
SATANISM

The cult of Satanism has evolved over many years. At the present time, symbols related to Satan have become so prevalent that the warning voices of leaders in the Church have again been raised concerning some people's fascination with the power of evil. Latter-day Saints are admonished to avoid any contact with Satanism, even with the good intention of learning about it in order to warn others of its dangers.

The answer that Jesus Christ gave when Satan offered him the glories of the world if he would fall down and worship him could be a guide to Church members when confronted with similar temptations: "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve" (Matt. 4:10).

Bruce R. McConkie, an apostle, warned, "One of Satan's greatest aims, as he works his nefarious schemes among men, is to get them 'to worship him'" (*MD*, p. 193). From earliest times, many evil things have been done in the name of Satan worship (Moses 6:49). Satanism may claim to offer powers beyond those available to humans through righteous sources, but the worship of Satan leads only to destruction.

The forces of evil cannot overcome a person without some willingness on the part of the individual (1 Cor. 10:13). President Brigham YOUNG said, "You are aware that many think that the Devil has rule and power over both body and spirit. Now, I want to tell you that he does not hold any power over man, only so far as the body overcomes the spirit that is in a man, through yielding to the spirit of evil" (pp. 69-70).

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SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

Communications satellites, as here referred to, are small radio transmitters orbiting the earth. Typical geosynchronous orbits are 22,300 miles above the

equator. These tiny man-made moons make possible transmission of voice, data, radio, and television signals to every point on the globe. The introduction of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to satellite broadcasting came during the first satellite exchange between North America and Europe, which included a performance by the TABERNACLE CHOIR in front of Mount Rushmore, South Dakota. Since that time the Church has developed its own private satellite distribution system. In 1982 it purchased transponder capacity on Westar IV from the Public Broadcasting Service. Transmitting, or "uplink," facilities were built in City Creek Canyon near Salt Lake City from which signals from the TABERNACLE and elsewhere could be beamed into space. Receiving, or "downlink," antennas were installed at many STAKE centers across North America. The Church has global communication capabilities, enabling signals to reach cable operators, stake centers, and other satellite receiving facilities.

Programming sent by Church satellite includes CONFERENCES, educational and professional training, FIRESIDES and special religious programs, entertainment, and BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY sports. Most important, this system brings the GENERAL AUTHORITIES closer to the Saints throughout the world.

Satellite communications systems allow for open as well as encoded transmissions. This flexibility permits Church use of the system for public as well as private communications. The private use holds the promise expressed by President Gordon B. Hinckley in a general conference address: "We are now expanding the miracle of satellite transmission . . . to develop the means whereby the membership of the Church, wherever they may be, can be counselled in an intimate and personal way by [the Lord's] chosen prophet. Communication is the sinew that binds the Church as one great family" (p. 5).

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