



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 2.13.1

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 (02-09-2010)

Syncretism: *the attempt to reconcile disparate or contrary beliefs, often while melding practices of various schools of thought. This may involve attempts to merge... several originally discrete traditions, especially in the theology and mythology of religion, and thus assert an underlying unity allowing for an inclusive approach to other faiths.*

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

Yesterday's post on SuperBowl 44 provoked a couple of comments from peo-

ple defending Roman Catholicism. One anonymous writer accused me of "Catholic bashing." The post stated, "These smear tactics have no place in these unique times... For you to engage in senseless mudslinging is a waste of time when all Christians will soon be challenged for their convictions."

Another poster who did provide his name, shared the following:

Million's of Catholics pray to and worship Jesus Christ by name every day. Tradition may have adopted symbols over time but I think that you would agree that symbols do not have mutually exclusive meanings. Many symbols have different meanings to different societies. The symbol of a cross was used before Christ gave it meaning to us now and I am sure that it challenged the meaning it may have had for pagans in the first

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centuries AD. But do pagan cultures now worship Christ because their form of cross is now largely considered His symbol? No, I don't think they do. Nor do I think that the use of Fleur-de-lis gives Satan a hold on anyone. (However, I would agree that it may make Satan's deception easier.)

If a Fleur-de-lis were to be an obvious sign of Satan, it would be dropped in a nanosecond by any and all Catholics. Such as the pentagram or upside-down crosses are. The test, I think, will be when Satan uses doctrines and forms (including symbols) to deceive and those who cannot discern the false message may be lost. If Christ essentially throws entire communities away simply by dint of the form of the worship, then salvation becomes technical and not holistic and meaningful; which goes against the concept of Christ's Grace or Forgiveness. (IMHO)

I very much appreciate your insight but I would like you to think about how Jesus would look upon faithful members of the Catholic or any other "faith tradition." I think His mercy will be shown to all who believe in Him. To the extent that they have been lied to and deceived in the form of their faith, then I also believe that He knows their hearts and will save those who He has written into the Book of Life. I pray that all with simple faith in Him shall see salvation in His Grace, no matter the form of their faith.

However, having said all that, I do agree that those who believe that the form of faith is the path of salvation may be in for an unhappy revelation.

[Name Withheld]

I would like to assure all my readers that I am not offended, nor angered, when an opinion, or belief contrary to my own is shared. The Scriptures clearly reveal what the mature spiritual response of a minister of Christ should be.

II Timothy 2:24-26

And the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

I do want to answer the statements of this second man, for they express a mindset that is growing greatly among professing Christians today. Truth has been replaced by tolerance. I find this trend cause for great concern among the body of Christ. This concern has led to this present series of writings on the practice of Syncretism.

If you are still a little unclear as to what syncretism is, I will further define it. In the realm of this current discussion, syncretism is the merging of Christian belief and practice as defined by Christ and His apostles, with extra-Biblical beliefs and practices which often derive from pagan religions. For example, the adoption of the observance of Easter among professing Christians is a manifestation of syncretism. The very name Easter is the English form of the goddess of fertility whose name in other cultures was known as Eostre, Ishtar, Astarte and Ashtoreth.

Understanding this, one can discern that the practice of syncretism was in existence long before the Christian era. The Israelites of the Old Testament were prone to merge the worship of Yahweh with the worship of the gods and goddesses from the nations around them. Astarte and Ashtoreth are both named in the Old Testament, and they are the same as the goddess known by the English name Easter today.

I Kings 11:4-5

For it came about when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to Yahweh his God,

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as the heart of David his father had been. For Solomon went after ***Ashthoreth*** the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites.

What was Yahweh's attitude toward this mixing of the holy and the profane? He was very clear.

Deuteronomy 31:16-18

Yahweh said to Moses..., "this people will arise and play the harlot with the strange gods of the land, into the midst of which they are going, and will forsake Me and break My covenant which I have made with them. Then My anger will be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them and hide My face from them, and they will be consumed, and many evils and troubles will come upon them; so that they will say in that day, 'Is it not because our God is not among us that these evils have come upon us?' But I will surely hide My face in that day because of all the evil which they will do, for they will turn to other gods."

Yahweh laid upon the shoulders of His ministers the responsibility to teach His people the difference between the holy and the profane. He commanded those who served as teachers to advise the population concerning those things that would bring His wrath upon them.

Ezekiel 44:23

"Moreover, they shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean."

Yahweh has not changed today. In this present church age, God has not made any treaty with error. Yahweh has not made peace with idolatrous practices and doctrines of demons. Many Christians have adopted a delusion that God is all mercy, forbearance and tolerance. They have foolishly abandoned the fact that Yahweh is Holy, and His name is Jealous. He will still not abide any admix-

ture of the holy and the profane.

II Corinthians 6:14-17

Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people." "Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you."

It has escaped the notice of a great many today that the above words were written by an apostle of Christ to a Christian church. God commands His people today to be separate from darkness, and from the things of Belial (Satan) even as He did in the Old Testament. The above passage is just one of many that speak of God's abhorrence of mixing together the holy and the profane. Following is another New Testament Scripture relating to this subject.

Revelation 2:20

"But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray, so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols."

In the verse above, we have Christ speaking to His saints in the church of Thyatira. Yahshua declares that Jezebel, a self-professed prophetess, is leading His bond-servants astray. She is inducing them to commit acts of immorality and to eat things sacrificed to idols.

Keep in mind that Revelation is a book where truth is conveyed in the form of a parable. It was not an

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actual woman named Jezebel of which the Lord was speaking, nor was He referring to the literal act of eating foods sacrificed to idols. Jezebel stands as a symbol of the soulish (feminine) nature of man. The soul of man prophesies many things, and those who are not careful to divide between soul and spirit are easily deceived.

Foods sacrificed to idols are a parable of doctrines of demons. Food is something that people feed upon, and the church feeds upon doctrines. Things sacrificed to idols are impure doctrines that are devilish in nature. We can discern this parable more clearly in the following words.

Hebrews 13:9

Do not be carried away by varied and **strange teachings**; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by **foods**, through which those who were thus occupied were not benefitted.

Observe how these terms *teachings* and *foods* are used interchangeably with one another. Consider then the meaning of Christ's words to the church of Thyatira. There were those present among them that were inducing the saints to partake of "strange teachings" (foods) and actions (immorality) that did not come from Him. Satan was the originator of these things, and Christ's warning against continuing to practice this immorality (idolatry is pictured as fornication throughout the Bible), and to imbibe these impure foods is clear.

Revelation 2:21-23

And I gave her time to repent; and she does not want to repent of her immorality. Behold, I will cast her upon a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. And I will kill her children with pestilence; and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.

This judgment of the Lord was brought about due to the practice of syncretism. The people of God were failing to divide between the holy and the profane. The saints were partaking of unclean food. As I mentioned previously, adopting the pagan celebration of Easter is one manifestation of syncretism. Easter's origin is as obvious as its name. It has nothing to do with the crucifixion and resurrection of the Son of God. Christ was crucified on Passover and resurrected three days later. These dates do not coincide, and neither do their practices and symbols.

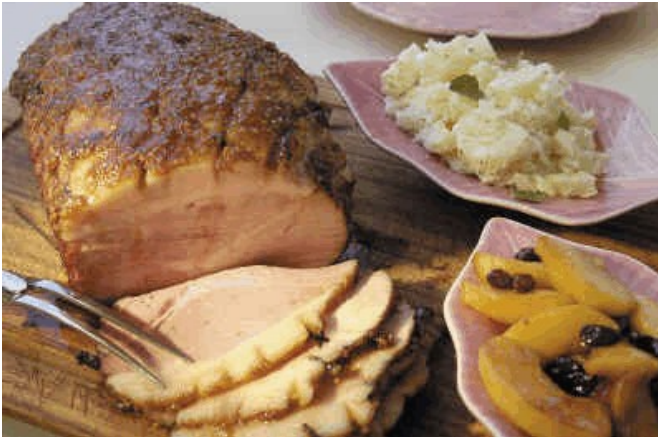


Easter Bunny and Easter Eggs



Easter Chick

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Easter Ham

People of God, what do these things have to do with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ? Christ was the Passover Lamb, not the Ishtar Ham. Rabbits and eggs are symbols of fertility. Easter is derived from the ancient Babylonian fertility religion that centered around Nimrod, Semiramis and Tammuz.

I have written of the origin of these practices elsewhere. If you have not carefully studied these matters and asked God to direct you in knowing whether you should participate in pagan practices which are characterized as food sacrificed to idols, then you should not hesitate any longer in doing so. I recommend to you the following teachings:

Removing the High Places

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

Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras), Ash Wednesday, Lent and Easter

<http://parablesblog.blogspot.com/2009/02/fat-tuesday-mardi-gras-ash-wednesday.html>

I would also recommend to you the article on Valentine's Day. Please note, however, that it is necessarily sexually explicit.

Valentine's Day - Babylon's Romantic Deception

<http://www.heart4god.ws/id625.htm>

Consider for a moment one of the comments of the man who wrote to me. He stated, "*If a Fleur-de-lis were to be an obvious sign of Satan, it would be dropped in a nanosecond by any and all Catholics.*"

People of God, this is simply not true. I have watched Christian men who were inordinately devoted to God endure tremendous wrestling of soul and spirit when they began to look at the origins of many of the practices of the PROTESTANT church today. Many of these men in the end chose to maintain what they knew to be Babylonian practices due to the grief it would cause if they were to separate themselves from that which is profane and impure. Many a Christian man will place a desire to please wife, children, parents, brothers, sisters or friends, above a desire to please God.

Even when it becomes obvious that the cause of their wrestling is a pagan rite that was immoral and idolatrous in its origin, a great many will place a desire to avoid suffering above obedience to God. Consider how contrary this is to the pattern of those who will be included among the overcomers in Christ.

Luke 14:26-27

"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."

Hebrews 11:24-27

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of

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God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin; considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward. ***By faith he left Egypt...***

The test always comes to the people of God when the Spirit begins to perform a work of separating them from the works of darkness. By faith Moses ***left*** Egypt. By faith we must also leave Babylon.

Revelation 18:4

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

As long as you or I conform to the pattern of this world, and as long as the church embraces the practices of Babylon, there will be no persecution, and no cost to following Christ. It is only the righteous who suffer persecution, and the righteous are those who follow the Spirit wherever He leads, no matter the cost.

II Timothy 3:12

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Yahshua will suffer persecution.

As long as we remain in Babylon we will avoid the censure of the world, and the attack of Satan. One thing we will not avoid, however, is the judgment of God. He says "Come out of Babylon My people, that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues." If you remain in Babylon (which means "confusion, mixture") you will fall under the judgment of Yahweh.

I have shared previously that I am persuaded that those in Babylon are already partaking of her plagues. I believe one of Babylon's plagues is a plague of darkness. Those who refuse to leave Babylon will lose their spiritual sight. They will lose all ability to discern between the holy and the pro-

fane; that which is truth and that which is error and deception.

One of the principles upon which God's kingdom operates is found in the following words of Christ.

Luke 19:26-27

"I tell you, that to everyone who has shall more be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away."

Those who are faithful with the little Christ gives to them will be given more. Those who are unfaithful will have even that which was given to them taken away. This pertains to the revelations and truth Christ entrusts to His servants.

If you will not obey Christ when He makes known to you the unclean practices that are defiling His church; if you prefer to remain at ease and to not "rock the boat,"; if you console yourself with the thought that so many other Christians are practicing pagan rites and adopting unclean doctrine and they are unconcerned, then why should Christ give you further revelation? Do you not stand to risk even the truth you have received?

I am seeing many losing the truth they once held as inviolable. Some are even coming to reject the truth that there is no other way to God other than through Christ. As the man wrote to me above, "*I very much appreciate your insight but I would like you to think about how Jesus would look upon faithful members of the Catholic or any other "faith tradition."*

There is great deception abroad in this hour. Some time back I wrote concerning the deception in the book *The Shack*. This book has been wildly popular among Christians, yet it espouses a message that there is more than one path to God. It says only that Christ is "the best way." It denies that He is "the only way."

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See the article *Divorced From Truth - Part Two*

<http://parablesblog.blogspot.com/2008/11/divorced-from-truth-part-2.html>

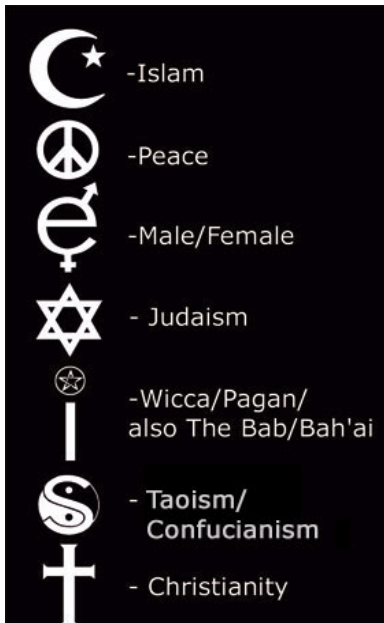
People of God, do not be deceived! There is a cost to discipleship. Following Christ will require you to lose EVERYTHING. You cannot walk righteously and avoid persecution.

If you are not encountering opposition in your life from the world, and an apostate church; if you are not in conflict with family and friends who are not fully devoted to Christ, is it not possible that you have failed to obey the witness of the Holy Spirit in your life?

Syncretism is nothing other than compromise. Are you a syncretist? You are either a syncretist or a saint (a set-apart one).

This topic will be continued in the next post.

Note: The following graphic is provided to understand the symbols from the COEXIST image at the beginning of this post.



Syncretism - Part Two - ROME

Joseph Herrin (02-11-2010)



Map of Roman Empire Circa 300 A.D.

Let me begin by sharing the working definition of *Syncretism* for this series.

Syncretism is the merging of Christian belief and practice as defined by Christ and His apostles, with extra-Biblical beliefs and practices which often derive from pagan religions.

There have arisen continued charges that I am engaging in “Catholic bashing” in this teaching. My interest as a minister, called by God to teach The Way of truth to His people, is to divide between truth and error. I am no more anti-Catholic than I am anti-Protestant. There is great error in both camps. My earnest desire is to proclaim The Way of Christ accurately for all who are seekers of truth.

Yesterday I shared the following correspondence with a brother in Christ who, upon sharing a link to my blog site on his own, found that it elicited the disapproval of many of his Catholic readers.

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Dear Art,

I just went and read the comments, and your responses, to your blog post. You are certainly taking a lot of heat from those who are defenders of Catholicism. I can understand their viewpoint, for they have been taught to equate Catholicism with Christianity. The reason they make this connection is that they have been taught of man to do so. They have not been taught of the Spirit.

The first comment from one of your readers that leapt out at me as a critical error is the following.

The problem with rejecting the authority of the church to guide is that every man becomes pope unto himself, which is a dangerous position.

The Scriptures never tell Christians to be led by the Pope. Their testimony is everywhere that the Christian is to be led of the Spirit of Christ who indwells them.

Romans 8:14

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

I John 2:27

And as for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

What the Catholic Church has done is to usurp the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church. They have placed a man as the Vicar of Christ. The word *Vicar* is the root of the word "vicarious," which means "taking the place of another person or thing; acting or serving as a substitute." The Catholic Church has substituted a man for the role that belongs to Christ. Consider a further testimony of the

apostles.

I Corinthians 11:3

But I want you to understand that ***Christ is the head of every man***, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.

The Roman Catholic Church, and those who are defending her, would suggest that the Pope is the head of the Christian. This is an act of usurpation. It is also a fulfillment of the prophecy of the one called Anti-Christ. If you study the word Antichrist in the New Testament, you will find that the preposition "anti" is not exclusively translated as "opposite," or "against." It is very often understood to mean "instead of," or "in the room of." Following is Strong's definition taken from one of the two roots that make up the word antichrist.

NT:473 anti (an-tee'); a primary particle; opposite, i.e. ***instead*** or because of (rarely in addition to):

KJV - for, ***in the room of***. Often used in composition to denote contrast, requital, ***substitution***, correspondence, etc.

The Pope has taken his seat as Antichrist, usurping the role of Christ through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

It is not my desire to unnecessarily offend any man. The truth itself offends many. I cannot proclaim the truth that all Christians are to be led of the Spirit in all things; they are to be hearing from Christ Himself who said, "My sheep hear MY voice," without coming into contradiction with the teachings of Roman Catholicism. We either believe the testimony of the Spirit, and of Christ and His apostles, or we believe the testimony of the Vatican, whose testimony is very self-serving by turning all men to a spiritual dependence upon itself...

[End Excerpt]

I share this point about the usurpation that has

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been performed by the Roman Catholic Church as it has great bearing upon this subject of syncretism.

Let me approach this matter in this way: In seeing the name *Roman Catholic Church*, it should be obvious that there is something appended to the name Church. There has been an addition made to that which Yahweh instituted. It is called the *Catholic Church*, as the word *Catholic* is derived from the Latin *catholicus* meaning *universal*. As such, the Roman Catholic Church is testifying that it is the universal church, encompassing all true believers in Christ.

It also has the word *Roman* appended to it. The alert Christian should be led to inquire as to why an institution claiming to be the one true church that originated in Jerusalem among the Jews, and then spread to “Judea, Samaria and even to the remotest part of the earth” (Acts 1:8) should be identified with Rome.

Jesus Christ, Yahshua the Messiah, was born a Jew during the time of the Roman Empire. The apostles lived during this time as well. All things pertaining to Roman society and culture were spread throughout the Empire. This included the official language (Latin), as well as the common language of the Empire (Greek). The worship of Greek and Roman deities was pervasive, as is testified in *The Acts of the Apostles*.

The Roman Empire was vast, embracing many peoples. Rome permitted its vassal states to continue their individual religious practices while they submitted themselves to the rule of Rome. Thus, we see even in Jerusalem during the time of Christ and His apostles that the Jews freely practiced their religion. The Roman appointed governor, Herod the Great, built for the Jews a magnificent temple which they were given to use for the worship of the God of their forefathers.

Luke, the traveling companion of the apostle Paul, writes in the book of Acts of the profusion of deities

worshiped across the Roman Empire. This embrace of a multitude of gods and goddesses was especially pronounced when they arrived in Athens, Greece.

Acts 17:16, 22-23

Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he was beholding the city full of idols... And Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.'"

That these Roman citizens constructed an altar “to an unknown god,” reveals their wide embrace of all deities. Not wanting to offend any god, they even built an altar to one that they might not yet know.

The Greek Empire was the predecessor of the Roman Empire. Rome encompassed and expanded upon all that Greece had begun. The pantheon of gods which the Greek people worshiped was adopted by the Romans, simply acquiring new names. As Rome conquered many neighboring lands, it also brought into its embrace the worship of all the deities of those lands.

By allowing the people to continue the worship of their gods, and by expanding commerce and enriching all corners of its empire, Rome was able to assert its rule over a vast region with a large degree of compliance among the peoples conquered.

The gods and goddesses of all of the lands that were brought into the Roman Empire were related to one another. Though they had different names, and differences in teaching, they had many things in common. The religions of the individual peoples, languages and nations are all traceable back to Babel when the world was unified and all men had one tongue. There are many excellent sources on the topic of the Babylonian mystery religion and its

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spread throughout the world. One resource I highly recommend is Alexander Hislop's book, *The Two Babylons*. It can be read online in its entirety. Following is one source:

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/11477264/The-Two-Babylons>

Alexander Hislop writes:

The Babylonians in their popular religion supremely worshiped a goddess mother and a son who was represented in pictures and images as an infant or a child in his mother's arms. From Babylon this worship of mother and child spread to the ends of the earth. In Egypt, the mother and child were worshiped under the names Isis and Osiris. In India, even to this day, as Isi and Iswara; in Asia as Cybele and Deoius; in pagan Rome as Fortuna and Jupiter-puer "Jupiter the boy"; in Greece as Ceres, the Great Mother, with the babe at her breast, or as Irene, the goddess of Peace, with the boy Plutus in her arms, and even in Thibet, in China and Japan...



BABYLONIAN GODDESS SEMIRAMIS AND GOD-INCARNATE GON



INDIAN GODDESS DEVEKA AND INFANT KRISHNA



INDIAN GODDESS ISI AND INFANT ISWARA



EGYPTIAN GODDESS ISIS AND SON HORUS



ROMAN CATHOLIC MARY AND GOD-INCARNATE JESUS



GODDESS DIANA OF EPHEBUS

Semiramis and Tammuz/Nimrod

The Roman Empire encompassed many lands and peoples who had carried down from ancient times this Babylonian religion. What started with Nimrod, Semiramis and Tammuz was spread across the earth when Yahweh scattered the people at the tower of Babel, giving mankind diverse tongues and languages. Nimrod is named in the book of Genesis as the founder of Babylon.

Genesis 10:8-12

Now Cush became the father of **Nimrod**; he became a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before Yahweh; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before Yahweh." And **the beginning of his kingdom was Babel** and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. From that land he went forth into Assyria, and built Nineveh and Rehoboth-Ir and Calah, and Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city.

I encourage you to read Hislop's book to trace the history of the Babylonian mystery religion down to the present day. From ancient times this fertility cult has included an unholy trinity as Satan has sought to pervert the gospel of Christ that has been testified from ancient times through prophets and the creation itself. Each of the members of the Babylonian trinity was also represented in a heavenly body. Nimrod was the Sun and Semiramis the Moon. We see the continuance of the association of these false deities to heavenly bodies at this present time as the planets and many of the constellations bear names traceable back to Babylon.

A tragic occurrence in the early church is that she quickly began to depart from the truth of the gospel of Christ. False doctrines and practices entered quickly as Satan sowed tares among the wheat, and hid leaven among the meal that signifies the kingdom of God. The apostle John, writing approximately fifty years after the resurrection of Christ, set forth the book of Revelation. Its first chapters are devoted to a description of Christ addressing seven churches in Asia Minor, which were all part of the Roman Empire.

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Seven Churches of Asia Minor (Present Day Turkey)

Of these seven churches, there were only two that Christ did not reprove for departing from truth. By the time of Emperor Constantine's rule of the Roman Empire from 306-324 A.D., the church had become greatly leavened with error. It had adopted many of the practices of the Roman society and pagan religions that surrounded it.

It should not surprise the Christian that in a period of three centuries the once pure and vibrant church should experience such a great fall into corruption and apostasy. Christ prophesied that the church age would be one greatly leavened with sin.

The pollution and mixture of the church age is brought out in the parables of Christ. In Mark chapter 13 we find three parables of the church age. Christ said the kingdom of God would be like leaven that was mixed into three pecks of meal until it was thoroughly leavened. Leaven symbolizes sin, and the affect of the leaven increases over time until it reaches its zenith at the end of the age.

Christ compared the kingdom of God to a mustard tree that grows up into the largest bush in the garden and in which the birds come and nest in its branches. The birds of the air are symbolic of Satan

and his demons and emissaries.

Christ compared the kingdom age to a field of wheat in which an enemy sowed tares. The tares represent false Christians and false disciples, and Christ declared that it was an enemy (Satan) who sowed the tares there.

Note that all of these parables can easily serve as descriptions of the practice of syncretism. In each case God establishes something and the enemy of Christ adds something unclean to it.

The words of Christ to the seven churches of Asia Minor reveal that before the first century of the church had passed, Satan had already introduced his leaven, birds, and tares into the kingdom of God. Let me share once more the words of Christ to the church in Thyatira.

Revelation 2:20-24

I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray, so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. And I gave her time to repent; and she does not want to repent of her immorality. Behold, I will cast her upon a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. And I will kill her children with pestilence; and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds. But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them - I place no other burden on you.

This testimony was typical, rather than atypical, of the churches before one century had passed. When a further two centuries had passed with the influence of Gnosticism, Paganism, and Materialism, the church was ripe for a very great fall into apostasy (a divorcement from truth).

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Much of the writings of the apostles are focused on refuting errors that had begun to enter the church from her very earliest days. John wrote:

I John 2:18

Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many anti-christs have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour.

Titus 1:10-11

For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach...

Satan has found that syncretism is an effective tool as he seeks to deceive the entire world. It took him only three centuries to bring the church to such a confused and fallen state that she would fulfill the prophecy of Revelation chapter 17. The Great Harlot, Mystery Babylon, would ride upon a Scarlet Beast.

This will be explored in the next post.

Syncretism - Part Three - The Harlot and the Scarlet Beast

Joseph Herrin (02-12-2010)



It is only possible to accept that the picture above is an image of what Christ intended His church to be if one has become divorced from the truth. To be divorced from the truth is the definition of the word *apostasy*.

II Thessalonians 2:1-3

Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Yahshua Christ, and our gathering together to Him, that you may not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the *apostasy* comes first...

The apostles testified that the church would become divorced from the truth BEFORE the coming of our Lord Yahshua the Messiah, and our gathering together to Him. How did a group of humble Jewish fishermen, and the early church that first gathered in Jerusalem, become so transformed as to no longer be recognized as humble men and women despised and rejected of men? How did the church

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come to adorn themselves with all the rich and proud trappings of pagan religion? The answer is found in the practice of syncretism.

If one studies the Bible with the greatest diligence, they will find no mention of the apostles or disciples of The Way ever putting on rich garments. They will find no mention of the church building cathedrals, proud monuments of opulence and ease. They will not find any mention of monks, nuns, or a clergy/laity separation. You will not find in the Scriptures any connection between the church of Christ and miters, prayer beads, monasteries, rich necklaces and jewels, purple and scarlet robes, or chalices. However, you will find these very things mentioned in the apostle John's description of an apostate church that is figured as a Great Harlot riding upon a Scarlet Beast.

Revelation 17:1-6

And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I shall show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality." And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, and upon her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. And when I saw her, I wondered greatly.



Pope Benedict and Cardinals “Adorned in Scarlet and Purple”



“Having in Her Hand a Gold Cup of Abominations...”

I have written elsewhere of the origin of many Catholic and “Christian” practices. I will include a passage here from the writing *Deconstructing Babylon*.

The Catholic Church practiced syncretism. This is the practice of seeking to merge, or reconcile, various conflicting beliefs. When Constantine declared Rome to be a Christian Empire, there was a huge number of pagan practitioners throughout the em-

Syncretism

pire. Constantine was himself a Sun worshiper, and the highest holy days of Sun worship were at the end of December when the Sun had passed through the shortest day of the year and was beginning to assert its ascendancy once more. This was where Christmas originated. Rome merged the worship of Deus Sol Invictus (unconquered Sun god) with Christianity, and it became a perverse mixture of pagan and Christian teachings.

It was through the merger of Sun worship and Christianity that the day of worship was moved to Sun-day. Every day of the week in our Roman calendar is devoted to a different pagan deity:

Sun-day: the Sun

Mon-day: the Moon

Tues-day: Tiew (The Nordic equivalent of Mars)

Wednes-day: Woden (equivalent to Mercury)

Thurs-day: Thor (Equivalent to Jupiter)

Fri-day: Freya (Equivalent to Venus and Aphrodite)

Satur-day: Saturn

Because Constantine was a Sun worshiper, he moved all worship to Sunday, forbidding Christians and Jews to worship on the Sabbath. Today the church has been so indoctrinated into this practice that they refer to Sunday as the Sabbath day. This is but one more example of the corruptions of Babylon.

The corruptions of Christianity due to its merger with Sun worship are many, and few realize the extent of them. Many Christians speak of “Sun-day worship” and “Sun-day school,” not realizing the origin and meaning of what it is they are saying. Even depictions of the Christ bear the marks of Sun worship.



This picture is easily mistaken as a painting of Christ. It is actually a painting of Apollo. The “solar halo,” also called a *nimbus*, was very common in depictions of deities that were related to the Sun and Sun worship. Due to Catholicism’s deep ties to Sun worship, symbols of the Sun are found in profusion.



This is a picture of the Pope carrying what is very obviously an image of the Sun. The sacrament of the Mass observed by Catholics is rife with Sun im-

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ages. Even the wafer that is supposed to represent the body of Christ is in the shape of a solar disk. It is this which is held in the center of the image above.



These solar wafers were used in the observance of pagan rites. In contrast, at the Passover supper the Lord took unleavened bread and BROKE it. He did not carve it into neat little circles that resemble the Sun and pass it out to His disciples and say "This is My body broken for you. Eat this in remembrance of Me." Nor did they mark this observance on Sunday. (I am not advocating that Christians should return to a legal observance of the Sabbath which begins at sundown on Friday and runs until sundown on Saturday. The book of Acts reveals that the believers were meeting every day of the week. I share this to point out the influence upon pagan Sun worship in both the Catholic and Protestant churches today.)



The tonsure haircut worn by monks is also related to Sun worship. The haircut marks the circuit of

the Sun in the heavens. Did you ever read about monks in the Scriptures? Monks and monasteries were also borrowed from pagan religion.



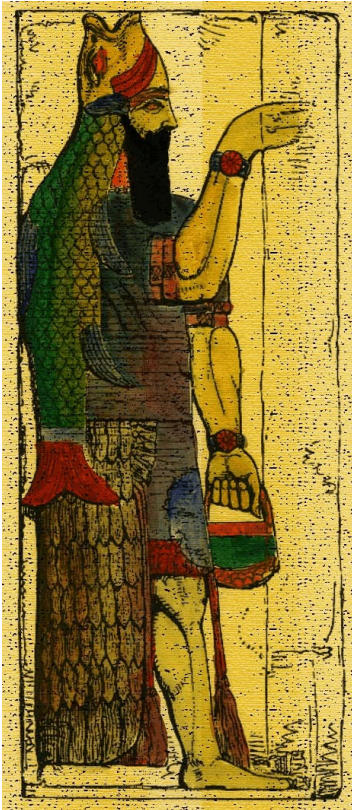
It is not hard to understand that numerous other corruptions were arrived at through the Catholic practice of syncretism. The fish symbol had long been employed in pagan religions. It was a symbol of Venus as well as Bacchus. In *The Two Babylons*, Alexander Hyslop writes, "Icthus, or the Fish, was one of the names of Bacchus." Bacchus was another name for Tammuz, the Sun-deity.

The worship of the fish deity is found in Scripture as we read of Dagon, the fish god of the Philistines.



Syncretism

The priests of Dagon wore fish shaped hats.



It is from this that the Catholics obtained the Mitre. Note that this priest of Dagon is sprinkling water, just like the Catholics do in their rituals.



Pope Benedict XVI with fish god Mitre on his head.



Bust of John Paul II

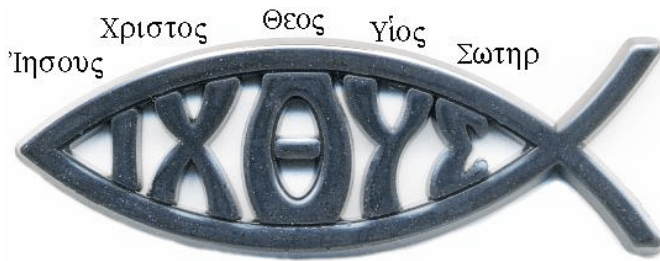
Did you ever stop to question where the Catholic Church gets all of its costumes and symbols? The Catholics say they trace the lineage of the popes back to Peter. Did you ever read of Peter dressing up in such garb? I tell you the answer is NO! Peter would not have dressed in the clothes of a pagan priest in order to declare the gospel of Christ.

These things are abominations. God clearly told His people to not form images to represent Him.

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Deuteronomy 4:15-18

So 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, so that you do not 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.



Regarding the appearance of the Ichthys symbol in Christianity, Alexander Hyslop writes:

About the very time that the Bishop of Rome was invested with the pagan title of Pontifex, the Savior began to be called Ichthys, or "the Fish," thereby identifying Him with Dagon, or the fish-god; and that, ever since, advancing step by step, as circumstances would permit, what has gone under the name of the worship of Christ, has just been the worship of that same Babylonian divinity, with all its rites and pomp and ceremonies, precisely as in ancient Babylon.

[Source: The Two Babylons, page 370]

Is it not remarkable that the Catholic church eats fish every Friday? Where did this custom come from? It is not hard to discover. The Romans worshiped Aphrodite Salacia. As we observed already, Freya was the Scandinavian equivalent of Aphrodite. Aphrodite Salacia was a fertility goddess. The worshippers of Aphrodite ate fish on Fridays and engaged in orgies. Fish is considered an "aphrodisiac." Also from the name of Aphrodite Salacia we get the word "salacious," which is defined as "intended to arouse people sexually."

The Catholics, with their practice of syncretism, have simply absorbed all of the practices of pagan religions. They often seek to give the pagan practices some "Christian" justification, but God is appalled at the mixing of the holy and the profane together. His Spirit cries out, "Come out of her My people, lest you participate in her sins and partake of her plagues."

[End Excerpt]

Recently, as I had the blessing of spending some time with some Christian brothers in jail, one of these men told me of his conversion from Islam. This man related that while he was a Muslim that material was frequently handed around by the Muslims that pointed to Christianity's pagan roots. The Muslim's clearly recognized that many symbols, rites and doctrines from numerous pagan religions (all traceable back to Babylon) had been incorporated into Christianity. This information was used by the Muslims to denigrate Christianity, depicting it as merely an amalgamation of many pagan practices.

Tragically, what the Muslims have testified is true as one looks at what is purported to be Christianity today. This Christian brother had been raised as a Christian, but had converted to Islam while in prison because of the protection it afforded him. He mentioned how it disturbed him to hear the Muslim's speak of the origin of such things as Christmas and Easter, of Sunday worship, and the multitude of things that have been merged into that original faith practiced by Christ and His apostles.

I mentioned that the SuperBowl 44 served as a testimony of the Sun Worshipers who are depicted as Saints achieving a victory over God's people. The SuperBowl was held in SUN Life Stadium in the SUNshine State and was held on a SUNday. The New Orleans Saints come from one of the most densely Catholic areas of the country, and Catholicism has embraced a myriad of images and practices that go back to Babylonian Sun worship.

Syncretism



Catholic Sacrament in India.



**Sacramental Wafer (Solar Disk of Tammuz)
With Crown and Tau Symbol at Top Representing Tammuz, King of Heaven**

The photo above was taken by me at the oldest Roman Catholic church in Macon, Georgia, St. Joseph's Catholic Church. This shrine outside the church contains the Pyramid and All Seeing Eye of Freemasonry (note the sunburst behind the cross.) It includes the cross, which is a symbol of Tammuz, who is Nimrod reborn, the god of the Sun. This is signified also by the solar burst behind the Tau-cross. It has an image of Mary, who is modeled after Semiramis, the Queen of Heaven, the mother of Tammuz and wife of Nimrod.

Macon is the French word for Mason. Both Freemasonry and Roman Catholicism trace their roots back to Babylon. The city of Macon was laid out by its Masonic founders after the street design of ancient Babylon, a fact attested on the local Chamber of Commerce website.

When one has their eyes opened to see, the incredible influence of Babylon, brought into the church through the cunning of the great deceiver Satan, is found everywhere. It is for this reason that the Spirit is calling out to the people of God today to come out of Babylon.

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Revelation 18:4

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

Daddy's Legacy

Joseph Herrin (Late 1980s)

Oh little child, dear child of mine
Fully wrought by loving hands divine,
Endowed with life and breath from above,
What will you receive from me, my love?

Your Heavenly Father, crafting with skill
Fashioned and formed you after His will,
Every precious detail according to plan,
What will you receive from me, a man?

An example of virtue, or an example of sin,
A heart filled with love, or dark thoughts from within,
Gracious words born of love, or thoughtless remarks,
What will you receive from me, my sweetheart?

Will your vision of God be clouded or clear?
Will your Father above resemble your father down here?
Will you approach Him in love, or hide out of fear?
What will you receive from me, little dear?

A shadow of God to you I will be,
But will it be godliness you see in me?
Will the outline I cast be of God or of man?
What will you receive from me, little lamb?

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Charles Haddon Spurgeon - Bible Devotion

"Before destruction the heart of man is haughty."

Proverbs 18:12

It is an old and common saying, that "coming events cast their shadows before them;" the wise man teaches us that a haughty heart is the prophetic prelude of evil. Pride is as safely the sign of destruction as the change of mercury in the weather-glass is the sign of rain; and far more infallibly so than that. When men have ridden the high horse, destruction has always overtaken them. Let David's aching heart show that there is an eclipse of a man's glory when he dotes upon his own greatness. **2 Sam. 24:10**. See Nebuchadnezzar, the mighty builder of Baby-

lon, creeping on the earth, devouring grass like oxen, until his nails had grown like bird's claws, and his hair like eagle's feathers. **Dan. 4:33**. Pride made the boaster a beast, as once before it made an angel a devil. God hates high looks, and never fails to bring them down., All the arrows of God are aimed at proud hearts. O Christian, is thine heart haughty this evening? For pride can get into the Christian's heart as well as into the sinner's; it can delude him into dreaming that he is "rich and increased in goods, and hath need of nothing." Art thou glorying in thy graces or thy talents? Art thou proud of thyself, that thou hast had holy frames and sweet experiences? Mark thee,

reader, there is a destruction coming to thee also. Thy flaunting poppies of self-conceit will be pulled up by the roots, thy mushroom graces will wither in the burning heat, and thy self-sufficiency shall become as straw for the dunghill. If we forget to live at the foot of the cross in deepest lowliness of spirit, God will not forget to make us smart under His rod. A destruction will come to thee, O unduly exalted believer, the destruction of thy joys and of thy comforts, though there can be no destruction of thy soul. Wherefore, "He that glorieth, let him glory *in the Lord*."