

The Imminent Danger Among Us!

Shalom Brothers and Sisters in Messiah

YHWH has led me to write concerning destructive religious cults. I hope that you will carefully read this teaching and utilize the resources at the end of the teaching. This is something that each and every one of us needs to know and understand in order to protect ourselves and our families.

May YHWH be glorified and may His people be protected from this imminent danger among us! Amein.

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## Prophets Who Entice

***Devarim [Deuteronomy] 13:1-5***

***1 "If there arise in your midst a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder,***

***2 and the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other elohim, (which you have not known), and let us serve them;'***

***3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet, or to that dreamer of dreams: for YHWH your Elohim is testing you, to know whether you love YHWH your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul.***

***4 You shall walk after YHWH your Elohim, and fear Him, and keep His commandments, and obey His Voice, and you shall serve Him, and cleave to Him.***

***5 And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death, because he has spoken rebellion against YHWH your Elohim, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to draw you aside out of the way which YHWH your Elohim commanded you to walk in. So shall you put away the evil from among you."***

According to the book "Cults in Our Midst" by Margaret Singer, she states that there are over two million people in more than 5,000 separate cults, just in the United States alone. That is a very alarming number of people. Surprisingly, it is the educated and intelligent, that number among the majority of those sucked into these cults. At the end of this teaching, you will find some links to some additional resources. I hope that you will utilize them, and become familiar with what a cult is, and what the leaders do to control their people. It could mean the difference between being spiritually well or not.

In part, the alarming number of people getting sucked into cults, is due to the fact, that traditional religion, and in particular, traditional Christianity, does not hold the answers that these people need and seek. So they begin to look elsewhere.

Many times these people actually recruit themselves; i.e., once they make contact with the cult group, they have a tendency to ignore warning signs and focus only upon the positive aspects of the cult group. The leaders of the cults are well aware of this and actually capitalize upon these manipulative tactics and use them to their own advantage.

Please consider these words of Messiah.

***Mattithyah [Matthew] 24:11***

***And many false prophets shall arise, and shall lead many astray.***

In fact, in the discourse that Matthew records in the twenty-fourth chapter, Yeshua warns us three times about false Messiahs, false prophets, false shepherds, false teachers, etc.

Basically, what Yeshua is telling us, is that in the latter days there will be many who would attempt to lead His people astray. Make no mistake about it: there are many unscrupulous people out there that would like nothing better than to get a hold of your money and even all your possessions. Once they have accomplished this, they are ready to discard you at any moment, especially if you raise questions that they see as a threat to their authority.

These cults oftentimes have a finger on the pulse of the current religious movements in the US and couch their language in terms that are recognizable to the people of these movements. Just because someone seemingly uses all the right words does not make that person a genuine believer and brother in the faith. Because Yeshua warned us in the fashion that He warned us, it is incumbent upon us to make sure that any ministry that we may feel drawn to, we should thoroughly check out. If the ministry is a recognized religious group by the US government (501-C-3), then it has to have available to the public a record of its finances. Don't be afraid to ask for it. But if the group in question is not legitimate, the financial statement that they would show you will be doctored. Don't be afraid to ask questions. The more questions that you ask, the better off you will be. And if your gut tells you something is not quite right, DO NOT ignore it!

Also, many times these groups will incorporate their ministries to hide behind this shield. As a matter of fact, an attorney told this author, that many are corporation soles, just to be able to commit fraud and hide it. Ask for a copy of the articles of incorporation and the by-laws. Read them over carefully. Again, ask questions. For example, if the by-laws state that there is a "board of directors" (or "elders", or other such terminology), then ask for their names and addresses and contact them to verify that they exist. Many times what is on paper is not what actually exists! Do your homework!

Oftentimes, they will have vast real estate holdings that no one knows about, all the while claiming that they are struggling financially. The internet will help you in doing a

search for public records in this regard. Make sure to look under any previous names and/or aliases.

In the passage of Scripture above in Devarim, the prophet or dreamer says, "Let us go after other elohim and serve them." This statement does not mean that we will hear those exact words or even a form of those words. To illustrate this, let us consider the incident of the golden calf.

In this incident, what we see was that those who were leading the people astray were actually saying that they were serving YHWH. However, even though the leaders of this cultic movement were stating to the people that they were serving YHWH Elohim, they were in fact not serving Him, but rather a false elohim of the Egyptians.

Likewise, when we see this happening today, rarely will we see someone who actually states that they want us to go and serve other elohim. Rather, what we see is someone who is claiming to lead us to serve YHWH Elohim; but when the facts of the situation are carefully scrutinized, what one finds is that there is a different elohim that is being served.

Oftentimes the elohim that one would find being served inside of these cults is actually the leader of the cult. This will often manifest itself in the leader having absolute control over the people, policy, and all major (and even minor) decisions. There is often no room for individual thought or action. One must do as he is told to do, or else he is severely disciplined and threatened with expulsion as a means to control the actions and words of the people.

So what we need to do as believers and followers of Messiah, is what this Scripture teaches.

***Thessloniqa Aleph [1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians] 5:21-22***  
***21 prove all things; hold fast that which is good;***  
***22 abstain from every form of evil.***

We must not be lazy and just allow others to form our beliefs. We must take every single word that someone teaches (present teacher included) and measure everything against Scripture to make sure that what we are reading is accurate. If it is not, or if a particular passage of Scripture is ignored which would contradict the teaching, then we should do several things. First thing is, that we need to admit to ourselves that there is error in what we are reading or hearing. Secondly, we need to mentally discard what we have read and/or heard that is in error. Thirdly, we need to go to the person that is teaching error and point it out to them. If they do not receive what we are saying and reject the counsel of Scripture, then we are to take others with us to see if we can get that teacher to see the error of his ways. At present, there is not really an effective way to do the last step in the Matthew 18 process, so we just need to put them in YHWH's hands, brush the dust off our feet, and move on.

If the teacher or leader is actually a cult leader or has cultic methods, then you can expect to be rejected for your interpretation and your attempt at correction, as they see their (private) interpretation as the only valid interpretation of Scripture.

***Kepha Bet [2<sup>nd</sup> Peter] 1:20***

***knowing this first, that no prophecy of scripture is of private interpretation.***

This seems to be a key to determining who and what a religious cult is. Do they have their own interpretation of Scripture and do they teach that if you do not belong to their group and accept only their version and understanding of Scripture, you cannot be saved? Are you discouraged from reading other groups' materials? If so, then they are a cult and extreme caution should be exercised.

One method that I have seen used quite effectively by cult leaders in changing what Scripture says and means, is to insert into the Scripture passage, words in parentheses. Those that would use such methods know that, even though you know those words in parentheses are inserted by them, the mind still places these words in the text and thereby opens the door to changing the interpretation of Scripture.

Just because a particular group is a cult, does not mean that everything that they teach is wrong. In fact, more of what they teach will probably be right and in line with Scripture, than is wrong with their teachings. This is what makes detecting cults so very difficult. It is not so much what they teach that is the danger; it is their policy and actions in everyday life that makes cults destructive. This destructive nature is more towards the individual members and their families than anything else.

What this illustrates to us, is why Yeshua appointed the twelve to lead the body of believers after He left. He did not leave only one man in charge, because Scripture teaches us that He is the Head and no one else! Here on earth, we are not to have one man over us all, because of the naturally evil condition of man's heart. Yes, there is to be order and a hierarchy of authority in the body, but Yeshua is the Head. And under Him, there are to be twelve men. Nowhere in Scripture do we see Yeshua appointing one man as an earthly head.

***B'reshit [Genesis] 6:5***

***And YHWH saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.***

This is why it was necessary for Yeshua to appoint twelve men instead of just one man. Also, this is why so very many ministries go off track: because they have one man at the head of that ministry, and the power and authority goes to his head, so he becomes filled with pride, and usually becomes quite arrogant as a result. At some point, he will begin to think that he is above sin, and that Scripture does not apply to himself. This often has resulted in many ministers having fallen into sexual sin, and lies and deception, as well as false doctrine.

When we do as Yeshua set the example for us to follow, and we place twelve evidently Spirit-filled men, all with equal authority to lead the body, then they can protect and watch over one another, to make sure that this does not happen to them. Also, the interpretation of Scripture that these twelve would give of Scripture would certainly not be private, which is what we need.

In addition to cult leaders interpreting Scripture according to their own whims and desires so they can be the only one in control, they often deviate from the traditionally accepted understanding of Scripture; they change its accepted interpretation without any Scriptural evidence to support what they are teaching, or they twist Scripture to their own undoing. Or, they just simply ignore those passages that would contradict what they are teaching.

Now, I will be the first to admit that traditional Christianity has some things wrong with it. However, there is more right with it, than is wrong with it, particularly in the area of doctrine. This is where we need to be very careful, and this also clearly illustrates the need for us to have twelve men filled with the Ruach HaQodesh (Holy Spirit) just as Yeshua appointed, so that we do not get off track. Getting off track is very easy to do when studying Scripture, if one deviates too much from the norm.

In the Messianic/Two House movement, there is a strong tendency for people to look for the “new” teaching on the block. Or, to look for something that is sensational and/or controversial. What those people who do this do not fully realize, is that they are looking for something that is appealing to the flesh. There is not one of us that wants to think that we would be guilty of wanting our ears tickled, but this is exactly what many are guilty of in seeking after the “latest” teaching around.

However, if we had twelve men, rather than just one man, who were filled with the Ruach HaQodesh, then we would have a built-in safety net to know that what they are putting out is right and trustworthy and warrants our following those teachings.

We would not be following the twelve! But rather, we would be following Yeshua. But what happens in a ministry led by one man, is that there is no built-in safety net! Each of those men that have so fallen by the wayside, have done so because they were not willing to take counsel, except for that counsel that already agrees with the direction that they have already determined to go.

Another thing that is often true about cults, and in particular, cult leaders, is a supposed “personal revelation” from YHWH that is often used as a weapon to keep people in line. It often goes something like this: “I have had a personal revelation and personal direction from YHWH, and I am the one who has been given this direction. Therefore, you need to fall in line with me, because if you don’t fall in line with me, then you are in sin because you are going contrary to divine revelation!”

However, I think that we can easily see the fallacy of this line if we are honest with ourselves. Again, if we had twelve men filled with the Ruach HaQodesh, then this type

of thing would not be an issue. While Scripture teaches us not to prohibit those that would speak a word of prophecy, it also teaches us that we are to test the spirits. This is a direct command from YHWH!

***Yochanan Alef [1<sup>st</sup> John] 4:1-6***

***1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits, whether they are of Elohim; because many false prophets are gone out into the world.***

***2 Hereby you know the Spirit of Elohim: every spirit that confesses that Yeshua Messiah is come in the flesh is of Elohim:***

***3 and every spirit that confesses not Yeshua is not of Elohim: and this is the spirit of the antichrist, whereof you have heard that it comes; and now it is in the world already.***

***4 You are of Elohim, my little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.***

***5 They are of the world: therefore speak they as of the world, and the world hears them.***

***6 We are of Elohim: he that knows Elohim hears us; he who is not of Elohim hears us not. By this we know the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.***

Another thing that is often true about cults and cult leaders, is their use of deception. This use of deception happens on two levels. The first, is that anyone who is outside the group does not warrant the whole truth. In fact, they often teach their followers that anything goes to further their own agenda, including outright lies.

The second level is inside the group. The higher one goes in the organization, the more privy to information and facts one becomes. But the reality is, that it is only the leader that has all the facts and knows what is actually going on. If you are reading this, and you have been led to believe that it is okay to lie to others to further "His kingdom", then please know this, you also are being lied to! And please do not deceive yourself into believing that the leader would never lie to you, because he will and he does, often!

What the leader attempts to do is to build a distrust into the group, by telling each person "in confidentiality" things and/or lies about others in the group. This is done to keep people in the group from getting too close to one another, and then beginning to figure things out, and to see what is actually going on. These little tidbits of information are often formulated in the guise of "being concerned" about the third party, or in the form of a "prayer request." Do not be fooled: this is still lashon hara (evil speech), and/or lies.

These types of communications are designed to divide and control the people in the group. If you have experienced this or are experiencing this, then these are warning signs that should not be ignored.

If a person in the group should decide to go against the rules, or decide to not do exactly as they are being told to do, or questions the leader's authority and/or behavior, then the leader (and the group) will "mark" the person to be ostracized. In this way, the

leader can better control the group, because if the other members of the group were to communicate with the one being ostracized, and possibly even be removed from the group, then that infection could spread, and the leader could lose control over more of his followers.

So what happens is that the leader will embellish the story and/or tell outright lies about the “bad” person to get others not to want to associate or to communicate with the person being so disciplined. It is extremely critical for the leader of these destructive cults to be in control of any and all communications within the group; so much so, that they will even have the members spying on other members to seemingly make the leader have the appearance of having divinely-given knowledge about things that they would not normally know.

Please consider what Yeshua taught us.

***Luqa [Luke] 12:2-3***

***2 “But there is nothing covered up, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.***

***3 Wherefore whatsoever you have said in the darkness shall be heard in the light; and what you have spoken in the ear in the inner chambers shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.”***

Cults generally operate under a cloak of darkness and secrecy. They do not want, nor can they afford to be, open and right up-front about who and what they are, and about their pasts. If they were, very few if any would follow them.

Let us make sure that we are only following Yeshua as our Head, and that we are obeying His every word to us. If we are doing this, then this will be confirmed in and by other true believers.

In all of this, one of the marks and signs of a cult or cult leader is proclaimed infallibility. Even though they may say words to the effect that they are not perfect, their actions would tell us that they must have the final word in all matters, thereby making their decisions as if they were straight from Elohim. Thus, it gives no one any room to question their actions or decisions. This, in effect, puts them in a position of infallibility. They will often hide this fact by giving the appearance of giving or changing their position on certain minor issues that really do not matter to them anyway; thereby, giving the illusion that they are involving others in the decisions and policies of the group. But on those matters that involve direction and control of the group, only the leader will have true input.

Ultimately, many of these groups and group leaders have designs of either national or global domination at some point in their career. If one reads carefully, then this can be detected. Be very careful of these types of groups and/or leaders as they are very destructive towards the individual and they will use you as long as you are useful to them. At the point in which you become a liability to them, and/or are of no further use

to them and their agenda, then they will discard you as they have with so many before you.

These types of groups use people as slaves (“doing the work” or “building His Kingdom”) and keep them busy, and make sure that they have more to do than they can get done, and then use guilt as an effective tool to control and manipulate the members of the group.

Often they make the members feel bad by saying that they are not doing enough to further the group’s goals and aspirations. However, when one takes an honest look at the group’s goals to see what it is that exactly is being sought after in an objective light, then it will not stand up in the light of Scripture, even though Scriptural language is used to couch the leader’s true aspirations in.

Basically, when in doubt, use extreme caution!

## **Others Who Entice**

***Devarim [Deuteronomy] 13:6-11***

***6 “If your brother, the son of your mother, or your son, or your daughter, or the wife of your bosom, or your friend, that is as your own being, entice you secretly, saying, ‘Let us go and serve other elohim,’ which you have not known, you, nor your fathers;***

***7 of the elohim of the peoples that are round about you, close to you, or far off from you, from the one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth;***

***8 you shall not consent to him, nor listen to him; neither shall your eye pity him, neither shall you spare, neither shall you conceal him:***

***9 but you shall surely kill him; your hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people.***

***10 And you shall stone him to death with stones, because he has sought to draw you away from YHWH your Elohim, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.***

***11 And all Yisrael shall hear, and fear, and shall do no more any such wickedness as this among you.”***

This not only goes for non-family members, but also for members of our own family. We just need to be paying attention to those around us and what they are actually saying and doing.

## **A City That Becomes Enticed**

***Devarim [Deuteronomy] 13:12-18***

***12 “If you shall hear tell concerning one of your cities, which YHWH your Elohim gives you to dwell there, saying,***

**13 'Certain base fellows are gone out from amongst us, and have drawn away the inhabitants of their city, saying, "Let us go and serve other elohim,"' (which you have not known;)**

**14 then shall you inquire, and make search, and ask diligently; and, behold, if it be truth, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought among you,**

**15 you shall surely smite the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword, destroying it utterly, and all that is therein and the cattle thereof, with the edge of the sword.**

**16 And you shall gather all the spoil of it into the midst of the street, and shall burn with fire the city, and all the spoil thereof every bit, to YHWH your Elohim: and it shall be a heap for ever; it shall not be built again.**

**17 And nothing shall cling to your hand that is under the ban; that YHWH may turn from the fierceness of His anger, and show you mercy, and have compassion upon you, and multiply you, as He has sworn to your fathers;**

**18 when you shall listen to the Voice of YHWH your Elohim, to keep all His commandments which I command you this day, to do that which is right in the eyes of YHWH your Elohim."**

We can easily apply this passage to our study of cults in that a group could easily be considered as a city. And in fact, oftentimes the cult group will function as an independent civil group.

Oftentimes, these cultic groups will use the word "the" in their title, subtitle, or name. What this conveys, is that they are the only correct ones or the only right way. This is a very dangerous and destructive mindset, because Yeshua clearly states that He is the way the truth and the life.

**Yochanan [John] 14:6**

**Yeshua said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one comes to the Father, but by me."**

So if you come across a group that says they are "the" anything at all, then caution should be exercised!

Yeshua also taught us:

**Yochanan [John] 5:43**

**"I am come in My Father's name, and you receive Me not: if another shall come in his own name, him you will receive."**

Basically, what a cult or cultic type group or group leader will teach, is that what you need is the Good News of Yeshua AND what they are doing or teaching. This is adding to the word of YHWH and is strongly condemned in Scripture! Basically, they are saying that you need to have their interpretation of Scripture to be true, right, and pure.

**Devarim [Deuteronomy] 4:2**

***“You shall not add to the word which I command you, neither shall you diminish from it, that you may keep the commandments of YHWH your Elohim which I command you.”***

So what these destructive cults do, is to very slyly slip in on us, that we also need what they have to offer. And furthermore, they are the only ones that are offering this. But if one analyzes this properly, then one can see that this just simply cannot be true, because if it is in Scripture then it is already available to us through Yeshua and we just simply do not need anyone else to give it to us, for He has already given us all things!

***Kepha Bet [2<sup>nd</sup> Peter] 1:3***

***seeing that His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and righteousness, through the knowledge of Him that called us by His own glory and virtue;***

This leads us to see that there is often much pride and arrogance in the leader of the cult group. If things do not go his way, and only his way, then he will often throw a fit and become agitated with the nearest person. Perhaps you have experienced this pride and arrogance personally from a leader of a group. If you have, just do not dismiss it and slough it off as nothing, particularly if you have experienced it on more than one occasion.

When a leader of a cultic type group has to have the ultimate say-so in all matters, this is nothing less than his own self-worship. Furthermore, if the members do not fall in line and become involved in this same type of worship, then they are disciplined until they do so, or else they are put out of the group.

Make no mistake about it, this is idolatry.

When a leader of a group takes the words of Scripture and makes them say something that they do not say, this is anti-Messiah. Let us examine the example of leadership.

Scripture clearly shows us that Yeshua appointed twelve men and left them in charge after He left. That is clearly the pattern that Yeshua (our Master) left for us to follow as His disciples. While it seems that these men had appointed one of themselves to be the spokesman for the group, they all had equal authority and made decisions based upon consensus of prayer. No one man made decisions! Rather, they all made decisions, and it seems from the record in the book of Acts, that these decisions were prayed on until they were all in agreement.

However, if a leader of a cultic group changes this clear pattern in order to place himself as the head, then is he not being anti-Messiah? To be sure he is! Why? Because what this cultic leader is doing, is placing himself as the head, when Scripture clearly teaches us that it is only Yeshua our Messiah who is our head. Basically, they are attempting to put themselves in the place of Messiah. Following such a person can only lead to heartache and possible destruction.

In this deadly game that these cultic leaders play with the lives of people, words become overly important. They will focus upon individual words to throw off the conversation and get people sidetracked from their original query. Rather than focusing upon the intent and purpose of the words, namely communication, and communication of thoughts and ideas, these cultic leaders will derail a conversation by focusing upon one or two words. Thereby, they are refocusing the conversation upon something that they would consider a safe subject, and do not have to answer the question of which an honest answer would reveal wrongdoing on their part.

But if a person is persistent in asking the same question until an answer is forthcoming, then what will be revealed is the pride and arrogance of the leader. One may never actually get a straight answer (partly because the leader believes that deception is an acceptable means to gain what they are after), but in the non-answer one will know what it is that they seek to know.

Also, purity often plays a very big role in these cultic groups. They will take the Scriptural concept of what it means to be pure and change it to include and mean that true purity must include being a part of their group. If one is not part of their group and doing all that they can do to further their version of the kingdom, then they cannot truly be pure.

These destructive types of cult groups usually focus upon two main aspects; 1) membership, and 2) money. To the leader of such groups one translates into the other. And this means they can elevate themselves even higher and get closer to their goal of national or global domination.

If a group focuses upon these things, then this should be a red flag and one needs to exercise caution in giving these leaders these things, because they translate into power for them.

Psychology plays a big role in how these groups function. At times one can even find that the leader will single out one or more individuals to focus upon. They will have this person move in with them and they will end up signing over their paychecks and doing all sorts of menial tasks for them, in order for the leader to “help” them become a better person.

There are so many variations of what cults do that it is impossible to go over all of the specifics. Cult leaders often mix and change their tactics as they grow in their prowess in controlling people. Basically, they go with what works for them, and if they find something that does not work, then they will change it, even changing their doctrine if necessary, under the guise of having received new light or understanding from above.

Perhaps you have gotten mixed up in a destructive type of cult and are not sure what to do about it. First, get out any way that you can! Then get help. Read everything that you can about cults and understand what it was that they were doing to control you and

your thinking and your actions. Then work at changing those implanted self-destructive thought patterns.

Above all, keep your eyes open and be kind and gentle towards those that may be in some type of destructive cult. These people have already been taught that they are going to be told that they are part of a cult and that they are not to believe what they are told by someone on the outside. They are told that the only person capable of telling and leading them in the truth is the leader of their group. This is simply not true and not Scriptural.

Let us remember what Yeshua taught us.

***Matithyah [Matthew] 7:15-20***

***15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves.***

***16 By their fruits you shall know them. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?***

***17 Even so every good tree brings forth good fruit; but the corrupt tree brings forth evil fruit.***

***18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.***

***19 Every tree that brings not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.***

***20 Therefore by their fruits you shall know them."***

If we are paying attention, YHWH will show us their fruits. But this takes time, and time is on YHWH's side. If someone presses upon you to do something, then just step back and take your time. YHWH rarely presses us in that fashion (if ever). For He knows when He needs for us to do something, and He will start far enough in advance so that when we actually need to do it, we will be at peace with the decision and action.

If in doubt, don't!

ABBA YHWH, please open our eyes so that we may know who belongs to You and who is a wolf in sheep's clothing; in the name of Yeshua our Messiah, Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah  
[zerubbabel@townsq.com](mailto:zerubbabel@townsq.com)  
[www.onetorahforall.org](http://www.onetorahforall.org)

**Links to Resources**

<http://www.howcultswork.com>

<http://www.factnet.org/rancho5.htm>

<http://www.cultwatch.com>

<http://www.factnet.org/rancho1.htm>

You may also do an internet search on cults and you will come up with a lot of information that much of is helpful. The links above we found to be very helpful articles.

This will get you started in understanding and protecting yourself and your family against cults.

Also, here are three books that we are currently studying on cults:

*Cults in our Midst: The Continuing Fight Against Their Hidden Menace* by Margaret Singer

*Combatting Cult Mind Control* by Steven Hassan

*As Angels of Light* by Rose Johnson (this is an older book and may be out of print)

**Just a note of interest – not all cults that use mind control techniques are religious.**