

And They Did Evil in the Sight of YHWH...

This phrase is used 44 times in scripture and is always followed by punishment from YHWH. What were these sins that caused the Almighty to severely punish Israel and their kings, which led them into such gross error? Here are some examples of why YHWH became angry:

Jdg 2:11 *And the children of Israel did that which was evil in the sight of YHWH, and served the Baalim.*

Jdg 2:12 *And they forsook YHWH, the Elohim of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the peoples that were round about them, and worshipped them; and they provoked YHWH.*

Jdg 2:13 *And they forsook YHWH, and served Baal and the Ashtaroth.*

Jdg 2:14 *And the anger of YHWH was kindled against Israel, and He delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and He gave them over into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.*

And again...

Jdg 3:7 *And the children of Israel did that which was evil in the sight of YHWH, and forgot YHWH their Elohim, and served the Baalim and the Asheroth.*

And again...

Jdg 10:6 *And the children of Israel again did that which was evil in the sight of YHWH, and served the Baalim, and the Ashtaroth, and the gods of Aram, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook YHWH, and served Him not.*

Jdg 10:7 *And the anger of YHWH was kindled against Israel, and He gave them over into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the children of Ammon.*

In every one of these cases, Israel forgot YHWH and served Baal and the Asheroth.

Are we also guilty of these same sins that provoked YHWH to such anger that He gave His people over to defeat by the nations around them? To answer that question, we need to find out what these sins were. The children of Israel served Baal and the Asheroth. Let's look at each one.

Baal - Lord.

- (1.) The name appropriated to the principal male god of the Phoenicians/Canaanites. It is found in several places in the plural BAALIM (Jdg 2:11; Jdg 10:10; 1Ki 18:18; Jer 2:23; Hos 2:17). Baal is identified with Molech (Jer 19:5). The sun-god, under the general title of Baal, or “lord,” was the chief object of worship of the Canaanite . (Easton’s Bible Dictionary)

Baal is also associated with Asherah, inaccurately translated "THE GROVE" or "groves" (Jdg 3:7; 2Ch 33:3; 2Ch 34:4; 2Ki 23:5-6). (Fausset Bible Dictionary).

So we see that chief male deity was Baal or “the lord” to the Phoenicians and the chief female deity was Ashtaroath, where we get the English word “Easter”. Ashtaroath, also called Ishtar, was thought to represent the moon whereas Baal was the sun deity or sun god. He was also called “Lord of the Heaven and the Earth.” He was not only a fertility god, but the king of the gods. The Babylonians spelling of Baal was “Bel.” He ultimately become known as the Greek Belos, identified with Zeus.

Asheroth was also called Astarte, the goddess of fertility. She also became identified with the Egyptian deities, Isis and Hathor (Ency. Britannica).

Every time that Israel indulged in Baal worship and erected asherah (idols or standing obelisks) in the high places, YHWH punished them severely. Obviously, He didn’t like this kind of activity from His people.

We find the first instance of His anger being expressed in this manner when Moses went up on the mountain to receive the Ten Commandments. While he was gone, the people began to worship Him though the molten calf as the Egyptians did with their gods. Aaron also declared the following day as a Feast unto YHWH. Was YHWH pleased with this? No! He was livid! He wanted to destroy all of Israel at this point and start over with a new people fathered by Moses. Only Moses’ intercession on behalf of Israel saved them from destruction. Israel was trying to worship YHWH in their own way and not the way He specified. They were trying to come to Him in their own way as we so often do today.

Naturally, none of us think we are guilty of worshipping these deities because of their names. We don’t worship Baal or Astarte, do we? Israel always had trouble with these and still does today. Once we realize we ARE Israel (see Romans 11), then it becomes apparent we haven’t left Baal worship very far behind. We still erect asherah today, but call them now by different names. You often see them on top of churches, which are now

called “steeple”. Many still participate in the fertility rites of coloring eggs when observing “Easter.” These colored eggs were originally dyed red in the blood of sacrificed babies. Do we want to perpetuate a custom that we know YHWH hates? By observing Christmas and Easter, we are doing exactly what Israel was guilty of many years ago. December 25 has been celebrated for the last 4000 years as the rebirth of the sun. It is the time of the winter solstice when the ancients thought the dying sun began to be reborn. It was a date celebrated as the birth date of practically every sun god known to man. It is, in effect, the worship of the sun god, who in reality is Satan. The two deities of the ancient world, Baal and Asheroth, are worshipped by observing these two celebrations.

We say to ourselves, “It doesn’t mean that to me,” It really doesn’t matter what it means to us, all that matters is what it means to YHWH. It didn’t mean that to Israel at Sinai either, but it certainly did to YHWH. He was angry enough to have destroyed them all.

Why would we think it is different now?

Mal 3:6 For I YHWH **change not**; and ye, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

Heb 13:8 Yahshua the Messiah, **the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.**

If YHWH doesn’t change, it stands to reason that He hates the same things today. I can state authoritatively upon the word of YHWH, that He absolutely abhors these two celebrations today as He did in the days of yore. But don’t take my word for it, let’s again refer to YHWH’s word.

Eze 8:13 He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do.

Eze 8:14 Then he brought me to the door of the gate of YHWH’s house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz.

Eze 8:15 Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see **greater abominations than these.**

Eze 8:16 And he brought me into the inner court of YHWH’s house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of YHWH, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of YHWH, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.

Tammuz was a sun god. He was worshipped for a 40 day period, now called Lent, prior to his expected resurrection. This was expected to occur at sunrise on Easter Sunday. YHWH called this a WICKED ABOMINATION

in Eze. 8:9. These are the strongest two words in Hebrew that can be used to express outrage. This was an Easter sunrise service.

How about Christmas?

Jer 10:1 *Hear ye the word which YHWH speaketh unto you, O house of Israel:*

Jer 10:2 *Thus saith YHWH, **Learn not the way of the heathen**, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.*

Jer 10:3 *For the customs of the people are vain: for **one cutteth a tree out of the forest**, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.*

Jer 10:4 *They **deck it with silver and with gold**; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.*

Jer 10:5 *They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good*

We are not to learn the way of the heathen. We are not to cut down a tree, decorate it with silver and gold and fasten it upright. The Christmas tree is also a fertility symbol and is not pleasing to YHWH. This custom is typically performed around the birthday of the sun god, December 25 – Christmas.

YHWH will not accept worship that is based upon a pagan festival. Baal (the lord) is the sun god, which is none other than Satan himself. His birthday is celebrated on December 25, not Yahshua, who was born during the Feast of Tabernacles in September or October. Easter is a pagan feast to Ashtaroth, the Canaanite fertility goddess. Yahshua was not resurrected on Easter Sunday; it was the sun god who was to be resurrected at sunrise on Easter Sunday. Yahshua was resurrected right after Passover on the Feast of First Fruits.

How long will we continue to provoke YHWH with these two false feasts? If He accepts worship on these two days from those who celebrate them, then He has changed and His word is meaningless.

When our country was founded, these two false feasts were outlawed. Only later with increased immigration from Europe did these two pagan feasts begin to be observed here. Our country has forsaken the giver of life and is now on the brink of judgment. If the pattern of the bible is our guide, we will soon be defeated by our enemies and our way of life will change drastically. Our personal eternal well being and standing with the Almighty depends

upon our forsaking of these pagan feasts and a deeply repentant and humble spirit.

Will you have this said about you? “*And he did evil in the sight of YHWH?*” I pray not. Let’s look at someone of whom it was said “He did right in the sight of YHWH.” It was King Josiah.

2Ki 23:3 *And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before YHWH, to walk after YHWH, and to **keep his commandments** and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.*

2Ki 23:4 *And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring **forth out of the temple of YHWH all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the asherah**, and for all the host of heaven: and **he burned them** without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Bethel.*

2Ki 23:5 *And **he put down the idolatrous priests**, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also **that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven.***

2Ki 23:6 *And he **brought out the asherah from the house of YHWH**, without Jerusalem, unto the brook Kidron, and **burned it** at the brook Kidron, and **stamped it small to powder**, and cast the powder thereof upon the graves of the children of the people.*

2Ki 23:7 *And he **brake down the houses of the sodomites**, that were by the house of YHWH, where the women wove hangings for the **asherah**.*

2Ki 23:8 *And he brought all the priests out of the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beersheba, and brake down the high places of the gates that were in the entering in of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were on a man's left hand at the gate of the city.*

2Ki 23:9 *Nevertheless the priests of the high places came not up to the altar of YHWH in Jerusalem, but they did eat of the unleavened bread among their brethren.*

2Ki 23:10 *And he defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter **to pass through the fire to Molech**.*

2Ki 23:11 *And **he took away the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun**, at the entering in of the house of YHWH, by the chamber of Nathanmelech the chamberlain, which was in the suburbs, and **burned the chariots of the sun with fire**.*

2Ki 23:12 *And the altars that were on the top of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and **the altars which Manasseh had made** in the two courts of the house of YHWH, did the king beat down, and **brake them down from thence, and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron**.*

2Ki 23:13 *And **the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile**.*

2Ki 23:14 And he brake in pieces the images, and cut down the asherah, and filled their places with the bones of men.

2Ki 23:15 Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake down, and burned the high place, and stamped it small to powder, and burned the asherah.

2Ki 23:16 And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchres that were there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchres, and burned them upon the altar, and polluted it, according to the word of YHWH which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words.

2Ki 23:17 Then he said, What title is that that I see? And the men of the city told him, It is the sepulchre of the man of God, which came from Judah, and proclaimed these things that thou hast done against the altar of Bethel.

2Ki 23:18 And he said, Let him alone; let no man move his bones. So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet that came out of Samaria.

2Ki 23:19 And all the houses also of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had made to provoke YHWH to anger, Josiah took away, and did to them according to all the acts that he had done in Bethel.

2Ki 23:20 And he slew all the priests of the high places that were there upon the altars, and burned men's bones upon them, and returned to Jerusalem.

2Ki 23:21 And the king commanded all the people, saying, Keep the passover unto YHWH your Elohim, as it **is written in the book of this covenant.**

2Ki 23:22 Surely there was not holden such a passover from the days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah;

2Ki 23:23 But in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, wherein this passover was held to YHWH in Jerusalem.

2Ki 23:24 Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of YHWH.

2Ki 23:25 And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to YHWH with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.

We see that Josiah destroyed the altars to Baal and cut down and burned the asherah of Ashtaroath. He slew the priests of Baal and commanded Israel to keep the Passover. He put witchcraft, idol worship and other abominations out of Israel.

Shouldn't we also put away these things from our houses and our lives? Shouldn't we get rid of the idols, false feasts and the things we know does not please YHWH? Shouldn't we keep the Passover instead of the pagan Easter? How about keeping the Sabbath instead of the day honoring the sun god, who we have already established is Satan?

Shouldn't we fear YHWH and do today as Joshua admonished Israel?

Jos 24:14 Now therefore ***fear YHWH, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye YHWH.***

Jos 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve YHWH, ***choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites (Canaanites), in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve YHWH.***

Who will you serve?

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