

## ROMANS 40 – PETRIFIED HEARTS

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ROMANS 11:1-12

### PROLOGUE: FALSE BELIEVERS FOLLOW THE WAY OF CAIN IN BALAAM'S ERROR

- FALSE BELIEVERS, LOST, HAVE SLITHERED INTO CONGREGATIONS, MINGLING WITH THE SAVED TO PERVERT CHRIST'S SALVATION MESSAGE INTO SENSUALITIES (JUDE)
- THESE PEOPLE RELY ON HYPNOTIC VISIONS TO DULL THE MINDS MAKING THE PLANTING OF FALSE BELIEFS EASIER WHICH LEADS TO DEFILEING OF THE FLESH, REJECTING OF AUTHORITIES AND BLASPHEMING THE GLORIOUS ONES (TRINITY) (AC 7:25-30)
- JUDE SAYS THEY ARE WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING, UNGODLY AND THUS UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S TRUTHS (RO 1:18)
- THEIR UNDERSTANDING SPRINGS FROM UNREASONING INSTINCTIVENESS LIKE ANIMALS (PS 73)
- WITHOUT FEAR THEY ARE MALCONTENTED, SCOFFERS AND BOASTERS; UNTIL THEIR END COMES

### PROLOGUE: FALSE BELIEVERS FOLLOW THE "WAY OF BALAAM"

- PETER ALSO DISCUSSES FALSE BELIEVERS WHO SECRETLY BRING IN DESTRUCTIVE HERESIES THAT DENY CHRIST AND HIS GOSPEL (2P 2:1-9, 4:3-4, 2P 2)
- MANY WILL FOLLOW THEIR SENSUALITIES IN THE LAST DAYS SEEKING MYTHS AS TRUTHS BECAUSE THEY REJECT SOUND TEACHING BASED ON CHRIST'S WORDS
- THEY HAVE AN APPEARANCE OF GODLINESS BUT DENY ITS POWER THUS PROVING THEMSELVES AS UNGODLY: LOVERS OF SELF, HEARTLESS, LIARS, WITHOUT SELF-CONTROL CONCEITED, ETC.
- THEY INSTINCTIVELY BLASPHEMING CHRIST'S WORDS OF WHICH THEY ARE IGNORANT
- FOLLOWING BALAAM'S WAY THEY SEEK GAIN FROM THEIR TREACHERY; PROMISING FREEDOM THEY ARE THEMSELVES SLAVES OF SIN, SEEKING TO ENSLAVE OTHERS TO THE SAME EVIL

## PROLOGUE: CHURCHES ALSO FOLLOW THE WRONG WAYS

- CHURCHES ARE THE TRAINING GROUND FOR CHRISTIANS AND THUS THE BATTLEGROUND FOR DESTROYING TRUTH AND SUBSTITUTING ERROR TO KEEP SINNERS IN THEIR SIN (cf 4:11-24)
- PERGAMUM'S CHURCH ALLOWED BALAAM'S TEACHINGS TO INFILTRATE THE CHURCH RESULTING IN IMMORALITY AND FALSE WORSHIP THAT ALLOWED GNOSTICISM TO REPLACE THE GOSPEL (cf 2:12-17)
- THYATIRA'S CHURCH ALLOWED A PROPHETESS A POSITION OF AUTHORITY AS SHE TAUGHT THE DEEP THINGS OF SATAN – IMMORALITY; SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL (cf 2:18-24)
- SARDIS' CHURCH WAS NEARLY DESTROYED BY FALSE BELIEFS (cf 3:1-4)
- LAODICEA'S CHURCH WAS BLIND, NAKED AND SPIRITUALLY POOR; CHRIST WAS READY TO DISCIPLINE THEM TO RETURN THEM TO THE TRUTH OF HIS WORD (cf 3:14-22)

## DID GOD REJECT HIS PEOPLE ISRAEL?

- PAUL CLEARLY ASKS AND ANSWERS THIS QUESTION COMPLETELY DESTROYING REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY, I.E., THAT CHRISTIANS HAVE REPLACED THE JEWS AS GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE
- PAUL BASES THIS ON HIS OWN INCLUSION IN THE NEW COVENANT SALVATION AS HE IS CLEARLY A JEW BY BIRTH AND SAVED BEYOND QUESTION VIA A MIRACULOUS EVENT (AC 9:1-19)
- PAUL ALSO GROUNDS HIS ANSWER IN GOD'S (ΠΡΟΓΝΩΣΤΙΚΟ) – FOREKNOWLEDGE
- GOD DID NOT LOOK DOWN THROUGH TIME, SEE FUTURE EVENTS, THEN TOLD WRITERS WHAT HE SAW; THIS STILL PLACES GOD AT THE MERCY OF MAN – WORKS; MEANS – GOD CHOSE (cf 1:4)
- PAUL REFERENCES HIS EARLIER PASSAGE LINKING FOREKNOWLEDGE WITH ELECTION, WITH SALVATION, WITH JUSTIFICATION AND WITH GLORIFICATION; FOR JEWS AND GENTILES – ONE SALVATION (cf 8:29)

## IF THERE IS ONE; THERE ARE MANY

- PAUL RECALLS ELIJAH'S OWN EXPERIENCE SHOWING THAT PAUL IS NOT THE ONLY JEW SAVED BUT ONLY ONE OF MANY (1K 17:1-14, 18)
- ELIJAH WAS A PUBLIC EXAMPLE OF GOD'S POWER OF SALVATION; YET, HE BECAME CONFUSED WHEN AFTER SHOWING THAT BAAL'S PROPHETS HAD NO POWER, AND WERE KILLED, JEZEBEL STILL REMAINED UNREPENTANT DESIRING TO KILL HIM
- ELIJAH IS LED BACK TO MOUNT HOREB WHERE THE LAW WAS GIVEN; HE IS SHOWN GOD'S POWER ON THE MOUNT AS WHEN THE HEBREWS FIRST CAME (EX 19:16-19; 20:18-19)
- GOD DEMONSTRATED TO ELIJAH THAT HE DID NOT RULE THROUGH FEAR BUT THROUGH THE SMALL QUIET VOICE AND THAT ELIJAH WAS FAR FROM ALONE; GOD SAVES VIA FAITH, NOT FEAR

## THERE IS ALWAYS A REMNANT CHOSEN

- GOD ALWAYS HAS A REMNANT SET ASIDE REFUTING THE CHARGE OF SATAN, AND THE LOST, THAT GOD ONLY HAS FOLLOWERS BECAUSE HE BRIBES THEM WITH PRIVILEGE (1CH 16:13; 22:4)
  - THIS IS SATAN'S METHODOLOGY FOR GAINING ALLEGIANCE TO HIS PLAN, UNTIL HE NO LONGER NEEDS THEM THEN HE THROWS THEM OVER FOR OTHERS
  - REMNANT EXISTS BECAUSE GOD CHOSE THEM BEFORE CREATION DEMONSTRATING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THOSE WHO WOULD MAKE THEIR OWN SALVATION VS. THE LORD'S SALVATION (EP 1:3-10)
  - SATAN USES WORKS-BASED RELIGIONS THAT PROMISE ONE'S DESIRES IF ONE BELIEVES ENOUGH
  - GOD CHOSE HIS OWN BEFORE ANY WERE ALIVE; THUS, IT IS BY GRACE ALONE ONE IS SAVED; NOT AN ACT OF INTELLECTUAL PROWESS BUT STRICTLY OF GOD'S OWN CHOICE (RO 9:14-16)

## ISRAEL PETRIFIED IN HEART EXCEPT THE REMNANT

- ISRAEL DID NOT OBTAIN WHAT IT SOUGHT BECAUSE THEY WERE OF THE FLESH OF ABRAHAM (RO 9:4-6)
- TO UNDERSTAND WHAT ISRAEL SOUGHT, AND STILL SEEKS TODAY, WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE EFFECTS OF SIN AND THE NATURE OF IDOLATRY
  - SATAN WAS THE PINNACLE OF GOD'S CREATION IN ALL RESPECTS; HOWEVER, WHEN HE SINNED HE WAS DEPICTED AS AN ANIMAL: BRUTE, UNREASONING AND VIOLENT (JE 38:11-16; GE 3:1-5; RE 12:9)
  - MAN, CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE TRADED HIS HUMANITY TO FOLLOW HIS FATHER SATAN INTO SIN'S SLAVERY OF ANIMALISTIC PASSIONS (JER 9:43-48; JO 8:44)
  - BELIEVERS WHO SIN TRADE THEIR REASON TO BE LIKE IGNORANT BRUTE BEASTS IN REASON; BUT GOD DOES NOT LET US REMAIN THUS (PS 73:21-26; JO 19:28-29)

## AS SIN CREATES BEASTS BEASTS WORSHIP BEASTS

- ALL WHO ARE IN SIN ARE SLAVES TO THEIR BEASTLY SIN NATURE; THUS, THEY WORSHIP THAT WHICH THEY CAN UNDERSTAND – BEASTS AND ARTIFACTS OF CREATION (JO 1:18-23)
  - NIMROD THE FIRST POSTDELUVIAN RULER TO EMBODY KING-PRIEST IN ANIMAL IDOLATRY TO MIMIC GOD'S ASCENDING LAMB OFFERING WHICH DEPICTED CHRIST DYING FOR SIN (GE 8:20-22; JO 1:29)
  - NIMROD UNIFIED ALL PEOPLE AGAINST GOD'S COMMANDMENT TO FILL THE EARTH UNTIL GOD FORCED A SEPARATION BY GIVING PEOPLE GROUPS DIFFERENT LANGUAGES, UNDERSTANDING (GE 10:8-12; 11:1-9)
  - THE FUNDAMENTAL IDOL, ANIMAL, WORSHIPPED BY ALL EARLY PEOPLE GROUPS WAS THE BULL, SYMBOL OF POWER, FERTILITY AND CONTINUING AFTERLIFE

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## HEBREWS RETAINED BULL AS IMAGE OF GOD

- WHEN THE HEBREWS MADE A GOLDEN BULL, THEY WERE DEPICTING GOD AS THEY KNEW OF HIM; AS ALL THE MESOPOTAMIAN CULTURES KNEW OF GOD; INCLUDING THE EGYPTIANS (EX 32:1-9)
- INVISIBLE GOD DEPICTED AS SITTING ASTRIDE THE VISIBLE BULL – A FOCUS POINT FOR WORSHIP
- AARON, AS MOSES' BROTHER, WAS PICKED AS INTERCESSOR; LATER TO BE A FAITHFUL HIGH PRIEST (PHI 2:4-9)
- THEY ATTRIBUTED THEIR RELEASE FROM EGYPT TO THE BULL GOD (SATAN) RATHER THAN TRUE GOD
- THOUGH PUNISHED, MOST HEBREWS WOULD REMAIN COMMITTED TO THIS VISION OF GOD
- THIS IS THE HARDENING, PETRIFICATION, OF THEIR HEARTS THAT WOULD CONTINUE (EE 11:17-21)

## AGAIN GOD'S WORSHIP PERVERTED INTO IDOLATRY

- PEOPLE IN JUDGES PERIOD PERVERTED WORSHIP OF GOD INTO HOUSEHOLD IDOLS WHICH WAS FORBIDDEN IN THE LAW (JU 17)
- GIDEON MADE OBJECTS OF FALSE WORSHIP EVEN THOUGH GOD GAVE HIM VICTORY OVER THE MIDIANITES (JU 8:22-27)
- TRIBE OF DAN COULD FIND NO TERRITORY FOR ITSELF, DUE TO UNBELIEF, SO THEY FOUND A WEAK, ISOLATED PEOPLE TO DESTROY TO MAKE A TERRITORY FOR THEMSELVES IN THE NORTH (JU 18)
- ALONG THE WAY THEY TOOK A PRIEST AND HIS OBJECTS OF FALSE WORSHIP FOR THEIR OWN AND DEVELOPED AN IDOLATROUS RELIGION IN THEIR NEW LAND WHICH WAS LEGITIMIZED BY MOSES' GRANDSON

## JEROBOAM REINSTITUTED BULL WORSHIP IN ISRAEL

- WHEN THE NORTHERN KINGDOM, ISRAEL, REBELLED AGAINST THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM, JUDAH, THEIR KING, JEROBOAM, REINSTITUTED THE BULL WORSHIP (1KI 12:26-33)
- THIS WAS TO PREVENT HIS SUBJECTS FROM REUNITING WITH THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM DUE TO THE MANDATORY THRICE ANNUAL JERUSALEM PILGRIMAGES REQUIRED IN THE LAW
- HE PLACED A BULL AT BETHEL (SOUTHERN) AND AT DAN (NORTHERN) CLAIMING THESE WERE THE GODS THAT BROUGHT THEM OUT OF EGYPT
- GOD RAISED UP THE PROPHETS ELIJAH AND ELISHA TO TESTIFY THAT THIS WAS EVIL AND REMIND THE PEOPLE TO WORSHIP GOD OF THE MORAL LAW ACCORDING TO HIS DIRECTIONS
- DURING THE INTERTESTAMENT PERIOD THESE BECAME THE SAMARITANS (JO 4:1-24)

## JUDEA DID WORSE THAN ISRAEL

- JUDAH PROFANED THE TEMPLE ITSELF WITH WORSHIP OF DEMONS BOTH IN THE INNER COURTS AND WITHIN THE INNER SANCTUARIES (22-8)
- EVEN BEFORE THE BABYLONIANS CAME HEZEKIAH HAD TO DESTROY THE BRONZE SERPENT OF MOSES WHICH THE PEOPLE WERE WORSHIPING AS AN IDOL (20:18-4)
- THE PRIESTS, POLITICIANS AND POWERFUL PEOPLE LEFT IN JERUSALEM AFTER THE FIRST DEPORTATION SECRETLY WORSHIPED DEMONS VIA MYTHOLOGIES AND IDOLATRIES
- WOMEN WERE OPENLY WEeping FOR TAMMUZ, A MYTHOLOGICAL SUBSTITUTE FOR CHRIST
- MEN WERE BURNING INCENSE IN DEMONIC WORSHIP SAYING THE LORD HAD LEFT THEM
- THERE WAS NO REPENTANCE IN JUDAH AFTER THE FIRST DEPORTATION: THERE WILL BE TWO MORE

## SPIRIT OF DULLNESS (25:29-30)

- AS A PEOPLE THE JEWS SOUGHT REDEMPTION BY THEIR OWN UNDERSTANDINGS AND EFFORTS THROUGH THE LAW SUPPORTED BY THEIR CONTINUED ADHERENCE TO IDOLATRY
- THEY SOUGHT WHAT THEIR FATHER, SATAN, SOUGHT, POWER OVER OTHERS
- GOD WOULD NOT SATISFY THEIR FLESHLY DESIRES TO BE SLAVE MASTERS OVER THE WORLD, AS NIMROD SOUGHT; THOUGH THEY HAD THE MORAL LAW AS THEIR GUIDE
- THEY FEARED AND HATED THE MORAL LAW; EVEN HIDING FROM THE GOD WHO GAVE IT TO THEM (21:20-18-21)
- THOUGH GOD DISCIPLINED AND SENT PROPHETS WARNING THEM OF THEIR ERROR, THEY DESIRED TO LIVE AS BRUTE BEASTS ACCORDING TO THEIR SENSUOUS LUSTS – GOD GAVE THEM A SPIRIT OF DULLNESS ACCORDING TO THEIR DESIRE (27:23-24-29, 30:1-19-20)

## LET THEIR EYES BE DARKENED (29:23-25)

- GOD WILL GIVE THEM THEIR HEART'S DESIRE AND FROM THIS PAUL IS ABLE TO WRITE THAT GOD WILL ALLOW THIS DELUSION TO VISIT ALL PEOPLE'S WHO BELIEVE THE LIE (29:24-12)
- WRITTEN NEAR THE HEIGHT OF THEIR POWER OVER 1,000 YEARS BEFORE, THEY STILL WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND BECAUSE THEY CHOSE TO REMAIN AS ANIMALS DESPITE THEIR VIOLENCE AND DEGRADATION POLLUTING EVERY FACET OF THEIR SOCIETY
- THE MORE THE EVIDENCE OF THEIR SINFULNESS MOUNTED, THEY MORE THEY REFUSED TO SEE
- THEIR ARGUMENT AS TO THEIR RIGHTNESS WAS THEIR PROSPERITY WHICH WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A TRAP OF THEIR OWN MAKING; JUST LIKE TODAY'S CHRISTENDOM.

## DID ISRAEL STUMBLE TO BE CAST AWAY?

- PAUL DECISIVELY ANSWERS NO! GOD WILL NOT CAST AWAY **HIS PEOPLE** WHOM HE HAS CHOSEN FROM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD (RF 1.3-10)
- GOD HAS SET THEM ASIDE FOR A TIME TO BRING SALVATION TO THE GENTILES WHO NEITHER SOUGHT NOR ASKED FOR IT; YET, GOD IN HIS MERCY PROVIDED GRACE FOR THE GRACELESS (RO 9:1)
- THE PURPOSE IS TO DRIVE THE JEWS TO GREAT JEALOUSY DURING THEIR DIASPORA (RE 11:16-17)
- THE FALSE JEWS WILL BE DRIVEN TO OBTAIN POWER OVER ALL NATIONS VIA THE ANTICHRIST UNTIL THEIR USEFULNESS IS COMPLETE; THEN THEY WILL BE DESTROYED (RE 11:7, 17:12-18:7)
- DURING THE GREAT TRIBULATION, THE TRUE JEWS WILL BE CALLED FORTH TO TAKE CHRIST'S SALVATION INTO THE WORLD REPLACING THE RAPTURED CHURCH AS MISSIONARIES (RE 7)

## GOD WILL INCLUDE THE JEWS

- PAUL RELIES ON GOD'S PROMISES THAT HE WILL FULFILL HIS PROMISES TO THOSE WHO WERE CALLED AS WRITTEN IN THE SCRIPTURES
- THIS IS ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION; THE RECALLING OF THE JEWS TO ANNOUNCE THE COMING OF CHRIST BODILY
- THEY WILL LOOK ON HIM WHOM THEY, AS A PEOPLE, PIERCED AND MOURN; CALLING ON HIM FOR SALVATION (RE 12:10)
- THEY WILL INHABIT THEIR LAND ATTENDING TO THE LORD THROUGH HIS VICE-REGENT, DAVID, AS NATIONS COME ANNUALLY TO CELEBRATE THE FESTIVAL OF BOOTHS (RE 14:16-21)

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## TWO-FOLD PURPOSE OF PAUL

- PAUL WRITES THIS TO EXPLAIN TO THE GENTILES, AND JEWS, THAT GOD HAS NOT COMPLETELY WRITTEN OFF HIS PEOPLE
- GOD HAS TUCKED THE REMNANT JEWS, YET TO BE CALLED, UNTIL THE TIME APPOINTED (ROM 9:1-3)
- CHRISTENDOM PERFORMED A GREAT EVIL IN DECLARING THE JEWS WERE UNSAVABLE; GOD HAS MADE NO SUCH PROCLAMATION: HE WILL SAVE A REMNANT DURING THE FIRST FRUITS
- CHRISTIANS HAVE PERFORMED A GREAT EVIL IN DECLARING ISRAEL A GODLY NATION WHEN IT IS NOT THE APPOINTED TIME NOR HAVE THEY DECLARED A LOVE FOR GOD, ZIONISTS AND SOCIALISTS
- PAUL IS WARNING THE CHURCH NOT TO COMMIT THE SAME ERROR OF UNBELIEF LESS THEY SUFFER THE SAME FATE; THIS HAS FALLEN ON DEAF EARS DUE TO SPIRIT OF DULLNESS ALSO (1PT 2:11-22)