

Looking In The Wrong Direction

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Satan has managed to keep many of the Jews looking in the wrong direction for thousands of years. When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God promised mankind that He would send His Son, the Messiah, who would give Himself to pay the debt for the sins they had committed. The people who lived from Adam and Eve to the moment Jesus Christ died on the cross knew He was coming. Most of them just didn't know exactly when. Isaiah was just one of the Old Testament prophets who wrote about the coming Messiah.

"⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth" Isaiah 53:4-7 (The New King James Version).

"¹⁰ Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. ¹¹ After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities" Isaiah 53:10-11 (The New International Version).

Before Calvary, the whole world was required to repent of their sins and while looking forward in faith they were to ask that the promised Messiah pay the sin debt that they owed. They did not need any more faith in order to believe the Messiah would die then it takes for us to believe He has died. Satan and his demons convinced many in the world, however, that the Messiah had lived and died shortly after Noah's flood. I recommend that you read the book "The Two Babylons" by Alexandria Hyslop if you would like to know more about this pseudo religion that is still in existence today.

We worship a Triune God. The people who were involved in that counterfeit religion also worshiped a trinity. In their religion, they had faith in and worshiped God the Father, God the Son and the Queen of Heaven, the mother of the God.

" ¹⁶ *Therefore, do not thou pray for this people, nor take to thee praise and supplication for them: and do not withstand me: for I will not hear thee.* ¹⁷ *Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Juda, and in the streets of Jerusalem?* ¹⁸ *The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire and the women knead the dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to offer libations to strange gods, and to provoke me to anger.* ¹⁹ *Do they provoke me to anger, saith the Lord? Is it not themselves, to the confusion of their countenance?* ²⁰ *Therefore thus saith the Lord God: Behold my wrath and my indignation was enkindled against this place, upon men and upon beasts, and upon the trees of the field, and upon the fruits of the land, and it shall burn, and shall not be quenched.* ²¹ *Thus saith the Lord of hosts the God of Israel: Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices, and eat ye the flesh.* ²² *For I spoke not to your fathers, and I commanded them not, in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning the matter of burnt offerings and sacrifices.* ²³ *But this thing I commanded them, saying: Harken to my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people: and walk ye in all the way that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you.* ²⁴ *But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear: but walked in their own will, and in the perversity of their wicked heart: and went backward and not forward,* ²⁵ *From the day that their fathers came out of the land of Egypt, even to this day. And I have sent to you all my servants the prophets from day to day, rising up early and sending.* ²⁶ *And they have not hearkened to me: nor inclined their ear: but have hardened their neck, and have done worse than their fathers.*

²⁷ *And thou shalt speak to them all these words, but they will not hearken to thee: and thou shalt call them, but they will not answer thee Jeremiah 7:16-27 (The Douay-Rheims Version).*

"¹⁵ *From all the men who knew that their wives were burning incense to strange gods, from all the women who were present in the immense crowd, and from all the people who lived in Lower and Upper Egypt, Jeremiah received this answer: ¹⁶ "We will not listen to what you say in the name of the LORD. ¹⁷ Rather will we continue doing what we had proposed; we will burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out libations to her, as we and our fathers, our kings and princes have done in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem. Then we had enough food to eat and we were well off; we suffered no misfortune. ¹⁸ But since we stopped burning incense to the queen of heaven and pouring out libations to her, we are in need of everything and are being destroyed by the sword and by hunger. ¹⁹ And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven and poured out libations to her, was it without our husbands' consent that we baked for her cakes in her image and poured out libations to her" Jeremiah 44:15-19 (The New American Bible)?*

You probably know this worship best as the worship of Baal and/or Ishtar (the Canaanite Astarte or Ashtaroth). "⁶ *And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsook the LORD, and served not him" Judges 10:6 (The King James Version).*

"³ *Samuel said to the people of Israel, "If you are going to turn to the LORD with all your hearts, you must get rid of all the foreign gods and the images of the goddess Astarte. Dedicate yourselves completely to the LORD and worship only him, and he will rescue you from the power of the Philistines." ⁴ So the Israelites got rid of their idols of Baal and Astarte, and worshiped only the LORD" 1 Samuel 7:3-4 (Today's English Version).*

"¹ Now king Solomon loved many foreign women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites; ² of the nations concerning which Jehovah said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go among them, neither shall they come among you; for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. ³ And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. ⁴ For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not perfect with Jehovah his God, as was the heart of David his father. ⁵ For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. ⁶ And Solomon did that which was evil in the sight of Jehovah, and went not fully after Jehovah, as did David his father. ⁷ Then did Solomon build a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, in the mount that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the children of Ammon. ⁸ And so did he for all his foreign wives, who burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. ⁹ And Jehovah was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned away from Jehovah, the God of Israel, who had appeared unto him twice, ¹⁰ and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which Jehovah commanded. ¹¹ Wherefore Jehovah said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. ¹² Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it, for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son. ¹³ Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but I will give one tribe to thy son, for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen" 1 Kings 11:1-13 (American Standard Version).

This false religion, however, majored on prayers and service directed to the Queen of Heaven more than to the other two gods in their trinity. The cakes referred to were perfectly round wafers. The priests of Baal or Ashtoreth (the name of the god was different in each language although the doctrines, traditions and worship were the same) would bless the wafers and the drink offering. The participants believed that at the moment of the blessing, the element of the wafer and the drink offering would change

into the broken body and the shed blood of their messiah. In effect, the priest of Baal had called their messiah down from his Elysian Fields or heaven to take his place in the elements of the wafers and the drink offering so that by ingesting the body and blood of their messiah, their sins (up to that point in time) were forgiven. Paul was familiar with this practice when he wrote the following to the church in Rome.

"¹ Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God on their behalf is for salvation. ² I testify with regard to them that they have zeal for God, but it is not discerning. ³ For, in their unawareness of the righteousness that comes from God and their attempt to establish their own (righteousness), they did not submit to the righteousness of God. ⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for the justification of everyone who has faith. ⁵ Moses writes about the righteousness that comes from (the) law, "The one who does these things will live by them." ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will go up into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ or 'Who will go down into the abyss?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)" Romans 10:1-7 (The New American Bible).

The god and goddess of fortresses were part of the trinity of the pseudo religion we referred to above. I suggest that you view a picture of Artemis of the Ephesians or Diana of the Ephesians that Paul spoke against in his sermon in Ephesus (Acts 19:24-28). If you can obtain a picture that shows the very top of her crown, you will see a turret which designated her as the goddess of fortresses. For a full explanation of this multi-breasted deity, I again recommend that you read the book, "The Two Babylons" by Alexander Hyslop. You will receive an in-depth explanation of this damnable religion that birthed most of the false religions in the world today. The book will also help the serious Bible student understand who the harlot religions are that protested and have come out of the great whore of Revelation 17 and that believe and teach that they belong to "a universal church". ⁵*And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" Revelation 17:5 (The New King James Version).*

The male counterpart of this multi-breasted goddess was worshiped by the Hebrews under a variety of names with various attributes. You probably know him best

as Baal. He and his consort were credited with the construction of the first permanent city/fortress after God had destroyed almost all of mankind with a worldwide flood. As the Queen of Heaven, she was also credited with coming down from heaven to give birth to all mankind in the Garden of Eden, hence the multi-breasts. The father in this trinity blends in with the son in a nebulous recognition that credits the son sometimes as an adult and sometimes as a child in his mother's arms.

Many in the world (including many Jews who lived before Jesus Christ died on Calvary) believed that the son in this religion was the "seed of the woman" that had been promised in the Garden of Eden. They taught that he had died a tragic death because of his love for mankind and served as a payment for the sins of his ardent worshipers. In order for him to pay for your sins, however, you had to adhere to the doctrines and traditions of the religion. They believed that after death you went to an intermediate place where you were purged of your sins either by (1) your penitence and prayers before your death, (2) the prayers and penitence of your loved ones after your death or (3) by the prayers of the priests of this Babylonian religion.

At a time when the Jews should have been looking forward in faith to the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, Satan had them looking backward in faith and accepting the god of fortresses as their personal savior. Now that the Jews should be looking backward in faith, repenting of their sins and requesting that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ pay their sin debt, they are looking forward for the coming of the Messiah. Satan has managed to keep many of the Jews looking in the wrong direction for thousands of years.

Satan will use that error to his advantage when he introduces his representative, the Anti-Christ, to the world (Revelation chapter 13; Revelation 17:8). Please note Revelation 13:5. *"The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months"*.

Forty-two months is three and one half years. The Tribulation will last seven years. Therefore the Anti-Christ will spend the first three and a half years amalgamating his power and authority over the world. The Jews who have been looking for the Messiah will help to catapult him to this power quickly because they believe that he is the only hope for a world that is in a quagmire of war among the nations (Revelation 6:3-4).

There will be worldwide hyperinflation in which the poor get poorer and the rich get richer (Revelation 6:5). There will also be worldwide terrorism where people will be killed by swords (Isaiah 13:9-18), there will be world-wide famine, and the world will suffer various plagues (Revelation 6:8).

Suddenly, faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a moving locomotive, super-hero, the Anti-Christ, will emerge upon the scene with a solution that he says will bring peace and harmony to an extremely troubled world. " ²⁷ *And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator*" Daniel 9:27 (English Standard Version).

God will allow those who He knows will never repent of their sins and be saved to be deluded. One group will be deluded into thinking that the Anti-Christ is the solution to all the world's ills (2nd Thessalonians 2:11). They will be willing to give up their individual freedoms and the sovereignty of their nation in order to be protected from the terrorism and violence that is threatening to destroy them. Does that sound familiar?

The other group of those who will be deluded could never accept a Jew as the hope of the world. Because of their cultural and religious background they have been taught to hate the Jews and the infidels who do not embrace their extremist religion.

The Anti-Christ will use the power he has amalgamated to allow the Jews to tear down the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem as well as any other remnant of Herod's Temple. "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down" Matthew 24:2. They will rebuild the Temple with the intention of re-instituting the daily sacrifices but in the middle of the Tribulation the Anti-Christ will reveal himself for who he is and demand that the world worship him as the god who appears or reveals himself. "15 So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation' spoken of through the prophet Daniel-let the reader understand-16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains" Matthew 24:15-16 (The New International Version).

The Anti-Christ will move his capitol to Jerusalem and use it as a center of operations. *"41 He will also invade the Beautiful Land. Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand. 42 He will extend his power over many countries; Egypt will not escape. 43 He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and all the riches of Egypt, with the Libyans and Nubians in submission. 44 But reports from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many. 45 He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain. Yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him."* Daniel 11:41-45