

Strange Gods Among Us?

Do we "All Worship the SAME GOD?"

Now therefore put away, said he, the strange gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto the LORD God of Israel. Josh.24.23

In this strange "post Christian" era in which we live, we often hear the cry "there is no difference; we all worship the same God." and "All the different religions worship the same God- they just call Him by different names." or "There is only one God- some of us just see Him differently that's all." and "All religions are the same; just different paths to the same destination."

A few years back I was stumped when confronted by some of these common statements- I, who had been raised an SDA was having trouble providing an authoritative answer as to how my beliefs differed from so called "heathen" religions- after all- they all were ways of trying to be saved- they all taught we should be "good." They all seemed to believe in a supreme being. -

One day a friend not of the Christian faith asked me- "Just what is a Christian?" This stumped me at the time- Oh, I knew all the usual clichés, but I seemed to lack a basic, deep understanding. I started from that day forth to earnestly seek to learn what makes real Christianity different and what it means to be a Christian. I prayed earnestly that God would show me what a real Christian is and little by little I learned some amazing things.

First off, I wish to inquire, if there is only one God and all religions, Muslims, Catholics, Jews, Buddhists, Taoists, North American natives, Hindus etc. all worship the same god, Why does the Bible mention, for example, Strange gods- 12 different places and other gods 71 different places? Look at a few of these-

Deut.32.16

They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they him to anger.

Exo.20.3

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Exo.23.13

And in all things that I have said unto you be circumspect: and make no mention of the name of other gods, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth.

Deut.18.20

But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.

Jer.35.15

I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, Return ye now every man from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them, and ye shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto me.

It is very clear that there ARE other gods and we don't all worship the same God.

2Cor.4.4

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

There is a god of this world, who is this god of the world?-

Deut.32.17

They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not.

1Cor.10.20,21

But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

Yes, all other gods are devils- Satan and his host who seek to deceive in ever way possible- He knows that if he keeps man from the true worship of the true god in any way, he keeps man helpless, powerless to overcome sin and lost!

Isa.43.10,11

Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.

Why does God tell us that there is really no other gods after warning us not to worship other gods? Because these lying beings and false philosophies and vain theories are all lies and if we give our worship to any of them we will be lost because-

Acts.4.12

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

What is the only name that we can be saved by?

Matt.1.21

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Even many Protestants believe that people were saved in a different way in the Old Testament (Testament also means Covenant) days than they are in the New Testament days. This is false- there is only one true religion! In the Old Testament they looked in faith for salvation and victory over sin to the promised deliverer who was to come; In the New testament, we look by faith for salvation and victory over sin to the promised deliverer who has come.

Now I will shock you- The statement "All religions are the same" is almost all true. All religions are the same- they are all ways in which man tries to save himself by "lifting

himself by his own bootstraps" as it were. It is true in this way- all false religions are basically the same. But there is a TRUE WAY that is different as day from night.

Isa.55.8,9

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

In the true plan of salvation there "Is not one thread of human devising." That is why the carnal heart finds it hard to understand and accept though even a child can grasp it - it is so simple and yet so profound.

Let us look briefly at some of the religions that people often claim worship the same God as a true Christian- Let's see what the Bible has to say about this claim.

Lets take the Muslims. They worship Allah and many people think this is just another name for God. Who was Allah really? Allah was the name of one of the idols worshipped by Mohammed's tribe of Bedouin people. It was a type of the moon god. (That's where the crescent moon comes from in Muslim symbolism.)

They claim to believe in Jesus but say He is just another prophet of which Mohammed is the greatest.

Mohammed claimed to be the "Comforter" who Jesus predicted would come.

What do the Muslims say about the Son of God?

Mohammed said; "Allah is but one god. Far be it from him that he should have a son." Instead Mohammed deified the Koran as "eternal. uncreated, subsisting in the very essence of God."

What does the Bible say?

1 John.2.22.23

Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

John.14.6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

It is quite clear that they cannot be worshipping the same God as the true Christian because it is only through Jesus that we can know and worship the Father !

What about the Sikhs? The same thing applies. There are many world religions that claim to worship the Father but deny the Son - What does the Bible say?

Acts.4.12

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Any belief that states that Jesus is just "one among many" is "denying the Father AND the Son." There fore the god they are worshipping is not the True God!

What did Jesus say to the Jews?

John.8.24

I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

Now let's get closer home; many so-called Christian religions are actually worshipping false gods. Catholicism says that many people who have lived on this earth and followed ascetic practices and suffered much and "earned much merit" can apply this merit to save others- this is where we get saint worship and relic worship. What does the Bible say?

Acts.4.12

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

What about the nature worship of the North American Natives? Although there seems to be some among these people who believed in the Great Spirit; most believed in a multitude of spirits and demons and thought even rocks and trees to have spirits.

Rom.1.23

And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

Rom.1.25

Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

It is being claimed now that these people had a better relationship to the natural world because they had this fear or respect to all animals and things of nature believing them all to be spirits. People now are glorifying this idea as it seems an answer to the environmental problems we are faced with these days. In fact the attitude is to blame these problems on the Christian belief system.

This is a great injustice as anyone who truly worships his Creator also has respect for His creation. It is greed that has caused the environmental destruction- not Christianity!

It is a fact that any religion that claims to exalt an animal to the status of a man, really lowers a man to the level of an animal. We see evidence of this in the terrible cruelty often practiced by the native tribes on other tribes.

It is said that it was because of their cultural beliefs that they did not waste any animal that they killed and only killed what they required.

History seems to show that this was more of necessity than a belief system because once rifles were given to the native people and there was a market for the products the native people showed little hesitancy in mass slaughter - for example - of caribou to sell their tongues etc. The not wasting was more of necessity than moral standards also as those who work among the native people do not find thriftiness and industry to be a common virtue.

It is true that the world needs to have more respect for the created world of nature but the worship of spirits and animals and teaching that a man is no better than a beast is not the answer to the problem. Again this is Satan's lie and a false and strange god.

This brings us to other strange gods that have even made inroads into the ranks of true Christians. This is brought to light in this text:

1John.4.3

And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

Some people think this means to deny that Jesus has come to the earth but that would be futile, as it is a historical fact that He came - so what is meant here?

There is some further light on this in the following-

Heb.2.16,17

For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

Rom.8.3

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.

There are those that claim that Jesus came with the flesh of unfallen Adam. Not the same flesh as us . Therefore we cannot obey God's law as we are not born with this unfallen flesh . This belief is false and very far reaching in its implications. In fact it backs up Satan's claim that man cannot obey God's laws - it claims that Jesus could obey the law because He was born of different flesh than us. But the Bible clearly states that Jesus live His sinless life by depending completely upon His Father just as we are to overcome by depending completely on Jesus. Those who teach this falsehood are declared by the Word to be of the spirit of antichrist. Those who teach such a false idea are truly worshipping strange gods.

Also the 'Calvinistic' theologians worship a god that creates some people to be saved and some to be lost. The lost ones he causes to sin and then tortures them eternally in hell to punish them for what they had no choice in doing! This is indeed a strange god- this is a Satanic god.

In conclusion I wish to point out the grave error in being deceived by the false idea that all religions are the same and all worship the same God. If we say to others- "it is all the same, we all believe in the same God." Then how can we hope to show them a better way?? We have made them secure in their lost condition and how can we later seek to show them the truth??

Eze.3.18-21

When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.

In this climate of ecumenism when the pope and the Hindu and Buddhist and other heathen priests all get together to "pray", it is not easy to hold up the Word and claim there is only ONE WAY- but if we truly love God, the true God as revealed in the Holy Word - we will say as did Luther- "Here I stand and I can do no other!" It is not being kind to leave those who worship "strange gods" unwarned and assured that there is no difference in what they believe and what we find in the Word of God! Better not to associate with them at all if it has to be done under such false premises!!

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