

## ITS EFFECTS ARE ALARMING

# the Harry Potter Craze

## WE ARE RAPIDLY NEARING THE END OF TIME

As a result of the Harry Potter books and movies, *real witchcraft* (called "Wicca") is now experiencing explosive growth throughout North America and around the world. It is estimated that, at the present time, Wicca may, in fact, be the fastest growing religious movement in the United States.

"The area I live in is *full* of Wicca and Paganism," declared a woman in northern California. "Members of my own family are struggling with beguilement from current TV programming, Harry Potter, and occultic influences."

One astonished observer made this comment:

"This is the most evil thing I have laid my eyes on in ten years; and no one seems to understand its threat. The Harry Potter books are *the number one best-selling* children's books in the nation today. Just look at any Barnes & Noble or Waldenbooks' storefront. Go to Amazon.com and read the reviews. Hear the praise by educators and even Christian teachers about how 'It's so great to see the youth so eagerly embracing the reading experience!'"

What do the children say?

The Harry Potter books are cool, "'cause they teach you all about magic and how you can use it to control people and get revenge on your enemies," said Hartland, WI, 10 year old Craig Nowell, a recent convert to the *New Satanic Order of the Black Circle*. "I want to learn the *Cruciatius Curse*, to make my muggle science teacher suffer for giving me a D." The Potter books teach that a "muggle" is an unbeliever in magic, someone who is inadequate to deal with life.

After reading a couple Potter books, 6-year-old Jessica Lehman of Easley, SC, said, "Jesus died because He was weak and stupid." She learned it from those books!

Ashley, a 9 year old, a typical average-age reader of Harry Potter added this, "I used to believe in what they taught us at Sunday school," conjuring up an ancient spell to summon *Cerebus*, the three-headed hound of hell. "But the Harry Potter books showed me that magic is real, something I can learn and use right now, and that the Bible is nothing but boring lies."

Harry Libarle, age 7, said this: "I like the third book because here Harry meets his godfather and Professor Lupin, a really cool guy."

Who is this really "cool guy"? The books portray

him as a werewolf as well as wizard. As for Harry's godfather, he is a "shape-shifter" who at various times turns himself into a scary black dog.

The author of the Harry Potter books reports that hundreds of children have written her, asking where the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft is located, so they can attend it.

"I was eager to get to Hogwarts first because I like what they learned there and I want to be a witch," Gloria Bishop, age 10, said.

J.K. Rowling, the author of the Harry Potter books, is a former UK English teacher who promotes witchcraft and Satanism. Harry Potter, the 13 year old "wizard" in her books, openly blasphemes Jesus and God and promotes sorcery, while seeking revenge upon anyone who upsets him. In order to overcome them, Potter uses spells, rituals, and demonic powers. Authors and titles of where to find those magical potents and spells are sometimes given.

While parents, the American Library Association, the National Education Association, school teachers, and many leading Protestant leaders and journals praise the Harry Potter books, here is what a leading Satanist said:

"Harry is an absolute godsend to our cause," said High Priest Egan of the First Church of Satan in Salem, MA. "An organization like ours thrives on new blood, no pun intended, and we've had more applicants than we can handle lately. And, of course, practically all of them are virgins, which is gravy."

Since 1995, open applicants to Satan worship has increased; at the present time, from around 100,000 to 14 million children and young adults!

Children in Great Britain are also thrilled at the possibility of becoming witches and wizards.

While refusing to admit new members under age of 18, Britain's *Pagan Federation* is quite pleased with the situation. In a public announcement, they stated that they deal with an average of 100 inquiries a month from youngsters who want to become witches. Also they claim they occasionally have been "swamped" with calls.

"The *Pagan Federation* has appointed a youth officer to deal with the flood of inquiries following the success of the Harry Potter books which describe magic and wizardry."

“This explosion of interest in the principles of paganism is quite probably linked to books, films, and toys about *Harry Potter*; *Sabrina, the Teenage Witch*; and *Buffy, the Vampire Slayer*,” explains the Federation’s media officer, Andy Norfolk. “Every time an article on witchcraft or paganism appears, we had a huge surge in calls, mostly from young girls.”

This trend worries John Buckeridge, editor of *Youthwork*, a British Christian magazine. Unlike U.S. church leaders who back Harry Potter, he recognizes danger ahead. “The growing number of books and TV shows, like *Harry Potter* and *Sabrina, the Teenage Witch*, encourage an interest in magic as harmless fun,” he warns. “However, for some young people, it could fuel a fascination that leads to dangerous dabbling with occult powers. That which starts out as spooks and spells can lead to psychological and spiritual damage.”

And what does the author of these remarkably vicious and evil books say? J.K. Rowling, answering the objections of Christian reviewers to her writings, disclosed her secret objective in writing them:

“I think it’s absolute rubbish to protest children’s books on the grounds that they are luring children to Satan,” Rowling told a *London Times* reporter in a July 17 interview. “People should be praising them for that! These books guide children to an understanding that the weak, idiotic Son of God is a living hoax who will be humiliated when the rain of fire comes, . . . while we, his faithful servants, laugh and cavort in victory.”

In an article about Rowling, *Harry Potter, and the source of inspiration*, we are told: “Dressing up as wizards and witches, concocting fantasy potions, and telling stories were just a few of the games Rowling played as a child.” —So she has been immersed in spiritual-

ism since she was a child!

A surprising number of Christian leaders have stated that the Potter books and movies are “just harmless fantasy,” are recognized as such by children, and actually good reading for all Christians. Such comments come from Chuck Colson of *Breakpoint*, the editor of very conservative *World Magazine*; *Christian Century*; *Christianity Today*; and Connie Neal, author of *What’s a Christian to Do with Harry Potter?*; as well as others.

Might Harry Potter seem as real as life to his young fans around the world? Do children accept Harry’s lessons in practical witchcraft as an open door to an occult reality? Many Christian leaders have denied any such danger, but author J.K. Rowling admits that this happens. In an interview with *Newsweek’s* Malcolm Jones, she said,

“I get letters from children addressed to Professor Dumbledore [headmaster at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, in the books’ setting]—and it’s not a joke—begging to be let into Hogwarts; and some of them are really sad. Because they want it to be true so badly, they’ve convinced themselves it’s true.”

However, occult experts, Marcia Montenegro, of *Christian Answers for the New Age*, and Caryl Matrisciana, author of *Gods of the New Age*, disagree with the Christian defenders of Potter mania. Both had personal experience in the occult before becoming Christians. They recognize the very real dangers.

As one example among many, Caryl points to a chapter in the fourth book, entitled *Flesh, Blood and Bone*. (Reader of this report: You may want to skip over the following horrible paragraph.)

“Harry is magically transported with his friend Cedric to a dark, scary graveyard. There, Harry is tied to the headstone of Lord Voldemort’s father’s tomb by Voldemort’s slave, Wormtail—a shape-shifter who takes the form of a rat. A slithering snake, synonymous with the presence of Voldemort, circles around Harry. Following an order to kill from a voice of unknown origin, the slave utters a death curse. In shock, Harry witnesses the murder of his friend Cedric.”

The above sample paragraph reveals that it was Rowling’s determination to crowd into the Potter books *all the evil, meanness, witchcraft, and horror* that she could.

There are other stories of witchcraft which every Christian should also avoid. These include *Sleeping Beauty*, *Lord of the Rings*, and *Chronicles of Narnia*. But even though they are filled with evil concepts, yet the reader may possibly recognize that the good vs. evil elements are stated for what they are; and the evil is sometimes considered as evil, and the good as good.

But the Potter books carry witchcraft to its absolute extreme. It praises the evil and reviles the good.

It has been said that the Potter books are not real

**July 18, 2007, business news**—WalMart is planning Harry Potter extravaganzas at its stores, scheduling 2,900 midnight parties on Friday, July 20; the book goes on sale at 12:01 Saturday.

**July 28, 2007, business news**—Barnes & Noble Inc. said Monday that it sold a record 1.8 million copies of J.K. Rowling’s *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* in the first 48 hours of its release at its retail stores and online. The company said that, in the first hour, Barnes & Noble bookstores sold 560,000 copies, or 156 copies a second. **Update:** Bertelsmann AG’s Random House estimates that Listening Library/Random House Audio imprint formats sold more than 225,000 copies in its compact disc and cassette in North America on Saturday and Sunday. Random House called that the fastest and largest two-day sales number in the history of the audiobook medium. The sales were 40% greater than those of the previous Harry Potter audiobook over a comparable period.

Borders Group sold 1.2 million copies of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* in its first day, the biggest single-day number ever for the superstore chain.

witchcraft. Yet that is a misconception.

J.K. Rowling's series is the result of a massive research she did into an immense pile of witchcraft books which she owns. Reporters visiting her home state that it is filled with witchcraft books and collections of magical spells, incantations, and formulas. There are piles of these stacked on tables! Using this, she has accurately portrayed the inner workings of demonic witchcraft!

The proof of this is the fact that not one witch anywhere in the world has said that Rowling has not correctly described witchcraft! She has produced an extremely detailed, true representation of witchcraft, the black arts, and black magic.

And yet there are those who say this is merely fantasy and harmless reading for our children. But that which makes this even more dangerous is that it is couched in fantasy language, written as children's literature about a child hero who is made to be humorous. It is very well-written, extremely detailed, and provocative reading. Each book lures the child on to read the next book in the series.

Magical spells and incantations are explained in full detail, so the reader can try to imitate them.

The Harry Potter books are actually witchcraft repackaged for children. The books include shapechanging (creatures change from one shape to another), human sacrifices, and flying through the air. They explain all the tools, spells, and curses used in witchcraft. Common people are considered weak and useless. Christianity is reviled. There is communication with the spirit world, demonic reincarnation, and situational ethics (bad is wonderful and exciting; doing good is boring and useless). The special symbols and tools of witchcraft are all there: the lightning bolt as a power symbol, broomsticks and witches' hats as phallic symbols, dabbling in divination, casting spells, and pagan sorcery.

The objective is recruitment: to teach children the dark arts and get them to want to indulge in it. Readers become fascinated with the magic used—and it is generally explained in remarkable detail.

As they see the effect that reading those books is having on their children, a growing number of concerned parents are openly complaining about these evil books. According to the *American Library Association*, the best-selling Harry Potter series has topped the list of the nation's most frequently challenged books for two years in a row. Complaints rose 37% in the past year alone.

Even many non-Christian parents have become deeply worried as they see the effect that reading those books is having on their younger children.

In these seven Potter books, adults are shown to be hateful and often too strict. But the wizards and other creatures are the good guys. Such writing is nothing more than Satan's way to undermine the family. Young

people get these books and, while reading them, live in a fantasy world. Laying the book down and returning to the real world, they want to emulate the books and rebel against their parents.

Here is a statement by J.K. Rowling: "The idea that we could have a child who escapes from the confines of the adult world and goes somewhere where he has power, both literally and metaphorically, really appealed to me."

Reading her books, the child senses that this power is in rebellion, acquiring occultic power, and gaining control over his or her parents.

Anxious to cash in on the witchcraft craze and reap immense profits, youth-oriented TV shows about witchcraft have gained immense popularity. These include *Sabrina, the Teenage Witch*; *Charmed*; and *Buffy, the Vampire Slayer*. A generation of children are becoming fascinated with the occult and desiring the supernatural powers it can give them.

Not to be outdone, Hollywood is producing an entire series of Harry Potter movies.

Potter has caused quite a stir in many nations, with several Australian Christian schools supporting a banning of the books. "Dr. Charles Gullo of the Christian Outreach College, a private school in Queensland, said he read one chapter from *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* and was exposed to four murders. 'It was pretty gory,' Gullo said in *Brisbane's Courier-Mail newspaper*."

Pastor Robert Frisken of Christian Community Schools Ltd in Australia said, "The ordinary person is typified as being bad because they have no magic powers, and the heroes are the people who are using the occult. Good finds itself in the occult, which is an inversion of morality for many Christian people."

While Christian—and even non-Christian—parents worry, some of the most influential religious media praises the Potter books.

A recent report in *Christianity Today* bases its approval of Harry Potter, not on the Bible but, on popular consensus among admired Christian leaders.

"As far as I can tell," writes author Ted Olsen, "while no major Christian leader has come out to condemn J.K. Rowling's series, many have given it the thumbs-up. If our readers know of any major Christian leader who has actually told Christians not to read the books, I'd be happy to know about it; but, in my research, even those Christians known for criticizing all that is popular culture have been pretty positive about Potter."

To prove his point, Mr. Olsen quotes seven Christian leaders and publications:

1. Chuck Colson, in his *Breakpoint* radio broadcast, commended Harry and his friends for their "courage, loyalty, and a willingness to sacrifice for one another—even at the risk of their lives." Colson dismissed the pagan practices as "purely mechanical, as opposed

to occultic. That is, Harry and his friends cast spells, read crystal balls, and turn themselves into animals—but they don't make contact with a supernatural world . . . It's not the kind of real-life witchcraft the Bible condemns."

2. *World Magazine* praised *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* as "a delight—with a surprising bit of depth." Author Roy Maynard assured *World* readers that "Rowling . . . keeps it safe, inoffensive, and non-occult."

3. The British magazine, *Christianity*, also praised the series. In one issue, Mark Greene, Director of the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity, wrote a note of regret for not giving it to his granddaughter earlier.

Yet, above and beyond all the talk of men, the God of Heaven is clear in Scripture that *any* practice of magic is an "abomination" to Him. The Bible clearly teaches that all witchcraft is satanic!

"There shall not be found among you anyone 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 who 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 diviners. But, as for thee, the Lord thy God hath not suffered thee so to do."—*Deuteronomy 18:10-14*.

The following passage contrasts the two extremes,—and there is no middle ground!

"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

After concluding this special report, we just learned that a Christian mother, who viewed the August 21, 2007 Oprah Winfrey telecast, reported that evening to her daughter, who told me the next day, that on that telecast Oprah interviewed a close friend of J.K. Rowling, the author of the Harry Potter books.

Rowling had confided in her friend that when she, Rowling, was writing her books, a being would stand beside her and tell her what to write. Rowling told her friend that this being was from someplace far out in the universe and that he was invisible to everyone except her.

inherit the kingdom of God.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance."—*Galatians 5:19-23*.

In the final Judgment, the two classes will once again be obvious:

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son.

"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."—*Revelation 21:7-8*.

You will recall that Rowling told the *London Times* that "these books guide children to an understanding that the weak, idiotic Son of God is a living hoax who will be humiliated when the rain of fire comes, . . . while we, his faithful servants, laugh and cavort in victory."

This is a highly significant statement! It reveals that lying demons have been talking to Rowling and her fellow Satanists, predicting a future in which the Christians and the true Godhead will be annihilated by Satan and his devils. His Satanic Majesty and his followers will rule over the universe!—A totally reversed and untrue order of coming events!

Only the top Luciferians are told this portrayal of coming events. So Rowling must be very deep into Satanism.

Satan and his demons well-know that there is relatively little time remaining before they are destroyed! Read again Revelation 12:9-17.

"The devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."—*Revelation 12:12*.

Just now, as we near the end of earthly history, he is making war on those who "keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

Satan knows the truth about the future; for it is outlined in Daniel, Revelation, and *Great Controversy*—but he does not want his loyal followers to know it! He is desperate to keep them deluded and to overcome as many as possible. Each day brings him closer to that time, shortly after the close of the millennium, when the fire will fall from heaven and put a final end to his miserable existence.

But, just now, while time remains before probation closes, we must draw much closer to God and work more earnestly to reach souls with the final message for our time in history:

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."—*Revelation 14:12*.