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"Blessed be the LORD God of *Israel*; For He hath visited and redeemed *His* people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for *us* in the house of his servant David; as he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began; That *we* should be saved from *our* enemies and from the hand of all that hate *us*; to perform the mercy promised to *our* fathers and to remember his holy covenant; The oath which he sware to *our* father Abraham, That he would grant unto *us*, that *we* being delivered out of the hand of *our* enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of *our* lives." Luke 1:68-75; the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic-Germanic-Scandinavian people are *ISRAEL!*

#46

NEWSLETTER

October AD1989

JUDEO-CHRISTIAN SATANISM

RISING SATANISM AND RAMPANT WITCHCRAFT reads the headline of the lead article in a prominent Judeo-Christian newsletter published in the South. The article tells about a recent case in the Brownsville, Texas, and Matamoros, Mexico area, involving human sacrifices and ritual slayings. Apparently, a man ritually murdered several victims as sacrifices believing it would cause him to be kept safe. It didn't work! The ringleader was exposed and tracked down. The media and the police reports classified the whole episode under the heading of "Satanism."

"THE PLAN OF SATAN" reads another headline from another religious newspaper. And another publication declares: **"SATANIC WORSHIP REACHES NEW HEIGHTS."**

Church newsletters and periodicals continue to fan the flames of hysteria over "cults" and "Satanism."

There is an unexplainable dreadfulness accompanying reports of "Satanism." When "Satan and his demons" are the alleged villains at hand, the crimes take on a super fearfulness that can only be explained by the word "superstition." This satanic "spiritual" activity, the preachers warn us, includes the use of "Satan's supernatural power" by certain people ("Satanists"), here on earth, through the Occult, Witchcraft, Sorcery etc..

Syndicated newspapers have picked up on the theme also. They have found that it makes good stories and sells newspapers. The following excerpts are from Rocky Mountain News, March 15, 1987:

POLICE BATTLING SATAN'S EVIL SHADOW

Satanic activity in Colorado has increased dramatically in recent years, with police taking several

Cathleen Faber [a mental health worker at the Colorado State Hospital in Pueblo] said she can remember when one of every 20 patients might have had an interest in satanism. But recently, there have been times when all of her patients were involved in satanism to some degree.

Tom Barrett, a therapist in Denver who authored the book Youth in Crisis, said he'd noticed the same thing. 'I hear kids talking about it all the time. . . Satanism is an issue that kids are believing in.'

Said Barrett, 'There are groups of kids in the high schools who hold those beliefs. They are organized, they are recruiting, and they are very scary.' Many experts said they believe one of the most bizarre Denver crimes in recent years — the Feb. 4, 1986 killing of Raymond Terry, 29 — may have been part of a satanic ritual. Terry was stabbed 117 times, and the initial 'D' was carved in his chest.

Evidence also shows that his suspected killer, 24-year-old Dana Sue Jones, drank her victim's blood. Jones is being held at the Colorado State Hospital, where she was ordered confined after a judge declared her mentally incompetent to stand trial.

Satan-worshipping gangs have apparently become

steps to combat the unusual threat, a Rocky Mountain News investigation shows.

Authorities believe that a growing number of criminal cases are linked to satanic worship, including the bizarre killing last year of a Denver man. Others include graffiti, burglary, sexual assault, and murder.



a problem in the Denver area. One gang calls itself BOSS — "Boys of Satan's Service." Their female companions go by GODS — "Girls of Demons' Service."

Denver detective Bill Wickersham of the police department's ritualistic and occult crimes investigation unit says, *"The girls who run around with them have some self-mutilation — pentagrams carved in the skin. The people who get involved in this [satanism], they're sociopaths, psychopaths. They'd be committing crime anyway. This [gesturing to a copy of the Satanic Bible] just says it's OK."*

Satanism is a serious problem! It needs to be exposed and eliminated. However, it is not being addressed properly — neither by the churches nor the media. In fact, the typical method of "fighting" Satanism causes just the opposite effect — it invigorates and strengthens it. Indeed, the most frequent reports of "satanic activity" are usually witnessed right where the so-called "Satan fighters" are concentrated: in churches. They are "casting out demons" right and left in the "deliverance churches" ("deliverance churches" is church jargon meaning that they "deliver" people out of Satan's grip).

CHURCHES HAVE BEEN INEFFECTIVE

There must be some miscalculations in Judeo-Christianity's approach to fighting "Satan." Otherwise, their arch-demon and his armies of lesser demons would not be manifested so much in their own circles. If they are trying to drive him away, they are failing miserably. One is logically led to consider the possibility that the so-called "Satan" of the Judeo-Christians is manifested only among those who believe in him and fear him.

TV, movies and stage have been large contributors to the Satanism scene. It has been a common theme for both old and new detective mysteries from Sherlock Holmes to Miami Vice. The box office reaps benefits from the mysterious and the occult,

but public peace of mind suffers.

Recently, Satanism was the subject on an Opra Winfrey TV show. A Jewish woman, who was identified with a pseudonym, was introduced on Opra's May 1 program. This woman said she had witnessed Jewish ritual sacrifice of children and had herself been a victim of ritualistic abuse. She explained, for some time, how that Jewish ritual sacrifices were taking place in Jewish homes around the country.

Immediately Opra was deluged by complaints from her Jewish listeners as well as the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the

into pre-Christian history, Satanism as we know it is a relatively new phenomenon — definitely developed in the post-Christian era. Lately, for many law enforcement organizations, "Satanism" has become a catch-all term for every kind of occult activity as well as any crime linked with graffiti, symbols, "heavy metal" music, mutilations, ritual abuse, and many drug related crimes. Thus, much of this activity is being wrongly labeled "Satanism." In reality, Satanism is quite different from the usual African magical rituals and Voodoo of the Caribbeans and South America.

Most of the "Occult" is based on the pursuit of "secret knowledge" which can empower "initiates" to work magic. They claim to have access to the secrets of working curses, blessings, healings, etc. The "power" can be used, allegedly, for good or evil.

However, Satanism is different. In fact, neither the events in Matamoros, Mexico, nor the Manson family of a few years ago, nor Jim Jones' People's Temple can be rightly categorized as Satanism.

Satanism is mainly based on the principle of self-indulgence. Satanists simply worship themselves. Thus, it is nothing more than a baser sort of Humanism — perhaps a more honest form of it. They worship human nature, and since human nature is depraved, Satanists simply worship depravity. This is their religion.

From the information derived from news sources and churches, one would come to believe that Satanism is behind nearly every crime that is committed — and, to that, the Judeo-Christian preacher says "AMEN!" Graphic stories of women who claim to be survivors of Satanic "ritual abuse" seldom mention that these women only began to "remember" these scenarios after several years of psychotherapy has had its inventive way with their minds.

However, for all the reports of Satanism's murders, sacrifices and violence, very few cases are proven. Those who claim to be witnesses of ritual murders, etc. almost never are ca-

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American Jewish Congress and every other Jewish media watch dog who monitors anything that can affect Jewish public relations. Opra quickly issued a statement, probably written by her accusers, saying she was sorry and would not do it again.

Well, apparently Opra's show would have prospered as usual from the interest in Satanism if she had gotten a Christian or a White person to demean their own race or religion on her show. But she found out that she is not allowed to relate Satanism to Jewry. Why? Because history is replete with cases where Jews were hanged or otherwise prosecuted for occult ritual torture and murder and they would like to keep their past covered up. It makes it easier for them to cover up what they continue to do today. Jewish culture and religion has always been obsessed with the occult. Most modern Christian superstitions are gifts from the Jews.

Satanism, as such, is not very old compared to Witchcraft, Sorcery and other occult religions. While Witchcraft (Wiccan religion) and Sorcery go back



pable of producing any real evidence of it. In fact, it appears that almost all personal injury caused by Satanism is in the form of suicide and self-mutilation rather than murder. Suicide is the result of mental problems — insanity, if you will. Thus, it would seem that the greatest danger Satanism poses is to its own followers. It inflicts insanity upon those who believe it. Satanism's main violence is to man's mind: his ability to reason.

Now and then a glimmer of sanity shines through in spite of the confusion. A recent article in the Richmond News Leader exposed one of the main sources of reports of "Satanic crime." Patricia A. Pulling, a private investigator and public lecturer has been the source of many of the reports of Satanic criminal activity which were repeated in newsletters and seminars across the country. She reported that eight percent of the Richmond-area population is involved in Satanism. However, under questioning she was forced to admit that she had no actual proof for her claims. Nonetheless, churches nationwide circulated her reports as factual evidences of Satanism.

Another interesting report appeared in the May issue of Religious Freedom Alert:

MISSOURI POLICE WASTE TIME, MONEY ON FALSE RUMORS OF SATANIC ACTIVITY

Law enforcement authorities in Joplin, Mo. say that their investigation of a rash of allegations about satanic activity in the local area has been fruitless, and a waste of time and money.

"It seems that whenever a person claims to have been involved and then gets out, they never specifically can give you names, places that can be verified or anything you can work with in a concrete way, which leads me to doubt a lot of what they say," said Jasper County Prosecutor David Dally.

Joplin police Lt. Dave McCracken said that while local police have occasionally found satanic symbols written in vacant buildings, he believes that the writings are limited to a "curiosity" about Satanism fueled by "electronic media programs." Lt. McCracken also said that Joplin police has investigated two incidents reported on television shows hosted by Geraldo Rivera, "that we determined to be fabricated."

Mr. Dally said that his staff had recently completed an investigation of a woman's claim on local television to have witnessed a child sacrifice.

Investigators asked the woman to show

them locations where rituals were held, or where the remains of a human sacrifice could be found.

"She told us, at one point, a location and was to meet with the sheriff's department, but that meeting never occurred. She never showed up."

Jasper County Sheriff Bill Pierce cited a November case in which a Blytheville, Ark. woman claimed to have seen Satanists cut an infant's stomach, pour gasoline on the baby and set it on fire in Jasper County. Sheriff's deputies searched the area she claimed to be the site, then made a 700-mile round trip to question the woman. At that point, she admitted making up the story to get attention.

Notice that Lt. McCracken identified the cause of the so-called "satanic activity" as the manipulated imaginations of the local people reacting to "electronic media" and "fabrications."

The article continues to cite one incident where "Satanism" was claimed in a court trial murder case where the defendant was attempting to claim "diminished responsibility" (trying to pin part of the blame on someone else — i.e. the devil made him do it!). That, of course, fueled the rumors of "Satanic activity." The man was convicted nonetheless.

Dr. J. Gordon Melton, director of the Institute for the Study of American Religions, says that the 1980 book, Michelle Remembers, was a factor in perpetuating stories and rumors of Satanism. The book recounts a woman's memories of "childhood abuse at the hands of Satanists." Interestingly, Kenneth Lanning, a special agent in the Behavioral Science Unit at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va., says that some satanic-related cases began appearing by 1982.



Asmodeus, the Apocraphal demon of anger and lust (Tobit, 3:8)

SATANISM = MYTHOLOGY

Dr. Melton believes the stories have become "urban myths" and likens them to the UFO-abduction stories prevalent in the 1960's, spread by television and news reports. Tell people that the non-existent exists and they will soon invent something to fit the bill.

The "Great Satanism Plot," as one man calls it, and other "witch hunts" are usually nothing but the result of sensationalistic journalism and led by self-styled "experts" (both religious and secular) whose profitable careers depend on keeping the hysteria alive.

As the editor of the Religious Freedom Alert pointed out, the real Satanism problem that exists in America is more along the lines of teenage drug-users following the symbolism and practices they receive from the repugnant Acid Rock and Heavy Metal Rock recording industry, as well as the graphically Satanic movie industry. Also, the Judeo-Christian charismatic and fundamental types are pointing to the alleged rise of Satanism as a confirmation of their beliefs in a supernatural satan and his hoard of demons. They need Satanism! Their theology demands it. Their theories of salvation would be meaningless without their "Satan" and his "burning hell" from



which to "save" people. Churches whose theologies are based upon these myths can only be mythological and categorized along with the many other pagan myths.

What then can we conclude about Satanism in America — its cause, and cure? Logic would tell us:

1. The Judeo-Christian "Satan" is a mythological invention of Judeo-Christian theology created during the last two millennia.
2. The churches' mythological "Satan" has been adopted by the secular world as well.
3. Therefore, the "Satan" of the Satanists is the same one that Judeo-Christianity gave them. Their belief in "Satan" originates from, and is reinforced by, the teachings and descriptions formulated in traditional Judeo-Christianity.
4. The churches' "Satan" is seen as more powerful than God, in that he rules this present world. Thus, "Satanism" accepts this too.
5. Satanists take a more honest approach, than Judeo-Christians, to their beliefs. Satanists have been convinced, by the churches, that "Satan" is superior. Therefore, Satanists simply worship who they've been told is the superior god. On the other hand, Judeo-Christians fear Satan but claim to worship Je-

sus — an insincere claim.

Satanists, then, are nothing more than Judeo-Christians who have opted to worship the god which they have been taught is the most powerful. They've seen the failure and weakness of the Judeo-Christians who claim to worship Jesus (albeit, the wrong Jesus). They've also heard all the Judeo-Christians' defeats attributed to "Satan." Satanists, therefore, have accepted the Judeo-Christian rationalizations and acted upon them.

Satanism, per se, is fear and worship of the "Satan" of the Judeo-Christian churches. In light of this, can Satanism be stemmed by warning the world of "Satan's" power? Will people stop fearing and worshipping "Satan" if the churches tell everyone that he controls this earth and all that is in it? Of course not! That is precisely what has caused the world to fear and worship "Satan" in the first place.

You no doubt can see, now, what it would take to curb Satanism. Simply this: STOP PROMOTING THE FALSE GOD CALLED "SATAN." The trouble is, the churches have an abiding need for their mythological "Satan!" He is even more important to them than Jesus. Their churches are filled with people looking for protection from "Satan." Thus, "Satan" is the best friend the churches have. If it weren't for him they would be empty! □

THE REFINER'S FIRE

He sat by a furnace of sevenfold
heat, as He watched by the
precious ore;

And closer He bent with a searching
gaze, as He heated it more and
more.

He knew he had ore that could
stand the test, and He wanted
the finest gold,

To mold as a crown for the King to
wear, set with gems of price
untold.

So He laid our gold in the burning
fire, though we fain would say
him nay,

And watched the dross that we had
not seen, as it melted and passed
away.

And the gold grew brighter and yet
more bright, but our eyes were
dim with tears,

We saw just the fire — not the
Master's hand, and questioned
with anxious fears.

Yet our gold shone out with a richer
glow, as it mirrored the Form
above,

That bent o'er the fire, though un-
seen by us, with a look of undying
love.

Can we think it pleases His loving
heart, to cause us a moment's
pain?

Ah, no, but He sees through the
present cross, the bliss of eternal
gain.

So, He waited there with a watchful
eye, with a love that is strong and
sure,

And His gold did not suffer a bit
more heat, than was needed to
make it pure.

—Author Unknown



Old woodcut of Satan exchanging a book of magic for the Gospels



TAPE OF THE MONTH

#7604, 7605, 7606 THE BURNING HELL: IS IT BIBLE TRUTH OR IS IT BLASPHEMY? (in 6 parts). Begins with the definition of **blasphemy** and proves the common Catholic and Protestant teaching on "hell" is not only false, but is actually "blasphemy" against God. Every person who has ever suspected that there was something wrong with the "hell" doctrine should hear this series. This month, **\$10** the set ppd.

GUN LAWS TO CHANGE?

Queensland's Firearm and Offensive Weapons Act 1979 is set to be dramatically tightened should the Queensland National Party be returned to power after the next election.

Former Police Minister and present deputy W. A. M. Gunn is on record, after attending a Police Minister's conference in 1986, stating, the Act needed to be strengthened "to bring it into line with other states." (What's next? like other countries, behind the iron curtain for example? HR.)

An attempt was made last year to introduce tough licensing conditions for all firearm owners and a "green paper" Cabined document was leaked to various shooting organizations and community groups. The contents of the paper were rejected by most members of these groups.

The present act, drafted entirely by a section of Queensland Police Officers, was described by barrister Des Sturgess, QC, several years ago as a "crude, poorly thought-out document." He said, "It does little to correct the mischief with which it purports to be concerned." Mr. Sturgess, now Director of Public Prosecutions in Queensland, is a keen sporting shooter and apparently was concerned the act would take away the rights of firearm's owners.

In an analysis of the Act, he attacked the wide extension of executive and "notably Police powers" encompassed in the Act.

Constitutional analyst, Len Clampett, warned that if the Labor party, by default, won the election, it was its stated policy to disarm the entire population. ("The only country which the Communists have pulled out of is Afghanistan, which they failed to disarm beforehand." Pete Peters in the series **Be A Swinger-Register Your Guns**. It has been rumoured in a gun magazine that the Federal Government also intends to bring in anti-gun legislation soon after being re-elected.HR).

In a paper presented to the Sporting Shooters Association's Australian seminar in 1981, the late Arthur Chresby, reputedly one of the country's best ever Constitutional authorities, roundly condemned the Act.

He told the conference, inter alia, "Section 92 of the Act grants a police officer full authority, without a warrant, to arrest any person for an alleged contravention of the Act,

or upon any suspicion of being about to commit an offence under the Act.

"Further, under section 94, the police have full power to detain the so-called offender, and to take all particulars that the police consider necessary to obtain those identification particulars."

"It will probably shock you to learn that Section 94 allows the police to forcibly fingerprint you, voice print you, photograph you, palm print you, foot print you, toe print you, and take your handwriting." said Mr Chresby.

"All of this before you have appeared before the court and been found guilty.

"If the court finds you not guilty, then the police are not required to destroy those particulars unless you specifically request them to do so in front of you...even then, Section 94 offers the police an escape in that they can claim to retain them on the grounds of another probable charge of an offence under the Act."

Chresby said that Section 94 was not the only freedom-destroying provision under the Firearms Act. "There are a number of others, however this section alone is sufficient evidence to lay a serious charge against all State politicians of an overt breach of their statutory fiduciary responsibility to the Queensland people."

Courtesy THE CITIZEN, MS 396, NANANGO QLD 4315

New Tapes

From Pastor Pete Peters the following:

#SFA400, Understanding The Bible Zoo & the Kingdom, Part 1.

#SFA401, Understanding.....Pt 2.

#SFA402, Understanding the Different Gifts 1.

#SFA403, Understanding the Different Gifts 2.

#SFA404, Preparatory to Washington DC trip.

#SFA405, Understanding the Different Gifts 3.

#SFA406, Understanding the Bible Zoo, Pt 3.

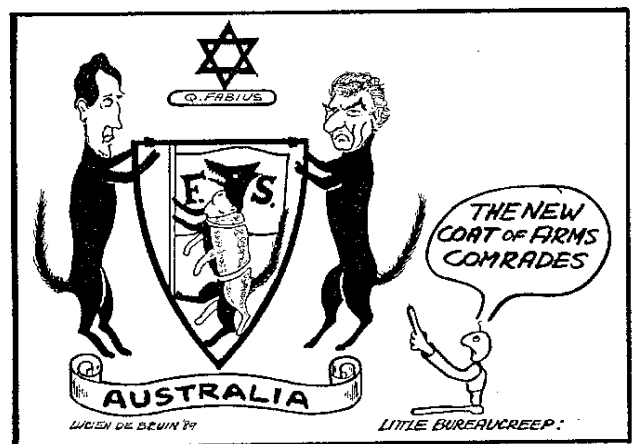
#SFA407, Be a Swinger, Register Your Guns 1.

#SFA408, Be a Swinger, Register Your Guns 2.

#SFA410, 1989 Embassy to Washington, DC.

#SFA412, Be a Swinger, Register Your Guns 3.

All \$4 each posted from Christian Identity.



WAS JESUS AN EXORCIST?

The True Story of the Gadarene Madman
Recorded in Matthew 8:28-34, Mark 5:1-20 and Luke 8:26-39

By Paul Bunch

The story of the Gadarene madman is commonly used by Judeo-Christians as proof-text for demonology. In fact, Judeo-Christians perceive the theme of this story as showing not only that supernatural demons are real, but that Jesus EXORCISED them from the madman. However, a careful reading of the three gospel accounts reveals that this cannot be the true theme, because if it was then the authors were extremely careless about the details concerning traditional demonology, as we shall see.

In reality, the consistent theme of all three accounts is the **healing** and **conversion** of the madman. In addition to this main theme comes a vivid object lesson in how people steeped in superstition and idolatry react to an encounter with Jesus.

THE STORY LINE

We will be examining this well-known story from two perspectives: from the popular and widely accepted viewpoint of demonism and from the correct, Christian viewpoint.

The basic plot line of all three gospel accounts is basically the same, but with some minor variation in the details of the story. First, let us consider the viewpoint of those people who assume the main theme of the story is to prove that demonism is a fact.

Here, we see Jesus and His disciples sail in a ship from Capernaum, across the Sea of Galilee, and arrive on the east side, in the country of the Gadarenes. (Matthew says "Gergasenes.") Immediately upon coming ashore, Jesus and His disciples are met by a naked madman who lives among the tombs. (Matthew says there are two madmen.)

The madman has a history of imprisonment (they tried unsuccessfully to "tame" him). At times he had to be bound with fetters and chains, but this was to no avail because he was very

strong and was able to break out of them. After escaping, he fled into the mountainous area near the tombs (caves) where he was crying and cutting himself with stones (possibly some occult ritual).

Upon spying Jesus coming ashore, the madman recognizes Him and runs towards Him, falling down to worship Him. Jesus, realizing that the man is mentally unbalanced, commands, "*Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit!*"

In fear, the madman cries, "*What have I to do with thee Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God that thou torment me not.*"

"What is your name?" Jesus asks in a calm voice.

The madman replies, "*My name is Legion: for we are many.*"

(The assumed reason the madman was mentally unbalanced was because many devils had entered into him and were carrying on a conversation with Jesus. That is supposedly why the madman identified himself with the strange name of "Legion." It was as if there were thousands of devils inside him, all speaking in unison.)

The "devils," supposedly speaking through the voice of the madman, beseech Jesus not to send them "into the deep" (as Luke renders it) or "out of the country" (according to Mark). They entreat Jesus to send them, instead, into a nearby herd of 2,000 feeding swine. Jesus agrees and the devils leave the man and enter into the bodies of the swine, whereupon the pigs stampede over the cliff into the sea where they all drown, including the devils who are inside the pigs.

The herdsmen that were feeding the swine panic and run to the city to tell what happened. As a result, a multitude

of townspeople return to investigate the incident and are greatly surprised to find the madman in his right mind, clothed and sitting at the feet of Jesus.

When the swineherders describe the effect Jesus had upon the madman, and the swine, the people become very fearful and they urge Jesus to leave their country immediately.

Jesus again boards the ship which He had arrived in, and prepares to depart. The former madman is so grateful to Jesus for healing him, he asks if he might accompany Jesus. But, Jesus tells him, instead, to return home and tell what great things God has done for him. The man complies and many people who once knew this man as a madman now marvel at seeing him cured.

To someone steeped in demonism, this story DOES seem to prove that demons are real. However, analyzing the same incident from a Christian viewpoint reveals some vital points overlooked by those who are prejudiced to automatically assume the demonist interpretation.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND IS IMPORTANT

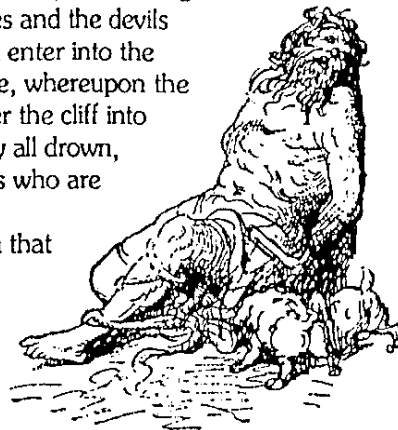
Mark 5:20 tells us that the man healed by Jesus spreads the news of his miraculous cure "in Decapolis."

DECAPOLIS is a Greek word meaning

ten cities (Deca = ten, and polis = cities).

Many Greek cities were established in the Near East by Greek rulers who followed the example of their predecessor, Alexander the Great. Eventually, the Roman Empire took control of these

Greek cities. Since these cities were on the frontier and had to provide their own defense, they banded together in a confederation for mutual protection and profit. The



name of this confederation was "Decapolis." An ancient list by Pliny the Elder (A.D. 23-79), the Roman writer, shows the names of the ten cities as: Scythopolis, Hippos, Raphana, Pella, Philadelphia, Galasa, Dion, Canatha, Damascus, and GADARA. Gadara is the city near to where the incident occurred. ("the country of the Gadarenes" — Mark 5:1)

All of these Greek cities were centers of Greek and Roman culture which was saturated with idolatry, including the belief in supernatural angels and demons. That may account for there being so much information in the story relating to Greek mythology and demonology.

DEMONOLOGY DETAILS

Here are some basic tenets of classical demonology which seem to have attached themselves to this story, either through translational manipulation, or interpretation:

1. TOMBS — In the story, the madman who was supposedly "possessed" by demons was found to dwell among the tombs. In Greek and other pagan religions, tombs were considered to be a favorite haunt of demons. The unclean spirits were thought to be the souls of warriors who had died violent deaths in battle. Today, many believe that cemeteries and graveyards are similarly "haunted."

2. THE "COUNTRY" AND THE "DEEP" — After Jesus commanded the demons to come out of the man, they begged Jesus not to send them "out of the country" (Mark 5:10), or "out into the deep" (Luke 8:31).

The Greek word for "country," in Mark 5:10, is "Chora" (#5561 in Strong's Concordance), which means AN EMPTY EXPANSE. This word derives from #5490, "chasma," where we get our modern word "chasm." "Chasma" means a chasm or vacancy which is impassable. "Chasma," in turn, derives from the word "chao," where we get our modern word "chaos." "Chao" means TO GAPE OR YAWN.

These three words ("chora," "chasma" and "chao") are similar to the Greek word "abussos" (#12 in Strong's Concordance) translated "deep" in

Luke 8:31. "Abussos" means DEPTHL-LESS and refers specifically to "the infernal Abyss" of Greek mythology. This "Abyss" is also referred to in mythology as "Chaos" or "the Bottomless Pit." In ancient pagan myths it was the abode of demons and was supposed to have existed before the world was formed. In more modern times, this imaginary place is called "hell." So you can see how the words "chora," "chasma" and "chao" might be used to describe the mythical "Abyss" (abussos) of Greek mythology.

Adherents of demonism claim that the demons personally begged not to be returned to the fabled Abyss of Greek mythology. A natural question to ask at this point is, "If the Bible is reporting people's beliefs in pagan Greek mythology, does that mean the Bible agrees with Greek mythology? And, does it, then, prove it to be fact?"

3. DEMON POSSESSION — The madman supposedly had many invisible, intangible demons inside of him causing him to be insane. The concepts of demon possession and exorcism — fundamental ideas in heathen Greek mythology — are also basic tenets of demonism. In order for a person to believe in demonism, he must first believe in the primitive pagan doctrine of ANIMISM. Animism says that motionless objects as well as living, moving creatures all have an intangible something known as a "soul" or "spirit" that dwells inside them and can also exist separately from the object or body.

This is also where some folks get the idea of "astral projection" (astral travel). Believers in animism think that a man's spirit temporarily leaves his body during sleep when he is dreaming. At death they believe this "spirit" leaves permanently but continues to live in a conscious state. These departed "spirits" then become demons that can enter into living people. Pagans also believe these demons or spirits can live inside graven images called "idols," representing a god. Therefore, demons and spirits are often deified.

Today, many Judeo-Christians unwittingly believe in this primitive, pagan doctrine of Animism when they believe in demon possession and exor-

cism. They are participating in idolatry.

4. FEAR OF THE SHAMAN — At the end of the story, the townspeople reacted in a strange way when they saw that Jesus had cured the madman. They became very fearful and wanted Jesus to get away from them. Normally, you'd expect someone to be happy upon seeing a madman given back his right mind. But, remember, these people were products of a strong Greco-Roman culture, so they had long been indoctrinated in the superstition and myths of demons and angels.

One aspect of that superstition is the fear of the power that a shaman, witch doctor, or sorcerer was thought to have. Not only was the shaman supposed to be able to commune with the dead, but he was also considered to have power over the elements, including demons. They believed a shaman could exorcise spirits (demons) from people and objects and even command them to do his bidding. Superstitious people looked to the shaman for help when one of their family was sick because they thought marauding spirits (demons) were the cause of disease. But they also feared him because they never knew when he might turn on them and put a curse on them or use demons against them. As a result of their superstitious fears, the shaman enjoyed immense power over the people.

The superstitious Gadarenes believed Jesus had power over demons. Therefore, to them, He was obviously a shaman. They had interpreted the destruction of 2,000 pigs on the basis of demonism and felt Jesus, in performing an exorcism, had used demons against them by destroying their swine. Angry and afraid, they urged Jesus to leave immediately before He worked anymore magic.

5. EXORCISM — Most Judeo-Christians believe that the story is a description of an "exorcism" or the "casting out of demons." They think all of the details of the story fit with what happens in a typical exorcism.

Here are the fundamental details of "exorcism" that are claimed by demonists to be in the story:

a. Demons are supposed to be



able to sense if someone is an exorcist (shaman). Thus, it is claimed that the demons could recognize the powers of Jesus before men could. How else could this madman have immediately known that he was talking to Jesus, Son of the most high God?

b. Demons are supposed to fear exorcists; therefore they feared Jesus. The alleged reason for this is that demons fear telling the exorcist their names. Exorcists believe that if they can get knowledge of a demon's name, it gives them power over the demon. And, of course, the exorcist will go to great lengths to get the demon to reveal his name. Forcing demons to reveal their names is considered "torment."

Demonists claim that the demons in the madman were fearful of Jesus when He told them to come out of the man. The demons then said, "I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not." Jesus then "tormented" them by asking the man's name. When Jesus learned that his name was "Legion," He then supposedly had gained power over the demons because He had knowledge of their names. He then was able to exorcise them from the man.

c. It is common, in stories about exorcism, that as demons are forced to exit from a possessed person's body they may immediately go into an innocent bystander's body and possess him. In this case the innocent bystander were the 2,000 pigs.

d. Demonology also claims that when demons exit a person's body, there is usually some physical manifestation or violent action. Obviously, the violence exhibited here by the demons allegedly coming out of the man was manifest in the pigs stampeding over a cliff and drowning in the sea.

WHY IS GREEK MYTHOLOGY AND DEMONOLOGY IN THE BIBLE?

If pagan mythology is mentioned in the Bible, does that mean that Jesus believes in it and advocates it as truth? If it does, then being a Christian is not that important since it appears to be in harmony with pagan religious beliefs. You could just as easily be a Hindu

and be righteous because Hindus also believe in demon possession.

When this question occurs, a red flag should go up in your mind. After careful study, a dedicated Bible student will note a theme, running throughout the entire Bible, of SEPARATION and DIFFERENCE between true Christianity and world religions. The Bible makes it clear that Christianity is incompatible with world religions.

For example, Jeremiah 10:2a tells God's people, "*Learn not the way of the heathen...*," and goes on to describe idol worship and other heathen practices.

Also in 2 Corinthians the apostle Paul makes a very eloquent statement on this separation and difference:

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"

They read the Bible as if the authors wrote it yesterday, in modern-day English . . . unaware of ancient idioms.

And what concord hath Christ with Belial [worthless or wicked person]? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

AND WHAT AGREEMENT HATH THE TEMPLE OF GOD WITH IDOLS? *[The inference is that there is NO agreement whatsoever] for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing and I will receive you,

And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." (2 Cor. 6:14-17)

The conclusion is simple: there is NO agreement of Christianity with pagan religion. Therefore, we must read

and understand the story of the Gadarene madman from this perspective.

THE LANGUAGE OF DEMONOLOGY

People may have difficulty seeing how a historical viewpoint affects the reading of this story. They read the Bible as if the authors wrote it yesterday, in modern-day English. They are seemingly unaware of the presence of ancient idioms. They also assume that the authors believed in the existence of many gods besides Yahweh.

The misunderstanding of ancient Greek Idioms is the biggest reason so many people read this story inaccurately.

Remember that the setting of this story is in a country where Greco-Roman mythology is firmly established. The people believed that demons were the cause of all disease, and that the severity of an affliction was proportionate to the number of demons causing it. Therefore, it would only be logical for the people to describe disease in words which relate to demons. The greater the disease, the greater the number of demons.

When a demon was thought to have possessed someone, causing an illness of some sort, this was commonly known as "seizure by a demon." In other words, a demon "seized" someone and caused them to have a sickness.

This belief was so widespread and held for so long that the idiom became a permanent fixture of the language even after the original meaning changed. We still use this idiom today. For instance, we have the term, "epileptic seizure." Scientists have long since discovered that an epileptic "seizure" is simply caused by a physical, chemical malfunction in the brain (much like a short circuit in electricity) rather than by SUPERNATURAL "possession" by an invisible demon. In fact, because of microscopes, we now know that tangible things called germs and viruses can cause diseases — something the people of Bible times were not aware of.

But even though the ancient demon myth has been proven false by science, the idiom "seizure" remains.



Just because people use the original term does not mean they believe demons are the cause of seizures.

Likewise, there were, no doubt, some people in Bible times who did not believe in demons. These were possibly monotheists: believers in one God only. Yet, they would have used the idiom "possessed with demons" when talking about mentally disturbed people because it was such a universally understood idiom. Today people use modern idioms like, "That guy's got a screw loose," or "That guy is nuts," to describe a crazy person. But, that does not mean that they literally think the guy's brain has things like screws, wing nuts, or lock washers inside it! They do not literally believe that a real screw comes loose in the brain and affects a person's mental behavior.

With the advance in technology over the centuries and the change in language, new terms have appeared — i.e. "schizophrenic paranoia," "psychosis," "monomania," "dementia," "insanity," and "mental illness." In Bible times, the people did not use these terms to describe mental disease. Their term was the idiom, "possessed with devils," and it was synonymous to saying someone was "mentally ill" — whether they believed in demons or not.

The content of the gospels was originally expressed in the language and idioms comprehensible to most inhabitants of the Roman Empire. This is why it can appear as if the Bible agrees with demonism. It was merely the language and idioms of the day.

THE STORY PUT IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE

If you truly believe that there is only one God and LITERALLY none else (Isa. 45:22), then the only way this story about the demoniac can make sense and be consistent with the rest of Scripture is if you see it as a story about a madman suffering from the DELUSION that he is possessed by many demons, and that he is in the midst of a culture where the majority of people believe in supernatural demons and demon possession.

If you properly understand the ancient idioms "possessed with devils"

and "casting out devils," then all the preceding points concerning demonism are easily explained without struggling with pagan religion. You needn't read-in the anti-Christian concept of exorcism either. The various points about exorcism are easily explained by the NATURAL as opposed to the SUPERNATURAL:

A. HOW DID THE MADMAN RECOGNIZE JESUS SO QUICKLY? Matthew 4 explains:

"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, AND FROM DECAPOLIS, and from Jerusalem, and from Judea, and from beyond Jordan."

Matt. 4:23-25

Jesus' fame had spread far and wide — even throughout the ten cities of Decapolis. Therefore, the madman had heard about Jesus and knew who He was.

B. WHY DID HE DWELL AMONG THE TOMBS? Tombs were located outside of the cities and often in rock caves. Since the madman was a fugitive-in-hiding, the caves provided shelter and safety. And, because of common superstition about tombs, the location provided privacy for him.

C. ARE THE DETAILS ABOUT "EXORCISM" CONSISTENT, WITH THE NAME OF THE DEMONS? No! When Jesus asks the madman for his name, the madman replies, "My name is Legion: for we are many." Stop and think about this for a moment. Jesus never got all of the demon's individual names — unless the demons all had

the same name. Besides, "Legion" was an AMOUNT, not a NAME? The word "legion" was the Latin word for a Roman army division of about 6,000 men. Since the word meant an amount, then Jesus never got any names at all. He got a number. Also, it would have taken Jesus a couple of months to extract each name from the 6,000 demons. And if you say that Jesus was able to exorcise all the demons without having to obtain each individual demon's name, then that is a violation of the accepted rules of exorcism.

Furthermore, if the demons were indeed speaking in unison through the madman's voice, they would have more likely said, "Our name is Legion: for we are many." By alternating between the singular "My" and the plural "we," the conversation indicates that the madman is the one talking and is simply suffering from a delusion that he is possessed by thousands of demons.

Also, notice there is a disagreement of how many demons are inside the madman. Jesus says there is ONE "unclean spirit," and the madman claims there are MANY "demons." An important point often overlooked is that it DOES NOT say in the three gospel accounts that Christ agreed with the madman that there were many devils. If the subject of demons was such a crucial point in the story, then the authors would have taken more pains to get the details consistent and accurate.

D. WHY WAS THE MADMAN FEARFUL OF JESUS? The madman was fearful of what Jesus might do to him. He cried out and asked in a loud voice, "What have I to do with thee, Jesus?" This idiom actually means, "What do you want with me?" The very words imply fear.

In Luke 8, we can see why the madman is fearful and what "torment" means. The madman says with a loud voice in verse 28, "I beseech thee, torment me not." The very next verse is in parentheses in the KJV, and parentheses signify an explanation or a meaning of what has just been said. In other words, the information inside the parentheses explains why the mad-



man thought he was going to be tormented.

The parenthetical verse explains that often "the unclean spirit" had "caught" (seized) him — which probably means he went berserk, endangering lives and property. To counter this "demented" behavior, the authorities had to bind the madman with "chains and fetters" (shackles).

If a person is already mentally disturbed and someone locks him up in chains, he would obviously feel "tormented"! And now in this confrontation with Jesus, the madman was fearful that Jesus might somehow cause him to be tormented (locked up again) just like before. Therefore, the "torment" the madman feared was not that Jesus might learn the names of the demons, but that he might be imprisoned again.

E. WHAT CAUSED THE HERD OF SWINE TO STAMPEDE? Could it have possibly been "evil spirits" (ghosts) entering the pigs' bodies and running them into the water? Hardly! Mythology and fantasy must be dismissed before a real reason can be sought. Consider the following admonitions:

"What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make DUMB idols?"

Woe unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the DUMB stone, Arise, it shall teach! Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, and THERE IS NO BREATH AT ALL IN THE MIDST OF IT." (Hab. 2:18,19)

Habakkuk is very clearly stating that not only is the graven wood, stone, etc. DUMB, but that there is NO BREATH (no spirit) inside it. In other words there is no little invisible "evil spirit" or demon inside it. This is tantamount to stating that invisible "spirits" or demons do not exist.

"...they (idols) have mouths, but they speak not...neither speak they through their throat." (Ps 115:5)

If you believe what the Bible clearly states, then it is obvious that there were no demons speaking to Jesus. It was the madman speaking from his own delusions formed by pagan superstitions and idolatry!

Greek myth had taught the madman that when demons come out of a "possessed person," they like to be able to go right into an innocent bystander. For some reason, the madman chose the pigs:

"And all the devils besought him, saying, send us into the swine, that we may enter into them." (Mark 5:12)

However, as we read in Matthew 8:30, the herd of pigs were "a good way off from them," so they were not really "bystanders."

Also, notice the redundancy of Mark 5:12. It would be the same as saying, "Send us into the house that we may enter into the house." That sounds redundant until you realize that the madman, himself, wanted to run into the herd of swine, thinking in his deluded state that if he was closer to the swine, then his imagined demons would have bodies to enter after leaving his. In his own mind, this would lessen the chance of violence from the demons as they left him.

The verse could then be paraphrased this way:

"And the MADMAN (all the devils) besought him, saying, Send THE DEMONS AND ME (us) OVER TO THE HERD OF SWINE (into the swine), so the demons inside of me may leave my body and enter into each pig's body (that we may enter into them)."

If read in this fashion, the verse does not seem to repeat itself uselessly.

Jesus understood how the madman's superstitious mind worked. Instead of attempting to explain details to a madman, realizing the emergency of the situation, Jesus merely allowed him to run over to the swine. The pigs, alarmed by the sudden (and probably noisy) approach of the madman, stampeded away from him over the cliff and drowned.

Another point of inconsistency to note is that people assume the "legion" of demons (6,000) drowned along with the pigs when they plunged into the water. This is illogical because, according to demonism, demons are INTANGIBLE spirit beings with no physical body or physical lungs. Logically, then, they would not need to breathe air to survive. So what good would it do for Jesus to drown 2,000 pigs in an obviously futile attempt to destroy the demons? Besides, demonists believe that "evil spirits" are supernatural beings who are immortal — not subject to death. How, then, could "an immortal" be drowned?

CHOOSE THE CHRISTIAN VIEWPOINT

You can see that it is all a matter of one's viewpoint. In the view of a pagan demonist, "Jesus the exorcist" cast demons out of a "demoniac." On the other hand, in Christian terms, "Jesus the Christ" healed and converted a madman.

Idolatry and heathen religions cause men to become insane. It prevents their brains from working logically. Jesus converted the paganized madman from idolatry to Christianity — from insanity to soundness of mind. Remember, idolatry is the belief in other gods besides Yahweh. A further reminder that demons were thought to be gods is found in the definition of the word "demon" ("devil" in the KJV). The Greek word used for the English word in this story, as defined in Strong's Concordance, is:

#1140 — (NOUN) daimonion; derived from #1142; a demonic being; by extens. A DEITY (A GOD).

It is obvious that these "devils," or demons, were considered gods. The madman not only believed in other gods, but was suffering from the delusion that these gods were possessing him and making him insane. Jesus cured the madman's mind of its infection of paganism, superstition and religious myth, and returned him to a sound Christian mind.

The problem is that too many Christians, when reading this Bible story, are thinking like pagan idolaters instead of thinking like Christians. ■



ONE MORE SACRAMENT

Recent events suggest we need to add a new sacrament to the Christian life. In Detroit, an Episcopal priest has composed a prayer to be recited on the completion of an abortion. A Quaker group in Pennsylvania now offers a marriage validation for homosexual couples "under the auspices of the meeting." California gives us a divorce ceremony for those who want to end their marriage on a good footing. All these things are part of a new sacramental view for living — the new Sacrament of Sin.

The advantages of sacramentalizing sin are obvious. First, everybody sins. It's a universal experience to which we can all relate. Secondly, like birth and death, sin is part of life. How can Christians hope to communicate to the non-Christian world if they aren't willing to recognize and understand every portion of the human experience? Finally, by sacramentalizing sin we will be able to relieve a lot of guilt feelings. Just think how many more people will come to church when they know their sins will be not merely understood, but a part of the Christian worship experience.

Some of the liturgical means of making sin part of the Christian experience could be:

- The Consecration of Cannibalism: Learning to give thanks for other human beings.
- Adulterous Atonement: Working at marriage through practice.
- Prayerful Promiscuity: Sober communication with our Lord concerning our relationships with significant others.
- Lordly Lying: Allowing our lips to be guided by the concept of creative truth.
- Divine Drunkenness: Giving yourself over to the spirits' working.
- Pious Pride: Knowing that love is good, loving yourself like no other.

It seems clear the negative methods we use for dealing with sin may be counterproductive. Do we really need a confession of sins in our worship? Does God want us to feel bad and guilty? Heaven forbid!! What the church needs now is the consecration of our sins. Let's get rid of negativity thinking. Let's make our sins work for us.

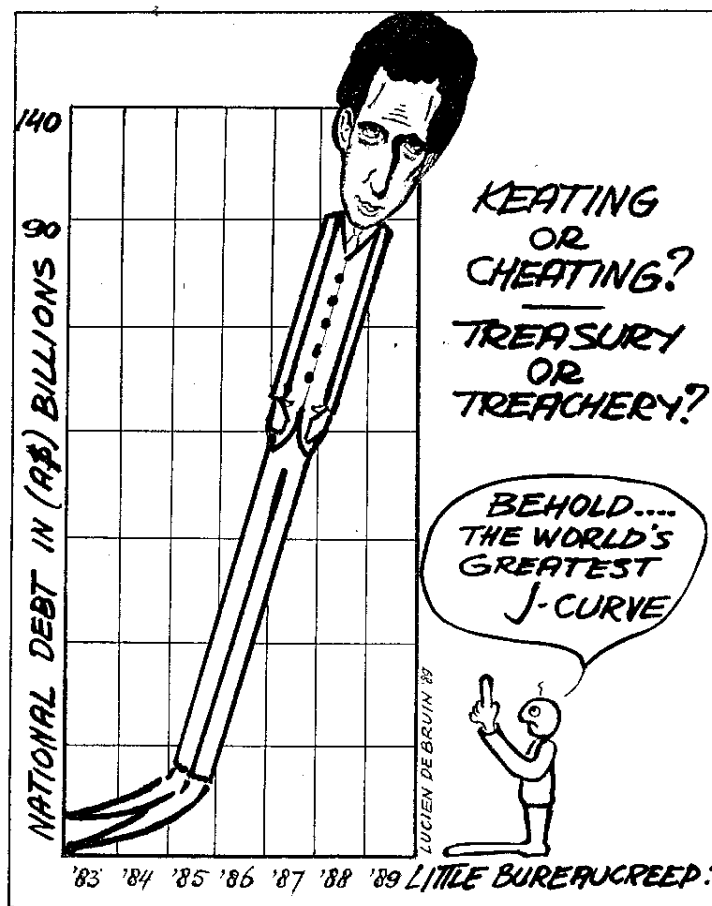
James L. Sauer

Courtesy CHALCEDON REPORT Box 158
Vallecito, CA 95251

Industry, Technology and Commerce Minister Senator John Button said there would be "one or two" more bad current account deficits like the record \$2.58 billion deficit in August.

This is, in fact, the 14th consecutive month where we have had a deficit of over \$1 billion. What does this mean? It means that interest (usury, HR.) rate will probably go higher, our debt level increases, our currency value is further destabilised, the inflation rate is going up.

And if this news was not bad enough,



just to add insult to injury last week, the Australian National Gallery spent \$811,000 on a rare sculpture of a Hindu god as part of its collection of Asian art.

This information is from THE CAIRNS POST Sept.26, '89.p2

LUTHERANS SUPPORT BAN ON ASSAULT RIFLES

As reported in "The Lutheran," for July 12, 1989, leaders in the Lutheran church are supporting legislation to ban the importation, manufacture, and use by civilians of what is referred to as assault rifles. They have no real logic for their positions and rely on emotional statements such as it is necessary "to rid our nation of the threat posed to our national life by assault weapons." In making such wild statements they fail to explain how a gun can threaten anything. It is the same emotional outburst we have heard that automobiles are dangerous to society when in reality it is not the automobile that is dangerous, but the nut behind the wheel. Likewise with guns, there is no weapon on the face of the earth that is dangerous in and of itself, it is the person who uses the weapon who may be dangerous.

Of course they are also using government arguments that government agents are confronted by drug smugglers who are carrying semi-automatic weapons and argue that the design of these weapons suggests their primary purpose is to rapidly and efficiently kill human beings.



If these Lutherans lived at the time of Christ they would be screaming for "sword control" and would want Peter jailed for carrying a dangerous weapon. They might even have wanted Christ punished for advising the people to sell their cloak and buy a sword.

According to Lou Boyn the sharpened chop stick is the most commonly used weapon used to murder people. If you call your local police and pin them down they should admit that knives and/or pointed instruments are the most commonly used items used to kill people- NOT GUNS. If the sharp instrument is the most often used weapon to kill people, why isn't the government attempting to ban knives and other sharp instruments? Why is it that no-one is hollering for "knife control."? Could it be that government fears our guns and not our knives?

Wholesale confiscation of hunting rifles, home defensive weapons and target guns will become a reality if legislation being considered by Congress is passed.

The National Rifle Association estimates that there are 30 million semiautomatic firearms that would be made illegal by such legislation.



Gun-control legislation affects YOU, even if you do not own a gun. For the time is coming when your life, property and freedom can only be protected by those who do have guns.

You say, just trusting in the Lord is enough? Certainly, we must all put our trust in God, especially His promises in the 91st Psalm (send for a copy of THE SOLDIERS PSALM). But nowhere does the Bible teach pacifism -- to maintain a defenseless position against vicious beasts who would rape and ravage our family and homes.

Attempts to force Gun-control legislation upon us have always been, and always will be

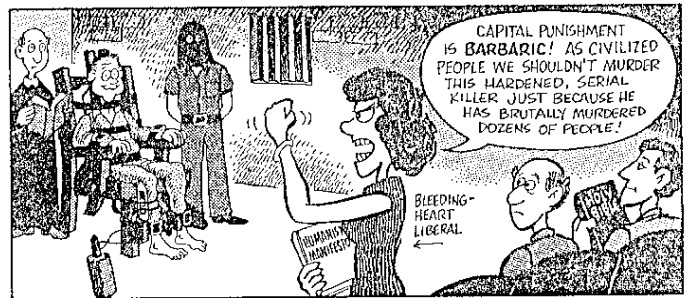
constant and unrelenting -- we must ever be on the alert against it.

Courtesy America's Promise Newsletter. Box 30,000
Phoenix, ARIZONA 85046

It has been said that a Police State is one where the State controls all the firearms and the citizens do not control any. (Registration, Licenses, Permits and so forth).

LICENSE = Permission from "a higher authority" to that which would otherwise be illegal.

There is only ONE WAY to deal with those who murder:



"Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed:..."
GENESIS 9:6

Enclosed with this newsletter is an article which is reprinted from Jack Mohr's "Christian Patriot Crusader." Some extra copies are available if required @ 15 for \$6 posted.

If you are not getting our "Loan Tapes" you are missing out on much important information. Many people have stated that they learnt much from the tapes. If you do not have a catalog, please send \$2 and we'll post you one. If you know of people who may like to be on our mailing list, send their name and address along with a donation to help with expenses.

We are clearing Lindsey Williams books and will not be re-stocking. While they last the four titles we have will be discounted to \$7.50ea "The Energy Non - Crisis," "To Seduce A Nation," "Syndrome of Control," and "Where's The Food." Get your copies NOW! Also, while they last Everett Sileven's "From Sovereignty to Slavery" \$10; "America's First Padlocked Church" \$10;

May our heavenly Father bless, prosper and protect those of you who love Him and are striving to do His will.

Hendrik (Hank) Roelofs IV

