

THE IRON FURNACE

Before Israel was delivered into the land of promise, Moses addressed them, reminding them of their deliverance out of Egypt, the covenant that they had made with Yahweh, their 40 year trek in the wilderness and their rebellions therein. These reminders, along with warnings of cursings for disobedience and rebellion and blessings for obedience are found in the book of Deuteronomy. Moses also made an interesting comment concerning Egypt which not only applied to that day and age, but other days and ages as well.

By Jerry Healan

Moses reminded Israel, “But Yahweh hath taken you, and brought you forth out of **the iron furnace**, even out of Egypt, to be unto Him a People of inheritance, as ye are this day,” Dt. 4:20.

Have you ever noticed that phrase? Have you ever noticed that Egypt was called the “iron furnace”? Moses is not the only one who has employed this term in describing Egypt. Solomon also utilized it in his prayer of dedication when the temple was finished at Jerusalem. He said, “If they sin against thee, that sinneth not, and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near; *Yet* if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent, and make supplication unto thee in the land of them that carried them captives, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness; And *so* return unto thee with all their heart, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies, which led them away captive, and pray unto thee toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name: Then hear thou their prayer and their supplication in heaven thy dwelling place, and maintain their cause, And forgive thy people that have sinned against thee, and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against thee, and give them compassion before them who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them: For they *be* thy people, and thine inheritance, which thou broughtest forth out of Egypt, from the midst of **the furnace of iron**: That thine eyes may be open unto the supplication of thy servant, and unto the supplication of thy people Israel, to hearken unto them in all that they call for unto thee. For thou didst separate them from among all the people of the earth, *to be* thine inheritance, as thou spakest by the hand of Moses thy servant, when thou broughtest our fathers out of Egypt, O Yahweh Elohim,” 1 Ki. 8:46-53.

Toward the end of the kingdom of Israel Yahweh’s word came to the prophet Jeremiah saying, “Hear ye the words of this covenant, and speak unto the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem; And say thou unto them, Thus saith Yahweh Elohim of Israel; ‘Cursed *be* the man that obeyeth not the words of this covenant, Which I commanded your fathers in the day *that* I brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, **from the iron furnace**, saying, ‘Obey my voice, and do them, according to all which I command you: so shall ye be my people, and I will be your Elohim: That I may perform the oath which I have sworn unto your fathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as *it is* this day.’” Then answered I, and said, So be it, O Yahweh,” Jer. 11:1-5.

The words of Moses, Solomon and Jeremiah all testify that Egypt was the iron furnace. The question that we now must ask is, This certainly was relevant to the children of Israel in their day of deliverance, but what is the relevance for today? Is it relevant for us today? Indeed it is! But, how is it relevant for us in this day and age?

TODAY’S ISRAEL

Yahweh inspired the prophet Isaiah to say, “Hear ye this, O house of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel, and **are come forth out of the waters of Judah**, which swear by the name of Yahweh, and make mention of the Elohim of Israel, but not in truth, nor in righteousness. For they call themselves upon the Elohim of Israel; Yahweh of hosts is His name,” Isa. 48:1-2.

There is no difficulty in applying these verses to the kingdom of Israel of old, but how do they apply today? This can apply in several ways. We must remember that water is likened to the Spirit in Jn. 7:37-39. Thus, who or what has come forth from the spirit of Judah? It would be very easy to point out that modern day Judaism comes from the spirit of Judah, would it not? But, what does modern day Christianity call itself concerning the

root of its beginnings? Isn't the term Judeo-Christianity applied to it? According to the theory of "Replacement Theology" modern day Christianity has replaced the disobedient Israelites of old. Christianity is the new Israel under a new covenant.

There is also one other movement that surprisingly declares its roots from these waters (spirit) of Judah. That is modern day Islam. The Koran draws its beginnings from both the Old and New Testaments. Mohammed taught from the Torah, the prophets, etc., but he also taught about the Savior and His apostles.

Notice that they swear by the name of Yahweh, and make mention of the Elohim of Israel, but not in truth, nor in righteousness. Such is the case with modern day Christianity. They swear, teach and preach concerning the Elohim of Israel, even going so far as to declare things "in the name of the L-rd," but most are ignorant of His true name while many of those who do know it refuse to believe that it is important and will not utilize it.

The Jews utilize the modern day term "HaShem" in reference to Yahweh, while the Moslems call Him Allah.

While this treatise is going to focus primarily on Christianity and how it has gone astray, the same thing will apply to Judaism and Islam.

The righteousness of Yahweh was revealed in His commandments, His law, which is proclaimed to have been done away by modern day Christianity.

Yahweh continues, "I have declared the former things from the beginning; and they went forth out of My mouth, and I shewed them; I did them suddenly, and they came to pass. Because I knew that thou art obstinate, and thy neck is as an **iron sinew**, and thy brow **brass**," Isa. 48:3-4.

In this Scripture Yahweh has used a couple of words to describe the mental faculties of Israel that should alert us to other Scriptures. It is a Biblical and historical fact that both of the houses of Israel fell away from the true worship of Yahweh into idolatry.

THE CONSPIRACY

Yahweh reveals through Jeremiah that there was a terrible conspiracy committed by Judah, "And Yahweh said unto me, 'A conspiracy is found among the men of Judah, and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem,'" Jer. 11:9.

The nature of the conspiracy is found in the succeeding verse, "They are turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, which refused to hear My words; and they went after other elohim to

serve them: the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken My covenant which I made with their fathers," v. 10.

Who were these forefathers that refused to hear Yahweh's words? Wasn't it the ones who were delivered out of Egypt into the wilderness? Weren't they so obstinate and stiff-necked that they all had to fall in the wilderness? Didn't Yahweh have to delay the entry into the land of promise until that generation all died?

Only 3 days after their deliverance through the sea Israel began to murmur against Moses because they had no water to drink (Ex. 22-24). A month later they murmured again, even wishing that they had died in Egypt (Ex. 16:1-3). Ex. 17:1-3 reveals that they were getting angry enough to stone Moses to death.

In the third month after their deliverance from Egypt, Yahweh and Israel entered into the covenant (Ex. 19, 20). Yet, within 40 days of making the covenant Israel had made the golden calf and were worshipping and serving it as the elohim that delivered them from Egypt.

Not long after this Moses sent 12 men as spies into the land of Cannan to see what the land was like and give a report back. But 10 of the 12 brought back an evil report. This caused much consternation, confusion and disheartenment in Israel. They were so worried about having to face a war that they decided to set up captains to lead them back into Egypt (Num. 14:1-4). Time after time Israel attempted to return to Egypt. Time after time they turned to worship other elohim, especially an elohim called Baal (Num. 25:3-5, Psa. 106:28).

After apprehending the land by the hand of Yahshua son of Nun, Israel turned to worship Baal once again (Jud. 2:13). At the latter end of his life, even king Solomon began to build altars to the elohim of his many wives and to serve them (1 Ki. 11).

Jeremiah's day was no different. There was a conspiracy among the kings, priests and prophets to lead and keep the people steeped in idolatrous Baal worship. Jeremiah cried, "Therefore thus saith Yahweh, Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry unto Me, I will not hearken unto them. Then shall the cities of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem go, and cry unto the elohim unto whom they offer incense: but they shall not save them at all in the time of their trouble. For *according to* the number of thy cities were thy elohim, O Judah; and *according to* the number of the streets of Jerusalem have ye set up altars to *that*

shameful thing, *even* altars to burn incense unto Baal...For Yahweh of hosts, That planted thee, hath pronounced evil against thee, for the evil of the house of Israel and of the house of Judah which they have done against themselves to provoke Me to anger in offering incense unto Baal," 11:11-13, 17.

Yahweh inspired Isaiah to declare that Israel was a transgressor from the womb, "Yea, thou heardest not; yea, thou knewest not; yea, from that time that thine ear was not opened: for I knew that **thou wouldst deal very treacherously**, and was called **a transgressor from the womb**," 48:8.

Thus, as stated, both Biblical and secular history reveal that Israel turned back to the worship of the idols of Egypt and other nations of the earth.

THE IMAGE OF IDOLATRY

Isaiah had been inspired to cry out that Israel's neck was of **iron** sinew **and** her brow was of **brass**. This is quite interesting since these metals are associated with the image of Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

The prophet Daniel was called to explain Nebuchadnezzar's dream to him and also give its interpretation (Dan. 2:1-30). Daniel then began to explain that the king had seen a great image (v. 31). The Hebrew word for "image" is "*tselem*". It is #6755 of *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* and is defined as "**an idolatrous figure**."

Daniel told King Nebuchadnezzar, "Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness *was* excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof *was* terrible. This image's head *was* of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of **brass**, his legs of **iron**, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet *that were* of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the **iron**, the clay, the **brass**, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth," Dan. 2:31-35.

What was revealed to Nebuchadnezzar in his dream was a thumbnail sketch of the history of the gentile nations as well as the history of idolatry. The image was a great idolatrous figure. It would begin as gold, but as time lapsed, it would tarnish and corrupt.

However, it also was a history of the great

kingdoms which would rule the earth for Daniel was inspired to explain, "This *is* the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O king, *art* a king of kings: for the Elohim of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou *art* this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another **third kingdom of brass**, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And **the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron**: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all *things*: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And *as* the toes of the feet *were* part of iron, and part of clay, *so* the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. And in the days of these kings shall the Elohim of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great Elohim hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream *is* certain, and the interpretation thereof sure," Dan. 2:36-45.

Secular and Biblical history prove that the succession of the kingdoms were Babylon (gold), Persia (silver), Greece (brass/bronze) and Rome (iron).

Isn't it becoming interesting to you now that the final great kingdom to rule the world would be a kingdom of **iron**?

ANALYZING THE METALS

We know that Nebuchadnezzar was not only a very great, powerful king, but that he was also pretty stubborn. However, gold is a metal that is easy to work with because of the characteristic of being very moldable and pliable.

Nebuchadnezzar's nature is revealed herein,

because when Yahweh would turn His hand to deal with him, Nebuchadnezzar would repent and embrace the truth. Look at his attitude in Dan. 2:46-49; 3:26-30; and 4:34-37.

The next kingdom to have world rulership was Persia which was represented by the silver. Silver is not nearly as valuable as gold, but it also has the characteristic of moldability which is revealed in the nature of Kings Darius and Cyrus (Dan. 6:25-28; Ezra 1:1-4).

Another interesting point is that both Babylon and Persia were involved in the worship of idols. Man embellishes his idols with gold and silver.

These were men that Yahweh could work with in order to cause His will to be done. They were not hardened to the point that they wouldn't listen.

One of Babylon's chief deities was Bel. He was known as Baal to the people of the land of Canaan. Baal means Lord. Even today, people refer to the Creator as "The Lord."

One of the chief deities of Persia was Mithras. His special day of the week was Sunday. His birthday was December 25th. Does this tell you anything about where we are in today's world?

The next world ruling kingdom would be Greece/Macedonia which was represented by the **brass/bronze**. Brass or bronze is a very hard metal. Its hardness reveals the hardened, obstinate attitude of the leaders of Greece toward the Elohim of Israel and His purposes. Who doesn't know of the efforts of the Greek leaders and kings to completely overthrow the Hebrew faith and cause them to worship the Greek god Zeus?

Antiochus Epiphanes especially brought out this attitude more than any others. He entered Jerusalem, forced the people to denounce their Hebrew faith and their Elohim on pain of death, forced them to eat swine and other unclean things, sacrificed a swine on Yahweh's altar before the temple, boiled its flesh and spattered the broth all over the walls of the temple, placed a statue of Zeus in the holy of holies, etc.

If we take the Hebrew word used to represent this kingdom and search it to its origins we will discover something that is rather startling and amazing.

Brass is #5178 of *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*. It is the Hebrew word "n^ochôsheth." It is defined as; *copper*; hence, something made of that metal, i.e. *coin*, a *fetter*; fig. *base* (as compared with gold and silver). It is generally translated as; brasen, brass, chain, copper, fetter (of brass), filthiness, steel.

N^ochôsheth is a derivative of #5154 which is the Hebrew word "n_cchûwshâh. N_cchûwshâh is

defined as; fem. of **5153**; *copper*, being generally translated as: brass, steel.

#5153 is the Hebrew word "nâchûwsh" which is defined as; appar. pass. part. of **5172** (perh. in the sense of *ringing*, i.e. bell-metal; **or from the red color of the throat of a serpent [5175, as denom.] when hissing**); *coppery*, i.e. (fig.) hard. It is generally translated as; of brass.

#5172 is the Hebrew word "nâchash" which is defined as; a prim. root; prop. to *hiss*, i.e. *whisper* a (magic) spell; gen. to *prognosticate*.

Finally #5175 is the Hebrew word "nâchâsh" which is defined as; from **5172**; a *snake* (from its *hiss*) and is generally translated as; serpent.

The Prophet Daniel was writing in the Aramaic language, however, and the Aramaic term that he utilized was *nachash!* Thus, the Aramaic and the Hebrew announce the entry of the serpent.

The kingdom of Greece (brass/bronze) is revealed as a hardened, unrepentant kingdom which is totally under the influence of the serpent.

Alexander, the first king of the Greek Empire, was proclaimed as the son of Zeus Ammon by the priest of the Oasis of Siva in Egypt during his tenure for the winter of 332-331 BCE (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, 14th Edition, Vol. 1, p. 568). Both Strabo and Josephus present Zeus as having been adored under the form of a serpent.

In the book entitled "*Speculum historiale*" the author Vicent De Beauvais writes that Alexander is found to be the son of Nectanebus, a fugitive king of Egypt and a great magician who had to flee to Pella in Macedonia. He established himself as an astrologer there and was visited by the childless Olympias, Phillip's wife. Nectanebus promised that Zeus Ammon would visit her in the form of a dragon which he, himself assumed. In due course Alexander was born, and Phillip's suspicions were overcome by a second appearance of the dragon (*Ency. Brit.*, 14th Ed., Vol. 1, p. 571). Thus enters the Chthonian concept that the Greek leaders, and eventually the Roman leaders were sons of the serpent-god Zeus.

The fourth kingdom, Rome, was revealed to be just as hardened and unrepentant by its metal of iron.

Thus Yahweh's representation of Israel as having a neck of iron sinew and a brow of brass had to do with a rebellious, unrepentant attitude. They were stiff necked and hard headed. But it also has to do with their role in the latter two kingdoms. They would have a very important role in these two latter day kingdoms.

THE IRON AND CLAY

Yahweh had overthrown the supremacy of the Israelite and Jewish kings and kingdoms because of their unfaithfulness. He had given them and the whole world over to the rulership of Gentile kings. This rulership has continued down to our present day. However, with the introduction of the clay with the iron, a transformation was shown to occur.

The clay is said to represent the division of the empire as well as weakness (Dan. 2:43). True enough, the Roman Empire was eventually divided between east and west. This division began when the serpent and sun worshipper Constantine the Great built a second Rome at Byzantium, also named Constantinople and Roma Nova (New Rome).

The original Rome was a Latin kingdom, but when the division occurred the eastern half of the kingdom became more Greek in its influence. Eventually, the center of power and influence of the eastern kingdom shifted to Moscow, Russia, which became known as the **third Rome**. (Most people in our modern world are ignorant of this fact.)

Daniel prophesied, "And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise," 2:40.

It appears that not only would this great kingdom break other kingdoms into pieces and bruise them, but that this final kingdom would also break into pieces and bruise and such is what has happened to the Roman Empire. It became the great world ruling kingdom, but has eventually broken into pieces itself and has been bruised. But the true fact of the matter is that today's world is still under the Roman scope of power, government, and influence whether we like it or not.

Our annual calendar is a Roman devised calendar. The holidays that are observed are the remnants of ancient pagan Roman festivals. Our governments are patterned after the governmental system of the Roman Empire. The Latin kingdom was a republic while the Greek kingdom was a democracy. Today, we proclaim that we are a democracy but our government is a republican form of government. The two main parties are Democrat and Republican who are always at odds with each other. This not only applies to the U. S., but also the European forms of government where Ancient Rome ruled.

Our religion (the overall preponderance) is based on the religion of the Roman Empire. The Christian world still follows the edict of Constantine the Great who appointed Sunday, the first day of the

week, as the day of rest and assembly rather than the seventh day Sabbath which was appointed by Yahweh.

Even our love-life is patterned after the Roman type of love, for the last vestiges of the Roman Empire seeks after its style of love called "**romance**." People go crazy over "**romance**" novels. If a person is not able to be **romantic**, he is considered a dunce, a boob, a bore, etc.

Russia is the modern day inheritor of the eastern kingdom while western Europe is the inheritor of the western kingdom. When there were great differences between the two, a barrier was erected between them called the "Iron Curtain." Our world today is a world wherein there is the hardness of iron, yet the weakness and brittle characteristics of clay.

ISRAEL—THE CLAY

Yahweh cast both Israel and Judah out of the land of promise because of their infidelities. He declared that their neck was as iron sinew and their brow as brass or bronze. While the principal rulers of the latter kingdoms of Greece (the brass or bronze kingdom) and Rome (the iron kingdom) were non-Hebrew or Gentiles, Israel had been sown into these kingdoms in order to live in subservience to these rulers and peoples to teach them a lesson.

The clay of the fourth kingdom could also represent the amalgamation of Israel into this kingdom because the prophet Isaiah cried out, "Oh that thou wouldest rend the heavens, that thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence, As *when* the melting fire burneth, the fire causeth the waters to boil, to make thy name known to thine adversaries, *that* the nations may tremble at thy presence! When thou didst terrible things *which* we looked not for, thou camest down, the mountains flowed down at thy presence. For since the beginning of the world *men* have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O Elohim, beside thee, *what* he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him. Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, *those that* remember thee in thy ways: behold, thou art wroth; for we have sinned: in those is continuance, and we shall be saved. But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. And *there is* none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our

iniquities. But now, O Yahweh, thou *art* our father; **we are the clay, and thou our potter**; and we all *are* the work of thy hand,” Isa. 64:1-8.

The Israelites were likened to clay! Nothing has changed in the nature of modern day Israel. The former Israelites wanted to be just like the nations around them. They wanted a king over them like those nations. They wanted to serve the elohim of the nations around them. Their necks were as iron sinew and their brows like brass or bronze. Yahweh has given Israel over to the things that they love. Israel has truly come to love the Greek and Roman philosophy, forms of government, worship, etc. Israel, the clay has been completely amalgamated into the fourth world ruling kingdom, Rome.

Jeremiah likens Judah and Israel to clay, “How is the gold become dim! How is the most fine gold changed! The stones of the sanctuary are poured out in the top of every street. **The precious sons of Zion, comparable to fine gold, how are they esteemed as earthen pitchers, the work of the hands of the potter!**” Lam. 4:1-2.

While it appears that Rome is only a kingdom of the past, such is simply not the case. As pointed out, the kingdom thrives even to this very day. Such was prophesied by Daniel, “**And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided;** but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And *as* the toes of the feet *were* part of iron, and part of clay, *so* the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. **And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. And in the days of these kings shall the Elohim of heaven set up a kingdom,** which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever,” 2:40-44.

Notice that! It is in the latter days of the fourth kingdom, Rome, that Yahweh will set up His kingdom of Elohim. The fourth kingdom is shown undergoing changes from iron to iron and clay and then iron and miry clay. This is portraying a change in its nature.

ROME'S CHANGES

Rome is shown beginning as a kingdom of iron which breaks other city states and kingdoms into pieces with its iron handed tactics. At first, Rome was a city state. It began to branch out and overcome other city states and kingdoms. But its system of government, as already pointed out, was republican in nature. Rome was initially governed by a senate, a body of rich nobles who governed for the good of the republic.

Then, along comes Julius Caesar who desired to not only become king, but also to be worshipped as a god in like manner to the Greek leaders and other leaders or kings of the east. Julius paid for this ambition with his life, but Augustus Caesar was much more subtle than his uncle Julius. He deified his uncle as an elohim (god), built a shrine for him, proclaimed himself as Julius Caesar's adopted son, thereby taking the title “son of god.” While shunning any attempts to be worshipped in the city of Rome and the Italian peninsula, he did have shrines built to his honor in the eastern provinces where he was worshipped as an elohim.

Herod the Great built the city of Caesarea in Augustus Caesar's honor which had a shrine or temple in it dedicated to him.

The essential point is that the Roman government underwent a change from a republican government to a dictatorship or monarchy. Augustus was quite subtle in his takeover, because he allowed the people to still think that they were a republican form of government, while the truth of the matter is that it had been converted to a dictatorship. The religion of Rome was an amalgamation of all pagan religions with Augustus Caesar established as the “Pontifex Maximus” (high priest) over them all.

Interestingly, it was during the time of Augustus, who proclaimed himself to be the “son of god” and was ruler of the then known world, that Yahshua, the true Son of Elohim was born Who was the One destined to be the ruler of the world in Yahweh's kingdom. Yahshua raised up His body of believers sending them out with the message of the coming kingdom of Elohim which would be ruled under His own power and authority granted by the Heavenly Father.

This was a Jewish movement. David, the king of Israel, was of the tribe of Judah. Yahshua was to inherit his throne and rule in a restored kingdom of Judah and Israel. Remember that Judah and Israel are likened to clay in the hands of the Potter.

While the movement was a Jewish movement, the Roman government didn't pay very close attention to this newfound faith. But when non-Jewish elements began to be attracted to the movement, Caesar, their king and god became incensed. The Ro-

man beast government began to wage war on the believers in earnest. Thus, we had two kings, two sons of Elohim vying for power. The problem was that every time the New Testament body of believers were persecuted, instead of decreasing in numbers, they increased in numbers.

When Constantine the Great came on the scene, he realized the virility of this new found religion which had come to be called Christianity at this time. He faked repentance, entered into the corrupted remnants of believers, took over and began to dictate doctrine.

It was also by his building of the city of Constantinople or New Rome in the east which effectively divided the empire. Thus, the Caesar divided the empire, not only in a physical manner (east and west), but in a spiritual manner. He attempted to fuse the iron and clay together.

It seemed to work quite well as far as empowering Constantine in the kingdom and in the assembly, but almost immediately a controversy arose through Arius which began to sow division. History reveals that quite a few conferences or councils were called in order to straighten out the confusion, but look at the division that has been created in the supposed body of believers which has served to cause the kingdom to be broken into many, many pieces over the centuries. This appears to be the true manner of the clay and iron mixture which continues today and will continue until the return of Yahshua.

Yahshua the true King and Son of Elohim will have power over both the civil and ecclesiastical branch of the kingdom. Caesar, the false king and false son of Elohim administers over a "separation" of powers concerning the civil and ecclesiastical branches (separation of church and state). His administration is an administration of division, confusion and falsehood.

PAGANISM

As Rome defeated the city states and kingdoms of this world, they not only captured the inhabitants, selling them into slavery, but they also removed the pagan idols, images and priesthoods, taking them to Rome and either building new temples for them or placing them into existing temples of their own Elohim. Thus, Rome became the stronghold of all paganism.

When Augustus came on the scene and not only took the office of first citizen or dictator, he also assumed the title of "Pontifex Maximus" over all paganism. When Constantine came on the scene, he possessed the same titles. Upon entering into

the corrupted remnants of the New Testament Assembly, he also became "Pontifex Maximus" over it.

Constantine immediately began to blend paganism into the faith. He declared the first day of the week, Sunday, to be the day of rest and assembly for worship rather than the 7th day Sabbath appointed by Yahweh. He also declared December 25th to be observed as the birthday of the Messiah which previously had been acknowledged as the birthday of Solis Invictis (the unconquered sun), Nimrod, Apollo, Horus, etc., etc.

Constantine's successors also continued his policies of this paganistic blending until the body of so-called believers in the Messiah have been remade in the image of the Roman Empire rather than the Kingdom of Heaven. This has caused the clay to eventually be termed "miry" clay in Dan. 2:43. Miry clay is a clay that is like mud. While mud sticks, it doesn't have the ability to be molded into a vessel. It is useless in the hands of a potter.

The interesting thing about this word "miry" is that it is translated from the Aramaic word טִינָה (*tiyn*) which comes from טִיַּת (*tiyt*) which is defined as; from an unused root meaning apparently to be sticky [rather perhaps a denominative from 2894, through the idea of dirt to be swept away]; mud or clay; figurative calamity. (*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*, Hebrew Lexicon #2916.)

The Psalmist cried out, "I waited patiently for Yahweh; and He inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the **miry clay**, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings," Psa. 40:1-2.

Again we read, "Save me, O Elohim; for the waters are come in unto my soul. I sink in deep **mire**, where there is no standing; I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me," Psa. 69:1-2.

The Hebrew word utilized for "miry" and "mire" is #3121 in *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*. It is the Hebrew word "yaven" (יָבֵן) which is defined as, "from the same as 3196; properly, dregs (as effervescing); hence, mud."

The preceding word in *Strong's* is #3120, "Yavan" (יָוָן) which is defined as, "probably from the same as 3196; effervescing (i.e. hot and active); Javan, the name of a son of Joktan, and of the race (Ionians, i.e. Greeks) descended from him, with their territory; also of a place in Arabia."

Notice that both words, "yaven" and "Yavan" come from the same root word which is #3196, "yayin" (יַיִן) which is defined as, "from an unused root meaning to effervesce; wine (as fermented); by implication, intoxication."

Thus, the Greek (*Yavan*) form of government and religion was the “miry” (*yaven*) clay (Also depicted elsewhere as brass/bronze). The Greeks love their serpent god Zeus and seek to inculcate it everywhere. It is a very intoxicating (*yayin*/wine) system.

LATTER ROMAN HISTORY

Now we can add to the Roman history for the Romans (iron) were the ones who originated the city of Rome and the powerful beast kingdom the Roman Empire. Julius Caesar began to wage war against the Celt, Goths and Gauls amalgamating them into the empire. There are historical books available which will identify these peoples as descendants of the northern kingdom of Israel.

Rome also gained power over the Jews in the land of Canaan. They eventually waged war against the Jews, defeated them, destroyed Jerusalem and amalgamated them into the Roman kingdom. This was the effect of the kingdom becoming part of iron (the Romans) and part of clay (the Israelites).

While some later tribes of the Goths did war against Old Rome and conquer it, the fact of the matter is that they generally also became blended into the remnants of the Roman Empire.

When Constantine came on the scene, he built Constantinople eastward in the Greek/Macedonian area of Byzantium. While Old Rome was Latin, the New Eastern half of the Roman Empire became Greek in nature.

While the Old Roman style of government was republican in nature, the Greeks were democratic. Thus, in our own world today, we supposedly have a republican form of government, but we also declare ourselves to be a democracy.

Constantine’s turning to the Greek form of government and religion in the east led to the status of the iron and miry clay depicted by the toes of the statue in Dan. Chapter 2.

Those who seem to prefer the Greek Scriptures over the Hebrew, as well as the Greek names, etc. apparently haven’t focused on Psa. 40 and 69 along with Zech. 9:12-13 which declares, “Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope: even to day do I declare that I will render double unto thee: when I have bent Judah for Me, filled the bow with Ephraim, and **raised up thy sons, O Zion, against thy sons, O Greece**, and made thee as a sword of a mighty man.”

The Greek system is the system of miry clay. It is a horrible pit. It has to do with “wine” (*yayin*). The woman in the book of Revelation chapters 17 and 18 is a woman with a golden cup in her hand full

of abominations. She has caused the earth and its inhabitants to become drunk on her abominable idolatry and the blood of the saints.

Daniel reveals that when Yahweh intervenes to establish His kingdom in the latter days, the iron, clay, brass, silver and gold will be broken to pieces and become like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors and the wind will carry them away so that no place will be found for them (2:35). In other words, they will be swept away like dirt.

THE CURSE

Yahweh had warned Israel that if they refused to honor and obey Him, He would bring curses upon them (See Dt. Chapter 28).

He warned them, “And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be **brass**, and the earth that is under thee shall be **iron**,” Dt. 28:23.

In other words, Yahweh would give them over to worship the serpent (brass/bronze/*nechushah/nachash*). Their earthly religion and kingdom would be patterned after Greece (brass/bronze) and Rome (iron). They would have a spirit, but not the Spirit of Yahweh.

The Roman (iron) style of government was republican, while the Greek (miry clay) style was democratic. Thus, the style of government embraced by Western Europe and America today is republican democracy. Yahweh’s people, Israel and Judah are living under these influences today and absolutely loving it.

THE LESSON OF THE DUST

We learn from Job, “Iron is taken out of the earth and brass is molten out of the stone,” 28:2.

The Hebrew word for “earth” is “*aphar*.” “*Aphar*” is defined as, from 6080; dust (as powdered or gray); hence, clay, earth, mud. It is variously translated as, ashes, dust, earth, ground, mortar, powder, rubbish. (*Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*, Hebrew Lexicon)

This Hebrew word “*aphar*” is the same word utilized to describe the creation of Adam, “And Yahweh Elohim formed man of the dust (*aphar*) of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul,” Gen. 2:7.

After Adam had sinned and eaten of the forbidden fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, Yahweh cursed him saying, “Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, ‘Thou shalt not eat of it:’ cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days

of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: **for dust (*aphar*) thou art and unto dust (*aphar*) shalt thou return,**” Gen. 3:17-19.

Now we know that we are made of the elements of this earth and our whole life consists of the physical, carnal, earthly being which eventually does return to the earth, to the grave and given time will deteriorate into dust again.

But such is also the story of the earthly kingdoms, especially the series of kingdoms depicted by Daniel’s prophetic vision. The kingdoms go from gold, to silver, to brass, to iron, and then iron and clay, and finally iron and miry clay.

Iron is a substance taken from the earth (*aphar*/dust). As soon as molten iron is formed and taken from the furnaces it begins to oxidize or rust. Unless steps are taken to prevent it, the iron will eventually rust away, return to the earthly elements from whence it came.

But is this prophecy also a prediction of the latter day descendants of Adam also turning to the doctrine of “humanism?” Humanism is defined as, “any system of thought or action based on the nature, dignity, interests, and ideals of man; specifically, a modern, non-theistic, rationalist movement that holds that man is capable of self-fulfillment, ethical conduct, etc. without recourse to supernaturalism.” (*Webster’s New World Dictionary*)

THE SERPENT’S FOOD

Upon Adam’s and Eve’s initial transgression committed under the deceptive influences of the serpent, Yahweh cursed the serpent saying, “Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust (*aphar*) shalt thou eat all the days of thy life,” Gen. 3:14.

Do you realize the significance of this statement? Adam was made of the dust (*aphar*) of the ground, the earth. Yahweh appointed dust (*aphar*) as the serpent’s food. In other words, man was designated to be the food of the serpent. The first man, the man of the flesh is under the sway and power of the serpent. Just look at the history of man! There have been many powerful ancient kingdoms which have risen and fallen in the fashion of man who is born into this world, but returns to the dust of the earth. So many of these ancient powerful kingdoms only have a few remnants here and there. The anthropologists, archeologists and historians find remains of these kingdoms and try to picture what

they were like, but they are no longer in existence. They have returned to the dust of the earth.

Paul reveals that the evangel is hid to the overall preponderance of peoples by the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4). Only those who are called to the truth in Yahshua are able to be delivered from his deceptive blindness.

Satan is the god of this world also being called the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2). The air would denote the first heaven or the Earth’s atmosphere.

Thus, our heaven, according to the curse, has been made brass (serpent/Greek/Zeus worship, democratic government, etc.) while our earth has been changed to iron (Adam/Rome/humanism, republican government, etc.).

THE FOUNDER OF ROME

The story of the founding of Rome is quite interesting. Romulus (from which Rome receives its name) and Remus were twin brothers. The story of Romulus is presented by the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 14th Edition, Vol. 19, pp. 521-522, “Romulus, the son of Mars by the Vestal Rhea Silvia or Ilia, daughter of Numitor, who had been dispossessed of the throne of Alba by his younger brother Amulius. Romulus and Remus, the twin sons of Silvia, were placed in a trough and cast into the Tiber by their grand-uncle. The trough grounded in the marshes where Rome afterwards stood, under the wild fig tree (*Ficus ruminalis*), which was still holy in later days. The babes were suckled by a she-wolf and fed by a woodpecker, and then fostered by Acca Larantia, wife of the shepherd Faustulus. They became leaders of a warlike band of shepherds on the Palatine, and in course of time were recognized by their grand-father, whom they restored to his throne, slaying Amulius. They founded a city on the site where they had been nurtured; later a quarrel broke out and Remus was slain. Romulus strengthened his band by offering an ‘asylum’ to outcasts and fugitives, found wives for them by capture and waged war with their kinsmen. His most formidable foe was Titus Tatius (*q.v.*), king of the Sabines, but after an obstinate struggle he and Romulus united their forces and reigned side by side till Tatius was slain at Lavinium in the course of a blood-feud with Laurentum. Romulus then reigned alone till he suddenly disappeared in a storm. He was thereafter worshipped as a god under the name of Quirinus. Various rationalizing accounts also exist of the legend.

The whole story, probably first given by the annalists Fabius Pictor and Cincius Alimentus, is arti-

ficial and shows **strong Greek influence** (*Emphasis mine*). The birth, exposure, rescue, and subsequent adventures of the twins are a Greek tale of familiar type. Mars and his sacred beast, the wolf, are introduced on account of the great importance of this cult. The localities described are ancient sacred places; the Lupercal, near the ficus ruminalis, was naturally explained as the she-wolf's den. The asylum is pure Greek, both name and institution. The story was probably invented to give an explanation of the sacred spot named inter duos lucos between the arx and the Capitol. Another Greek touch is the deification of an eponymous hero. The rape of the Sabine women is clearly aetiological, invented to account for the custom of simulated capture in marriage; these women and also Titus Tatius represent the Sabine element in the Roman population. The name Romulus (=Romanus, cp. The forms Siculus and Sicanus) means simply 'Roman,' the derivation of Remus is obscure.

Romulus is regarded as the founder of the military and political institutions, as Numa and his counterpart Ancus Marcius are of the religious institutions, of Rome."

ANALYZING THE STORY

The story of Romulus and Remus conjure up Biblical similarities. The twins Romulus and Remus are very similar to the account of Cain and Abel. Cain slew his twin brother Abel, Romulus slew Remus. The account of the trough wherein the twins were placed in the river which came to rest in the marshes is very similar to the account of Moses. The fig tree is reminiscent of the account of Adam and Eve who clothed themselves with fig leaves after their transgression. The dispossessing of the throne is also reminiscent of the banishing of Adam and Eve from the garden of Elohim. Abel was a shepherd.

The first city builder before the flood was Cain, "And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son Enoch," Gen. 4:17.

The ancient city builders were stone masons. Cain became a stone mason in that he built a city. The name of his son was Enoch which means "initiated" coming from another word which means "to initiate" or "discipline."

Cain, Enoch and their progeny were the original society of "Freemasons." Masonry is divided into two groups, the "operative" masons are the ones who are actually involved in the work of laying

stones. Then there is the branch called "speculative" masonry. Here is the definition of a "FREEMASON" as tendered by *Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, vol. 1, p. 378, "FREEMASON. One who has been **initiated** into the **mysteries** of the Fraternity of Freemasonry. Freemasons are so called to distinguish them from the Operative or Stone-Masons, who constituted an inferior class of workmen, and out of whom they sprang."

According to their own definition, Freemasonry really has nothing to do with the laying of stone. That is left to the inferior class of workmen who have nothing to do with speculative freemasonry unless they themselves have been initiated into its mysteries.

WHICH ENOCH?

Enoch is a very important character in Freemasonry. The question is, Which Enoch do they serve? The righteous Enoch or the son of Cain? Here is what Mackey writes about the Enoch of Freemasonry, "Though the Scriptures furnish but a meager account of Enoch, the traditions of Freemasonry closely connect him, by numerous circumstances, with the early history of the institution. All, indeed, that we learn from the Book of Genesis on the subject of his life is, that he was the seventh of the patriarchs; the son of Jared, and the great grandfather of Noah; that he was born in the year of the world 622; that his life was one of eminent virtue, so much so, that he is described as 'walking with God'; and that in the year 987 his earthly pilgrimage was terminated, as the commentators generally suppose, not by death, but by a bodily translation to heaven.

"In the very commencement of our inquiries, we shall find circumstances in the life of this great patriarch that shadow forth, as it were, something of that mysticism with which the traditions of Freemasonry have connected him. His name, in the Hebrew language, חֵנוֹךְ , *Henoeh*, signifies *to initiate and to instruct*, and seems intended to express the fact that he was, as Oliver remarks, the first to give a decisive character to the rite of initiation and to add to the practise of Divine worship the study and application of **human science**. (*Humanism? [emphasis mine throughout]*) In confirmation of this view, a writer in the *Freemasons Quarterly Review* says, on this subject, that 'it seems probable that Enoch introduced the speculative principles into the Masonic creed, and that he originated its exclusive character,' which theory must be taken, if it is accepted at all, with very considerable

reservations.

The years of his life may also be supposed to contain a mystic meaning, for they amounted to three hundred and sixty-five, being exactly equal to a solar revolution. In all the ancient rites this number has occupied a prominent place, because it was the representative of the annual course of that luminary which, as the great fructifier of the earth, was the peculiar object of divine worship. (COMMENT: *The luminary, of course, is the sun. Here is an admission of sun worship which is the primary objective of Freemasonry.*)

“Of the early history of Enoch, we know nothing. It is, however, probable that, like the other descendants of the pious Seth, he passed his pastoral life in the neighborhood of Mount Moriah. From the other patriarchs he differed only in this, that, enlightened by the Divine knowledge which has been imparted to him, he instructed his contemporaries in the practices of those rites, and in the study of those sciences, with which he had himself become acquainted.

“The Oriental writers abound in traditionary evidence of the learning of the venerable patriarch. One tradition states that he received from God the gift of wisdom and knowledge, and that God sent him thirty volumes from heaven, filled with all the secrets of the most mysterious sciences. The Babylonians supposed him to have been intimately acquainted with the nature of the stars; and **they attribute to him the invention of astrology.** (COMMENT: *Is this the pious Enoch spoken of here or is it the son of Cain?*) The Rabbis maintain that he was taught by God and Adam how to sacrifice, and how to worship the Deity aright. The Cabalistic book of Raziel says that he received the Divine mysteries from Adam, through the direct line of the preceding patriarchs.

The Greek Christians supposed him to have been identical with the first Egyptian **Hermes**, who dwelt at Sais. They say he was the first to give instruction on the celestial bodies; that he foretold the deluge that was to overwhelm his descendants; and that he built the Pyramids, engraving thereon figures of artificial instruments and the elements of the sciences, fearing lest the memory of man should perish in that general destruction. Eupolemus, a Grecian writer, makes him the same as **Atlas**, and attributes to him, as the Pagans did to that deity, the invention of astronomy. (COMMENT: *Association with the Egyptian god Hermes is getting to the real crux of the matter.*)

“Wait (*Oriental Antiquities*) quotes a passage from Bar Hebraeus, a Jewish writer, which asserts that Enoch was the first who invented books and

writing; **that he taught men the art of building cities**; that he discovered the knowledge of the Zodiac and the course of the planets; and that he inculcated the worship of God by fasting, prayer, alms, votive offerings, and tithes. Bar Hebraeus adds, that **he also appointed festivals for sacrifices to the sun at the periods when that luminary entered each of the zodiacal signs; but this statement, which should make him the author of idolatry**, is entirely inconsistent with all that we know of his character, from both history and tradition, and arose, as Oliver supposes, most probably from a blending of the characters of *Enos* and *Enoch*.”◇ (COMMENT: *This is not a blending of the characters of Enos and Enoch, but rather the blending of the characters of the righteous Enoch with that Enoch who was the son of Cain.*)

Obviously, the Enoch who was instrumental with founding the Speculative system of Freemasonry as well as idolatrous sun worship was the son of Cain. He was involved with the particulars of human science (Humanism), astrology, sun worship, idolatry and the first Egyptian god Hermes.

ANOTHER WITNESS

That the Enoch of Freemasonry is the son of Cain is also confirmed by Tupper Saussy in his book entitled “*Rulers of Evil*.” He writes, “How has the mark (of Cain) managed to remain vibrant for nearly six thousand years? Grand Commander Albert Pike, in his influential *Morals and Dogma*, threw valuable light on the subject. He declared that ‘from the earliest time,’ Freemasonry has been the ‘custodian and depositor’ of the ‘symbols, emblems, and allegories...erected by Enoch.’ The Commander was careful to say he meant not Cain’s son Enoch, but the Bible’s other Enoch, Enoch-2, the good Enoch, the Enoch ‘who walked with God.’ However, his attempt to dissociate his institution from Cain puts the Commander at variance with Masonic and biblical chronology. For if a biblical Enoch erected the earliest imagery of Freemasonry, it could not possibly have been Enoch-2. It had to have been Enoch-1. Let’s examine the chronology.

Enoch-2 was descended from Seth, whom Eve conceived after the death of Abel—’for God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.’ When Eve conceived Seth, Adam was 130 years old. According to the scripturally faithful computations of the Archbishop of Armagh, James Ussher (1581-1656), Adam was created in 4004 BC. Thus, Seth was born in 3874 BC. Genesis 5:6-20 gives us an exact toll of

the years between Seth and his great-great-great-great grandson Enoch-2:

Father	Son	Age of father at son's birth
Seth	Enos	105
Enos	Cainan	90
Cainan	Mahaleel	70
Mahaleel	Jared	65
Jared	Enoch-2	162
Total years		492

According to the Bible, Enoch-2 was born 492 years after the birth of Seth, or in 3382 BC. Now, Commander Pike's book, *Morals and Dogma*, reckons its date of publication in both Christian (1871 AD) and Masonic (5680 AM) chronology. To find out the beginning of Masonic history—that 'earliest time' in which Enoch erected his 'symbols, emblems, and allegories' - in terms of Christian chronology, we subtract the given Christian year from its Masonic equivalent (1871 from 5680). This gives us a first Masonic year of 3809 BC. But the figures show that Enoch-2 was not born until 3382, some 427 years *after* Freemasonry's 'earliest time'! Enoch-2 could not possibly have erected the prototypical symbolic devices of which Freemasonry has ever been custodian and depository. However, Cain's son, Enoch-1, very well could have!

Cain began his wandering after Abel's death, which the Bible marks with Seth's conception and Adam's age, 130 years, in about 3876 BC. If we give Cain ten years to find a wife, settle down, and sire a child, Enoch-1 would have been born in 3866 BC. This would make him a 55-year-old man in the first Masonic year, 3809. At that age, Enoch-1 would have been fully equipped to erect symbols and allegories memorializing his father's divine appointment to rule populations 'out from the presence of the Lord'." (pp. 275-276)

HERMES/MERCURY/THOTH

I do apologize if the following may offend some in the faith, but I must relate to you how Enoch, the son of Cain is interwoven with the Grecian (brass), Roman (iron) and Egyptian (iron furnace) religions.

Here is what Mackey admits concerning Hermes, "In all the old manuscript records which contain the Legend of the Craft, mention is made of *Hermes* as one of the founders of Freemasonry....There are two persons of the name of Hermes mentioned in sacred history. The first is the divine Hermes, called by the Romans *Mercury*. Among

the Egyptians he was known as *Thoth*." (*Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, p. 449.)

Hermes is the Greek name for Enoch-1. "Certain details of Hermes' legend suggest that he was either a god of the twilight or of the wind...Since in primitive times voyages were scarcely undertaken except for commercial purposes, Hermes was consequently the god of commerce, the god of profit—lawful and unlawful—and the god of games of chance. And, since buying and selling require much discussion, and the art of the trader is to overcome the buyer's hesitation by subtle and persuasive words, Hermes became the god of eloquence, the god *Logios*.

To these various functions Hermes added that of being the messenger of Zeus. This is how he appears in Homer, where he is qualified with the epithet *Diactoros* (the messenger). He comes to earth ceaselessly with orders from the king of the gods and undertakes the most delicate missions. In Hesiod, Hermes is the god who brings to men's hearts the impressions and sentiments which Zeus has inspired...He often wears a round, winged hat—a *petasus*—and on his feet there are winged sandals. In his hand he holds a winged staff around which serpents are entwined; this is the *caduceus*." (*Larousse Encyclopedia of Mythology*, pp. 133-135)

Enoch, the son of Cain was Hermes. He was deified to become the god of commerce. In other accounts, he was actually a thief. He was the deity of eloquence, the messenger god and also the god of medicine as the "caduceus" has ever been the symbol of that field and is still such for the modern-day medical field.

In Roman mythology, he is given the name Mercury, "The name Mercury is connected with the root *merx* (merchandise) and *mercari* (to deal, trade). He is not very ancient for he does not appear in the *Indigitamenta*. The early Romans, being above all countrymen, had no need for a god of commerce. The Roman Mercury only appeared towards the fifth century B.C. and was exclusively the god of merchants. For long he was known only in this capacity, to such an extent that Plautus, in his prologue to *Amphytryon*, has to remind his audience that Mercury presided over messages and over commerce. Like certain other secondary divinities—Pecunia, Aesculanus, Argentinus—he watched over tradesmen's profits.

Mercury had a temple on the Aventine. Among animals the cock was especially sacred to him.

To portray him Roman artists generally drew upon representations of Hermes. They gave mercury a beardless face and, for attributes, the caduceus

and the winged petasus, with a purse in his hand.” (*Ibid*, p. 220)

In Egypt, he was known as Thoth, “Thoth is the form which the name Djehuti or Zehuti had taken in Graeco-Roman times. He was identified by the Greeks with Hermes, Messenger of the Gods, and was worshipped throughout Egypt as a moon-god, patron of science and literature, wisdom and inventions, the spokesman of the gods and their keeper of records...Endowed with complete knowledge and wisdom, it was Thoth who invented all the arts and sciences: arithmetic, surveying, geometry, astronomy, soothsaying, magic, medicine, surgery, music with wind instruments and strings, drawing, and above all, writing, without which humanity would have run the risk of forgetting his doctrines and of losing the benefit of his discoveries.

As inventor of hieroglyphs, he was named ‘Lord of Holy Words’. As first of the magicians he was often called ‘The Elder’. His disciples boasted that they had access to the crypt where he had locked up his books of magic, and they undertook to decipher and learn ‘these formulas which commanded all the forces of nature and subdued the very gods themselves’. It is to this infinite power which his followers attributed to him that he owes the name Thoth—three times very, very great—which the Greeks translated as Hermes Trismegistus.

After his long reign on earth **Thoth ascended to the skies where he undertook various employments.**” (*Ibid*, pp, 25-26)

Who was it that many faiths teach ascended into heaven? Isn’t it Enoch-2, the righteous? Isn’t this because Gen. 5:24 which states, “And Enoch walked with Elohim after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: and all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty and five years: and Enoch walked with Elohim: and he was not; for Elohim took him.”

The truth is that Yahweh allowed Enoch to be converted and to enter the grave until the resurrection of the faithful comes. We understand this because of Heb. 11 which speaks of the elders who obtained a good report (v. 2) and the elders spoken of in verses 1-12 are Abel, **Enoch**, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Sarah. Then in verse 13 we read, “**These ALL DIED** in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”

But we also see how Thoth, the equivalent to Mercury, Hermes and Enoch-1 is syncretized with Enoch-2.

TUBAL-CAIN

Another ancestor of Cain and Enoch which we must explore in this treatise is that of Tubal-Cain, “And Zillah, she also bare Tubal-Cain, **an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron:** and the sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah,” Gen. 4:22.

Notice that he is an “instructor of every artificer in brass and iron” which are the very metals associated with Greece (brass/bronze) and Rome (iron).

I will now present evidence as to how Tubal-cain has also been carried over into modern day Greek, Roman and Egyptian legends and history.

Mackey’s Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, Vol. 2, pp. 1059-1060, “Of *Tubal Cain*, the sacred writings, as well as the Masonic legends, give us but scanty information. All that we hear of him in the Book of Genesis is that he was the son of Lamech and Zillah, and was ‘an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron.’ The Hebrew original does not justify the common version, for **לֹמֶשׁ**, *lotesh*, does not mean ‘an instructor,’ but ‘a sharpener’ - one who whets or sharpens instruments. Hence Doctor Raphall translates the passage as one ‘who sharpened various tools in copper and iron.’ The authorized version has, however, almost indelibly impressed the character of Tubal Cain as the Father of Artificers; and it is in this sense that he has been introduced from a very early period into the legendary history of Freemasonry.

The first Masonic reference to Tubal Cain is found in the Legend of the Craft, where he is called the Founder of Smith-Craft, an explanation agreeing closely with modern biblical scholarship which designates him as the ‘Founder of the Guild of Smiths or Metal Workers.’ We cite this part of the legend from the *Dowland Manuscript* simply because of its more modern orthography; but the story is substantially the same in all the old manuscript *Constitutions*. In that manuscript we find the following account of Tubal Cain:

Before Noah’s flood there was a man called Lamech, as it is written in the Bible, in the fourth chapter of Genesis; and this Lamech had two wives, the one named Ada and the other named Zilla; by his first wife, Ada, he got two sons, the one Jubal, and the other Jabal: and by the other wife he got a son and a daughter. And these four children founded the beginning of all the sciences in the world. The elder son, Jabal, founded the science of geometry, and he carried flocks of sheep and lambs into the fields, and first built houses of stone and wood, as it is noted in the chapter above named. And his brother Jubal founded the science of music and songs of the tongue, the harp and organ. And the third brother, Tubal Cain, founded

smith-craft, of gold, silver, copper, iron, and steel, and the daughter founded the art of weaving. And these children knew well that God would take vengeance for sin, either by fire or water, wherefore they wrote the sciences that they had found, on two pillars that they might be found after Noah's flood. The one pillar was marble, for that would not burn with fire; and the other was clepped laterns, and would not drown in noe water. Similar to this an old Rabbinical tradition, which asserts that Jubal, who was the inventor of writing as well as of music, having heard Adam say that the universe would be twice destroyed, once by fire and once by water, inquired which catastrophe would first occur; but Adam refusing to inform him, he inscribed the system of music which he had invented upon two pillars of stone and brick. A more modern Masonic tradition ascribes the construction of these pillars to Enoch. To this account of Tubal Cain must be added the additional particulars, recorded by Josephus, that he exceeded all men in strength, and **was renowned for his war-like achievements.**

The only other account of the proto-metallurgist that we meet with in any ancient author is that which is contained in the celebrated fragment of Sanconiatho, who refers to him under the name of *Chryсор*, which is evidently, as Bochart affirms, a corruption of the Hebrew *chores ur*, a worker in fire, that is, a smith. Sanconiatho was a Phenician author, who is supposed to have flourished before the Trojan war, probably, as Sir William Drummond suggests, about the time when Gideon was Judge of Israel, and who collected the different accounts and traditions of the origin of the world which were extant at the period in which he lived. A fragment only of this work has been preserved, which, translated into Greek by Philo Byblius, was inserted by Eusebius in his *Praeparatio Evangelica*, and has thus been handed down to the present day. That portion of the history by Sanconiatho, which refers to Tubal Cain, is contained in the following words:

A long time after the generation of Hypsoarinos, the inventors of hunting and fishing, Agreas and Alieas, were born: after whom the people were called hunters and fishers, and from whom sprang two brothers, who discovered iron, and the manner of working it. One of these two, called Chryсор, was skilled in eloquence, and composed verses and prophecies. He was the same with Hephaistos, and invented fishing-hooks, bait for taking fish, cordage and rafts, and was the first of all mankind who had navigated. **He was therefore worshiped as a god after his death,** and was called *Diamichios*. It

is said that these brothers were the first who contrived partition walls of brick.

Hephaistos, it will be observed, is the Greek of the god who was called by the Romans Vulcan. Hence the remark of Sanconiatho, and the apparent similarity of names as well as occupations, have led Some writers of the last, and even of the present, century to derive Vulcan from Tubal Cain by a process not very devious and therefore familiar to etymologists. By the omission in Tubal Cain of the initial *T*, which is the Phenician article, and its valueless vowel, we get *Balcan*, which, by the interchangeable nature of B and V, is easily transformed to *Vulcan*.

'That Tubal Cain,' says Bishop Edw. Stillingfleet (*Origines Sacrae, or a Rational Account of the Christian faith as to the Truth and Divine Authority of the Scriptures and the Matters therein contained*, 1662, page 292), 'gave first occasion to the name and worship of Vulcan, hath been very probably conceived, both from the very great affinity of the names, and that Tubal Cain is expressly mentioned to be an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron, and as near relation as Apollo had to Vulcan, Jubal had to Tubal Cain, who was the inventor of music, or the father of all such as handle the harp and organ, which the Greeks attribute to Apollo.'

Vossius, in his treatise *De Idolatria* (book i, chapter 36), makes this derivation of Vulcan from Tubal Cain. But Bryant, in his *Analysis of Ancient Mythology* (volume i, page 139), denies the etymology and says that among the Egyptians and Babylonians, Vulcan was equivalent to Horus or Osiris, symbols of the sun. **He traces the name to the words *Baal Cahen, Holy Bel, or Sacred Lord.*** Bryant's etymology may be adopted, however, without any interference with the identity of Vulcan and Tubal Cain. **He who discovered the uses of fire, may well, in the corruptions of idolatry, have typified the solar orb, the source of all heat.**

It may seem that Tubal is an attribute compound of the definite particle *T* and the word *Baal*, signifying *Lord*. **Tubal Cain would then signify the Lord Cain.** Again, *dhu* or *du*, in Arabic, signifies *Lord*, and we trace the same signification of this affix in its various interchangeable forms of *Du, Tu,* and *Di*, in many Semitic words. But the question of the identical origin of Tubal Cain and Vulcan has at length been settled by the researches of comparative philologists. Tubal Cain is Semitic in origin, and Vulcan is Aryan. The latter may be traced to the Sanskrit *ulka*, meaning a firebrand, from which we get also the Latin *fulgur*, and *ful-*

men, names of the lightning.

The modern English Freemasons, and through them the French, have derived Tubal Cain from the Hebrew *tebel*, meaning *earth* and *kanah to acquire possession*, and, with little respect for the grammatical rules of the Hebrew language, interpret it as meaning *worldly possessions*.

In the Hemming lectures, now the authorized English system, we find that the answer to the question, 'What does Tubal Cain denote?' is 'Worldly possessions.' And Delaunay, in his *Thuilleur* (page 17), denies the reference to the proto-smith, and says: 'If we reflect on the meaning of the two Hebrew words, we will easily recognize in their connection the secret with of the hierophant, of the Templar, of the Freemason, and of every mystical sect, to govern the world in accordance with its own principles and its own laws.' It is fortunate, we think, that the true meaning of the words will authorize no such interpretation. The fact is, that even if Tubal Cain were derived from *tebel* and *kanah*, the precise rules of Hebrew construction would forbid affixing to their union any such meaning as 'worldly possessions.' Such an interpretation of it in the French and English systems was, therefore, in Doctor Mackey's opinion, a very forced and inaccurate one.

The use of Tubal Cain as a significant word in the Masonic instructions is derived from the Legend of the Craft, by which the name was made familiar to the Operative and then to the Speculative Freemasons; and it refers not symbolically, but historically to his Scriptural and traditional reputation as an artificer. If he symbolized anything, it would be labor; and a Freemason's labor is to acquire *truth*, and not *worldly possessions*. The English and French interpretation has never been introduced into the United States." (*end of article*)

You would think that after writing an article like this, men as gifted as Mackey and others would give up their pursuit of Freemasonry as their writings continually reveal that Freemasonry is so closely interwoven with Cain and his offspring as well as idolatry that the two can't truly be separated. If a Freemason's labor is to acquire truth then why doesn't the truth convict them when it smacks them right between the eyes?

THE ROMAN DEITY

But the major factor in this article is that Tubal Cain was deified as a god of fire and war who is the modern day pagan deity Vulcan.

"Vulcan was one of the oldest of Latin gods, antedating even Jupiter. Under the name Volcanus, he

was the first Jupiter of Rome whose foundation he protected. In his aspect of Jupiter he formed a couple with Juno. He was also associated with Maia, an incarnation of the Earth Mother, and with Vesta, considered as goddess of the earth. He was not allied with Venus who in those remote times still played a small part in Roman mythology....Vulcan was the god of the thunderbolt and of the sun, then the god of fires whose ravages he could arrest, and finally the god of life-giving warmth.

He was invoked as the divinity of the hearth and, as he was united with Maia, mother of springs, he was considered the first god of the Tiber. He even possessed warlike functions and may have preceded Mars as god of battles....It is probable that in ancient times human sacrifices were offered to Vulcan. His altar in the Forum was the Volcanal.

Near him stand the hammer, tongs and anvil, attributes which came from Greece." (*LaRousse Encyclopedia of Mythology*, pp. 218-219)

The Greek name of Vulcan was Hephaestus whose attributes were very similar to the Roman's.

THE WAY OF CAIN

The fact of the matter now is that the kingdoms of this world are generally ruled by those who are initiated into the secret mysteries of Freemasonry. Even the American dollar bill announces "*Novus Ordo Seclorum*" or New Order of the Ages! There is the Great Pyramid of Giza of Egypt with the all-seeing eyes of the Egyptian sun god Horus hovering above it. It also announces "*Annuity Coeptis*." *Annuity Coeptis* is Latin, but we can figure out what it is really telling us because we get our English word "annuity" from this Latin word "*annuit*." An annuity is simply a payment. *Coeptis* is a Latin word for Egypt, therefore, "*Annuity Coeptis*" simply means "PAYMENT OF EGYPT!"

The fourth great gentile kingdom is a kingdom which is the inheritor of all kingdoms before it, yes, even many of the attributes of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. The primary characteristics are those of Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. But it also inculcates the attributes of Egypt, the IRON FURNACE! It also inculcates the attributes of the Assyrian Empire and many, many others. **It is a great kingdom whose heaven is brass/bronze and its earth is iron!** It is also a kingdom that possesses the characteristics of Cain and his progeny!

Here is what Jude proclaims, "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, impious men, turning (or perverting) the grace of our Elohim into lasciviousness, and denying (or contradicting) the only Sovereign Elohim and our Sovereign Yahshua the Messiah," vv. 3-4.

COMMENT: How did this take place? How did these men creep in unawares and pervert the evangel and grace of our Messiah? I can tell you that it was a very subtle undertaking.

Freemasons admit that they built all of the temples of the ancient world. Their influence is found in all of the religions of the earth. They are highly secretive in their undertakings. Because of this, most of the world doesn't understand their nature.

Freemasonry initiates its members into the ancient secret mystery religions. It has a system of degrees into which one must train himself to accomplish. There are thirty three degrees of the two branches of Freemasonry. There is the Scottish or York Rite Branch and the Shriner's Branch. Each degree has its own secret signs of hand shakes, words, phrases, symbols, etc.

Freemasons enter into various bodies or systems of peoples secretly. There may be several Freemasons who have infiltrated a group and are oblivious to one another. However, it only takes a handshake, a sign, a symbol, a word, or a phrase for them to instantly recognize their brotherhood.

While the lower degrees may not be aware of the intentions of the leadership of the system, the fact of the matter is that they are able to eventually get the upper hand and then take over an organization which they will fashion into an image of the tenets of Freemasonry.

I have personally witnessed this reality having been a member of the Worldwide Church of God. Their turn-about from the paths of truth which they had is because of this infiltration. We witnessed this corruption take place in a matter of ten to fifteen years which took a couple of hundred years to take place in the Christian Church.

The result is that the grace of the Messiah has been grossly perverted and the Scriptures, the word of truth has been contradicted time, after time, after time.

CONCLUSION

What goes around, comes around. History forgotten is history repeated. Yahweh's people, Israel, and the rest of the world, have once again become enslaved to an Egyptian system, which can be described as none other than the iron furnace.

In Daniel chapter two we have the image of Neb-

uchadnezzar's dream, which is a representative, a thumbnail sketch of the history of the major ruling kingdoms of this world as well as the history of their idolatries.

Furthermore, the serpent, the prince of the power of the air, who is also the god of this world, is very subtle and deceptive. The Scriptures report that he has deceived the whole world (Rev. 12:9).

In Daniel chapter 7, the history of the world ruling kingdoms is revealed as the nature of beasts. In both chapters, the fourth kingdom or beast continues to rule until the kingdom of heaven is established. (Dan. 2:44; 7:27)

The furnace is prepared in order to separate Yahweh's people from the dross of the ways of this present evil world. Just as plagues were poured out upon Egypt before Yahweh's people were delivered from her midst, great plagues will be poured out on this present evil world in this day and age. Yahweh's people will be called, are being called to separate themselves from the evils of this world, "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues," Rev. 18:4.

Yes, Yahweh's people! Come out of this present evil world! Repent of your sins, your lawlessness! Turn to Yahweh through His Beloved and obedient Son Yahshua the Messiah! Only through Him will you be prepared and able to stand in the day of His revelation and return! Yahweh decrees, "Whereas thou hast been forsaken and hated, so that no man went through thee, I will make thee an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations. Thou shalt also suck the milk of the Gentiles, and shalt suck the breast of kings: and thou shalt know that I Yahweh am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob. **For brass I will bring gold, and for iron I will bring silver, and for wood brass, and for stones iron:** I will also make thy officers peace, and thine exactors righteousness. Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise. The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but Yahweh shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy Elohim thy glory. Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for Yahweh shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended. Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified. A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong

nation: I Yahweh will hasten it in his time,”
Isa.60:15-22.

Yes! Repent of your idolatry so your brass can be turned to gold, your iron to silver, your wood to brass, and your stones to iron! It is Yahweh and only Yahweh Who has to power to do this! HalleluYah!!!!

