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Satan's Grand Cover Up Scheme

by John Brown, June 2012

This essay is the brief synopsis of Satan's long term scheme to weaken and/or destroy the monotheistic faiths of the ancient Hebrews and Christians. This essay does not provide proof for it's thesis but serves as a research starting point. If you're not a student of scripture, ancient history, the Hebrews, or culture, this synopsis will either be boring, sound foreign or perhaps outright radical.

The essential plan or scheme is to suppress the truth by substitutions for truth that sound plausible to human ears not trained in the Word of God. So many of Satan's schemes do sound good but in actual practice, do not work and only subdue humans further into servitude to others who promote the schemes.

Hebrew Monotheism

The ancient oriental culture of the Middle East, specifically the Hebrews, are the basis of all monotheistic beliefs in the Creator. When God gave Moses the commandments on mount Sinai (Torah), the Hebrews became known as the nation of Israel which differentiated them from all other Middle Eastern cultures. Their God was the Creator and called: Jehovah. Both the oriental Middle Eastern culture and Torah formed the basis of the Hebrew's belief structure and worldview. Everything about this lifestyle was concretely embedded in their environment, families, communal lifestyle and language.

Until about the 160 years before Jesus' birth, this faith was not a religion but a just manner of daily community living which honored Jehovah in all speech and activities. The Torah was a set of divine instructions (commandments in western thinking) which included many symbols and images to teach 1) the nature of the spiritual plane to Israel, 2) teach their inadequacy to participate in it on their own and 3) to teach Israel how to live in community. To be 'Torah Observant' meant to live the life detailed in the Torah. Everything an Israelite said and did continually reminded them of their own spiritual inadequacy to live up to God's

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righteousness and their need for a Redeemer. The Hebrew prophets continually called Israel back from deviations from this lifestyle to serve Jehovah only.

Jesus and his apostles' teachings are based upon this original Hebrew monotheistic worldview, lifestyle and belief structure about man's relationship to Jehovah and his place in the cosmos. Jesus' teachings were based in the revelation of the God's righteousness in the Torah (five books of Moses), the Hebrew writings and the Hebrew prophets.

Teaching pure Torah Observance and summarizing the law the way Jesus did, made a clear distinction between the corruptions of the Pharisees and the truth. Suppressing the truth through corrupt religious leadership is the way of Satan. It was so in the beginning and remains his single most effective weapon in the war for men's minds today. Truth is not corrupted by the average follower, gentile or Israelite. Truth is suppressed by those who have a responsibility to uphold it..

Evolution of Hebrew Monotheism

The ancient monotheism of the Hebrews' lifestyle was corrupted by the Pharisees as a sect which became prominent about 160 years prior to Jesus' birth. They usurped the authority of Moses by reinterpreting Torah practice and adding their own laws. They were 'left wing' Jews, to use parlance. They political developed the community/teaching system² to teach the Israelites their version of the Torah and to gain influence over the population. Under the Pharisee's influence and under pressure from the Greek, Egyptian and Roman cultures, the former Hebrew lifestyle became institutionalized as the religion of the Jews: Judaism. This change undermined the nature of the original monotheism as lifestyle and worldview. Their Pharisee's authority and institutions effectively made them the sole interpreters of truth. The Sadducees were the more conservative, holding to strict

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The Pharisees emerged as a distinct group shortly after the Maccabees revolt, around 165–160 BCE. Pharisees and the Sadducees differ in their respective attitudes toward the Torah and the problem of finding in it answers to questions and bases for decisions about contemporary legal and religious matters arising under circumstances far different from those of the time of Moses. The Sadducees taught that the written Torah was the only source of revelation. The Pharisees held to the principle of evolution in the Law; men must use their reason in interpreting the Torah and applying it to contemporary problems. They applied this evolutionary concept to their interpretations of the

The Pharisees were not primarily a political party but a society of scholars and pietists. They enjoyed a large popular following. Around 100 BCE a long struggle ensued as the Pharisees tried to democratize the Jewish religion and remove it from the control of the Temple priests. To the Pharisees, worship consisted not in bloody sacrifices by the Temple priests but in prayer and in the study of God's law. Hence the Pharisees fostered the synagogue as an institution of religious worship, outside and separate from the Temple. The synagogue may thus be considered a Pharisaic institution since the Pharisees developed it, raised it to high eminence, and gave it a central place in Jewish religious life. Source: http://www.britannica.com

Temple rites as given in the Torah. However they corrupted themselves by adopting the Greek culture as an off-duty lifestyle. (Sadducee names in the New Testament are all Greek)

Restoration of Hebrew Monotheism

Jesus taught a return to pure Torah Observance³, the original spiritually oriented Hebrew lifestyle, in opposition to the Pharisee-Judaism⁴. His earthly ministry was an effort to restore Israel to its roots in Moses and the prophets. The followers of Jesus' reformation/restoration movement were called 'The Nazarenes,' the followers of the teacher from Nazareth. Even though the movement was in opposition to the Pharisee-Judaism, it was still perceived as a sect of Judaism. However, Jesus movement might better be called the Hebrew-Nazarenes.

Transformation of the Hebrew-Nazarene Sect

Nazarene-Judaism was transformed into a universal faith at Pentecost, again moving the Nazarenes another step away from Pharisee-Judaism. Many of the first century believers did not understand (or wish to believe) the transformation of the Nazarene faith into a universal form and continued to be zealous for Torah Observance in the Pharisee-Judaism tradition. The followers of this Post-Pentecost, Transformed Nazarene faith, became known as the "Messianic" faith due to its followers preaching about the King of the Kingdom. The title 'Christianity' is a westernized version of 'Messianic.' The apostle Paul tried to distance his teachings from Pharisee-Judaism by referring to the transformed Nazarene faith as "The Way". However, Paul neve stopped

³ Jesus opposed Pharisee-Judaism by teaching pure Torah Observance & more.

⁴ Also see the essay *Hebrew Roots of Christianity: Problems and Solutions* by the same author. Available to download at http://straightbible.net

being a 'Hebrew of the Hebrews.' Paul was one of the most influential Jews who ever lived. ⁵

Evolution of Christianity (Messianic Faith)

Christianity began to drift away from its Hebrew worldview roots during the 2nd and 3rd centuries with the influx of gentiles. They little appreciation for the foreign Hebrew roots of this transformed Nazarene faith. The gentiles began to redefine the faith in their own terms, from their own Greek education and non-Jewish experience. This reached it peak in the 4th century when the Hebrew roots were completely replaced by a philosophical theology based on the philosophers, Aristotle and Plato.

The Roman Emperor Constantine and his descendants politically molded the church into an anti-semitic, anti-Jewish version, to serve the Roman Empire's agenda. The structure of the church also evolved into a hierarchy of control, borrowed from political forms. The Christian faith became a political institution of the new Roman Empire, the Byzantium Empire. The Hebrew based faith became the 'Roman Byzantine Faith' characterized by Christianizing pagan holidays, abstract philosophical doctrines and political influence.⁶

Evolution of the Roman-Byzantine Faith

The Roman-Byzantine Faith thrived and evolved uncontested for a millennia as a European political power, replacing the former Roman Empire. The philosophical tenants of the faith did not change but the Institution revolved more around politics and less around spiritual concerns. Abuses of the faithful to gain wealth for the Institution were

⁵ Paul was #6 of the top 100 most influential people of all time if Michael H. Hart is to be believed, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The 100

⁶ See the essay *Hebrew Roots of Christianity: Problems and Solutions* previously noted in footnote #4.

rampant. Political control of Europe became an obsession of the Christian Institution. The Christian faith had evolved into a *Political Byzantine Faith* and a political arm of the Roman Empire. This is another one of the adversary's schemes. He tries to make believer think their power as a unified body is political instead of spiritual. If the power is political, then the leadership is justified in exerting control over the masses as a way to exert political influence with governments. Control typically means conformity to a religious dogma or corporate ideal.

Reformation of the Political-Byzantine Faith

The Political Byzantine Faith was reformed in the 15th and 16th centuries by Martin Luther, his contemporaries and later reformers. This reformation was intended to confront the Institution's abusive and political policies, to restore it to an earlier and more pure Roman-Byzantine Faith. The reformation/restoration movement separated from the main Institution and split off not one, but four reformed Roman-Byzantine Branches producing a five version Christian faith. The Branches neither held the wealth of its parent nor exercised it political abuses of the mother Institution.

The Great Reformation was only <u>one half step backwards</u> in the evolution of the Faith, restoring the Roman-Byzantine Faith. The Christian faith needed a whole step backwards to its Hebrew Roots. However, Satan convinced the religious leaders and reformers that a reformation had occurred. Thus Satan lulled Christians back to sleep while the leaders solidified their positions to again enforce the doctrines of the Roman Catholic bishops which were approved by the Roman Empire's emperors.

Evolution of the Roman-Byzantine Branches

Today, nearly all Christians today follow one or another of the five Roman-Byzantine Branches. Abuses and political power grabs of the original Institution have become rare. However, all five forms of the Christian faith are still dominated by Roman-Byzantine belief system of the 4th century. Each Branch in its own way, seeks to evolve by adapting itself to the culture and times. They do this by altering their liturgy, meeting forms, leadership titles, etc.. These modern evolved forms are still basically the old Roman-Byzantine Faith but they are evolving into 'Modern Byzantine' versions.

Reformation of the Modern-Byzantine Version

The next reformation/restoration will be one more step backwards, a return to the *Transformed Nazarene Faith* known in the first century as the Messianic Faith or The Way. This reformation/restoration would again base itself upon the ancient Hebrew culture and worldview of man's place in the cosmos as revealed by Jesus' apostles. This reformation/restoration would not be based on Pharisee-Judaism.

The next reformation/restoration is already underway. But, it is happening not in the religious institutions who teach Roman Byzantium traditions but it is happening in the hallowed halls of the scholars. Already a great many scholars have abandoned the Byzantium traditions in light of recent discoveries (in the last century) in the fields of Archeology, Cultural Anthropology and Linguistics. Men of Faith in the sciences are laying the foundation for the next Reformation which will restore the worldview and belief structure of the faith's Hebrew Roots.

If modern Christians wish to participate in the next Reformation, they must abandon the Roman-Byzantium traditions which have held the faithful captive for over 16 centuries. To move forward, they must embrace the worldview and belief structure of the ancestors of the Jews, the ancient Hebrews. This Reformation will look less like a religious

event and more like a cultural shift as Christians embrace a new way of thinking about the Messiah and his apostles. This reformation does not mean abandoning anyone's culture since Pentecost transformed the faith into a cross cultural Universal Faith. It only means expressing the foundational beliefs of Jesus and his apostles in the culture and language of the local congregations.

The Grand Cover Up In A Nutshell

- 1. Over a century before Jesus was born, the lifestyle of the ancient Hebrews (pure Torah Observance) was corrupted by the Pharisee-Judaism religion.
- 2. The pure Torah Observance reformation/restoration movement of Jesus was covered up by calling it a sect of Judaism
- 3. The Pentecostal transformation of Jesus restoration movement (Nazarenes) was covered by advocating believers had to become a proselyte of the Jew's religion: Judaism.
- 4. In the 2nd and 3rd centuries the roots of the faith were covered up by gentiles abandoning the ancient Hebrew roots of the faith. The cover up was deepened by replacing the faith's concrete roots with foreign abstract philosophical concepts.
- 5. In the 4th century, the Roman Emperors manipulated the catholic bishops into formalizing the cover up with creeds and institutionalizing their errors.
- 6. In the 5th century, the cover up was deepened again through violence to convince the faithful that the institution possessed salvation and no one could come to the Creator except by approval of its institutional officers.
- 7. In the 5th through the 10th centuries the cover up was deepened when spiritual authority became political and economic authority also.

- 8. In the 10 century reformers broke the political strangle hold of the Institution and corrected some of its abuses and policies. However, 4th philosophical doctrines were not corrected nor reformed, the Roman Byzantine Faith continued but without the abuses and secular politics.
- 9. The 4th century errors and creeds continue to hold the minds of the faithful today though in updated forms, convincing many that the Christian faith has improved and changed ... it has not.

Christian congregations are long overdue for the next reformation/restoration movement. It can start at the grass roots level by Christians removing themselves from all forms of Satan's cover up schemes. Then the door would be open to revert the Christian Faith backward one more step from Roman Byzantine Faith, back to the Universal Transformed Nazarene Faith of the 1st century.

This Transformed Hebrew based faith is not Torah Observance that Jesus taught in his earthly ministry. Torah Observance is not the foundation of the New Covenant. Jesus' inaugurated the New Covenant with his blood sacrifice, not by ministering to Israel. Torah Observance did not mediate the New Covenant, nor should it be practiced today.

The gospel records were written that we might come to know the mediator and be convinced of him as the son of God, the promised Messiah and Redeemer. The gospel records were not written so we could become Torah Observant gentiles nor become proselytes of any version of Judaism. Thinking that the gospels are a guide for New Covenant Christian living is an error from the Roman Byzantium tradition. The New Covenant Christian lifestyle is not in the gospels.

The common phrase, "What would Jesus do?" exemplifies the confusion introduced by the Roman Byzantine tradition. The real question they are asking is, "What would an ancient Torah Observant Jewish Rabbi do?"

The real New Covenant question should be, "What is the holy spirit directing me to do?"