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A Counterfeit World

By Ernest Steadman

The past 27 years has been a lonely journey I would not have wished upon my worst enemy. From the very beginning when I began rereading my Bible with "new eyes", checking and rechecking every seeming contradiction within my King James Version with the original tongues and studying the historical context in which it was written, the more alien my fellow humans seemed to become. I had always known that the path Christ chose was a lonely one but did not fully appreciate just how lonely that journey was until I finally recognized the "truth" He spoke of to Pilate and the utter frustration Jesus must have felt when He had to ultimately recognize that His Disciples, at the end of His ministry, still did not understand His message of salvation, to the point He had to point out to them that there were many secrets that he could not share with them because they were not yet ready to receive them.

As a human being, I guess I could lie and eventually convince myself that what I have learned is not the "truth" of which Jesus spoke of, but honestly, I fear God. It was the first thing I learned in my early Pentecostal upbringing, to fear the Lord Thy God because only then could you fully appreciate the "love" He had for us, His creation.

What did I learn? First of all, I learned to reject all the thousands of sermons in book form which were written by the early pioneer Protestants as just so much ignorant gibberish, understandings of the Holy Scriptures based on no more than either a "convoluted" or "painful" extrapolation based upon narrow sixteenth and seventeenth century sensibilities. And as for the Mother Church, regardless of what propaganda you were exposed to at your religious University or from the established denominations, it died and became something foreign to the Savior in 325 AD when an Emperor demanded that the Bishops all teach the same theology and decide once and for all who they were going to worship as God. The purpose was two-fold, to give Constantine unbridled authority, secular and religious, over his citizens and to head off perceived religious armed conflicts.

In a nutshell, the Bishops gave the Emperor his Nicene Creed which, with tongue in cheek, said that the Father, Son and Holy Ghost were "of the same". Even though it has changed several times through the centuries, it still remains worded that the Trinity are "of the same". I have no problem with that. The problem comes when it is applied through the same convoluted and pained exercise of Church authority, thereby becoming "are the same". Plainly, for the first 325 years after Christ's ministry, He was viewed by the world, and even His own Church, as the Son of God. Now, He became God and was forever separated from the rest of the world faiths and mankind. Unless you turned your back on the faith of your father's and surrendered yourself to this new Priesthood and Temple factions, you could not call yourself Christian and were in danger of Hell Fire.

For stating what I am about to say, I have been labeled by my fellow Christians as either one of Satan's Chief Demons or the reincarnation of Satan himself, come to lead the faithful astray. So, you have been warned.

To understand why Jesus came, you have to understand the Old Testament. Even though most of it was written between four hundred and one hundred years before the birth of Christ (a couple parts dating to maybe 800 BC), it did come from a memorized history, something widely done by primitive peoples. I have to assume they got most of it right. Islamic detractors of the Holy Bible point to all the incest going on and say that these books could not have come from God. My answer to them is simply, then why did the Prophet have to reestablish the "Law" for the Muslim people? Where your morals and view of the world any different? No, they were not and why the Old Testament should be viewed as a fairly accurate portrayal of the times.

Anyway, a quick read of Genesis to me shows the creation story following closely to what the scientific community refers to as "evolution". The original words used, again regardless of the accepted "strained" explanation, allows for greater periods of time than the "day" used by the original interpreters. And, you don't have to go any further than the story of Cain and Abel to know there were others in the world besides Adam and Eve, the first human beings created by God, and their children. God marks Cain's forehead to protect him from others. What others? Cain takes a wife in the land of Nod. What wife. Seth, another son of Adam and Eve, also takes a wife. What wife? Simply, the "seed of God" was intermingled with the "seed of evolution" when these unions occurred.

What did God do after that? Well, for one thing, He sent a flood to kill out the seed of Cain, saving Noah and his family, the seed of Seth whom responded to God's commands. After that, God chooses Abraham to be the father of His "chosen" people who would keep His commandments and laws. Of course, we know those descendants from Abraham to be the Hebrew, the Muslim and, by faith, the Christian; all supposedly worshipping the same God. He gave us the example of Sodom and Gomorrah

because they were an "inhospitable" people. The "chosen" were then given into Egyptian captivity and eventually released through Moses, the Law Giver. With the Law in hand, the "chosen" were then given the Promised Land in which to settle and live as God had commanded. As in other primitive cultures, failure to strictly follow the law brought a penalty of death. It was as though God was working with a creature that was more "animal" than "human". And, from the record, it would seem so. With my understanding, the God of the Old Testament was not a God of revenge versus the God of love found in the New Testament but a God using the Law and retribution to re breed the "God seed" back into mankind.

So, why then did Jesus come? After 1300 plus years of living under "The Law", God must have thought man had evolved enough to accept the mantle of a human being (as that which He created when He made Adam and Eve) instead of an evolved, possibly trainable animal in the guise of humanity. How mistaken He would be.

In order to prepare for the body that Jesus would occupy, we learn that Mary, the woman who would bear the Christ child, came as a result of the intervention of Angels and the Holy Spirit with her mother who was barren and long past the age to bear children. Then, we are told that Jesus came into being as result of the intervention of Angels and the Holy Spirit with Mary, a virgin. In my mind, that is twice removed from the "seed of man", or "seed of evolution". Why? I suppose to make Christ's DNA as close a match to Adam and Eve's as possible.

What did Jesus teach or reveal of the Heavenly Father? Well, for one thing, as you think a thing you have done it. How about God is a Spirit and desires to be worshiped in the Spirit, right after telling everyone, "to render unto Caesar's that which is Caesar's". We know that every time the word "love" is used, it means to "understand". We know that Jesus was not God, but the Son of God. Arguments that say Jesus was with God from before the beginning of creation are correct, but that does not make Him God anymore than I am my mother or father, even though I was with each of

them from the moment they were born into this world. We know that Jesus HATED the money changers at the Temple and whenever the term love was used to apply to money, it became Alms giving (giving to those who had not earned it), reported by His disciples "to cover a multitude of sins". Jesus thought, in fact, giving Alms was more important or equal to giving Tithes. We know that Jesus brought an end to "The Law" (which cannot save) and forever banned the use of blood sacrifice to atone for sins. We know that all are sinful from the example given of the Adulterous who was to be stoned. We also know that our bodies are the Temple of the Holy Spirit and that it resides in all of creation.

By this own words, Jesus HATED the Priests and Pharisees of His day. And, by statement while standing on Temple grounds, placed the Holy Spirit, not within the Temple, but in every person that lived. Just what is this Holy Spirit. Well, we know that it always existed because of the many references to it prior to Jesus arriving. In my mind, it is the "truth" to which He testified to and the only thing that makes any sense of His ministry; that the Holy Spirit is the voice of God; be it a gentle nudge, an intuition or a feeling about something, it is the armor of God, the Holy Spirit, spoken of in the Scriptures. We also know that while Jesus laid in the grave, He preached to those in the Spirit Prison (which He called Paradise) the way to salvation "who were unto the days of Noah". Any one reading this think that Jesus required His new converts to take Baptism? Or join one of those yet to be created denominations that call Jesus God?

Now for some truth. This all begins to shake out that Jesus came to set mankind FREE into the Holy Spirit and direct communion with the Father, the Creator of the Universe. No more Priests. No more Pharisees to interpret "The Law". No more "Law" to determine whether a man is to be saved or not, just the ever presence of the Holy Spirit guiding each one who will allow it to do so. The Apostle Paul is blamed with bringing back the Temple or Church. Yet, he did no such thing. The word he used so often that was interpreted as Church was actually Ecclesia with which he constantly reminded the various City/State congregations that were part of a greater whole, with Christ at its head. The word that justifies a house of worship or group of like minded worshipers is Kuriakon. No where is that word used in the Bible by anyone.

Reinforcing this is the admonishment that all sins can be forgiven except to "blaspheme against the Holy Ghost, for it is said he hath an unclean spirit." Another graphic wording, with a double meaning to me is, "It had been better for them to have not known the way, after having known it, once again the dog eats its own vomit and the hog that was

washed once again wallows in the mire." Since we already know that the Holy Ghost or Spirit is the "will of God" in one's life, to blaspheme against it is to thoroughly convince oneself, through doctrine or dogma, that the Spirit is telling you one thing when it plainly is not. Those able to do this, and there are MILLIONS who do on a daily basis, regardless of how Saintly or knowledgeable they present themselves, all have "unclean spirits" and by their own actions or inactions cannot be saved. The follow up to that clearly defines those who follow the Holy Spirit in their lives are human beings (as Adam and Eve were) and those who do not are referred to as dogs eating their own vomit and hogs rolling around in their own defecation, animals.

The "faith" that present-day Christians cling to and echo throughout their worship services is just another red herring. It means nothing because we are told in the Scriptures, "faith without works is dead." That's pretty plain isn't it? Works is always the outward sign that God is in them. Didn't Jesus tell His disciples that the people would know who they are from by their works? And, in Revelations, at the Last Judgment, all are judged, both great and small, out of the Lamb's Book of Life, "...according to their works." Not by their faith, their denomination, who they were in life, or what God they worshiped, if they worshiped God at all. No, they are judged "by their works".

Remember the day that Jesus told His disciples that if they had faith the size of a mustard seed, they could tell a mountain to move and it would move? He didn't say they had to have faith in Him, did He? No, just that they had faith. Another time we are told that many will perform miracles in His name but when they stand before Him at Judgment, He will tell them to leave because He did not know them. How does that happen? Clearly, there is a process that determines whether the miracles they did was at the will of God or their own will. And, what process is that? The process of relying upon the Holy Spirit for direction and fulfilling the direction it gives. Beyond faith, beyond denomination, beyond The Law, beyond any religion, beyond all considerations which can be devised by man, those who follow the will of the Holy Spirit in their lives are the "Children of God" and will be saved in that hour. They will have proven they worshiped God in the Spirit by making that worship manifest itself through the flesh by their actions.

The Christianity I see today is COUNTERFEIT compared to the teachings of both Jesus and His disciples, becoming the very evil it swore to protect us from in 325 AD. What else can explain our Nation's attitude with those in the Middle East? One counterfeit Christian faith supporting a

counterfeit Islamic faith and attacking or threatening people who represent the TRUE Islamic faith. That is about as Demonic as you can get, don't you think?

I need to say some things that are not going to sit well with either most of the Islamic or Hebrew peoples, but I have to in order for the reader to understand just a small part of the evil influences flourishing over in that part of the world and why we, as a nation, have become such an integral part in that region of the world.

First of all, the Islamic faith came about as it was foretold in the Holy Bible and the Prophet became the Comforter Jesus spoke of before His ascension. Why? Because that which had been known as the Hebrew land of "The Law" had not existed for centuries and the Christian faith had already fallen away from its origins by several hundred years. If Jesus had come among men to bring an end to The Law and set men FREE into the Holy Spirit and thus in continual communion with God, and all mankind ultimately did was to use Him to re establish the Temple, the Priesthood and substitute The Law with doctrines and dogma, all created to insure domination and control of all who came under their influence; then wouldn't you, as God, ask yourself if mankind had evolved enough to handle His gift?

Wouldn't you look around for the rest of the "chosen" with which to re establish your Law? I would have and my first choice without a moments hesitation would have been the sons of Ishmael, the eldest son of Abraham. Yes, I would have sent my Angels to seek out one who would be my new Moses, my Prophet, to introduce my Law and unite the people through and once again begin molding man into that which would reflect my handiwork in the creation of Adam and Eve. And, they would live in the Promised Land and be mine until that day came that they were ready to accept my gift I gave through my Son, Jesus Christ, the right and ability to be human beings without the burden of The Law which cannot save.

And, so it began in the seventh century, AD, with the Prophet Muhammad. But, like Christianity, something horrible happened. The grandson of the Prophet was murdered by the reigning Caliph of that day and brought about the same schism in Islam as was experienced in the Christian faith. Those who believed in the bloodline of the Prophet became Shi'a Muslims. Those who accepted rule by the Caliph in their faith became Sunni Muslims. From this schism came many sects which broke away from the Sunni, the largest denomination of Islam, maybe as high as 80

percent of the population. Some sects which come to mind are the Maliki, Habal, Hanafi and Shafi. From them have come cults like Wahabism, Al Qaeda and the Taliban. Why is this important? Because it is yet one more time that mankind has turned away from God and have used Him to create a faith whose only purpose is to control and dominate all who come under their influence solely for the purposes of fulfilling the needs or desires of the FLESH.

In my mind, the Shi'a Islamic faith is akin to my own Christian faith that seeks to follow the ORIGINAL intent of our respective Saviors. The Sunnis are akin to the Mother Church who sold its soul to insure the survival of a governmental dictatorship and those who have left the Sunni to form their own sects and cults (denominations) are akin to our own Christian Protestant Churches.

Most are aware of the Al Qaeda and Taliban followers from our news media, but what do you know about the Wahabis? First of all, in all Wahabis supported schools, by the ninth grade students are told in their textbooks that the Prophet and Allah require of them to kill all Jews and infidels, and are told that other Muslims who are not Wahabis are not true Muslims and can be killed the same as infidels. Where are the world's Wahabis? In Saudi Arabia. It is the Saudi Arabian dollars that support Wahabis schools in not only Saudi Arabia but also in the poorest parts of Egypt, to insure the next generation of suicide bombers. Yet, these are the same people our "Christian" White House considers its closest ally in the Middle East. Are these the "Moderates" President Bush spoke of? In truth, hardly.

Much of this schism is not only confusing but "hidden" because all use the Qur'an as their Bible. And, in that Bible, the Prophet plainly tells his followers that they are not to speak ill of their fellow Muslims. So, those who are trying to live the true Islamic faith cannot, by their faith, raise the alarm to the rest of the world, nor can they engage in missionary type activities because that is also strictly forbidden by the Prophet. People come to Islam at the will of Allah, not by the will of man. At the root of this schism is the use of the Hadith (commentaries on the personal life of the Prophet) to interpret the Qur'an. The various collections of Hadith used by the Sunnis is probably FIVE TIMES the volume used by the Shi'a, thus allowing so much room for contradicting and horrendous interpretations. As the Shi'a have been steadfast in following only those whose "bloodline" could be traced back to the Prophet, the Sunnis followed those leaders who offered expediency to their desires and agendas instead of seeking the "Spiritual" guidance of their faith.

All Muslims live under Sharia Laws, but they are far from the same from one faith to another. Those that keep women as chattels of men and carry draconian penalties for not wearing certain clothing, these can all be traced to the Sects which are identified with the Sunni. The Shi'a have no such horrid Sharia Laws. Another aspect between the faiths is the leadership. The Sunni and their Sects and Cults each have their own leaders and often share leaders and opinions which suit their Sect's particular project or goal. The Shi'a have only one leader, the Ayatollah, whom I compare to the Pope in Rome for the Catholic faith. Since we have been in Iraq, again and again the Ayatollah has echoed the words of the Prophet when he tells the Shi'a that there is one sin for which there is no forgiveness; the murder of innocents and noncombatants during time of war. It is so horrendous in their faith, the Prophet says that not only can they not be forgiven for murdering noncombatants, women and children, Allah will also visit a curse upon them for doing so. So, I ask you, who is carrying out suicide bombs, firing rockets into housing complexes, setting off bombs on the roadside? It certainly isn't the Shi'as, is it.

Who are the Shi'as? Iran is a Shi'a state, one of the countries that our White House has targeted for invasion, calling them a terrorist state. It could not be further from the truth. Recently, it was published in the news media that Iran had ceased nuclear weapons research four years ago. I already knew that. How? Because the Ayatollah said so! I want to ask you, what population in Iraq has been left to their own devices to protect themselves from being murdered by other Islamic Sects? The Shi'a, of course, with the pull out of British forces. Even a half blind person visiting Iran does not find the kind of repression found in Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern countries. Women do wear the Burkha but are not required to do so. They openly and freely do jobs that are done by men and wear western clothing. Where is the world's largest Jewish community outside of Israel? Right smack in the middle of Iran and they are allowed to move about and worship as they please. The same can be said for the Christians that live there. Why? Because according to the Prophet, if one is willing to obey the laws and to pay the just POOR TAX, they are free to come and go and worship as they please in Muslim lands. No harm would come to them from their Muslim brethren and Muslims would lay their life down to defend and protect them. The Shi'a still stand by those admonishments by the Prophet. But, what Sunni or Sect or Cult of Sunni would? Probably none is the correct answer. Yet the American citizen is to believe that the Sunni are our friends and the Shi'a are our enemies, to the point we are told that Iran's destruction is crucial to the prevention of World War III.

The Prophet often said that the Christian was the true brother of the Muslim. Of course the Christians he knew back then were far removed, by distance and heritage, from

what the Church had become. I wonder if he could say the same thing today? Not likely.

As for the Hebrew and the current matters present in Israel, I am absolutely mortified not only in the way the Israeli government has conducted itself in the past, but the way in which it continues to WAGE WAR against the Palestinian people, subsidized entirely by our government. For years, if a child was arrested in the streets for throwing rocks at troops, the Israeli response was to locate the child's parents and then just bulldoze their home into rubble. In a twist on this same theme, Palestinians are required to register with the Israeli government and register their orchards. Then they are required to obtain a "permission" to physically work their orchard. After a couple years with no "permission" forthcoming, the Israeli government just sets out one morning to level the orchard with bulldozers because the farmer didn't have a "permission" to operate it.

Recently reported, several villages and townships within territories already given to the Palestinians were visited by Israeli bulldozers and leveled because they had not gotten the proper permits from Israel to construct their homes within their own land. Follow up news stories showed elderly Palestinians demonstrating at a long abandoned Check Point within the territories in question about the treatment they were given at the hands of the Israeli government, who were then promptly arrested and carried to prison by Israeli troops for demonstrating without a permit. Folks, this is Palestinian land, not Israeli.

Our own population continues to suffer for lack of needed infrastructure expenditures, not to mention the fact that health wise our nation has fallen below that of several third world countries, based on U.N. Figures, with a greater percentage of infants dying in Washington, DC, than who die in Bangladesh. Yet, the U.S. Continues to pour BILLIONS and BILLIONS of dollars into Israel for the purposes of building settlement homes for Israeli citizens. In every instance when lands were given over to the Palestinians, these settlement homes were bulldozed supposedly because Palestinians would not want to live in a home that an Israeli had previously occupied. Yeah, right. Please tell me another story.

Even today, a view of any map of either the Gaza Strip or the West Bank reveals hundreds of spider like arms extending into those lands which represent Israeli settlements, each one guarded and patrolled by Israeli troops. Now we see the huge walls being constructed

between the so-called Palestinian lands and Israel proper, dotted with Israeli Armed Check Points whose sole purpose is to CONTROL not only the population but the resources that are allowed either in or out of those lands.

Well folks, it has taken about 34 years for someone to finally do it, wage war against a people using Population and Resources Control. I know all about it, back in '72 and '73 when SEADOC used the facilities of the United States Army Military Police Advanced Officer School at Fort Gordon, Georgia to bring together Command General Officers from the U.S., the U.K., Israel and Russia to plan this very thing. Yes, I was there when it was stated that this would be the most humane way of fighting the next great war, to control the population and their resources without resorting to armed violence. Wonder how humane the Palestinians feel about it with their children and elderly dieing for lack of medical care, or their hungry bellies grumbling, or maybe shivering for lack of fuel oil, or just the inability to travel back and forth to jobs or food outlets?

These are just not the actions of Hebrews who worship a "just" God, but the political actions of a Jewish Cult, the Zionists, who believe only their seed from Abraham should prevail in the land, completely ignoring the seed of Abraham which begat his eldest son, Ishmael.

Plainly, all the major players in the Middle East; Hebrew, Muslim and Christian are all counterfeits who bear little resemblance to either their forefathers or to the driving forces behind their creation of their faith in the beginning. Those of us who try to follow the "original" faith have no say in the affairs of anyone over there. Not even the Shi'a who are "Moderate" among Moderate Muslims, who follow the TRUE Islamic faith are bridled and buffeted on all sides, not only by their fellow Muslims but by interlopers like the United States on behalf of Israel. Oh yes, interloper. When you can, with a straight face, commit one-third of the spoils of war, Iraqi oil in this case, to be transported via pipeline directly into Israeli refineries so they can enjoy a cheap source of energy, that is being an interloper.

It would be a shame if a "counterfeit" Armageddon resulted from all the machinations by these "counterfeit" religious practitioners. I only know that it would not be the "New Age" promised by the Holy Scriptures but something, dare I say it again, COUNTERFEIT.

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