

Community Baptist Church

Pastor David Smith

Satan's Trick, Not A Treat

Here in the United States of America millions of dollars are spent each year on grotesque masks, costumes, candy, and orange and black decorations. Merchants make thousands selling fabricated articles that resemble the world of death and horror such as ghosts, graveyards, witches, goblins, and devilish characters. Sixty percent of all Halloween costumes are sold to adults. On October 31, one of every four people between the ages of eighteen and forty will dress up as some kind of character.

Since the beginning of the new century there has been an increased interest in the supernatural and the spirit world. Occult themes in music, movies, computer games, books, board games have taken on dramatic proportions. In fact, the second largest growing religion in America today is spiritism.

Today, more than ever, in the weeks before and after October 31, front yards and windows of American homes are decorated around the imagery of death, witchcraft, ghosts, haunted grounds and eerie lighting—often with equal intensity as that of the Christmas season.

While it is popular to view the whole occasion as innocent partying and a fun celebration for families, it is the responsibility of every child of God to examine all things in light of the Word of God and exercise **godly discernment** in what we choose to embrace in our lives. For Christians, the test of acceptability is not popularity, tradition, custom or culture, but we are commanded to “prove (test) all things, hold fast to that which is good” I Thess. 5:21. Because of our love for God and desire to honor and glorify Him we ought to follow the standard of evaluation mentioned in Ephesians 5:10 “Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.” We are in a great spiritual battle and it requires dedication and commitment to survive spiritually. **We need the wisdom and understanding of God!**

• Questions To Consider:

Are Halloween activities really just the simple, innocent, holiday fun most people believe them to be? Where did this holiday originate? Why is it celebrated? Is ‘trick or treating’ wrong? What about spooks, ghosts,

goblins, witches and black cats? Where did the ‘bonfire’, haunted house, and costume wearing, candy seeking begin? Is Halloween something that pleases God and acceptable for Christians who desire to please Him alone?

• **A Glance At History**

Secular literature will give an unbiased explanation of the origins of this holiday (holy-day) as it is celebrated today in 21st century America. The World Book Encyclopedia as well as the Encyclopædia Britannica are similar in their historic discussion. “In the A. D. 800’s the Catholic (Universal) church established All Saints’ Day on November 1 so that people could continue a festival they had celebrated before becoming Christians. The mass that was said on this day was called Allhallowmas. The evening before became known as All Hallow e’ven or Halloween... it means ‘hallowed’ or holy evening” (World Book. 1977 ed., Vol. 9). Though it was the Roman Catholic Church who designated October 31 as Allhallow’s Eve, or “eve of the holy one’s day”, in prelude to their November 1st All Saints’ Day, it was earlier pagan peoples who gave the annual holiday the sinister meaning and traditions it still holds.

• **Cultic Order Of Priests**

American celebrations of Halloween rest upon Scottish and Irish folk customs which can be traced in direct line from pagan ritual and occult practice. The earliest Halloween celebrations were held by an order of priests in ancient Gaul and Britain called ‘Druids’. For several hundred years before Christ, the Celts inhabited what are now France, Germany, England, Scotland and Ireland. These people were eventually conquered by the Romans. Information about the Celts and Druids comes from Caesar and the Roman historians, Greek writings from about 200 B. C., and very early records found in Ireland. Druidic priests honored ‘Samhein’, Lord of the dead, whose festival fell on November 1. “It was their belief that on the eve of this festival, Saman [Samhain], lord of death, called together the wicked souls [spirits] that within the past 12 months had been condemned to inhabit the bodies of animals” (Encyclopedia Britannica. 11th ed. Vol. 12). They also believed that on this eve, ghosts, spirits, fairies, witches and elves came out to harm people. Halloween was the night for the universal walking about of all

sorts of spirits who had been given liberty by this lord of death.

- **The Return Of The Dead**

According to these beliefs, one night of the year the souls of the dead returned to their original homes. There was a prevailing belief among all nations that at death the souls of good men were taken possession of by good spirits and carried to paradise, but the souls of wicked men were left to wander in the space between earth and moon, or consigned to the unseen world. These wandering spirits were in the habit of haunting the living...but there were means by which these ghosts might be exorcised. To exorcise these ghosts, that is, to free yourself from their supposed evil sway, you would have to set out food, give the demons a 'treat,' and provide shelter for them during the night. If they were satisfied with your treat, it was believed they would leave you in peace. If food and shelter were not provided, or if they were not satisfied, these spirits, it was believed, would 'trick' you by casting an evil spell on you and causing you havoc.

- **Burning The 'Bonfire' Or [Bone-Fire]**

"It was the Celts who chose the date of October 31 as their New Year's Eve and who originally intended it as a celebration of everything wicked, evil and dead. During their celebration they would gather around a community bonfire and offer as sacrifices their animals, their crops, and sometimes themselves. And wearing costumes made from the heads and skins of other animals, they would also tell one another's fortunes for the coming year. The celebration remained much the same after the Romans conquered the Celts around A.D. 43." (World Book Encyclopedia. 1977). These bonfires were often set on hilltops to frighten away evil spirits and placate supernatural powers.

- **Jack-O'-Lanterns**

The apparently harmless lighted pumpkin face or 'Jack-o'-lantern' is an ancient symbol of a damned soul. "Jack-o'-lanterns were named for a man called Jack, who could not enter heaven or hell. As a result, he was doomed to wander in darkness with his lantern until Judgment Day" (World Book Encyclopedia. 1977). Celtic practice was to carve

demonic faces on pumpkins or large turnips, and place a candle in them so as to keep the wandering evil spirits away.

- **Witches, Satanism, ‘The Devil’s Day’**

God’s people must not assume that Halloween is irrelevant to Satanism. It may be surprising to find out that this holiday has become the devil’s day, ritualistically recognized by some devil worshipers and occult groups throughout our nation. October 31 is one of four major witches’ sabbats, the four “cross-quarter” days of the Celtic calendar. It’s on Halloween or “All Hallows Eve,” as it’s called, that the witch covens (the widely believed notion that a female is a witch whereas a male practitioner is a warlock or wizard is a misnomer. The terms witch or wiccan apply to both genders.) have their great annual worship service and offer a blood sacrifice to Satan. All through the year, followers of Satan sacrifice cats, dogs, and other animals; but on this special day they offer a human being, one of their own children, which they select for this tragic murder.

- **The Depths Of Satan** (Revelation 2:24)

No one should underestimate either the power or the wickedness of Satan and his demonic forces (Eph. 6:11). The depths of Satan’s activity is frightening to contemplate. As God’s people we do not spend time delving into the spirit world in order to know how to fight against the spiritual enemy. We concentrate our energies on knowing the Word of God and walking in purity and holiness so that the power of the Spirit of God can rest upon our life and give us victory over the underworld. We also practice “putting on the armor” (Ephesians 6:10-18). But every child of God should be aware of satanic influences and infiltration in our world so that we can “stand against” the forces of evil (key phrase of Eph. 6).

A man by the name of Anton Szandor LaVey, who founded the Church of Satan has also authored *The Satanic Bible*, a 272 page promotion for the Devil. *The Satanic Bible* was published in 1969 and became an instant best seller. On some college campuses it outsold our Christian Bible. Anton LaVey lays out the Nine Satanic Statements that clarify the doctrines of modern Satanism. It will help you as a child of God to be aware of this ideology of Satan, so as to recognize those involved in this blasphemy and hatred against the God of heaven.

The Nine Satanic Statements

1. Satan represents indulgence, instead of abstinence.
2. Satan represents vital existence, instead of spiritual pipe dreams.
3. Satan represents undefiled wisdom, instead of hypocritical self-deceit.
4. Satan represents kindness to those who deserve it, instead of love wasted on ingrates.
5. Satan represents vengeance, instead of turning the other cheek.
6. Satan represents responsibility to the responsible, instead of concern for psychic vampires.
7. Satan represents man as just another animal, sometimes better, more often worse than those that walk on all fours, who, because of his “divine spiritual and intellectual development,” has become the most vicious animal of all.
8. Satan represents all of the so-called sins, as they all lead to physical, mental and emotional gratification.
9. Satan has been the best friend the church has ever had, as he has kept it in business all these years.

The language of this perverse, twisted and blasphemous piece is so vulgar and vile that it cannot be referred to in any sense of decency. In 1972 LaVey added his book, *The Satanic Rituals*, which details the steps of human sacrifice in the ultimate act of the worship of the Devil.

• **Heeding God’s Warnings**

The Word of God from beginning to end warns us about the seriousness of the spiritual warfare and being prepared to “resist the Devil” (I Peter 5:8, 9). ***True, born again children of God will not be “ignorant of Satan’s devices” (II Cor. 2:11)***, neither will they allow themselves to support in any way that which may have a connection to the world of death, the demonic and the wicked.

Participation in the occult is strictly forbidden by God. To even trifle with witchcraft, astrology, charms, dark forces, horoscopes, books (Harry Potter Series), opens the door to the power of the Devil and gives him an opportunity in our life (Eph. 4:27). Exposure to movies, TV, DVD’s that

glorify death, violence, sexual lust and sin not only grieves the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer but can smear the conscience and result in spiritual oppression.

The Scriptures speak out clearly on how we are to stand against the evils of spiritism, occult rituals, devilish activity and violence. The elements, symbols, and traditions of the Halloween observance, with its emphasis upon ghosts and goblins, witches and skeletons, spirits and demons are denounced in God's Word:

- "Ye shall not eat any thing with the blood: neither shall ye use enchantment, nor observe times." Leviticus 19:26
- "And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people. Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God. And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I am the LORD which sanctify you." Leviticus 20:6–8
- "Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God." Leviticus 19:31
- "When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do." Deuteronomy 18:9–14
- "Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail. Thou art wearied in the

multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee." Isaiah 47:12, 13

- "And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed." Acts 19:18, 19
- "Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret." Ephesians 5:10–12
- "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." I Corinthians 10:31
- "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil." I Thessalonians 5:21, 22

Ten Reasons Christians Should Not Celebrate Halloween

By J. Kerby Anderson

Many in our society believe Halloween is nothing more than a harmless festival that allows kids to collect candy. But is it? Its origins lie deeply rooted in the occult, and Christians should separate from it. Here are ten reasons why.

1. October 31st has long been known as “The Festival of the Dead.” The Celtic tribes and their priests, the Druids, celebrated this day as a marker for the change from life to death.
2. Halloween today is performed usually by adherents of witchcraft who use the night for their rituals. Witches celebrate Halloween as the “Feast of Samhain”, the first feast of the witchcraft year. Being a festival of the dead, Halloween is a time when witches attempt to communicate with the dead through various forms of divination.

3. Christians should not be involved with occultic practice or divination. Note God's command against divination (seeking knowledge about the future from the spirit world) in Deuteronomy 18.
4. Occultists believe Halloween is a time of transition between life and death. Some occult practitioners practiced divination and believed you could learn the secrets of life and wisdom by lying on a grave and listening to messages from the long-departed.
5. Occultists also taught that spirits and ghosts left the grave during this night and would seek out warmth in their previous homes. Villagers, fearful of the possibility of being visited by the ghosts of past occupants, would dress up in costumes to scare the spirits on their way. They would also leave food and other treats at their door to appease the spirits so they would not destroy their homes or crops but instead move on down the road. That is the real reason behind the costume dressing and go door-to-door seeking treats.
6. Occultists also would try to scare away the spirits by carving a scary face into a pumpkin. This horrible visage would hopefully move the spirit on to another home or village and spare that home from destruction. Sometimes the villagers would light a candle and place it within the pumpkin and use it as a lantern (hence the name, Jack-o'-lantern). This is the origin of carving pumpkins at Halloween.
7. In some witchcraft covens, the closing ritual includes eating an apple or engaging in fertility rights. In the Bible (Genesis 3), eating a piece of fruit brought sin and death into the world. In witchcraft, eating an apple is symbolic of bringing life. The practice of bobbing for apples brings together two pagan traditions: divination and the fertility ritual.
8. Schools are removing any religious significance from Christmas (often called winter break) and Easter (spring break). Isn't it ironic that most public schools still celebrate Halloween even though it has occultic origins?
9. Participating in Halloween gives sanction to a holiday that promotes witches, divination, haunted houses, and other occultic practices.
10. Christians should avoid Halloween and develop creative alternatives. Churches may hold a Fall Fun Festival or a Harvest Event; they should not endorse or promote Halloween.

Spirit Beings And Our Enemy Satan

Fallen Angels: So-called because they revolted against God and became the angels of Satan. Revelation 12:7–9; II Peter 2:4–6; Jude 6, 7

- Called *The Devil's Angels* Matthew 25:41
- Also, *Angels which kept not their first estate* Jude 6
- *Familiar Spirits* Deuteronomy 18:11; Isaiah 8:19
- *Unclean Spirits* Matthew 10:1; Mark 1:27; 5:13
- *Evil Spirits* Luke 7:21; Acts 19:12, 13
- *Seducing Spirits* I Timothy 4:1
- *Wicked Spirits* Luke 11:26
- *Demon Spirits* Revelation 16:14

Their Activation

- There are some 76 references in the New Testament to demons.
- Demons always seek to enter physical bodies since they are spirits, hence seeking embodiment. They enter and possess physical bodies, Matthew 12:43–45, even animal bodies, Matthew 8:31.
- The effects of demon possession are dumbness, Matthew 9:32, 33; blindness, Matthew 12:22; lunacy (insanity), Matthew 17:15; super human strength, Mark 5:1–4; sickness, Luke 13:12, 16; immorality, Matthew 10:1; nudity, Luke 8:27; maniac behavior, Mark 5:2–5; self-destruction in animals and man, Luke 8:33.
- Demons seem to incite or cause two basic impulses in those whom they indwell:

1. Suicidal urge, irrationality, superhuman strength

2. Gross immorality and lust, such as nudity, immodesty, pornography, perversion

Their Organization

There are “ranks” or organization of demons. These are noted in Ephesians 6:12:

1. Principalities: Greek word “archon” In days of Ancient Greece, meant the President or Ruler—the highest ruler in the land.

2. Powers: Greek word “exousias” meaning ‘those with authority.’ Equivalent

to commissioned officers today, such as Captains, Lieutenants, etc.

3. **Rulers of the darkness of this world:** Greek word is “kosmokrator,” the word ‘krator’ means ‘ruler’, the word ‘kosmos’ means ‘world,’ hence “world rulers of darkness!”
4. **Spiritual wickedness in high places:** refers to all the rest of the enlisted demons who do Satan’s work.

Their Limitation

- **To the unsaved:** Indwelling
- **To the saved:** Influence (only), no indwelling as shown by the following Scriptural principles:

1. I John 4:4 Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world—God is mightier than Satan and demons. They cannot co-exist.
2. I Corinthians 6:19, I Corinthians 3:23 By the definition of the word “possess” or “indwell”, Satan or his demons would have to take us away from Jesus Christ to indwell or possess us as believers. We would have to cease to belong to Christ, and become the possession of demons.
3. Matthew 8:29 Demons always asked the Lord Jesus the question, “What have we to do with Thee?” Whenever Christ and demons came face to face, demons always had to leave. They could not abide in His presence.
4. Ephesians 2:2 “...the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.” Even though we are still imperfect and do fall short as believers, we are still righteous and perfect in Christ, and therefore no longer children of disobedience in that sense (Romans 5:19).

Their Operation

1. Astrology: includes horoscopes Isaiah 47:12–14
2. Divination: Includes palmistry, crystal ball gazing, and fortune telling. Scriptures against: Ezekiel 21:21-23; Acts 16:16-17
3. Contact with the dead: **Necromancy**—from “nekros” (dead) and “manteia” (divination)—attempted contact with the dead to find out the future. **Spiritism**—attempt contact with the dead just to talk or communicate with them, through “Witches” or “Wizards” who use a “ventriloquial demon” (called a familiar spirit or a demon), working or

speaking through the Witch or Wizard to impersonate the dead person. Scriptures against: Exodus 22:18; Deuteronomy 18:10–12; Leviticus 20:6,23,27; Wizards–Leviticus 19:26, 31; 20:6, 27; Familiar spirits–Isaiah 29:4; 8:19; II Kings 21:6

Analyzing Our Wicked Enemy, The Devil

I. Fallacies About Satan

- Satan is the great “Deceiver” and one of his most effective strategies is to deceive people about himself, his person and his work. This helps his cause, because the less he is known the more deceived we are about his devices (Revelation 20:10).
- Popular views about Satan are false. He is not a fictitious ‘dreamed up’ person like Jack and the Beanstalk or Santa Claus. He is not an evil force or power operating in the world; that is sin, not Satan. Romans 5:12. He is not a King in hellfire, fiendishly gloating as people burn, and ruling over hordes of demons in hell. He is not a being clad in black or red, with horns, split hoofs, a tail of fire and a pitchfork.

II. The Facts About Satan

- **The Proof of Satan:** He cannot be seen, heard, felt, etc., so many have denied his existence, however, the Word of God states that he exists as a powerful spirit being who at one time was in the very presence of God. Ezekiel 28; Job 1
- **The Personality of Satan:** Scripture speaks of him as a created being. Colossians 1:16; Genesis 3:1–15; Job 1:6–12; Matthew 13:19, 39; John 13:2; Acts 5:3; Jude 6; Revelation 12:9, 10; 20:2, 3.
- **The Perversion of Satan**

1. His Former Prestige: Isaiah 14:12 Before his sin, he was called “Lucifer,” which means ‘Son of the Morning’, ‘Morning Star,’ its literal meaning is “Bearer of Light.” He was a person of great splendor, power and influence. Ezekiel 28:14, 16 He was a ‘cherub.’ The Cherubim seem to be appointed to guard the holiness of God in His very presence—Genesis 3:24; Exodus 25:18–25; Isaiah 6:2; Ezekiel 1:5-14; Revelation 4:8. He was “perfect in all his ways” internally, full of wisdom, externally, full of beauty. Ezekiel 28:13–16 highlights

Lucifer's musical ability as the angel of worship.

2. His Foolish Pride: He was no doubt ruler over a great empire—Ezekiel 28:12 calls him a 'King'. Satan at one time was a sovereign king over creation called, in Ezekiel 28:13, "Eden, the Garden of God" ('Eden' means pleasure or delight). Isaiah 14:12–14 declares Lucifer's sin as the original sin against God. He endeavored to be independent of God and thus to be his own God and ruler over creation.

3. His Fallen Position: He became "The Serpent," or "Satan", no longer Lucifer. (Note: Luke 22:53; Ephesians 5:11; Colossians 1:13; I Thessalonians 5:5; Revelation 16:10). His abode went from one of light and beauty to one of darkness and sin. Now, Satan is the ruler of this present earth and creation, by permission of God. He is said to have a 'kingdom' and is called 'Prince' over it Matthew 9:34; Matthew 12:24; Luke 11:18; John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; II Corinthians 4:4.

III. The Function Of Satan

A. Notice His Titles:

1. Satan: Means 'Adversary, Hater' Refers to his opposition to the plan, people, and purposes of God. Matthew 16:23; Zechariah 3:1; Mark 4:15

2. Devil: Means 'Slanderer, Accuser, Deceiver'—Refers to his efforts to deceive or accuse God's people, or the world, to separate and keep them from God. Revelation 20:2, 10

3. Beelzebub: Means 'Lord of Flies' A title of ridicule by the Jews for anyone who claimed to be powerful, but was a fake. Mark 3:22

4. Belial: Means 'Good for nothing,' much like the term 'Beelzebub' but indicates someone who is a fake, but uses evil means to keep himself in power over brainwashed people. Deuteronomy 13:13; 14; II Corinthians 6:15

5. The Wicked One: I John 2:14; II Thessalonians 2:8

6. Prince Of This World: John 12:31

7. The God Of This World: II Corinthians 4:4

8. Prince Of The Power Of The Air: Ephesians 2:2 Denotes that Satan rules over the heavenly atmospheric realm as well as over the earth, by God's permission.

9. That Old Serpent: Revelation 12:3, 9; Revelation 20:10 Denotes his crafty ways and strategy as a seducer. Genesis 3:1–5

10. The Dragon: Revelation 20:3 Denotes his savage cruelty and fiery hatred of God, His people and plan.

11. Father Of Lies: John 8:44 Refers to his attempt to spread the falsehood among men that man does not need God and is his own God. Note: Isaiah 14:12–14; Genesis 3:5; II Thessalonians 2:3–11.

12. Murderer: John 8:44 Refers to the fact that Satan seeks, by sin, to bring spiritual and physical death upon all mankind.

13. Ruler Of Darkness: Ephesians 6:12

14. Apollyon: Revelation 9:11 Means 'one who destroys' indicating his passion to destroy the souls of men and women.

B. His Target: His work and aim among people

1. Tempts to sin: Matthew 4:1; I Thessalonians 3:5; I Corinthians 7:5

2. Produces sickness and death: Hebrews 2:14; Luke 13:16

3. Deceives and brainwashes people: II Timothy 2:26

4. Takes the Word of God out of hearts: Matthew 13:19

5. Blinds men's eyes to Christ and the Gospel: II Corinthians 4:4

6. Accuses believers before God: Revelation 20:10

7. Hinders and harasses Christians and God's work:
I Thessalonians 2:18

8. Enters into certain people: John 13:2; II Thessalonians 2:8, 9

9. In general, seeks to disrupt, oppose and destroy the purposes and plans of God: II Thessalonians 2:3, 4, 9

C. His Triple Threat: In Revelation 2

1. Revelation 2:13: **Satan's Seat** (or Throne) His place of rule as "Prince of the Power of the Air" (Ephesians 6:16) and "god of this world" II Corinthians 4:3, 4. **Here is the threat of his Power!**

2. Revelation 2:24: **Satan's Secrets** (or 'Depths', Deep teachings) Contrast Romans 11:33 "the depths of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God I Corinthians 2:9, 10; Ephesians 3:18. **Here is the threat of his Persuasion!**

3. Revelation 2:9: **Satan's Synagogue** His preaching places, where 'his ministers' (II Corinthians 11:15) are propagating and preaching his 'doctrines of demons' (I Timothy 4:1). **Here is the threat of his Preachers!**

D. His Tactics (He assumes disguises as part of his strategy or works in different ways or forms. There are three basic forms of Satan noted in Scripture).

1. Satan As A Roaring Lion: I Peter 5:8, 9 Uses Pressure and Persecution as his tactics!

- His objective is to persecute a child of God until he could make him give up and stop living for Jesus Christ II Corinthians 12:7; I Peter 3:14.

- Answer: We must **Resist By Faith** I Peter 5:9; James 4:7; Romans 8:18.

2. Satan As A Radiant Light: II Corinthians 11:13–15 Uses Perplexity or deception as his tactic!

- Many of Satan's false ideas and teachings are made to look acceptable and respectable so that people believe and follow them. He passes off his doctrine as spiritual. Halloween is an example of how Satan passes his philosophy off in a seemingly innocent fashion.

- Answer: We must **Research The Word**. I John 4:1; Acts 17:11; II Timothy 2:15.

3. Satan As A Radical Liar: John 8:44 Uses Pride as his tactic!

- The lie of Satan is that man can be like God—Genesis 3:5; Isaiah 14:14.
- Answer: We must **Repent Of Sin** Acts 26:20; I Peter 5:6.

IV. The Future Of Satan

A. He was judged and defeated at the Cross. Colossians 2:14, 15; John 12:31; 16:11

B. He will be cast out of Heaven and limited to earth during the Tribulation Period in the future. Revelation 12:7–12

C. He will be confined to the ‘Abyss’ during the 1,000 year reign of our Lord Jesus Christ and then loosed for a season. Revelation 20:1–3, 7

D. Finally, he will be cast into the Lake of Fire, there to be tormented day and night forever and ever. Revelation 20:10 All who follow his ways shall realize the same horrible fate.

A Battle Plan For Victory Over The Evil Spirit World

God’s children are not to fear Satan or his demons. *God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love and of a sound mind.* (II Timothy 1:7). **We can stand strong against Satan if we are walking close with God.** James 4:7, 8 reminds us, *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.* While we are not to be preoccupied with thoughts or fears of Satan or his demons, we certainly should be aware of, and on guard against such forces. Here is a simple battle plan for daily victory over the Devil in our lives:

1. Be continually filled with the Spirit: (Eph. 5:18–21) When we are under the control of the Spirit, we are pleasing Christ and have the power of God in our life to withstand the power of self, sin, and Satan.

2. Daily walk in the Spirit: (Galatians 5:16–23) If we will stay sensitive to the Holy Spirit in our life we can avoid grieving, quenching, or

resisting His impulses. We must confess and forsake sins of anger, fear, unbelief, lust, pride, mental impurity, selfishness. If we will cast off the works of the flesh in our life we will have the healthy fruit of the Spirit in our heart. Satan is no match for the presence of the Spirit of God.

3. Feed on the Word of God: (Psalm 1:1–3; Joshua 1:8) If our mind is not renewed (Romans 12:1, 2) constantly by the pure things of the Word of God we will soon be susceptible to the contamination of evil spirit influence. Knowing the Word of God is the best defense against the lies of Satan and his temptations in our life (Matthew 4:1–10).

4. Take on the armor of God: (Ephesians 6:10–18) We must check our armor and make sure we have the belt of truth (an honest life), the breastplate of righteousness (a pure heart), feet shod with the gospel of peace (obedient service), the helmet of salvation (assurance of salvation), the sword of the Spirit (solid convictions), the shield of faith (confidence in God) and most of all *praying always!*

5. “Occupy” till Jesus comes: Invest your energies in serving the Lord (I Samuel 12:24) and reach out to others with the Gospel. Using our life to rescue others from Satan’s bondage brings great joy and zeal.

6. Set our affections on things above: (Colossians 3:1–3; Isaiah 26:3, 4) If our focus is worldly, then the Devil can plant seeds of corruption and deception in our mind. If our sights are set upward, looking to Jesus we can have the mind of Christ.

Trick or Treat:
The History of Halloween

by Bill Uselton

Halloween, the most horrifying of the ancient pagan holy days, is now upon us. While virtually all of the holidays have a pagan origin, the most obvious of these is Halloween. The ancient Babylonians would have recognized the pagan significance of colored eggs and bunny rabbits on Easter. The Romans would have recognized the large roasted bird, drunkenness, and gifts on Christmas. However, these two holidays are now cloaked in the religious superstition of our own time.

This is not true of All Hallows' Eve, more commonly known as Halloween, which is virtually identical today to the practices of those Druid-led worshippers in the Celtic lands of long ago. Very little difference exists between Halloween festivities now and Halloween festivities two thousand years ago. The reason ancient Halloween rites have not changed lies in the unique position of this ritual in terms of the occult.

The Roman Catholic Church has traditionally sought to dispose of pagan holidays by using the tried and true formula of accepting the local date and then changing the meaning and sometimes the ceremonies of the date. On Christmas these days, Santa Claus, gifts, and Christmas trees bear no resemblance whatsoever to the ancient December 25th practice of eviscerating a goose and using the internal organs to foretell the future, such as was the practice of the ancient, pagan Roman.

Altering holidays has met with much less success regarding Halloween, however, because this ancient Celtic ritual is more widely practiced now than ever before. Halloween is a practice that originated, as far as can be told, from the ancient Celtic peoples. The expanse of the Celtic race is related in Barry Cunliffe's book, *The Celtic World*:

Traces of the Celts can be found almost anywhere in temperate Europe. Their fortifications-hill forts and oppida-are to be seen spreading in a broad arc from Yugoslavia to the north of Ireland; the museums of Europe store thousands of objects recovered from the excavations of graves and settlement sites or dredged from rivers and bogs; while many of our great cities, including Budapest, Paris, Belgrade, stand on Celtic foundations.

According to *Funk and Wagnall's Standard Reference Encyclopedia*, Halloween, or "All Hallows' Eve" is a name applied to the evening of October 31st, preceding the Christian Jest of Hallowmass, All hallows, or All Saint's Day. The observances connected with Halloween are believed to have originated among the ancient Druids, who believed that on that evening Saman, the lord of the dead, called forth hosts of evil spirits. The Druids customarily lit great fires on Halloween, apparently for the purpose of warding off these spirits. Among the ancient Celts, Halloween was the last evening of the year, and it was regarded as a propitious time for examining the portents of the future. The Celts also believed that the spirits of the dead revisited their earthly homes on that evening.

Indications in our popular culture are that the public is becoming increasingly aware of the original rites of Halloween. Probably largely responsible for this reawakening are three movies which have grossed millions of dollars: *Halloween*, *Halloween II*, and *Halloween III—Season of the Witch*. In all three movies, this cult of death is very well illustrated. Now, for the first time in possibly a thousand years, many know the origins and true significance of Halloween. Unfortunately, a marked rise in the ancient practices has accompanied this new knowledge. In England, Ireland, Scotland, France, and America, many thousands of persons are reverting to the religion of their ancestors and to the "festival of the dead."

Before examining modern witchcraft's rise in relation to Halloween and its affiliated rituals, we should consult the Bible. *Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.* (Ex. 22:18) The Bible contains repeated denunciations of witchcraft. Claims by witches that they are not "opposed" to Christianity are contradicted by the Scriptures.

Exodus 22:20 further warns, *He that sacrificeth unto any god, save unto the Lord only, he shall be utterly destroyed.* Although the numbers of those practicing the black arts are growing, we must remember that the ancient practices of sacrifice and witchcraft are expressly forbidden.

Man, Myth, and Magic, a twenty-four volume encyclopedia of the supernatural, says: *All Hallows' Eve, or Hallowe'en, was originally a festival of fire and the dead and the powers of darkness. It is the evening of 31 October, the night before the Christian festival of All Hallows' or All Saint's Day. All Hallows' Day commemorates the saints and martyrs, and was first introduced in the seventh century. Its date was changed from 13*

May to 1 November in the following century, probably to make it coincide with and Christianize a pagan festival of the dead. All Soul's Day in the Roman Catholic calendar is 2 November. It is marked by prayers for the souls of the dead.

The intentional effort by the Catholic Church to stamp out the pagan ceremonies of Halloween failed. There are those who would state that the modern day ritual practice of Halloween is harmless fun for children and adults alike. Dressing up in costumes, going for “trick-or-treat,” creating large bonfires, and using pumpkins to create “jack-o’-lanterns” are all part of a harmless charade perpetrated once a year. While the original meanings of these rituals may have been lost or clouded in the minds of most people today, the actual methodology of witchcraft and worship survives to the present day. Therefore, it would seem prudent for any concerned Christian to examine the original meanings of the modern-day rituals associated with Halloween.

Demons, Hobgoblins, and Witches

The Golden Bough, by Sir James Frazier, is a considered and respected, albeit secular, work on the occult from the nineteenth century. Sir Frazier’s comments seem most enlightening to our study.

Throughout Europe, Halloween, the night which marks the transition from autumn to winter; seems to have been of old the time of year when the souls of the departed were supposed to revisit their old homes in order to warm themselves by the fire and to comfort themselves with the good cheer provided for them in the kitchen or the parlour by their affectionate kinsfolk. It was, perhaps, a natural thought that the approach of winter should drive the poor shivering ghosts from the bare fields and the leafless woodlands to the shelter of the cottage with its familiar fireside.

Thus, one of the original reasons for bonfires so prevalent during Halloween was to attract the dead and to keep them away from the home, until their journey into the afterworld was complete. This was a serious matter to those who practiced the Celtic religion. Samhain, or Sa-ween as it was pronounced, hence Hallo-ween, was the most important festival concerning the dead to the ancient Celtic world.

Bonfires were also used for one of the most hideous acts imaginable. The *Lacrousse Encyclopedia of Mythology* tells us: *On the eve of Samain*

the people of the side [otherworld] left their domain and wandered in the world of man... Attacks by hostile supernatural powers and of sacrifices are indicative of this insecurity and the need for propitiation.

Simply put, the Celts wished to know the future and believed that on this terrible night they could learn the future by the use of a ritual. This ritual consisted of constructing a basket containing a human being or an animal. This basket was then burned with the unfortunate inmate within burned to death. It was the belief of the Celts that by watching the victim die by fire, they would be able to see signs of the future as the sacrificial victim passed from this world into the next.

Foretelling the future was an idea the Celts found intriguing. The Catholics correctly compared the Celtic Druids to the witches because of their pagan practice of using bonfires to predict the future. However, the practice of burning sacrificial animals, and occasionally people, continued unabated for many centuries despite Catholic attempts to “Christianize” the holiday. Even in our time, animals are sacrificed on Halloween in Europe and in the Philippines, as well as in the Americas. It is also interesting to note that in some large American cities, the problem of arson during Halloween has become increasingly widespread. Some large cities have reported as many as two hundred arson fires set to houses (both vacant and occupied), warehouses, churches, and office buildings during a typical Halloween night.

While most modern day Halloween bonfires (hopefully!) are not to sacrifice humans, its original meaning alludes to a time when such a heinous ritual was used for the vilest intentions. The Bible is quite clear in denouncing such a horrendous practice. The Lord condemned King Ahaz because he burned his children in the fire to the pagan Gentile gods (2 Kings 16:3; 2 Chron. 28:3). Such an act brought shame and defeat to King Ahaz, as he was later conquered by both the Assyrians and his brethren of the northern kingdom of Israel.

The Celts believed that on this night other creatures roamed with the spirits of the dead. Fairies, as reported by *Man, Myth, and Magic*, ...*could also be seen on All Hallows' Eve, moving from one fairy hill to another with the music of hells and elfhorns. They were sometimes identified with the dead.*

The Celts held that fairies could be good or bad; however, the

introduction of Christianity changed this distinction. Jack Santino's work, *Night of the Wandering Souls*, reveals:

Samhain, with its emphasis on the supernatural, was very pagan. While missionaries identified Christian holy days with native holy days, they branded the earlier supernatural deities as evil and associated them with the Devil. As representatives of the rival religion, Druids were considered evil; their gods and spirits, devilish and demonic. The Celtic underworld inevitably became associated with the Christian Hell. The effects of this policy were to diminish but not totally dispel beliefs in the traditional gods. According to priests, fairies were fallen angels, thus identifying them with devils in Christian theology.

Thus, as the Celts converted to the new religion, they did not forget their stories of the dead traveling to the afterworld on Halloween, nor did sightings and activities of fairies cease being reported. Instead, manifestations of this night became overwhelmingly evil, and the festival adopted even more malicious overtones. Everything supernatural was attributed to demons who masqueraded as fairies, hobgoblins, vampires, werewolves, and other myths. Until the advent of the twentieth century, these supernatural beings were regarded as very real and very dangerous.

As more Celts became Christian, the native Druids or Celtic priests were correctly labeled "witches." Witch-hunting became a very common phenomenon until the seventeenth century, with the usual punishment prescribed being burning at the stake. Whereas witch-hunting crazes broke out indiscriminately, hunting witches during Halloween became virtually a national pastime. *Man, Myth, and Magic* says:

Darker and colder creatures still roamed through the night on Hallowe'en—demons and hobgoblins, witches who straddled broomsticks or shank bones, flew in sieves or eggshells, or rode on coal-black horses. The fires helped to keep them off and at Balmoral in Queen Victoria's time the effigy of a hideous old witch was ceremoniously burned on a bonfire at Hallowe'en.

Witches were very much on the public's mind during the last two millennia. Midnight of October 31st was considered to be an extremely hazardous time, as witches were believed to be actively hexing people and communing with the Devil. Many Catholics took to making charms and casting "white magic" spells to protect themselves from the evil they knew

to be very potent on this night. What many apparently did not realize was that the charms themselves were as evil as the witches they were supposed to thwart.

Many people still believed the Druids could foretell the future. As the Catholics believed the Druids were witches, or in the case of males, warlocks, they did not doubt this.

Using witchcraft to foretell the future was a crime that cost King Saul of Israel his life. First Samuel 28:7, 8 reads, *Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at En-dor. And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee.*

The story of the witch of En-dor possessed several significant similarities to the witches of the Celts. Familiar spirits are nothing more than demons, and the fairies and leprechauns of Celtic myths are the same as familiar spirits.

The Lord's punishment upon Saul was pronounced to him the very same night. First Samuel 28:17-18 relates, *And the Lord hath done to him, as he spoke by me: for the Lord hath rent the kingdom out of thine hand, and given it to thy neighbour, even to David: Because thou obeyedst not the voice of the LORD, nor executedst his fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore hath the Lord done this thing unto thee this day.* The Lord's pronouncements concerning witchcraft are quite clear. There is no such thing as "white" magic; it is all evil, and empowered by evil beings. It should also be emphasized that these actions transpired at nighttime, as do traditional Halloween activities.

Furthermore, Isaiah 19:3 states, *And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof: and I will destroy the counsel thereof, and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards.* The Lord purposefully groups together idol worshippers, witches with familiar spirits, wizards, and charmers. This is not the only scripture dealing thusly.

The activities of Halloween, the making of charms, divining the future, the practice of magic, and dealing with unclean spirits and demons are expressly forbidden to mankind. Deuteronomy 18:10-12 says, *There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his*

daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer [that is, “one who seeks to interrogate the dead,” according to Scofield]. *For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee.* This is a very explicit commandment from the Lord. Thus, the ancient Celtic ritual of Halloween practiced today in America is pagan in origin and innately linked with the occult, about which the Bible has much to say.

Trick-or-Treat

Another modern-day Halloween ritual is “trick-or-treat,” where children dress up in costumes and roam from house to house asking for food and candy. Presumably, if the inquiry for food and candy is refused, a trick to the homeowner results. This practice, which became quite prevalent during this century, has increasingly fallen into disfavor by many parents of small children. During the 1970’s and 1980’s, incidents of small children receiving poisoned candy and cookies, and apples concealing razor blades and fish hooks, have made many parents fearful to take their children on the traditional neighborhood trick-or-treat routes. In recent years, even hospitals have offered to voluntarily x-ray candy to determine if tampering has taken place. Increasingly, parents are taking their children to prearranged trick-or-treats at shopping malls where merchants hand out candy from the store fronts. While this practice should help ensure that the practice of trick-or-treat is safer, this does not change the fact that trick-or-treat has pagan and occult origins in the first place.

Among the Celts it was thought that the spirits of the dead required food and drink. During the festival of Samhain, the people would leave various articles of food outside to placate the spirits. This was very important, for only the finest mutton legs, vegetables, eggs, poultry, honey, and wine were left outside for the spirits to consume on their way to the netherworld. To supply nothing meant that the hungry and possibly irritated spirit might intrude upon one’s house and help itself to one’s belongings. Leaving out food that had spoiled was also considered an open invitation to disaster. Therefore, families who faced uncertain diets gave what was most precious to them: food. This takes on added implications when we recall that at that time food was very difficult to

preserve. Moreover, Halloween marked winter's beginning, when food was at its scarcest, and starvation was not uncommon.

From this practice evolved one of the most remarkable aspects of Halloween; to quote Santino:

Virtually all of our Halloween customs today can be traced to the ancient Celtic day of the dead. Each of Halloween's many mysterious customs has a history, or at least a story, behind it. The wearing of costumes, for instance, and the roaming from door to door demanding treats can be traced to the Celtic period and the first few centuries of Christianity when it was thought that the souls of the dead were out and around, along with fairies, witches, and demons. Food and drink were left out to placate them. As the centuries wore on, people began dressing as these dreadful creatures and performing antics in exchange for offerings of food and drink. This practice, called mumming, evolved into our present trick-or-treating. To this day, witches, ghosts, and skeleton figures of the dead are among the favorite disguises.

The practice of wearing masks and outfits to represent these evil creatures is universal in the human experience. From the Indians of America to China, traditions exist in which individuals who dress to represent a god or demon are imbued with supernatural powers and often given presents or beneficial treatment. There is a reason for this. Idols and masks of idols are *representative of something!* I Corinthians 10:19–21 says, *What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing? But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. 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.* So the Bible tells us that idols represent demons, *demon* being the actual word used in the original Greek text. Offerings of food are offerings of food to demons; the trick-or-treating of today is reminiscent of that practice. In fact, trick-or-treating children often masquerade as demons. Food is given to these children under this guise of a “trick or a treat.”

Lest we should become confused as to how the concept of romping spirits became intertwined with children, we must again quote *Man, Myth, and Magic: The guisers went from house to house, singing and dancing. Their blood-curdling masks and grotesque costumes may have been meant to keep evil at bay, or, more likely, were a visible representation*

of the ghosts and goblins that lurked in the night. The masks have now been transferred to the children who, in the United States, visit the neighbours for the food offerings which belonged to the dead-or play tricks akin to the legendary destructiveness of witches and imps abroad on this night.

This is the story and significance behind trick-or-treating. But there is more to the story of Halloween...

The Jack-o'-lantern

Virtually everyone in this country has seen a Jack-o'-lantern. These macabre, grinning pumpkins with candles inside often light the way of the errant ghost seeking his or her candy. Have you ever wondered where the idea for the Jack-o'-lantern originated? This, too, was a Celtic invention used during the ritual of Samhain. In the United States, the Jack-o'-lantern is a carved pumpkin. The orange, grinning, candle-filled lamp of Halloween is extremely popular and may be observed anywhere in the United States on Halloween. In Europe, where the concept for the Jack-o'-lantern was conceived, it is not a pumpkin but rather a turnip. The switch was made in America because, besides being much larger than the turnip, the pumpkin is easier to carve. Here is the earliest known tale of how it originated.

The tale is reminiscent of the classic tale of Dr. Faustus in world literature. A blacksmith by the name of Jack made a contract with Satan. Jack the blacksmith would be given powers by Satan that would make him the best blacksmith in the world for a period of seven years. In return, Satan would demand Jack's soul at the end of this period. Jack thus received the powers and hung a sign outside his shop proclaiming himself the master of all masters.

One day the Son of God came to the shop, accompanied by the apostle Peter. The sign had indicated that the owner was in need of religious indoctrination. Thus, the two worked several miracles-to no avail-in Jack's presence. Peter then offered Jack three wishes, which Jack immediately seized upon. Santino writes:

First, he wished that whenever he told someone to climb a nearby pear tree that person would have to stay in the tree until Jack allowed him to come down. He made the same wishes regarding his armchair and his purse: one must stay in them until Jack allowed him to go. 'You have wished very foolishly,' said Saint Peter. 'You should have wished for everlasting peace in Heaven. 'Nevertheless, Jack used these three wishes to trick the Devil when he came to take his soul. Each time the Devil came, Jack tricked him into climbing the tree, sitting in his chair, and finally, shrinking himself and entering his purse. Each time, the Devil gave Jack

seven years in return for his freedom, and finally he simply fled in terror.

Jack could not live forever, however. When presented at Heaven's pearly gates, Peter would not allow Jack inside. Denied entrance into Heaven, Jack went to Hell. At the gates of Hell, Satan refused Jack entrance, saying that Jack was full of too many tricks and would cause mischief. Satan then ordered the gates of Hell closed. But before Jack was thrown out, he managed to scoop out a burning coal from the fires of Hell with a turnip he had been eating. As this coal came from Hell, it was eternal and would never be extinguished. Thus, Jack, who was denied entrance into Heaven and Hell, was doomed to roam the earth with his peculiar lantern, his jack-o'-lantern, if you will.

Halloween Today

The Halloween festival became fully established in America after the huge influx of Irishmen as a result of the great Irish potato famine of 1846. America, in that era, was quite religious, and so the stories of fairies, leprechauns, demons and ghosts were accepted as fact. Religious beliefs aside, those less well-educated tend to be more superstitious—at least that was the prevalent thinking of the early to mid-twentieth century. In America, those who were the most superstitious were also the least educated; the American Indian, the Negro, and the poor, white settlers in the Appalachian and Ozark regions tended to take superstitions very seriously indeed. Other than these groups, belief in the Bible as the Word of God confirmed, as a matter of course, the existence of ghosts and demons.

Generally, we tend to think the more educated secular population in society is less superstitious. However, with the rise of the New Age movement, an increase in the practice of so-called “natural religions” or paganism has occurred. A great many of the adherents to modern New Age philosophy are professional, well educated individuals. This has also resulted in an increased interest in the occult, and the high holiday of the occult, Halloween.

This is not merely a history lesson, but is a warning. The study of the history of Halloween is necessary for all concerned Christians, for the practice of observing Halloween honors a force that is as real today as it was two thousand years ago. We like to believe when the apostolic gifts diminished in the first century that the opposition of demonic influence and possession died out as well. However, nothing could be further from the truth. Demonic influence and possession afflict this country now as never before. Studies in the occult, from both religious and purely academic points of view, have shown a marked increase in the numbers and efforts of Satanists in the latter

part of this century. By Satanists we include such practices as witchcraft, following pagan religions, charmers, necromancers, and other practices of the black arts.

According to Paul Lee Tan's *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations*:

Satan worship and all forms of the occult are evident everywhere. It is estimated that there are at least 100 million Americans who dabble in some form of black magic. In New Jersey, a young man was drowned by a group of his friends at his request, because he believed that a violent end would put him in command of forty legions of demons.

Witchcraft is not dead. In England, at the ancient ruins of Stonehenge, Druid priests perform ancient rites as their ancestors did. No, the occult is not dead. In fact, the occult is currently probably stronger than at any time since the Dark Ages. Astrology, chiefest of the black arts among Americans, has skyrocketed in popularity since the 1960s. According to the *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Americans spend over \$200 million a year on astrology alone. A 1976 Gallup poll indicated that those who take astrology seriously may number as many as 32 million... It is estimated that twelve hundred of the seventeen hundred US daily newspapers regularly print horoscope columns.*

Even the American Indian tribes, some of which were intense occultists, never had the social problems we have today. The August 6, 1991, edition of *The Daily Oklahoman*, printed an extremely pertinent article by Thomas Sowell. Mr. Sowell, a black conservative, is recognized as one of the most articulate critics of Marxist liberalism. In his article entitled "Experts' Are Endangering Society," he used the recent serial killings committed by Jeffrey Dahmer to illustrate the shortcomings of our liberal society. In the article, he recognized the price for our society's rejection of the laws of God:

Has anyone asked just whose bright idea it was to parole the man who has now confessed to multiple murders in Milwaukee? Of course not. Whoever it was does not even suffer the penalty of public embarrassment. All across this country, shrinks, 'experts', can recommend the early release of the most vicious and dangerous criminals, without being the least bit accountable for the consequences.

The words of Edward Gein directly implicate the reality of evil as a force. Serial killer Edward Gein was a reclusive bachelor who committed such heinous crimes as grave robbing, fratricide, mutilation, murder, and even cannibalism in the small Wisconsin town of Plainfield in the late

1950's. Mr. Gein was the source material for the "Norman Bates" character in the movie *Psycho*, as well as for the character of "Leatherface" in the movie *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*. Harold Schechter's book, *Deviant: The Shocking True Story of Ed Gein, the Original Psycho*, states:

Eddie, too, as it turned out, felt that he was driven to his ghoulish activities by an irresistible force which he experienced and described to his interrogators as an 'evil spirit' invading his mind from someplace outside himself.

Something is wrong, all right. The earth was good until Adam fell and all men fell with him. Man's fallen nature and the curse on the earth are being felt even now. How dangerous it is to act as if evil is not a force!

The evil world of the occult wages an ongoing assault against Christianity. We believe revival of witchcraft and the black arts is indicative of the end times. Satan knows the time of Christ's return is near, and he is mustering all of his forces to engage in a battle he has lost already. Let no one doubt that witchcraft and sorcery are very real. The number of occult-related murders has been on the increase in this country for more than a generation. Moreover, one of the most significant occult dates of all—the one favored for the Black Mass—is Halloween, celebrated the last day of October in our nation. On college campuses and universities today, Anton LaVey's *Satanic Bible* is often a best-seller, in some cases outselling the Bible itself.

It is of great importance to realize that the powers some claim are not powers of themselves: real sorcery relies on demonic or satanic power. Ephesians 6:12 states, *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.* There is, in conclusion, only one way to win against Satan; that is victory through Christ Jesus.

The following listing of symbols and glossary are courtesy of

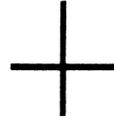
The Edge Of Evil

The Rise of Satanism in North America

by Jerry Johnston

Symbols

The “upside down” cross is an inverted Christian cross. This early-'60s peace symbol is now commonly thought of as the “Cross of Nero” by heavy metalheads and occultists.



The Inverted Cross



Cross of Nero

The “ankh” is an ancient magical Egyptian symbol for life. The top portion represents the female and the lower portion the male.



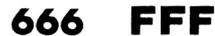
The Ankh

The “cross of confusion” is an ancient Roman symbol questioning the existence or validity of Christianity.



The Cross of Confusion

Four different ways which refer to the “mark of the beast: or Satan.” Note that the letter “F” is the sixth letter of the alphabet.



Various Versions of the Mark of the Beast

Here, the moon goddess “Diana” and the morning star of “Lucifer” are represented. This symbol is found in nearly all types of witchcraft and satanism. When the moon is turned to face the opposite direction, it is primarily satanic.



Diana and Lucifer



The Pentagram

The pentagram, or, without the circle, the pentacle is used in most forms of occult magic. A spirit conjured within the pentagram cannot supposedly leave the circle without permission. Witches generally conjure spirits from outside the pentagram while satanists can submit to possession by the spirit by standing within the pentagram while calling up a demon. Generally, the top point represents the spirit, and the other points represent wind, fire, earth, and water.



The Upside-down Pentagram

The upside down pentagram, often called the “baphomet,” is strictly satanic in nature and represents the goat’s head.



Hexagram
“Seal of Solomon”

The hexagram, also referred to as the “Seal of Solomon,” is said to be one of the most powerful symbols in the occult.



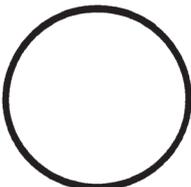
Double-bladed Ax

The Roman symbol of justice was a double bladed ax in the upright position. The representation of “anti-justice” is inverting the double bladed ax.



Triangle

The “triangle” may vary in size, but is generally inscribed or drawn on the ground and is the place where a demon would appear in conjuration rituals.



Circle

The “circle” has different meanings. One symbolizes eternity. Another implies protection from evil without and power within. When used for ritual, it is nine feet in diameter.

A "talisman" or "amulet" is an object with drawing or writing inscribed in it of a god's name or image of a supernatural power.



Talisman or Amulet

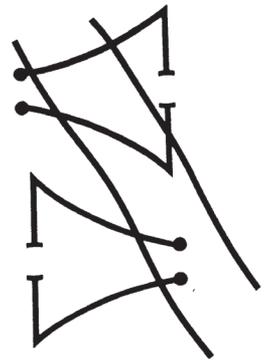
Trail Markers

There are many forms of directional trail markers which are employed by formal and casual occult groups alike. These markers indicate locations where occult activities may take place and how to get there. The markers depicted to the right show a small circle or starting place, then a direction to be taken. The rise or fall of the line shows hills and valleys type terrain.

Other marker types could be a pentagram on the right or left side of a road, trail, or even on a house or a building.

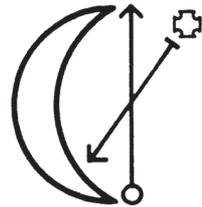
The inverted cross of satanic justice is often found carved into a traitor's chest. It is also used as a backdrop near a "baphomet" for curse and compassion rituals. The center vertical line indicates man's present. The horizontal line indicates eternity, past and future. The arch indicates the world. The inverted cross appearance symbolizes the defeat of Christianity.

The sexual ritual symbol is used to indicate the place and purpose. It is often carved into a stone or painted on the side of the road to show present use of the location.



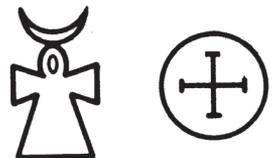
Trailmarkers

The blood ritual symbol represents human and animal sacrifices.



Blood Ritual Symbol

Black Mass indicators:



Black Mass Indicators

Sample Altar



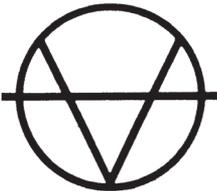
Sample Altar

The altar may be any flat object where the implements of the ritual are placed. The altar will usually be placed within the nine foot circle. This diagram shows a marble or granite slab 48" x 22" x 2". The pentagram in the center is etched into the slab. Human or animal blood is then poured into the etching. Other symbols may be carved into the slab according to individual group traditions. Implements that would be placed on the altar would include: athame, chalice, candles, parchment, cauldron, Book of Shadows.



Swastika

The "swastika" or "broken cross" is of ancient origin. Originally, it represented the four winds, four seasons, and four points of the compass. At that time, its arms were at 90 degree angles turned the opposite way as depicted here. The "swastika" shown here shows the elements or forces turning against nature and out of harmony. Nazis and occult groups use it in this manner.



Anarchy

The symbol of "anarchy" represents the abolition of all law. Initially, those into "punk" music used this symbol, but it is now widely used by heavy metal followers and satanic dabblers.

Glossary

- A.A.:** The abbreviated form for Argenteum Astrum. This is a magickal order founded by Aleister Crowley in 1904. Several West Coast covens claim A.A. roots.
- ATHAME:** A dagger or sword, usually with a black handle and with magickal inscriptions on its blade.
- BAPHOMET:** A semi-human, semi-goat figure worshiped originally by the Knights Templar in the Middle Ages and now universally considered a focal insignia of satanism. The figure has a goat head, angelic wings, female breasts and a torch between its horns.
- BEELZEBUB:** The demon of decay in demonology, often thought to rank directly under Satan himself.
- BELIAL:** The demon of death and destruction in demonology.
- BOOK OF SHADOWS:** Also called a grimoire, this journal kept either by individual witches or satanists or by a coven or group, records the activities of the group and the incantations used.
- CHALICE:** A silver goblet used for blood communions.
- CIRCLE:** In every level of the occult, the circle represents wholeness. A ritual circle is used to protect conjurers as they stand outside the circle to summon demons; satanists sometimes proudly insist that they stand within the circle as the demon is summoned for complete possession. Often a group of witches, called by some a coven, is termed a circle.
- CONE OF POWER:** Imagining a vortex of energy directed toward a goal or person is a common ritual performed in witchcraft.
- COVEN:** Also called a clan, a coven is a group of satanists who gather to perform rites. Traditionally numbering thirteen, covens today can commonly number nine or any number within the self-styled groups.
- CURSE:** Invocation of an oath associated with black magic or sorcery intended to harm or destroy opponents or property; curses often require the invocation of evil spirits.
- DAEMON:** From the Greek daimon, a spirit, an evil spirit or demon.
- DEVIL:** The personification of evil called Lucifer or Satan. The word means accuser or slanderer. It is one of the names of Satan, also known as Lucifer.
- DRUIDS:** Celtic priests in pre-Christian Britain and Gaul. Skilled in astronomy and medicine, they worshiped the Sun, believed in immortality of the soul and reincarnation. Very powerful and very dangerous—still active today.
- EQUINOX:** The time at which the Sun crosses the equator. This takes place on March 21 and September 27, and on these days the length of day and night are the same.
- GRIMOIRES:** A medieval collection of magical spells, rituals and incantations. Also any coven or circle's Book of Shadows recording spells, ceremonies and histories of the group.
- HALLOWEEN:** Occult holiday, All Hallow's Eve, October 31, end and beginning of Celtic year.
- HAND OF GLORY:** The left hand of a person who has died. The hand is removed and a candle is positioned between the fingers. The ritual is used for protection against evil spirits.
- HEAD:** Central powerhouse of the body believed to contain all magical powers. For this reason, many human skulls are used on altars. Also the eating of the brain is believed to transfer power.
- HEART:** This is symbolic of the center of life. Symbol of eternity. By the eating of the heart, it is assumed that you will gain the characteristics and powers of the deceased.
- HEXAGRAM:** A six pointed star, also known as the Star of David. The hexagram is believed among occultists to protect and control demons.
- HORNED GOD:** Symbol of male sexuality in paganism and witchcraft. Part man, part goat.
- INITIATE:** One who has successfully passed through a ritual of initiation. Also, one who possesses secret knowledge.
- INVERTED CROSS:** Upside-down crucifix, often seen at occult sites.

- LIGATURE:** A spell which prevents a person from doing something.
- LITHOMANCY:** Magic using stones or semi-precious gems. Colors of stones are important to working.
- LUCIFER:** Means Morning Star; the archangel who protected the throne of God. Because of pride, he led a revolt against God, and was cast out of Heaven along with one-third of the angel population who later became demons. Also as the "lightbearer," considered a neutral being or force which man can use for good or evil in his attempts to attain godhood.
- MAGIC:** Technique of harnessing the secret powers of nature and seeking to influence events for one's own purposes. If the purpose is beneficial it is known as white magic. If its intention is to bring harm to others, or to destroy property, it is regarded as black magic.
- MAGICICK:** Magic that employs ritual symbols and ceremony, including ceremonial costumes, dramatic invocations to the gods, potent incense and mystic sacraments.
- MAGIC CIRCLE:** A circle inscribed on the floor of a temple for ceremonial purposes. Often nine feet in diameter, believed to hold magical powers within and protect those involved in the ceremony from evil.
- MAGISTER:** Male leader of a coven.
- MAGUS:** A male witch.
- NECROMANCY:** A practice in which the "spirits of the dead" are summoned to provide omens relating to future events or to discover secrets of the past.
- NECROPHILIA:** The act of having sexual intercourse with the dead.
- OCCULT:** From the Latin word *occultus*, which means "secret" or "hidden," the occult refers to 1) secret or hidden knowledge available to initiates, 2) the supernatural, and 3) sometimes used of parapsychology and paranormal phenomena.
- PENTACLE:** A five-pointed star used as a magic symbol in rituals.
- PENTAGRAM:** A pentacle surrounded by a circle. It represents the four elements. When the star is inverted with two points up, it stands for black arts. When turned with a single point up, it symbolizes white magic. Pentagrams are also worn for "protection" and identification among members of The Craft.
- RITUAL:** A prescribed form of religious or magical ceremony.
- RUNES:** A northern European alphabet used by occult groups in secret writing. There are several forms of runeing.
- SABBAT:** A gathering of witches to commemorate a special date.
- SANTERIA:** Worship of the saints, a mingling of African tribal religions and Catholicism established by African slaves brought to the Americas and Caribbean.
- SATAN:** The angelic being created by the Christian God. He was an archangel who protected God's throne, rebelled and was cast out of heaven.
- SHADOWS, BOOK OF:** In witchcraft, the personal book of spells and rituals kept by individual witches and satanists and by covens as a whole. A Book of Shadows is traditionally destroyed when the witch dies.
- SO MOTE IT BE:** Words said at the end of an occult ceremony. Similar to "amen" in traditional religious services.
- SOLSTICE:** Summer and winter seasonal points at which the day is longest—usually June 21—and the night longest—generally December 21.
- TALISMAN:** Power object, usually an amulet or trinket.
- VOODOO:** An ancient religion combining Catholicism and sorcery. Those involved are extremely superstitious and are heavily involved in fetishism.
- WARLOCK:** Often used of a male witch; actually designates a traitor.
- WICCA:** The paganistic end of the witchcraft spectrum.
- WITCH:** A male or female practitioner of any sort of witchcraft.
- WITCHCRAFT:** A practice of occultic arts, from wiccan-nature worship to satanic worship.
- YULE:** Occult holiday, December 22, winter solstice, the shortest day of the year.