

The Masonic Lodge

To be or not to be a Freemason?

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The Masonic Lodge

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Preface

In this text, I hope to provide a balanced approach between those Masons who expound the benefits of this fraternal order and those anti-Masons who attack it for what they consider to be heretical teachings. While it is obviously clear that this fraternity does many charitable works, it is another matter on whether its philosophical and religious-sounding teachings contradict those of Christianity or any of the other major or minor faith-based groups in the world. As a personal note, I myself have never been a member of the Masonic Lodge. This text should not be interpreted as an attack against Masonry, but rather and hopefully a careful analysis of it.

While the modern fraternity of Freemasonry is said to have been founded in 1717, and the first Supreme Council of the 33rd Degree was organized in Charleston, South Carolina in 1801, a brief introduction to one of its key contributors, Albert Pike, should be noted - for his teachings still influence the Masonic Lodge in our times.

Introduction

Albert Pike was born on December 29, 1809 in Boston, Massachusetts. As he was growing up, he aspired to create a better, happier, and wiser world. This he hoped to do with a system of instructing morality and philosophy to the human race. The best known of his writings is *Morals and Dogma*. It was published in 1871. This book no doubt helped to direct the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction into the type of fraternal order it is today.

It is safe to say that Masons would state *Morals and Dogma* should not be considered as containing all the truth nor should it be considered as doctrine. “Pike never meant his words to be accepted as indisputable canon” (*Pillars of Wisdom*, p. xv).

Most people who attack Masonry have failed to realize this. They have also failed to consider Pike’s own admonition in the preface of his book: “Every one is entirely free to reject and dissent from whatsoever herein may seem to him to be untrue or unsound.” Now, if you do accept all of it as truth, then we really do have a problem. In fact, when you read other Masonic literature, Masons readily admit Pike made errors because he had insufficient knowledge at the time. In other cases, Pike also erred by assuming the validity of the people he quoted from.

While Pike’s book is not handed out to Masonic initiates today, it has however been replaced with a synopsis called *A Bridge To Light*. This and *Morals and Dogma* still continue to influence Freemasonry as we will see shortly. The focus of this text will be to examine primarily what the bridge deals with and to where it may lead. Should there be a cause for concern in the teachings of these two books?

Since Joseph Smith and some early LDS Church leaders were involved with Masonry, many of the Masonic symbols and handshakes became integrated into her temple designs and ceremonies. These facts may still elude the knowledge of the average or lay Mormon member today. Christians of other denominations also continue their membership in the lodge without a spiritual discernment of this fraternity’s philosophy. Should Christians or even those of other faiths continue to be or even contemplate becoming Freemasons?

Let the journey begin ...

1. What is it?

“Freemasonry is a unique institution, generating deep loyalty in its members and great misunderstandings among its detractors. It is difficult for some people to imagine that a group of men meeting behind closed doors could be doing anything good, much less encouraging each other to live lives of greater religious, family, and civic service. Yet this is what Freemasons have done since at least 1717, when the first Grand Lodge was formed in London” (*Is It True What They Say About Freemasonry?*, p. 15).

“Freemasonry is a fraternal movement loosely embracing several organizations. Its self-defined principal tenets are Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth” (ibid, pp. 18, 69).

Pike considered the “Scottish Rite to be, as all Freemasonry is, a medium of instruction. The subjects of that instruction are political, moral and religious philosophies” (*A Bridge To Light*, p. 2).

“There is also a religion of society ...Every Masonic Lodge is a temple of religion” (*Morals and Dogma*, p. 213). “It [Masonry] is the universal, eternal, immutable religion, such as God planted it in the heart of universal humanity... The ministers of this religion are all Masons who comprehend it and are devoted to it” (ibid, p. 219). “God is, as man conceives Him, the reflected image of man himself” (ibid, p. 223).

“Masonry, around who altars the Christian, the Hebrew, the Moslem, the Brahmin, the followers of Confucius and Zoroaster, can assemble as brethren and unite in prayer ... must needs leave it to each of its Initiates to look for the foundation of his faith and hope to the written scriptures of his own religion” (ibid, p. 226). In Masonry, the Bible seems to be on par with the Quran and the Hindu Vedas ... and with all other writings considered sacred.

“Today, the Scottish Rite, S.J., is guided by a mission statement ... the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere is our ultimate goal” (*Pillars of Wisdom*, p. xvi).

“Freemasons ... were deeply indebted to the ideals of social progress and the perfectability of humankind. Preserved in the Bible, the Quran ... these ideas were embraced and conveyed by great thinkers and philosophical movements throughout the ages” (ibid, p. xvi).

“The mission of Masonry ... is to set apart from the rest of humanity those exemplary men who practice her noble virtues in the pursuit of truth” (*A Bridge To Light*, p. 157).

“The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry is a school of instruction - its subjects are morality and philosophy” (*Pillars of Wisdom*, p. 1)

“Instruction on philosophy to large numbers has always been difficult. thus, like a river seeking the smoothest route, the Rite has steadily moved away from instruction on philosophy and continued to place a greater emphasis on its charitable endeavors” (ibid, p. 1)

“A philosophy is a particular mind set, unifying principles which guide action” (ibid, p. 1). Some people could say this about a religion.

“Recently, however, the need to appeal to the interests of the broad base of members has resulted in the decline in this function [the teaching of philosophy]” (ibid, p. 2)

“Freemasonry is a fraternity that expects its members to enter with a mature understanding of their faith.” (*Is It True What They Say About Freemasonry?*, p. 106). Who decides if a candidate has a mature versus immature understanding of his faith? Can someone who has not read their respective Bible, Quran, or Vedas have a mature understanding of their faith?

Now, if Freemasonry expects its members to enter with a mature understanding of their faith, then why does page 150 in the same text say, “Freemasonry, not being a religion nor having a doctrine, does not care how much or how little its members believe, as long as they believe in God?”

How can Freemasonry not care how little a member believes but then expect that member to enter with a mature understanding of his faith? Are you confused?

Please keep this in your mind as you read the remainder of the text ... *Is It True What They Say About Freemasonry?* has just stated that Freemasonry does not have a doctrine.

“Freemasonry does offer its members the opportunity to work together in the community and to be of service to their fellow citizens. In 1995, American Freemasons gave \$750 million dollars to charity” (ibid, p. 107).

“Masonry does not deny Christian beliefs any more than Rotary does.” (ibid, p. 149).

“Masonry is for many men a starting point on their quest for Knowledge.” (ibid, p. 159). What do you think college and university is for?

“True Freemasonry is inclusive not exclusive when dealing with the religions of the world” (ibid, p. 159).

“Masonry in and of itself is never the End of the quest for Knowledge. This is one of the many reasons why Masonry is not nor can it ever be a religion” (ibid, p. 159).

“Freemasonry is a fraternity of God-fearing men. Masons believe that all men are brothers under the fatherhood of God and Masons agree while in lodge not to discuss religion beyond this simple belief” (ibid, p. 191).

It is said that Masons agree with the definition of religion as outlined in James 1:27. If this is what they say about the actions of Freemasonry, this would make it a form of “pure religion” would it not?

The Order of the Eastern Star is open to the female relatives of Masons. For the youth, you have such groups as the Order of DeMolay, Job’s Daughters, and the Rainbow Girls. And there are more.

Originally, Masonry was made up of the “operative” Masons; those who performed the physical labor. The “speculative” Masons are the relatively new comers; the philosophers who are said to be seeking the truth. This latter group is known as Freemasonry. For the purpose of simplicity, the terms “Freemasonry” and “Masonry” will be used interchangeably to refer to the same group of people.

2. The origins of Masonry

The origins of the Masonic Lodge are not entirely clear. Let us examine some Masonic writings.

“The modern fraternity of Freemasonry was founded in 1717” (*Is It True What They Say About Freemasonry?*, p. 55).

“Modern scholars do not agree on the origins of the fraternity. However, the widely (though not universally) accepted theory is that the fraternity evolved from medieval cathedral-building guilds” (*Is It True What They Say About Freemasonry?*, p. 108)

“Freemasonry’s origins are found within the unparalleled intellectual climate called the Age of Enlightenment. The 17th and 18th centuries saw the rise of reason and the decline of superstition” (*Pillars of Wisdom*, p. 9).

But many of the rituals of the Rite today are based on inaccurate legends, mythology, and on what some would call superstition.

“The century of the birth of modern Freemasonry was characterized by the merger of Neoplatonic philosophy and Hermetic mysticism, retreat from dogmatic Christianity ... and an irrepressible optimism for the future” (*Pillars of Wisdom*, p. 11)

This is a good thing? Do you know that cults have also started with a retreat from dogmatic Christianity?

“The Scottish Rite is exclusively of French origin” (*Pillars of Wisdom*, p.12).

Much of Freemasonry is focused on a legend, “apparently based upon Hiram the metalworker, mentioned in 1 Kings 7:13” (*Is It True What They Say About Freemasonry?*, p. 128).

The use of the word “apparently” seems to denote an air of speculation instead of certainty.

But then it goes further and says, “The legend is a simple vehicle for teaching fidelity to a trust; it has no basis in historical truth” (*Is It True What They Say About Freemasonry?*, p. 128).

This is odd. If it has no basis in historical truth, they maybe there could have been another Hiram living on the American continent before 1,000 A.D. who built a temple with another Solomon and all this archaeological evidence has now been lost? It sounds like Hiram is a fictional character instead of a historical one, no?

According to the legend of Freemasonry, Hiram Abif was murdered before the building of the temple was completed (*Is It True What They Say About Freemasonry?*, p. 130).

“The legend of Hiram Abif is not presented as Biblical history” (*Is It True What They Say About Freemasonry?*, p. 151).

Now what is the danger of an inaccurate legend? Well, one Islamic legend has it that Jesus Christ really wasn't crucified for the sins of the world. This legend has the Muslim Prophet being substituted for someone else by Allah. Another legend (from another Muslim sect, the Ahmadiyya Movement) has Jesus Christ surviving the crucifixion and burial in the tomb for 3 days and then travelling to India. As a Christian, do you see the danger in believing in these two legends? And even each of the Muslim groups regards themselves (and the Christians too) as infidels worthy of Allah's punishment for believing their respective legends.

It doesn't really matter if you can spin some form of moral teaching from this legend when the historical fact of what really happened has far more important ramifications.

3. Freemasonry's Purpose

The system of Masonry strives to “make good men, better men and to make the world a better place” (*Pillars of Wisdom*, p. 232).

“Masonry's role in the search for Truth is to awaken each man to a fuller understanding of the Deity” (*ibid*, p. 91).

4. Who is the authority?

The Grand Lodge is the supreme authority for their respective jurisdictions (*Is It True What They Say About Freemasonry?*, pp. 18-19).

“If a Grand Lodge strays too far from accepted Masonic norms, other Grand Lodges will withdraw recognition and will even help organize a new Grand Lodge in the jurisdiction” (ibid, p 21).

What is not revealed is the authority of these “accepted” Masonic norms.

“If it seems confusing that there is no single authority for Freemasonry, it may be helpful to consider that the same holds true for other groups as well. For example, who speaks for the Christian Church?” (ibid, p. 22).

Well, Jesus Christ speaks for His Church. The Bible is the authority.

In each Lodge, the Master has the authority. In each Grand Lodge, the Grand Master has the authority (ibid, p. 23).

“Only Grand Lodges have the authority to interpret the symbolism of the Blue Lodge” (ibid, p. 26) but page 52 of the same text says, “Freemasonry has no individual or universal authorities when it comes to the interpretation of its rituals and symbols.”

Then page 23 says “Freemasonry values free thought so highly. Grand Lodges as a rule neither endorse nor condemn ideas; that decision is left to individual Masons.” “It only presents symbols for the individual Mason to interpret for himself” (ibid, p. 151).

Masons may be said to have free thought but they not allowed to think and have their own different ideas on what symbols represent. In another section, they are allowed to interpret symbols for themselves.

Can you see the confusion which results if various Grand Lodges and its members have their own interpretation of what the rituals and symbols mean?

But if they must have the same interpretation, there must be some kind of authority that dictates they have the same interpretation, and this authority overrides other Masons from having their own free thought to have their own individual interpretation.

“Just as no one man can speak for Freemasonry, no one man can speak for Christianity” (ibid, p. 106).

Jesus speaks for Christianity.

“But no one ... can speak for Masonry when it comes to the meanings of its teachings. That is something each Mason must seek and find for himself. No one can speak for Freemasonry” (ibid, pp. 233-234). But page 26 says, “Only Grand Lodges have the authority to interpret the symbolism of the Blue Lodge.”

If no person or body can speak for Masonry when it comes to the meanings of its teachings, then where did the idea come up that the rituals of Freemasonry teach people about duty or morality or virtue? If no one person or authority can speak for Freemasonry, then why does she expect her members to enter with a mature understanding of their faith, or why does she say that Masons “believe that all men are brothers under the fatherhood of God” (ibid, p. 191)?

5. Symbols and Rituals

Symbols are used to give philosophical, religious, and moral instruction (*Pillars of Wisdom*, p. 284; *A Bridge to Light*, p. 207). Symbolism is referred to as the soul of Masonry. It is “used throughout Masonry to teach her sublime lessons” (ibid, p. 56).

“The newly made Mason has as much right to interpret the symbols to his own needs as the officers of his lodge do to theirs. This freedom naturally results in diverse opinions. Every one being at liberty to apply our symbols and emblems as he thinks the most consistent with truth and reason and with his own faith, we give them such an interpretation only as may be accepted by all” (*Is It True What They Say About Freemasonry?*, p. 53).

The ceremony to install the officers of a Scottish Rite “Chapter of Rose Croix” says, “Teach the Knights to learn something more than the mere formulas and phrases of the ceremonial; induce them to seek to learn the meanings of the symbols; show them how, among the heterogeneous and incoherent mass of Masonic writings, to separate the diamonds from the worthless sands” (ibid, p. 57).

It should make one wonder how Masons are taught to learn the meanings of the symbols when they are given freedom of thought to view symbols as they choose. It is fortunate that there are no worthless sands in the Bible.

“Freemasonry does explain its symbols to its members” (ibid, pp. 88-89).

“The square and compasses do not represent ancient pagan solar deities; their explanation has been simple and straight forward for centuries. The square reminds us to square our actions by the square of virtue, while the compass teaches us to circumscribe our desires and keep our passions within due bounds” (ibid, p. 109).

It should be worth noting that Albert Pike believed them to represent the active and passive attributes of the male Sun and the female Earth. The “G” is believed by him to be the regenerative principle of procreation as the male comes down upon the female. This could explain why the compass is drawn over the square.

“No symbol of the sun always appears over the Master’s seat in the symbolic east of a lodge. There is a letter G which stands for geometry - central to the guild of cathedral builders - and God, central to the life of all members of the Masonic fraternity” (ibid, p. 110). The letter G may seem appropriate if all members of the Masonic fraternity worshipped the same God.

“An accurate concept of Deity is essentially beyond language. Symbols offer the best understanding of Him” (*Pillars of Wisdom*, p. 85). And total confusion could result if Freemasons interpret the symbols differently from each other with the freedom of choice that they are said to be given by the Lodge they belong to.

“Numerous symbols incorporated in the Gnostic system are found in the Scottish Rite because they are representative of historically significant philosophical and religious ideas” (ibid, p. 213).

But are they historically inaccurate like some legends incorporated into the Masonic system?

If they are accurate, wouldn’t all Masons have to agree on what they mean, otherwise they would be inaccurate again?

Should Freemasonry be proud of having symbols from the Gnostic system found within the Scottish Rite when gnosticism professed salvation through secret knowledge (ibid, p. 214)?

“Masonic rituals are symbolic dramas set in biblical times, and the oaths and penalties were strong metaphors in keeping with that historical context” (*Is It True What They Say About Freemasonry?*, p. 50). Rituals are all intended to teach moral lessons (ibid, p. 77).

Masonry likes to claim that “Jesus Christ not only used oaths, but He also used penalties” (ibid, p. 51). But Jesus never told us to use oaths to keep His truth a secret.

Masonry uses the scriptural references of Matthew 5:29, Matthew 18:9, or Mark 9:47 to portray Jesus offering the same type of oaths in inflicting physical damage to one’s body parts (ibid, p. 51). But Jesus is speaking about human actions towards God’s standard of righteousness that could cause one to be omitted from the kingdom of God and instead being thrust into hell. The Biblical passages are cited by Masons out of context for they do not focus on some code of morality to be adhered to when living amongst your fellow man. If you don’t agree, then read those specific verses for yourself.

“Pike was a keen student of philosophy and religion who believed that creating ritual drama with a quasi-historical setting would help Scottish Rite members appreciate man’s attempt to discover truth and find his place in the universe” (ibid, p. 81).

“The purpose of Masonic allegory is not to teach historical or sectarian religious truths, but rather to teach the universal truths of ethics and virtue by presenting a lesson, usually in the form of a drama” (ibid, p. 81).

“Some of the Masonic ritual dramas are religious in character and theatrical setting, but they do not teach sectarian dogmas, nor do they make Freemasonry a religion” (ibid, 87).

But don't these ritual dramas teach doctrine?

Pike's influence, in addition to *Morals and Dogma*, led to a “large quantity of additional writings calculated to enhance and explain the doctrine of the Rite” (*Pillars of Wisdom*, p. 19).

There's that word “doctrine” again.

“The Degrees of the Scottish Rite are so many steps on a mystic ladder by which we can ascend to knowledge of God and the knowledge of His revelation to us” (ibid, p. 100).

As a Christian, the knowledge of God's revelation to us is found in the Bible. We have no need for a mystic ladder to climb.

You may already be familiar with the term “light” or “Masonic Light.”

What is light?

“In Freemasonry, light is a term encompassing both a spiritual and a material component. As a spiritual term, it is largely left undefined, to be given body and substance by the faith of the individual” (*Pillars of Wisdom*, p. 237). Light is symbolic of knowledge.

What is the subtle danger of this?

Well, the light of Christianity is the crucifixion of Christ whereas the light of Islam has someone else being crucified in the place of Christ. The light of the Ahmadiyya Movement (another sect of Islam) has Jesus surviving the crucifixion and moving to India. The light of Hinduism is reincarnation. The light of other cults is self-centeredness and exaltation to godhood. The light of Christianity is the atonement of Christ for the sins of the world. This Christian light is opposed to the light of other world religions.

Light is said to dwell “within the heart of every truly Christian Mason” (ibid, p. 238). So, does light or darkness reside within the heart of every truly Muslim Mason who believes the Quran is the Word of God?

“The darkness which Freemasonry seeks to expel is the darkness of ignorance” (ibid, p. 238). Is the Christian or Muslim Mason in the darkness of ignorance for believing that only Jesus provides the hope for eternal life?

Let's now look into the ritual degrees and see where the steps of the Masonic mystic ladder takes the initiate – on *A Bridge To Light*.

6. A Bridge to Light

Foreward

Page vii - *“We have sought, not to teach men the truth, but rather a way to the truth. Each must find it for himself.”*

How can you teach a way to the truth if you don't know what the truth is?

By the way, Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12).

“Every one is entirely free to reject and dissent from whatsoever herein may seem to him to be untrue or unsound.”

The same caveat is given in *Morals and Dogma*.

“In this book, A Bridge to Light, you are welcomed – in fact, encouraged – to formulate your own interpretation. The symbolism of Freemasonry is open to many viewpoints and, ultimately, the understanding that counts is yours.”

I suppose a Mason is free to understand the well known symbol of a point within a circle as representing the only remaining tree in a forest ... even though this would probably sound ludicrous to the Master of a Lodge.

*“A Bridge to Light seeks to overcome this difficulty [a sadly deficient knowledge of Greek, Latin, and classical mythology] by presenting passages from *Morals and Dogma* which best reinforce the teachings of the Rituals of the Degrees.”*

I wonder if the Master Lodge would consider these teachings to be all true or mostly the truth mixed with some untruths. Doesn't it seem like *Morals and Dogma* is still a form of authority of the Rituals? Isn't there another source that best reinforces the teachings of the Degrees?

Page viii – *“Ritual is the very soul of the Scottish Rite and its proper presentation is an imperative.”*

Shouldn't the proper presentation and understanding of the symbolism involved also be an imperative? If yes, how can this be accomplished when Masons are said to be free to interpret the symbols as they so please?

Preface

Page xi – *“These degree summaries are presented as a guide only; their intent is to assist the members of the Rite in understanding the lessons of the degrees and the meaning of the symbols employed in the presentation of those lessons.”*

If the teacher says that the symbol of the point within a circle represents the sun in the universe, can the initiate believe it represents a tree in a forest? If the teacher says that the symbol of the scarab represents immortality, can the initiate believe it represents pestilence instead?

“Masonry is useful to all men ...of enjoying the charms of a friendship founded on the same principles of religion, morality, and philanthropy.”

I suppose the same could be said of any non-Masonic fraternity that practices faith, morality, and charity.

Introduction

Page 1 – *“Rather than being a secret society, Freemasonry is a revealer of secrets. The great truths of ancient man were, in their time, also great secrets and few were admitted into the sanctuaries where these truths were taught.”*

Did you notice this? The great truths were also considered great secrets. In simple terms, Freemasonry is said to be a revealer of these secrets. You will not learn these great truths unless you are initiated and admitted into the Masonic Lodges ... so they say.

But earlier we saw it stated, *“We have sought, not to teach men the truth, but rather a way to the truth. Each must find it for himself”* (page vii).

Now, how can you reveal a great truth without teaching a great truth? Besides, how can two men find the truth and then have it not be the same?

“Today the Craft teaches these great truths to all worthy men who ask to learn them.”

Do you see the contradiction between pages vii and 1? Later we discover what “great truths” constitute the Masonic Truth.

It should be worth noting that entrance into Masonic lodges, Mormon temples, and other “secret” societies is restricted to those who are “worthy.” On the contrary, Christ embraces the unworthy who approach Him in humility.

Page 2 – *“Morals and Dogma’s wisdom is fruit in the midst of brambles and few possess the patience to taste of it. The result is that its clearest passages are missed as are also the pearls of Masonic beauty that lie within, glistening but unseen, and worse, unappreciated.”*

Unfortunately, this so-called “fruit” is fraught with many “worms” in the form of errors because of Pike’s lack of knowledge and failure to verify the source of those he quoted.

“It may fairly be said that today the degrees themselves provide the sole means of instruction.”

Page 3 – *“These teachings are not a random collection of moral precepts but are rather an organized and coherent system of doctrine relating to the perfectibility of human conduct.”*

It seems like Masonry teaches doctrine after all.

But how can you have a coherent system of doctrine without having a coherent teaching of symbols if Freemasons can interpret the symbols as they so please?

*“No man can be perfect but he can strive toward perfection and so constantly improve his nature. Pike expresses this idea in *Morals and Dogma: Step-by-step men must advance toward Perfection and each Masonic Degree is meant to be one of those steps (p. 136) and ... to that state and realm of ... Perfection ... all good men on earth are tending (p. 538)*”.*

Latter-day Saints should be familiar with this concept. In their theology it is coined “eternal progression.”

The Masonic path to perfection involves duty to God (worship), duty to country (service) and duty to man (as in love thy neighbor).

However, it is unclear how the Hindu or Muslim Mason hopes to achieve this perfection without accepting the perfection granted by Christ (Hebrews 10:14). It seems as if Masons have a different definition for the act of perfecting than the Biblical one. It is “*by slow and imperceptible degrees*” that this Masonic Light will come. Without taking the Masonic steps, an individual will not become perfect ... so they say.

Page 4 – *“A degree, properly received, enlarges a man’s sense of duty and prepares him for a greater understanding of his place and purpose in the universe.”*

Do you suppose that the Holy Spirit does not serve this function?

7. The Lodge of Perfection

Page 9 – *“These degrees, the 4th through 14th, are called the Ineffable Degrees because their principle purpose is the investigation and contemplation of the ineffable name of Deity ... [the name] which should not be spoken.”*

“Therefore, as you reflect on the teachings of these degrees, ponder your own limits of expression and understanding rather than those of others and ... begin now to climb to the skies of spiritual knowledge.”

Does this mean that a Mason does not even begin to climb during the first three degrees?

Page 10 – *“We [Masons] are not as much concerned with the details of historical fact as we are with the opportunities of symbolic instruction that are provided in the historical narrative. Thus the Biblical account of the story of Hiram is occasionally at variance with the legend as told in Masonic instruction.”*

This is an understatement. It is one thing to speculate on how a historical event may have occurred, but then it is another thing to turn a fact into a fable, and create a system of beliefs upon it. Hiram finished all the work that King Solomon asked him to do. The Masonic Hiram is assassinated during the construction of the Temple.

Muslims are also not concerned with the historical fact of the resurrection so they have fabricated a Jesus who did not go to the cross. The Quranic urban legend has Jesus being only a great prophet. You may have also heard about another urban legend called the theory of “evolution” and how it has affected the mind of its believers.

Page 11 – *“The legend of the Ineffable Degrees ends in triumph and disaster: the Temple is finished, the sacred name of Deity is discovered, and the Perfect Elus are created.”*

When you read the Bible, you never get the impression that they ever lost the sacred name of Deity.

“The Perfect Elus maintain the true faith in the face of much adversity and continue to transmit with scrupulous purity the knowledge of the true God.”

Doesn't the Bible alone contain the knowledge of the true God?

“To the Jews the temples served as symbols of their covenant with God ... to us [Masons] they are symbols of perfection and beauty.”

To the Christian, the [singular] temple is a sign of the need for the blood atonement in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, our bodies are the temple for the Holy Ghost to reside in.

Page 12 – *“We travel on the path to perfection with humility because He has seen fit to show us that path and guide us by the surest route, manifested in the lives and teachings of the great philosophers, teachers and prophets of the world.”*

This part is a little confusing. Does Masonry teach Islam is one of these surest routes, manifested in the lives of the “prophet” Muhammad or that Masonry itself is the surest path to perfection?

“Masonry seeks to teach no doctrine of faith except that universal doctrine of the brotherhood of man and the oneness of God.”

Is this one doctrine or two? Besides, what does “oneness of God” mean?

“Therefore, even though it is not a religion, it is a worship.”

A worship of what?

“The Lost Word represents the name of God, the power of God and the ineffable nature of God. The Lost Word is saved for posterity in the hearts and minds of a very few [Masons] whose perseverance and dedication to the principles of brotherhood have provided Masonry with worthy models and sublime lessons.”

The goal of the Masonic quest is to find the Lost Word - the divine name of God (*Pillars of Wisdom*, pp. 195, 198).

8. Secret Master (4th Degree)

In the 4th to 32nd Degree, Masons wear a variety of aprons, with different colors and various meanings.

Page 15 – *“The flap is of sky blue with an open eye ... denoting the sun as the great archetype of light, the Ineffable Deity.”*

Would it be fair to say the Sun God is this Masonic deity?

Page 15 – *“The Name of Deity, in many Nations, consisted of three letters: among the Greeks, [Iota, Alpha, Omega].”*

How many nations would believe Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega (Revelation 1:8)?

Page 16 – *“Duty is the one great law of Masonry.”*

“Duty forms the core of philosophical and religious instructions derived from ... Jesus.”

Didn't love and the atonement form the core of Jesus' teachings?

Page 17 – *“The Lodge of Secret Masters ... the area behind the railing with a gate is called the Holy of Holies where ... our Master Hiram was wont to offer up his devotions and pray for wisdom.”*

This is contrary to Biblical teaching. In Old Testament times, only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies once a year, on the Day of Atonement (Hebrews 9:3-7). In New Testament times, unsaved Masons who have rejected the atonement of Christ are not permitted into the holiest place (Hebrews 10:19-22).

“It [the Holy of Holies] symbolizes the most secret mysteries of Masonry which are being sought by the candidate.”

In the Bible, the Holy of Holies symbolizes something entirely different.

“Since work has been suspended on the Temple, no working tools are seen.”

Work had been suspended because of the Masonic urban legend that Hiram had died before the Temple was completed.

“The duties of a Scottish Rite Mason are not to be performed in the hope or expectation of earthly rewards or honors but in the simple expectation of personal satisfaction.”

Latter we will learn about the hope of the Mason for eternal life and a place in the Celestial Lodge.

The square and the compass are prominent Masonic symbols.

Page 18 – *“The square is a reminder that the candidate has begun a great journey. He has passed from the square to the compasses; the square representing earthly things and the compasses representing spiritual things.”*

“Dualism teaches ... the idea of opposites in both the universe and human experience. This doctrine is more fully explained at the end of the lecture in Morals and Dogma.”

But earlier on page 12 we saw that *“Masonry seeks to teach no doctrine of faith except that universal doctrine of the brotherhood of man and the oneness of God.”* If dualism is really a doctrine, wouldn't this mean that Masonry teaches three doctrines?

“The letter G is now a Samaritan letter, still representative of the true God.”

But is Jesus the true God to the Hindu and Muslim Mason?

“Silence is one of the virtues through which good triumphs over evil.”

Would that mean people protesting abortions should do so in silence?

Page 19 – *“We [Masons] are the custodians of the True Word; it should be locked up in our hearts.”*

Is the message of the Gospel as important as the Masonic True Word and should it also be locked up in our hearts instead of being preached to a dying world?

“The seven candles ... serve as a reminder that we are all subordinate to the Laws of Masonry, our country and God.”

How can a Hindu or Muslim Mason be subordinate to God and reject Jesus Christ as Savior at the same time?

“Truth must be sought for in study, reflection and discrimination.”

From a faith perspective, truth will be found when you believe Jesus is the truth, the way, and the life (John 14:6).

“Learning is the ultimate accomplishment of human purpose and far outlasts the physical monuments erected by the hand of man.”

What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world but lose his soul?

Page 21- *“Be faithful to your friends ... Be faithful to your country ... Be faithful to Masonry ... Thus you will be faithful to yourself.”*

What about being faithful to God? Can you be faithful to God and reject Jesus Christ as Savior at the same time?

9. Perfect Master (5th Degree)

Page 23 – *“Masonic compasses are opened to sixty degrees because this is the number of degrees in each of the three angles of an equilateral triangle, always a symbol of Deity.”*

“[The Square] ... is an emblem of what concerns the earth and the body; [the Compasses] of what concerns the heavens and the soul.”

This could also explain why the compass appears over the square on the Lodge. As we proceed, we find other meanings of what these symbols represent and why the compass is always represented as being over the square and not the other way around.

Page 24 – *“Does a life well lived prepare one for death?”*

That depends. How does the Masonic definition of a well lived life compare with one based on the Biblical perspective?

Page 25 – *“The Master Hiram is an example to be imitated, a man who led a wise and virtuous life.”*

How do Masons know for sure if he even led this type of life? Would a devout Muslim to Islam want to imitate the life of a regular Jew to Judaism? Wouldn't Jesus Christ be more of an example to be imitated?

Page 26 – *“These items [the apron, collar, and jewel] are representative of the Master Hiram and remind us to always make him a model for our conduct that at our death we may deserve the honors paid to him.”*

There is a glorious hope that Masons are taught to believe in. This is a sample prayer that reflects this Masonic hope of the afterlife:

“My Brethren, the roll of the workmen has been called, and one Master Mason has not answered to his name.

He has laid down the working tools of the Craft and with them he has left that mortal part for which he no longer has use.

His labors here below have taught him to divest his heart and conscience of the vices and superfluities of life, thereby fitting his mind as a living stone for that spiritual building - that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Strengthened in his labors here by faith in God, and confident of expectation of immortality, he has sought admission to the Celestial Lodge above.

Amen.”

And here is another ...

“Brothers faithful and deserving,

Now the second rank you fill,

Purchased by your faultless serving,

Leading to a higher still.

Thus from rank to rank ascending,

Mounts the Mason’s path of love;

Bright its earthly course and ending,

In the glorious lodge above.” (*The Freemason’s Pocket Companion*, p. 154).

It seems as if all good Masons are told that they will go to the Celestial Lodge after they die.

For the Hindu or Muslim Mason who believes in this false hope instead of in the glorious promise of Jesus Christ, a frightful realization awaits them as they die in their hope of this Celestial destination without Him as Savior.

One could also suppose that even a “Christian” will be surprised if and when he has substituted Christ’s atonement for his own Masonic works in the hopes of achieving this “heavenly” home.

10. Intimate Secretary (6th Degree)

Page 31 – *“The Phoenician characters serve to remind us that the Master Hiram, though of a Jewish mother, was himself considered a Phoenician. He served a Phoenician king and presumably worshipped the Phoenician expression of the Deity.”*

Was this consideration a fact or an urban legend? He presumably worshipped? Let's stay focused on the facts instead of theories.

Page 32 – *“Although the Biblical account ends as above, the story is allegorically extended here to provide certain lessons.”*

In some ways, the Biblical account has been falsified. I don't see this as being beneficial. For instance, the Quran has altered Christ's crucifixion to the point that it never happened. The Quranic lesson - Allah would not allow a great prophet to die such a death.

Page 35 – *“Duty is the moral magnetism which controls and guides the true Mason's course over the tumultuous seas of life.”*

If Christ's Sermon on the Mount is your moral magnetism, then doesn't that mean that you are not a true Mason?

Page 36 – *“Above all remember that Masonry is the realm of peace, and that among Masons there must be no dissension.”*

In essence, Christians, Muslims, and Hindus must sacrifice their core religious beliefs to keep the peace. It seems as if Masonry is almost like the Bah'ai faith. Besides, isn't Jesus the realm of peace?

11. Provost and Judge (7th Degree)

Page 39 – *“The jewel is a gold key which unlocks the ebony box. This ebony box represents the human heart where the candidate is to lock up the secrets of the order ... in the human heart are deposited the secret designs and motives of our conducts by which we propose to erect the spiritual temple of our lives.”*

Does the Christian Mason then have two spiritual temples to deal with in their lives? One Masonic temple and the other temple (their body) where the Holy Ghost may reside?

“This key is especially emblematic of that justice and uprightness that alone can unlock for us the mysteries contained in the higher degrees and enable us to advance towards perfection.”

This seems to say that all Christians who do not participate in the degrees of Masonry cannot advance towards perfection.

Page 42 – *“Masonry does not seek to take the place of religion but, like religion, acknowledges a higher law than that of man.”*

But what do you do when Masonic teachings come into direct conflict with religious teachings?

Page 43 – *“[Masonry] teaches this great and momentous truth: that wrong and injustice once done cannot be undone.”*

While the effects may not be undone in all cases, the Bible teaches the sinner may have forgiveness and restoration with the person that was faulted.

Page 44 – *“Speak kindly of your erring brother! God pities him: Christ has died for him: Providence waits for him: Heaven’s mercy yearns toward him; and Heaven’s spirits are ready to welcome him back with joy.”*

Maybe Freemasonry will go a lot further and declare as its glorious and momentous truth that Jesus is the only name given under Heaven whereby we can be saved.

12. Intendant of the Building (8th Degree)

Page 47 – *“White, red and green, the chief symbolic colors of Scottish Rite Masonry, teach us to imitate the purity of morals and zeal for the service of Masonry which have made our deceased Master immortal in the recollection of men.”*

Christians do not need colors to teach us to imitate our living Master (Jesus Christ). We are made immortal through faith in Him.

Page 47 – *“The jewel is a delta of gold ... on the reverse the letters are Samaritan and stand for Achad, or our only God, chief and source of all.”*

Does Achad represent a false god or the true God (Jesus)?

Page 49 – *“Suspended in the East is a nine-pointed star. Here this symbol is especially representative of divine truth.”*

Jesus represents Divine Truth.

Page 50 – *“The candidate ... is told that to become an Intendant of the Building he must not only be charitable and benevolent, he must learn the knowledge of India, Medea, Chaldea and Egypt and the moral philosophy of Masonry.”*

Ever learning and never knowing ... this entire requirement to study mythology and philosophy leaves no time to study the Bible (the Word of God). It seems like Masonry is indeed trying to take the place of religion, contrary to what page 42 said.

“In the oration, we are told the province of Masonry is to teach a path to all forms of truth - moral, political, philosophical and religious.”

When have you ever seen Masonry teach that Jesus is not just a path to truth, but that He is the way, the truth, and the life?

Page 51 – *“... in the present [degree] you are taught charity and benevolence; ... to correct your own faults; and to endeavor to correct those of your brethren.”*

I wonder if the Masonic Lodge views a Muslim's lack of faith in the atonement of Christ as a religious fault. Since Masonry is said to teach a path to all forms of truth, does Masonry teach that Jesus was or was not crucified and resurrected bodily or does it ignore this topic because it is too controversial?

Page 52 – “... to give him [a member of the Masonic fellowship] prudent, honest and friendly counsel, are duties plainly written upon the pages of God's great code of law, and first among the ordinances of Masonry.”

I wonder if one of these Masonic duties would be for the Christian Mason to give friendly counsel to his Muslim Mason brother of the true salvation found only in Jesus Christ.

Page 53 – “A Masonic Lodge should resemble a bee-hive, in which all the members work together with ardor for the common good.”

Is there greater work than sharing the gospel and being charitable with your fellow man?

“[Masonry] teaches that man has high duties to perform, and a high destiny to fulfill ... the Present [life] is our scene of action, and the Future [life] for speculation and trust.”

But how can a Muslim Mason have trust in a future if he has rejected Christ?

13. Elu of the Nine (9th Degree)

Page 55 – *“The apron, an emblem of Masonry and Truth, is of white lambskin, lined and bordered in black.”*

Most of the aprons worn in Masonry are of lambskin. In their own words, the aprons symbolize Masonry and truth.

“Masonry moves like a star, dispensing light and knowledge and toleration.”

I wonder if Masons view Christianity as dispensing intolerance with Christ’s teaching that He is the way, the truth, and the life?

“The dagger is ... an emblem ... of the weapons of legitimate warfare ... and especially of the two-edged sword of truth with which every Mason should be armed.”

Should Christian Masons arm themselves with this two-edged sword when their two-edged sword is already the Bible (Hebrews 4:12)?

“The cordon is a broad, black watered ribbon, worn from the right shoulder to the left hip. The color of the cordon reminds us ever to lament the prevalence of ignorance, oppression and error.”

As we’ll see later, the number 7 was sacred because the ancients believed there were only 7 planets. Unfortunately, present day Masons still propagate this ignorance and error despite scientific discoveries.

Page 56 – *“Ignorance is the principal enemy of human freedom.”*

Can Jesus make one free as the Bible states (John 8:36) or is freedom found only in Masonry?

“The word Elu ... is a French word meaning elect. Elu was also a term used by the Gnostics. It defined someone who was in possession of the gnosis or divine knowledge acquired by revelation.”

Page 60 – *“Masonry is action. It is the patron of the oppressed, as it is the comforter and consoler of the unfortunate and wretched.”*

It seems like Masonry wants to take the credit for itself, where the Christian does this for the glory of God.

14. Elu of the Fifteen (10th Degree)

Page 63 – “... *those vices against which Masonry is particularly opposed: ignorance, tyranny, and fanaticism.*”

Unfortunately, there is much ignorance found even within the Masonic teachings and symbolism themselves. Take for instance the symbolism surrounding the number 7 and the belief of the Ancients in the 7 known planets.

I wonder if having an ardent faith in Jesus Christ would be considered a vice to Masonry.

On the flap of the apron worn in this degree, there are three gates. It should be worth noting that a similar if not exact-looking gate appears in a teaching manual published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It is used to instruct students that the Book of Mormon is the keystone of the Mormon faith (*Book of Mormon: Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual*, p. 1).

Page 64 – “... *swords drawn at a forty-five degree with the points touching over the altar are a symbol of brotherhood and unity of purpose.*”

This makes 8 swords, but you hear nothing about 8 representing something.

“As the candles are lit, each officer proclaims that as the light shines in the lodge, may the lights of freedom, religious and political toleration, education and intelligence illuminate the world.”

In simple terms, it is the Masonic light that will illuminate the world. It seems like the light of Christ is not the light of the Masonic Lodge.

Page 66 – “... *the square, an implement formed of two rigid pieces of metal at right angles to each other; it represents the merger of civil and religious power intending to control man’s emotions, telling him not only what he can do but also what he can believe.*”

The symbol of the square now represents something else.

Page 67 – *“Masonry is tolerant, even supportive, of the most diverse religious beliefs. Religion has often divided men, but Masonry reaffirms the brotherhood of man.”*

The religion of the Baha'is is also tolerant. It has basically stripped out the key teachings of what are held as the ultimate truth of some various religions so that Baha'is can all agree on common denominators.

“Masonry teaches, and has preserved in their purity, the cardinal tenets of the old primitive faith, which underlie and are the foundation of all religions ... Masonry is the universal morality, which is suitable to the inhabitants of every clime, to the man of every creed.”

It seems like Masonry does not view the Old and New Testament books as containing this pure truth.

Page 68 – *“No true Mason scoffs at honest convictions and an ardent zeal in the cause of what one believes to be truth and justice. But he does absolutely deny the right of any man to assume the prerogative of Deity, and condemn another's faith and opinions as deserving to be punished because heretical.”*

Can you believe this? In essence, Masonry insinuates that the Apostles were wrong for teaching that we will not be punished for believing and promoting heresy.

The Bible warns us to beware of those that preach another gospel and another Jesus (2 Corinthians 11:4; Galatians 1:6).

Page 69 – *“Liberality [holds] that as no human being can with certainty say, in the clash and conflict of hostile faiths and creeds, what is truth, or that he is surely in possession of it.”*

In essence, Masonry believes Jesus is in error to say He is the truth since this truth clashes with many other faiths and creeds.

I don't know about you, but I would believe Jesus over Masonry any day.

“No man is entitled positively to assert that he is right, where other men, equally intelligent and equally well-informed, hold directly the opposite opinion.”

In essence, Masonry believes Jesus is no more right than Muhammad.

15. Elu of the Twelve (11th Degree)

Page 71 – *“The Elu of the Twelve have been given the title of Prince Ameth or Prince of Truth, for Truth is sharper than any two-edged sword.”*

How can any Hindu, Muslim, or even Mormon Mason be considered a Prince of Truth if they reject the Bible as the inerrant Word of God?

Page 72 – *“Masonry is work.”*

This is similar to the Mormon teaching in the gospel of work (*Gospel Principles*, p. 184).

“The lodge represents the Audience Chamber of King Solomon. Twelve candles light the lodge, three arranged to form a triangle in each quarter of the room. This may be interpreted as a symbolic representation of the presence of Deity everywhere or as a statement that the work of Masonry ... should be evident in all spheres of a Mason’s life.”

Do you ever see any mention of an audience chamber in the temple that Solomon built?

Page 73 – *“Prior to the reception, the brethren assemble around the altar, swords drawn and placed at a forty-five degree angle with the points touching.”*

If you look at the diagram, you will see 12 swords (for the name of the degree - Elu of the Twelve) raised at a 45 degree angle to the altar with the points touching.

“The assassins [of the urban legend of Hiram’s murder] are the symbols of tyranny, ignorance and intolerance or fanaticism.”

It is unclear why the belief of the Ancients in the seven known planets of the time is now not regarded as ignorance too.

Page 74 – *“Fulfilling the duties of a Prince Ameth ... requires the Mason to view himself and the whole of the human race as one great family.”*

Jesus came to seek and to save the lost among this great Masonic family.

Page 75 – *“Life is a school ... and the entire course of the great school of life is an education for virtue, happiness, and a future existence.”*

Unfortunately, the teaching of the greatest lesson in life (as taught by the greatest teacher in John 3:16) is not a duty in Masonry in the Lodges throughout the world. What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world (with a self-centered life) but lose his soul?

Page 76 – *“He [the Mason] who imagines that he becomes a Mason by merely taking the first two or three Degrees ... without labor or exertion, or self-denial or sacrifice, and that there is nothing to be done in Masonry, is strangely deceived.”*

I think it would be safer to say that the Masonic hope for going to the Celestial Lodge is a stranger deception.

16. Master Architect (12th Degree)

Page 71 – *“The colors are to remind us of the degrees of the Symbolic Lodge, the foundation of Masonry.”*

We’ll learn a little about this foundation [Symbolic Lodge] later.

Page 80 – *“Wisdom enables immortality.”*

But doesn’t an ignorant person also have immortality?

“In the Symbolic Lodge, the circuits [around the altar] of the craftsmen at the installation of the officers symbolize the possession of the lodge by the new Master.”

“The crimson flames on the hangings represent the zeal and fervency required in the pursuit of wisdom from which a new man arises – becoming renewed in virtue.”

Is this different from the born-again experience (John 3:3) which does not require zeal and fervency to be present in a little child with simple faith in Christ?

Page 81 – *“The flames should also remind us that we have completed the earthly instruction of the Scottish Rite and will now advance from the realm of morality to that of true philosophy.”*

How can Masonry advance to true philosophy when it has never clearly defined the false philosophies?

“The night skies were important to the ancients, from whom many Masonic truths have been derived.”

But the ancients erroneously believed in only 7 planets and created symbolism around this number. How many Masonic “truths” are derived from this error?

“Venus is an emblem of the ever-approaching dawn of perfection and Masonic light.”

Obviously, this is not a Biblical teaching. Jesus is the source of perfection and light.

Page 82 – *“In a political sense the character of Hiram symbolizes the executive head of a free government.”*

It is fortunate that Masons are free to interpret for themselves the character of Hiram and other symbols.

“The slide rule prompts us to strive to grasp and solve the great problems in the universe and in our existence.”

How about we first start by solving the minor problems in our local neighborhood?

Page 83 – *“Contemplation and knowledge leads to the object of a Mason’s everlasting search: wisdom.”*

I thought the quest for the Mason is to find the Ineffable Name of Deity, or Lost Word (*Pillars of Wisdom*, p. 198).

Page 85 – *“If we could cut off from any soul all the principles taught by Masonry ... that soul would sink into sin, misery, darkness, and ruin.”*

What is the point here? The same could be said of any soul cut off from all the principles taught by Jesus Christ. Are the Masonic principles greater than those taught by Him?

“Believe that there is a God; that He is our father ... that He has given us powers, by means of which we may escape from sin and ruin.”

Where does Masonry teach how a Muslim or Hindu Mason can escape sin and ruin without professing faith in the redemptive work of Christ? Is this one great truth which Masonry does not teach in her lodges throughout the world?

“We must, of necessity, embrace the great truths taught by Masonry, and live by them, to live happily. ‘I put my trust in God’ is the protest of Masonry against the belief in a cruel, angry, and revengeful God, to be feared and not revered by His creatures.”

There are many poor people in the world who have never even heard of Masonry, and yet one could say they live more happily than Masons in their abundant lifestyles in North America. Also, the Bible says that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Psalms 111:10). It seems from the above that Masons protest against the idea of fearing God.

17. Royal Arch of Solomon (13th Degree)

Page 87 – *“The triangle is the emblem of Deity, or Infinite Wisdom, Infinite Power, and Infinite Harmony; the letter represents the Tetragrammaton, the Name of God made known to Moses.”*

God told Moses, “I AM hath sent thee.”

Freemasonry seems uncertain here.

According to *Pillars of Wisdom*, the triangle is also used to represent the “essence of man - the Principle of Life, the Intellectual Power, and the Soul, or the Divine within the Material (pp. 96-97). “The triangle also represents the Royal Secret of the Scottish Rite Mason - Equilibrium (ibid, p. 99). But earlier on page 23 of *A Bridge to Light*, the equilateral triangle is always a symbol of Deity.

“The good Mason reveres and adores the Grand Architect of the Universe, and endeavors ... to perform the part assigned to him in the world well and faithfully.”

Can a good Mason do all this but still reject Jesus Christ as the Grand Architect of Salvation? How can a good Mason even know the part assigned to him if he refuses to follow the quiet promptings of the Holy Ghost and to flee from false teachings and philosophies?

Page 88 – *“The older versions [of this degree] recount that the True Word was engraved on a triangular plate of gold which was cast into a dry well; but the new versions related that the True Word, also engraved on a golden plate, was deposited in a purposely prepared place to be found centuries later by three masters.”*

How similar this story is to the belief that the Mormon prophet found the Book of Mormon (believed to be the Word of God in Reformed Egyptian) engraved on [rectangular/square] golden plates and it was validated by three other witnesses.

Page 90 – *“In Freemasonry Enoch, therefore, has become a symbol of initiation and the acquisition of knowledge.”*

How many Masonic Enochs do you know which do not symbolize the Biblical Enoch by their rejection of Biblical truth?

“[The candidate’s] success reminds us that with the aid of light (a symbol of knowledge and wisdom) and by seeking ever deeper within ourselves, the true knowledge of Deity will be found.”

I don’t know about you, but the more I seek ever deeper within myself, the more I see that I am a hopeless sinner in need of Christ’s salvation. I do not see a divine nature with a potential to become God, but rather a sinful one in need of being born again. True knowledge and wisdom comes from God, not from seeking within ourselves.

“When the pedestal is uncovered, it brilliantly lights the room and the brethren behold the Ineffable Name of Deity. The masters who discovered the treasure represent the types of the true Mason who seek knowledge from pure motives.”

Apparently those Masons who do not progress through all the Degrees are regarded as types of false Masons because they are not seeking further Masonic knowledge.

Political lessons are given in the 4th-13th degrees.

Page 91 – *“If this is not entirely clear it is only because a greater understanding is reserved for higher degrees.”*

We’ll examine later what this greater “understanding” is. Unfortunately, the Masons at the lower levels need to progress further.

Page 92 – *“Pike believed that to seek knowledge when motivated by honor and duty is the practice of religion. There is also religion in toil ... in Masonry ... in the family and in nature ... To practice Honor and Duty is a Religion.”*

Seems like Freemasonry is a religion after all.

Page 93 – *“There is also a religion of society ... for there is sacred faith of man in man. When friends meet ... there is a religion between their hearts; and each loves and worships the True and Good that is in the other.”*

If you worship what is true and good in your Muslim or Hindu friend, what do you do with the untrue and the bad that is in him?

“Whatsoever a man soweth, that also he shall reap.”

Does this mean that all Masons will not go to the Celestial Lodge if they reject Jesus Christ as Savior?

18. Perfect Elu (14th Degree)

Page 95 – *“The five-pointed star, as a type of all stars, is representative of Masonic light. The five points also stand for the five points of fellowship.”*

If I am not mistaken, there are five pillars of Islam too. The five-pointed star is also found on Mormon Temples, maybe because the LDS prophet was a Mason. In Satanism, the five-pointed star is a sign of evil.

“The compasses remind us that ... the men of intellect and learning, the great kings of thought, are in this age the rulers of the world.”

This would probably explain why the rulers of the world today are in disarray when it comes to solving their problems ... they are not seeking the true God but rather vain philosophies.

“The star ... is an emblem of that Masonic Light in search of which every Mason travels – the correct knowledge of the Deity.”

Which light is the Muslim and Hindu Mason following if it leads him to reject the Bible as the inerrant Word of God?

“The brethren of this degree also wear white gloves, symbolic of purity.”

Pike believed that Jesus’ teachings were perverted and corrupted. It is in Masonry that they are said to be taught in their purity (*Pillars of Wisdom*, p. 241, *Morals and Dogma*, p. 310). It doesn’t appear from the Masonic perspective that Christ’s teachings are taught in their purity in His Church throughout the world.

Page 96 – *“If perfection is not attainable, for what does the Mason strive?”*

This is a self-defeating statement about Masonry when you carefully examine it. Perfection is not attainable in Masonry for only Jesus provides it (Hebrews 10:14).

Page 97 – *“Enoch receives a prophetic vision directing him to build his crypt and deposit the sacred treasure therein.”*

This is another urban Masonic legend.

There are several similarities of the Enoch legend that seem to parallel the life and events of Mormonism's founder Joseph Smith.

Page 98 – *“All the world’s messiahs have sought to unify the spiritual and earthly qualities of man, providing a model of perfection. This is the perfection taught in Masonry; living this life to the fullest while preparing for the next.”*

Jesus Christ is the only Messiah. All other so-called “messiahs” are thieves and robbers (John 10:1). Only Jesus leads to perfection. Masons preparing for the next life while rejecting Jesus as Savior in this life are on the road to eternal loss unfortunately.

Page 99 – *“We may see their presence [the columns] in the Scottish Rite degrees as a reminder of the sacred character of the teachings of Masonry. They also remind us of the presence of the Deity in places other than temples such as the secret vault which is represented by the Lodge.”*

The Lodge represents a secret vault? Since when was Jehovah ever present in a temple other than the one in Jerusalem? And how is God even present in the Lodge when Christ is not glorified there?

Page 101 – *“Several degrees in the various Rites of Masonry require the candidates to spend a little time in quiet and solitude. In the Ancient Mysteries, the aspirant was always shrouded in darkness as a preparatory step to the reception of the full light of knowledge.”*

Page 102 – *“The periods of darkness in Masonry are shortened considerably and symbolize a state of preparation, of non-existence before birth and of ignorance before the reception of knowledge.”*

Is the Mason who passes beyond this degree considered wise or ignorant for knowingly rejecting the salvation Jesus offers?

“In an act reminiscent of the ancient Hebrew, Indian, and Persian sacrifice of bread and wine, the brethren partake of the bread and wine from the Table of the Bread of the Presence.”

Should a born-again Christian risk partaking in this heathen practice when the bread and wine represents the New Covenant?

“The ceremonial sharing of bread and wine are a symbol of the perfection of the candidate, of his bond with the Masonic fraternity and of the secrecy demanded from the Perfect Elu.”

This is quite different from the Biblical meaning.

“Along with the apron, cordon and jewel, the candidate also becomes eligible to receive the 14th Degree ring ... similar votive given to the candidate passing through the Gothic Mysteries where it represented divine protection.”

Page 103 – *“The ring as a symbol of the marriage vow leads one to reflect on the covenant of the Mason and the Fraternity.”*

It is unclear if this Masonic matrimonial vow supercedes that of a Christian to Christ (He being the bridegroom and His church being the bride).

“The Mason does not pretend to dogmatic certainty, nor vainly imagine such certainty attainable.”

But aren't Masons dogmatic in their belief in one God and the brotherhood of man?

“As to our feelings towards God and our conduct toward man, Masonry teaches little about which men can differ, and little from which they can dissent.”

This actually sounds like a negative aspect of Masonry. Despite its claim to want to search for the truth, Jesus' statement to be “the way, the truth, and the life” is ignored; His most important teachings are not taught in the Lodge because it would cause dissension.

Page 104 – *“Every man sent into this world possesses some portion of God's Truth which he must proclaim.”*

So why don't all Mason's proclaim God's Truth that “he that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God, hath not life” (1 John 5:12)?

Page 106 – *“[Masonry] is the Hercules ... at everlasting and deadly feud with the demons of ignorance ... falsehood ... and superstition.”*

But wouldn't some consider many of the Masonic “truths” and “philosophies” as ignorance, falsehood, and superstition? If yes, then Masonry is at feud with itself.

Page 107 – *“Masonry is a continual struggle toward the light.”*

But not the Light of the world that is Jesus Christ.

19. Knight of the East (15th Degree)

Page 116 – *“The velvet signifies that the honors of Masonry are more precious than the gift of kings.”*

It is unclear if a Christian-Mason would consider the honors of Masonry more precious than serving Christ or a Muslim-Mason more precious than serving Allah.

“Green ... represents here the immortality of the human soul and even of Masonry itself.”

Masonry is said to be immortal.

Page 118 – *“Rebuild the Masonic temple of liberty, equality and fraternity in the souls of men and of nations.”*

But the Christian’s body is the temple where the Holy Ghost resides in. It seems He is competing with the Masonic temple.

Page 119 – *“Above the altar is a transparency of a blazing five-pointed star with rays of red and green. Green is emblematic here of the immortality of Masonry and of the hope that someday Masonic truth will be universal. Red should remind us that the honors of Masonry are more precious than the gifts of kings ... and heralds a new day of hope.”*

The truth of Jesus Christ, and not Masonry, will some day be universal. This truth, and not Masonry, heralds a new day of hope every day a new believer is added to the body of Christ - His church.

Page 121 – *“The passage over the bridge should remind us of the ... struggle for a people from ... spiritual bondage to spiritual liberty.”*

The Masonic bridge does not lead to spiritual liberty because its bridge does not lead to Christ.

Page 122 – *“National and well-regulated liberty and the state of peace and toleration ... will make the earth a fit place to dwell.”*

Only the Prince of Peace will make the earth a fit place to dwell.

“To rebuild the Masonic Temple ... in the souls of men ...the true Mason must be possessed of fidelity, constancy and perseverance.”

Just how many temples should be in the soul of a Christian?

Page 123 – *“Masonry is engaged in her crusade against ignorance, intolerance ... superstition ... and error.”*

How engaged is Masonry against the superstition of the Hindu religion, the intolerance of the Hindu caste system, and the error of the Hindu belief in reincarnation? How engaged is Masonry in the crusade against the Islamic error that Jesus was not crucified on the cross?

“Let us remember that the only question for us to ask, as true men and Masons, is, what does duty require; and not what will be the result of our reward if we do our duty.”

Wouldn't it be more appropriate if the only question asked by Masons would be, “What will you do with Jesus Christ who died for you?”

20. Prince of Jerusalem (16th Degree)

Page 125 – *“The square and triangle are the appropriate emblems of your Masonic character.”*

But let us consider some other teachings: “The square reminds us to square our actions by the square of virtue” (*Is It True What They Say About Freemasonry?*, p. 109). “The square is an emblem of perfection (*Pillars of Wisdom*, p. 235). “The triangle is also the symbol of the Deity” (ibid, p. 99).

Page 126 – *“Build Temples of the Living God in our Hearts by following Masonic Truth – justice, equity, morality, wisdom, labor, fidelity, brotherhood – to achieve immortality.”*

First, how can you build the temple of the living God in your heart when you reject Jesus Christ as the only Savior of the world? Second, it seems like Masonry is now teaching that non-Masons will not be immortal after they die. Third, how can you achieve something when it is only the gift of God that grants it?

How many Muslim and Hindu Masons are trying to achieve immortality or eternal life while rejecting Jesus Christ at the same time?

Page 129 – *“The trials of the Hebrew people – the result of the destruction of the Temple of Liberty – occurred because the people lost the True Word, not a word but a concept, and ceased to revere the true God.”*

This is why Jesus established the New Covenant ... the covenant which Masons do not honor within the lodge. This is the glorious truth which the Masonic Lodges are not proclaiming to a dying world.

Page 130 – *“In Morals and Dogma, Pike asserts ‘the whole world is God’s Temple, as is every upright heart.’ The pursuit of Masonry is to build the Symbolic Temple all over the world.”*

God’s Temple is not found in people who reject Jesus Christ as Savior. Christians should not be involved in building these Masonic Symbolic Temples. They should be involved in prayer and preaching the gospel to a dying world and then letting God do the rest in the hearts and minds of new believers. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Ghost.

Page 131 – *“Soldier of Truth, every good Mason must ...unflinching follow the route with Truth indicates to every loyal man.”*

Truth is relative in Masonry. Its truth leads men into sometimes opposite directions because one man's truth is another man's falsehood.

21. Knight of the East and West (17th Degree)

Page 133 – *“These two colors [gold and silver] are emblems of the sun and moon, themselves symbols of the Egyptian deities Osiris and Isis, who represent the generative and productive powers of nature, illustrated in Masonic symbolism by the columns Jachin and Boaz as the active and passive forces manifested in nature.”*

As we’ll find out later, the compass and square are also illustrative of the active and passive forces (the male and female principles).

Page 134 – *“The fundamental idea in the Apocalypse is that the East will one day dominate the whole of the world again and the final victory will be Israel’s.”*

Wrong. The east will not dominate the world again. The final victory will be God’s.

“The document predicts an awaiting catastrophe for the world, the Second Coming of Christ and the glorious future that awaits mankind after the last decisive conflict.”

There is no glorious future for those who reject Jesus Christ.

Plus, if Masonry really believes in an awaiting catastrophe for the world, it sure is being silent about it.

Page 135 – *“Since light is a symbol of knowledge, the seven colors represent the seven liberal arts and sciences illustrated in the Fellowcraft Degree - grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy.”*

These are the seven pillars on the front cover of *Pillars of Wisdom*.

“The Master represents John the Baptist.”

There is another Masonic urban legend that John was a member of the Essenes. His converts were only admitted upon passing a set of somber initiations, and they were supposed to keep the secrets of this society.

Page 136 – *“Scholars believe purification by water and fire was an integral part of the Essenes’ initiation ceremonies. This degree symbolically enacts this ancient custom the*

candidate with the spirit (water) and with fire; this is a reference from Matthew 3:10-11. His axe is prepared for the trees; and every tree that beareth not good fruit will be cut down, and cast into the fire”

Masons have taken this out of context. John’s baptism was unto repentance. There was no ancient custom of baptizing the candidate with the Holy Ghost and with fire ... this was God’s function. Masonry does not indicate what it means to bear good fruit or being cast into fire.

Page 137 – *“Since Masonry is a fraternity of men of many faiths, it does not criticize any faith. Each candidate is expected to reserve unto himself the tenets and teachings of his faith, and, most importantly, to live them.”*

This is the primary danger of Masonry. It expects its Hindu and Muslim members to keep believing their faith’s teachings which at the core oppose the teachings of Christ.

If it doesn’t criticize any faith, then how can it lead all Masons to hope for a place called the Celestial Lodge?

The meaning of the symbols used in this degree has been altered to have different ones than found in Revelation chapter 6.

Page 139 – *“... the Truth separated from Error, Masonry has garnered up in her heart of hearts ... universally-acknowledged truths ... which have in all ages been the Light by which Masons have been guided on their way.”*

Unfortunately as we have seen thus far, there is still much error.

“Ultimately, Good will prevail, and Evil be overthrown. God alone can do this and He will do it, by an Emanation from Himself, assuming the Human form and redeeming the world.”

It is unclear why the future tense (‘will do,’ ‘can do’) is being used. God has already assumed the human form (in Jesus) and He has redeemed the world through the cross. I hope Masonry is not promoting a future pagan god-incarnated human other than the God-man (Jesus) we already know.

22. Knight Rose Croix (18th Degree)

Page 142 – *“Since the eagle also represented the great Egyptian Sun god Amun-ra, it is a symbol of the infinite Supreme or Intelligence.”*

I would not want to equate Egypt’s Ra with Jehovah.

“The cross ... is an emblem of space or infinity ... it [the rose] represents resurrection and the renewal of life, and therefore immortality. Together the cross and the rose symbolize immortality won by suffering and sorrow.”

Even though Presidents of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were Masons, the symbol of the cross has not made its way into the Mormon temples.

I wonder if Masons would consider the millions of aborted fetuses as winning immortality when they had no suffering and sorrow.

Page 143 – *“We should hope in the victory over evil, the advancement of humanity, and a hereafter.”*

There is a sample prayer that reflects this Masonic hope of the afterlife for those members who have either rejected or accepted Christ:

“My Brethren, the roll of the workmen has been called, and one Master Mason has not answered to his name.

He has laid down the working tools of the Craft and with them he has left that mortal part for which he no longer has use.

His labors here below have taught him to divest his heart and conscience of the vices and superfluities of life, thereby fitting his mind as a living stone for that spiritual building -- that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

*Strengthened in his labors here by faith in God, and confident of expectation of immortality, he has sought admission to the Celestial Lodge above.
Amen.”*

Let’s go back in time a little to examine some previous degrees of Freemasonry.

Entered Apprentice Degree - in that degree, they discuss the covering of a Lodge and the following words are spoken: *“The covering of a Lodge is a clouded canopy, or star-decked heaven, where all good Masons hope at last to arrive.”*

All ‘good’ Hindu and Muslim Masons are given a false hope that they too will go to this heaven.

A portion of the Master Mason ritual deals with the three steps. The following words are spoken: *“As Fellow Crafts, we should apply our knowledge to the discharge of our respective duties, to God, our neighbors and ourselves, so that in age, as Master Masons, we may enjoy the happy reflections consequent on a well-spent life, and die in the hope of a glorious immortality.”*

It is unclear how Christ-rejecting Hindu and Muslim Masons will die in the hope of a glorious immortality. Masonry is teaching a gospel of salvation which does not require faith in Jesus Christ

A prayer is offered by the Worshipful Master during the ritual of the Master Mason Degree in the portion known as the Legend of the Third Degree. The prayer occurs just before Hiram Abiff is raised from the dead. *“Yet, O Lord! have compassion on the children of Thy creation, administer them comfort in time of trouble, and save them with an everlasting salvation. Amen.”*

At the close of the Legend of the Third Degree, the Senior Warden speaks these words: *“Then, finally my brethren, let us imitate our Grand Master, Hiram Abiff, in his virtuous conduct, his unfeigned piety to God, and his inflexible fidelity to his trust; that, like him, we may welcome the grim tyrant, Death, and receive him as a kind messenger sent by our Supreme Grand Master to translate us from this imperfect to that all-perfect, glorious and celestial Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides.”*

This is the danger.

Masonry is teaching that Masons are saved men. The ritual teaches all good Master Masons hope to go to heaven. It even teaches that as a group, these Masters may die in the hope of a glorious immortality and may welcome the grim tyrant death as a type of messenger sent by their ‘god’ to bring them to the Celestial Lodge above.

The Christian is thus dulled into believing that the Lodge is a Christian-friendly organization. But the Christians fail to see this in the context of a larger scheme. There are many non-Christians involved in Masonry and they are given a false sense of hope. Hindus and Muslims all reject Jesus Christ as the unique Son of God and Savior.

Page 143 – *“This degree [the 18th] sets forth the coming of the New Law, the Law of Love, proclaimed in unmistakable terms by Jesus of Nazareth ... The supreme message at that time was the proclamation of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man.”*

This is not correct.

The supreme message at the time of Christ was that “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.” Whomever believed in Him would be saved. (John 3:16).

Page 144 – *“The instructions on the concept of a messiah are suggestive only and are not to be taken as official doctrine or dogma of Freemasonry in general ... the religious test of Masonry is far too universal to admit of such a demand.”*

The truth that Jesus is the one and only Messiah is not espoused by Freemasonry.

“The Lost Word, one recalls, is representative of many things – the loss of reason, intellect and the moral sense and the loss of a true conception of Deity. The candidate is asked if he will join the others who have labored in vain both day and night in the search of the Lost Word.”

Not even Christians will ever know the true conception of Deity before the resurrection. Maybe afterwards, but this is only speculation. Jesus did not tell his disciples to get this knowledge in our mortal state. We are much lower than His ways and His thoughts to even come close to this realization.

Page 146 – *“The hope of immortality is the beginning of religion.”*

It seems therefore that Masonry is the beginning of religion for it teaches this hope, albeit a false one to her members.

“Whether one chooses to accept the concept of evil ... as a personified principle of evil, such as Satan ... Masonry makes no judgment.”

It seems as if Masonry has a hard time coming to grips with Christ’s teachings about Satan.

Page 150 – *“Hope is said to represent strength, to which we may attach the teaching of the immortality of the soul, perhaps the supreme hope of mankind.”*

Those without Christ are without hope in this world (Ephesians 2:12).

“Charity is said to signify wisdom, embodied here in the teaching of the concept of a redeemer which, of whatever religion, is the ultimate manifestation of God’s love for man.”

Despite referring to the term Masonic Light, Masonry does not promote the truth that Jesus is the ultimate manifestation of God’s love for man (John 3:16). How sad. Despite its duty to lead men to the truth, Masonry does not lead its Hindu and Muslim members to the truth that Jesus is the only Redeemer.

“We must not lose sight of those truly Masonic virtues – brotherly love, relief and truth – taught us in the Symbolic Lodge.”

The key truth about Jesus Christ as mentioned in the Bible is not taught Masons in their “Symbolic Lodge.”

Page 151 – *“We should apply Pike’s injunction that a man is not fully invested with a degree until he had read its lecture in Morals and Dogma.”*

This is similar to another teaching on page 159 – *“The importance of attending the Reunions and reading the lectures in Morals and Dogma must be stressed.”*

These are strange words to say considering many things in *Morals and Dogma* are based on errors and superstition.

“No one Mason has the right to measure for another, within the walls of a Masonic Temple, the degree of veneration which he shall feel for any Reformer, or the Founder of any Religion.”

In essence, the Christian Mason does not have the freedom to tell his Muslim brother that Muhammad’s teachings do not lead one to God. The Christian must do so outside the Masonic Temple.

“Masonry ... invites all men of all religions to enlist under her banners to war against evil, ignorance, and wrong.”

This is easy for them to say, but where are the actions? As we have seen thus far, there is error and pure speculation in Masonic teachings. Besides, where do you see Masonry doing anything against the intolerant Hindu caste system in India?

Page 152 – *“... at the appointed time, He will redeem and regenerate the world.”*

How many Hindus and Muslims do you know that believe Jesus is the Redeemer? Or is a generic “God” the context here for Masons?

Page 153 – *“[God is] ... a Father, loved the creatures He has made, with a love immeasurable and exhaustless.”*

But Masonry stops here and does not teach Jesus is the greatest manifestation of God’s love for His creation.

“Charity – of a Redeemer ... Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend [John 15:13].”

It is unclear here if Masonry is teaching in Jesus as one of many redeemers. Maybe other Masons who sacrifice their lives for others could also be considered redeemers too? For the redemption of mankind, Jesus is the Redeemer.

“He [Jesus] should be to all, to Christian, to Jew, and to Mahometan, an object of gratitude and veneration.”

But according to Masonry, Jesus should not be worshipped by all. This worship they have relegated to some unknown and generic God.

Recount the teachings of Paul the Apostle on Mars Hill (Acts 17:22-33). The people had erected an altar to an unknown God. In response to this unknown God whom they worshipped ignorantly, Paul declared the true God and the message of Jesus Christ.

“All men are our brothers ... their opinions to tolerate ... we best serve God by humility, meekness, kindness, and the other virtues which the lowly can practice as well as the lofty; this is the new Law, the Word.”

When it comes to comparing teachings between the Quran, Bible, and the Vedas, we should never tolerate error or untruths. Unity at the expense of truth equals treason.

23. Pontiff (19th Degree)

Page 161 – *“It [the colors of the cordon that is worn] teaches us that the zeal and ardor of a Grand Pontiff ought to be set of by the greatest purity of morals, perfect charity and beneficence.”*

It is unclear how many Grand Pontiffs there are in Masonry. The Greek letters, Alpha and Omega, are embroidered where the cordon crosses the breast.

According to the Bible, Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega.

“In this degree there is also a fillet, or head band, of blue with twelve stars ... it is the peculiar emblem of a Grand Pontiff because the slightest contact with the earth will soil its spotless purity. Similarly, the least indiscretion will soil the exalted character which you have voluntarily assumed.”

It is unclear how each Grand Pontiff ever could assume an exalted character. Wouldn't sin be a better word to use instead of indiscretion?

“They [the first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet on the jewel] should remind us of the love and veneration we owe to that Great Being, the source of all existence, the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last.”

But Jesus is that Great Being, the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last!

How many Masons would reject this teaching?

Page 162 – *“Destroy error, falsehood and intolerance with truth, honesty, honor and charity.”*

But how could Masonry be used to destroy these qualities in herself?

“If lived properly, this life is a bridge to eternal life.”

This Masonic teaching is not correct. Jesus is the way to eternal life.

“Do you live your life so that it is a bridge to immortality?”

This is confusing. Don't non-Masons or even those of no religious faith have immortality already because it is believed that the soul cannot die?

Why the color blue on the head bands of all the Grand Pontiffs?

Page 163 – “... to remind us of the exalted character of a pontiff assumed by the candidate ... blue is the color of the vault of heaven.”

It would appear that even Christ-rejecting Muslim and Hindu Masons can assume an exalted character.

“New Jerusalem is a city of golden buildings, without a temple ... the presence and light of Deity will be everywhere.”

The Lamb (Jesus) is the light thereof (Revelation 21:23).

“In the Book of Revelation only 12,000 of each of the tribes of Israel are saved from destruction (7:4-8). The chosen of the tribes of Israel represent the most righteous of the human race.”

These are Israelites, not Masons.

Page 164 – “... truths taught by Masonry. Following is a selection of these great ideas.”

Let's examine some of the great Masonic ideas:

“Peace shall be the universal law for all the children of a common Father.”

How can a Hindu or Muslim Mason have peace without the Prince of Peace?

“We are all blind; but when the divine light comes, we shall see and know.”

It seems that only Masons have access to this divine light, while non-Mason Christians are blind even with Jesus as their Savior.

“Our captivity by sin and sorrow are the means from God to purify the heart and ennoble the soul.”

But the atonement of Jesus Christ is the means to purify us.

“The Great God made all and loves all.”

But Jesus is the Great God, or Great Being referred to back on page 161 of *A Bridge to Light*.

“The true God is kind, indulgent, loving, forgiving, a benefactor, a friend and a father.”

But all Masons do not accept Jesus as the true God.

“Believe that all death is new life ... wait patiently for the fulfillment of God’s promises.”

But all Masons do not accept God’s promise of Jesus Christ. We are made close to God through the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:13).

This is the conclusion of the “great ideas” portion of the degree.

“The Spirit of Evil derides the human condition and philosophical pursuits ... If accepted, the fatalist philosophy he [Evil] represents extinguishes hope from the heart of man. The Spirit of Masonry rebuts the Spirit of Evil with the Spirits of Immortality who call upon ... tolerance, intelligence, truth ... to dispel the Spirits of darkness, intolerance, ignorance, and superstition.”

But what do you do when the Spirit of Masonry contains errors to actually aid the Spirit of Evil?

Page 165 – *“Upon awakening [from a symbolic deep sleep], the Pontiff leads all in prayer imploring God’s aid in the battle against evil.”*

Hindu, Muslim, and even Christian Masons who reject Jesus Christ as Savior are in no position to battle against evil.

“Thus, the candidate becomes a Pontiff ... A man’s actions are a bridge to his own immortality and to the future of mankind. Masonry, too, is a bridge builder because it teaches the great truths of the past for the future.”

Each initiate to this degree becomes a Pontiff. Masonry does not teach all the great truths of the Bible.

“In the final act, the newly initiated Pontiff symbolically destroys error, falsehood and intolerance with truth, honesty, honor and charity.”

But a Masonic Pontiff remains in error if he rejects the key truths of the Bible.

Page 166 – *“In his influences that survive him, man becomes immortal, before the general resurrection.”*

Unfortunately, Masonry does not warn its members of what may happen after the resurrection as Jesus did.

24. Master of the Symbolic Lodge (20th Degree)

Page 170 – *“Truth, justice and toleration are indispensable qualities for a Master of the Lodge.”*

Unfortunately, we have found many errors in this Symbolic Lodge thus far.

Page 171 – *“The square is a symbol of the earth, the terrestrial or earthly.”*

We find out later why the compass is over top the square.

Page 172 – *“The practice of the twenty-nine Masonic virtues is the path to perfection of both the earthly and the spiritual nature of man. A Master of the Symbolic Lodge is a leader and a teacher.”*

To the Christian, Jesus is the path to perfection. But when the Master of the Symbolic Lodge is blind, won't the blind lead those who follow him into a ditch?

“On the triangles they are: gratitude to God, love of mankind and confidence in human nature.”

We should not have confidence in human nature because the natural part of man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 2:14).

Who is the Mason's Master?

Page 175 – *“Have you seen your Master today?”*

“I have”

“How is he clothed?”

“In blue and gold.”

If you look on page 171, blue signifies fraternity and gold, the Deity. Seems like the Master is a Deity.

“Thoth is their equivalent of the Grecian Hermes and the Roman Mercury, the true Grand Master of All Symbolic Lodges.”

Thoth (a mythical god) is the Deity of all Symbolic Lodges. This is referenced in another teaching by Albert Pike:

“From the earliest Masonic manuscripts we see Hermes represented as the ideal of the Master of the Lodge and in some traditions is even said to be the founder of Masonry.”

Scary isn't it?

“The Master, clothed in blue and gold, of the Masons of a century and a half ago [1710], was Hermes; and Hermes and Mercury were the same. He is the Master of the Lodge, associated with the Sun and Moon.”

It is unclear which mythical god is the Master of the Masons today.

25. Noachie, or Prussian Knight (21st Degree)

Page 178 – *“Be humble and modest, trusting in God.”*

But Hindu and Muslim Masons do not trust Jesus Christ for salvation.

Page 182 – *“Be not wiser in your own opinion than the Deity, nor find fault with His works, nor improve upon what He has done.”*

But doesn't it appear that Masonry believes that she, instead of the teachings contained in the Bible, can bring light and hope to the world?

If you are a Mason, have you ever said something along these lines?: “I'm lost in darkness, I'm lost in darkness. I need the light of Freemasonry.” It is unclear how a Christian who has saving faith in Jesus could be considered lost in darkness.

26. Prince of Libanus (22nd Degree)

Page 185 – “... a serpent with three heads ... denoting drunkenness, impurity and gaming.”

When have you ever heard about Masonry doing anything about alcohol-producing companies, pornography, and gambling-related companies?

“Troops armed with this weapon [an axe] have conquered barbarism.”

It is unclear if Indians using axes against the Cowboys were seen as barbaric acts.

“The axe is nobler than the sword. Masonry hews at those mighty trees, intolerance, bigotry, superstition ... thereby letting in the light of truth and reason upon the human mind, which these vices have darkened for centuries.”

The Word of God is sharper than a two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12). It is unfortunate that Masonry does not view religious deception as one of these trees to be hewn down.

Page 187 – *“In the symbolism of the ancients, and as often seen in Masonry, the tree (not necessarily the cedar) takes on special significance ... all bring to mind positive images of consistency, growth ... generative processes ... and immortality.”*

Later we see how the compass and the square also take on significance in the active and passive principle.

Page 188 – *“The hewers on the mountains illustrate that the endeavors of Masonry extend far beyond the door of the lodge.”*

Unfortunately, some of her teachings make their way into Christian churches too. I wonder how much the theme of “tolerance” has watered down the Christian’s impulse to preach the gospel to his Hindu or Muslim brother.

“Those who find their Masonic vocation elsewhere deserve the same respect as those who stay at home and even seek the Oriental Chair. Whether hewers on the mountains or in the quarries, we must never lose sight of the truly Masonic edifice that we must first

construct in our heart, that house not made with hands, spoken by St. Paul (2 Corinthians 5:1)."

It seems like there is something lacking in a Christian vocation that the Masonic one will make complete.

"Orient" is derived from the Latin "Oriens," meaning "rising." Since the sun rises in the east to open and rule the day and in Freemasonry the Worshipful Master's station is in the east to open and rule his lodge, his chair is referred to as the "oriental chair."

It is unclear how one can stay at home and seek this Oriental Chair.

The "truly Masonic edifice" seems to be a reference to the Symbolic Lodge that was discussed earlier. Unfortunately, the Masonic context for using Paul's teaching is incorrect. The body is the temple where the Holy Spirit can reside. The Holy Ghost only resides in born-again believers.

Page 189 – *"In Morals and Dogma, we are taught that work is the mission of man – not a curse, but the fulfillment of life's purposes."*

But wasn't work a punishment for Adam's disobedience in the Garden of Eden?

"Work; and therein having well-being, is the oldest of Gospels."

But doesn't "gospel" mean good news? Wouldn't Adam being expelled from the Garden of Eden for disobedience then be good instead of bad according to Masonry?

Page 190 – *"Masonry seeks to ennoble common life ... what is done, and borne, and wrought, and won there, is a higher glory and shall inherit a brighter crown."*

Masonry gives to Hindus and Muslims a false hope for a future glory after death.

27. Chief of the Tabernacle (23rd Degree)

Page 193 – *“The candelabrum symbolizes to us, as to the ancients, the seven planets: the sun, the moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn.”*

This error is still propagated today. It is unclear when the symbolism will change to reflect the correct number of planets.

“It should remind us to offer up unceasingly to God the incense of good deeds and charitable actions dictated by a pure and upright heart.”

Do a good deed now and believe Jesus is the propitiation for your sins

Page 194 – *“Be devoted to the service of God.”*

How can you be devoted to God and reject Jesus as Savior at the same time?

“Simple faith is wiser than vain philosophy.”

How much of Masonry’s philosophy is vain, if for one example part of her symbolism revolves around the error of there being seven planets?

Page 197 – *“The candidate, while in profound darkness ... hears the fate of Korah, Dathan, and Abairam - they were swallowed up by the earth ... This is a simple lesson on learning subordination to superiors. The God of this story is vengeful and merciless.”*

The God of the Old Testament is the same God of the New Testament.

“The candidate is warned to approach the Mysteries with sincerity to serve God and his fellow man and with a pure heart; that is, having repented of his sins.”

How can a Hindu or Muslim Mason repent of his sins while rejecting Jesus Christ as Savior?

Page 199 – *“He [Pythagoras] taught ... the necessity of personal holiness to qualify a man into the Society of Gods.”*

This is against the teachings of Jesus Christ and his disciples.

28. Prince of the Tabernacle (24th Degree)

Page 201 – “... *the Pentagram, or Five-Pointed Star ... is a sign of intellectual omnipotence and autocracy.*”

Page 202 – “*There is one, true God, who is pure, absolute intellect and existence.*”

Is Jesus this one true God of Masonry or not? Besides, Latter-day Saints and other religious groups believe in the existence of more Gods than just one.

Page 203 – “*Through the character of Caleb, we are reminded of the acceptance of all good men into Masonry and of its universality.*”

It is unclear if atheists are considered bad men because they are not accepted into Masonry.

Page 204 – “*Initiation is a process intended to develop in the candidate those human qualities which are part of the Divine.*”

It doesn't appear that a Christian who does not join Masonry goes through this process.

“*Water should remind us ... that only the pure in heart can enter the Tabernacle in heaven and that reformation and repentance wash away sin.*”

This seems like confusing double-speak. Does Jesus wash away sin through His atonement or are Hindu and Muslim Masons given a false hope that they too can enter this tabernacle in heaven?

Page 205 – “*In the Tabernacle the brethren clothed in black, mourn Osiris, who is representative of the sun, of light, of life ... Attempts are made to bring life to the dead Osiris with the grip of the Apprentice, a symbol of science, and with the grip of the Fellowcraft, a symbol of logic.*”

Let's leave the dead pagan god remain dead. It's a blessing to know Jesus was resurrected without these man-made grips.

Page 206 – “... *the new Prince of the Tabernacle ... to be further instructed and prepared to fulfill all his duties ... so that he may be raised on the day of account to the Tabernacle of Eternity.*”

Through their duties, Hindu and Muslim Masons who have reached this point are given a hope of reaching this “Celestial Lodge,” as was previously discussed.

Page 207 – “*The object of all the Mysteries was to inspire men with ... the hope of a happier future, and of passing, after death, to a state of eternal felicity.*”

The object of Masonry is to give its members, both Christ-believing and Christ-rejecting, a happier prospect for life after death.

Page 208 – “*By initiation, those ... become brothers, connected by a closer bond than before, by means of a religious fraternity. Initiation dissipated errors ... gave him the most blissful hopes at the moment of death.*”

It seems Masonry does not believe faith in Christ provides the most blissful hope.

“The Initiate could aspire to the favors of the Gods, only because and while he respected the rights of society and those of humanity.”

How many Gods are there again? One true God or many Gods?

Page 209 – “*In the Mysteries was also taught ... an Active and a Passive cause; ... These two Divinities, the Active and Passive Principles of the Universe, were commonly symbolized by the generative parts of man and woman; to which, in remote ages, no idea of indecency was attached ... the Union of the two great Causes of Nature, which concur, one actively and the other passively, in the generation of all beings.*”

As we find out in the 32nd Degree, the compass represents the male (active) Deity and the square represents the female (passive) Deity. It would seem that the letter G between these two symbols represents the product, or offspring, of this union.

The symbols of the male and female reproductive organs have been replaced in our modern era with other philosophical symbols in Masonry. That would explain why the square is shown as being under the compass.

Page 210 – “*The Soul, whose home is in Heaven, ever turns toward that home ... Teaching this, the Mysteries strove to recall man to his divine origin.*”

It seems that Masonry believes all souls can return to Heaven without accepting the atonement of Christ.

29. Knight of the Brazen Serpent (25th Degree)

Page 214 – *“For Reflection: Is it possible to find your way to Heaven alone?”*

How about another question for Freemasons to reflect on: is it possible to find your way to Heaven while rejecting what Jesus did for you on the cross?

Page 215 – *“The candidate seeks initiation into the Druse system that he might become an Akal, a disciple of the Order of Truth.”*

Why would a Christian want to go through the symbolism of being initiated into an Islamic sect?

Page 216 – *“There is no god but God; and the teachers of the Truth are His Prophets.”*

Jesus taught truth which Muhammad rejected.

Page 220 – *“When cultivated properly, the voice of God may be heard in the human mind and heart.”*

It is unclear why Masonry believes this is possible without the aid of the Holy Ghost.

Page 221 – *“... the purpose of the initiations was to purify the soul and impart to man hope for a future life.”*

Jesus, and not Masonic initiations, is the hope for a future life.

Page 225 – *“Let not our objects as Masons fall below theirs [the ancients]. We use the symbols which they used; and teach the same great cardinal doctrines that they taught.”*

30. Prince of Mercy (26th Degree)

Page 228 – *“The trinity of Deity belongs to no single religion. The truths of Masonry are contained within the religions of the world.”*

But isn't the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost the true trinity of Deity? The key truth about Jesus Christ is not found within the non-Christian religions of the world.

“History informs us that the early Christians also disseminated their great truths through initiation in stages or degrees. They were forced to hold meetings and initiations in private places surrounded by great secrecy. We know that the labyrinth of catacombs under Rome provided a place for conveying these Christian Mysteries to the worthy.”

The author of *A Bridge To Light* needs to consider that Christians met in secrecy for fear of losing their lives, not to initiate the worthy. Besides, can you imagine baptizing someone by immersion in the underground catacombs? The Great Truth that Christians teach and have taught is that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. This is the gospel that was preached in the catacombs of Rome and everywhere else.

Page 231 – *“In order to continue in the ceremony, the candidate must affirm three times his sincere desire to attain the truth so that he may better perform his duties toward God and man.”*

Now would this mean attaining Masonic “truth” or Biblical truth?

“Having been sufficiently assured of the candidate's sincerity and character, the doctrine that is presumed to have been that which was divulged in the last degree of the Christian Mysteries is presented: the belief in the resurrection.”

The belief in the resurrection is one of the first things a new Christian believer learns about; it is not something divulged in any form of last degree.

“Parallels are drawn between the slaying of Hiram and the death of Jesus.”

A parallel is drawn between a myth and a fact because the Bible does not record Hiram as being slain.

Page 232 – *“The Master’s Word symbolizes the new religion, the New Law of Love, brought to the world by Jesus.”*

It is unfortunate that Masonic philosophies do not reflect the remaining teachings of Jesus.

“With the point of an arrow pressed at his temple, he is obligated to be merciful and tolerant and obey this new commandment by loving his brothers.”

Christians do not need to have the point of an arrow pressed to their temples before they choose to follow Christ.

“The truths of Masonry are contained within the religions of the world.”

Unfortunately, many religions reject the true teachings by Jesus Christ. It would seem that the atonement of Christ is not regarded as a truth by all Masons.

Page 233 – *“The candidate ... partakes of bread and wine ... a mark of the covenant among the brethren and with God.”*

This Masonic covenant alters the meaning of Christ’s covenant with His disciples.

Page 234 – *“The 26th Degree lecture opens by again stressing the need for toleration in Masonry; allowing each to interpret the symbols and teachings of the degree for himself.”*

In simple terms, Masonic truth becomes relative with these various interpretations.

“We utter no word that can be deemed irreverent by any one of any faith.”

Oh really?

“We learn that the three columns of the lodge – Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty – symbolize the attributes of God.”

This is a teaching gleamed from the Kabalah. You’ll find this further explained in *Pillars of Wisdom*.

“No man has seen God at any time; that is, God is only spiritual.”

This teaching is regarded as heresy by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; her prophet Joseph Smith taught Heavenly Father has a body of flesh and bones.

31. Knight Commander (27th Degree)

Page 241 – *“The chivalric ideal has survived as one of the noblest conceptions of the human spirit and provides the support for the ideals of family unity, moral education, honor and courtesy, all of which are Masonry teaches as its duties.”*

Does Masonry see as its duty to teach the harmful effects of the Hindu caste system?

“Knighthood was always a Christian institution and in the ceremony certain parallels existed to the sacraments of Christian faith.”

If true, this would make Christ sort of like King Arthur and the disciples His Knights of the Round Table right?

“Since knighthood originated with professional cavalry warriors, part of the ceremony included arming the newly made knight.”

Since knighthood is said to have originated with professional cavalry warriors and that it was always a Christian institution, then wouldn't this mean that Christ's disciples were in fact warriors whom He made knights?

Page 242 – *“A crucifix, symbolic of the martyrs of Masonry, and a garland of laurel, representative of victory over the passions, on the table.”*

I wonder if Masonry would consider Jesus as one of its martyrs.

“The candidate represents a Prince of Mercy but is still called Constans, as in the preceding degree. He seeks the title of Knight Commander of the Temple to signal his zeal for Masonry.”

This is where it begins to get confusing and conflicting. From the 26th degree, we learn on page 229 that Constans was an ardent Christian who ruled Rome between 337 and 350 A.D. He opposed Arianism, “a sect of Christianity which questioned the divinity of Christ.”

Doesn't it make sense to say that there is still an element of Arianism in Freemasonry today? After all, many of its members question the divinity of Christ ... some even oppose it like the Muslim and Hindu Masons.

How can one signal his zeal for Masonry and yet oppose or refuse to proclaim the key truth that Jesus is the Eternal God in the lodge and beyond its walls?

Page 243 – *“Constans refuses the monk's arguments, trusting in a God of love who will recognize his honor and service to others as a noble path to salvation.”*

This is a very dangerous philosophy, for it teaches salvation can be obtained without the atonement of Christ. This in turn gives a false sense of hope for salvation to the many religious people found in Masonry. Constans, said to be an ardent Christian previously, would never betray Jesus Christ and teach these words. We are saved by faith alone. Honor and service to others is a work of faith but it cannot save us.

Page 244 – *“In closing, the Knights all draw their swords and extend them to a central point, signifying the common purpose of Masonry. They renew their vows to be of one mind, one heart and one soul, devoting their swords to the cause of freedom.”*

People cannot be “one” which each other when they are spiritual enemies. Only Jesus, and not vain philosophies, gives freedom.

Page 245 – *“The Knight Commander of the Temple revives the old Knightly spirit; and devotes himself to the old Knightly worship of Truth.”*

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). Does the Knight Commander worship Jesus?

32. Knight of the Sun (28th Degree)

Page 247 – *“The apron is of pure white lambskin ... [with an] interlaced pentagram.”*

The symbol of the pentagram is found in the temples of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints but not in the churches of historical Christianity.

“On the right side [of the order] is painted an eye of gold, a symbol of the sun or of the Deity.”

A similar depiction of this symbol is found on American currency on top of the unfinished pyramid. I wonder if this “eye” symbolizes Jesus.

Although Pike gave no source, he wrote that the Egyptian God Osiris is the All-Seeing Eye in the Lodges (*Pillars of Wisdom*, p. 145, *Morals and Dogma*, p. 477). But then again, one is free to believe or reject his teachings.

Page 248 – *“In the universe two opposite forces provide balance.”*

This would seem to indicate that there is an equal opponent to God.

“Pike believed that certain ancient cultures possessed the Truth that God had originally given to man; as such, they had a more accurate and comprehensive knowledge of the Deity and His relationship to the universe and man than modern philosophies and religions.”

I get the impression that Freemasonry views herself as having a more accurate and comprehensive knowledge of such than those outside her fraternity.

“The initiations into the Ancient Mysteries were designed to transfer this knowledge to those worthy and capable of receiving it.”

It seems like Freemasonry has adopted the same method.

Page 249 – *“We are left with fragments of the truth veiled in that corrupted symbolism. Thus, we must sort through the symbols to find parallels among them; then we must try to unveil these symbols to discover the great truths.”*

I wonder how one can discover a truth in the corrupt symbolism based on the ancient belief of only seven planets. You would think modern day Freemasonry would adjust its symbols to reflect current scientific truth.

“These symbols do not explain themselves; and it will depend upon yourself whether what we have said and shall say to you shall be an explanation of them, or only additional enigmas.”

It seems like the Masonic teachers are viewing themselves as saying only the truth and not error. In the end, it is up to the initiates to believe or reject what is being taught to them. But it looks like the truthfulness of whatever they are being taught is never questioned as being in doubt.

“To the Kabalist there were ten emanations which revealed the attributes of Deity manifested in the world. These they called Sephiroth. They combined the first ten numbers, representing the Sephiroth, with the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet to form the thirty-two paths of secret wisdom.”

Hence the thirty-two degrees in the Scottish Rite. But it is unclear how the thirty-third degree has arisen. Has there been an eleventh emanation or a newly discovered letter in the Hebrew alphabet?

Page 253 – *“There is a Life-Principle of the world ... it is the body of the Holy Spirit, the universal Agent, the Serpent devouring his own tail.”*

On page 251, we see that the Holy Spirit (believed by Christians to be God) is compared to the Gnostic worm *ouroboros*.

“Suspended in the East is a transparency of the Seal of Solomon, which is two interlaced triangles, one white and one black, representing the Macrocosm.”

Page 254 – *“... the Square and the Compasses of the Symbolic Lodge may be interpreted in a Kabalistic way to interpret the Macrocosm, or cosmos ... it is expressed in our Symbolic Lodge by the checkered pavement ... this conception of the universe as a duality found its way into Christianity and is now an integral part of the religious philosophy of Freemasonry.”*

The apostles warned the early Christians to beware of false teachings which would creep into their churches.

“In the West is a transparency of a pentagram, the symbol of the Microcosm, the universe where humans dwell.”

We found this pentagram interlaced on the white lambskin apron worn in this degree.

Page 255 – *“The letters inside each triangle are Yod, He and Vau, the three letters which are used to form the Ineffable Name of Deity, the He being repeated at the end. They represent respectively the active, passive and product illustrated by the Pythagorean right triangle.”*

The active male principle, the passive female principle, and the product (offspring).

“Each officer wears a seven-pointed star and a bracelet of one of the seven metals associated with one of the seven planets then known to the ancients. Seven is a sacred number in all symbolic systems.”

I wonder why Masons don't change their numbers and symbols to correct this error of the number of planets. How can a number based on an error or invalid knowledge be considered sacred? Not sacred to God anyway ... for He knows the beginning from the end.

Page 256 – *“... those who acquire the wisdom necessary to understand the nature of man, the Deity and man's relationship with Him will obtain immortality.”*

This teaching seems conflicting. Doesn't an atheist have immortality when he dies?

And what about a newly made Christian who dies at the young age of fifteen? Doesn't Jesus grant her immortality with her simple faith in Him or does she not obtain immortality because she lacks all these Masonic requirements?

Page 257 – *“Father Adam, the presiding officer ... is representative of the whole human race, the masculine and the active principal; that is, the generative force of nature ... The word Adam is derived from the Hebrew word adama, meaning earth.”*

This teaching of earth as the male active principal will confuse matters as we approach the thirty second degree.

*“Adieu! A heart-warm, fond adieu!
Dear Brothers of the mystic tie!
Ye favored, ye enlightened few,
Companions of my social joy!”*

“We may well ask what in Masonry is the mystic tie? In all of Masonry that common purpose is to discover the truth; thus, the mystic tie is the quest for truth.”

How many Masons are willing to discover that Jesus is the only way to salvation? It is hoped that Masonry begins to teach instead of deny, disbelieve, or suppress the truth of the atonement of Christ to all peoples of the world.

Page 258 – *“To reveal the great secrets of both science and truth to one who is in darkness, bound by his own chains, is like showing the light to birds of the night.”*

It's unfortunate that Masonry does not reveal the light of Christ to all the people living in spiritual darkness in Muslim and Hindu countries. This will help them much more than having them participate in the rituals of the lodge.

“Thus cautioned to maintain an open mind, the candidate is escorted to each of the seven Houses of the Planets to receive instruction.”

I wonder if any of these candidates has a mind open enough to look for the other houses of the other planets.

Page 259 – *“The spiritual part of man, the soul, is man's share of the eternal spirit and so is also immortal.”*

So if the soul of man is immortal, how can you obtain immortality through wisdom and understanding (p. 256)?

“Gabriel is the chief of the archangels and from the House of Jupiter.”

Where does the Bible say that Gabriel is an archangel?

“All that Gabriel says envelops the great Truth that there is but one God, uncreated, eternal, infinite and inaccessible.”

Many religions, like Hindus and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), do not agree that there is but one God.

Page 260 – *“Father Adam advises the candidate that he may profit from reading the Legenda ... Gabriel again invites us to study both the Legenda and Morals and Dogma ... we learn that Gabriel gives understanding and wisdom.”*

It is odd that an angel from God would invite us to study books that may contain some truth but which also contain errors, superstitions, and mythology – which conflict with Biblical truths.

“He [Gabriel] sits at the left hand of God and he is the primary intercessor between man and the Deity.”

This is another example of a serious Masonic error. Jesus is the only mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5).

“The Legenda and Morals and Dogma present, with great detail, the Kabalistic and Hermetic doctrines to answer the great philosophical questions concerning the Deity, man and the Deity's relationship to man.”

I wonder why these two books are not given to Masonic initiates. But that is beside the point – both fall short of Christ’s teaching in John 3:16.

Page 261 – *“Every religion was, in its origin, an embryo philosophy, or an attempt to interpret the unknown by mind.”*

It doesn’t appear that Masons view only the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, as God’s revelation to the Jews so they would not have to interpret the unknown by their minds. The Bible is a product of God’s revelation and inspiration. The Quran, Vedas, and the Kabbalah are man’s attempt to interpret the unknown by mind.

Page 262 – *“The Ineffable Name [of God] ... embodies ... the idea of the Male and Female Principles ...the Generative Power of Spirit, and Productive Matter, ever among the ancients deemed the Female, originally were in God.”*

This generative power, or reproductive power, of the male and female principle is represented by the letter G which appears between the compass and the square on the lodge building. The compass represents the male principle, the phallus. The square represents the female principle. This is more fully covered in the lecture of the thirty-second degree.

Page 263 – *“God and truth are inseparable.”*

It is unclear why Masonry does not teach all the great truths of the Bible within her lodges to keep God and truth inseparable.

How many Masons even reject the truth that Jesus is the only name given under heaven whereby man can be saved?

“There cannot be several Absolute Beings.”

I think Mormonism would strongly disagree with this.

Page 264 – *“Human Nature is the New Testament from the Infinite God.”*

This is another example of a serious Masonic error. The natural man is the enemy of God. Besides, the New Testament is the New Covenant instituted by Jesus (Mark 14:24).

Page 265 – *“Morality is the recognition of duty ... religion is as true as morality.”*

It sounds as if the Hindu and Muslim religions, if they can produce morality, are true like Christianity.

Page 266 – *“The end of man and the object of existence in this world ... is the condition of happiness in another life.”*

Hindu and Muslim Masons are given a hope of happiness in the future life through their works in this life even while they knowingly reject the salvation that Christ offers.

Page 267 – *“Upon entering the Order, the Initiate binds to himself every Mason in the world. Once enrolled among the children of Light, every Mason on earth becomes his brother.”*

All Christians who do not enroll in Masonry are not considered children of Light. This would make them children of darkness.

33. Scottish Knight of Saint Andrew (29th Degree)

Page 270 – *“Duties: Reverence and obey the Deity.”*

Do you reverence Jesus and obey His teachings in the Bible?

“He [St. Andrew] was continually open to new light; he was pliable and teachable.”

Masonry views itself as this new light. But Saint Andrew opened himself up to the True Light, not new light. Christians are teachable, but we should not be tossed to and fro with any new doctrine which arises.

Page 272 – *“The four lights are representative of the duties of a Knight of St. Andrew ... and four, to battle manfully for truth and right, free speech and free thought, defending the people against tyranny.”*

How many Masonic Knights are helping the poor people of India who are being oppressed by the Hindu caste system?

Page 273 – *“It [the inquisition formally instituted for the purpose of suppressing heresies] should also remind us that intolerance of other faiths and creeds may have devastating effects.”*

It is unclear why Masonry ignores the fact that believing some Hindu and Muslim creeds will have, not may have, devastating effects on its adherents.

Page 275 – *“Death is not to be feared.”*

Death should be feared by those who know about the salvation that Jesus offers and yet reject it.

Page 276 – *“Freemasonry is continual effort to exalt the nobler nature over the ignoble, the spiritual over the material, the divine in man over the human.”*

It should be worth noting that Freemasonry attempts to do all this at the same time it refuses to teach all the great truths of Jesus Christ within and outside the walls of the lodge.

34. Knight Kadosh (30th Degree)

Page 281 – *“The letters K and H are embroidered in scarlet silk on the front part of the cordon. They stand for the Hebrew words meaning Holy Temple.”*

This Holy Temple is probably a reference to the Symbolic Temple discussed earlier.

Page 282 – *“The good and true Knight Kadosh is armed outwardly with steel but inwardly with faith in God.”*

It is unclear how a Muslim or Hindu Mason can be a good and true Knight when they don't have faith in God to believe in the atonement of Christ for their sins.

Page 283 – *“He is also told that the reward for those who overcome the dread of death is to ascend about the terrestrial sphere.”*

The candidate is given a false sense of hope for a celestial sphere even though he may have rejected Christ before death.

Page 284 – *“The candidate is referred to as a man, upon whom one can depend and also one whose mind and intellect have attained their manhood. He is free from the notions of childhood (1 Corinthians 13:11) and capable of distinguishing the truth and manly enough to follow it.”*

I get the impression that Masonry views Christians who don't join her fraternity as still being in their childhood. I wonder how many Masons are capable of distinguishing the key truths about Jesus and manly enough to follow Him.

Page 287 – *“The candidate, now fully vested with the title of Knight Kadosh, is instructed that Masonry like the field of the husbandman, will yield up her treasures only to the persevering laborer who earns them by diligent toil.”*

Masonry will yield up her errors only to those who diligently compare her teachings with Biblical truths.

Page 288 – *“It is the ignorant man who is the slave of his emotions, always ready to follow the cleverest orator and believe in the most corrupted logic.”*

Come to Jesus and He will set you free from the slavery of false philosophies.

Page 289 – *“The well-informed man only is really free ... Upon his eyelids shines the True Light.”*

Faith in Christ will set you free. Those who knowingly reject Christ are still in darkness (---).

“Spiritual tyranny is intolerance.”

A Bridge To Light mentions several ways in which a religious institution practices spiritual tyranny, but it fails to consider that a non-religious institution or fraternity could also practice spiritual tyranny by teaching false doctrine, philosophy, or superstition.

Page 290 – *“The Templars ... believe that a constitutional Monarchy, or a well-regulated and safely-balanced Republic, based on an inviolable Constitution, expressing the will and having the assent of the people, is the only government to which a moral and enlightened human being out to submit.”*

I wonder if the Templars believed Christians should submit to communist or dictatorship governments.

“If Fanaticism is fruitful of monsters, heaven has also created virtuous men to do battle with them; and every age ... has seen arise a Redeemer ... to enlighten and console the world.”

Masonry does not teach Jesus is the only Redeemer as one of her “truths.”

Page 292 – *“The political truth of Masonry ... is constitutional government ... By its separation from religious ties man’s political life is freed from the promise and the threat of spiritual rewards and punishments.”*

If you have ever read the Bible, you would know that Jesus would strongly oppose some aspects of the political ideology of Masonry. The actions that a man commits in politics also lead to rewards and punishments. You cannot separate a man’s faith from his actions. Many people, in their zeal to separate church and state, have tried to remove faith from politics.

“The heart of man craves only justice and love.”

(---not the teaching of Jesus)

“Men are good. Evil institutions alone have made them bad.”

But men’s evil actions make them bad. Evil institutions cannot make someone with free will bad.

“It is the duty of Masonry and of every Knight to aid in leading them back to the truth.”

What kind of truth do you have when you don't lead people back to Jesus Christ? Don't you actually shirk your duty when you don't teach about Him in the lodge?

35. Inspector Inquisitor (31st Degree)

Page 298 – *“Judge yourself in the same light as you judge others.”*

But if the light in you is actually darkness, how can you accurately judge others? If the teachers are blind, won't they also lead their students into darkness?

It is here that Masonry references Egyptian religion and philosophy for her instruction.

“The leading feature of the Egyptian religion was its emphasis on eternal existence. The Book of the Dead ... contains formulas to guide the dead in their journey to everlasting peace in the realm of the gods.”

It seems like everlasting peace is the hope of all Masons, whether or not they reject Jesus Christ.

Page 303 – *“The really good man ... his religion is scrupulously private. Such men are striving toward perfection, being the best that they can be, ever seeking better ways to serve their families, their nation and their fellow man. Such are truly the souls worthy to dwell in the Realm of Light.”*

I wonder if Masonry would view Saints Peter and Paul as really good men when they didn't keep their faith private. It is unclear how Masons believe their Hindu and Muslim brothers can ever be truly worthy to dwell in the Realm of Light without accepting the salvation that Jesus offers.

Page 304 – *“Moses quotes some of his own sayings and affirms that he was initiated into the Mysteries and wisdom of ancient Egypt (Acts 7:22) and that from the Lord he received the wisdom to dictate those statues by which he governed Israel.”*

Moses was called of God ... he was not initiated by a human fraternal order.

Page 305 – *“It is from the greatest minds that the laws of man have come: Zoroaster, Manu, Hermes, Confucius, Moses, Minos, Numa, Alfred and Socrates.”*

The Ten Commandments came not from man, but from God.

“Further, a corollary duty is to inquire into our own motives, how far we deserve ... the favor or the displeasure of our Father who is in Heaven.”

All Masons should reflect on how the Father is displeased when you reject His Son and do not teach key truths about Him in the lodge.

Page 307 – *“You are to inquire also into your own heart and conduct, and keep careful watch over yourself, that you go not astray.”*

As if you can find the spiritual truth in your heart apart from the true teachings of Jesus Christ.

“It is time for you to set in order your own temple, or else you wear in vain the name and insignia of a Mason, while yet uninvested with the Masonic nature.”

It is unclear how you can have the Holy Ghost reside in your own temple when you fill it with Masonic philosophy, mythology, and superstition.

36. Master of the Royal Secret (32nd Degree)

Page 310 – *“A Soldier of the Light seeks truth and knowledge.”*

How many Masons seek for the truth and knowledge about Jesus Christ within the lodge?

“A Soldier of Freedom demands for the people free vote and voice and attains freedom of voice, vote and opinion for himself.”

It is unclear if such actions by Masons in communist or dictatorship type governments are landing them in jail.

“A Soldier of the True Religion combats spiritual tyranny with reason and truth.”

I wonder if Masons view all the teachings of Jesus as the true religion.

“To unveil the symbolism of the ages is a journey backward in time to the basic truths known by the ancient sages. Once these truths are revealed, our special charge is to maintain them in their purity, passing them on to the future concealed in allegory and symbolism and revealing them only to worthy men.”

The truth about Jesus Christ is to be revealed to all men and women alike. That is why He instituted the Great Commission.

Page 311 – *“The probable source of the dualism in Western religions, including Christianity, is the ancient religion taught by Zoroaster of Persia. Zoroaster defined the universe as imbued with two forces: Spenta Mainyu or Holy Spirit (the force of truth) and Angra Mainyu, a destructive spirit opposed to truth.”*

In simple terms, dualism is the belief that “two opposite forces provide balance in the universe, one which attracts and one which resists; they are antagonistic to each other but not hostile” (p. 258).

This is not in accordance to Christian beliefs. Besides, the Holy Ghost is not an impersonal force; He is a member of the Godhead. If you believe Satan is not hostile, then you may want to rethink your theology.

Page 312 – *“The deities of the Hindu pantheon spring from a single source: the indescribable and unutterable Brahm. This conception of Deity is as profound as elevated as any to be found in the world.”*

Masonry views the Hindu concept of God as being on par with the teachings of Jesus Christ about God.

“From this ineffable Deity comes the manifestations of physical reality: light, and its counterpart shadow or darkness; Brahma, the Creator, Vishnu, the preserver; and Shiva, the destroyer. This single process of creation, preservation and destruction revealed the cyclic nature of the universe and led, quite naturally to the concept of reincarnation.”

Unfortunately, Masonry does not war against this false Hindu notion. Reincarnation is against the teachings of the Bible.

Here is an interesting tidbit about the set design for the ceremony of this degree:

Page 313 – *“The altar cover is purple with Sanskrit letters in gold – the letters of the mystic Hindu mantra AUM ... Pike believed the Hindu mantra, AUM, to be an anagram composed of the initials of these [Hindu] deities [Agni – god of light, Usha – of dawn, Mitra – the Morning Star].”*

This Hindu mantra is still chanted in Yoga classes throughout the world. Why Christians would dabble with three Hindu deities is beyond the scope of this text.

“With this foundation from the Zoroastrian and Hindu doctrines, let us now begin our passage through time and space with an explanation of the Chamber of Consistory, the name by which bodies of Inspectors Inquisitor and Masters of the Royal Secret are called.”

Unfortunately, this foundation is opposed to the foundation that we have in Jesus. We should not be called by a foundation which is anti-Christ.

Page 316 – *“The three-faced bust is a symbol of the Trinity of Zarathustra and Pythagoras. Its Hindu character reminds us of the Trimurti: the expression of Deity in a threefold manifestation. In recent Hindu thought they are called Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva and represent the cyclical concepts of creation, preservation and destruction. You will remember that anciently this trinity was called Agni, Usha and Mitra [AUM] ... Again it should be stressed that these concepts are here to remind us of the universality of the great religious truths of man.”*

Rather, it should be stressed that Agni, Usha, and Mitra were regarded as three Hindu deities. It seems like Masonry considers this Hindu trinitarian concept as a great religious truth, but I wonder if she equates them with the Christian belief in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Page 317 – *“At one level of abstraction, the triple interlaced triangles simply represent that trinitarian concept so common in the world’s major faiths.”*

Unfortunately, one Christian concept of the Trinity (one God, three Personages) is not believed by many of the world.

“Blue denotes the spiritual aspect of man, reflected in that canopy of all lodges and the earth itself, beckoning man’s eyes and thoughts heavenward toward that divine source and inspiration for all our actions as Masons – the unfolding awareness of the divine plan for man.”

It is unclear how Masonry will ever know the divine plan for man while it refuses to teach the key teachings of Jesus Christ in the Bible.

Page 318 – *“Beneath the symbolic sky is The Camp, the most notable and intricate symbol within this degree, representing an imaginary Masonic camp.”*

This diagram is made up of shapes, flags, and animals ... each group of members of the degrees camped at various positions.

Page 319 – *“The candidate enters this darkened ... scene for his consecration as a Master of the Royal Secret ... He must affirm his interest in the ancient symbols of Masonry which represent the great truths in philosophy and religion. He declares that the law of his daily life is the exalted morality of Masonry.”*

Apparently the error of the seven known planets still was able to produce great truths in philosophy and religion, sarcastically speaking. I wonder if the exalted morality that Masonry is said to teach exceeds the morality which Christ taught. I also get the impression that Masonry views the Bible as severely lacking in teaching truths via symbols.

Page 320 – *“We learn that the Deity created the universe by wisdom and thought ... God is the one light that fills all spaces and that He is man’s protector.”*

But how many Masons reject Jesus as this one light?

“Ignorance is mental darkness which holds man in bondage like the walls of a prison or a shroud of stone.”

But how many Masons are still in mental darkness because they refuse to believe and obey the glorious truths about Jesus Christ? Don’t you view the Masonic lodges around the world as promoting ignorance when they are said to lead men on the path to truth but yet they fail to teach the truths about Jesus within the Masonic lodges?

Page 321 – *“Wisdom is attainable through knowledge, not of the sciences, but of the great truths of religion and philosophy revealed in the stars and in nature, for nature is the Book of the Deity Himself.”*

It doesn't appear that Masonry believes wisdom is attainable through reading the Bible – God's revelation to mankind.

“A Soldier of Light binds himself to learn, and to teach others, the great truths.”

But Masons do not bind themselves to teach the great truths about Jesus Christ within their lodges.

“To be a Soldier of the True Religion is to recognize the corruption of the true religion given to man.”

But many Masons reject the true teachings given to man by Jesus.

“A true Soldier of Light, of Freedom, of the true Religion and of the People unites himself with others who are devoted to the same purpose as a Soldier of Scottish Rite Freemasonry.”

But it is unclear how a Christian could view his Muslim Mason as a co-Soldier of Light when the latter rejects the true teachings about Jesus Christ. Why would you ever unite with those who teach errors, superstitions, and other things that are anti-Christ?

“The special enemy to be fought within ourselves and others is inaction.”

It doesn't appear that Masonry views Satan and his deceptions as the more formidable enemy.

Page 322 – *“As Masters of the Royal Secret we must ... remember that in man is God.”*

This is the ancient belief that in man are the seeds of Godhood. In essence, men are Gods in embryo and they just do not realize this yet. This pagan notion has found itself into many of the world's religions. One example is the teaching of eternal progression (exaltation to Godhood) in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

“To be consecrated to these great lessons is to become a sage ... and to join the great Masonic fraternity in which we all teach, incite, encourage, defend and protect our brethren from evil ways.”

It seems contradictory that Masonry can be said to protect their brethren from evil ways when false religions, philosophies, and superstitions will lead people toward evil ways. Masonry should devote itself to leading men and women unto Christ – He is only way to goodness and salvation.

Page 323 – *“The Royal Secret is equilibrium ... we must give time to our families but preserve a portion for solitude; we must live this life but prepare for another.”*

Unfortunately, Hindu and Muslim Masons are led to prepare for another life without accepting the true teachings of Jesus Christ. They are given a false sense of preparation for salvation based on their own merits.

Page 324 – *“Equilibrium proves to us that our Appetites and Senses also are Forces given unto us by God, for purposes of good, and not the fruits of the malignancy of a Devil.”*

It doesn't appear that Masonry views Satan as tempting us to have sinful appetites or senses.

Page 325 – *“And this Equilibrium teaches us ... we are, partakers ... of the Divine Nature ... capable ... of progress upward toward perfection.”*

The Masonic concept of Equilibrium to progress towards perfection is against the teaching that we can only be perfected in Christ (Hebrews 10:14).

“Such, my Brother, is the TRUE WORD of a Master Mason; such the true ROYAL SECRET, which makes possible, and shall at length make real, the HOLY EMPIRE of true Masonic Brotherhood.”

It is unclear how false teachings, mythologies, superstitions, or philosophies can produce anything but an unholy empire. Christians should not be involved with building any types of Masonic symbolic temples or spiritual brotherhoods with those opposed to the true words of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

He has warned us to keep separate from such people (2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

Conclusion

Wasn't that an exciting journey?

It is hoped that a fair assessment of the teachings of Freemasonry has been provided in this text. While no one can argue with the charitable acts performed by this fraternal order throughout the world and also its emphasis on work to give meaning to one's daily life, it should be clear by now that her philosophies are in subtle and sometimes blatant opposition to the key teachings of Jesus Christ and his disciples.

While *Morals and Dogma*, *A Bridge To Light*, *Pillars of Wisdom*, and *Legenda* are not said to be the official authority of Freemasonry, it sure sounds like they are to be believed when it comes to dispelling Masonic "truth." Two of these books carry with them the caveat - "Every one is entirely free to reject and dissent from whatsoever herein may seem to him to be untrue or unsound." But it is unclear how many Masons, if any, reject the key teachings of these books as outright lies and speculation when they are on their quest to find Masonic Light in the form of knowledge and to find the Divine within them.

In several cases, you have seen how Masonry has even borrowed terms from the Bible and applied it to herself or others instead of their Biblical equivalents.

One subtle danger of Masonry is her teaching or promotion of the idea that all Masons, whether Christ-believing or Christ-rejecting, can have a sure hope of a Celestial Lodge when they die. Atheists, on the other hand, are rejected from this glorious place because of their refusal to believe in the existence of God – as they are not permitted to join Masonry in the first place.

Another danger is the belief that one can attain immortality or eternal life through one's own merits apart from the all-sufficient atonement of Jesus Christ.

Masonry, with the references that have been shown in this text, seems to insinuate that Christians outside of her fraternal order are not on the path to Light because they do not adhere to Masonic principles or doctrines borrowed from the ancients. It seems evident to the contrary when you read the Bible that Christians themselves are the children of the Light (John 8:12) whereas those without Christ are in darkness and without hope in the world.

With such a focus on tolerance, the Christian within Freemasonry faces the danger of being lulled into a state of accepting all religions as the way to salvation ... despite the clear teaching that Jesus is the only name under heaven whereby mankind can be saved.

Masonry also works to weaken the faiths of adherents to other religions, Islam for example. The prophet Muhammad is just one more of God's enlightened representatives on earth like Confucius and Zoroaster. Islam, like Christianity, also rejects the belief that God's truths are primarily found through the use of symbols and their interpretation. The ancient Egyptians believed in the plurality of Gods, not just in one God ... as do the Hindus in our modern times.

Should a Christian be involved in Freemasonry? An unequivocal "no" should be the answer. The Christian should flee from vain philosophies and mythologies. We are not going to some Celestial Lodge in the sky. A glorious era awaits those who accept the salvation that Jesus Christ has provided. We cannot earn this. While Masonry has as its aspiration to make the world a better place and make of men better men, only the teachings of Jesus Christ, and not those of Masonry, can transform the hearts of Masons.

We need to dispel the false sense of hope in the afterlife that Masonry gives to her fraternal members and replace it with the hope that is found only in Christ. We can do many charitable acts towards the less fortunate of our Earth today for the glory of God without being a member of the Lodge. When it comes to spiritual truth, the Bible is the revealed Word of God. The Bible, and not Masonic rituals, is completely sufficient to make us better people if we follow its precepts and have faith in God. Only Jesus, and not Masonic duty, can make us perfect.

The teachings of Freemasonry are also pervasive in groups oriented toward the female spouses and children of husband Masons ... to give you a scope of her reach.

It is unknown how many high ranking officials in world governments, banks, or the United Nations are involved in Freemasonry. But it should be cause for concern if in fact they are trying to shape the future course of history through Masonry and away from the key teachings of Christ Himself.

All Masons need to decide for themselves how they will live their lives and who or what they will believe – will it be your way or the way that Jesus has provided?

Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

It is hoped that you will choose Jesus.

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