

## Son of God - Trojan Horse

By definition, a Trojan horse is a gift that was given that secretly contained an army that would destroy the nation.

Just days ago, the movie *Son of God* premiered nationwide.

I have already written of my concerns about the series *The Bible* from last fall. But now, the stakes are higher. I truly wish I did not have to issue this warning, but I have to be obedient to the truth.

I want these words to be clear and not misunderstood.

IT'S NOT ABOUT THE MOVIE. It could very well be completely Biblical, or at least mostly.

It's about the producers. Roma Downey and Mark Burnett, who have gotten massive media time in the last few weeks – especially from evangelicals – are not who we think they are.

Let me say that they are, at least based on their media appearances, kind, loving, compassionate, and more “Christlike” than most believers I have seen. This is NOT a judgment on their character.

But Roma Downey is a new age initiate. Even though she sounds like a Biblical Christian, talks of the Holy Spirit, Jesus and the Bible, all these things mean something else to her. Why? She has been enmeshed in the new age/new spirituality movement for decades.

She never talks of receiving Jesus and being saved, but says “I’ve always loved Jesus and his mother.” She speaks of being on a “spiritual journey.”

Ms. Downey recited a rosary prayer for the audio CD, “Practical Praying” by John Edward. John Edward was – and is – best known for his television program in which he talks to the dead. In fact, he “contacted” Ms. Downey’s mother on one episode she was on.

Ms. Downey’s spiritual mentor is Rev. Della Reese, co-star of *Touched by an Angel*, who believes that “The Christ spirit is in all of us.”

Ms. Downey graduated with a degree in “spiritual psychology” in June from the top New Age educational college in the world, John-Roger’s University of Santa Monica. This is a sample of what they teach:

“(Spiritual Psychology) empowers them to convert their everyday life experiences into rungs on the ladder of Spiritual Evolution ... Spiritual Psychology is the study and practice of the art and science of human evolution in consciousness.

Practically, it means learning how to surrender—or let go of— anything that disturbs one’s peace. It also means sacrificing our illusions of separation. Essentially, this ‘surrendering’ and ‘sacrificing’ is work that can and has been called ‘healing,’ which includes healing on the physical, mental, and emotional levels in service to the deeper revelation of who we truly are as Loving, Peaceful, Compassionate, and Joyful beings. We refer to this level of awareness as the Authentic Self. And, by the way, assuming we get through the current challenges, these very same skills will be exactly the same ones that will be highly valued as we transform into a more peaceful highly globalized world.”

What are some of the course principles taught that Ms. Downey had to master?

- Soul-Centered Co-Creation
- Experiencing enhanced spiritual awareness through knowing yourself as a Divine Being having a human experience.
- Tools for spiritual evolution.
- Working with the patterns associated with each of the **eight chakra centers** in service to deep healing physically, mentally, emotionally, and within the unconscious, with the focus of further awakening to the Authentic Self.

Who is John-Roger? He is one of the most highly acclaimed New Age educators of our lifetime. Experiencing an auto accident when he was young, a spirit known as the “mystic traveler” began to speak to him, then “through” him. Everything he does – and teaches – is based on that experience. He is a “trance channeler.” His organization, MSIA or Movement of Spiritual Inner Awareness, is well-known in the New Age world. This is some of what he teaches:

“When a person participates in MSIA and works with the Mystical Traveler, that person is, if anything, “submitting” to himself/herself, to the Christ within, to the God within. And that is really a joyous surrender to love. To be an initiate of the Traveler is to devote yourself to the God within you, to devote yourself to Spirit, to returning to your home, the Soul, from which you originally came before you incarnated onto this earth. It means devoting yourself to working out the karma you’ve accrued while being here and to releasing yourself from that karma through grace and your good works, so that you are free to rise into the heart of God.”

“If you feel you aren’t worthy of God, that you’re too small or not as good as God, then stand up. **Face God on equal terms**, as a co-creator and one who also owns the sun, the moon and the stars.”

This is the teacher – and the foundation of the education – that Roma Downey is proud to have learned under, and graduated from. Ms. Downey is a new age initiate.

In other words, there is no way that Ms. Downey could have gone through this university without knowing exactly what it was. Any believer in Jesus and His Word would have left immediately.

That begs a question I cannot answer: Do Roma Downey and Mark Burnett KNOW the difference between biblical faith and MSIA and the New Age? If they DO, then we are being completely deceived. They have appeared on dozens of Christian programs in the last week, and I have been overwhelmed with grief as I have seen well-known Christian leaders pouring out praise and gratefulness to them for doing these movies.

If they do NOT know the difference, then the greater and damning condemnation is that NO ONE is raising these concerns to THEM. And that may be because, unfortunately, hardly anyone knows the depth of their involvement in the New Age. (Their involvement is a case I believe I have thoroughly laid out in this writing.) However, as I learned through my communications with LifeWay, it may be that many DO know, but as the LifeWay representative told me, they weighed the concerns against the “greater good” the movies would do, and chose to ignore those concerns.

Roma and Mark’s open door credentials to the evangelical church is that they are committed Catholics. That, and the movies themselves, were apparently proof enough to the higher leadership of the evangelical churches to give them carte blanche. They have been, 100%, embraced as one of us.

It is very clear to me that NO ONE has asked the crucial questions: Is Jesus the only way to God? Do we all have the “Christ spirit?” Are we all Divine? Is the Bible the infallible Word of God? Knowing that the Bible forbids necromancy, are you sorry you worked with John Edward? Is what you learned from John-Rogers University compatible with your Christian faith? Unless Roma and Mark have gone through a massive conversion since last year, then they are still the same people who listen to audio books by New Age Gurus Eckhart Tolle and Tony Robbins, and who follow a brand of spirituality that is so strong that, as Mark said of Roma, “You’re so self-realized you’re practically levitating.”

Why are none of these questions being asked? If we didn’t know, now we **do**. If leaders DID know and chose to ignore it, or considered these things “little differences,” then God forgive us for our spiritual blindness and willingness to let crucial spiritual darkness enter in for the sake of a movie they think will lead the masses to Christ.

The genius of a Trojan Horse, is that it is presented as a GIFT. Only after receiving it, does enemy come out.

It doesn’t ultimately matter to me whether Roma and Mark know what they are doing or not. In fact, I have spent many hours agonizing in prayer for them to come to know the real Jesus, not the Christ of the New Age. I have wept over this. I am agonized at the depth of their lostness, as well as the depth of our ignorance and ability to help them come to Jesus.

What matters is that hundreds of thousands of believers are going to go to see the movie "Son of God," be moved by it, and solidify Roma and Mark's position as the new heroes of the faith, when in fact they are initiates of the new age movement.

Ultimately, this is not about a movie but about who **we** are, and how we as leaders and pastors have allowed the church to grow so weak in discernment that we fear to ask for credentials from those who will now influence our flocks.

It's ironic. We would not allow a person to preach in our pulpits who did a book with someone who talks to the dead. We wouldn't allow someone to preach who believed we are all Christ, and who was degreed in a school that is steeped in new age occult teaching.

Would we?

But I fear, even as I write this and it is distributed to others, many, many readers and leaders will ignore these concerns, you know, "for the greater good of the movie."

And for that, I am truly grieved.

Gregory R Reid