, laymen and others as well as those seeking life in Christ.

We are not afraid to stand up for Jesus Christ in public forums or wherever the Lord leads. Of course this type of ministry is not for the faint of heart and very often leads to the same type of suffering and persecution that we find in the book of Acts. But as the old saying goes, "one life will soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last," and as Paul said, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:14), knowing this mortal life is short and God's eternity is only a moment away for all.

Our ministry is "exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501 (c) (3) by the Internal Revenue Service". Donations to our ministry are tax deductible, therefore those who contribute will receive a donation receipt good on your US income tax. This applies to donations only, not sales. We are legally registered in the state of Texas.

feeling of something. And I get words in front of me.

Van Praagh says he can “turn off” when he so desires. “When I finish, I turn off the radio and take away any of that power of awareness.”

Psychic Sign Language:

Edward likens the thoughts, feelings, and images that come from spirits to psychic sign language. Often these thoughts, feelings and images are symbolic. As psychic mediums become more fluent in understanding the symbols, Edward claims, they can more easily understand what the spirit is seeking to communicate. For example, if Edward senses a tightness in his chest during a reading, he may interpret that as meaning that the person died from a heart attack. If Edward senses blackness in the chest area he may interpret that as meaning that the person died of lung cancer.

Edward says he never hears conversational language. He says people sometimes get the wrong idea that he is simply repeating what he has verbally heard from a spirit. In reality, he claims he is interpreting and delivering symbolic information as fast as he can keep up with it. “I get scenes in my head without the sound. I so wish I were hearing voices, but I don’t. They’re thoughts.”

Edward claims that if he were truly hearing conversational language, he would be a lot more accurate than he is. He says mistakes in communication may happen because he is misinterpreting thoughts, feelings, and image. The primary message that comes through, however, is often quite clear: The spirit seeks to validate to living loved ones that he or she is okay so that these loved ones can be comforted.

Psychic Senses:

Psychic mediums often claim they utilize specific psychic senses to communicate with spirits. For example, John Edward claims he utilizes clairaudience, clairvoyance, clairsentience, clairalience, and clairhambience.

Clairaudience. This word literally means “clear hearing.” Just as dogs can hear higher frequencies than humans, psychic mediums claim to hear beyond the normal hearing range into the world of spirits. Edward says he can hear sounds, sometimes including voices, that come from spirits. Sometimes a psychic medium can hear only the voice of his mind. “Imagine that while you are reading this you are also thinking about whether or not you left the oven on. That’s your

mind’s voice. That’s how spirit messages sound to me.”

Clairvoyance. This term literally means “clear seeing.” It is the alleged mental picturing of physical objects or events at a distance by psychic means. It includes the alleged ability to perceive things beyond physical reality—into the ethereal dimension, the realm of spirits. Edward claims he can see objects, symbols, and scenes communicated by spirits. These images may be literal (for example, the image of a car might point to a death in a car accident) or symbolic (for example, seeing a Ford might convey that the last name of a person is Ford). A psychic medium might claim to clairvoyantly see what a person looked like while on earth.

Clairsentience. This literally means “clear sensing” or “clear feeling.” It is the psychic medium’s alleged ability to receive a projected emotion from nearby or from another (spiritual) dimension and experience that emotional sensation within his or her body. A psychic medium might claim to sense, for example, how a spirit feels now or how it felt prior to death and after. He or she might also claim to feel sympathetic pains—that is, if a person had joint pains while he was alive, a psychic medium might sense that pain during communication with the spirit. Edward claims that if he is not correctly interpreting the feeling or emotion, it gradually feels bigger and bigger until he gets it right.

Clairalience and clairhambience. *Clairalience* literally means “clear smelling.” *Clairhambience* literally means “clear tasting.” A psychic medium might claim to sense smells and tastes from a spirit. For example, a psychic medium might claim to smell something that was closely associated with the person while he was physically alive, such as a cigar.

A combined sensory experience. Psychic mediums claim that accurately interpreting what a spirit is trying to communicate requires them to use these various psychic senses in concert with each other. They try to interpret the entire package—symbols, sounds, and feelings—into a single coherent message. Psychic mediums thus claim their work can be extremely draining.

Telling It Like It Is:

Psychic mediums claim to never adjust or change messages they receive from spirits. They claim they do not edit communications from the dead, even if the information is personal or potentially embarrassing. “Whatever I get, my client gets,” Edward

says. Psychics may, however, choose to put things in a kinder and gentler way. For example, if the psychic is perceiving a car accident that is yet future, the psychic might say to the client, “Be careful while you are driving.”

Allegations of Critics:

We might get the feeling that psychic mediums genuinely contact dead humans and that their methods for doing so are highly refined. Later we will see that if psychic mediums are in communication with any spirits at all, they are in contact not with the dead but rather with demonic spirits. For now, however, I want to shift my attention to the allegations of critics regarding the way psychic mediums do what they do. Some of the findings are enlightening.

Let’s Go Fishing

Despite the rather elaborate psychic methodology we have just mentioned, critics allege that many psychic mediums today fish for information during psychic readings as if they were playing 20 Questions. For example, a psychic might ask a studio audience something like this “Do any of you have a relative whose name starts with S? Or R? Or maybe D?”

Sometimes, when throwing out letters that relates to a person’s name, a psychic medium might mention that the letters could refer to a person either living or dead. This greatly increases the chances of a hit. Almost everyone knows someone else whose name begins with S, R, or D.

Or the psychic medium might say, “Are you going through a change in your life right now? I sense you’re going through some kind of change.” Almost everyone is going through some kind of change.

Another common line goes like this: “I’m sensing a female figure. It’s either a mom or a mother figure who has crossed over to the Other Side.” It does not take a rocket scientist to recognize that a huge percentage of the American public has a mom or mother figure who has died. Or the psychic medium might say, “I am sensing a male who is older than you.” Everyone knows an older male who has died. Such lines are bound to generate significant response. Once the psychic has received a response—once he has hooked a person—he can then fish for other pertinent information.

Here is another line: “I sense that your grandmother has passed over and that you possess a piece of jewelry from her. I sense that this piece of jewelry is a closed circle.” Of course, many people have a grandmother who has died. Moreover, a lot of people have

jewelry from a dead relative. In most cases, the piece of jewelry is a closed circle –a ring, a necklace, or a bracelet.

Psychic mediums may also fish for information about how a person died. For example, a psychic medium speaking to a client about the death of his father might say, “I’m sensing a pain in the chest area.” If he receives a positive nod, he may ask if the father died of a heart attack. (Obviously many people in the United States die of a heart attack.) If the psychic is wrong about a heart attack, he may say he senses a shadow in the body, and then ask if the father died of cancer. Or he might ask about the head area –perhaps a stroke or a head injury. Because heart attacks, cancer, strokes, and head injuries are statistically very common causes of death in our culture, the psychic stands a good chance of success of nailing a person’s cause of death in this way.

What all this means is that psychic mediums often ask leading questions that are statistically likely to elicit a response from many people, and once they get a response, they build on that information and run with it. This is often called a “cold reading” because the client walks in “cold,” and the psychic has no advance information about the person (or persons, as is the case with a TV studio audience). While fishing for information, the psychic also pays attention to visual clues such as dress, body language, posture, and facial expressions. In such cold readings, the misses generally far outweigh the hits.

One factor that can greatly increase the chances of a hit is the size of the TV studio audience. A typical studio audience has about 200 people. If each person in the studio audience knows 50 other people (a conservative estimate), a potential pool of 10,000 people may relate to the question the psychic is asking. He is virtually certain to get some kind of response. As one critic put it, “Edward’s alleged psychic revelations have a high statistical probability of being true in the lives of many people. The same is true of all psychic mediums who appear before studio audiences.

Scams and Frauds:

Some psychics are very clever. Every major psychic today has been accused of being a fraud. Are *their own* warnings about psychic scams and frauds intended to deflect attention away from themselves?

James Van Praagh, for example, warns his readers about psychic quacks: “If you plan on going to a psychic of any sort, or want a reading, always go by referral. Just

like in every profession, there are people who are fakes and ones that are genuine.”

Char Margolis warns, “I’d be the last one to say that all psychics are the real thing. Of course there are people out there looking to make a quick buck or giving ‘readings’ from a desperate need for attention.”

Sylvia Browne says that psychics affiliated with psychic hotlines, 900 numbers, and those who run ads in newspapers are “scams” and “goofs.” She says, “It just makes you feel so bad because you just try to legitimize something that really is legitimate. You got all these goofs running around.”

Psychologists often say that people tend to condemn in others what they themselves are most guilty of. One must therefore wonder whether Van Praagh, Margolis, and Browne are seeking to legitimize themselves at the expense of other psychics.

Certainly those who have studied the history of psychics have often claimed that this field is littered with cases of proven fraud. Investigators such as James Randi (“The Amazing Randi”) and Christian illusionist Dan Korem (in his book, *The Fakers*) have provided substantive evidence for this. Faked psychic phenomena may include obtaining information beforehand (some psychics have been known to utilize the services of a private investigator), stage magic, and sleight-of-hand tricks.

One of James Randi’s first targets was psychic Uri Geller, tested by Stanford Research Institute for his alleged powers to bend spoons and levitate objects. Randi demonstrated that “the tricks were very simple...there was nothing you couldn’t get off the back of a Corn Flakes box so to speak.”

Many years ago, magician Harry Houdini, in his book *A Magician Among the Spirits*, wrote this assessment:

I have said many times that I am willing to believe, want to believe, will believe, if the Spiritualists can show any substantiated proof, but until they do I shall have to live on, believing from all the evidence shown me and from what I have experienced that Spiritualism has not been proven satisfactory to the world at large and that none of the evidence offered has been able to stand up under the fierce rays of investigation.

Not surprisingly, some of today’s primetime psychics have been caught cheating. As James Van Praagh chatted with audience members prior to the taping of his show, he learned that one of the women in a particular area of the audience was from Italy. Later, after the cameras were rolling, he went over to that section and asked which

person in that section was from another country. This looked to television viewers as if Van Praagh knew this information psychically, but he simply derived this information before the show even began.

In another case, Van Praagh was filming a segment for ABC’s 20/20. During a break, with the camera still rolling (unbeknownst to Van Praagh,) he spoke with a woman and discovered that her grandmother had passed on. Within the next hour, while taping for the show, Van Praagh turned to the lady and said: “I want to tell you, there is a lady sitting behind you. She feels like a grandmother to me.” When confronted about this by a 20/20 correspondent, Van Praagh defensively asserted, “I don’t cheat. I don’t have to prove...I don’t cheat. I don’t cheat. I mean, come on...”

During the interview on 20/20, Van Praagh made reference to Barbara Walter’s father having a glass eye. Walters was impressed with this, noting that this is not public knowledge. However, the ABC reporter working on the story consulted a widely available book about Walters and quickly found a passage that explicitly stated that her father was blind in one eye and had a glass eye. He suggested that if he was able to uncover this information so easily, so could Van Praagh. Hugh Downs declared of Van Praagh, “I don’t believe him.”

Audience members who participate on Van Praagh’s TV show have to sign a release that states in part, “Neither anyone acting on my behalf, nor I...shall speak to any newspaper reporter, print or television journalist or other media representative or source about any aspect of my participation in the series.” Apparently, Van Praagh doesn’t want the media to know what really goes on during the taping of his shows. Could what goes on during the taping be much less impressive than the final edited version that appears on television? One must wonder.

John Edward has also been caught cheating. On the popular news show *Dateline*, he tried to pass off as revelation information he had gained earlier in the day. While in alleged contact with some spirits, Edward said the spirits were telling him to “acknowledge Anthony.” The cameraman indicated that was his name. Edward with a surprised look on his face, said “That’s you? Really?” Edward put on his actor’s hat and gave a real show. But Anthony had been the cameraman on an earlier television show that same day with Edward. The two men had chatted, and Edward had obtained useful bits of information that he later pretended had come from the spirit realm. Edward was caught cheating.

Tamara Rand is another fairly high-profile psychic who was caught cheating. Andre Kole and Terry Holley, in their book *Astrology and Psychic Phenomena*, explain:

One of the best examples of deceit in the “psychic world” was perpetrated by Los Angeles “psychic” Tamara Rand. On April 2, 1981, just four days after the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan, The NBC television *Today* show, the ABC *Good Morning America* show, and the Cable News Network all broadcast a tape that was claimed to be made by Rand on January 6, 1981, in which she predicted Reagan would be shot in the chest by a man with the initials “J.H.” during the last week of March or the first week of April. However, investigators found that the tape had been made Tuesday night, March 31, more than 24 hours after the assassination attempt.”

My Personal Assessment:

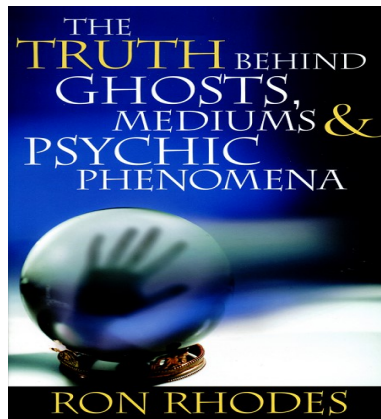
Sometimes I talk to Christian critics of psychic mediums who say they’re all a bunch of frauds. Case closed! I’ve spoken to others, however, who say nothing about fraudulent activity but rather conclude that all psychic mediums are in contact with demonic spirits. In my thinking, the combination of both fraudulent activity and demonic activity best explains what is really going on with psychics.

On the one hand, psychic mediums undoubtedly often utilize a fishing technique to derive information from clients. One need only observe a psychic session to see this is true. Moreover, some psychic mediums have clearly cheated, pretending to derive certain information from heaven when in reality they derived it prior to the session. Based on what I’ve been able to discover, I would guesstimate that well over half of what goes on among psychic mediums is fraudulent in some way.

On the other hand, we should not conclude that all psychic phenomena involve hoaxes. Psychics sometimes make genuine contact with spirit entities—but the spirit entities are not departed human beings, as psychics claim, but rather *demonic* spirits. “My former colleague Walter Martin is correct in warning that “there are many Christians, unfortunately, who suffer from the illusion that all Spiritism, or spiritistic evidence, is fraudulent, and prefer to rest in the falsely secure belief that Spiritism can never be demonically empowered.” Martin also asserts, “Not all psychic or spiritistic phenomena can be exposed as fraudulent. There is a spiritual dimension that cannot be ignored. Authentic spiritists draw their power from the one the Bible calls ‘a roaring lion’

who seeks ‘whom he may devour’ (1 Peter 5:8 KJV), who is Satan.”

Let us not forget that in 2 Corinthians 11:14 the apostle Paul sternly warned that “Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.” Many apologists infer from this that in many cases with psychic mediums, Satan and his horde of demons (fallen angels) may be mimicking dead people. They do so for a malevolent, sinister purpose—to lead people away from the true Christ and God of the Bible. In the process of doing this, they propagate doctrines of demons (1 Timothy 4:1-3 NASB). These doctrines of demons include ideas like these: Death is not to be feared; all people go to heaven, regardless of religion; and the dead can communicate with the living.



This connection to Satan may also explain some of the fraudulent activity of psychics. Inasmuch as psychics are deeply engulfed in occultism and are trafficking with Satan and his host of demons, they would be likely to take on the character of these fallen spirits. More to the point, John 8:44, speaking of Satan, tells us, “There is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” Satan is a deceiver, and his deception may be reflected in those who serve his dark kingdom—psychics, mediums, and other occultists. If they are empowered by him, they will probably reflect his nature.

I agree with former psychic and occultist Marcia Montenegro, who is careful to emphasize that we should not succumb to an *either-or* mentality when interpreting the work of psychic mediums. “The issue is often framed in terms of ‘either-or’. *Either* the mediums are frauds *or* they are receiving information from spirits; but it must be one or the other?” Famous psychics such as James Van Praagh, Sylvia Browne, John Edward, and Char Margolis may in some cases fish for information and at other times even cheat by deriving information beforehand

But at other times they may be in genuine contact with demonic spirit entities. These are truly times for discernment.

The Truth About Ghosts and Hauntings

Many today are convinced by the evidence for ghostly phenomena—that is, they believe *dead human beings* make appearances among us. Many books provide evidence for these appearances. However, we need to remember something that Solomon—the wisest man who ever lived (1 Kings 3:12; 4:29-32; 5:12; 10:23)—said on one occasion: “The first to present his case seems right, till another comes forward and questions him” (Proverbs 18:17). The case for dead humans appearing among us may seem strong to some until further evidence pokes holes in the theory.

Many verses in Scripture encourage Christians to exercise wisdom and discernment so that we will not be deceived:

* Proverbs 3:21 exhorts, “***My son, preserve sound judgment and discernment, do not let them out of your sight.***”

* Ephesians 4:14 urges us to “***no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in the deceitful scheming.***” In other words, don’t believe everything you hear!

* First Timothy 4:7 warns, “***have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales.***”

* Zechariah 8:16 instructs us to “***speak the truth to each other.***”

Ghost Phenomena Is Experience-Based

One cannot help but note that much of the so-called evidence for ghost phenomena is based on experience and feelings, not objective data. One ghost enthusiast commented on “feeling like you are being watched and you don’t see anyone there,” and makes reference to “goose-bumps, hair standing on the back of our neck, and a feelings of cold.” This enthusiast reported, “Lots of times I would like to say ‘oh yeah, that is just the wind, I am just imagining it’, but you just have to experience it.” With all due respect, if one is going to make extraordinary claims, one must back up those claims with evidence, not mere feelings.

Peripheral vision is very sensitive to motion. The problem is that peripheral vision does not focus on specific shapes. It simply detects motion. Some people, when they sense a random motion outside their focused view, jump to the conclusion that a ghost just went by. In reality, a passing car may have caused a brief reflection of light to shine into the house. Experiences can be

deceiving. They are highly subjective and can easily be misinterpreted.

Another problem is that people may not necessarily report their experiences accurately. As one analyst said, trusting someone's experience "is fine as long as one can be certain that the experience they had was exactly the same as the one they reported. I doubt the match is usually this exact." The lack of reliable reporting is well illustrated in the alleged crash of a UFO at Roswell, New Mexico. A *U.S. News & World Report* article gives this report:

"Many of Roswell's key witnesses have changed their story several times and have been caught telling falsehoods...A first group of eyewitnesses mistakenly believed that some debris from a shattered radar reflector came from a spaceship. These witnesses didn't say anything about alien bodies. After a 1989 TV episode of *Unsolved Mysteries* about Roswell, a second mélange of "witnesses" came forward with bizarre tales of alien sightings. No one in this second group has told a plausible or consistent story. Jim Ragsdale, for one, said he spotted four alien bodies near a spaceship. Later he asserted that he saw nine alien bodies, in which he removed gold helmets, and that he buried the aliens in the sand."

This episode illustrates the all-too-common tendency for people to embellish what they have experienced, often adding sensational details to make their stories seem more interesting and fascinating. This tendency keeps us from trusting many of the accounts people have given through the years of alleged encounters with ghosts.

Sleep and Ghost Phenomena

A key factor undermining at least some reports of ghost activity is that they often involve a person coming out of a deep sleep. One individual claimed to have woken in the middle of the night and said he saw someone in his bedroom, and then in his closet, and then standing next to his dresser. He said his wife was sound asleep, so the alleged apparition could not be confirmed.

When a person wakes up from sleep his cognitive and perceptual abilities may be weak, and he may think he is experiencing something which in fact is not real. A person can wake from a dream and think he still hears voices in the house. Once a person is completely awake, such strange experiences vanish.

Some people might have a night fear and wrongly attribute it to ghostly or paranormal phenomena. A night fear is an intense fear of something that poses no actual danger.

During a night fear, people can experience a variety of symptoms, including shortness of breath, rapid breathing, irregular heartbeat, sweating, nausea, a sense of detachment from reality, and overall feelings of dread. Some people, in such a state, may wrongly interpret their experience as a ghost haunting their house.

Misinterpretations Are All Too Easy

Some people have claimed house hauntings when in reality they have probably just misinterpreted the data. For example, one person was sure her house had been invaded by ghosts when she saw one of her paintings hanging higher than she thought it previously had. She also noted a large tablecloth on the kitchen table hanging nearly off the table onto the floor when she arrived home from work, but flowers, phone book, and other items on the table had not moved. She further claims that food had vanished from her refrigerator.

This hardly constitutes proof for ghostly activity. Many explanations for what occurred in this woman's house are possible. The woman herself could have hung the painting higher and later forgot she had done so. She may have somehow misadjusted the tablecloth on the kitchen table without realizing it. She may have simply forgotten that she had eaten certain items in her refrigerator. A mischievous teenager could be involved. Who knows? We see no compelling reason to suspect any kind of paranormal intrusion.

Extraordinary claims call for extraordinary evidence. This is the working rule for all those who suspect ghost phenomena.

The Power of Suggestion and Conditioning

An interesting psychological phenomenon is that people tend to see what they have been conditioned to see. For example, at the height of the European witch craze of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries—in which people had become programmed to see witches—virtually thousands of people reported seeing flying witches. "I wouldn't have seen it if I hadn't believed it" seems to be a fitting twist on an old maxim.

In like manner, because of the many popular movies, television shows, and books about ghostly phenomena, some people have become programmed to expect the paranormal. One critic has noticed a "significant correlation between media depictions of paranormal events and peoples' views of paranormal claims...Media depictions

of the paranormal do seem to influence the way people think about the subject."

Fraudulent Claims Let's be honest. Just as some of today's psychics engage in fraudulent activity, so do some who claim to see ghosts. I showed a professional photographer some of the ghost photographs I've come across, and I asked him what he thought. More specifically, I was interested in whether such photos could easily be produced without any real ghosts involved. He looked at the photos, grinned, and said it would be a piece of cake. He confirmed what I suspected all along—that someone who knows what he or she is doing with a camera can take some great ghost photos—without any ghosts involved at all.

Ghosts and the Occult

One might get the idea that I dismiss all alleged paranormal encounters as either fraudulent, a misinterpretation of the data, sheer subjectivism ("I feel like I'm being watched"), or the result of awakening from deep sleep. This is not the case.

Though alleged ghosts encounters can be explained in this way, people sometimes genuinely encounter a spirit entity—*though not a dead human*. Some people encounter *demonic* spirits who may mimic dead people in order to deceive the living (see 1 John 4:1; 1 Timothy 4:1-3). Many who claim to have encountered such spirit entities have some prior involvement in the occult.

A growing corpus of evidence suggests that poltergeist phenomena are directly related to demonism and not to dead humans. People who are involved in some form of the occult—such as spiritism, necromancy, and séances—are often the ones who experience such poltergeist phenomena. John Ankerberg and John Weldon thus conclude that "the poltergeist phenomenon and its occult connection offer strong empirical evidence for the demonic nature of the spirits. In fact, we know of no poltergeist case that cannot be accounted for on the basis of this theory."

In cases that do not involve fraudulence, mere experientialism, or awakening from deep sleep, a demonic spirit may indeed be causing paranormal phenomena. When I come across such a case, the first thing I want to know is, has the relevant person ever been involved in any form of the occult? Has he or she played with a Ouija board, participated in a séance, or consulted with a psychic to contact the dead? Such involvement is likely because of the strong occult-demon connection.

The Dangers of Occultism

This calls for a very strong warning. The person who dabbles in occultism—whether consulting a psychic, playing with a Ouija board participating in a séance, or engaging in other forms of divination—might experience more severe consequences than just poltergeist phenomena. Experts report that those who dabble in the occult might experience compulsive thoughts, anxiety, destructive tendencies, a tendency toward violence, mental illness, psychoses, fatal accidents, suicide, blasphemous thoughts, an aversion to God’s Word and to prayer, instability, nervousness, severe depression, and even insanity.

Amazingly, even psychics themselves warn against some of the “evil energies” one might encounter in participating in certain occultic practices. Char Margolis, for example, claims “there are energies and spirits out there that do not wish us well and want to trick us...In some ways, I believe using psychic tools like Ouija boards can be as dangerous for kids as taking drugs.” Psychic Nancy Myer agrees, noting that the Ouija board “opens a portal to the other side that is almost impossible to close.” Understandably, she urges all people to avoid the Ouija. Dale Kaczmarek, a paranormal investigator, also agrees, warning that “many violent, negative, and potentially dangerous conditions are present to those using the board.” **My point, of course, is that if psychics themselves warn us about encountering evil spiritual entities during occultic practices, then these evil entities must truly be evil indeed!**

Of course, I must warn of a further deception. When psychics speak about the danger of certain occultic practices, they imply that consulting *with them* to contact the dead is safe. Let us be clear: Consulting with a psychic like Char Margolis or Nancy Myer can open you up to demonic affliction just as easily as playing with a Ouija board. *Scripture* therefore condemns all forms of occultism (Deut. 18:9-13). Reader Beware!

Dead Humans Are Not Ghosts

Another reason we know that genuine encounters with spirits involve demons and not dead humans is this: The Bible indicates that dead humans are not even available for earth visits as ghosts. At death, the believer’s spirit departs from the physical body and immediately goes into the presence of the Lord in heaven (Philippians 1:21-23). This is why, when Stephen was being put to death by stoning, he prayed, “*Lord Jesus, receive my spirit*” (Acts 7:59). At the

moment of death “*the spirit returns to God who gave it*” (Ecc. 12:7).

In II Corinthians 5:8 we learn that Christians who are “*away from the body*” are “*at home with the Lord.*” The Greek word *pros* used for “with” in the phrase “at home with the Lord.” This word suggests very close, face-to-face fellowship. It is a word used of intimate relationships. The verse thereby indicates that the fellowship we will have with Christ immediately following physical death will be very intimate. Don’t miss this point: *Christians who have died are not still on earth but are with the Lord in heaven, where they remain in intimate perpetual fellowship with Him.*

For unbelievers, death holds grim prospects. At death the unbeliever’s spirit does not go to heaven but is involuntarily confined to a place of great suffering (Luke 16:19-31). Second Peter 2:9 tells us that the Lord knows how “*to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.*” The Unrighteous are not still on earth, nor do they have access to earth!



Christian Answers Director Larry Wessels with Bill Jeanmard, Mayor of Ville Platte, Louisiana, on the porch of a supposedly famous “haunted house” in Lafayette, Louisiana. Larry had come to attend the graduation of his niece and was invited to see a “haunted house”. The skeptical Wessels saw a black cat but no ghosts and concluded that “haunted house” designations are useful legends for the locals to attract curious tourists.

Whatever people are encountering at alleged haunted houses and hotels is most certainly not the spirits of dead people walking around. As I have shown, the biblical evidence suggests that if a person is encountering any spirit entity at all (for example, through occult practices), it is a demonic spirit.

The Great Masquerade

Scripture supports the idea that Satan and his horde of demons have the ability to impersonate dead humans. They do so in order to give credence to the false religion of Spiritualism and lead millions of people

astray. We must not forget that Satan is a masterful counterfeiter.

- * Satan has his own church —the “synagogue of Satan” (Rev. 2:9).
- * Satan has his own ministers of darkness that bring false sermons (2 Cor. 11:4-5).
- * Satan has formulated his own system of theology called “doctrines of demons” (I Tim. 4:1) NASB; see also Rev. 2:24).
- * Satan’s ministers proclaim a counterfeit gospel—“a gospel other than the one we preached to you” (Gal. 1:7-8).
- * Satan has his own throne (Rev. 13:2) and his own worshippers (13:4).
- * Satan inspires false Christs and self-constituted messiahs (Matt. 24:4-5).
- * Satan employs false teachers who bring in “destructive heresies” (2 Peter 2:1).
- * Satan sends out false prophets (Matt. 24:11).
- * Satan sponsors false apostles who imitate the true (2 Cor. 11:13).

We have good reason to suspect that Satan is also counterfeiting dead humans in order to deceive the living. Demons are undoubtedly more than willing to masquerade as dead humans if they can deceive tens of millions of people and draw them away from Jesus Christ. As Ankerberg and Weldon note, “*These spirits already know they will eventually be consigned forever to a place Jesus called hell*” (Matt. 8:29). *The Scriptures lead us to conclude the real motive of the spirits is to take as many men to hell with them as possible by preventing their salvation (John 8:44; 2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-14; Heb. 2:14; 1 Peter 5:8).*”

The Dead Know They’re Dead

The claim that the dead may not know they are dead might make for a good Hollywood movie like *The Sixth Sense*, but it has no basis in reality or the Bible. The rich man and Lazarus provide a good case in point. Both died, and both were fully aware that they were dead. (Luke 16:19-31).

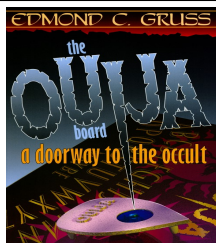
We learn several very important lessons in Luke 16:

- * The rich man and Lazarus knew they had died and entered the afterlife.
- * Once they died, their eternal destinies were sealed. Nothing could change their destinies. They had no second chance through reincarnation.
- * Once they died, they could not stay on earth as ghosts.
- * The dead and the living could not contact each other. A visitation to earth (to warn five brothers) was not an option.
- * The righteous dead and wicked dead are separated, and the wicked are in torment.

The Other Side is not equally wonderful for all people. [Romans 2:5-10, Jude 7, etc.]. This material was excerpted from the Harvest House Publishers book, "The Truth Behind Ghosts, Mediums & Psychic Phenomena" written by Dr. Ron Rhodes. Please contact Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, Oregon 97402 or www.harvesthousepublishers.com to purchase this book or others by Ron Rhodes.

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The Ouija Board
A Doorway To the Occult
by Edmond C. Gruss

The Ouija board has been billed as a harmless game but nothing could be further from the truth. Edmond C. Gruss is Professor Emeritus at Master's College, Santa Clarita, California.
BK-32, \$9.00 (224 pages)

Christian Answers Live! Radio Shows

The Ouija Board

Guest: Dr. Edmond Gruss
CD or cassette, RP-54, \$3.00

Angels Among Us

Guest: Dr. Ron Rhodes
CD or cassette, RP-39, \$3.00

Deceived by the Light

Guest: Dr. Dough Groothuis
CD or cassette, RP-37, \$3.00

Spiritual Warfare (Demonology)

Guest: Dr. Thomas Ice
CD or cassette, RP-10, \$3.00

The Occult

Christian Answers director Larry Wessels was asked by the Austin Baptist Association to teach a seminar to its summer youth camp on the dangers of the occult. This is a two audio cassette or CD set. **AC-400/401, \$6.00+S&H.**

MOST WATCHED CHRISTIAN ANSWERS VIDEOS ON THE NET!!!

Our video man Dan Rosema was extremely busy with his other video responsibilities for much of the year so far. Consequently we have not been able to add many new Christian Answers videos to the internet since our last newsletter. Since Dan provides Christian Answers with the most cost effective rates for video production and internet uploads compared to other video professionals, we have no choice but to wait for his precious time to help us. This can result in long delays but we trust God and His providence.

Currently, we have 101 video titles uploaded onto the internet. These videos can be found by going to YahooVideo, GoogleVideo, YouTube or GodTube (we have the most uploaded onto GoogleVideo and YahooVideo). Once you are on their respective homepages, search "Larry Wessels" and our video selections will appear on your screen.

The following videos have received the most viewings at the time of this newsletter:

THE TOP 25

- Seventh-Day Adventism Topical #2 –8703**
- Islam #7: Denial of Trinity & Christ's Blood –5551**
- Guerra Espiritual #1 (in Spanish) –2922**
- Evidence that Jesus is God –2301**
- Islamic Sex and Violence #2 –1851**
- Seventh-Day Adventism Topical #1 –1800**
- Biblical References for Hell #3 –1789**
- Satan In Your Nose & Muslim Teachings –1750**
- Health and Wealth Topical #1 –1763**
- Hinduism and Reincarnation Topical –1649**
- Millions of Mythical Gods (Hinduism)–1626**
- Historical Roots of Health and Wealth #1 –1623**
- History and Teachings-Nation of Islam #2 –1572**
- Jehovah's Witnesses Topical #1 –1530**
- Touch Not the Lord's Anointed Gods #2 –1488**
- Nation of Islam Topical –1453**
- History and Teachings-Nation of Islam #1 –1421**
- Health and Wealth Topical #2 –1377**
- Consequences of Hell #2 –1359**
- False Views of Hell #1 –1336**
- Roman Catholic Inquisition –1327**
- Demon Possession Topical –1319**
- Bukhari Hadiths of Islam #3 –1288**
- Jehovah's Witness NWT Bible –1248**
- Evangelism and Apologetics #1–1248**

Total Number of Hits on the Internet for All Christian Answers Videos so far—102,586!!!

LETTERS FROM THE FRONTLINE



Hi,

My name is Hamilton and I'm from the United Arab Emirates. I just wanted to say that your ministry is doing a fantastic job in providing such wonderful Christian material over the internet. Thank you.

-H.R. (From the Web)

Christian Answers,

We love your work on television! Please mail us a list of printed material and time you are on television again.

-R.C. (Austin, TX)

Brother Wessels,

Please send us your catalog. I am interested in Bob Ross DVDs on "C.H. Spurgeon: Man of God", "A Pilgrimage to Spurgeon Country" concerning the 1996 trip to the historic sites associated with Spurgeon's life and ministry, "Campbellism, Its History and Heresies", Bob Ross Campbellism debates and Bob Ross on the Hardshells. Thank you for your help.

-D.K. (From the Web)

To Larry,

I just got finished talking to you over the phone. I would like to thank you for calling me, I do appreciate it. I clicked into your website, biblequery.org. It is fantastic. God bless you.

-M.A. (From the Web)

Larry & Steve,

I am taking a class where the emphasis is being placed on unity and tolerance above establishing our values based upon the truths revealed in the word of God. It seems that Tolerance has taken precedence over Biblical exactness. I know the New Age teaching a tolerance has permeated our world view to the point of Unitarian-Universalism and Modern Ecumenicalism. I was wondering if *Christian Answers* has anything against the "soft-sell" of "Tolerance and unity" and the modern movement that although things are different they carry the same value idea. My understanding is that the Bible differentiates and distinguishes those things in life enabling me to decide value based upon their worth in light of the Word. If you don't have anything addressing this message of apathy, perhaps it could be addressed in an upcoming newsletter. Thank you for your response. (Acts 20:24).

-D.B. (Monroe, WA)

Dear Christian Answers,

I am writing to ask you for your help on some information, to know the things that Catholics teach, from the Rosary to the Holy water. A lot of the Christians have a lot of people who want to know the difference between Catholics and being a Christian. I do thank you and hope you can help. I pray that God bless you all and your ministry.

-R.H. (Vacaville, CA)

Christian Answers,

I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate your ministry. You have some awesome, awesome materials. Keep up the tremendous work. I know it is very difficult at times, but I think you guys are doing a magnificent job. I wish you all the best in Christ. God bless.

-M.L. (Cape Coral, FL)

Hey guys,

Thank you for sending the 5 DVDs, 4 on Roman Catholic teaching and 1 on Atheism. These items are being viewed by the Body of Christ and are getting blessed with the information they provide on witnessing to Catholics. Ex-Catholics as well. Thank you brother Larry. Because of Calvary.

-G.E. (Las Cruces, NM)

Dear Larry,

Thanks for the latest *Christian Debater*. I really enjoyed the lead article on the Superstitious Church. I'm planning to use many of those thoughts in my Sunday School lesson to the Adult Men this Sunday. Please continue to send the *Christian Debater* to me at this new address. Small donation enclosed. Thanks and Happy New Year! In Him,

-B.J. (Borden, IN)

Hello,

I was on the internet the other day and I was having a debate with Jehovah's Witnesses. I came across your video entitled "Evidence that Jesus is God" with James White. The video said if anyone needed information to just call so I am. Please send me any information you have to help me with the Jehovah's Witnesses. Thank you very much.

-O.A. (Port Jervis, NY)

Season's Greetings,

With this letter, it's my hope you are doing well. My request is in obtaining the following items, or where to obtain them: A. Word-Faith Heresy #1 & #2

B. Liberal Christianity #1 & #2;

I would love to continue receiving your newsletter, enjoy it very much, and I pass it on to share with other brother's after I'm done. Been trying to find a location to obtain a "Vest-Pocket Bible (KJV), size-around 3 1/4 x 5", Old & New Testament, I saw one like it some years back, with a magnifying plastic card. Thank you for your prompt reply. May the Lord continue to bless and enrich you as you labor for Him. Sincerely, In my Master Jesus' service.

-M.B. (Soledad, CA)

Dear Friends,

Enclosed is a donation to your ministry. I have a question: Do you have an in depth study (or debate tape) on the Jehovah's Witnesses false belief on the soul/spirit of man? If you do please advise me of the cost, and I'll order it. Thank you. Keep up the good work!

-M.R. (Stanwood, WA)

Dear Brother Steve,

Loving greetings to you in Jesus' name. I just want to say thank you once again for sending me the CD. I have been passing it to many people, they are saying that the CD has been such an insightful one. Thank you once again. I think what we need in the Church is a wake up to such teachings. Please continue to pray for us, my wife and I have a small ministry which is a ministry to Muslims. I covet your prayers.

-V.V. (Raichur, India)

For those that are interested:
Larry Wessels' personal e-mail address:
lawessels@sbcglobal.net
For questions and comments.

Milwaukee—Gary Gygax, who co-created the fantasy game *Dungeons & Dragons* and is seen as the father of the role-playing game, died March 4, 2008 at his home in Lake Geneva, Wis. He was 69.

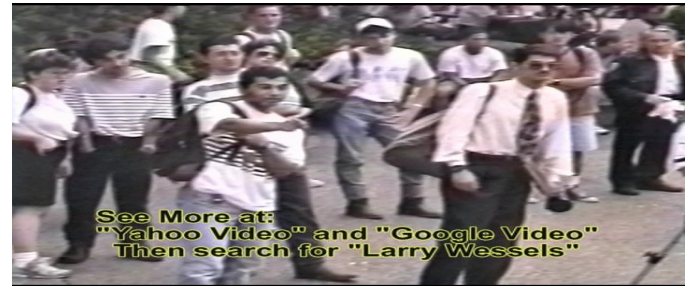
Gygax had been suffering from health problems for several years, including an abdominal aneurysm.

Gygax and Dave Arneson developed *Dungeons & Dragons* in 1974 using medieval characters and mythical creatures. The game became a hit, particularly among teenage boys, and spun off video games, books and movies.

Gygax always enjoyed hearing from the game's legion of fans. Despite his declining health, he hosted a weekly game of *Dungeons and Dragons* as recently as January.

Debating the Muslims on Youtube

The Christian Answers video, *Satan in Your Nose and Other Muslim Teachings* has already exceeded 1700 viewings (on YouTube & elsewhere) with over 110 comments. The following are some excerpts from the many comments coming from Muslims and responses by Christian Answers:



-MUSLIM-

We became obviously shorted and died earlier. The Jews believe Adam was tall in their Talmud they say that Adam could reach the heaven but that God made him shorter. This is true to science. If you think about it compare a mamut to an elephant, or any other prehistoric animal. I still find it weird that you think it unbelievable that Adam was tall, but accept that he was almost 1000 years old.

-CAAnswersTV-

Now you are referencing to a Jewish fiction book to support Mohammad's fiction? The Jewish Talmud, Shabbath 149b, states that Nebuchadnezzar's membrum extended 450 feet! Now dinosaurs?

-MUSLIM-

Incredible? That's my word for you. Why are you so dishonest? You say Jewish "fable", when it's their faith. There's a lot I would call Christian "fable" too (man-god anyone), if I wish. Our prophet, may peace be upon him, is never wrong. And I'm glad there are Christians actually working to prove that Adam wasn't as tall as they believed. And your bible talks about Giants, Goliath anyone, and it's your problem if you lie and say there were never people who were 90 feet.

-CAAnswersTV-

Jewish fables are just as false as Mohammad's fables. The Jewish Talmud says Adam had 2 faces (Pesahim 113b, p 583) and Adam had sex with all the animals (Nazir 23b, p 84) so does that make Adam 90 feet tall? Moses knows nothing of all this nonsense. Goliath was just over 9 feet (1 Sam 17:4).

-MUSLIM-

A hadith is kind of a rumor, the prophet said this and the prophet did this. And it's common logic there were lots of enemies and liars back then. That's why you're supposed to narrate who said what, so that you know what hadiths are bogus. Excuse me if I don't regard a couple of weak hadiths that contradict themselves about a period that spans 6 years, that's totally against the other 2 million hadiths.

-CAAnswersTV-

Should I believe Islamic biographers Al-Wahidi, Ibn Sa'ad, Ibn Isaq, & Ibn Jarir Al-Tabari or your blind faith when it comes to Surah 53:21-22 in the Qur'an about the Satanic Verses? Besides the god of Islam is not the same as the Biblical God & is therefore a false idol thus making all Muslims idolaters.

-MUSLIM-

Scientists are more baffled by aging & death than longevity: Not sure if there's a scientist who'd say you can live for a thousand years. All I'm trying to say is that age and height can be altered by the same variable. We already know people can be of different average height depending on their geographical location.

-CAAnswersTV-

Scientifically, since you brought up prehistoric animals, lets look at one of the biggest of all dinosaurs, Sauropoda, which reached 60 feet high. Are you saying that Adam was 30 feet taller than the tallest of all known dinosaurs? Blind faith in Mohammad rather than the Biblical God is a problem!

-MUSLIM-

And also. It's much more likely to stimulate growth for you to get 60 cubits tall than you getting a thousand years old. Just take growth hormones, but unfortunately your heart won't keep up at this time. Perhaps in the future, when they've perfected it.

-CAAnswersTV-

The age a man lives is determined by a sovereign God in His providence (Zubor, Psalm of David 139:13-16). Hormones & stimulants mean nothing in this context. Jesus confirmed the Torah & the Gospels according to the Qur'an (Sura 5:46-48). The Torah (Genesis) states longevity but not 90 foot people.

-MUSLIM-

"whoever rejects evil and believes in the Allah hath grasped the most trustworthy Hand-hold, that never breaks..." (Qur'an 2:256).

-CAAnswersTV-

Since you are quoting the Qur'an we invite our readers here to go to the Yahoo or Google Video homepage and search "Larry Wessels" where the 8 hour series, "Can Believing the Muslim Religion Send Someone to Hell?" is located. Check out the video, "Is the Qur'an From God?"

-MUSLIM-

You treat the bible as if it were perfect and without flaws, infallible and error-free. The truth is that the Bible has lots of errors, mistakes, & contradictions. That's only to be expected in a set of texts written and collected over several thousand years. In any other collection, errors & contradictions would be unremarkable. Because it's the Bible, this generates no end of debate.

-CAAnswersTV-

Sura 5:46-48 in the Qur'an says Jesus confirmed the Torah & the gospels. Are you saying the Qur'an is wrong? We have copies of the Torah, Zubur (Psalms) & most of the Old Testament from before Jesus' time among the Dead Sea scrolls. The New Testament predates Mohammad by 600 years.

-MUSLIM-

What that Bible says about Muhammad according to the Bible, God said to Moses, on who be peace: "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers, I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them 'Everything I command him.'" (Bible, New International Version, Deuteronomy chapter 18, verse 18). The prophet described in

the above verse must have the following three characteristics:

1. He will be like Moses.
2. He will come from the brothers of the Israelites, i.e. the Ishmaelites.
3. God, Almighty, will put his words in the mouth of the prophet and he will declare what God, Almighty, commanded him.

-CAAnswersTV-

This vain attempt to force Mohammad into Deuteronomy 18:18 (compliments to Ahmed Deedat) will do you no more good than it did for the Mormon prophet Joseph Smith, Jr. where he attempted to write himself into Genesis 50:32-33 as God's prophet for the last days (see 'Inspired Version', p. 79, RLDS). The Qur'an teaches that God spoke directly to Moses in a way in which he did not speak to other prophets (Surah 4:164), thus the Bible says Moses spoke "face to face" with God (Exodus 33:11, Deut. 34:10-12) & Jesus did too (John 6:46, 7:29, 14:6,9, Matt. 11:27). Mohammad never did this.

-MUSLIM-

2. From among the Ishmaelite, Abraham had two sons, Ishmael and Isaac (Genesis, chapter 21). Ishmael became the grandfather of the Arab nation. And Isaac became the grandfather of the Jewish nation. The prophet spoken of was to come not from among the Jews themselves, but from among their brothers, the Ishmaelite. Muhammad a descendant of Ishmael, is indeed that prophet.

-CAAnswersTV-

Once again your argument is bogus. Deuteronomy 18:1-2 defines who the "brethren" are and it is definitely not Ishmaelites, see also Judges 20:13, Numbers 8:26, 2 Kings 24:12, Judges 21:22, 2 Samuel 2:26, 2 Kings 23:9, 1 Chronicles 12:32, 2 Chronicles 28:15, Nehemiah 5:1. Mohammad is a false prophet. What about Sura 18:85-86 which says the sun sets into a muddy spring?

-MUSLIM-

And what does it matter with the muddy waters? Oceans and seas aren't always blue/green. And this event happened a long time ago. You can find muddy shores at some places. In fact remember the recent Tsunami, the ocean became muddy for a while. Either way it neither proves or disproves which sea, ocean some Muslims might speculate it is. After all it's only speculation and no Muslim would say he knows for sure, it's just an anecdote to Muslims only.

-CAAnswersTV-

You're missing the point. The Qur'an says, "waters of a muddy spring" NOT oceans or seas. Muslims are "puzzled" because they simply do not want to believe what Muhammad plainly said, namely, "a muddy spring." Why not believe Muhammad? You believed him on Adam being 90 feet tall!

TOPICAL VIDEOS

Hear experts and apologists analyze these topics (perfect for study groups or as a witnessing tool to share with others). You may choose any four of the 30 minute videos below for the single price of \$6.00. Catalog identification is CATV. For example, if you wish to order Bahaism, "Church of Christ", Mormonism, and Islam; list on order form as CATV- 1, 13, 8, and 2. Four videos on one VHS tape for one low price of \$6.00. DVD copies of these topics are only available in increments of 4: #1-#4, #5-#8, #9-#12, #13-#16, #17-#20, #21-#24 only, with no variation, \$6.00 each.

1. **Bahaism** (Dr. Frank Beckwith)
2. **Islam** (Dr. Samuel Shahid)
3. **Buddhism** (Dr. Steve Morrison)
4. **Hinduism/Reincarnation** (Mark Cass)
5. **Roman Catholicism** (Richard Bennett)
6. **Jehovah's Witnesses #1** (Larry Wessels)
7. **Jehovah's Witnesses #2** (Larry Wessels)
8. **Mormonism** (Robert McKay, former Mormon)
9. **Word-Faith Heresy #1** (Dr. Michael Horton)
10. **Word-Faith Heresy #2** (Dr. Michael Horton)
11. **Seventh-day Adventism #1** (Wallace Slattery)
12. **Seventh-day Adventism #2** (Wallace Slattery)
13. **The "Church of Christ"** (Bob L. Ross)
14. **Liberal Christianity #1** (Morrison & Wessels)
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18. **United Pentecostals** (Dr. Steve Morrison)
19. **Unification (Moonies)** (Morrison & Wessels)
20. **Demon Possession** (Dr. Thomas Ice)
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“exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict” (Titus1:9)



Author and speaker Dr. James White with Larry Wessels.

EVIDENCE THAT JESUS IS GOD

Dr. James White, director of Alpha and Omega Ministries (www.aomin.org) and Larry Wessels discuss the Biblical evidence for Jesus Christ being the Eternal Son of God and thus God Almighty. This video is very popular on local cable access television as well as the internet. See it now by going to YahooVideo or GoogleVideo on the internet. This video, with 101 Christian Answers videos on the internet at this time, gets more downloads than any other. Search “Larry Wessels” on their respective homepages & then look for it.

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Photo of a famous “haunted house” in Lafayette, Louisiana. The story goes, as told by the internet and elsewhere, that in this particular house roams a ghost named Amelie wearing a rose colored dress. She is said to turn the lights on and off, rattle pots in the pantry, and sometimes set off the burglar alarm.



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