

The Paganization of America Part II

- This study: on the Fallen Angels who are the Architects of This Present Darkness
 - 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 Part II
 - 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
- References:
 - The Unseen Realm (*Michael Heiser*)
 - Reversing Herman (*Michael Heiser*)
 - Live Not By Lies (*Rod Dreher*)
 - The Return of the God (*Jonathan Kahn*)
- 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
- Tragically, Western civilization, after kicking out its pagan Greek, Roman and Norse gods
 - And 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 rule the world and pagan Europe before Christianity
- The three main false god-representative of the ancient pagan world:
 - Baal
 - Ishtar
 - Molech
 - The false God "Baal"
 - The "king of the gods"
 - The "king of heaven"
 - The god of the earth, rain, and prosperity
 - A warrior (*he fought with other gods to gain his primacy*)
 - The name means "lord," "master," "owner"
 - All ancient communities had their own "Baal"
 - Baal Hermon, Baal Peor, Baal Hadad
- Is Baal the same "dude" as the chief god of other cultures later (Greek, Roman)?
 - Or are then other regional principalities?
- "He is regarded as god the lord of heaven, calling him Beelsamen, which is in the Phoenician language "lord of heaven," and in Greek "Zeus.""

Eusebius in *Praeparatio Evangelica*
- Baal was the very god that Elijah opposed on Mount Carmel with its 450 prophets and King Ahab
 - The 400 prophet of Asherah of Jezebel not attending
 - Baal is the "other god" besides Jehovah
 - The substitute god
 - The anti-Word god
 - The god of apostasy
- Europe in the Enlightenment and under the influence of the Higher Criticism leaders in universities began abandoning God before the United States
 - Evidence: WWI, WWII, European degeneracy, empty churches
 - The U.S.'s drift from God began early-mid-twentieth century
- Most Americans, conservative and liberal, Republicans and Democrats before the last two generations
 - Attended church
 - Opposed atheism and Communism
 - Advocated Christian morality and values
 - Media outlets published Sunday sermons
- Entertainment tried to be uplifting, not immoral

- Children were allowed to pray in public schools
- The Bible was permitted in schools
- The nation boasted that it was "One Nation Under God."

- What happened to ancient Israel, however, has begun to happen in America

- Judges 3:7
- They forgot the Lord their God and served the Baals and Asherahs.

- Baal's strategy to degrade the worship of God in America included:
 - Removing prayer from public school
 - Banning the Bible from public school
 - Outlawing government-approved nativity scenes
 - Increasing the acceptance of immorality and deviance in entertainment and media
 - Outlawing the posting of the Ten Commandments on public grounds is a statement that it was the will of the nation to no longer esteem and follow them
 - Several very relevant commandments began to be thrown out of the American conscience and behavior:
 - Thou shall have no other God before Me
 - Thou shall not take the Lord's name in vain
 - Thou shall remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy
 - Thou shall honor thy father and mother
 - Thou shall not commit adultery
 - Thou shall not bear false witness

- The gate has been opened to allow in "seven more spirits more wicked than itself."

- When Christianity (*and Judaism and Islam*) are thrown out of society
 - Monotheism gets replaced with polytheism ("*seven more*")
 - Baal has continued to gain more and more control of schools, media, entertainment, corporations, and government

- American, like the rest of the West, is moving from being a house of God, to an empty house, to a house full of unclean spirits
 - The symbol for Baal?
 - A bull

- II Kings 17:16
- They left all the commandment of the Lord their God and made for themselves a molten (*Heb. massekah*) image...and served Baal

- The Wall Street bull
 - Set up in the financial district of New York City near the NY stock Exchange 1989
 - 11 feet tall 16 feet long weighing 7100 pounds
 - A molten image
 - Described as a "symbol of aggressive financial optimism and prosperity."

- Baal tries to overturn eternal truths
 - Having removed God as the source of truth, there is no end to the new "truths" that can "replace" His
 - Monotheism replace by other "ism."
 - The "isms" of the last century—the movements, causes, ideologies
 - Religious
 - Atheism
 - Deism
 - Polytheism
 - Pantheism (*worship of gods in nature*)
 - The "ism" of the last century (*continued*)
 - Nationalisms
 - Communism/socialism
 - Nazism
 - Aggressive nationalism
 - Ideologies
 - Racism
 - Anti-Semitism
 - LGBTQ+ beliefs

- Baal--the "king of heaven"--has a "girlfriend"
 - "The queen of heaven"
 - Ishtar, Venus, Aphrodite, Ashtoreth, Astarte

- Ishtar is associated with fertility and love, but also
 - Rebellion against male authority
 - She is demanding, carnal, vindictive, jealous, with limitless sexual desire and pride
 - She is the breaker of rules, the transgressor of standards and conventions, a temptress, a seducer
 - She is the goddess of prostitution
 - She is a sorceress, the goddess of magic and spells

- Ishtar is the principality behind Jezebel in the Elijah and King Ahab narratives

- In the Epic of Gilgamesh, the hero rejects her advances toward him (*and incurs her wrath*)

- Ishtar oversaw temple prostitution, male and female
 - Mesopotamian kings and commoners were compelled to perform ritual sexual acts in her temples
 - The Greek historian Herodotus wrote that every ancient Babylonian woman was compelled by religious custom to perform the function of prostitute in these temples at least once in their lives

- Christianity became the predominant world view of the West (*and wherever it succeeded internationally in missions*)
 - Ritual immorality was replaced with a promotion and respect for faithful marriage, family and celibacy
 - Prostitution and immorality was banned and marginalized
 - Ishtar was casted out of the temples and society

- The Christian historian Eusebius wrote that Emperor Constantine "demolished the temple of Venus at Aphace and abolished the infamous deeds which were there celebrated."

- The turning of a nation from God and the truth to serve a false "spiritual" god Baal into idol worship results in the nation also following the false, more "physical, material" goddess Ishtar into immorality and decadence

- This applied to Israel, and it applies to every nation which at one time recognized the true God but then turned away from Him

- Rom. 1:22-25
- Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images of mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles (Baal and idol worship). Therefore, God gave them over in the desires of their hearts to impurity for the dishonoring of their bodies with one another (Ishtar and sensual worship). They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator.

- Immorality has always been around—in America and elsewhere
 - But when it moves from been outlawed, censored and driven to the fringes of society and is actually blessed, sanctified, celebrated; and becomes the norm...
 - Then the evil principalities have pushed God and the moral folk to the fringes, and they begin to rule

- We have recently witnessed:
 - The lowering of moral standards in media and entertainment
 - The celebration of irresponsible living and instant gratification
 - Hyper-individualism replacing commitment to help others and live sacrificially
 - The sexual revolution of the 60's with its birth control and abortion access

- We are experiencing:
 - A "new morality" – completely severing sexuality from marriage and childbearing
 - The normalization of divorce, sex outside of marriage, children out of wedlock, single mom/dad families
 - Radical feminism
 - The "approval of" and pervasiveness of pornography and prostitution
 - The Stonewall event in Greenwich Village in 1969 and subsequent LGBTQ+ movement successes
 - The replacing of the ban on homosexual marriages with the blessing of them (*in churches and by law*)

- America's world-wide influence:
 - Once featuring missions and the exporting of the gospel with its godly living principles tied to it
 - Has become the champion and foremost world exporter of immorality and decadence
 - We invented the technology that makes this possible
 - We produce the content
 - We advance the agenda of Ishtar, not Jehovah
 - Ishtar has come back into the emptied house more wicked and effective than any time in history

- In addition to immorality, Ishtar promotes sorcery, spells, magic, and mind-altering substance
 - She historically dwelled in taverns
 - She (*like the Watchers*) taught mankind how to make "potions" and mind-altering drugs
 - Note the increased interest and promotion of white and black magic (*Harry Potter, Star Wars series*)
 - Fortune-tellers, mediums, psychics
 - Neo-pagan movements, goddess and nature worship

- Ishtar enjoyed having the female traits of beauty, femininity and seduction, and the male traits of masculinity and aggression and destruction

- As a sorceress, she was claimed to have the power to:
 - "...turn a man into a woman and a woman into a man, to change one into the other..."

Sumarian Hymn to Inana for Isme-Dagab

- As Ishtar has been allowed to influence culture again and has returned from exile, she has sought to:
 - Alter the definition of male and female
 - Blur the biological and God-ordained distinctions between the two

- Feminize all that is male
- Masculinize all that is female
- Turn men into women and women into men
 - ...And with the medical "advances" of the twentieth century, this became possible physically in addition to psychologically
- Ishtar's deconstruction of men
 - Classical male attributes are derided as toxic masculinity
 - Men are portrayed as unable or unfit to lead, either toxic oppressors or bumbling fools – the objects of mockery
 - Media features pathetic husbands, fathers and male bosses
 - Encourages male sensitivity and effeminacy
 - Encourages "androgyny," cross-dressing, transgender identities
- Ishtar's deconstruction of women
 - She was feminine re: sexuality and beauty
 - But not feminine re: nurturing, empathy, compassion, and care-giving (*Prov. 31*)
 - Ishtar encourages assertiveness, dominance, independence, immodesty, vulgarity and rebellion in women
 - Total lack of reliance or need for men
 - Family is devalued
 - She is the goddess of radical or second-wave feminist
- Radical Feminism explained:
 - Simone de Beauvoir: "As long as the family and the myth of the family and the myth of maternity and the maternal instinct are not destroyed, women will still be oppressed."
 - Pat Robertson: "A socialist, anti-family political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their babies, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism, and become lesbians."
- The latest attack on women and men by Ishtar:
 - The elimination of the words, "woman" and "man"
- The goal of both Baal and Ishtar is to corrupt humanity so completely that it cannot steward the earth effectively as commissioned by God
- Ishtar's corruption of children results in
 - Destroying and devaluing stable, two-parent families
 - An epidemic of child abuse – physical and sexual
 - Promoting inappropriate early sexuality
 - Encouraging gender reassignments

- Ishtar's month: June
 - Celebrated by her pagan followers
 - The month of Tammuz (*June*) in the ancient Mesopotamian calendar is when Ishtar mourns the death of her male lover Tammuz (*by her own jealous hand*)
 - Ezekiel 8:14-15
 - Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD'S house which was toward the north; and behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz. 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."

- The Stonewall riots in Greenwich Village June 28, 1969, at a gay bar
 - This started the gay "pride" movement
 - It opened the gate for Ishtar in New York City (*the "gateway" to the eastern U.S.*)
 - The Stonewall Pride parade began in June 1970 and imitates the ancient Ishtar summer festival
 - June is Gay Pride Month—now world-wide
 - Lawrence v. Texas June 26, 2003, Supreme Court decision that legalized homosexuality in the U.S.
 - United States v. Windsor June 26, 2013, overturning the Defense of Marriage Act
 - Obergefell v. Hodges June 26, 2015, legalizing same-sex marriages across America

- Baal tries to take over the true worship of God, setting the stage for moving a nation away from God to materialism, the idolizing of self and others, and the acceptance of relative "truth"

- Ishtar tries to corrupt men and women into ungodly behavior
 - Promoting irresponsible sexuality separated from having and raising children
 - They open the gate for the third god making a comeback: Molech: the devourer of children

- Lev. 18:21
- You must not give any of your children to be sacrificed to Molech, for you must not profane the name of your God. I am the LORD.

- Jer. 32:3
- They have built the high places of Baal in the Valley of Hinnom to make their sons and daughters pass through the fire to Molech—something I never commanded them, *nor had it ever entered My mind*, that they should commit such an abomination...

- Molech was associated with the sacrifice of children, often by their parents to appease this cruel god

- Child sacrifice is the most gruesome and pagan of acts, practiced by ancients in:
 - Egypt
 - Polynesia
 - Mesopotamia
 - Teutonic tribes of Europe
 - West Africa
 - The Aztecs and Mayans

- The Romans practiced infanticide and abortion

- "They commit murder before they bring forth. And these things assuredly come down from the teaching of your gods."

Christian apologist Marcus Minucius Felix

- The Carthaginians viewed child sacrifice as "holy"

- The Phoenicians sacrificed children in times of war or disaster for the "public good."

- Children were sacrificed if they had disabilities or just for the convenience of the parents, or in true sacrifice to a god

- The rich bought or kidnapped poor folk's children for the required sacrifice

- In stark contrast, the Jewish and Christian viewed children as:
 - Blessings
 - Gifts from God

- Psalm 127:3-5
- Children are indeed a heritage from the LORD, and the fruit of the womb is His reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. He will not be put to shame when he confronts the enemies at the gate

- As the Judeo-Christian worldview of children was established as the norm in the West, and infanticide and abortion pushed to the fringes, the rule of the principality Molech was cancelled, and he was exiled like his buddies Baal and Ishtar
 - Countless children, prisoners, slaves and disabled folk were rescued from Molech's appetite for human sacrifice
 - But its exile would last only as long as cultures kept Jehovah God as their object of faith and worship

- Molech's comeback
 - What was the first modern nation to legalize abortion?
 - The Soviet Union in 1920

- An atheist society which viewed religion as the "opiate of the people."
 - Number of abortions in Russia between 1920-1990 = 260 million
 - At its peak over 8 million per year
 - At present over 100 abortions per 100 live births
- Abortion in the United States
 - 60 million since Roe v. Wade
 - The "city on a hill" has become a high place of Molech
 - Abortion has its high priests and priestesses
 - Abortion providers; Planned Parenthood
 - Progressive intellectuals; radical feminists
 - "Our culture needs new rituals as well as laws to restore abortion to its sacred dimension."
 - "It is not immoral to choose abortion; it is simply another kind of morality, a pagan one."

Ginette Paris in *The Sacrament of Abortion*

- Israel turned away from God
 - Turkey turned away from God
 - Europe turned away from God
 - Russia turned away from God
 - Germany turned away from God
 - England is turning away from God
- American is likewise moving away from God
 - These ancient pagan gods have been summoned by the nation's sins to replace the God of Christianity
 - These gods have helped change the nation's priorities and values
 - What the American society once rejected and marginalized, it now accepts
 - What it once called wrong, immoral or evil, it now calls good
 - What was once found shocking, it now celebrates
 - Crosses have been replaced with rainbow flags on government buildings, embassies, schools
 - What was once a Christian civilization is becoming a pagan one
 - The consequence is not freedom: it is death, addiction, lack of purpose, and unfulfillment
 - Ancient gods were worshipped at altars and shrines
 - These altars and high places were always banned by God and spoken against by His Old Testament prophets

- Altars demanded blood sacrifice: animals, children, prisoners
- The priests of Baal cut themselves
- Since the coming of Jesus there is no longer a physical altar or shrine of any kind for Jehovah worship
- Paul's warning:
- Acts 17:24;29-30
- The God having made the world and all things that are in it, He being Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in hand-made temples...Therefore, being offspring of God, we ought not to consider the Divine Being to be like gold or silver or stone, a graven thing of man's craft (Gr: *techne*) and imagination.
- Heb. 7:27
- He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.
- Heb. 13:10
- We have an altar from which those who worship at the tabernacle do not have a right to eat.
- God's judgment on nations is always tied to defeating their gods (*sometimes Personally; sometimes by the use of fallen gods*)
 - Moses and the gods of Egypt
 - God judged Assyrian with Babylon
 - Babylon with Medo-Persia
 - Medo-Persia with Greece
 - Greece with Rome
- Empires which reached a level of iniquity that God cannot tolerate have all fallen:
 - Rome
 - Ottoman empire
 - Napoleon's France
 - Imperial England
 - Nazi Germany
 - Stalinist Russia
- The human kingdoms of this earth are temporary, lost, fallen, and not worthy of our worship or faith
- The fallen gods that these worldly kingdoms worship:
 - Their authority is illegitimate
 - Their days are numbered

- They are destined for judgment (*"do you not know that you will judge angels?"*), calamity and destruction
- The God of Judaism and Christianity is the creator God—all other gods are created
- Moses asked, "Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods?" Ex. 15:11
 - There is no God so worthy of our praise
- There is no God that is so hated and feared by the other gods
- There is hope
 - The recent Supreme Court abortion reversal is a blow against Molech
 - 50th year after Roe v. Wade – 50 years of prayer
 - The violent response by Ishtar and her abortion supporters
 - There is a push back against Ishtar in media (*even by non-Christian voices*)
- What is necessary to drive out Baal?
 - A genuine church-wide revival
- The Elijah story
- I Kings 18:21
- Then Elijah approached all the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him. But if Baal is God, follow him."
- I Kings 18:39
- When all the people saw this, they fell facedown and said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"
- It is possible to begin to restore the respect and worship of God as ruler over our nation
 - The fire can yet fall on our altars – a fire, a zeal, a commitment to God
 - To magnify Him, be His representative, His supporter, His advocate
 - The Bible record many times when Israel repented and were spared judgment
- Church history records this as well in the many revivals and awakenings
- Is. 30:19-21
- You shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you.
- And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore...
- ...your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it..."
- ...Then you will defile your carved idols overlaid with silver and your gold-plated metal images. You will scatter them as unclean things. You will say to them, "BE GONE!"