

# Gnosticism Forever

Eschatology: Study of God Developing People  
in His Image  
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## Gnosticism – No Simple Definition

- Gnosticism is like the Boggart in "Harry Potter"
  - It takes a form familiar to the viewer's understanding
  - It crosses cultural, ethnic, religious, and philosophical realms
  - It is everyone, it is all one
- There is one truth, it is anti-gospel, antichrist's Gospel



## What is Gnosticism

- Word used today to refer to multiplicity of belief systems that have a single thread
- Today the word is used to refer to many belief systems throughout time
- Word was coined in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century referring to the Greek word for knowledge, usually hidden knowledge
- These beliefs, secular and religious, seek to leave the material behind to achieve the spiritual in some form
- Common thread unites ALL the various belief forms
- Yet, all have the same end, death, not life

# Gnosis and Gnosticism

## Gnosis

- The claim to have divine or special knowledge
  - This may occur through religions, experiences, higher reasoning
  - May be facilitated by music, trances, drugs, prayer forms

## Gnosticism

- Synthesis of two ideas permeate all belief systems
  - Divine spark of the spiritual in each person that must be pursued
  - Life consists in reuniting with the divine achieving true fulfillment

# Gnostic Beginnings

- Basis developed at Babel\*
- Probably a resurgence of antediluvian governance\*
- Captivated the new society, except Shem's followers\*
- Centered about the worship of the heavenlies/spiritual one(s) {Astrology one form}



# Ancient “Star of ?”

Magen (Star of) David



Sumerian Star



# “Star of ?”

Hindu Star



Islamic Star



# “Star of ?”

Greek Orthodox “Star”



Roman Catholic “Star”



# Who’s Star?

Christian Star



Satan’s Star



# Let's Follow the Holy Days

- This is NOT a warning of how Gnosticism may affect you – this is a discussion of how Gnosticism ALREADY has infiltrated Christianity!
- Symbols efficiently transmit concepts across otherwise impermeable boundaries



# Why It's Not Christmas

Magi Kneeling to Jesus



True Meaning of Xmas



# Why It's Not Easter

Bacchus (Tammuz) Crucifixion



True Meaning of Easter



## Gnosticism Inoculating Against the Gospel

- Christmas – Birth of Tammuz confused with Christ (Who was born about Aug-Sep period) *Strike One!*
- Easter – Death of Tammuz (Bacchus) on cross coupled with celebration of Ishtar with eggs and bunnies (symbols of fertility) *Strike Two!*
- Eternity – Christians live in heaven (spiritual) ignoring the teaching of Scripture that we will live on the “new earth” (material) *Strike Three!*
- Gospel – Truth of Jesus dying for your sins? Rejected! No different than the other false religions (Gnosticism) *You are Out!*

## How Much *Error* is Required Before It's *Wrong*?

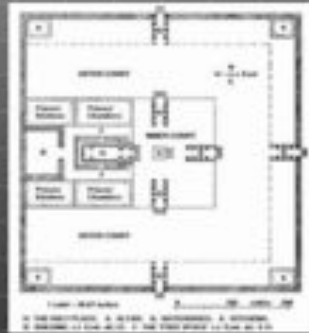
- “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” *(Mt 6:24 NKJV)*
- “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.” *(1 Jo 2:15-16 NKJV)*

## Christ in the Flesh Antithesis of Gnosticism

- “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh (material) is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh (Gnosticism) is not of God. And THIS IS THE SPIRIT OF THE ANTICHRIST, WHICH YOU HAVE HEARD WAS COMING, AND IS NOW ALREADY IN THE WORLD.” *(1 Jo 4:1-3 NKJV)*

## Judaistic Gnosticism Angered God (Ez 8)

- ⦿ In the Temple Complex – God’s House
  - ⦿ Court of the Women
  - ⦿ Court of the Men
  - ⦿ Court of the Priests
- ⦿ Heart of Idolatry – Looking for redemption from Gnosticism rather than submitting to God’s love



## Harmless Symbols?

### Image of Jealousy

- ⦿ God was no longer the source of their redemption, He failed to protect them
- ⦿ They were looking to the god(s) of this world for their protection
- ⦿ Pragmatism (US Philosophy)

### Family Worship Time



(Jk 7:18-19; 44:15-19, 25)

## Sanhedrin Worships Idols

- ⦿ Hidden in the Temple complex the Sanhedrin (Elders) of Judah (including government officials)
  - ⦿ Holding censors (acting as intercessors) praying to a panoply of idols and the forces behind them (1Co 10:18-22)
  - ⦿ Outwardly, they appear to worship God
  - ⦿ Inwardly, they worship their true faith
  - ⦿ The people perish for lack of knowledge of God (Heb 6)

(Ez 8)

## Women Weep For Tammuz

- ☛ Women worshipping Tammuz rather than mourning over their sin that brought the Babylonians
- ☛ Reminiscent of Christ when women wept for Him, He told them to weep for themselves (Lk 23:27-28)



## Gnostic Unrepentance

- ☛ The people refused to repent though they had already felt the sting of the Babylonian punishment
  - ☛ Governing political, community
  - ☛ Populace: Men, Women, Children
  - ☛ Priesthood that allowed the alter and the use of the Temple showed they guided and participated in this
- ☛ God was not amused by their “innocent” practices

## How Much Leaven?

- ☛ Why do Christians call their Gnostic inclusions, *small*, and believe that God will *wink* at them?
  - ☛ “For who has despised the day of small things?” (De 3:14 NKJV)
  - ☛ For the sake of culture, friends and family, Christians retain such practices thinking they *honor* God
- ☛ How much leaven does it take to leaven the whole lump? Only a *small* amount, plus time (1Co 5:6-7)

## Simple Truth

- ☛ Gnostic worship is nothing less than worship to demons rather than to Christ. (1Co 10:18-22)
- ☛ Participating in demonic worship, no matter how *“innocent”* is clearly:
  - ☛ Rejection of Christ
  - ☛ Mockery of His sacrifice
  - ☛ Invites chastisement

## Danger of Drifting Away

- ☛ The danger of drifting away from so great a salvation by the inclusion of gnosticism is very real (He 3:1-3)
  - ☛ If God punished the Judaizers how can He not fail to punish us?
  - ☛ Where can we go for who else has the words of life? (Jo 6:68)
  - ☛ Why do we defend such errors, allowing them to contaminate our faith, family, church and the weak?

## Faithful Follower, or Devil?

- ☛ “From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Do you also want to go away?’ But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ Jesus answered them, ‘Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?’ He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.” (Jo 6:66-71 NKJV)