

## WHO CAN BRING A CLEAN THING OUT OF AN UNCLEAN?

(Job 14:4; Exodus 32; Judges 17)

In the third month after the Israelites left the land of Egypt, the same day, they came into the Wilderness of Sinai (Exodus 19:1). There God gave instructions to Moses to “Sanctify the people today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes, and be ready by the third day for the third day the Lord will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of the people” (vs. 10-11). It happened as the Lord told Moses, on the third morning with thunders lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mountain, with a very loud trumpet blast, so that the people trembled (vs. 16). In an experience so fearful and so real of the true God, the Israelites, like no other nation, could not deny His existence.

But in a few chapters latter, after Moses had gone to receive instructions from God, the Israelites defiled themselves by turning to the Egyptian pagan god. They said to Aaron, Up, make us gods to go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him (vs. 1). So Aaron replied, Take the gold rings from the ears of your wives, your sons, and daughters, and bring them to me; so the people took the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron, . . . and (Aaron) fashioned it with a graving toll and made it a molten calf; and they said, **These are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up out of the land of Egypt** (vs. 2-4). How could they have brought a clean thing out of such detestable and abominable thing?

Another experience we read in Judges seventeen: In the days when Judges ruled and “there was no king in Israel and every man did what was right in his own eyes”, a man name Micah from the hill country of Ephraim, said to his mother, The 1,100 shekels of silver that were taken from you . . . behold, I have the silver with me; I took it. And his mother said, **Blessed be you by the Lord, my son! And she said, I had truly dedicated the silver to the Lord from my hand for my son to make a graven image and a molten image;** and the man Micah had a house of gods, and he made an ephod and teraphim and dedicated one of his sons who became his priest. The accursed thing of idolatry can never become pure by blessing it and by applying the name of God to it! This is an abomination to the Lord!

Tradition can sometimes become a stumbling block and a hinder to those who are zealous enough to close their eyes to truth. In the Christian faith, we have done things and followed the way of tradition, which have blinded our eyes and stiffened our necks to change. I am referring to the tradition of “Christmas” and “Easter”. We don’t want to know, and we don’t care if we know that Christmas and Easter practices are of pagan origins. The truth interferes with the fun and in the tradition which is rooted in the family for many years. They take some of the practices of Christmas to church and position our Lord and Savior, Yahshua in a humble state of a baby in a manger, by a Christmas tree decorated with lights, they even become the living Christmas tree and from there they raise their voices in worship in the same attitude as the passage above we read from Judges, justifying the action because it is His birthday, and so they think. Meanwhile, this is what the Lord is telling the Church, Do not learn the way of the

Gentiles; for the customs of the peoples are futile; for one cuts a tree from the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax, they decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with nails and hammers so that it will not topple (Jeremiah 10: 2-4). The Church is acting as if she has no king, as it was in the days of Israel when they had no king and acted confused as we read, **“I had truly dedicated the Lord to make a graven image and a molten image”**. They dedicate the Lord Yahshua as one of the world’s gods. Who is listening to them? To what god is the worship rendered, since Yahshua’s birthday isn’t on the twenty-fifth of December? Is it rendered to the Egyptian god, to the Syrian and Babylonian gods, to the Greek god and to the Roman God with their birthdays celebrated on the date of twenty- fifth of December? Listen to what the Lord God is saying to His Church who offers Him the Christmas sacrifice, **I hate, I despise your feast, and I will not smell a savor or take delight in your solemn assemblies**, though you offer Me your burnt offerings and your cereal offerings, I will not accept them neither will I look upon the peace or thank offerings of your fatted beasts; **take away from Me the noise of your songs, for I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice run down like waters, and righteousness as a mighty and ever-flowing stream** (Amos 5:21-24).

### **What’s in the name of Christmas?**

Even in the word Christmas we find idolatry, for it is a combination of the word **Christ** and **mass**; the meaning of the word mass is death, originated in the Roman Catholic Church. The believers today are crying against the world about its celebration of their pagan gods on December twenty- fifth and plead with it to keep “Christ” in their “mass”. God have mercy! A clean thing out of an unclean thing can never be!

As if it would not have been enough, the believers are also trying to bring purity out of the impure by adopting the name Easter the day of celebration of the death and resurrection of our Savior Yahshua, when we know that the name Easter is the English form of the name Ishtar, the ancient Assyrian goddess. The Greek name for that day is “Pascha”; the Hebrew name for Passover is “Pesakh”. The Church is celebrating Yahshua’s death and resurrection the way the pagan world does in celebration of its own gods. In her celebration she represents the pagan gods with the traditions of hot cross buns, colored eggs, Easter egg hunting, rabbits etc.

For so many years it was believed that Yahshua had risen “on the first day of the week”, when the translation should have been, on the first day of weeks, as we read in Leviticus 23, the seven Sabbaths after Passover, “Count fifty days to the day after the seven the Sabbath; which will be Pentecost. “How has the date 14<sup>th</sup> Nisan (Passover) changed to the Sun-day following the first full moon, after the Vernal equinox with the English name Easter”? On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the Lord’s Passover, so said the Lord (Leviticus 23:5). The apostasy entered the church of Christ in 325 A.D. through the celebration of Easter; “the church adopted the pagan springtime Resurrection fashioned after the Babylonian fertility goddess”. How can one bring a clean thing out of unclean (Job 14:4)?

In the practice of yoga by believers to acquire peace, they have no idea that this practice is associated with Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism. So when a Christian engages in yoga, he is

uniting himself with the gods of yoga, and that cannot bring a clean thing out of the pagan and unclean! They prefer to go the way of the world, they prefer to go after the peace the world offers through the practices of idolatry and ignore the words of Yahshua, **Peace I leave with you; My peace I now give and bequeath to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.** (John 14:27).

And how about the practices of Halloween? History traces Halloween back to the ancient religion of the Celts in Ireland. The Celtic people were very conscious of the spiritual world and had their own ideas of how they could gain access to it - such as by helping their over 300 gods to defeat their enemies in battle, or by imitating the gods in showing cleverness and cunning.

### **Blending of Paganism with Christianity**

When Christianity spread to parts of Europe, instead of trying to abolish these pagan customs, people tried to introduce ideas which reflected a more Christian world-view. Halloween has since become a confusing mixture of traditions and practices from pagan cultures and Christian tradition.

**<http://www.jeremiahproject.com/culture/halloween.html>**

Halloween is a celebration that glorifies the devil's mind and his plan to spread the darkness through witchcraft. For the sake of fun, the Christians are compromising their faith and abandoning the principles of the Word of God, which are clear to see in the pages of the Bible: III John 11, Beloved, do not imitate evil, but imitate good. He who does good is of God; he who does evil has not seen God; Ephesians 5:11-12, Take no part in and have no fellowship with the fruitless deeds and enterprises of darkness, but instead expose and reprove and convict them. For it is a shame even to speak of or mention the things that [such people] practice in secret; II Corinthians 6:14-17, Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership have right living and right standing with God with iniquity and lawlessness? Or how can light have fellowship with darkness?. . . So, Come out from among [unbelievers], and separate your selves from them, says the Lord, and touch not unclean thing; then I will receive you kindly and treat with favor; Deuteronomy 18:10-12, There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or daughter pass through the fire, or who uses divination, or is a soothsayer, or an augur, or a sorcerer, or a charmer, or a medium, or a wizard, or a necromancer, for all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord. The practice of Halloween by a Christian does not make it pure, because it is an unclean and "accursed thing devoted to destruction".

It is said of America to have been a Christian country, where the founding fathers prayed beautiful prayers and were Christians. It is seen in the History of this country the tales of two lords: for while they prayed to God, they served the Mason god and openly rejected the idea that they were Christians as we know it. For like the disciple Thomas, who walked with Yahshua for three years and still didn't know the way to God, so were they; and like Philip, who didn't know the Father in the person of Yahshua, so were with the founding fathers of America. The two lords they tried to serve didn't make them to be a Christian; neither brought the clean thing out of the unclean. Our Lord Yahshua said, No one can serve two masters; or either he will

hate the one and love the other or he will stand by and be devoted to the one and despise and be against the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (Matthew 6:24).

My friend, the spiritual discernment is necessary for us to continue in the path that will always lead us to truth, nothing but the truth; not the look alike, or almost the truth. The unclean things are not sanctified just because we are involved with it; one cannot make pure that which is impure. By trying to please two masters, we become double minded, as James describes, A man of two minds, unstable and unreliable and uncertain about everything (1: 8). And he asks the question, Does a fountain send forth [simultaneously] from the same opening fresh water and bitter? So it is in the words of James, You unfaithful wives! Do you not know that being the world's friend is being God's enemy? So whoever chooses to be a friend of the world takes his stand as an enemy of God. Or do you suppose that the Scripture is speaking to no purpose that says, the Spirit Whom He has caused to dwell in us yearns over us and He yearns for the Spirit [to be welcomed] with a jealous love? And he leaves us an invitation, Come close to God and He will come close to you. [Recognize that you are] sinners, get your soiled hands clean; [realize that you have been disloyal] wavering individuals with divided interests, and purify your hearts [of your spiritual adultery] (James 4:4-5, 8). The decision you will make concerning those celebrations mentioned above, is between you and God. But as it is for me, I and my husband, we will serve the Lord God only!