

Consequences of knowingly disobeying the word of God [GK- CFEC, 13/06/21]

Main Scriptures: I Kings 13:1-22

The purpose of this teaching is to warn ourselves against the risk of drifting away from God's inspired mission and calling, for those who are called by the Lord for the fulfilment of His end-time ministry through the Body of Christ. We need to maintain the kind of faith that overcomes the world. It's also a warning about immediate and long-term consequences of knowingly disobeying the Lord. It's a call for us to lead a responsible and resolute life in/through and for the Lord.

General overview of the chapter

- Verses 1-6 are a denunciation of the idolatrous altar. A man of God who was sent from Judah predicted that a child named Josiah would arise in Judah and would burn the idolatrous priests on the altar. This prophecy was fulfilled 330 years later (2 Kings 23:15-16).
- Verses 7- 10, king Jeroboam failed to silence the man of God by threats. He will use bribery, craftiness, deceitfulness, seduction and uncommon fellowship. Following the Lord's instructions, the man of God refused to eat, drink and take the reward from the king.
- Verses 11-19, the man of God was tricked by an old prophet who dwelt in Bethel and the man of God disobeyed the word of God. It was Integrity v craftiness; Temple v idols; Truth v lie; Judah v Bethel; Godliness v lawlessness.

The Lord chose Jerusalem as the place to establish His Name, nowhere else! [Think Abraham established Bethel? See Genesis 13:18]

You can have false prophets but you can't have false men of God. False prophets may present themselves as men of God but they are not.

God willing, we will study this topic in two parts – Part 1: 1 Kings 13: 1-22; Part 2: 1 Kings 13: 23-34

Part 1 – Immediate consequences of disobedience – 1 Kings 13:1-22 (13/06/21)

Broader context

In chapters 11 and 12, King Solomon loved many strange women- the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. The Lord had specifically forbidden these marriages, lest these women should turn away God people's heart after foreign gods. Solomon had 700 wives, princesses and 300 concubines who turned away his heart and he went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the abomination of Moab and Molech (Moloch, Milcom?) the abomination of the Ammonites.

Ashtoreth is the Queen of Heaven to whom the Canaanites burned offerings in Jeremiah 44:17-18. According to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, Ashtoreth is also assimilated to the Egyptian deity Isis, to the Greek deities: Aphrodite, Artemis, Athena, Demeter, Gaea, Hera, Hestia, Rhea and to the Roman deities: Venus, Diana, Minerva, Ceres, Terra, Juno, Vesta, Ops.

- **Mystery Babylon the Great - from physical to spiritual! (from Genesis 11 to Revelation 17 and 18)**

Revelation 17:1-6 speaks of the great harlot with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication and who was full of names of blasphemy. And on her forehead a name was written:

Mystery, Babylon the Great, The Mother of Harlots and of The Abominations of The Earth.

This 'Mystery Babylon the Great' was drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus!- Marchands of souls of men

Revelation 18:4 "Come out of her my people, lest you receive of her plagues".

- **Nimrod** who built the Tower of Babel worshipped the pagan sungod named Moloch. He hunted human beings to murder as sacrifices to his pagan god Moloch. He married his own mother Samiramis in an act of incest, so the "son" became both the husband and son of the mother, while she became the Queen of Babylon.

After Nimrod's death, Semiramis "invented" a religion for the people that would keep Nimrod's control over them even after his death. She then gave birth to a son named Tammuz, whom she claimed was the reincarnation of Nimrod. So through the belief that Tammuz was "Nimrod reincarnated", the queen was able to subdue the people of Babylon.

The Babylonian Empire was the first attempt at a "One World Government". The Tower of Babel was a tower built as a massive structure from which to consult the stars through the use of astrology and communicate with "The Sun" Baal. The Lord God intervened and confused the speech of the people of earth and scattered them abroad. With the migration of the people coming out of Babylon, the sun-worshipping religion of Babylon was scattered throughout the Earth, **the names changed but the religion remained the same.**

Since the languages now were “confused” the names of Nimrod, Semiramis, and Tammuz were changed and continued to change over time based on culture and language. Although the names changed, the religion remained exactly the same. Semiramis, however, became known as “The Queen of Heaven”, among all cultures and worshipped as the primary head of this false religion. Even the children of Israel fell into the worship of Semiramis, The Queen of Heaven . (see **Jeremiah 44:17-18**).

Together Semiramis and Nimrod (and the bastard son of Semiramis named Tammuz) started this occult religion of sacrificing babies to Moloch.

After the death of her son/husband Nimrod, Semiramis began to formulate what we now know as The Mystery Religion of Babylon. In her new religion, she proclaimed that Nimrod had defeated death and elevated himself above all that is called “god” and literally became The Sun. She instituted a day of worship dedicated to the sun - “Sun-day”. Semiramis, being the mother of Nimrod in addition to his queen, then elevated herself up as “**The Mother of God**” and “**Queen of Heaven**”. Semiramis later became pregnant, not wanting to destroy the “image” of her as the Queen/Mother of God she declared that “**Nimrod**” the Sun God now called **Baal** (later known as **Zeus** by the Greeks) had impregnated her through the “rays of the sun”. She had given a “virgin birth” to her new son named **Tammuz**, who she claimed was the “reincarnated Nimrod”. The two, Semiramis and Tammuz, became worshipped as what we now know as “**Madonna and Child**” then later taught to people as **Mary/Jesus**, as all the idols were simply renamed by different cultures.

Religion of Semiramis - The Moon Goddess Ishtar

Nimrod was killed by his enemies and his body parts distributed all over his kingdom. Semiramis attempted to gather his body parts and accomplished retrieving all parts of his dismembered body except his “private parts”. It was from “the private parts of Nimrod” that Semiramis created the fertility religion known as The Mystery Religion of Babylon; **these “private parts” were remembered by the construction of Obelisks**.

The image of Isis – an Egyptian deity- “**Queen of Heaven**” holding her baby son Horus. Was renamed by the Roman Emperor Constantine as “**Mary & Baby Jesus**” in the 3rd Century. However, this image is none other than the original Queen of Heaven named Semiramis and she is holding her baby son Tammuz. When Nimrod and Semiramis’ religion migrated to other parts of the world, she took on different names. Another one of her aliases is “**Easter**.” This is the true identity of **EASTER** and her son Nimrod who was later supposedly reincarnated as Tammuz (Ezekiel 8:14). Her name started out as Semiramis, but then it was changed in other cultures. She is also known in other cultures as **Isis, Diana, Astarte, Ishtar, Aphrodite, Venus, Easter** and also as the false deified version of the “**Catholic Mary**.” Her baby son Nimrod (later reincarnated as Tammuz) also had other names in various cultures because this Babylonian religion migrated around the world. He is also known as **Horus, Apollo, Sol, Krishna, Hercules, Mithra**, and many others. **This image of Isis, Queen of Heaven with baby Horus the sun-god is the true identity of the Catholic “Mary & baby Jesus” that is worshipped unawares.**

Let’s go back to our main biblical text and look at significant characters in 1 Kings 13.

- Jeroboam - the man of God - Josiah – the old prophet - the corpse - the lion – the ass or donkey

Three classic snares:

- 1- **Attitude towards money or the error of Balaam for profit (1 Kings 13:7-8; Jude 11).**
- 2- **Deceitful tactics, pursuit of fame and success models – old trickery and current trickery** (1 Kings 13: 18; 2 Cor 11:3, 13-15).
“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.”

1 Kings 13: 17-19 "For I have been told by the word of the LORD, 'You shall not eat bread nor drink water there, nor return by going the way you came.'" He said to him, "I too am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.'" (He was lying to him.)
So he went back with him, and ate bread in his house, and drank water”.

The man of God was impressed and deceived because of the fascinating packing of a lie – I too am a prophet- an angel spoke to me by the word. In order words, “God spoke to you by His Word, but I have received a greater revelation of the Word, brought to me by an angel, which you didn’t”.

But Paul says in Galatians 1:6-7, “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if **we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel** to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed”. And Jude 3.

In 1 Kings 13:18, we see a direct contradiction between the word of God and the word allegedly brought by an angel, presented as being a greater revelation!

A Man of God, who was mightily used by the Lord has now been deceived to a tragic ending of his life – this is a solemn warning to all ministers – better the end than the beginning, says the Bible! When asked who his favourite author or spiritual hero, Dave Hunt replied: “not until they’ve departed”.

The word of God given to the Man of God was very clear – no eating, no drinking, no returning in that place – the grace was given for that particular journey and mission, which the Man of God ought to understand. We should never attempt to fabricate/ duplicate God’s grace or blessing either from other people or from our own past experience with the Lord. We can imitate others’ perseverance but we cannot duplicate their particular calling and ministry.

God punishes stubbornness, rebellion and disobedience are punishable. In fact, Proverbs 29:1 says: “He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy”.

1 Cor 15:1-4 “ Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.

3- **Lack of discernment**

Paul was genuinely concerned about what would happen in the Church of Ephesus after his departure. End-times’ ministers should pay particular attention to Paul’s warning given in Acts 20:28-30.

"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves”.

In Ephesians 4:11-16, the Apostle Paul reveals God’s purpose for giving ministries to the Church – Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers.

- *It’s for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the Body.*
- *It’s to bring the saints to spiritual maturity and to prevent them from being tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting.*

2 Peter 1:16 says: “We did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty”.

1 Kings 13:16-17 I cannot return with you...because the word of God says so...

Yes, God said so , but ...

Can you recognise the pattern here? Do you remember the lie in the Garden of Eden? “Did God really say...” same old and current lie!

A genuine man of God deceived by an old false prophet who wanted to see the perpetuation of idolatry in Israel. That’s a tragedy!

This is the potential disqualification Paul mentioned in 1 Cor 9:27.

This is the body being destroyed in order for the soul to be saved.

1 Kings 13:7-20, the Man of God was offered old kind of gratifications, which eventually led to his disgrace and destruction. Ministers need to shepherd the flock willingly and not for dishonest gain; they need to remember that they will receive a glorious reward when the Chief Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ returns.

Like Samson, the man of God was not firm in his resolution to obey the Lord. Yet we are commanded to be sober and vigilant because our adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. We are also commanded to resist him with a steadfast faith.

In partial conclusion, let’s consider what Samuel said to Saul:

“Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry”. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king”. 1 Samuel 15:23.

The consequences of knowingly disobeying the word of God!

Part 2 – Further consequences of disobedience – 1 Kings 13:23-34 (20/06/21)

In this 2nd part, we are examining further consequences and the general biblical warning against disobedience. We will also look at the various characters involved in the event described in the biblical text.

Read 1 Kings 13:23-34

Consequences of disobeying the voice of the Lord knowingly:

- 1- Disqualification, mission drift – from the altar to the street!
- 2- “your corpse shall not come to the tomb of you fathers
- 3- Jeroboam did not turn away from his evil way
- 4- False priests were multiplied because *high places were now everywhere*
- 5- Jeroboam himself became a priest
- 6- Priests were made from every class of people – who ever wished, Jeroboam consancted him (1 Kings 13:33) - *not from the levites*. [12:31]
This was the sin of the house of Jeroboam, for which it was exterminate and destroyed.
- 7- Generally, widespread idolatry followed all the more in Israel

Obedying the Lord means doing what is right in His sight; it's upholding the Lord's righteousness on His own terms.

Speaking of old and new apostates, Jude 11-12 reads:

Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; 13 raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

They:

- have gone in the way of Cain – *hatred and human effort*
- have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit – *greediness [money preachers]*
- perished in the rebellion of Korah – *pride, self-praise and rebellion*

Characters:

- **King Jeroboam** was Solomon's servant to whom the Lord gave the kingdom of Israel. He fled to Egypt because Solomon sought to kill him. He remained in Egypt until Solomon died. *Also, Jeroboam came into play because of Rehoboam's stubbornness and hostility towards his father Solomon's councillors; he preferred to listen to the young men who had grown up with him.* I think he suffered from a condition called *gerontophobia* [geron: old man and phobos: fear]– fear of age-related self-degeneration, or a hatred or fear of the elderly. Gerontocracy is when the elderly govern based on their own rules. So Rehoboam was in a sense 'gerontophobic'. The Kingdom of Israel would be torn into pieces and Jeroboam would receive 10 tribes (Chapter 12:31). This was because Israel had forsaken the Lord and worshipped :
 - Ashtoreth – the goddess of the Sidonians
 - Chemosh – the god of the Moabites
 - Milcom – the god of the people of Ammon, the abomination of the Ammonites.
- **Josiah** (13:2) – “Behold, a child Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men's bones shall be burned on you”. This prophecy was confirmed by astonishing signs – Jeroboam's hand withered; the altar split apart and the ashes poured out from the altar.

Josiah was the great grandson of King Hezekiah. He reigned over Judah 330 years after the prophecy was given in Bethel. His heart and response to the Lord's word are found in **2 Kings 22:11-19**. In verse 19 – Josiah was a tender-hearted and humble person before the Lord. He was in deep indignation because people had disobeyed the Lord.

- Josiah found the book of the Law first and repaired the damage of the house of the Lord.
- He inquired of the Lord concerning the words of the Book.
- He restored true worship.
- He removed idolatrous priests in Judah and defiled the high places- Ashtoreth, Chemosh and Milcom.
- He kept the Passover as none of other kings ever did in Israel

Josiah was battling with idolatry that was practised for about 4 centuries before him in Israel – **we need to always pray for future Monarchs.**

Read 2 Kings 22:11-19.

- **Man of God** from Judah – he was genuinely called and was mightily used by God. He had a clear mission and had God’s word, power and protection at his disposal but he disobeyed. **Interesting fact:** the Man of God withstood King Jeroboam who represents the political power because the confrontation was open and visible. However, the Man of God failed to discern the old prophet’s deception, using seduction.

Spiritual journey of the man of God – Man of God (9x); - the prophet who came back (v.23); - the man of God who was disobedient (v.26); - The corpse of the man of God (v.29); -The brother of the old prophet (v.30); - buried in the same tomb as the old prophet- not with his father’s (v.31).

1 Kings 13:24 “When he was gone, a lion met him on the road and killed him. And his corpse was thrown on the road, and the donkey stood by it. The lion also stood by the corpse.

Adam Clarke (1762 – 26 August 1832) who was a British Methodist theologian and biblical scholar in the 19th Century, wrote about 1 Kings 13:24 what follows: *“by this fearful example, God sets forth how dangerous it is for men to behave coldly or deceitfully in the charge to which God has called them. By permitting himself to be seduced by the old prophet, by ignoring the expressly declared counsel of God, the man of God committed the sin unto death mentioned in 1 John 5:16-17.”*

This example also shows that the judgment begins at the house of God. In fact, “to whom much is given, much more will be required”. The man of God received a great revelation and brought a prophecy to be fulfilled 330 years later, even giving the name of the king who would restore the fear of the Lord and execute His righteous judgment.

1 Peter 4:17-18 *“For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now “If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?”*

This is interesting because according to 1 Kings 12:29, King Jeroboam set up two golden calves: one in Bethel (house of God) and the other in Dan (judge) – and yes, judgment begins at the house of God.

The sin was a gross disobedience to the Lord’s command, which God decided to punish with death. See also judgment on David in 2 Samuel 12: 10-12 and Moses not entering Canaan. (also Proverbs 29:1).

1 Kings 13:31- the old prophet requested to be buried in the same tomb as the man of God. This was certainly in order to avoid his bones being burned on the altar when the Lord executes judgment 330 years later by the hands of Josiah. This is not new- Elisha (2 Kings 13:21). Moses (Jude 9).

The power of God is manifest where there is obedience. Political and world’s powers will fear the Lord if His servants remain obedient. (1 Kings 13:1-6).

Ministers of the Word must remain obedient to God, discerning and vigilant against so-called recipe for successful ministries and the reckless pursuit of fame.

Matthew Henry wrote: “That God is displeased at the sins of his own people, and no man shall be protected in disobedience by the sanctity of his profession, the dignity of his office, his nearness to God, or any good services he has done for him.[...]. by this God intended to warn all those whom he employs, strictly to observe their orders, at their [own] peril.”

- The **old prophet** – why is he called ‘old’? Was he an old very experienced false prophet who was the last resort and the hope for King Jeroboam in being able to seduce the Man of God?

Seduction - The Greek word for seduction is *apoplanao*:

Apo- to cause to go astray; to lead away from the truth to error. **Planao-** to cause to stray, to lead astray, lead aside from the right way; to lead away from the truth, to lead into error, to deceive; to be led into error; to be led aside from the path of virtue, , sin; to be led away into error and sin. Therefore the word *‘Seduction’ means to lead astray using deception – incantation, spells, charms, enchantments, bewitchery, magical formula intended to trigger an effect on a person – Jezebel was a seductress- not simply attractive.*

2 Cor.11:3-4 “But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he who comes preaches *another Jesus* whom we have not preached, or if you receive a *different spirit* which you have not received, or a *different gospel* which you have not accepted--you may well put up with it!”

Matthew 24:4: "Take heed that no man **deceive [seduce]** you."

Matthew 24:5: "I am Christ; and **shall deceive [seduce]** many."

Matthew 24:11: "false prophets shall rise, and **shall deceive [seduce]** many."

- The **corpse of the man of God** was now at the lion's full disposal, like Samson was at the Philistines' disposal. We also remember how the enemy disputed Moses' body after his death in Jude 9. The Lord shut the lion's mouth when Daniel was thrown in the lions' den. When the Lord judges His own, He does not allow the devil to bring unnecessary extension to what the Lord intends to do-remember what happened with Job.
- The **lion** in the Bible mainly represents adversity- lions' den, lion v David, devil likened to roaring lion. But the Lord shuts their mouths.
- The **ass or donkey** appears as an instrument to the Lord's service. In this case, it seems to have been offered and 'saddled' by the old prophet; it became an instrument of disobedience, just like to cart that carried the ark, instead of being carried on the priests' shoulders.

In summary, the Lord sent a man of God from Judah to Bethel to proclaim the impending judgment because of widespread idolatry. He was deceived by a false prophet and led to disobey the Lord. The false prophet impressed the man of God with a 'higher and insightful revelation' which was allegedly confirmed by an angel. This so-called revelation was clearly in contradiction with God's word but the man of God was undiscerning.

An angel of God cannot contradict the Word of God.

- *Charles Russell (founder of the Watch Tower Society/ JW's) had a 'revelation' from an angel but denies Christ's deity.*
- *Joseph Smith (founder of the Church of the Mormons) also had a 'revelation from an angel and believes there are three Gods.*
- *Muhammad (founder of Islam had a 'revelation' from an angel and denies the death of Christ and the fact that He is God's Son.*

"To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry". (1 Samuel 15:22-23)

In the Bible, prophecies are God's inspired predictions or revelation of future events. They relate to world-shaking and shaping global events. They are not cheap, fake, false and counterfeit tricks or cunningly devised paranormal cheats. A true prophecy involved the Lord's integrity, truthfulness and omniscience because the Lord knows everything.

2 Kings 23:13-20 *"Then the king [Josiah] defiled the high places that were east of Jerusalem, which were on the south of the Mount of Corruption, which Solomon king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Sidonians, for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the people of Ammon. 14 And he broke in pieces the sacred pillars and cut down the wooden images, and filled their places with the bones of men. 15 Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he broke down; and he burned the high place and crushed it to powder, and burned the wooden image. 16 As Josiah turned, he saw the tombs that were there on the mountain. And he sent and took the bones out of the tombs and burned them on the altar, and defiled it according to the word of the LORD which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words. 17 Then he said, "What gravestone is this that I see?" So the men of the city told him, "It is the tomb of the man of God who came from Judah and proclaimed these things which you have done against the altar of Bethel." 18 And he said, "Let him alone; let no one move his bones." So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet who came from Samaria. 19 Now Josiah also took away all the shrines of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had made to provoke the LORD to anger; and he did to them according to all the deeds he had done in Bethel. 20 He executed all the priests of the high places who were there, on the altars, and burned men's bones on them; and he returned to Jerusalem".*

Ray comfort wrote: "How we need the truth of the moral law. It opens blind eyes to the evil of the sin of idolatry. It gives us a zeal to destroy every remnant of idolatry in the land. We live in an age of idolatry, where professed intelligent people believe that God is whatever they perceive Him to be. He is not. He is an unchanging God of holiness, righteousness, justice, and truth, and no amount of fertile imagination can change the fact that we must face Him on Judgment Day".

Romans 1:22-25 "Professing to be wise, they became fools [...] who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen". Jer. 31:35 "Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night"- not to be worshipped.

Thus Josiah who expressed God's approved holy indignation, fulfilled God's justice over the idolatrous priests and cleared Israel from widespread idol-worshipping. The Lord gave Solomon incredible wisdom and wealth, yet lust turned his heart from God to women, and then to idolatry to accommodate his sin. However, as Christians, we have the Holy Spirit living within us to help us overcome sin, and the Word of God warning us to flee from sexual sin and to keep our hearts free from idols. Aiden Wilson Tozer said: "to offer a sinner the gift of salvation based upon the work of Christ, while at the same time allowing him to retain the idea that the gift carries with it no moral implications, is to do him untold injury where it hurts him the worst".

Josiah had all the good intention but the Book had disappeared because of previous idolatrous kings. That is what happens when traditions, entertainment and social gospel take precedence gradually over the Word of God- people not enduring sound doctrine but giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons. Josiah began to seek the Lord at 16 years old. At 20 he purged, destroyed and defiled places of idolatry. He found the Book and kept the Passover. He reigned 31 years and only lived 39 years! The next generation after him did evil in the sight of the Lord. Sin remains sin however humans rename it and God's holiness and righteousness are unchanged. They triumphed 330 years later. The Judgment Day foretold in the Bible is coming quickly and there is only One Way to escape: accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour in your heart and flee from idolatry.

Additional resources from “Christ’s sufficiency” (03/12/2017)

Colossians 2:6-15, 18-19

This is mainly an encouragement to go on living by faith in the same way we had received Christ by faith. It’s also a reminder that there is complete sufficiency in the Lord, not only for salvation but for the whole Christian life. It’s an exhortation to acknowledge Christ’s lordship and to stay away from men’s traditions and philosophy however persuasive they might appear.

- **Rooted in Christ** – when we received the Lord into our life, He became the ‘Soil’ from whom we draw all our nourishment but now the root must go deeper in order to resist opposing winds.
- **Being built on Him** – first we were rooted; now we are being built up in Him, the Foundation and the Chief Cornerstone.
- **In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily** – this leaves no room for those arguing about Jesus Christ’s deity.
- **Holding fast to the Head** – the Church should always look to Christ its Head for guidance, direction and provision. Christians should find complete satisfaction and sufficiency in Christ.

Colossians 1:18 – He is the head of the body, the church.

Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church which is His Body. In a broader sense, the Body represents all the redeemed people who have been sealed by the Spirit of God, according to Romans 8.9. These people have received both *exousia* according to John 1.12 and *dunamis* as promised in Acts 1.8

The difference between the Body of Christ and any other institution is the presence of the Holy Spirit. The headquarter of the Church is in heaven, where Christ is and the Vicar of Christ is the Holy Spirit, because a vicar, from the Latin *vicarius*, means a person appointed to do the work of another person.

Jesus Christ is the Word made flesh and all the Scriptures are about Him. Therefore there must be a perfect harmony between the word of God and the Holy Spirit; in fact, they are inseparable. Here is the net effect of mishandling this biblical reality:

- Increased knowledge of the Scripture without the Holy Spirit has a potential to exalt men and lead to *another gospel*
 - Any attempt to allegedly exalt the Holy Spirit without the backing of Scripture could potentially attract *another spirit*
- In John 6.63, we are reminded that “the Spirit gives life” and that Christ’s “words are spirit and life”. In 2 Corinthians 3.17, we are warned that “the letter kills, but the spirit gives life”.

All these points intend to show that without the word of God and His Spirit, there is no church in the biblical sense. In its broader meaning, the Body of Christ is the universal fellowship of His followers who have His Spirit and live by His word. In its biblical sense, this is the true Catholic Church. The Greek word for *universal* or *catholic* is *katholikos*, derived from *Kata* (according to) and *holos* (whole).

I hope that by this time, it has already become apparent that there is a clear conflict between the spiritual and biblical meaning of the *Catholic Church*, where Jesus Christ is the Head and the Holy Spirit His vicar, as opposed to the institutional Roman Catholic Church, with its head the pope who is usually regarded as the *Vicarius Christi*. Whenever the Holy Spirit and the word of God are removed from the equation, we are left with mere traditions of men, rituals and human ruling.

The Church in the present represents the period from the day of Pentecost to date.

- So, where is the true church then?
- Does Roman Catholicism represent the Body of Christ as being the only true church? If so, then how does it relate to other Bible-believing Christians both in the past and now?
- What does history tell us? What about having: one Vicar of Christ and too many popes at the same time?
- Was Roman Catholicism the only form of Christianity before the Reformation? If not, then what happened to other Christians and their legacy?

I suspect that most of the Christians are familiar with answers to these questions. Therefore I will remind just a few historical facts that are irreconcilable conflicts between Roman Catholic’s teaching and the biblical truths.

The testimony from history

Around the year 300 AD, the Church was persecuted. Christians were hated and hunted by Romans emperors, beginning with Nero in the 1st century and ending by Diocletian at the start of the 4th century.

By 313 AD the face of Christianity will be transformed, when the Roman emperor Constantine the great won his famous battle at Milvian Bridge in 312 AD. That victory would ultimately make him the sole emperor of Rome. Before that battle, he claimed he had seen a vision of a cross on the sun and heard a voice telling him: "in this sign conquer"; with that symbol, he went forth and conquered his enemies. A short time later, he signed the 'Edict of Milan' in 313 AD, granting tolerance and protection to Christians. With the emperor conversion, Christianity would eventually become the state religion. But in 331 AD, he signed another Edict that all those who had not come under the authority of Rome ought to be arrested. Thus, their records, churches, etc were burned. How could a true Christian possibly persecute other fellow believers?

It's been suggested that his belief was divided.

Dave Hunt wrote: "As the head of the pagan priesthood, he was the Pontifex Maximus and needed a similar title as head of the Christian church. The Christians honoured him as Bishop of bishops, while Constantine called himself Vicarius Christi, Vicar of Christ".¹

True Christians saw this syncretism as an apostate church. Now Constantine will begin to persecute all those who oppose this catholic or universal faith. It has been said that after his Edict in 313 AD, more Christians were persecuted and killed than before his conversion. At the time of his decline the bishops of Rome rose and took for themselves Constantine's title; including 'Vicar of Christ' i.e. *substitute of Christ*.

Thomas Hobbes who was an English Philosopher wrote in 1691: "if a man considers the original of this great ecclesiastical dominion, he will easily perceive that the papacy is no other than the ghost of the deceased Roman Empire, sitting crowned upon the grave thereof"².

In the 13th century a great effort was made to put the Scripture out of people's reach and keep people from its knowledge. It has been said that pope Innocent III could be considered as one of the two true founders of the Inquisition. The Inquisition did not begin because of witches or as a crusade against Muslims but because of Bible believing Christians known as the Albigenses. They were accused by the man known today as St Dominic. His name Dominic de Guzman who wrote: "it is not by the display of power and pomp or by gorgeous apparel, that heretics win proselytes; it is by zealous preaching, by apostolic humility, by austerity, by seemingly, it is true, by seemingly holiness". He argued that this false holiness should be overcome by true holiness from Catholicism.

In 1206 AD, the Albigenses confessed that "the Church of Rome was not the spouse of Christ but the church of confusion, drunk with the blood of the martyrs [...] the Church of Rome is neither good nor holy, nor established by Jesus Christ"³.

In 1207 AD, the leader of the Albigenses debated Dominic. Humiliated by his failure, Dominic promised slavery and death. He then formed the order of the Dominicans which was instrumental in the Rome's Inquisition. The term **Inquisition** applies to any one of several institutions which fought against *heretics* within the *justice-system of the Roman Catholic Church*. 2 years after, pope Innocent III ordered a crusade against the Albigenses. A close friend of Dominic led the crusade against the Albigenses. He is remembered by Catholics as a great crusader. Simon de Montfort destroyed not only people, but also literature. The *Albigenses Crusade* or *Cathar Crusade* (1209–1229) was a 20-year military campaign initiated by the Catholic Church to eliminate the '*Cathar heresy*'. The *Albigenses Crusade* also had a role in the creation and institutionalization of both the *Dominican Order* and the *Medieval Inquisition*⁴.

In 1283 AD, Pope Gregory IX established the Inquisition as official church's doctrine. Thus, began some 600 years of bloodshed against Bible-believers. It has been said that "the Light brought by the Scriptures made Rome's heresies plain". According to John Dowling, "it is estimated by careful and credible historians, that more than 50 millions of human family have been slaughtered for the crime of heresy by popish persecutors"⁵. Could these records have anything to do with *the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus*, also described as the *Mystery Babylon* in Revelation 17:6? Why did John marvel with great amazement?

Thus, it is wrongly believed that Roman Catholicism was the only form of Christianity up to the Reformation. Many groups of Christians refused to submit to Rome and sought to follow God's word as their final authority. Among them were the *Albigenses* and the *Waldenses*. Later on, John Wycliffe who translated the Bible in English had his followers known as the *lollards*. He trained them and sent them to preach the Gospel. As England was still a catholic country, many of the lollards suffered greatly and were burnt with any Scriptures they had with them.

¹ D. Hunt. 'A Woman Rides the Beast' p. 46

² T. Hobbes (1691), 'The Leviathan'

³ David W. Cloud, 'Rome and the Bible' p.9

⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albigenses_Crusade

⁵ John Dowling (1845) 'The History of Romanism', p.541

Wycliffe rejected the doctrine of *transubstantiation*! 44 years after his death, instructions were given for his bones to be dug up and burnt as well as his writings, and finally, his ashes thrown into the river. He was also cursed. However, throwing his ashes into the river turned out to be quite an ironic act.

William Wordsworth explains in his poem on the subject:

Wycliffe is disinhumed, Yea, his dry bones to ashes are consumed.
And flung into the brook that travels near. Forthwith that ancient Voice which streams can hear
Thus speaks (that Voice which walks upon the wind. Though seldom heard by busy human kind):
As thou these ashes, little Brook! wilt bear into the Avon—Avon to the tide
Of Severn—Severn to the narrow seas—into main ocean they,—this deed accurst,
An emblem yields to friends and enemies, how the bold Teacher's Doctrine sanctified
By truth, shall spread throughout the world dispersed.

The Pope, from the Latin *papa* meaning father, is also referred to as the *Holy Father*, yet the Bible warns that we should call no man our father on earth, for one is our father who is in heaven.

Quotations:

- **Pope Innocent III**, the father of the Inquisition said: "The pope holdeth place on earth, not simply of man, but of the true God"⁶.
- **Pope Nicola**: "I am in all above all, so that God Himself and I the Vicar of God, hath both one consistory, and I am able to do almost all that God can do. I then, being above all [...] seemed by this reason to be above all gods"⁷.
- **Pope Boniface VIII**: "we declare, say, define and pronounce that is absolutely necessary for the salvation of every human creature to be subject to the Roman Pontiff."⁸
- **Pope Clement VI**: "No man outside obedience to the Pope of Rome can ultimately be saved"⁹. Pope Clement VI. "Super Quibusdam, as cited in "Apostolic Digest. Book V: The Book of Obedience.

- **Lest anyone cheat you**

In Ephesians 4:11, we are told the reason why the Lord establishes ministers in the church – equipping the saints, edification of the body and doctrinal protection of the believers.

The same mission was assigned to the prophets in the Old Testaments but why are deceitful workers always target God's People?

- **Why is God's People so gullible?**

In Ezekiel, spiritual leaders we commissioned to teach people the difference between the holy and the unholy and cause them to distinguish between the clean and the unclean. Unfortunately the leaders themselves were involved in hypocrisy and idolatry. They brought and practise paganism in the very house of the Lord.

Ezekiel 8 :6 – 16

Great abomination (v.6) – greater abomination (v.6) – wicked abomination (v.9) - even greater abomination (15)

Verse.14 - Women wept for Tammuz (Babylonian deity)

Verse 16 – Twenty-five men worship the sun by the altar in the very temple.

Jeremiah 7:18 – Children, women and fathers made cakes for the 'queen of heaven'

⁶ In Decretals of Gregory IX, Book 1, Chapter 3

⁷ Josiah Pratt (1856). The Church Historians of England. Reformation period. p.159

⁸ Pope Boniface VIII. "Unam Sanctum", as cited in Apostolic Digest, Book V: The Book of Obedience

⁹ Pope Clement VI. "Super Quibusdam, as cited in "Apostolic Digest. Book V: The Book of Obedience.

- **Mystery Babylon the Great - from physical to spiritual! -**

Revelation 18:4 “Come out of her my people, lest you receive of her plagues”.

- **Nimrod** worshipped the pagan sun-god named Moloch. The title “Great Hunter before (in the face of) the Lord” was ascribed to him because he literally hunted human beings to murder as sacrifices to his pagan god. He married his own mother Samiramis in an act of incest, so the “son” became both the husband and son of the mother, while she became the Queen of Babylon.

After Nimrod’s death, Semiramis “invented” a religion for the people that would keep Nimrod’s control over them even after his death. She then gave birth to a son named Tammuz, whom she claimed was the reincarnation of Nimrod. So through the belief that Tammuz was “Nimrod reincarnated”, the queen was able to subdue the people of Babylon.

The Babylonian Empire was the first attempt at a “One World Government”. The Tower of Babel was a tower built as a massive structure from which to consult the stars through the use of astrology and communicate with “The Sun” Baal. The Lord God intervened and confused the speech of the people of earth and scattered them abroad. With the migration of the people coming out of Babylon, the sun-worshipping religion of Babylon was scattered throughout the Earth, the names changed but the religion remained the same.

Since the languages now were “confused” the names of Nimrod, Semiramis, and Tammuz were changed and continued to change over time based on culture and language. Although the names changed, the religion remained exactly the same. Semiramis, however, became known as “The Queen of Heaven” among all cultures and worshipped as the primary head of this false religion. Even the children of Israel fell into the worship of Semiramis, The Queen of Heaven . (see **Jeremiah 44:17-18**).

Together Semiramis and Nimrod (and the bastard son of Semiramis named Tammuz) started this occult religion of sacrificing babies to Moloch.

After the death of her son/husband Nimrod, Semiramis began to formulate what we now know as The Mystery Religion of Babylon. In her new religion, she proclaimed that Nimrod had defeated death and elevated himself above all that is called “god” and literally became The Sun. She instituted a day of worship dedicated to the sun - “Sun-day”. Semiramis, being the mother of Nimrod in addition to his queen, then elevated herself up as “**The Mother of God**” and “**Queen of Heaven**”. Semiramis later became pregnant, not wanting to destroy the “image” of her as the Queen/Mother of God she declared that “**Nimrod**” the Sun God now called **Baal** (later known as **Zeus** by the Greeks) had impregnated her through the “rays of the sun”. She had given a “virgin birth” to her new son named **Tammuz** who she claimed was the “reincarnated Nimrod”. The two, Semiramis and Tammuz, became worshipped as what we now know as “**Madonna and Child**” then later **Mary/Jesus** as all the idols were simply renamed by different cultures.

This religion created in Babylon by Nimrod and Semiramis was making them rich as the people had to pay money to come into the temple to sacrifice their babies at the **Winter Solstice (December 21st-25th)** and also at “Easter (Ishtar) Sunrise Services,” at the spring or **Vernal Equinox (March 21st-25th)**. Every year on March 25th & December 25th, there would be wild drunken parties and orgies where virgins were impregnated by pagan priests. Since there are 9 months to a pregnancy, and there are also 9 months between March 25th and December 25th, the pagan priests of Baal would impregnate these virgins on Easter Sunday. This was done to commemorate the impregnation of Semiramis with Tammuz, and then by December 25th when these infants were newly born, they would then offer up these new born babies on the altar to “Moloch” (Nimrod) on December 25th. A few months later on Easter “Sun-day” they would offer up more infants to the goddess named “Easter” or “Ishtar” the moon goddess Semiramis. They would then take the blood of these sacrificed infants and dip “eggs” in them called **Ishtar Eggs**. Let’s take a closer look at this religion.

In Conclusion, the Lord God wants us to abstain from things that attract His wrath and to be able to distinguish between what is clean and what is unclean, the holy and the unholy. We were redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ, so let us abstain from things that wage war against our souls.

Christ is the Head of the Church and we are complete in Him. Let us remain true and faithful to Him until He returns.

Who is on the Lord’s side?

Religion of Semiramis - The Moon Goddess Ishtar
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Nimrod was killed by his enemies and his body parts distributed all over his kingdom. Semiramis attempted to gather the body parts of Nimrod and accomplish retrieving all parts of his dismembered body except his “private parts”. It was from “the private parts of Nimrod” that Semiramis created the fertility religion known as The Mystery Religion of Babylon these “private parts” remembered by the construction of Obelisks. Semiramis is described by ancient Greek historians the following way.

Herodotus (about 484-420 B.C.) describes her as a queen who ruled the whole of Asia. Diodorus (first century A.D.) says she was the daughter of the Syrian goddess Derketo of Askalon and describes her celebrated construction of the splendid city of Babylon with its hanging gardens, which since modern times have been counted as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. He also portrays her as a man-eating queen and powerful warrior, who defeated the powerful army of the Medes. Athenagoras of Athens (second century A.D.), one of the Apologists, calls Semiramis, in his work *Legatio pro Christianis*, "an immoral and murderous woman."



Pictured above is Isis "**Queen of Heaven**" holding her baby son Horus. The Roman Emperor Constantine renamed this image "**Mary & Baby Jesus**" in the 3rd Century, but this image is none other than the original Queen of Heaven named Semiramis and she is holding her baby son Tammuz. When Nimrod and Semiramis' religion migrated to other parts of the world, she took on different names. Another one of her aliases is "**Easter**." This is the true identity of **EASTER** and her son Nimrod who was later supposedly reincarnated as Tammuz (Ezekiel 8:14). Her name started out as Semiramis, but then it was changed in other cultures. She is also known in other cultures as Isis, Diana, Astarte, Ishtar, Aphrodite, Venus, Easter and also as the false deified version of the "**Catholic Mary**." Her baby son Nimrod (later reincarnated as Tammuz) also had other names in various cultures because this Babylonian religion migrated around the world. He is also known as **Horus, Apollo, Sol, Krishna, Hercules, Mithra**, and many others. This image of Isis Queen of Heaven with baby Horus the sun-god is the true identity of the Catholic "**Mary & baby Jesus**" that is worshipped by Catholics unawares through icons and graven images. You will also notice the two horns on her head are for the "**horned god**" Lucifer and the "disk" within the horns symbolizes the sun. This image violates the second commandment in **Shemoth (Exodus) 20:4** which says "**you shall not make unto you any graven image.**"¹⁰

NAMES applied To the pagan goddess SEMIRAMIS		
Titles of Semiramis	GREEK	ROMAN
Goddess of ---	APHRODITE	VENUS
Goddess of Love	ARTEMIS	DIANA
of Hunting & birth	ATHENA	MINERVA
Crafts, War & Wisdom	DEMETER	CERES
of Growing Things	GAEA	TERRA
of Fertile Earth	HERA	JUNO
of Marriage & Women	HESTIA	VESTA
of the Hearth	RHEA	OPS
Wife of Kronos		

¹⁰ <http://doubleportioninheritance.blogspot.co.uk/2012/02/queen-of-heaven-why-does-church.html>
 See also <http://aletheia.consultronix.com/10.html> and See also [Batman vs Superman - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aX8SuSIXNTU>]