

TOO LONG IN THE SUN

*"The sun shall be no more thy light by day:
neither for brightness shall the moon give light
unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an
everlasting light, and thy God thy glory."*

.....Isaiah 60:19

TOO LONG IN THE SUN



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On behalf of all the servants of Jesus Christ, who have assisted in the publication and distribution of this book, we dedicate this book to "The Father" in the name of "His only begotten Son": "That men may know that thou, whose name alone is יהוה, art the most high over all the earth."

.....Psalms 83:18

"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

.....2 Corinthians 4:5-6

TOO LONG IN THE SUN

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//////WARNING//////

**This book is not written as a form of
entertainment.**

**Do not read past this page
unless you are willing to take responsibility
for the information contained herein.**

**The information contained in this book will require a
decision on the part of the reader. Either one will
accept it as true or reject it as false, or true, but not
important.**

**If you are not aware of the information contained in this
book, and, after prayerful evaluation find it to be true:
it may require extreme changes in your life-style.**

**If changes are called for and implemented, most people
will find your actions strange and unusual, many times
even friends and family.**

**In any case:
You will be responsible
for the information you have received.**

*"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:
because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also
reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me:
seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I
will also forget thy children." ...HOSEA 4:6*

PREFACE

The purpose of this book is to examine sun worship and its influence upon the gradual "*falling away*" from the example set by Jesus, taught by His disciples and practiced by the believers of the first century. Through this gradual falling away we have again been encouraged to believe the age old lie that God's laws are only suggestions. Only from the platform of truth can deception be recognized.

SPECIAL NOTE:

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Salvation does not come by works of the law. There is no human capacity to do anything; no human capacity to observe any law whereby we may earn salvation. We are saved by grace, through faith, and not through works of the law. We are told that even faith is a gift. **Let it not be said that I indicate, in any way, that salvation can be earned through works of the law.** All that I am saying is that an effort to refrain from pagan practices, which are rooted in ancient sun worship and, which are opposed to the ways of God, should be a manifestation of salvation. The question was asked by Christ: "*And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*".....*Luke 6:46*

There is no good answer to that question!

"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and

keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him."

.....1John 2:3-5

Again: We are not saved by works of the law but we are told that those who know Christ Jesus will want to keep His commandments in order to refrain from sin because: "Who-soever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.**"**

.....1John 3:4

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Because I care, this has been written by one that has: "sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;**"**

.....Romans 3:23-25

I do not claim, nor think, that I have everything right. In fact, I pray that the beam will be removed from my own eyes that I may see clearly. "**As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.**"

.....Romans 3:10

But, as the Apostle Paul said: "**I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.**"

.....2 Corinthians 11:3

I will not allow my faults to prevent me from proclaiming the truths that have been revealed to me. I will not be intimidated by the worldly wise, philosophers: "***vain in their imaginations***" who teach ways that oppose the ways of God.

Pagan practices, rooted in sun worship, that have absolutely no scriptural basis, have been accepted by many believers as the worship of the God of the Bible. These pagan practices have not only been accepted but have become commonplace in the organized "church". Those who refuse to participate are considered strange and cultic. These practices, introduced gradually by false teachers, have been accepted through tradition. We have no excuse for ignorance. We have been fairly warned:

"there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies."

.....2 Peter 2:1

We must search the scriptures to find out the truth. The truth that the ways of God, prescribed for His people, have not changed; nor will they change. The truth that the only thing that has changed is that as repentant believers we are no longer under the death penalty for disobedience.

Activities that were unacceptable to God six thousand years ago are still unacceptable today.

RICHARD M. RIVES

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all his hard work in preparing the
illustrations for this book.*

TEXTUAL CONSIDERATIONS

The English translation of biblical text quoted in this book is that of the King James Version (KJV).

When a more in depth understanding of scripture is necessary the "Masoretic Hebrew Text" and the "Received Greek Text" are used.

It will be necessary to talk about many pagan "gods" and "goddesses" as sun worship is discussed. As the purpose of this book is to make a clear distinction between the worship of pagan "gods" and the God of the Bible, we must also clearly distinguish between the title of the God of the Bible and other "gods".

GOD / god:

When the word "god" is spelled with a small "g" it will refer to the Satanic "gods" of paganism; those that oppose the true worship of the God of the Bible.

When the word "God" is spelled with a capital "G" it will refer to the "God" of the Bible, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This word "God" was chosen by King James translators to represent the Hebrew word "אלהים" ELOHIM, the creator of Genesis 1:1. The word ELOHIM is the plural form of the God of the Bible (Gods). This confirms the fact that Christ, one with the Father, created all things just as indicated in New Testament scripture.

"In the beginning God (אלהים ELOHIM) created the heaven and the earth."Genesis 1:1

"For by him (Christ) were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:"

.....Colossians 1:16

LORD:

The word LORD spelled with all capital letters was chosen by King James translators to represent the same Hebrew word for (יהוה) YHWH or the shorter form as used in Psalms 68 YAH: who revealed His name to His chosen people and established His covenant with them.

Recognizing and distinguishing God's name from the name of pagan gods is very important. He revealed His name to Moses and told him to tell His chosen people that (יהוה-YHWH) was His name forever and His memorial from generation to generation: (See Exodus 3:15)

THE COMMANDMENT GIVER:

Before pronouncing the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai, God made sure that there was no mistake about who He was:

And God (אלהים - ELOHIM) spake all these words, saying, I am the Lord (יהוה-YHWH) thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

.....Exodus 20:1-2

It is important to note that אלהים-ELOHIM, the plural form of "God" which *included Christ*, spoke the commandments on Mount Sinai.

GREEK TRANSLATION:

In the Greek text the word (θεός-THEOS) and its derivatives, represents the God of the Bible. King James translators chose the word "God" spelled with a capital "G" for the New Testament representation of the Biblical God (יהוה-YHWH), (אלהים - ELOHIM).

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God (θεός-THEOS), and the Word was God (θεός)."

.....John 1:1

Textual Considerations xii.

The same Greek word (θεός-THEOS) was also used to represent other gods. When spelled with a small "g" pagan gods or Satan himself is indicated.

".....the god (θεός-THEOS) of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not....."

.....2 Corinthians 4:4

SEPTUAGINT:

The Hebrew text of the Old Testament was translated into Greek in the third century before Christ. The translation was known as the Septuagint. In early manuscripts the name of God (יהוה-YHWH) was not translated into the Greek (θεός-THEOS); but remained in the Hebrew letters.

SUMMARY:

"God" spelled with a capital "G" means the God of the Bible.

"LORD" spelled with all capitals means the God of the Bible.

"god" spelled with a small "g" means Satanic pagan gods.

EXCEPTION:

The only exception to this rule is when presenting the inscriptions of the worshippers of pagan "gods". A capital "G" may be used as did their proclamations.

INTRODUCTION

"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."

.....Romans 1:20

It was a cold, crisp, cloudless night near the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Crystal clear skies revealed the spectacular panorama of the heavens. The planets, and constellations could clearly be seen as they moved across the skies. Now and then, a flaming star would flash by revealing ongoing activity beyond the realm of man. The warming sun was now no where to be seen and in its absence it was becoming colder and colder. As the night progressed, the earth soon gave up much of the heat it had stored while the sun was present and one could only count the minutes and wait in anticipation for its reappearance. As the skies began to become bright in the east, again, there was hope that soon the sun would reappear over the horizon and begin to warm the earth and its inhabitants.

This cycle has been going on since man was cast out of the Garden of Eden. It was experienced by the Chaldeans four thousand years ago, and has been the experience of this writer.

It is easy to see how rebellious man, if he refused to recognize the power of God, would choose the sun as an object of worship. We are told that there is no excuse for not recognizing the eternal power of God and the blessings He has bestowed upon us through His creations. Only through vain imagination and a darkened heart could one conceive of the sun as God.

So what is it with sun worship? Why the sun? What deception took place to stir men's imaginations to worship the created more than the Creator?

Although history reveals many analogies between the cycle of the sun and that of rebirth, the answer to these questions can be only speculation, as we are given no positive Biblical answer.

One thing is conclusive: The sun has been the primary object of Satanic worship by those with darkened hearts throughout recorded history.

CHAPTER 1

THE CHALDEANS

"Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night: that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his name:"

.....Amos 5:8

While there seems to be hints in antiquity of the knowledge of the God of the Bible, there is one thing that is sure; history reveals that the sun has played an important role in the pantheon of all known civilizations. The purpose of this documentation is to chart the progression of sun worship from antiquity through the present and to consider its influences upon Christianity.

Sun worship has greatly influenced Chaldean, Assyrian, Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greco-Roman and modern day culture. To understand how sun worship has progressed throughout the centuries it is important to briefly examine the major world empires.

As all of the details of these empires would and have required hundreds of books to relate, we will only document that the sun was their chief object of worship.

THE CHALDEAN EMPIRE

As one descends from the mountains of Uratu, the area in

which Noah's Ark landed,¹ and crosses the tributaries of the Tigris River he enters into a vast plain. This plain was the home of the Cushite kingdom of Babylonia: the area between and along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

The Bible informs us that Nimrod set up a kingdom:

"And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar."

.....Genesis 10:8-10

"And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name

of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth."

.....*Genesis 11:1-9*

Because of man's rebellion, languages were confused and the people of the earth were scattered.

It is important to note that the rebellion took place in the kingdom of Nimrod. Many historians have identified the Biblical family of Ham, Cush and Nimrod as the source of post flood false religions². It is not the main focus of this book to document this connection. The facts presented will reveal that the sun worship of most ancient times, known by many as the Chaldean mysteries, is still being practiced, unknowingly, by many claiming the title "Christian".

NIMROD

The example of deification of Monarchs seems to have begun with Nimrod. Under the title of Bilu Nipru, or Bel Nimrod, the worship of Nimrod by one name or another has passed down through history to present times. A king by the name of Urkham or Urukham seems to have been Nimrod's successor, and ruins of gigantic temples are found bearing bricks with his name. These temples faced east toward the rising sun. Many of these temples are dedicated to the sun, Belus or Bel Nimrod. They bring to mind the great shrines of sun worship built by the Egyptians.

Could the Egyptian structures be in honor of Nimrod under another name? As we will discuss, the sun god does not care what you call him as long as you worship him.

SUN WORSHIP IN CHALDEA

There is evidence that the Chaldeans knew ELOHIM of Genesis who created heaven and earth. What a shame that they chose to worship and serve the created more than the Creator. The Cushite Chaldeans became polytheistic: worshipping the sun, moon and planets. In other words "sun worship." Bil-Nipru, which many scholars believe to be the Nimrod of the Bible, was elevated hy man to the status of god and worshipped as the chief deity.²

Mother goddess worship was also an important part of the Chaldean culture. Beltis, the wife of Bel-Nimrod and mother of his supposed son Nin, was worshipped as the "Mother of God". By way of the proposed re-incarnation of Bel-Nimrod as Nin, she was also known as both the mother and wife of Nin: making Nin his mother's husband. That made Beltis the "mother of god". It has been documented that the worship of Beltis and Nin originated the veneration of the "mother and child."³



"Mother and Child"

Also important to our study is the Chaldean goddess Ishtar, Nana or Astarte: as her ceremonial worship has been incorporated into "traditional Christianity" through the celebration of "Easter".⁴ The names of these "Mother goddesses"

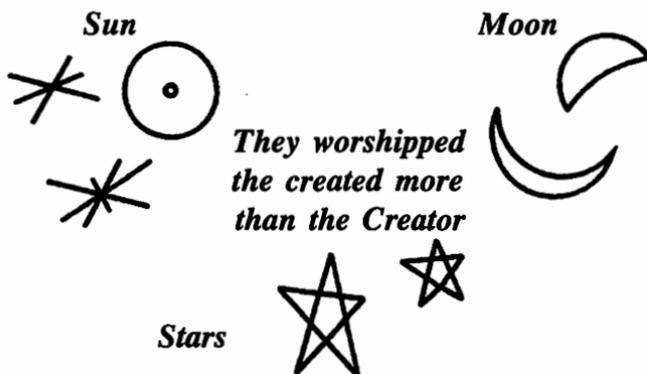
have been identified as other names for Beltis "Mother of god". (See Chapter - Easter.)



*The goddess Ishtar Or Inanna
"Queen of the Universe"*

The Chaldean sun gods and goddesses, although of a personal nature, having life stories, were represented by created objects, i.e. the heavens, the sun, moon and planets. From the earliest known records and archaeological finds it becomes immediately apparent that as people migrated to other parts of the world, the worship of the heavens as practiced in Chaldean times became the basis of Classical Mythology.

After examining the information contained in this book you will discover that this is no accident, but is a satanic plan to undermine the true worship of God.



Why is all this ancient history important? Because it documents the following fact:

The very same "sun worship" of the Chaldeans, including the veneration of the "Mother and Child" and associated celebrations is of pagan origin.

It will be shown that the satanic "mystery religions" of antiquity have been combined with the true worship of God: the result being labeled "Christian" by many. How can it be? Only through vain imagination.

Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that the LORD spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire: Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female, The likeness of any beast that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air, The likeness of any thing that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the waters beneath the earth: And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven,

and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.

.....Deuteronomy 4:15-19

The Chaldeans 22

FOOTNOTES

1. Genesis 8:4 And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat.

2. Genesis 6:10 And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Genesis 10:6-8 and the sons of Ham; Cush.....and Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.

3. George Rawlinson, *The Five Great Monarchies of the Ancient Eastern World* - collected and illustrated from Ancient and Modern Sources, Dodd, Mead and Company, New York , second edition 1870.

One of the gods worshipped by the Chaldeans was Bil or Enu. "His name, which seems to mean merely "lord" is usually followed by a qualificative adjunct, possessing great interest. It is proposed to read this term as Nipru, or the feminine Niprut, a word which cannot fail to recall the Scriptural Nimrod, who is in the Septuagint Nebroth (Greek). The term Nipru seems to be formed from the root napar, which is in Syriac to "pursue," to "make to flee," and which has in Assyrian nearly the same meaning. Thus Bil-Nipru would be aptly translated as "the Hunter Lord," or "the god presiding over the chase," while, at the same time, it might combine the meaning of " the Conquering Lord" or "the Great Conqueror."

On these grounds it is reasonable to conclude that we have in this instance, an admixture of Hero-worship in the Chaldean religion. Bil-Nipru is probably the Biblical Nimrod, the original founder of the monarchy, the "mighty hunter" and conqueror.

4. Rawlinson - Beltis, the wife of Bel-Nimrod,... She is far more than the mere female power of Bel-Nimrod, being in fact a separate and very important deity. Her common title is "the Great Goddess." In Chaldean her name was Mulita or Enuta - both words signifying "the Lady;" in Assyria she was Bilita or Bilita-Nipruta, the feminine forms of Bil and Bilu-Nipru. Her favorite title was "the Mother of the Gods." or the "Mother of the Great Gods;" whence it is tolerably clear that she was the "Dea Syria" worshipped at Hierapolis under the Arian appellation of Mabog. Though commonly represented as the wife of Bel-Nimrod, and mother of his son Nin or Ninip, she is also called "the wife of Nin." and in one place "the wife of Asshur"...She seems thus to have united the attributes of the Juno, the Ceres or Demeter, the Bellona, and even the Diana of the Classical Nations: for she was at once the Queen of Heaven..... In these latter capacities she appears, however, to have been gradually superseded by Ishtar....It was especially as "Queen of Nipur" that she was the wife of her son Nin. Perhaps this idea grew up out of the fact that Nipur the two were associated together in a common worship. It appears to have given rise to some of the Greek traditions with respect to Semiramis, who was made to contract an incestuous marriage with her own son Ninyas...

5. Rawlinson - Ishtar or Nana is the planetary Venus, and in general features, corresponds with the classical goddess. Her name Ishtar is that by which she was known in Assyria; and the same term prevailed with slight modification among the Semitic races generally. The Phoenician form was Astarte, the Hebrew, Ashtoreth; the later Mandaean form was Ashtar... She is often scarcely distinguishable from Beltis. She is called "the Mistress of heaven and earth," "the great goddess." "the queen of victory,"...she is also represented in the inscriptions of one king as the goddess of the chase...The worship of Ishtar was wide-spread and her shrines were numerous. She is often called "the queen of Babylon," and must certainly have had a temple in that city.

CHAPTER 2

THE ASSYRIANS

The Assyrian Monarchy followed that of the Chaldeans. The worship of the Assyrians seems to be identical with that of the Chaldeans with the exception that Asshur was considered the universal god. Again, the sun was the primary object of worship. Even the king wore the four-rayed orb of the sun around his neck. The Assyrian King Tiglath-Pileser I names Shamas, the sun god, in his invocations and represented himself as ruling under the auspices of the sun god.¹

*Assyrian King
before the symbols
of the gods - with
a sun cross on
his chest*



Sun Image



Assyrian King Tiglath-Pileser III believed by many to be King Pulu of 2 Kings 15:19 and 1 Chronicles 5:26, can be seen on a relief, found at Nimrud, wearing the symbol of the sun on his wrist.²

The King Assherizirpal carried on wars under the influences of the sun god and Shalmaneser III, King at the time the Black-Obelisk was inscribed, honors Bel, the father of the gods, Beltis, the mother of the gods, and the sun god Shamas and Ishtar at the beginning of the inscription.



1. ASSUR, the great lord, the king of all
2. the great gods; ANU the king of the IGGI
3. and the ANUMMAKI; the lord of the world, the supreme **BEL**
4. the father of the gods, the creator
5. of the universe; EA, the king of the abyss who determines destinies;
6. Sin, the king of the (lunar) disk, who sheds the light;
7. ADAD, the very mighty, the master of abundance; **SHAMASH**
8. the judge of heaven and earth, the ordainer of all things;
9. MERODACH, the herald of the gods, the master of the laws; ADAR, the captain
10. of the IGGI and the ANUMMAKI, the god all-powerful; NERGAL
11. the valiant, the king of battles; JUSKU who bears the august sceptre,
12. the omniscient god; **Beltis, the wife of Bel, the mother of the great gods;**
13. **Ishtar**, the princess of heaven and earth, accomplished in courageous decisions;
14. the great gods who have determined my destinies and enlarged my royalty!
15. Shalmaneser, the king of the multitude of men, high priest of ASSUR, the powerful king,
16. the king of all the four regions, **the Sun-god** of the multitude of mankind, who governs
17. in all countries; the son of Assur-natsir-pal, the supreme priest, whose priesthood unto the gods
18. was pleasing, and who has subdued unto his feet all lands.

As indicated by the Black Obelisk inscription: just as in the Chaldean empire the goddess Ishtar was the mother goddess of Assyria.³

King Sargon dedicated his northern gate to the sun god Shamas and his son King Sennacherib of *2 Kings 19:23-28*, and *Isaiah 37:21-23* mentions him as his chief protector.⁴

And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth. LORD, bow down thine ear, and hear: open, LORD, thine eyes, and see: and hear the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent him to reproach the living God. Of a truth, LORD, the kings of Assyria have destroyed the nations and their lands, And have cast their gods into the fire: for they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone: therefore they have destroyed them. Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD God, even thou only.

.....*2 Kings 19:15-22*

Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, whereas thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assyria I have heard. This is the word that the LORD hath spoken concerning him; The virgin the daughter of Zion hath despised thee, and laughed thee to scorn; the daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head at

thee. Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel.

.....*Isaiah 37:21-23*

God had continuously warned Israel against mingling with the people of the nations worshipping false gods. The Assyrian armies had destroyed all the nations they had come in contact with. But, the Bible records that "*the gods of those nations were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone...*"

This time was different! The sun worshiping Assyrians were coming against the Creator and His chosen people. The prayer of King Hezekiah was answered:

Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it. By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD. For I will defend this city, to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake. And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh

.....*2 Kings 19:32-36*

FOOTNOTES

1. Cylinder inscriptions of Tiglath-Pileser I. - British Museum
2. Relief of Tiglath-Pileser III. - British Museum
3. The Black Obelisk - British Museum

4. 2KI 19:20-28 and ISA 37:24-29 Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, That which thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assyria I have heard. This is the word that the LORD hath spoken concerning him; The virgin the daughter of Zion hath despised thee, and laughed thee to scorn; the daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head at thee. Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel. By the messengers thou hast reproached the Lord, and hast said, With the multitude of my chariots I am come up to the height of the mountains, to the sides of Lebanon, and will cut down the tall cedar trees thereof, and the choice fir trees thereof: and I will enter into the lodgings of his borders, and into the forest of his Carmel. I have digged and drunk strange waters, and with the sole of my feet have I dried up all the rivers of besieged places. Hast thou not heard long ago how I have done it, and of ancient times that I have formed it? now have I brought it to pass, that thou shouldest be to lay waste fenced cities into ruinous heaps. Therefore their inhabitants were of small power, they were dismayed and confounded; they were as the grass of the field, and as the green herb, as the grass on the house tops, and as corn blasted before it be grown up. But I know thy abode, and thy going out, and thy coming in, and thy rage against me. Because thy rage against me and thy tumult is come up into mine ears, therefore I will put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest.

CHAPTER 3

THE BABYLONIANS

During the Biblical time of the Judges, wars were being fought between the Assyrians and the Babylonians. Some of the battles were won by the Babylonians, thereby enlarging their territory. Later a king by the name of Nabonassar (747 B.C.) is considered to be responsible for the partial re-establishment of the Babylonian empire. He was succeeded by the kings: Nadius, Chinzinus, and Elulaeus. **Merodach-Baladan** succeeded Elulaeus and during that time extended his empire to include upper Babylon. At that time he became known as the "King of Babylon".

"At that time Merodach-Baladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah: for he had heard that he had been sick, and was recovered. And Hezekiah was glad of them, and shewed them the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not. Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country unto me, even from Babylon. Then said he, What have they seen in thine house? And Hezekiah answered, All that is in mine house have they

seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shewed them. Then said Isaiah to Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD of hosts: Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD."

.....Isaiah 39:1-6

To further confuse matters Sargon, the Assyrian, temporarily reclaimed control and the title "King of Babylon" but was not able to totally usurp power from Merodach-Baladan.

Finally in 703 B.C. Sennacherib, an Assyrian, regained total control of Babylonia. The Assyrian government then lasted for more than 75 years.

After a time of Assyrian dominance, the Medes under the direction of Cyaxares began to aggressively pursue Assyrian territory. The Assyrian king ordered a nobleman by the name of Nabopolassar to defend the southern capital of Babylon, but, seeing an opportunity to seize control of Babylon, he did just that. Not only did he take control, but, he arranged a marriage between his son Nebuchadnezzar and the daughter of the Median king Cyaxares. **The marriage made the Medes and the Babylonians allies, leaving only the aggressions of the Egyptians as a concern to the Babylonians.**

About the year 610 B.C. Necho became pharaoh of Egypt and invaded the area known as Syria, a part of Nabopolassar's kingdom. **Control of the city of Carchemish, situated on the Euphrates River was the determining factor as to who controlled Syria.**

When marching to Carchemish, Pharaoh Necho was temporarily stopped. When he reached Megiddo, Josiah, king of Judah, tried to stop him.

After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Carchemish by Euphrates: and Josiah went out against him. But he sent ambassadors to him, saying, What have I to do with thee, thou king of Judah? I come not against thee this day, but against the house wherewith I have war: for God commanded me to make haste: forbear thee from meddling with God, who is with me, that he destroy thee not. Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself, that he might fight with him, and hearkened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of God, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo. And the archers shot at king Josiah; and the king said to his servants, Have me away; for I am sore wounded. His servants therefore took him out of that chariot, and put him in the second chariot that he had; and they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died, and was buried in one of the sepulchres of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

.....2 Chronicles 35: 20-24

The word God used in the above referenced text is the Hebrew word (אלהים) ELOHIM. Based on the statement of the writer of Chronicles that Josiah "hearkened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of God," it seems that Necho had been given instructions directly from the God of the Bible.

Because Necho had been delayed, the famous Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar handily defeated the Egyptians. Necho had warned Josiah that God had told him to attack the area of Syria. He told Josiah not to interfere with God. Josiah would not listen.

The defeat of the Egyptians at Carchemish made it possible for Nebuchadnezzar to demand the submission of Jehoiakim, king of Judah and later conquer the city of Jerusalem and take the kingdom of Judah captive.

Jehoiachin, son of Jehoiakim, was placed on the throne of Judah for a very short period of time and then replaced with Zedekiah, Jehoiakim's brother. Thinking that the Egyptians would be a formidable ally, Zedekiah revolted against Babylonian authority.

“Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin: That walk to go down into Egypt, and have not asked at my mouth; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt! Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the trust in the shadow of Egypt your confusion.”

.....Isaiah 30:1-3

Zedekiah's plan did not work. He had been advised by the prophet Jeremiah not to look to Egypt for help but he did not heed God's prophet.

“And King Zedekiah the son of Josiah reigned instead of Coniah the son of Jehoiakim, whom Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon made king in the land of Judah. But neither he, nor his servants, nor the people of the land, did hearken unto the words of the LORD, which he spake by the prophet Jeremiah. And Zedekiah the king sent Jehucal the son of Shelemiah and Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest to the prophet Jeremiah, saying, Pray now unto the LORD our God for us. Now Jeremiah came in and went out among the people: for they had not put him into prison. Then Pharaoh’s army was come forth out of Egypt: and when the Chaldeans that besieged Jerusalem heard tidings of them, they departed from Jerusalem. Then came the word of the LORD unto the prophet Jeremiah, saying, Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Thus shall ye say to the king of Judah, that sent you unto me to enquire of me; Behold, Pharaoh’s army, which is come forth to help you, shall return to Egypt into their own land. And the Chaldeans shall come again, and fight against this city, and take it, and burn it with fire. Thus saith the LORD; Deceive not yourselves, saying, The Chaldeans shall surely depart from us: for they shall not depart. For though ye had smitten the whole army of the Chaldeans that fight against you, and there remained but wounded men among them, yet should they rise up every man in his tent, and burn this city with fire.”

.....Jeremiah 37:1-10

As was prophesied, when Jerusalem was besieged, the Egyptian army proved to be no deterrent against the powerful Babylonian army.

"In the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, came Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon and all his army against Jerusalem, and they besieged it. And in the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, the ninth day of the month, the city was broken up. And all the princes of the king of Babylon came in, and sat in the middle gate, even Nergal-sharezer, Samgar-nebo, Sarsechim, Rab-saris, Nergal-sharezer, Rabmag, with all the residue of the princes of the king of Babylon. And it came to pass, that when Zedekiah the king of Judah saw them, and all the men of war, then they fled, and went forth out of the city by night, by the way of the king's garden, by the gate betwixt the two walls: and he went out the way of the plain. But the Chaldeans' army pursued after them, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho: and when they had taken him, they brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to Riblah in the land of Hamath, where he gave judgment upon him. Then the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah in Riblah before his eyes: also the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of Judah. Moreover he put out Zedekiah's eyes, and bound him with chains, to carry him to Babylon. And the Chaldeans burned the king's house, and the houses of the people, with fire, and brake down the walls of Jerusalem. Then Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard carried away captive into Babylon the remnant of the people that remained in the city, and those that fell away, that fell to him, with the rest of the people that remained.

.....Jeremiah 39:1-9

WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?

"...Because they have forsaken my law which I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice, neither walked therein;"

.....Jeremiah 9:13

THE RELIGION OF THE BABYLONIANS?

Remember the Chaldeans? Well, the religious practices of the Babylonians was almost identical. The same gods were worshipped. This is a very important consideration because it proves that the original sun worship which began in the kingdom of Nimrod was still being practiced in 586 B.C.: at the time Judah was taken into Babylonian captivity. Nebuchadnezzar restored the ancient temples of the Chaldeans to the very same Chaldean gods. As we have discussed, the names of the gods were changed periodically. The Chaldean god Bel was worshipped by Nebuchadnezzar under the title of Merodach. Later, Merodach was again worshipped as Bel.

The ancient historian Herodotus describes a temple in Babylon of Zeus Belus. He states that Babylonian rituals involved with the worship of Zeus Belus are identical with those of Thebian Zeus, practiced in Thebes Egypt.¹

Through the realization that Zeus is the same god as Bel, the conclusion must be drawn that the same sun god worshipped at the time of Nimrod is actually the same sun god worshipped all the way through the time of the Greco-Roman empire. Not only that, but, just as Nebuchadnezzar worshipped Bel as Merodach so the Romans sometimes called him Jupiter.

Chaldean Bel-Nimrod = Babylonian Bel or Merodach or Baal = Greek Zeus = Roman Jupiter = the original sun worship in opposition to the worship of the God of the Bible.

The historian Rawlinson states:

“It may perhaps be suspected from such instances of connection and quasi-convertibility, that an esoteric doctrine, known to the priests and communicated by them to the kings, taught the real identity of the several gods and goddesses, who may have been understood by the better instructed to represent, not distinct and separate beings, but the several phases of the Divine Nature. Ancient polytheism had, it may be surmised, to a great extent this origin, the various names and titles of the Supreme, which designated His different attributes or the different spheres of His operation, coming by degrees to be misunderstood, and to pass, first with the vulgar, and at last with all but the most enlightened, for the appellations of a number of gods.”²

In my words: A Satanic mystery religion designed to hide the true identity of the one being worshipped by way of multiple names.

The goddess Beltis was also worshipped: sometimes by the names Nanna or Ishtar. Religious prostitution was practiced in honor of the sun goddess Mylitta, another name for Beltis.³

Quoting Herodotus, an eye witness:

Every woman of the land must needs once in her life go sit in the temple of Aphrodite and lie with a stranger..... And whenever a woman sitteth down there, she departeth not home before a stranger cast money in her lap and lie with her inside the temple. And as he casteth in the money, needs must he say thus much : I adjure thee by the goddess Mylitta. (Now Mylitta is the name of the Assyrians for Aphrodite).

Again Herodotus confirms that Beltis was worshipped under many titles:

Chaldean Beltis = Babylonian Mylitta = Greek Aphrodite = Roman Venus = the original sun worship in opposition to the worship of the God of the Bible.

Images played an important role in the worship of the Babylonians. **Many times the image was not seen as the actual god but as the representation of the god or goddess.**

Priests were intermediaries between the gods and their worshippers and **grand ceremony was an important part of worship.**

Symbols were also used to represent the gods. As in the Chaldean and other empires, a circle or a cross within a circle designated the sun god. The six or eight rayed star, or, a naked female form, indicated the sun goddess. A fish was the representation of Ninnus, or Nin.

(See Chapter: Images)

SUMMARY

The Babylonians practiced the very same sun worship as the Chaldeans. The names of the various gods had changed throughout the centuries but returned to their original names when the land of the Chaldeans became Babylonian territory.

WHY IS THIS SIGNIFICANT?

The sun gods and goddesses originating in the time of Nimrod have been given many different names. It makes no difference what their worshippers call them; **worship in opposition of the God of the Bible is actually the worship of Satan.**

One day the worship of Satan will end:

“The word that the LORD spake against Babylon and against the land of the Chaldeans by Jeremiah the prophet. Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish, and conceal not: say, Babylon is taken, Bel is confounded, Merodach is broken in pieces; her idols are confounded, her images are broken in pieces.”

.....*Jeremiah 50:1-2*

FOOTNOTES

1. Herodotus - p. 180-3 And in either region of the city was a walled place in the midst: in the one, the royal palace with a great, stout circuit-wall, and in the other a precinct of Zeus-Belus with brasen gates, which existed yet even unto my day, being square and two stades long each way. And in the midst of the precinct is erected a solid tower, a stade both in height and in breadth; and upon this tower is founded another tower, and another again upon that, even unto eight towers. And an ascent hath been made to them, which extendeth around all the towers on the outside. And when one is in the middle of the ascent there is a lodge and seats for refreshment, wherein they that ascend do sit and refresh themselves. But on the last tower standeth a great shrine; and in the shrine is set a great bed, richly covered, and a golden table standeth beside it. howbeit there is no image established therein, neither doth any person lodge therein by night, save only a woman of the country, whomsoever the god chooseth of them all, as the Chaldeans say, who are the priests of this god. And these same priests assert, though I believe not what they say, that the god himself visiteth the shrine and taketh his rest upon the bed, after the same fashion as the Egyptian Thebes, according to the Egyptians; (for there also a woman sleepeth in the house of Theban Zeus, and both these women are said to have intercourse with no man.)

2. Rawlinson - The Five Great Monarchies of the Ancient Eastern World.

3. Herodotus p. 196-9

CHAPTER 4

MEDO-PERSIA

As Medo-Persia indicates, it is a kingdom derived from the combination of the Medes and the Persians. This combination took place under the rulership of Cyrus the Great. Later Darius the Great became king when he, along with the help of Persian nobles, killed the son of Cyrus, who was heir to the throne.

Both Cyrus and Darius are important Biblical characters as they were instrumental in the return of Judaens to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity.

MEDO-PERSIAN SUN WORSHIP

The earliest form of the religion of the Medo-Persians is described in ancient manuscripts known as the Zendavesta. The word Zend means "explanation" and the word Avesta means "writings or text." In other words, the Zendavesta is an explanation of the Medo-Persian religious writings.

The Zendavesta is the basis of the Zoroastrian religion also known as Mazdaism. This form of worship involved the veneration of Ahura-Mazda.

It is thought that a priest by the name of Zoroaster established the religion beginning with the polytheistic religion of the Iranians. To this polytheistic religion he affixed Ahura-Mazda as the highest god. According to the Gathas, or song portion of the Zendavesta, Ahura-Mazda was the creator of all

things: heaven and earth, light and darkness. He was known as the **originator of all laws** and judge of the world.

In the earliest periods of Ahura-Mazda, **the worship of many gods is apparent**, including: Indra (Storm), Aramiti (Earth), Agni (Fire), Soma (intoxication), Vayu (Wind), **and more important, Mithra (Sunlight)**.¹

One of the most significant parts of their worship was the offering of Soma, an intoxicating drink, to the gods. They believed that through the sacrifice of a bull and the drinking of Soma they would obtain everlasting life. After offering Soma to the gods, the priests of Ahura-Mazda drank until they became drunken.²

Later the worship of Ahura-Mazda seems to have become more monotheistic with Ahura-Mazda being considered the only god worthy of worship. He was given attributes including: good, holy, pure and called 'father of truth.'

Because of these attributes many scholars have tried to associate Ahura-Mazda with (אלהים-ELOHIM) of the Bible, indicating that this, being the religion of Cyrus the Great, proves that Ahura-Mazda and (יהוה-YHWH), (אלהים - ELOHIM) are one in the same.³ They base this on the fact that **Cyrus The Great conquered Babylon and ordered that the temple of יהוה אלהים YHWH ELOHIM be rebuilt in Jerusalem.**

"Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of

Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah."

.....Ezra 1:1-2

A more complete understanding of the actions of Cyrus proves that **the association between the God of the Bible and the Medo-Persian god is false.**

These **apostate ideas** are being taught in many theological schools. Libraries are filled with "religion" books striving to prove that the belief in the God of the Bible and Christ are only one phase of man's continuing search for God. It is no wonder that many ministers come away from school disbelieving much of God's written word.



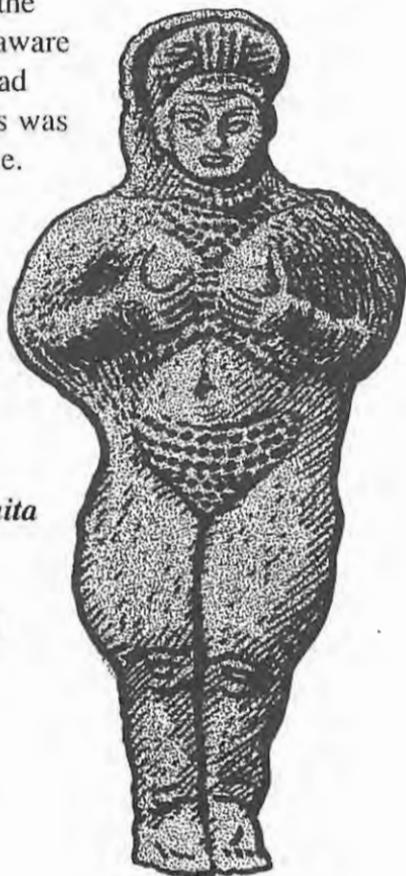
While Cyrus did worship Ahura-Mazda, he did not follow the commandments of God.

Ahura-Mazda, or Oramazd, was heavily associated with the worship of nature.⁴ It is important to note that *the sun god, Mithra, is first observed as a part of the worship of Ahura-Mazda.* The Mithraic form of sun worship evolved from the worship of Ahura-Mazda and later became the religion of the Roman soldiers. In the fourth century, Mithraism was combined with the true worship of God to form a Roman version of "Christianity".⁵

Ahura-Mazda seemed to have been given a more physical nature. His worship was associated with that of Armaiti, a fertility goddess.⁶ She had the responsibility to make men aware of the laws Ahura-Mazda had spoken to her. The cosmos was known as her heavenly home. Armaiti has been depicted driving a chariot pulled by four horses as the sun god "sol" is commonly represented. She wore a crown of eight **rays** and a hundred stars.⁷

Persian goddess Anahita

A small amount of research reveals that there are many differences between Ahura-Mazda and (יהוה - YHWH), (אלהים - ELOHIM), the God of the Bible.



The God of the Bible is not some mythological character: He became flesh and dwelt among us that we might know Him.

DID CYRUS KNOW GOD?

The following scripture indicates that Cyrus was used by God to accomplish His will. Through Cyrus, He made it possible for the re-establishment of His worship in Jerusalem.

"That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid. Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut; I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel. For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me. I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things."

.....ISA 44:28-45:7

Cyrus definitely knew of God for in *Ezra 1:2* he calls him by name: (יהוה - YHWH), (אלהים - ELOHIM). **The LORD, God of heaven,** in the King James Translation.

*Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, **The LORD God of heaven** hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.*

Yes, Cyrus knew of God; but, did he know God?

WAS יהוה אלהים THE GOD OF CYRUS?
What does history reveal?

Cyrus was responsible for the reconstruction of the city of Ur. An inscription of Cyrus referring to the re-establishment of Ur has been found.⁸

*"The great **gods** have delivered all the lands into my hand; the land I have made to dwell in a peaceful habitation."*

The inscription also stated that Cyrus was

"king of the universe, king of Anshan."

In a proclamation to the Babylonians⁹ Cyrus states:

*"When I made my gracious entry into Babylon, with rejoicing and pleasure I took up my lordly residence in the royal palace. **Marduk, the great lord, turned the noble race of the Babylonians toward me, and I gave daily***

*care to his worship..Marduk, the great lord,
rejoiced in my pious deeds, and graciously
blessed me."*

Cyrus, the king who worships him.

Cyrus then tells of how he restored all the captive gods:

"May all the gods, whom I have brought into their cities, pray daily before Bel and Nabu for long life for me, and may they speak a gracious word for me and say to Marduk my lord: "May Cyrus, the king who worships you , and Cambyses, his son, be blessed."¹⁰

It is apparent from the above mentioned inscriptions, and others, that **when Cyrus conquered an area it was his policy to restore the worship of the resident gods.** By doing this Cyrus, although a conqueror, was well received, and even looked upon as a hero: **supporting the local god.**

To state this plainly: as in *2 Timothy 4:3* the people had "itching ears". and **Cyrus told them what they wanted to hear!**

In his Babylonian inscription Cyrus asks that all the gods pray for him before Bel and Nabu. **Bel is none other than the ancient sun god of the Chaldeans. Again, we find the same ancient sun worship, of Babel, being practiced in the Medo-Persian empire.**

Did Cyrus really worship the sun god Bel; or was he just telling the Babylonians what they wanted to hear? Who knows! **There is one thing that is sure: He did not worship the God of the Bible: for He would never allow His worshipers to invoke the favors of the pagan god Bel. Can you imagine God, who said: "thou shalt have no other gods before me" praying to the sun god Bel for Cyrus? I can't !**

An understanding of religious thought in the Medo-Persian empire is of great importance. **It was from a climate of religious tolerance that Judah returned to Jerusalem, bringing with them traditions that had absolutely nothing to do with the worship of God.** These are the traditions condemned by Jesus when he spoke to the chief priests and Pharisees.¹¹ Because of their refusal to abandon these false beliefs they "*stumbled*" and failed to receive their long awaited Messiah, Jesus Christ.¹²

This study reveals the fact that sun worship played a major role in the Medo Persian empire. The scriptures tell us that although Cyrus knew the God of the Bible by name and served Him; **he had never really known Him¹³** - further evidence that **God will not allow the slightest pagan tradition to be combined with His worship. All such attempts are in vain!**

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

Will Cyrus be numbered in the group Christ referred to? The group of people that disregard Gods laws, yet say: "Lord, Lord, in thy name we have done many wonderful works?"¹⁴

Those that are will hear His crushing reply:

"depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

FOOTNOTES

1. The Dawn and Twilight of Zoroastrianism, Zaehner , p.16 - Most books on Zoroasterianism devote chapters to the study of nature and functions of the various deities that had made their way into the later Avesta. This I have scarcely done at all since these deities are prominent in only one transient phase of Zoroastrianism and because they play no essential part in the liturgy. An exception however, has been made for the great god Mithra, first because he was originally intimately associated with Ahura, the prototype of Zoroaster's own Ahura-Mazda - the Wise Lord- who, for the Prophet, was the one true God, secondly because to this day the holy of holies of the Zoroastrian temple is called the "place of Mithra", and thirdly because the cult of Mithras in the Roman Empire which derived from the Iranian Mithra was for long a rival to Christianity in its early centuries.

2. Ibid p.85-90 - The Yasma ceremony..in the Avestan text,...Haoma juice together with consecrated water is strained "with the help of a ring entwined with the hair of a sacred bull". Originally this bull must itself have been immolated, and both the sacrificial flesh and the Haoma juice must have been consumed by the sacrificial priests. The flesh and the Haoma appear to have been mixed.....Saoshyans, the eschatological figure who brings about the resurrection of the dead, sacrifices a bull at the end of time and thereby inaugurates the "second existence" which Zoroaster had prophesied and in which death will be no more. "While the resurrection of the dead proceeds, Saoshyans and his helpers will perform the sacrifice of the raising of the dead, and in that sacrifice the bull Hadhayans will be slain, and from the fat of the bull the white Haoma will be prepared, {the drink of} immortality, and it will be given to all men. And all men will become immortal for ever and ever.

3. See Textual considerations.

4. Encyclopaedia Britannica - Ahura Mazda - (Avestian: Wise Lord) supreme god in ancient Iranian religion,worshipped by the Persian King Darius I.....created the universe and the cosmic order that he maintains. He created the twin spirits Spenta Mainyu and Angra Mainyu (Abriman), the former beneficent, choosing truth, light, and life; the latter destructive, choosing the lie, darkness and death. The struggle of the spirits against each other makes up the history of the world.

5. See Chapter - The Mysteries of Mithra

6. The Five Great Monarchies, Rawlinson - third Monarchy Chap. IV - Armaiti is at once the genius of Earth, and the goddess of Piety....She is regarded as wandering from spot to spot, and labouring to convert deserts and wildernesses into fruitful fields and gardens...She is of course the giver of fertility, and rewards her votaries by bestowing upon them abundant harvests. She alone causes all growth. In a certain sense she pervades the whole material creation, mankind included, in whom she is even sometimes said to "reside". Armaiti, further "tells men the everlasting laws , which no one may abolish."

Medo-Persia 50

7. Persian Mythology, John R. Hinnells - It is natural that many religions should imagine the source of life and fruitfulness in female form. In Persia the goddess Ardivi Sura Anahita, the strong undefiled waters, is the source of all waters upon the earth. She is the source of all fertility, purifying the seed of all males, sanctifying the womb of all females and purifying the milk in the mother's breast. From her heavenly home she is the source of the cosmic ocean. She drives a chariot pulled by four horses: wind, rain, cloud and sleet.....

8. Cyrus cylinder - Yale Babylonian Collection

9. Cyrus cyl.

10. Ibid.

11. JOH 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

12. ROM 9:32 Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;

13. Isaiah 44:28 - 45:7

14. MAT 7:22-23 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

CHAPTER 5

THE GRECO-ROMAN GODS

Greece or Grecia had very little immediate significance to the writers of the Old Testament. From a prophetic stand point, however, Greece was extremely important.

The prophet Daniel relating a vision he had been given, foretold of the fall of the Medo-Persian empire and the rise of the powerful Grecian empire of Alexander the Great (334 B.C.). Daniel prophesied that Alexander the Great's kingdom would be divided into four parts, and we know that is exactly what happened:

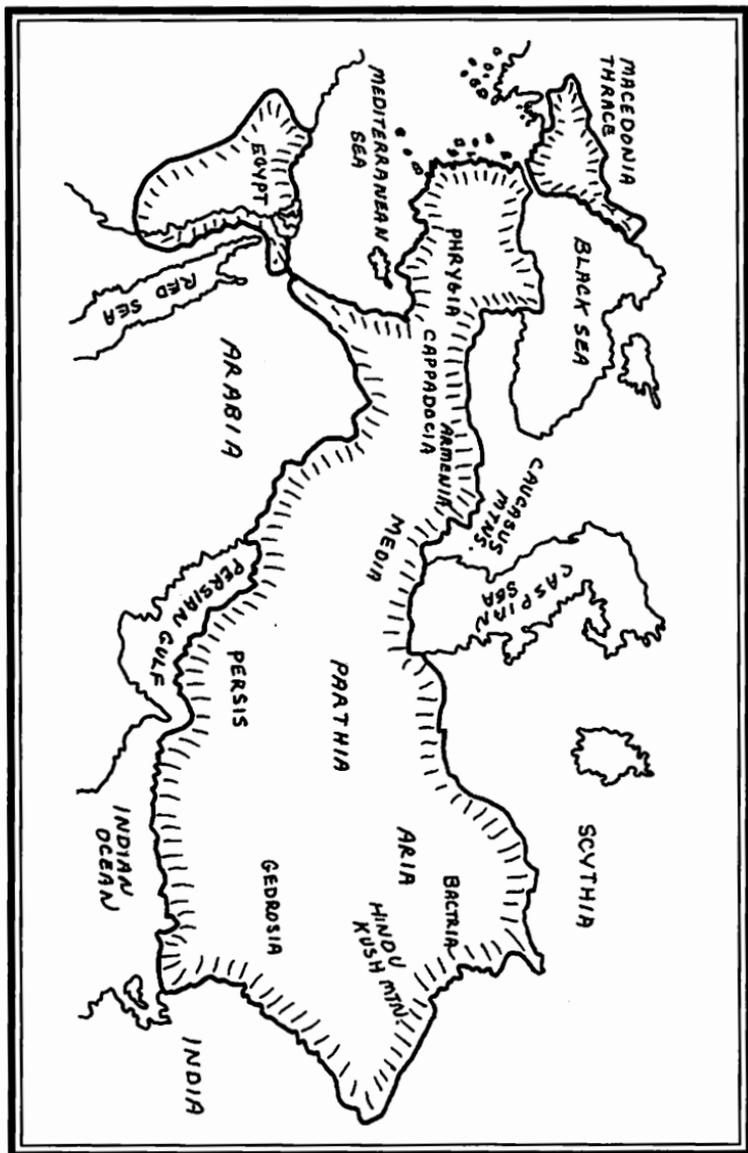
*Alexander The Great
356 - 323 B.C.
wearing the ram's horns
of Zeus - Ammon*



"The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power."

.....Daniel 8:20-22

At the height of his power, in 323 B.C., Alexander the Great died in Babylon having conquered a vast area stretching from Greece to India, including Egypt and Israel.



Upon his death the four horns of Daniel 8:8 stood up. The kingdom of Alexander was divided between four of his generals: Ptolemy I of Palestine and Egypt, Antipater of Macedonia and Greece, Seleucus of Syria and Babylon and Antigonus of Asia Minor.

It could be said that the two most Biblically significant contributions of the Grecian empire are religious culture and the Greek language.

The Hellenistic period lasted for some nine hundred years, from about 300 B.C. to 600 A.D. During this time the New Testament was written. Even though the Roman Empire had taken power, "Koine" Greek was the language used by the people: "Koine" signifying common. In other words common, everyday people used this language.¹

Because the Greek language was the universal language of the known world, it made it possible for the gospel of Christ to be communicated and understood everywhere.

The greatest part of the New Testament relates the preachings of the Apostle Paul. It is important to note that some of his most significant accomplishments took place in Greek cities:

Philippi and the epistle to the Philippians
Thessalonica and the epistles to the Thessalonians
Corinth and his epistles to the Corinthians
and his work in the city of Athens.

THE ROMAN EMPIRE

In the year 264 B.C., the beginning of the first Punic war, Roman territory consisted of the southern two thirds of what is now known as Italy, although it did not include Sicily. Little by little Rome gained dominance over the Grecian Empire. After the first Punic war Rome had gained control of Sicily, Corsica and Sardinia. After the second Punic war; parts of northern Italy and southern Spain. By 133 B.C. they had conquered most of Spain, all of Italy, Macedonia, Greece and the Eastern part of what is now known as Turkey. By the time of the death of Julius Caesar in 44 B.C. central Europe, northern Africa and central Turkey had been annexed.

At the death of Caesar Augustus, the time of Christ, the Roman empire stretched from Spain to the Caspian Sea, including Egypt, the Sinai peninsula, and Israel.

Christ was tried, found not guilty, but yet crucified, under the direction of the Roman government. Christianity was born and grew up in this setting.



Caesar Augustus

Later many Roman emperors came to power; commanding adherence to their own versions of paganism. By the year 321 A.D. the faith of the first century believers had almost vanished, and a blend of sun worship and the true worship of God had been substituted.²

Almost, for God has always preserved a faithful remnant.

GRECO-ROMAN RELIGION

The most significant aspect of the Greco-Roman civilization to our study of sun worship is that of religion. The Greeks and Romans worshipped numerous gods. Some of the gods were considered immortal and were given natural aspects: weather, the sea, the harvest, fertility etc. Animal sacrifice was practiced and the veneration of dead heroes such as Heracles and Tammuz became prevalent among many cultic groups.

Religious festivals were very important to the Greeks and Romans and many were celebrated. Notable festivals include the Greek festival of Zeus in 776 B.C. the first "Olympic Games" and December 25, the birthday of the Roman sun god.³ Both of these observances are still celebrated.

When one thinks of the Greek gods, the famous ruins of Mt. Olympus come to mind. Skilled architects and sculptors were employed by the Greeks to create elaborate temples for the gods which are still recognized for their magnificence. The Romans were also known for impressive sculpture representing their gods and goddesses. Again, as in Greece many of the graven images of Rome still remain. It should be noted that some of them have been renamed, concealing their true identity.

As Alexander the Great made conquests, mystery religions came with the territory. The same is true for the Roman Empire. The sun gods and goddesses including Mithra, Phrygian Cybele and the Egyptian Isis, to mention a few, were brought into the empires as annexations were made.

And, of course, along with mystery religion came astrology, whose central figure is the sun.

Zeus, Dyaus, Jupiter, Dionysus, Hermes, Athena, Hestia, Isis, Cybele, Bacchus, Apollo, Artemis, Adonis, Pan, Hades, Aphrodite, Poseidon, Eros, Uranus or Gaea: **you name it, the Romans and the Grecians would worship it.**

By this time I am sure that you recognize many of the names in this list. You also know that these gods and goddesses are non other than re-named Chaldean gods from the time of Nimrod's kingdom of Babel (confusion).

Pagan sun gods and sun goddesses, by whatever name, are deeply rooted in the original apostasy from the worship of God, the Biblical Creator.

ZEUS - JUPITER - _____?_____?

"Who are these gods? No matter what names you give them they are simply the **representatives of Satan**, the master of deceit. They were known as the "ruler of heaven" and heads of the pantheon.

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:"

.....Isaiah 14:12-13



Diana or Artemis
Greco-Roman
Fertility goddess

...Great is Diana of the Ephesians...
.....Acts 19:28

Jupiter
Latin Iuppiter

Greco-Roman
Lucetius
"The Light Bringer"



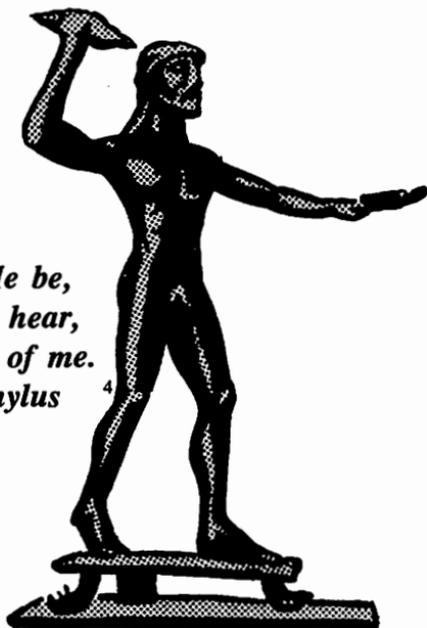
The Greco-Roman gods 58

The historian Herodotus who lived in the fourth century B.C. gives us great insight as to the identity of Zeus:

*...when they perform sacrifices to Zeus, they are wont to ascend unto the highest places in the mountains; and they call the whole circle of the heavens Zeus. They sacrifice also to the sun and to the moon, to earth and to fire and to water and to the winds. Unto these alone they have sacrificed from the beginning;
.....Herodotus*

Zeus was worshipped in Babylon and in Thebes. Herodotus describes “a precinct of Zeus Belus” or Bel Zeus, after which he says that Thebian Zeus, who was also known as Amon, was worshipped in the same manner. The Babylonian temple to Bel-Nimrod after hundreds of years had become the temple of Bel-Zeus.

*Zeus, Zeus, what'er He be,
If this name He love to hear,
This He shall be called of me.
..the playwright Aeschylus*



Herodotus makes an association between Zeus and the Egyptian Osiris. The sun god Apollo was known in the Greco-Roman world as the son of Zeus.

...the rulers of Egypt were gods, who dwelt among mankind. And the last of them that reigned over Egypt was Orus the son of Osiris, whom the Greeks name Apollo...

If the identity of Apollo was the same as Orus (Horus), then Zeus and Osiris are one in the same.

Apollo was known as the child of Zeus. Horus was known as the son of Osiris.

*Egyptian Sun Goddess Isis
with "the child" Horus*

*Headdress With
Hathor Horns and Sun Disk*



Why is this important? Because the Egyptian account of Osiris (the father), Isis (the mother) and Horus (the child) are identical with the Chaldean account of Bel-Nimrod (the father), Beltis (the mother) and Ninus (the child).

The very same Satanic sun worship of the Chaldeans, by many different names, had extended all the way through the time of the Roman empire!

"O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit. Shall a man make gods unto himself, and they are no gods? Therefore, behold, I will this once cause them to know, I will cause them to know mine hand and my might; and they shall know that my name is The LORD."

.....Jeremiah 16:19-21

FOOTNOTES

1. Basics of Biblical Greek, Mounce - Athens was conquered in the fourth century B.C. by King Philip of Macedonia. Alexander the Great, Philip's son, who was tutored by the Greek philosopher Aristotle, set out to conquer the world and spread Greek culture and language. Because Alexander spoke Attic Greek, it was this dialect that spread. It was also the dialect spoken by the famous Athenian writers. This was the beginning of the Hellenistic Age. As the Greek language spread across the world and met other languages, it was altered (which is true of any language). the dialects also interacted with each other. Eventually this adaptation resulted in what today we call Koine Greek. "Koine" (koinhv) means "common" and describes the common, everyday form of the language, used by everyday people.

2. See Chapter - But God has Always Preserved a Faithful Remnant.

3. Hercules 01 FEB, Jove (Jupiter) Cultor 13MAR, Quirinus 03APR, Castor and Pollux 08APR, Urbs Roma Aeterna 21APR, Sol and Luna 28AUG, SOL INVICTUS 25 TH DECEMBER. These cults ranked among the most popular in the fourth century, for all these natales, with the exception of that for SOL INVICTUS, were celebrated with twenty four races in the circus; SOL INVICTUS, being even more important, received thirty races. The development of the cult of SOL INVICTUS is perhaps the most interesting of this group, for it alone is new (i.e. post Julio-Claudian) to the Roman Calendar. Four festivals or celebrations are recorded to honor SOL in the Calendar of 354 A.D.....Emperor Aurelian, instituted in 274 A.D. to unite Roman pagan cults under the banner of DEUS SOL INVICTUS. Aurelian had coins struck proclaiming SOL DOMINUS IMPERRI ROMANII the official deity of the Roman Empire. He also founded a temple in Rome, whose natalis has been associated with the Calendar notation NATALIS INVICTUS ON DECEMBER 25.

4. Life of Greece, Durant, pp. 390-1

CHAPTER 6

THE MYSTERIES OF SOL INVICTUS / MITHRA*

How does one begin to explain the very important connection between Mithraism and the paganization of the true worship of God and His only begotten Son?

To begin with, Mithras was the sun god of the Persians and subsequent empires including the Roman Empire through the 4th century. During the 4th century, Mithras "mysteriously" vanished and Roman "Christianity" began. A Christianity not like that of the 1st century; but, a polluted, corrupt "Christianity" lacking few Mithraic rituals.

Mithras was invoked in the inscriptions of the Biblical Artaxerxes, king of Babylon: making Mithras one of the pagan gods that God had warned His chosen people to beware of. Christ had come and defeated Satan by personally paying repentant man's death penalty for the transgression of God's laws - the penalty He, Himself, had established at the time of creation. And yet, in the 4th century, by way of a Satanic "if you can't beat em join em" deception, a blend of the worship of God and the worship of pagan gods was officially proclaimed as "Christianity" by the Roman Empire.

As the gospel spread throughout the nations; and the persecution of true believers proved to be ineffective, Satan, the author of confusion, began his final assault on the truth - the truth that "sin is the transgression of the law."¹

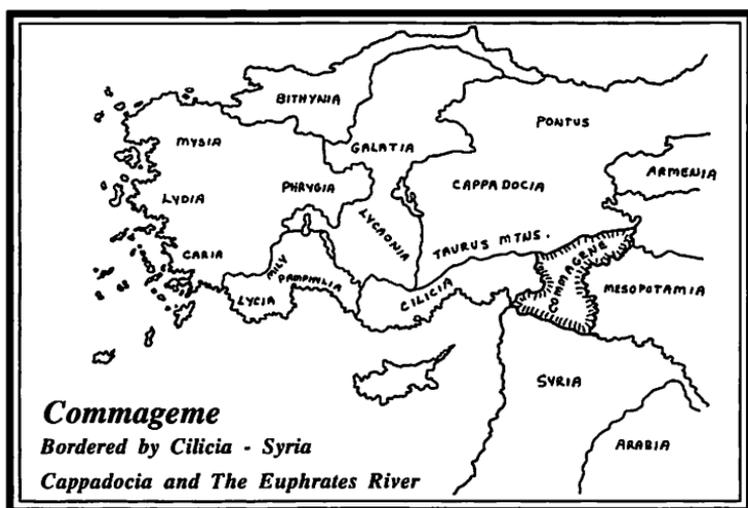
damns Sin

yoke is easy compare 10cm vs Levitical Law

By combining the Mithraic rituals of "sun worship" with the true worship of God, the transgression of God's laws were disguised under the title "Christianity".

The celebrations including December 25th in honor of the rebirth of Mithras at the winter solstice and Easter, the solar observance of the spring equinox, **attempted to void the 1st commandment** in the name of "Christianity".² The graven images of the pagan deities, given "Christian" titles, **attempted to void the 2nd commandment.**³ And the observance of "Deis Solis", the day of the sun **attempted to void the 4th commandment.**⁴ **Attempted only,** for Christ had proclaimed *"till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law."*

While it is true that most of the Roman emperors worshipped multiple gods, it is important to consider the fact that Mithraism was the religion of the Roman soldiers. It was brought into the Roman Empire, by Vespasian, as a result of the annexation of Commagene, a small kingdom in the Taurus mountains of present day Turkey.



*The Western Terrace Of Nemrud Dag
Temple Tomb of Antiochus I. Epiphanes
Iranian and Greek gods*



*Nemrud Dag - A 10,000 Ft. Mountain in the
Tarus Mountains of South Eastern Turkey*



*Mithraic Celestial Lion
Sometimes Seen With A Bee In His Mouth
Chaldean Bee (Dabar) = The Word*

The policy of the Roman army was to send men from one geographic area into a totally different area; thereby encouraging a more homogenous populous.

The official recognition of sun worship in the Roman Empire began during the time of Aurelian (270 - 275 A.D.) when he instituted the cult of "Sol invictus". Whether or not "Sol invictus" was originally recognized by Aurelian as Mithra is unsure. One thing is sure: later inscriptions plainly identify Mithra as "Sol invictus" (the unconquered sun). Because of this fact the features of the cult of Sol Invictus and that of Mithra are virtually the same.

In the year 307 A.D. Emperor Diocletian, a sun worshipper, dedicated a temple to Mithra at Carnuntum "fautori imperii sui" (Patron of his own empire).



Diocletian
Roman Emperor
285-305 A.D.

Diocletian was also responsible for the burning of scripture which made it possible for later emperors to formulate their own version of "Christianity".

Historians recognize the fact that many different gods were worshipped in the Roman Empire up until the time of Constantine the Great. Then, that fact becomes more obscure as Rome was supposed to be a "Christian empire".



Constantine the Great
"SOL INVICTO COMITI"

While claiming to be a "Christian", Constantine maintained the title "Pontifus Maximus" the high priest of paganism. His coins were inscribed: "SOL INVICTO COMITI" (COMMITTED TO THE INVINCIBLE SUN).

The importance of the actions of Constantine cannot be overstated, as during his reign pagan sun worship was blended with the worship of the Creator, and officially entitled "Christianity".

**PRACTICES OF SUN WORSHIP
SOL INVICTUS / MITHRA***

The following two question must be addressed:

(A.) What Mithraic practices were incorporated into the "Christianity" of the 4th century that were unheard of in the worship of 1st century believers; those that had walked and talked with Christ as he explained the true worship of God the Father?

(B.) What Mithraic practices were similar to the worship of 1st century believers; practices so similar that with minute changes they could be passed off as "Christian"?

To answer the first question, let us examine some of the exclusive features of sun worship and Mithraism:

**1. The union of the mysteries of Mithra and Cybele
"The Great Mother", "Mother of God."**

Cybele the Phrygian goddess, known to her followers as "the mother of god", was closely related to the worship of Mithra. As Mithraism was a man's religion, the worship of Cybele was practiced by the women. The priests of Mithra were known as "Fathers" and the Priestesses of Cybele as "Mothers".

The name Cybele is just one more name for the mother goddess of ancient and present times. This fact is very confusing: not by chance. By continually changing the names of the gods and goddesses of subsequent civilizations it gives the impression that their worship is only a local fabrication, having no real significance. This is not the case.

The worship of false gods, representing the created, in opposition to the worship of the Creator has been a Satanic master scheme since the kingdom of Babel (Confusion). Although the names have changed, the exact apostate concepts have remained totally intact. Confusing? It was designed that way 4000 years ago!



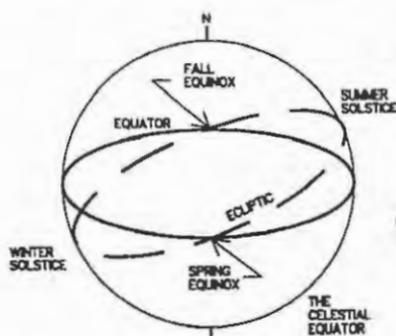
*Cybele "The Great Mother"
riding in a lion drawn chariot*

Known as **Beltis** by the Chaldeans of Babel,
Known as **Ishtar** by the Assyrians,
Known as **Cybele** by the Phrygians,
Known as **Isis or Hathor** by the Egyptians,
Known as **Astarte** by the Canaanites,
Known as **Ashtaroth** of the Sidonians, whom the Israelite
King Solomon went after,
Known as **Dianna** by the Ephesians,
Known by Greco-Romans as **Aphrodite, Artemis, or Juno**
and known by **many other names** in between:

**The mother goddess reached Rome as "Idia Mater"
or "The Great Mother".**

The solar celebration of the vernal equinox, includes Lent (40 days of fasting) and Easter, named for the goddess (Astarte - "mother of god."), and seems to be in memory of the death and resurrection of the Chaldean Tammuz, whose counterpart was Mithra. This celebration is recorded some 1500 years before Christ. **The celebration, named for the sun goddess Astarte, is exclusive to paganism and has no Biblical authority.**

2. Sign of Mithraism - After baptism into the Mysteries of Mithra, the initiate was marked on the forehead.⁵ The sign of the cross formed by the elliptic and the celestial equator was one of Mithra's signs.⁶ Plato says that the Demiurge (the creator of the universe) made the universe out of two circles which he joined in the form of the letter X.



*"Celestial Cross"
formed by the equator
and the ecliptic*

*Mithraic Lion standing on
the celestial cross*



3. Sunday (Deis Solis), the day of the sun, was considered by Mithraist a sacred day of rest. Sunday observance is of pagan origin and has absolutely no Biblical authority.⁷

4. December 25th was celebrated as the birth of the sun, given birth by the "Queen of Heaven" - "Mother of god". The observance of December 25 is of pagan origin and has absolutely no Biblical authority.⁸

To answer the second question we must examine the practices of Mithraism that have some similarity with those of the 1st Century believers:

1. Baptism: As believers in Christ were baptized, the practice of Mithraism had its baptism. History records that the baptism of the Mithraist consisted sometimes of sprinkling. It is also documented that in certain instances the baptism was by immersion. Mithraic baptism was not like the baptism of believers but more as a trial of courage. In other words, if the initiate did not drown he had fulfilled his requirements for baptism.

This is very different from the baptism of believers. Believers were signifying that they had accepted Christ as their only worthiness to enter into the kingdom of Heaven. The Mithraists were initiated into the mysteries through personal compliance with prescribed rituals.

2. Lord's supper - The Mithraists celebrated a mithraic love feast to commemorate the ascension of Mithras with the sun. This feast consisted of loaves of bread decorated with crosses and wine over which the priest pronounced a mystic formula.

This is distinctly different from the Passover meal observed by Christ.

3. Mithra was considered mediator between the celestial sun god (the created) and man.

Christ was the only begotten son of the YHWH, ELOHIM (God Almighty), the Creator. Christ said to pray to the Father in His name.

4. Eternal life - Mithraists believed in eternal life in heaven for those having personal merit.

Believers claim only the righteousness of Christ, their Savior, as their right to everlasting life.

5. Punishment of the wicked - Mithraists believed in the torture of the wicked after death.

This is different from the final destination of the wicked as described in the Bible, ("the lake of fire").

It has been shown that there were many rituals exclusive to pagan sun worship and that up until the 4th century they were not practiced by believers in Christ. Also, there were some vaguely similar aspects of Mithraism and those described in the Bible.

AFTER THE FOURTH CENTURY
"CHRISTIAN" AND PAGAN
PRACTICES BECAME MORE ALIKE

WHY?



*Antiochus I, Epiphanes
of Commagene 69-34 B.C.
Shaking Hands with Mithra*



Mithra "Slaying the Bull"



*Mithra
and Sol*

In the 4th century, through confusion and manipulation, rituals of "sun worship" were pronounced, by the followers of Satan to be "Christian" in nature.

There is no Biblical support for the inclusion of Mithraic ritual, (which is the worship of Satan, the created) in the worship of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Creator of heaven and earth.

It is a Satanic scheme to disguise the transgression of God's laws under the title of "Christianity".

Remember, Christ said that Satan *"is a liar, and the father of it"*.¹⁰

The Bible plainly describes sin as the transgression of the law.¹¹ In the Garden of Eden, questioning God's law, Satan asks: *"Hath God said?"*¹² Scripture also tells us that "The wages of sin is death". Again, as in Eden, Satan replies: *"Ye shall not surely die"*.¹³

Don't believe it! If Satan can persuade us to disregard God's commandments, thereby following his instructions, who do we really believe in? Are we followers of Satan or Christ?

History proves that Satan will accept any title as long as you worship him: even the title *"Jesus"*. We have been warned not to accept *"another gospel"* or *"another Jesus"*.¹⁴

We must not allow ourselves to become involved in non-Biblical practices that transgress the laws of God. If they

cannot be found in the Bible they are a part of "another Gospel" and in honor of "another Jesus".

Recall the words of Christ:

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

.....Matthew 7:21-23

"iniquity"

(literal Greek: transgression of the law)

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning."

.....1John 2: 1-7

The Mysteries of Sol Invictus / Mithra 75

FOOTNOTES

* This chapter deals with various aspects of sun worship. This sun worship was labeled during certain periods of history as the worship of Sol Invictus and at other periods the worship of Mithra. The worship of Sol Invictus and Mithra are almost exactly the same, although there some minor differences. Sol and Mithra are depicted in archaeological evidence as two separate gods and at other times the names seem to be interchangeable. To explain the minute differences would be a complete departure from the subject at hand, therefore, the Chapter is entitled Sol Invictus / Mithra.

1. 1 John 3:4 - Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

2. See Chapter, Easter - See Chapter, Christmas

3. See Chapter, Images

4. See Chapter, The Sabbath A Sign

5. Tertullian CHAP. XL.-NO DIFFERENCE IN THE SPIRIT OF IDOLATRY AND OF HERESY. IN THE RITES OF IDOLATRY, SATAN IMITATED AND DISTORTED THE DIVINE INSTITUTIONS OF THE OLDER SCRIPTURES. THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES CORRUPTED BY HIM IN THE PERVERSIONS OF THE VARIOUS HERETICS. - The question will arise, By whom is to be interpreted the sense of the passages which make for heresies? By the devil, of course, to whom pertain those wiles which pervert the truth, and who, by the mystic rites of his idols, vies even with the essential portions of the sacraments of God. If He, too, baptizes some - that is, his own believers and faithful followers; he promises the putting away of sins by a laver (of his own); and if my memory still serves me, **Mithra there, (in the kingdom of Satan,) sets his marks on the foreheads of his soldiers;** celebrates also the oblation of bread, and introduces an image of a resurrection, and before a sword wreathes a crown.

6. Plato's dialogue, Timaeus

7. See Chapter, A Sign

8. See Chapter, Christmas

9. The Mysteries of Mithra, Cumont, p. 144: speaking of one possible torture of the wicked after death in that to come. - Like all the Oriental cults, the Persian Mysteries mingled with their cosmogonic fables and- their theological speculations, ideas of deliverance and redemption. They believed in the conscious survival after death of the divine essence that dwells within us, and in punishments and rewards beyond the tomb. The souls, of which an infinite multitude peopled the habitations of the Most High, descended here below to animate the bodies of men, either because they were compelled by bitter necessity to fall into this material and corrupt world, or because they

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had dropped of their own accord upon the earth to undertake here the battle against the demons. When after death the genius of corruption took possession of the body, and the soul quitted its human prison, the devas of darkness and the emissaries of Heaven disputed for its possession. A special decree decided whether it was worthy to ascend again into Paradise. If it was stained by an impure life, the emissaries of Ahriman dragged it down to the infernal depths, where they inflicted upon it a thousand tortures; or perhaps, as a mark of its fall, it was condemned to take up its abode in the body of some unclean animal. If, on the contrary, its merits outweighed its faults, it was borne aloft to the regions on high.

10. John 8:44 - Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

11. See Footnote 1.

12. Genesis 3:1 - Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

13. Genesis 3:3-4 - But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die.

14. See Chapter, Another Jesus

CHAPTER 7

WILL THE REAL SUN GOD PLEASE STAND UP?

Bel-Nimrod, Thammuz, Baal, Merodach, Shamash, Attis, Ra, Apollo, Helios, Mithra: it makes no difference what you call Satan as long as you worship him. No matter what you are looking for in a religion, he will adapt as long as you will worship him. If you believe in many gods: no problem, just make him the chief. If you believe in one god: no problem, just allow him to be mediator between man and God and the way of salvation.

From the time of earliest recorded history the sun god was on the scene. From civilization to civilization and from Empire to Empire he was easy to find. In fact the rulers, who recognized the sun gods, considered themselves to be gods and portrayed themselves as such.

Again, the god of this world deceived man with his age old lie: *"ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."*

.....Genesis 3:5



Zeus



Tammuz



Jupiter

A change here or there, no big deal, he has no laws. In fact, his primary goal is to incite disobedience of the laws of God. Disobedience of God's laws is obedience to Satan.

God - Exodus 20:3 ***"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."***

Sun god - "If you have many gods --- OK."

God - Exodus 20:4-6 ***"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD (YHWH) thy God (ELOHIM) am a jealous God (ELOHIM), visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments."***

Sun god - "What's wrong with images? --- especially if they portray sun gods and goddesses."

God - Exodus 20:7 ***"Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."***

Sun god - "The name of God? --- anything you like, I will accept anything."

God - Exodus 20:8-11 ***"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is***

within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."

Sun god - "The sabbath day? --- call Sun-Day sabbath, that's my day."

God - Exodus 20:12 *"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."*

Sun god - "Honor of fathers and mothers? --- what a great name for clergy."

God - Exodus 20:13 *"Thou shalt not kill."*

Sun god - "Killing? --- only if it is a holy war."

God - Exodus 20:14 *"Thou shalt not commit adultery."*

Sun god - "Adultery? --- religious prostitution in Babylon gave me great honor."

God - Exodus 20:15 *"Thou shalt not steal."*

Sun god - "Stealing? --- something has to be done with the property of infidels."

God - Exodus 20:16 *"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour."*

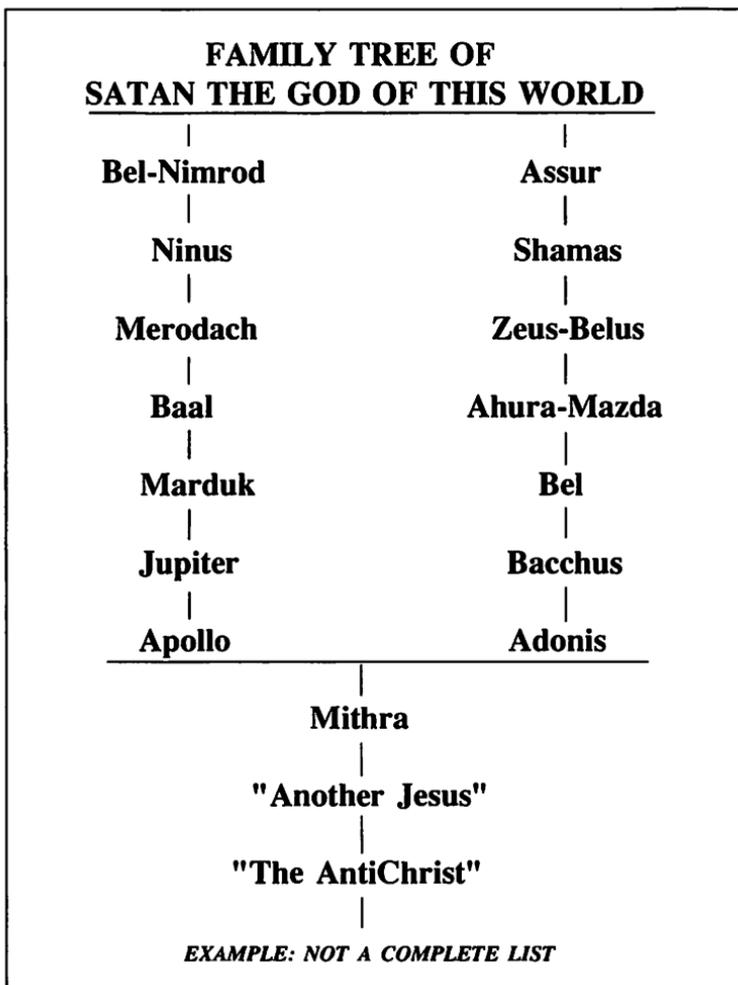
Sun god - "False witness? --- what's wrong with lying; I invented it."

God - Exodus 20:17 *"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's."*

Sun god - "Covetousness? --- go ahead, the world owes you."

Sun god - "Don't be legalistic! Just do what is right in you own eyes! And, by the way, If you don't like one of the rules: just throw it out."

What a contrast to the instructions of the God of the Bible, written by His own finger in stone.



CHAPTER 8

THE CREATOR STANDS UP

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

.....Colossians 1:12-17

As we have discussed in the previous chapter; Satan, the master of deceit, hides behind the worship of the sun god. He will accept any title, any form of worship as long as it opposes the worship of the Creator.

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. GEN 1:1 He also created human beings in His image....Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,"

.....Matthew 19:4

AND THE CREATOR STOOD UP

At that time God plainly made Himself known to Adam and Eve. He gave them instructions as to His will and also told them the consequences of disobedience.

MAN DID NOT LISTEN

We all know the story: Satan, masquerading as a serpent, persuaded Eve to disregard God's instructions. He asked if God really meant what He said and indicated that there were no penalties for disobedience. It was a lie, and man received the death penalty.

Throughout history the same thing has been going on. The worship of Satan, under the guise of "sun worship" has been doing everything possible to make man believe that God's commandments are only suggestions and that there are no penalties for disobedience.

BUT AGAIN, THE CREATOR STOOD UP

God brought the multitude out of Egypt and upon Mt. Sinai plainly made His commandments known to man. He also made known the penalties for disobedience. He told His people that they should not let the sun worship of other nations influence them. Not only that, but He remained in their midst between the cherubs of the Ark of the Covenant.

BUT AGAIN, MAN DID NOT LISTEN

God, through His prophets, continually pleaded with His people to follow His instructions, and for their own good not to go after the sun worship of other nations. He defeated their enemies and blessed them greatly.

BUT AGAIN, MAN DID NOT LISTEN

The Northern Kingdom of Israel was sent into Assyrian captivity and Judah was warned not to follow after their example. The kingdom of Judah paid no attention and did worse than the kingdom of Israel:

"He said furthermore unto me, Son of man, seest thou what they do? even the great abominations that the house of Israel committeth here, that I should go far off from my sanctuary? but turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations.....So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, pourtrayed upon the wall round about. And there stood before them seventy men of the ancients of the house of Israel, and in the midst of them stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan, with every man his censer in his hand; and a thick cloud of incense went up.....He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do. Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD'S house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz. Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these. And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east. Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the

abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose. Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.

.....Ezekiel 8

**AGAIN, MAN DID NOT LISTEN
AND THE CREATOR STOOD UP.**

BUT THIS TIME HE STOOD UP TO LEAVE!

“And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer’s inkhorn by his side;....Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub, and stood over the threshold of the house; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the LORD’S glory.....Then the glory of the LORD departed from off the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubims. And the cherubims lifted up their wings, and mounted up from the earth in my sight”

.....Ezekiel 9-10

Both Israel and Judah had committed such abominations as to cause the presence of God to depart from them. They had not observed God's sabbath that was given as a sign that they might know that He was their God and had confused His worship with that of other gods.

Judah was taken into captivity by the Babylonians: **“To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years, and only after seventy years were they allowed to return to Jerusalem.”**

.....2Chronicles 36:21

When they returned they brought with them traditions which had absolutely nothing to do with the worship of God. They had attached so many rules and regulations to the commandments of God that the religious leaders now controlled the people. Not only that, but **they had made the laws of God of none effect through those apostate traditions.**

AND AGAIN, THE CREATOR STOOD UP

This time he became flesh and dwelt among men that He might teach them His ways. **He came to die for those that would receive Him, paying for them the death penalty for disobedience to His laws.**

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

.....John 3:16

AND SOME MEN LISTENED

Christ said that all of His commandments would always remain in effect. He warned that there would be false teachers who would lead men away from that truth.

Only a few decades later God's people had once again allowed themselves to be infiltrated with the people of Satan. The **doctrine of Baalim** was being taught in the churches, **Nicolaitans** (a conquering priesthood) had begun to take charge, the church was being seduced to commit **fornication**, the thought of **riches** had become all encompassing and **apathy** had set in.

(SEE Revelation: 2-3)

Only a few centuries later sun worship had been so entangled with the worship of God that it was nothing like that which Christ had defined. **The Babylonian worship of antiquity once more had leavened the worship of God and spoiled the organized "church."**

That was almost two thousand years ago! Since that time, man has continued to define what he thinks should be the worship of God: That which is right in his own eyes.

**What man thinks makes no difference!
The question should be: What does God think?**

**AGAIN
GOD PLEADS WITH HIS PEOPLE**

"Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities."

.....Revelation 18:4-5

**THOSE WHO LOVE
THE TRUTH WILL LISTEN:**

**FOR ONCE AGAIN
THE CREATOR WILL STAND UP,**

**NO LONGER TO PLEAD
BUT AS**

**"KING OF KINGS
AND
LORD OF LORDS"**

"And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south."

.....Zechariah 14:4

CHAPTER 9

CHILDREN OF THE PROMISE

"That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed."

.....Romans 9:8

There are many different opinions as to what groups of people comprise physical Israel. This chapter is not a discussion of that matter. **The purpose of this discussion is to document the fact that whoever the Israel of God is: believers are part of it.**

How many times have you heard a minister quote the Old Testament scripture of 2CH 7:14: *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."* Then, in his next sermon make the statement that the instructions of the Old Testament do not apply to New Testament believers, but, only to the Jews.

WE CANNOT HAVE IT BOTH WAYS!

Either we are a part of the Israel of God, or we are not. We are His people or we are not!

"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God."

.....Galatians 6:15-16

HOW DID THIS COME ABOUT?

The nation of Israel was promised great blessings; conditional promises based on adherence to God's instructions:

"And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God."

.....Deuteronomy 28:1-2

They had also been continually warned of the penalties for disobedience:

"And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them. But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:"

.....Deuteronomy 28:14-15

The sad fact is that the Nation of Israel did not follow God's commandments.

Not only that, but they allowed themselves to become entangled in the worship of other gods; combining the worship of the pagans with the true worship of God, thereby making the sacrificial system of atonement of no value.

"Thus saith the LORD unto this people, Thus have they loved to wander, they have not refrained their feet, therefore the LORD doth not accept them; he will now remember their iniquity, and visit their sins. Then said the LORD unto me, Pray not for this people for their good. When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them; but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence."

.....Jeremiah 14:10-12

In the years between 753 and 715 B.C. Hosea prophesied God's rejection of Israel due to disobedience of His laws. God said through the prophet Hosea that He would reject Israel and their children. He said that they would look for Him but would not find Him because He had withdrawn from them. He said that the reason was that they had forgotten His law. History reveals that in 722 B.C. Israel was taken captive to Assyria by Shalmaneser, just as Hosea had prophesied.

Later, between 627 and 586 B.C. Jeremiah prophesied God's punishment of Judah for the same reason: rejection of His law. In 586 B.C. the kingdom of Judah was taken captive to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar.

Because of disobedience, the Northern Kingdom of Israel was caused to cease, and the Southern kingdom of Judah went into Babylonian captivity.

Isaiah had prophesied that even though there would be many people of Israel, that only a remnant of Israel would be saved.

God has always preserved a faithful remnant of His people throughout history.

*"Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward....Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah."
.....Isaiah 1:4-9*

When Judah returned they brought with them traditions that had absolutely nothing to do with the worship of God.

Hundreds of years later, Christ told the chief priest that the kingdom of God would be taken from them because they had not been good caretakers of what God had given them and because they had rejected His Son. He said that the kingdom would be given to a nation bringing forth fruit.

Jesus condemned their actions: *"He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me*

with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition....Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye."

.....Mark 7:6-13

The temple of God had been turned into a business!

"And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves."

.....Matthew 21:12-13

The chief priests and the elders were involved in activities having absolutely no scriptural authorization, yet they were proclaiming it to be in honor of God. That is one of the main things this book is trying to point out. The same thing is going on in "churches" today. Non-Biblical "church" celebrations constitutes vain worship. The commandments of God are being laid aside in order to hold on to the traditions of men. Jesus, who was the spiritual Rock that was with the Children of Israel in the wilderness, one with the Father, made the rules. He did not authorize, nor accept unscriptural activities then, and He does not authorize or accept them now.

Has the word of God again been made of none effect through tradition?

IT MUST BE REMEMBERED WHO JESUS WAS

"For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me."

.....John 5:46

"It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me. Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also."

.....John 8:17-19

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death. Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death. Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself? Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God: Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not,

I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying."

"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad."

Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

Jesus said unto them,

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am."

Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

.....John 8:51-59

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?"

.....John 14:6-9

Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink:

"for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written,

The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

"Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents."

Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."

.....1 Corinthians 10:1-11

CHRIST WILL PRONOUNCE ALL JUDGEMENT!

*"For the Father judgeth no man,
but hath committed all judgment unto the Son."*

.....John 5:22

Jesus pronounced judgement upon the religious leaders for combining man made rules with His laws.

"Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him. Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir: come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen,

which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?"

"Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof."

"And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them. But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet."

.....Matthew 21:31-46

"And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then saith he to his servants, The wedding

is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen."

.....Matthew 22:1-14

Not only must one be present, he must also be prepared. The righteousness of man, which is as filthy rags, must be put away and replaced with the righteousness of Christ. Believers have been warned that not every one that says LORD, LORD will enter into the kingdom: only those doing the will of the Father. His will has been plainly described. Being willingly ignorant will not be accepted as an excuse.

WHICH LAWS ARE IMPORTANT?

"Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second

is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

.....Matthew 22:1-14

**WHICH LAWS ARE IMPORTANT?
ALL OF THEM!**

The first four commandments have to do with loving God and the last six have to do with loving your neighbor. All ten commandments will remain in effect until heaven and earth pass away.

OUTER DARKNESS

The kingdom of God was taken from the priests and pharisees and given to a nation (notice, believers are called a nation) bringing forth the fruits thereof.

Israel had been warned that they would not realize the conditional promises they had been given if they did not follow Gods instructions.

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."

.....Hosea 4:6

One of the conditional promises was that they would be priests. The conditions were not met and the kingdom was given to a nation bringing forth fruit. A nation consisting of the believing remnant of Judah and the nations.

KINGS AND PRIESTS

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

.....*Revelation 1:5-6*

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

.....*1 Peter 2:5*

Christ, having come and establishing a new "nation", "*The Israel of God*" appointed Saul of Tarsus to be a leader. Saul, whose name was changed to Paul, was an Israelite of the tribe of Benjamin, and a Roman citizen, who had been a leader in the persecution of Christians.

"As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

.....*Acts 8:3*

Things changed, and Paul finds himself called to bear witness of Christ to the nations.

"And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound

unto Jerusalem. And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink. And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus,

that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus."

.....Acts 9:1-19

WHO DID PAUL TELL THE GENTILE BELIEVERS THEY WERE?

The believers in Galatia were told that they, along with Judean believers, were **the children of the promise**, and that now there was neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free, male nor female. They were told by the Apostle Paul that they were now one in Christ Jesus and thereby **Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

Paul told the people in Rome that only a remnant of Israel, according to the election of grace, had received what they were looking for, and the rest were blinded.

Paul, an apostle to the nations, was concerned about the salvation of his countrymen. He was also concerned that those he had brought the gospel to would become prideful.

"I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh interces-

sion to God against Israel, saying, Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work. What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day. And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them: Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway. I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them. For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead? For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert

grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again. For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, *There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.* As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have

mercy upon all. O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen."

.....Romans 11

We see here that those who had accepted Christ as their Messiah were the remnant of Israel.

The elect remnant of the Judeans, believers, obtained what they were looking for.

Peter, one of Christ's disciples, was also sent to the nations (Gentiles). He was also shown, through a vision, that he should call no man "common or unclean". He was instructed to go to the house of Cornelius, a Gentile who lived in Caesarea. Cornelius had been told, by God, that Peter could tell him how he and his house could be saved. As Peter told them about Jesus, the Gentiles received the gift of the Holy Ghost. As there was no doubt that they had received salvation, Peter commanded them to be baptized.

WHAT IS THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST?

The mystery of Christ is that the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel:

Fellow heirs with whom?

Of the same body with whom?

Partakers with whom?

**WITH THE ISRAEL OF GOD:
THE BELIEVING REMNANT OF ISRAEL.**

Just as was prophesied, now people who were not God's people are called His people.

Before Jesus made it possible for all men to be saved, aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, had no part in the covenants of promise. We are told that by the blood of Jesus, He made believers from the nations one with the believing remnant of Israel: fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God, built on the foundations of the Apostles and Prophets: **"The Israel of God."**

Believers have been grafted into the root of Israel through faith in Jesus Christ.

**WHAT PROMISES
ARE BELIEVERS PARTAKERS OF?**

No matter where they come from, believers have received the promised Messiah of Israel; the promise hoped for by Israel for many generations.

When Jesus, the Messiah, came he said that if we love Him we will keep his commandments. He went on to say that if we do not keep His commandments we do not really love him.

On Mt. Sinai, when the commandments were given, Israel was told that if they would obey His voice and keep His commandments that He would make them a kingdom of priests and a Holy nation. As we have observed, the children of Israel did not keep His commandments.

Hosea prophesied that Israel had rejected knowledge and would not be priests unto God because they had forgotten God's laws (*Hosea 4:6*). Later in Jerusalem, Jesus said that the kingdom would be taken from the Pharisees and chief priests and would be given to a nation bearing fruit. **Believers are told in the New Testament that they are now part of that nation, a chosen generation, a royal priesthood.**

Has God changed His mind? He took the kingdom away from one group because they violated His laws. Does He now allow His people to violate His law?

SUMMARY

"For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed."

.....*Romans 9:6-8*

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

As believers we are part of the root. The true "church" is not a new institution. The believing remnant of Israel, "The Israel of God" is an old institution, which began with the faithful of Israel.

People of Judah can be grafted back in; and the nations can become part of this old institution through faith in Christ.

Sun worship has always had as its goal the violation of God's laws through vain worship, images and the replacement of the sabbath with the "Day of the Sun."

The old institution, that the nations can now be of, through Christ, has always known God's laws. The laws describing His will for His people. Jesus (ELO-HIM), spoke those laws, wrote them in stone with His own finger, and said that until heaven and earth pass away that law will remain in effect.

Sin is and always will be the transgression of God's laws, the Ten Commandments - for all people; for unbelieving Judah, for believing Judah and for the people of the nations that have been grafted in - "The Israel of God".

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”

.....Romans 6:1-2

CHAPTER 10

THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY

////////CAUTION: BIBLICAL WARNING////////

"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

.....2Thessalonians 2:7-12

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What does the phrase "Mystery of Iniquity" mean? Simply, secret evildoing.

The Apostle Paul tells us that in his time the "*mystery of iniquity*" had begun to work and that means that it has now been at work at least two thousand years. **If the Thessalonians were warned to beware, can you imagine the implications for us: living at a time when the mystery of iniquity has been at work for two millennia or more?**

In the above scripture we read the words ***"deceivableness of unrighteousness"***, indicating that unrighteousness will be deceiving and hard to recognize. Jesus said in Matthew 24 that if it were possible that the very elect might be deceived, indicating that **the evildoings of the last days will be so secret, so disguised, that only the very elect will be able to detect any problem with what is going on.**

Where did all of this mysterious and deceptive unrighteousness begin?

The answer is that it really began in the garden of Eden: ***"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die."***
.....Genesis 3:1-4

"And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat."
.....Genesis 3:13

Why did she do it? She was **beguiled**.

From that point on evil only increased on the earth.

"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts

of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them." ".....The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth."

.....Genesis 6:5-12

God did what he said that he was going to do, **"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD."** Why? **"...Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him."** He followed God's instructions.

It was only a short time after the flood and again the desires of man were not in accordance with the will of God.

"And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which

they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth."

.....Genesis 11:1-9

This is the point at which the evil of the world that we live in began to develop. As previously discussed, history reveals that out of Babylon came the beginnings of the mystery religious system that would attempt to clothe in secrecy deceptions that would lead men away from God.

WHAT IS MYSTERY RELIGION?

MYSTERY: Dictionary definitions

1. Something beyond understanding.
2. A religious truth that one can know only by revelation and cannot fully understand.
3. A cult devoted to such rites.

The commandments given in the Bible are in direct opposition to mystery religion. They are plain and simple. Many do not agree with them, nonetheless, the requirements, if not spiritualized through philosophical interpretation are **easy to understand**.

The standards of God have been in place since creation and will remain until heaven and earth pass away. (See Matthew 5:18) The penalties of disobedience become immediately apparent as one studies the results of transgression as described in the Bible.

The blending of the mysteries of paganism with the true worship of God was strictly forbidden in the Old Testament. When the people did it: their prayers were not heard, they were not protected from their enemies and they were sent into captivity.

So what is different now? What has changed? Has God changed his mind? Will he now allow pagan practices to be blended with true worship?

Scripture tells us that the time will come when:

“the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit.”

.....*Jeremiah 16:19*

What lies have been inherited?

What vanity has been inherited?

What unprofitable things have been inherited?

Certainly the ways of God could never be untrue, vain or unprofitable. It must be the traditions of men which have been inherited that have absolutely no value.

It has been said that we are now in New Testament times and that certain practices employed in modern day churches are merely traditions that have been passed down.

It is true that these traditions have been passed down. But, **have you ever stopped to think about where these traditions came from?**

Are they really traditions of the first century church, or, have they been derived from other sources? At what point in time were these practices first employed?

Can these practices be considered "Christian" if they can be dated back before the time of Christ?

MYSTERY BABYLON

In the New Testament, Mystery Babylon is again brought to our attention: *"And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration."*

.....*Revelation 17: 5-6*

"For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

.....*Revelation 18:3-4*

We see here that some of God's people are involved with Mystery Babylon and are instructed to come out of her. This means that in the last days the same system, started only a short time after the flood, is to be thriving on the earth.

This false religious system began in Babylon and has been the basis of all pagan worship throughout the history of the world (sun worship). **It has always been the policy of this system to hide God's revealed truth from the people and to veil in "mystery" the deceptions devised by the clergy in an effort to control.**

Again, this is the basis for the worship of false gods that had to be overcome by God's people and that were prevalent in the land that was promised to Abraham.

It had to be overcome in Egypt. It had to be overcome in the wilderness, and, even after God's people entered the promised land they were still confronted and even led astray by the continuation of the mystery religion that had its beginnings in Babylon.

The Apostles were aware of the presence of this false religious system in their time and gave us fair warning that at the time of the end this apostate religion would come to full fruition.

The very people that had followed God in the form of a cloud by day and fire by night and had Him living in the midst of them allowed themselves to become deceived by this false religious system. Even the people living shortly after Jesus taught on earth and had seen His miracles were warned to beware. We have also been told that *"there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."*

.....*Matthew 24:24*

This same system, characterized by the shrouding of truth in secrecy and the manipulation of the truth in order to achieve its ends, has been working for two millennia to combine paganism with Christianity.

IT ONLY TAKES A "*LITTLE LEAVEN*"

CHAPTER 11

EASTER

The English word "Easter" is derived from the name Astarte. Astarte was introduced into the British Isles by the Druids and is another name for Beltis or Ishtar of the Babylonians. Many goddesses have displayed the same characteristics - all claiming the title "Queen of Heaven."

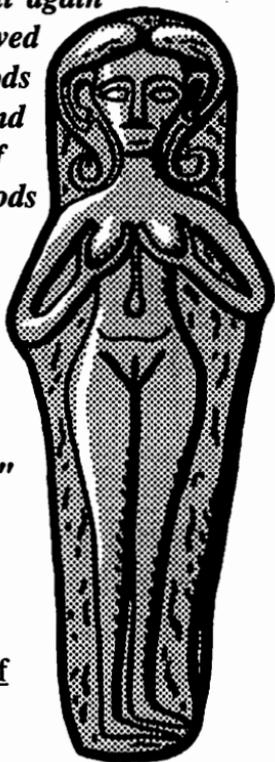
"And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsook the LORD, and served not Him."

.....Judges 10:6

*Astarte or Ashtaroth
"The Queen of Heaven"
From Whom the Name
"Easter" is derived.*

*"Astarte / Ashtoreth is the Queen of Heaven to whom the Canaanites had burned incense and poured libations
Jeremiah 44."*

.....Encyclopaedia Britannica



"But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil. But since we left off to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, we have wanted all things, and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine. And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven, and poured out drink offerings unto her, did we make her cakes to worship her, and pour out drink offerings unto her, without our men?"

.....*Jeremiah 44:17-19*

Astarte was worshipped in Egypt, Ugarit, among the Hittites, and in Canaan. Her Akkadian counterpart was Ishtar. Later she became assimilated with the Egyptian deities Isis and Hathor. In the Greco-Roman world she was Aphrodite, Artemis, and Juno, all assuming the aspects of the "Great Mother."

The archaeologist, Layard, that explored Babylon and Nineveh, documents the worship of Astarte, or Ishtar, found on Assyrian artifacts.¹



*Astarte / Ishtar
"Queen of Heaven"*

Easter was not considered a "Christian" festival until the fourth century. Early Christians celebrated Passover on the 14th day of the first month. The first month began on the first visible new moon after the vernal equinox:

"In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD'S Passover.

.....Leviticus 23:5

A study of the dates on which Easter is celebrated will reveal that the celebration of Easter is not observed in accordance with the prescribed time for the observance of Passover.

The "Easter" of Acts 12:4 "And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people:"

The word translated in the King James version of the Bible, "***Easter***" is actually the Greek word pascha or Passover. **"Easter" is not another name for Passover.** History reveals that the first month of the Israelite year begins on the first visible new moon after the vernal equinox; Passover, fourteen days later. "Easter" is usually far from the true date for Passover.

WHERE DOES THE DATE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF EASTER COME FROM?

The celebration of Easter was observed at different times by the Eastern and Western Roman Empire. In fact, Hillel II had changed the Jewish calendar prior to that time and even today, Passover is not observed by Jews in accordance with Biblical instruction as to timing.

After much debate, the Nicaean council of 325 A.D. decreed that "Easter" should be celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon, on or after the vernal equinox. This makes the date vary from March 22 to April 25.

Why was so much debate necessary if "Easter" was a tradition passed down from the Apostles? The answer is that it was not an Apostolic institution, but, an invention of man! They had to make up some rules.

The historian Socrates said in the 5th century, "Thus much already laid down may seem a sufficient treatise to prove that the celebration of the feast of Easter began everywhere more of custom than by any commandment either of Christ or the Apostle."²

History records that spring festivals in honor of the pagan fertility goddesses and the events associated with them were celebrated at the same time as "Easter". In the year 399 A.D. the Theodosian Code attempted to remove the pagan connotation from those events and banned their observance on "Easter" and "Christmas". People still celebrated the pagan festival in honor of Isis - they just called it something else: Easter. In the book "On Roman Time the Codex Calendar of 354 A.D.", the author, Salzman, states that many of the rites associated with Isis were retained in the Christian celebration of Easter.³

Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

.....*Matthew 15:7-9*

LENT

There is no Biblical authority for the celebration of Lent preceding Passover. Lent was an observance connected with Babylonian worship of Astarte or Ishtar. It has been documented that the pagan celebration of Lent has been celebrated by many religions not even remotely associated with Christianity. The 40 day celebration was observed by the Yezidis, (pagan devil worshippers of Koordistan), who inherited it from the Babylonians. It has always been a celebration connected with sun worship - the spring equinox. Aztecs of Mexico as well as the ancient Egyptians, both sun worshippers, celebrated the 40 day observance in honor of Adonis and Osiris the sun god.⁴

The historian Hislop states:

“Among the Pagans this Lent seems to have been an indispensable preliminary to the great annual festival in commemoration of the death and resurrection of Tammuz, which was celebrated by alternate weeping and rejoicing, and which, in being observed in Palestine and Assyria in June, therefore called the “month of Tammuz;” in Egypt, about the middle of May, and in Britain, some time in April.

“To conciliate the Pagans to nominal Christianity, Rome, pursuing its usual policy, took measures to get the Christian and pagan festivals amalgamated.”

and, by a complicated but skillful adjustment of the calendar, it was found no difficult matter, in general, to get Paganism and Christianity -now far sunk in idolatry - in this as in so many other things, to shake hands”.

The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* re-confirms the statements of Hislop: "The celebrations in March - April that marked the death of the god also seem to have been dramatically performed"

ABOMINATIONS AND GREATER ABOMINATIONS

"Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD'S house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz. Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these. And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east."

.....Ezekiel 8:14-16

These people were in the temple of the LORD, no doubt claiming to be His followers. They had combined pagan sun worship with the true worship of the LORD: practices that had never been prescribed as His worship. These were considered abominations.

**Does the LORD now accept pagan festivals
as a part of His worship?**

NO!

The "*Great Tribulation*" as described in the New Testament is a terrifying future event, the likeness of which there

has never been. In the past, those who served other gods could not expect the God of the Bible to deliver them in a time of need. **It will be vital for the generation of the "Great Tribulation" to experience the guardianship of the LORD.**

Non-Biblical "church tradition" is based on the worship of the gods of the past. Will there be those who will once again hear the reply of the Creator?

"...Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation."

.....Judges 10:13-14

HOT CROSS BUNS OF EASTER?

"The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger."

.....Jeremiah 7:18

EASTER EGGS?

History records the words of Hyginus, an Egyptian, who was librarian at the Palatine library in Rome during the time of Caesar Augustus: "An egg of wondrous size is said to have fallen from heaven into the river Euphrates. The fishes rolled it to the bank, where the doves having settled upon it, and hatched it, out came Venus, who afterwards was called the Syrian Goddess."⁵ **That Syrian goddess, supposedly hatched from the egg, was Astarte, from whom the title "Easter" came.**

CONCLUSION:

The pagan festival of Easter originated as the worship of the sun goddess, the Babylonian Queen of Heaven who was later worshipped under many names including Ishtar, Cybele, Ideaea Mater (the Great Mother), or Astarte for whom the celebration of Easter is named. Easter is not another name for the Feast of Passover and is not celebrated at the Biblically prescribed time for Passover. This pagan festival was "Christianized" several hundred years after Christ.

THERE IS NO BIBLICAL AUTHORITY FOR THE CELEBRATION OF EASTER.

Please consider the implications of the following scripture upon the "church" of today:

"...I am the LORD, I change not;...Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of host. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?"

.....Malachi 3:6 - - 7

The people had gone away from the ways of the LORD and He called for them to return. They said "wherein shall we return?" They did not think that they were doing anything wrong. The same thing is going on today. Pagan practices are being proclaimed to be "Christian" in nature, and many think there is nothing wrong. Once more the Lord pleads with His people to disassociate with Babylonian apostasy: *"come out of her"*.

Will the reply again be: "Wherein shall we return?"

FOOTNOTES

1. Nineveh and Babylon page 345-6 quote - A very fine specimen, cut in agate, represents an Assyrian goddess, perhaps Astarte, or the moon, with ten stars, and with a dog seated before her. In front of her is the moon's crescent, and a priest in an attitude of adoration. A tree and a ramant goat, both common to Assyrian symbols, complete the group.

2. Hist. Ecclesiast., lib. v. cap

3. On Roman Time, Salzman - The Theodosian Code records the attempt by Christian emperors to disassociate ludi and spectacles - so valuable in a popular political sense - from the pagan holidays that had originally occasioned them. By describing these celebrations as voluptates, as the Theodosian Code consistently does, Christian emperors could continue to support them as cultural and non-religious events. The logic of this policy is expressed in a law of 399 A.D.: - *"Just as we have already abolished profane rites by a salutary law, so do we not allow the festival assemblies of citizens and the common pleasure of all to be abolished. Hence we decree that, according to ancient custom, amusements (voluptates) shall be furnished to the people, but without any sacrifice or any accursed superstition, and they shall be allowed to attend festival banquets whenever public vows so demand."* - Although Christian emperors chose to defend and define ludi as amusements, the people who attended these events did not necessarily experience them thus. Pagans and traditionalists likely continued to appreciate the religious intent of these games, even if their Christian contemporaries did not.....the imperial laws of the late fourth and early fifth centuries register the Christian opposition to these ludi Beginning in 392, in the reign of Theodosius, a series of laws legislated against just such events, first on Sundays and then on other Christian holidays, namely, the Paschal Days, Epiphany, and Christmas. A law of 400-405 explicitly states that these restrictions were instituted "out of respect for religion." - The attempts by Christian emperors to redefine the intrinsically religious nature of the Roman Calendar as cultural, not cultic, and to outlaw all pagan festivals were only partially and gradually successful. The pagan festivals and holidays, so unequivocally outlawed in 395, nevertheless continued to be celebrated - in some cases well into the fifth and sixth centuries.... At times it is difficult to determine exactly when a pagan festival ceased to be celebrated.....Many of the festivals, moreover, did not actually die out; rather, their traditional pagan meaning was transformed....for example, while the Saturnalia, perhaps the best known of the Roman holidays, noted on 17 December in the Calendar of 354, was originally intended to honor the god Saturn.....Other customary aspects of this day, such as the exercise of good will and the exchange of presents, and even perhaps the wearing of paper hats, were continued within a Christian context: Christmas, celebrated in the Latin West on 25 December (in competition with the holiday in honor of Deus Sol Invictus), incorporated rites borrowed from the popular Saturnalia....The pagan cultic meaning of a festival might be subsumed as well by imperial and civic connotations. Such...was the case with the Isidis navigium, a popular festival to Isis celebrated in March and associated with public vows on behalf of the emperor's well being. many of its rites - as, for example, the carrying of pictures of Isis on board her sacred ship - were retained in the Christian festival of the Carnevale, held in conjunction with Easter.

Easter 126

4. The Two Babylons, Hislop

5. Hyginus, Fabulae, pp 148, 149 -From Hislop, Two Babylons

VENERABLE BEDE ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY OF THE BRITISH NATION AD 731 - Copy of a letter which he sent to Mellitus the abbot going to Britain - "When then Almighty God shall bring you unto our most reverend brother Augustine, bishop, tell him what I have long time devised with myself of the cause of the English: that is, to wit, that **THE TEMPLES OF THE IDOLS IN THE SAID COUNTRY OUGHT NOT TO BE BROKEN; BUT THE IDOLS ALONE WHICH BE IN THEM; THAT HOLY WATER BE MADE AND SPRINKLED ABOUT THE SAME TEMPLES, ALTARS BUILDED, RELICS PLACED:....**And for that they are wont to kill many oxen in sacrifice to the devils, some solemnity shall be granted also be way of exchange in this matter: as that in the dedication days of birthdays of holy martyrs of whom the relics be there placed, they make them bowers of branches of trees about the said **CHURCHES WHICH HAVE BEEN CHANGED FROM TEMPLES...."**

BEDE - DE TEMPORUM RATIONE 15 - EASTER - OLD FESTIVAL CELEBRATED WITH NEW SOLEMNITY

SOCRATES - HIST. ECCLES 5:2 AND LIB. V. CAP. 22 - As we have touched the subject I deem it not unreasonable to say a few words concerning Easter. It appears to me that neither the ancients nor moderns who have affected to follow the Jews, have had any rational foundation for contending so obstinately about it.... The Savior and his apostles have enjoined us by no law to keep this feast: nor do the Gospels and apostles threaten us with any penalty, punishment, or curse for the neglect of it, as the Mosaic law does the Jews. **THE AIM OF THE APOSTLES WAS NOT TO APPOINT FESTIVAL DAYS, BUT TO TEACH A RIGHTEOUS LIFE AND PIETY.** And it seems that just as many other customs have been established in individual localities according to usage. So also the feast of Easter came to be **OBSERVED IN EACH PLACE ACCORDING TO THE INDIVIDUAL PECULIARITIES OF THE PEOPLES INASMUCH AS NONE OF THE APOSTLES LEGISLATED ON THE MATTER. AND THAT THE OBSERVANCE ORIGINATED NOT BY LEGISLATION, BUT AS A CUSTOM THE FACTS THEMSELVES INDICATE....**And it will not perhaps be unreasonable to notice here the diversity of customs in the churches. The fasts before Easter will be found to be differently observed among different people. Those at Rome fast three successive weeks before Easter, excepting Saturdays and Sundays. Those in Illyrica and all over Greece and Alexandria observe a fast of six weeks, which they term "The forty days' fast". Others commencing their fasts from the seventh week before Easter, and fasting three five days only, and that at intervals, yet call that time "The forty days fast". It is indeed surprising to me that thus differing in the number of days, they should both give it one common appellation; but some assign one reason for it, and others another, according to their several fancies. And among various nations there are other usages, for which innumerable reasons are assigned. **SINCE HOWEVER NO ONE CAN PRODUCE A WRITTEN COMMAND AS AN AUTHORITY, IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE APOSTLES LEFT EACH ONE TO HIS OWN FREE WILL IN THE MATTER...**

CHAPTER 12

CHRISTMAS

What is the origin of the festival of Christmas?

(Old English *Cristes maesse*)

("Christ's mass")

"The traditional customs connected with Christmas have developed from several sources as a result of the coincidence of the celebration of the birth of Christ with the pagan agricultural and solar observations at midwinter. In the Roman world the Saturnalia (December 17) was a time of merrymaking and exchange of gifts. **December 25 was also regarded as the birth date of the Iranian mystery god Mithra, the Sun of Righteousness.**" ¹

.....*Encyclopaedia Britannica*

"After the triumph of Constantine, the church at Rome assigned December 25 as the date for the celebration of the feast, possibly about A.D. 320 or 353. By the end of the fourth century the whole Christian world was celebrating Christmas on that day, with the exception of the Eastern churches, where it was celebrated on January 6. **The choice of December 25 was probably influenced by the fact that on this day the Romans celebrated the Mithraic feast of the Sun-god (natalis solis invicti), and that the Saturnalia also came at this time.**" ²

.....*Collier's Encyclopedia*

Both encyclopedias plainly reveal that the source of the celebration of December 25 is the birthday of Mithra, the pagan sun god.

Saturnalia, December 17-24, was the observation of the winter solstice in pagan Rome. The winter solstice was the shortest day of the year. Sun worshippers of antiquity, fearful that the sun would continue to decline in the sky, and not return, observed Brumalia, December 25 as the birth of the new sun when the sun began to rise higher in the sky.

The basis of this celebration can be traced back to the kingdom of Nimrod, Babel. After the death of Nimrod, who seems to have been considered the sun god, Ninus was born to Beltis and considered to be the reincarnation of Nimrod (god incarnate). This is **the origin of the worship of the “Mother and Child”**. Because of this, Beltis, the wife of Nimrod and mother of Ninus, became known as “the mother's husband - the mother of god - queen of heaven”. This fable has been the basis of pagan worship throughout history.³

The celebration was also known in Egypt. The only difference was that in Egypt the names had changed: Osiris was the sun god, Isis was the “queen of heaven”, and Horus was the son, born on December 25th. Sun worshippers since the time of Babel recognized this time of year in honor of their gods.

There are many more features of Christmas that can be traced back to pagan sun worship such as Christmas trees, yule logs, mistletoe and other things. These facts are easy to research and document.

In a conversation with a leading theologian, I was expressing my concern about Christmas being called a Christian celebration. He stated that there was no biblical authority for the celebration and that in the second century, believers were reprimanded for trying to choose dates for the birth of Christ. He said that in 354 A.D. December 25th was listed as a pagan holiday on a calendar of that time and that it was only in the fifth century that it was accepted as a "Christian" observance.

When I asked him who authorized the celebration of December 25th in honor of Christ; he laughed and said: "The Church."

As he had already stated that early believers, those who had walked and talked with Christ did not observe December 25th; I knew that He was referring to a different "church": the "church" of man's tradition.

I mentioned the fact that God never allowed nor accepted the blending of pagan practices with His worship. I quoted *Exodus 32* where the golden calf was built and the celebration declared a "*feast to the Lord*". I went on to cite how God wanted to destroy those people. If Moses had not pleaded with God, He would have destroyed His "*chosen people*" for their transgressions. After just hearing God's voice thundering "*thou shalt have no other gods before me*" they were doing what they thought was right: declaring that pagan practices were in honor of God.

At that point he said: "That's a giant leap." I guess that he meant from the present - back some 3400 years.

He said that the Christmas celebration is not the same as worshipping the golden calf. I reminded him that not only had they made the calf, but they had declared "*a feast to the LORD*". The people had declared a celebration to honor God that he did not recognize as being in His honor. He wanted to kill them!

I think that what happened at Mount Sinai is a very good analogy to the present Christmas celebration. Even though those who celebrate Christmas do not actually bow down to the sun on December 25th, they do declare something that is pagan in nature, "*a feast to the LORD.*"

*Illustration of Typical
Egyptian cow and bull
gods*



Notice the sun disk between the horns of the golden calf. Hathor and Aphis the cow and bull gods of Egypt were representatives of sun worship. Their worship was just one stage in the long Egyptian history of solar veneration. The golden calf at Mount Sinai is more than sufficient evidence to prove that the feast proclaimed was related to sun worship.



COURTESY OF WYATT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

*Stone Altar at Mount Sinai
With Petraglyph of Egyptian Bull god*

The event at Mount Sinai was just one episode in the Satanic apostasy which began at the tower of Babel. The celebration of December 25th, originally proclaimed in honor of the birth of the sun god Mithra, can only be one of the final events in the long continuing saga of Satanic sun worship.

1st century believers, taught personally by Christ, did not celebrate His birthday. 2nd century theologians condemned the thought. Only after severe persecution, destruction and inaccessibility of biblical scripture and the blending of pagan doctrine with the worship of God was the Mithraic celebration of December 25th proclaimed to be "Christian" in nature.

Truly "A Giant Leap" from the faith presented by Christ.

WHAT CAN DEFINITELY BE SAID ABOUT THE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS?

There is no Biblical authority for the celebration of Christmas.

There are no secular or "church" records which indicate that December 25th was celebrated as a "Christian" observance before the late 3rd or early 4th century.

There is overwhelming documentation that the celebration of December 25th was a pagan festival based on sun worship. (The birth of the sun god)

There is overwhelming evidence that the celebration of December 25th was adopted as a "Christian" festival by sun worshippers calling themselves "Christians".

Christ, the only begotten son of God, was born in Bethlehem. No one knows for sure the date on which He was born. Those informed about the activities of shepherds say that He was probably born earlier in the year.

As His miraculous birth is a biblical subject recalled by numerous writers, it is a subject that should be given careful attention throughout the year.

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth
peace, good will toward men."*

.....Luke 2:14

**PLEASE CONSIDER
THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

QUESTION: Who was considered to be born on December 25th, years before Christ?

ANSWER: The sun god. (Sol Invictus / Mithra)

QUESTION: Was Christmas celebrated by the 1st century believers that had walked and talked with Christ?

ANSWER: No, they knew that it was a pagan celebration.

QUESTION: If Christ was not born on December 25th, whose birthday is actually being celebrated?

ANSWER: The Satanic sun god, who was known as god incarnate, mediator between god and man, a false Christ, "*Another Jesus*".

These facts are well documented. They can be found in any encyclopedia. There is no way to "Christianize" the birthday of the sun god. Sun worshipping emperors of the Roman Empire commanding that December 25th be observed as the birth of Christ knew full well it was the birthday of their sun god.

Anyone with access to an encyclopedia can know better and those with theological degrees do!

Why does the "organized church" insist on holding onto the celebration of the pagan sun god's birthday?

The Answer: Tradition

Sun worship is based on the worship of the created more than the Creator and the transgression of God's laws. God's chosen people were warned against it over and over again.

“Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?”

.....Jesus Christ

FOOTNOTES

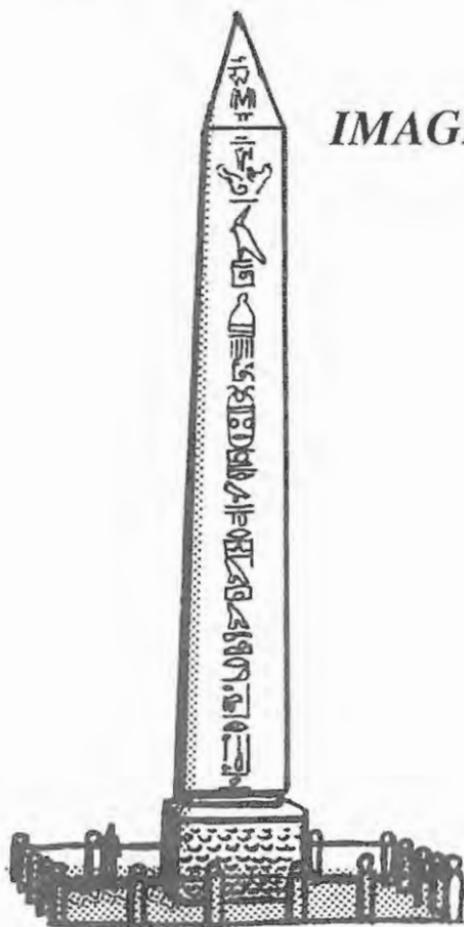
1. Encyclopaedia Britannica
2. Collier's Encyclopedia
3. See Chapter - The Chaldeans

Note on "Wreaths Tertullian - DE CORONA CHAPT. XIII

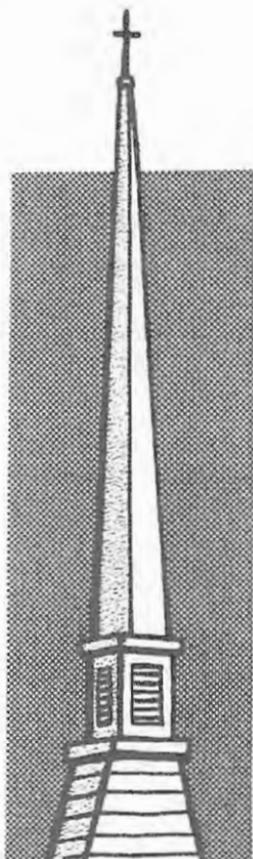
But indeed a Christian will not even dishonour his own gate with laurel crowns, if so be he knows how many gods the devil has attached to doors; Janus so-called from gate, Limentinus from threshold, Forcus and Carna from leaves and hinges; among the Greeks, too, the Thyraean Apollo, and the evil spirits, the Antelii. at the time of the Saturnalia. New-year's gifts likewise must be caught at, and the Septimontium kept; and all the presents of Midwinter and the feast of Dear Kinsmanship must be ex-acted; the schools must be wreathed with flowers; the flamens' wives and the aediles sacrifice; the school is honoured on the appointed holy-days. The same thing takes place on an idol's birthday; every pomp of the devil is frequented. Who will think that these things are befitting to a Christian master, unless it be he who shall think them suitable likewise to one who is not a master.

CHAPTER 13

IMAGES



EGYPTIAN OBELISK



What is an obelisk? The Egyptians dedicated many obelisks to Ra, the god of the sun. The obelisk shape has been defined as that of a phallic symbol, or a ray of the sun extending to heaven. Heliopolis, the former Egyptian city of the sun, near present day Cairo, was known in ancient times by the name Annu, which means "obelisks."



Expanded View

*Ancient Marker
with
Cross and Ziggurat*

*CROSS WITH ZIGGURAT AT THE BOTTOM
FOUND AT THE VILLAGE OF EIGHT
NEAR MOUNT ARARAT IN EASTERN TURKEY.*

*ZIGGURATS WERE USED IN ANCIENT CHALDEA
AND BABYLON AS TEMPLES FOR THE SUN GOD.*

*Mithraic
Celestial Cross*



Mithra's

Constantine's Labranth

Sword and Crown

The cross was used in the worship of the ancient mystery religions. It has been identified as being the letter T - the initials of the sun god Tammuz. Remember: in the book of Ezekiel, the women were weeping for Tammuz? This symbol is similar to the celestial cross and sword of Mithra and also the "Double Axe" of Zeus-Labrayndos, both pagan symbols that pre-date Constantine's Labarum



*The Sun god Tammuz
carrying his cross*

The Roman army carried standards in the shape of crosses. Originally this was known as the "vexillum" which was a cross with a banner across the top. The vexillum, was the forerunner of the "Labarum" of Constantine ("by this sign conquer"). The Labarum was a cross with an X at the top and a P through the middle of the X. Supposedly, this X and P were the first two letters in the Greek word for Christ. Many historians have suggested that this was not necessarily the initials for Christ, but could have actually been the celestial cross and Mithraic sword - both of which were used in Mithraism, the religion of the Roman soldier. We must not forget that Constantine's coins were inscribed with the words "committed to the invincible sun".

Tertullian, the "church" historian, who lived some one hundred and fifty years after Christ, gives us great insight into the use of the cross by the Romans: "...if any of you think we render superstitious adoration to the cross, in that adoration he is sharer with us. If you offer homage to a piece of wood at all, it matters little what it is like when the substance is the same: it is of no consequence the form, if you have the very body of the god. And yet how far does the Athenian Pallas differ from the stock of the cross, or the Pharian Ceres as she is put up uncarved to sale, a mere rough stake and piece of shapeless wood? Every stake fixed in an upright position is a portion of the cross; we render our adoration, if you will have it so, to a god entire and complete. We have shown before that your deities are derived from shapes modelled from the cross. But you also worship victories, for in your trophies the cross is the heart of the trophy...The camp religion of the Romans is all through a worship of the standards, a setting the standards above all gods. Well, as those images

decking out the standards are ornaments of crosses. All those hangings of your standards and banners are robes of crosses. I praise your zeal: you would not consecrate crosses un-clothed and unadorned." Tertullian also indicates that the initiates of Mithra, the sun god, received the same sign upon their foreheads that "Christians" of that time received. That sign, over one hundred years after the crucifixion of Christ, was the sign of the cross. Tertullian writes about the subject of the cross in his book, "Prescription Against Heretics" in which he, speaking of Satan, states: "The question will arise, by whom is to be interpreted the sense of the passages which make for heresies? By the devil, of course, to whom pertain those wiles which pervert the truth, and who, by the mystic rites of his idols, vies even with the essential portions of the sacraments of God. He, too, baptizes some -that is, his own believers and faithful followers; he promises the putting away of sins **by a laver (of his own); and if my memory still serves me, Mithra there, (in the kingdom of Satan,) sets his marks on the foreheads of his solders;** celebrates also the oblation of bread, and introduces an image of a resurrection, and before a sword wreathes a crown....Since, therefore, he has shown such **emulation** in his great aim of **expressing, in the concerns of his idolatry, those very things of which consists the administration of Christ's sacraments,** it follows, of course, that the same being, possessing still the same genius, both set his heart upon, and **succeeded in, adapting to his profane and rival creed the very documents of divine things and or the Christian saints** - his interpretation from their interpretations, his words from their words, his parables from their parables. **For this reason, then no one ought to doubt, either that "spiritual wickedness," from which also heresies come, have been introduced by the devil, or that there is any real difference**

between heresies and idolatry, seeing that they appertain both to the same author and the same work that idolatry does."

.....Tertullian 2nd century A.D.

**ACCORDING TO TERTULLIAN
SATAN HAS COPIED
THE "TRADITIONS" OF THE "CHURCH"**

SATAN COPIED CHURCH TRADITIONS???

Question: Baptism using a laver - the sign of the cross - Who used them as a "sacrament" first, Satan or the "church"? The answer to that question will reveal who these things really belong to.



***Fish God - found at
Nimroud temple***



"Pope"

Fish have been used in pagan worship since antiquity. Dagon was the fish god of the Babylonians and the Philistines. The historian, Layard, in his book "Nineveh and Babylon", describes the fish god: "the head of the fish formed a mitre above that of the man, while its scaly, fan like tail fell as a cloak behind, leaving the human limbs and feet exposed."

MOTHER AND CHILD

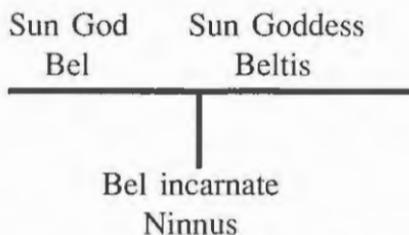
Another "image" that has been "Christianized" is that of the "mother and child". We have shown that the worship of the mother and her child, the re-incarnated sun god, has been one of the main components of sun worship since ancient times.



*Ancient Representations
of "Mother and Child"*



The child represented the reborn sun god, husband of the mother. Through the proclamation that Ninnus was actually Bel, Beltis became the mother of her husband, the sun god. That enabled her to claim the title "mother of god" - "queen of heaven". This is where the unholy trinity of the father, the son and the mother originated.



**Who is represented in this picture?
Are you sure?**

Please notice the "nimbus" surrounding the heads in the picture. This "nimbus" or radiant light, in the form of a circle or halo, originated in sun worship. The nimbus was used to indicate the radiance of the sun gods and goddesses.

There were no such depictions of the Biblical Mary and Christ by early believers. Later, however, as paganism began to corrupt the worship of God "*in spirit and in truth*", these representations began to be made. Mary was given the title "Theotokos - Mother of God" and these icons began to be placed on the eastern wall of "churches." **The eastern wall of pagan temples, toward the rising sun, is where they had always been depicted.**

Examine closely the quotes of Pope John Paul II in his book, "Crossing the Threshold of Hope":

".....true **devotion to the Mother of God** is actually Christocentric, indeed, it is very profoundly rooted in the **Mystery of the Blessed Trinity, and the mysteries of the Incarnation and Redemption.....**"

"In regard to Marian devotion, each of us must understand that such devotion not only addresses a need of the heart, a sentimental inclination, but that it also corresponds to the objective truth about the Mother of God. **Mary is the new Eve, placed by God in close relation to Christ, the new Adam,.....**"

"The Mother of Christ the Redeemer is the Mother of the Church."

PLEASE CONSIDER CAREFULLY

The terms used by the Pope are the exact same terms employed by the mystery religions of antiquity to describe their sun gods and goddesses. This has always been the basis of the pagan religions in opposition to the worship of the God of the Bible.

An understanding of these facts makes it clear how by assuming the names "Mary" and "Jesus" the mother and child of pagan sun worship, along with their rituals (Easter - Christmas - Imagery - Sun-Day, and other contrivances), were substituted for the real Mary and Jesus.

Remember, scripture had been confiscated and destroyed prior to this time. The only way to distinguish the false from the real is by the Word of God. Most people had no way to compare what they were being told with the truths of the Bible. Because of this, these false deities, along with the pagan practices associated with them, were blended with the worship of God; proclaimed to be in honor of Christ, and labeled "Christian."

Not everyone was deceived, for God has always preserved a faithful remnant. This remnant came out of the organized "church" as they began to see non-biblical pagan tradition substituted for the faith presented by Christ. These are the small groups of people that suffered the most severe persecution under the direction of the "Holy Roman Empire."

The "Mary" and "Jesus" of the "church" have been declared in writing by the "Pope" to be the "New Eve" and the "New Adam." Adam and Eve were husband and wife, therefore, the "church" has given its "Mary" and "Jesus" the same relationship. Because Christ was "*God with us*" the "church" says that Mary is the "Mother of God."

DO NOT BE DECEIVED!

*"For there shall arise false Christs,
and false prophets..."*

The Mary of the Bible was not the wife of God. She is not "her husband's mother" as has always been the case in pagan sun worship. The Satanic apostasy entitled "paganism" has always involved the veneration of the "mother and child": the child being the reincarnation of his dead father.

**THE GOD OF THE BIBLE IS NOT DEAD
AND HE NEVER WAS!**

HE WAS NEVER MARY'S HUSBAND!

The god and mother goddess having the before mentioned characteristics have nothing to do with the Mary and Jesus of the Bible. Their true identity is found over and over again by many different names and titles in the pagan sun worship of antiquity. This apostasy began in the time of Nimrod, and is best represented by the name of his kingdom of Babel:

"CONFUSION"

"CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY WHOM YE WILL SERVE"

The non-Biblical practices that have crept into the organized "church" come directly from this "mystery religion" - the worship of "*another Jesus*". The worship of the God of the Bible is not a "mystery" religion. He became flesh and dwelt among us so that we could know His ways. He had them recorded in a book so that we could not be deceived. That book is the Holy Bible. Anything that is presented which is not in agreement with that book, is not of God! One must make a choice: Will my worship be biblically based, in honor of the God of the Bible, or will it be based on extra-Biblical tradition in honor of Satan?

PLEASE CHOOSE THE WAYS OF GOD!



CONCLUSION

There is no Biblical, archaeological or historical evidence that any of the before mentioned "images" were used by first century believers. Where did these symbols originate?

PICTURES ARE WORTH THOUSANDS OF WORDS!

In completion of this subject we will again quote the "church" historian Tertullian - He sums it up nicely from a human standpoint:

"If, for these and other such rules, you insist upon having positive Scripture injunction, you will find none. Tradition will be held forth to you as the originator of them, custom as their strengthener, and faith as their observer."

The Jesus of the Bible sums it up perfectly:

**"But in vain they do worship me,
teaching for doctrines
the commandments of men."**

.....Matthew 15:9

CHAPTER 14

THE SABBATH A SIGN

REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY:

"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."

.....Exodus 20:8-11

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you, as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and

cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love."

"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."

"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you."

.....John 15:1-12

We observe that in the book of John, Jesus tells us that in order to bear fruit we must abide in Him. He goes on to tell us that the way we abide in Him is to keep His commandments and instructs us to love one another, as He has loved us.

John 13:34 describes the commandment to love one another as a new commandment which suggests that it is an addition to the commandments that were already in place at that time: the commandments that He gave to Moses 1500 years before. We refer to these commandments as the Ten Commandments: the laws of God written on the tables of stone with His own finger.

A crisis in my life made it important for me to expectantly ask God for help. We are given many promises in the Bible but the more I studied, the more apparent it became that

many promises are conditional. As you have read in the above passages, Jesus instructs us that if we will abide in Him, we have the privilege to ask for help in the time of genuine need and to receive it. Not only that, but, God the Father is glorified. Jesus makes it plain that this privilege is conditional and is based on the requirement that we abide in Him. He goes on to tell us that the way to abide in Him is to keep His commandments.

I turned to *Exodus, Chapter 20*, and began to look at Gods commandments to make sure that I was doing everything possible to follow His commandments.

As I read the list of commandments, I found one that I was in blatant violation of: The fourth commandment:

"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy."

.....Exodus 21:8-11

I owned a service business that was open seven days a week and as hard as I tried there was no way to deny that I was in violation of one of God's commandments. I was in urgent need of God's help and it was plain to me that I should cooperate with God's instructions in order to expect help.

I called my office and talked to the manager of the branch that was open seven days a week. I told her that we would no longer open our offices on Sunday. I was also in a position where the services that we provided were depended on to support the customers of our landlord. I called the landlord and explained that I was closing and why. I also told him that I understood that I had agreed to provide services seven days a week and that he was under no obligation to allow me to stay and operate the remaining six

days per week. He said that he understood and that he wanted to help me. He agreed to allow me to keep my office on his premises and to operate Monday through Saturday. I felt that I had done the right thing and that God would be pleased with my obedience to His commandments.

God did help me and after about two years I began an intense study of the Bible, God's Holy Word. As I began my study one of the first things I read in the second chapter of the Bible was that God had created the heaven and the earth in six days and that **on the seventh day He rested and blessed the seventh day and sanctified it**, in other words **He made the seventh day holy**. This was a very fascinating subject because of what God had revealed to me about my violation of the Sabbath day.

As I continued my study, I came again to Exodus and re-examined the fourth commandment. Two years earlier I had done what I thought was right by closing my business on Sunday and I believe that God was pleased with my efforts to keep His commandments; but the more I studied, the more I realized that **I had a serious problem!** I had been commanded to keep the Sabbath holy and I closed my business on Sunday; but **the Bible plainly describes the Sabbath as the seventh day, or what we know as Saturday.**

I grew up in a Baptist church and I knew that Jewish people rested on Saturday. I was taught that we should rest on Sunday because it was the day that Jesus rose from the grave. But as I studied, **I could find no Biblical support for what I had been taught.**

The more I studied, the more concerned I became.

Is it true that Jesus rose on Sunday? Some say that He rose on Saturday afternoon right before Sunday began. No matter, the day on which He rose in no way changed the fact that **God rested on the seventh day, Saturday, sanctified it and commanded that it be kept holy.**

I searched and searched and I could find nowhere in the Bible that tells us to keep Sunday holy and I discovered that **it was a tradition** that I had been taught. Jesus warns us in **Mark 7:13** of making the Word of God of none effect through tradition.

I found passages that indicated that the disciples of Jesus sometimes met on Sunday and that believers were to **"lay in store"** on Sunday, but I also found passages that indicated that **the followers of Jesus honored the sabbath and worked on Sunday.**

I became convinced that I had my days confused, but how could this be? How could the respected teachers that I had learned from be in error about something as important as one of the commandments, **written by the finger of God in stone?** Many questions began to come to mind:

Were the ten commandments still in effect? Did they apply to Christians or just to the Jews? Did Jesus change the commandments or make them non-applicable? As I began to research the fourth commandment, the surprising information that follows is what I found.

The Sabbath described in Genesis 2 is definitely the seventh day, Saturday, and not the first day, Sunday. There is no way to avoid this truth.

The fourth commandment was established at the creation of the world, later reconfirmed to Moses in the wilderness (BY JESUS) and recognized by the people of Israel throughout the history of the world. This fact is documented in both the Old and New Testaments and also in secular history from many sources.

The Sabbath was very important to people of the Bible and even though calendars may have changed, it would be inconceivable for the Sabbath day to have been confused with any other day. Chronologists are in agreement that the order of days is the same today as at the beginning of history. In addition, Jesus (God), recognized the Sabbath and would have certainly known which day He had commanded to be kept holy.

SABBATH FIRST MENTIONED

The first time we read of the Sabbath in the Bible is in *Exodus 16:23*. God had given a double portion of manna on the sixth day. Moses told the rulers of the congregation, ***“This is that which the Lord hath said, Tomorrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the Lord: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning.”*** Some of the people went out to look for manna on the seventh day, ***“And the Lord said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?”*** We see here that God seriously meant for people to keep the sabbath day holy.

What does this tell us? One very important consideration is that **this occurred before the law was given on Mt. Sinai**. The Lord said, ***“how long refuse ye to keep my***

commandments and my laws"? Is it possible that the people were aware of God's commandments long before the Exodus? Remember, the seventh day rest was established at the time of creation. Is it possible that Adam was aware of God's laws? Noah observed a period of seven days in sending out the dove from the ark. The term "week" is used in the contract between Jacob and Laban. Job and his friends observed the term of "seven days." The ancients enjoyed the blessings of the "sabbath" from the creation. The Scripture tells us that **the seventh day is holy to the Lord. It is a sign between the children of Israel and the Lord that they may know that He is the Lord that sanctifies.** We find that it is perpetual throughout the generations. The punishment for defiling the sabbath is death: the one defiling, his soul shall be cut off from among his people.

The question that comes to mind: Is this something just for the Jewish people? To begin with, the Sabbath is not just for the Jews (Judean) or the physical descendants of Israel. Some people say that the seventh day Sabbath is the Jewish Sabbath and that Sunday is the Christian Sabbath. I find only one Sabbath in the Bible, the one established at the time of creation before anyone knew what a Jew, Israel, or a Christian was. It is important to notice that the very language used in the fourth commandment indicates a previous knowledge of it: "***Remember the sabbath day***". I never find any information regarding a Christian Sabbath. *Romans 2: 28,29* says: "***For he is not a Jew (literal - Judean), which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew (Judean), which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.***"

What does that mean? Is not the God of Israel our God?

Romans 2:23-29 says: "Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God? For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written. For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision. Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law? For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."

Should we not honor God by observing His holy day? We must remember that according to *Galatians 6: 15-16* we, as believers, are now the Israel of God. "*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.*"

In Exodus 31:12, "The Lord spake unto Moses saying, Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that

ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you. Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death; for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever; for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed. And he gave unto Moses when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God."

IS THE SABBATH REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?

Is God really serious about the observance of the sabbath day? *Numbers 15: 32-40* answers this question without any doubt. "And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day, And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation, And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him. And the Lord said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp. And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the Lord commanded Moses."

No elaboration necessary.

Quoting the Jewish encyclopedia: The sanctity of the day is grounded in an event in the life of God - His cessation from work, His rest, His blessing and consecration. **Israel's observance of the day is imitative and out of respect for God's authority.** The encyclopedia goes on to quote Samson Raphael Hirsch: "Man is allowed to rule over the world for six days by God's will, but is forbidden on the seventh day to fashion anything for his own purpose. On each Sabbath man restored the world to God, as it were, and thus proclaims that he enjoys only a borrowed authority."

We find in *Nehemiah 13*, that the people of Jerusalem and Tyre were profaning the Sabbath. Nehemiah contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them, "*What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day?*"

Has something evil become good?

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter."

..... *Isaiah 5:20*

Isaiah, chapter 55, clearly speaking in the future, speaks of everyone that thirsteth coming to the waters, an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David, "Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee.....ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing,

and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

The very next chapter, *Isaiah chapter 56*, again in the future, is entitled in the King James Bible: Blessing on all who Hallow the Sabbath. In verses 6 and 7 the LORD says, "*Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the Lord, to serve him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people."*

Here God is talking about non-Jews keeping His Sabbath and receiving His promises.

UNANSWERED PRAYERS?

In chapter 58, entitled in the King James Bible, "Why Israel's prayers were unanswered", we are told that Israel forsook the ordinances of God. Verse 13 tells them how to correct their ways and honor God, "*If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon*

the high places of the earth and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

In *Isaiah chapter 66: 22,23* we find that the Sabbath will be recognized in the future: *"For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord."*

There is no doubt that all flesh includes everyone, Jews (Judean) by birth and Gentiles (nations). At the time of the new heaven and the new earth, a time when all things are made perfect, **the sabbath will be universally observed.**

SEVERE PENALTIES FOR DISOBEDIENCE!

In *Jeremiah 17*, the Lord says, *"hallow ye the Sabbath."* He goes on to say, *"But they obeyed not, neither inclined their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear, nor receive instruction."* He goes on to tell about the rewards for obeying Him and in verse 27, He warns, *"But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the sabbath day, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day; then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem and it shall not be quenched."*

In 586 B.C.¹ and in 70 A.D.² Jerusalem was overthrown. Why? The Bible says it was because the people did not keep

God's commandments.

As I was studying this subject, I kept saying to myself, all of these things are written in the Old Testament and I know that Jesus gave us a new covenant in the New Testament.

The instructions of *Acts 15:28-29* confirm that salvation is not through the keeping of the commandments. Verse 21, however, leads me to believe that the information Moses was given as to what is pleasing to God is important.

In *Acts chapter 15* we read of a meeting of the church that was held in Jerusalem. It seems that one of the main topics of discussion was what instructions to give the Gentile³ believers. Some thought Gentiles should keep the whole law of Moses including circumcision. After much disputing it was decided: ***"...that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God. But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood."***

Most people who quote this scripture as reason for disregarding God's moral laws stop at this point; but let us take a look at what the next verse says: ***"For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day."***

The church decided to give special instructions regarding the pagan practices which were commonplace to the Gentiles knowing that **Gentile believers would hear the rest in the synagogues on the Sabbath.**

This reveals that the **Gentile believers were expected to visit the synagogues on the Sabbath.**

A UNIVERSAL DAY OF REST

Now, how could they go to the synagogues on Saturday if they were working on that day? The truth is that history reveals that all the known nations during the first century A.D. rested on the Sabbath day, Saturday.⁴

The question is not: “Did the believers meet on Sunday?” but rather: “What did believers do on Saturday, the Sabbath day?”

The first century historian, Flavius Josephus,⁵ gives us great insight as to **what took place on the Sabbath, not only in Jerusalem, but, in all of the Roman Empire:** “.....the multitude of mankind itself have had a great inclination of a long time to follow our religious observances; **for there is not any city of the Grecians, nor any of the barbarians, nor any nation whatsoever, whither our custom of resting on the seventh day hath not come.....** ”

Philo,⁶ a first century historian of Alexandria, Egypt, reports the same findings: “And in short, it is very nearly an universal rule, from the rising of the sun to its extreme west, that every country, and nation, and city, is alienated from the laws and customs of foreign nations and states, and that they think that they are adding to the estimation in which they hold their own laws by despising those in use among other nations. **But this is not the case with our laws which Moses has given to us; for they lead after them the inhabitants of continents, and islands, the eastern nations and the**

western, Europe and Asia, in short, the whole inhabitable world from one extremity to the other. For what man is there who does not honour that sacred seventh day, granting in consequence a relief and relaxation from labour, for himself and for all those who are near to him, and that not to free men only, but also to slaves, and even to beast of burden."

**WHAT DID THE FIRST CENTURY
GENTILE BELIEVERS
DO ON THE SABBATH?**

**THEY RESTED
JUST AS THEY ALWAYS HAD.**

It was not necessary for the church to instruct the Gentile believers as to the Sabbath. They were already observing it throughout the known world.

WHAT DID JESUS SAY?

It has been said that Jesus spoke of all the commandments with the exception of the sabbath, and therefore the fourth commandment was no longer applicable. This is not true. A close examination of the scripture in which Jesus speaks of the commandments reveals that in each case He was explaining them and giving additional information as to their true implications. When we take this into consideration we

find that Jesus did, indeed, speak of the fourth commandment as much, if not more, than any other.

*"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."
.....Matthew 5:17*

"At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat. But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day. But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him; How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests? Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless? But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple. But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day. And when he was departed thence, he went into their synagogue: And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him. And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out? How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days. Then

saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other."

.....Matthew 12

"And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:"

.....Mark 2:27

"And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him. And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth. And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace."

.....Mark 3:2-4

"And it came to pass on the second sabbath after the first, that he went through the corn fields; and his disciples plucked the ears of corn, and did eat, rubbing them in their hands. And certain of the Pharisees said unto them, Why do ye that which is not lawful to do on the sabbath days? And Jesus answering them said, Have ye not read so much as this, what David did, when himself was an hungred, and they which were with him; How he went into the house of God, and did take and eat the shewbread, and gave also to them that were with him; which it is not lawful to eat but for the priests alone? And he said unto them, That the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath. And it came to pass also on another sabbath, that he entered into the synagogue and taught: and there was a man whose right hand was withered. And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the sabbath

day; that they might find an accusation against him. But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth. Then said Jesus unto them, I will ask you one thing; Is it lawful on the sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? to save life, or to destroy it? And looking round about upon them all, he said unto the man, Stretch forth thy hand. And he did so: and his hand was restored whole as the other."

.....Luke 6:1-10

"And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day. The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering? And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day? And when he had said these things, all his adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him."

.....Luke 13:10-7

"And it came to pass, as he went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the sabbath day, that they watched him. And, behold, there was a certain man before him which had the dropsy. And Jesus answering spake unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day? And they held their peace. And he took him, and healed him, and let him go; And answered them, saying, Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day? And they could not answer him again to these things."

.....Luke 14:1-6

"If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him. Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me? The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee? Jesus answered and said unto them, I have done one work, and ye all marvel. Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision; (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers;) and ye on the sabbath day circumcise a man. If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day? Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment."

.....John 7:17-24

"But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:"

.....Matthew 24:20

Jesus plainly taught that it was all right to do good on the Sabbath day and as we can see in Matthew 24:20, no matter what our position as to what Jesus was referring to: **Jesus expected that His followers would be keeping the sabbath at that time. That time being, after the crucifixion.**

We also know that after the crucifixion of Jesus **His followers observed the sabbath.** In *Luke 16:1* we find that **only after the sabbath** did Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bring spices to anoint Jesus. In *Luke 23:56* we are also told that the women prepared spices and ointments; and **"rested the sabbath day according to the commandment."** Remember that these people had lived with Jesus and had heard first hand the things that He had taught about the sabbath. Again, remember that this is after Jesus had taught on the subject of the sabbath, and after this date I find no reference to Jesus giving any more instruction as to the sabbath. Surely His followers would know whether or not the sabbath applied to them, **the first Christians**, and the Bible tells us that **they rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.**

The book of *Acts, Chapter 21* gives us the account of Paul purifying himself and shaving his head so that the Jews would know:

"...that thou also walkest orderly, and keepest the law."

.....Acts 21:24

Verse 20 informs us that the Jewish believers were zealous of the law: "**many thousands of Jews (Judeans) there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law:**" In Verse 25 we find James and the elders stating the following regarding circumcision: "***As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written and concluded that they observe no such thing, save only that they keep themselves from things offered to idols, and from blood, and strangled, and from fornication.***"

Does this mean that the Ten Commandments do not apply to Gentile believers?

We are told in the 13th verse of *ACTS 15*, that, "***... after they had held their peace, James answered, saints, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things. Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world. Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood. For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.***"

As one reads over these scripture verses it is easy to assume that if the Gentile believers abstained from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled and from blood, that they would be in accordance with all of God's requirements. Does this mean that Gentile believers could take the name of God in vain, disregard the sabbath day, dishonor their father and mother, kill, commit adultery, steal, bear false witness or covet their neighbors things? I cannot believe that was what the apostles were saying. But weren't they including one of the commandments when they said not to be involved in fornication?

In checking the Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon⁷ of the New Testament, I find that although fornication does relate to the seventh commandment, in this text it could be used in reference to, and in conjunction with the heathen practices common at the time of writing. Thayer says: "that this meaning must be adopted in these passages will surprise no one who has learned from 1 COR vi. 12 sqq. how leniently converts from among the heathen regarded this vice and how lightly they indulged in it." It goes on to tell us that in other Bible references it refers to the defilement of idolatry, as incurred by eating the sacrifices offered to idols.

A careful look at verse 20 and 21 reveals that the apostles decided to write to the Gentiles information only pertaining to their past heathen practices. Why?: ***"For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day."*** It was simply not necessary to give further instructions because the Gentiles could learn about the commandments that Moses received from God in the synagogues every **sabbath day**. Remember, we are told in verse 20: that there were

thousands of Jews (Judeans) which believed (Christians) and that **they were all zealous of the law.**

This brings up an important point. Many Christians argue: "But we are not under the law, but under grace."

It is true that we are under grace, and that salvation comes through our faith in Jesus and not through works of the law; but **if Jews (Judeans) had become Christians, were they not also under grace?**

Sure they were, but we read that they were all zealous of the law. The very early Christian church was made up of mostly Jews (Judeans). Many of them had actually walked and talked with Jesus. They would have heard His teachings on the Sabbath, first hand, and if it no longer applied they would have known it.

In *Isaiah 42:6* we find that Israel was to be a light unto the Gentiles (nations). The Gentiles (nations) could easily hear of God's moral laws that were given to Moses. We know that in Solomon's Temple and in Herod's Temple there were areas for Gentile worshippers (of nations other than Judah) and even in Revelation we are told about "*the court of the Gentiles*" (nations).

In addition to the information given in the Bible there is a great deal of information, available through secular history, that pertains to days of worship.

Why go to secular history? Because substituting Sunday for the 7th day sabbath is not to be found in the Bible. Only through secular history can one possibly determine how this happened.

One of the most important considerations relate to Constantine the Great and the fact that in 321 A.D. he enjoined the civil observance of Sunday.⁸ Quoting "The History of the Church",⁹ third period A.D. 311-590: **“Constantine is the founder, in part at least, of the civil observance of Sunday, by which alone the religious observance of it in the church could be made universal and could be properly secured.** In the year 321 he issued a law prohibiting manual labor in the cities and all judicial transactions, and at a later period also military exercises, on Sunday. He exempted the liberation of slaves, which as an act of "Christian" humanity and charity, might, with special propriety, take place on that day. But the Sunday law of Constantine must not be overrated. He enjoined the observance, or rather forbade the public desecration of Sunday, not under the name of Sabbatum, but under its old astrological and heathen title, *Dies Solis*. familiar to all his subjects, so that the law was as applicable to the worshippers of Hercules, Apollo, and Mithras, as to the Christians. There is no reference whatsoever in his law either to the fourth commandment or to the resurrection of Christ. Besides, he expressly exempted the country districts, where paganism still prevailed, from the prohibition of labor, and thus avoided every appearance of injustice."

The same reference book quotes the author Hessey as follows:¹⁰

“In no clearly genuine passage that I can discover in any writer of these two (the fourth and fifth) centuries, or in any public document, ecclesiastical or civil, is the fourth commandment referred to as the ground of the obligation to observe the Lord’s Day.”

Quoting the same book, we find that “Constantine revered all the gods as mysterious powers; **especially Apollo, the god of the sun**, to whom in the year 308 he presented munificent gifts. Nay, so late as the year 321 he enjoined regular consultation of the sooth sayers in public misfortunes, according to ancient heathen usage; even later, he placed his new residence, Byzantium, under the protection of the God of the Martyrs and the heathen goddess of Fortune; and down to the end of his life **he retained the title and the dignity of a Pontifex Maximus, or high priest of the heathen hierarchy**. His coins bore on the one side the letters of the name of Christ, on the other the figure of the Sun god, and the inscription “committed to the invincible sun”

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Another interesting note is that Constantine did not receive baptism until the year 337, upon his death bed.

The modern Catholic encyclopedia states the following: “When it is said that the Decalogue (the 10 commandments) is not the characteristic expression of the New Testament and the Law of the New Testament, **it should not be understood, however, that the Ten Commandments do not apply to the Christian. Apart from the two commandments of purely positive law forbidding the veneration of images and commanding observance of the Sabbath**, which were abolished and indirectly fulfilled in a higher mode of divine worship, the Commandments of the Decalogue remain as an enduring expression of the natural law and thus are contained, though surpassed as a part-modest indeed—of the New Testament law.”¹²

In other words, all of the commandments are valid except two: the one prohibiting the veneration of images, and the observance of the seventh day sabbath,

which we know that Constantine decreed to be observed on Sunday, or to him the Venerable day of the sun.

What's going on here? Are we dependent on information given us by Constantine and his associates?

Mystery religion: "*The Mystery of Iniquity*" has been at work since the time of Babel.¹³

"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work....with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved."

.....*2Thessalonians: 2:7- -10*

This same system, characterized by the shrouding of truth in secrecy and the manipulation of the truth in order to achieve its ends, set out, in the third century, to combine paganism with Christianity. These goals were partially accomplished through the proclamation on March 7th 321 A.D. of Constantine the Great, stating: "All judges and city people and the craftsmen shall rest upon The Venerable Day of the Sun." ¹⁴

The Venerable Day of the Sun was a pagan title for the worship of the Sun which took place on Sunday and which had nothing whatsoever to do with the fourth commandment, or the resurrection of Christ.

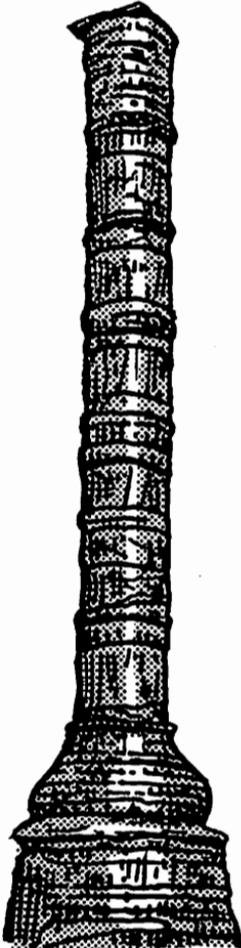
At the time this decree was made, this man Constantine, was masquerading as a Christian.

One might say that we should not judge, but the apostles

were never too timid to expose false teachings. **We must stand up and speak the truth.** How, one might ask, can we be sure that he was not a Christian? We can tell by his fruits.

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?"

.....*Matthew 7:15-16*



"The Burnt Column"

Constantine maintained the title of Pontifex Maximus, the highest office in pagan worship. Shortly after he made his Sunday proclamation, he, in 326, ordered his wife and eldest son murdered. Later, in Constantinople, he had a bronze statue of himself set up on top of a tall column as Apollo, the sun god. I have seen the remains of the column in Istanbul, as it still stands today - Remains only: for it was struck by lightning and is now known as the burnt column.¹⁵

***Coin Minted During The Reign Of Constantine
AFTER HE CLAIMED TO BE A "CHRISTIAN"***



Constantine



Sun god "Sol"

"SOL INVICTO COMITI"

Committed to the Invincible Sun

If one needs more evidence, a brief study of history will reveal that Constantine's form of "Christianity" is responsible for the murder of more people than any army that has ever existed. **The teachings of Christ are completely opposite from the actions of Constantine.**¹⁶

***Constantines Labranth
supposedly seen in the sun
with verbal Instructions
"By This Sign Conquer"***



Constantine never received baptism until the time of his death. Did he become a true believer at that time? Now, that is not for us to judge!

Quoting "The Inquisition of the Middle Ages" 1887¹⁷: "We have seen that the Ages of Faith, to which romantic dreamers regretfully look back, were ages of force and fraud, where evil seemed to reign almost un-checked, justifying the current opinion, so constantly reappearing, that the reign of Antichrist had already begun."

After Constantine's decree, not only was Sunday held up as the day of rest, but, everything possible was done to prevent adherence to the seventh day sabbath commandment that God had established at the creation of the world, and written with His finger in stone - The sabbath that God had proclaimed to be the sign between Him and His people, that they would know that He was their God.

Again quoting: "The History of the Middle Ages"¹⁸: "Energetic only in evil, when its powers might have been used on the side of virtue, it held its hand and gave the people to understand that the only sins demanding repression were doubt of the accuracy of the Church's knowledge of the unknown, and attendance on the Sabbath." We must keep in mind that what they called sabbath and demanded, was the attendance of "church" on "Sunday."

It is a historical fact that at the time this was done: **many believers adhered to God's commandment pertaining to the Sabbath day. Those who refused to lay aside this commandment of God were severely persecuted. History reveals that down through history the false religious system has been doing everything possible to convince people to disregard the fourth commandment of God.**¹⁹

This was such an important part of its evil plan that no effort was spared to force people to adhere to Sunday observance. Adherents were hunted down, imprisoned, cut in pieces, and even burned alive while refusing to reject the commandments of God.

During that time the Holy Scriptures were banned from the people, and only the priests were allowed to read the Bible, in a language foreign to the common man. **There was no way for the average person to compare what they were being taught against the teachings of the Bible.**²⁰ Thanks to the reformers, many of which laid down their lives as martyrs, we can today be as the Bereans and search the scriptures in order to know the truth of God through His Holy Word.

History records that the sabbath was not set aside by early Christians and that it has never ceased to be recognized.

Athanasius, A.D. 340²¹

“We assemble on Saturday, not that we are infected with Judaism, but only to worship Christ, the Lord of the Sabbath.”

Socrates, A.D. 412²²

“Touching the Communion, there are sundry observations; for almost all the churches throughout the world do celebrate and receive the holy mysteries **every Sabbath.** Yet the Egyptians adjoining Alexandria, together with the inhabitants of Thebes, of a tradition, do celebrate the Communion

on Sunday, when the festival meeting throughout every week was come. **I mean the Saturday**, and the Sunday, upon which the Christians are wont to meet solemnly in the church.”

It is very important to note that Socrates said that **tradition** was the reason the Alexandrian Egyptians and some others observed Sunday. **The traditions of men!**

“The Doctrine of the Twelve Apostles”²³ includes the following ancient Greek text: **Fast from the world, keep the Sabbath.**

The ancient "Apostolic Constitutions"²⁴ refer to Sunday, but they also prescribe the celebration of the Sabbath on Saturday. One has to remember that all of the great ancient libraries were destroyed.²⁵ History also documents the fact that during the Inquisition any form of information that would refute the false and mysterious teachings of the “church” were destroyed. **This did not happen just by chance!**

We are told that there will be people in the last days, **"willingly ignorant"** of the truths of God's word. There is no reason for us to be ignorant of God's truths and dependent upon others to tell us what God has revealed to us. **We have the Bible, God's Holy Word!**

"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lust.....they willingly are ignorant"

COULD IT BE POSSIBLE THAT THE DAYS OF THE WEEK HAVE CHANGED OVER TIME?

OCTOBER 1582 A.D. OLD CALENDAR											
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10 NUMBERS WERE REMOVED THE DAYS OF THE WEEK STAYED THE SAME											
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
4	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
FRIDAY THE 5TH BECAME FRIDAY THE 15TH											

Calendar changes have not affected the order of the days of the week. It is true that the imperfect Julian calendar originating in 46 B.C.²⁶ was replaced by the Gregorian calendar in 1582²⁷ but the order of the days was not changed. What took place was that 10 days were taken from the number of days in the month, not from the number of days in the week. Thursday was October 4, 1582 and Friday was October 15, 1582. Changes in the calendar did not affect the sabbath.

WHAT ABOUT HEBREWS CHAPTER FOUR?

Another reference that we should look at is Hebrews, chapter 4 which is entitled "The Christian rest to be obtained by faith". Does this indicate that the Sabbath day does not apply to Christians?

"Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, (KAT-AP-AU-SIS) any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the

gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest (SAB-BAT-IS-MOS). Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To-day, after so long a time; as it is said, To-day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."

.....Hebrews 4:1-11

This chapter describes both the 7th day rest, established at the time of creation, and a future rest. The scripture says from the very first that one should have a fear of coming short of the promised rest.

The place that is referred to as "*a certain place*" in verse 4, must be referring to *Psalms 95:7-11*: "*For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as*

in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work. Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways: Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest."

After study, it is apparent that *Hebrews chapter 4* is referring to the seventh day rest proscribed for God's people, the rest which the children of Israel would have had, if they had done as God instructed, and to the future rest that we are all looking forward to, through faith. There is no indication that it is referring to the annulment of the 4th commandment.

The Old Testament reveals that the people which God brought out of Egypt continually disobeyed His instructions; not only when they were in the wilderness but even after they entered the promised land. God made conditional promises to those people and had they met those conditions there is no doubt that they would have experienced all of the good things which God had intended for them.

Paul says that only those who have faith in the gospel they have heard will enter into rest. On the other hand he says that the ones believing have entered into the rest. A careful reading of these passages indicates that **Paul is speaking about both a present rest and a future rest -the seventh day sabbath and the promised future rest.**

Because the children of Israel refused to have faith in God in the wilderness, He did not let them enter into the promise. Just as the scripture says, "*they entered not in because of unbelief.*" Paul then talks about the seventh day rest, the Sabbath established at the time of the creation of the

world. He tells us that Jesus did not give them the rest that the people were looking for. He goes on to explain that we can know that, because Jesus spoke of a future rest. **We are instructed to have faith in order to enter into the future rest prepared from the foundation of the world for the people of God.**

Many times people have said that this scripture indicates that the weekly seventh day Sabbath should not be considered to have any importance, and that the future sabbath is the true day of rest. Some say that through belief we have already entered into that rest. But Paul says **"Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest"** indicating that we are working toward something.

There is absolutely no indication that the weekly seventh day Sabbath has been set aside. In fact, if anything these references seem to support the fact that at the beginning of the world, God set aside the seventh day Sabbath as a special time. **Genesis says that He hallowed it (made it holy).**

"Till heaven and earth pass"

One very interesting observation is that the future rest of ***Hebrews 4:9, "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God"***, is referred to in the original Greek text as "Sabbitismos" as opposed to "Katapausis". Katapausis means: simply to rest, while Sabbitismos, according to "Thayer's Greek English Lexicon", means: to keep the Sabbath, a keeping sabbath, the blessed rest from toils and troubles looked for in the age to come by the true worshippers of God and true Christians. It seems that this word as used by Paul could possibly refer to a future seventh day.

What could this possibly mean? We know that in *2 Peter 3:8* we are told "*that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*" Many writers whose works were not included in the Bible and whose credibility we cannot be sure of have indicated that just as God created the Heavens and the earth in six days and rested on the seventh day; that the history of the world will go on for six "days" (six thousand years) and that the seventh "day" will be the promised rest. Could this be what Paul was referring to when he used the term Sabbitismos?

So what is Paul trying to explain to the Hebrews?

The answer has to be that salvation comes by faith and not by works. We must, however, remember that this is the same man that said:

"Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law."

.....Romans 3:31

LEGALISM

The word many people like to use when the subject of the sabbath is mentioned is "legalism."²⁸ They say that salvation does not come by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. That is absolutely right. We are saved by faith. One of the scripture verses that is sometimes used to set aside the sabbath is *Colossians 2:16-17*:

“Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.”

Again, this statement of Paul is seen by some to indicate that Sabbath observance is not important. Upon careful observation, however, the Greek word that is translated sabbath days is actually sabbaths (SABBATH DAYS - PLURAL). ***Colossians 2:16*** is referring to ceremonial events and not the weekly sabbath. The scripture says not to be judged in **meat or drink offerings** (*Meat and drink offerings are mentioned over 100 times in the Old Testament and refer to ceremonial sacrifices*), **an holy day** (*the literal translation reads feasts: Strong's²⁹ 1859 heorte pronounced heh-or-tay' - a feast or festival*), **the new moon** (*a feast - Strong's 3561 noumenia, pronounced noo-may-nee' -ah - festival of the new moon*) **or the sabbath days** (*actually sabbaths Strong's 4521 sabbaton, plural, pronounced sab'bat-on - the interval between two weeks - plural names of festivals*). Each of these items refer to ceremonial law, and not the moral law contained in the Ten Commandments.

This Greek word used in ***Colossians 2:16*** is "sabbaths" σαββατων and is the same word used for week.

Different from the Greek word σαββασι which is used to indicate more than one weekly sabbath day.

Examples:

SABBATHS σαββατων CLEARLY REFERS TO A SEVEN DAY PERIOD OF TIME.

COL 2:16-17 "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the σαββατων sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ."

ACT 20:7 "And upon the first day of the σαββατων week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight."

MAT 28:1 "In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the σαββατων week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre."

MAR 16:2 "And very early in the morning the first day of the σαββατων week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun."

JOH 20:1 "The first day of the σαββατων week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre."

JOH 20:19 "Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the σαββατων week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you."

1CO 16:2 "Upon the first day of the σαββατων week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

MORE THAN ONE 7TH DAY SABBATH:

SABBATHS σαββασι CLEARLY REFERS TO MORE THAN ONE 7TH DAY SABBATH.

MAT 12:10 "And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the σαββασι sabbath days? that they might accuse him. MAT 12:13 Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other."

LUK 4:31 "And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the σαββασι sabbath days."

LUK 6:2 "And certain of the Pharisees said unto them, Why do ye that which is not lawful to do on the sabbath σαββασι days"?

As we see, the Greek word used for sabbaths when Paul said, *"Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon or of the sabbath days"* is a reference to observing weeks and has nothing to do with the seventh day sabbath days, that God made holy at the creation of the world.

SPECIAL NOTE: I want to make one point very clear. I originally wrote this information for my own reference. I am thankful for what God has revealed to me and I am of the opinion that we have been deceived about many things. Remember that we are living in a world in which the god of this world is the great deceiver. We are told in *Jeremiah 16:19* that in the last days: *"the Gentiles shall come from*

the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit."

It is not my objective to force this information on anyone; and few people know, at the time this is written, what the LORD has shown me. When, however, I am talking with other Christians and the subject comes up, I have no choice, when following the instructions of the Bible other than to tell people what God has revealed to me; no matter what the reaction or consequence. Although this paper was originally written for my own study and documentation, I am happy to share it and I welcome Biblical evaluation. If it will not stand scrutiny, it is worthless.

It is amazing how vehemently opposed some people are to the idea that the fourth commandment applies to Christians, even though they believe that all of the other commandments do - Opposed even before they check to see exactly what scripture reveals. There are many differing opinions about other important biblical subjects, which seem to create little alarm, but when the subject of the sabbath comes up many people seem totally unwilling and almost afraid to study for themselves what the Bible says. There is definitely a "*mystery*" regarding the discussion of the Sabbath. This unbelievable opposition to the idea that the Sabbath, instituted and hallowed by God on the seventh day, could still apply to His followers, causes me to realize that it is a subject of great importance. **No one gets that upset over a subject if they are 100% sure of their beliefs. Each time I re-evaluate the subject, the information that I find only reinforces my understanding. You may disagree with my conclusions; but if you are reading this information, it proves that you want to be sure of the truth. That's exactly what I want for you and for me.**

Do not believe anyone's opinion!

The Bible is the only thing that we can believe. One does not have to be an “expert” to read what is written in the Bible. What I have written is what I have found in the Bible. Remember that the Pharisees, the most highly trained men in the Jewish religion rejected Jesus and were totally wrong. Jesus says in *Matthew 15:9*, when referring to people transgressing the commandments of God: ***“But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”*** Read what the Bible says, but be sure that you put aside any doctrine other than that of the Bible, because in *2 Timothy 4:3-4* we are told that ***“the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”*** The Bible is plain in its instructions to check out what we are being taught and not to believe just because someone has special credentials. That is what I have done.

If I can be shown a divine instruction for a change of the sabbath day, I will follow that instruction. Until then I will not deny the commandments of God in favor of the traditions of men. The sabbath law will remain in full until the end of time, unless God repeals it.

“The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.”

.....*Psalms 111:7-8*

If any of God's commandments are ever repealed, He will do it in a way as plain as when it was instituted!

So what can we definitely say about the Sabbath? The one thing that we can be sure of is the Bible, God's Holy Word. Here is a summary of what the Bible tells us:

Salvation does not come through the keeping of the Law. It is a gift from God to those who accept Jesus Christ as their Savior and believe that Jesus is the Son of God, come in the flesh; and that He shed His blood to pay our sin debt. Even though we are saved by faith we must remember that **Jesus said that He did not come to destroy the law or the prophets.**

The Sabbath law is not to be considered one of the ceremonial laws given to Moses. The Ten Commandments, God's moral law, were given separately, before the ceremonial law, and were **written in stone** rather than in a book.

We are told that the Sabbath was to be a **sign** between God and His people so that they would know that He was the God that sanctified them.

The fourth commandment has **absolutely nothing to do with religious activity** on any certain day. In fact, it is just the opposite, a day of rest, prescribed by God. We should worship God every day.

The Sabbath was established at the time of the creation of the world. **It is not the Jewish Sabbath or the Christian Sabbath; it is God's Sabbath.**

The people were aware of God's Sabbath before the Ten Commandments were given on Mt. Sinai. We know this because of the account of the people gathering manna on the Sabbath.

The seventh day Sabbath was **re-confirmed in the Ten Commandments**, written in stone by the finger of God.

There are many indications in the Bible that **God is serious about the observance of the Sabbath**. The penalty of non-observance was death. Not only this, but the Bible plainly tells us that one of the main reasons that God allowed Israel and Judah to be exiled was because they did not keep His Sabbath.

Jesus talked about the Sabbath just as he did the other commandments. He elaborated upon the fourth commandment by saying that it was all right to do good on the Sabbath. **He never said that the observance of the Sabbath was a thing of the past, and in fact said that nothing would change from the law until heaven and earth passed away.** That has not happened yet.

Jesus went on to add:

"Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven".

.....Matthew 5:19

The followers of Jesus observed the Sabbath. The very people who walked and talked with Jesus "rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment". We are told in the book of Acts that the Apostle Paul kept the law. *Acts 15:21* says that the Gentile Christians were encouraged to go to the Synagogues on the Sabbath day and learn about the laws of Moses.

Nowhere in the Bible are we told that the Sabbath was changed to Sunday.

In *Isaiah 66:22-23* we find that the Sabbath is not just a thing of the past and that in the new heaven and the new earth the sabbath will be recognized.

In Revelation 14:12 referring to future events we are given a description of saints:

“...they that keep the commandments of God, and have the faith of Jesus.”

CONCLUSION

I am very concerned that we are living in the last days in which we are told that many will be deceived and worship a false god. We must consider the words of Jesus: *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."*

.....*Matthew 7:21-23*

The word iniquity is actually the Greek word: "**ανομίαν**" - (transgression of the law).

Who are these people?

They have prophesied in Jesus' name, cast out devils in Jesus' name and have done many wonderful works.

Whoever they are, many of them will be told "*depart from me, ye that transgress the law.*"

In *Exodus 31:13* we find the following: "*Verily my Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you.*"

I cannot over emphasize the importance of this revelation from God. He said that the sabbath would be a sign to let us know that He is our true God. We know from the Bible and from secular history that many false gods have been worshipped throughout history by people honestly believing that they were the true God. We are also told that in the end times a false god from this same system will set himself up as god, seek to "*change times and laws*" and that if it were possible, he would fool the very elect.

How are we to recognize this imposter?

We are living in the most exciting time in world history, but also in the most dangerous and frightening time. The mystery of iniquity is at its most developed state.

We have no chance through human wisdom to defend ourselves from evil deception. We must, through the power of the Holy Spirit within us, adhere to the word of God and His commandments.

The sabbath commandment was not given to be hard or to suppress; but, for our benefit.

Jesus was very plain:

**“THE SABBATH
WAS MADE FOR MAN,
AND NOT MAN
FOR THE SABBATH.”**

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FOOTNOTES

1. Jerusalem overthrown in 586 B.C. - The Babylonians conquered Jerusalem and took approximately 10,000 into captivity which lasted 70 years - until the land kept its sabbaths.
2. Jerusalem overthrown in 70 A.D. - The Roman General Titus took the city, destroying the temple - as prophesied by Christ: not one stone was left upon another.
3. Gentile - Greek ἔθνος A multitude associated or living together - People of the nations - non-Judah -- Thayers, "Paul uses τα ἔθνη speaking of Gentile Christians.
4. Sabbath Universal observance - Josephus, Flavius - Against Apion or the antiquities of the Jews, book 2 .40, (280) - there is not any city of the Grecians, not any of the barbarians, nor any nation whatsoever, whither our custom of resting on the seventh day hath not come. - - Philo, Judaeus, of Alexandria Egypt 20 B.C. - 50 A.D. Life of Moses II, IV-(19-20) - ...the whole habitable world...what man is there who does not honor that sacred seventh day...free men...slaves...beasts...
5. Josephus, Flavius - Jewish historian in the first century A.D. - He was a historian for the Roman Emperor Vespasian and was an eye witness to the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D.70
6. Philo, Judaeus - First century Jewish commentator - Alexandria Egypt - He believed in the non- literal, allegorical interpretation of scripture
7. Thayer's Greek and English Lexicon of the New Testament, Joseph Henry Thayer, D.D., 1977
8. Constantine the Great - Roman Emperor 306-337 A.D. - Known as the first "Christian Emperor" - His coins indicated that he was committed to the invincible sun - the sun god "sol' or "Mithra". Proclaimed Sunday as the day of the sun in honor of the sun god.
9. P. Schaff, History of the Christian Church.
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
12. Modern Catholic Encyclopedia -
13. See Chapter xxx - Mystery of Iniquity
14. Constantines quote - Venerable day of the sun - 321 A.D. - "All judges and city-people and all tradesmen must rest upon the venerable day of the

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Sun, but let those dwelling in the country freely and with full liberty attend to the culture of their fields, since it frequently happens that no other day is so fit for the sowing of grain or planting of vines. Hence the favorable time should not be allowed to pass lest the provisions of heaven be lost" - Cod Justin. Bk. III, Tit. XII, 3 (de feriis); P. Schaff, History of the Christian Church.

15. Burnt Column - Monument to Emperor Constantine the Great, Erected 328 A.D. after Constantine claimed to be a Christian... 7 years after his Sunday law - had a statue of Constantine on top as Apollo the sun god.

16. Constantine's wars - by this sign conquer - A vision supposedly seen by Constantine of a cross in the sun and a voice saying By this sign conquer..believed by many to be the Mithraic cross X and sword with a radiant crown, a common representation of sun worship.

17. History of the Middle Ages -

18. Ibid.

19. Persecution of Sabbath keepers -

20. Scripture destroyed - Common language not used

21. Athanasins - Alexandria Egypt 325 A.D.

22. Socrates - Byzantine church historian, wrote "Ecclesiastical History" Constantine to Theodosius 324-450 A.D.

23. Doctrine of the Twelve Apostles -

24. Apostolic Constitutions - The Work Claiming to be "The Constitutions of the Holy Apostles" , compiled by Irah Chase, D.D. -

25. Libraries destroyed -

26. Julian Calendar - Julius Caesar - 1st century B.C. - lunar calendar abandoned for the tropical solar year 365 1/4 days.

27. Gregorian calendar - Pope Gregory XIII - Papal bull 1582 A.D....vernal equinox brought back to 21st of March...the day after the feast of St. Francis i. e. October 5th became October 15 thereby omitting 10 days.

28. See Chapter xxx - Legalism -

29. Strong's - Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible - In 1890 Dr. James Strong, Professor of Exegetical Theology at Drew Theological seminary..

CHAPTER 15

BUT WHAT ABOUT?

**SCRIPTURE
DOES NOT CONTRADICT SCRIPTURE!**

**ONLY FALSE INTERPRETATION
CAN CREATE CONTRADICTIONS!**

What is Paul teaching in his letter to the Galatians?

Upon a casual reading of Galatians, false interpretation may conclude that Paul is saying that the law really does not apply to Christians, but, upon close examination, that is not the case. It would totally contradict the other teachings and examples of Paul.

GAL 2:19 "For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God."

GAL 3:10-13 "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:"

GAL 3:23-25 *"But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster."*

GAL 4:9-11 *"But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain."*

GAL 4:21 *"Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?"*

Doesn't this sound like Paul is saying that we should no longer be concerned with the law? Is this the same Paul whom we read about in **Acts 21**: shaving his head, submitting himself to a seven day purification ceremony and having an offering made for himself so that: *"all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; but that thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the law?"*

The Apostle Paul kept the law.

This says that Paul kept the law, but in Galatians some think that Paul is saying not to be concerned with the law. How can both scripture passages be correct, when interpreted that way?

Because the book of Galatians is written as a letter we know

that Paul is responding to an immediate situation in Galatia. We have no idea of the circumstances with which he is dealing.

A good analogy would be that of listening to a one-sided conversation. Have you ever heard someone talking on the telephone and gotten the wrong impression about what was being said? Then, after the conversation is over, concerned about what was said, find that what was assumed is not even close to the truth. When reading the book of Galatians we are listening to a one sided conversation.

So what is Paul really saying? Let us take a close look at the letter to the Galatians and see if we can find any hints as to what might have been going on in Galatia that would have caused Paul to be so concerned.

In *Galatians 1* we find that Paul claims apostleship not because he companied with Jesus, or witnessed his resurrection, but, because he said that his apostleship came from Jesus Christ and God the Father.

In *Galatians 2* Paul goes on to tell us that after he had preached to the Gentiles for fourteen years that he went back to Jerusalem and privately told the leaders of the church what he had been preaching to the Gentiles.

He then begins to tell us that Titus, a Greek Gentile, was with him and that the leaders had no problem with him being uncircumcised, but, others, whom he calls false brethren, wanted to bring them into bondage. **They wanted Titus to be circumcised.** Paul goes on to say that they did not yield to these false brethren. Then he tells us of when Peter came to Antioch. Peter, along with some of the others, withdrew to themselves and away from the Gentiles. He

says that **Peter was afraid of the circumcision and that Barnabas also withdrew from the uncircumcised.**

Paul confronted Peter and asked him why he compelled the Gentiles to Judaize and goes on to say that man is not justified through the law, but through faith in Jesus Christ.

At this point Paul begins to confront the situation in Galatia:

"O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? The literal translation of verse 3 says: Are you so foolish? Having begun in the spirit, do you now perfect your self in the flesh?"

.....Galatians 3:1-3

At the beginning of his letter he indicates the reason for writing the letter. Some in the church in Galatia were advocating circumcision as a prerequisite for salvation.

THE PROMISE TO ABRAHAM AND HIS SEED

Paul says that the promise was to Abraham and to his seed (seed - singular). He goes on to say that Christ is that seed. Then he tells the Galatians that the promise of inheritance was made before the law was written. In other words: **Inheritance cannot be earned by keeping the law. Inherit**

ance is through faith in Christ who redeemed us from the curse of the law (death).

The law, along with the death penalty for disobedience, applied to the (Gentile) Galatians. Christ did not redeem them from the law, but, from the curse (the death penalty required for disobedience).

Through His shed blood, He is now the advocate of believers before the Father. If believers repent and confess their sins, (transgressions of the law), He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Repentant believers are redeemed from the curse of the law (death) and instead, are given everlasting life.

DAYS - MONTHS - TIMES - YEARS ?

Paul states the following in *Galatians 4:8* "*Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.*" This seems to refer to the fact that they worshipped false gods before they came to know Christ. In his next statement he says the following: "*But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.*"

Upon first examination it might seem that Paul was referring to the Sabbath when he mentions days. That seems contradictory when compared to the information given us in the rest of the New Testament. **Is it possible that he was**

referring to pagan observances? Remember, history reveals that false worship systems dating back to Babylon held celebrations in honor of various gods and goddesses.

There was the festival of the winter solstice (Christmas), the birthday of the sun god, - the solemn fast of forty days in honor of the sun (Lent), - the celebration of Astarte (Easter), and many others, too numerous to name.

Paul refers to false worship, then he talks about the Galatians turning again to bondage, and then he speaks of observances. Is it not possible that the observances that Paul spoke of were pagan in nature? He said that he was afraid of them. Why? Because they wanted to keep the Sabbath? We know from the Book of Acts that **when Paul was in Jerusalem he was among Jewish Believers and that they were all zealous of the law. Was he afraid of them?**

There may be more to what Paul is saying here than we can know. Remember, we are hearing one side of a conversation.

In Chapter 5, Paul is still talking about circumcision: ***“Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.”***

Again, at the end of the letter he refers to circumcision ***“As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh. But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. For in***

Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.”

Paul was talking about circumcision at the first of the letter. He was talking about circumcision in the middle of the letter, and he was talking about circumcision at the end.

There is no doubt that the main topic of the letter to the Galatians is circumcision, which has absolutely nothing to do with the moral Law of God, the Ten Commandments.

Paul told the Galatians that salvation is not through the perfection of the flesh, (circumcision), but by faith in Christ. A careful examination of the scripture reveals that there is no contradiction between what Paul said and what Paul did. He was not referring to the same aspect of the law as was Jesus when He said: ***“Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law...”***

CHAPTER 16

THE LAW FULFILLED?

WHAT DID JESUS SAY?

“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle, shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” He goes on to warn us as follows: ***“Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and teach men so, he shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”***

.....*Matthew 5:17-19*

Jesus made it plain: **No part of God's laws will change; even, until heaven and earth pass away.**

FULFIL (STRONG'S, GREEK # 4137)

Some people say that *Matthew 5:17* proves that Jesus finished and put an end to the law.

A close examination of *Matthew 5:17*, ***“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil”***, reveals that the Greek word used for fulfil does not mean finish or make an end of, but, means according to Thayer's Greek English Lexicon: to make full, to fill, to fill up, to fill to the full, to cause to

abound, to furnish or supply liberally, to fill up to the top, so that nothing shall be wanting, to full measure, fill to the brim, to perfect, consummate. There is also a special note about the use of fulfil in this verse: Universally and absolutely, to fulfil, i.e., to cause God's will (as known in the law) to be

obeyed as it should be, and God's promises (given through the prophets) to receive fulfillment.

The Greek word "πληρωσαι", as used in Matthew 5:17, **does not mean to end, but rather, means to fill to the fullest, or perfect.** That word comes from the base words which means to replete or enhance. In other words, to fully or abundantly provide or fill, to make fuller, to permeate or influence, to tinge or dye deeply, or to infuse.

When the correct meaning of the word is understood it is clear that the intent of the writer was not that of putting an end to, but, rather strengthening or bolstering. The following verses are those that use the base words. Just as an experiment: insert the word (end) every time fulfil is used and see if it makes sense.

MAT 5:17 "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil." (To end the law?)

MAT 3:15 "And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness." (To end all righteousness?)

PHI 2:2 "Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." (End ye my joy?)

COL 1:25 *"Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;"* (End the word of God?)

COL 4:17 *"And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it."* (End the ministry?)

2TH 1:11 *"Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:"* (End the good pleasure of God?)

The Greek word "αναπληρωσατε", as used in *Galatians 6:2*, has the same basis as the word used in *Matthew 5:17* and again it is plain that it does not mean to end.

GAL 6:2 *"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."* (End the law of Christ?)

It becomes immediately apparent that to end was not the intent of the writer.

A different Greek word "τελοουσα" as used in *Romans 2:27* is based on the Greek word meaning to finish through accomplishment. The following scriptures use words of this basis and make perfect sense when this definition is inserted for the word fulfil.

ROM 2:27 *"And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law?"*

GAL 5:16 "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

JAM 2:8 "If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:"

Another Greek word "ποιησει", as used in *Acts 13:22*, is based on the word meaning to do or cause to be done. When words based on this definition are used in the following scripture it makes perfect sense.

ACT 13:22 "And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will."

REV 17:17 "For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled."

The people who wrote the Bible knew how to use words that clearly defined what they were saying.

Clearly, Christ did not say that He came to end the law:

Just the opposite!

CHAPTER 17

LEGALISM

The dictionary defines legalism as: “strict, literal adherence to the law, or to a particular code, as of religion or morality.” **“Legalism relates to principals of right and wrong behavior. Its synonyms are the words: virtuous, moral, honorable, chaste, pure, ethical, just, decent, honest, and righteous.”**

The adjective describing an advocate or adherent to moral legalism is the word “legalistic”; morally relating to principals of right and wrong behavior.

The question arises: Is being categorized as legalistic an insult or a compliment?

To begin with, it should be noted that **the term legalism or legalistic is not found in the Bible. Its moral synonyms as listed in the dictionary are found in the Bible: honorable, chaste, pure, virtuous, just, honest and righteous.** In fact, they are mentioned over 500 times. Could it be that use of the word legalistic is an attempt to avoid dealing with these important Biblical issues?

Should believers be adherents to moral values (defined by dictionaries as being legalistic), or, should every man do that which is right in his own eyes? Can we know for sure what is right and wrong? Is there absolute truth, a dependable value system?

Let us see what the Bible has to say: ***“If ye love me, keep my commandments.....He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.”***

.....***John 14:15-21***

The Bible records that throughout history the will of God has been revealed to His people: ***“Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations.”***

.....***Nehemiah 9:26***

When Jesus walked on earth he re-stated the importance of divine instruction: ***“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”***

.....***Matthew 5:17-19***

WHO WAS JESUS?

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was

made.....And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

.....John 1

Jesus said: "Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.....Before Abraham was, I am."

.....John 8:56-58

As indicated by these verses, Jesus was in the beginning with God. All things were created by Jesus, and Abraham saw His day. He was the Word and the Word was God (literal Greek "God was the Word.")*John 1:1*

Was it not Jesus who spoke His commandments on Mt. Sinai? Was it not Jesus who pleaded with His chosen people to follow his instructions? Was it not Jesus, who through His prophets, continually warned of the consequences of disobedience? We must remember that He changes not: He said: "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

.....John 14:15

Just as He entreated His people in ancient times, He appeals to His people today: "*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*"

.....Matthew 11:28-30

YES,
THERE IS A YOKE

The Bible says that in the last days there will be false prophets and those who have a form of godliness, yet they are lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. Believers must be cautious: There are those who *“profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.”*

.....*Titus 1:16*

Righteousness should be sought after, for Jesus said:
“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”

.....*Matthew 5:6*

“Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

.....*Matthew 5:10*

Just as He warned His people in ancient times: He warns His people today: *“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”*

.....*John 12:48*

In the true word, by which every man shall be judged, the following scripture should be considered:

“He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall

send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."

.....*Matthew 13:37-43*

Many who use the term "legalistic" as an attempt to discredit those who want to follow God's instructions, label them as being self-righteous.

"It is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:"
.....*Romans 3:10*

Believers should not trust in themselves that they are righteous; only in the imputed righteousness available **through faith in, and obedience to, Jesus Christ.**

"Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."

.....*Romans 5: 18-19*

It is true that no man is righteous as God is righteous; but, righteousness should be sought after and done through the power of the Holy Spirit by the adherents to God's instruction.

We must be born again:

"If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every

one that doeth righteousness is born of him."

.....1 John 2:29

We should not "continue in sin, that grace may abound..... How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

.....Romans 6:1-2

We are told to confess our faults one to another, and pray one for another, that we may be healed; also that the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. "The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil."

.....1 Peter 3:12

The Bible says that: "the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator."

.....1 Peter 4:17-19

SIN IS THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW:

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known

him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother."

.....1 John 3:4-10

JUDGEMENT IS COMING:

"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred,

and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."

.....Matthew 25:34-46

A time is coming when it will be said: "...he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

.....Revelation 22:11-14

THE ABILITY TO BECOME OVERCOMERS

"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to

virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

.....2 Peter 1:3-11

As repentant believers we have that perfect righteousness that has been imputed to us through Christ.

Believers should keep His commandments and follow Biblical instruction in order to be able to say: *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day."*

.....2Timothy 4:7-8

Have we fought a good fight to keep the faith that was described by Christ, proclaimed by the Apostles, and observed by the saints of the first century? Or have we allowed ourselves to become dependent upon others to describe our faith, leading us into battles against the true ways of God?

Legalism is defined by dictionaries as “strict, literal adherence to a particular code of religion or morality.” The next time someone says that you, a believer in Christ, keeping God's commandments, are being legalistic: I think that the best response would be to simply say, “**Thank You**”

Why?

Because they are calling you a saint!

" Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

.....Revelation 14:12

CHAPTER 18

BUT GOD HAS ALWAYS PRESERVED A FAITHFUL REMNANT

God chose Israel to be his special people, miraculously brought them out of Egypt and gave them the land that He had promised Abraham.¹

He gave them special instructions through the prophet Moses as to how they were to possess the land and as to how they were to live in separation from pagan practices in order to remain his chosen people and maintain possession of the land.²

In the book of Deuteronomy we find that Israel had fair warning of the consequences of disobedience to God: Blessings if obedient, and cursings if disobedient.³

A study of the Old Testament reveals the sad fact that the majority of the Israelites were disobedient; accepting and blending pagan customs with the true worship of God: the customs of the pagan nations that God had instructed them to totally displace.⁴

Because the majority of the nation of Israel disregarded the warnings they had been given, the whole nation reaped the consequences. By the time the expected Messiah presented Himself, their beliefs were so polluted and their leaders so corrupt that the majority of them could not even recognize Him. He called their religious leaders vipers and snakes and

said that they were of their father the devil.⁵

But God has always preserved a faithful remnant.

This faithful remnant received their promised Messiah. Because of their faithfulness God allowed them to see and receive the Messiah but the rest were blinded.⁶

The faithful remnant of believers became the first church and followed the instructions of Jesus to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and all the world. The disciples boldly proclaimed the gospel of Christ and thousands of Jews received their Messiah when they heard the truth in the streets, in the synagogues and even in the temple.⁷

The Jewish leaders were furious, and believers suffered persecution as a result of proclaiming the gospel; but: *“they rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. Daily in the temple and in every house they ceased not to teach and preach Christ.”*⁸

Then something unexpected happened. God appointed Saul of Tarsus, a Jewish man and Roman citizen who had been a leader in the persecution of Christians to bear witness of Christ to the Gentiles.⁹

Peter also was shown through a vision that he should *“call no man common or unclean”*. He was instructed to go to the house of Cornelius, a Gentile who lived in Caesarea. Cornelius had been told by God that Peter could tell him how he and his house could be saved. When Peter told the Gentiles about Jesus Christ they received the gift of the Holy Ghost. As there was no doubt that they had received salvation, Peter commanded them to be baptized.¹⁰

Paul, on the sabbath, in a synagogue in Antioch, after the reading of the law and the prophets, told the Jews about Jesus. Some of the Gentiles heard and asked if Paul would preach to them the next sabbath. He agreed, and almost the whole city came to hear the word of God. When they heard the message of Paul and Barnabas, many believed. Later, in a synagogue at Iconium as they preached, again both Jews and Greeks were in attendance and many believed.¹¹

Some believers thought that in order to be saved one must be circumcised. Paul and Barnabas went to Jerusalem to discuss the matter. When they arrived in Jerusalem some of the believers who were from the sect of the Pharisees said that Gentiles should be commanded to be circumcised and keep the law of Moses in order to be saved. After much discussion it was decided that salvation is received by Gentiles through faith just as the Jews were saved through faith in Jesus. It was also decided that Gentiles should be instructed only regarding specific pagan practices in accordance with the Levitical laws of Leviticus 17 and 18 which applied to sojourners and that they could hear the instructions of Moses in the synagogues on the sabbath. The Gentiles were told to refrain from specific pagan practices they had been accustomed to and were expected to learn the basics of Christianity in the synagogue.¹²

As Paul preached, ***“the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek”*** many misunderstood his message of salvation by grace. They thought that He was teaching against God's laws. Jesus had taught that until heaven and earth passed away not one jot nor tittle would pass from the law, and that those who broke the least of the commandments and taught men to break them would be called least in the kingdom of

heaven, and that those who kept his commandments and taught them would be called great in the kingdom of heaven. Even though God's law would always be in effect; believers were no longer under the penalty of the law. Paul knew that sin is the transgression of the law. He explained that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law but that the law was not made void through faith. He explained that the law was established through faith.¹³

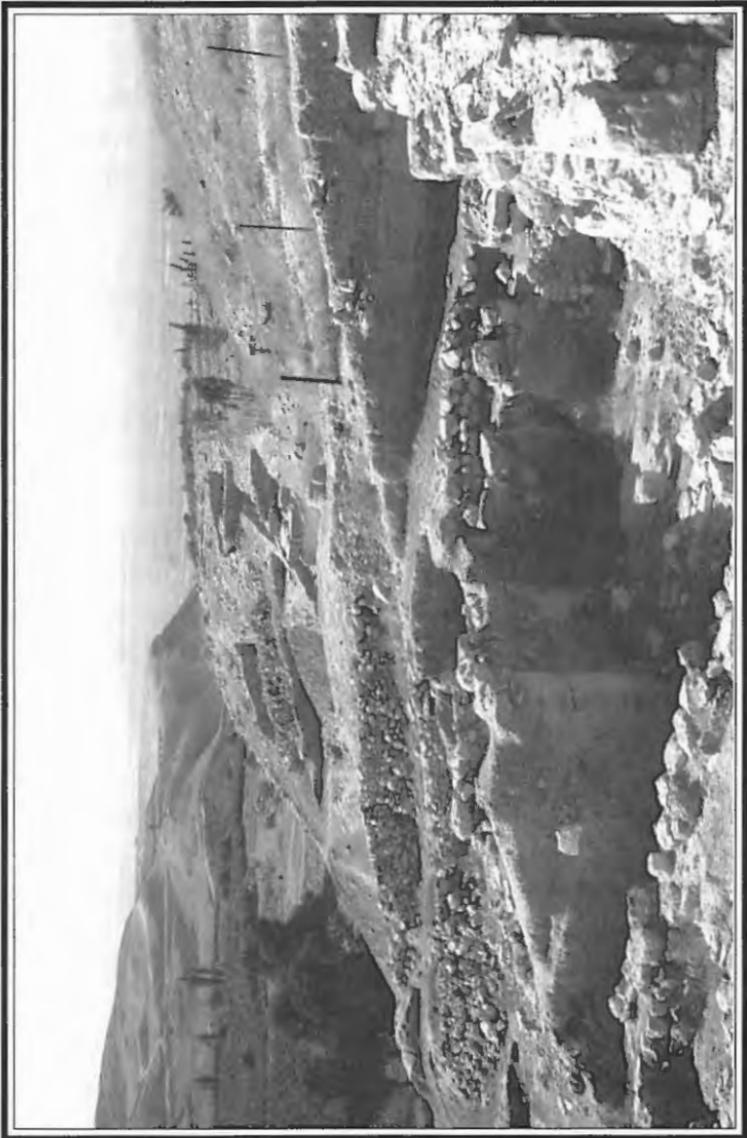
Many of the early believers attended synagogue on the sabbath as it had been adopted as a day of rest by all the known world. Some of the early Christians met in homes on Saturday night as well as on other days of the week, "*breaking bread from house to house*". They ate "*their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, to encourage one another.*"¹⁴

The Jews, both believers and unbelievers, lived side by side attending their local synagogue. Up until approximately 70 A.D. Christianity was considered by most leaders in the Roman government to be a sect of Judaism.¹⁵

In 68 A.D. Cestius Gallus besieged Jerusalem and would have taken the city had he continued in his efforts only a few more hours.¹⁶

But God has always preserved a faithful remnant.

For some unexplained reason he ordered his army to retreat and as the inhabitants of Jerusalem pursued them they fled from the area. Christians living in Jerusalem remembered that Jesus had instructed them to flee to the mountains when they saw Jerusalem encompassed with armies. They fled across the Jordan River to Pella.¹⁷



"FLEE TO THE MOUNTAINS"

*The Ruins of First Century Pella
Jordan River Valley and Israel in Background*

In 70 A.D. Titus succeeded in taking Jerusalem. Over one million inhabitants died and up to one hundred thousand were taken captive. Christianity, on the other hand, survived both in Pella and in the other areas of the world where it had spread.¹⁸

The date of the writing of the Book of Revelation is uncertain. There is one thing that is sure. By this time error had crept into the churches. The Lord reveals these errors to John in Chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation, including: evil people calling themselves Christians, false Apostles, Nicolaitanes (a conquering priesthood), the doctrine of Baalim, fornication, false prophets teaching fornication, apathy (people neither hot nor cold because they thought they were rich and in need of nothing). Jesus had warned believers about these things and plainly told them that the mystery of iniquity was at work. In a period of less than 60 years pure Christianity had become polluted by outside influences.¹⁹

But God has always preserved a faithful remnant.

Over the next 30 to 40 years true Christianity became more and more polluted. In 120 A.D. Hadrian built AElia Capitolina on the ruins of Jerusalem, and people holding any Judaic belief were denied entry. Up until that time Christians in Judea observed the commandments while they worshipped Christ as God. Vespasian had earlier introduced a temple tax for the upkeep of the temple in Jerusalem before its destruction in 70 A.D. Anyone considered to have anything to do with Judaic beliefs was required to pay the tax. Even though the temple had been destroyed, Hadrian maintained the tax for the upkeep of the pagan temple he had built on the temple mount. These events served as strong incentive for Christians to distance themselves from any appearance

of their Judaic beginnings. In 137 A.D. the church, in Jerusalem, for the first time proclaimed Marcus, an uncircumcised Gentile, as bishop. People that adhered to God's laws, did not return to Jerusalem. These Christians who were saved from annihilation in Jerusalem were truly the remnant of the very first group of believers. However, at this point in history, they were now considered narrow minded and unenlightened Christians even though they acknowledged the true divinity of Jesus Christ and accepted the writings of the Apostle Paul.²⁰

Around the beginning of the second century we begin to find written records of the doctrine of the "church". More than ever, Christians that adhered to God's commandments presented problems for the so called "church fathers": the very title of which should arouse our suspicions as Jesus had commanded that no man be called father. These writings, most of which were collected in the fourth century and many of whose authenticity is debated seem to be the basis of fourth century Christianity - Basis only, for many alterations and additions were combined for political advantage.²¹

Many of the 2nd Century "Christians" became participants in non-Christian activities. The Roman Emperors ordered that Christians should be tortured to death, but if they should recant they should be let go. Some chose life and while participating in many pagan practices claimed the title "Christian".²²

But God has always preserved a faithful remnant.

During the third century many Roman Emperors reigned; the average length of reign being approximately two years. Some of the Emperors were tolerant of Christianity while others

administered severe persecution for non participation in pagan rituals. In 250 A.D. all people were required to demonstrate their loyalty to the religion of Rome and receive a certificate or suffer death. Archaeological evidence indicates that many "Christians" made sacrifices to the Roman gods and indicated that they always had. At this point in time, 250 years after Christ, the basic principals taught by the Apostles had been forgotten by many people professing to be Christians.²³

But God has always preserved a faithful remnant.

During the second half of the third century the official religion of Rome became the worship of the sun (*Sol Invictus*). Illyrian Aurelian in 270 called himself lord and master (*dominus deus*) and erected a temple in Rome to Palmyrene Baal who he called sun lord of the Roman power (*Sol dominus imperii romani*). He established a college of masters of the sun (*pontifices Solis*) making the sun god the head of Roman religion. From the worship of Sol invictus (the invincible sun) came the worship of Mithra. In the religion of Mithraism, Mithra, the sun-god, replaced Jesus as the child visited by the Shepherds. Baptism was practiced, a lord's supper was celebrated and the spring equinox, later entitled "Easter" was observed. The chief festival of Mithraism was December the 25th, the rebirth of the winter sun - known to sun worshippers as Mithra's birthday. In addition, "Dies Solis" the day of the sun, was set aside in honor of the sun god.²⁴

During the fourth century Diocletian ruled from 303 to 311. He ordered all Scriptures to be publicly burned and persecuted the true Christians who would not worship the sun. Invincible sun (*Sol invictus*) appeared on his coins as well as images of Jupiter, the sun god. He ruled as God-Emperor with Mithra being his protector, the patron of his own power

(*Fautori imperii sui*). The Mithraic mysteries had been practiced in the Roman Empire since 115 A.D. when Mithra became the deity of bravery and fidelity, a soldier's religion, and was spread throughout the Roman Empire. In the time of Jesus, Mithraism was the great faith of Western Asia. Mithra was the chief deity who had ascended with the sun to heaven. It was similar to fourth century "Christianity" with Sacraments and Absolutions being a part of its secret rituals. Only three hundred years after Christ: pagan practices had been so blended with true Christianity and were now so similar that the historian, Jerome said, "the devil had by way of imitation introduced the very Christian solemnity into the mystery of Mithra."

Justin Martyr said that the whole system was the devil's trickery to mislead Christians.²⁵

But God has always preserved a faithful remnant.

Constantine, who claimed to be a Christian, became Roman Emperor. While still directing regular consultation with the sooth-sayers of pagan sun-worship, he commanded in his edict of 321 A.D. that the Mithraic sacred day, (Sunday), be observed. He proclaimed it to be a "Christian" observance. December 25th was the Mithraic celebration of the invincible birth of the winter sun (*natalis invicti*), and Sunday observance was proclaimed as the day of the sun (*Dies Solis*) in honor of the unconquered sun (*sol invictus*), the title given to Mithra the sun god. There was no reference to the fourth commandment or the birth of Christ. Mithraism, the religion of the Roman soldiers, was a blend of Babylonian, Persian and Greek sun worship. While professing Christianity, Constantine maintained the title highest chief (*Pontifex Maximus*), the title of the high priest of paganism.

He was responsible for the restoration and enrichment of the temples of the gods. On his Roman coins he depicted the pagan gods: Jupiter, Apollo, Mars, Sol (or Mithra) and Hercules, and stated that he was committed to the invincible sun.. Apollo had been identified as the sun god in Greek tradition since 500 B.C. Constantine, while claiming to be a Christian, recognized the sun as his guide and protector, the patron of his power (*fautori imperii sui*), *ordered his wife and eldest son murdered*, and had a column and statue erected depicting himself as Apollo the sun-god. The remains of the column can still be seen in Istanbul Turkey: remains only, for it was struck by lightning and is now referred to as the burnt column. Constantine, for political reasons, combined paganism with the true worship of God and called the result “Christianity”, the official religion of Rome.²⁶

But God has always preserved a faithful remnant.

It is important to remember the warning of Christ: *“Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”*²⁷

.....*Matthew 7:21-23*

God has never accepted the blend of paganism and true worship. It has been said that though certain observances originated in paganism, they are now practiced in honour of Christ. It must be remembered that even as Moses was

receiving the Ten Commandments, a golden calf was built and an altar before it. Burnt offerings were made and the celebration declared: "**A Feast to Jehovah**".

"And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them...."

.....Exodus 32: 9-10

Israel, before Christ, had fair warning of the consequences of disobedience to God; yet they allowed themselves to become entangled in pagan practices. **Those professing Christ, yet not doing His will, have been given the same warning.**²⁸

After reviewing the facts of how pagan practices have crept into the pure Christianity of 2000 years ago, one might wonder:

*"When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"*²⁹

But God has always preserved a faithful remnant.

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CHAPTER 19

LORD, LORD

"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

.....Luke 6:46

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

.....Matthew 7:21-23

Note: The literal interpretation of the Greek word originally used and translated iniquity is "Transgression of the Law".

Who are these people calling LORD?

"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him."

.....1John 2:3-5

**They were calling someone LORD.
Who was it?**

Again, the Bible gives us the answer: "*the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*"

.....2 Corinthians 4:4

Jesus Christ taught that His kingdom was not now of this world and that His followers were no longer of the world. Let us recall his instructions:

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

.....1 John 2:15-17

Remember, Satan offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them if He would worship him. **Worldly gratification is readily available to those who are willing to disobey God.** We are told that God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. We must be on guard against the deceptions of the world until the day when all of this will change:

"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."

.....Revelation 11:15

**DISOBEDIENCE OF GOD
IS THE WORSHIP OF SATAN**

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

.....*Matthew 6:24*

God has clearly stated since the creation of man that He will not tolerate the slightest deviation from His true worship. We are not to turn to the left or to the right. He made it plain:

"Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

.....*Matthew 4:19*

**GOD HAS IDENTIFIED HIMSELF
AND TOLD US HOW TO SERVE HIM**

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name

in vain. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's. And all the people saw the thunders, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off."

.....Exodus 20:1-18



The Blackened Peak of Jabel el Laws - Mt. Sinai

GOD GAVE A SPECIAL SIGN OF RECOGNITION

"Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you."

.....*Exodus 31:13*

As we know from the Old Testament, His chosen people did not follow His instructions, but, followed after the pagan sun worship of other nations. There came a point in time when they sought God:

His response:

"Are ye come to enquire of me?"

*"As I live, saith the Lord God,
I will not be enquired of by you...."*

WHY?

"....I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them. Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them. But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; and my sabbaths they greatly polluted...."

.....*Ezekiel 20:3-13*

**GOD'S RULES AND REGULATIONS
WILL ALWAYS REMAIN THE SAME.**

"....Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus ChristMatthew 5:18-19

Pagan worship throughout history did not require adherence to God's laws; in fact, it purposefully lead its followers away from them.

We have documented the fact that the pagan religions of antiquity have involved sun worship. Nothing has changed! Satan's final effort to destroy the true worship of God consist of his subtle attempts to deceive the very elect by persuading them to set aside God's laws.

"...hath God said....?"

Satan....Genesis 3:1

**DO WE KNOW THE GOD OF THE BIBLE?
ARE WE KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENTS?**

**HOW WILL HE ANSWER
WHEN WE SAY**

LORD, LORD

?

CHAPTER 20

ANOTHER JESUS

*“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:”
.....Romans 3:10*

*“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.”
.....2 Corinthians 11:3-4*

What would be considered “*another Jesus*”? The Greek word used in this scripture verse is “allos” meaning different. So what we are considering is a different Jesus; not the Jesus of the Bible, not the only begotten Son of God; but another Jesus; an imposter.

How would one differentiate between the Jesus of the Bible, Son of God, and “another Jesus”? The answer is that the Biblical attributes of the true when compared to the extra-Biblical attributes of the “other Jesus” will reveal the imposter. There is no other way to discern.

Today there are worldly wise, philosophers “vain in their imaginations” who teach ways that oppose the ways of

God: ***“Another Jesus”***. Many pagan practices that have absolutely no scriptural basis have been accepted, by many believers as the worship of God and Christ Jesus. These practices have not only been accepted but have become commonplace in the organized church. Those who refuse to participate in those practices are considered strange. These practices, introduced gradually by false teachers, have been accepted through tradition and have absolutely no scriptural basis. We have no excuse for ignorance. We have been fairly warned:

“there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies.”

.....2 Peter 2:1

We must search the scriptures to find out the truth. The truth that the ways of the LORD prescribed for His people have not changed, nor will they change. The truth that the only thing that has changed is that, as repentant followers of Christ, we are no longer under the death penalty for our past disobedience. Activities that were unacceptable to the Father 6000 years ago, and to the Son 2000 years ago, are still unacceptable today.

Christ said: ***“This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”***

.....Matthew 15:8

The prophesies of the Bible have come true: **The time has come when sound doctrine is not endured.** People receive teachers who tell them what they want to hear. Things that are wrong are justified, explained away: disregarding the

warning, ***“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”***

.....*Isaiah 5:20*

Fables and the traditions of men are substituted for the truth.

“after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

.....*2 Timothy 4:3-4*

IN VAIN!

Again, the Jesus of the Bible said ***“in vain they do worship me teaching for doctrines the commandments of men”***.

The Greek word translated “in vain” is (maten) meaning “to no end, fruitless, folly, a futile attempt”. **“Christianized” pagan activities, traditional inventions of men, are being presented as being in honor of Jesus yet they are not in honor of the Biblical Jesus.**

The question arises: **What Jesus do they honor?** The Jesus of the Bible said that the non-Biblical traditions of men had nothing to do with Him, therefore, these practices must be in honour of **“another Jesus”**.

What "Jesus" prefers the commandments of unrighteous men over those of the Father? Not the Jesus of the Bible!

He said: ***“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.***

For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”
.....*Matthew 5:17-20*

Heaven and earth have not passed away. The ways of the LORD have not changed no matter what man's tradition teaches. Although repentant believers are no longer under the death penalty resulting from the transgression of the law, there are penalties for rejecting the ways of God and blessings for adherence.

“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”
.....*Colossians 2:8*

In order to worship in “*spirit and in truth*”, the traditions of men and so called “Christianized” pagan practices that have no Biblical authority must be rejected. Believers must remember what the Bible teaches about blending pagan practices with worship that is pleasing to the LORD.

“This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.”
.....*Galatians 5:8*

Believers must speak the truth: “*reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine*”.
.....*2 Timothy 4:2*

COMPROMISE IS NOT LOVE

Today, intolerance of compromise is considered lack of love for one another. The truth is that it is just the opposite. If one really cares about someone, he should tell them the truth, whether it makes him popular or not.

“Open rebuke is better than secret love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”

.....*Proverbs 27:5*

When one receives reproof it is not usually accepted as pleasing conversation. The question arises: should the truth be spoken whether it is pleasing or not; or should truths be withheld because they are unpopular? The Bible gives the answer:

“He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked man getteth himself a blot. Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”

.....*Proverbs 9:7-10*

It is very difficult to proclaim error in a way that is pleasing to those who, through the traditions of men, participate in activities never prescribed nor authorized by God the Father, Jesus, His only begotten Son - the Messiah, or the believers that walked with Him. Some people depend on professional teachers for information. They are not aware of the

deception that has crept in, and if they knew would totally reject it. Many teachers, however, who have studied the Bible and secular history, are well aware of the origin of “Christianized” pagan practices, yet they proclaim them to be accepted by the Biblical Jesus:

Teachers, ***“Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre’s sake.”***

.....*Titus 1:11*

Those concealing the truth in order to uphold the traditions of men should not be told in a pleasing way: Pagan tradition was never authorized by the Jesus of the Bible - you are preaching ***“another Jesus”***. Some teachers, who honestly do not know, those who love the truth, will not receive reproval as a personal attack, but will ***“receive the word with all readiness of mind”***, and search the scriptures to find out what is really true.

Do we really love the truth? Those that do will not be satisfied to remain like those, who, ***“willingly are ignorant”***. They will study in order to search out the truth and then respond to it.

THE TRUTH MUST BE PROCLAIMED:

“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:”

.....*The Biblical Jesus*

“Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.”

.....Ecclesiastes 7:29

INVENTIONS

INVENTION:

The festival of December 25th has nothing to do with the Biblical Jesus. It was a pagan festival in honor of the birth of ***“Another Jesus”***, the incarnate sun god of antiquity. December the 25th was a festival celebrating the winter solstice, the rebirth of the winter sun as it began to rise higher in the sky each day. This celebration, was recognized by pagans of the third century Roman Empire as the birthday of Mithra, the sun god. Mithra was considered by them to be a messiah, a christ, a mediator between man and god. ***“Another Jesus!”*** There are no biblical instructions as to the recognition of December 25th as the birthday of the Biblical Jesus; yet this day is one of the most celebrated events observed by the organized “church”. This pagan festival was “Christianized” several hundred years after Christ.

INVENTION:

The pagan festival of Easter originated as the worship of the Babylonian Queen of Heaven, ***“mother of another Jesus”***, who was later worshiped under many names including Ishtar, Cybele, Idaia Mater - the great mother, or Astarte for whom the celebration of Easter is named. Easter is not another name for the Feast of Passover when Christ was crucified,

and, is not celebrated at the Biblically prescribed time for Passover. The pagan festival of Easter was “Christianized” several hundred years after Christ.

INVENTION:

Sunday is not the sabbath. Recognition of Sunday as a special day originated with pagan sun worship: “the venerable day of the sun”, as it was known by followers of Mithra, the sun god, their mediator between god and man. ***“Another Jesus”!*** Sunday was “Christianized” several hundred years after Christ. The seventh day of the week, Saturday, is the sabbath. During the first century Judeans, Christians, and even the whole known world observed the seventh day sabbath. The sabbath of God was established on the seventh day of creation, proclaimed to be holy, had nothing to do with Jews, and the Biblical Jesus said that ***“Till heaven and earth pass”*** it will remain the sabbath of the LORD.

INVENTION:

“Christian symbols” such as crosses and fish are pagan in origin. No examples of the use of these symbols can be found from the time of early believers. These symbols which originally represented the worship of pagan gods, ***“Another Jesus”***, were “Christianized” several hundred years after Christ.

INVENTIONS

The above mentioned examples **are only a few** of the many pagan practices, which through assimilation, have been declared to be in honor of the Biblical Jesus.

WHO AUTHORIZED THESE PRACTICES?

Not God the Father, the Biblical Jesus, the disciples, or first century believers.

The Biblical Jesus stated: ***“If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.”*** Only ***“Another Jesus”*** could support such activity.

Blending of pagan practices with the prescribed worship of God was never accepted. A good example is when Aaron built the golden calf during the Exodus: ***“he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD”*** - literally - “a feast to YHWH”.....”***And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them.”*** The proclamation of this pagan tradition to be in honor of YHWH did not make it acceptable. Christ said: ***“he that hath seen me hath seen the Father.”*** The proclamation of pagan traditions to be in honor of Christ, who is one with the Father will not make them acceptable. Pagan practices by whatever name are still pagan practices. God's Holy Word makes it clear,

“I am the LORD, I change not....”

Should believers participate in ways that are opposed to God? **No absolutely not!** The answer is unavoidable; so, many try to justify and make excuses. The most common excuse: Although this activity is pagan in origin, it has been

Christianized” and “that is not what it means to me.” If we want to worship God, “*in spirit and in truth*”, what it means to us makes no difference. **What it means to Him should be our concern.** He does not change and he does not accept pagan tradition by whatever name. Remember, He said that such activity is in vain.

In accordance with Biblical instructions we must hold fast the faithful word of sound doctrine.

Although salvation is by grace through faith alone “*sin is the transgression of the law*”. “*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*”

“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good”.

**PRACTICES IN OPPOSITION TO THE
ACCEPTED WAYS OF THE LORD CAN
ONLY BE IN HONOR OF:**

“ANOTHER JESUS”

CONCLUSION

***"There is an evil which I have seen under
the sun, and it is common among men..."
.....Ecclesiastes 6:1***

Man has not been given the authority to add to, or take away from, the precepts of God. Yet, as in the garden of Eden, the serpent in an attempt to deceive asks: "Hath God said?"

The Word of God does not change!

When that Word became flesh and dwelt among men, the most religious of all those calling themselves followers of God, were found by Christ, to be of the ***"devil", "serpents and vipers."*** These people, although very religious, had through tradition, made God's laws ***"of none effect."*** Christ told them: ***"Ye neither know me, nor my Father"*** yet they claimed the highest position of leadership and authority.

Throughout the pages of this book, it has been shown over and over again that many traditions, taught by today's "spiritual leaders", have absolutely no Biblical authority. In addition, it has been shown that they are, in fact, customs developed by pagan sun worshippers in honor of ***"other gods"***.

The attempt to substitute non-Biblical doctrines ***"the commandments of men"***, in place of God's commandments, is ***"in vain"***.

Who is being honored? -
Who is being worshipped? -

Not Christ!

We have been warned that not every one that calls Christ Jesus "*Lord*" will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but only those doing the will of His heavenly Father. Even though they have done many wonderful works in His name, they will be told that, as transgressors of God's law, they must depart from Him: "*I never knew you*".

Did they really know Him?

The first page of this book was a warning. The reader was cautioned not to continue unless he was willing to take responsibility for the information contained in the book. As a responsible person, you are now aware that many practices which have been labeled "Christian" have no Biblical authority and are, in fact, pagan in nature. Knowledge has been defined as the state or fact of knowing - an understanding gained through experience or study. The Bible says that God's people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. In the past, a rejection of knowledge, (failure to remember God's laws), resulted in His rejection. He does not change!

You must now make a decision.

What will you do with the information that you have received? Will you decide that the information is true or false? Whatever your decision, do not take my word that it is true. On the other hand, please do not take the word of others, no matter what their credentials, that it is not true! You are ultimately responsible for your decision. Therefore, it is vital that you base your decision on a personal examination of the scripture.

If there is no Biblical support for the traditions which have been discussed, where then did they come from, and who do they honor? A small amount of research using any good encyclopaedia will reveal the pagan origin of the before mentioned practices. The only honest answer is that they

originate in sun worship, oppose obedience to God the Father and His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ - thereby they honor Satan.

Is it just a coincidence that these traditions of sun worship have now been labeled "Christian"? No! These are pagan traditions which have absolutely no Biblical authority and are the result of thousands of years of Satanic efforts to undermine the true worship of God. These practices, in opposition to the commandments of God, will never be "Christianized" no matter what "church leaders" say. Sin will always be defined as the transgression of the law and Christ said that those who love Him will keep His commandments.

*"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.
.....Revelation 14:12*

*"Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.
.....Revelation 22:14-15*

By the grace of God, we know where non-Biblical tradition comes from and who it honors. What a privilege! What a responsibility!

*"to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."
.....James 4:17*

We are without excuse if we fail to retain the knowledge that we have been given, and act upon it.

Truly, we have been “Too Long in the Sun.”

“Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins...”

.....Revelation 18:4

For those that know the truth, and choose the ways of Satan, will surely be burned.

“For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of Hosts.”

.....Malachi 4:1-3

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If you love the truth.....

THIS IS THE BOOK THAT YOU HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR.

TOO LONG IN THE SUN is packed with details which relate to the apostasy of the "Last Days": prophesied by both the Old and New Testaments. Revealed are the astonishing facts about the ancient "Mysteries" and their Satanic influence upon present day thought.

OLD TESTAMENT

"O LORD, my strength and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit."Jeremiah 16:19

NEW TESTAMENT

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lust shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."2 Timothy 4:3-4

IS THE WHOLE TRUTH BEING PRESENTED ?

This thought provoking volume will intensify your passion for the truth; challenging you to search the scriptures and apply biblical truths in your walk with Christ.

*BACKED BY SCRIPTURE AND HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION
ILLUSTRATED WITH MAPS, DIAGRAMS, PHOTOS AND DRAWINGS*