

Pentwater Bible Church

Isaiah Message 105

March 14, 2021



Paul and Barnabus at Lystra by Adriaen van Stalbeem cir 1650

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Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Isaiah

Message One-Hundred-Five

THE LORD HATES IDOLATRY CONTINUED

March 14, 2021

Daniel E. Woodhead

Isaiah 44:20

²⁰He feedeth on ashes; a deceived heart hath turned him aside; and he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, Is there not a lie in my right hand (ASV, 1901).

Continuing with the manifestations of idolatry and deception here are some examples of how it has continued into the Church Age and departs from Biblical Christianity.

ROMAN CATHOLICISM

While there are a great many other topics that can be discussed in relation to the Roman Catholic faith, only two others will be described at this time. The difference between Christian Communion and the Catholic Eucharist; and, the difference between the Biblical Mary and the Catholic Mary.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNION AS OPPOSED TO ROMAN CATHOLIC EUCHARIST

There is a very real difference between the Communion and the Lord's Supper as observed by born-again believers as opposed to the Eucharist and the Mass as observed by Catholics. Born-again believers realize that the bread and wine are the elements and that Communion and the Lord's Supper are done in remembrance of Jesus' "once for all" sacrifice. Catholics, on the other hand, believe that the Eucharist offered at the Mass is the actual flesh and blood of Jesus. This, they state, is done by means of transubstantiation, the Catholic doctrine wherein the bread and wine actually become the real body and blood of Jesus. The Council of Trent, 13th Session, Canon I stated: "(the Eucharist) is truly, really and substantially the body and blood together with the soul and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ." Catholic Mass is the "unbloody sacrifice" of Jesus repeated over and over. Yet the Bible repeatedly states that "*without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin.*" The word for the wafer that is offered at Catholic Mass is "hostia" which means victim. Hence, Jesus as the eternal victim is repeatedly being sacrificed at each Catholic Mass. Of the Mass, the Council of Trent also stated (Session 22, Chap.2): "In this divine sacrifice the same Christ is present and immolated (sacrificed) in an unbloody manner on the altar of the Cross...only the manner of offering is different." Hebrews 9: 22 and 10:10-17 totally contradict these Catholic doctrines. Therefore, how can Biblical Communion be equated with the Catholic Eucharist and Mass?

Also, instead of centering worship around the Person of the Lord Jesus and His redeeming work on the cross, it is the Roman Catholic Church that makes the wafer of bread – the Eucharist – the "centerpiece of worship" and actually says, in its catechism, that their communion is the "sacrament of redemption" (1994 Catechism of the Catholic Church section 1846) and the place where "the work of our redemption is accomplished" (Vatican II Austin Flannery p.1). When the priest holds the wafer and presents it to the congregation saying "Behold the Lamb of God", he

truly means that that wafer is the real Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. The Catholic Church emphasizes this adoration of the wafer – not the Person of Jesus – during the feast called Corpus Christi, a Latin term meaning “body of Christ.” On that day a procession of Catholics follow the priest in adoration of the Communion wafer which is carried in a vessel called a “monstrance.” In simple terms that means that Roman Catholicism believes that redemption comes through ingesting the Eucharist –the wafer which they say is Jesus – not through Jesus’ work on the cross. Hence, Catholic Communion is not Biblical Communion: they may use the same words, but the meaning is totally different.

MARY OF THE BIBLE AND THE MARY OF ROMAN CATHOLICISM

“...The only trustworthy account of Mary is found in the Scriptures where information is presented by those who knew her personally and, more importantly, whose writings were under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Fewer than 90 Bible verses address the life of Mary. In them we find a wonderful humble servant of the Lord who rejoices in Him as her Savior (Luke 1: 47). Mary’s ministry was simply the birth and nurturing of the child Jesus. Once He reached adulthood, she played no influential part in His earthly service. It’s at the wedding feast of Cana, which began the public ministry of Jesus, that her last words are recorded. Fittingly, she tells the servants, *‘Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it’* (John 2:5). Mary then fades into the background. Search the Scriptures as you will and you will find no leadership role for Mary among the Apostles. She taught no doctrine. We never hear of the Apostles seeking her out for counsel. Other than the Gospels, Mary is mentioned only once in the New Testament, where the Book of Acts tells us of her simple participation in a prayer meeting along with her sons. The teaching that Mary was a perpetual virgin is contradicted by many verses (Matthew 12:46; Mark 6:3; John 7: 3,5; 1Corinthians 9:5; Galatians 1:19; Psalm 69:8, etc.). The Apostle Peter, a contemporary of Mary and falsely regarded by Roman Catholics as the first pope, wrote nothing about her. The Apostle Paul made no mention of the alleged importance of devotions or reparations to Mary. The Apostle John, who wrote the last book of the Bible and was given the care of Mary by Jesus Himself, says nothing about venerating her. Although mankind is being drawn into every kind of spiritual deception in the last days before the return of Jesus, it is especially sad that the real mother of Jesus, the remarkable *‘handmaiden of the Lord’* (Luke 1:38) is so terribly misrepresented, thereby drawing millions away from her Son. Conversely, the Mary of Roman Catholicism was immaculately conceived, the Mother of God, a perpetual virgin, Mediatrix between God and man, and the Queen of Heaven. The ‘Mary’ who spoke to Father Gobbi, the founder of the Marian Movement of more than 100,000 priests, declared,

‘Each of my statues is a sign of a presence of mine and reminds you of your heavenly Mother. Therefore it must be honored and put in places of greater veneration...’ Consider Our Lady of Fatima: (she said) *‘Say the Rosary every day to obtain peace for the world...God wishes to establish in the world the devotion to My immaculate heart. If people do what I tell you, many souls will be saved and there will be peace.’*

’This is not the humble and submissive Mary of the Bible. The rosary invokes prayers to Mary ten times for every one for the Lord; Jesus is the Prince of Peace; only Christ’s once-for-all sacrifice saves souls from hell; neither is Mary’s heart immaculate, nor are we to be spiritually devoted to anyone other than our Lord and Savior”. The Roman Catholic doctrine of the

Immaculate Conception is not the Christian doctrine which states that Jesus was born without sin. Rather, it states that Mary was born free of any sin: *“O, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.”* The prayer specifically presents her as intercessor. In addition, Catholics believe that as a special privilege Mary was preserved from all sin, even venial sin. Catholics also hold to the doctrine that Mary, after her death, was “assumed” bodily into heaven and, therefore, never saw corruption. Both the Feast of the Assumption and the Immaculate Conception are “holy days of obligation” in the Roman Catholic Church and require Catholics to attend a Mass on those days under penalty of “mortal” sin. Further, she is venerated and worshiped in the idol of the mother-child statue.

ORIGIN OF MOTHER CHILD WORSHIP

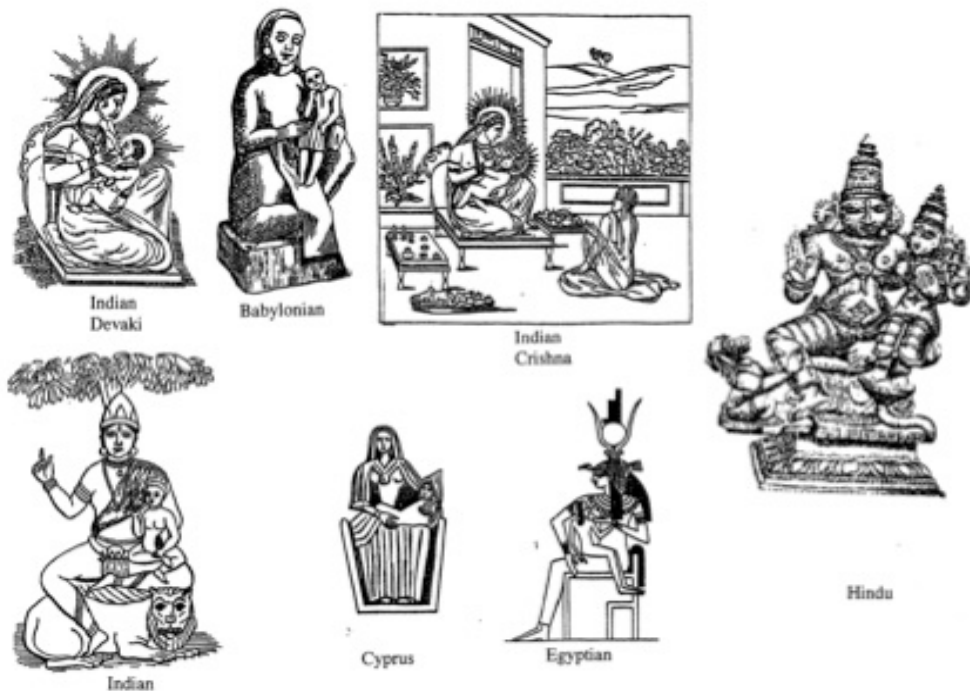
According to ancient Egyptian and Babylonian traditions, Nimrod’s mother was Semiramis; sometimes Semiramis is referred to as the mother of Nimrod, and sometimes as his wife, leading to the belief that Nimrod married his mother. Also according to these traditions, Semiramis, who rose to greatness because of her son, was presented with a difficulty when her son died, so instead she pronounced him to be a god, so that she herself would become a goddess.

Even though Semiramis claimed to be a virgin she had another son, named Tammuz, who she said was the reincarnation of Nimrod. She became known as the "Virgin Mother", "Holy Mother" and the "Queen of Heaven" and was symbolized by the Moon. So began the worship of Semiramis and the child-god, and the whole paraphernalia of the Babylonian religious system. Tammuz was said to have died and came back to life.

After the decline of Early Babylon, people migrated and with them the cultic religion. The religion was transported to Egypt where the people worshipped the same mother child cult known as Isis and her son Osiris (sometimes known as Horus). The same mother and child deities appeared in Greece as Ceres, the Great Mother, with the babe at her breast, or as Irene, the goddess of Peace, with the boy Plutus in her arms and in Pagan Rome as Fortuna and Jupiter. Other cultures embraced this concept such as Cyprian and Indian. Hence the Catholic mother-child idol.

One of the titles the Catholic Church gives Mary is “Queen of Heaven.” In chapters 7:18 and 44:19 Jeremiah actually speaks of the people of Israel making offerings to a “queen of heaven.” (Semiramis) Yet a simple reading of the chapters shows that God was exceedingly angry because of this heathen worship. There is also a mixing of what is Biblical and what is Catholic in the “Hail Mary,” the prayer used repeatedly in the rosary. It states: “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee. Blessed art thou among women...” This is actually found in Luke 1:28.

However, the rest of the prayer is not Biblical. It states “...Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.” Mary is “holy” only as she is holy in Jesus. She was not the mother of God, but of the child Jesus - stating it as the Catholic Church does confers upon her a title that denotes her superiority over Jesus. She cannot pray for us sinners because she herself was a sinner, and because only Jesus “ever liveth to make intercession for us” (Hebrews 7:25).



From, *Ancient Pagan and Modern Christian Symbolism* by Thomas Inman

MORMONISM:

Joseph Smith the founder was greatly influenced by his father, who searched for buried treasure using occult methods. His life changed in 1820 when he supposedly received a vision from God the Father and the Son, who told him that all other religions were an abomination, but that he was the prophet to bring restoration.

In 1823 another vision from the angel Moroni convinced Smith that God was calling him. Moroni said he would find some golden plates requiring translating. Smith discovered these plates, inscribed with what he called “reformed Egyptian hieroglyphics,” outside Palmyra, New York. He was able to translate them with a huge pair of spectacles that he called the “Urim and Thummim.” According to his story, between 1827 and 1829, he “translated” the plates, and in 1830 published *The Book of Mormon*. The plates were purportedly taken to heaven by Moroni.¹ Many people flocked to Joseph Smith’s new theology. Within a decade he had thousands of followers. A principle reason for this rapid rise in popularity was Mormonism’s startling and distinct contrast with the beliefs of the Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, and various other Christian denominations. To begin with, Smith taught that most of the beliefs of Christianity were hopelessly corrupted, including the Bible, and this had been supernaturally revealed to him in order to restore “God’s truth”. The main attraction, however, was *theological novelty*. Today the Latter-Day Saints (LDS) Church has taken a different tactic involving new name preferences (play down

¹ Eckman, J. P. (2004). *The truth about worldviews: a biblical understanding of worldview alternatives*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books. pp. 98–99

“Mormonism,” play up “Church of Jesus Christ”) and other strategies (create an image of being a part of mainstream Christianity through advertising campaigns). It’s working. After Islam, Mormonism is now the fastest growing religion in the world, although little has changed doctrinally from its novel beginnings.

- Mormonism teaches that God has a physical body and lives on a planet near a star called Kolob.
- He is but one of an infinite number of gods, each ruling over his own world located somewhere in the universe. Supposedly, each god has untold numbers of goddess wives who produce millions of spirit children. Amazingly, these spiritual offspring of god and his goddesses must then be birthed through physical beings (non-gods) on earth. This obtains for them the physical bodies necessary to become gods and goddesses, who create and rule over their own worlds.
- Polygamy was a major part of Mormonism. It met the need for producing bodies for the spirit babies birthed by multiple mother goddesses. It is still practiced among some Mormon sects today. The Latter-Day Saints’ focus on the family has more to do with the Church’s biblically unorthodox theology than with domestic well-being.
- According to LDS teaching, Jesus was one of those spirit babies (as was his spirit brother Lucifer, who became Satan).
- The conception of Jesus was unique but not virginal; God, who is physical, had intercourse with Mary.
- Since producing children is critical to a Mormon male’s progression to godhood, Jesus had children through the women (the sisters Mary and Martha, Mary Magdalene) who accompanied him. Supposedly, he married them at the wedding feast of Cana.
- Mormonism’s salvation accommodates nearly everyone in one “heaven” or another. The death of Jesus on the cross was redemptive only in that it provided physical resurrection (bodies) for all.
- Obeying the commandments and performing Church duties and rituals are necessary in order to reach the Celestial Kingdom.
- Those who fall short of such requirements may still enter in as Celestial servants, and, if not, they can abide in the Terrestrial Kingdom.
- Moral non-Mormons may spend eternity in the Telestial Kingdom.
- Hell is a purgatory-like place and is eternal only for those few who commit an “unpardonable sin,” such as apostasy. Nearly everyone has a chance to improve his eternal status after death.

We have opinion leaders and high-level politicians who are Mormons and with an misunderstanding of the 1st Amendment Americans accept them as just another denomination teaching the truth. This has bled into seminaries and Bible schools.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE:

Christian Science is not Christian in terms of biblical doctrine. Only the name itself is Christian. The idea of Christian Science came in 1866 when Mary Baker Eddy said she discovered the “Science of metaphysical healing”. She organized it in 1879 and it was founded on her book, “Science and Health (with Key to the Scriptures)” the last part of the title was added later.

- They believe there is no such thing as sin, it is an illusion.

- They believe there is no such thing as sickness, it also is an illusion.
- They believe that sick people must be convinced that they are not sick, then they will get well, since sickness is an illusion and does not really exist.
- There is no such thing as death, a person gets old and dies because they believe that is what is supposed to happen. This stems from the fact that they believe that the whole universe is an illusion.
- Their god is not the personal God of the Bible. Everything is god and god is good. Therefore, there is no sin, disease, or death because all is god and god is good. The whole universe is falsehood – an illusion.
- They claim that there is healing from Christian Science. Their method of healing is denying the disease itself, e.g., “I am not sick. I do not have cancer.” This is not prayer but simply talking out loud to yourself. In fact, Christian Science says that prayer to a personal God is a hindrance.
- They believe women can become pregnant by a supreme effort of their own minds, a man is not needed for procreation.
- Man is not made of the dust of the earth as in Genesis 2 because matter does not exist, therefore Eddy calls Genesis 2 “a lie”. They take her word over the Bible.
- They believe that Jesus is not God, he was the highest human concept of the perfect man, but not to be worshipped.
- They believe that Jesus was never tempted by the devil. Eddy says, “He was tempted by the false beliefs in His own mind.”
- They believe that Jesus never died because death does not exist; He just thought He was dead.
- They believe the blood of Jesus has no atoning value and since sin is an illusion we are not guilty.
- They believe that salvation is deliverance from delusion and entrance into Christian Science.

Mary Baker Eddy claimed that her teachings guaranteed health; however, she suffered considerably at the end of her life, requiring large doses of morphine to cope with her pain. ²

JEHOVAH WITNESS:

Charles Taze Russell officially founded Jehovah’s Witnesses (JW), also known as the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society (with headquarters in Brooklyn, New York), in 1884. Originally called the Zion’s Watch Tower and Tract Society, or the Zion’s Watch Tower (1879), they officially adopted the name of Jehovah’s Witnesses in 1931. In 1870, Russell originally denied the doctrine of Hell, and would go on to reject nearly every other Christian doctrine, as well as add many physically and spiritually dangerous doctrines of his own making. Many of these unique and bizarre teachings were to be found in his six-volume series titled, *Studies in the Scriptures*.³

² Rusten, S. with E. Michael. (2005). *The complete book of when & where in the Bible and throughout history*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. pg. 388

³ Vonderlack, R. (1992). Russell, Charles Taze. In J. D. Douglas & P. W. Comfort (Eds.), *Who’s Who in Christian history*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House. Pg. 600

- Source of Authority. JWs claim the Bible as their final authority, but Russell's writings, especially *Studies in the Scriptures*, are considered "the light of the Scriptures." JWs have their own translation of the Scriptures (*New World Translation*, published in 1961), which reflects *the binding interpretations* of the group's leaders.
- JWs believe that God is not a triune God, but only "Jehovah God" (*Let God Be True*, pp. 100-101); they teach that Trinitarianism is a belief in three gods, and thereby, Satan-inspired polytheism. Joseph Rutherford, the JW's second president wrote: "... sincere persons who want to know the true God and serve him find it a bit difficult to love and worship a complicated, freakish-looking, three-headed God."⁴
- Jesus Christ. Since JWs do not believe in the Trinity, they also do not believe that Jesus is God in the flesh. They add the word "other" four times to Colossians 1:16,17, teaching that Christ was God's *first* creation, i.e., the reincarnation of Michael the archangel created by Jehovah, rather than *the Creator*. The "Watchtower" teaches that Jehovah God created Michael the Archangel before the foundation of the world; Michael was His only begotten son by virtue of the fact that he was the only creature directly created by Jehovah. It was this created Michael who became the JW Jesus (i.e., a denial of the eternity of Christ). JWs say that "Since actual conception took place, it appears that Jehovah God caused an ovum or egg in Mary's womb to become fertile, accomplishing this by the transfer of the life of his first born son (Michael) from the spirit realm to the earth"⁵ Marvelously, Jehovah transferred the life-force and the personality pattern of his first born heavenly son (Michael) to the womb of Mary. God's own active force, his holy spirit, safeguarded the development of the child in Mary's womb so that what was born was a perfect human"⁶ JWs also add an "a" in John 1:1, making the verse read, "the Word was *a* god" (which in essence, makes the JWs guilty of the same polytheism of which they accuse Trinitarians).
- Use of Name Jehovah. JWs use the name "Jehovah" only for God (in order to distinguish between God and Jesus Christ), while failing to recognize that Jesus is the fulfillment of "Jehovah" in Isaiah 40:3 and Matthew 3:3.
- Resurrection of Christ. JWs deny the bodily resurrection of Christ through their teaching that the body of Christ was annihilated by God — not risen — but rather a new one was *created* three days after His death. This they call the "resurrection" of Christ. Thus, Jesus was "resurrected" as a "glorious spirit creature" and does *not* now have a glorified physical body. Instead, they claim Jesus arose spiritually and only "materialized" at various times after His resurrection so He could be seen alive.

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISM:

⁴ Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Inc. *Let God Be True*, Second Edition, Published by The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Inc. Brooklyn, NY USA 1946, pgs. 100-101

⁵ JW Organization Web Site accessed February 20, 2015 [http://www.jw.org/en/publications/books/bible-teach/who-is-michael-the-archangel/#?insight\[search_id\]=7251be95-903f-4bb1-818b-96eebd27beae&insight\[search_result_index\]=0](http://www.jw.org/en/publications/books/bible-teach/who-is-michael-the-archangel/#?insight[search_id]=7251be95-903f-4bb1-818b-96eebd27beae&insight[search_result_index]=0)

⁶ Ibid. <http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/1102005134?q=Jesus+born+a+perfect+human&p=par>

Ellen G. White plays a central role in the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Church. One of the “27 Fundamental Beliefs” of the SDA Church is that Ellen White manifested the gift of prophecy and her writings are “authoritative” for the Adventist Church They say:

The Gift of Prophecy: One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church and was manifested in the ministry of Ellen. G. White. As the Lord’s messenger, her writings are a continuing and authoritative source of truth that provide for the church comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction.

According to Adventist leaders, the writings of Ellen G. White are “inspired” by the Holy Spirit in the same way as the Biblical authors were inspired. Mrs. White was a prophet to the church of Christ today. And the same as the messages of the prophets were received in old days, so her messages should be received at present times. The Following quote is directly from the Seventh Day Adventist Review and Herald October 4, 1928.

“Seventh Day Adventists hold that Ellen G. White performed the work of a true prophet during the 70 years of her public ministry. As Samuel was a prophet, as Jeremiah was a prophet, as John the Baptist, so we believe that Mrs. White was a prophet to the church of Christ today.”⁷ Here are four practices that are divergent from the genuine teachings of Scripture:

- Add to the Bible. Ellen Gould White is credited to have written 25 million words that are quoted by Adventists just like Bible Scripture. Adventists that have grown up in the church have familiar quotes that come to mind, but they often do not know if the imbedded information is from the Bible or Ellen Gould White. Adventists have also taken to printing their own Bibles with the messages of Ellen Gould White hidden in the verses of Scripture.
- Subtract from the person of Jesus Christ or His Deity. Ellen Gould White claimed Jesus did not come in the flesh when he walked the earth some 2000 years ago, as the Bible warns some evil people would do. Ellen Gould White also claimed Jesus was an Angel from Heaven.
- Multiply the requirements for Salvation. Adventists have published many hundreds of books that contain what they call “Testimonies”, which are full of thousands of commandments directed toward their members. If you do not follow these commandments, you are not following the counsels of God, the Adventists claim. These books contain over 25 million words of Ellen Gould White, and it would take a lifetime to read them all. SDA members are expected to purchase and read as many of these books as possible, and they teach from these books in their Churches like most denominations teach from the Bible. One of the teachings of the Church is to not eat meat, in order to obtain Salvation Other doctrines they hide from new members are: eating pork causes leprosy. Wearing wigs damages the brain. Wearing bonnets indicates satanic control. Drinking coffee, tea or some soft drinks is a sin Having butter, eggs, or meat on your table keeps your prayers from reaching heaven
- Divide the loyalty of the follower between God and other Christians. Adventists claim all other churches are “Babylon” and will be lost when Jesus comes back to earth. Adventists are taught to convert as many people to Adventism as they can, and

⁷ Morey, R. A. (1989). *How to keep your faith while in college* (p. 129). Iowa Falls, IA: World Bible Publisher

quickly, because the people in other churches are lost. Adventists spend little time converting the truly lost because they spend most of their effort debating people in other churches, telling them they are in a fallen church and not in the true church, the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Ellen Gould White also worked at separating people inside her church, teaching that church members should not pray for each other when they are sick if those sick people are not loyal tithe payers to their church.

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Next message GOD'S PROMISE TO RESTORE ISRAEL TO THE LAND

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