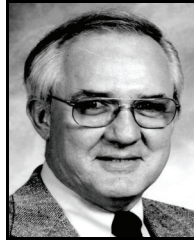


# SIGNS AND SYMBOLS OF SATANISM

*Keith Mosher*



Keith Mosher and his wife, the former Dorothy Cox, have three children and five grandchildren. Mosher, a graduate of the Memphis School of Preaching, holds B.A., M.A., and M.Th. degrees from Southern Christian University and a D.M. degree from Harding Graduate School of Religion. He has worked with churches in Mississippi and Tennessee, and done mission work in several countries. Mosher is a full-time instructor and the Dean of Academics at the Memphis School of Preaching.

## PREFACE<sup>1</sup>

Having little pre-knowledge of the “Signs and Symbols of Satanism,” I approached this subject with no little apprehension. Most of what I write here was garnered from Internet sources. I have no way of knowing if those sources are incorrect. I discovered that *most* Satanist groups do not believe Satan actually exists, but is “seen as a mascot for personal liberty.”<sup>2</sup> “Satan is not viewed as a living entity, but as an ideal.”<sup>3</sup> This type of Satanism is *philosophical*, not religious, and the “church of Satan” is of this type.<sup>4</sup> Religious Satanism is less common.

Religious Satanism does involve a belief in Satan as deity, although not necessarily an evil or oppositional one. In fact, the majority view Satan as a Promethean or Gnostic deity—a liberator, or one who encourages mankind to rebel against its state of imprisonment. In many of these traditions the Biblical Yahweh (God, K.M.) is seen as an evil tyrant, an oppressive and cruel deity—which correlates with similar Gnostic beliefs ... Religious Satanists do not make sacrifices or practice “black magic.”<sup>5</sup>

Some disaffected members of society also dabble in Satanic practices, but have no tie with the church of Satan. With the latter three groups in mind, this study of the “signs and symbols” of Satanism is begun.

## INTRODUCTION

Koch wrote:

The devil is a many-sided and versatile demagogue. To the psychologist he says, “I will give you new knowledge and

understanding.” To the occultist he will say, “I will give you the keys to the last secrets of creation.” He confronts the religionist and the moralist with a mask of integrity and promises them the very help of heaven. And finally to the rationalist and the liberalist he says, “I am not there. I do not even exist.”

The devil is a skillful strategist. He is the master of every tactic of the battlefield. He befogs the front. He hides behind a camouflage of empty religious talk. He operates through the use of the latest scientific method. He successfully fires and launches his arguments on the social and humane plane. And his sole aim is to deceive, to entice, and to ensnare his victims.<sup>6</sup>

Satan is the great liar (Jn. 8:44). He is so good at his task that some, who claim Satanism, deny his existence while others seem to be obsessed with him. Others, in this lecture series, will write about him in much detail, but the effort here is to explain five things.

1. That myriad symbols have emerged over the years “representing” Satan.
2. That the Bible sets forth no signs nor symbols for Christianity.
3. What are the symbols of Satanism?
4. That there is *no* “power” nor “magic” in such symbols.
5. That there are dangers in such symbolisms to those who use them.

Satan, “the god of this world,” would hide the Gospel from the minds of unbelievers (2 Cor. 4:3-4). He is the great slanderer or accuser (Rev. 12:10). He is the enemy and tempter of the righteous (Mt. 4:3). He is the “lord of death” and the “god of flies;” he is the evil one who “rules” in this world (Heb. 2:14; Mk. 3:22-23; Jn. 14:30). This “son of Belial” (1 Sam. 25:17) has ways of keeping himself in the public’s eye (2 Cor. 6:15).

### **THE “EMERGING” SYMBOLISM**

Satanism has its roots in gnosticism which doctrine saw the world as profoundly evil, and the symbols of Satanism have emerged from man’s ideas about “mystical” life after death.

There is music in the world of the supernatural, from primitive drumming and dancing to the splendors of Masses and Requiems. There is art, from the cave paintings and the lumpy, obese

“Venuses” of prehistoric men through the works of Blake, a Bosch, a Botticelli, to the nightmare drawings of Austin Spare and the paintings of modern surrealists. There is a treasure of symbolism, from the rich religious and magical ideas associated with numbers, letters, architecture, the moon and the sun, to the myths and folk beliefs connected with the house or the dog or the cat, the wren, or the raven, the salmon or the spider.<sup>7</sup>

It is essential, here, that the relationship between “magic” (the employing of hitherto unknown forces in nature)<sup>8</sup> and Satanism is recognized. Ritual magicians (occult) claim knowledge of secrets too “dangerous for the modern herd.”<sup>9</sup> However, modern superstitions and magical ritual also have their origins in gnostic beliefs.<sup>10</sup>

The powerful Gnostic strain in Western magic, which Levi and Crowley did much to resuscitate, values as the paths to the truth behind the outward appearance of things, not reason, but insight, intuition, imagination, inspiration. You cannot find the one great underlying reality by thinking about it. ‘Magic,’ Paracelsus said, ‘has power to experience and fathom things which are inaccessible to human reason. For magic is a great secret wisdom, just as reason is a great public folly.’<sup>11</sup>

Since the Gnostics held that all of the material world is “evil,” it follows that any part of the created universe, including man’s body, could become a symbol. How ludicrous such symbols are is here illustrated by the sneeze and a nursery rhyme. Note the following:

In the supernatural sense, sneezing has always had a twofold aspect: there are good sneezes and there are bad. The sneeze can represent the spirit of life, as in the case of the image of clay animated by Prometheus with fire stolen from the sun, which gave proof of its vitality with a sudden sneeze, or it can represent, as it did in Aristotle’s time, the first sign of recovery in a patient who was thought to be dying. In later European folklore, a sick person who sneezed could look forward to a restoration of full health, and even today in Yorkshire regular sneezers are supposed to enjoy long life. A 17th-century writer observed that ‘sneezing ... is profitable to parturient women in lethargies, apoplexies and catalepsies.’

In its more sinister aspects, however, the sneeze provided clear evidence of some forthcoming tragedy: it was in fact an omen of death since it symbolized the expulsion of the breath of life from

the body. According to an American superstition, sneezing at a meal is a sign of a death in the family.<sup>12</sup>

The nursery rhyme, “Ring Around the Rosy,” is to the magical arts practitioner, a “reference to the Great Plague: ‘Atishoo, atishoo, we all fall down’ refers to the sneeze; the fatal symptom of the plague, preceding death.”<sup>13</sup>

So obvious is the connection between the “evil” material world and occult Satanism that one of the leading symbols, the *pentagram* is the “weapon of power in magic.”<sup>14</sup> Note this:

The star with five points is traditionally a weapon of power in magic. Its symbolism is based on that of the number 5, which stands, among other things, for the living world of Nature, the four elements and the quintessence or the four directions and the center; for the senses and the union of the sexes; for man as microcosm, man as the ruler of Nature, as the miniature image and potential master of all things.

The pentagram with one of its points projecting upwards can be imagined as a man’s body with arms and legs extended, and is a symbol of the dominance of the divine spirit (the one upward point) over matter (the other four points). A reversed pentagram, with two points projecting upwards, is a symbol of evil and attracts sinister forces because it overturns the proper order of things and demonstrates the triumph of matter over spirit. The two upper points suggest the horns of the Devil. ‘It is the goat of lust attacking the heavens with its horns,’ said Eliphas Levi.<sup>15</sup>

McMillon, in noting the connection between gnosticism, the magical arts (even dating to early man) and Satanism wrote:

In the early Christian centuries some of the philosophers asserted that the world was created by evil gods. This led to the worship of evil deities, which in turn prompted several heresies such as the Manicheans, Mandaeans and Gnostics. Among the Gnostics there were several major sects. The Ophite Gnostics rejected the God of the Old Testament and consequently glorified the serpent as the Illuminator of mankind. The Ophites believed that the fall in the garden of Eden was a step forward from ignorance to knowledge. They believed that this was of great benefit to mankind. This Gnostic sect was a mixture of Persian dualism, Egyptian and Greek mystery religions, Greek philosophy, and elements of Judaism. This mixture of beliefs was given a “Christian” baptism thus becoming a serious threat to Christian

faith. While all Gnostic sects stressed salvation through secret knowledge, the Ophites believed that this knowledge derived from Satan or the serpent in the garden of Eden.<sup>16</sup>

Traditions related to Satanism further developed in the Middle Ages and the “Black Mass,” itself, can be traced to a rebellion against Catholicism.<sup>17</sup> To give an exact date for the emergence of some symbols is not historically feasible. Marlowe’s “Faustus” (ca. 1600), French Kings (ca. 1560 held Black Masses) and a host of others have “pictured” Satan. McMillon notes:

As late as 1900, the Frenchman Eliphas Levi, drew a picture of the demon Baphomet (a corruption of the name Mohammed). The demonic picture possessed the head and horns of a goat, wings, tail, hoofs and the body of a man. A torch burning on top of the head symbolized the wisdom of the evil creature. This picture of the devil provided the basis of much of a pictorial portrayal of Satan that exists even today.<sup>18</sup>

#### **SYMBOLS AND SIGNS ARE NOT BIBLICAL**

As Conley put it: “The Bible, from beginning to end, forbids the practice of the occult arts.”<sup>19</sup> However, man seems always to want to know “secret” things, but those things belong to God (Gen. 3:4-6; Deut. 29:29). In fact, God has condemned sorcery, fortune-telling, wizardry, and a host of other profane activities (Ex. 22:18; Lev. 19:26-31; 20:6). Moses commanded the Israelites:

When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God. For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the Lord thy God hath not suffered thee so to do (Deut. 18:9-14).

The context of Deuteronomy 18 deals with Moses’ description of a settled Canaan where a godly king might reign and *true* prophets would deliver revelation (Deut. 18:15-22). So, there is a warning

against “augury,” “soothsaying,” and “witchcraft.” The magical acts (i.e., “Satanism”) were abominations of the nations having no place among God’s people. The idolatrous practice of burning children as an offering to the gods (cf. LaVey above); or augury (soothsaying, Num. 23:23); or magical acts of astrology, snake-charming, or “speaking” to the dead were *all* forbidden.

It is even the case that no similarity of God was to be constructed nor worshipped. “Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth” (Deut. 5:8). In Isaiah’s day, however, Israel sought wizards and necromancers because they had no dawn light of God’s Word in them (Isa. 8:20), and Jeremiah added: “Therefore hearken not ye to your prophets, nor to your diviners, nor to your dreamers, nor to your enchanters, nor to your sorcerers” (Jer. 27:9). It seems that Judah had turned to Satanism instead of the Mosaic code.

The New Testament of Jesus Christ also forbids satanic practices.

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God (Gal. 5:19-21).

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death (Rev. 21:8).

Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie (Rev. 22:14-15).

What about so-called “Christian” symbols and signs? There are about sixty such floating around, but no symbol is commanded in Holy Writ nor explained as an indicator of one’s faithfulness to God. All symbols merely originated in the traditions of men. One of the most known is the *fish*. Tradition says that the persecuted Christians of the first century used a fish-like symbol to identify themselves to the other faithful.<sup>20</sup>

The Greek word for fish is *ichthus* and if one imagined a line drawn around the Greek word a likeness of a fish would appear. The “i” in Greek is the English “j.” The *ch* in Greek looks like the English X; the *th* is a theta (one letter that resembles a capital O with a horizontal line through it. The U is just that, as is the S. The letters, supposedly, stood for *Jesus Christ, God’s (Theos is the Greek for “God”) Son (uios), Savior*. If the symbol were just an identity ploy, such would be alright. But, many have venerated the symbol as well as a host of others including the cross itself.

The cross represents the essence of Christianity (1 Cor. 1:18). Even so, no verse mentions the “crucifix” nor describes some magical power in wearing one or kissing one or praying over one. (See the appendix for a list of many of the symbols adopted by apostate disciples.) In fact, treating the cross as “magic” cheapens its true meaning. “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world” (Gal. 6:14).

#### SATANIC SYMBOLS<sup>21</sup>

The pentagram (a circle with a five-pointed star in the center) is basic to Satanism. A victim is tied securely to it and is beaten, but not so severely as never to recover. However, some have died from broken bones or from having their hearts pierced with the point of an inverted cross. If the pentagram is placed on the abdomen of a pregnant woman, the meaning is that the baby will be offered to Satan to insure the mother a better place in hell.

The “inverted cross” has nothing to do with Peter, as some imply, but has been a symbol of the magic arts since the seventh century. *All* such inverted crosses are symbolic of, or belong to, satanic worship. (Note there was an inverted cross on the chair used by Pope John Paul II.)

Amulets such as an inscription or picture of a goat’s head, star, horseshoe, tail of a fox, mandrake, root, lizard, fingernail, key, knot, scorpion, or magic words or phrases are worn on persons and said to have magical powers. Though not a symbol, occult-oriented persons believe in apparitions or appearance of disembodied or ghostlike forms. Mediums, by trickery, appear to speak like some deceased person.

A Black Mass is celebrated in honor of the devil. Such a mass is commonly celebrated during a witch’s Sabbath; traditionally conducted in the open air, usually at midnight, and the altar is the back or stomach

of a naked woman. This “mass” is intended to be the reverse of the Catholic practice.

Tarot cards or cartomancy (fortune-telling by cards) is a form of Satanism. Practitioners often call such, “card-laying.” The cards may be an ordinary deck or the specialized tarot deck. Interpretation is at the whim of the fortuneteller.

The “Mendes Goat” is a circle-enclosed pentagram with a goat’s head in the center symbolizing the so-called divine Baphomet or human devil-goat with wings and horns. This symbol is usually an indicator of satanic rituals, but often is worn by non-practitioners who, seemingly, are unaware of its evil meaning.

Two hand symbols that are too profane to describe show hands and fingers pointing up or a fist pointing down. These *mano-coinuto* or *mano-feco* are symbolic of rebellion against God.

The “Sigil of Lucifer” is a complicated, upside down triangle that trails into a “vee.” Along with the “sigil of sulfur,” these “sigils” are signs of the professed ability to change things or the future; to manipulate God. (There are twenty-eight other, lesser known symbols of magic and hermetic practices, but they are not germane to Satanism. Too, astrological signs number about forty-nine.)

In witchcraft practice, the pentagram or five-pointed star, represents the five elements—earth, air, water, fire, and spirit. The “Wiccan” pentagram faces upward to symbolize the triumph of spirit over matter; the Satanic pentagram is transposed, points downward, to symbolize earthly gratification, or the triumph of the individual over dissolution. A form of the star in a circle or with certain writing is used for ritual practices. What is scary about such rituals is some of the statements made as the symbols are waved about. The Black Mass uses the following:

Thou, thou who, in my capacity of Priest, I force, whether thou wilt or no, to descend into this host, to incarnate thyself into this bread Jesus, artisan of hoaxes, bandit of homages, robber of affection—hear ... O lasting foulness of Bethlehem, we would have thee confess thy impudent cheats, thy inexplicable crimes! We would drive deeper the nails into thy hands, press down the crown of thorns upon thy brow, and bring blood from the dry wounds.<sup>22</sup>



Such blasphemy is as bad as that committed by the first century Pharisees who accused Jesus of using satanic power to drive out demons (Mt. 12:22-37).

Perhaps it would be good, also, to mention here the “talismans” of Satanism. “Talisman” is an Arabic word meaning “magnet” or “power” and is an object believed to have magical powers. A rock, crystal, piece of metal, a doll, a piece of cloth, a ring, a bracelet, a chain, a coin and other “charms” are thought to bring good luck to the wearer. (The astrological charms honor Satan and those who trust in horoscopes also give homage to the Adversary.)

Characteristic of magic or satanic rituals is the use of God, Christ, or the Holy Spirit in the incantations. Such is incredulous, but nevertheless true. The following is from a transcendental, magic ritual.

Enlighten mine eyes with true light, that they may never be closed in eternal sleep, lest mine enemy should say: I have prevailed over him. So long as the Lord is with me, I will not fear for malice of my enemies. O most sweet Jesus, preserve me, aid me, save me; at the Name of Jesus let every knee bow, in heaven, on earth and in hell, and let every tongue confess openly that Jesus Christ is in the glory of His Father, Amen. I know beyond doubt that in what day soever I shall call upon the Lord, in the same hour shall I be saved. O most sweet Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the great living God, Thou has performed most mighty miracles by the sole power of Thy most precious Name, and has enriched the poor most abundantly, so that by force thereof the demons flee away, the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk erect, the dumb speak, the lepers are cleansed, the sick cured, the dead raised up; for wheresoever the most sweet Name of Jesus is pronounced, the year is ravished and the mouth is filled with pleasant savor; at that one utterance, I repeat, the demons take flight, every knee is bent, all temptations, even the worst, are scattered, all infirmities are healed, all disputes and conflicts between the world, the flesh and the Devil are ended, and the soul is filled with every heavenly delight; for whosoever invoceth or shall invoke this Holy Name of God is and shall be saved—even by this Holy Name, pronounced by the angel even before His conception in the womb of the Holy Virgin.<sup>23</sup>

Did not the apostle Paul warn that the devil can appear as an “angel of light” (2 Cor. 11:14)? One should not be fooled by the above for it is blasphemous.

### NO “MAGIC” IN SUCH

To think that there is any power or “magic” in any symbol is mere superstition. The occult stands in opposition to Biblical Christianity for Satanism and magic attempt to manipulate or control God. Unger wrote that the Satanist “prostitutes God’s holy name for an unworthy purpose. God is not a handy man who obeys the magic charmer commands.”<sup>24</sup> Unger noted: “The early Christians were quite aware of the magical arts which practices were forsaken and the symbols burned thus making those disciples realize that *no* power of any kind resided in such nonsense.”<sup>25</sup>

Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed (Acts 19:19-20).

Conley wrote:

It is my conviction that the supernatural claims of occultism are just as reliable as the supernatural claims of pentecostalism—much thunder, but no lightning. I believe both are described in the Bible. “Whose coming is according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceit of unrighteousness for them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God sendeth them a working of error, that they might believe a lie: that they all might be judged who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thess. 2:9-12).<sup>26</sup>

Satanism has the appearance of a religion or spirituality, but in essence is walking by sight (2 Cor. 5:7). “The occult is sight-centered; it is physical, sensual, and feeling oriented.”<sup>27</sup>

### DANGERS TO CHRISTIANS

Conley wrote: “The revival of the occult is the direct outgrowth of the spirit of our age.” Since many today deny that the Bible is the Word of God and that Satan, though “honored” does not even exist, it is the case that superstition has replaced true Christianity. Conley added:

Beginning with the philosopher Hegel, modern man has retreated from reason into nihilism (i.e., the conviction that life and the universe are completely without meaning). Or, he has retreated into mysticism on the other—a mysticism that says although

reason teaches us that life is meaningless, and there is nothing but chaos in the universe, we are going to believe in some kind of order and meaning anyway. We thus have not only a retreat from rationality and reality as well.

This retreat takes various forms. In philosophy, it finds expression in existentialism. In art, it finds expression in the chaos and formlessness of “modern” art. In music, it becomes the dissonance and noise of what is called “modern” music. In the general culture, it finds expression in the squalor of modern books and movies. In morality, it becomes the “do your own thing.” In religion, it spawns neo-pentecostalism and renewed interest in Eastern mystic religions. And on the lunatic fringe, it has found refuge in the occult. In the world of the occult, one does not have to deal with reality or come to terms with oneself.<sup>28</sup>

Since one must “deal with oneself” or repent in order to be a Christian and to remain faithful, Satanism is not even a remote option for the disciple of Christ (2 Cor. 13:5; 7:10). Satanism is worldliness gone to seed!

The Internet source “altrigion” has the following.

Myths, fears, and outright paranoid ideas abound in regards to Satanism. A form of hysteria known most commonly as “Satanic panic” blossomed in the eighties with allegations of a sweeping, organized, and pervasive Satanic cult responsible for everything from the disappearance of children to the popularity of soy foods. After several sweeping arrests of supposedly Satanic child care workers accused of sexually abusing children en masse, reports of adult victims ‘recovering’ memories, the panic eventually trailed off. In-depth studies on “recovered” memories discovered that they were largely a result of dubious therapeutic techniques, and an official FBI report on Satanic Ritual abuse concluded that not only did the widespread Satanic conspiracy not exist, but that religious abuse of children was most likely to be committed by Christians. Of course, the occasional report of the mentally deranged committing murder in the name of Satan does still occasionally make the news, but these are largely eclipsed by reports of abuse and murder committed by members of more mainstream religions.<sup>29</sup>

Thus, to begin to believe that there is some magical “power” in any occult practice is to give in to worldly panic, and false sources for evil practices. Sin originates in human lust not in Satan.

Satanism represents indulgence (cf. Gal. 5:19-21) and, Satanists accuse “Christendom” of self-deceit, irresponsibility, and argue that they are “the best friends the church ever had, for they have kept it in business all these years.”<sup>30</sup>

The occult or Satanism is practiced by a large number, the total of which is not known. But, the danger here is that these superstitions fascinate people and wearing the amulets and charms arouses the curiosity of the young. Many Christians, who are ignorant of the hazards, are often involved. ESP, astrology, and the other mind-games are tools Satan uses to deceive the very hearts of many (cf. 2 Cor. 11:3).

Another danger arising from Satanic involvement is best expressed by Koch:

For it is an empirical fact of pastoral care that where white and black magic are practiced, there we have psychic disturbances in the family. This rule may have exception, although I have met with no exceptions where there were active occultists.<sup>31</sup>

Depression and moral inhibition are also seen in those who are occultists.<sup>32</sup> In fact, *fear* in general is characteristic of Satanists and those who involve themselves in such rituals.<sup>33</sup>

Satanism, clearly, leads one away from Christ and can be as simple as reading Jean Dixon’s fantasies about the future or acceptance of witchcraft, drugs, and human sacrifice. Koch adds:

In spite of arguments to the contrary counseling confirms that fact that when a Christian gets involved in any form of spiritistic activity his spiritual life can be seriously affected. This is not true for the Buddhist or the Moslem or the followers of other religions like this. These religions are not impaired by spiritism. But spiritism does immunize people against the workings of God ... We must be clear in our minds about the distinction here. A person’s religious life is harmed by occultism or spiritism. Indeed spiritism itself is to a large extent a ‘religious’ movement. The devil does not take away our ‘religiousness,’ his real desire is to sever us from Christ and to prevent us from following Him.<sup>34</sup>

### CONCLUSION

Satanism is either philosophical and denies any reality of the supernatural or it is religious or some folks just dabble in it. The signs and symbols may seem innocent, but in reality are dangerous in that

they bespeak of a worldly mindset. There is *no* power in any of the amulets, but there is clear spiritual and psychological danger in one's involvement. Christians must flee from and resist such.

#### APPENDIX: RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS

The four-point star or "Star of Bethlehem" is usually styled to resemble a cross and supposedly represents Jesus' birth. It is usually used for church decoration during Christmas. There is also a five-pointed star or "Epiphany" star used as is the four-point. The six-pointed star is the "Star of the Creator" each point standing for the days of creation. (This is, in Judaism, the "Star of David.") The eight-point star represents redemption since Jesus was circumcised the eighth day. The nine-point star symbolizes the fruits of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23, and the twelve-point star represents either the twelve Jewish tribes or the twelfth day of Christmas or "Epiphany"—Catholicism's celebration of Jesus' manifestation as the Christ.

Alpha and Omega (Greek capital letters) often combined with the Greek term for cross, are symbolic of Jesus' eternity. These symbols were found in the Roman catacombs (cf. Rev. 1:8).

Agnus Dei (lamb of God) is a symbol, if standing with a banner, which represents a risen Christ; if standing with a gash on its side or with a cross, the symbol represents the passion of Christ; if seated on a throne or book, the symbol represents the judgment seat of Christ.

The anchor, found in the catacombs, represents hope. It is often combined with nautical symbols such as the fish, dolphin, and boat.

An aureole or halo (although an aureole envelopes the whole body) signifies that one is more holy than another, and the butterfly is a symbol of the resurrection while the chalice or cup represents the Lord's supper.

Several types of crosses have emerged. The Greek and Latin (HIS) and the Chi-Rho (looks like a P standing in an X) are known along with the traditional "t" shape.

The eagle has become a symbol of Christ's ascension and if the eagle has a halo it represents John the Baptist because of his "soaring" style.

The "eye of God" is an equilateral triangle (see a one-dollar bill) with rays emanating symbolizing the omnipresence and omniscience of God. The triangle represents the Trinity.

The peacock, whom the ancients believed had flesh that would not decay, came to represent immortality, but the pelican whom folklore said fed her young in times of famine with blood from her own chest, came to represent Christ's sacrifice.

The pomegranate, with its abundance of seeds symbolizes either the many believers or royalty or hope. One can choose here.

The square is representative of the number four, such as the "four corners of the earth" or the four evangelists. (Christian number symbolism is too extensive for this essay. One can find such on the Internet at Christian Number Symbolism. There are also color symbols. See the Internet for these.)

Perhaps the most intriguing symbol of professed but superstitious religious folks is the Tau-shaped cross. The *Tau* (last letter of the Hebrew Alphabet) is identified with the end of the world and is believed to be the sign protecting the righteous against the devil. This symbol is also known as St. Anthony's cross.

#### ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> All Scripture references are taken from the King James Version unless otherwise noted.

<sup>2</sup> [http://altreligion.about.com/library/fags/bl\\_satanism](http://altreligion.about.com/library/fags/bl_satanism)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Kurt Koch, *The Devil's Alphabet* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1971), 7.

<sup>7</sup> *The Occult and the Supernatural* (New York, NY: Crescent Books, 1981), 14.

<sup>8</sup> Credit is given to Aleister Crowley (1875-1974) as being the "father" of modern Satanism (see endnote one above). Crowley "never considered himself a Satanist, but his writings, *The Book of the Law* and *The Equinox* became the basis for modern Satanism. In 1920 he founded an 'Abbey of Thelma' in Cefalu, Sicily, considered Satanism, and desired to destroy Christianity" (Ibid.). Crowley's teaching was brought to America by a drug addict named Jack Parsons (Ibid.). Crowley's son died during a mysterious ritual at which only he and his

father were present (Ibid.). “Afterward, Crowley became a babbling incoherent, idiot. A Black Mass was said at his funeral” (Ibid.).

<sup>9</sup> “Uncanny Power,” in *Encyclopedia of Magic and Superstition* (New York, NY: Crescent Books, 1981), 11.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., 36. This encyclopedia is a good source for studying the symbols and the differences between white and black “magic.”

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., 239.

<sup>16</sup> Lyman A. McMillon, *Doctrines of Demons: A Christian Response to the Occult* (Nashville, TN: Gospel Advocate Co., 1975), 47-48.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., 47-51.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., 51.

<sup>19</sup> Darrell Conley, *The Gospel Versus Occultism* (Montgomery: Apologetics Press, 1997), 9.

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.religionfacts.com/christianity/symbols>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.Trosch.org/MSN/help-satanic-symbol>

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Merrill F. Unger, *Demons in the World Today* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1971), 136.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Conley, 22.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> Conley, 17.

<sup>29</sup> [http://altreligion.abolut.com/library/fags/bl\\_satanism.htm](http://altreligion.abolut.com/library/fags/bl_satanism.htm) 1

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> Kurt Koch, *Between Christ and Satan* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 1968), 31.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid., 12.

<sup>33</sup> Kent Philpott, *A Manual of Demonology and the Occult*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1973),141.

<sup>34</sup> Koch, *Between Christ and Satan*, 124.