

ATTRACTIVE DECEPTION



THE FALSE HOPE OF THE HEBREW ROOTS MOVEMENT

Joseph Herrin

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Introduction

Authentic Christianity! That is the heart's desire of many believers today who have become discouraged with the sensuality and materialism of the prosperity churches; the dubious spirituality of the prophetic and apostolic congregations; and the vapid trendiness of the rock and roll, seeker-friendly, coffee-swilling, and doctrinally-flimsy houses of worship that dot the landscape of our nations. Many sincere people of God have at some point despaired of ever finding a group of fellow believers who see through the vacuity of popular modern Christianity, and who have set their hearts to walk with Christ in truth and obedience. The no-cost (and no-transformation) gospel that appeals to church-members' desire to be entertained and reassured of heaven when they die, has produced a spiritually empty parody of Christian discipleship that has led to a mass exodus from the churches.

In an hour of apostasy, there have been increasing numbers who have recognized that somewhere along the line the church has departed from the original faith of Christ and His apostles. They have wanted to return to first century Christianity that they might reconnect with lost truths, and thereby restore spiritual health and vitality to their own lives and the lives of believers with whom they fellowship. Many look to the book of Acts, to that first church which was birthed in Jerusalem. They observe that all of the apostles were Jewish men. Indeed, for a number of years the church consisted entirely of Jewish men and women. Yahshua had declared that He was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. He informed His disciples that there was a divine order to the spread of the kingdom of God. The gospel of salvation through Yahshua must be preached first in Jerusalem, then Judea and Samaria, and finally to the ends of the earth.

Recognizing the Jewish foundation from which the church sprang, many Christians have concluded that a more authentic Christianity must of necessity require a return to the Hebrew roots of the first church in Jerusalem. In one sense they are quite correct, for the Law and the Prophets were given both to the Jews and to all mankind to guide them to Christ. The Old Testament foreshadows that which is brought into full view in the New Testament. All who would be disciples of Christ should be students of both covenants, for ALL SCRIPTURE is inspired by God and profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness that the man of God might be thoroughly equipped and furnished (II Timothy 3:16).

From the time I was a child I have given as much attention to the 39 books of the Old Testament as I have the 27 books of the New Testament. Over the course of many years of ministry I have found the TaNaKh, the Torah, the Nebium, the Kethubim (which are also referred to as the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings which make up the Old Testament) to be as rich and valuable a teaching source as the New Testament writings. I cite both divisions of the Bible with equal familiarity, authority, and value. Christians who have judged the Old Testament to be a Jewish book that has no benefit for their lives are acting foolishly. All 66 books of the Bible are "God-breathed." All of them are pregnant with revelation, instruction, and encouragement for the people of God, whether they be Jews, Christians, or Jewish Christians.

Jesus Christ/Yahshua the Messiah did not arrive in this world 2,000 years ago without an introduction. 1,500 years before He died on a cross to serve as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of mankind, He was foreshadowed in the Passover lambs that Moses instructed the people of Israel to

slay on their last night in Egypt. 430 years before that first Passover, Yahweh promised His friend Abraham that a Seed would one day be given to him who would be a source of blessing to all nations. That Seed is Christ, whose genealogy is reckoned back to Abraham. Yahshua's genealogy is also traced back to David, the King of Israel who had a heart after God.

What do these men, Moses, Abraham, and David have in common? They are all Hebrews. They were all members of a nation chosen by Yahweh to be His peculiar possession in the earth. Abraham is the father of the Hebrew nation. This nation is frequently called by the name of his grandson Jacob whose name was changed to Israel. From Jacob/Israel came twelve sons. One of those sons was Judah, whose lineage was destined to bear the scepter of rule over the nation. Yahshua the Messiah, the King of Israel, was born of the tribe of Judah. He is in all ways the legitimate heir to the title "King of the Jews."

It takes only an elementary understanding of the Bible to understand that Christianity arose out of Judaism. The Hebrew people had their beginning when Yahweh called Abram to leave his home in Aram, to depart from his father's household, and to follow Him to a new land that would be given to Abram's descendants as a possession. 2,000 years later Yahweh sent His only begotten Son to the earth to call out a further elect from among mankind. Yahshua chose twelve men, all Jewish, to lay the foundation for His church. This church, referred to as "the body of Christ," was not to be made up only of Hebrew men and women. It would encompass a great multitude of Gentile believers. The word "Gentile" is a reference to "the nations." In this sense, the phrase "the nations" indicates any who are not natural born Israelites, descendants of Abraham.

It would be folly to suggest that those members of the body of Christ who came from "the nations" have no need of, or would derive no benefit from, learning about Yahweh's dealings with the Hebrew people, the descendants of Abraham. Yahweh spent two millennia dealing with this nation prior to calling the Gentiles to be part of the people of God. It would be equally foolish for the Jew to suggest that the Gentiles, those who are not the natural descendants of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob, have no part or portion with them. Through His Son, Yahweh has reconciled both Jew and Gentile into one people.

Matthew 8:11

"And I say to you, that many shall come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven..."

Acts 10:45

And all the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also.

Romans 2:28-29

For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter...

Ephesians 2:11-21

Therefore remember, that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision,"... remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Yahshua you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Yahshua Himself being the corner stone...

Hebrew and non-Hebrew are now one in Christ. Those who were once far off (the people of the nations) have now been brought near to God through the blood of the Jewish Messiah. The apostle Paul contends that both Jew and Gentile were sinners. Both needed a Savior. Both were reconciled back to the Father in the same way, the way of faith.

Romans 3:9, 28-30

What then? Are we (Jews) better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin... For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since indeed God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith is one.

The body of Christ is comprised of men and women from all tongues, tribes, and nations of the earth. There is no distinction. All have been made one in Christ. Nevertheless, Yahweh dealt specifically with the Hebrew nation for 2,000 years prior to sending His Son to draw all men unto Himself. The Hebrew people have a rich history of Yahweh dealing with them. The apostle Paul was a Hebrew, born of the tribe of Benjamin. He testified the following.

Romans 3:1-2

Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.

What were these oracles? They are the 39 books of the Old Testament, the books which the Jewish people call the Tanakh. When someone speaks of the Hebrew roots of Christianity, it is these books, and all that is revealed in them, that I deem to fit the words "Hebrew Roots" most aptly. Should not the Christian disciple, whether Jew or Gentile, give themselves enthusiastically to the study of these "oracles of God" that they might learn as much about their Creator and Redeemer as possible? Indeed, there is no excuse for those who neglect so great an opportunity when it is before them. From the first line of the book of Genesis, unto the last line of the prophet Malachi, there is much wisdom, revelation, and instruction to be gleaned by those who love truth.

Now, if the study of the Old Testament, and familiarity with all the words Yahweh has delivered to mankind through Hebrew men, were in fact what was in focus when people speak of the Hebrew roots of Christianity, I would be all for it. If adopting Hebrew roots meant no more than embracing all 66 books of the Bible as divinely inspired and profitable for Christians, then I would be judged as one of the most ardent proponents of Hebrew roots today. I have devoted major portions of my books and writings to discerning the types, shadows, and various parables contained throughout the Old Testament. I have sought wisdom in the historical accounts of patriarchs, kings, and prophets. I have delved deeply into the types and shadows of the Law delivered to Israel through Moses. I was even destined by God to bear the name Joseph, one of Israel's twelve sons. Adding to the remarkable nature of this last fact is the knowledge that my parents were not even Christians at the time of my birth.

There is a growing faction among Christians at this hour called the Hebrew Roots Movement. Those who are the main actors in this movement, those who serve as teachers to tens of thousands of men and women across the world, intend much more when they speak of Christians returning to the Hebrew roots of their Christian faith than the mere study of the Old Testament. Many are stating that Gentile believers should conform themselves to the lives of their Jewish brethren. By this they mean that the Gentile believer should become Torah observant, taking upon themselves the Law as schoolmaster and guardian after the manner determined by Yahweh for the Hebrew people *before* the time of their promised Messiah.

In speaking of returning to the Hebrew roots of Christianity, some are suggesting that the Gentile believer should begin to study the Talmud and Midrash, giving equal or even greater weight to these rabbinical interpretations of the Scriptures than they do to the Bible itself. Some are suggesting that Gentile believers should keep the dietary laws, observe Sabbaths, new moons, and Feast days. They are even leading the Gentile believers to embrace Jewish traditions that are extra-Biblical, such as wearing the kippah and the tallit, reading the daily parashot and haftarot, observing non-Biblical holidays such as Hanukkah, and adopting Jewish practice such as never writing out the name of Yahweh, replacing it with "God," and even when using this title to not spell it out, but rather to omit the vowel as in "G_d." People who are joining Hebrew Roots fellowships are adopting many Hebrew words in place of English (or their native language), as if speaking, singing, or writing in Hebrew is a sign of spirituality, bringing them closer to Christ and a return to authentic Christianity.



In adopting many of the traditions and symbols of Judaism, these Gentile Christians and Messianic

Jews are unwittingly embracing many profane things which derive from the Kabbalah. Kabbalah is Jewish mysticism that is traceable back to Babylon. It is infused with Satanic deception. There are signs, symbols, traditions, even the observance of specific holidays, that are Luciferian and are being embraced by Christians who are seeking a more authentic Christian faith and experience. Truly, Satan is the great deceiver who deceives the entire world. Sincere believers who are fleeing from the carnality and spiritual bankruptcy of modern Christianity, are running headlong into further deception in the Hebrew Roots Movement, mistaking it for the true faith.

In this book I will address many of these components of the Hebrew Roots Movement. I will present evidence from the Scriptures, from history, and from current sources that the reader can evaluate and test for themselves. My desire is not to offend my brothers and sisters in Christ who have embraced the Hebrew Roots Movement, but rather to help them to escape the snare of the devil. My heart's desire is expressed by John, the beloved disciple, who wrote the following:

III John 4

I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.

I would that all of God's people might serve and worship Yahweh in Spirit and in truth.

In closing out this introduction I would speak somewhat of the intended scope of this book. One of the most profound and grievous effects of the Hebrew Roots Movement is that it is leading a large number of Christians away from a life submitted to, and guided by, the Spirit of Christ. It is leading them back to life under the Law of Moses. This book will NOT focus on this aspect of the Hebrew Roots Movement, as it would take an entire book in itself to address this subject responsibly and thoroughly. Such a book already exists, as I was led previously by the Spirit of Christ to write the book titled *Laying Down the Law*. I would urge the reader to consider this present writing to be a companion book to *Laying Down the Law*. I would further encourage the reader to study carefully my earlier book on the Law BEFORE reading this one which will primarily focus on the traditions, symbols, and various Hebraisms that many Christians are adopting today.

Many of my brothers and sisters, having been informed of the intent of this present writing, and of the book *Laying Down the Law*, will be inclined to dismiss both of them out of hand, having made up their minds that observing the Law and adopting Hebrew traditions, symbols, and practices, is the will of God for all Christians. To such ones I would make the following entreaty. ***Please hear my testimony before you reject it.*** Although you may believe you have heard every possible argument on these subjects, and are satisfied that none of them are worthy, I am confident that you have not yet "heard" what I have set forth on these subjects.

In the book *Laying Down the Law* I have presented evidence and arguments that I have encountered from no other man. I spent many years entreating the Father to show me the truth about the role and duration of the Law that I might teach accurately and effectually His mind on this subject. Over the course of more than a decade the Father unveiled to me much of His thought on this subject. In sincerity, and humility, I declare that I have been taught of God, and have not followed the teaching of man.

I urge you also to consider the wisdom declared by King Solomon.

Proverbs 18:13

He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him.

Before you reject my message without giving it a hearing, I would entreat you to remember the words of Nicodemus as he addressed the chief priests and pharisees.

John 7:51

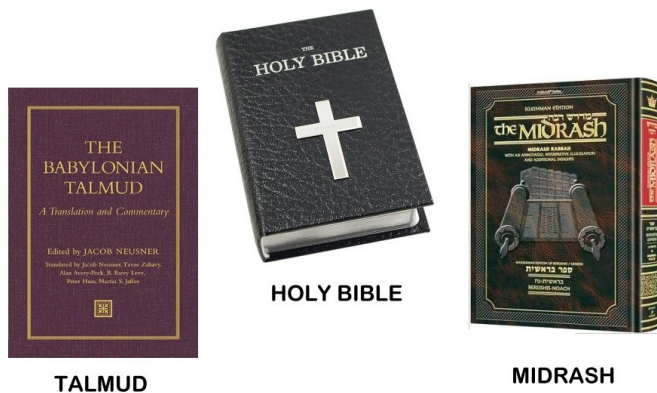
“Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?”

If you believe you are to keep the Law, then does not the Law say you should hear before you judge? If you will hear what I have to say, and afterward you still believe that it is God’s will for you to be governed by the Law, or to conform yourself to various Jewish customs, then you have lost nothing. You will have spent only a little of your time in exercising the fruits of the Spirit which include patience, gentleness, and humility. You will have treated a brother in Christ with love, and that is a far weightier matter in Yahweh’s sight than a great many things. If, on the other hand, you find that the Spirit of Christ is speaking to you through what is written, you will have gained much.

May you be blessed with peace and understanding in these days,

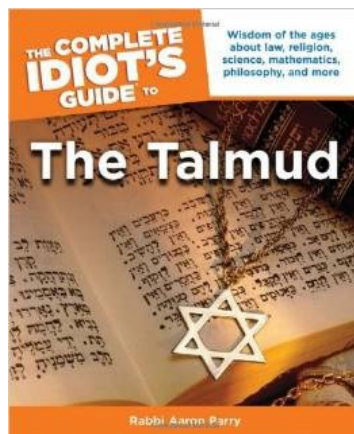
Joseph Herrin

Between Two Thieves



If you are like many Christians, you likely do not know the difference between the Talmud and the Torah. You may think that a Midrash is something you get from rubbing poison ivy on your stomach. Many of the words associated with Jewish religion are unfamiliar to Gentile Christians. It can seem daunting to get a firm grasp upon the terminology and concepts associated with Judaism, but there can be great profit in putting forth the effort. The focus of this and the following chapter of *Attractive Deception* is to make the identification of the Talmud and Midrash (and the Jewish people's attitudes towards them) readily comprehensible. This present chapter will focus upon the Talmud, with the following examining the Midrash.

In popular culture, this chapter might be titled *Talmud for Dummies*, though I think the label would be unfairly demeaning to the reader. Doing a quick search on Amazon, I did discover the following book exists.



The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Talmud

Undoubtedly Rabbi Aaron Parry has a very different focus to his writing than I have in mind. In order to bring to light the error of the Hebrew Roots Movement, it is necessary to demonstrate the character of Hebrew religious life, both ancient and modern. Many of the traditions, doctrines, rites, and observances which the Hebrew Roots Movement has embraced derive from an attempt to imitate and incorporate elements of Hebrew religion and culture into the faith and practice of Christianity. What many do not realize is that a great number of these traditions arise from apostate Judaism,

rather than from authentic apostolic Christian faith. The Talmud and the Midrash, hold significant responsibility for leading astray the Jews. The same result is often met by the Christian believer who embraces Hebrew Roots.

Most Christians today, even those with considerable knowledge of the Bible, are unfamiliar with many of the basic concepts relating to Judaism. This is NOT because Christians are *Dummies*, or *Idiots*. Rather, it is due to an absence of focus on Judaic practice among the majority of churches which comprise the body of Christ. My parents took me to church faithfully from the time I was a small child. When I was old enough I continued the practice on my own. Yet, in all the churches I attended, I do not recall a single sermon or Sunday School lesson teaching us about the Talmud or Midrash. I am not suggesting that churches should teach *from* the Talmud and Midrash. What would be profitable is to teach the body of Christ *about* them.

My problem was not that I was a shirker. I knew the Bible. I read the Old Testament as well as the New Testament. From childhood I could cite the names of all 66 books of the Bible, and quote a large number of Scripture verses. I was familiar with the content of the Bible, but I never encountered the words Talmud or Midrash in all of my Scripture reading. There is good reason for this. These words do not appear in the Bible, at least not in the English translations from which I was reading. The absence of these words, however, does not infer that the Talmud and Midrash are not spoken of in the Bible. Christ was speaking of the precursor to the Talmud (the Oral Torah) when He uttered the following words.

Mark 7:6-9

“Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me. But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.’ Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.” He was also saying to them, “You nicely set aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.”

The Son of God was citing the prophet Isaiah who wrote in the 8th century B.C.. The Jewish people spent a large portion of their history in an apostate condition. The years in which they walked in truth are few and far between. The Hebrews quickly developed traditions and interpretations of Yahweh’s word which led them into apostasy and kept them there. At the root of this apostate teaching is the claim that, in addition to the Law which Yahweh delivered to Moses which was inscribed on tablets of stone at Mount Sinai, Yahweh delivered a second body of teachings to Moses consisting of interpretations of the Law. The Jewish rabbis refer to the Law written on tablets as the *Torah Schebichtav* (Written Law), while they call the unwritten interpretations of the Law that Yahweh delivered to Moses as the *Torah Shebeal Peh* (Oral Law). The rabbis postulate that Yahweh could have inscribed the written Law on tablets of stone in a single day, but that it required the rest of the forty days Moses was on Mount Sinai to teach him the interpretations of the Law.

A Christian believer may quickly dismiss the claim of Yahweh delivering to Moses a second Law as nothing more than Jewish myth. Yet to the religiously observant Jew this story is taken very seriously, and the Oral Law is assigned a higher honor and authority than the Written Law. According to Jewish tradition, Moses taught the Oral Law to Joshua; Joshua taught it to the seventy elders of Israel; These seventy elders taught it to the Prophets, and the Prophets in turn passed it on

to “the Great Synagogue,” that body of Jews who lived after the period of the Prophets in what is largely considered the Persian period of Israel’s history, or the time from the Babylonian exile forward. Bear in mind that a great many Jews remained in Babylonia after their seventy years of exile were finished. Only a remnant returned to Jerusalem.

This tradition of how the Oral Torah passed from Moses down to the Jewish religious leaders many centuries later is a Jewish fable, though the Orthodox Jews do not see it as such. Such fables have been prevalent for the entire history of the Christian church. The apostle Paul warned Titus about them.

Titus 1:13-14

For this cause reprove them severely that they may be sound in the faith, not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth.

In these words of the apostle Paul is a reference to the Oral Torah whose man-made traditions would be set down in writing as the Talmud about two centuries later. The Oral Torah, like the Talmud and Midrash, consists of Jewish Myths and the commandments of men which turn people away from the truth. The Scriptures speak nothing of Yahweh delivering to Moses anything other than the Law written on tablets of stone. There is no Biblical support to the claim that Yahweh taught Moses a second Law, an oral one. It is ever the practice of disobedient men to add to the word of God, thereby altering and rendering null and void the commandments of Yahweh.

The earliest mention in the Scriptures of the Jews giving heed to vain traditions that stood in contradiction to the divinely inspired word of God is in the book of Isaiah. Isaiah began to prophesy around 740 B.C.. He wrote at that time of the Jewish people teaching “the precepts of men” as if they were the doctrines of God. This was undoubtedly a reference to the Oral Torah. Consequently, we can deduce that the Oral Torah was in existence as early as the 8th century B.C.. Moses received the true Law of God in the 15th century B.C.. Somewhere in the time between the original transmission of the Law at Mount Sinai and the time of Isaiah’s writing, the Oral Torah had its origin.

The Oral Torah most certainly was NOT delivered to Moses, adopted by Joshua, then passed along by the seventy elders of Israel, or the prophets. Isaiah was a prophet of Yahweh. He rejected and cast scorn upon the precepts and doctrines that the religious leaders of Israel were teaching as if they were divine commandments. There has been no greater prophet than Jesus Christ/Yahshua the Messiah. He repeated the words of His Father that Isaiah had recorded, and set before us an example of the error contained in the Oral Torah.

Mark 7:10-13

“For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death’; but you say, ‘If a man says to his father or his mother, anything of mine you might have been helped by is Corban (that is to say, devoted to God),’ you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother; thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that.”

The Oral Law/Torah had much to say about corban, and the Talmud which is the written form of the

Oral Law does as well. We can determine from this that both Christ, and Isaiah's references were to the Oral Torah. These inventions of men were subverting and overturning the commandments of Yahweh, as they continue to do unto this very day. Yahshua added "and you do many things such as that." The Oral Torah is rife with man-made additions and interpretations of the Law of God that lead the student of the Oral Torah away from divine truth.

Reverend I. B. Pranaitis, in his scholarly book *The Talmud Unmasked* (published 1892), shares a concise history of the Talmud. Following is an excerpt from his book.

The Talmud gets its name from the word Lamud - taught, and means The Teaching... it is taken to mean the book which contains the Teaching, which is called Talmud, that is, the doctrinal book which alone fully expounds and explains all the knowledge and teaching of the Jewish people...

In the second century after Christ, Rabbi Jehuda who, because of the sanctity of his life, was called The Saint, and The Prince, realizing that the learning of the Jews was diminishing, that their oral law was being lost, and that the Jewish people were being dispersed, was the first to consider ways and means of restoring and preserving their oral law. He collected all the lists and charts and from them he made a book which was called the Sepher Mischnaioth, or Mischnah - a Deuterosis, or secondary law. He divided it into six parts, each of which was divided into many chapters...

The Mischnah is the foundation and the principal part of the whole Talmud. This book was accepted by the Jews everywhere and was recognized as their authentic code of law. It was expounded in their Academies in Babylon - at Sura, Iumbaditha and Nehardea - and in their Academies in Palestine - at Tiberias, Iamnia and Lydda.

As their interpretations increased with the passing of time, the disputations and decisions of the doctors of the law concerning the Mischnah were written down, and these writings constituted another part of the Talmud called the Gemarah.

These two parts are so disposed throughout the whole Talmud that the Mischnah serves first as a kind of text of the law, and is followed by the Gemarah as an analysis of its various opinions leading to definite decisions...

In interpreting the Mischnah of Rabbi Jehuda, the schools of Palestine and Babylon followed each their own method, and by thus following their own way gave rise to a twofold Gemarah - the Jerusalem and the Babylonian versions. The author of the Jerusalem version was Rabbi Jochanan, who was head of the synagogue in Jerusalem for eighty years. He wrote thirty-nine chapters of commentaries on the Mischnah which he compiled in the year 230 A.D.

The Babylonian Gemarah, however, was not compiled by any one person, nor at any one time. Rabbi Aschi began it in 327 A.D. and labored over it for sixty years. He was followed by Rabbi Maremar about the year 427 A.D., and it was completed by Rabbi Abina about the year 500 A.D. The Babylonian Gemarah has thirty-six chapters of interpretations.

This twofold Gemarah, added to the Mischnah, makes also a twofold Talmud: The Jerusalem

version, which, on account of its brevity and obscurity, is not much used; and the Babylonian version, which has been held in the highest esteem by Jews of all times.

The Gemarah is followed by additions called Tosephoth(8). It was thus that Rabbi Chaia first styled his opinions on the Mischnaioth. He and Rabbi Uschaia were the first to explain this book publicly in the schools. Commentaries on the Mischnah which were made by the doctors outside the schools were called Baraietoth(9), or extraneous opinions.

(8) From Tosepheth, or Tosiphta, meaning addition.

(9) From Baria, extraneous, or Baraietha, extraneous teaching.

These Commentaries were further supplemented by other decisions called Piske Tosephoth, short theses and simple principles.

For nearly five hundred years after the Babylonian Talmud was completed, the study of literature was greatly hampered partly due to public calamities and partly owing to dissensions among the scholars. But in the eleventh century others wrote further additions to the Talmud. Chief among these were the Tosephoth of Rabbi Ascher.

Besides these there appeared the Perusch of Rabbi Moische ben Maimon, called by the Jews Rambam for short, by the Christians Maimonides...

Thus, the Mischna, Gemarah, Tosephoth, the marginal notes of Rabbi Ascher, the Piske Tosephoth and the Perusch Hamischnaioth of Maimonides, all collected into one, constitute a vast work which is called the Talmud.

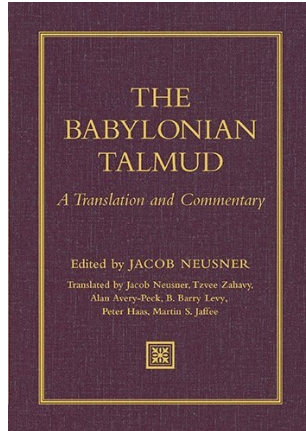
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To recap, the Jewish people began to develop man-made interpretations of the true Law which Yahweh had delivered to Moses at Mount Sinai. In the centuries after Moses these traditions and precepts of men were passed along from one generation of Jewish people to the next. This Oral Law became so expansive that lists and charts had to be drawn up in order that the rabbis should not forget some part of the Oral Torah, yet it was not codified as a written body of instruction until Rabbi Judah the Prince took up the task two centuries after Christ.

This original work by Rabbi Judah is known as the Mishna. The word Mishna is a Hebrew word meaning "study and review." The Mishna (Mischna, Mishnah) is the first section of the Talmud. It is the first work of Rabbinic literature, being an early effort to take the Oral Torah, and put it in writing in order to preserve the Rabbinical explanations and applications of the Hebrew Scriptures.

After Rabbi Judah preserved the Oral Torah in writing, the rabbis of ensuing centuries studied the Mishna extensively. These rabbis produced a large amount of analysis and commentary on the Mishna. Their recorded thoughts became known as the Gemara. The word Gemara (Gemora, Gemarah) is derived from the Aramaic noun "gamar," which translates as "study." The Gemara is the second section of the Talmud.

There are two versions of the Gemara, the first originating in Palestine, while the latter was developed in Babylonia. Depending on which version of the Gemara is coupled to the Mishna, the resulting body of teaching is referred to either as the Jerusalem Talmud, or the Babylonian Talmud. The Babylonian Talmud holds a place of ascendancy, and is what is primarily being referred to today when Jewish people refer to “the Talmud.”



The Babylonian Talmud

It strikes me as significant that the Talmud would come to have the word “Babylonian” attached to it. The word Babel, from which the name Babylon is derived, means “confusion.” Truly, no better description could be given to this body of man-made traditions than “confusion,” for it leads people away from the truth of God’s word.

It is important to understand the tremendous veneration the Jewish people have given to these man-made traditions over the centuries. For nearly a millennia prior to Christ, and up to 200 A.D., the Oral Torah was accorded great honor. When it was codified as the Mishna two centuries after Christ, and expanded through the addition of the Gemara in following centuries, it was regarded by Orthodox Jews as being more valuable than the Tanakh (Old Testament). Nesta Webster, in her book *Secret Societies and Subversive Movements*, writes:

The Talmud itself accords to the Bible only a secondary place. Thus the Talmudic treatise Soferim says: 'The Bible is like water, the Mischna is like wine, and the Gemarah is like spiced wine.'

Reverend I. B. Pranaitis adds to this testimony.

An important point to note is that [the Talmud] has always been regarded by the Jews as holy. They have always held it, and still hold it, as more important than the Sacred Scriptures. The Talmud itself shows this very clearly:

In the tract Babha Metsia, fol. 33a, we read:

"Those who devote themselves to reading the Bible exercise a certain virtue, but not very much; those who study the Mischnah exercise virtue for which they will receive a reward; those, however, who take upon themselves to study the Gemarah exercise the highest virtue..."

*The following is a well-known and highly praised opinion in the writings of the Rabbis:
"My son, give heed to the words of the scribes rather than to the words of the law."*

*The reason for this is found in the tract Sanhedrin X, 3, f.88b:
"He who transgresses the words of the scribes sins more gravely than the transgressors of the words of the law."*

Also when there are differences of opinion between the Law and the doctors, both must be taken as the words of the Lord God.

*In the tract Erubhin, f.13b, where it is related that there was a difference of opinion between the two schools of Hillel and Schamai, it is concluded that:
"The words of both are the words of the living God."*

*In the book Mizbeach, cap. V, we find the following opinion:
"There is nothing superior to the Holy Talmud."
[The Talmud Unmasked (1892)]*

Men and women who are partakers of the Holy Spirit should perceive the abject evil of the words above. To state that those who study the words of man (the Mishna and Gemara) are acting more virtuously than those who study the divine words of Yahweh, is blasphemy. To instruct children to give greater heed to obeying the Scribes than to obeying the Law of Yahweh is folly and rebellion. To place the Talmud above the holy Scriptures is idolatry. Is it any wonder that Yahshua renounced the actions of the Pharisees, and the experts of the Law with such vehemence? Pretending to understand God's Laws, and instructing others on how it should be observed, they stole the truth from God's people.

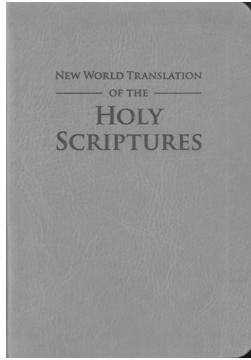
Luke 11:42

"But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithe of mint and rue and every kind of garden herb, and yet disregard justice and the love of God..."

Luke 11:52

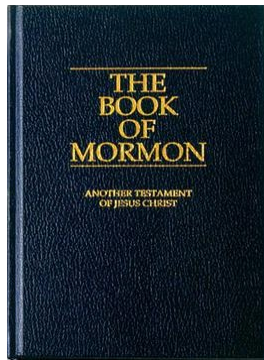
"Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge; you did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered."

In more recent times, Christians have observed how Satan has been able to lead men and women away from truth, and mire them in deception and falsehood, through altering, or making additions to, the Word of God. The Jehovah's Witnesses created their own Bible version, and they are required to study ONLY the teachings that flow from their headquarters in New York State.



New World Translation Bible of the Jehovah's Witnesses

Similarly, the Mormons have produced their own book to read along with the Bible. The *Book of Mormon* has been advertised for decades as "Another Testament of Jesus Christ" and a "Companion to the Bible." Yet its teachings suborn and corrupt the true gospel of Christ.



Another Testament of Jesus Christ

It is telling that the founders of both of these religious organizations were Freemasons. Charles Taze Russell, the founder of the Jehovah's Witnesses, is buried in a Masonic Cemetery where a Pyramid marks his burial plot. The Pyramid is inscribed with the symbol for the Knight's Templar (the cross and crown), the highest order in York Rite Freemasonry.



Charles Taze Russell's Grave Marker

The pyramid is a Luciferian symbol, embraced widely by Freemasonry, and appearing on the back of the U.S. one dollar bill. This association with Freemasonry and both Charles Taze Russell of the

Jehovah's Witnesses and Joseph Smith of the Mormons, reveals one of the chief tactics Satan uses to corrupt the word of God in order to hinder humanity from arriving at the knowledge of the truth. He will alter, or add to the word of God, ultimately leading men to place a higher emphasis upon these corruptions than they do upon the Scriptures themselves. It should surprise no Christian to discover that this practice goes much further back, even pre-dating Christianity. Satan used the same scheme to lead the Jewish people away from truth by having them adopt a second Torah that ultimately redefined the original and stole away from men the key of knowledge.



Today there are Yeshivas, schools of Jewish religious instruction, where men (and some women) devote their lives to the study of the Jewish religion. Yet, it is not the Holy Scriptures that captivates their attention and demands their devotion. Rather, it is the study of the Talmud and the Midrashic writings of various Hebrew sages and rabbis throughout the centuries. These writings include numerous passages which defame the Son of God. He is always spoken of as illegitimate, a worker of forbidden magic, and one who suffered a disgraceful death. To deny Yahshua the Messiah to be the Son of God and the Savior of mankind is a manifestation of the spirit of anti-Christ. The Talmud, for this reason, and others, must be considered to be a work of Satan. It has no divine legitimacy.

Despite the lying claims about the Talmud's origin, its enmity toward the truth of God's word, its claim of being superior to the divinely inspired Scriptures, its denouncement of the Messiah, and its rejection by Isaiah, Yahshua, and the apostles, there are many among the Hebrew Roots Movement who are advocating that Christians study the Talmud in order to properly understand their Bibles. They are inviting believers to engage in a vain, and potentially harmful, activity. Can a man gather figs from thorns, or pick grapes from a briar bush?

The Talmud is a thief. It steals away the key of knowledge from mankind. It is a rebel, asserting its own will and ways above those of the Creator. It is full of pride, claiming to be superior to the words of Yahweh. It is a destroyer, casting down all that is true and holy, blinding men to the truth, and suffering none to challenge its authority. Are these not the characteristics of that being whom Yahshua said "comes only to kill, steal, and destroy"?

As I was perusing various websites looking for information for this study, I came across the website www.thetorah.com. An article was posted there by a woman named Shani Tzoref who holds a Masters degree in Jewish History from Yeshiva University and a Ph.D. in Ancient Jewish Literature from New York University. Among other biographical facts, it was mentioned that she was awarded

a Rothschild Fellowship at Hebrew University in 2006. Ms. Tzoref posted an article on the transgression of Reuben when he lay with Bilhah, his father's wife. After the article there was an exchange of comments between her and a young man. Following is an excerpt from that exchange.

Shani Tzoref: *Do you think that "Torah" requires us to believe that Reuben had intercourse with Bilhah?*

Alex Schindler: *Insofar as it requires us to believe there was a person named Reuben and a person named Bilhah.*

*Avoiding the much more meta- question of whether Torah narratives are given to be understood as historical or literary or something in between, it is rather clear what the narrative intends us to think the *character* Reuben did. It is no more ambiguous than what Absalom did in the light of day on the roof of his father's palace with his father's concubines.*

Shani Tzoref: *The point of my question is that you say yes, Torah requires us to believe that Reuben slept with Bilhah. And yet, the dominant view in the Talmud seems to be that Reuben did not sleep with Bilhah. As Orthodox rabbinic Jews, are we not committed to following talmudic interpretations over literal readings of the Biblical text?*

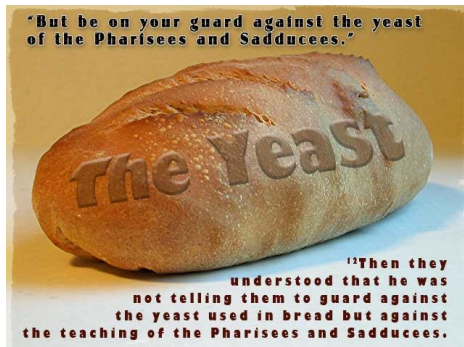
My real point being - I don't think we are obligated to have a particular belief about what really happened historically. I suppose if I had to choose a stance about what Orthodoxy would mandate, I guess it would be to say that the Biblical text meant to convey what the rabbis say it meant - and so I must conclude that Reuben did not sleep with Bilhah, but it was considered in some ways as though he did. But I don't actually think a belief about the story is mandated.

[Source: <http://thetorah.com/did-reuben-lie-with-bilhah/>]

This frank exchange of views reveals the elevated regard the Orthodox Jews have for the Talmud. They place the opinions of the rabbis above the testimony of the Torah (the Scriptures). If there is an apparent contradiction between what the Torah declares and what the Talmud advises, the Jews are expected to follow the talmudic interpretation over the plain meaning of the Bible. It is important to understand this elevated position occupied by the Talmud in Jewish life. By understanding the veneration of the Talmud, we can discern how the Jewish people have become apostatized, having departed from the divine intent of the Scriptures.

Now, in the Hebrew Roots Movement, there are "Christian" ministers who are directing the people of God to give heed to the Talmud, this book of lies. Additionally, there are a multitude of doctrines, traditions, legal observances, customs, and symbols that derive from the Talmud that are being embraced by Christians who mistakenly believe they are returning to the Hebrew Roots of the faith of Christ and His apostles when in fact they are embracing Jewish apostasy. Many of these items will be addressed individually as this writing progresses.

The Leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees



There is an interesting story in the Talmud (in the tractate Bava Mezia 59b) that illustrates the attitude of many Orthodox Jews toward the Scriptures. This popular story centers on a group of rabbis who are holding a halakhic debate as to whether an oven that has become religiously unclean can be made clean again. (Halakha refers to principles and rules for living which inform Jews about how they are to conduct their lives.) In this story found in the Talmud, the majority of the rabbis conclude that an unclean oven cannot be made clean again. A certain rabbi by the name of Eliezer disagrees, asserting that it can be made clean again. This led to the following exchange:

On that day, Rabbi Eliezer put forward all the arguments in the world, but the Sages did not accept them. Finally, he said to them, "If the halakha is according to me, let that carob-tree prove it." He pointed to a nearby carob-tree, which then moved from its place a hundred cubits, and some say, four hundred cubits. They said to him "One cannot bring a proof from the moving of a carob-tree."

Said Rabbi Eliezer, "If the halakha is according to me, may that stream of water prove it." The stream of water then turned and flowed in the opposite direction. They said to him, "One cannot bring a proof from the behavior of a stream of water."

Said Rabbi Eliezer, "If the halakha is according to me, may the walls of the House of Study prove it." The walls of the House of Study began to bend inward. Rabbi Joshua then rose up and rebuked the walls of the House of Study, "If the students of the Wise argue with one another in halakha," he said, "what right have you to interfere?" In honor of Rabbi Joshua, the walls ceased to bend inward; but in honor of Rabbi Eliezer, they did not straighten up, and they remain bent to this day.

Then, said Rabbi Eliezer to the Sages, "If the halakha is according to me, may a proof come from Heaven." Then a heavenly voice went forth and said, "What have you to do with Rabbi Eliezer? The halakha is according to him in every place." Then Rabbi Joshua rose up on his feet, and said, "It is not in the heavens" (Deuteronomy 30:12).

What did he mean by quoting this? Said Rabbi Jeremiah, "He meant that since the Torah has been given already on Mount Sinai, we do not pay attention to a heavenly voice, for You have written in Your Torah, 'Decide according to the majority'" (Exodus 23:2).

Rabbi Nathan met the prophet Elijah. He asked him, "What was the Holy One, Blessed be He, doing in that hour?" Said Elijah, "He was laughing and saying, 'My children have defeated me, my

children have defeated me. ’’

[End Excerpt]

Hyam Maccoby, a British Jew who was both a scholar and author, shared the following comment on this passage from the Talmud. *“This extraordinary story strikes the keynote of the Talmud. God is a good father who wants His children to grow up and achieve independence. He has given them His Torah, but now wants them to develop it...”*

Dear saint, do you perceive the serious error in what is revealed regarding the attitude of the Orthodox Jew toward God and His holy Scriptures? Does Yahweh truly desire for His people “to grow up and achieve independence”? Does Yahweh want His people to direct their own way and rely upon their own wisdom to such a degree that they do not even heed the voice of God speaking from the heavens? Did Yahweh actually instruct the Hebrew people at Mount Sinai to “Decide according to the majority”? The Scripture cited to support this dangerous view is the following:

Exodus 23:2

You shall not follow a multitude in doing evil, nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after a multitude in order to pervert justice...

The rabbis of Israel have twisted this verse to derive from it something Yahweh never intended. The divine intent of this commandment is that a man must stand for truth, righteousness, and integrity, even when the multitude around him is clamoring to do evil. The rabbis read into this commandment the principle that the majority opinion should rule, but only when the majority is not clamoring for that which is false, unrighteous, or evil. This rabbinic interpretation is an example of casuistry - the use of clever but unsound reasoning, especially in relation to moral questions.

This idea of God assigning to man the principle of majority rule is a gross distortion of the truth. Yahweh never gave any commandment that the Hebrew people should determine halakha, the laws of how life should be lived, through majority rule. A very great transition occurs when a person adopts this false view. No longer is God viewed as the judge and determiner of truth, life, and justice. Man steps into God’s place, being the final arbiter of how the Scriptures are to be applied to daily life, while going far beyond the Scriptures to create a body of legislation and advice on subjects the Bible does not address.

At the heart of this fictitious tale found in the Talmud are the words ascribed to Rabbi Joshua, *“It is not in the heavens.”* To what does “It” refer? The answer is “Judgment,” “Rule,” “the establishing of halakha (Jewish Law).” These things are not to be found in the heavens. The argument behind this claim is *“that since the Torah has been given already on Mount Sinai, we do not pay attention to a heavenly voice.”* In other words, God has already given the Hebrew people His law. Now they are on their own to apply it and develop it into a full and mature body of legislation and counsel to inform the Jewish people in every aspect of how life should be lived.

With subtlety worthy of Satan himself, the Jewish “sages” followed in the footsteps of Lucifer when he aspired to make himself like God, to rule his own life, and to no longer be ruled by God.

Isaiah 14:13-14

But you said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

Is it not "independence" that Lucifer was seeking? He did not want to be ruled by God. He wanted to be equal to God, choosing his own way, ruling his own life. This same attitude is being taught in this passage from the Talmud. Rabbi Joshua argues that the answer to questions on the Law cannot be found in heaven, they must be resolved by man. "*We don't need to pay attention to a heavenly voice.*" We see a great contrast in the life of Christ. He was always beholding the Father. He only did what He saw His Father in heaven doing, and He only spoke the words His Father commanded Him to speak.

John 5:19

Yahshua therefore answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, *the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.*"

John 5:30

"*I can do nothing on My own initiative.* As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because *I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*"

John 8:28

Yahshua therefore said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and *I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.*"

John 8:42

Yahshua said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me; for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for *I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.*"

John 12:49

"For *I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me commandment, what to say, and what to speak.*"

John 14:10

"Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? *The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.*"

Though Yahshua was equal with God, He did not seek independence. He stated "*As I hear, I judge.*" What a great contrast this is to the teaching of the Talmud. The Talmud tells the Jewish people to ignore the heavenly voice. It instructs them that they are on their own. They are to "grow up" by no longer looking to God to inform them about sin, and righteousness, and judgment. This is the cunning of Satan. This is the spirit of antichrist. The Son of God did not come to lead men to independence from His Father. He came to draw men unto Him. Yahshua consistently declared the need of God's people to be dependent upon, and in communion with, God through the agency of the

Holy Spirit.

John 16:7-13

“But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth.”

The Talmud teaches that men can determine their own truth. It is filled with the thoughts and opinions of the rabbis as they applied their carnal minds to the interpretation of God’s word. Christ has testified that we need the Spirit of God to know truth. His apostles declared the vital role of the Holy Spirit in ascertaining the thoughts of God, and the utter inability of the carnal mind to apprehend spiritual truth.

Romans 8:14

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

I Corinthians 2:11-14

For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

As disciples of Christ we are to bear much fruit for the glory of God. We are informed that we can ONLY bear fruit if we ABIDE in Christ. We do NOT want to be independent. The branch that is independent from the vine withers away. It will be gathered up and cast into the fire.

John 15:4-8

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”

Talmudic Judaism is apostate because it has separated itself from God. The Son of God declared this to be true. He warned His disciples of the persecution they would suffer at the hands of those who claimed to be doing service to God. Christ’s disciples would suffer because their persecutors, the

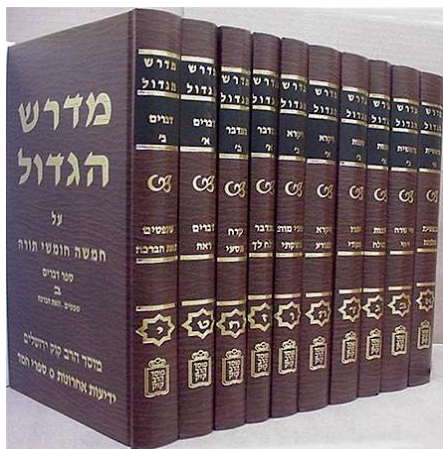
Orthodox Jews, do not know Yahweh or His Son.

John 16:2-3

“They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. And these things they will do, because they have not known the Father, or Me.”

Having pursued a course of “independence” from God, the Jews consider themselves to be emancipated. They do not acknowledge the need to wait upon Yahweh to know His mind and thoughts. The independent action of the Hebrew people included developing their own law (Torah). This is what Hyam Maccoby admitted when he summed up the message contained in this Talmudic story. *“This extraordinary story strikes the keynote of the Talmud. God is a good father who wants His children to grow up and achieve independence. He has given them His Torah, but now wants them to develop it...”*

This is precisely what the Jews did. They “developed” their own Torah. Their Torah is the Oral Torah, now referred to as the Talmud. Along with the Talmud, the Jews venerate the Midrash.



Midrash Set

The Midrash is a second body of writings that is closely associated with the Talmud. Its contents were written by many of the same men who contributed to the Talmud. The Midrash is organized differently than the Talmud. The Talmud is arranged topically, for the many opinions of the rabbis did not fit well with a Scriptural layout. The Midrash, by contrast, follows the layout of the Bible. It is similar to a running commentary on various books of the Bible. The Scriptures are cited, alongside of which are copious comments by the rabbis. It is not unusual to find a fragment of a single verse attended by pages of rabbinical commentary. The rabbis also presume to fill in “gaps” in the Bible narrative as they supply information that is absent from the divinely inspired words of Scripture.

There is much pride revealed by those who would add to the word of God. An absence of holy fear towards the Creator is manifested when men begin to tinker with the message Yahweh delivered to mankind. Far from being the reflections of wise men who had a deep reverence for the holy words

of Yahweh, the Midrash is filled with idle speculations and vain babbling of the most base and ignoble kind. To illustrate, I have chosen certain portions from the Midrash of Genesis (Bereshith). I will begin with the rabbis' comments on Adam's creation. (Note, the abbreviation "R." stands for "Rabbi," while "b." signifies "ben" meaning "son of.")

R. Jeremiah and R. Leazar said: When the Holy One, blessed be He, created Adam, He created him a hermaphrodite [bi-sexual], for it is said, "male and female created He them and called their name Adam" (Genesis 5:2).

R. Samuel b. Nahman said: When the Lord created Adam, He created him double-faced, then He split him and made him of two backs, one back on this side and one back on the other side. To this it is objected: But it is written, "And He took one of his ribs, etc." (Genesis 2:21). [Mi-zalothaw means] one of his "sides," replied he, as you read, "And for the second side (zela) of the tabernacle, etc." (Exodus 26:20).

R. Tanhuma, in the name of R. Banayah, and R. Berekiah in the name of R. Leazar said: He created him a lifeless mass extending from one end of the world to the other... How do we know [that he stretched] from east to west? Because it is said, "Thou hast formed me behind (ahor) and before (kedem)." From north to south? Because it says, "Since the day that God created man upon the earth, and from one end of heaven unto the other" (Deuteronomy 4:32).

The Midrash is filled with this type of nonsense. It seems no better than the idle banter of profane men. In the same Midrash on Genesis there is a story inserted regarding Titus, the Roman General who destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple of the Jews.

When the wicked Titus entered the Holy of Holies, he dragged down the veil, blasphemed and reviled God. On his return a mosquito entered his nose and began piercing his skull. And when he died they split open his brain and found that it (the mosquito) was like a bird weighing two pounds.

In the commentary from Genesis chapter 2 where the tree in the middle of the Garden of Eden is mentioned, and the prohibition from eating from it, the rabbis enter into speculation regarding what type of tree it must have been.

R. Meier said, It was wheat, for when a person lacks knowledge people say, 'That man has never eaten bread of wheat.' R. Samuel b. Isaac asked R. Ze'ira: 'Is it possible that it was wheat?' 'Yes,' replied he. 'But surely TREE is written?' he argued. 'It grew lofty like the cedars of the Lebanon,' replied he.

Reflecting on the creation of woman in Genesis chapter 2, the rabbis share these bits of rare insight.

R. Joshua was asked, 'Why does a man come forth [at birth] with his face downward, while a woman comes forth with her face upwards?' 'The man looks towards the place of his creation [the earth], while the woman looks towards the place of her creation [the rib],' he replied. 'And why must a woman use perfume while a man does not need perfume?' 'Man was created from earth,' he answered, 'and the earth never putrefies, but Eve was created from a bone. For example, if you leave

meat three days unsalted it immediately goes putrid...’ ‘And why is a man easily appeased, but not a woman?’ ‘Man was created from the earth,’ he answered, ‘and when you pour a drop of water on it immediately absorbs it; but Eve was created from a bone, which even if you soak many days in water does not become saturated...’ ‘Why do they [the women] walk in front of the corpse [at the funeral]?’ ‘Because they brought death into the world, therefore they walk in front of the corpse.’

Aside from the myriad opinions the rabbis give on the various passages of Scripture, they introduce much spurious historical information. If a narrative in the Bible leaves out information, the rabbis are not shy about filling in the gaps. Thus, in the Midrash you may find the name of Noah’s wife [Naamah]. You may find the reason given that Noah waited 500 years before he began to have sons when other men were recorded as having sons at a much younger age. The Midrash further asserts that Noah, whose name means “rest,” only received his name after inventing implements for tilling, cultivation, and harvest of the fruit of the ground. It is suggested in the Midrash that prior to this time the labor of man was an excessive burden, for the ground produced only thorns and thistles. Thus, by inventing these implements of farming, Noah brought rest to mankind.

What is the result of all this speculation and historical inventiveness? The Scriptures are treated shamefully. The divine words of God are altered, amended, and added to, demonstrating a lack of regard for preserving and honoring the wisdom and revelation of Yahweh. It is little wonder that apostate Judaism is so marked by the pride of man, for its central documents are born out of presumption and a spirit of usurpation. Man, considering himself to be the equal of God, has set about to alter the divine communication at will.

When Yahshua walked this earth, He warned His disciples about the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Matthew 16:5-12

And the disciples came to the other side and had forgotten to take bread. And Yahshua said to them, “Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” And they began to discuss among themselves, saying, “It is because we took no bread.” But Yahshua, aware of this, said, “You men of little faith, why do you discuss among yourselves that you have no bread? “Do you not yet understand or remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets you took up? Or the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many large baskets you took up? How is it that you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread? But beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” Then they understood that He did not say to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Leaven is something that is added to ground grain (flour or meal) in order to cause a reaction. The leaven initiates the process of fermentation, producing gas bubbles in the dough, resulting in it rising. The Son of God used leaven repeatedly to illustrate the work of Satan and of evil men. This symbolism is most appropriate when one speaks of Talmudic (Rabbinic) Judaism, for the Jewish teachers have introduced a foreign agent into the pure word of God which ultimately transforms the character and meaning of God’s word. In ensuing chapters we will see how this tendency of man to add to and alter divine truth has manifested itself throughout Orthodox Judaism and has been adopted by adherents of the Hebrew Roots Movement.

Hanukkah - An Historic Deception



Whenever I encounter individuals who have embraced the Hebrew Roots Movement, Christmas and Easter are often mentioned. A desire to separate oneself from profane spiritual practices and to return to authentic Bible-based observances (Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles), is often cited as one of the reasons people are abandoning mainstream denominational Christianity and adopting a more Hebraic approach to the faith of Christ.

Having for many years been aware of the corruptions that have entered into Christianity, and having searched out this matter at significant length, I can sympathize with believers who wish to separate themselves from practices that have idolatrous origins. I will not repeat what I have written in many other places regarding the unclean spiritual origins of Christmas and Easter. The following titles are provided for those who want to look into this subject further.

Syncretism

A Rockefeller Christmas

What's the Big Deal About Christmas?

Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras), Lent and Easter

I share the conviction held by many of those in the Hebrew Roots Movement that Christians should not observe holidays that are historically demonstrated to have arisen from the worship of false deities. I believe Christians should make an effort to separate between the holy and the profane. I believe they should heed the divine admonition to not learn the ways of the heathens (Deuteronomy 18:9). Yahshua said that men should worship God “in spirit and in truth” (John 4:23-24). We fail on both counts when we adopt festivals and holy days that were dedicated to false deities (their dates, names, symbols, and rites), and then spread a thin varnish of Christianity over them as if the act of doing so sanctifies these celebrations and makes them acceptable to Yahweh and His Son.

Some Hebrew Roots websites devote space to exposing the pagan and idolatrous origins of “Christian” holidays. Videos can be found online where Hebrew Roots teachers expose the unclean spiritual roots of Christmas and Easter, while urging Christians to have nothing to do with the unfruitful works of darkness. A significant amount of research, fact-checking, and consideration has gone into many of these teachings. Yet, I have noticed an absence of the same level of diligence in

examining the origins of the Jewish holiday known as Hanukkah. It should raise some eyebrows, leading to significant scrutiny, when it is often remarked that Hanukkah is “the Jewish Christmas.”



I can hear the protests now. “No! Hanukkah is a legitimate Jewish holiday. Its origins are traceable back to the Maccabean revolt and the miracle of oil at the re-dedication of the Second Temple after the Greeks had defiled it.” Yes, and adherents of Christmas declare that it is traceable back to the birth of Christ; its rites and symbols are derived from the Star of Bethlehem, the presentation of gifts by the Magi, and angels announcing to shepherds in the field that the King of the Jews had been born! Brothers and sisters, it can be demonstrably proven that Hanukkah is as much derived from the Roman Saturnalia as is Christmas. Like Christmas to the Christians, Hanukkah is Saturn/Satan worship covered over with a whitewash of “Jewishness.” I do not ask you to accept this conclusion based upon my word. I will present the evidence before you and invite you to judge.



On the surface, both Christmas and Hanukkah share numerous similarities. They occur close together on the calendar. They both are observed over multiple days. Gift giving is equally associated with them. Lights/candles are integral parts of both observances. There is also an increasing crossover of traditions from Christmas to Hanukkah with many people beginning to incorporate a Hanukkah Bush in their celebration, topped with a star in imitation of the Christmas Tree.

There are some who errantly style themselves as “purists” who resist the intrusion of Christmas observances into Hanukkah. In order to keep Hanukkah “undefiled” they hold to the traditions of the rabbis set forth in the Talmud. They attempt to observe Hanukkah as they imagine it to have been observed by the Jews who lived in the day of Christ. The central focus of this Hebrew festival becomes the nine candle menorah, also called the Hanukiah. I have yet to find any Hebrew Roots adherents who observe Hanukkah who do not adopt the Hanukiah as a central part of their ritual.



Hanukiah

After posting the previous chapters that spoke of the Talmud and Midrash, some readers wrote to defend the Hebrew Roots Movement. They stated that their Hebrew Roots church or group only embrace the written Torah. They reject the Oral Torah and its succedents, the Midrash and Talmud. I do not doubt the sincerity of these objections. Many people simply do not realize the source from which many Jewish practices arise. They are following the Talmud unknowingly. It is in the Talmud that the Hanukiah is established as a Jewish tradition, and rules are set forth for its employment.

On Lighting The Chanukiah:

Babylonian Talmud, Tractate Shabbat, page 21b

What is 'Hanukkah? The rabbis taught: "On the twenty-fifth day of Kislev 'Hanukkah commences and lasts eight days, on which lamenting (in commemoration of the dead) and fasting are prohibited. When the Greeks entered the sanctuary, they defiled all the oil that was found there. When the government of the House of Asmoneans (Hasmoneans) prevailed and conquered them, oil was sought (to feed the holy lamp in the sanctuary) and only one vial was found with the seal of the high priest intact. The vial contained sufficient oil for one day only, but a miracle occurred, and it fed the holy lamp eight days in succession. These eight days were the following year established as days of good cheer, on which psalms of praise and acknowledgment (of God's wonders) were to be recited...

The rabbis taught: The law of 'Hanukkah demands that every man should light one lamp for himself and his household. Those who seek to fulfil it well have a lamp lit for every member of the household. Those who seek to fulfil the law in the best possible manner should light according to Beth Shamai the first night eight flames, and every following night one flame less. And according to Beth Hillel the reverse - the first night one lamp, and be increased by one on each succeeding night.

Note the reasons given for placing the Hanukiah in the home and lighting the candles. The reason is "The rabbis taught..." There is nothing beyond this. There is no admonition in the Bible to observe Hanukkah. The Bible contains no mention of the Hanukkah menorah. The Scriptures say nothing of lighting candles to observe any festival. The Talmud gives the Jews nothing more than a tradition of men. Since it did not derive from the holy Scriptures. From where did it come?

Before you answer that it came from the miracle of the oil that is described in this section of the Babylonian Talmud, remember what has been observed previously. The Jewish rabbis have no

scruples when it comes to altering the Scriptures, re-writing the history of the Bible. They have proven themselves to be great embellishers of the Biblical narrative, adding to it many spurious facts and deceitful inventions of man. Is it inconceivable that these same rabbis tinkered with the historical accounts outside of the Scriptures in the same way they that they “filled in gaps” in the Bible’s historical narrative? An examination of the evidence leads to the conclusion that the rabbis did in fact create a fictional history of the Maccabean revolt and of the subsequent rededication of the Temple.

It should surprise no one, but will undoubtedly trouble a great many, to learn that the Jewish religious leaders practiced syncretism long before the Christian era began. Syncretism is defined in the following manner.

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

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

If that definition seems a bit difficult to wrap one’s mind around, I present for the reader a simpler definition. *Syncretism is the introduction of beliefs and practices from one religion into that of another religion.* An example of this is observed in the introduction of monasteries and monks into the Roman Catholic Church which describes itself as “Christian.” There is nothing in the Old Testament practice of Judaism, or the New Testament practice of Christianity, that corresponds to monastic practice. There is, however, a long history of monastic practice in other ancient religions such as Buddhism and Hinduism.



Buddhist Monks



Buddhist Monks Lighting Candles



Buddhist Monk with Prayer Beads

The Roman Catholic Church has monks. It practices candle lighting. It incorporates prayer beads in the praying of the rosary. Seeing that none of these practices come from the Bible, and recognizing their presence in other religions extant at the time that Rome began these practices, we observe that it was through the practice of syncretism that these things were brought into that which calls itself “Christianity.”

Satan has long been about the practice of introducing the profane into the holy. Before the advent of Christianity, Satan had great success in enticing the Hebrew people to adopt many idolatrous practices from the nations around them. The Old Testament contains a myriad of accounts of the Israelites going after the gods of other nations. Embracing practices from other religions was such a temptation that Yahweh forbid the Israelites to marry people from the nations around them lest they be drawn away to worship their gods. Nevertheless, the people of Israel transgressed repeatedly, and profoundly. They adopted rites, symbols, and even the outright worship of other deities. As punishment, Yahweh sent plagues, drought, pestilence, and warring nations against them. When they

did not repent of their idolatrous practices, He sold them into slavery to the very nations whose gods they were worshiping. The northern ten tribes of Israel were led captive into Assyria, and the Southern tribes were taken into bondage in Babylon.

Any sincere Christian who walks according to the leading of the Spirit of Christ, eschewing error and loving truth, should be appalled as they observe the great harlot of Rome. This entity that boasts of being the largest religion in the world, declaring itself to be the one true and universal church of Jesus Christ, has prostituted herself as she has embraced other gods along with their rites, symbols, and doctrines. There is far more evidence of Sun worship among the Roman Catholic Church than there is worship of the Son of God. It is a gross admixture of the holy and the profane.

Many non-Catholic Christians recognize that the abominations of Rome have bled over into Protestant Christianity. The clergy/laity system is anti-Christian, for the apostles taught that the entire body of Christ was called to be a kingdom of priests. The Protestant church has embraced Christmas and Easter, Sunday worship, a fixation on buildings with steeples/obelisks, and the list goes on and on. A growing number of believers want to heed the command of Revelation 18:4 to “Come out of [Babylon/the Great Harlot] My people, lest you participate in her sins and partake of her plagues.”

Partially due to a failure to recognize the apostate nature of Judaism, an apostasy that began long before the birth of Christ, and partially due to the ongoing deception of Satan, Christians are turning away from the harlotries of Rome and toward an even older idolatry, one that was birthed in Babylon. This is the state of Judaism today. It is as saturated with the religious confusion of Babylon as is the Roman Catholic Church. I believe it is more convincing to show people this truth, than to tell them it is so.



Macedonian Hanukiah

Many Jews and Christians who observe Hanukkah relate the story of the miracle of the oil to their children. As you can see in the video below by a popular Hebrew Roots teacher, Hanukkah is being embraced as an alternative to Christmas.

<http://youtu.be/6TYOG4AkmxY>

It is difficult to arrive at the true origins of the Hanukkah celebration without providing some historical background. In 332 B.C. Palestine was conquered by Alexander the Great. This began a

period of Greek rule and influence over the Jewish people. Alexander died at the age of 33 in the year 323 B.C.. He had conquered a massive area in the brief period of his conquests. Upon his death, the territory over which he had established rule was split up under four of his generals. One of these generals (Ptolemy) established rule over Egypt and adjacent lands. This became known as the Ptolemaic Empire. Another general established rule over the land of Syria. This became known as the Seleucid Empire.

Israel/Palestine was caught between these two Greek empires and control over the Jews changed hands numerous times. For a period of time the Ptolemaic Empire of Egypt ruled over Palestine. This rule was finally put to an end when the Seleucid King Antiochus III invaded Palestine in 201 B.C.. Palestine remained firmly under Seleucid control until the Maccabean Revolt that lasted from about 168-164 B.C.. By the time of the Maccabean Revolt, the Jews had been under Greek influence for more than one and a half centuries. Numerous Greek cities had been built in the land of Palestine, and a significant number of Jews had become Hellenized, having adopted Greek culture and in many cases their religion as well. This led to a struggle between Orthodox Jews and Hellenized Jews, with a state of civil war erupting between them at times.

Although the Talmud, the books of *I and II Maccabees*, and other Jewish sources describe the Maccabean revolt against the Greek Seleucid rulers of Palestine as a righteous revolution precipitated by Greek oppression, religious persecution, and the defiling of the second Temple in Jerusalem, there is solid reason to believe this is a biased view. It was the policy of the Greeks to allow conquered peoples to retain a significant amount of autonomy, as long as they paid taxes and remained loyal to the Greek rulers. This was the condition of the Jewish people from the beginning of Greek rule. Following is a letter recorded by the Jewish historian Titus Flavius Josephus that is found in his writing *Antiquities of the Jews*. This letter was written by the Greek King of the Seleucid Empire to the Greek ruler of the Ptolemaic Empire.

KING ANTIOCHUS TO PTOLEMY, SENDETH GREETING.

"Since the Jews, upon our first entrance on their country, demonstrated their friendship towards us, and when we came to their city [Jerusalem], received us in a splendid manner, and came to meet us with their senate, and gave abundance of provisions to our soldiers, and to the elephants, and joined with us in ejecting the garrison of the Egyptians that were in the citadel, we have thought fit to reward them, and to retrieve the condition of their city, which hath been greatly depopulated by such accidents as have befallen its inhabitants, and to bring those that have been scattered abroad back to the city. And, in the first place, we have determined, on account of their piety towards God, to bestow on them, as a pension, for their sacrifices of animals that are fit for sacrifice, for wine, and oil, and frankincense, the value of twenty thousand pieces of silver, and [six] sacred artabae of fine flour, with one thousand four hundred and sixty medimni of wheat, and three hundred and seventy-five medimni of salt. And these payments I would have fully paid them, as I have sent orders to you. I would also have the work about the temple finished, and the cloisters, and if there be any thing else that ought to be rebuilt. And for the materials of wood, let it be brought them out of Judea itself and out of the other countries, and out of Libanus tax free; and the same I would have observed as to those other materials which will be necessary, in order to render the temple more glorious; and let all of that nation live according to the laws of their own country; and let the senate, and the priests, and the scribes of the temple, and the sacred singers, be discharged from poll-money and

the crown tax and other taxes also. And that the city may the sooner recover its inhabitants, I grant a discharge from taxes for three years to its present inhabitants, and to such as shall come to it, until the month Hyperheretus. We also discharge them for the future from a third part of their taxes, that the losses they have sustained may be repaired. And all those citizens that have been carried away, and are become slaves, we grant them and their children their freedom, and give order that their substance be restored to them."

This letter, written by the Seleucid ruler, an ancestor of Antiochus IV Epiphanes, demonstrates that the Greeks were not only content to allow the Jews to continue their own form of worship, but were taking steps to help them restore the Temple and to bring back the scattered Jews to the land of Palestine. Although there was undoubtedly a growing religious conflict between the Orthodox Jews and the growing number of Hellenized Jews, a conflict in some ways mirrored in Israel today between the Orthodox and secular Jews, a great deal of the conflict with the Greek rulers was political.

Historical records reveal that a quarrel about taxation arose during the reign of Ptolemy III Euergetes (246-221 B.C.) and the Jewish High Priest Onias. The quarrel resulted in the appointment in 242 B.C. of Joseph, son of Tobiah, a nephew of the High Priest, to the office of tax collector. This led to a rivalry between the Jewish Tobiad family and the Oniad High Priests. Similar disputes continued after the Seleucids gained control of Palestine. Those Jews that were content with Greek rule and culture were viewed as traitors by the Orthodox Jews.

Sometime prior to 168 B.C. an influential segment of the Jews revolted against the Greeks. This resulted in the Seleucid King taking away from the Jews their autonomy and forbidding them access to the Temple. This latter step points to the Jewish religious leaders being the source of the revolt. These acts by the Greeks were taken only when a conquered people proved to be rebellious. Most Jewish and Christian information about the Maccabean Revolt comes from the books of *I and II Maccabees*. These are books written by Jews, and as such they can be expected to paint a historic picture that is slanted in favor of the Jews, and particularly of the Maccabees who became leaders of the Hasmonean Dynasty.

Recommended Reading

<http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/re-examining-hanukkah/3/>

<http://www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/files/Documents-Maccabees.pdf>

I and II Maccabees, although included in the Apocrypha to the Bible, are not considered part of the canon of Scripture. They should not be deemed to be "Spirit breathed," and their historical narrative should be examined for evidence of historic revisionism. The recording of Jewish history is no different than that of any other people in that it has included a great many deceivers and unfaithful witnesses.

I do not doubt that after some act of rebellion by the Jews, the Greeks did suppress the free exercise of the Jewish faith. Nor do I doubt that they defiled the Temple in Jerusalem. It would have been in keeping with the practice of the Greeks to convert the use of a rebellious people's holy places to the worship of Zeus or other Greek deities, and it is recorded by numerous sources that this is in fact

what occurred in Jerusalem.

From 168-164 B.C., Judas Maccabeus (Maccabeus meaning “hammer”) led a revolt against the Greeks and against the Hellenized Jews in Palestine. The books of *I and II Maccabees* attribute to him a series of successive victories over the Greek forces resulting in the liberation of the Temple and the restoration of Jewish Temple worship. This account of Judas Maccabeus appears slanted to bolster the heroic image of the Maccabees and their ensuing Hasmonean dynasty which maintained religious and political rule over Palestine from 140 B.C. until the beginning of the Herodian Dynasty in 37 B.C.. (Herod the Great married a Hasmonean princess to bolster the legitimacy of his reign).

One piece of evidence that would bring into doubt the depiction of Judas Maccabeus as the conqueror of the Greeks and the liberator of the Temple, is derived from the book of *II Maccabees*. In a passage found there, mention is made of some letters between the Greeks and Jews that would support the view that it was the High Priest Menelaus who brokered a deal with Antiochus V (who succeeded to the throne upon the death of Antiochus IV Epiphanes) and Lysias (a Greek commander), restoring to the Jewish people their own religion and access to the Temple.

Some may think it strange that facts in *II Maccabees* would contradict the account of *I Maccabees*, but this is explained by the two books having different authors with very different perspectives. It is suggested by some scholars that *I Maccabees* was written by a Sadducee who was a sympathizer with the Hasmoneans, some going so far to describe *I Maccabees* as a partisan document. In contrast, *II Maccabees* is believed to have been written by a Pharisee. This latter book was written in Greek, while it is asserted that *I Maccabees* was written originally in Hebrew or Aramaic, though only Greek copies are extant at this date.

II Maccabees 11:29-32

Menelaus declared unto us, that your desire was to return home, and to follow your own business: Wherefore they that will depart shall have safe conduct till the thirtieth day of Xanthicus with security. And the Jews shall use their own kind of meats and laws, as before; and none of them any manner of ways shall be molested for things ignorantly done. I have sent also Menelaus, that he may comfort you.

This account supports the historical view that the Seleucids retained control over Palestine after the Maccabean revolt, though their power was in decline as the power of Rome was increasing. The Jewish observance of Hannukkah, is based upon the account of history that presents Judas Maccabeus as the hero of the conflict against the Greeks. The celebration of Hanukkah is derived from the following passage in the book of *I Maccabees*.

I Maccabees 4:36-59

Then said Judas and his brethren, Behold, our enemies are discomfited: let us go up to cleanse and dedicate the sanctuary. Upon this all the host assembled themselves together, and went up into mount Sion. And when they saw the sanctuary desolate, and the altar profaned, and the gates burned up, and shrubs growing in the courts as in a forest, or in one of the mountains, yea, and the priests' chambers pulled down; They rent their clothes, and made great lamentation, and cast ashes upon their heads, and fell down flat to the ground upon their faces, and blew an alarm with the trumpets, and cried

toward heaven. Then Judas appointed certain men to fight against those that were in the fortress, until he had cleansed the sanctuary. So he chose priests of blameless conversation, such as had pleasure in the law: Who cleansed the sanctuary, and bare out the defiled stones into an unclean place. And when as they consulted what to do with the altar of burnt offerings, which was profaned; They thought it best to pull it down, lest it should be a reproach to them, because the heathen had defiled it: wherefore they pulled it down, and laid up the stones in the mountain of the temple in a convenient place, until there should come a prophet to shew what should be done with them. Then they took whole stones according to the law, and built a new altar according to the former; And made up the sanctuary, and the things that were within the temple, and hallowed the courts. They made also new holy vessels, **and into the temple they brought the candlestick**, and the altar of burnt offerings, and of incense, and the table. And upon the altar they burned incense, **and the lamps that were upon the candlestick they lighted, that they might give light in the temple**. Furthermore they set the loaves upon the table, and spread out the veils, and finished all the works which they had begun to make. Now on the five and twentieth day of the ninth month, which is called the month Casleu, in the hundred forty and eighth year, they rose up betimes in the morning, and offered sacrifice according to the law upon the new altar of burnt offerings, which they had made. Look, at what time and what day the heathen had profaned it, even in that was it dedicated with songs, and citherns, and harps, and cymbals. Then all the people fell upon their faces, worshiping and praising the God of heaven, who had given them good success. **And so they kept the dedication of the altar eight days** and offered burnt offerings with gladness, and sacrificed the sacrifice of deliverance and praise. They decked also the forefront of the temple with crowns of gold, and with shields; and the gates and the chambers they renewed, and hanged doors upon them. Thus was there very great gladness among the people, for that the reproach of the heathen was put away. **Moreover Judas and his brethren with the whole congregation of Israel ordained, that the days of the dedication of the altar should be kept in their season from year to year by the space of eight days**, from the five and twentieth day of the month Casleu, with mirth and gladness.

To this day, the Feast of Dedication is observed beginning on the 25th day of the month Kislev, running for eight days. It must be noted that in the account above, there is no mention of the miracle of the oil which is reported in the Talmud. This is a glaring omission if the story were true. The book of *I Maccabees* is estimated to have been written about 100 B.C.. This places its authorship almost five centuries closer to the actual events being described than the Talmudic account. How do we account for this omission? A reasonable explanation is that the rabbinical account of the miracle of the oil was, like so many of their additions to the Biblical account, a fabrication. This conclusion is bolstered by the writings of Josephus.

*Now Judas [Maccabeus] celebrated the festival of the restoration of the sacrifices of the Temple for eight days; and omitted no sort of pleasures thereon; but he feasted them upon very rich and splendid sacrifices; and he honored God and delighted them by hymns and psalms. Nay, they were so very glad at the revival of their customs when after a long time of intermission they unexpectedly had regained the freedom of their worship, that they made it a law for their posterity, that they should keep a festival on account of the restoration of their Temple worship for eight days. **And from that time to this we celebrate this festival, and call it Lights. I suppose the reason was, because this liberty beyond our hopes appeared to us; and that thence was the name given to that festival.***

[Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, Book 12, Chapter 7, Part 7]

Josephus wrote this account of Hanukkah around 100 A.D., nearly three centuries earlier than the Talmudic account. Again, we find no mention of the miracle of the oil. Even more puzzling, if the story of the oil were true, is that Josephus confesses ignorance regarding why this Jewish festival is referred to as “Lights.” Had the story of the miracle of the candlestick burning for eight days on a single day’s supply of oil been known, he surely would have suggested it as a possible explanation for the name of the festival.

There is, however, an explanation for Hanukkah being referred to as “the Festival of Lights,” that Josephus, a Jew whose father was of priestly descent, would have been reluctant to disclose. It is that this “Hebrew” festival was actually a Jewish adaptation of the much older Babylonian celebration of Saturn. The Saturnalia, as the Romans called it, was from ancient times also called “The Festival of Lights” and “The Feast of Dedication,” as the Romans traced it back to the dedication of the Temple of Saturn in 497 B.C., on the precise date which the Roman Festival of Lights begins. This, and other evidence of Hanukkah’s true origins will be set forth in the following chapter.

Hanukkah - The Jewish Saturnalia



Idolatry has always been a snare to Yahweh's chosen people. Abram, the first of the Hebrews, was called out of Ur of the Chaldees by Yahweh. Ur lay in the land of Babylonia, the most ancient source of idolatry. Undoubtedly, when Yahweh appeared to Abram calling him to "Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you" (Genesis 12:1), the instruction was to leave the idolatrous practices of his family, and of the land of the Chaldeans behind. It is not speculation to suggest that Abram came from a family of idolaters. The Scriptures inform us of the fact.

Joshua 24:2-3

And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says Yahweh, the God of Israel, 'From ancient times your fathers lived beyond the River, namely, Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, and they served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River, and led him through all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his descendants...'"

The Chaldean name Ur translates as "flame," or "light." The Chaldeans were renowned for their astrology, a mixture of astronomy and deity worship. Ur's designation as "the Light of the Chaldeans" was almost certainly a reference to the heavenly lights that were the focus of their worship. Indeed, the prominence of astral worship was so great among the inhabitants of Chaldea that the name Chaldean has become synonymous with "astrologer." Abraham's descendants demonstrated a penchant for returning to the worship of the celestial lights. This proclivity toward worship of the Sun, moon, and starry hosts (including the planets) was so strong that Yahweh was induced to warn the Hebrews against the practice.

Deuteronomy 4:19

And beware, lest you lift up your eyes to heaven and see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, and be drawn away and worship them and serve them...

These words were spoken four centuries after the death of Abraham, at a time when Moses was leading the Israelites out from captivity in Egypt. When the Israelites came up from Egypt, they were not the pure and devoted worshipers of Yahweh that some imagine them to be. The prophet Amos provides the following testimony.

Amos 5:25-27

Did you bring to Me sacrifices and cereal offerings during those forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel? No but instead of bringing Me the appointed sacrifices you carried about the tent

of your king Sakkuth and Kaiwan [names for the gods of the planet Saturn], your images of your star-god which you made for yourselves and you will do so again. Therefore I will cause you to go into exile beyond Damascus, says the Lord, whose name is the God of hosts.
[Amplified Bible]

It is pertinent to our present study to note that at least one of the gods named by Amos is identified with the Roman deity known as Saturn. This was the understanding of the Jewish translators of the Septuagint, an early translation of the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek dated around the 3rd century B.C.. In the Septuagint, the Hebrew word Chiun (Kaiwan) was rendered as “Remphan” which was the Egyptian name for the planet Saturn. Evidence points to the Jews having embraced the worship of Saturn while in Babylon. It is this idolatrous worship that serves as the true origin of the Festival of Lights, which is also called Hanukkah.

I was astonished recently when I came across a serious Bible teacher proclaiming that the Jews finally learned the lesson that Yahweh wanted to teach them while they were in captivity in Babylon. The writer asserted that the Jews put away their idolatrous tendencies from the time of the Babylonian captivity forward and became zealous adherents to, and proponents of, Yahweh and the sacred Scriptures which He had entrusted to them. How can a Christian minister defend such a claim? The people of whom he speaks murdered the Son of God when He visited them.

Was there ever a time when the Hebrew people became associated with another nation whether through intermarrying, through conquest, or through alliances, when they did not transgress by adopting their idolatrous practices? Why would it be assumed that the Jews’ period of habitation in Babylon, a land that was “mad over their idols” (Jeremiah 50:38), would have a different result than any other period of Jewish history? Do we not read that when Jacob went to Haran to marry Rachel and Leah, upon his return the members of his household brought back idols with them (Genesis 31:34, 35:2)? Not many years later Jacob’s sons went down to Egypt. When they came up four centuries later, they brought the idols of the land with them.

During the period between the Egyptian captivity and that of the kings of Israel and Judah, a period recorded in the book of Judges, Abraham’s descendants were continually falling into idolatry. The idolatry continued during the time of the kings. Solomon married many foreign women and they turned his heart toward their gods. He built high places for them all around Jerusalem, leading the people of God into idolatry.

I Kings 11:7-8

Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable idol of Moab, on the mountain which is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon. Thus also he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

This idolatry continued unabated in the northern kingdom of Israel, and knew only brief reprieves in the southern kingdom of Judah. Therefore, Yahweh judged the people and sold them into captivity to Assyria and Babylon.

Acts 7:39-44

“And our fathers were unwilling to be obedient to him, but repudiated him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt, saying to Aaron, ‘Make for us gods who will go before us; for this Moses who led us out of the land of Egypt - we do not know what happened to him.’ And at that time they made a calf and brought a sacrifice to the idol, and were rejoicing in the works of their hands. But God turned away and delivered them up to serve the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, ‘It was not to Me that you offered victims and sacrifices forty years in the wilderness, was it, O house of Israel? You also took along the tabernacle of Moloch and the star of the god Rompha (Saturn), the images which you made to worship them. I also will remove you beyond Babylon.’”

Stephen, the first Christian martyr, testified of the Jewish people’s ceaseless spiritual adultery as they adopted the gods of other nations. As he was concluding the last words he would utter, Stephen declared, “You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did” (Acts 7:51). Nothing had changed between the time of the Jewish captivity in Babylon circa 600 B.C. and the time of Christ. The Hebrew people remained wayward in their hearts. Pretending to be zealous for Yahweh and His word, they were in fact children of the devil as Yahshua testified.

John 8:42-44

Yahshua said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me; for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father.”

Rather than being the devoted students of God’s word that some perceive the Jews of Christ’s day to have been, they had gone so far astray in their hearts that they did Satan’s bidding by putting to death the Lord of glory. Is it too much to believe then, that these same men, and their descendants over the next centuries, would embrace a Babylonian festival to Saturn/Satan while covering it over with a thin veneer of Judaism in the same manner the Christians did with Christmas and the Roman Saturnalia? The Hanukiah is the “Flame of the Chaldeans” embraced once more by the descendants of Abraham. Satan had brought the Hebrew people full circle. The called out descendants of Abraham had returned to the idolatrous worship of their forefathers.



Flame/Light of the Chaldeans

The Chaldeans/Babylonians worshiped the heavenly host; the sun, moon, planets, and stars. I can imagine Satan engaging in deceit as he persuaded the Jews that they were in some manner honoring their forebears by returning to the more ancient faith of Abraham and his ancestors, returning to the worship of the heavenly host. This overt worship of the lights in the heavens and the deities they represented was commonplace in the Israelites pre-captivity history.

II Kings 17:16-19

And they forsook all the commandments of Yahweh their God and made for themselves molten images, even two calves, and made an Asherah and worshiped all the host of heaven and served Baal. Then they made their sons and their daughters pass through the fire, and practiced divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of Yahweh, provoking Him. So Yahweh was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; none was left except the tribe of Judah. Also Judah did not keep the commandments of Yahweh their God, but walked in the customs which Israel had introduced.

After the captivity, the idolatry of the Hebrews obtained a more hidden nature. Instead of engaging in visible worship of Baal, Ashtoreth, Molech, Chemosh, Remphan/Saturn, and all the host of heaven, they began to introduce heretical elements of the worship of these gods into the worship of Yahweh. The rabbis through the Oral Torah, the Talmud, Midrash, and Kabbalistic writings, brought forth interpretations of the Bible/Tanakh that defiled the worship of Yahweh until it became the worship of Satan.

As an example of the sophistry employed by the rabbis, we find in the Talmud that the candlestick which stood in the Tabernacle of Moses and in the Temple of Solomon, has been re-interpreted to be symbolic of the seven visible planets. (From antiquity, the Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn have been recognized as seven celestial lights that differed from the stars in their motions. The five planets mentioned in this list are the only planets visible to the unaided eye.)

In the Midrash (*Bamidbar Rabbah* 15:7) the seven lamps of the Menorah are compared to the seven planets listed above. The Talmud goes much further in commenting on the symbolism of the lights of the Menorah and the planets associated with them. In *Tractate Shabbat* 156a we find the following commentary.

R. Hanina said to them, [his disciples]: Go out and tell the son of Levi, Not the constellation of the day but that of the hour is the determining influence. He who is born under the constellation of the sun will be a distinguished man: he will eat and drink of his own and his secrets will lie uncovered; if a thief, he will have no success. He who is born under Venus will be wealthy and unchaste [immoral]. What is the reason? Because fire was created therein. He who is born under Mercury will be of a retentive memory and wise. What is the reason? Because it [Mercury] is the sun's scribe. He who is born under the Moon will be a man to suffer evil, building and demolishing, demolishing and building. eating and drinking that which is not his and his secrets will remain hidden: if a thief, he will be successful. He who is born under Saturn will be a man whose plans will be frustrated. Others say: All [nefarious] designs against him will be frustrated. He who is born under Zedek [Jupiter] will be a right-doing man [zadkan] R. Nahman b. Isaac observed: Right-doing in good deeds. He who is born under Mars will be a shedder of blood. R. Ashi observed: Either a surgeon,

a thief, a slaughterer, or a circumciser. Rabbah said: I was born under Mars. Abaye retorted: You too inflict punishment and kill. It was stated. R. Hanina said: The planetary influence gives wisdom, the planetary influence gives wealth, and Israel stands under planetary influence.

This Talmudic entry sounds very much like Babylonian astrology, looking to the hour and day of one's birth to forecast what a person's life and character will be. It can hardly be coincidental that Mercury is mentioned as the Sun's scribe, and the Romans held Mercury to be the messenger of the gods. There is clear evidence of idolatrous influences in the opinions of the rabbis which are recorded in the Talmud, and Midrash. This influence is even more pronounced in the Kabbalistic writings of the Jews. The primary document of Kabbalistic teaching, *The Zohar*, makes the following comment regarding the candlestick in the Jewish Temple: "*These lamps, like the planets above, receive their light from the sun.*"

Modern Freemasonry is derived from Kabbalah. We can therefore look to the writings of Freemasonry to discern what the Jewish mystics believed about the planets and their relationship to the golden candlestick, or menorah, that Moses commanded to be built. Frank C. Higgins in his book *The Beginning of Masonry*, published in 1916, writes the following regarding the Jewish seven-branched candlestick (the illustration is taken from his book):

Thus the seven planets were the seven old gods of the Babylonians, - Shamash, the Sun; Sin, the Moon; Nebo, Mercury; Ishtar, Venus; Nergal, Mars; Marduk, Jupiter; and Ea, Saturn.



The Jewish seven-branched candlestick and its symbolism.

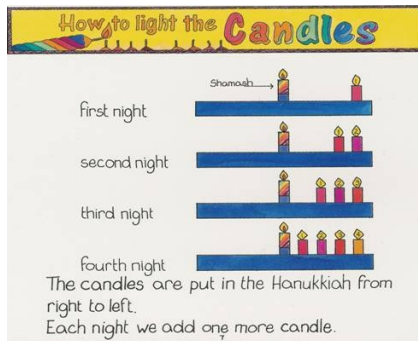
From left to right, the seven flames correspond to the following planets:

Saturn-Jupiter-Mars-the Sun-Venus-Mercury-the Moon

According to Talmudic dogma, it is forbidden for anyone to construct a seven-flame candlestick of the same pattern delivered to Moses. Consequently, any menorah that a Jew possesses in their home, in a synagogue, or any other public or private place, must have fewer than, or more than, seven lights. The Hanukiah abides by this stricture, as it possesses nine lights.

Did you note that Frank Higgins stated that the central flame, that which corresponds to the Sun, is called by the Babylonians "Shamash"? This is the same name the Jews give to the central candle on

the Hanukiah, though they provide the explanation that the Hebrew word “Shamash” means “attendant,” or “servant.” The Talmud instructs the Jewish believer to always set the “Shamash” candle apart, either higher, or lower, than the other eight candles. Most typically, it is elevated over the other candles.



In the previous chapter it was mentioned that there is a specific order given in the Talmud, specifying how the candles on the Hanukiah are to be lit. This order is illustrated in the graphic above. The Shamash candle must be lit first. It is used to light every other candle. Supposedly, this is the reason for it being called Shamash, the attendant, or servant. This candle is the only one of the nine on the Hanukiah to be given a name.

One might ask, “How can the Hanukiah be related to the worship of Saturn if the central candle is named Shamash, and Shamash is the Babylonian name for the Sun and the deity it embodies?” On the Roman calendar, Sol Invictus Dies Natalis followed the Saturnalia. Sol Invictus was the celebration of the Birthday of the Unconquerable Sun (Which is the source of the Christian tradition of celebrating the birth of the Son of God on the same day). If the Shamash candle is representative of the Babylonian Sun-god, then we would have to logically conclude that Hanukkah is a solar festival, not a Saturnian festival.

Among the Babylonians, the Sun and Saturn had a very intriguing relationship. The name the Babylonians called Saturn by was Alap-Shamash, meaning “Star of the Sun.” It is interesting to note that a great many Hanukkah Menorahs incorporate what is referred to as ‘the star of David’ in the body of the candlestick. This six-pointed star is an ancient occult symbol relating to the worship of Satan.



Satan is known by the name Lucifer which means “light bringer,” or “light bearer.” Satan styles himself as a benevolent being who has brought the light of wisdom and knowledge to mankind. Throughout human history he has donned many personas or images that are a variation on this theme. One of them is as Prometheus, the Titan who taught mankind the secret of fire and of many of the hidden arts of the gods. Because Prometheus defied the gods in giving forbidden knowledge to mankind, he was cruelly punished by Zeus, chained to a mountain side where a great eagle would daily come and eat his liver only to have it regenerate every night due to his immortality.



Prometheus Statue at Rockefeller Plaza, New York City

The Rockefeller family has erected a statue of Prometheus in New York City. The Rockefellers are an Illuminati family. They serve the one who claims to be a bringer of light to mankind. Satan rewards those who worship him. In the gospel of Matthew, we observe him offering to reward the Son of God if He would only bow down before him.

Matthew 4:8-11

Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory; and he said to Him, “All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me.” Then Yahshua said to him, “Begone, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’”

Although the Son of God rebuffed Satan and refused the “gifts” he offered, there have been many men and women who have sold their souls to the devil in order to receive fame, fortune, or some worldly gain in return. Among them are the Rockefellers and the Rothschilds. Tragically, many Jews have been led astray to worship Lucifer as the god of light. These are the same ones Yahshua declared to be sons of their father, the devil.



Prometheus at Rockefeller Center

Every Christmas, directly above the statue of Prometheus/Lucifer at Rockefeller Center, an enormous Christmas tree is erected amid much pomp. The tree is adorned with lights, and a blazing star signifying Lucifer, the angelic light bearer, crowns the top. Note the symbolism of Prometheus holding the gift of fire directly under the tree where the Christmas presents would be placed. Satan boasts of having brought the blazing light of knowledge to humanity. I would postulate that this is precisely the same image being presented with the Shamash candle which stands apart from and above the other candles on the Hanukiah. This candle is used to light all the others. Thus is Satan/Saturn/Lucifer depicted as being the source of all light, and bringing that light to mankind.

II Corinthians 11:13-15

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.

When Satan tempted Adam and Eve to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he was offering them a gift. He was alluring them with forbidden knowledge. To Satan's disciples, the transgression of this fallen angel is styled as a benevolent gift, and Yahweh is figured as a tyrant who punished Satan unjustly. In Satan's guise as Prometheus, we read the following words regarding this being, the words being inscribed beneath the statue.

Prometheus, teacher in every art, brought the fire that hath proved to mortals a means to mighty ends.

In the New Testament the word for angel is also translated as "messenger." Consequently, the phrase "angel of light" and "messenger of wisdom and knowledge" become synonymous with one another. What is depicted in the lighting of the Christmas tree and the laying of gifts beneath it, is the same story being told through the Shamash candle being used to light the eight candles of the Hanukiah. Lucifer, the light bringer, is portrayed as giving his light/wisdom/knowledge to mankind.

It is of little consequence whether Shamash refers to the Babylonian Sun-god, or whether it is a reference to Alap-Shamash, the deity associated with the planet Saturn. Both roads lead back to Satan who styles himself as the heavenly ruler and the source of light for all mankind. Recognizing that the days of the week are all dedicated to various deities, and understanding that Satan is an usurper, wanting to ascend to the place reserved for Yahweh, it follows logically that he would wish to usurp unto himself that day which is peculiarly reserved for the worship of Yahweh. In the Bible, that day is the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week. It is notable that the seventh day Sabbath has been replaced among a great many nations of the world with the worship of Saturn. Hence, in the English speaking portions of the world, we call the seventh day Saturday (Saturn's Day).

Although it is not readily apparent why the planet Saturn would come to such prominence, since it is among the dimmest of the seven ancient planets due to its great distance from the Sun and earth, historians relate that this planet and the god it represents held a position of preeminence among the heavenly lights. Diodorus Siculus, a Greek historian who lived in the first century B.C., wrote that the Chaldeans regarded Saturn as the most prominent of the planets.

But above all in importance, they (the Chaldeans) say, in the study of the influence of the five stars known as planets, the one named Cronus by the Greeks (i.e., Saturn) is the most conspicuous.

Also affirming the elevated position of Saturn in the pantheon of the gods, we find that in the Sanskrit language Saturn is named Grahanayakah. This name is a compound of “graha(h)” (planet), and “nayakah” (chief or leader). Thus, Saturn was accorded the title of “Chief Planet” by those who spoke the ancient language of Sanskrit which flourished from approximately 2,000 B.C. until 600 B.C.. Sanskrit is the religious language of the Hindus, Buddhists, and Jains.

In Sanskrit another name attributed to Saturn is Shani. In this language the seventh day of the week is called Shanivar which translates as Saturn's day. In Cambodia the seventh day is named in honor of Prah Sau, which again corresponds to the planet Saturn. In Japanese, the seventh day is Do Youbi, and is associated with Dosei (Saturn). In the solar calendar of Thailand, the name of the day is derived from a Pali word for Saturn (Pali now being an extinct language).

Throughout the world we find that the seventh day which was declared holy by Yahweh, has been supplanted by idolatrous religions that worshiped Saturn. If we follow the trail leading back to the worship of Saturn, we find additional correspondence with the celebration of Hanukkah. One of the chief sources on the Roman celebration of Saturnalia is the book titled *Saturnalia* written by Macrobius Ambrosius Theodosius. The date of this encyclopedic writing is around 400 A.D.. In this work it is stated that Saturn was considered by the Romans to be “*the foremost of the gods*” and that the Romans “*celebrate Saturn with the greatest honor, among all the other (gods).*”

In Macrobius' *Saturnalia*, a character is discoursing on the origin of the festival and its various rites and symbols. He explains how the worship of Saturn became associated with the kindling of lights. The story goes that Saturn was formerly worshiped with human sacrifice. The heads of men who had been slain were required to appease the god. This changed when Hercules persuaded the people to substitute the offering of men for that of burning lights. It is explained that the Latin word “phota” means both “man” and “lights.” Thus the custom of exchanging candles during the Saturnalia began. (Source: *Macrobius' Saturnalia*, edited and translated by Robert A. Kaster, page 81).

If one accepts this explanation of the lighting of the candles being a substitute for human sacrifice, it is a serious matter for those who light the Hanukiah. As each light is set ablaze it is offered up as a substitute for human sacrifice. In other words, the lives of mankind are being symbolically offered up to Saturn/Satan.

A second significance of the lighting of candles relates to the association between light and knowledge. Macrobius writes:

Others think that candles are exchanged precisely because it was under Saturn's guidance that we passed out from a dark and uncultured way of life to the light cast by the knowledge of beneficial skills.

[Ibid, page 83]

Whether a person is symbolically offering human sacrifice to Satan, or honoring him as the giver of

knowledge and gifts to mankind, the act is one of immense evil.

As I mentioned at the end of the preceding chapter, another association between Hanukkah and Saturnalia is derived from the alternate name The Feast of Dedication. The rabbis in the Talmud, and the authors of *I and II Maccabees*, inform us that it was the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem that is in reference here. Yet, if we peel away the deceit, and look back to a more ancient source for this celebration, we find that Saturnalia was held on the day that the Temple of Saturn was dedicated in Rome in the year 497 B.C., long before the reported victory of Judas Maccabeus over the Seleucid armies. Two further associations to Hanukkah are observed as we read what is revealed in the Wikipedia article on the feast of Saturnalia.

Saturnalia is a festival of light leading to the winter solstice, with the abundant presence of candles symbolizing the quest for knowledge and truth...

Gambling and dice-playing, normally prohibited, or at least frowned upon, were permitted for all, even slaves.

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

The Roman Saturnalia was referred to as the “Festival of Light.” This same name is given to the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah. From the second statement above we derive another correspondence. Other than the nine-candle menorah, one of the most widely associated symbols of Hanukkah today is the Dreidel.



Dreidels

Dreidels are given as gifts, especially to children, during the eight days of Hanukkah. The dreidel originates from a gambling device called the teetotum. It is basically a dice that spins. The Wikipedia entry on the teetotum contains the following information.

In its earliest form the body was square (in some cases via a stick through a regular six-sided die), marked on the four sides by the letters A (Lat. aufer, take) indicating that the player takes one from the pool, D (Lat. depone, put down) when a fine has to be paid, N (Lat. nihil, nothing), and T (Lat. totum, all), when the whole pool is to be taken.

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

A square with a stick in one side is a very good description of a dreidel. Is it mere coincidence that Saturnalia was “marked by gambling and dice-playing,” and the dreidel has become an inseparable part of the Hanukkah observance today?

A final association between Hanukkah and Saturnalia that I will mention to close this chapter, is the tradition of cooking oily foods, such as latkes (potato pancakes) during Hanukkah.



Latkes

The statue of Saturn in its temple in Rome has been described by ancient historians as being hollow and constructed of wood. Saturn is depicted as a veiled figure holding a scythe. The hollow statue was filled with oil. It is reported that it was filled anew every year on the anniversary of the dedication of Saturn’s temple. This is at the time of the Saturnalia festival, and corresponds to the season of Hanukkah.

One modern explanation for the emphasis on oily foods during Hanukkah points back to the miracle of the oil recorded in the Talmud. As has been shown, however, this story of the temple menorah burning for eight days on a single day’s worth of oil is a fabrication of the rabbis. It was not reported in the much older accounts in *I and II Maccabees* and in Josephus’ *Antiquities of the Jews*. A more plausible explanation for the emphasis on oil during Hanukkah is that the Jews practiced syncretism as they adopted the rites and symbols of the worship of Saturn. Saturn from antiquity has had an association with oil as is observed in the worship of Shani, which was mentioned earlier as a Hindu equivalent of Saturn. Shani was “one of the... nine primary celestial beings in Hindu astrology... Shani is embodied in the planet Saturn and is the Lord of Saturday” [Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shani>]



Note the ladder behind the statue to enable worshipers to ascend to the head of the idol in order to pour oil over it. This idol is found in India, a land of many languages. The rite of pouring oil over the statue is referred to in the following manner in the local languages. In Sanskrit, Telugu and Malayalam the rite is called *Tailabhishekam* (Tailam means oil). In Telugu the rite is also called *Nuvvula Nune* (Nuvvulu means Sesame; Nune means oil). In the language Kannada, the rite is referred to as *Ellenne* (Ellu means sesame; enne means oil).

There is an English expression that states, “*If it looks like a duck, swims like a duck, and quacks like a duck, then it probably is a duck.*” The Hanukkah celebration passes the test for being a Jewish adoption of the ancient worship of Saturn. It shares the same holiday names as Saturnalia: The Feast of Dedication; The Festival of lights. It shares the same rites with the lighting of the candles, the giving of dreidels as gifts, and the focus on oil. It even incorporates the Babylonian name Shamash, a name related to the worship of Saturn, in its major symbol and rite. Additional correspondence could be expounded upon, such as the traditional use of beeswax candles among the Hebrew celebration and in the ancient worship of Saturn.

If Christians are going to separate themselves from the observances of Christmas and Easter due to their proven links back to Roman and Babylonian idolatry, should they not do the same with the Jewish Hanukkah?

The Hidden Worship of Satan



Image of Saturn from the Roman City of Pompeii

In the book *Saturnalia*, Macrobius has the character Praetextatus speak the following words:

It is permissible for me to reveal the great origin of the Saturnalia - not the origin that touches on the secret nature of the divinity, but the one that is spoken of with an admixture of legendary elements or is revealed to all sundry by the physical scientists. Telling the secret account that flows from the pure source of truth is forbidden even in the very midst of the rites, and if someone learns them, he is commanded to keep them hidden within his heart. Accordingly, our friend Horus will be allowed to review with me the things that may be known.

[Ibid, page 73]

With these words, Macrobius reveals to us that the worship of Saturn was then, as it is now, cloaked in a garb of secrecy. Like Freemasonry, those who are newly initiated are plied with legends which serve as a substitute for the truth. Only as one advances to the level of an adept, proving their loyalty, is the “*pure source of truth*” unveiled before their eyes. We observe this process in Freemasonry as only those who attain to the highest degrees are informed that the true god of the lodge is Lucifer. Albert Pike, a man skilled in the arcane knowledge of Masonry, and who held the position of Supreme Commander of Scottish Rite Freemasonry in North America, wrote the following.

The Blue Degrees are but the outer court or portico of the Temple. Part of the symbols are displayed there to the Initiate, but he is intentionally misled by false interpretations. It is not intended that he shall understand them; but it is intended that he shall imagine that he understands them. Their true explication is reserved for the Adepts, the Princes of Masonry...

Masonry, like all the Religions, all the Mysteries, Hermeticism and Alchemy, conceals its secrets from all except the Adepts and Sages, or the Elect, and uses false explanations and misinterpretations of its symbols to mislead those who deserve only to be misled; to conceal the Truth, which it calls Light, from them, and to draw them away from it. Truth is not for those who are unworthy or unable to receive it, or would pervert it....

The truth must be kept secret, and the masses need a teaching proportioned to their imperfect reason...

[Source: Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, Published 1871]

Albert Pike confessed to the “Princes of Masonry” that their true god is Lucifer, and their doctrines are Luciferian.

That which we must say to the crowd is - We worship a God, but it is the God that one adores without superstition.

To you, Sovereign Grand Inspectors General [of the 33rd degree], we say this, that you may repeat it to the Brethren of the 32nd, 31st, and 30th degrees - The Masonic religion should be, by all of us initiates of the high degrees, maintained in the purity of the Luciferian doctrine.

If Lucifer were not God, would Adonay, the God of the Christians, whose deeds prove his cruelty, perfidy, and hatred of man, barbarism and repulsion for science, would Adonay and his priests, calumniate him?

Yes, Lucifer is God, and unfortunately Adonay is also God. For the eternal law is that there is no light without shade, no beauty without ugliness, no white without black, for the absolute can only exist as two Gods: darkness being necessary to light to serve as its foil as the pedestal is necessary to the statue, and the brake to the locomotive...

Thus, the doctrine of Satanism is a heresy; and the true and pure philosophic religion is the belief in Lucifer, the equal of Adonay; but Lucifer, God of Light and God of Good, is struggling for humanity against Adonay, the God of Darkness and Evil.

[A.C. De La Rive, *La Femme et L'enfant dans La Franc-Maçonnerie Universelle* (Women and Children in Universal Freemasonry), Page 588]



Albert Pike Statue in Washington, D.C.

Albert Pike's words regarding the “mysteries” of Freemasonry echo the words written by Macrobius 1,500 years earlier. Satan/Lucifer continues to be worshiped by men such as Albert Pike in secret,

while immensely greater numbers of men are led to embrace the forms of Satan worship unwittingly as they are lied to about the origins and meanings of the rites and symbols they are embracing. An hour is at hand when Satan, the great dragon and serpent of old, will be worshiped openly by the citizens of this world.

Revelation 13:3-4

And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast; and they worshiped the dragon, because he gave his authority to the beast...

In preparation of that coming hour, men, women, and children are being plied with an increasing flood of Satanic symbols.



Satanic Symbols By Musicians and Actors (666 Hand Sign, All Seeing Eye, Pyramid)



Luciferian Symbols in Corporate Logos and Advertising

An endless list of examples could be provided from television, movies, video games, magazines, billboards, books, etc., demonstrating the pervasiveness of the symbols and rites of Satanic worship which are conditioning humanity to accept the overt worship of “the prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2) and “the god of this world” (II Corinthians 4:4). It would be difficult to find a Christian home today that does not have a multitude of these symbols present. Indeed, it is difficult to separate oneself from these images of Satan worship even if one has a mind to do so.



Logo for Apple Computer

What family does not own at least one iPhone, iPod, iPad, iMac, or some other product sold by Apple Computer. The logo of an apple with a bite out of it points directly to Satan’s great triumph over mankind in the Garden of Eden. Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak priced their first computer, the Apple 1 for \$666.66. The rainbow coloring of the original logo also resembles the rainbow symbol adopted by the homosexual movement. Apple’s current CEO Tim Cook is an admitted homosexual. Apple was ranked as the most valuable company in the world in 2014. Satan rewards those people and companies who will bow down and worship him.

Matthew 4:8-10

Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory; and he said to Him, “All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me.”

The entire world is being guided swiftly to the place where they will worship Satan openly. To condition humanity to embrace Satan worship, they are being subjected to Luciferian rites and symbols until they are accepted as normal. We can tell that the plans of the god of this world are maturing as we observe ever more overt manifestations of Satan worship. The veil is being removed. Super Bowl XLVI featured Madonna and Cee Lo Green performing a Black Mass during the half-time show which lasted for thirteen minutes.

<http://parablesblog.blogspot.com/2012/02/super-bowl-xlvi-strange-flesh-and.html>

Indeed, every world class championship sporting event, including the World Cup of Soccer and the Olympics, have become showcases of Satanic rites and symbols. Similarly, the awards shows for actors and musicians are being used to unveil to the world the worship of Lucifer. At the 2014 Grammy Awards, Katy Perry sang her song *Dark Horse* as she mimicked performing black magic. The song *Dark Horse* has been viewed more than a billion times on YouTube. One posting alone has more than 823 million views. Recent years have also seen entertainers such as Nicki Minaj performing overtly Satanic acts as in the example of the 2012 Grammy’s where she sang *Roman*

Holiday.



Roman Holiday

Yet Satan has paid especial attention to corrupting the people of Yahweh. He has expended great effort in introducing to both Jews and Christians the symbols and rites of his own worship. He has done so in a veiled manner, for as Albert Pike declared, Satan *“uses false explanations and misinterpretations of its symbols to mislead those who deserve only to be misled; to conceal the Truth, which it calls Light, from them, and to draw them away from it. Truth is not for those who are unworthy or unable to receive it, or would pervert it...”* Christians and Jews alike are deemed unworthy of knowing the true meaning of the rites and symbols foisted upon them. Those who are worshipers of Yahweh and His Son Yahshua are deemed to be deficient in both reason and understanding. Therefore, Satan gives to them *“a teaching proportioned to their imperfect reason.”*

A growing number of Christians are become educated regarding the unclean spiritual elements of Christmas and Easter. I trust that this present writing is helping some to perceive the Satanic origins of the festival known as Hanukkah. Both Hanukkah and Christmas are adaptations of the Roman Saturnalia. The subtlety and cunning of the devil is evident in that he has led multitudes of Christians to embrace as their highest holy days two celebrations that are idolatrous. Christmas is nothing more than the worship of Saturn/Satan promoted to Christians as a celebration of the birth of God’s Son. Easter still bears the name of the pagan goddess of fertility whom it honors. Easter is a Germanic form of the Babylonian Ishtar. In the Old Testament we read of the Israelites worshiping this pagan goddess under the names Astarte and Ashtoreth.

Unlike the other gods worshiped by the Romans, the statue of Saturn that resided in his temple at the base of the Capitoline hill was draped in a veil. The image introducing this chapter shows Saturn veiled while holding his accompanying sickle. The image was found painted on a wall of that wicked Roman city, Pompeii. The city of Pompeii, along with the city of Herculaneum, fell under Yahweh’s judgment in similar fashion as the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah two millennia earlier. When Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 A.D., both of these Roman cities were buried in fiery ash and pumice, and smothered with suffocating heat and gases, killing the inhabitants almost instantly. The cities were buried, frozen in time. They have been a treasure trove for historians, showing what life was like in the Roman empire of the first century A.D..

Both Pompeii and Herculaneum were grossly debauched cities. Found among the ruins of the cities

were many vile statues, ornaments, decorations and murals depicting sexual orgies, sex with animals, homosexuality, and all manner of sexual immorality. These objects and paintings were located in very public places revealing the open and unabashed pursuit of hedonistic pleasure in these cities. That Saturn should be worshiped in these cities as the chief deity of the Romans reveals much about the character of the being represented by this idol. It was not long after the destruction of these cities that Paul wrote his epistle to the Romans. In his letter he made reference to the sexual deviancy that was common among Roman society.

Romans 1:18-32

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; and, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

These words of Paul describe a Saturnian society. So closely associated was Rome with the worship of Saturn that the ancient writers Ovid, Pliny, and Aurelius Victor tell us the original name of Rome was Saturnia, “the City of Saturn.” Italy itself has long been renowned as “the Saturnian Land.” This veiled Saturn, the god whose worshipers are not permitted to disclose the truth of his being and his character openly, nor to give the true explanation of his rites and symbols, is none other than Satan. Are not the wicked fruits described by Paul in his letter to the Romans what one would expect to be associated with a people who have given themselves over to the worship of Satan, the adversary of Yahweh and of all that is holy and good?

Alexander Hislop, in his valuable writing titled *The Two Babylons*, traces the worship of Saturn from Rome back to the Chaldeans in the land of Babylon. The “mystery” religion of Babylon was carried to Italy and Rome where it flourished once more.

On the Capitoline hill, so famed in after-days as the great high place of Roman worship, Saturnia,

or the city of Saturn, the great Chaldean god had in the days of dim and distant antiquity been erected. Some revolution had then taken place - the graven images of Babylon had been abolished - the erecting of any idol had been sternly prohibited,* and when the twin founders of the now world-renowned city reared its humble walls, the city and the palace of their Babylonian predecessor had long lain in ruins.

* PLUTARCH (in Hist. Numoe) states, that Numa forbade the making of images, and that for 170 years after the founding of Rome, no images were allowed in the Roman temples...

The deadly wound, however, thus given to the Chaldean system, was destined to be healed. A colony of Etruscans, earnestly attached to the Chaldean idolatry, had migrated, some say from Asia Minor, others from Greece, and settled in the immediate neighborhood of Rome. They were ultimately incorporated in the Roman state, but long before this political union took place they exercised the most powerful influence on the religion of the Romans. From the very first their skill in augury, soothsaying, and all science, real or pretended, that the augurs or soothsayers monopolized, made the Romans look up to them with respect. It is admitted on all hands that the Romans derived their knowledge of augury, which occupied so prominent a place in every public transaction in which they engaged, chiefly from the Tuscans, that is, the people of Etruria, and at first none but natives of that country were permitted to exercise the office of a Haruspex, which had respect to all the rites essentially involved in sacrifice.

Wars and disputes arose between Rome and the Etruscans; but still the highest of the noble youths of Rome were sent to Etruria to be instructed in the sacred science which flourished there. The consequence was, that under the influence of men whose minds were molded by those who clung to the ancient idol-worship, the Romans were brought back again to much of that idolatry which they had formerly repudiated and cast off. Though Numa, therefore, in setting up his religious system, so far deferred to the prevailing feeling of his day and forbade image-worship, yet in consequence of the alliance subsisting between Rome and Etruria in sacred things, matters were put in train for the ultimate subversion of that prohibition. The college of Pontiffs, of which he laid the foundation, in process of time came to be substantially an Etruscan college, and the Sovereign Pontiff that presided over that college, and that controlled all the public and private religious rites of the Roman people in all essential respects, became in spirit and in practice an Etruscan Pontiff.

Still the Sovereign Pontiff of Rome, even after the Etruscan idolatry was absorbed into the Roman system, was only an offshoot from the grand original Babylonian system. He was a devoted worshiper of the Babylonian god; but he was not the legitimate representative of that God. The true legitimate Babylonian Pontiff had his seat beyond the bounds of the Roman empire. That seat, after the death of Belshazzar, and the expulsion of the Chaldean priesthood from Babylon by the Medo-Persian kings, was at Pergamos, where afterwards was one of the seven churches of Asia. There, in consequence, for many centuries was "Satan's seat" (Rev 2:13). There, under favor of the deified kings of Pergamos, was his favorite abode, there was the worship of Aesculapius, under the form of the serpent, celebrated with frantic orgies and excesses, that elsewhere were kept under some measure of restraint...

Saturn and Mystery are both Chaldean words, and they are correlative terms. As Mystery signifies the Hidden system, so Saturn signifies the Hidden god...

To those who were initiated the god was revealed; to all else he was hidden. Now, the name Saturn in Chaldee is pronounced Satur; but, as every Chaldee scholar knows, consists only of four letters, thus - Stur. This name contains exactly the Apocalyptic number 666:--

S = 060

T = 400

U = 006

R = 200

But what bearing, it may be said, has this upon the name "Lateinos," which is commonly believed to be the "name of the beast"?... On etymological grounds, then, even on the testimony of the Romans, Lateinos is equivalent to the "Hidden One"; that is, to Saturn, the "god of Mystery."

[Alexander Hislop, The Two Babylons]



The Veiled Throne of Saturn

The relief pictured above is found in the Louvre in Paris. It is dated to the first century A.D. in Rome. Two of the cherubim can be seen carrying the sickle of Saturn. That the throne is veiled, once more points to the veiled and secret nature of the worship of this deity. It was not disclosed openly that it was Satan who was being worshiped. Legends promoting an alternate identity and character of the chief god of the Romans under the name of Saturn served to obscure the truth of the Satanic worship to all but the advanced devotees of this fallen angel. Let us recap what Alexander Hislop has disclosed regarding the "Hidden One," while adding further information.



Etruria and Rome

The present city of Rome was founded in the year 753 B.C.. This was approximately the time in which the northern ten tribes of Israel were conquered and carried into captivity to Assyria and about 150 years prior to the time Judah was carried captive into Babylon. It is not to be supposed that the territory of Rome was uninhabited prior to 753 B.C.. For many centuries prior to Rome's founding the land now recognized as Italy had been occupied by various peoples.

The historic center of the city of Rome was constructed around Capitoline Hill. It is here that numerous temples and political and civic buildings were constructed. This area was known as the Forum Magnum, commonly referred to today as the Roman Forum. It was the center of public life.



Roman Forum and Capitoline Hill

The second building from the lower left in the image above is the temple of Saturn. It held a prominent position in this hub of Roman public life. Hislop informs us that in the centuries before Rome was founded, before the Forum was constructed, this same location served as a place for the worship of Babylonian deities. At some point the Babylonian worship was overthrown, and the ancient city and palace had fallen into ruins. It was upon these ruins that Rome arose. The Phoenix rising from the ashes of its own immolation is an apt analogy for the resurrection of the old Chaldean worship in the newly founded city of Rome/Saturnia.

The Etruscan people carried forward the ancient Babylonian worship. They migrated to northern Italy and held much influence over the territory surrounding Rome. Although the Romans held political power, the Etruscans wielded the religious power. Ultimately, Rome adopted the old Babylonian mystery religion that was kept alive by the Etruscans. Numa, the second king of Rome, laid the foundations for the College of Pontiffs. This religious body was the equivalent of the priesthood of Israel. The Sovereign Pontiff, or Pontifex Maximus, was similar to the Jewish High Priest. The word "Pontiff" is believed to mean "bridge builder." The English word "pontoon" and its association with bridging bodies of water, is derived from the same root word. The word Pontiff may be related to the idea of the priest serving as a bridge between mankind and the deity.

For 500 years, half of a millennia, the College of Pontiffs were the priests of the pagan mystery religion of Rome. Only after the birth of the church in the first century A.D. was the term "Pontiff" applied to a Christian religious leader. As Christianity spread to the region of Rome the influence of pagan religion began to influence and subvert the purity of the apostolic faith. One of the earliest known references to a Christian church leader being called "Pontifex Maximus" was in the early

church father Tertullian's writing in which he reproves Calistus who is the "bishop of bishops" of the Christian church in Rome. The Roman Catholics consider Calistus to be the 16th Pope in a line of succession that began with the apostle Peter.

In opposition to this [modesty], could I not have acted the dissembler? I hear that there has even been an edict sent forth, and a peremptory one too. The 'Pontifex Maximus,' that is the 'bishop of bishops,' issues an edict: 'I remit, to such as have discharged [the requirements of] repentance, the sins both of adultery and of fornication.' O edict, on which cannot be inscribed, 'Good deed!' ...Far, far from Christ's betrothed be such a proclamation!

[On Modesty I, Ante-Nicene Fathers IV:74]



Calistus - Pope 217-222 A.D.

Tertullian may have been writing facetiously when he referred to Calistus as the "Pontifex Maximus," for this title was given to the Emperor of Rome who was the de facto head of the College of Pontiffs. It would not be until Constantine the Great, ruler of Rome from 306-337 A.D. that an Emperor would declare himself to be a Christian, and the official religion of Rome to be Christianity. Consequently, the title of Pontifex Maximus was not officially applied to a "Christian" ruler until Constantine's reign. The early church fathers of Tertullian's day recognized the Pontifex Maximus as the evil high priest of a profane and idolatrous religion. They referred to the Pontifex Maximus as "the king of heathendom." This title which from antiquity was assigned to the top religious leader of the Roman mystery religion is now borne by the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church. All of the costumes, rites, symbols, holidays, and doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church which are such a departure from the pure apostolic faith of the early church, are elements carried over from the ancient mystery religion, the worship of Satan, which began in Babylon.

Hislop relates that although Rome became a renowned center of Satan worship under the guise of worshiping Saturn, the true seat of Satan was in Pergamon. This fact is attested to in the Bible as Christ is addressing the church residing in that city.

Revelation 2:13

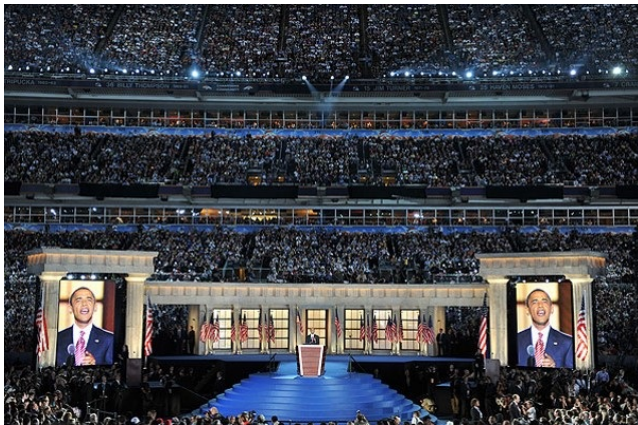
"I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith, even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells."

Pergamon is a city in Turkey, the land where many historians believe the Etruscans lived before they migrated to Northern Italy. In Pergamon was a famous altar built atop a hill overlooking the surrounding land. It was built in the 2nd century B.C.. The altar fell into ruins until the German engineer Carl Humann began excavating the site in 1878. The excavation continued until 1886. The Germans were particularly interested in recovering the images adorning the frieze at the base of the altar. It was agreed that the recovered panels would become the property of the Germans and they were transported to Berlin where the west front of the altar was reconstructed and the frieze restored.



Pergamon Altar in Berlin

This being the main altar and religious shrine from the ancient city of Pergamon, many people equate it with “Satan’s Throne,” spoken of in the book of Revelation. It was considered an ill omen when the stage for the Democratic Convention held in Denver, Colorado in 2008 was designed as a temple bearing a striking resemblance to the Pergamon Altar. It was here, in this “high place” that Barack Obama received the Democratic nomination for President.



2008 Democratic Convention

What we are observing in society is an increasing externalization of Satan worship. The introduction of Satanic elements into Christianity and Judaism is hardly less subtle, though it goes unnoticed by the masses of professing believers. As mentioned in the previous chapter, Hanukkah has adopted

wholesale much of the Roman Saturnalia. The Saturnalia was held on the date of the dedication of the Temple of Saturn in Rome in 497 B.C.. If Hanukkah actually refers to the *re-dedication* of the Temple of Jerusalem after the Greeks had defiled it, why is it not called “The Feast of *Re-Dedication*.” Why does it bear the name “The Feast of Dedication,” a title which hearkens back to the founding of the Temple of Saturn? Why is Hanukkah also called The Festival of Lights, a name by which Saturnalia was also known, as Macrobius informs us? Why is Hanukkah observed with the lighting of candles, the exchange of dreidels, and the eating of oily foods, all of which are traceable back to the idolatrous celebration of Saturn?

Those who are determined to continue to observe this eight day “Jewish” festival will inevitably cite the common legends associated with Hanukkah. They are unwilling to acknowledge that they are merely repeating the “*false explanations and misinterpretations*” that Satan and his disciples use “*to mislead those who deserve only to be misled.*” They are engaging in the “hidden” worship of Satan. They are partaking of the “mysteries” which originated in Babylon while not understanding the truth of the symbols and rites they have adopted.

Satanic Inroads to Judaism and Christianity



Would you be alarmed if your church, congregation, or fellowship of believers put up posters of the image pictured above, or included it as artwork in the weekly bulletin? Would you be offended if a favorite ministry or Christian organization mixed these symbols of Satan with the Scripture reference from Psalm 95:6 as is shown here? Most Christians recognize the inverted pentagram inside the circle as a symbol of Satan worship, and the number 666 as the number of the Beast of the book of Revelation. It is no trivial thing for Christians to embrace this mark.

Revelation 14:9-10

If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or upon his hand, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

No doubt, most Christians would respond with righteous indignation if they found such a poster publicly displayed in their church. If they were looking for a church to visit and found such a profane image proudly displayed on the website of a local fellowship, they would immediately cross it off the list. I can hear some saint of God citing the words of the apostle Paul:

II Corinthians 6:14-16

What partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols?

To merge together the holy and the profane is a serious matter in the eyes of Yahweh. It was the duty of the Levitical priesthood to instruct the people of God to separate the holy from the vile.

Ezekiel 44:23

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

It was rare, however, when the Levites actually fulfilled this duty in a faithful manner. For much of the history of God's people, idolatry and profane practices were merged with the worship of Yahweh. Ezekiel records for us one of the many times in which the people of Yahweh brought great uncleanness into the Temple and sanctuary (holy place) of God.

Ezekiel 8:3-16

And the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven, and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the north gate of the inner court, where the seat of the image of jealousy was, which provokes to jealousy... Then He said to me, "Son of man, lift your eyes now toward the north." So I lifted my eyes toward the north, and there, north of the altar gate, was this image (idol) of jealousy in the entrance. Furthermore He said to me, "Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations that the house of Israel commits here, to make Me go far away from My sanctuary? Now turn again, you will see greater abominations." So He brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, there was a hole in the wall. Then He said to me, "Son of man, dig into the wall"; and when I dug into the wall, there was a door. And He said to me, "Go in, and see the wicked abominations which they are doing there." So I went in and saw, and there - every sort of creeping thing, abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed all around on the walls... Then He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the room of his idols? For they say, 'Yahweh does not see us, Yahweh has forsaken the land.'" And He said to me, "Turn again, and you will see greater abominations that they are doing." So He brought me to the door of the north gate of Yahweh's house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz. Then He said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? Turn again, you will see greater abominations than these." So He brought me into the inner court of Yahweh's house; and there, at the door of the temple of Yahweh, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of Yahweh and their faces toward the east, and they were worshiping the sun toward the east.



Ezekiel Digging Into the Temple

The Spirit of God took the prophet on a tour of the Temple. He showed Ezekiel the numerous profane images, both idols and depictions of various creatures which the elders of Israel were worshiping. Ezekiel was shown the women of Israel weeping for Tammuz, a false deity of Babylon. He was shown 25 men prostrating themselves as they worshiped the Sun. Satan was markedly successful in bringing the profane into the house of God. Satan defiled that which was pure. He

corrupted the minds and hearts of those who were covenanted to have no other gods beside Yahweh.

Satan's work of introducing that which is profane into the pure worship of Yahweh and His Son Yahshua has never ceased. As soon as the church was birthed, Satan began to seek ways to pollute, corrupt, and subvert it. He has been highly successful. What would the prophet see today if he looked at the churches devoted to the worship of Jesus Christ/Yahshua the Messiah? He would see very much the same things He was shown at the Temple just before Yahweh destroyed it by the hands of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon.

Ezekiel would see that the worshipers of Christ had adopted the high holy days of the pagan idolaters. He would see that the church had no knowledge of the Feast Days of Yahweh: Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles. He would see that they had been replaced with Christmas and Easter, the former being the ancient worship of Saturn and the latter the worship of the goddess of fertility. He would see the Hebrew Roots Christians doing the same thing with their observance of Hanukkah.

The prophet would observe the similar construction of the church buildings, the majority of which feature an obelisk marking the location of the sanctuary (holy place).



These Protestant obelisks mirror those belonging to the harlot of Rome, which she stole from Heliopolis, the City of the Sun, in Egypt.



Obelisk at St. Peter's Square, Vatican City

There is a clear trail from Roman Catholicism back to the Sun worship of Egypt. The solar deity of Egypt was called Baal or Bel by the Babylonians, hence the origin of the word Obelisk (shaft of Bel). It says a lot about the success of Satan in introducing apostasy to the church when their most holy day bears the name of Easter, the goddess of fertility who is the Babylonian Ishtar, the Ashtoreth of the Sidonians, and the Greek Astarte.

I Kings 11:4-5

For it came about when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to Yahweh his God, as the heart of David his father had been. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians...

How serious a matter was this to Yahweh? It was very serious.

I Kings 11:31-33

Thus says Yahweh, the God of Israel, "Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and give you ten tribes (but he will have one tribe, for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel), because they have forsaken Me, and have worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcom the god of the sons of Ammon..."

Yahweh said "You shall have no other gods before Me." One understanding of the first of the Ten Commandments is "You shall have no other gods in My presence." Nevertheless, the Hebrews of the Old Covenant, and the Christians of the New Covenant, have consistently merged the profane worship of the Baals and Ashtoreth with that of Yahweh and His Christ.

Judges 2:11-13

Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of Yahweh, and served the Baals, and they forsook Yahweh, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed themselves down to them; thus they provoked Yahweh to anger. So they forsook Yahweh and served Baal and the Ashtoreth (Ishtar/Astarte/Easter).

They served Baal and Ashtoreth. Today the churches have an obelisk atop the building, denoting Baal worship, and their most holy day of the year is Easter, which is a Germanic form of the name Ashtoreth. Nothing has changed. Satan remains as successful as ever in bringing the profane into the house of God.

But what of those Christians who are turning away from mainline denominational Christianity to Hebrew Roots? Are they more successful in separating themselves from apostasy and from embracing Satanic names, rites, and symbols? As we have observed in our look at the Jewish Festival of Lights, also known as Hanukkah, those adopting this "Hebrew" festival have not avoided the deception and corruptions of the adversary. They have been plied with false explanations for these symbols and rites, explanations that Satan reserves for those who are deemed to be unworthy of the truth, *"a teaching proportioned to their imperfect reason."*

The following questions beg to be answered, "If a Christian is offended by the poster which appears at the head of this chapter, a poster that combines images related to Satanic worship with Scriptures that speak of the worship of Yahweh, then why are they not incensed every time they drive down the street and see a church building with a steeple? Why are they not incensed every year when Christians replace the crucifixion of Christ that occurred at the Biblical Passover with the name of the pagan goddess of fertility, Easter? Why are they not provoked to jealousy when the Lamb of God

is commemorated by eating Easter ham, a tradition that harkens back to the death of Tammuz, the son of Baal and Ishtar, who was slain by a wild boar?"



Tammuz (Greek Adonis) Dying From His Wounds

(Note the gash on his thigh from the boar's tusk.)

The forty days of mourning leading up to Easter, a period which the Roman Catholic Church calls Lent, is the ancient rite of mourning for Tammuz that Ezekiel was shown as he observed the women in the Temple. This forty days of mourning begins with Ash Wednesday. On this day the priests of Rome place ash on the forehead of the worshipers, this being an ancient symbol of mourning.



Yes, Ezekiel would see the very things done today which provoked Yahweh to jealousy in 600 B.C.. Because so much idolatry has been introduced to the churches of this hour, the Spirit of Christ is calling out to the people of God the following words recorded by the apostle John.

Revelation 18:4-5

Come out of her [Babylon, the Great Harlot], my people, that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues; for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

It is encouraging to find that a remnant are heeding the call to come out of Babylon (confusion). There is a remnant who are separating themselves from the profane practices, symbols, rites, and holy days wherewith Satan has defiled the body of Christ. Yet, among those who are troubled by the apostasy of the Christian religious system, a significant number are being further deceived by the adversary as they embrace the Hebrew Roots Movement which is leavened with the apostasies of Talmudic and Kabbalistic Judaism. Thinking they are returning to a purer and more authentic Christian practice, they are in fact exchanging the profane elements of apostate Christianity for those of apostate Judaism.



Beit HaTorah

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ~ Act 2:42

If the poster at the head of this chapter is offensive, then the banner directly above advertising the Beit HaTorah should be offensive as well. It combines a Satanic symbol with an invitation to devote oneself to the “apostles’ teaching.” The six pointed star is NOT a Christian symbol. It was NOT embraced by the apostles, by Christ, or the early church. It is a symbol the Jews adopted as representative of the ancient study of Alchemy, and more recently of Kabbalah. The “Star of David” does not have anything to do with King David. The name given to this symbol is merely one more deceit of the adversary, a false explanation intended to mislead those who are considered unworthy to know the “Luciferian truth.”



Israeli Flag

The flag of the Zionist State of Israel is one of the most recognized flags in the world today. The six pointed star is called “the Magen David,” literally “the Shield of David,” but commonly called “the Star of David.” Where did this symbol come from? It was on the flag of the First Zionist Congress which convened in 1897 in Basel, Switzerland.



Flag of the First Zionist Congress, 1897

Twenty years later, in 1917, the Balfour Declaration was issued. This Declaration was a letter from the United Kingdom's Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour to Baron **Rothschild** (Walter Rothschild, 2nd Baron Rothschild). Baron Rothschild was a leader of the Jewish community in England, a man deeply involved with the Zionist movement. He, along with the rest of the Rothschild banking cabal, was also a Luciferian. The Balfour Declaration expressed the British

government's favorable view of the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. The Balfour Declaration was published in 1917 in the British press on the 9th day of November (written as 9-11 in England).

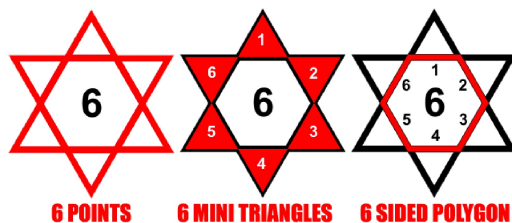
It is possible to trace the path by which the six pointed star, became associated with Zionism, by observing that this symbol is found on the shield and the coat of arms of the Rothschild family.



Rothschild Coat of Arms

The Lion/Griffin, the Unicorn, and the Phoenix also appear on the Rothschild coat of arms, all of which are symbols of Satan. The Rothschilds are a family who have turned to the worship of Satan in order to receive power and wealth from "the god of this world." The Hexagram on their coat of arms is therefore understood to be another Luciferian symbol.

There are multiple profane meanings bound up in this symbol. The first I will mention is that the six-pointed star is a symbolic representation of the number 666. The star has six points, six outer triangles, and six sides to the inner hexagon.



This is an obvious reference to Satan and his earthly kingdom. A second meaning for this symbol is traceable back through Kabbalah to the more ancient study of Alchemy. Many associate Alchemy with a misguided attempt of ancient men to transmute base metals into gold. This, however, is merely one aspect of Alchemy. Alchemy also had a mystical, or spiritual side. The transmutation of base metals into gold served as a parable for transforming mortal and corruptible men into transcendent spiritual beings, or gods. Alchemy promised to men two things that were necessary for this higher state to be reached: gnosis (knowledge), and immortality.

The following image is taken from a book on Alchemy which was published in the early 1600s. On it you can clearly see the symbol which has come to be known as "the Star of David."

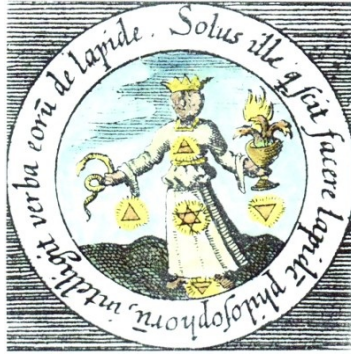


Image from *The Hermetic Garden* of Daniel Stolcius (1620)

The Latin phrase circling the image translates as “*Only he who knows how to make the Philosopher’s Stone, understands what is said concerning the Stone.*” Many people have become familiar with the term “Philosopher’s Stone” through the wildly popular *Harry Potter* series of books and movies. The Philosopher’s Stone is a concept found in Alchemy. In Alchemy, all things that exist come from the black stone, the prima materia. The black stone is the stone of transformation. This is the Philosopher’s Stone. This is the object that can change, or transmute mankind according to alchemical lore.

The image above reveals the promise held forth by the Philosopher’s Stone. The man has two faces, one being that of a child, and the other an adult. In this duality is portrayed youthfulness (or immortality) and wisdom. Echoing this theme, the man is holding a serpent in his right hand and the Phoenix in his left. The serpent from ancient times has represented wisdom, whereas the Phoenix symbolizes immortality as it is reborn after being consumed in flames.

It is not coincidental that gnosis and immortality were two things Satan promised to mankind in his first temptation in the Garden of Eden. He held out to Eve the forbidden fruit which grew on the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He also promised Eve that if she partook of this fruit, she would not die. Thirdly, Satan told Eve the fruit would make her godlike. These are the same promises held forth by Alchemy through the instrumentality of the Philosopher’s Stone.

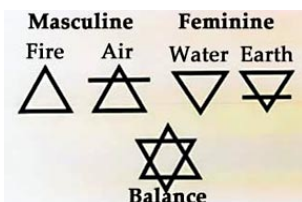


In the Middle Ages, Alchemy and brewing were closely related, not unlike the relationship between the trade of Masonry and Kabbalah which led to Freemasonry, or Speculative Masonry. The

following excerpt is taken from the website of a Brewing Museum. It is often astonishing to find that those outside of Christianity frequently have more knowledge of the symbols Christians embrace than those who profess to be disciples of Yahshua.

The 6 pointed Brewer's star's, identical to the Jewish Star of David, actually has its roots in alchemy.

Enclosed below is a diagram by Hans Kestler, former Huber Brewery brewmaster, illustrating the component parts of the brewers star, as related to brewing and alchemy. These elements include Fire, the masculine element of action and determination, portrayed by a triangle facing the heavens. The masculine element of air which deals with communication and intelligence is also a triangle, facing upward, but with a horizontal line symbolizing the clouds at the top of the mountain.



These two elements are ascending and are governed by the principal of levity. The feminine element of water is represented by a triangle facing the earth - like the rivers that flow to the lowest grounds. Earth is the other feminine element that is represented by a triangle pointing down with a horizontal line representing the surface of the earth. These two elements are ruled by the principal of gravity. Combined these four elements represent the Great Work in alchemy, which means harmony, balance, and peace. These noble concepts are represented by David's Star. Just like the yin-yang symbol of Eastern Alchemy represent the balance between feminine and masculine, so does the Shield of David symbolize the peace between any two opposing forces...



In alchemy, the two triangles represent the reconciliation of the opposites of fire and water. Non-Jewish Kabbalah (also called Christian or Hermetic Kabbalah) interprets the hexagram to mean the divine union of male and female energy, where the male is represented by the upper triangle (referred to as the "blade") and the female by the lower one (referred to as the "chalice")...

The Six Point Star, can be drawn two different ways, as an upside-down triangle overlapping an upright triangle or as one continuous line that angles to create six points (credited to Aleister Crowley). In the first example, when used in alchemy, the upright triangle represents fire, the upside-down triangle is the symbol for water, and together they symbolize the unity of opposites.

Although the pentagram is widely recognized as the symbol of witchcraft, the hexagram is actually

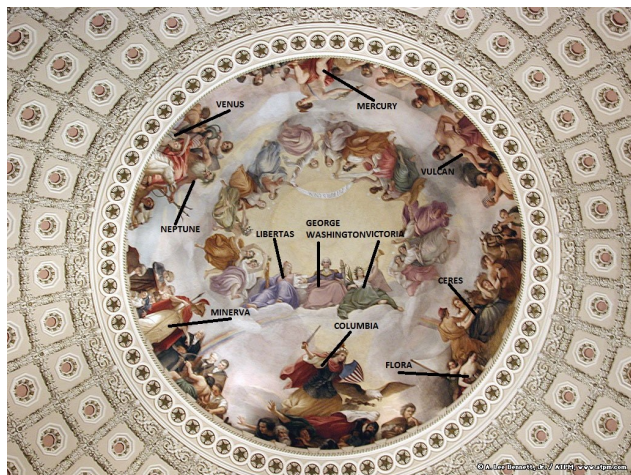
very ancient and one of the most powerful symbols used in occultism and the casting of zodiacal horoscopes by astrologers. In fact, magicians and alchemists believed that the hexagram was actually the footprint of a demon called a “trud,” which they used in ceremonies to both attract and repel demons. The word “hex” or “curse” comes from the hexagon.

The hexagram, in addition to appearing in the Great Seal of Solomon, is also a common symbol in Judaism, as there supposedly was a 6-pointed star on the shield that David carried to battle Goliath. However, despite the popularity of the Star of David, there is no Biblical or historical evidence that connects the hexagram with King David of Israel, although it can be traced to King Solomon when he turned to pagan gods in his later years.

[source: <http://www.brewingmuseum.org/articles/six-point-brewers-star>]

Amazing, isn't it? You can find the truth about this symbol on the website of a beer museum, but you cannot find the truth in the churches which proudly display this symbol. Even the brewing historians recognize that the symbol has no Biblical, or historical connection to King David, yet Christians are adopting the symbol and calling it “the Star of David.”

Returning to the Philosopher's Stone, or the Prima Materia, we find that it is actually a mystical representation of Satan. He is the one who promises transformation to men through the impartation of gnosis. Once a man reaches a place of enlightenment, he is able to transcend this mortal plane and pass into a godlike state. In Freemasonry, this is referred to as apotheosis. On the ceiling of the U.S. Capitol Rotunda in Washington, D.C., there is a famous painting of George Washington ascending to take his place among the gods. The painting is called *The Apotheosis of Washington*.

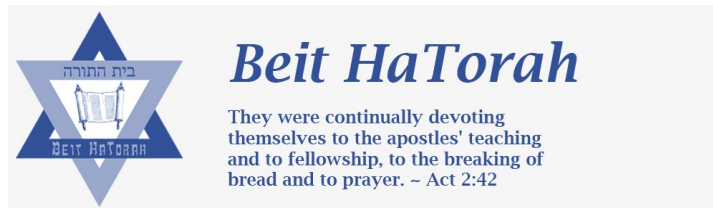


The Apotheosis of Washington

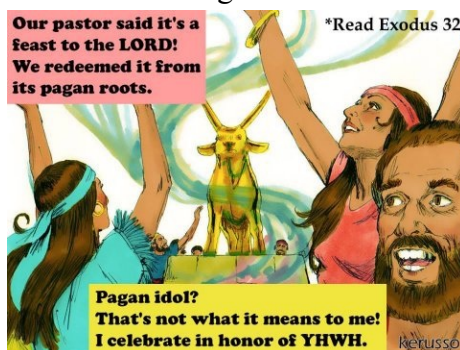
Following is a close-up image of George Washington, who was a Freemason familiar with the mysteries of Lucifer.



It is in coming in contact with Lucifer, who is the Philosopher's Stone, that mankind obtains gnosis which is able to transmute the base metal of humanity's earthly state to a golden state of divinity. This joining of man to Satan is represented by the two triangles. The upper pointing triangle signifies Lucifer descending from the heavens to man, while the downward pointing triangle represents humanity ascending. Joined together they signify mankind raised to a heavenly state even as a star is a heavenly symbol.



Consider then, how profane and offensive is the banner created for the Beit HaTorah. It combines a Scripture verse which speaks of Christians devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching, while depicting the symbol for occult study of Alchemy which promises to transform men through the impartation of Luciferian knowledge. Could there be a more inappropriate merging of symbols and Scriptures? The image I placed at the beginning of this chapter is no more offensive. Ignorance of the symbols of Satan does not justify their adoption. It is also gross error to believe that Christians can take the things of Satan and "redeem" them to be used as symbols of Yahweh and His Son.



Moving on to other significations of the six pointed star, I would mention its description as "the Star of Saturn," an association acknowledged in many occult writings. Perceiving the six pointed star to be a symbol of Saturn, we can discover one more reason the Rothschilds have adopted this symbol. In ancient Rome, the Temple of Saturn was the location of the Roman Treasury. The gold and silver of Rome were stored in Saturn's temple. Saturn was considered the god of prosperity. He is associated with the mythical "Golden Age" of mankind, a period when all men lived peaceful lives of abundance and where no labor was required. Because of this association between Saturn, security, and prosperity, his temple was chosen as the place for the Roman Republic's money to be stored.

The Rothschilds are bankers. They are the storekeepers for the money of the world. Their banks serve as the modern temples of Saturn, the repositories for the riches of nations. As worshipers of Saturn/Satan, the Rothschilds have adopted the star of Saturn as a symbol of their allegiance.

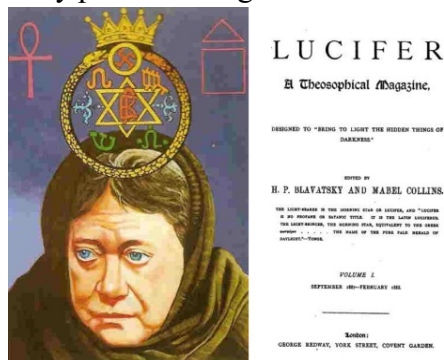
Renowned occultist Madame Helena Blavatsky understood the link between the six pointed star and Satan/Lucifer. Blavatsky was openly luciferian in her beliefs. Helena Blavatsky was instrumental in forming the Theosophical Society which chose as the central emblem of their seal the six pointed

star.



Theosophical Society Seal

In the late 1800s, the Theosophical Society had a publishing house which they named Lucifer Trust. They put out a magazine named *Lucifer*.



Madame Blavatsky and the Magazine Lucifer

In the 1920s Horace and Alice Bailey, both admirers of Blavatsky and of the teachings of Theosophy, began their own publishing house named Lucifer Publishing Company. After a few years the name was changed to Lucis Publishing Company. The following explanation for the name is provided at the official website of the Lucis Trust, the parent company.

*Both “Lucifer” and “Lucis” come from the same word root, lucis being the Latin generative case meaning **of light**. The Baileys' reasons for choosing the original name are not known to us, but we can only surmise that they, like the great teacher H.P. Blavatsky, for whom they had enormous respect, sought to elicit a deeper understanding of the sacrifice made by Lucifer. Alice and Foster Bailey were serious students and teachers of Theosophy, a spiritual tradition which views Lucifer as one of the solar Angels, those advanced Beings Who Theosophy says descended (thus “the fall”) from Venus to our planet eons ago to bring the principle of mind to what was then animal-man. In the theosophical perspective, the descent of these solar Angels was not a fall into sin or disgrace but rather an act of great sacrifice, as is suggested in the name “Lucifer” which means light-bearer.*

[S o u r c e : http://www.lucistrust.org/en/arcane_school/talks_and_articles/the_esoteric_meaning_of_lucifer]

Alchemy, Kabbalah, Freemasonry, Theosophy and numerous other esoteric streams of thought all share in common their worship of Lucifer. This fallen angel is viewed as having made a great sacrifice for mankind, bringing to man the knowledge necessary for his advancement. Madame

Blavatsky speaks of the work of Satan to raise man from an animal-like condition to a sublime state in her book *The Secret Doctrine*.

*And now it stands proven that Satan, or the Red **Fiery** Dragon, “The Lord of Phosphorous” (brimstone was a theological improvement), and **Lucifer**, or “Light Bearer,” is in us: it is our Mind (our tempter and Redeemer), our intelligent liberator and Savior from pure animalism. Without this principle - the emanation of the very essence of the pure divine principle Mahat (Intelligence), which radiates direct from the Divine mind - we would be surely no better than animals.*

The “pure divine principle” to which Blavatsky refers is the prima materia of the Alchemists. The movie producer Stanley Kubrick, a profound esotericist, created the film *2001, A Space Odyssey*, to present to mankind the very teaching which Madame Blavatsky was expressing. Throughout the movie mankind encounters a black stone obelisk. This obelisk is the Philosopher’s Stone, the prima materia of Alchemy. It is also Lucifer. The first encounter shows man as being ape-like, “*no better than animals.*”



2001 - Man’s First Encounter with the Prima Materia

As a result of this encounter, these human forebears suddenly learn how to use tools. Four million years later mankind has his second encounter with the black monolith as they discover one hidden beneath the surface of the moon.

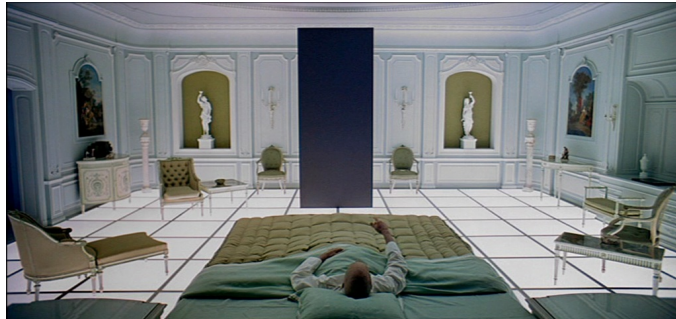


Man’s Second Encounter with the Philosopher’s Stone

Upon this encounter, the monolith begins emitting an intense signal, directing mankind to a location near the planet Jupiter. To use the words of Blavatsky, the signal is “*the emanation of the very essence of the pure divine principle Mahat (Intelligence), which radiates direct from the Divine mind.*” People involved with the movie state that Stanley Kubrick initially planned to have the destination to be near the planet Saturn, but he was thwarted by the technicians inability to construct a realistic image of Saturn and its rings, opting for the easier image of the planet Jupiter. If this

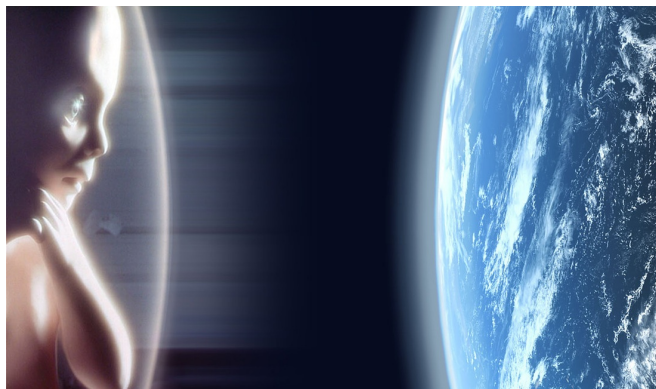
account is true, it would fit very well with the ancient association of Saturn with Satan/Lucifer. After the moon encounter, a scene appears showing a manned spaceship heading to Jupiter. We are informed that it is now 18 months later, 18 being 6+6+6. Upon arrival at the planet Jupiter man has his third encounter with the black obelisk. This time, it is a massive black slab floating in space.

When the main character of the movie, Dr. David Bowman, encounters the monolith he has a spiritual experience that overwhelms his mind. In the final scenes we see Dr. David Bowman in various advancing ages of his life, until while on his death bed he encounters the monolith one final time.



Final Encounter with Philosopher's Stone

At this point, Dr. Bowman is transformed. In place of his aged, dying body appears the image of an embryonic starchild surrounded with light. In the final scene we see this starchild approaching the earth. This completes the transmutation of man from an ape to a god, all accomplished through human encounters with Satan. Dr. Bowman has received gnosis from the black monolith, and like the mystical Phoenix, he is reborn on his death bed as a new creature.



2001 - Starchild and Earth

When we understand that the black monolith is the prima materia of Alchemy, aka the Philosopher's Stone, which is a symbolic image of Lucifer as the one who brings the light of knowledge to mankind, the deceit of Satan becomes evident. The Lucis Trust website describes Lucifer "*as one of the solar Angels, those advanced Beings Who Theosophy says descended... to our planet eons ago to bring the principle of mind to what was then animal-man.*" It is to animal-man that the monolith first appears in *2001, A Space Odyssey*. The Theosophical magazine Lucifer bears the tagline, "*Designed 'to bring to light the hidden things of darkness.'*" It is indeed darkness that is being

brought out into the open by this magazine, and by all of these Luciferian organizations.

What do Alchemy, Kabbalah, Freemasonry, Theosophy, and the worship of Saturn, Satan, and Lucifer all have in common? They use the six pointed star as a symbol of their identity, the esoteric representation of the number 666.



Zionist Brigade Recruitment Poster

What do you see in the image above? Do you see a Jewish woman in a positive role as a daughter of Zion? Or do you see a wicked woman whose forehead is stamped with the sign of the Satanic mind? Your interpretation of this imagery will depend upon whether you see the true origin and meaning of this Luciferian symbolism, or whether you have adopted the false explanations Satan has devised for those whose reason is deemed imperfect. Satan is an angel of darkness masquerading as an angel of light. He has set before men and women spiritual darkness and has called it light.

Isaiah 5:20

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Those who embrace the so called Star of David; those who observe Hanukkah with the lighting of the candles, are acting out the message of Lucifer appearing as a bringer of gnosis, of light, which will lift mankind out of the darkness of his animal-like state to a position of heavenly attainment. Satan is the great deceiver who deceives the entire world. Will you go to your church with the monument to Bel raised high to the sky? Will you substitute the fertility rites of Easter for the Biblical Passover, failing to divide between the holy and the profane? Will you be like those whom the prophet Ezekiel was shown, who bring defilement into the Temple of Yahweh? Or will you be among the remnant of Yahweh who separate themselves from the symbols of Satan?

The Hats of Satanic Dominion



Pope Benedict XVI with Saturno and Solideo

Is the Pope Catholic? It may appear from the round headpiece which the Pope's wear, a cap resembling the Jewish kippah, that the Pope is actually Jewish. Those disciples of Christ who will settle for nothing less than the truth will discover that the Catholics did not borrow this item of clothing from the Jews, nor did the Jews adopt it from the Roman Catholic church. Both Jews and Catholics had this item of clothing foisted upon them by Satan. The round cap is an ancient symbol of Sun worship which can be traced back to Rome, Egypt and Babylon.

In the image above, Pope Benedict XVI is shown holding a papal hat known as the Saturno in his hands while he wears a cap called the Solideo. These names point back to the origin of these headpieces. The round cap worn by popes, cardinals, bishops and other Roman Catholic clergy is commonly referred to as a zucchetto (little gourd). Zucchetto comes from the same linguistic root as zucchini, a popular variety of squash. If a man's head may be compared to the shape of a gourd, then the name zucchetto makes sense. However, the round cap worn by Popes has a more ancient and more authentic name. It is referred to as the Solideo.

The vulgar explanation for those uninitiated to the mysteries of the Luciferian religion is that the name Solideo is derived from the Medieval Latin phrase "*solī Deo sit gloria*," (to God alone be the glory), from the fact that the cap is removed by Roman Catholic clergy only on approaching the sanctuary. However, a secondary meaning which points to the true symbolism of this headpiece is discerned as we view Soli as a Latin prefix which combines with other words to denote a relationship to the Sun. The Latin name for the Sun is Sol. An example of an English word that begins with the prefix "soli" is "soliform," which means "like the sun in appearance." The Latin "deo" means "god." It is the root of our English word "deity." Combining "soli" and "deo" we arrive at solideo, "solar deity," or "Sun god."

Although the Roman Catholics may present an alternate and disingenuous explanation for the origin of the solideo cap's name to obscure the fact that it derives from Sun worship, it is not as easy to hide the meaning of Saturno. This papal hat's name is clearly a reference to the planet Saturn, whose image it resembles. It is of interest to note that Pope's wear red Saturnos, while Cardinals and other Roman Catholic clerics wear black Saturnos. These are two colors traditionally associated with Satan of whom Saturn serves as a type.



A Roman Catholic Cardinal's Black Saturno and Saturn

Another name for the Saturno is *Capello Romano*, literally “Roman hat” in the Italian language. This association of the Saturnian hat design with Rome is readily explained as one remembers that Rome was formerly called Saturnia, and Italy has from ancient times been known as “the Saturnian land.” The worship of Saturn was so associated with Rome that references to Saturn became inextricably linked to the land and the people. A Saturn shaped hat is therefore described as a Roman hat.

As was mentioned previously, Numa, the second King of Rome, laid the foundation for the College of Pontiffs. This was the ruling ecclesiastical body of Rome. In essence the College of Pontiffs served as the priestly caste. The Roman equivalent to the High Priest in their pagan religion was called the Pontifex Maximus. It is well known that the Romans worshiped the host of heaven. The Sun, the Moon, and the planets all figured in their worship as is evidenced by the names of their deities Saturn, Mars, Venus, Pluto, Neptune, Jupiter, etc.. This worship of the celestial bodies and the deities they represent is further evinced in the names of the days of the week of the Roman calendar, an association that continues in use to this day, though some of the names are obscured by their Anglo-Saxon equivalents.

Sun-day (Day devoted to the worship of the Sun, the Roman Apollo)

Mon-day (Day devoted to the worship of the Moon, the Roman Diana)

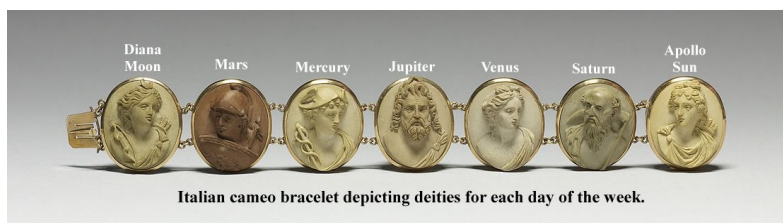
Tues-day (Day devoted to the worship of the god Tyr, or Tiews, the Roman Mars)

Wednes-day (Day devoted to the worship of Woden, the Roman Mercury)

Thurs-day (Day devoted to the worship of Thor, the Roman Jupiter)

Fri-day (Day devoted to the worship of Freya, the Roman Venus)

Satur-Day (Day devoted to the worship of Saturn)



The pontiffs were the guardians and purveyors of the worship of the gods of Rome. The College of Pontiffs is preserved to this day in the Roman Catholic Church as the Pope has for many centuries borne the title of Pontifex Maximus. To this day, schools that train men for the Roman Catholic

priesthood are referred to as Pontifical Colleges. Those who love truth will readily discover that the rites, symbols, clerical attire, holidays, and deities worshiped under the name of Roman Catholicism, all derive from the idolatrous worship of false gods. The Pope may be Catholic, but he certainly is not Christian. He is the Pontifex Maximus, “the king of heathendom.”



Pope Francis Meeting with Other Idolatrous Religious Leaders

You may note the banner behind these world religious leaders. It reads “TOGETHER THE FAITHS OF THE WORLD UNITE.” Ecumenical meetings, joining all the religions of the world under the umbrella of Roman Catholicism, are quite common. At the meeting pictured above, which occurred in December 2014, the Archbishop of Canterbury, head of the Anglican Church of England, was in attendance. Also present were representatives of the Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, and Eastern Orthodox religions. From the time of the Roman College of Pontiffs’ foundation by King Numa of Rome in the 7th or 8th century B.C., their mode of operation has been one of assimilation, the merging together of disparate deities and their often irreconcilable beliefs. Beginning with Emperor Constantine in the 4th century A.D., this practice of assimilation included Christianity, as it was merged with the worship of Sol Invictus and other Roman deities.

It is interesting to note that Numa appointed four pontifexes, with the Pontifex Maximus bringing to total to five. The Pontifex Maximus was always counted separately from the other Pontiffs, as he held a position superior to the other Pontiffs. In the year B.C. 300, the Ogulnian law raised the number of pontiffs to eight, and adding the Pontifex Maximus, the number of Pontiffs was nine. In this we see a parallel to the Hanukiah which has eight candles, with a ninth candle that stands apart from the others.

Over the course of more than a millennia from the founding of the College of Pontiffs, the gods of Rome waxed and waned. Some deities would recede in importance, to be replaced with others. Due to this, the College of Pontiffs saw great changes in their roles as guardians of the state religion. In the third and fourth centuries A.D., during a time when Christianity was spreading throughout the Roman Empire, the worship of Sol, the Sun, gained a place of ascendancy. The Sun had been worshiped from the time of the early Roman Republic, but its importance as a deity had been less than that of other tutelary gods of Rome (gods associated with specific locations who were viewed

as the guardians of the people who dwelt there).

After his victories in the East, the Emperor Aurelian thoroughly reformed the Roman cult of Sol, elevating the sun-god to one of the premier divinities of the Empire. Where previously priests of Sol had been simply sacerdotes (clergymen) and tended to belong to lower ranks of Roman society, they were now pontifices and members of the new college of pontifices instituted by Aurelian. Every pontifex of Sol was a member of the senatorial elite, indicating that the priesthood of Sol was now highly prestigious... Aurelian also built a new temple for Sol, bringing the total number of temples for the god in Rome to (at least) four. He also instituted games in honor of the sun god, held every four years from AD 274 onwards.

[Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sol_Invictus]

It is important to note the date of this ascension of the worship of Sol. Fifty years after the Roman Emperor Aurelian popularized the worship of the Sun/Sol, Emperor Constantine, who was also a Sun worshiper, would give Christianity official status as a religion recognized by the Roman state. Thus, Christianity was added to the mix of religions overseen by the College of Pontiffs at a time when the worship of the Sun was ascendant. This explains why there is such a preponderance of symbols, rites, and holidays relating to Solar worship in the apostatized Christianity of Rome. Constantine, although giving Christianity imperial recognition, was not a Christian. He continued to be a devoted worshiper of Sol Invictus, the Unconquerable Sun, throughout his life. On March 7, 321 A.D., Emperor Constantine decreed “dies Solis” (the day of the sun), or “Sunday,” to be the official Roman day of rest.

On the venerable day of the Sun let the magistrates and people residing in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed. In the country, however, persons engaged in agriculture may freely and lawfully continue their pursuits because it often happens that another day is not suitable for grain-sowing or vine planting; lest by neglecting the proper moment for such operations the bounty of heaven should be lost.

This edict of the Roman Emperor was viewed favorably by much of the Christian church. The writings of the early church fathers reveal that Sunday for more than a century prior to this edict had gained a place of prominence among gentile Christians as a day of corporate worship. It was referred to as “the Lord’s Day” in light of this being the day of the week which Yahshua rose from the grave. In the early days of the church which was born in Jerusalem, Sunday held no special place in the traditions of the disciples of Christ. Being Jews, they maintained the tradition of meeting on the Jewish Sabbath, but they did not exclusively meet on this date. Luke records that the disciples of Christ met together every day.

Acts 2:46-47

So continuing **daily** with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church **daily** those who were being saved.

Acts 18:4

And [Paul] was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

Since the Sabbath had been a sacred day of worship for the Jews from ancient times, it is to be expected that the early church would continue to meet on this day. The church in its early days was composed primarily, if not entirely, of Jewish men and women. Over time, as more Gentile believers began to come to faith in the Jewish Messiah, and perhaps as a reaction to the Judaizers who were trying to induce Gentile Christians to receive circumcision and embrace the Law of Moses, there was a rejection of the Jewish Sabbath as the weekly meeting day of the church. The first day of the week became a popular day of meeting, with numerous early church fathers asserting that this day was chosen because it was the day upon which Christ arose from the dead.

Matthew 28:1-6

Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. And his appearance was like lightning, and his garment as white as snow; and the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. And the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Yahshua who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said.”

However, this was NOT the reason that Constantine legislated that the weekly day of rest and worship in Rome would be Sunday. Constantine described this day (dies Solis) as “the venerable day of the Sun (not Son).” Just six years prior to this edict, Constantine had a triumphal arch constructed in Rome. It was positioned to align with the colossal statue of Sol Invictus by the Colosseum. As the people approached this arch down the major thoroughfare leading to it, they would find framed behind the arch the image of Sol Invictus, the deity known as the Unconquerable Sun.



Roman Colosseum and Statue of Sol Invictus, the Sun-god



Arch of Constantine and Roman Colosseum Today

Although the statue of Sol Invictus no longer remains, it is apparent that Constantine intended to draw attention to this deity, and to demonstrate his devotion to it. Constantine also had coins minted with his own likeness on one side, and an image of Sol Invictus on the reverse.



Constantine and Sol Invictus

Coinage bearing the images of Constantine and Sol Invictus continued to be minted until 325 or 326 A.D., four or five years *after* his edict declaring Sunday to be the official day of rest and worship in the Roman Empire. Constantine is often described as the first “Christian Emperor of Rome,” but any relationship between Constantine and faith in Christ was feigned. Constantine refused to receive Christian baptism throughout his life, only assenting to it in the year 337 A.D. as he lay on his deathbed. Observing that Yahshua commanded the first act of obedience denoting one’s embrace of Christian discipleship to be the act of baptism, we can discern that throughout his life Constantine remained a pagan, being a devoted worshiper of the Sun.

Most claims of Constantine having converted to Christianity are derived from Eusebius’ writings. Eusebius was a contemporary of the Emperor and met him on a number of occasions. He states in his *Life of Constantine*, that the Emperor became a Christian when he called upon his god (likely Sol Invictus) for help just before a great battle. The story relates that Constantine received a sign as he saw a cross illuminated in the heavens and heard a voice saying, “In this sign conquer.” The year was 312 A.D.. Going to battle and conquering an enemy under the sign of a cross is not to be confused with coming to conviction of one’s sins, and the knowledge of Yahshua as the Savior of the world. Observing that Constantine for decades after this date demonstrated a continuing patronage of Sol Invictus, the lie of his conversion is exposed.

Constantine did present himself as a benefactor and protector of the Christian faith, but his motives were arguably political. Christianity was growing rapidly in the empire and as Pontifex Maximus, Constantine wanted to retain the titular headship of all of the religions of Rome. By declaring Christianity an official religion of Rome, he brought it under the authority of the College of Pontiffs, of which he was the head. Constantine also provided the Christian bishops with a salary from the coffers of the Roman government. In doing so he obtained prestige among, and influence over, the leadership of the Christian church. This authority was exercised when in the year 325 A.D. Constantine convened and attended a Council of Christian bishops which was held in the city of Nicaea. Thus, for the first time, the Pontifex Maximus of Rome was asserting a leadership role among the Christian church. The Christian bishops acquiesced to this act of usurpation, setting a course by which the official state religion of Christianity in the Roman Empire would be thoroughly suborned as it became leavened with the idolatrous trappings of the College of Pontiffs.

So complete would be the corruption of Christianity in Rome after it received the investiture of imperial authority that in ensuing centuries the Pope’s of Rome, bearing the mantle of Pontifex Maximus, would outlaw the reading of the Bible by the common man, and become the chief

persecutor of the free exercise of Christianity for more than a millennia. It is estimated that more than 50 million Europeans were slain by the Roman Catholic Church through her inquisitions and various pogroms from the year 606 A.D. up until the middle of the 19th century. An additional 15 million were slain in South America, and 4 million elsewhere. John was shown a vision of what the church would become under Rome's auspices, an image he described in the following passage.

Revelation 17:3-6

And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, and upon her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Yahshua. And when I saw her, I marveled greatly (was astonished).

It was a remarkable transformation that Satan wrought when he transformed the face of Christianity from a collection of common people led by fishermen and other tradesmen (apostles and teachers without costume or buildings), men whose only religious heritage came from the pages of the Old Testament, morphing them into the abomination that was to become the Roman Catholic Church.



St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican

The focal point of Vatican City, the global headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church, is Saint Peter's Basilica, a location where millions of Catholic pilgrims gather annually. Standing outside the Basilica at the center of Saint Peter's Square, is an obelisk, an ancient symbol of Baal and Sun worship. The obelisk was relocated from Heliopolis, the City of the Sun, in Egypt. The design of the Basilica with its massive dome, was modeled after the famous Roman Pantheon.

The heavens have from ancient times been represented as a dome. Following is an image of the famous Zodiac from the temple complex of Denderah, Egypt. It has been colored to match the original appearance when it was constructed, possibly in the first century B.C..



Zodiac of Denderah

This relief and painting was located on the ceiling of one of the temple buildings at Denderah. The images represent the constellations of the heavens. These images, and the beings they represent, have been worshiped from the time men first began to multiply upon the earth. The Egyptians represented the heavens as a circle, for it would be left to the Romans to perfect the construction of arches and domes. Under the Romans *the circle of the heavens* began to be represented as *the vault of the heavens*. Domes were constructed atop temples to signify the worship of the heavenly host. One of the most famous, and certainly the best preserved example of such a building, is the Pantheon constructed in the city of Rome during the reign of Augustus Caesar (27 B.C. - 14 A.D). The Pantheon burned on two occasions and was rebuilt. The current structure is dated to approximately 126 A.D. when the Emperor Hadrian had it rebuilt.



Pantheon (Rome)

Numerous historians assert that the shape of the Pantheon's dome was designed as a representation of the heavens. This conclusion is supported by the fact that the word Pantheon means "All Gods," from "pan" meaning "all," and "theon" meaning "gods." There was also a large amount of statuary in the vicinity of the Pantheon representing the various gods of Rome.

At the peak of the Pantheon's dome is a round hole which allows the light of the Sun to stream into this pagan temple. The hole is called an oculus. The Latin word oculus means "eye." Symbolically, this eye serves to allow the entrance of the light of the Sun, bringing illumination even as the human eye lets in light. In the Bible, the human body is compared to a temple in which God dwells.

Applying this analogy to the Pantheon as a temple, we observe that it is illuminated by the light of the Sun entering through its eye. This brings to mind the following words of Yahshua.

Matthew 6:22-23

“The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!”

The light entering the Pantheon was not viewed as the light of Christ, who is the true “Light of the world” (John 8:12, 9:5). In the year 609 A.D. the Byzantine Emperor Phocas gave the Pantheon to Pope Boniface the IV to be used by the Roman Catholic Church. The Romans rededicated the building to Mary and the martyrs. This continued its role as a house of idolatry, for Mary is to the Roman Catholics the Queen of Heaven. Never did any Greek or Roman deity receive greater veneration and worship than the Roman Catholic Mary.



Mary - Queen of Heaven

The foundation stone for Saint Peter’s Basilica was laid in the year 1506. Pope Julius envisioned building the grandest building in Christendom. He initiated a competition to come up with a design for this audacious building. The winner was Donato Bramante whose design resembled an enormous Greek cross with a massive dome patterned after the Pantheon. This seems fitting since the Roman Catholic Church has from its beginning been a profane and idolatrous mixture of the worship of many deities.

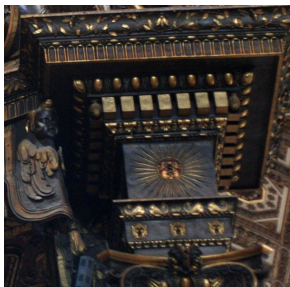


Throne of Saint Peter (Latin *Cathedra Petri*)

One of the most revered works of art in the Romish church's most famous house of worship is the Throne of Saint Peter. Parishioners seated in the pews face directly at the wall holding this ornate throne over which is a glorious sunburst design. It should be noted that the throne is empty. There is no image of Peter sitting in this throne, a fact belying its true meaning. The only object "enthroned" here is the glorious Sun which sits just above the throne. This image of the Sun is the equivalent of the statue of Sol Invictus which Emperor Constantine drew attention to with his magnificent arch.



Inside Saint Peter's Basilica we can see that a similar layout greets those who walk down the main aisle of this temple. In the place of the Arch of Constantine we see the Baldacchino perfectly framing the image of the Sun between its massive columns. Just as there are images of Sol Invictus on Constantine's Arch, there are images of the Sun carved into the Baldacchino.



The photo above shows one of many sunburst images adorning the Baldacchino. A wider view also shows the golden orb above the Baldacchino and the many images of honey bees which were associated with various gods and goddesses, including Apollo, the Roman Sun god. The Priestess of Delphi where Apollo was worshiped was referred to as a bee.



Further adding to the idolatrous associations of this profane symbol is the fact that it was constructed of 927 tons of dark bronze which was stripped from the roof of the Pantheon in the year 1633. Thus, the very material from which it was constructed had a history of idolatrous usage. Hundreds of pages could be filled documenting the idolatrous images and rites of Roman Catholicism. What becomes readily apparent is that the Pope, the man who bears the title of Pontifex Maximus today, continues to serve as the chief proponent of the gods of ancient Rome. He remains “the king of heathendom.”

Although the focus of this book is not Roman Catholicism, much can be discerned about Satan’s success in corrupting Judaism as one looks at the abomination of Rome which is Satan’s corruption of Christianity. Talmudic and Kabbalistic Judaism has departed as far from the faith of Abraham and Moses as Roman Catholicism has deviated from the faith of the apostles of Christ. Satan has been successful in suborning both Judaism and Christianity. In many instances he has introduced identical elements of his Luciferian worship into both groups. One of the most visible evidences of this common adoption of Satanic symbols are the caps worn by both the Roman Catholic clergy and Jewish believers.



Pope Francis with a Jewish Rabbi and Muslim Cleric

The Hebrew word kippah means “dome.” Seeing that the Jewish kippah has no foundation in the Bible, either in the Old Testament, or the New Testament, we must look to other sources to discover its origin. The Jews themselves admit that the kippah has no Biblical foundation.

The tradition to wear a kippah is not derived from any biblical passage. Rather, it is a custom which evolved as a sign of our recognition that there is Someone “above” us who watches our every act.

The Talmud (Shabbat 156b) relates that a woman was once told by astrologers that her son is destined to be a thief. To prevent this from happening, she insisted that he always have his head covered, to remind him of G-d’s presence and instill within him the fear of heaven. Once, while sitting under a palm tree, his headcovering fell off. He was suddenly overcome by an urge to eat a fruit from the tree, which did not belong to him. It was then that he realized the strong effect which the wearing of a kippah had on him.

[Source: http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/483387/jewish/Why-Do-We-Wear-a-Kippah.htm]

What is observed in this explanation is that the wearing of the kippah was originated by the Jewish rabbis

and the practice is supported in the Talmud. The origin of the practice lies entirely outside the instruction of the Bible. Following is another excerpt, this time from the *Jewish Mag* website.

The kippah does... have some basis in Talmudic literature, where it is associated with reverence for God. In Kiddushin 31a, for example, R. Honah ben Joshua declares that he "never walked four cubits with his head uncovered... Because the Divine Presence is always over my head." In like manner, tractate Shabbat 156b states, "Cover your head in order that the fear of heaven may be upon you"; and in Berachot 60b, it is written, "When he spreads a cloth upon his head he should say: Blessed are you (God)... Who crowns Israel with splendor..."

In the Middle Ages, French and Spanish rabbis introduced the practice of covering one's head during prayer and Torah study, and Maimonides (1135-1204) similarly ruled that a Jewish man should cover his head during prayer (Mishne Torah, Ahavah, Hilkhoh Tefilah 5:5)

[Source: <http://www.jewishmag.com/122mag/kippa%5Ckippa.htm>]

Again we see the Talmud being the authority behind this practice. As has been mentioned previously, the Talmud is the written form of the Oral Torah, the traditions of the rabbis which in a great many instances contradict the word of God. Yahshua rebuked the Jews for placing the commandments of men above the commandments of Yahweh “*thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down...*” (Mark 7:13). It is arguable that if a practice did not originate in the mind of Yahweh, it ultimately originated in the mind of Satan who induced mankind to think and act independently of his Creator. History repeatedly reveals that Satan has been successful in introducing profane elements of idolatrous practices into Judaism and Christianity. Let us therefore examine the evidence which might lead us to the origin and meaning of the dome shaped cap worn by both Jews and Roman Catholic clergy.

In looking into the origin of the kippah, one is struck between the similarity between this cap worn on the head of Jewish men and the dome which is so common an element in the construction of synagogues (and Roman Catholic sanctuaries).



Synagogue Domes and Kippot (Plural of Kippah)

Clearly, there is an intended relationship between the caps that the Jews wear on their heads, and the domes that sit atop many of their synagogues. They are both dome shapes and many synagogue domes and kippot are adorned with the image of a star. In the Latin language, the word “dominum” means “lord,” or “master.” Thus we see that both the kippah and the domes of their synagogues serve as a symbol of their subjection to some “lord,” or “master.” This is also the meaning of a headcovering in Paul’s treatment of the matter in I Corinthians chapter 11.

I Corinthians 11:4-7,10

Every man who has something on his head while praying or prophesying, disgraces his head. But every woman who has her head uncovered while praying or prophesying, disgraces her head; for she is one and the same with her whose head is shaved. For if a woman does not cover her head, let her also have her hair cut off; but if it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, let her cover her head. For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man... For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

The tradition of the apostolic church is quite clear. Men were not to have anything on their heads while praying or prophesying. In contrast, the women of the church were to have their heads covered. If a person walks into a Messianic fellowship (and many of the Hebrew Roots churches) they will find just the opposite experience. The men will have their heads covered, and the women will be uncovered.



The “lord,” or “master” which Jewish men signify their subservience to by wearing the dome shaped kippah is not Christ, for the Talmudic rabbis who introduced the wearing of the kippot to the Jews renounced Yahshua, rejecting Him as their promised Messiah. Numerous historians, both Jewish and Gentile, further state that the Jews adopted the wearing of the kippah to differentiate themselves from Christian men who worshiped with heads uncovered. Consequently, the kippah is an anti-Christ symbol.

Even as the highest place of worship in Roman Catholicism is Saint Peter’s Basilica, the holiest place of worship for the Jews is undoubtedly the Temple in Jerusalem. Today, all that remains of the Jewish Temple is a portion of the undergirding Western Wall. This has become a holy shrine to both Jews and Christians. It is common to see videos of men, all of whom have their heads covered, praying at the Western Wall. They are frequently seen bobbing their heads and bodies as if prostrating toward the wall. As they stand before the Western Wall, these men are facing East, the direction associated with the rising Sun. Their nodding takes on a form of obeisance to the Sun,

much as the prophet Ezekiel described seeing 25 men between the porch and the altar of the Temple prostrating themselves toward the East as they worshiped the Sun (Ezekiel 8:16).

If this connection between modern practice and Ezekiel's vision sounds somewhat far-fetched, consider that it is a requirement that every man who approaches the Western Wall must have his head covered. Kippot are available for those men who did not bring some form of headcovering.



Visitors Wearing Kippot Distributed to Uncovered Men

There is no need to issue kippot to Roman Popes when they visit the Wall. They bring their own.



Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis at the Western Wall

Brothers and sisters, do not be mistaken. The cap on the heads of the Popes is a Solideo. It is a reference to the solar deity. The Pope's are facing the East, toward the rising Sun, as they say their prayers at this Jewish holy site. Don't despair, however, if you plan a visit to this Jewish historic site. If you don't want to wear the kippot, you can bring your own hat, or opt for another common Jewish headcovering.



Orthodox Jew at Western Wall

Like the Popes, the visitor to the Western Wall has a choice. Saturno or Solideo. Having observed that a great many idolatrous images lead back to Satan, I would suggest that Sun worship is representative of Lucifer, the “light bearer.” This is the devil in his guise as a benevolent being, the friend of humanity bearing gifts and imparting knowledge. Saturn is a reference to this same being’s dark and evil nature. Saturn is the equivalent of Satan which means “adversary.”

Even among occult practitioners we see this dual nature of the fallen angel who is the god of this world. Members of Wicca, modern day witchcraft, and many Neo-Pagans deny any affiliation with Satan worship. They embrace Lucifer as an angel of light. They have chose the pentagram with the point facing up to represent their affiliation with the positive aspects of Lucifer. Satan worshipers on the other hand, freely embrace all the evil and darkness of Satan. They have chosen the inverted pentagram as their symbol.



Even as the orientation of a five pointed star can denote whether a person is a devotee to Lucifer as a messenger of light, or Satan as a dark worker of evil (the feigned difference between white witchcraft and black magic), so we see that devotion to different aspects of Lucifer/Satan can be indicated by the style of hat a person wears.



Pope Benedict XVI Wearing Saturno



In the image directly above, Pope Benedict XVI is removing the Saturno, revealing the Solideo he was wearing beneath it. The Solideo is always worn, no matter what headwear the Pope wears above it. In this instance, Pope Benedict removed the Saturno as he arrived at Saint Peter's Square to lead his weekly general audience. Thus Satan switches hats to appear as a messenger of light.

II Corinthians 11:13-15

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.

Perhaps illustrative of our point of the Saturno and Solideo representing a dark and light side of Satan/Lucifer, Pope Benedict XVI was often criticized for a lack of affability. He was viewed as cold, harsh, legalistic, and he was blamed for a decline in the popularity of Roman Catholicism. In contrast, Pope Francis is viewed as a benefactor of the people. He is shown constantly to be a servant to humanity, full of compassion, and one who places people above policy. To my knowledge, he has never worn the Saturno in public as Pope Benedict did.

Throughout this writing I have mentioned that many who are attracted to the Hebrew Roots Movement landed in this camp after becoming repulsed by the corruption of modern mainline Christianity. They were seeking a return to a more authentic practice of the Christian faith. The Hebrew Roots teachers present their practice and doctrines as being a return to the faith of Christ and His apostles. In many instances, however, what is sold as a return to the Hebraic Roots of the Old Testament has become horribly muddled with the rites and symbols of apostate Judaism. It is vital that Christians today examine all rites, symbols, holidays, and doctrines carefully, for Satan is very active in pouring forth a flood of deception to sweep away the masses to destruction.

Do not underestimate the success Satan has had in introducing much that is profane and unholy into the practice of Christianity. He has introduced the Saturnalia to the church as Christmas, and to the Jews as Hanukkah. He has replaced Passover with Easter, and the Passover Lamb with the Easter ham. He has induced churches to place obelisks atop their buildings without Christians ever questioning why. He has led the Jews to render the holy Scriptures null and void as they have placed a greater veneration on the words of the rabbis recorded in the Mishna and the Talmud than they do upon the writings of prophets and apostles who were moved by the Spirit of God. Is it too difficult to accept that the little round caps worn by Popish followers and Jews alike, both groups having a long history of suppressing the truth and embracing idolatry, are just one more Luciferian symbol Satan has introduced to those who were receptive to his influence?

Do not be deceived!

Tallit, Tzitzit, and Tefillin - Stylish Symbols of Rebellion



The disturbing truth being revealed in this examination of the Hebrew Roots Movement is that a great many men and women have been deceived or enticed into embracing rites, symbols, and holidays which are derived from the worship of Satan. As the evidence accumulates, it should be anticipated that as we dig into the origins of these elements associated with apostate Judaism, we will discover the telltale signs of Satan's character. One of the dominant aspects of Satan's nature is rebellion. The word "Satan" means "adversary." David, in the 38th Psalm used the Hebrew word "satan" when speaking of those who hated him.

Psalms 38:20

They also that render evil for good are mine *adversaries* (Hebrew 'satan')...

In the New Testament, we find Yahshua, who is declared "the Son of David," being opposed by the apostate Jewish religious leaders. They are acting as His adversaries. Yahshua speaks truly when He declares these evil men to be children of their father, the devil.

John 8:44

"You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies."

Just like Satan, the Jewish religious leaders sought to put to death an innocent man. They brought forth false witnesses in order to accuse and condemn the Son of God. Both lying and murder were in their minds and in their actions. Corresponding to this we find that the orthodox Jews wear a symbol of Satanic rebellion on their foreheads (minds) and on their arms (actions). As you look at the image at the beginning of this chapter, you will see that the young man is wearing a black leather box on his left arm and on his forehead. The Jews call these tefillin. The Orthodox Jews believe their tefillin correspond to the "frontlets," or "phylacteries" mentioned in a number of Bible passages.

Deuteronomy 6:6-8

And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. And you shall bind them as a sign on your

hand and they shall be as frontlets on your forehead.

Exodus 13:16

So it shall serve as a sign on your hand, and as phylacteries on your forehead, for with a powerful hand Yahweh brought us out of Egypt.



These words spoken by Yahweh were not intended to be observed literally. He was using symbolic speech. There are four Scripture passages that speak of binding Yahweh's commandments to one's hand and to one's forehead. They are Exodus 13:9 and 13:16; Deuteronomy 6:8-9 and 11:18. Many things spoken by Yahweh in the Torah were intended to be understood symbolically. In the same book of Deuteronomy, in a passage found between the two verses that reference the Tefillin, we find the following words of God.

Deuteronomy 10:16

Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart...

Unless Abraham's descendants were to begin practicing open heart surgery, they would surely have to understand this as figurative language. Undoubtedly, if there had been some practical way for the Jews to circumcise their hearts, they would have attempted to do so. Such is the folly of man. It is ridiculous for Jewish men to pay exorbitant prices for small, black leather boxes that contain small scrolls with Scripture passages relating to tefillin written on them, and to strap them to their bodies every morning during their prayers. Yahweh was not intending His people to take these passages literally, but rather to understand the spiritual sense of what was being conveyed.

One sense in which these passages were to be understood is that the Hebrew people were to always be mindful of Yahweh's commandments. They were to act as if Yahweh's commandments were right before their eyes all the time. Whenever they stretched out their hand to do something, they were to consider the will of God. A further signification of these words relates to the locations on the human body that are named in these passages. The forehead and the hand represent the thoughts and the actions of man. We see these same locations referenced in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 14:9

If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or upon his hand, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger...

I have explored the spiritual symbolism of these passages in the book titled *The Mark of the Beast*. Most Christians have been as negligent to consider the spiritual meaning of these words in the book of Revelation as the Orthodox Jews have been in their misunderstanding of the passages that speak

of binding Yahweh's commandments to their hand and forehead. What we can be certain of, is that Satan has determined to usurp, subvert, or corrupt all the things of God. Just before John describes the mark of the beast in Revelation 14, he described the overcomers in Christ being marked in their foreheads.

Revelation 14:1

And I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.

We should not think that Yahweh is going to tattoo the heads of all of His overcoming sons. There is a spiritual meaning intended here. Yahweh wants His people to have their minds sealed. These are ones who are "Holy Unto Yahweh," reminiscent of the band of blue with letters of gold that the Hebrew High Priest wore upon his turban that bore this same expression. The New Testament speaks much about the Christian having "the mind of Christ." Satan wants to subvert this purpose and to place his wicked mind in all of humanity. He has been very successful in doing so, yet Yahweh has always preserved a remnant unto Himself who have not bowed the knee to Satan/Baal.

I would invite my brothers and sisters in Christ to consider the possibility that Satan has subverted these words relating to phylacteries and frontlets from the books of Exodus and Deuteronomy. He has induced apostate Judaism to take these words literally, creating a tradition which places a sign of rebellion upon their hands and their foreheads. By doing so, Satan is marking these men outwardly with a visible testimony of the rebellion that exists in their minds and is revealed in their actions.

The rabbis who brought forth a literal interpretation of these passages, and who have devised the traditions surrounding the wearing of tefillin, are among those who rejected their Messiah, handing Him over to the Romans to be crucified. Their thoughts and actions are spiritually branded with the marks of Satan's rebellion. Consequently, no disciple of Christ should be surprised to find that they are physically wearing a visible symbol of their rebellion.

Before setting forth the evidence of Satanic rebellion in these symbols, let me share a few other Scriptures that reveal how Yahweh has often used symbolic language in the Scriptures, language which was not intended to be obeyed in a literal sense.

Proverbs 1:8-9

Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and do not forsake your mother's teaching; Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head, and ornaments about your neck.

This is a very appropriate passage to consider in relation to tefillin. Solomon is writing about a father's instruction and a mother's teaching. This forms a nice parallel to Yahweh, the heavenly Father, giving instruction to His people. Did Solomon intend for his hearers to apply his words literally? Were they to take their parents' instructions and turn them into a wreath to be worn about the head, or neck ornaments to adorn their neck? Of course not. Two chapters later, Solomon uses another figure of speech.

Proverbs 3:3

Do not let kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of

your heart.

There are numerous difficulties with applying this instruction literally. How do you bind something physically that exists as a concept? Can you pick up a handful of kindness? Can you measure out truth with a scale? And how is a person to write these things on the tablet of their heart? It is only because a literal interpretation is impossible that we do not find some foolish person attempting to form a tradition based upon a literal application of Solomon's words.

The descendants of Israel have frequently failed to apprehend correctly the meaning of the Scriptures. If this were not so, would they have crucified the Lord of glory? Through a misapprehension of Yahweh's words, Jewish rabbis have developed a tradition of constructing small leather boxes, placing fragments of the Torah in them, and wearing them on their bodies. Not being guided by the Holy Spirit to this tradition, they have been under the influence of Satan, the great deceiver. Being spiritually blind, they have established precepts and practices relating to the wearing of tefillin that testify of having given themselves over to rebellion in both thought and action.

To identify these symbols of rebellion we must first understand the significance of numbers in Scripture. Numbers are used by Yahweh as a means of conveying spiritual truth. Numbers have divine associations to them. At the mention of certain numbers (7, 12, 40, 666, for example) many Christians would immediately recognize their Scriptural significance. They would be able to cite a variety of instances where these numbers occur in the Bible. Oftentimes, the first appearance of a number in the Bible provides us with a clue as to the number's spiritual meaning. We find this to be the case with the first occurrence of the number 13 in Scripture.

E.W. Bullinger, in his insightful book *Number in Scripture*, shares the following regarding the Biblical significance of the number 13.

*As to the significance of **thirteen**, all are aware that it has come down to us as a number of ill-omen. Many superstitions cluster around it, and various explanations are current concerning them.*

*Unfortunately, those who go backwards to find a reason seldom go back far enough. The popular explanations do not, so far as we are aware, go further back than the Apostles. But we must go back to **the first occurrence** of the number thirteen in order to discover the key to its significance. It occurs first in Gen 14:4, where we read "Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and the **thirteenth** year they REBELLED."*

*Hence every occurrence of the number **thirteen**, and likewise of **every multiple of it**, stamps that with which it stands in connection with **rebellion, apostasy, defection, corruption, disintegration, revolution**, or some kindred idea.*

[End Excerpt]

Do not the words "rebellion, apostasy, defection, and corruption" describe apostate Judaism? Yahshua spoke a parable to the Jews which revealed their evil heart in seeking to kill Him. He spoke of a landowner renting out a vineyard to some caretakers. At the harvest time, the landowner sent his servants to receive his produce. The caretakers beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. He then sent a larger group of servants, and they were treated similarly. Finally, the landowner sent his

son, saying, “Surely they will respect my son!” Yahshua then shared the following:

Matthew 21:38-39

“But when the vine-growers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and seize his inheritance.’ And they took him, and threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.”

These are the thoughts and actions of those who have become impregnated with the mind of Satan. Yahshua stated that Satan “comes only to kill, steal, and destroy.” Acting like children of the devil, the Jewish leaders killed the Son of God, seeking to wrest control of the vineyard (Judaism) for themselves. Their actions were those of rebellion and revolt (revolution) against Yahweh and His Son. Does this not explain why there is so much apostasy among Judaism today? Orthodox Jews continue to deny the authority of the Son of God. They have corrupted the commandments of Yahweh through their oral law, and they have been led of Satan to adopt many idolatrous and spiritually unclean symbols, holidays and traditions. Talmudic and Kabbalistic Judaism is a manifestation of rebellion against Yahweh.

Consider then, the age at which a young boy is officially given entrance into this religion of rebellion. It is at the age of thirteen. This is an age that is not only associated with young boys beginning to manifest rebellion in their lives, but it is a number that signifies rebellion and apostasy in the Bible. Could there be a more appropriate age at which to introduce someone to the rebellion and apostasy of corrupted Judaism?

In both ancient and modern times, the age of thirteen marked the time when a Jewish boy would experience his bar mitzvah celebration marking his coming of age and responsibility as a “son of commandment” (the literal meaning of “bar mitzvah”). This term, however, refers to more than a coming of age ceremony. The young man himself becomes a “bar mitzvah,” which is defined by the rabbis as “an agent who is subject to the rabbinical law.” By becoming a bar mitzvah, the young man at the age of thirteen receives his official introduction into the rebellion and apostasy of rabbinic Judaism, binding himself to it.

Upon experiencing this coming of age ceremony, the young Jewish boy is deemed mature enough to wear the tefillin. The rabbincal method of wearing a tefillin on the arm is to wrap the black leather thong around the arm, hand, and fingers a total of thirteen times. This is true for all who wear the tefillin, not just those who are experiencing their bar mitzvah ceremony.



Tefillin Wrap

The prescribed way to affix the tefillin to the arm is to wrap it 7 times around the arm, 3 times around the hand, and 3 times around the fingers, this being a total of 13 times. Kedar Griffio and Michael Berkley, in their book *African Origin Found in Religion and Freemasonry*, make reference to the wrapping of the tefillin around the body, drawing comparison to the practice of an initiate into the first degrees of Freemasonry wrapping the cable-tow about their body.



Entered Apprentice

In the initiation ritual of Freemasonry, the first degree of which is Entered Apprentice, the candidate is blindfolded, he has his left breast exposed, as well as his left leg below the knee, and he has a cable-tow (a piece of corded rope) wrapped around his neck and body. I believe Griffio and Berkley are correct in seeing a similarity between the introductory rites of Freemasonry and the bar mitzvah practice of wrapping the tefillin around the young man's arm and forehead. I will not go into detail about the Masonic practice, but will return to it briefly when addressing the wearing of the tallit, or Jewish prayer shawl.

There is more symbolized by the binding of the tefillin to the forehead and arm. Chabad is a Jewish religious group that embraces both Talmudic and Kabbalistic teachings. On their website they explain some of the symbolism of the tefillin.



Head Tefillin with Letter Shin/Sin

The head-tefillin has four compartments, for the four scrolls, and has a raised Hebrew letter shin on each side.

The straps are made of leather painted black on one side. They are threaded through the lower part of the boxes and knotted. The head-strap's knot is in the shape of the Hebrew letter daled; the hand-tefillin is knotted in the shape of the Hebrew letter yud. (Together, shin, daled, yud spell Sha-da-i, one of the names of G-d.)

[S o u r c e :
http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/142435/jewish/Wrapping-the-Mind-and-Heart.htm]

If we proceed on the premise that Talmudic and Kabbalistic Judaism is Luciferian in the same way that Freemasonry (which is derived from Kabbalah) is Luciferian, then we must view this explanation for the presence of the Hebrew letters Shin, Daled, and Yud on the tefillin as that which is supplied to the profane, those who have been deemed unworthy to know the true reason. In another article on the Chabad website we find clues to an alternate explanation for the presence of these Hebrew letters, one with a much darker meaning.

*The front of the mezuzah has the holy name Sha-dai written on it. This name is spelled **shin dalet yud**. The name **demon** (in Hebrew, "shed") is spelled **shin dalet**. **The holy name Sha-dai is therefore the same as the word for "demon" but with additional yud. The letter yud always represents chochma, and here it hints that the demons that have a hold on our subconscious are removed as soon as we are conscious of G-d.***

***Note also that in English the transliteration of the words "shade" and "shadow" also share the root letters shin and dalet and contain the similar concept of the dark side of life.** Among the dictionary definitions for shade is phantom, ghost or spirit!*

[S o u r c e :
http://www.chabad.org/kabbalah/article_cdo/aid/379639/jewish/Doorways-and-Shady-Characters.htm]

If we separate the letter Yud by itself, accepting that “the letter yud always represents chochma,” we are left with the Shin and Dalet grouped together to spell the Hebrew word “shed” which translates to English as “demon,” and is transliterated into English as “shade” which denotes an evil spirit. I would postulate that contrary to the Chabad statement that the letter Yud representing chochma “hints that the demons that have a hold on our subconscious are removed,” instead symbolizes binding these demons to the wearers mind (thoughts) and actions. The word tefillin, after all, literally means “to attach,” or “to bind.”

Is it proper to consider the Shin and Dalet separately from the Yud? Consider that the letter Shin is present as a raised letter on the sides of the head tefillin. The knot holding the head tefillin in place forms the shape of the Hebrew letter Dalet. This knot is located at the back of the head, thus the Shin and Daled encompass the mind of man. Another way to say this is that the “demon” encompasses the wearer’s mind. The Yud is set apart by itself, being located on the hand to which the arm tefillin is bound. The Chabad site states that Yud “always represents chochma,” and in another place they provide the following statement.

*The Zohar breaks up the word chochma itself into two words: "koach" and "mah." "Koach" means "potential," and "mah" means "what is." **Thus chochma means "the potential of what is," or "the potential to be..."***

*Thus, in brief, **chochma is defined as the germinal, highly condensed revelation of G-dly light in the highest level of immanence that is in the life force of all of creation.***

[Source: http://www.chabad.org/kabbalah/article_cdo/aid/380785/jewish/Chochma.htm]

As mentioned previously, Lucifer means “light bearer,” or “bringer of light.” That which Kabbalah calls light is the religion of Lucifer. Chochma, therefore, is not Yahweh’s light. It is Satanic darkness masquerading as light. As a young Jewish boy reaches the age of thirteen, he receives the tefillin, binding it to his forehead and arm. He is signifying that he is binding to himself the mind of Satan, and giving himself over to doing the works of Satan. These works are works of rebellion against Yahweh and His Son Yahshua. This rebellion is indicated both by the age of the initiate to rabbinic Judaism, and by the wrapping of the tefillin around the arm, hand, and fingers thirteen times.

The signs of Satanic rebellion do not end here. It is very common to present a young Jewish boy with a tallit during his bar mitzvah. Tallit come in two different forms. There is the Tallit Gadol (literally “big cloak”) and Tallit Katan (literally “small cloak”; like a short poncho).



Tallit Gadol/Prayer Shawl

Most often when Christians or Jews speak of the tallit, they are referring to the tallit gadol, which is the prayer shawl. Aside from the obvious attachment of symbols already addressed in this book, such as the erroneously named “Star of David” which is a 666 symbol, and the transgressing of the apostolic injunction for men to NOT cover their heads when praying or prophesying, the rabbis have marked the tallit with other symbols of Satanic rebellion.

Although there may be numerous tassels or fringes hanging from the edges of the tallit, there are special tassels on the four corners. These are called tzitzit, or tsitsit. The wearing of tzitzit is mentioned in the Old Testament, being an instruction of Yahweh to the Hebrew people.

Numbers 15:37-40

Yahweh also spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the sons of Israel, and tell them that they shall make for themselves fringes (tzitzit) on the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they shall put on the fringe (tzitzit) of each border a cord of blue. And it shall be a fringe (tzitzit) for you to look at and remember all the commandments of Yahweh, so as to do them and not follow after your own heart and your own eyes, after which you played the harlot, in order that you may remember to do all My commandments, and be holy to your God.”

Although the Jews today have special garments called tallit to which they attach the tzitzit, this was

not what Yahweh commanded. Yahweh intended the Hebrew people to add tzitzit to the regular clothing, not to create special garments to attach them to. The scholarly magazine *Biblical Archeology Review* offers some excellent insight into the ancient Hebrew custom.

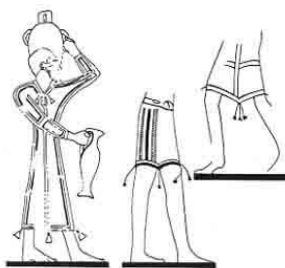
The tassels were in fact extensions of the hem, as we learn from innumerable illustrations in ancient Near Eastern art.

To understand the significance of the tassel, we must first understand the significance of the hem. The hem of an ancient Near Eastern garment was not simply a fold sewed to prevent the threads of the cloth from unraveling. The hem of the outer garment or robe made an important social statement. It was usually the most ornate part of the garment. And the more important the individual, the more elaborate and the more ornate was the embroidery on the hem of his or her outer robe. The tassel must be understood as an extension of such a hem.

Extra-Biblical texts teach us that the ornate hem was considered a symbolic extension of the owner himself and more specifically of his rank and authority....

The significance of the hem and of its being cut off is reflected in a famous Biblical episode. When the young and future king, David, fled from the jealous wrath of King Saul, Saul pursued David into the Judean wilderness near the Dead Sea. Weary from his pursuit, Saul went into one of the caves near the spring at Ein Gedi to relieve himself, unaware that David and his men were hiding in that very cave. David's men urged him to kill the unsuspecting Saul. Instead, David cut the hem of Saul's cloak to prove that he could easily have killed Saul if he had wanted to, but that he would not harm the Lord's anointed. The passage has a deeper significance, however - in some ways the opposite significance. The hem that David cut off was an extension of Saul's person and authority. David did in fact harm the Lord's anointed; that is why David immediately felt remorse for what he had done: "Afterward David reproached himself for having cut off the hem of Saul's cloak" (1 Samuel 24:6). According to the New English Bible translation, David's "conscience smote him" (1 Samuel 24:7). Although protesting that he had not lifted a finger or a hand against the Lord's anointed (1 Samuel 24:10), David had in fact committed a symbolic act - cutting off Saul's hem - of enormous significance. This significance was not lost on King Saul; he understood full well: "Now I know that you will become king" (1 Samuel 24:20).

Returning to the tassels or tsitsit that the Israelites were commanded to wear, they can be understood as extensions of the hem. The tassels, as shown in the illustrations, are part of the hem; they are simply extended threads of the embroidery of the hem. A tassel may hang free or it may be decorated with a flower head or bell at the end.



Fringed garments worn by prisoners captured by Ramesses III.

[End Excerpt]

Much could be said about the hem of the garment, but I will be brief as I want to conclude this subject on the tefillin, tallit, and tzitzit. Understanding the significance in ancient cultures to the hem of the garment and the status of the wearer, we can understand its association with the glory, or rank of the individual. There are accounts in the New Testament of people being healed as they merely touched the hem of Yahshua's garment. Symbolically, they touched His glory. When the woman with the issue of blood touched Christ's hem and was instantly healed, Yahshua did not immediately know who had touched Him, but he sensed that "dunamis" or "miraculous power" had gone out from Him at her touch. Such marvels were prophesied of the Savior in the Old Testament, though the message is obscured due to some poor translations.

Malachi 4:2

But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His **wings** (kanaph - literally "**borders**")...

Malachi prophesied that the Son of God would have healing in His "borders," which is to say, the hem of His garment. *Strong's Concordance* defines this word in the following manner.

OT:3671

kanaph (kaw-nawf'); from OT:3670; **an edge or extremity**; specifically (of a bird or army) a wing, (of a garment or bed-clothing) a flap, (of the earth) a quarter, (of a building) a pinnacle.

Although this word is appropriately understood as a reference to a bird's wings in some passages, this is not always the case.

Exodus 19:4-5

"You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' **wings** (kanaph) and brought you to Myself."

Numbers 15:37-38

Again Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to make fringes on the **borders** (kanaph) of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the fringes of the **borders** (kanaph)."

The same word used in Numbers to denote borders of the garment is the word Malachi used when speaking of the Messiah having healing in His **borders**. Some have speculated that the woman with the issue of blood touched the tzitzit which Yahshua likely wore in fulfillment of the Biblical commandment. This seems to be a defensible view.

What we do not find in the Scriptures is instruction on the actual construction of the tzitzit other than the instruction that they include a blue thread. There is no mention of the number of threads to be used, how they are to be knotted, or how many knots they are to have. Where the Bible is silent we once again find the rabbis rushing in to fill the gap. Their added instructions have a Luciferian significance.

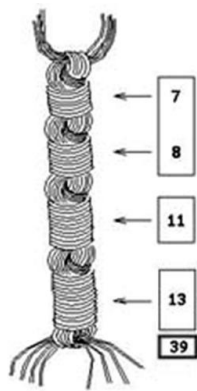
Though many methods exist, the one that gained the widest acceptance can be described as follows:

The four strands of the tzitzit are passed through holes near the four corners of the garment (Shulchan Aruch Orach Chaim 11:9-11:15) that are farthest apart. Four tzitzot are passed through each hole, and the two groups of four ends are double-knotted to each other at the edge of the garment near the hole. One of the four tzitzit is made longer than the others; the long end of that one is wound around the other seven ends and double-knotted; this is done repeatedly so as to make a total of five double knots separated by four sections of winding, with a total length of at least four inches, leaving free-hanging ends that are twice that long. Before tying begins, declaration of intent is recited: L'Shem Mitzvat Tzitzit ("for the sake of the commandment of tzitzit")...

The two sets of strands are knotted together twice, and then the shamash (a longer strand) is wound around the remaining seven strands a number of times. The two sets are then knotted again twice. This procedure is repeated three times, such that there are a total of five knots, the four intervening spaces being taken up by windings numbering 7-8-11-13, respectively. The total number of winds comes to 39, which is the same number of winds if one were to tie according to the Talmud's instruction of 13 hulyot of 3 winds each...

Rashi, a prominent Jewish commentator, bases the number of knots on a gematria: the word tzitzit (in its Mishnaic spelling) has the value 600. Each tassel has eight threads (when doubled over) and five sets of knots, totaling 13. The sum of all numbers is 613, traditionally the number of mitzvot (commandments) in the Torah. This reflects the concept that donning a garment with tzitzot reminds its wearer of all Torah commandments. (Rashi knots are worn by the majority of Ashkenazic- Eastern European- Jews).

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



Once again we see the rabbis marking their works with the number of rebellion. The last gap between the lower knots on the tzitzit has 13 windings. All of the windings total 39, which is 13×3 . Further revealing the darkened understanding of apostate Judaism is the significance attached to the wearing of the tallit by Kabbalah.

Kabbalah teaches that the tallit garment is a metaphor for G-d's infinite transcendent light. The fringes allude to the immanent divine light which permeates every element of creation. By wearing a tallit gadol or a tallit katan, a Jew synthesizes these two elements and makes them real in his life.

[Source:

http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/537949/jewish/What-is-the-Tzitzit-and-Tallit.htm]

Once more we must remind ourselves that the god of Kabbalah is Lucifer. Donning the tallit for a

Kabbalist is the equivalent of bedecking themselves with the light of Lucifer and making it part of their life. A shocking connection is made between the modern Judaic practice of donning the tallit gadol and the initiatory rites of Freemasonry as one observes a modern rabbi demonstrating how to don the tallit. Notice that the rabbi speaking at the beginning of the following video is wearing a suit with a jacket. As he begins to demonstrate how to properly don the tallit we see that he has removed his left arm from the jacket and folded it back exposing his left breast in imitation of the rites of Freemasonry. Surely, this practice arises from the worship of Lucifer embraced by the adepts of Kabbalah and Freemasonry, but which is done in ignorance by the majority who have their eyes blindfolded (sometimes literally) to the truth.

How to Put On the Tallis

http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/1569717/jewish/How-to-Put-On-a-Tallis.htm

The weight of the accumulated evidence reveals the apostasy that characterizes the practice of Judaism today. A young Jewish boy at the age of 13, a number used by Yahweh to denote rebellion and apostasy, has his introduction to rabbinic Judaism. He receives the tefillin, placing the letter Shin at the forehead and the Daled at the base of the skull, encompassing his mind with “shed,” the demonic, or “shade” evil spirits and darkness. His arm is wrapped 13 times, further signifying rebellion. He has the Yud/chochma, the light of Lucifer bound to his hand. Over his head he dons the tallit, an act that in itself dishonors Yahweh who would have all men’s heads uncovered in His presence. On the edges of the tallit are the rabbinic form of the tzitzit, further marked with the number 13 for rebellion.



As we open our eyes, we see the reality of the words spoken by Yahshua.

Matthew 23:15

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel about on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.”

I would close this chapter by relating an account a brother in Christ (Mark) recently shared with me of a trip he made to Israel. The details of his experiences are a far cry from what is often described by tour operators and ministers who are seeking to round up recruits to journey with them to the “Holy Land.” This brother in Yahshua shared the following.

We met a lot of very nice people and some rude greedy and stingy people. And in places I felt a strong sense of the demonic. Several sites are controlled by Catholics. I usually did not feel spiritually well in those.

In our hotel in Tel Aviv some things moved in our room, a suitcase flopped over on its own and a folded towel unfolded on a table tossing my keys in the air. I prayed for any demons to leave and nothing further happened. In Jerusalem, I think we stayed at the King David Hotel, but don't remember for sure. We were having Sabbath dinner and suddenly glasses started to break all around the dining room. Several servers dropped things. Glasses turned over on tables. I leaned over to my wife so that she could pray with me and said something like "get out of here in Jesus name." Immediately a great hush fell on the place.

Some things seemed silly beyond words, for instance on the Sabbath the elevators move on their own, continually going, stopping at each floor, that is so that the guests don't have to push the button which would be doing work on the Sabbath. Another annoying and silly thing is you can almost never get milk in a restaurant, because if there is meat they don't allow milk because of the risk of violating "don't cook a kid in its mothers milk..."

I was barred from a Catholic church because of short pants... It turned out that I had an interesting experience by not going into the Catholic church there in Nazareth. There was an Arab in full Arab white robe and head covering selling something while we queued to go in. As I (banished) remained outside I watched and after the last person was inside, the Arab pulled off his robe and head covering revealing a dark business suit and tie, put his robe away with his items that had been for sale and went on his way.

As we visited the Old City, we came in thru the gate near the western wall and were given a few minutes at the wall to pray, meditate, or look around. I went in to sense more than to pray, although I probably prayed some, I knew that I was not to put any notes into the wall, but beyond that I was listening for the leading of the Holy Spirit. I felt little response there, as if that place was not for me at least prayer-wise. Later we were in one of the churches not too far away, there I felt a strong presence of the Holy Spirit. We went on some tour underground along a route that follows the Western Wall...

Next we went around and up the ramp to the temple mount. I might have gone inside the Dome of the Rock, except that the Muslims required us to take our shoes off to go in. I will not take my shoes off for Allah, so I stayed out with my wife and a portion of our group who also would not comply.

The Pool of Bethesda was completely dry and run down.

We went to the garden tomb which is overseen by British Christians. I found that place very pleasant and peaceful. The staff were very kind. Then we went to a different place that the Catholics say is the original tomb location, and they have built a church over it. I found it suspicious, and suspect that they just wanted the glory of "owning" the tomb place even if they had to make it up.

Oh and the money changers that Jesus threw out of the temple...they moved to the airport.

Ok that is supposed to be a joke, but the money changers in the airport seem like crooks to me. There

are two choices which their signs loudly proclaim: Either NO FEE EXCHANGE, where they charge no fee but the exchange rate is exorbitant, or LOW EXCHANGE RATE, where the rate is very good, but the large fee takes away all savings. We opted for the third choice which was spend the last of our shekels on something in an airport store (at double price). I think we bought a couple boxes of hyssop, which upon reading the ingredients turned out to be thyme (with some sesame seeds), if I remember right.

I found the experiences of this brother in Yahshua to be highly revelatory of the condition of the Land of Israel and the people who occupy the land today. It is a land filled with demons, just as it was in the day when Yahshua walked there. There is also great spiritual darkness. Both apostate Judaism and apostate Christianity have staked their claims to various sites, many of which are spurious. There is also a very active secular element with its open homosexuality and sexual promiscuity. On top of this, there is the Illuminati/Zionist influence as is evidenced by the Israeli Supreme Court building paid for and designed by the Rothschild family.

<http://vigilantcitizen.com/sinistersites/sinister-sites-israel-supreme-court/>

Satan is the god of this world, and has brought great darkness to the earth while calling it light. Let us take hope as we recognize that the hour is near at hand when Yahshua will return. All Israel will be saved, and the kingdoms of the world will become the kingdom of our Lord and Christ.

Let us pray that the eyes of the blind might be opened, for many have been taken captive by Satan to do his will through ignorance.

Sabbath Summoning



Sabbath Candle Lighting

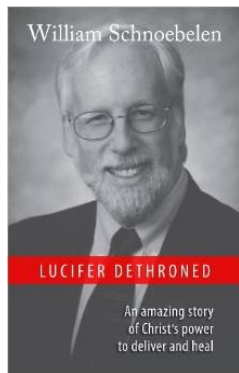
Satan is a master of disguise. His success lies in his cunning; his evil genius to make darkness appear as light, and light as darkness. Satan understands that most men and women will not openly embrace evil, or declare their affinity to a being that comes only to kill, steal and destroy. The Aleister Crowley's and Anton LaVey's of the world (both open disciples of Satan) are few in comparison to those who want to appear good to others. Consequently, the number of people publicly embracing Satan worship are relatively small whereas those involved in Wicca, which portrays itself as "white witchcraft" and whose practitioners style themselves as "workers of light," are much greater in number. These ones deny that they serve or worship Satan, and many are sincerely ignorant of Wicca's Luciferian associations.

Similarly, Kabbalah and Freemasonry wear a thin disguise, hiding the fact that their god is in fact Lucifer, that fallen angel who rebelled against Yahweh and was cast out of heaven. Freemasonry intentionally lies to initiates at the lower levels of the Lodge, informing them that Masonry is a "Christian" organization that is not in any measure incompatible with the Lodge member's church affiliation or beliefs. Similarly, Kabbalah pretends to be compatible with either Judaism or Christianity, depending on the adherent's core set of beliefs. Only at the highest levels of Kabbalah and Freemasonry is the Luciferian nature of these occult teachings openly declared.

Cloaking themselves with an even more convincing costume, both Talmudic Judaism and Roman Catholicism have persuaded vast numbers that they are the true servants of God and of His Christ, respectively. Yet if Roman Catholicism and Orthodox Judaism are to be credited with a masterful disguise, an even deeper cover shrouds the apostasy and idolatry of the Messianic and Hebrew Roots movement. They are several layers removed from any direct association with the worship and service of Satan, yet when one patiently peels away the layers of subterfuge they find the same Luciferian doctrines, rites, symbols, and practices present which exist in the more open and readily discoverable forms of Satan worship.

As I began to penetrate the layers of deception that mask the true nature of the rites, symbols and traditions being embraced by many in the Hebrew Roots movement, a surprising revelation unfolded before me. I began to observe that there is a significant attraction to the elements and practices of the Hebrew Roots movement for people who have formerly been engaged in the occult. Whether the individual was a Freemason, a Kabbalist, a practitioner of Wicca (modern witchcraft), or a student

and disciple of some similar occult group, these individuals are often attracted to Hebrew Roots without realizing that they are falling into the same Luciferian deception that they now openly renounce and believe they have escaped.



William Schnoebelen, a former Satanist, Wiccan warlock, and high level Freemason has written numerous books on the occult since his conversion to Christianity. He professes to have been a 32nd degree Mason and a Shriner, and shares a photo of himself in his Shriner's fez as evidence. His book *Masonry: Beyond the Light* reveals a deep understanding of the rites and doctrines of Freemasonry. He was a member of Anton LaVey's Satanist church and taught Wicca for 16 years prior to his conversion. When he speaks of the occult he does so with a deep background of its Luciferian secrets.

In the book *Masonry: Beyond the Light*, Schnoebelen shares the following statements.

Few people, within the Craft of Masonry or otherwise, perceive that just because a Bible lies open on the altar and Bible verses and characters play an important part in the ritual of the Lodge, that this does not prevent the Lodge from being of the nature of the occult or Witchcraft.

This can be illustrated by a very simple illustration. Back in the 1970's, when I first became a Witch, a very popular how-to book on magic was Raymond Buckland's "Popular Candle-Burning." In this book were "recipes" for spells for everything from healing, to love spells, to protection spells. On one set of pages of the book would be a spell for healing, complete with instructions on the burning and movement of certain colored candles. The spell would be a full-blown Witchcraft ritual, Pagan to the core!

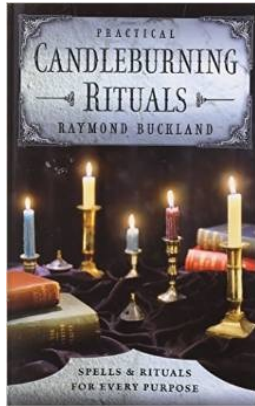
On the following pages would be the same ritual, with the same candles, the same instructions. However, the text of the "spell" would be drawn from the Psalms or other Bible verses. These were provided for readers who were a little too squeamish to actually do a Witchcraft incantation, but still wanted results.

Now the question becomes: Even though those rituals were full of Psalms, were they still Witchcraft? Of course, the answer would have to be yes. In like manner, even though Bible phrases and characters abound in the Masonic ritual work, the presence of those elements cannot somehow "sanctify" what is essentially a Pagan ritual full of Witchcraft overtones.

[End Excerpt]

This is a very revealing statement, and it has much to do with our present study. If a person takes a candle-burning ritual from witchcraft and modifies it by replacing the words of the rite with verses

of Scripture, or language that resembles Judaism or Christianity, is it still witchcraft? Of course it is.



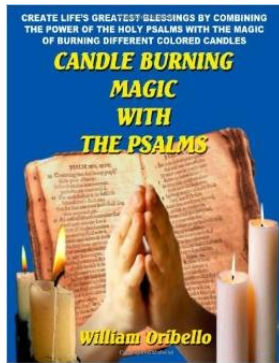
Schnoebelen refers to a book by Raymond Buckland, but appears to have misquoted the title. It is not *Popular Candle-Burning*, but rather *Practical Candleburning Rituals*. A description of this book states “*This trusted guidebook by trusted author Raymond Buckland has introduced candle magic to more than 300,000 readers. From winning love to conquering fear, obtaining money to improving relationships, Practical Candleburning Rituals is filled with simple candle rites that get real results. Newly updated and reorganized, **this edition includes thirty-seven rituals adapted for Christians and Pagans that can be performed at home with readily available materials.***”

Schnoebelen was speaking quite accurately when he stated that there are Wicca spells which have been modified to make them more palatable to Christians. No discerning Christian should be fooled into thinking that this gross admixture of the profane and the holy transforms candle-burning spells and candle magic into an acceptable practice in Yahweh’s eyes. I am reminded of the following passage of Scripture.

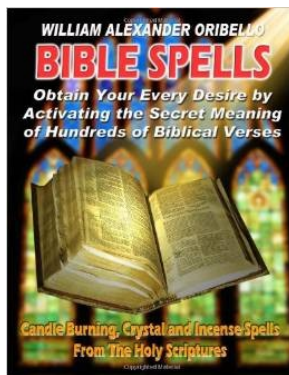
Haggai 2:11-14

Thus says Yahweh of hosts, “Ask now the priests for a ruling: If a man carries holy meat in the fold of his garment, and touches bread with this fold, or cooked food, wine, oil, or any other food, will it become holy?” And the priests answered and said, “No.” Then Haggai said, “If one who is unclean from a corpse touches any of these, will the latter become unclean?” And the priests answered and said, “It will become unclean.” Then Haggai answered and said, “So is this people. And so is this nation before Me,” declares Yahweh, “and so is every work of their hands; and what they offer there is unclean.”

Adding the Holy Scriptures to a witch’s incantation does not impute holiness to the profane rite. Quite the contrary; By mixing the holy with a work of Satan, that which is holy is profaned. It becomes as that which is detestable and unclean in the sight of Yahweh. I do not doubt that this is an obvious truth to those who are regular readers of my writings. You would not be fooled by such a brazen and overt act of mixing together the works of Satan with the holy words of Yahweh. Yet there are those who do not have the mind of Christ who are ensnared with these deceitful acts of Satan. There are many books sold which are advocating gross uncleanness as they attempt to wed together the holy things of Yahweh with the profane works of Satan. One such book is titled *Candle Burning Magic with the Psalms*. The sub-title states, “*Create life’s greatest blessings by combining the power of the holy Psalms with the magic of burning different colored candles.*”



A similar book by the same author is *Bible Spells*, whose byline states, “*Obtain your every desire by activating the secret meaning of hundreds of Biblical verses.*” The book contains more information on candle burning, as well as crystal and incense spells “*From the Holy Scriptures.*”



Are you appalled at the blatant heresy of such practices? Can a Christian or non-Christian use the dark, occult practices of Satan to accomplish the will of God? What is being advocated here is no different than the final act of King Saul’s apostasy as he sought out a woman with a familiar spirit to conjure up the prophet Samuel. It was a detestable act in the sight of Yahweh, and was a tragic end to the rebellious career of a man rejected by God.

What is obviously evil to the sight of spiritual men and women and appropriately rejected as a vile work of darkness, is embraced by many when it wears a different garment. If one removes all language that refers to spells, incantations and magic, and instead uses the language of Judaism and of the Hebrew rabbis, the very same occult rituals are passed off as being acceptable and pleasing to the eyes of Yahweh. Yet, in fact, it is the same witchcraft hiding under a different dress. The Jewish Sabbath ritual of candle lighting, speaking forth ritualistic phrases, with its concomitant motions of the hands, body movements, and elements of wine and food is an act of witchcraft, a summoning of unclean spirits to achieve the desires of the one performing the rite. These practices are being adopted by many Christians who are fooled by the subtlety of Satan. They are enacting Satanic rites while believing they are acting in a manner pleasing and acceptable to Yahweh.

Over the years I have developed a sensitivity to rites, symbols, and traditions that have no clear Biblical precedent. There is no mention anywhere in the Scriptures of Yahweh instructing the Israelites, or of Yahshua commanding His disciples, to observe the Sabbath with candle lighting rituals, with incantations, and with the various traditions that are practiced by orthodox Judaism today. As the previous chapters of this book have revealed through the examination of the Hanukkah

celebration, the origin of symbols such as the Star of David, and items such as the kippah, tallit and tefillin, these elements and rites which are extra-Biblical are all traceable back to pagan idolatry and the worship of false deities. They are Luciferian. Men and women who are allured into the false promise of a more authentic practice of Christianity as held forth by the Hebrew Roots movement are in fact falling into apostasy and embracing works of the devil. The Jewish Sabbath rituals are no different.



Young Women Performing Sabbath Candle Ritual

The Jewish Sabbath rituals are set forth in the Talmud and Midrashic texts of the rabbis. Like so much of what appears in these rabbinic writings, they lead the individual away from truth, turning the divine words of Scripture into an evil primer of dark Satanic works. The rabbinic explanations, like those presented to the men in the lower degrees of Freemasonry, are always disingenuous. They lead the participant to engage in profane actions while deceiving them with false explanations of the nature of the rites and symbols they are performing.

We can begin to see the true nature of the Sabbath rituals as we observe the explanations set forth by Kabbalistic and Talmudic Jews today. On the Chabad website, the following explanation is given for the Sabbath candle ritual.

Preparations For Lighting the Candles

Why?

Our Sages give several reasons for the lighting of Shabbat and holiday candles. The two primary reasons are:

- 1) A setting that encourages stumbling in the darkness is not conducive for the calm and peace that befits the holy Day of Rest.*
- 2) The light of the candles adds to the peaceful ambiance. They demonstrate respect for the holy day, and sustain the atmosphere of oneg (pleasure) that is supposed to define Shabbat...*

Who?

The mitzvah to light Shabbat and holiday candles applies to men and women equally. Yet our Sages instituted that the woman of the home should light the candles for the entire household. If she is not home that weekend or if a man lives alone, the man should kindle the candles. If there is an unmarried daughter at home, then the father should light two candles, and the daughter should light her customary one. If there's a married woman in the home, she can light the candles; the man need not do so.

The Sages give several reasons why ideally the woman of the house lights the candles:

1) The woman of the house is the one normally in charge of all that happens in her home - including ensuring that the house is properly lit.

2) The woman is the one who sets the foundation of every Jewish home. It is the woman's primary task to ensure that the home is a domicile where light, peace, and harmony prevail, suffusing it with an atmosphere conducive for spirituality and G-dliness.

3) "The candle of G-d is the soul of Man." Eve had a hand in bringing death – the extinguishing of the G-dly candle – into this world, when she convinced her husband, Adam, to eat from the Tree of Knowledge. To compensate for this, the responsibility of lighting the candles was handed to the woman.

The woman of the home lights candles and technically, the entire household – husband, sons, daughters – is covered. A woman's candle-lighting also covers guests who will be eating together with the family and are sleeping in the same home, such as in a guest bedroom. The custom, however, is for every woman and girl, household member and guest alike, to light her own candle (candles, if post-marriage), starting from the age when she can recite the blessing.

[Source: http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/110392/jewish/Why-What-Who-and-Where.htm]

Let me remind the reader again that these explanations are for those who are deemed “profane,” unworthy to have disclosed to them the true Luciferian doctrine. Why are women given the primary role in the candle-lighting rituals? The true reason is that the entire Sabbath observance is one extended ritual for summoning the goddess spirit into the home of the participants. For this reason, it is the woman who is given the role of leading in this ritual. In truth, this fact of summoning the goddess into the home is not a hidden matter. It is plainly disclosed to any who take the time to study the origin and meanings of the Sabbath rituals. On another page of the Chabad website we find the following information.



Why Do Women Wave Their Hands Over the Shabbat Candles?

*After lighting the Shabbat candles, women traditionally wave their hands three times in front of the candles, semi-circular inward-leading hand motions. **The hand waving is a symbolic greeting for the "Shabbat Queen," ushering her holy presence into the home.** After the third wave, the hands end up over the eyes, and the woman recites the blessings on the candles.*

[Source: http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/674406/jewish/Why-do-women-wave-their-hands-over-the-Shabbat-candles.htm]

Brothers and sisters, what is being described here is a summoning of unclean spirits into the home. The "Shabbat Queen" is known to the Orthodox Jews as Shabbat Hamalka. At the *Encyclopedia Mythica* website the following information is provided about this being which is invited into the home and souls of those who perform the Jewish Sabbath rituals.

Shabbat Hamalka

by Ilil Arbel, Ph.D.

Among the goddesses representing either the female side of Yahweh or his consorts, such as Asherah, Shekhina, Anath, and Lilith, Shabbat Hamalka has a unique personality and origin. Her myth strongly influenced Jewish thought, and contributed to the strength of home and family that had improved the odds for physical and spiritual Jewish survival.

The name means Queen of the Sabbath, and the entity is the personification of the Jewish day of rest, Saturday. She still possesses a prominent position in Judaic mythology. For example, Israeli children, even in completely nonreligious surroundings, still sing songs to her every Friday afternoon (in Hebrew "Erev Shabbat" meaning the Sabbath Eve) before the Queen "descends" from Heaven to grace the world for twenty-four hours. When the Jews started their return to Palestine, long before the state of Israel was declared, new mythology had to be created or recreated. Shabbat Hamalka, prominent and romantic, was one of the first candidates. The great National Poet Chaim Nachman Bialik, who was an expert on folklore and mythology, had a lot to do with preserving the image of the Queen in the renewed home of the Jewish People. He invented "Oneg Shabbat," meaning "Sabbath Joy," and combined the customs of group study, festive dinner, lectures, and singing of both old and new songs. The custom spread to the United States and is still observed by many.

Her origin is extremely ancient, and as the centuries rolled, Shabbat Hamalka acquired magical qualities, combining the character of Queen, Bride, and Goddess. In addition, she took on strong erotic/romantic and cosmic/spiritual significance. The usual Judaic connections to Akkadian myths exist in her image, because the word Shabbat resembles the name of the Akkadian feast of the full moon, Shabbatu. The romantic character of the two holidays also had much in common. For example, marital intercourse on Friday night was considered a sacred duty, exactly like the sacred sexual activity during Shabbatu. However, the Akkadians never had a weekly day of rest - the idea seems to start in the second chapter of Genesis.

In the thundering, dramatic first chapter of Genesis, God spends six days engaged in the creation of the world. In chapter 2, the story continues in a gentler fashion: "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made." (King James Version)...

Some Judaic ancient sects put a different interpretation on the Sabbath, but for traditional Judaism, it was a day of glowing joy from the very first. The general prohibition to work, mentioned in the Bible, was expanded in the Talmud, which listed all the forbidden activities with its usual thoroughness. It solidified the strong attachment between the Jews and the Sabbath by emphasizing that God forgave sinful, even wicked individuals if at least they loved and honored his Day of Rest.

It described the need for beauty and order in the home on the Eve of the Sabbath in almost poetic

terms -- so different from the charmingly prosaic, matter-of-fact attitude the Talmud usually adopts. Most important, one passage in the Talmudic literature (describing events in the 2nd and 3rd centuries CE) already shows the early personification of Shabbat Hamalka: "Rabbi Hanina used to wrap himself in festive clothes towards evening on Friday and say: 'Come, let us go to receive Shabbat the Queen.' Rabbi Yannai used to put on festive clothes on the eve of the Sabbath and say: 'Come, O bride, come, O bride!' "

In a Midrashic passage the image develops: "Rabbi Shimeon Ben Yohai said: The Sabbath said before God: 'Master of the worlds! Each day has its mate, but I have none! Why?' The Holy One, Blessed be He, answered her: 'The Community of Israel is your mate.' And when Israel stood before Mount Sinai, the Holy One, blessed be He, said to them: 'Remember what I told the Sabbath: 'The Community of Israel is your mate.' Therefore, remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."

Up to this point, she already embodied both Bride and Queen. The Cabbalists, however, developed the myth to its full spiritual and romantic capacity and infused it with mystical, cosmic meaning...

During this time, the gender of the Sabbath was debated, based on two verbs used in two versions of the Fourth Commandment. In Exodus, the Commandment declares "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." In Deuteronomy, the Commandment declares "Observe (or Keep, in some versions) the Sabbath day to keep it holy." The Zohar equates "Observe" with the female side of the Sabbath, and "Remember" with the male side, thus giving the Sabbath both genders. This is not as paradoxical as it sounds, if one compares it to the description of Shekhina, who is at the same time the female aspect of Yahweh Himself -- and his wife. Duplicate divine personas happen often in Judaism, because it combines a strong patriarchal outlook with an equally powerful presence of the Goddess. So the male side of the Sabbath came to be associated with "Yesod," the male principle of God in the Kabbalah, and the female side associated with Shekhina, who is Queen, representative of the Community of Israel, and Bride of God. This allowed Shabbat Hamalka to become the Bride of Yesod, or simply put, the Bride of God. It also intensified the distinctiveness of a glorious female entity, ready to be worshiped.

She must be received in style. A paragraph in the Zohar starts: "One must prepare a comfortable seat with several cushions and embroidered covers, from all that is found in the house, like one who prepares a canopy for a bride. For the Sabbath is a queen and a bride. This is why the masters of the Mishna used to go out on the eve of Sabbath to receive her on the road, and used to say: 'Come, O bride, come, O bride!' And one must sing and rejoice at the table in her honor ... one must receive the Lady with many lighted candles, many enjoyments, beautiful clothes, and a house embellished with many fine appointments ..."

On Friday night, all the men, representing Yesod, went to receive the Bride in the open fields around town. The poetry they recited for the ritualistic greeting included many allusions to the "Sacred Apple Orchard," a mystical place where God and his consort Shekhina celebrated their union and conceived the Souls of the Just. The connection to Asherah, who was always worshiped in glades and groves, is obvious.

Each man returned home to be received by his wife, who represented the Shekhina/Shabbat. All other females of the household were also honored on Friday evening. The husband picked up branches of myrtle, the symbol of marriage which was always prepared for weddings as well. He then recited

Chapter 31, Verses 10-31 of the Book of Proverbs, describing the "Woman of Valor," and relating the verse mystically to both his wife and Shabbat Hamalka, thus merging their images for the evening in a cosmic/spiritual context. The ritual and festive meal continued well into the night, leading to the hour of midnight, when it was considered a spiritual duty to retire and have a sacred sexual union between husband and wife. Midnight was chosen because according to Kabbalistic tradition, this was the exact time when the highest aspects of the male and the female sides of the godhead performed their own union...

At the end of the day, the men assembled again, usually at the rabbi's house, for the "Melaveh Malka" ritual, meaning "Farewell to the Queen." The ceremony included singing songs in her honor, eating and drinking, and a lecture or discussion. The Queen then departed and the work week, full of hardship and sometimes suffering, was about to begin again. The entire community, however, was always keenly aware that Shabbat Hamalka would never be away from them for more than six days.
[Source: http://www.pantheon.org/articles/s/shabbat_hamalka.html]



Sabbath Queen Being Worshiped by the Jews

Does it surprise you that the Jews today worship the goddess just as they did in the Old Testament when they embraced the idolatrous worship of Asherah? It should not. The Roman Catholics give profound attention to "the Queen of Heaven" under the guise of venerating Mary, the mother of Christ. Why should not the Jews worship this same goddess under a different guise, pretending that she is a manifestation of the female attributes of Yahweh? Even the Protestant Christians give unwitting homage to the Queen of Heaven as they annually account Easter as their most holy day. Easter is an Anglicization of the name Ishtar which itself is a transliteration of the Akkadian/Babylonian/Chaldean name of the goddess which the Bible identifies as Astarte and Ashtoreth.

Judges 2:11-13

The People of Israel did evil in God's sight: they served Baal-gods; they deserted God, the God of their parents who had led them out of Egypt; they took up with other gods, gods of the peoples around them. They actually worshiped them! And oh, how they angered God as they worshiped god Baal and goddess Astarte!

[THE MESSAGE Bible]

I Kings 11:5-6

For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites. And Solomon did what was evil in the sight of Yahweh, and did not follow

Yahweh fully, as David his father had done.

Jeremiah 7:18

“The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out libations to other gods in order to spite Me.”

Present on the table, or altar where the Sabbath candles are located, one will also find these same symbols mentioned by Jeremiah. There is the cup of wine corresponding to the libations offered to the Queen of Heaven, and there is the Challah bread which accords with the dough which was kneaded and baked into cakes for the queen of heaven.



Sabbath Table

If one takes the time to inquire where these traditions arose, and they examine the Scriptures to verify that they contain no divine precedent for these Sabbath rituals, then one must look elsewhere. Although it is well known that practitioners of witchcraft place candles and a chalice on their sacred altars, few Christians or Jews today can see through the cloak of deception that lies upon these rabbinic practices to recognize the telltale signs of their occult origins.



Jewish Sabbath Kiddush Cup



Wicca Altar Chalice

A website devoted to the promotion of the modern practice of Wicca describes the following items which are commonly found on the witch's altar.

Chalice

The Wiccan chalice is one of the most important altar tools. It signifies the Mother Goddess. As such, it is a "yin" altar tool...

Silver is always nice for Goddess tools - a silver chalice is a perfect Wiccan chalice...

*The Wiccan chalice is used for ceremonial drink, offering **libations** to the Divine...*

Libation Dish

A small dish, bowl, or cup can go in the centre, ready to receive offerings for the gods and goddesses. You can also use your altar chalice or cauldron for this purpose...

Offerings

When you would honour the Divine with a gift of thanks or prayer, you can bring them to the Altar as an offering. Often flowers are kept on the altar as an offering. Anything that is beautiful or special to you, or symbolic of the purpose for the offering, can be offered.

Scent or Feather

Some representation of air, commonly something scented like incense, essential oils, or smudges, or else a flying bird's feather goes in the East, to represent Air. Sacred scents are used to cleanse an area energetically, call in certain powers, or help witches shift consciousness.

[Source: <http://www.wicca-spirituality.com/altar-tools.html>]

The image above of a Jewish Sabbath table could easily be that of a Wiccan altar. The chalice, the candles, the flowers are all present. At the close of the Sabbath the Jews conduct what is called a Havdalah ritual. Part of this ritual includes a small libation dish containing spice. It is explained that this ritual is to involve all five senses of the human body, but once again we find that the presence of scent/spice on the altar/table perfectly aligns with the practice of witchcraft. During the Havdalah rite the Jews pour any leftover wine which is in the kiddush cup into a small dish as they hold their hands up extended toward the flame of the candle. Many do not know they are reenacting the pouring out of a libation to the Queen of Heaven.



Havdalah Elements

As the article on Shabbat Hamalka stated, the goddess is associated with sex and fertility. The rabbis admonished men to perform their sexual duty to their wives at midnight on the Sabbath, an hour that is sacred to witches and Satanists. One dominant form of Satanism is called Sex Magick. The act of sexual intercourse is believed to raise the spiritual powers of the practitioners and invite the spirits being conjured to manifest more powerfully. Thus we see that the entire Sabbath becomes one

extended act of ritual magic. The fact is not overlooked that the rabbis in the Talmud state that the Sabbath candles should be lit 18 minutes before sunset, the number 18 being 6+6+6.

There is a direct relationship between the presence of the candles and the sex act. William Schnoebelen draws out the relationship as he comments on the relationship between Freemasonry and Witchcraft.

*9. Both [Freemasonry and Witchcraft] have a ceremonial un-hoodwinking of the candidate, following the oath, **before lighted candles which is intended to bring "illumination..."***

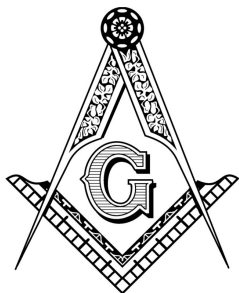
*A. **Both Witches and Masons revere the powers of human reproduction** (albeit most Masons do so unknowingly). The most obvious example of this is the use of the ceremonial Masonic apron, which covers the "Holy of Holies" of Freemasonry, the male groin area...*

B. The authorities of Freemasonry, most notably Albert Pike, 33° and Manly P. Hall, 33° (both occultists par excellence) write that the essential, underlying philosophy of Freemasonry is Kabbalism and Gnosticism. Kabbalism is a system of Jewish mysticism and magic and is the foundational element in modern Witchcraft.

Virtually all of the great Witches and sorcerers of this century were Kabbalists. Gnosticism is an ancient, anti-Christian heresy best summarized by the statement: "One is saved by acquiring secret, unknown knowledge (Greek: gnosis)." Thus, all mystery religions, including Witchcraft and Masonry are, per force, Gnostic in character.

*C. **Both Witches and Freemasons seek salvation through "illumination" or receiving "The Light."***
[ibid]

Illumination and reproduction are significant themes of Freemasonry, Kabbalah, Wicca, and other occult practices. The candle represents the illumination that Lucifer, the Light Bringer, bequeaths to mankind. He is the Greek god Prometheus bringing the fire of divine knowledge to mankind. He seeks to be worshiped as a great benefactor to humanity who has been unjustly and cruelly punished by the God of heaven and earth.



The letter G at the center of the Masonic symbol stands for both the Generative act of reproduction, and for Gnosis, or the impartation of knowledge. Not surprisingly, the rabbis laid emphasis on both sex and illumination as they set forth the rituals to be observed on the Jewish Sabbath, for Freemasonry is merely another manifestation of Hebrew Kabbalah. One of the most revered of the Jewish rabbis (Rabbi Yitzchak Luria) is referred to as "The Ari." He is known as "the father of contemporary Kabbalah." Following is the meaning of the candle as attributed to him. Although the

article mentions the Hanukkah candles, it applies equally to the Sabbath candles.

The power of the candle

*The Ari explains that when we light the Hanukkah candles, **we draw spiritual light into our material world** which can help us to live a better life and to nourish us with this power to help overcome obstacles of routine. The Hannukiya is lit not to commemorate the historical miracles and events, but rather to help us make a spiritual connection to the light that is revealed...*

Kabbalah teaches us to use a candle to bridge the gap between the spiritual and material world. When we want to connect to a spiritual force that we cannot perceive with our five senses, lighting a candle helps us to do this. The candles of Shabbat and Holidays connect us to the spiritual light of that moment. A Yahrzeit (Memorial) candle connects us to the soul of the deceased which no longer is manifested in the material world. A candle is used also during meditation as a connection to spiritual frequencies that we may not be able to connect to otherwise.

[Source: <http://www.livekabbalah.org/index.php/home/gates-in-time/holidays/hanukkah/>]

Brothers and sisters, this understanding of the ritual use of the candle is identical to that embraced by practitioners of witchcraft and Satanism. The candle is used to invoke spirits, to create a bridge between the spiritual and material world. Understand that the rabbis who set forth the rites to be observed on the Jewish Sabbath had rejected Yahshua as the Messiah and as the Son of God. They manifested an anti-Christ spirit. They called darkness light, and called the light darkness. That which they esteemed as “light” was in fact the gross darkness of Lucifer. As the Jews perform the Sabbath rituals weekly they are inviting the wisdom of Lucifer under the guise of the feminine Queen of Heaven into their homes.

One tradition of the rabbis is to leave the doors of the home open, or to turn and face the door, as one is reciting the Sabbath prayer and inviting the Sabbath Queen to enter the home. Brothers and sisters, let it be recognized that this is a summoning. It matters not whether the summoning employs some phrase recognized as ritual magic, or whether it is quoting a passage from the Scriptures. Witchcraft is being performed.

In closing this chapter I mention with some regret that William Schnoebelen, after having been converted to Christianity and repenting of his former associations as a Druid priest, a Wiccan Warlock, a Freemason, a Satanist, and a Mormon elder, fell into the subtle trap of the Hebrew Roots movement back in the late 1980s. He began wearing the kippah in 2001 and now is recognized as a rabbi under the authority of Ed Nydle of B’nai Avraham, a Two-House Hebrew Roots congregation. Following is a statement on the website of B’nai Avraham.

Our community seeks to engage in open interactive dialogue and stay on the cutting edge of traditional teachings of the sages of ancient Yisrael and Yahshua HaMashiach. We incorporate the TaNaK, Brit Chadashah, Talmud, Midrash, Zohar, and Kabbalah in all our discussions. We encourage questions and free thinking in our studies.

[Source: <http://www.bnaiavraham.net/index2.html>]

The TaNaK is the Old Testament of the Bible. The Brit Chadashah is the New Testament. If the statement had stopped there, there would be far less reason for concern. However, they add to their sources of inspiration the Talmud and Midrash of the apostate rabbis, and the Zohar which is the

primary document of Kabbalah. Having climbed out of the ditch on one side of the road, Mr. Schnoebelen fell headlong into the ditch on the other side. He is right back where he started, observing Luciferian practices such as Hanukkah and wearing the kippah while being led into error by apostate Jews who denied the deity of the Son of God. Such is the cunning of Satan. The whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

The Imitation of Error

HaShem - יהוה

HaShem is the Hebrew word which pious Jews use instead of the yod-hey-vav-hey (יהוה- YHVH) name, in casual conversations, and literally means The Name. When they encounter this name during prayers or when reading from the Torah, they visualize יהוה and say Adonai. HaShem is used 7484 times in the Tanach.

I am oftentimes made aware that a person writing to me has come under the influence of the false teachings and practices of the Hebrew Roots movement when I observe them referring to Yahweh as “G_d,” or “L_rd.” The omission of the vowel renders the word unpronounceable, which is the very purpose for writing in this manner. The rationale behind this behavior is the errant idea among the Jewish rabbis that Yahweh’s name is so holy that it should never be uttered by the lips of unholy men and women. Yahweh’s name is indeed holy, and it should only be used in a faithful manner, but our heavenly Father never intended for His sons and daughters to remove His name from their lips.

It is senseless to extrapolate this behavior out to include all words which are a reference to Yahweh, especially those words which are not names at all, but which are merely titles or pronouns. Such words are already substitutes, and not the actual name of the Creator. The words God and Lord are not names. They are titles describing a position, or role. The practice of omitting the vowels from these generic titles is absurd. There is absolutely no precedent within the divinely inspired Scriptures for avoiding the pronunciation of the name Yahweh, and certainly none for removing the vowels from titles and pronouns that are a reference to Yahweh or His Son Yahshua.

When I observe Christians mindlessly imitating the behavior of apostate Jewish rabbis who have rejected Yahshua as their Messiah, I marvel, wondering what errors of the rabbis they will not imitate. To follow the behavior and traditions of men without testing them against the Spirit and the Word of God is not wisdom. It is little wonder that these same individuals embrace other errors associated with apostate Judaism such as celebrating Hanukkah, wearing the kippah or tallit, adorning themselves, their homes, or churches with the Luciferian symbol falsely called the Star of David, or mimicking the Sabbath candle-burning rituals which are a form of witchcraft.

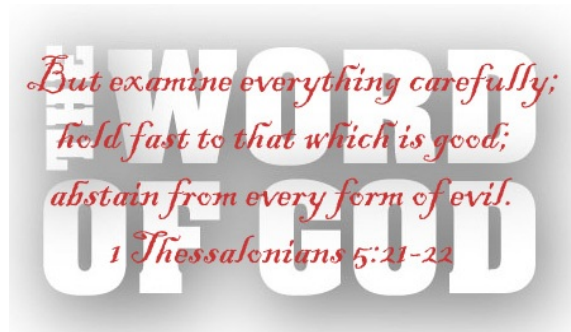
If you are one who has been guilty of doing such things and are now having your eyes opened to see the error present in these actions, my intent is not to shame you. Rather, I would have you consider how you arrived at these actions. Did you abandon the discipline all disciples of Christ should manifest by failing to test carefully the doctrines, symbols, rites, and holidays that other men and women were introducing you to?

Perhaps you were a child and your parents raised you up under the influence of the spiritual error embraced by many Messianic and Hebrew Roots congregations. Or perhaps you were unsaved and were introduced to Christ by someone who was a member of one of these groups. I can well understand how such an individual might innocently be introduced to error. What I am finding, however, is that the majority of individuals embracing the errors of the Hebrew Roots movement which I have been setting forth in this book, have done so as adults after being professing Christians for many years. Where is their exercise of discernment? Where is their testing of the doctrines and practices they are encountering?

The Bible is filled with admonitions for the disciples of Christ to study, to examine carefully, to test all things before embracing them. Both Christ and His apostles admonished the churches to beware of wolves, to be alert to false doctrines, to walk wisely in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. Over and over the New Testament warns believers to “not be deceived.” They are told to “be on the alert because your adversary the devil prowls about as a roaring lion seeking someone to devour” (I Peter 5:8).

What is the condition of the church today? Are they alert and vigilant? (Luke 21:36, Acts 20:31, I Thessalonians 5:6) Are they skilled and powerful in their handling of the Word of Truth? (II Timothy 2:15, Acts 18:24) Do they act as the noble Bereans, searching the Scriptures diligently to see whether the doctrines and practices they are encountering are established and confirmed by the word of Yahweh? (Acts 17:10-11) The answer on all counts is a resounding “NO!” How then will the people of God be able to stand in the approaching hour when the dragon will open his mouth and pour out a flood to sweep the church away to destruction? (Revelation 12:15) How will they stand in an hour when deception will be so subtle, so powerful, so persuasive that if possible even the elect of God might be deceived? (Matthew 24:24)

Brothers and sisters, hear these words of admonishment and correction. You will ONLY be able to stand as you exercise YOUR responsibility to test all teachings, looking to the Spirit of Christ and the testimony of Scriptures to identify both truth and error. If you shirk this duty, you do so at your own peril.



We must cease being followers of other men and begin to act as followers of Yahweh and of His Christ. The only explanation I have arrived at for so many Christians adopting this false practice of replacing the name Yahweh with substitute words, and even then adopting the tradition of replacing the vowels with the underscore character “_” is that they are imitating the error of others before them. The cycle of error will only be broken when the people of God begin proving all things themselves.

I was a young teenager in the 1970s when I discovered that the King James Bible I was being taught from had unfaithfully rendered the divine names. I had my *Strong's Concordance* out and began going verse by verse replacing the generic words “Lord,” “God,” and “Lord God” with the English equivalents of the Hebrew words. I began to write over each occurrence of these references to divinity “Adonai,” “Elohim,” and “Yahweh.” I soon became daunted at the challenge as I found that the word Elohim, meaning “a mighty one,” occurs 2,596 times in the Old Testament. All but a few of these occurrences are used as references to Yahweh. The word Adonai which translates into English as “Lord,” occurs 324 times in the Old Testament, though many instances of it are to people rather than to deity. Most daunting of all, the name Yahweh appears 6,828 times in the Hebrew text of the Old Testament. The shorter name Yah appears an additional 48 times. All of these uses of divine names

and titles were divinely inspired as the Holy Spirit moved upon men to write out the Scriptures.

(Note: All number totals are derived from my present Bible Study software, PC Study Bible.)

Back at the beginning of my online ministry I posted a writing explaining the usage of divine names in my writings. Following is an excerpt from that document.

For various reasons the translators down through the ages have chosen to render the divine names as something other than that which is accurate and original. One reason is due to a misapplication of the third commandment that Moses brought down on the stone tablets from Mount Sinai. The commandment I refer to is the one which instructs the followers of Yahweh to not use His name in a vain manner. The command is often rendered in the following fashion in popular translations.

Exodus 20:7

"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain."

(NAS)

You will note the uppercase spelling of the word *LORD* in this verse. If you were to read the translators' notes for this Bible version, and many others, you would find that the translators chose to replace the name *Yahweh* with the title *LORD* everywhere that it occurs. Additionally, the word *God* is a translation of the word *Elohim*, which denotes a divine being (a mighty one). This verse could be more authentically rendered in the following manner.

You shall not lift up or bear the name of Yahweh your Elohim falsely, deceptively, or in vain, for Yahweh will not regard him as guiltless who lifts up or bears His name in a false, deceptive, or vain manner.

The Hebrew word that is often rendered as *in vain* is translated as *false* just a few verses later in the commandment "Thou shalt not bear *false* witness," so one can readily see that the Hebrew word holds different shades of meaning. The Elohim of Israel whose name is Yahweh was declaring that His name was not to be used indiscriminately. The name Yahweh was to be used with great integrity.

It was the practice of some Jewish scribes, when making copies of the scriptures, to not write out the name Yahweh when it occurred in the text, for they misconstrued the above commandment to mean that Yahweh's name should not ever be written or uttered, for it was a holy name. Indeed it is a holy name, but Yahweh never commanded that it should not be written or uttered. He commanded that it should not be used in a false, deceptive, or vain way.

For example, today when men give oaths they often swear on the Bible, or they swear by God. They are saying that as God and His word are true, so is their word true. If a man were to swear by the name of Yahweh this would be a similar binding oath. However, if the man really did not mean what he was saying, he would be using the name of Yahweh falsely.

Another very common and appropriate application of this command has to do with speaking forth things, and claiming the words which are spoken are of divine origin. Throughout the Old Testament we find that there were often myriads of false prophets of Yahweh for every true prophet. When a

man proclaims himself to be speaking the words of Yahweh, he should make very certain that his words are indeed Yahweh's words. The punishment for prophesying falsely in the name of Yahweh was that the prophet was to be stoned.

Was it such a great issue that a man should speak something that was untrue? We know that Yahweh also forbid lying, but we are not told that liars were to be stoned. False prophets were to be stoned because they went beyond lying and they used Yahweh's name in a false manner. They ascribed something to Yahweh that He did not say or command to be spoken. This was a most serious violation and it touches on the commandment regarding how men are to use Yahweh's name.

The intent of the commandment regarding Yahweh's name is that His name is to be used faithfully, honestly, and with good purpose. It is not to be used falsely, deceptively, or in a vain or trivial way. Unfortunately, many translators even today have a false understanding of this command and it is the practice to not write out the name of Yahweh at all. Yet we are plainly told in scriptures that man was given this name as the name by which Yahweh was to be remembered throughout all generations.

Exodus 3:15

And Elohim, furthermore, said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, '***Yahweh***, the Elohim of your fathers, the Elohim of Abraham, the Elohim of Isaac, and the Elohim of Jacob, has sent me to you.' ***This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.***"

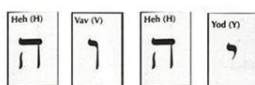
The name Yahweh is often also rendered in a shortened version as Yah... As one realizes this they can see that it was not the practice of the ancient Hebrews to avoid usage of the names Yah and Yahweh, for many of them had His name as part of their own. Elijah is Eli-yah, his name meaning *mighty Yah*. Jeremiah is Jeremi-yah, his name meaning *Yah will rise*. Joshua is Yah-shua, his name meaning *Yah's salvation*. There are many more instances of Israelites who had Yah's name as part of their own. Clearly, they had no understanding that His name was not to be uttered.

As one looks at the root of the word hallelujah it is further evidence that there was no prohibition in using His name. The word hallelujah is hallelu-yah. (The J in old English was pronounced as a Y, and only in recent years has the pronunciation changed, but not when this word is pronounced.) The word hallelujah is of Hebrew origin and it means *praise Yah*...

[End Excerpt]

TETRAGRAMMATON

READ FROM RIGHT TO LEFT



Modern Hebrew



Middle Hebrew



Early Pictographic Hebrew

Theologians refer to the divine name in the Hebrew manuscripts of the Old Testament as the Tetragrammaton. Tetragrammaton is a word of Greek derivation meaning "consisting of four letters."

In the Hebrew manuscripts the name which is commonly rendered as Yahweh today consists of the four Hebrew letters Yod He Waw He (or Yod Hey Vav Hey). Note that in reading these letters in the various Hebrew scripts above, they are read from right to left, the opposite of English. The prohibition of the rabbis against pronouncing the divine name is quite ancient, going back to the oral Torah before it was put in written form by Rabbi Judah in the Mishna which is the first part of the Talmud. The Mishna states, *“He who pronounces the Name with its own letters has no part in the world to come!”*

So great was the rabbinic prohibition against pronouncing the name of Yahweh that it is often referred to as the ineffable, or unutterable name. Ineffable is defined as *“too great or extreme to be expressed or described in words; not to be uttered.”* I would invite the reader to consider the cunning of Satan in inducing the Jews to adopt this prohibition. As we have seen, Talmudic and Kabbalistic Judaism is Luciferian in nature. Would not Satan desire to erase the name of the Creator who cast him out of heaven from the minds of Yahweh’s people? To accomplish this stunning coup, Satan once more resorted to cunning and deception. He persuaded the people of God that they were actually showing honor to Yahweh by declaring His name to be so sacred that it should not be uttered. Satan thereby removed the name of the God of Israel from the minds and lips of the people, a triumph which has no parallel in the annals of any other people or deity.

Tragically, this victory of Satan has carried over from apostate Judaism to Christianity. Christian theologians and Bible scholars tasked with creating translations of the Old and New Testaments of the Bible have followed the apostate pattern of the Jewish scribes and rabbis by replacing the name of Yahweh with titular substitutes. I will quote again from the earlier document I wrote on this subject.

What justification do the translators of the most common English Bibles give for replacing the Divine name of Yahweh with a titular substitute? Following is the explanation found in the *New American Standard Bible* put out by the Lockman Foundation.

The Proper Names of God in the Old Testament: In the scriptures, the name of God is most significant and understandably so. It is inconceivable to think of spiritual matters without a proper designation for the Supreme Deity. Thus the most common name for the deity is God, a translation of the original Elohim. One of the titles for God is Lord, a translation of Adonai. There is yet another name which is particularly assigned to God as His special or proper name, that is, the four letters YHWH (Exodus 3:14 and Isaiah 42:8). This name has not been pronounced by the Jews because of reverence for the great sacredness of the divine name. Therefore, it has been consistently translated Lord. The only exception to this translation of YHWH is when it occurs in immediate proximity to the word Lord, that is, Adonai. In that case it is regularly translated God in order to avoid confusion. It is known for many years YHWH has been transliterated as Yahweh, however no complete certainty attaches to this pronunciation.

(NASB © 1985 Holman Bible Publishers)

As I look at this explanation I find some very distinct problems. The publishers admit that “the name of God is most significant and understandably so,” yet they go on to state that they have removed His “special or proper name” in every occurrence throughout the Old Testament, without exception. Furthermore, they state that “the most common name for deity is God,” yet God is not a name at all, it is a title denoting a divine being and it can be equally ascribed to false divinity as well as that which is true. They have even stated that God is a translation of Elohim.

Elohim is never given as the proper name of Yahweh in scripture. Elohim is a title that refers to a divine being and in the following passage we can see that it was not exclusively used as a reference to Yahweh.

Exodus 12:12

'For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the *elohim* (gods) of Egypt I will execute judgments - I am Yahweh.

The translators are clearly wrong in stating that “*the most common **name** for deity is God.*” They would have been closer to the truth in saying “*the most common **title** for deity is God.*” Anytime the writers of scripture wanted to declare who their Elohim was they gave His “special or proper name” Yahweh. They did this with amazing consistency so that Yahweh occurs 6,828 times in the Old Testament with Yah occurring an additional 49 times. Yet for all this, the translators have chosen to totally remove the names Yahweh and Yah from scripture and they have based it solely upon the following argument: “*This name has not been pronounced by the Jews because of reverence for the great sacredness of the divine name. Therefore, it has been consistently translated Lord.*”

Did the translators give some divine commandment as their authority for removing Yahweh’s name from scripture? No! They based this very profound decision totally upon the tradition of the Jews... What is the commandment of Yahweh concerning the usage of His name? We are not left without understanding.

Exodus 3:15

And God said moreover unto Moses, “Thus shall you say unto the Children of Israel, Yahweh God of your fathers... has sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.”

I Chronicles 17:24

"And let Your name be established and magnified forever, saying, 'Yahweh of hosts is the God of Israel, even a God to Israel; and the house of David Your servant is established before You.'"

Psalms 29:2

Ascribe to Yahweh the glory due to His name; worship Yahweh in holy array.

Psalms 72:17-19

May his name endure forever; may his name increase as long as the sun shines and let men bless themselves by him; let all nations call him blessed. Blessed be Yahweh God, the God of Israel, who alone works wonders. And blessed be His glorious name forever; and may the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen, and Amen.

Psalms 105:1-3

Oh, give thanks to Yahweh! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek Yahweh!

Psalms 113:3

From the rising of the sun to its going down Yahweh's name is to be praised.

Hosea 12:5

Even Yahweh, the God of hosts; Yahweh is His name.

Zechariah 13:9

"And I will bring the third part through the fire, refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are My people,' and they will say, 'Yahweh is my God.'"

These are but a few of the many thousands of instances in which the name Yahweh is mentioned throughout scripture. We are told that this is His memorial name. This name is to be praised. This is the name His people are to call upon. We are to ascribe to Yahweh the glory due His name. We are to give thanks to Yahweh in this name. We are to proclaim this name and honor and fear His name. This is the name that is to endure forever.

What a tragedy has occurred in removing the revealed name of God from scripture. The name Yahweh has been totally removed. It brings one to consider Jeremiah's words:

Jeremiah 23:26-27

Is there anything in the hearts of the prophets who prophesy falsehood, even these prophets of the deception of their own heart, who intend to make My people forget My name by their dreams which they relate to one another, just as their fathers forgot My name...

Truly, Christianity today has forgotten the name of Yahweh. Most only know Him by titles and by the substitutions the translators have placed in the scriptures that are used throughout Christendom.

It has not just been the NASB publishers that have followed this pattern of removing the name of Yahweh from scripture. All of the most popular English translations have done the same. Their reasoning is no more righteous, for they have not based their decision upon the commandment of Yahweh, but upon the traditions of men.

For two reasons the Committee has returned to the more familiar usage [of substituting YHWH with either the LORD or GOD] of the King James Version: (1) the word 'Jehovah' does not accurately represent any form of the name ever used in Hebrew; and (2) the use of any proper name for the one and only God ... was discontinued in Judaism before the Christian era and is entirely inappropriate for the universal faith of the Christian Church.
(Revised Standard Version)

What a bold declaration, *"the use of any proper name for the one and only God... was discontinued in Judaism before the Christian era and is entirely inappropriate for the universal faith of the Christian Church."* Where is the scripture to justify such a statement? Where is any explanation other than that the Jews through their traditions, not by commandment from Yahweh, quit using His name? How can they so brazenly assert that it is *"entirely inappropriate"* to use the name Yahweh? If the Holy Spirit inspired the scriptures and chose to have the name recorded nearly seven thousand times, how can man declare that it is inappropriate to use the name?

The *NIV Study Bible* merely gives the following statement regarding their practice of name substitution:

In regard to the divine name YHWH, commonly referred to as the tetragrammaton, the translators adopted the device used in most English versions of rendering that name as “LORD” in capital letters to distinguish it from Adonai, another Hebrew word rendered “Lord”, for which small letters are used.

(*NIV Study Bible* © 1985 by The Zondervan Corporation)

A similar statement is made by the translators of the *New Living Translation*:

We have rendered the tetragrammaton (YHWH) consistently as “the LORD,” utilizing a form with small capital letters that is common among English translations.

(*New Living Translation* © 1996 by Tyndale House Charitable Trust)

Again, there is no divine command cited to justify this practice. It is merely stated that “*the device used in most English versions*” has been followed, or that the editors have utilized a form “*that is common among English translations.*” When one undertakes such an important labor as producing a copy of the holy scriptures to be read by millions of people, one should approach the labor with the greatest of integrity seeking to walk in strict obedience to the revealed mind of the Father. Making profound decisions that result in altering the scriptures just because other men have done so is no justification at all. It is the height of audacity to then turn around and say that using the divine name, as recorded by holy men and prophets at the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, is totally inappropriate for the universal Christian faith. What is truly totally inappropriate is making wholesale changes to the scriptures and basing such decisions on tradition and the devices of men.

[End Excerpt]

Brothers and sisters, I can think of no more sinister act that has been perpetrated by Satan upon the people of Yahweh than to remove all memory and mention of the name of their God from their minds and lips. In their times of apostasy the Hebrew people were very quick to declare the names of the Baals and Asherim which they worshiped. Yet with great cunning Satan removed from the Israelites the worship and memory of the name of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, known unto these men and unto Moses as Yahweh.

We are told that as early as the grandson of Adam, the son of Seth whose name was Enos, that men began to call upon the name of Yahweh.

Genesis 4:26

And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of Yahweh.

Look up this passage in any of the popular English translations and this profound truth is obscured, for the Hebrew Tetragrammaton has been unfaithfully rendered as “Lord” instead of “Yahweh.” Noah knew the name of Yahweh, and in this name He offered sacrifice and prayed.

Genesis 8:20

Then Noah built an altar to Yahweh...

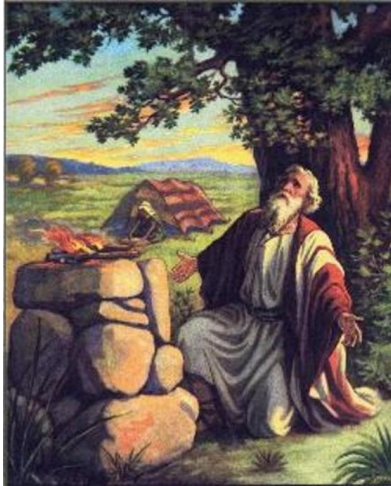
Genesis 9:26

And he said, "Blessed be Yahweh..."

Abraham also built an altar to Yahweh, and with the name of Yahweh he prayed to his God.

Genesis 12:7-8

Then Yahweh appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to Yahweh, who had appeared to him. And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to Yahweh and called on the name of Yahweh.



Abraham Calling on the Name of Yahweh

As has happened time and again in the apostasy of the Jewish people, the rabbis turned aside from the pure worship of Yahweh and devised doctrines and traditions which led the people away from truth. They removed the name of their God from before the faces of Yahweh's people. Not only did the rabbis substitute titles for the divine name, making it part of Halakha (Jewish Law) that the letters Yod-He-Waw-He should be pronounced as Adonai (meaning "Lord"), but they even declared that Adonai was only to be uttered in prayer. Whenever the Jewish people make reference to their God in conversation they are commanded to use the phrase "HaShem." HaShem is a Hebrew phrase meaning "the name."



The absurdity of this is staggering. What the rabbis have done is create a form of idolatry where they worship a name, rather than the Being to whom the name refers. The complete folly of this practice is that the actual name is NEVER spoken by the Jews. The Talmud, which is revered more highly than the Scriptures themselves, insures that this is so by declaring that any who utter the name of

Yahweh will have no part in the world to come. Yahshua spoke truly when He declared “You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition” (Mark 7:9). Rather than magnifying the name of their God, they have forsaken it. Under the guise of venerating the holy name of Yahweh, they have prohibited it from ever being uttered in prayer, extolled in songs of worship, or magnified through the testimony of the people of Israel.

It is not only the Hebrew Roots Christians who have followed the practice of apostate Judaism in eradicating the name of Yahweh from their midst. This practice is followed in all of the popular English Bible translations used by the churches today. This was not always the case. In 1901 the American Standard Version of the Bible was published and soon gained popularity among Christians and in the Seminaries. Its popularity waned by the 1950s when more modern English translations came out. The ASV used Elizabethan English which many Americans found difficult, but it did translate the Tetragrammaton rather than using a substitute word. However, the name used to translate the Tetragrammaton was “Jehovah,” a spelling that has since been deemed by most Biblical scholars to not accurately reflect the correct pronunciation of the divine name.

In 1997 a group began a revision on the American Standard Version. The editorial changes included replacing Jehovah with Yahweh. The revision process also included the updating of approximately 1,000 archaic words, phrases and grammatical constructs. The ASV did not use quotation marks and some other punctuation, so these were added as well. The completed revision is called the *World English Bible* (WEB). It can be found in electronic and print editions. It is available as a free download for PC Study Bible, and is available for other Bible study software including free programs such as E-Sword.

<http://ebible.org/web/links.htm>

A paperback edition can be purchased on Amazon. If you want a literal translation of the Scriptures (not a paraphrase or dynamic equivalency translation) that has restored the name of Yahweh to the Scriptures, you may find this translation suitable.

<http://www.amazon.com/World-English-Bible-Michael-Johnson/dp/1497365015/>

The WEB does use the name Jesus to refer to the Son of God. There are some other sacred name translations of the Bible that use more authentic Hebrew renderings for the name of the Son of God, such as Yeshua, or Yahshua. However, many Sacred Name Bibles have followed editorial policies which have introduced additional errors into the Scriptures which prevent me from recommending them. You can read more about Bible translations in the writing I have made available titled *Yahweh's Book*.

On a related subject I would share some comments on Christians adopting excessive amounts of Hebraisms in their speech. It is my conviction that if a Christian wants to learn the Hebrew alphabet and language in order to aid them in their Bible study, they may very well find their efforts to be profitable. They should be prepared for years of study, however, as the Hebrew language is very different from English, and Biblical Hebrew differs significantly from Modern Hebrew which is spoken in Israel today.

It was my desire in my younger years to attend Bible College and possibly Seminary in order to learn

the languages of the Bible, but Yahweh closed those doors. He chose to take me down a different path to learn spiritual truth, a path that was largely “outside the camp” of mainstream Christianity. In hindsight I see the wisdom of this, for the Bible Colleges and Seminaries are much affected by an attempt to mentally apprehend spiritual truth when Yahweh’s school of training is always much more experiential in nature. We observe this as we read about the lives of the 12 disciples who “walked” with Yahshua, following wherever He led, partaking of His life and trials and suffering. These fisherman and other “unlearned men” gained through these experiences, and the impartation of the Spirit of Christ at Pentecost, a spiritual insight that confounded the Jewish religious leaders.

Acts 4:13

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and had perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled. They recognized that they had been with Yahshua.

What I have learned, I have gained from walking with Yahshua and being taught of the Holy Spirit. Much of my training has been “outside the camp, bearing the reproaches of Christ.” I have learned to use numerous Bible study tools and resources, including Hebrew and Greek Concordances (Strong’s, Young’s, Englishmans), the Interlinear Hebrew and Greek Scriptures, and various Bible dictionaries, but I am not fluent in Biblical Hebrew or Greek. I have learned a number of Hebrew and Greek words that are significant and appear in my studies, but I do not go about interspersing Hebrew or Greek words in my daily conversation. To do so would render my speech unintelligible to the majority of English speakers.

I receive correspondence from men and women who hail from a wide variety of Christian backgrounds. Many of them are Messianic and Hebrew Roots followers. I have routinely encountered a large amount of Hebrew words and phrases in their correspondence, often to such an extent that I lose all comprehension of what they are talking about. I have frequently found myself looking up these Hebrew expressions online that I might know what is being communicated to me.

Understand that I am more familiar than most English speaking Christians with the languages of the Bible, but I am left confounded by many of the letters I receive. These letters often open with a Hebrew greeting such as “Shalom Aleichem” (meaning “peace to you”). They will almost always include Hebrew words to reference God (HaShem is common). The Holy Spirit will be referred to as the Ruach HaKodesh. It is also common to find the writer using rabbinic Judaism’s forms of writing such as “G_d” and “L_rd.” When speaking of the Sabbath they will write “Shabbat.” Passover becomes “Pesach,” the Feast of Tabernacles is “Sukkot,” and Pentecost is “Shavuot.”

I can track pretty well with these Hebrew expressions, having some understanding of their meaning. I am finding, however, that many English speaking Christians apparently believe that the more Hebrew words they can incorporate in their communications, the more pleasing to “HaShem” they will be. Such ones speak of performing “mitzvahs” (Hebrew for “commandments”) and of readings from the Parashot and Haftorah. The letter may end with something like:

Y'va-reh-ch'cha Adonai v'yish-m'reh-cha.

Ya-eir Adonai pa-nav ei-leh-cha vi-chu-neh-ka.

Yisa Adonai pa-nav ei-leh-cha v'ya-seim l'cha sha-lom.

By now I have figured out that this is the Aaronic blessing written in transliterated phonetic Hebrew

May God bless you and keep you.

May God's light shine upon you, and may God be gracious to you.

May you feel God's Presence within you always, and may you find peace.



There is often so much Hebrew language interspersed in the correspondence from brothers and sisters in the Messianic and Hebrew Roots movement that I feel the need of a translator. I profess to enjoy the sound of the Hebrew language being spoken, but I do not understand it. Like Paul, I see the wisdom in speaking five words in a known tongue rather than ten thousand words in a language the hearer does not recognize (I Corinthians 14:19).

What is the attraction for so many in the Hebrew Roots movement to adopt Hebrew speech? I believe the rationale is misplaced. I recently read one person's comment that since all people will be speaking Hebrew in the millennial kingdom when Yahshua reigns upon the earth, they want to get a head start on speaking Hebrew now. A younger sister in the Lord explained her attraction for the Hebrew language, alphabet, symbols and customs with the following words.

To be drawn to learning Hebrew as I have, and using the Messiah's Hebrew name etc., does not mean one is committed to an 'old covenant.' My understanding is that it is natural to move in this direction, as we are grafted as wild branches into the natural tree which is Israel, which is whom the new covenant that we have entered into by faith, was made with 'The House of Israel and the House of Judah.' (Jer 31.31, Heb 8.8). So we will be attracted to a Hebraic way of life.

What this young woman very eloquently expressed seems to sum up the thoughts of a great many who are adopting Hebrew speech, customs and other aspects of Jewish life. They equate a Hebraic way of life to becoming more like Christ, or of demonstrating a love for the Savior. Some are even going so far as to move to Israel. Another possible motive for adopting Hebrew speech and customs may be that the individual believes the Jewish way of life is Yahweh's ideal for humanity. Such reasons are predicated upon a basic fallacy.

Yahweh did not choose the Hebrew people because they spoke a heavenly language, or because they were more spiritual than other people. As was shared in an earlier chapter, Abraham came from a family of idolaters.

Joshua 24:2-3

And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says Yahweh, the God of Israel, '**From ancient times your fathers lived beyond the River, namely, Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, and**

they served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River, and led him through all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his descendants...

Abraham was an Aramean. He came from the land of Babylon, the very heartland of idolatry. Abraham's language was that of the Babylonians. When Judah and Jerusalem were taken captive to Babylon 1,400 years after Abraham, they were returning to the land of their forefathers. While Judah sojourned in Babylon six centuries before Christ, they got a refresher course on the language and alphabet of Babylon which was Aramaic. The Hebrew language always has been a dialect of Aramaic.

If you understand this, then you may recognize the error of suggesting that Hebrew is a holy language, or that all mankind will speak Hebrew during the millennial reign of Christ. Babylon has always represented confusion. It was at Babel that man's speech was first confused. If Abraham were to sit down with an Israeli Jew today, they would not be able to recognize one another's speech. Neither would they be able to communicate through writing, for they would not recognize the alphabet the other person was using. In *Yahweh's Book* I shared the following.























We see evidence of the profound changes that occurred in the Hebrew's speech in an account found in the book of II Kings. About 1300 years after Abraham's descendants had been dwelling in Canaan, King Sennacherib of Assyria laid siege to Jerusalem in the days of King Hezekiah. Sennacherib's commander, the Rabshakeh, came out to speak to the Jews, taunting them. The Rabshakeh spoke openly in Hebrew. One of Hezekiah's ministers urged the Rabshakeh to speak to Hezekiah's servants in Aramaic, for the common people of Judea no longer understood the language.

II Kings 18:26

Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, Shebna, and Joah said to the Rabshakeh, "Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it; and do not speak to us in Hebrew in the hearing of the people who are on the wall."

The speech of Abraham's descendants was still considered an Aramaic language in Hezekiah's day, but we see that it had become so differentiated from the Aramaic of the land of Assyria and Babylon that most of the Hebrews could no longer understand Aramaic. A century after this, the Jews were taken captive into the land of Babylon. There they were once more subjected to the Aramaic language. It became a matter of necessity for the Jews to speak Aramaic so that they could dwell in Babylon, conduct business, and converse with their Babylonian neighbors. Consequently, when the Jews returned to Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile they were now speaking Aramaic. While in Babylon, the Jews also abandoned the Paleo Hebrew alphabet and adopted the Aramaic square script.

Paleo-Hebrew (Ugaritic) Script

	Aleph - Ox (A)		Lamed - Ox-goad (L)
	Beth - Tent (B,V)		Mem - Water (M)
	Gimel - Camel (G, GH)		Nun - Fish (N)
	Daleth - Door (D)		Samekh - Prop (S)
	Heh - Window (H)		Ayin - Eye (Aa)
	Vav - Stake (U,V,W)		Peh - Mouth (P, Ph)
	Zain - Sword (Z)		Tzaddi - Fishhook (Tz)
	Cheth - Window (Ch)		Qoph - Ear (Q)
	Teth - Serpent (T)		Resh - Head (R)
	Yod - Hand (I,Y,J)		Shin - Tooth (Sh)
	Kaph - Palm (K,Kh)		Tau - Cross (Th)

The alphabet above would have been familiar to the inhabitants of Canaan during the time Joshua led the Israelites in to conquer the land, circa 1,500 B.C..

Aramaic (Square) Script or Biblical Hebrew

	Aleph - Ox (A)		Lamed - Ox-goad (L)
	Beth - Tent (B,V)		Mem - Water (M)
	Gimel - Camel (G, GH)		Nun - Fish (N)
	Daleth - Door (D)		Samekh - Prop (S)
	Heh - Window (H)		Ayin - Eye (Aa)
	Vav - Stake (U,V,W)		Peh - Mouth (P, Ph)
	Zain - Sword (Z)		Tzaddi - Fishhook (Tz)
	Cheth - Fence (Ch)		Qoph - Ear (Q)
	Teth - Serpent (T)		Resh - Head (R)
	Yod - Hand (I,Y,J)		Shin - Tooth (Sh)
	Kaph - Palm (K,Kh)		Tau - Cross (Th)

The Alphabet above is what the Jewish people adopted while in Babylonian captivity around 600 B.C.. This shows how much a single language can change over the course of time. While the Jewish people were dwelling in Babylon, Aramaic became the every day language of the Hebrews in exile. Aramaic remained the common language of the Jews in what is referred to as "the Second Temple Period." This time spanned between 539 B.C. when the Jews returned from Babylon, and 70 A.D. when the Temple was destroyed, along with Jerusalem, by the Roman General Titus. These years fully encompassed the life and ministry of Christ in Judea. That Christ and His disciples spoke Aramaic is evident from the New Testament Scriptures. The following verses all include examples of Yahshua speaking in Aramaic.

Mark 5:41

And taking the child by the hand, He said to her, "**Talitha kum!**" (which translated means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!").

Mark 7:31-34

And again He went out from the region of Tyre, and came through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, within the region of Decapolis. And they brought to Him one who was deaf and spoke with difficulty, and they entreated Him to lay His hand upon him. And He took him aside from the multitude by himself, and put His fingers into his ears, and after spitting, He touched his tongue with the saliva; and looking up to heaven with a deep sigh, He said to him, “*Ephphatha!*” that is, "Be opened!"

Mark 15:34

And at the ninth hour Yahshua cried out with a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*” which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

As one might anticipate, when the Jews returned to the land of Israel after their sojourning in Babylon, the Aramaic they spoke once again began to differentiate itself from that which was spoken elsewhere. Over time it once more became distinct so that in the time of Christ the speech of the Jews was again referred to as Hebrew. Many language scholars, however, believe it is more accurate to describe the language spoken by the Judeans of Christ's day as “the Aramaic vernacular (or dialect) of the Jews.”

[End Excerpt]

It appears that most notions of the Hebrew language being divine, or favored by God, are predicated upon a complete ignorance of the origin of Hebrew. Some suggest that it was the language spoken by Adam and all of his descendants until the tower of Babel. Such a claim is indefensible for if the language had become so transformed in 1,400 years from Abraham to Hezekiah to be unintelligible, the Hebrew speaking people of Christ's day, much less this present day, would not recognize anything that was spoken prior to the flood of Noah. Can you understand the following words?

Fæder ure þu þe eart on heofonum;
Si þin nama gehalgot
to becume þin rice
gewurþe ðin willa
on eorðan swa swa on heofonum.
urne gedæghwamlīcan hlaf syle us todæg
and forgyf us ure gyltas
swa swa we forgyfað urum gyltendum
and ne gelæd þu us on costnunge
ac alys us of yfele soþlice

The words above are *The Lord's Prayer*, the one that Christ taught His disciples that begins with “Our Father Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.” The language it is written in is English, Old English. It is written as the words might have appeared about 1100 years ago. The Hebrew language has undergone just as much, if not more, transformation in the same length of time, with this process being repeated many times over.

If you learn modern Hebrew you are NOT learning the Hebrew of Yahshua's day, and if you learn Aramaic as it was spoken 2,000 years ago it is NOT any language that King David, or Moses, or Abraham would understand. Again, if you learned the Aramaic that Abraham spoke, it would be unrecognizable to those who lived before the flood of Noah. Language is not static. It is ever

changing.

If you study the subject, you will also find that the dress, the customs, and the doctrines of the Hebrews have changed just as much as their language in the same span of time. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob all dwelt in tents. They lived a nomadic life. You will find nothing similar to it in Israel today. Even Yahshua lived the life of a wanderer. He did not have a home, or a ministry center. He even had to borrow a donkey when it was time for His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. If you want to live like Yahshua, imitating His life and customs, you might start by selling your car, getting rid of your home or apartment, giving away all of your furniture and possessions to the poor, and sleeping outside on the side of a hill, or in the bow of a boat.

The reality of Yahshua's Hebraic life is not so romantic as many today imagine it to be. If Christ is the measure of a true "Hebraic life," or even Abraham, then I am confident that there are few among the Messianic and Hebrew Roots movement who would desire the real imitation. Sprinkling one's speech with modern Hebrew words, and learning how to write the Babylonian Hebrew script will not make you more like Christ. I recently came across a quotation that has a right perspective on the matter.

One who romanticizes over Judaism and loses focus of the kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a carpenter who is infatuated with the hammer, rather than the house it was meant to build.

[Troy Mitchell]

Israel - Holy Nation, or Synagogue of Satan?



Tefillin Barbie

Early on in the process of looking for images to illustrate the pages of this book, I came across some photos of a Barbie doll that was wearing the tallit (Jewish prayer shawl), the tefillin on her arm and forehead, and was holding a copy of the Talmud in one hand and a siddur (Jewish prayer book) in the other. The Tefillin Barbie was created by Jen Taylor Friedman, who is a Soferet (a female Jewish scribe). Ms. Friedman decided to dress up a Barbie doll to look like her fellow Soferets. She sells the dolls for \$150 each on her Etsy site. You can learn more about the dolls at the following webpage.

<http://www.hasoferet.com/tefillin-barbie/>

Interestingly, the Tefillin Barbie is wearing a t-shirt with the image of a black cat on it. This is because Ms. Friedman purchased the 2006 *Halloween Hip Barbie* due to its modest denim skirt which is a dress style common among her friends. The depiction of a black cat on the t-shirt was an unintentional byproduct of purchasing a Halloween Barbie. Nevertheless, its presence as a symbol of witchcraft, being the favored pet of witches, speaks of a relationship between rabbinic Judaism and witchcraft that is very real, seldom recognized, and almost never admitted.

The role of a Jewish Scribe, or Sofer, has traditionally been a male occupation. The first female Sofer in the modern era was certified in 2003. Her name is Aviel Barclay. She created a blog to serve as a record of her groundbreaking experiences. At the top of the blog she has the following quotation posted.

*"Let us restore **the Divine In-Dwelling** to **Her Place in Zion** & infuse **Her spirit** throughout the whole inhabited world."*

[Source: <http://soferet.blogspot.com/>, Emphasis Added]

This is an obvious reference to the "Divine Feminine," or goddess worship. The practice of modern Wicca, or witchcraft, is predominately goddess worship. As we observed in the chapter of this writing titled *Sabbath Summoning*, the rabbinic Jews have incorporated the rites of candle magic and sex magick into their Sabbath rituals as they invite the Sabbath Queen (Shabbat Hamalka) into their homes and souls. It seems fitting, therefore, that this "Tefillin Barbie" should come adorned with a symbol of witchcraft. As much as rabbinic Judaism proclaims that they are children of Abraham and

the true guardians and purveyors of the Hebrew religion entrusted to the patriarchs and prophets of the Tanakh, they are in fact apostates who have given themselves to the service of Satan. This was true 2,000 years ago, and it continues to be true today. Because Yahshua confronted the Jewish religious leaders and rebuked them for pretending to be devoted servants of Yahweh when they were in fact full of deceit, Satanic practices, and pride, the orthodox Jews to this day hate and revile the Son of God.

What would your opinion have been of the Priests, Scribes, and Pharisees if you had encountered them 2,000 years ago? If you saw them wearing their religious robes, saying long prayers on the street corners, attending the synagogues regularly, and presenting their sacrifices at the Temple, would you not have concluded that these were the people of God, the descendants of Abraham, and the guardians of the Law entrusted to Moses? This was NOT the view of Christ. He told them plainly, “You are *not* of God. You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father.”

Many Christians would like to believe that they would have judged things rightly, having a view that was in keeping with the Son of God. Yet the experience of this present day reveals that the majority of Evangelical Christians are failing to judge as Christ would judge. Some naively believe the Orthodox Jews in Israel continue to practice the faith of Abraham and Moses. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Orthodox religious system in Israel and elsewhere has developed into a synagogue of Satan. In the book of Revelation Yahshua spoke the following words to the overcoming saints of the churches of Smyrna and Philadelphia.

Revelation 2:9

“I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.”

Revelation 3:9

“Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews, and are not, but lie - behold, I will make them to come and bow down at your feet, and to know that I have loved you.”

Christ was not declaring that these Jews were illegitimate and not actual descendants of Abraham. What He was saying is that, even though they were Hebrew men and women, they were acting like the children of the devil.

John 8:37-44

“I know that you are Abraham's offspring; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father.” They answered and said to Him, “Abraham is our father.” Yahshua said to them, “If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham. But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do. “You are doing the deeds of your father.” They said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.” Yahshua said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me; for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father.”

The Orthodox Jews who follow rabbinic Judaism, the legacy of the Pharisees of Yahshua's day, continue to bear a malevolent, devilish hatred of the Son of God. Rabbinic Judaism is rabidly anti-Christian, manifesting a greater hatred for "Yeshu" and His disciples than for any other people or belief system on earth. The Bible reveals the vehement hatred of rabbinic Judaism for Christ and His disciples. Before his conversion, the apostle Paul was a leader among the rabbinic Jews, being trained as a Pharisee in the school of Gamaliel. His violent hatred of Yahshua was exhibited in his actions which had the full endorsement of the Orthodox Jewish leaders and community.

Acts 9:1-2

But Saul (Paul), still breathing threats and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, and asked for letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, that if he found any who were of the Way (Christians), whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Acts 26:9-11

"So then, I (Paul) thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Yahshua of Nazareth. And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them. And as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and being furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities."

Few Christians outside of Israel today understand the hatred that rabbinic Judaism continues to hold toward them and their Messiah. As was mentioned in a previous chapter, the Orthodox Jews hold the Talmud, which contains the opinions of the Jewish rabbis, in higher esteem than the Tanakh (Old Testament). Passages from the Talmud accuse the Son of God of being a sorcerer and of teaching apostasy. They also describe "Yeshu" as suffering endless torments of being boiled in human excrement because He showed contempt toward the words of the rabbis (sages).

Babylonian Talmud Tractate Sanhedrin - 43a

On the eve of the Passover Yeshu was hanged. For forty days before the execution took place, a herald went forth and cried, 'He is going forth to be stoned because he has practiced sorcery and enticed Israel to apostasy. Any one who can say anything in his favor, let him come forward and plead on his behalf.' But since nothing was brought forward in his favor he was hanged on the eve of the Passover! - Ulla retorted: 'Do you suppose that he was one for whom a defense could be made? Was he not a Mesith [enticer], concerning whom Scripture says, Neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him? With Yeshu however it was different, for he was connected with the government [or royalty, i.e., influential].'

Babylonian Talmud: Tractate Gittin - Folio 57a

He then went and raised by incantations Yeshu. He asked him: Who is in repute in the other world? He replied: Israel. What about joining them? He replied: Seek their welfare, seek not their harm. Whoever touches them touches the apple of his eye. He said: What is your punishment? He replied: With boiling hot excrement, since a Master has said: Whoever mocks at the words of the Sages is punished with boiling hot excrement.

Orthodox (Talmudic) Judaism is the prevailing belief system of the Jewish people residing in Israel

today. Even those Jews who do not practice a Haredi lifestyle (Haredis are those who reject modern secular culture), are greatly influenced by rabbinic Judaism, believing it to be representative of the authentic Jewish faith. Consequently, they share the view that Yahshua was the bastard son of a Jewish woman who grew up to practice sorcery and teach heresy, being an enemy of the pure religion of the Hebrew people. What does Yahweh say about those who hold such a view of the Son of God.

I John 4:2-3

By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Yahshua Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Yahshua is not from God; and ***this is the spirit of the antichrist***, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

The Orthodox Jews refer to the Son of God as “Yeshu.” This was not the actual name that Christ went by when He walked among them. Yeshu is actually an acrostic. Each letter of this name begins a Hebrew word from a phrase that translates into English as “May his name be blotted out.” Sadly, some Messianic and Hebrew Roots Christians have adopted this name not understanding its derisive origin.

The nation of Israel today is dominated by Orthodox Judaism even as it was 2,000 years ago during the time of Yahshua’s earthly ministry. This leads to the question, “What should Christ’s disciples attitude be toward Israel today?” Many Evangelical Christians boldly affirm that they are “Pro-Israel.” This is especially true among those who are members of the Hebrew Roots Movement. Many Christians blindly support the policies of the Zionist state of Israel which is a creation of the Rothschilds and other Luciferian men and women. Many Christians believe that to support the Israeli people is a commandment of Yahweh, and they make no distinction between Talmudic Jews, secular Jews, or Messianic Jews. Is it truly the will of Yahweh that Christians throw their political, financial, and prayer support behind those who hate His Son, who teach that He was a sorcerer who is now suffering the torment of being boiled in human excrement? What is intended by Yahweh’s following promise to Abraham?

Genesis 12:2-3

I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse.

The prophet Zechariah recorded the following words of Yahweh.

Zechariah 2:7-8

“Ho, Zion! Escape, you who are living with the daughter of Babylon.” For thus says Yahweh of hosts, “After glory He has sent me against the nations which plunder you, for he who touches you, touches the apple of His eye.”

Who is Zion? Is it those who call themselves “Zionists”? I recently listened to an excellent, unusually insightful, and Biblically sound interview. Dr. Michael Bennett, a Christian minister and former host of the Future Quake internet radio program was being interviewed about a major project he has been working on for a number of years while also serving as pastor of a church in Tennessee. Michael Bennett has been laboring on a series of books, all of which are to be published simultaneously. One of the books focuses on the history of Judaism and its “holy wars.” Following are some excerpts from this radio interview. I will begin at a point where Dr. Michael Bennett is asking why we do not hear

from American Christian leaders about the true character of Judaism in Israel today.

How come we are not hearing it from our Christian media figures, our well-funded, large organization Christian media figures that are making a windfall from tours where these same gentleman (Orthodox Jews who practice sorcery) are leading the tours - sort of a Disney trip to see an idealized community there, when they do not realize that the people who lead these tours over there, when we are out of earshot, and in the Hebrew press, excoriate us as idolaters and look forward to the day when we will be destroyed? The thing that has disturbed me most about this writing project, as someone who has been a staunch Zionist, and a staunch prophecy buff..., and been hardcore in that direction, is when I read the contempt they give for our Lord and Savior. That is the part in the writing that disturbs me the most - the slanderous words that are said against the Savior of the universe and you and me.

Mr. Bennett then proceeds to give a quote out of his yet unpublished book titled *Judaism and Its Holy Wars*.

Earlier books on mystical Judaism had been in use, such as the Sefer Yetzirah, since the second century C.E., which according to the Talmud was used by pupils of the esteemed nasi Judah, the very wealthy leader of the Sanhedrin and compiler of the Mishnah, who was well liked by the Roman Emperor, to magically create a calf to eat on the Sabbath, as well as allegedly being responsible for miracles produced by other rabbis of the Tannaitic era. The 1906 Jewish Encyclopedia notes that the Sefer Yetzirah featured magical notions originating from the Babylonians and Egyptians, also with an astrological and gnostic emphasis and that "this work had a greater influence on the development of the Jewish mind than almost any other book after the completion of the Talmud," while noting the document's assertion "that the dragon rules over the world," and "good and evil have no real existence."

Mr. Bennett then comments on the Kabbalah, once more sharing a quotation from the Jewish Encyclopedia.

"It is necessary to ascertain where and when the Jews became intimately acquainted with the Hindu philosophy, which more than any other exercised an influence on the Zohar (the principle writing of Kabbalah)." They note that Jewish groups in Persia were influenced by the Vedanta school of Hindu philosophers, abstaining from meat, and developing a mystical versus literal interpretation of the Torah, and developed secret writings which formed the basis for the Zohar as a "mystical commentary on the Pentateuch as the Upanishads are the mystical interpretation of the Vedas and other Brahmic scriptures." They also note that it was so widely adopted "that it was to be placed on the same level with the Bible," and that "representatives of Talmudic Judaism began to regard it as a sacred book and to invoke its authority in the decision of ritual questions." Highly regarded are "its glorification of man, and other principles" which are more in keeping with the spirit of Talmudic Judaism.

Dr. Michael Bennett then shares further about the transformation of Judaism to the apostate Luciferian system in place today.

A turning point in my book was the appearance of rabbi Akiva. Rabbi Akiva took it upon himself to save Judaism after the fall of the Temple, and develop, and basically cement what we begin to see

after the exile and the second Temple with the rise of the rabbis supplanting the priests. That was really finished once the temple was destroyed. The Sadducees, which really represented the priests, were wiped out. The Pharisees were the only ones within Judaism who survived that era... Judaism became synonymous with Pharisaism, and the Talmud was intended to... crystalize this oral law, which they said was paramount over the written Law that we had in the Pentateuch, and even Moses and others were in awe of rabbi Akiva who was a more important sage than Moses to Judaism - which is admitted by the Jewish Encyclopedia and other sources, that Akiva is actually more important to Judaism than Moses.

Michael Bennett then switches focus to talk about how a much different conception of Judaism today is foisted upon non-Jews living outside the borders of Israel.

I suggest our listeners look up a principle... called hasbara. It is a requirement for those who have sympathies within Judaism to Zionism, to basically control the reality of those of us whose resources they would like to use. Hasbara is a requirement to control what we're exposed to, to appeal to our emotions, to appeal to our senses, to appeal to our pride - I am talking about as Christians, using means that would not be what we would consider New Testament virtues of the kingdom of heaven... With the intention to confuse us, and to invoke us into a holy war that has not been ours... I can tell you that my hands are filled with trying to struggle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers and rulers in high places, which was the task the church was called to do. To be pulled into lesser wars between men is something that I find no Biblical foundation for whatsoever. I think we need to do some soul-searching... to start with a clean sheet of paper and the Gospel and the teachings of the apostles, and start to really work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.

Mr. Bennett then talks about the false reality presented to Christian tourists who visit the land of Israel.

You mentioned these tours that you would like to go to, and I can understand it. We've learned about these places in Sunday School. We have this affinity. We picture the people of Israel like King David, noble figures that desire to seek God and who are surrounded by blood-thirsty beasts. But what really happens on these tours is a very careful dog-and-pony-show to serve nothing more than in most cases a political interest. And religious themes will be brought up if it serves that political interest. I am ready to sign up for another tour if it ends with my Christian brothers and sisters preaching the Gospel of Christ at the Western Wall, like our brothers the apostles in the book of Acts did. And you know what happened to them when they did it, and you know what would happen to us.

Christians in Israel today are fire-bombed by Orthodox Jews. They are killed on occasion. (They are subjected to) extreme vandalism and persecution. Bibles are collected and burned in front of the Knesset and elsewhere in Israel, and you hear nothing about this in the Christian press. There was a movement a number of years ago, I believe it was around 1997, where there was yet another set of laws that was proposed that would expand the penalties against sharing one's faith in the public, or proselytizing as they call it, sharing with someone to change their faith from Judaism. Originally there was a one year sentence for that and they were going to expand it to five years, including any kind of inducement which would include just giving a Bible or a tract to somebody. They basically said, "We don't want you over here talking about Jesus. We want your money. We want your political cover, but you are banned from this."

When this happened, all of these ministries in Israel had a choice to make on what they were going to do. In response to this threat of this advance law... as it turns out, fifty of the major evangelical organizations that go to Israel signed a pledge that they would refuse to allow anybody associated with them or their group at any time to proselytize or share the gospel with anybody while they're there. I had heard this first mentioned sometime from someone that some people might think may be of dubious motive and you think, "No, that cannot be true." But, actually I went and did the homework through Christian sources and other major news wires, and they confirmed all of this. The members of Knesset said, "Hey, this is better than a law. We've got them to capitulate completely. They are willing to send money and no strings attached, with the restriction of any other type of Christian practice in the area."

I highly recommend listening to the entire interview. It can be downloaded or listened to online at the following link.

<http://www.vftb.net/archive/vftb215.mp3>

I too have done my own research and verified the profound hatred expressed by Orthodox Jews in Israel toward Christ and those who profess to be His followers. An article in an Israeli newspaper reported the following:

Ultra-Orthodox (Jewish) young men curse and spit at Christian clergymen in the streets of Jerusalem's Old City as a matter of routine...

When Narek Garabedian came to Israel to study in the Armenian Seminary in Jerusalem half a year ago, he did not expect the insults, curses and spitting he would be subjected to daily by ultra-Orthodox Jews in the streets of the Old City.

"When I see an ultra-Orthodox man coming toward me in the street, I always ask myself if he will spit at me," says Narek, a Canadian Armenian, this week. About a month ago, on his way to buy groceries in the Old City, two ultra-Orthodox men spat at him. The spittle did not fall at his feet but on his person...

Other clergymen in the Armenian Church in Jerusalem say they are all victims of harassment, from the senior cardinals to the priesthood students. Mostly they ignore these incidents. When they do complain, the police don't usually find the perpetrators...

A few weeks ago four ultra-Orthodox men spat at clergymen in the funeral procession of Father Alberto of the Armenian Church. "They came in a pack, out of nowhere," said Father Goosan.

[S o u r c e :
<http://www.haaretz.com/news/national/ultra-orthodox-spitting-attacks-on-old-city-clergymen-becoming-daily-1.393669>]

As I am writing this an article has been posted on Haaretz about a Christian cemetery being vandalized in Northern Israel. Below the story is a link to an article from a few weeks back regarding a Christian center being vandalized and set afire. The vandals spray painted phrases denigrating Jesus Christ/Yahshua the Messiah. Such actions are common. They are a natural byproduct of the teaching of the rabbis whose hatred of Yahshua has been preserved for millennia in the Talmud.

If a blind and indiscriminate support of Israel and its people is wrong, then what is the proper attitude that a Christian should have toward the nation and Jews wherever they may be found. The apostles did not leave us to wonder. They provided instruction on this subject. We can glean much from the writings of Paul.

Romans 11:11-15, 25-32

I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous. Now if their transgression be riches for the world and their failure be riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfillment be! But I am speaking to you who are Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle of Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, if somehow I might move to jealousy my fellow countrymen and save some of them. For if their rejection be the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles has come in; and thus all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob." "And this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins." From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. For just as you once were disobedient to God, but now have been shown mercy because of their disobedience, so these also now have been disobedient, in order that because of the mercy shown to you they also may now be shown mercy. For God has shut up all in disobedience that He might show mercy to all.

The salvation of the Jewish people will result in untold spiritual wealth for the world. We should earnestly desire the peace of Jerusalem, understanding that peace will be their portion only when the Prince of Peace rules in the hearts of the Jewish people. As disciples of Christ we should seek the salvation of all men, especially the Jew. Christ commanded His disciples to preach the gospel "In Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth." This is the order. Salvation came to the Jews first, for Christ was born of Jewish kin. He chose 12 Jewish men to be His disciples and to lay the foundation for His church. The virgin church was born in Jerusalem. The Gentile believers should never view the Jewish people with scorn, or contempt, yet neither should they adopt a false romantic image of the Jews as a holy people.

Let us be wise and not confuse a desire for the salvation of the Jews with a mandate to blindly support the policies of the Zionist state of Israel, or to embrace as brothers those who not only deny Yahshua as Lord and Savior, but who have proclaimed an undying hatred of Him. Politically, I believe the nations (and Christians) should take a hands-off approach to Israel. When Laban pursued Jacob (whose name was later changed to Israel) Yahweh warned this man in a dream about how to conduct himself before Jacob.

Genesis 31:29

It is in my power to do you harm, but the God of your father spoke to me last night, saying, "Be careful not to speak either good or bad to Jacob."

The nations who seek Israel's harm, or the injury of the Jewish people, will bring judgment upon themselves, for Yahweh has covenanted to be their protector. Yet, there is also a danger of seeking to do good on behalf of Israel when Yahweh has not commanded it. Those who seek to be Israel's

provider, protector, or counselor are usurping the position of Yahweh, for Israel alone among the nations are Yahweh's chosen people. It is no small thing for a man or a nation to seek to usurp the position of God. The prophet Zechariah recorded the following words of the Creator.

Zechariah 12:3

"And it will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured."

A person can lift a stone either for good or for evil. It is not for the nations to try to lift Israel. Yahweh sent a profound sign in regard to this in the year 2003. On January 31st, 2003, a Friday, the United States attempted to "lift" Israel politically. On this date the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, spoke before a group of Americans interested in U.S. foreign policy. The following AP article provides the details.

Powell: Bush to be more involved in Israeli-Palestinian conflict

By The Associated Press 2/1/03

WASHINGTON - U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said Friday that President George Bush will become more deeply involved in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict than he was in his first two years in the White House.

Powell said that the conflict was the most pressing problem in the Middle East.

Powell also told the Palestinians that "they cannot get a state by using violence" and warned that they must install a new leadership.

Appearing before a national conference of Americans interested in U.S. foreign policy, Powell said the administration would resume its pursuit of a settlement now that Israel had concluded its elections.

He said he had talked by telephone to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who won a new term this week, and that the Bush administration would use the roadmap devised in partnership with the European Union, Russia and the United Nations.

It aims to create a Palestinian state by the year 2005 carved out of land that Israel has held for more than 35 years...

[end excerpt]

The very day this article appeared, which was the day after Colin Powell's declaration that America's leaders would take up the issue of Israel's peace and a Palestinian state, the space shuttle Columbia disaster occurred. What many American Christians are unaware of is that on that space shuttle mission was the first Israeli astronaut to fly on an American shuttle mission. In a literal fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy, America attempted to "lift" up Israel and she received a severe injury.



Mission Patch for STS 107 Columbia Mission

Note on the lower right side of the patch the name “Ramon” next to an image of the Israeli flag. This signified that an Israeli astronaut was aboard the flight. Observe also the seven stars on the left of the patch. These represent the constellation Columba (the dove). Following is an excerpt on the design of the mission patch from the official NASA website.

The constellation Columba (the dove) was chosen to symbolize peace on Earth and the Space Shuttle Columbia. The seven stars also represent the mission crew members and honor the original astronauts who paved the way to make research in space possible. The Israeli flag is adjacent to the name of the payload specialist who is the first person from that country to fly on the Space Shuttle.

America was attempting to bring peace in the Middle East. The nation’s leaders were stretching out their hand to touch the apple of God’s eye, and to usurp His role as the guardian, counselor, and glorifier of His people. Even as the American space program was lifting an Israeli astronaut into space, America’s leaders were proclaiming to Israel that they would lift her up, watch over her, and protect her, if only they would put their trust in American policies. America was promising peace, but she was not able to bring peace.



Columba

Jeremiah 8:11

“They heal the brokenness of the daughter of My people superficially, Saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ But there is no peace.”

Is this not what has been testified in this chapter? Israel will not know peace until the Prince of Peace rules in her midst. As long as the people of Israel reject their Messiah, they will be beset with enemies and undergo many trials and much injury. It is a manifestation of great arrogance for any nation to promise Israel peace when she has not first made peace with her Savior.

The space shuttle Columbia disintegrated as it was attempting to re-enter the atmosphere. A piece of foam had broken loose from one of the rocket tanks during lift off and had struck one of the small heat shields on the surface of the shuttle. The dislodged heat shield allowed enormous heat to penetrate the skin of the shuttle leading to a fire and explosion. It was a rebuke to the hubris of man that its greatest piece of technology was destroyed by a piece of foam.

There was much more to the event, however. The space shuttle disintegrated over Palestine, Texas. The first piece of debris was found near the town of Palestine. Following is an image published by the Associated Press on this disaster.



Here is another image.



The message from heaven is clear. “Do not touch My anointed. Do not usurp My role as the lifter of Israel. Israel will not know peace until she knows the Prince of Peace. Israel will be as a heavy stone to all who attempt to lift her. All who do so will be severely injured.” In the Old Testament do we not read that Yahweh chastised Israel every time she turned to the arm of the flesh for help?

Ezekiel 29:6-7

“All the inhabitants of Egypt will know that I am Yahweh, because they have been a staff of reed to the house of Israel. When they took hold of you by your hand, you broke, and tore all their shoulders; and when they leaned on you, you broke, and paralyzed all of their thighs.”

If it is a grievous error for the nations to seek to fulfill a role only Yahweh can provide for Israel, is it not also error for Christians to stretch out their hands for good or for evil toward this nation? If

Yahweh has not commanded it, it should not be done. Should the disciples of Christ support those who are anti-Christ, or lend their political support to the Zionist nation founded by the Rothschild's and their ilk? Let me put it this way. If a group of witches came to your church and asked for your financial support and prayers, would you give it to them? Would it make a difference if these practitioners of Satanic arts were all Jewish? Would their Hebrew heritage make them acceptable in Yahweh's sight? No! You might well pray for their salvation, but it would be great folly to give them your money and to endorse their actions.



Barbie Reads the Torah

I am persuaded that it was no accident that this Tefillin Barbie created by a Talmudic Jewess is adorned with a black cat symbolic of witchcraft. Even as we have seen that the Tefillin worn on the forehead bears the Hebrew letter Shin, and the knot at the back of the head figures the Dalet, spelling the Hebrew word for "demon," so too we are met with another testimony of the Satanic influence that predominates Orthodox Judaism.

If it is an evil thing for Christians to imitate the works of darkness, then it is equally evil for Christians to support those who perform such works. Let us walk wisely in this world. By all means, pray for the salvation of the Jewish people. Pray that they might recognize their Messiah whom they have scorned. But do not buy into the lie that you must be Pro-Israel, or must imitate apostate Judaism, to find favor with Yahweh.

Hebrew Roots Movement - Choosing Style Over Substance



One of the attractions of the Hebrew Roots movement is that it provides Christians with a means to outwardly demonstrate their devotion to Yahshua while avoiding the far more costly price of true discipleship. It is my belief that many make this trade-off unconsciously. They do not sit down and reason that they will embrace the forms and rites of the Hebrew Roots movement as a substitute for taking up their cross and following Yahshua. The decision is more subtle. Most Christians recoil at the idea of suffering for their faith in Christ. Dying to self and facing persecution in this world are both ideas which cause the flesh of man to recoil in distaste and horror. This innate aversion to suffering causes many Christians to avoid giving serious thought to the idea that the sufferings of Yahshua are appointed to them as well.

The subject of the cost of Christian discipleship is avoided in the churches today. On those rare occasions when some teaching on this subject is offered, what is taught often obscures the truth, rather than clarifying it. Most believers have been introduced to Christianity in apostate denominations and man-centric congregations which proclaim the benefits of faith in Christ while neglecting to reference the cost of being a disciple. Yahshua only ever gave one form of invitation. He invited men and women to “Come, take up YOUR CROSS and FOLLOW ME.” He informed those who aspired to become His disciples that doing so would cost them EVERYTHING.

Luke 14:25-35

Now great multitudes were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and take counsel whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks terms of peace. So therefore, no one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions. Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

In these words, Yahshua proclaimed the costliness of being His disciple. To be a disciple a man or woman must forsake every relationship. No familial love can hold a higher place in the disciple’s

heart than their love and devotion to Christ. When Christ calls a man or woman to follow Him, they must do so irregardless of the protestations of parents, wife, children, brothers, or sisters. They must follow Christ to places their own soul despises. They must accept whatever life and experiences Yahshua chooses for them. It is a requisite of discipleship that a man or woman die to their own dreams, desires, and goals for life. Their sole aim must be to follow Christ wherever He leads them and to live for His satisfaction and glory. Yahshua stated in this passage that the cost of following Him includes yielding everything the individual possesses to be disposed of as He commands. If Christ speaks to a person, as He did to the rich young ruler, telling them to sell everything and give the money to the poor and then come take up the cross and follow where He leads, then this is what the disciple must do.

It is at this point that a great many men and women balk. Like the young ruler, they walk away grieved, for they are attached to their many possessions, to their comfortable life, to the acceptance they have among family and the members of society. To embrace a life that will result in reproach, in suffering, in separation from the embrace of loved ones, is too high a cost for many to pay.

It did not take long for the church to begin omitting the preaching of the costliness of Christian discipleship. To become a Christian was redefined as an act of belief. A person had to confess their belief in certain things relating to the Son of God. If they did so, the clergy members assured them they were “saved.” Walk the aisle, say the sinner’s prayer, get dunked in the church’s baptismal pool, and a person will have their name added to the church rolls while receiving assurances that their name is also recorded in heaven’s rolls.

Such an experience is very common in the churches today. What is presented is an aberration of the truth. Significant and vital portions of the gospel message are left out. Yahshua said there is a GATE that all men must enter, and there is also a WAY that all must walk. The churches are in varying degrees proclaiming the GATE, but they are omitting the WAY. This exclusion will result in the ruin of many lives. The churches are filled with blind followers of blind leaders.

Matthew 7:13-14

“Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small, and the way is *afflicted* that leads to life, and few are those who find it.”

You likely have had the preceding words of Christ misquoted to you. Most popular Bible translations state that “the way is *narrow* that leads to life.” Thus the gate is declared to be narrow and the way is also declared to be narrow. However, in the original Greek the two adjectives describing the gate and the way are distinctly different words. The gate is described as “stenos,” while the way is defined as “thlibo.” The word “thlibo” does not mean narrow. It is translated as narrow nowhere else in the New Testament. In every other passage in which this word occurs it bears the meaning of affliction and suffering.

II Corinthians 1:6

Now if we are *afflicted* (thlibo), it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer.

II Corinthians 4:8-9

We are **afflicted** (thlibo) in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed...

I Thessalonians 3:4

For indeed when we were with you, we kept telling you in advance that we were going to suffer **affliction** (thlibo); and so it came to pass, as you know.

Hebrews 11:37-38

They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, **afflicted** (thlibo), ill-treated (men of whom the world was not worthy)...

Why did the translators of many of the most popular English Bibles unfaithfully render the words of Christ relating to the nature of “the Way” which must be walked in order to receive eternal life? It is because the churches have rejected the message of the high cost of being a disciple of Christ. The King James Bible was produced under the auspices of the Anglican Church of England. This “high church” was big on form and style, but little on substance. The clergy dressed in elegant robes and held services in elaborate cathedrals. They made a very good living, and quite a comfortable one. What they did NOT do was yield their lives to go wherever Christ directed and to do whatever He commanded them. These men were of the same ilk as the Scribe who approached Yahshua and said he wanted to be His disciple.

Matthew 8:19-20

And a certain scribe came and said to Him, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.” And Yahshua said to him, “The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”

Scribes in that day led comfortable lives. They were respected and would commonly have homes near the local synagogue. This Scribe wanted to be Christ’s disciple, but he also wanted to continue to live comfortably. He likely thought all he would have to do as a disciple of Christ was to alter some of his doctrinal positions. He was not prepared to surrender everything, abandon the comfortable life of a Scribe, and accept afflictions and suffering. Yahshua understood this and went straight to the point at which the Scribe would stumble.

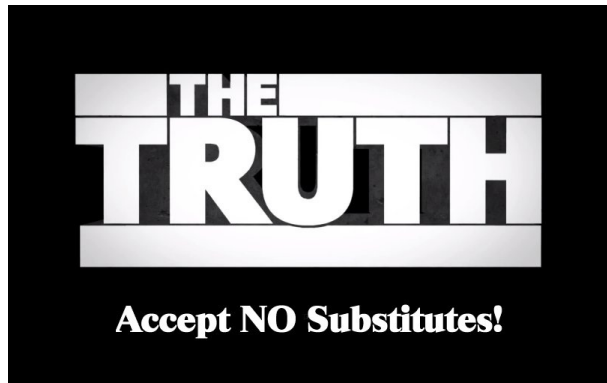
Observe the deceit that has occurred in the churches today. Few ministers are willing to accept the cost of being Christ’s disciple. Rather than walking away grieved as did the rich young ruler, the church leaders have acted unfaithfully. They have removed all mention of the cost of discipleship from their doctrines. They are proclaiming an apostate gospel devoid of the disciple’s cross. They have attempted to make becoming a Christian easier on the flesh and soul of man.

Most ministers today assure their congregants that they are in good standing with the church and with God if they confess certain things about Christ, participate in church services and put some money in the offering plate. Christianity becomes an exercise where people meet to discuss doctrines, and to observe various rites and traditions, but there is no requirement of yielding one’s life wholly to the Lordship of Christ. Consequently, Christians have become as salt that has lost its savor. They are good for nothing, not even fit for the manure pile.

Everywhere one turns today they find substitutes for pure Christian discipleship. None of these substitutes will result in the child of God coming to spiritual maturity. This is what Yahshua declared to the rich young ruler.

Matthew 19:20-21

The young man said to him..., “What do I still lack?” Yahshua said to him, “If you would be *perfect*, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”



The Greek word translated as “perfect” is “teleios.” This word means “perfect, entire, mature, lacking in nothing.” It is the will of Yahweh that He would have full stature sons and daughters who are conformed to the image and likeness of Yahshua.

Romans 8:29

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren.

Ephesians 4:11-13

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; *until we all attain* to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, *to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ*.

If all God wanted to do was bring men and women to a confession of belief in His Son as the atoning sacrifice for their sins, He could very well rapture all people into heaven as soon as they profess faith in Christ. He does not do so, however. Yahweh’s plan is not merely to bring people to faith in His Son, but to transform them from the selfish, sensual creatures they have been into selfless, spiritual creations who manifest His character in their words and actions. This requires a process of transformation where the old nature is progressively brought under subjection to the authority of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Yahweh will lead each person down a path specifically designed for them with the goal in mind that they might eventually come forth in the image of His firstborn Son.

The path Yahweh will lead every man and woman down is by necessity a path that includes experiences of suffering, along with numerous trials and sacrifices. It is as we encounter these experiences, responding to them in the power of the Spirit, putting the flesh and its selfish response to death, that we are transformed measure by measure into the image of Christ. Walking the path Yahweh chooses for each person is indispensable for their maturation. We cannot choose our own

way and achieve the results Yahweh has in mind. We have to yield to follow Christ wherever He would lead us. The Scriptures reveal that the life of a disciple of Christ is synonymous with a Spirit directed life.

Romans 8:14

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

Galatians 5:25

If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

If you were introduced to Christ through the Christian religious system predominant in Western nations, you most likely never heard the cost of discipleship accurately proclaimed. Western Christianity allows the aspiring disciple to continue to reign as lord of their own life. They can choose what job they want to work at and where they want to live. They remain in charge of how they spend their money, with the possible exception of being instructed that ten percent should be given to the church. The Western Christian is free to decide whether they marry, and whom they marry (as long as it is another professing believer). Christianity becomes a religious experience which the convert adds to their existing life, rather than a radical exchange of ownership and authority.

I Corinthians 6:19-20

Or do you not know... that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price...

I Corinthians 7:22-23

He who was called while free, is Christ's slave. You were bought with a price...

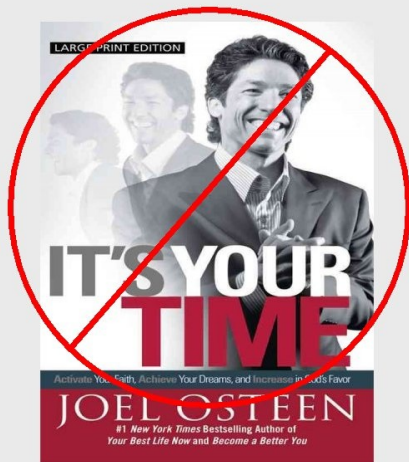
True Christian discipleship is characterized by a surrender of one's will to the leading of the Spirit of Christ. Where He says go, we must go. What He says do, we must do. Nothing can be held back. Yahweh will root out every area of independence. He will bring us to consider any instance of reserve where we have not accepted the cost of following in the footsteps of His Son.

Hebrews 10:36-39

For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay. But My righteous one shall live by faith; And if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

Many Christians are unaware that they are shrinking back from a complete abandonment to the will of God due to the fact that they have never been told that such a surrender is required of them. They have ignorantly embraced the status quo; the lukewarm, insipid, unsavory form of Christianity that is common in their culture. Perhaps you have embraced the Sunday and Wednesday form of Christianity where you attend a couple weekly meetings at the church, listen to some preaching, and are admonished to try to live a good life the rest of the week. This is not Christian discipleship. If you are involved with a prosperity church that proclaims a message that God wants you to be materially successful and comfortable in this life, you are most assuredly not walking as a disciple of Christ. If you are involved with an apostolic or prophetic church that focuses on signs and wonders while failing to proclaim a complete surrender of your will and life to the leading of the Holy Spirit, you are not qualifying as a disciple of Yahshua.

This is NOT Christian Discipleship



The Hebrew Roots churches are merely one more iteration of apostate Christianity. They are offering up an attractive substitute for the costly discipleship which Yahshua called all men unto. There is a special attractiveness in this movement, for many are led to falsely equate observance of various Laws of the Old Testament with the will of the Father for their life. The Law contained no more than a shadow of the will of God. Those who embrace the Law as their substitute for the voice of the Holy Spirit will inevitably find themselves spending their lives following ordinances and rules that cannot make them perfect.

Hebrews 7:18-19

For, on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness (for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.

The subject of the Law and its relationship to the Christian is a complex topic whose explication is beyond the scope of this book. Those who are interested in a thorough address of this subject are invited to read *Laying Down the Law*. The apostle Paul revealed one of the motives driving some to embrace circumcision and an observance of the Law as a substitute for a Spirit directed life.

Galatians 6:12

As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.

Observing the Law, or making a pretense of doing so, permits men and women to appear righteous in the eyes of others, while enabling them to escape persecution. The Law, however, though divinely inspired, is not a substitute for a Spirit directed life. The Law was given UNTIL Christ should come, fulfill all the righteous requirements of the Law, offer up His soul as an atoning sacrifice for man, rise from the dead and send forth His Spirit to indwell all who believe upon Him.

Galatians 3:19, 23-25

Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by

the agency of a mediator, *until the seed should come to whom the promise had been made...* But *before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law*, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith. *But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.*

“Until, “Before,” “Now.” These three words all make reference to time. There was a time when Yahweh entered into a covenant of Law with mankind. It was not an eternal covenant. It was for a specific period of time. That time ended with Christ. With the introduction of a new covenant, a covenant of faith in Christ, the covenant of the Law ceased. NOW that faith has come, we are no longer under the tutor of the Law. We now have the Spirit of God resident within our beings that we might freely know the thoughts of Yahweh and always be informed of His will for our lives.

I Corinthians 2:11-12

Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God.

Christ said, “My sheep hear My voice.” If we will attend to the voice of the Spirit of Christ within us, and yield ourselves to go where He leads and accept the life He chooses for us, Yahshua assures us that at the end of the journey we will be mature sons who manifest His life and character. There is no substitute for a Spirit directed life. Not even a life devoted to the Law and to an embrace of Hebrew roots can serve as a substitute for a Spirit directed life. Indeed, when one embraces the Law as their guide, the Law becomes an impediment, hindering the believer from looking to the Spirit of Christ as their guide.

The Hebrew Roots movement has an additional attractiveness in that it sets before the Christian various symbols, rites, holidays, and items of dress that provide them a means to outwardly attest to their inner devotion to Christ. Yet, all of these things are carnal. They are nothing more than external trappings. The true manifestation of our union with Christ is expressed through the spiritual fruit produced through our oneness with Yahshua.

Matthew 7:16-20

“You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor figs from thistles, are they? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit; but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits.”

Christ did not say His disciples would be known by their Hanukkah candles, by the Israeli flag flying outside their home, or by their usage of the Hebrew language interspersed in their daily conversation. Christ’s disciples are not recognized by wearing kippot, or tallit, or tzitzit. You will recognize the true disciples of Christ by their spiritual fruit.

Galatians 5:22-24

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Yahshua have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.



Looking Like Christ

In his book *Messianic Judaism is Not Christianity*, Stan Telchin (a Jewish believer in Messiah) addresses some of the motives that Gentile believers become involved in these groups. One of the reasons he has frequently heard cited is that the Gentile believers have a love for the Jewish people and wish to gain some acceptance and influence with them by adopting Hebrew roots. Stan writes that those who embrace Hebrew Roots to be accepted by Jewish people are misguided.

Gaining acceptance by the Jewish community seems to have become one of [Messianic Judaism's] primary objectives... As Jews who believe in Jesus, Messianic Jews want to be identified with and accepted by a Jewry that has largely rejected God and His Word. Clearly, this is not a biblical objective...

I agree with Arnold Fructenbaum who says, "It is self-deceiving to believe that a Jewish lifestyle is the means of being accepted by the Jewish community or the Jewish leadership." The traditional Jewish community abhors Messianic Judaism...

In order to be a Jew, a person must be born of Jewish parents. It does not matter what his parents believe or what the person himself or herself believes. Many of us are quite comfortable with Jewish Hindus, Jewish Buddhists, atheistic Jews, agnostic Jews, Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Jews. We even can understand humanistic Judaism. The Jewish community does not have any trouble continuing to call these people Jews.

But when a Jewish person accepts Jesus, the situation changes. Why? Because so many Jewish people have bought into the rabbis' repeated slogan: "You cannot be Jewish and believe in Jesus." When it comes to followers of Jesus, by whatever name they choose to identify themselves, the line in the sand is drawn. These people are not welcome. What that has to tell you is that those in Messianic Judaism fool only themselves when they insist that they soon will receive approval from the Jewish community...

[Stan Telchin, *Messianic Judaism is Not Christianity*]

In his book, Stan Telchin provides the testimony of a number of people who left Messianic Judaism. The reasons they provided for departing from this movement are insightful.

"Tell me Charlie, did you stay in the synagogue very long?"

“Well, we stayed about a year and a half,” he replied. “But then I began to be troubled by what I observed, and Fran was equally troubled.”

“By what?” I asked.

“Well, from a theological point of view, it seemed as if they were concentrating on emulating rabbinic Judaism with a Christian vocabulary rather than focusing on the finished work Jesus did on the cross. This thereby encouraged Gentiles to do things that Gentiles were never required to do in Scripture. We Gentiles never had to wear yarmulkes (head coverings) or tallits (prayer shawls) or tsitsit (fringes on our garments). Yet the implication was that if we wanted to belong, we had to wear them. And there were so many Gentiles in attendance! More than eighty percent of those who came each week were not Jewish. Why did they have to do these things?...

Then Fran jumped into the conversation. “The Gentiles who attended seemed to be worshiping symbols of Judaism. Isn’t that idolatry?” she asked. “And I know of a Gentile couple who went to an Orthodox rabbi and converted to Judaism. The husband was circumcised, and they try to keep a kosher home. And for others, there seemed to be an identity crisis. Some of the Gentiles I met began to search their family tree in order to find a Jewish relative. They wanted to be Jewish, and they tried to live by the Law... If you want to know what really did it for me and why I insisted that we leave that congregation, I’ll tell you. I was filled to overflowing with all the ‘wannabes’ and the ‘Pharisees’!”...

“Jean” is a young Jewish mother of two beautiful children. She attended a church before she met her future Jewish husband, but when they decided to marry, he convinced her to attend his Messianic synagogue. She agreed to do so, and for several years they rarely missed a service. Then things began to change. When I asked Jean what it was that disturbed them, she said, “I want to be very careful about how I answer that question, so let me put my thoughts in writing to you.”

A few weeks later, Jean wrote to me:

I have been agonizing as I have relived the experiences we had at the Messianic synagogue and why we left. Simply stated, I was at once saddened and angry by the way many of my Gentile brothers and sisters - who made up about 85 percent of the congregation - showed almost a contempt toward God by despising what He had made them to be. I felt they did this when they dressed as Jews and adopted all sorts of religious traditions that they convinced themselves they were obligated to practice.

Week after week I would anguish over the emphasis on Jewishness rather than “Jesusness.” Gentiles were changing their names to Jewish-sounding ones and calling themselves Jews.

[Ibid]

Brothers and sisters, being “Christ-like” does not mean one has to act Jewish. It certainly does not require that one embrace rabbinic practices that are not found in the Bible. Becoming Christ-like is a matter of character, not external custom or religious practice. Do not be deceived by those who would put style before substance. The kingdom of God does not come with outward signs to be observed. The kingdom of God is within you.

May you be blessed with peace and understanding in these days.



Books By Joseph Herrin

The Remnant Bride

Sabbath

Sarah's Children

The Road from Babylon to Zion

Laying Down the Law

God's Plan of the Ages

The Divine Quest - God's passionate pursuit of faith in the heart of man.

The Mark of the Beast

Evidence of Things Unseen

Overcoming Addiction by the Spirit of Christ

Christ in You - The Hope of Glory

The Marriage Covenant

The Gate and the Way

Dragon Flood

No Apologies

Yahweh's Book

Foundations

Push Back! A Christian Response to the Homosexual Agenda

Lunacy & the Age of Deception

Living Epistles - Testimonies of Faith

Attractive Deception - The False Hope of the Hebrew Roots Movement