

John 69 – The Seed Dies to Rise Again

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John 19:42-20:1

Abstraction of Resurrection

- What appears *clear* to believers today was not apparent to Christ's followers in His day; our *clarity* of 2,000 years acculturation hides our ignorance of their *worldview*: No resurrection except in idolatry (gods)
- Joseph and Nicodemus prepared His body for burial
(Jn 19:39-42)
- The Marys' came Sunday to prepare His body for burial
(Mt 16:12)

*Mythology is a polite expression for ancient idolatry (ignorance)
Superior modern man views mythology as literature devoid of power*

Introspection of Matzah

- During this concurrent Unleavened Bread (Matzah), Pesach and Sabbath the Jews were to ponder:
 - Their pervasive sinfulness (Leaven was in the air)
 - Their absolute need for God to provide His salvation
- Apostles and disciples mourned the permanence of His death though He taught about His resurrection
(Mt 12:40; Mk 10:34; Jn 2:19-22)

Eventual Resurrection

- Jesus' followers had some eschatological view of resurrection in distant future
 - At the raising of Lazarus, Martha stated that she *knew* he would rise on the Last Day (Jo 11:23-27)
 - Instead, Jesus tells her that those who believe in Him will not die: Does she believe Him?
 - She only replies she believes He is Messiah, not that she believes in the immediacy of Lazarus' resurrection

He asks her concerning faith in Him as Messiah; raising Lazarus merely puts Him on par with Elijah (1Kg 17:17-20)
No one ever raised themselves from death - Even Tammuz needed help to raise him annually (Jo 10:17-18)

Ancient View of Afterlife

- Ancients saw death as permanent shadow-type existence, a vapor (*hebel*) or shadow, of fleshly self
 - Grecians in Athens scoffed at the idea of a resurrection; once rid of this life, who wants to come back? (Ac 17:16-34)
 - Dead could talk to the living if given blood sacrifice to drink (Homer's Odyssey) [Jesus' drink my blood] (Jo 6:53-59)
- Sheol, Hell and Paradise, coexist but separate (Lk 16:19-31)

Bible View of Afterlife

- Pentateuch silent on afterlife; thus, Sadducees did not believe in resurrection (Mt 22:23-29)
- However, there were mediums with *familiar spirits* who claimed communicated with the dead (Saul) (1Sa 28:3-14)
 - Medium worked through her satanic spirit (1Co 10:20-21)
 - She screamed to see a real person rise from the dead
 - Samuel returned by God's power, not by the medium's

Demons do not die. Demon assigned to a person can give details unique to that person
The familiar spirit mimicked the dead with the medium uttering what spirit tells her
Wrong as it opened up person to demonic influence leading to possession; not relying on God

Cultural Mythologies

- Resurrection Myths existed in myriad of cultures
 - Associated with idolatries from nearly every culture from Indus valley to Celtic Gaul to ancient England
 - Associated with very ancient cultures, Egypt, to contemporary cultures, Greco-Roman
 - Names and details differ but there was an underlying theme that mirrored Christ's ministry of death and resurrection; occurred annually, like Temple sacrifices

Biblical Assumptions

- These assumptions guide my hermeneutics & teachings
 - Bible inerrant in *originals*; yet, God preserved His word in multiplicity of available copies: whole or partials
 - God's word is the only source of *absolute truth* (2Ti 3:16-17)
 - Fourth Law of Logic - Reasonable Inferences based on the other three Laws of Logic: Identity, Excluded Middle and Non-Contradiction

Man's Assumptions Reveal Belief

- Modern man *supposes* that Hebrews took their beliefs from other cultures; based on who's first - Lost
- Saved believes God taught believers true history via inspiration (Bible) correcting Hebrew's idolatrous faith (Jas 24:1-20)
- Similar myths explained by the society splitting into subgroups *ad infinitum*, adapting myths to their views

In the Beginning...

- God formulated His plan for salvation in eternity past in the presence of Lucifer who was over God's throne
(Is 14:12-15, Ez 28:11-16; Ep 1:3-10)
- Lucifer was the dragon in the Garden deceiving Woman to test Man who sinned willingly (Gn 3:1-7; 1Ti 2:14; Re 12:4, 9)
- God's judgment to Lucifer: Seed of woman will doom him while he will only *bruise* (Kill) the man (Gn 3:15)
- Man called Woman, Eve; Mother of all living (Gn 3:20)

Lucifer the Culprit, Not Man

- Lucifer, over the throne, disagreed with God's decision to make man to whom he would have to submit (1Co 6:3)
- Sin cost him his position plus judgment in *Lake of Fire*
- He brought man to sin, separating man from God
- Lucifer understood God's judgment as Eve did not
- *Seed of woman* (Man) would ensure his judgment (Gn 3:15)
- *Bruise his heel* meant death and resurrection to Lucifer

Direct Seed of Woman Failed

- Cain raised to be that seed of man; failed
 - Messiah would have to control his sin; i.e., be sinless (Gn 4:17)
 - Rather than protect *Hebel*, Cain preyed on him (Gn 4:8)
 - Rather than ask God's forgiveness, Cain rejected God and joined others who rejected God (Gn 4:16)
 - Cain built first city; i.e., father of government, laws, to control sinful behavior; failed {Nod-Wanderers} (Gn 4:17)
- Hebel's (Abel) offering was accepted by God; probably due to his worthlessness; reliance on God
But Cain's offering was rejected; probably due to pride; his self-reliance
Government's inability to control sin caused God to remodel the earth via the Cataclysm (Gn 6:1-8)

Babel: Another Turning Point

- After the Cataclysm God commanded man to spread out over the earth; which man ignored (Ge 10:8-10; 11:1-9)
 - Nimrod first documented king-priest who built ziggurat to hold society together
 - Religion basis for government's morality, laws; always
 - God caused one society to become at least three with differing worldviews and languages

Leadership Passed to Lucifer

- When Adam sinned, leadership passed to Lucifer including governments formed by man (Ge 4:8-10)
 - All governments have social, political, religious triad
 - Denying God's truth meant embracing Satan's lie (Ro 1:18-25; 2Th 2:9-12)
 - Lucifer understood outward workings of God's plan
 - Lucifer *mimicked* outward trappings, incorporating them into Nimrod's religion that spread to all cultures

Hebrews Retained Idolatry

- Hebrews came from idolatry and remained in idolatry as a people; remnant lived by faith like Abraham (Ge 15:1-6; Jas 2:22-25; Ro 4:1-12; He 11)
 - Israel ceased to be a political entity: Idolatry (2Co 12:2-9)
 - Judah later taken captive also: Idolatry (2Co 12:9; Je 3:6-30)
 - When Judah returned, their customs became their idol (Mt 23:1-38)
 - False Jews saw Jesus as an idolater: Trinitarianism (Jo 8:54-59)

Myths of Tammuz and Ishtar

- Myth of Tammuz and Ishtar were extant throughout the ancient world even in the Greco-Roman empires
 - Myth has various forms and names depending on each culture; its similar elements: Annual death-resurrection
 - Probably grew out of Nimrod's Babel before the culture separated then morphed as subcultures differentiated
 - Story contains both resurrection and fertility (life) in a grain motif; a motif Jesus frequently used in teachings

Tammuz: Dying Deity Reborn

- Women in Temple were weeping for Tammuz: Why?
(Is 8:10)
 - After harvest, land desolate - Consigned to underworld (Death)
 - Women wept for Tammuz under cedar trees (Jun-Jul) for his rebirth as a child from Ishtar (Resurrection)
 - Bountiful harvest - Tammuz's blessing, ritual sex in the fields during sowing (Fertility)

In some myths a pig is sacrificed to Tammuz
Possibly why swine were off-limits to Hebrews
Tammuz, [New World Encyclopedia](#)

Some Aspects of Bible Mimicked

- Some biblical truths mirrored in Tammuz myth; this does not negate God's truths or *prove* Bible stole *imagery*
 - Those who sow in tears, weeping with precious seed will rejoice in Christ's Millennial Kingdom (Ps 126:5-6)
 - Song of Solomon: Tammuz-type *fertility* poem indicative of idolatrous worship Solomon allowed due to his foreign wives (1K 11:1-13)
 - Poem denoting sex between one woman from many wives and one man - Sin's degradation-Celebration of polygamy
One of two Bible books that does not mention God (Ether)
Both denote sin resulting from not relying on God
Man celebrates his self-reliance that splits faith in God (Sounds like Cain)

Tammuz Foreshadowed Christ

- Jesus used agrarian imagery people understood to teach God's salvation in Him (Death-Burial-Resurrection)
 - Christ said that if a seed does not go into the ground and die, there can be no harvest (Jn 12:24-26)
 - Jesus spoke of the fields ripening toward harvest (Jn 4:35)
- This imagery does not legitimize idolatry as Satan's use of this imagery does not negate Jesus' Gospel truth

Lucifer's use of the god Death-Burial-Resurrection motif focused on physical elements
Christ used those elements to focus on spiritual aspects of grace Lost considers foolish

Paul Continues the Seed Imagery

- When Paul discusses the new body, he uses the familiar planting-harvest motif (1Co 15:36-48)
 - Satan and lost man only fathom aspects related to life in this physical existence; never part of God's plan (1Co 2:14)
 - Christ and Paul use familiar physical processes to teach spiritual truths; Spirit reveals to those called of God
- Christ's dead *fleshly* body will arise a new *spiritual* body

Christ's

- Christ's bruising destroyed Lucifer's Tammuz deception
 - Christ announces New Covenant: Paradise (Is 22:22-31, Ep 4:8-10)
 - Christ will not arise a baby; His birth as a baby was not a resurrection (Christmas - Tammuz heresy)
 - Jesus on stauros called Mary, Woman; delegitimizes subsequent Tammuz-Ishtar mother-baby allegories
- When Christ arises, everything changes forever (Re 12:7-12)

Roman Catholicism infiltrated by Gnosticism continued Mother-Baby idolatry
Gnosticism infiltrating all cultures continues the Mother-Baby Birth-Death-Resurrection idolatry