**Fallen Angels**

***The Architects of This Present Darkness***

**The Paganization of America**

***How Baal, Ishtar, and Molech***

***are Re-conquering Western Society Part I***

* The Series
	+ I. Satan: the Accuser of the Brethren
	+ II. The Watchers and the Nephilim: the Source of Demons
	+ III. The Fallen Angels after the Tower of Babel: Rulers Behind the Leaders of the Nations
	+ IV. How Evil Forces Corrupt Cultures
	+ IVB. The Paganization of America
	+ V. How Evil Forces Have Questioned the Word of God
	+ VI. How Evil Forces Have Challenged God's Role in Creation by Speculative and Mathematically Discredited Science
	+ VII. How We in the Church Can Overcome These Evil Beings and This Present Darkness
* Demons *(Nephilim spirits)* torment and corrupt individuals
* Fallen supernatural beings also corrupt *groups of people, cultures and nations*
	+ There are *human rulers* of nations and peoples in this world
	+ And there are *spiritual supernatural* beings behind them that influence and control them
* After the Tower of Babel
	+ The angelic beings were assigned over the rebellious nations
	+ These angelic beings fell when they received worship
	+ These fallen angels became the gods of the Old Testament: Baal, Astarte, Molech, Chemosh
	+ And the gods of Greek, Roman, Norse mythology
		- Zeus, Jupiter, Thor, etc.
	+ As well as the gods of the world's false religions: Allah, Brahma, and the spirits in primitive animistic societies
* God called Abraham and his descendants so He *(the Creator)* would be their God
	+ With the hope that Israeli would represent God and spread His influence throughout the world
	+ God through His priests, prophets and kings ruled Israel personally, unlike the pagan nations
	+ Israel was God's people and possession
* When the Messiah, Jesus, came, God gave Him--as a reward of His obedience, His death on the cross and His resurrection--the authority over *all* the rulers of the world, both supernatural and human
* Eph 1:20-21
* *(God)* raised *(Jesus)* from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms *far above all rule and authority, power and dominion*, and every name that is named, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.
* But the absolute reign of Jesus awaits another age
* Heb. 2:8
* When God subjected all things to him, He left nothing outside of his control. *Yet at present* we do not see everything subject to him.
* Today *(and historically)* there are evil beings *(principalities, powers)* ruling the world behind the leaders of the nations
* These false gods will be judged and destroyed at the end of the Millennial reign of Christ
* Ps. 82:6-8
* I have said, ‘You are gods; you are all sons of the Most High.' But like mortals you will die, and like rulers you will fall.” Arise, O God, judge the earth, for all the nations are Your inheritance.
* I Cor. 15: 24-26
* Then the end will come, when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father after He *has destroyed* all dominion, authority, and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death
* Interesting...but how relevant are these historical gods, and the gods of false religions to believers today?
* Many of these ancient fallen angels and pagan gods are the principalities and powers Paul refers to as the "rulers" of world
* Eph. 6:12
* For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly place
* These powers are still ruling today, just as they did in ancient times
	+ They are "given" power by the nations of the world as they are worshipped.
	+ These gods must be "summoned" so to speak
	+ They enter through "gates," "doors," or "portals"
* Psalm 24:7
* Lift up your heads, you gates!
And be lifted up, you everlasting doors!
And the King of Glory shall come in.
* Gen. 4:6-7
* The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at *the door*. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”
* Just as we can let evil into our personal lives, our family, our church *(unless we "rule over it")*
	+ A society can let evil in to influence and rule it *(unless it chooses deliberately to "rule" over the evil itself)*
* Tragically, Western civilization, after centuries of making Jehovah God their main God...
	+ After calling Christianity its main religion and worldview
	+ After praying and calling on Jehovah primarily
	+ After setting Jehovah's laws as the laws of their lands...
	+ Has summoned and began to replace Jehovah with the pagan gods that ruled the Middle East and pagan Europe before Christianity
* The Purpose of the Series
	+ Men and women are not the source of evil in the world
	+ Evil was introduced by fallen angels
		- There were several "falls:" Satan in the Garden; the Genesis 6 events; Post-Flood Genesis 6 events; the fall of angels after the Tower of Babel; the risk of angelic falls at any time
	+ Men and women are the puppets whose thoughts, speech and action carry out in the physical world the evil presented to the world by dark angels
		- Proof? All goodness and light come from God
		- We do not take credit for it
* II Cor. 4:6-7
* For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power *belongs to God and not to us.*
* The challenge is not to "be" or "become" good, not evil
	+ But to learn to resist the temptation to do evil, and to learn to not be deceived *(by knowing the Word of God)*
	+ To learn how to sense and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit to do good and help "destroy the works of the devil." *(an anti-suicide encouragement)*
* We are taught to not view other people as worthy of our hatred - Eph. 6 *(we wrestle not with flesh and blood)*
	+ But to save our judgments and righteous indignation for opposing demons *(Nephilim ghosts)* and principalities and powers
	+ And pray for the redemption of the evil-appearing people in the world and in our lives *(an anti-murder exhortation)*
* References:
* The Unseen Realm *(Michael Heiser)*
* Reversing Herman *(Michael Heiser)*
* Live Not By Lies *(Rod Dreher)*
* The Return of the Gods *(Jonathan Kahn)*
* Western Civilization:
	+ Was once controlled by pagan deities
		- Celtic, Teutonic and Norse gods
		- Roman, Greek and Carthaginian gods
		- These gods were "cast out" of Western societies after 312 AD when Constantine decreed that Christians no longer be persecuted

* Emperor Constantine and the sign of the cross:
* One day, while Constantine was in front of his tent with his officers and troops around him, he had a vision of an enormous cross of fire in the heavens. On one side of the cross were the words, *"In hoc signo vinces,"* the translation of which is “By this sign thou shalt conquer”...that night he dreamed that Christ appeared to him in robes of dazzling white, bearing a cross in his hands and that he promised Constantine victory over his enemies if he would make the cross his standard.

* The Rulers of Western Civilization made the God of the Bible and Jesus Christ *(and not pagan gods)* their God
	+ From the fall of Rome through the Reformation *(450 AD to 1500 AD+)*
	+ Three divisions of the Middle *(or Medieval)* Ages:
		- Early *(Dark);* Middle *(Scholastic);* Late *(Renaissance)*
	+ The Orthodox Church ruled the East from Constantinople
	+ The Catholic Church ruled the West from Rome *(Holy Roman Empire)*
		- Once the Empire was established politically, it ruthlessly suppressed dissent
			* The Waldensians (1173 AD to date)
			* The Cathars or Albigensians (1150 AD - 1350 AD)
			* The Inquisition

* + Three famous battles kept Western Europe Christian
		- The Battle of Chalons in 451 AD between Attila the Hun and Roman general Flavius Aetius the Visigoth king Theodoric I
			* The Huns were pagan led by shaman; performed human sacrifices *(of prisoners)*
		- The Battle of Tours in 732 AD between the Abdul Al-Ghafiqi, a "Moor" and General Charles Martel, a Frank,, the grandfather of Charlemagne
		- The Moors were Muslims who had conquered the Middle East, northern Africa and Spain
		- The Battle of Venice in 1683 AD where Kara Mustafa, an Ottoman Turk and Muslim, was defeated by a European coalition led by the Polish general Jan Sobieski
* The Reformation *(1517 AD to date)*
	+ Luther, Zwingli, Calvin *(Lutheran, Reform, Presbyterian denominations)*
	+ The Radical Reformers *(Anabaptists, Amish, Mennonites)*
	+ Religious nation-states *(Catholic or Protestant)*
		- Example: the Anglican Church; Catholic Spain
	+ The Religious Wars were waged to establish Catholic or Protestant rule and doctrine
	+ The Revival Movements in Europe
		- Pietism
		- Methodism
		- Baptists
	+ In America
		- The Puritans
		- The Three Great Awakenings *(1730's AD; 1800's AD; 1859 AD)*
		- The Pentecostal, Charismatic, Third Wave Movements of the twentieth century
		- The Bible was valued in society, school, government
* Jehovah God was the God of post-Constantine Western society's thoughts and practice...
	+ However poorly done – from the fall of Rome to the Enlightenment and beyond
* Pagan gods were no longer mainstream society's gods'
	+ They were driven to the margins
	+ Pagan gods still ruled the Orient, the Middle East, and Africa
	+ They "lost" the West, were not worshipped and in essence exiled from it
	+ ...but they were not happy about it
		- And always ready to make a comeback
* In many respects, Western society and the pockets of Christianity that developed in the rest of the world, were the "New Israels"– nations who worshipped God
	+ Jehovah God of Israel and the Lord Jesus Christ were the God they looked to for faith and law
	+ These nations in turn received the blessing of God and were protected from the curses that come from rejecting the Lord – hence their successes
* Acts 10:34-35
* Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows *no partiality*, but in *every nation* anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him."
* Ps. 33:12; 18
* Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!...the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love.
* The West was not the "lost ten tribes"
	+ But we lived under the rule of Jehovah, not pagan gods
	+ We carried the torch of the Faith and sought to evangelize the world according to Jesus' commandment
		- Historically, Britain first and then the United States did most of the missionary work, fulfilling the verse:
* Rom. 9:25
* “Those who were not my people I will call ‘my people,’
and those who was not beloved I will call ‘beloved.’”
* The angels who fell after the Tower of Babel ruled every civilization except Israel for thousands of years
	+ They also tormented and deceived God's nation, Israel, as well, leading to Israel's exile and dispersion
	+ These unfortunate pagan people daily entreated their fallen angels, false gods' favor
	+ Kings bowed to them; armies fought for them
	+ Priests sang their praises
	+ The earth was filled with their shrines
	+ Worldwide their followers offered their men and women as cult prostitutes and their children as sacrifices
* But once Christianity began to make inroads into the pagan gods' kingdoms they were driven from their temples, ignored by kings, and no longer believed in
	+ They were exiled to the fringes of Western society--embraced only by the odd pagans, witches, sorcerers
	+ Mainstream Western societies honored God, His church leaders *(popes, bishops, pastors, preachers)*
	+ Freedom from pagan god enslavement and rote ritual was replaced by Christian *freedom of thought and inquiry*
	+ Consequently, faith in mankind itself, *(humanism)* also grew, apart from God, spirits, and the supernatural
	+ Popes, pastors, and preachers began to lose their influence over the Western world
	+ *Scientists* became the new priests and prophets
		- The Enlightenment
		- The Industrial Revolution
* Life was demystified; the world disenchanted
	+ There was less "need" for the true God
	+ And even less need for the fallen pagan gods
	+ These ancient false gods still desired to, like their master Satan, rule the earth instead of men
		- So, their strategies changed so they could reach "modern" man
		- The pagan gods have made a remarkable comeback in disguise
	+ And over the past recent generations have successfully re-inhabited our institutions, our governments, our corporations, our entertainment, our media and churches
* The pagan false gods are referred to as *shedim* or *las-sedim* in Hebrew in the Old Testament
* Ps. 106:36-37
* They served their idols, which became a snare to them They even sacrificed their sons and their daughter to *shedim*
* The Septuagint (the 250 BC translation of the Old Testament from Hebrew to Greek) renders *shedim* as *daimonion*
* Paul wrote in I Cor. 10:20
* But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils *(daimonia).*
* Just as people can be possessed--demonized by evil spirits...
	+ *Societies* can be controlled by fallen angels
	+ In pagan cultures the priest showed signs of possession *(frenzies)*
	+ Pagans worshipped their controlling demon gods with the activities demanded by them
		- Cult prostitution
		- Child sacrifice
		- Self-mutilation
* The fallen angels' ancient world "under the power of the evil one(s)" was pushed back by Jehovah God and the godly leaders of Israel *(Moses, Joshua, David, Elijah)*
	+ But the pagan gods' evil world was really threatened and attacked by the coming of Jesus and His ministry
* Luke 11:20
* "But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you."
* I John 3:8
* For this reason, the Son of God was revealed, so that He might destroy the works of the devil
* Col. 2:15
* And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.
* The threat to the ancient god's control of pagan societies has continued by the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the growth of the Church
* Recall Paul opposing the sorcerer Elymas on Cypress
* And Paul casting a demon out of the Philippian woman with the "spirit of divination"
	+ This resulted in a riot of the people and Paul was beaten and arrested
	+ In the early days of the Church, from the days of Nero through Diocletian, these pagan gods tried desperately to stop the spread of the Faith in Europe
	+ Many in the early church were martyred for not worshipping Roman pagan gods or their emperor
* But in 312 AD Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity
	+ Christianity became the religion of Rome in 380 AD under Emperor Theodosius I
	+ Pagan worship was eventually *banned*
	+ The false, fallen gods were cast out
* In 362 AD the priestess of the Oracle of Delphi sent word to the Roman emperor complaining:
	+ "Tell the emperor that my hall has fallen to the ground. Apollo no longer has his house, nor his prophetic spring; the water has dried up."
	+ Over the next 1500+ years pagan worship virtually ceased in Western Europe *(and eventually wherever the gospel triumphed)*
	+ Child and human sacrifice ended
	+ Perverse sexuality as part of worship ceased
	+ Marriage and family was honored and promoted
	+ Nations were established under God's laws and justice
	+ The ancient gods were banned to the fringes...
		- From where they have long plotted their return
* The unclean spirit and swept house parable
* Matt. 12:43-45
* "When an unclean spirit comes out of a man, it passes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ On its return, it finds the house vacant, swept clean, and put in order. Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and dwell there; and the final plight of that man is worse than the first. So will it be with *this wicked generation*.”
* This parable applies to societies in addition to individuals
* When the gods of ancient Europe were cast out of Western society
	+ Their "house" of pagan worship *(the seats of their power)* was "swept clean"
	+ And for a time, the worship of the God of the Lord Jesus Christ in churches filled the "house" and ruled civilization
	+ But when Israel, Turkey, and the Europe abandoned God, the "house" was again emptied of God by...
		- The Enlightenment
		- Higher Criticism of the Bible
		- Openness to paganism, Islam
	+ The percentage of evangelical believers in the former "motherlands" of Christianity:
		- * In Israel: 2% *(77% are Arab Christians)*
			* In Turkey: 0.5%
			* In Europe: (see map)
* The demon-gods of old have returned
	+ "Bringing seven other spirits more wicked than itself"
	+ And the "last state of that man will be worse than the first."
	+ Returning with a vengeance and a 1500-year vendetta
		- Seeking domination of nations
		- Warring against God and His people
		- Demanding that every knee bow to their agenda and "modernized" pagan belief system
		- Occupying governments, corporations, colleges, courtrooms, popular culture, media, entertainment
	+ A post-Christian pagan society is eviler, with more consequences of its evil, than a pre-Christian pagan one
		- Want evidence?
* WWI military and civilian deaths: 15-20 million
* WWI military and civilian deaths: 60-70 million
* Deaths from the Great Famine in China: 15 to 55 million
* Deaths from the "Killing Fields" of Cambodia: 1.5 -2 million
* Deaths in eastern Europe under Stalin:
	+ 3 million; half by execution or in prison; half from neglect after resettlement
	+ Deaths in Ukraine in the 1930's from collectivization of farms and exporting grain to Russia: 4 million
	+ Jewish deaths in the Holocaust: 6 million
* Abortions in U.S. since Roe v. Wade: 60 million
	+ Worldwide estimates of 1 billion abortions since Roe
* The "super"-naturalness of these statistics
	+ Only possible through organized, collective, fallen angel, evil principality-influenced hatred of:
		- Men and women
		- Children
		- The Jewish nation
	+ These disasters were caused by returning demon-gods of ancient times
	+ Returning to their "swept clean" house
	+ Full of wrath for their exile
	+ With a vendetta particularly against the nations that had once *worshipped God and not them*
* Consider the plight of the Jewish people when they rejected God
* II Kings 17:7-8 18-20
* For so it was that the children of Israel sinned against the LORD their God who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, . . . they feared other gods and walked in the statutes of the nations whom the LORD had cast out from before them.
* God was angry with Israel and removed them from His sight...and delivered them into the hand of plunderers
	+ But it is not God Himself who afflicts them *(like the God-Satan-Job narrative explains)*
	+ It is God giving them over to the demon-gods they chose to worship
	+ To be under their rule, not His
	+ The consequence of Israel's rejection of Jehovah:
* Lev. 26:14-16
* But if you will not listen to me and will not do all these commandments, if you spurn my statutes, and if your soul abhors my rules, so that you will not do all my commandments, but break my covenant, then I will do this to you:
	+ Disease
	+ Famine; unproductive land
	+ Conquest by their enemies
	+ Dispersion and persecution throughout the world
* But...God will yet redeem the Jewish people because of their faithfulness in bringing Jesus safely into the world
	+ Because of God's love for His people and the promise He made to the Patriarchs
* Lev. 26:45
* "But I will for their sake remember the covenant with their forefathers, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I am the LORD.”
* What is God's plan and hope for mankind?
	+ Blessed, thriving. healthy, fulfilled
	+ Stewarding the earth wisely
		- Governed by servant-leaders dedicated to their people's well-being
	+ In families:
		- With an Ephesians 6-like father and husband
		- With a Proverbs 31-like mother and wife
		- Blessed, protected, loved, cared-for children
		- All raised in the "fear and the admonition of the Lord."
* What is the plan, "hope" of the demon-gods of Satan for mankind? The exact opposite:
	+ Mankind is cursed, sick, tormented, poor
	+ Families are broken, with:
		- Cruel, selfish, unfaithful husbands
		- Jezebel-like, controlling, rebellious wives
		- Suffering, perishing, abused, aborted children
	+ Nations controlled by corrupt, self-serving human rulers leading their people and other nation's people to misery and destruction
* Who were the three god of ancient times who ruled over the panoply of the innumerable lesser evil gods?
	+ Baal – the false god over men
	+ Ishtar – the false goddess over women
	+ Molech—the false god over children
* These are their names in ancient Mesopotamia
	+ The "male" god's names in other culture may have been
		- Zeus *(Greek);* Jupiter *(Roman)*
		- Odin *(Norse):* Ra *(Egypt)*
* The numerous feminine goddess counterparts were:
	+ Aphrodite, Artemis *(Greek)*
	+ Venus; Diana *(Roman)*
	+ Ashtoreth, Astarte *(Canaanite)*
* Molech: the god of human sacrifice
	+ Tlaloc and Huitzilopochtli *(Aztec, Mayan)*
	+ Ku *(Polynesian)*
	+ Cronos *(Carthage)*
	+ Dagda *(The Celts)*
	+ Greek, Roman: infanticide: yes; sacrifice: unlikely
* How would strategic *ancient* evil gods try to retake a *modern* society?
	+ Degrade the worship of the true God
		- Target believers with accusations, lies, deceptions, temptations, discrediting the Word, attacking the Creation narrative
	+ Align themselves with fringe occult believers and deviants and promote them
		- Redefine God-directed, responsible human behavior
		- Wage war against morality, true spirituality, politics with integrity, and cultural norms
* "But if our hearts shall turn away, so that we will not obey, but shall be seduced, and worship and serve other god, our pleasures and profits, and serve them...*we shall surely perish*."
	+ Bible verse, chapter and verse?
	+ No, this is a quote from a Puritan John Winthrop in Plymouth in 1630

For the ancient gods to retake the land they would have to replace:

* + Christian values with pagan values
	+ Christian ethics with pagan ethics
	+ Christian worldview with a pagan worldview
	+ Christian worship and symbols with pagan worship and symbols
* The three main false god-representative of the ancient pagan world:
	+ Baal
	+ Ishtar
	+ Molech