

**Transcripts of a series of programs produced by
The John Ankerberg Show
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**What Do Mormons and
Jehovah's Witnesses
Believe...
About Jesus, Salvation
and the Bible?**

Dr. John Ankerberg's guests include:

**Bill & Joan Cetnar
Ed Decker
Jean Eason
Dr. Walter Martin
Lorri MacGregor
Ken & Debbie Oakley
Helen Ortega
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The John Ankerberg Show is a ministry of
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The John Ankerberg Show

What Do Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses Believe About Jesus, Salvation and the Bible?

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Program 1

Introduction

Announcer: The Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons are some of the nicest, most sincere people in the world. Somewhere, sometime, you will meet them or be approached by them. They will tell you that they are true Christians and invite you to study or worship with them. But before you do, you need to listen to this man, Mr. Bill Cetnar, a former leader of the Jehovah's Witnesses at their headquarters in Brooklyn, New York.

Bill Cetnar: The basic reason that I changed my mind was that Jehovah's Witnesses claimed to be speaking for God. The Bible says if you are speaking for God, the prophecies that you make, the statements that you make, have to be absolutely true. They have to happen. Jehovah's Witnesses announced the end of the world for 1874, 1879, 1881, 1914, 1918, 1925, 1975 and now they display that new disease called "loss of memory." They can't remember ever predicting the end of the world.

Announcer: Did you know that their beliefs about Jesus, salvation and the Bible are completely different than what Jesus Himself

taught?

Ankerberg: When the Jehovah's Witnesses say that He's the Savior, they don't mean the same thing that you mean now. What did they mean?

Cetnar: This is the problem that I had. I always thought I knew who Jehovah was. I had a difficult time in fitting a position for Jesus. Now, we were taught that He's a created being, that He's really Michael the Archangel, and He somehow ran shotgun for Jehovah. Now, I just couldn't understand when men in the Bible could worship Jesus and now I can't!

Announcer: Today you will meet men and women who grew up as faithfully serving Jehovah's Witnesses. And next week you will hear Mormon leaders debate Christian scholars. We invite you to join us for this special edition of The John Ankerberg Show.

Dr. John Ankerberg: Welcome to our program. What do Jehovah's Witnesses believe about Jesus, salvation and the Bible? One of the most knowledgeable and passionate guests I have ever had on our broadcast was a former leader of the Jehovah's Witnesses who worked at their headquarters in

Brooklyn, New York. His name is Mr. Bill Cetnar, and I'd like you to meet him today.

[Excerpt from "Former Jehovah's Witnesses Testify"]

Ankerberg: Bill, tell us a little about your background and your rise in the echelons of the Watchtower Society.

Bill Cetnar: I was born at a very early age to two Jehovah's Witnesses, my mother and father. I would listen to my parents who taught me two things: Number one, the Bible is God's book. Number two, the Watchtower president talks to angels, he gets information directly from heaven, and he will interpret, explain, the Bible to you.

Ankerberg: Does the Society papers, I mean, does the *Watchtower* magazine actually say that the president talks to angels?

Bill Cetnar: The *Watchtower* magazine said you **can not** learn about God through the Bible alone. You must read Watchtower publications and you will learn about God even if you have never read one page out of the Bible. But if you read the Watchtower publications you will know about God.

Ankerberg: So a guy that just got the Bible and not the *Watchtower* magazine can't make it?

Bill Cetnar: Can't make it.

Ken Oakley: That's leaning on your own understanding and that is verboten.

Joan Cetnar: Right.

Ankerberg: Let's go on back, Bill. You were born to be close to your mother, what else?

Bill Cetnar: My parents taught me those two principal items. I wanted to be with God's visible, theocratic organization. I wanted to see how the president of Jehovah's Witnesses holds his fork—he must hold it just right. And so I wanted to work at the Watchtower Headquarters, give my whole life to it. And on January 1, 1950, I was invited to work at the Watchtower Headquarters. I got a fantastic job washing dishes. And the next day I became a waiter, and in 6 months I was working in the Watchtower offices, and a year later I was

answering questions for 1/3 of the United States, starting at the Mason-Dixon Line, south to Texas.

Now, one of the first questions was, "Is it really a violation of God's law to have a smallpox vaccination?" Now, I knew the answer to that without looking up any books because I **lived** through it. My wife is a fourth generation Jehovah's Witness whose parents took her to a doctor, in Camden, New Jersey, who took acid and burned a hole in Joan's leg to simulate a smallpox vaccination and then signed a certificate that she was vaccinated. Joan had to go to school lying to the principal and to the school board and to the teachers that she had a smallpox vaccination.

Ankerberg: For people that don't know, why did the Jehovah's Witnesses forbid...

Bill Cetnar: Jehovah's Witnesses said that the Bible forbids mixing animal blood with human blood. They didn't even understand what that meant. But they said that you vaca-cow- innate man. You take cow's blood, put cowpox in it and inject it into the arm. I took a trip to New Jersey where they make smallpox vaccine right after I answered that question and they said it is made out of eggs. The process is called avianization. I said, "Where is the blood?" They said, "What blood?" I said, "God said there is blood in smallpox vaccine. Where is it?" They said it is made out of eggs. He said, "Who said it did?" And I said, "God!" And he said, "Well, God forgot to tell us. We've been making it out of eggs." I went back to the Watchtower and wrote them a memo and April 14, 1952, God changed his mind.

[End excerpt]

Ankerberg: Now, if you have ever had a Jehovah's Witnesses come and knock on your door, you may have noticed the *Watchtower* magazines they were carrying. I asked, why do Jehovah's Witnesses think the information in this magazine is so important? This is what Mr. Cetnar told me.

[Excerpt from "Former Jehovah's Witnesses Testify"]

Bill Cetnar: The president of the Jehovah's Witness, under oath in a courtroom in New York City, was asked, "Who is the editor of the *Watchtower* magazine?" He said, "Jehovah God."

[End excerpt]

Ankerberg: This is the worldwide headquarters of the Jehovah's Witnesses in Brooklyn, New York. At the time when Mr. Cetnar worked at their headquarters, he worked with the President of the Jehovah's Witnesses, whose name was Mr. Nathan Knorr. Listen to what President Knorr said to Mr. Cetnar at one of their editorial meetings about the content of the Jehovah's Witnesses magazines.

[Excerpt from "Former Jehovah's Witnesses Testify"]

Bill Cetnar: The Service Department in 1952 was located on the 9th floor. We would have editorial meetings as to what was going to be in the next issue of a little internal magazine called *Kingdom Ministry* and I remember one time we were discussing something and it got into a little bit of an argument. Mr. Knorr at that time, who was the president, got up from his chair walked over to the door and he says, "You can argue about it here as long as you want to. Once you get it thrashed out and it comes off the 6th floor (now, the 6th floor was the printing press) once it is off the printing press," he says, "it is the truth." He made it very short. Once it is off the 6th floor it is the Truth.

[End excerpt]

Ankerberg: Now, if the Jehovah's Witnesses believe that they are spreading God's Word to the world through their magazines and literature, I asked Mr. Cetnar what caused him to change his mind and leave?

[Excerpt from "Former Jehovah's Witnesses Testify"]

Bill Cetnar: The basic reason that I changed my mind was that Jehovah's Witnesses claimed to be speaking for God. The Bible says that if you are speaking for God, the prophecies that you make, the statements that you make, have to be absolutely true.

They have to happen. Jehovah's Witnesses announced the end of the world for 1874, 1879, 1881, 1914, 1918, 1925, 1975, and now they display that new disease called "loss of memory." They can't remember ever predicting the end of the world.

Ankerberg: Give me an example that documented it.

Bill Cetnar: I have with me a copy of the *Watchtower* magazine, August 15, 1968. It says, "Why are you looking forward to 1975?"

Ankerberg: And why were they?

Bill Cetnar: Because they said that the world would end prior to October 1, 1975 because the 6,000 years of man's existence will end in October and Armageddon has to come before the last 1,000-year period.

Ankerberg: Were they talking about a spiritual ending or a real solid everybody disappear?

Bill Cetnar: No, I am talking about a real fumigation of the earth of everybody but Jehovah's Witnesses.

Ankerberg: They actually said that?

Bill Cetnar: Absolutely!

[End excerpt]

Ankerberg: Now today, our primary purpose is to find out what Jehovah's Witnesses believe about Jesus. And this is what the man said who worked with the President of the Jehovah's Witnesses and answered questions for the *Watchtower* for everybody in the United States, south of the Mason-Dixon line all away to Texas.

Now, you heard part of what he said in our introduction, but in this clip, he tells us that he knew the men who translated the Jehovah's Witnesses *New World Translation* of the Bible. And wait until you hear what he says about them.

[Excerpt from "Former Jehovah's Witnesses Testify"]

Ankerberg: "He is the Savior." They don't mean the same thing that you mean now, what did they mean?

Bill Cetnar: This was a problem that I had.

I always thought I knew who Jehovah was. I had a difficult time in fitting a position for Jesus. Now we were taught that He is a created being. That He is really Michael the Archangel. And He somehow ran shotgun for Jehovah. Now, I just couldn't understand when men in the Bible could worship Jesus and now I can't. And then came the revelation that YHWH claimed to be God. So did Jesus. In John 1:1 it says, "In the beginning...." Which beginning? It doesn't matter. "In the beginning....," whichever one you want, He already was. Not was created. I said, "Wow, that's refreshing." In fact, that stretches your mind. And then it says, "...the Word was with God and the Word was God." And then I found out that all the Greek scholars, not most of them, **all** say that you can't translate that "a God" like Jehovah's Witnesses do in their "Green Phantom". Then I went over....

Ankerberg: What is the Green Phantom?

Bill Cetnar: The Green Phantom is their translation of the Bible and here—someone in the audience has a copy—it is green and the reason they call it a phantom is because nobody knows who translated it.

Ankerberg: The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures.

Bill Cetnar: Right. The men who translated it want their name secret. And if I was on a New World Translation committee I would want my name secret.

Ankerberg: Because they never debate the Greek language that is in there. And you knew the translators though, because you were one of the men in Brooklyn.

Bill Cetnar: Except that they told me they were Hebrew scholars and I had to wait until I found it in a court manuscript, because that is the only place where you can pin down one of these characters who were the translators, was in the courtroom...

Ankerberg: That they weren't a Greek scholar...

Bill Cetnar: ...where they even in a courtroom swore that they are Hebrew and Greek scholars but they can't read Hebrew out loud.

That convinced me that these men were lying and were not really translators of the Bible.

[End excerpt]

Ankerberg: Now, if you think that all religions and spiritual groups are teaching the same things about Jesus, you are badly mistaken. And we're going to prove that to you in our next clip. Also, if you are a little puzzled about what the Jehovah's Witnesses believe and teach about Jesus, this next segment will explain it clearly. What we're going to show you is a film clip that came from a documentary film called *Witnesses of Jehovah*. We featured it in one of our television broadcasts. I like you listen.

[Excerpt from "Has the Watchtower Ever Lied, Covered Up or Changed Important Doctrine, Dates and Biblical Interpretations?"]

F. M. Gipe: Our teaching on Jesus Christ is that Jesus is the Son of God. He was the first thing that Jehovah created and through Him other creative works were done. Now, some religions teach that God and Jesus are one and the same, but the Bible does not teach that and therefore neither do Jehovah's Witnesses.

Watchtower Society Representative: We believe that the Bible teaches that Jesus carries out a number of functions for Jehovah God, the Most High. For example, in the Hebrew Scriptures He is referred to as Michael. Michael, literally translated into English, means "Who is like God."

Narrator: Witnesses believe that Jesus Christ is a spirit-creature, a super-angel, the first creation of Jehovah God who, prior to coming to earth as a man, existed in heaven as Michael, the Archangel. Jesus started out originally as the Logos, or Michael, the Archangel, who then came to earth as the virgin-born son of Mary. He was a perfect, sinless man; but He was only a man—devoid of all divinity. Jesus walked the earth as a man, becoming the Christ only when He was baptized.

Jehovah's Witnesses hold the cross in contempt, feeling that it is nothing more than a pagan symbol used by apostate Christendom. Instead, they teach that at the

completion of His ministry, Jesus died, not on the cross, but on an upright stake. Christ's body was then laid in a tomb where it was disintegrated by God—totally destroyed forever.

Jesus was then re-created by the Father. Before going to heaven, He materialized in different bodies on different occasions to convince His disciples and others that He had really been resurrected. Jesus returned to His Father in heaven, where once again He became Michael, the Archangel. He will never again be seen on the earth in visible form, but instead rules invisibly from the heavens.

When He executes judgment over the world at Armageddon, He will destroy all but the faithful Jehovah's Witnesses. Jesus, alias "Michael," will always remain invisible to those on earth and can be seen only by the 144,000 select Jehovah's Witnesses who rule with Him from heaven.

[End excerpt]

Ankerberg: Now, after watching that, I'd like you to listen to a lady who was a Jehovah's Witnesses for more than 27 years before she came to understand the truth about Jesus. Her name is Lorri McGregor. She explains what she was taught as a Jehovah's Witnesses and the evidence that eventually changing her mind about Jesus. Listen.

[Excerpt from "105 Years of Watchtower Service"]

Lorri MacGregor: Well, as Jehovah's Witnesses we were taught that Jesus Christ was a secondary god and we even had our own altered Bible translation that said he was a *god*. We were told he was the first product of Jehovah's creation. He was a master workman. We were taught that He was, besides this, the Archangel Michael. Now, he was only a man on earth also. So, as I really began to seek through the pages of the Bible, I found out Jesus was not the Archangel Michael. There is no scriptural proof. Michael is not called "Jesus"; Jesus is not called "Michael." But then I was left with the problem: Is Jesus some kind of an extra god or is He the One God? Is He Almighty God?

Revelation 1:8 says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, who is, who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Now, Jehovah's Witnesses will instantly say, "This is Jehovah God and our Bible has Jehovah in there."

And you say, "Well, actually if you look in your purple Bible"—anytime the scriptures don't agree, look in your purple Bible, the Interlinear—"and they will see that it says Lord God. Get them to agree that the Almighty is speaking, and He calls Himself the Alpha and Omega. They have to agree to that."

Ankerberg: Well, that's what it says.

MacGregor: Now let's find the identity of the Alpha and Omega, the Almighty. Turn over to Revelation 22 and there are several speakers here, so we want to get the one who's coming quickly, the one who's the Alpha and Omega. We want to read it in context, that there's no change of speaker.

We begin in Revelation 22:12, "Behold, I am coming quickly. My reward is with me, to render to every man according to what he's done. I am the Alpha and the Omega." The same one is speaking. Underline this next part, "...The First and the Last, the beginning and the end." Verse 14 says, "Blessed are some..." Verse 15 says, "Outside are the others...." The same speaker in verse 16 continues, "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you these things for the churches."

So Jesus says He is the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the beginning and the end. Jehovah's Witnesses won't like this. They'll say, "Oh, well, it has to be Jehovah. The speakers have to change."

And you say, "Well, now, would you agree that the Alpha and Omega calls himself 'the First and the Last?'" Well they have to agree. He says, "I'm the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last."

Turn back to Revelation 1, and let's get further identification on the First and the Last because "At the mouth of two or three witnesses every matter is established." Revelation 1, beginning in verse 13 has a vision of

the son of Man. Down in verse 17—and Jehovah’s Witnesses will agree: the Son of Man is Jesus Christ. No argument— Verse 17 records John saying this, “When I saw him I fell at his feet as a dead man and he laid his right hand upon me, saying, Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last and the living one and I was dead and behold I am alive forevermore. I have the keys of death and of hades.”

Ankerberg: So it can only be Jesus.

Lorri: It can only be Jesus. Jesus is the First and the Last. Jesus is the Alpha and Omega.

Ankerberg: He was the one that was dead.

Lorri: Right.

Ankerberg: He is the one that is coming.

Lorri: Right. And we go back to Revelation 1:8 and we put His name in where it belongs. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God. “Jesus Christ who was, who is, and who is to come,…”

[End excerpt]

Ankerberg: Now, if you have ever talked with a Jehovah’s Witness, you know they have a lot of questions about the deity of Jesus Christ. And who better to answer those questions than the man who used to teach the Jehovah’s Witnesses himself? I’d like you to listen.

[Excerpt from “Witnessing to Jehovah’s Witnesses”]

Bill Cetnar: The Scripture that really interested me and that really helped me to find out who Jesus really is in Revelation, the first chapter, where Jesus is called “the Alpha and the Omega,” the First and the Last, and He’s everything in between. And then in the last chapter, the 22nd chapter of Revelation, it says that Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega. There cannot be two Alphas and Omegas, and therefore that was the first Scripture that brought light. The next one was that Jesus is

the I Am. He claimed to be the same thing that *Yahweh* claimed to be in Exodus, the third chapter. John said that Jesus is God. Isaiah said that Jesus is God. Paul said that Jesus is God. God said that Jesus is God in Hebrews, the first chapter. We have to accept this or not believe the authority of the Scriptures. When we found out that Jesus is *YHWH* we were so excited we could hardly see straight.

Ankerberg: Jehovah’s Witnesses say you never find the word “Trinity” in the Bible. What do you say to that?

Bill Cetnar: Neither will you find the word “theocracy” in the Bible. Neither will you find many other words that Jehovah’s Witnesses use. That is not the point. The point is, Who is Jesus? In the Bible it doesn’t say if you don’t believe in the Trinity you are going to die in your sins, it says, “If you don’t believe that I Am you’re going to die in your sins.” That’s important. However, in order to understand quickly, to be able to exchange ideas among Christians, we have come up with the word that perfectly describes the Bible doctrine of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. In Matthew the last chapter it says, “Go therefore and baptize people in the name…” [singular]. The word “name” means “power” according to Acts 4:7. “Baptize them in the authority…” of whom? “...the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.” That’s God.

Ankerberg: Yeah, one name, one persons. Right. “Trinity” is just a Latin word “tri-unity.” And we have the one God in three Persons. Jehovah’s Witnesses sometimes look at Christians and give our doctrine wrong. They’ll say we believe in three Gods. We do not believe in three Gods....

Bill Cetnar: Jehovah’s Witnesses have everything wrong about Christian doctrine, and it’s because Satan is deceiving them via their false prophets.

[End excerpt]

Program 2

Introduction

Announcer: The Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons are some of the nicest, most sincere people in the world. Somewhere, sometime, you will meet them or be approached by them. They will tell you that they are true Christians and invite you to study or worship with them. But before you do, you need to listen to this woman, Sandra Tanner, the great-great-great granddaughter of Brigham Young, the second prophet of the Mormon Church.

Sandra Tanner: It's been a struggle for myself and my family to go back and try to reconstruct how Mormonism really happened, because men like Brigham Young have distorted and lied, covered up, and changed what really happened.

Announcer: You will also hear Mormon officials present their own views.

Ankerberg: Is that a legitimate goal? In other words, you're saying that if I progress that eventually I can expect to become God?

Kay Christensen: Yes.

Announcer: Today, you will also hear from former Mormons and from Christian scholars.

Ankerberg: Mr. Decker, if I could ask you, what verse in the Bible would suggest that man, his destiny is not to become a god?

Decker: God says, "Before Him there was no God formed, after Him there shall be none." He said, "Beside me there is no God." So God doesn't know about any other gods. So somewhere along the line somebody is wrong.

Tanner: In Mormonism there is a great burden because you've got to strive all the time. If you work at it hard enough, you can become a god. So there is a burden of guilt that lays there on you all the time. You're not working hard enough. You didn't do all you could.

Announcer: Today you will meet men and woman who believed and practiced the rituals of the Mormon church most of their lives. Next week, you will hear from former Jehovah's Witnesses. We invite you to join us for this special edition of The John Ankerberg Show.

Ankerberg: Welcome to our program. Today we're going to examine what Mormons believe concerning God and Jesus Christ. We are going to hear from Mormon leaders themselves, from Christian scholars, from former Mormons, including the great-great-great granddaughter of Brigham Young, the second prophet of the Mormon church, and clips from a documentary film on Mormonism.

Well, to begin, I'd like you to listen to Dr. Walter Martin, the man who wrote the classic Christian book *The Kingdom of the Cults*. I asked him, "What did Joseph Smith teach Mormons about God and Jesus Christ?" Here's what he said:

[Excerpt from "Interview with Dr. Walter Martin on Cults"]

Dr. Walter Martin: Joseph Smith is a supreme interpreter of Mormonism, obviously, historically. And Joseph Smith said he would

always preach on the plurality of gods, and then he said, “The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are three gods.” Now that’s the difference between Mormonism and Christianity. Mormonism is tri-theistic. It believes in three separate gods. The Bible says there is only one God who manifests Himself to us as three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. There is a complete difference. And Mormonism adds to that the doctrine that **you** can become a god. So in Mormon theology there is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, which are three gods; then you become one, that’s four. Brigham is one, that’s five. And keep adding and by the time you get finished, you’ve got 5.2 million Mormons, so you can probably figure on at least a million or so gods coming out of that.

Ankerberg: We are talking about the *Journal of Discourses* and what they say about Jesus and the Virgin birth. In there they say, “Jesus, our elder brother, was begotten in the flesh by the same character that was in the Garden of Eden and who is our Father in heaven” (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 1, pp. 50-51). Or, “When our father Adam came into the Garden of Eden he came into it with a celestial body and brought Eve, one of his wives, with him. He is our father and our god and the only god with whom we have to do.” What should Christians say when they hear something like that?

Martin: Well, after they get over the shock of what they have heard, I think they should point out that the Mormon church taught that doctrine for over 100 years, the doctrine of Adam-god. Five years ago it got so obnoxious to the average Mormon that they had to change it. The Mormon god changes his mind. He changed his mind about polygamy. He changed his mind about the Blacks and he changed his mind about Adam being their father and their god.

Ankerberg: What you are saying is they get new revelation along the way.

Martin: Oh, yes, you always get a new revelation to cover it. But this is very important, John. The Mormon church teaches that Jesus

Christ, and I am quoting now, Brigham Young, “Jesus Christ was not begotten by the Holy Ghost.” All right now, how was He begotten? Brigham said, “After the same manner as the sons and daughters of Adam and Eve.” Jesus Christ, according to classic Mormon theology, came into existence by sexual relations between a resurrected God and the Virgin Mary. And that has not been repudiated by the church to today. This is not Christianity; this is pornography. Matthew 1 says, “That which is conceived in her was from the Holy Spirit.”

[End excerpt]

Ankerberg: Next, Mormon leaders are going to speak for themselves. This segment comes from a series of programs where I had Mormon leaders and Christian scholars compare doctrine. Again I want you to understand how Mormon beliefs differ from Christian beliefs about God and Jesus. Listen.

[Excerpt from “Mormon Officials and Christian Scholars Compare Doctrine”]

Ankerberg: I’m holding a copy of *The Wall Street Journal* here and it says in the headlines, “Latter-day Saints: The Mormon Church is Rich, Rapidly Growing and Very Controversial.” There were two large articles yesterday and the day before in *The Wall Street Journal*. I’m finding that many people are asking questions about Mormonism.

Tonight we would like to do a program where we let the Mormon representatives explain their own beliefs, state their own claims **for** Mormonism and then we’re going to respond to those claims. I think we won’t waste any time. I would like you to listen to an interview I had with two representatives. One, Lawrence R. Flake, a man that trained Mormon missionaries. I believe he trained 200 of them. And then a President of a three stake area, President Christensen. I would like for us to go first of all to, “What do Mormons believe about God?” Listen to this.

[Excerpt from “Interview with Mormon Leaders”]

Ankerberg: Like John 1:1 says “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was

with God, and the Word was God?" In other words, Jesus always was God. Is that what the Mormon Church holds?

Christensen: Not exactly.

Ankerberg: Okay. Explain that to me.

Christensen: Okay. We believe that certainly there are two distinct individuals, that the Savior indeed had a Father. There is God the Father, if that's what you want to call Him; and then His Son, Jesus Christ. So we believe that there are two distinct individuals in the Godhead. In fact, there's a third—the Holy Ghost. Those three make up the Godhead but they are not all one but that they are three separate individuals.

Ankerberg: So, you would realize that you're differing with Orthodox Christian belief right there.

Christensen: We do.

Ankerberg: It sounds like you're saying three Gods.

Christensen: Yes.

Ankerberg: Okay. Christianity is saying one God in three persons.

Christensen: That's right. That's the difference. Yes, that's a very distinct difference.

[End Excerpt]

Ankerberg: I'd like to come to our three guests. First of all, Dr. Walter Martin from the Christian Research Institute in California. Dr. Martin, these men, Mr. Christensen has enunciated the fact that Mormon belief differs with Orthodox Christianity on the primary basis of who God is. Would you explain what Orthodox Christians are saying about God and why?

Martin: Orthodox Christianity is in basic agreement with Orthodox Judaism as to the nature of God—thoroughly monotheistic. And the Lord Jesus Christ was asked the question in Mark 12, about the nature of God and He is the ultimate answer to the situation. And this was the question: "What is the great commandment of the law?" And Jesus said, "Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God, the Lord is **one** Lord...." And that was a direct quotation of the

shema in Deuteronomy 6:4 which was the emphasis, again, of the oneness, the uniqueness, of the nature of God. Christian theology believes that God is one, and that God manifested Himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And when John spoke in John 1, "the word was God," he tells us in verse 14 the "Word became flesh." God became flesh. So the essence of Christianity is monotheism. The difference between Judaism/Christianity, and Mormonism is the difference between monotheism and polytheism. Mormons are polytheists, every bit as polytheistic as the Hindu religion is.

Ankerberg: Would you say this is a small issue?

Martin: I would say this is the core of the whole problem. Because if you're right in every area of theology and you've got the wrong God and the wrong Jesus and the wrong Spirit, you're wrong enough to lose your soul forever and, therefore, it is very important. Mormons are constantly talking about the fact that they're Christian. They believe in the one God. But let's go back to the basic idea of God—Isaiah 43:10 where the Lord says "You are my witnesses, saith the Lord, my servants whom I have chosen; that you may know; that you may understand; that you may believe: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me." Well, no Mormon's going to make it to Godhood because God says so, and God says there's only one God.

Ankerberg: Okay, let's go on because I'm sure that there's so much we can say on that and we will try to intersperse this through the program. But I would like to go back to our Mormon representatives on who they think that Jesus Christ is. All right? And I'd like you to listen.

[Excerpt from "Interview with Mormon Leaders"]

Dr. James Bjornstad: It's my understanding of the LDS Church that the beginning of Jesus is similar to the beginning of all of us, and that is that He is the procreation as a spirit child of a Heavenly Father and a Heavenly Mother. Jesus' uniqueness prob-

ably comes in the fact that He is chosen to be the Savior of the world over Satan, but that we all existed in the spirit world, which I think the *Pearl of Great Price* indicates, even that Jesus and Lucifer were brothers in the spirit world.

Ankerberg: Is that true so far?

Christensen & Flake: Yes.

Ankerberg: Okay, just so that we're on target here.

Christensen: His research is good.

Ankerberg: Okay.

[End Excerpt]

Ankerberg: All right, we've heard what the Mormon representatives have okayed, Mrs. Tanner, in terms of what Mr. Bjornstad was enunciating. Would you please explain for us a little bit more about what that means as far as Mormon theology is concerned, and why it is that Orthodox Christianity differs with some of those points? Give us a kind of a rehash right there.

Sandra Tanner: Well, the Mormons are saying that for **our** world there is a Heavenly Father who has a wife, the "Heavenly Mother," and that these two, as resurrected beings, literally gave birth to all these spirit children. And they believe that Jesus is one of the oldest sons and also Lucifer, who becomes Satan; and that these oldest brothers performed... in this early home life, they each presented plans on how to run the world and that story on their pre-existence thing. But the difference here is that they are saying that Jesus is part of a number of people that had part in the creation of the world, helping with His Father, whereas Christianity is saying, "No, Christ **is** the Creator. He is God." And so that when we look at John 1:1 saying that in the beginning was the Word, the Word was with the Father, and the Word was God. So we have Jesus being stated as the Creator. He is there. And it's all **one** God, whereas Mormonism is making this conglomeration of the family taking part in this creation process. And it is important to notice that it said both the

father and mother in this act of creation.

Ankerberg: When Christians talk with Mormons at this point and we say, "Don't you realize that we hold that Jesus always was God and did not have a beginning," and we go to John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, and the Word was God," what do they say?

Tanner: Well, they would say He's one of the Gods and that there is only one God for our world for our world and they kind of hedge around it. They believe that God's got a father who has a father, who has a father. So there are a lot of Gods, but they say there is only one God for **our** world.

[End Excerpt]

Ankerberg: I hope it is starting to sink in that Christians and Mormons do not believe the same things about God and Jesus. Now, you may still be puzzled about what Mormons believe, so to help you understand, I want to go to a documentary film entitled *The God Makers*, which put together an animation depicting Mormon beliefs. All that is said has been taken from Mormon writings. Listen.

[Excerpt from "Mormonism Revisited"]

[Excerpt from "The God Makers"]

Narrator: Mormonism teaches that trillions of planets scattered throughout the cosmos are ruled by countless gods who once were human like us.

They say that long ago on one of these planets to an unidentified god and one of his goddess wives a spirit-child named Elohim was conceived. This spirit-child was later born to human parents who gave him a physical body. Through obedience to Mormon teaching and death and resurrection, he proved himself worthy and was elevated to godhood, as his father before him.

Mormons believe that Elohim is their heavenly Father and that he lives with his many goddess wives on a planet near a mysterious star called Kolob. Here, the god of Mormonism and his wives, through endless celestial sex, produced billions of spirit-children.

To decide their destiny, the head of the

Mormon gods called a great heavenly council meeting. Both of Elohim's eldest sons were there—Lucifer and his brother, Jesus. A plan was presented to build planet earth, where the spirit children would be sent to take on mortal bodies and learn good from evil.

Lucifer stood and made his bid for becoming savior of this new world. Wanting the glory for himself, he planned to force everyone to become gods. Opposing the idea, the Mormon Jesus suggested giving man his freedom of choice as on other planets. The vote that followed approved the proposal of the Mormon Jesus who would become savior of the planet earth.

Enraged, Lucifer cunningly convinced one third of the spirits destined for earth to fight with him and revolt. Thus, Lucifer became the devil and his followers the demons. Sent to this world, they would forever be denied bodies of flesh and bones.

Early Mormon prophets taught that Elohim and one of his goddess wives came to earth as Adam and Eve to start the human race. Thousands of years later Elohim, in human form, once again journeyed to earth from the star base Kolob, this time to have sex with the Virgin Mary in order to provide Jesus with a physical body.

Mormon Apostle Orson Pratt taught that after Jesus Christ grew to manhood, He took at least three wives—Mary, Martha and Mary Magdalene. Through these wives, the Mormon Jesus, for whom Joseph Smith claimed direct descent, supposedly fathered a number of children before he was crucified.

According to the *Book of Mormon*, after his resurrection Jesus came to the Americas to preach to the Indians who the Mormons believe are really Israelites. Thus, the Jesus of Mormonism established his church in the Americas as he had in Palestine. By the year 421 A.D. the dark-skinned Indian Israelites, known as Lamanites, had destroyed all of the white Nephites in a number of great battles. The Nephites' records were supposedly written on golden plates and buried by Moroni, the last living Nephite in the Hill Cumorah.

Fourteen hundred years later, a young

treasure seeker named Joseph Smith, who was known for his tall tales, claimed to have uncovered these same gold plates near his home in upstate New York. He is now honored by Mormons as a prophet because he claimed to have had visions from the spirit world in which he was commanded to organize the Mormon Church because all Christian creeds were an abomination. It was Joseph Smith who originated most of these peculiar doctrines which millions today believe to be true.

By maintaining a rigid code of financial and moral requirements and through performing secret Temple rituals for themselves and the dead, the Latter-Day Saints hope to prove their worthiness and thus become gods. The Mormons teach that everyone must stand at the final judgment before Joseph Smith, the Mormon Jesus and Elohim. Those Mormons who were sealed in the eternal marriage ceremony expect to become polygamous gods in the celestial kingdom, rule over other planets and spawn new families throughout eternity.

The Mormons thank God for Joseph Smith who claimed that he had done more for us than any other man, including Jesus Christ. The Mormons believe that he died as a martyr, shed his blood for us so that we too may become gods.

[End excerpt]

Ankerberg: We are going to take a break, and when we come back you will hear more from our Christian-Mormon debate. Stay tuned.

BREAK

Ankerberg: I asked Mr. Ed Decker, a guest who was a Temple Mormon for 20 years before converting to Christianity, how could he believe that someday he would become a God himself? Listen.

[Excerpt from "Mormon Officials and Christian Scholars Compare Doctrine"]

Ankerberg: You were a temple Mormon for 20 years. Is that what you believed?

Ed Decker: Absolutely. In order to become a “god” you have to be a temple Mormon. And our whole philosophy, our whole effort, was built around the knowledge that we would go to the temple, take out our endowments, learn the sacred and secret things we needed to know in order to pass by the sentinels to stand before God to be found worthy to become a “god” ourselves. In the seminar manual on learning how to go the temple, we learned that it is God’s job, His calling, is to exalt His children. I believed “As man is, God once was and as God is, man may become.”

Ankerberg: Okay. For people that are not Mormon, listening, now we read this in *The Wall Street Journal* because *The Wall Street Journal* plainly said, “Mormons have as a goal that man can become a god.” Most people have a very high concept of who God is. What we’re asking is how in the world could you actually believe that you, a man, could become all that God is in the regular definitions of that word?

Decker: Because our prophet, Joseph Smith, taught that we must learn to become gods as all gods have before us and so we prepare for Godhood. I believed that I would actually become a god, be given many celestial goddess wives and go off to a planet to celestial glory, become a father in heaven procreating spirit children in another place in another galaxy, and there bring them together on another earth to become gods.

Ankerberg: If I can cut in, though, what about these definitions of God as being omniscient—all-knowing; omnipresent—everywhere at the same time; omnipotent—all powerful? How in the world could we have different people being all, all, all?

Decker: Well, we were taught in the temple that that was a heresy brought in by the Christians. We were taught that it was a Luciferian doctrine that God is so great that He would fill the whole universe and so small that

He would fit into your own heart. I believed that God was another man just like me, who earned His celestial glory through works of righteousness. And if I was a righteous Mormon, a member of the Holy Melchizedek priesthood, I would become a god.

Ankerberg: Dr. Martin, if a Mormon is looking and saying, “Why would I give up the belief of attaining Godhood, of going off and populating my own world, why would I leave that goal and come to the fact that I am a sinner; I can have a relationship with God if I confess my sin and believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, and the work He did at the Cross. Why should I take that path and come down a step or so?”

Martin: Very simply, because Jesus said so. That’s sufficient.

Ankerberg: Where did He say so?

Martin: He said that, “You must be born again.” He said that you had to come to Him on His terms. He said to the Jews, “You will not come to me that you might have life.” He turned to them and said, “If you believe not that I Am (and He used the divine name for Himself—God’s name) if you don’t believe I Am the eternal God, you’re going to die in your sins,” John 8:58. It’s only sufficient that we recognize it. In Mormon theology when they talk about gods, they point to Satan as the god of this world. They point to passages of Scripture where gods and goddesses are mentioned. But what they always ignore is the fact that the Bible says there are things that are **called** “Lord” and **called** “gods.” “Lords and gods, many in heaven and earth” (1 Corinthians 8), but “for us one God the Father, one Lord Jesus Christ.” So, we have to face the fact that the reason Mormonism is wrong about this idea of God is not because of what it offers or doesn’t offer, not because of the emotion, not because of all the things that Sandra and Ed have been talking about, but because Christ said so. That’s what makes the difference.

Program 3

Introduction

Announcer: The Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons are some of the nicest, most sincere people in the world. Sometime, you will meet them or be approached by them. They will tell you that they are true Christians and invite you to study or worship with them. But before you do, you need to listen to these four women, who served the Watchtower Society for a combined total of over 105 years.

Lorri: Well, in the Jehovah's Witness organization your salvation is dependent upon how many hours you spend knocking on doors, witnessing, how many Bible studies. You have quotas and you must report your time every week.

Ankerberg: How many Bible studies did you have, Helen?

Helen: I had 13 a week.

Ankerberg: And you still went door-to-door?

Helen: I went door-to-door, and I had a magazine route.

Announcer: Did you know that the beliefs of the Jehovah's Witnesses about Jesus, salvation, and the Bible are completely different than what Jesus Himself taught?

Joan: I didn't know that I had eternal life. I hoped that I would get it because of what I was doing.

Announcer: Today you will meet these four women who grew up as faithfully serving Jehovah's Witnesses. And next week you will

hear Mormon leaders debate Christian scholars. We invite you to join us for this special edition of The John Ankerberg Show.

Ankerberg: Welcome to our program. We are examining the beliefs of the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Mormons. And today, what do the Jehovah's Witnesses believe about salvation? And to answer that question, I want you to meet four ladies that have been Jehovah's Witnesses most of their lives. In fact we totaled up the number of years that they had collectively served the Watchtower Society before becoming Christians, and discovered that it was over 105 years that they served.

Now all of these ladies conducted 10 to 13 Bible studies every week, and spent over 100 hours a month knocking on doors. One of them worked at the Jehovah's Witnesses headquarters in Brooklyn, New York and knew the president of the Watchtower Society. One of these ladies almost died as a result of refusing a blood transfusion. All of them were cut off from their families when they questioned the beliefs of the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Why did they live like this and endure all of this? It is because the Watchtower Organization told them they couldn't have eternal life unless they earned it by doing these things. I want you to listen now as they tell their stories of how they used to live and how they finally came to learn that Jesus was God, that He had died and paid for all of their sins on the

cross, and offered everyone eternal life as a free gift. I want you to listen:

[Excerpt from "105 Years of Watchtower Service"]

Ankerberg: As Jehovah's Witnesses, you taught certain people that you were the only right way, that the Watchtower Society was the only place of safety. All the other religions were absolutely of the devil, were wrong and would be annihilated someday. Tell me and explain to our audience what you actually believed salvation was, how you got it, what your joy was with that salvation, and then, what was the tremendous thing that changed your mind? Who wants to start?

Joan: We're taught that Scripture, in John it says, "This means everlasting life." I'm giving the *New World Translation* rendition. "This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of thee, the only true God under the one whom He sent forth, Jesus Christ." "Taking in knowledge" was the key. You have to take in knowledge, be in the organization, in order to get that important knowledge that is coming out...

Ankerberg: That's what you believed as a Jehovah's Witness.

Joan: That's what I believed. As long as I was taking in this knowledge and giving it out to somebody else and remaining active in the organization, I was pretty sure that I would get eternal life. Not absolutely sure. I didn't **know** that I had eternal life. I **hoped** that I would get it because of what I was doing.

Ankerberg: You're saying you had to have knowledge. So, how much knowledge?

Joan: All that you could get. You have to be able to read...

Ankerberg: What if you didn't get enough?

Joan: You don't ever get enough. You have to continually read the *Watchtower* magazine as soon as it comes. If you don't, you're not appreciative of the light that is coming from the Watchtower organization.

Ankerberg: Did you only have to have knowledge or when you got the magazine did they ever tell you to do anything and what if

you didn't do it? You just had the knowledge.

Joan: Oh, you had to go door-to-door with it.

Ankerberg: You mean do something besides know something?

Joan: You have to go from door to door. You're not counted...

Ankerberg: Why go door-to-door?

Joan: You're not counted as a Jehovah's Witness unless you put time in preaching.

Ankerberg: How did the Jehovah's Witnesses come up with this fantastic thing of going door-to-door? Where did you get that?

Joan: Acts 20:20.

Ankerberg: "I taught you publicly, privately and door-to-door?"

Joan: Yes.

Ankerberg: Okay. You said that's how you're supposed to know God's chosen people?

Joan: Right.

Ankerberg: Okay.

Lorri: I think that we have to take a moment and give the correct rendering of that Scripture. She gave the Watchtower rendering that "this is everlasting life, taking in knowledge." But what it says is: "This is eternal life, to know Thee, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent." It's a knowing of Jesus, not a taking in of knowledge.

Ankerberg: Yes. And Acts 20:20 doesn't identify you as one of God's children. It's simply something that Paul did to the church at Ephesus and it's not a way of identifying people that are in the kingdom of God. But you believed that, didn't you?

Joan: But what he did, he was teaching in the synagogue and then he says "Go into the private homes after you find out who's interested." It wasn't knocking on cold doors.

Ankerberg: So they told you to do that and you did that. How much did you do it?

Joan: As much as you possibly could.

Lorri: You had to meet quotas.

Ankerberg: I mean if I went to five homes,

was I clear?

Lorri: If you spent at least ten hours a month and placed at least 12 magazines and conducted several Bible studies.

Ankerberg: Did you have categories? You know, superior Jehovah's Witness callers, medium?

Lorri: We had "pioneer" Jehovah's Witnesses that...

Ankerberg: How many hours did you have to do to be a pioneer?

Lorri: It was 100. I understand it's down to 80 now.

Ankerberg: One hundred hours a month?

Lorri: Yeah.

Ankerberg: Now it's 80. Eighty hours a month you have to go knocking on doors?

Joan: It used to be 150.

Lorri: They may have changed their light again. Don't quote me. That was at one time.

Ankerberg: But, I mean, let's get this straight. Eighty hours a month knocking on doors?

Lorri: That's considered full-time, and then there was a category above that.

Ankerberg: Did you get paid for that?

Lorri: No, there's no payment in Jehovah's Witnesses.

Ankerberg: Did you do that?

Jean: Oh, yes. Sure.

Ankerberg: How many Bible studies did you have, Helen?

Helen: I had 13 a week.

Ankerberg: And you still went door-to-door?

Helen: I went door-to-door, and I had a magazine route, and I made back calls.

Ankerberg: What does that mean?

Helen: Magazine route is when you go on Saturdays or whatever day you go, and you just place magazines. "Will you take the latest issue?" Then you go the next time—"Here is the latest"—and you work up a route. People see you coming. You know, "Hi. Here I am

again. Here's the latest issue," and you point out an article. That's the way you build up a route.

Ankerberg: Okay. You were told to go door-to-door. You sold these magazines. What else did you have to do?

Helen: Go to five meetings a week.

Ankerberg: Five meetings a week. You had your Bible studies. What else?

Jean: And you called back and you held Bible studies, so-called Bible studies, with them in hopes that they would teach others to teach others to teach others.

Ankerberg: Well, I would say just offhand that most of the pastors from Christian churches, thinking about getting their members in their congregation to do 100 hours of door-to-door calling, would be a kind of a staggering thought. Was this salvation? I mean, did you feel like you had arrived?

Lorri: No. We were striving all the time to be good enough for God, and this is why you had to meet these quotas. You had to go out. You were constantly bombarded at the Kingdom Hall. "You haven't done enough." "We don't have enough hours in this congregation." "Our book placements aren't up." "We need more magazines done." You were badgered continually to be driven, driven, driven, driven. And then you were never promised salvation. It was the carrot in front of the donkey's nose. Maybe you'd be hid in the day of Jehovah's anger. But if you quit two weeks before Armageddon arrived, you would be found unfaithful and you would lose it all.

Helen: Well, they quote Jesus saying, "He that endures to the end shall be saved," so we had to keep "enduring to the end." It might have been our end but...

Ankerberg: All right, let me ask you this. What about sin? How did you handle sin? What was the theology on sin?

Lorri: Well, you didn't dare sin.

Ankerberg: But what about the sins you had already done?

Lorri: Well, what happened before you

came into the organization was forgotten.

Ankerberg: Didn't you ever sin when you were in the organization?

Lorri: Well, what happens in the organization is that you have all these rigid rules. What happens is you put on a veneer of righteousness and you clench your teeth and you live according to the rules because if you don't, elder is going to call on you and jack you up if you don't. But what happens is that nothing is more tiresome than your own righteousness. Let me tell you. It's tiresome.

Ankerberg: You're also making the rules [that] sin is not an attitude; it's an act.

Ladies: That's right. Exactly.

Lorri: And so what a change when you receive Christ and you have His righteousness.

Ankerberg: Well, before we get to that point, what did you believe about...what did Jesus do at the cross? What were you told there?

Lorri: He is mediator only for 144,000 Jehovah's Witnesses.

Ankerberg: Okay, but we've already said you guys didn't qualify for the 144,000. Those seats were taken in heaven.

Lorri: So what we had to do, we had to get right with the 144,000. We were what was in the early days called "Jonadabs." We were the kids that did all the work, the hewers of wood, the carriers of water.

Ankerberg: You had to get right with the guys that had the seats in heaven, but you weren't going to go there.

Lorri: No, but if we weren't in good with them we didn't get anything.

Ankerberg: How did you get in good with the guys that were dead and already in heaven?

Lorri: Well, there's a remnant of them on earth, about 9,000 of them left that are supposedly of the 144,000 class.

Ankerberg: How did you know who they were?

Lorri: Well, because they partook of the

emblems and they made up the governing body at headquarters.

Ankerberg: In other words, they were the ones that took communion and they were the ones that were at Brooklyn, supposedly.

Lorri: Some were scattered around the various congregations.

Ankerberg: Okay, so you were supposed to do what to them?

Lorri: We had to do what they told us to do, be obedient to them. If they said, "Go out in service ten hours a month," we'd better do it, otherwise we wouldn't get any salvation.

Ankerberg: So, in other words, if you weren't obedient to them, then they could be the ones that cancelled you being accepted on paradise earth.

Joan: Disfellowship you and you lose out on your eternal life.

Ankerberg: What if somebody from the outside simply said, "Hey, the Watchtower dreamed that up so that they can control you guys."

Joan: Well you believe it because you believe it comes from God. You have already accepted this organization is speaking for God. And if you are to question it you're going to be disfellowshipped and no one wants to lose his eternal life. So there's that constant fear: Don't question. Don't question. So you go along with it until you begin to get disillusioned and you get strong enough to overcome that.

Ankerberg: How far did they control you?

Helen: Oh, your thinking. You have given your thinking over to an organization. That is exactly what you've done.

Joan: If they say, "Do not get married," you don't get married.

Ankerberg: Did they say that?

Joan: In 1938 they said, "Do not get married." And then they said, "If you do get married, don't have children because the end is too close and God would rather...." And they quote Scripture.

Ankerberg: And by them saying that, you thought that God has said that to everybody.

Joan: Absolutely. You would not question that.

Lorri: And you're told, "Don't eat hot dogs." "Don't eat bologna." "Don't eat this."

Joan: "Don't take a blood transfusion."

Lorri: "Don't put fertilizer on your lawn. It might have a blood product." My goodness, I got hauled on the carpet for buying some gumboots for my little boys to play in. They were afraid the waterproof glue might have a blood product and I might be unfaithful.

Joan: "Don't wear a beard."

Helen: That's right.

Ankerberg: Is that what the Bible teaches, though?

Ladies: No, of course not.

Joan: That's their policy. But when you believe that what is coming from the organization is coming from God, you have to buy that first and they make it very certain when they're studying with you that you are walked down a path in their little book, until you believe it.

Ankerberg: The thing that I'm getting to right here is the fact that you guys obviously bought that hook, line and sinker....

Ladies: Absolutely.

Ankerberg: To the point that they could tell you how to live your life, who to marry, who to divorce, how to have sex. Raymond Franz in his new book *Crisis of Conscience* said for five years they told you how to have sex and how not to have sex, and after five years they changed their mind and blamed it on God.

Joan: What's sad is, it destroyed marriages that cannot be repaired now.

Ankerberg: Which he regrets.

Joan: It's killing people who will never be able to come back again.

Ankerberg: Let's just take a break and we will come right back.

BREAK

Ankerberg: How long did it take you before you figured out that couldn't be God's way,

that can't be salvation? Because what did you have? You're working as hard as you can. All you have is the idea that "Maybe I'll be accepted." You don't even have any assurance on it. You don't have any promise that you will be accepted. You're not even going to heaven to be with Jesus. You're only going to be on paradise earth and you still could lose it. What is wrong with all of that now that you see it from this perspective? What changed your mind?

Joan: Well, there are four basic things that helped me. I found out that they claimed to be God's prophets—they're not true prophets; they're false prophets. I found out that they quoted men. I've got a whole book full of people that they quoted of notoriety that have credentials and lied about what they said. They deliberately changed the Word of God to agree with their doctrine. And they deliberately went to someone they knew was a spirit medium to try to get to prove that they had the correct translation of "a Jesus" and "a God."

Ankerberg: You're talking about Johannes Greber.

Joan: Johannes Greber. Now, if they're God's organization—no one who really loves God would do any of these things or was God's organization.

Ankerberg: What was the good news that you found out that the Bible did say? Compare the good news of what the Bible does say. What is salvation? What did Jesus do at the cross? What about sin? What about these things?

Lorri: Well, let me share with you a little bit about the salvation at Calvary. I found Scriptures in reading the Bible that we never discussed as Jehovah's Witnesses because they only look at Scriptures that agree with their doctrine. They don't look at ones that don't. But in Zechariah is an amazing prophecy that every Jehovah's Witness should get their Bible out and look up. Here Zechariah says in Zechariah 11:12, "And I said to them, if it's good in your sight, give me my wages; but if not, never mind. So they weighed out thirty shekels of silver as my wages. Then YHWH

(Jehovah) said to me, Throw it to the potter, that magnificent price at which I was valued by them.” Jehovah says, “I was sold for thirty pieces of silver.”

And over in Zechariah 12:10, Jehovah’s speaking again. “I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the spirit of grace and of supplication so they will look on **me** whom they have pierced.” Who was sold? Who was pierced? Jehovah said, “**It was me.**”

Ankerberg: And that was Jesus.

Lorri: And Acts 20:28 says that God purchased the church with His own blood. If we don’t know who Jesus is, if we don’t know who died on Calvary, we’re lost. Never mind faithfulness to an organization. We’d better find out who died for us—the great I AM, Jesus Christ. And here it plainly shows Jesus is YHWH or Jehovah. John 19:37 takes this Scripture and applies it to Jesus Christ. We’d better know that.

Ankerberg: Helen, you also found out that your children could go to heaven with you, and all your friends. You didn’t have to worry about just going to paradise earth. You could go to heaven because why?

Helen: Why could I go to heaven?

Ankerberg: And why could everybody else?

Helen: Because of Jesus. Because He died for our sins. He opened the way.

Ankerberg: What verse tells us that?

Helen: What verse tells us that? Oh, in John He tells us that. In Hebrews He tells us that. He said He opened the way through His blood. We can go right in the throne room through the blood of Christ.

Lorri: John 1:12 says, “As many as received Him...” not just 144,000. Jesus said, “Whosoever will...”

Helen: Besides if I had just read “the 144,000” it says “men, all men.” So that would have let me out, you know. And there “was never a lie found on their lips,” and I do not qualify. In my lifetime I have fibbed. There’s no doubt about it. So, right there. The majority, I

think, of the 144,000 so-called left on earth today are women, not men.

Jean: And also, John, 1 John 5:1 says, “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.” Now, that says “whosoever”; that means anybody could be born of God.

Ankerberg: And the Jehovah’s Witnesses believe only the 144,000 can be born again, right?

Ladies: That’s right.

Ankerberg: And it says “anybody” there.

Helen: That’s right.

Ankerberg: All right, for those that are watching in that are Jehovah’s Witnesses right now, that you have put this information into their minds and you have messed them up terribly. They’re really troubled.

Lorri: I hoped we’ve messed them up enough that they’ll look to Jesus instead of the organization.

Ankerberg: And you’re saying that because you girls were all there. Remember, you served 100 and more years in the Jehovah’s Witnesses. All that time, and you were in darkness, and you taught these things door-to-door zealously, and you believed them, and you had really no hope.

Ladies: That’s right.

Joan: John, Jesus said, “I am the way.” The Watchtower says, “No, there is no other way. We’re the way.” Jesus says, “I am the truth.” And they said, “No. You have to be in the organization and you’re in the truth.” Now, the truth has to be in you and I am the life. They say, “There’s no life outside the organization.” So, from where I stand now that organization is standing in their way of knowing Jesus as the only way, truth and life.

Ankerberg: And if Christ will come into their life, they ought to allow Him to. Ask Him to. And when He does, He will give them the power to face all the fantastic circumstances that they will probably have to face. You paid the price, correct?

Joan: And we’re only four, John. We’re only four. There are thousands. We have a conven-

tion every October in Pennsylvania of ex-Jehovah's Witnesses for Jesus and it's marvelous.

Ankerberg: I want to say this, that if they do come out, they can write to anyone of you through us. We'll pass the letters on. But also the fact is they won't be alone.

Ladies: That's right.

Ankerberg: You gals basically were alone, weren't you?

Ladies: Yes, we were.

Lorri: But there is life after the Watchtower. And that more abundantly.

Joan: That's right.

Ankerberg: Do you remember how it felt when you found that you guys were not alone and there were other Christians, when you first met together and you found out you had all come out of the Watchtower? What was it like?

Joan: It was so exciting.

Lorri: Oh, it was joyous! We couldn't believe that there were other people like us who had come out, had found Christ, and were reaching back in love, because we love the Jehovah's Witnesses. We want to see them come to Christ. We've given our lives for this.

Ankerberg: And there are now conventions all around the country that they can attend. They can get more information. They can ask every question they want and you're available.

Helen: And there's ministries all over the United States, which you can write any of us

and we can get you in touch with a ministry that will help them. You're not alone.

Lorri: Let's not forget Canada.

Helen: And Canada, too.

Jean: But they really need to be "deprogrammed."

Ankerberg: What does that mean?

Jean: That means learning how to become a Christian.

Joan: They have to get teaching.

Ankerberg: Need to invite the Lord into your life and get somebody that knows the Lord, that's been through the same path, and can help. And there are people that are probably living right near them.

Lorri: Well Jesus said that He washes His bride with the water of the Word. That's how you get "deprogrammed," not in some way like you grab someone in a motel room or something and submit them to all kinds of violence. But when you put the Word of God in you wash out all that wrong doctrine.

Joan: The common question is: If this isn't the truth, what is? It's not "what is." It's "Who is." Jesus is the truth. We have to take that in. We cannot rely on the word of any man, and that's what they keep telling you, "Well, they were just men. They made mistakes." Well, then, why listen to them?

Jean: Right.

Joan: Listen to Jesus. He'll never lie to you.

Ankerberg: Thank you for being with us. Thank you for joining us.

Program 4

Introduction

Announcer: The Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons are some of the nicest, most sincere people in the world. Sometime, you will meet them or be approached by them. They will tell you that they are true Christians and invite you to study or worship with them. But before you do, you need to listen to this man, Mr. Ed Decker, who was a Mormon for 20 years.

Decker: In order to become a celestial god you must be married for time and all eternity.

Ankerberg: You can't become a god unless you are married in the temple.

Decker: You cannot become a god unless you go through the temple, unless you are married for time and all eternity to your mate in the temple, and have your children (if you have children prior to going to the temple) sealed to you for time and all eternity.

Announcer: He will tell you how Mormonism taught him he could become a god, and his wife a goddess. But if he wanted to become a god, he had to be eternally married in a secret ritual in the Mormon temple. How he eventually discovered Mormonism was false, and something completely different than Jesus taught. We invite you to join us.

Ankerberg: Welcome to our program. What do you think that Mormons believe about salvation, God, sin, and the Bible? Well, today you're going to hear from Mormon leaders, from former Mormons and from Christian

scholars.

Did you know that the Mormon church teaches that if you become a Mormon, you can become a god yourself, or a goddess. But you have to work hard enough to do so. As you are going to hear, this is a false, pagan doctrine that has nothing to do with what Jesus Christ taught in the Bible.

But Mormonism also teaches that, in order for you to become a god, you have to be eternally married in the Mormon temple in a secret ritual. What's all that about? Well, today, you are going to find out. I learned about this secret marriage ceremony from Mormon leaders themselves during a program I was taping with them. First, you will hear from the Mormons themselves. You'll hear from Mr. Kay H. Christensen, who was a president of a three-stake area for the Mormon Church. Then you'll hear from Dr. Harold Goodman, BYU professor and former Mormon bishop, followed by Mr. Brian Grant, Director of Public Relations for the Mormon church in Great Britain and Ireland, in a segment from a documentary film entitled, *The God Makers*. I'd like you to listen.

[Excerpt from "Interview with Mormon Leaders"]

Christensen: We believe that the marriage between a husband and wife is not until just "death do you part," which is in most of the marriage ceremonies that are mentioned, but that in reality a husband and wife are to be married and sealed for time and eternity. And

now we made reference to the Mormon temples. This is what takes place in one of the Mormon temples. These edifices are built for that type of activity or that work wherein they are sealed for time and eternity.

[End excerpt]

[Excerpt from "The God Makers"]

Narrator: Many of the social events as well as regular church services are held in the chapels which are being built at the rate of two per day around the world. However, the few dozen Mormon Temples serve a completely different purpose. No church services are held here; only secret ceremonies which are reserved for an elite few.

Goodman: The goal of every Latter-day Saint is to be married as a family unit in the house of the Lord and there receive the sacred blessings that will allow us eventually, if we are worthy, to dwell and be in the presence of our heavenly Father.

Grant: Not all members of the church go to the Temple. That may be something that would surprise you. But to gain admission to the Temple one has to have what is called a "Temple Recommend."

Goodman: He has to receive a satisfactory interview from his bishop and from his Stake President. There he is asked, or she is asked, certain rather penetrating questions about their worthiness, their morality and if he is a full tithe payer. That is the only way that we can be with our heavenly Father. Otherwise, we could not be in his presence.

Narrator: By going through the Temple and by adhering to various regulations—such as abstaining from tea or coffee, paying a substantial portion of your income to the Mormon Church, and giving free labor to various church-run organizations—the worthy Mormon can become a god himself in the life hereafter, ruling over his own planet with a number of goddess wives.

Goodman: So you can see why the Temple is so important to the Latter-day Saint. Because if he is worthy to go on to the Temple and there receive the sacred ordinances and

covenants and keep them, he can eventually grow into becoming a god himself.

[End excerpt]

Ankerberg: Now, through the years, I've taped a number of TV programs with former Mormons. One of them was a man by the name of Mr. Ed Decker, who was a Temple Mormon for over 20 years, and went through the secret marriage ritual of the Mormon church in the Los Angeles Temple. I'd like you to hear what happened during this secret ritual, and how Mr. Decker finally learned Mormonism had deceived him and was not teaching him what Christ taught in the Bible. Listen.

[Excerpt from "Mormonism Revisited"]

Ankerberg: Many of us that are not Mormon, we look at that and we say, "Is that what you actually believed, that you can actually, as a man, become a god?"

Decker: You have to understand that the Mormon's godhood is tied to Temple marriage. If you haven't been married for time and all eternity in the Temple, then you end up—even if you live a righteous life—without going through that ritual you end up in the middle kingdom of the three Mormon heavens.

Ankerberg: Okay, let's just jump in here. Can you go and automatically apply to the Temple to get married?

Decker: No, you can't. In fact, it is not an easy road. You have to live a very righteous life. You have to be a member of the church for a period of time, if you are a convert. Of course, if you grow up in the church, it is another period of time that you have to go through tests. You have to be interviewed first by your bishop and go through a series of very intimate questions, not only dealing with your personal life, but dealing with your finances, your attendance to the meetings, and all the many fast offerings that you give and whether or not you give....

Ankerberg: You even told me that they checked your W-2 form if they wanted.

Decker: And when I was involved in the bishopric, when we would have problems with

a man during tithing settlement, which we would hold every year to check to be sure that they were being righteous in their financial giving, we in some cases actually had the man lay out his W-2 form to be certain that he is paying the proper tithe.

Ankerberg: Let's go one step further. If the guy hadn't paid it, then what?

Decker: Well, then if he wants to maintain his Temple recommend, he will have to ante up the bucks he has not put in.

Ankerberg: And if he doesn't have it, he's got to....

Decker: Then he has to go out and borrow it.

Ankerberg: All right, and we have stories that they do. What else do you have to do to get a Temple recommend?

Decker: Well, when you have been reviewed finally and approved by the bishop, then he gives you an authorization to be viewed by the Stake President. Then the Stake President goes through another series of questions, again dealing with your integrity, dealing with your attendance at meetings, dealing with your....

Ankerberg: How many meetings do you have to attend as a Mormon?

Decker: I couldn't even count them. The men would go to their priesthood meetings, to their Sunday School meetings, to their sacrament meetings, to welfare program meetings, to Boy Scouts, to mutuals, to every different.... I spent most of my life as a Mormon going back and forth *from* meetings and *to* meetings.

Ankerberg: And you also had to show up on Monday night for what?

Decker: Well, at home we had to, as a commandment from God, "Have family home evening every Monday night!"

Ankerberg: What did you do there?

Decker: Then we went through a book, we had a lesson book, a planner book, and we would then sing songs and then we would bake cookies. If it was the night that I was supposed to do something, they would give

me a list of things that I could do and we would together as a family communicate.

Ankerberg: And if you didn't do that you couldn't get a Temple recommend.

Decker: No, you couldn't get a Temple recommend.

Ankerberg: And if you didn't get your Temple recommend you couldn't be married in the Temple and if you didn't do that, you couldn't become a god.

Decker: Now realize, only 25% of all the Mormons in the world have ever been in a Temple.

Ankerberg: Well, let's break down the figures. There are five million Mormons. Okay, now of those—give me the figures.

Decker: Only 25% of those have ever been in a Temple.

Ankerberg: So, let's say 1,200,000.

Decker: Okay, and of those that have been in a Temple, only half of them are still worthy to get back in. In other words, they have lost....

Ankerberg: So about 600,000 are left to get back in.

Decker: Okay, and of those, because of the bizarre rituals that take place in the Mormon Temple, only half of those who actually hold recommends even go back in and perform those rituals.

Ankerberg: So then there are 300,000 hard core believing Mormons?

Decker: Hard core Mormons.

Ankerberg: And you were one of them?

Decker: I was one of them.

Ankerberg: All right, when you got the final okay after you went all through this.

Decker: You went looking... you went to the Temple. First off, you were told that the man at the door had spiritual discernment that if you lied and it was not caught by the bishop or by the Stake President, that because you are in the house of the Lord and the power of God in there, that the man who checked your recommend, like a little card that would give you

admission, he would have spiritual discernment to know that you lied and know secret sin. And I want to tell you, I was one nervous dude handing in my recommend as I went on in and he, you know, I got past that guy. That was a major accomplishment for me.

Ankerberg: Okay, now, but you, up to this point, you didn't know what they were going to do there.

Decker: I was looking for the greatest spiritual experience in my entire life.

Ankerberg: To be married in the Temple.

Decker: To be married in the Temple. To take out what they called my endowments to become as God—a god in embryo.

Ankerberg: What did you put on?

Decker: Well, where?

Ankerberg: At the locker.

Decker: Well, in the locker I took everything off. And then I put on a little thing called a shield. It was like a little poncho sheet and then they took me into another room and there they washed and anointed with oil each member of my body, speaking special incantative-type blessings upon each part of my body. Then, after I was finished with that, then they gave me a thing called the “garment of the holy priesthood” which is, in fact, long-johns—long underwear.

Ankerberg: You have it there. Do you want to show us?

Decker: Well, I have some here. What I was told at that time was that I would have to wear this 24 hours a day, seven days a week and that I was not allowed to remove it for anything.

I used to shower in it and then I would stand on the... This is the “garment of the holy priesthood.” And it has secret markings on each of the breasts and the navel that protect you. It's magic. It's like an amulet or a talisman. And this gave me protection, but I was told that I could only keep this protection as long as I kept this on my body. I would wash in the shower, stand on this, have it on my body, stand on it, dry myself off. When I was dried,

then step into my new garment.

Ankerberg: You never took it off?

Decker: No, you can't.

Ankerberg: Okay, did you know any of this before you got to the Temple?

Decker: I didn't have any idea. I was supposed to go to the house of the Lord to become as God, but I didn't know God wore those kinds of things.

Ankerberg: Okay, and you went along with it?

Decker: Well, I was... Man! I was so scared I would have done anything. I mean, there wasn't any question. My friends were with me and they were saying, “Yes, “Yes,” and I was being stroked... I was in a line. You know, there wasn't a chance for me to say, “Wait a minute! Let me go home and pray about this. Let me check to see if this is okay or not.”

Ankerberg: Does every Temple-going Mormon wear that underwear?

Decker: Every Mormon that you know that has ever been through a Temple wears that underwear.

Ankerberg: What about showbiz people and people in baseball and so on like that?

Decker: Well, Marie Osmond gets a special dispensation and other people like her. If she wants to perform in a low-cut dress, because of that she can take the garment off and not wear it during it. But we are told... and if we as Mormons want to go swimming, for example, or if we are sports figures and we don't want to embarrass people, we don't want to offend God by displaying this in the locker room, then what we would do is, when we went out to that kind of situation, we would take off our garment at home, put on “Fruit of the Loom,” go to the sporting event, come back, take off the “Fruit of the Loom” and put on our garment again. And so there... also swimming, we were told that Satan has dominion over the water and the sea and so any time we went in the water, we were taking a very serious chance. And so we didn't swim a lot.

Ankerberg: Okay. And then you were taken

upstairs to another place and you are reunited with your bride.

Decker: No. I am not reunited with my bride. My bride is on the other side with the women. The women are not allowed to sit with the men in the Mormon Temple.

Ankerberg: And there you are told what?

Decker: There I am told that I am about to go partake of a series of rituals, that I will learn secret signs, combinations. I was given a secret name that only I and God knew and I was given my wife's secret name.

Ankerberg: But she wasn't given yours.

Decker: She was not allowed to know mine. I was never allowed to give my wife my name, nor was I ever allowed to discuss this.

Ankerberg: And you were never supposed to talk with even your wife after the...

Decker: Never talk about the Temple ritual outside the Temple, even with your wife.

Ankerberg: Okay, now what was the theology you were taught while you were in that room?

Decker: Well, the theology that I was taught, again, is a series of lessons. I was taught that Lucifer, who was our elder brother, gave instruction to Adam and Eve and taught them that in order for us to become as gods, they must partake of the fruit of the tree. Now, interesting enough, when Adam partook of the fruit of the tree, he instantly became wise in the little play that was going on that we were watching during the part of that ceremony. And instantly he looked upon Lucifer and he saw an apron on Lucifer and he said, "What is that apron?" And Lucifer said, "It is the emblem of my power and my priesthood." And then immediately Lucifer said, "Wait, here comes father. Quickly fashion ones for yourself and cover yourselves." And instantly we then covered ourselves in the garment or the robe, fig leaf apron, that then became the center of the Temple clothing for the rest of the ceremony.

I didn't realize then that in Genesis 3 God rejected this. He refused to receive this. And then later Adam and Eve go out of the Garden

of Eden and there they build an altar. Then, wearing this garb that they have on, they then build an altar and offer up offerings to God on the altar. The offerings are fruits and vegetables. And again, I didn't know the Word of God. The Word of God says that was Cain's offering.

And he's standing there with his apron on crying out, "Oh God, hear the words of my mouth. Oh God, hear the words of my mouth. Oh God, hear the words of my mouth." And Lucifer appears—not God, the Mormon Elohim—Lucifer appears and says, "I am the god of this world, what do you want?" And then he said he wanted to have a religious relationship with God. And so then Lucifer brings in a Christian pastor who we find out then is in the employ of Lucifer. He is a paid hireling of Lucifer. And there this Christian pastor tries to tell Adam that God is spirit and must be worshipped in spirit. He tries to describe the Trinitarian theology and it is then mocked and cursed in the Temple.

Ankerberg: What else were you taught up there in that sacred room before you met your wife about Mormon theology, and then, why is it not Christian?

Decker: I was taught that I must learn a series of secret signs, secret handshakes, secret combinations, secret penalties. I would have to swear oaths of obedience to the prophet, that if I was disobedient, I would have my throat slit from ear to ear, my tongue ripped out, that I would have my chest ripped from breast to breast and my heart ripped out. That I would have my belly ripped open and my bowels and my intestines spewed upon the ground if I broke these covenants that I swore. All the things that led up to it led up to the time when I stood before the veil. We all cried out, "Pay-lay-el, pay-lay-el, pay-lay-el." Crying out the same words that we were told that Adam cried out. And Adam got Lucifer!

God says, you know, in His holy Word that we are to lift up the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and **He** will draw all men unto Him.

We didn't even mention Jesus. I stood at the veil thinking that on the last day, on the

judgment day, that I would meet God with my foot to his foot, my knee to his knee, my breast to his breast, my hand to his back, my other hand through the veil, with these secret marks that matched the marks on my Temple garment, the underwear, holding his hand in a sacred patriarchal grip and that I would say, “Health in the navel, marrow in the bone, strength to the loins in the sinew. Power in the priesthood be upon me and upon my posterity from generation to generation for all eternity.” And that was what was going to get me into heaven.

And when I found out that it is through the confession of the Lord Jesus Christ and Him as Lord and Savior that brings you into the presence of God, that’s the thing that brings you into salvation and not all these things. All these things turn out to be lies. They were not lifting up God. They were not lifting up his holy name. They weren’t lifting up Jesus. They were lifting up man. And it is a sin of self-exaltation; that thing that in Isaiah 14:12, the same thing that Lucifer was cast down in the pit for.

Ankerberg: And you did all of that?

Decker: Yes.

Ankerberg: And you accepted it?

Decker: Yes, I did.

Ankerberg: And you didn’t know anything about those curses before you went in there?

Decker: I had no idea. I had no time to think about it. They just didn’t say, “Now we are going to pray about this.” They just said, “Now all arise.” And we would stand up and do it. And I did it.

Ankerberg: Okay, then when did you meet your wife?

Decker: I finally met my wife after we both went through the entire process. When we stepped through the veil, then we went to a dealing room where in a period of about five minutes we were married and there the president of the Los Angeles Temple laid hands upon us, we knelt across the altar in the patriarchal grip holding our hands and then he said, “I seal upon you the dominions and

kingdoms, the powers and principalities from above. And exaltations upon you and upon your children, upon them from generation to generation.” He laid a curse upon me and my family without me even knowing it.

But the Word of God says I was so blind. In Isaiah 44 it says that I didn’t know enough to even save my own soul. I became spiritually blind, taking the God, the unimaginable God of the universe, and making Him like an image like unto man. God “gave me up” is what the Word of God says.

Ankerberg: Now, did you still expect that then you would become a god?

Decker: Absolutely.

Ankerberg: In other words, you felt from that point on it was all taken care of?

Decker: It was all taken care of as long as I was obedient to all the laws and ordinances that I was obedient to, that I didn’t break my Temple covenants, and as long as I was righteous and I could keep my Temple recommend active, that I would actually become a god, or I stood a good chance. I didn’t *know*. I would never know until I was judged by Elohim, by Jesus, and by Joseph [Smith], whether or not I would go into the higher kingdom.

[End excerpt]

Ankerberg: Finally, I’d like you to hear from Dr. Walter Martin, Christian author of the classic book, *The Kingdom of the Cults*. It’s part of the debate that we’re offering you entitled, “Mormon Leaders and Christian Scholars Compare Doctrine.” Listen.

[Excerpt from “Mormon Leaders and Christian Scholars Compare Doctrine”]

Ankerberg: Dr. Martin, in the two minutes that we have left, as a person that has never been a Mormon, but as a Christian scholar looking at this from a biblical perspective, this progression to godhood—what would you say from a biblical perspective?

Martin: Well, first of all, you can’t progress to become a god because the Scripture says, “There is only one God.” That’s fallacious. Secondly, a woman’s not going to get married

after death and resurrection in order to fulfill herself because she can't do it now, as they say, simply because Jesus said in the resurrection, "They neither marry nor are given in marriage but are as of the angels of God." So you rule out sex at that particular juncture right there. The idea of all of the things that he discussed in the temple, few people recognize that a great deal of this is drawn directly from the cult of Freemasonry, including the symbols. And the Melchizedek priesthood did not originate with Joseph Smith. He got it from the Masons. I believe it's on the 17th level of the Masonic order.

Ankerberg: It's also printed in the *Wall Street Journal* that that's true.

Martin: Yes. I didn't read the article but, I mean, this is just history.

Ankerberg: They call it Masonic Rites. Go on.

Martin: So, their whole concept is a psycho-sexual polygamy in which you can't have polygamy here on earth because the government forbids it so you extend it through the temple rite into eternity so that there you have your polygamy with your multiple wives and your children and your families along with

your godhood. This is totally alien to biblical theology and to Christianity. And the Scripture forbids all of these things and what they're literally doing is disobeying the Lord Jesus. He said, "Swear no oaths at all neither by heaven at God's throne, earth as its footstool, not even by the hairs of your head. Let your 'yes' be 'yes,' and your 'no,' 'no,' for everything else comes from the wicked one." And that's exactly what Ed is talking about.

Ankerberg: How can a person that is not in touch with what you just said concerning knowing God personally—not to become a god, but to know God in a personal relationship—how can they get into that relationship?

Martin: We get into a relationship with God in the simplest possible way: "If you will confess with your mouth Jesus as your Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." It's a recognition of the fact that by yourself you can do nothing. It's pinning your hopes and your future on Christ's sacrifice on the cross. This Mormonism doesn't have. It doesn't have the Savior who died for our sins. It has a spirit-brother of Lucifer who became the devil and you are not dealing with the same Jesus.

Program 5

Introduction

Announcer: Today on the John Ankerberg show, what do the Jehovah's Witnesses believe about the Bible and about blood transfusions? The American Red Cross has stated that every year about 10% of all Jehovah's Witnesses will need a blood transfusion. Yet, Jehovah's Witnesses will tragically refuse to do so. Why? Today, you will find out from former Jehovah's Witnesses leader, Mr. Bill Cetnar, a man who worked at the headquarters of the Watchtower Society in Brooklyn New York and answered questions for all Jehovah's Witnesses south of the Mason Dixon line all way to Texas. You'll also meet former Jehovah's Witness Lorri MacGregor, who served the Watchtower for 27 years. Both of these people eventually realized they had been deceived by the Watchtower Society and will tell you why. We invite you to join us for this special edition of the John Ankerberg show.

Ankerberg: Welcome to our program. Why do you think the Jehovah's Witnesses insist on using their own translation of the Bible? And what do they believe about blood transfusions? Well, today you're going to find out. I'd like to begin with a portion of a broadcast that we tape with a lady who was a Jehovah's Witness for 27 years before becoming a Christian. Her name is Lorri MacGregor. You'll also see a segment from the documentary film "Witnesses of Jehovah." We're going to talk

first about the Bible, then, later in our program we will turn our attention to the Jehovah's Witnesses tragic view of blood transfusions. I'd like you to listen.

[Excerpt from "Has the Watchtower Society Ever Lied, Covered up or Changed Important Doctrines Dates and Biblical Interpretations?"]

Ankerberg: During this program we're going to be examining a new documentary film that has just come out entitled "Witnesses of Jehovah." And it's about the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, better known as the Jehovah's Witnesses here in America. This film covers many interesting areas.

Tonight we want to look at a portion from this film that deals with the Jehovah's Witness' claim that they are the only true religion on earth today—all others are false—and they base this in part on their authoritative document, their own translation of the Bible. Now, they call their translation the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*. And what we want to find out is, is this a good, accurate, honest translation of the Greek and Hebrew words?

Now, if you read the Jehovah's Witnesses *Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures*—which I've got in my hand here—if you read the appendices, if you read the footnotes, you will find they quote many Greek scholars. One of them is Julius R. Mantey. In this segment coming up, he will give his thoughts about what he thinks about the Watchtower Society quoting him as being in favor of their

view of John 1:1, “In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was ‘a’ God.” You will hear his remarks. Please listen very carefully.

[Excerpt from “Witnesses of Jehovah”]

Narrator: F. M. Gipe, a Watchtower spokesman and member of the headquarters staff explains:

F. M. Gipe: Well, we feel Jehovah’s Witnesses are the only true religion, otherwise we would be teaching something else. But the reason is because we follow the Bible completely.

L. Chretien: To support its beliefs the Watchtower organization has published its own version of the Bible called the *New World Translation*. To lend credence to this translation, the Watchtower Society has deliberately misquoted a number of well-known Greek scholars. Dr. J. R. Mantey, an eminent Greek scholar, was one of the authorities quoted out of context. The Watchtower Society has implied that he supports the *New World Translation*. Dr. Mantey disagrees.

Dr. Julius R. Mantey: I have never found **any** so-called translation that goes so far away from what the Scripture actually teaches as these books published by Jehovah’s Witnesses. They are so far away from what there is in the original Hebrew and the original Greek.

L. Chretien: Dr. Mantey called the Jehovah’s Witness Bible a “shocking mistranslation. Obsolete, and incorrect.”

Mantey: You can’t follow theirs because it’s biased and it’s deceptive because they deliberately changed words in a passage of Scripture to make it fit into their doctrine. They distorted the Scripture in many passages... scores and scores of passages in the New Testament dealing with the deity of Christ especially.

L. Chretien: To find additional support for their altered Scriptures, the Watchtower has even turned to the occult. *The New Testament*, a Bible translation by Johannes Greber, has been used as an authority in many of their publications. Johannes Greber

was a spiritualist, heavily involved with the occult. His translation was completed under the direction of “spirit messengers” with the aid of his wife who was a self-professed spirit medium.

[End excerpt]

Ankerberg: All right, here’s the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*, and if you want the Greek with it, the *Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures* looks like this. In the back, if you want to see their comments about Julius Mantey, you can find it under John 1:1. And I’d like to read just a portion of Dr. Mantey’s letter to the Watchtower Society, and it’s dated July 11, 1974. He said, “There is no statement in our grammar that was ever meant to imply that ‘a God’ was a permissible translation in John 1:1.” He goes on to say, “You quoted me out of context. On pages 139 and 140 in our grammar, we stated, ‘Without the article, *theos* [the word for God] signifies divine essence.’” And concerning the words *theos en ho logos*, John 1:1, “The Word was God”—that’s the way it’s usually translated—this is what Mantey says: “*theos en ho logos* emphasizes Christ’s participation in the essence of the divine nature. Our interpretation is in agreement with that in the New English Bible and Today’s English Version, namely, ‘What God was, the Word was,’ and with that of Barclay’s translation, ‘The nature of the Word was the same as the nature of God.’”

Now let me ask you, Lorri, is the Jehovah’s Witnesses’ *New World Translation* an accurate, honest translation? If not, give us the evidence that Jehovah’s Witnesses can investigate.

MacGregor: Right. Just before beginning, John, I want to mention that this purple *Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures* has set so many Jehovah’s Witnesses free from the organization, that they have now put out a new one which is navy blue, and they have more cleverly covered up their distortions than ever before. Ones that are clearly visible here are not visible in the new navy blue one. So, get yourself a purple

one. There are still lots of them around. Remember that.

The Society has made many lofty statements about the accuracy of their translation: How careful they've been. In the foreword of the Interlinear they make the statement that, "We don't paraphrase Scriptures. We're going to assign one meaning to each word and we're going to stick with that throughout." They promise that they will give the most careful attention to the tenses of verbs, and they also say, "We are restoring the divine name of God which has been lost."

And so these are quite "highfalutin'" sounding claims. But the fact is, they are paraphrasing on so many occasions—and a paraphrase is not a word-for-word translation. It is what the writer **thinks** the Scripture should say. For instance, *The Living Bible* is a paraphrase; it is not a word-for-word translation. And you simply do not teach out of a paraphrase, you teach out of a word-for-word translation.

Colossians 1:16-17 is a case in point. This portion of Scripture teaches that Jesus Christ is the Creator—"By Him all things were created." So, Jehovah's Witnesses had to reduce Him to a chief agent, and so they inserted "by means of" and the word "other." This is not found in the Greek side and Jehovah's Witnesses can check this out. So Jehovah's Witnesses' Bible reads, "Because **by means of Him**"—addition—"all '**other**'"—addition—"things were created in the heavens, upon the earth, things visible, things invisible, no matter whether they are thrones or lordships or governments or authority. All '**other**' things have been created through him and for him. Also he is before all '**other**' things and by means of Him all '**other**' things were made to exist." So you see, they have downgraded Jesus Christ from a Creator to a chief agent who simply is ordered around by Jehovah God.

Ankerberg: And it's obvious why. That verse, "If he made **all** things," He is God.

MacGregor: And if He is **before** all things, He's the Creator. He's God.

Ankerberg: But if He's before all **other** things, then there's something... He was created, too.

MacGregor: A good Scripture to write down next to that is Jehovah God speaking. Did He have a chief worker? Did He have a chief agent?

In Isaiah 44 we find Jehovah God saying, "I, Jehovah, am the maker of all things, stretching out the heavens..." with a helper? No. "...by myself and spreading out the earth all alone." This is the one God speaking. He said, "I didn't have a helper. I was all alone. Jesus is YHWH. Jesus is Jehovah.

If you just turn over the page you see what I consider one of the worst distortions on the Deity of Christ, and this is found in Colossians 2:8-9. This is where Jehovah's Witnesses simply could not stand to have all the fullness of deity dwelling in Christ in the flesh. And isn't it interesting that the warning is given in Scripture—and I'm going to read it correctly first. This is the truth. Colossians 2:8-9, "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ." And here's the truth. Put a mark around it and believe it. "Because it is in Him that all the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form." All is **all**. Full is **full**. Christ has **all** the fullness of deity even in the flesh. This one Scripture destroys JW theology. They absolutely couldn't leave it there.

So here's their paraphrase: "Because it is in him that all the fullness of **divine quality** dwells bodily." He has lots of divine qualities. You see how they've downgraded Him? Where is divine quality in the Greek? It's not there. It says, "All the fullness of the Godship is dwelling down in Him."

Jehovah's Witnesses, **who** are you going to believe? Are you going to believe the Word of God, or are you going to believe an organization that has tampered with the Word of God?

Ankerberg: Lorri, I'd like to ask you a question and I'd like to ask every Jehovah's

Witness that is watching, I'd like to ask **you** this question. And that is this: Can an organization that deliberately distorts the Word of God by adding words that aren't there to meet their bias, using a Greek scholar like Julius R. Mantey and twisting his words out of context to suit their own needs, can that organization be the organization that God is working through?

MacGregor: Of course not. The test is in Zephaniah 3. It says the remnant will not lie and no deceit will be found in their mouth. Jehovah's Witnesses have to say, "Am I following the true remnant, or am I following man?" Another thing that I feel is really diabolical in their paraphrasing is that every single Scripture—and there are so many of them they've done this to, I haven't got time to go through them all—but every Scripture that speaks of the indwelling Christ, "Christ **in** you," that's all been paraphrased to "in union with you." Because they don't want anybody to have a relationship with Christ. And yet what is the test of whether or not you're in the true faith? And every person here tonight, and everyone watching can take this test with me. It's in 2 Corinthians 13:5 and here it is: "Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is **in** you—unless indeed you fail the test?"

[End excerpt]

Ankerberg: We're going to take a break, and when we come back you'll learn the tragic reasons why Jehovah's Witnesses refuse to have a blood transfusion. Stay tuned.

BREAK

Ankerberg: Next, why do Jehovah's Witnesses tragically refuse to have blood transfusions? I ask this question of Mr. Bill Cetnar, a former leader of the Jehovah's Witnesses in Brooklyn, New York. He worked with the president of the Jehovah's Witnesses, taught on the radio for them, and answered questions for a third of the United States. But the evidence finally convinced him that he had been

deceived, and then he became a Christian. But I want you to listen to what he had to say about blood transfusions. Listen.

[Excerpt from Former Jehovah's Witnesses Testify]

Ankerberg: You were part of the research, as a Jehovah's Witness, on this thing of blood transfusions. How many Jehovah's Witnesses in the world need a blood transfusion every week or month?

Bill Cetnar: We can get an estimate from the National Red Cross. I have a letter from the National Red Cross that says that 10% of the populace this year will need a blood transfusion. Ten percent of Jehovah's Witnesses will need [one]. How many is that?

Jehovah's Witnesses only give you the figures of the salesmen, the ones who go from house to house. Soon as you stop selling books, you are not a Jehovah's Witness. However, we can get an approximate figure by going to their one meeting a year which is called their "Communion" or "Memorial" of the Lord's death. Last year there were over six million Jehovah's Witnesses attending this one meeting. That gives you a figure of over a thousand people per week that have to make the decision whether they will take a blood transfusion or not.

Ankerberg: Okay. And what do the Jehovah's Witnesses say about whether or not you as a Jehovah's Witness could take a blood transfusion?

Bill Cetnar: Let me give you a true story of a young girl, just a few months ago, 21 years old, in Palatka, Florida. She had a little baby that was just a few days old and the doctors told her that that baby must have a total blood-flushing because there was a RH factor problem. The Witness leaders told her that if she lets that baby have a transfusion, that she would be disfellowshipped, excommunicated, from Jehovah's Witnesses. She would not be allowed in any Jehovah's Witness home. She would have to sit in the back seat and the baby would go into second death and so would she at Armageddon.

She hid the baby from the doctors. The baby died. Beginning at the funeral when she saw that little casket, she could hardly take it. She became very depressed and felt guilty. Her husband reported her to the committee. He said, "My wife is depressed about the baby dying." And because of this depression, they excommunicated her because they said that no Jehovah's Witness has depression. The young lady took a revolver and blew off her head. This was recorded in the newspapers.

Last week I received a clipping from Watertown, New York, and a Jehovah's Witness who had a blood disease and, knowing that he wasn't allowed to have a blood transfusion in order to help him with his blood disease, and because he thought that it was communicated to his wife and his child, he took a revolver and shot his wife, and shot his little six year old, and used the gun on himself. This is happening to approximately a thousand people per week.

Ankerberg: What in the world do they base this doctrine on? Where do they get that?

Bill Cetnar: Well, your first question that I would like to ask a Jehovah's Witness is "Does God forbid drinking blood?" That's the question. Now, in Genesis 9:4, God does forbid drinking blood. In Leviticus 7, Leviticus 17, and in Acts 15:28, all those expressions there from God say, "Do not drink blood. Keep free from drinking blood." That's why I will refuse to drink blood if I can help it.

Now, the next question is, "If it was against the law by God to drink blood, what if an Israelite would drink it?" Let's say we're in 1513 B.C. and an Israelite drinks blood. What happens if Moses hears about it? Leviticus 17 tells us. Leviticus 17 says, "Anyone who eats blood is outlawed, *karat* from the people." That's according to the New Jerusalem translation. Then he must wash his clothes and take a bath.

Ankerberg: So, if he breaks that rule that God set down and he does drink blood, he's got to take a bath and wash his clothes?

Bill Cetnar: According to Leviticus 17 he is

karat. He is "cutoff—literal translation—from the people. His head is not cutoff, **he** is cutoff for a 24 hour period....

Ankerberg: He has to go outside the camp until he washes his clothes and so on.

Bill Cetnar: Now, what does the Watchtower say in the booklet on blood that they present? It says that "he would be cutoff in death." That's a lie. In their other publication it says that "he would be punished by being executed." Now, I wonder why Jehovah's Witnesses are lying? That is a lie and every Jehovah's Witness can go to his Bible and prove that their president is a liar. Now, what does "cutoff" mean? If you go to the *Judaica Encyclopedia*, on page 121 it says "this juxtaposition of divine and judicial punishment appears conclusively to disprove the view that *karat*, cutting off, was not a divine punishment of death, but rather a judicial punishment of excommunication. You can go to the Jewish Encyclopedia and it says that the punishment of *karat* was not death.

Ankerberg: That would be logical, Bill. If the guy's going to come back, if he's taking a bath.... you can't take a bath if you're dead.

Bill Cetnar: You can't take a bath if you're dead, and I'd rather take a bath than be stoned to death. Now, my next question to a Jehovah's Witness is "If you were living in Moses' day and you picked up some wood to build a fire on the Sabbath, the rest day, now, what would happen to you." Well, even Moses had a problem with that and that's why he went to *YHWH*. In Numbers 15 *YHWH* said to Moses, "This man must be put to death." Not *karat*. He must be put to death. So, it is a capital crime to work on the Sabbath.

Ankerberg: Ok. That was the punishment, clearly spelled out.

Bill Cetnar: Now, which is the most important law? A law where you would be excommunicated for 24 hours, take a bath and you're clean again? By the way, that was the same punishment for eating fat. If you ate some bacon on the side—same problem.

Now, when Jesus was on earth, Jesus

healed on the Sabbath. The Scribes and Pharisees got very uptight because He just committed a capital crime. He is deserving of death. And they say “Why are you doing this on the Sabbath?” Jesus says two things. Number one, “I am the Lord of the Sabbath. I am boss.” Want to argue about that?” They didn’t believe He was boss so He came up with argument number two: “What if your son would fall into a well on the Sabbath? What would you do?” You would, of course, rescue him. If he was an animal or a human, you would go to work on the Sabbath. You would put aside one of the Ten Commandments, written in stone, and you would go to work. So, God is setting aside one of the Ten Commandments. Why? Because a life is at stake and then He comes up with a very important question. “Is it not lawful to save a life?” It’s the law to save a life. What if there were a law in the Bible that says “Do not take a blood transfusion?”

Ankerberg: There’s not. But if there was...

Bill Cetnar: Since there is no law, there could be no sin. There can be no violation of it. But if there were a law—“Number 11: Do not take a blood transfusion”—Jesus would set it aside as He did the Sabbath law to save a life. Today, Jehovah’s Witnesses are killing thousands of people because Satan wants to kill and to destroy.

Now, Jesus said, “You don’t understand this. What I want is mercy, not sacrifice.” And today, what is so interesting is the weakest Jehovah’s Witness.... Now, I have heard from a nurse who happened to be the nurse of the president of Jehovah’s Witnesses sister who went to a hospital and she was in an isolated ward so that nobody could see her. But the nurse was a Jehovah’s Witness and she said that the president’s sister took a blood transfusion.

Program 6

Ankerberg: Welcome to our program. What do Mormons believe about the word of God, the Bible, and what do they believe about salvation? Well I asked this question of Dr. Walter Martin, the author of the classic Christian book, *The Kingdom of the Cults*. Listen to what he said.

[Excerpt from "Interview with Dr. Walter Martin on Cults"]

Ankerberg: All right, let's jump to another group and that is the Latter Day Saints the Mormons in Salt Lake City. Now, I've talked with them here on the program as well as on airplanes and in airports and at universities and so on. They will start out and say, "Well, yes, we agree with the Bible." But then we have a few other books that they throw in too. Would you comment on that?

Martin: Well, Mormonism says, "The Bible is the Word of God insofar as it is correctly translated." Now that means that wherever the Bible contradicts *Doctrine and Covenants*, *Pearl of Great Price*, or the *Book of Mormon*—their three sacred books—that the Bible is no longer the authority. They and their general authorities are the authority. So when you are dealing with Mormonism, that's exactly what you're going to run up against.

Ankerberg: Okay. Do those books ever contradict outright a statement in Scripture? Give me an example.

Martin: Oh, yes. For instance, the Bible says, "There is only one God." In fact, Jesus Christ said, "The greatest of all command-

ments is there is only one God. Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one." And the Mormons say, "As man is, God once was. As God is, man may become," which means that you can become a god through the priesthood of the Mormon Church, just as much of a god as Jesus or His Father. So they are polytheists.

Ankerberg: Okay, what do you do when they say, "Now, if you really want to know the truth, what you have to do is you've got to go pray about it"?

Martin: Well, you don't have to go and pray about something God has specifically said. For instance, God said, "Thou shalt not steal." Now, it's ludicrous when you have an opportunity to steal something to bow your head and say, "I've got to pray about it." You know automatically God said it. So when the Mormons say, "Pray about the *Book of Mormon*," you don't have to pray about the Rook of Mormon. All you have to do is take God's Word, compare it to the *Book of Mormon* and Mormon theology, and God has spoken. You reject it.

Ankerberg: *Journal of Discourses*, we are reading and it's a conglomeration here, and I am going to summarize here: "The Mormon doctrine of salvation involves not only faith in Christ", they admit that, but "baptism by immersion, obedience to the teachings of the Mormon church, good works and of keeping the commandments of God which will cleanse away the stain of sin." And Brigham Young's

got more to say on this, but why did they include all those things? They've got faith, then you've got to do a few more things. What are they saying?

Martin: Well, it's the error of the Galatians. You add to the Gospel that which ends up destroying the Gospel. Because if Christ brings... if you get righteousness apart from the death of Christ, Paul says, then your faith is empty. You're still in your sins.

Ankerberg: But some of the folks might not believe we are actually saying that this is true. But if I can pick up right here, the *Journal of Discourses*, Brigham Young says, "Some of our old traditions teach us that a man guilty of atrocious and murderous acts may savingly repent on the scaffold, and upon his execution will hear the expression, 'Bless God. He has gone to heaven to be crowned in glory through all the redeeming merits of Christ the Lord.'" Brigham said, "This is all nonsense. Such a character will never see heaven."

Martin: Well, he went on to say that your own blood had to atone for your sins. And he said there were plenty of instances where people were righteously slain to atone for their sins. So he taught the doctrine of blood atonement, which the early Mormon church practiced. If they decided that you had sinned beyond the power of the blood of Jesus to save you, they tried you and they shot you and your blood was the atonement. In fact, Brigham was so adamant on the subject he said, "This is loving your neighbor as yourself. If he wants help, help him. And if it's necessary to spill his blood in order that he be saved, spill it."

Ankerberg: Yes, and he says the blood of Christ will not take care of it. You've got to spill your own. And if people want to check it out, it's the *Journal of Discourses*, volume 3, page 247. But let's comment. What is Christ offering that's good news to our Mormon friends?

Martin: He's offering forgiveness for sin totally. One sacrifice for sin forever that takes away our responsibility of judgment. And we have "passed out of death into life" [John 5:24], Romans chapter 8, when we accept the

Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "He that believes in me," not he that believes and works and, and, and, and, but "he that believes in me has everlasting life." Mormonism does not know the Gospel of grace. And the Gospel of grace is clearly outlined in 1 Corinthians 15.

Ankerberg: You know it sounds too good to them. They say, "You mean I can just believe and it's all done for me? I mean, I feel I ought to do some thing."

Martin: Well, that's man's sinful nature. We are always trying to improve on what God did. God came to us in the cross of Jesus Christ and he said, "This is life eternal." And he presented His Son to us. We turn around and say, "Yes, but we are going to have to help you out, Lord," and then start adding all the rest of these things. The cults all add works to salvation.

[End excerpt]

Ankerberg: Now, through the years I've taped a number of TV programs with former Mormons. One of them was a man by the name of Mr. Ed Decker, who was a Temple Mormon for over 20 years. He went through the secret marriage rituals of the Mormon church in the Los Angeles temple. I asked him, what was he taught as a Mormon about the Bible? And how did he eventually learn that only the Bible is the word of God. I'd like you to listen.

[Excerpt from "Mormonism Revisited"]

Ankerberg: Welcome to our program tonight. We are interviewing Mr. Ed Decker, who was a Mormon for 20 years, was married in the Temple in Los Angeles, and is sharing with us some of the experiences that he had. And I would like to start off tonight with: "Is the Bible the sole authority for the Mormons?"

Decker: Well, as a Mormon, I believed that the Bible was the Word of God only insofar as it was translated correctly.

Ankerberg: What does that mean?

Decker: Well, that means just what it said. We believed that many great and wonderful truths were taken away by the great and abominable church, and that what was left has

been translated by so many different people in so many different ways that as one of the leaders said, “We don’t even know if we can count on one word of the Bible, either the Old or the New Testament, to be what the author really meant.”

Ankerberg: So, on one hand you affirmed it and on the other hand, you ripped out the basement for it.

Decker: Well, we tore out the foundation. We have to rely upon “new and better scripture.” We have the *Book of Mormon*, which is **the** word of God—period.

Ankerberg: This is also scripture.

Decker: That is scripture. And then the *Pearl of Great Price* and *Doctrine and Covenants*. Those four comprise the standard works of the Mormon Church.

Ankerberg: And those books are said to be by Joseph Smith and Brigham Young to be what?

Decker: Well, Joseph Smith said that the *Book of Mormon* was the purest, the most perfect book in all the world. You see, God dictated it to him. He read this... he looked upon these golden plates with the Egyptian inscriptions on them that the angel Moroni led him to, and he translated those into the *Book of Mormon*. And he did it word by word. He put a seer stone in his hat, according to one of his scribes, and then he would stick his head in the hat and then he would see the words as they went across sort of like a screen, like a word processor. And then it would stop if the scribe wrote it wrong. When it was done right, then it would continue on.

Ankerberg: Which is actually an occult practice.

Decker: Well, he was heavily involved in the occult. His father was involved in water witching and they were involved in those kinds of things in that day.

Ankerberg: Which the Bible condemns. Let’s look at the evidence for the *Book of Mormon*. Every Mormon missionary says, “Man, the evidence is there from archaeology, geography, and the history.” Let’s take a look

at the evidence in the film, this new documentary film, “The God Makers.” And we are just taking a segment of it concerning the evidence for the *Book of Mormon*.

[Excerpt from “The God Makers”]

Tanner: The Mormon Church has deliberately hidden the records of its early church leaders, of their early documents, their early publications from their members.

Narrator: Ron Prittis, business manager of the Seventh East Press, a newspaper published by young Mormons seeking reform in the church through exposing Mormon cover-ups.

Prittis: Some of the items that have brought the most attention to the paper are items of church history, theology and some of the dishonesty on the part of some of the administrators in dealing with students.

Tanner: There are things in the church records, if they were open for public inspection, it would tarnish this beautiful image that the church puts out. The missionary comes to your door—“We have a beautiful story to tell you about families”—and they want to tell you what a glorious place this is to raise your children. The missionary isn’t part of the cover-up. He doesn’t know of this. He has been told that everything will check out. It’s all 100% true. He thinks the records are open. He doesn’t even realize he couldn’t go to Salt Lake and see these documents for himself.

Decker: Where in the Christian faith we find our scholars looking for earlier manuscripts, always refining, always going back to the earliest manuscripts to improve and validate the authenticity of the Holy Scripture, in Mormonism, it’s completely the opposite.

Tanner: The leaders have to go back and rework, rewrite, cover-up, change, delete, add, all the way through all of their books—their histories, their scriptures. They suppress their diaries, because these things show the confusion and the man-made nature of the theology and the religion. The *Book of Mormon* claims to be an actual historical record translated from real plates that Joseph Smith unearthed in a hill in New

York. Now, if this is a genuine history, one would assume you could study this just like you would study any historical book.

Narrator: Dr. Charles Crane, author, college professor, expert on Mormon archaeology.

Crane: As we look at the *Book of Mormon*, we find an entirely different story. Instead of being an actual record of actual fact, I have looked over maps, checked archaeological information and I still am left to wonder where is the land of Zarahemla? Where is the valley of Nimrod? Where are the plains of Nephaha? I have been unable to find a record of even one city as mentioned in the *Book of Mormon*.

Tanner: We turn to the *Book of Mormon* and we have nothing. There is no Nephite language; there are no Nephite cities. There is not a map in any *Book of Mormon*. You can't locate any site. There is no evidence for the book and yet it is supposed to be a historical record.

Narrator: Dr. Richard Fales, author, lecturer, archaeologist.

Fales: We have never excavated one single artifact that even remotely relates to this alleged civilization that the Mormons claim existed in the United States, Central America and in South America.

Narrator: No archaeological evidence has been found to authenticate the vast American empire described in the *Book of Mormon* and yet archaeology has been able to prove the existence of all great civilizations, including those of biblical times. For instance, these coins mentioned in the Bible—the shekel, the dram, the widow's mite—have all been found in abundance.

Crane: What do we find when we look at the *Book of Mormon*? In Alma, the 11th chapter, verses 5-19 is a listing of the coinage of the period of time that was used by these people. It lists the senine of gold, the seon of gold, the shum of gold. They had lesser coins—the shiblon, the shiblum, the leah. Need it be said at this point that not one of these coins has ever been found.

Goodman: Many people do not understand the *Book of Mormon*. This is a history of the

people that inhabited the American continent, North, South and Central America, from about 500 B.C. until about 420 A.D. And we have much evidence, of course, of people having lived there.

Crane: I am led to believe from my research that this is not an actual story, but is a fairy tale, much like "Alice in Wonderland."

[Discussion around a table in an office]

1st participant: Decades of searching by Mormon archaeologists have failed to uncover one scrap of evidence regarding the people or the places or the events in the *Book of Mormon*.

2nd participant: And Mormon missionaries throughout the world are converting people to the Mormon Church by explaining to them that archaeology has proven the *Book of Mormon* to be true.

Crane: One of the Mormon Church's standard works of scripture is called *The Pearl of Great Price*. In this is the "Book of Abraham" that Joseph Smith claimed was translated from some papyrus fragments that he purchased from an Egyptologist traveling through the area.

3rd participant: By 1842, with no knowledge of the Egyptian language, he translated that into what is called *The Book of Abraham*. That manuscript disappeared until 1967. It has now resurfaced. Several famous Egyptologists have now looked at it, translated it, and have found that it doesn't have anything to do with the time of Abraham at all.

Fales: Joseph Smith did not get right even one word in this whole translation. In fact, he took one little letter that looks like a backwards "e" and translated it into over 76 words with seven names.

Prittis: Well, there are certain things that are embarrassing to the church.

Crane: It never ceases to amaze me the number of intelligent people that are in the Mormon Church that still accept things that cannot be substantiated. They get so locked in that they are afraid to even take another look. We've run into them many times where

they have admitted that rather than sit down and study with us, they will accept what their church leaders tell them.

[End excerpt]

Ankerberg: Ed, I am thinking about a Mormon that is watching tonight. Can you remember when you heard some of this evidence? How did you feel?

Decker: I had always been told that archaeology has proven the *Book of Mormon* to be true beyond any doubt. That archaeologists, non-Mormon archaeologists, had taken the *Book of Mormon* and actually used it as a guide to find cities in South and Meso-America. And yet as I tested that, I found out that was not true. There are 38 major cities mentioned in the *Book of Mormon* and not a single one of them has ever been discovered. We read stories in here of how huge lines of snakes herded the people and their flocks south and built fences around them. Things that to a normal, intelligent person are absurd. In the 14th chapter of the Book of Mosiah it quotes the Bible in a tremendous amount. It takes the 53rd chapter of the Book of Isaiah and includes it, in King James English—which is the way the *Book of Mormon* is written—the entire 53rd chapter of the Book of Isaiah, and says this is the Word of God, and yet there are....

Ankerberg: Word for word?

Decker: Word for word, with 15 italicized words and phrases as part of it. And I read that the italics words in the King James Bible were actually words that were added to the Scripture by the men doing the translation. They weren't even Scripture. And here this comes, supposedly created 22 centuries earlier, and I find the same italics words as I find in the King James Bible. Not even Scripture.

Ankerberg: You were telling me a little bit about what's happening at Brigham Young University.

Decker: At Brigham Young University, Dr. Ross Christiansen, who is the head of the Department of Archaeology there—he heads

up BYU archaeology studies and the clubs and the groups and so forth. He is responding to some of these men in the church who have written books showing pictures of Christ standing in front of the temples that weren't even built for 1,000 years after the *Book of Mormon* era and claiming those to be *Book of Mormon*-day temples. He said, "There is no archaeology for the *Book of Mormon*." There is none.

Ankerberg: That's what a BYU professor said?

Decker: That's right. He is the top man in archaeology for the Mormon Church.

Ankerberg: All right, now what do Mormons do when they hear that from their own man?

Decker: They say, "I don't care. I don't care what I hear. I don't care what they say. I have a burning in my bosom and I know that the Mormon Church is true."

Ankerberg: All right and you taught those things and you had this burning in your bosom, which we are going to see in this next part of the film. Let's take a look at that and then come back to this point right here.

[Excerpt from "The God Makers"]

Grant: We believe that the most important prophet to us is the present prophet. So when he speaks as a prophet we believe that it is as though the Lord were speaking.

Decker: The finality of the Mormon theology is not based upon evaluation by scriptural evidence but based entirely upon a "burning in the bosom." The Mormon scriptures tell you that that's what you must seek. When the Mormon missionaries come to your home, they will talk to you about the *Book of Mormon*, they will talk about the prophet Joseph Smith, and when they are done, they will ask you to pray about it and to seek that divine "burning in the bosom" that they have, and that this will prove to you that Joseph Smith is a prophet of God and that the *Book of Mormon* is really scripture. So it becomes a subjective evaluation. Scripture is not to be tested.

Man's Voice: They would encourage us then to read the *Book of Mormon*. Nothing in the

Bible, but to read various sections in the *Book of Mormon* and to pray about it that we might know it was true.

Decker: When we discuss these things with Mormons, some will say, "I don't care if every prophecy of Joseph Smith is proven wrong. I have a burning in my bosom that I know that the church is true." I will say, "Have you tested him?" "I am not going to test him. I have that burning in my bosom." It's that total and complete trust in anything Mormon.

[End excerpt]

Ankerberg: Ed, I want to ask you about this. I can remember when I had Lawrence Flake on our program, the man that helped train the Mormon missionaries, and President K. H. Christiansen, the president of a three-stake area, and they said exactly that when we pointed out some of the errors in the *Book of Mormon*. They said, "Well, what you have to do is you have to take James 1 which says, 'If any man lacks wisdom, let him ask of God.'" Now, they take that Scripture verse and then they say, "Listen, if you pray about it, what will happen is, God will give you a feeling in your heart that it is true." And that sounds so good to so many people. It sounded good to you?

Decker: It's the answer people are looking for. You know that God, through some divine way, is going to expose to them the truth. But that's not what it says in James. It says, "If any man lacks *wisdom*...." What is wisdom? It is the application of knowledge. Joseph Smith prayed and he said that an "angel of light" appeared to him. Now, an "angel of light" is not what God is going to send you. In fact, if you take Bruce R. McConkie's book, *Mormon Doctrine*, known to every Mormon that is listening, and you look under the subject called "Angel of Light," it says just simply, "See Devil."

Now, if you are relying upon that burning in your bosom, that divine illumination is described in another era. It is in the deification of Nimrod in the days of Babylon, the Babylonian Mysteries. The initiates would pray and ask the "divine one," the deity, to make known to them that Nimrod was God and that it would

be made known to them by the burning in their bosom. Now, that's ridiculous. But I, again, believed it because I wanted God to deal with me in that way. And what we are dealing with are conjuring up familiar spirits. We are calling out the demons.

There are angels out there, yes, of God; but there are also demons who will manufacture, it says that Satan himself in 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 will come as an "angel of light... and his ministers, ministers of righteousness whose end shall be according to their works. These men," it says, "will call themselves the apostles of the Lord Christ." But what does it say in the beginning? It says, "Beware that ye not be misled from the simplicity that is in Christ as the serpent beguiled Eve with his subtlety." What was his subtlety? "Ye shall become as God." The same lie.

Ankerberg: Okay, so the first thing would be that the "wisdom" in James 1 is not extra biblical revelation but it is the taking of the knowledge that God has already put into the Word of God and the applying of it in your circumstance.

Decker: That's right. And it says, "Test a prophet." It doesn't say, "Pray about a burning in your bosom."

Ankerberg: Because when the Mormon missionary gives you that one, then they go on and say, "Test to see whether or not you think God is a man who has a body."

Decker: That's right.

Ankerberg: And they will take something that the Bible does not teach. Now, a Mormon on the phone told me, he said, "What you have to do is you have to realize 'by their fruits ye shall know them.' And look at the fruits of the Mormon Church. We have such rapid growth. Look at all the missionaries we've got out there." What would you say to that?

Decker: Well, it is kind of interesting because I got hit with that one time and you know, I was a baby Christian and I was trying to learn the Word of God and all I knew was that the best thing I could do was to read as much of it as possible. And a man who was a

mission president, in fact, replacing the mission president who had just gotten saved and set free by the power of God, said to me, “You’ve got to look at our fruits, by our fruits. A good tree will only be good fruit and a bad tree bad fruit. Look at our fruit. Look at our welfare program. Look at the buildings; look at our businesses that we own. Look at all our missionaries. Look at the fruits.”

And I said, “Brother, I want you to open up the Word of God to Hosea 10:1 and the Word of God will tell us.” And I opened it up with him excited to know what it was. I didn’t know what it said in Hosea 10:1. But God said that **He** will quicken these things to you and the Word of God says, “Israel is an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself according to the multitude of his fruit he hath increased the altars. According to the goodness of his land they have made good images.” He said, “Their heart is divided, now shall they be found faulty. He shall break down their altars. He shall spoil their images.” Why? “Ye have plowed wickedness. Ye have reaped iniquity. Ye have eaten the fruit of lies because”—and this is to the Mormons out there—“because thou didst trust in *thy way* in the multitude in the strength of thy mighty men.” That’s not the fruit that God is talking about at all.

Ankerberg: Also, in the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus said, “By their fruits ye shall know them,”...

Decker: Who’s He talking about?

Ankerberg: Right around that it said, “Beware, there are going to be people that are going to come and say, ‘Didn’t we, Lord, prophesy in your name? Didn’t we do many good works in your name?’” And what did Jesus say? “Depart from me, I never knew you.” The fruits that He is talking about there not only has to be deeds, it also has to be *agreement with the doctrine*, the teaching that Jesus gives to us and the Apostles.

Decker: That’s right. It doesn’t have anything to do with our zeal. It doesn’t have anything to do with that or intent. The prophets of Baal had zeal. And in Romans 10 it says that Paul, praying for the Jew, he said, “I

would that they had a zeal for God,” talking about the Jew, “but not according to knowledge.” What were they doing? They were leaning on their own righteousness, but not the righteousness of God.

Ankerberg: What would you suggest to a person that says, “I am desperate; I don’t know what to do. I am confused.” Again, I have talked with some people this week that have said, “You know, I have looked at this and yet I don’t know what to do.” What would you advise them, because you have gone through this?

Decker: I would advise them to trust not in their leaders. And I would tell anybody that. Test all men. Test all the teachers according to the Word of God. I would get in the Word of God. Spend 30 minutes a day in it. Start in the Book of John. Get on your knees before God and say, “Oh, Holy One, I don’t know if I am even at the right altar, but, Oh, God, if thou art the Lord God above all other gods, that God I pray to. Reveal to me your truth in this Holy Word.”

Ankerberg: In fact, as a Temple Mormon, married in the Temple, you, the night before you actually invited Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior, you said that to God to prove that you were going to be wrong. Didn’t you?

Decker: I got on my face before God that night and I said, “Oh, God, if I am about to defile your holy Melchizedek priesthood, if I am about to offend you by my standing against the leadership of this church and calling them of the devil, if I am about to do that, rather than me profane your holy priesthood, slay me this night.” I laid myself out at the altar of God and He quickened in me a Scripture in Galatians 1:6-8 and it says that, Paul speaking, he said, “If I, Paul, or if **any** man preach **any** other gospel than that which we have given you, he is to be cursed; even if an angel from heaven comes and preaches any other word, he is to be accursed.” I said, “Praise God! Hallelujah!”

Ankerberg: So, there is hope?

Decker: There is hope, and there is victory

and there is salvation.

Ankerberg: You can come with all those doubts and pray honestly and God *will* hear you.

Decker: He does and He will.

Ankerberg: And He will undertake for you.

Decker: Jesus says He stands at the door and knocks. You don't have to beat the door down.

Ankerberg: Thanks, Ed.