



# Media Spotlight

A BIBLICAL ANALYSIS OF RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR MEDIA

## SPECIAL REPORT



### THE FORCE BEHIND THE FORCE STAR WARS THEOLOGY EXAMINED

by Albert James Dager

In its first release, the movie *Star Wars* grossed over \$300 million—more, by far, than any film in motion picture history up to that time. The sequels, *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*, each in its turn, outdid its predecessor in gross box office receipts.

And no wonder. The *Star Wars* saga possesses everything necessary to virtually guarantee that any other sequels, if ever produced, will result in further attendance records. Nothing in the field of entertainment has ever been produced to match it—not even *E.T.—The Extraterrestrial*—and, most likely, nothing ever will be.

The *Star Wars* saga is science fiction at its best. The adventure and excitement generated by its spectacular visual and audio effects remain unsurpassed. The story, which ostensibly revolves around the conflict between “good” and “evil” appeals to the instincts of everyone.

With all its appeal, the *Star Wars* saga nevertheless presents some problems. At its apex there developed around the characters a cult status which threatened the sanity of the minds it captured.

*Star Wars* cultists, many of whom spent hundreds and even thousands of dollars in attempts to establish some meager identity with mere light images on a screen, were under a bondage that resembled demon possession. It was not uncommon to find among the *Star Wars* groupies those who had seen the original *Star Wars* anywhere from 10 to 30 times. It was reported in the *Los Angeles Times* that one young woman had seen *Star Wars* 178 times and planned to double that number for *The Empire Strikes Back*. She admitted to crying throughout the entire first screening.

By all worldly standards the *Star Wars* epic provides an opportunity for escape from the pressures of life and to enjoy a film that is just “good, clean fun.” But anything that can induce such irrational behavior must have spiritual influence behind it. Christians who do not look on the outward appearance, but have discernment to see beyond the veil of deception, can see the spiritual influence in the focal point of these films: “The Force.”

More disconcerting than the abnormal allegiance that would cause people to waste valuable hours and dollars to watch a single movie over and over again is the fact that some have actually come to believe in The Force, and to rely upon it for their personal benefit.

Quoting the young lady mentioned above, this is her account of driving to see *The Empire Strikes Back* for the second time in one day:

I was driving on the Ventura Freeway from Westwood to Hollywood and it was 10 o'clock. All I was thinking about was getting a parking spot near the theater in Hollywood. I knew it would be tough. Then I thought, “If the Force is with me I'll get there with no problems and find a space.”

She did—right across the street from the theater.

Trust in The Force is not uncommon among such fans, simply because they have already been conditioned by the world's humanistic philosophies to trust in their own inner Self, which can enable them to overcome adversity.

It is assumed by many that The Force is “good,” and possesses intelligence. However, in the original *Star Wars* the true identity and character of The Force is revealed in a line spoken by Jedi warrior Obi Wan Kenobi:

The Force is what gives the Jedi his power. It's an energy field created by all living things. It surrounds us, and penetrates us. It binds the galaxy together.

A greater revelation of The Force was forthcoming in *The Empire Strikes Back*. Yoda, the demon-like guru tutors Luke Skywalker in self-realization in order to draw upon the power of The Force in preparation for battle against the evil Galactic Empire. To those who understand eastern mysticism, it is apparent that The Force is not God, but an energy field latent within everyone who, through the practice of meditation, can release it to bring one to his full human potential. In short, The Force is the power of witchcraft.

Contrary to some books and bumper stickers that claim, “Jesus is The Force,” this latent power has nothing to do with Jesus.

The Force is not Jesus; neither is Jesus any kind of “Force.” He is the Word of God who has existed throughout eternity. Whereas The Force is spoken of as being “created by all living things,” Jesus was not created. Rather, He is the Creator of all living things—in fact, of the entire physical universe (John 1).

Nor is there any dark side to Jesus as there is to The Force. In I John 1:5 we are told, “God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”

The Apostle Paul further demonstrates this truth in II Corinthians 6:14, when he asks, “and what communion hath light with darkness?”

For Christians to rationalize the identity of The Force and claim it to be Jesus is a dangerous step toward the synthesizing of paganism with Christianity—a problem that has plagued the Church for centuries.

Through even a cursory examination it can be found that The Force is nothing more than the eastern religious concept of a universal life-force that is alleged to reside within all things. This life-force is at once “god” and creature. Hence it is to be worshiped on the one hand and kept under control on the other.

This philosophy is in perfect accord with those of whom Paul spoke in Romans 1:22-23 who, “professing themselves wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.”

