

UNDERSTANDING AND ANSWERING

FAITH OF UNITY

Itambiro Iy'Omukama Ruhanga Owamahe Goona Ery'Obumu

Faith of Unity is a religion centered on Desteo Bisaka (1930–2021), who called himself “Owobusobozi” (Runyoro, “almighty one”). After more than 40 years as an active Roman Catholic, in 1980 Bisaka began to act as a miracle worker. He openly rejected the Bible and Christianity, declared himself to be God, and wrote his own book of Scripture (*The Book of God*). Based on his miracle claims, he ordered his followers to worship him and commanded new rules for their daily lives.

But Bisaka was a deceiver. His power could never equal that of Jesus Christ, and his words were a weak imitation of the Bible. As Bisaka grew older it became increasingly clear to everyone that he had no ultimate power over death—his own son Biijabyonka died in 2019, and Bisaka himself died (in secret, at a hospital in Nairobi) on January 13, 2021.

BISAKA AND THE BIBLE

Especially in the early days of his cult, Bisaka encouraged his followers to burn copies of the Bible—right next to discarded witchcraft objects. But based on what he wrote in *The Book of God*, it's clear that Bisaka did not understand the Bible. He misquoted it and misapplied its words. What's more, he falsely claimed that no one “signed” the Bible—even though about 40 authors are clearly identified in the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. Bisaka also slandered Scripture, raising suspicions that it “contains false words,” that religious leaders “inserted their own words” and “evil spirits caused their words to be written in it.” But abundant evidence actually shows that the Bible is the world's most faithfully preserved and reliable work of ancient literature. Bisaka belittled the Bible, but he should have realized that God's written Word, inspired by the Holy Spirit, “is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12)—including those of Bisaka.

BISAKA AND GOD

Bisaka rejected the God of the Bible, and he created confusion by declaring himself part of a substitute “God.” Bisaka claimed that in December of 1983 he personally “went to the Lord God of Hosts and saw for Himself His true figure.” In the first Runyoro version of his *Book of God*, Bisaka said that he had become the fourth member of a heavenly “Quaternity” (which, he explained in an interview, originally included Jesus). But in today's 1987 version of *The Book of God* he changed this—identifying himself instead with Owobusobozi as one of three “Major Spirits” which are “in one God.” But the true God of the Bible warns: “Before Me there was no God formed, and there will be none after Me.” (Isaiah 43:10)

BISAKA AND CHRISTIANITY

Bisaka taught that Christianity was a false, harmful religion. But in his confusion, Bisaka borrowed and used many words, ideas, and symbols directly from Christianity and the Bible to create his own religion. These include his seven commandments (taken from the Golden Rule and Ten Commandments), his altered version of the Lord's Prayer, and his metallic “Divine Crown of Thorns.” But contrary to Bisaka's accusations, history shows

that the religion of Jesus has been a unique force for good around the world. Besides the Gospel message of salvation, Christian teaching led directly to the invention of hospitals, orphanages, libraries, universities, and even the concept of human rights.

BISAKA AND JESUS

Without any proof, Bisaka declared that the biblical Jesus “never existed.” But almost all historians today—even atheists—admit that Jesus was a real person, based on abundant evidence. In the four Gospels we see that Jesus was God in human flesh—the Creator of the universe—with supernatural power over demons and disease, the forces of nature, and even death itself. Bisaka also declared that Jesus “was not a saviour,” yet Jesus willingly gave up His own life and died to bear the punishment for our sins on the cross. Three days later He rose physically from the dead, and He appeared again and again before hundreds of people in His own physical body (one that could be touched and examined—one that could even eat food). What is more, Jesus lives forever; He has promised to return, and He promises that His true followers will be given an immortal body like His. Meanwhile, the body of Bisaka lies cold and lifeless at his palace in Kapyemi.

BISAKA AND MIRACLES

Bisaka claimed the power to do miracles, but the Bible repeatedly shows that doing miracles is not enough to prove that someone is speaking the truth. For example, Deuteronomy 13 warns the Israelites that if a miracle-worker invites you to follow him and worship a new or different God, you must not listen or obey; such a liar deserved the punishment of death. In Matthew 24 Jesus tells us to watch out for deceivers who will try to capture us by doing great “signs and wonders.” The final test of a religious message is not supernatural power, but whether it agrees with what the true God tells us in the Bible.

BISAKA AND UNITY

Bisaka declared the same message spoken by many cult leaders, today and in the past: *“The solution to disunity is for everyone to follow me!”* Bisaka accused the Bible of being the cause of disunity in the world, because he did not understand its real teaching: All true followers of God—of every race, tribe, and nation, both male and female—are one in Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:26–29, Revelation 5:9). Jesus is the unchanging source of unity and shared identity that Christians enjoy, no matter what their church or denomination is. In John 17, Jesus asks God the Father to help Christians to “be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and You loved them, just as You loved Me.”

BISAKA AND “GOOD NEWS”

At the beginning of *The Book of God*, Bisaka says it offers “Good News.” But Bisaka is dead...and Jesus is alive. Indeed, as Acts 4:12 declares, “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

**If you are one of Bisaka’s followers, we humbly appeal to you:
Repent and surrender your life completely to Jesus Christ—the One who does not change
and can no longer die! You can get to know Him as your own Saviour and friend
as you read the true, trustworthy Word of God—the Holy Bible.**

For more information, please contact us:

Africa Centre for Apologetics Research (ACFAR) • info@acfar.org • tel. +256 0706 100 664