

The Origin of the False Worship Today

It does not take to wise a student of the Bible, to conclude that there is much false worship in the churches today. But where did it all begin? Can we point to a time of origin of it all? If we study the prophecies of the Bible closely, we will soon see the false worship today was foretold long before it ever came to pass.

God knew what man was going to do, so he inspired his writers to write it all down so we would not be deceived today. “...*I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done...*” (Isaiah 46:9-10). Study this lesson carefully, for it is a very important lesson. This is one lesson you need to know.

1. Paul spoke of a falling away. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

Paul spoke of a falling away. Falling away from what? The only answer to this, would be “the truth.” Then as you read verse 7, you will notice that Paul says “...*the mystery of iniquity doth already work...*” Paul could see that evil spirit beginning to work in his day, and he knew it would not be many years before that falling away would take place. But yet this was prophesied many years before Paul. Paul was the first one to see the prophecy beginning to come to pass, but he was not the first to speak of it. Notice the following references.

2. Daniel’s dream. Daniel 7:1-8

As we consider the dream of Daniel, we find that God revealed to him events that would transpire concerning world kingdoms. The animals in this dream represent kingdoms that would arise to rule the world. The first was a lion, which refers to the Babylonian empire, the second a bear, which answers to Media-Persia, the third, a leopard that was Greece, and the fourth, a horrible beast that he could not describe, but we know according to history, refers to Rome.

Now as you notice this fourth beast, it had ten horns. But then another horn came up and plucked up three as it came up. Now in prophecy, horns represents kings or rulers. Now this little horn that came up could refer to no other than the papacy, (see chapter 30) which ruled the Roman empire for 1,260 years.

3. What was this little horn to do? Daniel 7:23, 24, 25.

As you notice verse 25, you will see he would **think** to change times and laws. This prophecy was fulfilled exactly as Daniel saw it in his dream. We do not have to speculate as to what happened, for the Catholic Church claims herself that she was invested with the authority to change times and laws. What were the times and laws which she claims to have changed?

1. The Bible says a day is to be reckoned from sunset to sunset. Yet the Pope says it is to be reckoned from midnight to midnight.
2. The Bible says the beginning of the new year, is to begin in the spring. Yet the Pope says the new year is to begin in the midst of the winter, January 1st.
3. The Ten Commandments says we should keep “the seventh day (Saturday) holy.” The Pope says we should keep the 1st day of the week (Sunday) holy.

For proof of the above, the following quotation is taken from *The Doctrinal Catechism*---

Question: Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to institute festivals of precept?

Answer: Had she not such power she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her:---she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day of the week—a change for which there is no Scriptural authority.

4. The Bible says a person should be buried in water (completely covered) when baptized. The Pope says sprinkling is permissible.

Did God give the Catholic church the power to change these times and laws? Yet she herself admits it was she that changed these things. It is written in her books, she openly admits it, and we find the religious world accepting these changes, not fully realizing their way of worship has no biblical foundation, but comes from the Catholic church.

4. **The false church mentioned in the New Testament.** Revelation 17:1, 15

A woman in prophecy refers to a church. If it is a pure woman, it refers to the true church. If it is an immoral woman, it refers to a false church. So in the above reference, it is an immoral woman, thus it refers to a false church.

The woman in verse 1, is "*sitting upon many waters.*" Now what does this refer to. If you will read verse 15, the Bible tells you what the "waters" are. It is "*...peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.*"

Now which church has ever gathered such a vast multitude, peoples, nations and tongues? Why, none other than the Catholic church. So this woman here could be none other than that evil power that Daniel spoke about that would rule the Roman empire for 1,260 years. Church and state united together and became a great ruling power.

5. **The influence of this false church.** Revelation 17:2, 3, 4

It says that kings committed fornication with her. Kings had spiritual relations with this woman (church). The Catholic Church still carries a great influence through kings (rulers) of nations today. Then in verse 2, it also says, "*...the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.*"

The "wine" here refers to her false doctrines. So the inhabitants are made drunk by her false doctrines. Again what could this mean? Anyone who has had any dealings with an individual who is under the influence of intoxication knows they are people which are hard to reason with. They are right and everyone else is wrong. Also, a person who is drunk feels secure. He has no worries, everything is wonderful.

So it is with one who is drunk with the false doctrines of this woman. It is hard to reason with them and they feel they are secure in those doctrines. They feel those doctrines are going to save them, when all it is just a false security, as the Bible speaks of them as "*doctrines of devil*" (1 Tim. 4:10).

6. **What else is this false church?** Revelation 17:5

This verse says that she is a "*mother.*" Now to be a mother you have to have daughters or sons, don't you? So this *harlot* woman gave birth to some daughters (or other churches). Now when did this happen? It took place during the Reformation, when the Protestant churches started coming out of the Catholic Church. This began in the 1700's.

But reread this verse again, very carefully. It says she is a mother of *harlots*. Those daughters (Protestant churches) that came out of her are also called *harlots*. They too are false churches. This is something we must admit, for the Bible says so.

Many times when a daughter is born she will look just like her mother. So as you look at the Protestant churches, they look very familiar to the mother. They all worship on Sunday (the first day of the week). They all believe in going to heaven. Most all believe in a burning hell. Some believe in sprinkling for baptism. So in one form or another, they look like the mother. That

is why the Bible speaks of them as harlots, for they too are false churches.

7. The world wondered after the beast. Revelation 13:1-3

This is the very same beast that Daniel saw in Daniel 7:8. It was the fourth beast after it had come down through the other kingdoms (beasts). This fourth beast in some ways looked like the other four beasts. In what way was this? It was in the way they worshipped. The Roman church had adopted doctrines that went clear back to the Babylon empire. The word "*Babylon*" means confusion, and that is where the confusion began in reference to false teachings.

Then in verse 3 it says, "...and all the world wondered after the beast." Even though the Catholic church lost her hold on the nations as a ruling power, yet the nations had been under her rule for so long, they continued to go in that way, either through the Catholic Church or the Protestant churches (those that came out of her).

8. How many will worship this false religion? Revelation 13:4-8

Verse 8, is the reference we especially want to comment on. It says, "*All shall worship him, whose names are NOT in the book of life.*"

So all those who worship the *mother* or through the *daughters* will not be written in the "book of life." Now I did not say this, but God did. God is telling us the danger of worshipping through either of these two. Now if you want to continue to ignore this warning, you certainly will not be without guilt on the Day of Judgment.

9. What is God asking? Revelation 18:4

God is giving us the warning, to "...Come out of her..." The warning is to come out of the *mother* and the *daughters*. If we do not, we will suffer the plagues along with them.

10. The same warning. Revelation 14:8-10

If we worship the Papal Beast or its image (the Catholic church), we will drink of the wrath of God. So is sincerity enough then? Certainly not. Many Catholic's and Protestant's are sincere, dedicated people. But that will not save them. (See James 2:17, 20.) Paul was sincere and dedicated when he was putting to death the saints, but if he hadn't changed, he would have been lost.

11. In vain they worship. Matthew 15:9

Vain means "without value." Their worship is without value to God. It is vain because it is not the way he told us to worship. These people are worshipping God through the doctrines of man. And God does not accept it.

12. Who are the saints? John 3:5, Revelation 14:12

The saints have been born again of the truth, keeps the commandments, and have the faith of Jesus (Rev. 14:12).

13. Why did John know his prayers would be answered? 1 John 3:22

14. A blessing is promised us. Revelation 22:14

Obedience is the only way we will have a part to that tree and enter into the city.

SUMMARY

It does make a difference what we believe and the way we worship. We

cannot be partakers with the woman or her daughters, for the Bible says they all are false in their worship of God. Come out of her *now*, is the warning.

