

PARABLES

Bringing Hidden Things to Light



Psalms 78:2-4

I will open my mouth in a parable, I will utter dark sayings of old... We will not conceal them.

Parables Bookshelf - Series 2.13.2

Series 2 of the Parables Bookshelf contains a variety of writings covering a wide range of topics related to the Kingdom of God. These writings originally appeared as posts on the Heart4God website, or the Parables Blog, both of which are the websites of Bible teacher Joseph Herrin.

Syncretism



Syncretism - Part Four - Apostles of the Sun

Joseph Herrin (02-15-2010)

Above Image Shows Egyptian Obelisk in St. Peter's Square from St. Peter's Basilica

An obelisk is an object of pagan Sun worship. The word obelisk means "shaft

of Bel" (Baal). Nimrod, was known as Baal in various nations and tongues, and he was pictured as the Sun. The Sun was worshiped in ancient Egypt where the above obelisk was

originally constructed and set-up. The website Wikipedia provides the following information.

The elliptical center of the piazza... en-

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closes the visitor with "the maternal arms of Mother Church" in Bernini's expression...

At the center of the ellipse stands an Egyptian obelisk of red granite, 25.5 meters tall, supported on bronze lions and surmounted by the Chigi arms in bronze, in all 41 meters to the cross on its top. It was originally erected at Heliopolis by an unknown pharaoh of the Fifth dynasty of Egypt. The Emperor Augustus had it moved to the Julian Forum of Alexandria, where it stood until year 37 A.D., when Caligula ordered the forum demolished and the obelisk transferred to Rome. He placed it in the center of the Circus, where it would preside over Nero's countless brutal games and Christian executions. It was moved to its current site in 1586 by the engineer-architect Domenico Fontana under the direction of Pope Sixtus V... Though Bernini had no influence in the erection of the obelisk, he did use it as the centerpiece of his magnificent piazza.

The paving is varied by radiating lines in travertine, to relieve what might otherwise be a sea of cobblestones. In 1817 circular stones were set to mark the tip of the obelisk's shadow at noon as the sun entered each of the signs of the zodiac, making the obelisk a gigantic sundial's gnomon.

[S o u r c e :
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Peter%27s_Square
e]

At the very heart of Roman Catholicism we see the worship of the Sun. St. Peter's Square is a colossal Sun dial. Its massive centerpiece is an Obelisk taken from the Egyptian city of Heliopolis. The name Heliopolis literally means "Sun City." (In Greek, "Helio" means *Sun*, and "polis" means *city*.) Heliopolis served as the center for Sun worship in ancient Egypt.

Quite literally, Roman Catholicism is a "heliocentric" religion. It is centered entirely around images and rituals that are derived from pagan Sun worship that originated in Babylon and

spread throughout the ancient world. These images of Sun worship are found everywhere in Roman Catholicism.

I believe it is significant that this obelisk in St. Peter's Square was formerly located at the Circus where Christians were brutally put to death. We read of the Mother of Harlots in Revelation that she has become drunk on the blood of the saints. The Roman Catholic Church has put myriads of faithful followers of Christ to death during her inquisitions and sundry persecutions. It seems appropriate to place this monument that has witnessed the spilled blood of so many saints on the doorstep of the Roman Catholic Church.

This obelisk, taken directly from a pagan center of Sun worship, is hardly an exception. The Roman Catholic Church has an even larger obelisk. It is located on the grounds of the Papal Archbasilica of St. John Lateran in Rome. This one was also removed from Egypt. It was commissioned by Pharaoh Thutmose III and finished by his grandson Thutmose IV. It was erected in the temple complex of Karnak, a center for the worship of the Sun god Amun-Ra, but later moved to its location next to the Mother Church of Roman Catholicism.



Lateran Obelisk

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It should be obvious to an unbiased observer that if a religion that has adopted the symbols, images and rites of ancient Sun worship, it is a religion of Sun worship. The ancient Babylonian worship of Nimrod as the Sun god has been preserved under a thin cloak of Christianity. Being a mixture of the holy and the profane, the Roman Catholic Church has become an abomination in Yahweh's sight.

I do not want to belabor this issue. It would be an exhaustive task to detail all the images, rites and symbols of Sun worship in the Roman Catholic Church. My intent in this writing is not to expose every symbol of Sun worship, but rather to share enough information that the saint who has been unaware of the pollution of Christianity through the practice of syncretism might be awakened to this fact. It is also that those who have been troubled by the admixture of extra-Biblical rites, symbols and doctrines, might receive affirmation in their spirit that something is terribly amiss in what is presented as Christianity today.

If you desire to read more on this topic, you can find many symbols of Roman Catholic Sun worship on the Internet. Following is one link:

<http://www.hol.com/~mikesch/verita.htm>

The Roman Catholic Church has been able to introduce Sun worship into the worship of Christ by denying the authority of Scriptures and the role of the Holy Spirit. It has usurped the position of ultimate authority that was placed in Christ and carried out by His Spirit, having vested it in the office of the Pope. The authority of the Roman Catholic Pope is founded upon a spurious claim of "apostolic succession." It is claimed by the Church of Rome that Peter was the first Pope, fulfilling the following words of Christ.

Matthew 16:18-20

"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of

Hades shall not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

There are numerous difficulties with this interpretation of the words of Christ. First, we never see the apostle Peter ruling over the early church. When the early church met in Jerusalem to decide issues of doctrine, we find that Peter is mentioned AFTER James, and it was James who gave the official ruling to the saints.

Second, we never find any mention in the Scriptures of Peter visiting Rome.

Third, the Scriptures declare that Peter's apostleship was to the Jews, in contrast to Paul, whose apostleship was to the Gentiles. It was Paul who wrote the epistle to the Romans, not Peter.

Consider the revelation of the following Scripture:

Galatians 2:7-9

But on the contrary, seeing that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised (for He who effectually worked for Peter in his apostleship to the circumcised effectually worked for me also to the Gentiles), and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we might go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised.

Cephas is the Hebrew rendering of Peter, whose Hebrew name at birth was Simeon, which was Hellenized as Simon. Thus, he is often called Simon Peter. Both the Aramaic *Cephas* and the Greek *Peter* mean "rock." The diligent student of the Scriptures will discover that Christ used two different

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words when He declared “You are **Peter**..., and upon this **rock** I will build my church.” These are Strongs numbers 4074 and 4073. The latter word rendered “rock” is feminine, and was not intended as a reference to Peter, who was most definitely not feminine.

petra

NT:4073; **feminine** of the same as NT:4074; a (mass of) rock (literally or figuratively):

The rock upon which Christ declared He would build His church was not Peter, but rather the confession Peter had just made when Christ asked His disciples who men said He was.

Matthew 16:15-18

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Simon Peter answered and said, "**Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.**" And Yahshua answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church..."

Christ was literally declaring that upon this rock of revelation that Peter had received from God the Father, He would build His church. This revelation is that Yahshua is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. That this is what Christ intended with these words is revealed everywhere in the teaching of the apostles.

I John 4:2-3

By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Yahshua Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Yahshua is not from God...

The apostle John is declaring the same thing. The foundation of the church is the knowledge of the identity of Yahshua as the Son of God. This is the

foundation upon which all the apostles built.

I Corinthians 12:3

Therefore I make known to you, that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Yahshua is accursed"; and no one can say, "Yahshua is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

I John 5:1

Whoever believes that Yahshua is the Christ is born of God...

Observe how foundational a matter this is among the teaching of the apostles. Salvation is founded upon one's belief in the identity of Christ and confession of the same.

Romans 10:8-9

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" - that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that **if you confess with your mouth Yahshua as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved...**

Truly, this confession that Peter professed to Christ is the foundation upon which Yahshua has built His church. The church is not built upon an apostle. The apostles were merely laborers who worked to lay the foundation. The solid Rock that is the foundation of the church is faith in Yahshua as the Son of God and the Savior of the world.

That the foundation upon which the church is built is faith in Christ, rather than the Roman Catholic belief in the absolute authority of Peter and a succession of Popes, is made abundantly clear in the following words of the apostle Paul.

I Corinthians 3:10-11

According to the grace of God which was given to

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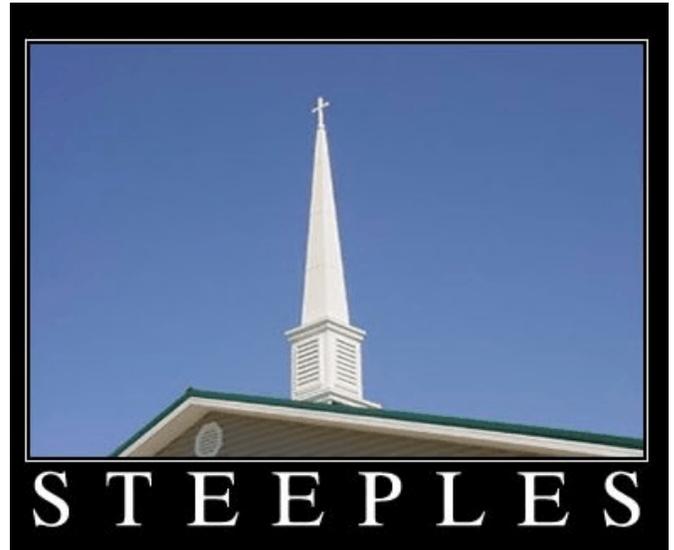
me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it. ***For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Yahshua Christ.***

There is no other foundation upon which the church may be built. Those who profess that the church is built upon Peter, and a succession of Popes, have laid another foundation and the building they have constructed is NOT the Church of Jesus Christ, Yahshua the Messiah. The Roman Catholic Church is led by apostles of the Sun, rather than apostles of the Son of God. The high holy days of Christmas and Easter are testimonies to this fact. (See the article - *Removing the High Places.*)

<http://www.heart4god.ws/id585.htm>

This last fact leads us to consider that it is not merely the Mother Church of Rome that has become infected with pagan ideology, departing from the truth and falling into apostasy, but the Protestant churches have done the same. Christmas and Easter, Sunday worship, and various images, doctrines and practices derived from idolatrous cults have been merged into the Protestant churches, as well.

Rome may have its obelisks, monuments to the Sun, but so too do the Protestant churches.



People of God, perhaps you will forgive the average Roman Catholic for never questioning why there is a monument to Baal in the center of St. Peter's Square when you realize that most Protestants have never ventured to ask why there is an obelisk mounted upon the roof of their church. If you protest and say, "But there is a cross atop our steeple," the Catholics can say the same. Look again at the pictures of the obelisks I have included here. The "t" which we recognize as the cross was also the Tau sign which represented Tammuz, who was Nimrod reborn as the god of the Sun. Placing the cross upon the top of an obelisk clearly identifies it as a symbol of Sun worship, rather than a symbol of the Son of God.

Do you read anywhere in Scripture that the saints were using the sign of the cross to denote their faith in Christ? Did the apostles place obelisks upon the tops of the buildings they used for their assembly with the saints? Where then did the steeple arise?

Satan is the great deceiver who deceives the entire world. He has put forth explanations to satisfy the marginally inquisitive. He would suggest that churches had steeples to allow them to be seen from a far distance so that all who desired to worship could find them.

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In this blog, it has been noted that in the past year many steeples have been toppled by acts of God. It is there that judgment must begin.



Steeple - Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis



Salina Kansas, First Baptist Church Storm Damage

Please understand my intent in sharing these things. I do not believe the church will be purified by focusing upon the removal of all the symbols of Babylonian origin that they have embraced. I sharing these things to suggest to you that the church has adopted much that has arisen from impure sources, and this includes the doctrines of the church. The apostles prophesied that this would be the condition of the last days church before the return of Christ.

II Timothy 4:3-4

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.

Many teachings in the church are considered “othodox” belief today, but they are not sound doctrine. The teaching of Christ and His apostles has been corrupted through the admixture of many pagan elements. The church is riddled with false teachings, yet most of this teaching is as unnoticed by the majority of believers as the obelisk to the Sun sitting atop the roof of their meeting house.

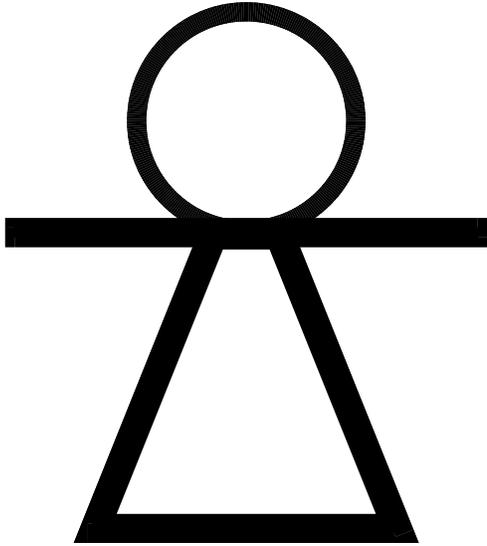
Christ is coming back for a purified church. How will the saints be cleansed unless they return to a pure devotion to Christ, and begin to test all things by the Spirit and the Word of God?

To be continued...

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Syncretism - Part 5 - The Persistent Fallacy

Joseph Herrin (02-17-2010)



Symbol of Tanit - Fertility Goddess

The symbol above is found at many ancient ruins where the Lunar goddess Tanit, also known as Ash-toreth, Astarte and Ishtar, was worshiped. It is the symbol of “the queen of heaven,” whose original was the Babylonian Semiramis, wife of Nimrod and mother of Tammuz.

*Tanit was a Phoenician **lunar** goddess, worshiped as the patron goddess at Carthage. **Tanit and Baal Hammon** were worshiped in Punic contexts in the Western Mediterranean, from Malta to Gades into Hellenistic times. In North Africa, where the inscriptions and material remains are more plentiful, she was also a heavenly goddess of war, a **virginal mother goddess** and nurse, a consort of Baal Hammon and, less specifically, a symbol of fertility. Several of the major Greek goddesses were identified with Tanit by the syncretic interpretatio graeca, which recognized as Greek deities in foreign guise the gods of most of the surrounding non-Hellene cultures.*

Her shrine excavated at Sarepta in southern Phoenicia revealed an inscription that identified her for the first time in her homeland and related her se-

*...curely to the Phoenician goddess **Astarte (Ishtar)**...*

[Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tanit>]

The Israelites were warned by Yahweh not to embrace the idols of the nations whose lands they were to possess. They were warned not to adopt any images of deity to be incorporated into their worship of Yahweh, and to refrain from worshiping the sun and moon and other heavenly bodies.

Deuteronomy 4:15-19

Watch yourselves carefully, since you did not see any form on the day Yahweh spoke to you at Horeb from the midst of the fire, lest you act corruptly and make a graven image for yourselves in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the sky, the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water below the earth. And beware, lest you lift up your eyes to heaven and see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, and be drawn away and worship them and serve them, those which Yahweh your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven.

The Israelites transgressed terribly in all of these things. They adopted the worship of Tanit (Astoreth) as the Scriptures testify. We read of the Israelites worshiping the queen of heaven and her son Tammuz.

Jeremiah 7:18

"The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough to make cakes for **the queen of heaven...**"

Ezekiel 8:14

Then He brought me to the entrance of the gate of the Lord's house which was toward the north; and

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behold, women were sitting there weeping for **Tammuz**.

This Babylonian religion has been persistently carried forth from one age to another by the nations of mankind. It is at times dressed in different garb and given various names, but it has remained clearly identifiable. Yesterday I showed the symbol of Baal, the Sun god, erected in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City, the seat of Roman Catholicism. Today, I would show you the worship of the queen of heaven, whose symbols are clearly identifiable in the same location.

The ancient symbol for Tanit, queen of heaven, has been found on many ancient markers and monuments. Following is a stele erected to honor Tanit and Baal Hammon. This stele is housed in the Bardo museum in Tunis.



Wikipedia describes the symbol for Tanit in the following manner:

Her symbol, found on many ancient stone carvings, appears as a trapezoid/trapezium closed by a horizontal line at the top and surmounted in the middle by a circle...

[Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tanit>]

In 1656, Gian Lorenzo Bernini redesigned St. Peter's Square. The name is somewhat misleading, for there is no square found at the location. St. Peter's Square has the shape of an ellipse set atop a trapezoid.

The colossal Tuscan colonnades, four columns deep, frame the trapezoidal entrance to the basilica and the massive elliptical area which precedes it. The ellipse's long axis, parallel to the basilica's façade, creates a pause in the sequence of forward movements that is characteristic of a Baroque monumental approach. The colonnades define the piazza. The elliptical center of the piazza, which contrasts with the trapezoidal entrance, encloses the visitor with "the maternal arms of Mother Church" in Bernini's expression.

[S o u r c e :
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Peter%27s_Square]

One does not have to look hard to see the thinly disguised symbol of Tanit, the queen of heaven, in the layout of this monument to the worship of the heavenly hosts.

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Aerial View of St. Peter's Square

And just as in the stele from the Bardo museum, the obelisk symbol of Baal is set in the center of the ellipse that forms the top part of Tanit's emblem.

Note also what is at the bottom of the Tanit symbol. The cross shaped building with the sunburst image in the center of it is St. Peter's Cathedral.



St. Peter's Cathedral - A Solar Cross

Thus, we see in the layout of Vatican City the ancient symbols for all three members of the Babylonian trinity. The solar cross has from ancient times been the symbol for Tammuz, who in the Babylonian fertility cult was Nimrod reborn as the Sun god. Semiramis came to be associated with the Moon. Thus, the worship of the Sun and Moon were a central part of this religion that spread throughout all nations of the world.



Celtic - Solar Cross (Note Freemasonry symbol in the center)

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These symbols have been equally adopted by Protestant churches, for as we saw in the last post, the obelisk stands atop the majority of Protestant churches in the form of a steeple. Mounted upon many of these steeples are various symbols of Tammuz, from basic crosses, to ones that are clearly solar images.



Detail of cross atop church in Missouri

Yahweh's instructions to His holy people Israel, were that they were to completely destroy all the images and pillars they found in the land that had been used in the worship of the host of heaven.

Deuteronomy 7:5-7

But thus you shall do to them: you shall tear down their altars, and smash their sacred **pillars**, and hew down their Asherim, and burn their graven images with fire. For you are a holy people to Yahweh your God; Yahweh your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

In the book of II Kings we read of Jehu, whom Elijah anointed to remove all Baal worship from Israel. Jehu was very zealous in doing so, and we read the following:

II Kings 10:27

They also broke down the sacred **pillar** of Baal and broke down the house of Baal, and made it a latrine to this day.

The word rendered "pillar" is the Hebrew word *matstebah*. Strong's Concordance defines it in the following manner.

matstebah

OT:4676; something stationed, i.e. a column or (memorial stone); by analogy, an idol.

It is rarely considered today that embracing symbols of pagan Sun worship did not strike the majority of Israelites as a particularly grievous thing. Especially when a generation arose whose parents and grandparents before them had adopted these symbols, such things would hardly have been cause for much consideration. We see a similar situation in the church today. For many generations symbols, rites and doctrines derived from Babylonian religion have been adopted by the church, and few consider them, or seem to even notice their pres-

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ence.

How many Christians today sit down and consider that the day most venerated by the church today bears the name of a pagan goddess of fertility? How many consider where the traditions surrounding Easter and Christmas come from? How many wonder why all the churches in their town have steeples sitting on top of them?

We have been for so long immersed in a church whose practice of syncretism has leavened all areas of religious life that there is no longer any discernment between that which is holy and that which is profane.

Christ, however, is coming back for a bride that has been purified. The Holy Spirit is calling the people of God to come out of Babylon. This involves much more than identifying what practices, symbols and doctrines have arisen from impure sources. It requires that one be willing to walk an afflicted path, to stand alone, and to be labeled as a religious extremist. It entails adopting a Spirit led life, where one is no longer lead by their own soul. One must embrace the cross that is appointed to all Christ's disciples.

To be continued...

Note: I have been receiving some excellent feedback from brothers and sisters in Christ. Following is a short, two and a half minute, video that shows the end result of syncretism.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=keiUgWiyPJE>

A sister in Christ also sent me the following meditation:

Joseph:

Very timely article. The lead-in photo really

caught my eye because just last week I read an article on line (can't find it now) regarding Pope Benedict XVI and the pallium he chose (being wider than other palliums).

*In searching wikipedia I learned the pallium (which only the Pope and Archbishops wear) is the scarf-like item with three crosses they wear as an outer garment and is made of **wool**.*

Immediately brought to mind "beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves." Also Ezekiel 44:17 "At it shall be, whenever they enter the gates of the inner court, that they shall put on linen garments; no wool shall come upon them while they minister within the gates of the inner court or within the house."

I looked up pallium in my big green 1828 dictionary. That word is not there. I almost closed the dictionary when my eyes landed on the word palliate. This is the definition:

PALLIATE: [French, pallier; Spanish, paliare; Italian, palliare; Low Latin, pallio, from pallium, a cloke or robe.]

*definition 1. **To clothe.***

*definition 2. **To cover with excuse; to conceal the enormity of offenses by excuses and apologies; hence to extenuate; to lessen; to soften by favorable representations; as to palliate faults, offenses, crimes or vices.***

The Lord is obviously telling us something in very plain language. Just had to pass this on to you.

Regards,

Barbara

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Syncretism - Part Six - The Great Substitution

Joseph Herrin (02-19-2010)

The practice of syncretism, of mixing the abominable practices, symbols and doctrines of idolatrous religions with the teaching of Christ and His apostles is clearly observable to all who care to examine the matter. One need only look at any of a multitude of things in the Roman Catholic Church to see that there is no Biblical precedence for them. The Catholic church has monks who reside in monasteries, but the Scriptures nowhere testify of any such practice among Christ or His apostles, nor among the early disciples. Where then did such a concept arise?



Buddhist Monks at Prayer

(Note the nimbus - solar halo - around the heads of their idols, similar to the way Roman Catholics represent images of deity and the saints.)

Many of the people groups at the time of the early church practiced religions that included monks, monasteries, prayer beads, candle lighting, and other rites that are nowhere found in the Bible, but which have been adopted by the Roman Catholic Church.

The early church began to adopt the practices of

the pagan religions around them, freely merging together the holy and the profane. The lighting of candles is a very common Catholic practice that is also observed among early pagan religions.



Buddhist Monks Lighting Candles



Buddhist Monk with Prayer Beads

There is no apostolic pattern for such practices as these. They were all borrowed from pagan religions as the church began to be leavened with false doctrine, and many false disciples (tares among the wheat) began to infiltrate the church. Very quickly, the thing that the apostle Paul feared greatly occurred.

Acts 20:28-30

Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overse-

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ers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

II Corinthians 11:2-4

I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. For if one comes and preaches another Yahshua whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.

Already, in his day, the apostle Paul was finding that various unclean spirits were entering into the church. This same church in Corinth to whom Paul was speaking had members who were going to the local pagan temples and engaging in ritualistic sex with temple prostitutes (I Corinthians 6:15-16). There was no distinguishing between the things of Satan and the things of Christ, and because of this Paul said that many in the church at Corinth had become sick, and some had died (I Corinthians 11:30).

There were many Baals worshiped throughout the world. *Baal* is a generic term given to the gods worshiped by various people groups. The Scriptures refer to these aggregated deities as “the Baals,” or “Baalim.”

Judges 2:11

Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of Yahweh, and served **the Baals**...

In order to prepare the way for the adoption of pagan gods into the worship of Yahweh, Satan found it to be extremely beneficial to hide the name of

Yahweh. He led men through various deceits to remove the name of Yahweh from the Scriptures, and to replace it with titular substitutes that are very generic, such as *Lord* and *God*. The Holy Spirit inspired holy men of old to record the name Yahweh 6,828 times in the Old Testament, and the shortened version of His name, Yah, another 49 times.

The name Yahweh, sometimes rendered as Jehovah, is found recorded thousands of times in the Scriptures, and is referred to as the Tetragrammaton. *Tetragrammaton* literally means “a word having four letters.” The name Yahweh is recorded in the Old Testament with the writing of the four Hebrew letters Yodh He Waw He (Anglicized as YHWH). In the ancient Paleo-Hebrew, old Aramaic, and modern Hebrew, this would have looked similar to the following image:

The image shows three rows of the Tetragrammaton (YHWH) written in different scripts. The top row is in Paleo-Hebrew, the middle row is in Aramaic, and the bottom row is in Modern Hebrew. The letters are stylized and arranged in a way that is difficult to read from left to right.

Note that Hebrew is read right to left.

About ten years ago I wrote an article explaining the use of the Divine names in the writings of this author. I highly recommend that you take the time to read it, if you have not yet done so.

<http://www.heart4god.ws/id210.htm>

The article explains the various deceits that Satan has employed to have the name of Yahweh removed from the Scriptures today. I have found that a great many, probably a majority of professing

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Christians today, do not even know the name of the God they profess to follow. Many know Him only by generic titles such as God, Lord, and Father. I am not suggesting that it is inappropriate to use these generic titles, for they do have their proper usage, but Christians should know the memorial name of the God they profess to follow, for it was recorded nearly 7,000 times in the Old Testament, though it has now been completely removed in the most popular English translations.

What I want to point out is that the most common substitute for the name of Yahweh is the word "Lord." The Hebrew word Baal literally means "Lord," or "Master." To the ancient Hebrews the word Baal was not a specific name, it was a generic title. They employed it the same way we use the word "Lord" today. There are many lords, as there were many Baals, and this title was often used in reference to pagan deities that were worshiped. To the ancient Israelite, saying "Let's go worship Baal" would be the same as a modern English speaking Christian saying "Let's go worship the Lord." These pagan deities known as Baals were quite often solar deities, represented by the Sun.

What Satan has accomplished in this hour is to raise up a massive religion that began as the worship of Yahweh and His Son Yahshua, and he has transformed it into a caricature of the worship of Baal ("the Lord"). He has additionally brought into this worship a myriad of the symbols, rites and doctrines that belonged to the worship of the Baals.

If Christians do not name the *Lord* (Hebrew *Baal*) they claim to worship, having forgotten His name, having removed it from their Scriptures; and if they embrace the symbols, rites and doctrines of the solar deities that were called Baalim, then how does one know who is truly being worshiped? Consider the following:

Churchgoers, both Catholic and Protestant, celebrate the resurrection of the Son of God on Easter,

the day Tammuz the son of Ishtar (the Babylonian Semiramis) was said to be resurrected after he had been slain by a wild boar.

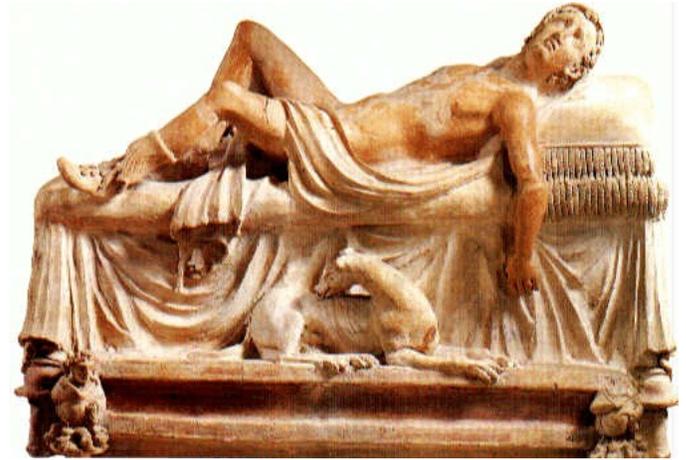


Image of Tammuz - Greek Adonis - Dying

(Note gash on leg from tusk of wild boar.)

These worshipers eat the traditional Easter ham (a symbol of the boar who slew Tammuz). They spend forty days of mourning leading up to the date of Tammuz's rebirth on Ishtar SUNDAY. This mourning for Tammuz was present even in the days of the prophet Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 8:14-15

Then He brought me to the entrance of the gate of the Lord's house which was toward the north; and behold, women were sitting there ***weeping for Tammuz***. And He said to me, "Do you see this, son of man? Yet you will see still greater abominations than these."

This mourning among Christians begins on Ash Wednesday, when ashes were applied to the foreheads of Sun worshipers to mark the beginning of their mourning for Tammuz.



Minister applying ashes to forehead of a young (Christian?) worshiper on Ash Wednesday

These ashes are applied in the form of the Tau symbol, which from antiquity was used to represent Tammuz. This Tau (cross) symbol on the form of a solar wafer, is what the Roman Catholic Church requires to be served to its millions of followers during the Eucharistic service.



Solar Disk - Communion Wafer

It is from the symbol of Tammuz, the Tau, that we also get “hot crossed buns.”



Hot Crossed Tammuz Buns

The pagan traditions of the mystery religions have even been passed down to our children as they sing the little song that speaks of hot cross buns.

Hot cross buns

Hot cross buns

One a penny

Two a penny

Hot cross buns

If you have no daughters

Give them to your sons

One a penny

Two a penny

Hot cross buns

What does this mean “if you have no daughters, give them to your sons?” Remember, this was the celebration of the goddess of fertility and her son. By offering oblations of liquid and foods to Semiramis and Tammuz the people were asking for the gift of fertility. This fertility was petitioned from the goddess by offering drinks and cakes in order that their crops, livestock, and their own families might be blessed with abundance. Many a tradition that seems innocent today has found its origin in practices that are detestable to Yahweh.

Syncretism

Many of these same Easter celebrants arise early to attend a **SUN**rise service, which was also derived from pagan rituals as the idolatrous Sun worshipers awaited the appearing of the Sun to mark the re-birth of Tammuz. Easter NEVER falls on the same date as Passover, which was the date upon which Yahshua, the Son of Yawheh, was crucified. Indeed, the Christian leaders assembled by Constantine in 325 A.D. mandated that if the dates should ever coincide that the date of Easter must be moved. Constantine was a Sun worshiper. (We wouldn't want to accidentally commemorate the death, burial and resurrection of Yahshua on the actual date of its occurrence. Some might mistake Christians for worshipers of Yahweh, rather than worshipers of the Sun.)

Seeing all of these things, what god would an impartial, yet knowledgeable, observer conclude that these worshipers were serving? Since the very day they are observing is named Easter, after the goddess of fertility, and it is marked by images and rites derived from the worship of the queen of heaven and her son, would it not be fair to conclude that these are pagan Sun worshipers?

What then, if the worshipers protest that they are celebrating the resurrection of the Christ of the Bible? Should we not at the very least conclude that these worshipers of Yahweh and His Son have been grossly led astray into adopting the rites, symbols and doctrines of pagan Sun worship? It should come as no surprise that the Spirit is calling His people to come out of Babylon, for His people have clearly taken up residence in the very heart of Mystery Babylon, the Mother of Harlots.

Revelation 18:4

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of [Babylon], my people, that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues..."

Perhaps you are beginning to see how pervasive this Babylonian Sun worship is among what passes

for Christianity today. From the steeples atop the churches, to the holy days she celebrates, the church of Christ has been thoroughly leavened with pagan symbols, rites and doctrines. (I have not even begun to address the doctrines yet!)

Satan is truly "the great deceiver who deceives the whole world." If possible, He will deceive even the elect of God. What Satan has done is to replace the worship of Yahweh with the worship of the Baalim. Satan has done a thorough work, even as He did in removing the name of Yahweh from the Scriptures. This has set up the entire Christian world to receive the lies that are being poured out in these last days; namely, that all religions lead to God, and all faiths are equally honorable.

How can Christians stand against such powerful deception when they have already embraced the religious practices of Mystery Babylon? Where is the discerning man, or woman? Where is the one who will separate the holy from the vile?

II Corinthians 6:17-18

"Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says Yahweh. "And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you. And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me," says Yahweh Almighty.

Can it be said that you are not touching that which is unclean if you are embracing these practices derived from Sun worship? Have you truly come out from the midst of the unclean practices of idolatry and separated yourself unto Yahweh? The Spirit is calling to the people of God in this hour, urging them to come out of Babylon, for the plagues of Yahweh will shortly be released in great fury upon her.

To be continued...

Parables Bookshelf

Leviathan

by Joseph Herrin (1980s)

Barren earth and craggy rocks
sullen clouds that sunlight blocks
a rising mist to obscure the way
an ominous dawning of a perilous day.

The warrior awakens in the keep
hewn from the bowels of a mountain deep
an earthen womb were men repair
a haven wrought in days of despair

he rises hand upon the hilt
of a sword that glistens from its gilt
his visage bright repels the gloom
no acknowledgment of impending doom

but his task is terrible this day
for leviathan he must seek to slay
the worm that many heroes fought
but dying, their valor came to naught
though in their deaths they were glorified
with dying breaths they said "I tried!"

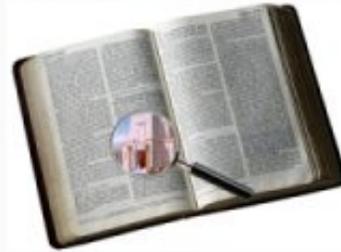
And how many men who heard their tale
longed to take up the challenge, but their hearts failed?

And how many men went to the grave
never attempting anything noble or brave?

But the warrior refused to be dismayed
by ignoble thoughts he would not be swayed
the foe must be faced no matter the cost
his soul would be saved though life may be lost

so turning to face the path to be trod
making final oblation unto his God
he went to the battle that could not be won
exclaiming "nevertheless, let thy will be done!"

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Parables Bookshelf — Series 2.13.2

Charles Haddon Spurgeon - Bible Devotion

"She called his name Ben-oni (son of sorrow), but his father called him Benjamin (son of my right hand)."

Genesis 35:18

To every matter there is a bright as well as a dark side. Rachel was overwhelmed with the sorrow of her own travail and death; Jacob, though weeping the mother's loss, could see the mercy of the child's birth. It is well for us if, while the flesh mourns over trials, our faith triumphs in divine faithfulness. Samson's lion yielded honey, and so will our adversities, if rightly considered. The stormy sea feeds multitudes with its fishes; the wild wood blooms with beauteous flowerets; the stormy

wind sweeps away the pestilence, and the biting frost loosens the soil. Dark clouds distil bright drops, and black earth grows gay flowers. A vein of good is to be found in every mine of evil. Sad hearts have peculiar skill in discovering the most disadvantageous point of view from which to gaze upon a trial; if there were only one slough in the world, they would soon be up to their necks in it, and if there were only one lion in the desert they would hear it roar. About us all there is a tinge of this wretched folly, and we are apt, at times, like Jacob, to cry, "All these things are against me." Faith's way of walking is to cast all care upon the Lord, and then to anticipate

good results from the worst calamities. Like Gideon's men, she does not fret over the broken pitcher, but rejoices that the lamp blazes forth the more. Out of the rough oyster-shell of difficulty she extracts the rare pearl of honour, and from the deep ocean-caves of distress she uplifts the priceless coral of experience. When her flood of prosperity ebbs, she finds treasures hid in the sands; and when her sun of delight goes down, she turns her telescope of hope to the starry promises of heaven. When death itself appears, faith points to the light of resurrection beyond the grave, thus making our dying Benoni to be our living Benjamin.