02-Understanding Ancient Faiths to Understand Exodus

Exodus (Names) - Changing the World Dr. Leon L. Sanders

Exodus Assumptions

- We looked at the Ancient World, now we will look at the whys
- O The "whys" that explain Exodus
 - O Why Egypt?
 - O Why at that time?
 - O Why in the manner demonstrated in Exodus?

Underlying Assumptions

- These assumptions are my own but seem necessary to understand the role of the individual and government
 - There is NO government (society) without individuals
 - O Individual and/or collective actions affect society
 - There is a tension between government and individuals for control that is accentuated in the modern age
 - Societal values are rooted in and reflected by its religion

My Philosophy of Governments

- Antediluvian Governments Pattern (Judah & Israel)
 - Abel and Seth Government (?) Aspects mirrored by Cain
 - O Cain Government began, enforced by nephilim 80:418-121
 - O Built first towns/cities which implied
 - Organized society requiring laws
 - O Enforcement Internal, External
 - O Religion (System of values) Here, Hereafter
 - Expansion Territory for growing population

My Philosophy of Governments

- O Postdiluvian Governments (Empires)
 - Root Government Babel/Nimrod
 - O First Gen (Copper Age) Akkadian/Sargon
 - O Second Gen (Pivotal Age, Bronze Age) Hatti, Mitanni
 - O Third Gen (Axial Age, Iron Age) Greece, Persia
 - Fourth Gen (Modern Age) Christ to today
- Egypt only kingdom to span three generations

Babel - Nimrod

	Cain		Nimrod
0	Murderer	0	Killer
0	Developer of society	0	Developer of society
0	Society anti-God	0	Society anti-God
0	Worship a higher god to become basis of all false postdiluvian beliefs	0	Worship forms basis for Gnosticism worshiping higher god for all men

Root Govt Distinctives

- O Ruler is:
 - Embodiment of god on earth to reach spiritual god
 - Ruler is the intercessor for salvation of society via rituals
- Nimrod & wife were gods leading society to spiritual god to avoid severe consequences such as worldwide destruction (Flood, global warming) and spiritual damnation (accepting the error of God's salvation)



Aftermath of Babel

These are the major people groups after God intervened Nimrod follows receding waters to build Nineveh, Babylon

Copper Age Distinctives

- Ruler is society One is intimately linked to the other
- Ruler is god acting as mediator between society and god(s) – maintaining the harmony for societal peace
- Priestly caste assists ruler in his godly duties
- Warrior caste assists ruler in re-unifying man under "one" society, in obedience to god(s) to obtain salvation



Sargon Follows Nimrod's Path

Sargon conquers Mesopotamia Egypt (Old Kingdom) is isolated Egypt is building the Pyramids & conquering southward along the Nile River

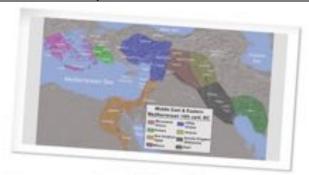
Bronze Age Distinctives

- Ruler is the agent of the god(s) but not a god himself
- Ruler is preserver of the truth of the society (synonymous with religion) against those who would destroy its truth
- Priestly caste guide ruler (empire) in understanding its truth and worshiping its god(s)
- Warrior caste preserves empire from outside contamination while extending it's "truth" over others (sword evangelism)



Early Bronze Age Cultures

Kingdoms extending, expanding Fighting for "truth" & control Egypt extends control into Levant Abraham migrates in this period



Late Bronze Age Kingdoms

Greece: Minoan culture gives way to Mycenaean culture Mycenaean destruction of Troy begins the decline of these kingdoms These empires cannot effectively concentration power and control societies_evolution

Axial/Iron Age Distinctives

- Same principles as the Bronze Age with these additional points
- Raising up of bearers of truth (prophets) outside the traditional governmental and priestly castes
- Emphasis on individual morality to influence overall morality of society – Unknown concept before Exodus

Birth of Truth Apart from Govt

- Four major forms of The Truth developed
 - Zoroastrianism Persia
 - Hinduism India
 - Buddhism India
 - O Confucianism & Daoism China

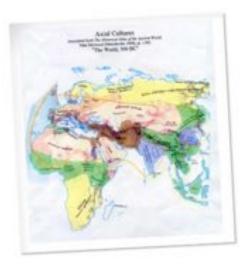
O Hellenism (Gnosticism) - Greece

These faiths preserved the old ways in new ways

Hellenism combined the old ways into a new way

Hellenism - Synthesis of Faiths

- Pythagoras traveled to all the Axial kingdoms, except China, synthesizing a truth system
 - Secular form advanced by Socrates and continued by Plato (some modifications by Aristotle & others) becoming the basis of Western culture – the "birth" of democracy
 - Mystic forms became the "mystery religions" of the Bible



Axial Faiths & Kingdoms

Pythagoras could easily have traveled to the contiguous realms

He began the merging of their faiths into one faith - Gnosticism

This contaminated Judaism and Christendom

This will be the unifier of all faiths

What Caused These Faiths?



- Persia Zoroaster
- O India
 - Hinduism
 - Buddhism
- O China
 - Confucius
 - O Lao Tru
- O Greece Plato

Their Origins Trace to Egypt



- This graphic illustrates God's work with Egypt and the Hebrews formed the foundation that became today's world
- Without the events in Exodus, none of this would have occurred

Who Influenced Whom?

- Since the beginning of the Modern philosophical era, Renaissance to today, every effort has been made to show how the Hebrews copied from other cultures to form their vision of God and oppress others (Demiurge)
- The reality is quite the opposite; God, through Israel, has influenced all the nations and revealed Himself while they rejected the truth and changed it into the Lie (Red 1882) ESV 2TH 2 UTVO

The Word - Source of ALL Truth

- God is the major influencer through the events of Exodus in preparing people to receive the truth of the Gospel
 - Rituals via the ruler were the means of societal harmony
 - Axial Age is about individual morality influencing society, an idea began by God with Israel, influencing the major cultures
 - The slow transition to personal morality and individual salvation prepared men everywhere to understand and receive the Gospel message when it came to them

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I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of	
time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. (Galatians 4:1-7 ESVST)	