



## THE FORCE BEHIND THE FORCE

By Albert James Dager

THE *STAR WARS* saga continues (will it never end?) with the latest shoot'em-up whizz-bang outer space story of "good" versus "evil" as the mythical "Force" wakes up (again), this time in a young girl scavenger on the planet Jakku. As with all the *Star Wars* epics, the plot line is thin, the special effects heavy.

Many of the major old characters (emphasis on "old") from the initial trilogy are back. Harrison Ford as Han Solo, sadly, has aged better than his girlfriend Princess Leia (now General Leia), played by Carrie Fisher. Together they lament the loss of their son Kylo Ren to the dark side.

During the 30 years after the defeat of the Galactic Empire and the death of its lord Darth Vader, a new menace has appeared in the form of the First Order, headed by a malevolent presence known as Supreme Leader Snoke who appears as a huge hologram. Snoke's next in command is Kylo Ren, who emulates Darth Vader's black-helmeted villain.

The plot largely revolves around the search for Luke Skywalker, the first Jedi, who has disappeared into self-imposed exile on a distant planet at the outer reaches of the galaxy. The reason for his exile is unclear, but it seems he was disillusioned upon finding out he was the son of Darth Vader. Both the First Order and the Republic (led by Luke's twin sister General Leia Organa) want to find Luke. The Republic wants him to come back and train a new contingent of Jedi warriors; the First Order wants to kill him.

In order to combat the First Order, the Republic needs someone in whom the Force can awaken the light side. This time the chosen vessel is Rey, a young girl who lives by scavenging on the planet Jakku. Rey is super intelligent, mechanically and technologically savvy, able to out fly the enemy and outfight men. She is proficient with both laser guns and lightsabers. In short, she's the perfect *man* for the job.

And so it goes, yadayadayada.



This story, like all the other *Star Wars* stories, reinforces the idea of the Force—a mysterious entity that permeates all things and holds the universe together. The spectacular special effects keep people's (including Christians') minds numbed to the obvious eastern mysticism that grips their consciousness as they proclaim, one to

another, "The Force be with you." Even Hillary Clinton, at the end of her closing statement during the December 15, 2015, Democrat debate, eschewed the standard, "God bless you, and God bless America," for "May the Force be with you!"

In its first release, the original *Star Wars* (1977) grossed over \$300 million—more by far than any film in motion picture history up to that time. Its two sequels, *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*, each in its turn, outdid its predecessor in gross box office receipts. The three prequels, *The Phantom Menace* (1999; \$924.3 million), *Attack of the Clones* (2002; \$649 million), and *Revenge of the Sith* (2005; \$800 million), put the total receipts at over \$3 billion. At this writing *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* alone garnered almost \$2 billion in only its first month of release.

Truly, the *Star Wars* saga is a “Force” to be reckoned with.

With all its appeal, the *Star Wars* saga presents some sociological problems. From the beginning there developed around the characters a cult status which has impinged on the sanity of those it has captured.

*Star Wars* cultists spend thousands of dollars in attempts to establish some meager identity with the light images they worship. Some are under a bondage that resembles demonization. It is not uncommon to find among *Star Wars* groupies those who have seen some episodes anywhere from 10 to 30 times. It was reported in the *Los Angeles Times* that one young woman had seen the original *Star Wars* 178 times and planned to double that number for *The Empire Strikes Back*. She admitted to crying throughout the entire first screening. How much she has immersed herself in all the prequels and sequels we can only imagine.

By all worldly standards the *Star Wars* saga provides an opportunity for escape from the pressures of life and to enjoy a film that’s just “good, clean fun.” But anything that can induce such irrational behavior must have some spiritual influence behind it. Believers in Jesus who do not look on the outward appearance, but have discernment to see beyond the veil of deception, can see that 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 of their lives and hundreds or thousands of 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 welfare.

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 they believe 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.

This is reiterated in all the *Star Wars* stories in one way or another.

A greater revelation of The Force was forthcoming in *The Empire Strikes Back*. Yoda, the devil-like guru, tutors Luke

Skywalker in self-realization in order to draw upon the power of The Force to do battle against the evil Galactic Empire. To believers in Christ who understand eastern mysticism, it is apparent that The Force is not God, but an energy field latent within everyone. Through the practice of meditation it is said one can release it to bring one to one’s full human potential. In short, The Force is the power of witchcraft. In *Star Wars* the story is of white witchcraft versus black witchcraft.

For some time after the initial *Star Wars* was released, there could be seen books and bumper stickers that claimed “Jesus is The Force.” But Jesus is not “The Force,” nor is The Force Jesus. He is the Word of God who has existed throughout eternity. Whereas The Force is said to be “created by all living things,” Jesus was not created. Rather, He is the creator of all living things—in truth, of the entire physical universe (John 1).

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

Paul the apostle further reveals this truth in 2 Corinthians 6:14 when he asks, “what communion has light with darkness?”

For Christians to rationalize the identity of The Force and claim it is Jesus is a dangerous step toward synthesizing paganism with biblical truth—a problem that has plagued Christianity for almost two millennia.

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:

Professing themselves wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed animals, and creeping things.

Within The Force lies the root of satanic deception. The ugly head of humanism—the nemesis of God and the philosophy behind almost all false religions—rears up to subtly impress upon people’s minds the idea that they are the source of God—that they are, in fact, gods themselves.

The eastern mysticism that has captured filmdom’s elite through yoga, Transcendental Meditation, EST, Ekankar, and other psycho-spiritual exercises, is propagated through movies like *Star Wars*.

The manner in which this pagan philosophy is presented is spectacular and very entertaining. The special effects are nonpareil. But danger lies in the false philosophical bent of The Force. It is all eyewash and hogwash.

It is through meditation and concentration on the inner self that Luke Skywalker and other Jedi warriors on the light side, and Darth Vader and Kylo Ren on the dark side, exercise their power to levitate themselves and other objects. Such exercises in eastern mysticism present those exercises as paths to godhood. But this “god” in you can be controlled for “evil” as well as for

“good” as one decides. This is the conflict between “white magic” and “black magic.” Thus we see that *Star Wars* is an elemental stage of initiation into witchcraft.

The “evil” defined within the context of this philosophy are acts motivated by selfishness which, it is believed, draws on the “dark side” of the power (or Force) within. Thus, acts of violence on the part of Jedi warriors such as Luke Skywalker are considered “good,” while the same acts of violence by evil lords such as Darth Vader and Kylo Ren are considered “evil.” The law of karma is the great equalizer for those who choose the dark side or “evil” path, for they will reap the consequences of their actions in their next incarnation.

“Good” people would no doubt identify themselves with Luke Skywalker and his federation of freedom-loving souls, while identifying totalitarianism with Darth Vader (note the Nazi-styled uniforms of the Galactic Empire’s and New Order’s leaders). To the natural man one is “good,” the other “evil.” But to the only true God they are both evil in that they leave Him out of their plans and seek solutions from their own inner strength or “Force.” To be on either side philosophically is to be against God.

Adolph Hitler is perhaps the most infamous person to ever attempt to put himself in the place of God. His name is engraved upon history as the epitome of evil—much as Darth Vader is the epitome of evil to the *Star Wars* fan. Yet within that evil lies a fascination that causes any to want to identify with it. It is man’s unregenerate heart that causes him to love his sin sufficiently that he will reject Christ before facing his need to turn from his sins.

What other explanation can be offered for the anti-hero figure that Darth Vader became, far above all other characters in *Star Wars*. Everywhere these movies are advertised we see his evil death-mask countenance. Children sport t-shirts with that same visage. Posters of Darth Vader grace the bedroom walls of children and adults alike fascinated by his evil nature. It is the same fascination that caused the entire nation of Germany to follow Hitler.

Those who doubt the veracity of the link between the imagined evil of The Force and the real evil of Nazism should consider this statement by Martin Bormann, head of the Nazi Party Organization, as reported in the February 21, 1942, edition of the *London Daily Telegraph*:

If we National Socialists [Nazis] speak about “faith in God” we do not mean the same God as the naïve Christians....The natural Force which maintains these innumerable planets in the universe we call the Almighty or God.<sup>1</sup>

Is this not identical to Obi Wan Kenobi’s definition of The Force?

To the Nazis the almighty Force replaced Almighty God. The apostle Paul says:

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all

unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, greediness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, quarreling, deceit, bad character; whisperers, slanderers, God haters, spiteful, proud, boasters, contrivers of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, promise breakers, unmerciful, who, knowing the judgment of God that they who commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in those who do them. (Romans 1:28-32)

Dr. Robert Ley, head of the Nazi labor front, left a message for future Germany before committing suicide in his prison cell:

We have forsaken God, and therefore we were forsaken by God. We put our human volition in place of His Godly grace.<sup>2</sup>

Hitler was fascinated with occult philosophy, especially that which stemmed from Germanic mythology. He was guided by witchcraft of various forms, and patterned his party’s symbols and trappings after occult symbolism.

The debauchery that characterized the Nazi lifestyle closely resembles that spoken of by Paul. Today that same debauchery pervades society in the West. The avarice, murder, abortion, and homosexuality that reveals the reprobate mind has become commonplace.

So consider whether this “harmless” fantasy is really so harmless if the same debauchery permeates the industry that produced it—especially when The Force is identical to the god of the Nazis.

Beware lest anyone spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. (Colossians 2:8)

In one form or another, The Force has taken its toll on the minds of many. The media continue to propagate the philosophies of the world—universalism, humanism, human potential—all leading to the unification of mankind under a world leader. The enemy will find his task easier if the public is conditioned in small doses encapsulated in fantastic stories of adventure administered over long periods of time. Only now the time is shortened; at least two generations of people in the West have been infected with anti-Christ’s philosophies spewed out through the media, the education system, and the government.

Believers in Jesus must possess sufficient faith and knowledge to steel ourselves against the media propaganda that would direct us toward apathy while creating within us an inability to distinguish between the truth of God and the philosophies of the world. The truth is the truth. God is God. Jesus is still the only way to the Father.

The Force is the product of an eastern mystical philosophy and an abomination to God that has had a hold on men’s minds almost since creation. Shouldn’t the Body of Christ know the difference?❖

Updated and expanded upon from *The Force Behind The Force: Star Wars Theology Examined* (Media Spotlight, 1984)

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 17.

<sup>1</sup> G.H. Lang, *World Chaos: Its Root and Remedy* (London: The Paternoster Press, 1948), p. 16.

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