

# A Religious Smokescreen

Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

## I SAMUEL 16:6-7

<sup>6</sup>And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him. <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

### **Smokescreen:**

A cloud of smoke used to hide military movements, but figuratively, it is any action, statement, or distraction used to conceal true intentions, divert attention, or hide something unpleasant, acting as a diversion or disguise for a hidden agenda.

## GENESIS 3:1

<sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more **subtil** than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

- 6175 » 'aruwm {aw-room'}
- 1) subtle, shrewd, crafty, sly, sensible
- 1a) crafty
- 1b) shrewd, sensible, prudent

## GENESIS 3:4-5

<sup>4</sup>And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: <sup>5</sup>For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

## II CORINTHIANS 2:11

<sup>11</sup>Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his **devices**.

- 3540 » **noema** {no'-ay-mah}
- mind (4)
- device (1)
- thought (1) [6]
- 1) a mental perception, thought
- 2) an evil purpose
- 3) that which thinks, the mind, thoughts or purposes

## II CORINTHIANS 10:3-5

<sup>3</sup>For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: <sup>4</sup>(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) <sup>5</sup>Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every **thought** to the obedience of Christ;

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### 63-0412E - GOD HIDING HIMSELF IN SIMPLICITY

65) In the beginning, when man sinned, it showed the nature of man. He's always trying to hide from God, and make hisself a way that he can feel justified, a religion. That's been a religion, means "a covering." So he tried to make his own religion.

### 54-0829 - I WILL RESTORE SAITH THE LORD

E-31) Notice, it's enough to make it; it'll make you feel different. This cleans you inside and outside, makes you a new creature in Christ Jesus; as the Greek puts, a new creation.

Now, Cain thought he was right, he thought because he done all of his religion: He went to his church and said his prayers, and paid in his tithes and a few extra dollars, extra. He belonged to the one, a fine church, all beautiful with flowers and everything. That's the way the Devil has got the church today.

## Judas

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### MARK 14:3-11

<sup>3</sup>And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head. <sup>4</sup>And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made? <sup>5</sup>For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her. <sup>6</sup>And Jesus said, **Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me. <sup>7</sup>For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always. <sup>8</sup>She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying. <sup>9</sup>Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her. <sup>10</sup>And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them. <sup>11</sup>And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him.**

### JOHN 12:4-8

<sup>4</sup>Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, <sup>5</sup>Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? <sup>6</sup>**This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.**

941 » **bastazo** {bas-tad'-zo}

-- bear (23)

-- carry (3)

-- take up (1) [27]

1) to take up with the hands.

2) to take up in order to carry or bear, to put upon one's self (something) to be carried; to bear what is burdensome.

3) to bear, to carry.

4) to bear away, carry off.

## 65-0221M - MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

130) Sin is pretty. They picture Judas as some old drunken sot out here on the street somewhere, and mouth hanging with flies in it, and so forth, as Judas. Judas was handsome, strong, a deceiver.

### II PETER 2:17-20

<sup>17</sup>These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. <sup>18</sup>For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. <sup>19</sup>While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. <sup>20</sup>For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

## 63-0623M - STANDING IN THE GAP

74) We have a lot of impersonations. We have people that get up and try to act like Christians, and their lives don't compare, so there is something wrong. Jesus said, "By their fruits you'll know them." See? That's how you know a Christian, by how he lives. **Don't never jump any higher than you live.** So then just... But in that, but it's a devil making a scarecrow, to keep the real genuine believers away from the true thing of It. But God help us to separate and be able to discern between right and wrong. And the Word will always straighten that out.

### I SAMUEL 15:13-15

<sup>13</sup>And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD. <sup>14</sup>And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear? <sup>15</sup>And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.

### I SAMUEL 15:20-23

<sup>20</sup>And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. <sup>21</sup>But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal. <sup>22</sup>And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. <sup>23</sup>For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

### MATTHEW 23:25-28

<sup>25</sup>Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. <sup>26</sup>Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. <sup>27</sup>Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. <sup>28</sup>Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

## MATTHEW 15:7-8

<sup>7</sup>Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, <sup>8</sup>This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

### **60-0608 - HAVING CONFERENCES**

E-37) And now, there's so many different doctrines and things today, slick tongued serpents, until they can explain all the things out of the Bible, put it off in some other day. Serpents, I don't apologize for it a bit. That's exactly what it was. Greasy backed, go along shiny, polished up with waved hair and a tuxedo suit on; that's the way the devil looks. He ain't an old John Barleycorn, whiskey pouring out of his mouth; he's a polished up devil in these days, I'm telling you. The Bible said that "He was so slick he would deceive the very elected if it was possible." That's right.

Oh, he's a Bible student, a scholar. When he met Jesus, he quoted Scripture to Him just one right after the other. Jesus said, "But it's also written..." Amen? He was some fellow.

E-38) So Moses... There he was, just as you have to be. No matter how slick the tongue is of a man; no matter how much they try to explain it away... If you've ever been at the backside of the desert; if you've ever been called in the Presence of God, and stood there, and talked to Him, and feeled His power surging through you like that Light was coming out of that bush over Moses, and know that you've talked to God face to face, all the devils in the world could never explain it away from you. No, sir. That's the place where you met God. Satan can't do nothing else, because it's a anchored place in your soul, that nothing else could ever take it's place. You've passed from death unto Life, and you're borned again.

### **63-0728 - CHRIST IS THE MYSTERY OF GOD REVEALED**

395) Look! What was once God's great secret, great mysterious secret in His mind, is now put in the hearts of the believer, that is, the Body of Christ. What was God's once great secret in His mind, before the foundation of the world, is now made manifest.

### **63-0728 - CHRIST IS THE MYSTERY OF GOD REVEALED**

399) That's what God, Christ, is doing to the Church. See? He is letting Her know the secrets, just the secrets. Not these flirts; I mean His Wife. See? All right. Now look. No. By having the revelation of His secret made known to them, by His grace!

### **63-0728 - CHRIST IS THE MYSTERY OF GOD REVEALED**

403) Look at having the revelation of this secret made known to them by His grace! Look! When this great revelation, revealed mystery, is made known to you, then you denounce all the things of the world.

### **63-0728 - CHRIST IS THE MYSTERY OF GOD REVEALED**

430) And when He come on earth, He was the Tree of Life. Do you believe that? [Congregation says, "Amen."--Ed.] And Rome, what did they do? He had to be chopped down. And He was put on a tree of disgrace, "cursed is he that hang on a tree," become a curse for the human race.

431) And now through that, He brings forth a Bride Tree, which will be the Tree of Life restored back to Him, as Husband and Wife in the garden of Eden, (oh, glory to God) by the same Word and the same God made manifest in Husband and Wife, the same Bride Tree back again.

432) Notice, making it known! How, my, there's just so much here, we could just keep on going. Notice, the Tree of Christ's Body in the garden, making... now making His mystery known to this Bride Tree.

433) Watch, redeemed by Christ, the second Adam! You believe He was? [Congregation says, "Amen."--Ed.] Going back Home, to Eden, with His fallen wife redeemed back Home again. That's Christ in the Church today, taking His Wife back. See the threefold mystery now? ["Amen."] God manifested in Christ; Christ manifested in

the Church; all together, to bring back the original Adam and Eve again, man and woman, which are one, made out of the same Blood and same Spirit, and everything else.

434) The Church is the Blood of Christ, by the Spirit, because the Life is in the Blood. That's the baptism of the Holy Ghost that baptizes us into His Body, that recognizes only His Body, His flesh, His Word. [Brother Branham pats his Bible--Ed.] Denomination won't, never touch that. It's a revelation. She knows it. So did Eve know it, but she fell; but this one knows it, and won't fall. She is ordained! Hallelujah! Whew! She is ordained to not fall. She won't fail. She is predestinated to it.

#### **63-0728 - CHRIST IS THE MYSTERY OF GOD REVEALED**

474) This is God's great mystery of love expressed, that God and man became one. See? **The whole thing is God and man, one.** God and man was one, there; and God and man is one, here. See? What is it? Being filled with His Spirit, Him having the preeminences. That was God's achievement, that's God purpose to do that: that He might be in Christ; and Christ in us; and all of us together, one.

#### **63-0728 - CHRIST IS THE MYSTERY OF GOD REVEALED**

476) He just don't change. It's God in man. That's His manifestation. That's what He's revealing. That's what He's trying to do, and God's Own Word revealing It. Shows that man cannot create; God is the Creator. And it ain't man no more; it's God the Creator, in man, which is His Church now. Amen!

477) Going Home to Heaven, live with Him, ever. God expresses Eternal love to the Church. Listen, listen close now. I want you not to fail to get this. No other church, no other sign, no other fellowship, no other government, no other testimony, no other creed, no denomination, is accepted outside of This. God accepts nothing else but that, "Christ in you, the hope of Glory," the only thing that God recognizes. No fellowship, no church, no creed, no denomination, no nothing; everything else is dead. It's fragments that has to be cut off, pruned off away from the thing, that Christ might live with preeminences in you.

#### **63-0728 - CHRIST IS THE MYSTERY OF GOD REVEALED**

484) **His Presence, in the individual, with a personal vindication of Himself expressing Himself, the living Word that's promised for the day, expressing Itself through you, a vindication of the great revelation of God.** Look, only in an individual, never in a group! An individual; not in a group! His identification is with an individual. You get that? [Congregation says, "Amen."--Ed.] Not with the Methodist, not with the Baptist, not the Presbyterian, not the Lutheran, not the Pentecostals, but as an individual!

485) "I'll take one, and leave one; I'll separate them." That's right. "There'll be two in the field; I'll take one and leave one. There'll be two in bed, and I'll take one and leave one."

#### **63-0728 - CHRIST IS THE MYSTERY OF GOD REVEALED**

503) But all this mystery is revealed only, as He promised, to His Bride. Hell is against this Truth, of the revelation of this mystery. But the Bride is standing on it. That's Her stand.

504) **Why do you hunger, Church, why do you thirst? It's the Father trying to reveal this hidden secret to you.** But you let so many things get it out of you. You let your job, you let your wife, you let your husband, you let your children, you let the cares of the world, you let some pastor, you let somebody else get that out of you, when you know that way down in your heart you're thirsting, hungry. It's God trying to reveal it to you, see, the revelation. The last day is here.

#### **63-0728 - CHRIST IS THE MYSTERY OF GOD REVEALED**

512) Notice now. "He is the Head of the Body" that's born from the sin, of unbelief in God's Word. That excuses every denomination, every creed, see. Unbelief in the Word; which is Himself, the Word of Life. See? The Word, only, has Life. Any other word is a hybrid. No matter how much it looks like It, it isn't the Word. The

Word produces Its Own Life, that Eve swapped for personal knowledge. See how the church has, today, through some man's understanding? Moses had a great understanding of God till he met the burning bush, then he saw his failure. The burning bush had what Moses lacked. The Word has got what the denomination lacks.

### **65-0801M - THE GOD OF THIS EVIL AGE**

52) "Oh, I swear that I never trespassed the vows of my husband." Your husband will judge you for it if you did. **But God will judge you by what kind of a spirit you got in you;** not judge you by your body, but by your spirit, that inner man.

### ROMANS 2:28-29

<sup>28</sup>For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: <sup>29</sup>But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

### **59-0525 - IMAGES OF CHRIST**

E-16) And then some says that if you pack an image of Christ in your car or on your wall, that that is a sign of a Christian. Well, them things are all right, but I don't believe that packing an image makes you a Christian. I believe that being an image of Christ makes you a Christian. It's not what we do outwardly; it's what happened inwardly that makes us what we are. Then therefore, if He is our image, and we are in His likeness, and members of His Body, we should be images like Him. Then our lives should reflect the image of Christ, not in our joining church, or in our packing crucifix, or our emotions, but it should be in the living Presence of the living God that's reflected through our life.

### **63-0825M - HOW CAN I OVERCOME**

41) I was crossing an old log the other day, down a wash, or what is called a hollow. And I jumped up on this log. On the outside, it looked good, looked like a big old beech log. But when I jumped on it, oh, a great chunk of it fell off. It was real rotten and dotty. I said, "That's the way the Christians are becoming." They been dead in sin and trespasses, so long, till become doty. They can hold no weight, at all. They don't know what the overcoming means. I begin to think of this text, then. Overcome, keep Life in you. When life went out, that's what brought that log to that condition. See? And it made it worse than ever when it laid in the branch where the water was. And then, there, you take a Christian, that's supposed to be a Christian, let the Life of God go from him, and the experience, the joy of serving Christ; and, living in a church where such is going on, he rottens twice as quick, right, living right under.

### **65-0911 - GOD'S POWER TO TRANSFORM**

243) And it's sent His transforming Power, to bring you out of this deformity of religion that you're in. In this deformity chaos that we're in, God has sent His transforming Power, His Word, vindicated, proven, to bring you out of this religious deformity of ignorance that you're walking in, "naked, blind, miserable, and don't know it." Think of it, friends.

### HEBREWS 4:12-13

<sup>12</sup>For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. <sup>13</sup>**Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.**