

FIRST SAMUEL

Lesson 13: Chapter 7, Put away strange gods. The Christian's Circuit.

16 September 2016

STRANGE GODS (1 Sam. 7:3)

1. MONEY: doesn't satisfy, produces envy, greed, discontentment.
2. FAME, SUCCESS, and POPULARITY: results in lack of peace and privacy, no true friends, people using you, lack of safety and security, discontentment.
3. POWER: gives an overpowering need to conquer, rule, and achieve. You're never satisfied.
4. ETC.

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me." (Exodus 20:3).

THE TRINITY OF WORLD RELIGION

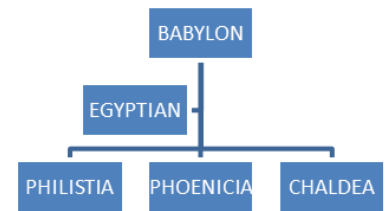
ASHTORETH = MOON GODDESS = QUEEN OF HEAVEN = MOTHER OF GOD = MARY. She is the fertility goddess. In various parts of the world she is called Ashtar, Astarte, Ishtar, Dionysius, Diana, Cybele, etc.

Worshipped during Easter in the springtime during the spring equinox, which varies according to the moon.

Symbols used: eggs, rabbits, new clothing to represent new beginnings.

TAMMUZ = the son. He is also the father, as Ashtoreth married her own son.

BAAL = LORD = SUN GOD. Primary name is TAMMUZ. He is subordinate to Ashtoreth.



Europe, India, Rome, Etc.

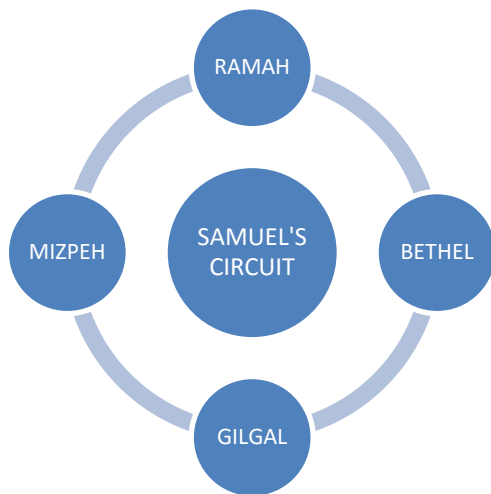
EASTER is a holiday which combines the pagan practices of the observance of spring and new beginnings—with the Roman Christian's observance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. If Jesus had asked us to celebrate His resurrection on an annual basis, it would not be on a different day every year. It certainly would not align itself with the spring equinox or be connected to the observance of the moon. That's a pagan practice.

CHRISTMAS: March 25th is "Lady Day," or Easter, and is believed (by pagans) to be the day of the conception of Jesus Christ. December 25th comes 9 months after "Lady Day" and is counted (by Romans and pagans) as the day of Christ's birth. Luke 2:8 says there were "**shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.**" The historical average night temperature in Bethlehem on December 25th is 22° F (-5.5° C).

THE REAL REASON FOR A HOLIDAY ON DECEMBER 25TH

Tammuz (the sun god): since the shortest daylight hours of the year occur between Dec. 22-25, pagans believed that their god Tammuz was leaving the earth at that time. To persuade Tammuz to come back, the pagans (druids, etc.) would light a yule log in a fireplace, pray to the yule log, and then spread the ashes outside the door in the middle of the night, and replace it with an evergreen tree to represent the return of Tammuz. To celebrate, they would exchange gifts with one another.

SAMUEL, THE CIRCUIT RIDING PREACHER (1 Samuel 7:16-17)



BETHEL: the house of God. 1 Timothy 3:15 refers to the assembly of believers as the “**church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.**” Your Christian circuit must begin with the local church; the fellowship of the saints. Any ministry which you are involved in must be centered around the local church. This is the place where you will worship and praise God with all your heart and soul. This is the place where you will recharge your spiritual life and get refreshed and built up and be a blessing and an encouragement to other saints.

GILGAL: This is where God reinstated the covenant of circumcision to the Israelites (Joshua 5:2-9). This speaks of cutting away the flesh and living in total dependence upon God. We are to put no confidence in the flesh (Philippians 3:3). Jesus said, “Without me ye can do nothing” (John 15:5). “In my flesh dwelleth no good thing” (Rom. 7:18). If you have begun in the Spirit, you cannot be perfected by the flesh (Gal. 3:3). You can’t avoid sin if you’re depending on your flesh. You’ve got to depend upon God.

MIZPEH: This is the place where God wrought a great victory for Israel (1 Sam. 7:10). We ought to keep track of how many times God has delivered us from disaster. 1. Salvation. 2. Habits and sins. 3. Answered prayer. Count your many blessings, name them one—by—one!

RAMAH: This is home. Samuel did something here that he didn’t do at the other places. He built an altar. He didn’t put away his religion. He was just as faithful and ministered MORE in his home than anywhere else. Your “church life” and your home life should not conflict. They should agree. You ought to be a good example as a Christian everywhere you go, but MORE SO in your home with your family. You need to lead the worship in your home.

If any part of your Christian circuit is missing or not working, your Christian life is going to be dead.