

CHAPTER XIII

THE ALBIGENSES & CATHARI

Upon investigating the origins of the “King James Only” movement it becomes evident that its proponents across the board derived their teachings, not from the textual scholar Dean John William Burgon, but from a Seventh-Day Adventist missionary, teacher and colleague of Ellen G. White— Benjamin Wilkinson—and that Wilkinson’s books blazed the trail of “KJV-Onlyism” which is carrying on the SDA’s mission of mainstreaming, not only the medieval cults which embraced the Gnostic heresy, but their corrupt bible translations as well. For all of the leading King James Only defenders preach that the heretical Cathars, Albigenses, Bogomils, Paulicians, Donatists, Waldenses, etc. etc. were the “true Christians” who were “cruelly persecuted” by the Roman Catholic Church for preserving the Received Text when, in fact, they were Manichean dualists who rejected Jesus Christ and the Word of God.

David Cloud, *Rome and the Bible*:

“The persecutions which were poured out upon these Bible-believing people beginning in the 7th century caused them to be scattered throughout Europe, everywhere carrying with them the New Testament faith. The Lutheran historian Mosheim, writing in the 17th century, says:... They were later known by many names, including Paterini, Cathari, Bulgarians, Patarins, Gazarians, Turlupins, Runcarians, and Albigenses... The term ‘Albigenses’ probably derived from a Council which was held in the year 1176 at the town of Lombers near Albi, ‘for the purpose of examining certain reputed heretics’ (Faber, p. 221)...

“The Bogomiles, possibly an offshoot from the Paulicians, were condemned as heretics and suffered great persecution...The Albigenses rejected the Roman Church and esteemed the New Testament above all its traditions and ceremonies... Reineriou also falsely accused the Waldensians with Manicheanism. This Reinerius is probably the same persecutor employed by Pope Innocent III to hunt out the ‘heretical’ Waldenses and Cathari throughout southern France and northern Spain...” (Way of Life Literature, 1996, pp. 34, 36, 37)

Samuel Gipp, *An Understandable History of the Bible*:

“‘From Antioch... the Universal Text was sent up into Europe. From there is spread through Syria and Europe through its translation into the Syriac Peshitto version and the Old Latin Vulgate... The Old Latin Vulgate was used by the Christians in the churches of the Waldenses, Gauls, Celts, Albigenses, and other fundamental groups throughout Europe.’” (p. 67)

William P. Grady, *Final Authority*:

“The first Latin translation of the Bible is known as the ‘Old Latin’ and was made no later than A.D. 157 for the young churches established throughout the Italian Alps. The fifty extant manuscripts of this version are classified by either of their eventual twofold areas of expanded circulation – Europe or Asia. Also referred to as the Itala Bible, this venerable witness was also closely allied with the *Textus Receptus* – a full century before the so-called Lucian Recension!

“Because of this we are not surprised to learn that the Roman Bishop Damascus commissioned Jerome to revive the ‘archaic’ Old Latin Bible in A.D. 382. As mentioned in chapter two, the completed monstrosity became known as the Latin ‘Vulgate’ (for *received*) and was used by the devil to usher in the Dark Ages.

“By contract and in the face of this romanish recension, true Latin-speaking believers continued to perpetuate their beloved Itala through the centuries. These readings were eventually preserved through a translation into sixteenth-century Italian by the reformer

Diodati becoming the official Bible of the Albigenes and Waldensian assemblies. Satan's wrath for this pure Alpine text was vividly confirmed by the blood which flowed through the otherwise peaceful valleys amidst repeated Catholic atrocities." (pp. 35-6)

Floyd Jones, *Ripped Out Of the Bible*:

"...the 'Traditional Text'...has been read and preserved by the Greek Orthodox Church throughout the centuries. From it came the Peshitta, the Italic, Celtic, Gallic, and Gothic Bibles, the medieval versions of the evangelical Waldenses and Albigenes, and other versions suppressed by Rome during the Middle Ages." (p. 40)

Jack Moorman, *Forever Settled*:

"Ruckman, quoting ISBE says, 'The Albigenes continued to use the Old Latin long after Jerome's Vulgate came out and their preservation of this text is attributed (according to Burkitt) to the fact that they were 'heretics'.'

"As Rome did not send any missionaries toward the West before 250 AD, the early Latin Bibles were well established before these churches came into conflict with Rome. Not only were such translations in existence long before the Vulgate was adopted by the Papacy, and well established, but the people for centuries refused to supplant their old Latin Bibles by the Vulgate. 'The Old Latin versions were used longest by the western Christians who would not bow to the authority of Rome - e.g., the Donatists; the Irish in Ireland, Britain, and the Continent; the Albigenes, etc.'

"And as there were really only two Bibles - the official version of Rome, and the Received Text - we may safely conclude that the Gallic (or French) Bible, as well as the Celtic (or British), were based on the Received Text. Neander claims that the first Christianity in England, came not from Rome, but from Asia Minor, probably through France... That the messengers of God who carried manuscripts from the churches of Judea to the churches of northern Italy and on, brought to the forerunners of the Waldenses a Bible different from the Bible of Roman Catholicism..." (pp. 86, 107)

Peter Ruckman, *The Christian Handbook of Biblical Scholarship*:

"The 'TRADITIONAL TEXT' in Latin from A.D. 120 to 240 was the Old Latin of the Waldenses that matched the Syrian Greek Receptus of Antioch... You see, until Martin Luther's time, there was no European recognition of the correct Bible text. It was traveling by 'underground railroad' through Europe, being propagated by Lollards, Waldenses, Albigenes, Picards, Lyonists, Petrobrusians, Henricians Berengarians, Bogomiles, Paulicians, Catharis, and 'Montanists,' but they had the 'dice loaded against them.'" (pp. 87, 103)

Gail Riplinger, *Which Bible is God's Word?*:

"The Waldenses were those Christians who lived in the Vaudois valley in northern Italy. Beza dates the Waldensian church from A.D. 120 and their Old Itala Bible from A.D. 157. It was a translation of the true text into the rather rude Low Latin of the second century. Historians like Allix, Leger, Gilley, Comba, and Nolan document this church's continual use of the pure text of the bible. They were persecuted severely between the fourth and thirteenth centuries by the Church of Rome. The bible of the Waldenses was used to carry the true text throughout Europe. Olivetan, a pastor of the Waldensian valley, translated a Waldensian Bible into French. This French Olivetan (Olivetan was a relative of Calvin), in turn, became the basis of the Geneva Bible in English. Luther used the German Tepl Bible, which represented a translation of the Waldensian Bible into German, to make Luther's German Bible. Diodati's Italian Bible was one in a line of Waldensian-type texts.

"All of these pure Waldensian-based texts, as well as several other Waldensian manuscripts, like Dublin MsA4 were among the rich variety of pure documents used by the KJV translators." (p. 53)

James Sichtler, *A Testimony Founded Forever*:

“There are essentially only two textual streams, and these have run parallel down the centuries. The received text was set down by 150 A.D. at Antioch in Syria as the Peshitta version. From there the apostles and missionaries carried it overland to the Balkans, to southern France, Germany and northern Italy. It was the Bible of the Waldenses who were the forerunners of the Baptists and who preserved and protected it against the onslaught of the papal system for a thousand years... ” (p. 12)

D.A. Waite, *Defending the King James Bible*:

“...The Italic Church in Northern Italy (157 A.D.) used the Received Text... The Gallic Church of Southern France (177 A.D.) used the Received Text... The Celtic Church in Great Britain used the Received Text. Why did all these have their Bibles based on the Received Text?—the churches in Italy, France, and Great Britain—why? Because that was the true Word of God and they knew it. That was the Received Text. They lived in 150 A.D. The Bible was completed in 90-100 A.D. They had the originals right there in their hands, and they based it on that which was pure, accurate, and preserved by God... These churches used this text and not any other... The Church of Scotland and Ireland used the Received Text... The Pre-Waldensian churches used the Received Text... The Waldensians (120 A.D. and onward) used the Received Text... The Gothic Version of the 4th century used the Received Text.” (pp. 45-6)

The foregoing citations are only a sampling of many such false statements concerning the doctrinal orthodoxy of the Albigenses, Cathars, Bogomils, Donatists, Paulicians, Waldenses, etc.—*all* of which spread the Gnostic heresy and Gnostic manuscripts throughout Europe, rather than the Received Text. The inevitable result of falsifying the history of the Traditional Text by attributing its preservation to these heretical sects will be the abandonment of Biblical orthodoxy and promotion of their heretical doctrines as “primitive Christianity”—heresies which are supported by the hybrid texts used by the medieval heretics.

By means of this stealth operation, the KJV-Only leaders are planting the seeds for a revival of medieval heresies among their adherents, and Gail Riplinger is breaking new ground with her bold departure from sound doctrine into Gnostic mysticism. If the KJV-Only movement abandons Biblical orthodoxy for the sake of an historical thesis, then it is just a step further to redefine orthodoxy and then claim historical descent by way of new revelation, private interpretation, and other Gnostic traditions.

The Albigenses with whom Benjamin Wilkinson and his Fundamental Baptist protégés identify as early Baptists were a medieval sect of a Gnostic heresy known as the Catharism, which was the vanguard of a larger movement that became known as the “Free Spirit.” The Free Spirit movement encompassed a variety of medieval sects which followed the Gnostic path of “enlightenment” with the promise of recreating a literal Paradise on earth:

“Thus, the name ‘Free Spirit’ – and such officially-recognized Biblical phrases as ‘paradise,’ ‘innocence of pleasure,’ and ‘ecstasy’ – are part of a kind of elaborate disguise: ‘The movement disguising itself under the clerical name of the Free Spirit traced, beneath the filaments of everyday life, a path more secret and less tolerable than the alchemical magistracy and its degeneration into the genesis of the work of art.’ The path traced by the movement of the Free Spirit: toward ‘a new world in which the goods necessary for survival [are] held in common, property [is] abolished, and marriage, which reduce[s] women to an object of ownership, [is] done away with.’ Heaven on earth.” (“Movement of the Free Spirit”)

The term “free spirit” served as a religious cover for hedonism. All things that pertained to the original Paradise, before and after the Fall, were practiced by the Free Spirit/ Cathar movement: nudity, incest, murder, rebellion, feminism, rejection of sin, work and private property, etc. In his book, *Lipstick Traces*:

A Secret History of the Twentieth Century (Harvard, 1989), Greil [Grail?] Marcus, presented a nutshell version of the Free Spirit heresy:

“In *Lipstick Traces*, incest figures as a particularly vivid example of Free Spirit libertinism; but it is only an example; it isn’t the distinctive feature of that libertinism itself, the thing that defines it. For Greil, the distinctive feature of the Brethren of the Free Spirit was their refusal of work. He writes,

‘The house of the Free Spirit had many mansions. As the adepts believed that sin was a fraud, they believed that property – the result of work, humanity’s punishment for Original Sin – was a falsehood. Thus all things were to be held in common, and work to be understood as hell, which was ignorance – only fools worked. Work was a sin against perfect nature.’

“Like the Ranters, [the free spirits] stripped off their clothes and preached naked,’ Greil writes. ‘If they did not commit incest or murder it was because they wished not to.’” (“Brethren of the Free Spirit”)

The Albigensian Cathars derived their name from Albi, a town in the Languedoc of South France where the Merovingian heresy had taken root and which had long enjoyed the protection of the French nobility. The Albigenses were not even remotely Christians but Manichean dualists who denied the deity of Jesus Christ and represented a rival religion to Christianity—Manichaeism. Their origin, history and doctrine are described in some detail by James McGoldrick, Professor of History at Cedarville College. The following excerpts from his book, *Baptist Successionism: A Crucial Question in Baptist History*, present an overall profile of this major heretical cult which threatened the very existence of Western Christendom:

“Proponents of Baptist successionism have assigned a place of special honor to the sect known as Albigenses or Cathars. Almost every conceivable effort has been expended by authors of that persuasion to exonerate them of the charge of Manichaeism levied by Catholics and to portray them as part of the true church in the High Middle ages...

“The name Albigenses is derived from the town of Albi in southern France, where the *Cathari* had a center of strength in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. *Cathar* comes from the Greek term *Katharos*, ‘pure,’ and is of ancient usage. Novations and Manichees in the third century called themselves Cathars. In the twelfth-century congregations of Cathars could be found in various parts of Europe, but France and Italy were the countries in which they were most numerous. In the interest of conciseness, this study will concentrate for the most part on the French Cathars—the Albigenses.

“As the chapter on the Bogomils shows, a complete and radical dualism that postulated two gods or two eternal principles of good and evil became characteristic Bogomil belief in the Balkans. A similar world-view appeared among the Cathars in the twelfth century, and the penetration of Bogomil influence is the most reasonable explanation for its emergence in Western Europe...

“As indicated above, radical dualism became the hallmark of the Cathars’ world- and life-view. They denied categorically the biblical doctrine of creation by contending that the material world was produced by an evil god. In the words of Bernard Gui, the Albigenses were guilty of

‘affirming that the creation of all visible and material things was not the work of God the Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, but of the devil and Satan, the evil deity, whom you [Peter Auterius, an Albigense] call the God of this world, the creator and Prince of this world.’ (Bernard Gui, “Sentence on Peter Auterius,” in FD, 271.)

“Since the Albigenses regarded material as evil *per se*, they refused to believe that the good god could become man, as the Christian doctrine of the incarnation proclaims. Instead, some of them contended that there were two Christs. The one described in the New Testament as being born in Bethlehem and crucified at Jerusalem was actually ‘a bad man, and that Mary Magdalene was his concubine... The good Christ...never ate, nor drank, nor

took upon him true flesh, nor was ever in this world, except spiritually in the body of Paul.’ (Milan Loos, *Dualist Heresy in the Middle Ages*, p. 246)...

“Because the person and work of Christ constitute the heart of Christianity, the teaching of any sect on Christology is the test by which its claims must be measured. Applying this test to the Albigenses and other Cathars reveals that they should not be regarded as Christians at all. They rejected the Trinity and with it the eternity and deity of Christ. Most Cathars believed that Christ was a perfect creature, a spiritual being, who came to earth in the guise of flesh to liberate human souls from their imprisonment in fleshly bodies. Christ did not redeem men by his death; his mission was that of a teacher who had come to proclaim the true way of salvation, and only those who became Cathars would enjoy the benefits of his work. When he appeared for his public ministry, Christ was opposed by John the Baptist with his water baptism, a material ablution which Christ abhorred. Radical dualist Cathars taught that the death of Christ was without suffering because his celestial body could not experience physical pain.

“The Cathar doctrine of salvation was based on the belief that rebellious angels committed the first sin and that their souls were infused into fleshly bodies as punishment. Salvation could be achieved only within the ‘pure’ church of the Cathars, which offered a sacramental means of eternal life called the *consolamentum* —‘consolation.’ It was a spiritual baptism in contrast to the water baptism of the medieval church. Because the *consolamentum* was administered only to those who requested it, it was a sort of believer’s baptism. Those who pass from this life without being consoled would, in Cathar belief, go through a chain of reincarnations until they received the consolation at last...” (*Baptist Successionism*, pp. 57-63)

According to Prof. McGoldrick and many other historians, Catharism was not only a threat to Western Christendom, but also to Western Civilization:

“Documentary evidence shows that the Cathars viewed marriage and procreation as capital sins for which pardon could be obtained only when one forsook such carnal relationships and received the consolation. Reinerius Saccho reported that all Cathar churches taught ‘that carnal marriage is always a mortal sin, and that the future punishment of adultery and incest will not be greater than that of lawful matrimony, nor would anyone among them be more severely punished.’ The same source indicates that the Cathars considered the eating of meat, cheese, or eggs as deadly sins...”

“The Cathar-Albigense Church was organized around a core of clergymen known as the *perfecti*, and admission to that circle was through the *consolamentum*. Those who accepted Cathar teaching but were not yet ready to adopt the rigorous asceticism of the ‘perfected ones’ were called *credentes*—‘believers.’ The latter attended services conducted by the clergy and professed to be seeking perfection for themselves, but they lived by ordinary standards until they were ready for the consolation...”

“Cathars considered the *consolamentum* a ‘spiritual baptism’ and a ‘baptism of the Holy Spirit,’ and they taught that no one could be saved without it... Because of their aversion to water as a material element, the Cathars practiced baptism by laying on of hands by the *perfecti* while the book of the Gospels was held over the candidates’ head and prayer was offered for him. This sacrament was said to accomplish cleansing from original sin and from all personal transgressions...”

“There were, of course, occasions when a person who was consoled on his ‘deathbed’ showed signs of recovering. Would he be able to discharge the duties of one who had been perfected? One way to resolve this dilemma was to subject him to the *endura*, which was the practice of allowing the sick person to starve to death, thereby assuring him of immediate salvation. Often the *endura* was accepted by the sick person and so became a voluntary death, a suicide. There are records, however, of the *perfecti* practically imposing it upon people whom they suspected would lapse from the faith at a later time. Apparently,

it was sometimes imposed upon children...

“When the papacy decided to take vigorous measures against the Albigenses, Innocent III sent Dominic Guzman, founder of the Order of the Preachers, to seek their conversion by persuasion. Dominic advised Roman Catholic clerics to avoid ostentatious displays, which might give credence to the criticisms of heretics. He also realized the Cathars had great appeal to the religious sensibilities of women, so he established a religious foundation for females and directed his disciples to work for the education of girls. These endeavors, although accompanied by extensive preaching missions, did not achieve the desired results. The powerful Albigense nobles opposed Dominic and thwarted his efforts. When the papal legate Peter of Castelnau was murdered by nobles who supported the heretics, Innocent III called for a crusade to destroy the French Cathars.” (*Baptist Successionism*, pp. 63-66)

Prof. McGoldrick concluded, “While the above description of Albigense beliefs and practices is far from complete, it shows conclusively that the Cathar movement was a major threat which the Catholic authorities had to combat. Nowhere was the suppression of Catharism more difficult than in southern France, where the heretics drew support from various socio-economic levels of society, and where a considerable portion of the nobility allied with them.” (McGoldrick, p. 65)

We can reasonably infer that the French nobility protected the Albigenses because they were Merovingians preserving their own. In researching the Prieuré de Sion, Fritz Springmeier discovered a book which documented the Merovingian nobility of France as distinctively Jewish:

“In my research of high level Satanists, it became clear that the bloodline that was key in their minds was the House of David—not Jesus Christ’s lineage. I discovered that the House of David had set up a Kingdom in southern France. I discovered this while rummaging through history books on the Middle Ages. I came upon a book *A Jewish Principedom in Feudal France 768-900*. This book was the key for me to realize that the Merovingian dynasty which wove its bloodline into the royal bloods of Europe was Jewish in origin.” (*The Top 13 Illuminati Bloodlines*, p. 80)

The Paulicians of the 7th-9th centuries are also misrepresented by KJV-Only advocates as Christians. The Paulicians lived in Armenia and the eastern Byzantine Empire and later occupied the territory of the Languedoc, in the south of France where the Albigensian stronghold was located. *A History of the Baptists* by John T. Christian documents this succession from various sources:

“It was in the country of the Albigenses, in the Southern provinces of France, that the Paulicians were most deeply implanted, and here they kept up a correspondence with their brethren in Armenia. The faith of the Paulicians ‘lived on in Languedoc and along the Rhine as the submerged Christianity of the Cathars, and, perhaps, also among the Waldenses. In the Reformation this Catharism comes once more to the surface, particularly among the so-called, Anabaptists and Unitarian Christians between whom and the most primitive church ‘The Key of Truth’ and the Cathar Ritual of Lyons supply us with the two great connecting links.’ (F.C. Conybeare, *Key of Truth*, x).

“Many historians, besides Gibbon, such as Muratori and Mosheim, regard the Paulicians as the forerunners of the Albigenses, and, in fact, as the same people. One of the latest of these, already frequently quoted, is Professor Conybeare, one of the highest authorities in the world on Paulician matters...

“One thing is certain, that in Italy, in France, and along the Rhine, the Paulicians and the Albigenses were found in the same territory, and there were no great differences between them in practice and doctrines. Writers go so far as to assert that there was a succession of churches and of interests.” (*A History of the Baptists*, Vol. I, Chap. IV)

Protestant and other historians besides McGoldrick have documented the radical dualist beliefs of the Cathari – a belief system which not only endangered the doctrinal foundation of Christianity, but threatened the survival of the human race. James Webb, author of *The Occult Underground*, described Catharism as worse than a heresy; it was altogether another religion masquerading as Christianity:

“The word ‘Cathar’ probably comes from the Greek ‘pure,’ and the Cathar doctrines show the sect to have been Gnostic of the ascetic type. They believed that the world had been created by an evil being—that there were a series of spheres of being between God and the material world—that procreation was evil because it introduced another spark of the divine into matter. These are familiar tenets. In the Languedoc the Cathars flourished, until in 1207 Pope Innocent III solicited help from the magnates of the North to crush the dangerous heresy. Strictly speaking it was not a heresy, but a rival religion; and as such it was ruthlessly wiped out.” (439:207)

In his *Medieval Heresy*, Malcolm Lambert wrote that Catharism was not a Christian religion by any measure:

“Cathar belief, just like Bogomilism, to which it was heir, upset the structure of sacramental life in favour of one rite of supreme importance, the *consolamentum*; replaced a Christian morality by a compulsory asceticism, which made faults consist rather in a soiling by matter than an act of will, eliminated redemption by refusing to admit the saving power of the crucifixion; and rejected the Trinity in favour of a subordination of two persons to the Father. Cathars could not admit that Christ was God - an angel, perhaps, or a son of God, but still not equal with the Father. Nor could they logically admit that he was man, with a body like that of other men. So the hinge of Christian belief, the Incarnation, was destroyed. Radical dualism went still further in its destruction of the pillars of Christian belief, and can hardly be regarded even as an extreme Christian heresy. With its belief in two gods and two creations, it might almost be described as another religion altogether.” (Malcolm Lambert, *Medieval Heresy*, pp. 125-26)

According to *Brewer’s Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*, the Bogomils, precursors of the Cathars in Bulgaria, believed that Jesus and Satan were brothers:

“Bogomils. Member of an heretical sect, which sprang up in Bulgaria in the 10th century, their name probably coming from Slavic *Bog*, ‘God’. One of their main tenets was that God the Father had two sons, Satan and Christ.” (*Brewer’s Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*, “Bogomils”) (843:136)

Joseph Strayer, author of *The Albigensian Crusades*, wrote that Catharism, had it continued to flourish, would have destroyed the human race.

“The contrary charge, that Catharism would have extinguished the human race by its denunciation of sexual intercourse is more logical...” (Joseph R. Strayer, *The Albigensian Crusades*, 1971, p. 35)

Likewise, Inquisition historian H.C. Lea, who can hardly be accused of bias toward the Roman Catholic Church, wrote of the threat which the Cathars posed, not only to Christianity, but to Western Civilization:

“However much we may deprecate the means used for its suppression and commiserate those who suffered for conscience’ sake, we cannot but admit that the cause of orthodoxy was in this case the cause of progress and civilization. Had Catharism become dominant, or even had it been allowed to exist on equal terms, its influence could not have failed to

prove disastrous.” (Henry Charles Lea, *The Inquisition of the Middle Ages*, Vol. I. p 106
I)

Catholic historian Godefroid Kurth described the spread of the Albigensian cult as “a dark night which came down with the weight of lead and with the coldness of ice upon the mind and the heart, a chancre of death which ate at all the luminous and elevated faculties of the human soul, a deadly folly that choked the joy of living and made existence here below like a bad dream.” (Kurth, *The Church at the Turning Points of History*, p. 68)

In his book, *Medieval Heresies: Popular Movements from Bogomil to Hus*, Malcolm Lambert revealed that Cathar leaders concealed the heretical nature of the cult until their adherents were sufficiently disaffected with the established Church—a pattern that is replicated today by the KJV-Only leaders:

“In all areas methods of missioning followed the pattern of the Bogomils: there was a pedagogic progression from the generalities, which seemed to blend easily into the religious environment, to the inner mysteries, reserved for the perfect or for believers of long standing. The approach, natural to all sects influenced by Gnosticism, had the effect of concealing the profoundly heretical nature of Catharism from the neophyte until he was sufficiently detached from the influence of orthodox belief.” (p. 119)

The Albigensian Cathars were exterminated, not just for heresy, but on criminal grounds, specifically for their initiation rites which were a form of ritual murder. The Albigenses seem to have been a medieval version of the “Heaven’s Gate” death cult of more recent notoriety, according to Steve Kellmeyer:

“In the twelfth century, the Catholic Church fought the incredibly pernicious Cathar, or Albigensian, heresy. For Cathars, the world, the flesh, all of it is pure evil, a hellish existence from which we can only be released through death. Cathars saw procreative sex as evil because the ensoulment of the body trapped the divine spark of the human person in the hell of the material world. It had one sacrament, the *consolatum*, which was immediately followed by the *endura*, ritual suicide by starvation.

“The heresy became so popular in southern France that entire geographical regions were depopulating through decreased family size and ritual suicide. St. Dominic’s new order of priests, the Inquisition and the Crusades were all created in order to stop the spread of the suicidal sect. Even so, adherents persisted through the 1400’s.

“The power of the Catholic Church to intervene in the culture is largely gone. Secular government will have to deal with today’s Cathars. Sadly, there is no evidence we really understand what we are up against.” (Steve Kellmeyer, *Catholic Citizens*)

Modern Cathars have not only succeeded in reviving the medieval rite of “endura,” they have obtained the legal right to impose it on their victims as a “spiritual experience.”

“I will tell you that as it appears to me, Mrs. Schiavo’s death is not imminent by any means,” George Felos told the Associated Press Saturday. ‘She is calm; she’s peaceful, she is resting comfortably... Frankly when I saw her ... she looked beautiful. In all the years I’ve seen Mrs. Schiavo, I’ve never seen such a look of peace and beauty upon her,’ said Felos.

“One explanation for Felos’ comments is suggested in the attorney’s own 2002 book, *Litigation As Spiritual Practice*. Felos, a longtime volunteer hospice worker, discovered killing as a spiritual experience:

“As I continued to stay beside Mrs. Browning at her nursing home bed, I...experienced a sense of heightened awareness. As Mrs. Browning lay motionless before my gaze, I suddenly heard a loud, deep moan and scream and wondered if the nursing home personnel heard it and would respond to the unfortunate resident. In the next moment, as this cry of pain and torment continued, I realized it was Mrs. Browning.

“I felt the mid-section of my body open and noticed a strange quality to the light in the room. I sensed her soul in agony. As she screamed I heard her say, in confusion, ‘Why am I still here ... why am I here?’ My soul touched hers and in some way I communicated that she was still locked in her body. I promised I would do everything in my power to gain the release her soul cried for. With that the screaming immediately stopped. I felt like I was back in my head again, the room resumed its normal appearance, and Mrs. Browning, as she had throughout this experience, lay silent.” (Kellmeyer, *Ibid.*)

George Felos was the attorney for Michael Schiavo and instrumental the murder by starvation of his wife, Terry Schiavo, despite the medical fact that she was not in a persistent vegetative state. Felos claimed in his book that he speaks to people in comas and PVS via “soul speak.” Having been chosen by God to determine their wishes, Felos removes their feeding tubes after asking if they want to die and hears them beg, via *soul speak*, “Yes, I want to die! Please kill me.” From one review of *Litigation As Spiritual Practice*:

“Reading it is a descent into a New Age snakepit. To say Felos is strange is an exercise in charity. He has some odd notions that God speaks to him directly and that God somehow thinks that Felos is his Death Angel on earth...

“In just one example of how bizarre this book is, Felos claims he has the God-given ability to ‘psychically connect’ with PVS and coma victims. How does he do it? He SHOUTS at them, ‘Do you want to LIVE?? Do you want to LIVE??’

“Obviously George Felos thinks everyone in a brain-injured state is also DEAF. But it doesn’t matter; Felos also claims that because of God, he can ‘hear’ the ‘souls’ of the conscious-impaired ‘talk’ to him ‘inside his head.’

“According to the book, none of the ‘souls’ ever told George they want to live.”
(Amazon review)

Little wonder that the appellation “Albigenses” is the name of a demonic lineage whose ancestry is said to be the subterranean race which inhabited the pre-flood world:

“The papal machine went so far as to slaughter some 35,000 Ring Lord supporters in a savage campaign from 1209. The Cathars of Languedoc were adherents of the Anjou bloodline of Mélusine, the Mermaid-Queen of the Holy Grail. In her role as a Shining One, they referred to her as an Elf (or, in the language of old Provence, an Albi), while the Grail dynasty in general was called the ‘Albi-gens’ (Elven bloodline). The Cathars refused to acknowledge the ineligible dynasty of Church-installed monarchs, and so the Vatican troops were sent with the order to ‘Kill them all’! In allusion to the elven nature of the Cathar tradition, the brutal onslaught was called the Albigensian Crusade.”
(Laurence Gardner, *Realm of the Ring Lord*)

And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. - Revelation 13:1

THE NEO-CATHAR CHURCH

Reviving the Cathar heresy is presently the project of a group of “reincarnated Cathars” who claim to have been martyred in the Albigensian Crusade. According to an old Cathar prophecy, “‘At the end of seven hundred years, the laurel will be green once more.’ – Anon. Troubadour, 13th Century” (“The Legend of the Cathars”) A British psychiatrist and psychic, Dr. Arthur Guirdham, has written many books about the Cathars, one of these a journal of his treatment of people in disparate locations who all claim they were Cathar martyrs of the Albigensian Crusade. *We Are One Another: Astounding Evidence of Group Reincarnation* opens by introducing the “reincarnated” Cathars:

“This is a record of group reincarnation. It involves eight people who, alive in the twentieth century, had a previous existence in the thirteenth. In seven out of the eight cases I have been able to trace their thirteenth-century identity. In the eighth case I am aware of the person’s Christian name but not of her family connections... The group lived, in the Middle Ages, in the Languedoc. In the twentieth century they were either born, lived or were educated within a dozen miles of Bristol...

“The members of this group were all practitioners of the mediaeval form of Dualism known as Catharism. Its exponents believed that there were two primary energies of good and evil operating in the universe from the beginning and continuing to the end. They believed that the world was created by the Devil. These beliefs were an attempt to answer the agonising question, ‘If God is all-merciful and, at the same time, all-powerful, why does He permit such horrors to happen in this world?’ Though the Cathars preached the word of Christ more than the orthodox, they rejected the idea of redemption by His sacrifice. Purification was achieved by successive incarnations...

“A few words are necessary to explain the events to which the characters in this story so frequently return. Their memories are chiefly concentrated on the years 1242-1244. There is a remarkably generalised preoccupation with the massacre of the Inquisitors at Avignonet. This was a gesture of defiance and self-protection launched by the representatives of the Languedoc against the tyranny and cruelty of the French Catholic invaders. The Avignonet affair stimulated the French crown to cut off the dragon’s head of heresy. This was the Chateau of Montsegur which had for years been a centre of instruction for Cathar sympathisers and of initiation for the priesthood. The fortress was besieged from 1243 to 1244... The characters in this book tune-in with remarkable precision to the siege, to the evacuation of the castle of the Cathar treasure, probably rare books, and above all, to the last celebration of the Consolamentum before the Cathars perished at the stake after the capitulation. The Consolamentum was the only sacrament recognised by the Cathars. It signified a voluntary renunciation of the flesh and of attachment to the things of this world. Six of the characters in this story attended the final celebration of this rite.

“The major events in this story were unfolded between late August 1968 and the early summer of 1972.” (Arthur Guirdham, *We Are One Another*, 1974, pp. 5-7)

Dr. Guirdham is presently working with these “reincarnated Cathars” and “discarnate entities” to revive the Cathar belief system as “true Christianity.” Although the KJV-Only apologists would never publicly espouse the Dualist heresy, by reimagining the Cathar/Albigense heretics as “pure Christians” they are preparing the way for the “reincarnated” Cathars and their fellow Dualists to be received by the Church as the “separated Christians” of the Middle Ages. When the moment comes for the reappearance of these “martyred” heretics as the reincarnated “Cathar Church”, their sanitized image will have preceded them and it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to persuade the masses of Christians of their true character. As Mark Twain once said, “Give a man a reputation as an early riser and he can sleep till noon.” President George Bush is a stellar example of the power of the media to “reimage” high level occultists as born-again Christians.

A neo-Cathar website, the General Conference Cathar Church, is proof that “Catharism” has been revived, as promised, and is alive and well in the 21st century. The “Mission Statement of the Cathars of North America” presents Catharism as “a nondenominational, noncreedal, house-church movement. Claiming a diasporal descendant from surviving remnants of the medieval Inquisition 800 years ago, good Christians today seek substantive unity among the People of GOD...” The mission of the neo-Cathars is “to spread the radical good news of salvation” which is to “challenge people to Divine self-knowledge through Christ’s way as the Messenger of GOD.” “Divine self-knowledge” is the expression used for “gnosis.” When “knowledge of self” is attained, gnosis releases the “divine spark” imprisoned in an initiate who then starts on a mystic ascent to be reunited with the “divine substance” and return to his native “realm of light.” “Divine self-knowledge” (gnosis) is achieved “through Christ’s way as the Messenger of GOD” rather than “salvation given through the blood of Jesus Christ”

In lieu of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to sinners, “This mission calls people of faith to discipleship and obedience in the pursuit of personal and social holiness,” in other words, the “works salvation” so typical of Gnostics. The nature of “social holiness” is the subject of an annual “Anarchism and Christianity Conference” which is recommended in the Cathar Church News. Also advocated by the neo-Cathar GCCC is euthanasia, specifically the “right to be starved and dehydrated” as in the Cathar rite of “Endura”:

“At last week’s Toronto conference of the International Right to Die movement, AGC and other speakers laid out the course for legalization of euthanasia and assisted suicide around the world, with special emphasis on the right to be starved and dehydrated to death in accordance with the practice of the Endura. Steve Hopcraft, the political organizer for the recent California campaign to legalize assisted suicide, said that the movement must work to ban the word ‘suicide’ from its lexicon.” (GCCC News)

The General Conference Cathar Church also has a ministry to the Gay & Lesbian community. From the GCCC booklet “Your Search is Over: Gay & Lesbians” published by the Assembly of Good Christians, Church of God, Montsegur:

“We encourage the practice of safe sexual practices among our believers, sponsoring a number of efforts in that direction. In particular, we support

JOCK JACKS
CAMPUS JACKS
CITY JACKS

in addition to a pre-screened introduction service for men called MEMBER-MATCH. At present these programs are geared toward gay and bisexual males.”

In the face of overwhelming historical and current evidence of the heresy and pagan practices of the Cathars and Albigenses, Baptist successionists up to the present day have denied their dualist heresy and eulogized the cult as the “true Church” of the Middle Ages. Prof. McGoldrick wrote of their deceit:

“Proponents of Baptist successionism have assigned a place of special honor to the sect known as the Albigenses or Cathars. Almost every conceivable effort has been expended by authors of that persuasion to exonerate them of the charge of Manichaeism levied by Catholics and to portray them as part of the true Church of the High Middle Ages. Orchard was especially profuse in praising the Albigenses. He regarded them and the Waldenses as the ‘two witnesses’ predicted in Revelation 11:3-4 and concluded that they and their fraternal associates comprised ‘the only body of people who were not immersed in the corruption of the times, and who unceasingly proclaimed the word of truth in the face of every class of superstitions and every degree of vice both in clergy and laity.’ [fn. Orchard, Concise History, 161]” (*Baptist Successionism*, p. 57)

The following are just a few examples of this sort of historical revisionism by the KJV-Only Baptists:

David Cloud, “Examining ‘The King James Only Controversy’”:

“[Michael] Horton speaks of the early history of the Roman Catholic Church in glowing terms. He says, ‘It was Rome that stood up to the Montanists, Manicheans, Donatists, Pelagians, Cathari, Albigensians, Arians, and Monophysites...’ (p. 245). This is only partly true. Many of the ‘heretics’ that Rome stood against were actually Bible believing Christians who refused to be moved from the truth. In his diligently researched book (*The History of the Donatists*, 1875),

respected nineteenth-century Baptist historian David Benedict, working directly from ancient Latin texts, revealed that the Donatists were not the heretics that Rome made them out to be. The same is true for the Albigensians, the Cathari, and others that Horton mentions. Though there might have been true heretics who were called Donatists and Albigensians, these people, in the main, were much closer to the Bible than Rome was. The term ‘Manichean’ was also misused by Rome to slander many people. Though there were some who were known as Manicheans who held to strange and unscriptural doctrines, many who were labeled Manichean were not heretics but were falsely accused by Rome.”

James Sightler: “Notes to my students in Baptist History at Tabernacle Baptist College, 1990-2005”

“There were a number of groups which sprang up as a reaction to apostasy within the early church. These are the spiritual kin of modern Baptists.

The Montanists 150 AD

The Novatians 250 AD

The Donatists 325 AD

The Paulicians 700 AD

The Vaudois (valley people) or Waldenses 500-1400 AD

The Albigenses 1200 AD [Cathars]

“All these groups were called heretics and Manicheans by the Roman church. But the charge was not true. All the groups listed above believed:

- The absolute authority of the Bible and the rejection of church traditions of human origin.
- The church is local and visible.
- The local church is autonomous.
- Church purity was insisted upon with a new profession and rebaptism for those who lapsed from the faith under persecution from Decius and Diocletian, who had required emperor [sic] worship.
- That Baptism and the Lord’s Supper are symbolic ordinances.
- All rejected infant baptism and the sacral society which joined church and state.
- All rejected the mass and the Roman church and purgatory.
- All baptized adult believers only.
- All rejected the Roman hierarchy.”

Notice that Dr. Sightler does not list belief in the deity of Jesus Christ and the Trinity—the most fundamental of Christian doctrines—as an article of faith of the Montanists, Novatians, Donatists, Paulicians, Waldenses or Albigenses, who were Cathars in the region of Albi, a Merovingian stronghold in South of France. The reason for this was the Cathars, Albigenses, Bogomils, et al were all contemporaries and fellow Gnostics of the Merovingian Knights Templar. All of these cults – Cathari/Albigenses, Bogomils and Templars – were medieval extensions of the ancient Teutonic religion which posed as Christianity but was dedicated to its destruction. In an article titled, “Hitler and the Occult: Nazism, Reincarnation and Rock Culture,”

Suzanne Rini identified the quest for the “Grail of the racially pure blood...of the ancient Aryan root race”, the fallen angels of Genesis 6, as the spiritual connection between the ancient Teutonic mystery religion, the medieval Cathars, Albigenses and the Knights Templar – and the neo-Templar Satan worshippers of contemporary Western culture:

“For what were the Cathars and the Albigensians but the reiteration and transmogrification of

the old, pagan Teutonic religion, never quite eradicated with the coming of Christianity, and ever at hand in any anxious or defiant age...

“The heresies most applicable to the Nazis are also those most pervasive in the West today: Gnosticism and its extension, Catharism...

“...the Cathars are credited, even by the most Inquisition-hating historians as having been the first heretics to propitiate Satan as the god of matter. They are credited too, with being the first to celebrate the Black Mass and to offer human sacrifice, both of which were drawn upon by 19th Century Satanists. It was the 17th century Cathars who introduced to devil-worship the ritualistic elements today passed off as ancient but which were unknown in both the early Christian centuries and in the Renaissance, when black magic became influential through the work of Pico de Mirandola, who believed that white magic was not efficient enough for the matters at hand. It was the ritualistic, propitiatory Cathar ‘tradition’ which was adapted by the surge of Satanism that took place in the 19th century well-described by Huysmanns in *La Bas*.

“[Carl] Raschke nails down the Cathar-Nazi convergence and its connection to contemporary Satanism. Donald Nugent in ‘Satan is a Fascist’ (*The Month*, April 1972) analyzes the ‘unholy Trinity of Adolf Hitler, Charles Manson ... and Anton LaVey;’ For all three the ‘satanist and the superman are one,’ Nugent writes. He also points out that mysticism and humanism are ‘the two routes to satanism.’ Catharism mixed with the secular ideology of state control became Hitlerism. German mysticism mingled with LaVey’s libertarian philosophy of *laissez aller*, or ‘let anything pass,’ becomes the nine satanic statements [of LaVey].’

““Nugent also discusses [Charles] Manson’s fanatical racism; his sporting of Nazi swastikas, which he wears on his forehead to this day and his own cryptic allusions to ‘superman.’ He cites the congruity with ‘LaVey’s political objectives of a ‘benign police state’ in which the weak are winnowed away. In the satanist mentality, according to Nugent, ‘[T]he world is a hospital—and a mental hospital. The world is the lustful will to power, wanton destructive violence, man’s inhumanity to man. The world is the paradise that has been polluted. The world is the exploitative society, the place where nothing is holy and everything has its price. The world is a brothel.’ That has been LaVey’s sentiment to the letter. If the world is a brothel, then destruction and violence are the most justifiable course. All of one’s corrupt surroundings must be unmasked, dismembered, and dispersed into nothingness.’

“The swastika was originally a Sanskrit sun symbol, denoting a heliocentric cosmos ordered by an Aryan nature god who became the reinterpreted ‘God’ of the Nazis...

“The Thule Society was the quasi-secret gnostic society behind Munich’s tiny German Workers Party which, in turn, provided the philosophical basis and early membership for Hitler’s German National Socialist Party. Dusty Sklar, in the very well-researched *Nazis and the Occult*, establishes that Hitler took many ideas and props from the Thule Society: the ‘fuhrerprinzip,’ the swastika..., the idea for the stormtroopers, and the very salute, ‘Sieg Heil!’ But at the bottom of all of these lay a barbarian’s antipathy to none other than Christianity, as well as to Judaism, and especially to the Catholic Church. Had the war been won by Germany, the Church would have probably been pandemically persecuted. Thus, the swastika and the SS runes are historically the symbols of satanism and beneath them lay visceral hatred of Judeo-Christian civilization.

““[In *The Return of the Goddess*...Edward C.] Whitmont claims that the lore of the swastika traces directly back to the Knights Templars, who were routed by the Church for allegedly satanic-like practices. The Templars were also affiliated with the Grail myth, a major element of which was worship of an ancient, Celtic/Teutonic god involving prescribed rituals and prayers: ‘All this purportedly constituted a Grail liturgy dedicated to reviving the ancient forgotten mysteries of the old sacred tradition (ascribed to a legendary Aryan Thule) from

which the whole Indo-Germanic culture was supposed to have originated.”

“The central symbol of the Thule Grail mysteries was represented by a swastika, the ancient symbol of renewal, flanked by two horns of the moon (the horns of the old Celtic shamanic god Cerunnus). It is held within and over a moon sickle, as in a cup.’

“Of the Nazis, those ‘new Templars,’ Whitmont says, ‘This emblem was now said to be the most secret symbol of the Armanentum Armandom, the name given to the order by its high priests and spiritual directors. These new Templars claimed to guard and serve the Grail of the racially pure blood and the Thule mysteries of the ancient Aryan root race.’ Thus, the old god Cerannus would have had to be propitiated with blood rites, upon which pagan renewal was always based. Hitler, when he came to power, often had himself pictured in Grail regalia, and set up some of his forces as ‘orders’ of knights. It then becomes possible to hypothesize that perhaps the ritual murders which took place in the German concentration camps were seen, not figuratively as they are by some historians, but literally as blood sacrifice...”

That Baptists lay claim to the theological ancestors of Freemasonry, Nazism and the neo-Cathar Church makes an enormous statement which betrays the true origin of the Baptist denomination. Based on the voluminous works of KJV-Only and other Baptists testifying to the identity of their ancestors, we should take them at their word. The Cathar heritage of the KJV-Only movement certainly explains the Gnostic direction it is now taking under the direction of Gail Riplinger.

CHAPTER XIV

BAPTIST SUCCESSIONISM

CONTEND FOR THE FAITH: THE TEXTUS RECEPTUS

<http://watch-unto-prayer.org/TR-0-intro.html>

WATCH UNTO PRAYER

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