

# The Battle for Truth?

## Part 3 – Who is God?

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Genesis 1:1 opens the Bible with “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” The God of the Bible existed and was active at the beginning of created time.

He is the Creator of all things.

The question is asked with regard to “who is God?” There are many religions and many more ideas of who or what God is.

Today we want to look at this battle for truth. Perhaps this battle lies at the very heart of the war for truth!

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## The Heart of the Battle

This battle goes back to the fall.

Genesis 3:4-5

Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Satan does not want mankind to recognize and worship God. He wants people to turn from on One and Only True God, join his rebellion, and serve and worship him through one of his substitutes.

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## The Heart of the Battle

Remember, that in the beginning there was just One True God. Since the fall, man has attempted to fill in his need to worship God with a god of their own making and understanding.

Romans 1:21-23

Although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

Mankind's idolatry is a result of their rejection of the True God.

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## The Heart of the Battle

It is important to take a moment a pause here.

God is not like us. When people reject and turn their backs on us, it is a natural tendency to reject them.

Our rejection of God (sin) separates us from God, and His wrath burns against sin because of what it is and does. Yet, God did not reject man. It is our sin that separates us from God and anyone who turns from their sin and turns to God (repentance) can enter into a relationship with Him through the Lord Jesus Christ. He paid our debt on the cross to remove the sin barrier. God gave this promise after the fall. Here He gives the "protoevangelium."

Speaking to Satan:

Genesis 3:15

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

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## False Religion

There are too many views of god to go into great detail here.

Shortly after the flood, mankind rebelled against God by refusing to spread across the land. Instead, many chose to live together and founded the city of what we know today as Babylon. There

Satan uses Nimrod to create a counterfeit "unholy trinity".

Nimrod, the founder of Babylon sets himself up as God. His wife Semiramis washed up from the sea as a giant egg. Doves came and hatched her out. The "Land of Shinar" is derived from her name. She becomes impregnated by a beam of light and gives birth to Tammuz.

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## False Religion

The worship of Semiramis is a fertility religion filled with every type of sexual immorality. Her worship involved giving eggs, a symbol of fertility from her origin story.

Semiramis is known as the "Queen of Heaven."

Tammuz, her supernaturally begotten son dies.

Semiramis goes to the land of the dead to bargain for his release. He is allowed to leave, but he must dig his way out of the underworld. Semiramis laments for 40 days after which time Tammuz is resurrected. Tammuz is often represented as a rabbit.

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## False Religion

Followers of Semiramis taught that the Great Serpent was the rightful lord of the universe whose throne had been temporarily usurped by God. According to her, the serpent created man "in his present miserable state but promises that a child would one day be born of a divine mother which child would supplant God, become a god himself, and return ruler-ship of the earth back to the serpent."

Semiramis' promoted worship of the "heavenly host," Satan's army of fallen angels. Atop the Tower of Babel was an area dedicated for such pagan adoration.

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## False Religion

You can understand why God brought His judgment upon the Tower of Babel and why Babylon represents the kingdom of man and Satan opposed to God's Holy City Jerusalem.

When the people of Babel had their language confounded and scattered across the world, they took elements of the truth and the lie with them.

“Mystery Babylon” unholy trinity and their other gods form the basis of the gods of Egypt, Greece, Rome, and India.

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## False Religion

When Constantine conquers Rome and makes “Christianity” the state religion, many pagans join the church for political reasons and bring their pagan ideas, religion, and practices into what becomes the Catholic Church.

Semiramis is also known as “Ishtar” and her practices were brought in on the day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. “Ishtar Day” becomes transliterated into Easter. I do not need to labor the point of where the rabbits and eggs come from. Lent is also 40 before “Easter” and finds no Biblical basis but reflects the 40 days of lamenting “Ishtar” did for Tammuz.

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## False Religion

This false teaching even made it into God's Temple in Jerusalem before and during the "Babylonian" captivity.

Ezekiel 8:13-18

And He said to me, "Turn again, *and* you will see greater abominations that they are doing." <sup>14</sup> So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the Lord's house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz. <sup>15</sup> Then He said to me, "Have you seen *this*, O son of man? Turn again, you will see greater abominations than these." <sup>16</sup> So He brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house; and there, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, *were* about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the Lord and their faces toward the east, and they were worshiping the sun toward the east. <sup>17</sup> And He said to me, "Have you seen *this*, O son of man? Is it a trivial thing to the house of Judah to commit the abominations which they commit here? For they have filled the land with violence; then they have returned to provoke Me to anger. Indeed they put the branch to their nose. <sup>18</sup> Therefore I also will act in fury. My eye will not spare nor will I have pity; and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, I will not hear them."

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## False Religion

Time does not permit how this Babylonian religion permeated and contaminated the worship of the True God. But I need to point out a few things to help us understand the Old Testament and some of the things going on in the world today.

Nimrod is also known as Baal. Baal was the "god of earth, god of rain and dew" and the "god of the harvest". Semiramis become known as Ishtar, Isis, Venus, Mother Earth, Ashtaroth, Diana, and Ashtoreth, and Astarte in Canaanite culture. Their worship was open sexuality (including homosexuality) and all Canaanite women were expected to give a period of their time as temple prostitutes. This puts the "sexual revolution" we see going on today in a new light.

It should be added that Ashura is celebrated by thousands today in the Middle East. The UK Daily Star reported, "Shiites turn out en masse as killings again mark Ashura in Iraq. Police estimate that hundreds of thousands turned out for the commemoration." They further report that they "whip themselves with chains and cut their heads with swords." This certainly captures the imagery of those prophets of Baal that Elijah confronted.

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## False Religion

There are also many false religions and cults that attempt to call themselves Christian, but they are not.

Most have heard about Jim Jones and the mass suicide (murder) that resulted when his cult was revealed for what it was. This was just one of many.

Other groups like the Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses are also based on false teachings about God. The Mormons believe that Jehovah or Yahweh was once a person on another planet that fulfilled his Mormon ascension and became the god of this planet. Mormons believe that they also will be god's of future planets....

Jehovah Witnesses deny the deity of Jesus claiming Him to be Michael the Archangel.

Both have added to scripture and in some cases removed that which contradicted their false teaching.

Beware of wolves in sheep's clothing!!!

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## Why Reject God?

Why did people reject the One True God?

The core of man's fallen nature does not want to submit to God's Holy Standards. He wants to live life on his own terms without the restraint of God. The concept of a Holy God who judges sin, who is omnipresent, omnipotent, and omniscient is like a giant wall that confronts one's sinful nature.

A person is left with just two choices – to surrender or rebel.

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## Why Reject God?

Man was created to worship and serve something. The understanding that there is something greater than ourselves is programmed into our nature. Therefore man is without excuse. Though man rejects the True God, he creates a concept of god that he is comfortable with. He waters down God's holiness and justice to a god who winks at sin and allows man to live on his own terms.

**This is idolatry and a god of one's own making cannot save them.**

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## Why Reject God?

Man fills his need to worship with many substitutes – sports, music, entertainment, materialism, pleasure, sex .... Some of these things are not wrong in themselves but can become idols that people live for and serve. I think the biggest idol in today's atheistic culture is self. Man, like Satan, has attempted to set himself up as God. We see this in society where mankind is attempting to determine right and wrong. The problem with this is that it does not remove God, it only ignores Him. One can choose to rebel, but this does not remove the consequences of their actions. The "natural" man looks at the short-term benefits of their actions while ignoring the long-term consequences.

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## Why Reject God?

Man, not only wants to set himself up as God but wants God to become his servant.

This is evidenced by mankind's rejection of God's moral standard but want God to meet their demands. When things do not go according to an individual's plan, they often become angry and blame God for their situation.

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## The True God

It would take eternity to describe the character of God. However, God defines Himself as Love (1 John 4:8, 16). He is patient, good, and kind. Though He knows all that an individual will do (omniscience), He loves them so much that He sent Jesus to die on the cross for their sins. He Himself was willing to pay the debt we owe for sin and to open the door for forgiveness and reconciliation.

He is all powerful (omnipotent) and is present everywhere (omnipresent) and is with each of us in every situation. He is willing to help us and desires man to turn, follow, and depend on Him.

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## So What ...

The battle for Truth centers on the person and character of God.

Satan wants to contaminate our understanding of the One True God so that we worship a god of our own making and understanding (idolatry).

This is the "Battle for Truth" so let each of us make sure we are worshipping the God revealed in Scripture and not something else!