

“The Chosen”

Perverting the Gospel of Christ

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Dallas Jenkins is the creative director of the “The Chosen” video series. He has repeatedly promoted The Chosen as portraying the “authentic Jesus.” But he is lying. The video series shows a “different Jesus” from the authentic Jesus of the Holy Bible.

Indeed, the Jesus of “The Chosen” is a Jesus conjured from Roman Catholic, Mormon, and Judaic theology. Shaun Willcock explains that the video series is produced on a set owned by the Mormon Church in Goshen, Utah, and distributed by Angel Studios, whose founder and Chief Content officer, Jeff Harmon, is a Mormon.¹ One of the executive producers of The Chosen, Darrell Eves, is a Mormon church official, He is a Mormon Elders Quorum President and Bishopric Counselor.² Brad Pelo, President of The Chosen and founder of Ancestry.com is also a lifelong Mormon. Shaun Willcock further explains that “[a]fter writing each episode of The Chosen, he consults a Roman Catholic priest, a Jewish rabbi and a so-called Evangelical to make certain that what he has written is ‘biblically accurate!’” “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” Amos 3:3. Paul warned about shows like “The Chosen” that preach “another Jesus.”

For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him. 2 Corinthians 11:4.

The Chosen producers use the words “get used to different” as part of a marketing campaign. They emblazon it on T-shirts, coffee mugs, and other merchandise they sell. It is a statement made by their version of Jesus and has become the flagship motto for The Chosen. But Jesus warned his disciple to do just the opposite. He warned them to beware of different. In particular he warned them to beware of different Christs who would arise to deceive many.

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. ... For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”
(Matthew 24:4-5, 24)

The Christ of The Chosen is a different Christ, a false Christ. The most notable error in The Chosen is its depiction of Jesus primarily as a man; it does not reveal him as God Almighty, creator of all things in heaven and on earth. Colossians 1:16. The Chosen strips Jesus of his divinity by accentuating the supposed human frailties of their version of Jesus. That seems to be the point of having Jesus nervously rehearsing his sermons and being a poor player in one of the

games in which he joined. Indeed, Dallas Jenkins and the actor Jonathan Roumie were filmed in a conversation where Jenkins reveals it was the plan to accentuate Jesus' humanity while downplaying his divinity. "You and I talked about this a couple of years ago about walking on water and I said 'I am not doing it.' We know he is fully God and fully man, but you can't play the God part. ... other than in the action."³ To which Roumie agreed. That false version of Jesus without "the God part" fits very nicely with the Mormon view that Jesus was just a man who attained divinity. David Dombrowski explains what The Chosen is doing to the gospel.

What we see happening in The Chosen series is a subtle and gradual dismantling of Jesus Christ, the disciples, and the Bible itself. This is serious because, while this series may be entertaining, the distortions to Scripture can have eternal consequences.⁴

David Guffey is a Roman Catholic priest and one of the Roman Catholic advisors on The Chosen. He explained that he was invited to be part of The Chosen production team because they wanted input on "how true the stories were to Scripture, and they wanted that from a Catholic perspective."⁵ That means that the producers of The Chosen went out and sought input from heathen Roman Catholic clerics. Notably, Guffey teaches "Ignatian meditation." That religious practice taught by Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, is a method of meditation where a devil possesses the adherent.

The Mary of the Roman Catholic Church is a goddess who is worshipped and to whom prayers and supplications are made. The Mary of the bible is not a goddess; she was a woman elected by God to be the mother of Jesus. She died like everyone else and any attempt to communicate with her through prayer is the sin of necromancy. Deuteronomy 18:10-12. **"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;** (1 Timothy 2:5).

The practice of communicating with Mary is part and parcel of the general practice of praying to a pantheon of Catholic gods and goddesses, which the Catholic Church calls "saints," who purport to join along with Mary as the queen of heaven to answer the prayers of the faithful.

The holy council . . . orders all bishops and others who have the official charge of teaching. . . to instruct . . . the faithful that the **saints**, reigning together with Christ, **pray to God for men and women; that it is good and useful to invoke them humbly and to have recourse to their prayers, to their help and assistance, in order to obtain favours from God** through his Son our lord Jesus Christ, who alone is our Redeemer and Saviour. Those who deny that the saints enjoying eternal happiness in heaven **are to be invoked**, or who claim that saints do not pray for human beings or that **calling upon them to pray for each of us** is idolatry or is

opposed to the word of God and is prejudicial to the honour of Jesus Christ, the one Mediator between God and humankind; or who say that it is foolish to **make supplication orally or mentally to those who are reigning in heaven**; all those entertain impious thoughts. *THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF TRENT, TWENTY FIFTH SESSION, DECREE ON THE INVOCATION, THE VENERATION AND THE RELICS OF SAINTS AND ON SACRED IMAGES*, 1560.

[The saints'] . . . intercession is their most exalted service to God's plan. **We can and should ask them to intercede for us and for the whole world.** *CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH*, § 2683, 1994.

The prayers to the dead so -called "Catholic saints" are simply attempts communicate with the dead. God has expressly commanded that we not attempt to communicate with the dead. To communicate with the dead is a sin called **necromancy**. There is only one mediator between man and God to whom we should pray, and that is Jesus Christ.

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. (Deuteronomy 18:10-12)

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; (1 Timothy 2:5)

Why would one pray to the saints? God won't listen to their counsel, because he doesn't need counsel. Ephesians 1:11. God puts no trust in his saints.

Behold, **he putteth no trust in his saints;** yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight. (Job 15:15 AV)

How did this clearly sinful practice of communicating with the dead through so-called prayer originate? It is a direct outgrowth of the necromancy practiced by the Jews. Necromancy is so ingrained in Judaism that among ancient Jews some Rabbis considered knowledge in necromancy to be a necessary qualification for a seat in the Sakhendrin, which was the grand counsel and court of justice among the ancient Jews.⁶

The Roman Catholic Church has a different gospel, with a different Jesus than that which

is found in the Bible. *See* 2 Corinthians 11:4. Their different gospel was born of the Kabbalah and has different doctrines and a different Mary from the Mary in the Bible. In the Bible, Mary is the handmaid of the Lord. *See* Luke 1:38. The Roman Catholic Church Mary, however, is an imperious queen of heaven, who rules over all things.

The Catholic Mary (as distinguished from the biblical Mary) is a heathen goddess, who in 1950 was “infallibly” declared by Pope Pius XII to have been assumed body and soul into heaven and crowned “**Queen over all things.**”

Finally the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as **Queen over all things**, so that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death. Pope Pius XII -- *Munificentissimus Deus*, 1950.

The problem with that “infallible” pronouncement of the pope is that it is impossible for Mary to be “queen over all things.” The Bible states unequivocally that Jesus Christ “is the blessed and **only Potentate**, the Lord of lords and King of kings.” 1 Timothy 6:15. A potentate is a sovereign monarch.⁷ Jesus Christ is the “only Potentate.” Only means only! There is not room in heaven for another Potentate. Mary, therefore, cannot be “queen over all things.” Jesus is the “**only Potentate**” over all things!

Another consultant is Messianic Rabbi Jason Sobel. Rabbi Sobel is a Zionist who rejects the truth of Galatians 3:1-29. Instead, he teaches the lie:

God chose Israel, the Jewish people, and entered into an eternal covenant with them. Part of Israel's role is to be a conduit of blessing and restoration to every nation. In loving-kindness, God gave to Israel the Torah as a covenantal way of life, and the Holy Land of Israel as an everlasting inheritance. He promised Abraham that all who bless the Jewish people will be blessed and all who curse Israel will be cursed (Gen. 12:1-3; Jer. 31:34-37; Rom. 11:28-29).⁸

Finally, there is Doug Huffman, a New Testament professor at Biola University. Huffman gave his approval to many of the errors appearing in *The Chosen*. For example, he was entirely on board with the depiction in *The Chosen* of Jesus being unsure of himself and needing to rehearse what he said, including his sermon on the mount.⁹ Jesus did not have to rehearse what he said. The words were given directly to him by God the Father.

For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should

speak. John 12:49.

Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. John 8:28.

Indeed, Jesus is the very Word of God in the flesh.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John 1:14.

Jesus is in the Father, and the Father is in Jesus. Jesus and the Father are one. Jesus spoke words that were directly from the Father. It is blasphemy to suggest that Jesus was insecure about what to say and needed to rehearse his lines.

Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. John 14:10.

Dallas Jenkins claims he is “trying to tell God’s stories in a fresh way.” He admits that he is going beyond the Bible and just making things up. Jenkins calls it "enhancing Scripture."¹⁰ But what he really means is that he is altering scripture. The fiction portrayed in *The Chosen*, not coincidentally, aligns with the blasphemous Jesus of the Jews, Mormons, and Roman Catholics. Willcock explains:

Jenkins constantly puts words in Jesus’ mouth which He did not say, and would never have said. For example, in *Jn. 3* there is the account of the meeting between Jesus and Nicodemus. In *The Chosen* “Jesus” is shown asking Nicodemus, “What does your heart say?” These words are not to be found anywhere in the biblical text. Furthermore, Jesus would never have asked such a foolish question, given that His own Word says of the human heart, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9). But this kind of question – “What does your heart say?” is so typical of modern western confusion today. “Listen to your heart” is pop psychology. It is what people say to one another all the time, but this is not the teaching of the Bible as the heart is deceitful and wicked, and since men cannot know it truthfully or fully, listening to it is very, very bad advice.¹¹

Willcock explains that *The Chosen* portrays Jesus not as God Almighty but as a worldly party animal with limited power.

Jesus is even shown as dancing at a party in one episode! This kind of sinful portrayal of the Lord and Saviour resonates well with the worldly, but is blasphemous. Journalist Sean O'Neal wrote, "Whether or not you believe he was actually our Lord and Savior, The Chosen does a pretty good job of suggesting why so many people wanted to follow this guy around." Except that the Lord Jesus was not "one of the boys", a "party animal" who was followed by His disciples for this reason. He called people out of the world and its ways. In one episode, one of the disciples asks Jesus to make the disciple Andrew a better dancer, to which the actor portraying Jesus replies, "Some things even I cannot do." Not only would the Lord Jesus never have taught His disciples to dance, but to make Jesus say there are things He is unable to do is blasphemous!¹²

The Chosen has a feminist agenda. Willcock explains:

Lk. 5:18 says, "And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him." But in The Chosen, he is shown as being carried by Mary Magdalene and a woman named Tamar! It was obviously of no concern to the creators of the series to ignore what the New Testament says and do things their own way. Doubtless this was done as a nod to the feminist agenda.

Ah, feminism. This is promoted subtly in the series. For example, "Jesus" is seen asking Mary Magdalene to lead in prayer and the reading of Scripture. This was never done by Jews in the first century, nor do we read of the Lord Jesus Christ ever requesting such a thing. It is, in a word, a lie.¹³

Those who excuse the fictional accounts in The Chosen as creative liberties to be used as points for discussion do not understand that the producers intend the fictions to be accepted as truths. The Chosen is promoted as portraying the doctrinally accurate "authentic Jesus." While Jenkins claims he is portraying the authentic Jesus, he also admits it "puts me in a dangerous spot when I am making a show about Jesus where 95% of the content isn't from the Bible."¹⁴ What does God think of adding such things in a counterfeit portrayal of what is supposed to be the "authentic Jesus?"

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God

shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.
(Revelation 22:18-19)

Willcock reveals that The Chosen is actually a slick marketing ploy to undermine the gospel.

It would be bad enough if The Chosen was nothing but entertainment. But it is even worse than that. Dallas Jenkins has been involved in writing study guides and devotionals in the light of his fictional characters (they are fictional, for they are not accurate portrayals of Christ or the disciples). This means that churches and individuals will actually use these materials of his as they watch the series, thinking it is all enabling them to grow in their spiritual walk. They have been deceived.¹⁵

Willcock reveals the double-mindedness (James 1:8) of Jenkins, who claims that The Chosen is not intended to be a replacement for the Bible while at the same time arguing that God told him The Chosen is supposed to be “the definitive portrayal of My people.”

Jenkins claimed in an interview that he “felt like God was saying that ‘this will be the definitive portrayal of My people and this is what people are going to think of around the world when they think of My people. And I’m not going to let you screw it up.’”[x] Yet this man also claimed The Chosen is not a replacement for Scripture! He cannot have it both ways. If it really is not a replacement for Scripture, why would God supposedly tell Jenkins (according to Jenkins!) that it will become the definitive portrayal of God’s people? The Bible gives us the definitive portrayal of the people of God! And if Jenkins was a true Christian he would believe that and uphold it. But he does not. He exalts his own TV series as being more definitive than the Bible he claims to believe!¹⁶

Jenkins’ statements sound chillingly like what the Mormons say about their book of Mormon.

Like the Bible, the Book of Mormon is a special book that teaches about Jesus Christ. It doesn’t replace the Bible. As you study both books, you can gain a deeper understanding of Jesus’ gospel and draw closer to God.¹⁷

Most people don’t know that the Mormon Jesus is a different Jesus than the Jesus of the

Bible. The Jesus of the Mormon Church is not the Eternal and Almighty God, creator of all things. The Mormon Jesus is the created brother of Satan. The Mormon church, in answering the question whether it teaches that Jesus and Satan are brothers, explains: “God created both Satan and Jesus, and in that respect, they are brothers.”¹⁸ What does Jenkins, the creative director of *The Chosen*, think about the Mormon Jesus? He appeared in an interview on a Mormon radio show, during which Jenkins said the following about the Mormon Church:

[W]e love the same Jesus. That’s not something you often hear... sometimes it’s like, oh they believe in a different Jesus than we do. No, it’s the same, I mean I’ll sink or swim on that statement. I know that’s controversial and I don’t mind getting criticized at all for the show, and I don’t mind being called a blasphemer.¹⁹

Jenkins knew exactly what he was saying. He knew it was blasphemy to agree with the Mormon portrayal of Jesus. But he did not care. He does not “mind being called a blasphemer.” But, later, when he was confronted about whether he said he believed that the Mormon Church and Christians believe in the same Jesus, he denied that he said it.²⁰ Why would he deny saying something that he proclaimed that he would “sink or swim on?” Because it reveals the Satanic nature of his theology and the evil behind *The Chosen*. He does not want it known that the Mormon doctrine has subtly entered *The Chosen*.

In a promotional trailer for season three of *The Chosen* a video clip showed a Jewish religious official confronting Jesus.

Jesus, if you do not renounce your words, we will have no choice but to follow the law of Moses,” the man says, implying that the Sanhedrin would pursue Jesus’ execution. Jesus steps toward the man and replies, “I am the law of Moses.”²¹

That statement by Jesus, found nowhere in scripture, is a paraphrase of a passage found in the Book of Mormon, 3 Nephi 15:9. “Behold, I am the law, and the light. Look unto me, and endure to the end, and ye shall live; for unto him that endureth to the end will I give eternal life.”²² While it is true that Jesus is the Word (John 1:1-14), it is not true that Jesus is the law of Moses. There is a significant difference between saying that Jesus is the Word and saying that Jesus is the law of Moses. The Salty Believer succinctly explains the theological error of that statement:

Hebrews 10:1-4 teaches the Law is but a shadow of the good things to come, falling short of saving us from sin or perfecting worshipers. The Law cannot and does not save us, but instead exposes our sin and our need for a Savior (see Romans 7). Romans 8:4 tells us God did what the Law could not do. If Jesus is the Law, then how did Jesus 'as the Law' fail? What could he not

do? He didn't fail, and these verses juxtapose the Law and Jesus. Romans 8:2 says Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and death (talking about the Law of Moses.) If Jesus is the Law, like The Chosen trailer suggests, then this would be saying Jesus sets us free from Jesus. That is NOT what Romans 8:1-4 is teaching. Instead, we learn that Law condemns sin in the flesh, which demands our death. Yet, where we were sentenced under the Law because we fell short of the Law's requirement, God sent Jesus to live the Law perfectly and then be condemned under the Law in our place. In taking the full punishment of the Law, Jesus fulfilled the Law. (See also Romans 5.) Biblically speaking, it just doesn't line up to say Jesus is the Law.²³

Dale Chamberlain, writing for Church Leader explains some of the reactions by Christians:

Pointing out the similarity, one Twitter user said, "I never took a hard position against the Chosen until now. It is compromised and in heresy."

"This isn't one of those 'Jesus could've said/done this' types of things, this is a direct bowing to Mormon theology (Mormons put a lot into the series) which is against Biblical Christianity. Jesus fulfills the law and as God gave it, but He is not the law," he went on to say. "Beware this."

Another said, "It would be disingenuous to assume that Mormon theology has no impact" on the series.

"Stop watching The Chosen," someone else urged. "Read your Bible instead."²⁴

What did Jenkins say when he was confronted by objections from Christians about that scene? He said: "It's a cool line. So either way, it's in the show because I believe it's a really great line and I believe that it's also theologically plausible."²⁵ Wow! Jenkins' standard for what is put in his movie is not doctrinal truth but theological plausibility. But when what is theologically plausible is drawn from an ecumenical swill, you are bound to get theological error. This is the kind of subtle theological error of which the Bible warned. "[T]he serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made." Genesis 3:1. The error is not originating from Dallas Jenkins. He claims that God speaks to him and guides him; but Satan is able to appear as an angel of light. 2 Corinthians 11:14. The evil of The Chosen flows not from flesh and blood but the evil spirit world.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Ephesians 6:12.

The Chosen presents a false gospel about which God warned. We are not to have anything to do with such unfruitful works of darkness. “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.” Ephesians 5:11. The producers of The Chosen are under a curse from God.

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. (Galatians 1:6-9)

God commands Christians not to make “unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth” (Exodus 20:4). The depiction of Jesus in The Chosen is the likeness of Jesus, the God of heaven, in violation of God’s commandment. Christians are commanded to keep away from idols (1 John 5:21). Christians are not to partake of propaganda from the devil while trying to understand God’s word.

What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing? But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord’s table, and of the table of devils. (1 Corinthians 10:19-21)

What does Jesus Christ think about The Chosen? “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes.” Psalms 101:3.

Endnotes

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