

Idolatry And Sex Worship In Ancient Israel Part 1

Written by Administrator

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Every time a primitive man engaged in a sexual act he believed that he was playing his role in stirring up the passion of his chief Father God and Mother Goddess in order to insure the fertility of his fields and flocks. The primitive peoples believed that if their God and Goddess abstained from sexual union sterility was all around. To insure fertility and everyday survival, the ancient religious hierarchy implemented various phallic rites and celebrations of vile nature to insure that their God and Goddess would continually perform their love making and so pass on fertility onto everything else. As a result, both male and female reproductive organs came to be venerated and worshipped. The male reproductive organ or phallus was called "The Staff" while the female "The Door Of Life."

The male and female organs in conjunction were displayed in every major shrine. At other smaller and more portable shrines "pillars" and "groves" were erected near the sacrificial altars.

At times bald and enormous phallic figurines were paraded through public streets during certain festive occasions - as was the practice during the Dionysian rites of ancient Greece. Triangle was associated with sex and the triune God of the pagans. It stood for the Father God, Mother Goddess, and their firstborn Son - the result of their first sexual act. The triangle was also associated by a primitive man to a triangle of the "pubic hair" found on both male and female sexually mature bodies. The famous "Star Of David" is nothing more than a symbol of male and female pubic triangles in conjunction during the sexual intercourse.

Throughout the ancient world the "cross" was an object of veneration and worship. It was the "sign" and "seal" of baptism of ancient initiates who were inaugurated into the ancient Mystery Religion. Church Father Tertulian wrote that the initiates of his day who were still initiated into the Mystery Religion were signed with the sign of the "cross" on their foreheads in the same way as his Christian countrymen of Africa. The "cross" was a visible image which always reminded the initiates

of the very purpose of their religion. It was purely of phallic nature and with an intent to insure fertility of the land.

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The sign of the “cross” was borne by kings in their hands and it was marked on the garments of the priests as a constant reminder of its phallic religious rites. Genesis 10:22 shows that one of Shem’s sons was called ASSHUR [a phallic name]. Verse 11 shows that he went out from the land of ancient Babylonia which Nimrod founded and built Nineveh and went on to establish his own kingdom known as Assyria but actually ASSHUR in Hebrew. In process of time he was deified and became the chief God of the Assyrian pantheon. In ancient Assyria the “cross” was merely a combination of Asshur’s “phallus” and “testes.” The right testicle was regarded as the producer of “sons” and was called “Anu,” that is, *strength*. Speaking of Reuben, Jacob said that he was the beginning of his “strength” - that is, the beginning of his right testicle [Genesis 49:3]. The left testicle was called “Hea” and it was associated with female offspring. The Assyrians did not only display the visible sign of the “cross” they have also formed this image by combining the name of “Asshur” with the names of the two “testes” - thus:

HE-A-NU

S
S
H
U
R

□

Sometimes the cross was inserted within a circle - symbolising the conjunction of the male and female reproductive organs and therefore procreation or life. In almost every hieroglyphic record in Egypt, the “Ankh In A Circle” was the symbol of life. This was exemplified in the name of “Tut-ankh-Amen.” All these phallic ideas and concepts were adopted by the Canaanites from the Assyrians. The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Vol. 1, on p. 317, says:

“Like so much else in Canaanite religion, the name and worship of Asherah were borrowed from Assyria. She was the wife of the war god Asir, whose name was identified with that of the city of ASSHUR, and thus became THE NATIONAL GOD OF ASSYRIA.”□

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In Canaan the chief God was EL. He was often depicted with an enormous phallus - signifying his potency. His consort was Asherah. Baal was their son. Baal's fame eventually surpassed that of his father El. Canaanites loved to worship on hills [bamoth] called "high places" in the King James Bible. Beside every altar at least one "pillar" [mazzeba] and one "grove" [ashera] was displayed in "erect" position. The male and female shrine prostitutes were always present during these religious ceremonies to render their services. Unger's Bible Dictionary, Merril F. Unger, Chicago, Ill., art. Baal, on p. 413, says:

*"Baal was the son of El, the father of the gods and the head of the Canaanite pantheon... The inhabitants of Canaan were addicted to Baal worship, which was conducted by priests in temples and in good weather outdoors in fields and particularly HILLTOPS called 'HIGH PLACES.' The cult included animal sacrifice, ritualistic meals, and licentious dances. Near the rock altar was a SACRED PILLAR or MASSEBAH, and close by the symbol of ASHERAH, **both of which apparently symbolized HUMAN FERTILITY***

. High places had chambers for SACRED PROSTITUTION by male-prostitutes [kedeshim] and sacred harlots [kedeshoth]."

□

It is important for you to realise the nature of these phallic rites and also the Hebrew terms of some of these phallic objects before we deal with Israel and the phallic rites the Israelites originally observed. So I will present certain quotations from various sources so that you can get the clearer picture. The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Vol. 3, art. Pillar, on p. 870, says:

*"Canaanite shrines invariably contained one or more PILLARS, which were closely identified with the idea of deity, **especially male gods**, that they themselves were often venerated as objects of worship. The PILLARS were normally associated with other pagan cultic objects, one of which was ASHERA. This was apparently a wooden pole or stele thought to symbolize the*

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*Goddess of FERTILITY, and thus mentioned in conjunction with the **masseba** [pillars].”*

□

At the sacred shrines of the Canaanites, near the altar, “pillars” called “mazzeboth” in Hebrew and “groves” called “asherim” were erected. The “pillars” represented the “Staff Of Life” of the Gods while the “groves” represented the “Door Of Life” of the Goddesses. Both were held in a very high esteem and were venerated and worshipped by the devout worshippers of Baal and Asherah. The Encyclopedic Dictionary Of Religion, Vol. A-E, art. Asherah, on p. 283, says:

*“a Canaanite goddess whose cult influenced many Israelites. In the Ugaritic texts Asherah is the wife of the supreme god El...It was also the name given to a WOODEN POLE or POST planted **near the altars***

of various gods. This pole was found near the altar of Baal...This name [ashera] is most associated in the Bible with the PILLARS that in the primitive days served at once as a representation of the god and as an altar.”

□

The same source on p. 337, art. Baal, says:

“a fertility god and the principal deity in the Canaanite pantheon...Baal’s representation was an

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upright stone column or pillar...A PHALLIC SYMBOL

.”

□

These “stone pillars” [mazzeboth] were phallic symbols. Webster’s Deluxe Unabridged Dictionary, on p. 1343, defines the words “phallic” and “phallus” as follows:

“phallic - relating to the phallus.” □ ***“phallus - a representation or image of the penis as the reproductive organ, worshipped as a symbol of generative power...the penis or clitoris.”***

□

The Encyclopedic Dictionary Of Religion, Vol. F-N, on p. 1343, art. Fertility And The Vegetation Cult In The Bible, says:

*“the worship of the goddess of fertility. When Israel entered Canaan, the Canaanite vegetation and FERTILITY CULTS were everywhere present...By reenacting the drama of **Baal and his consort** in*

mimetic ritual through the

sexual union WITH A TEMPLE PROSTITUTE

, it was thought that the divine pair was brought together again in a

FERTILIZING UNION

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and that the

FORCES OF NATURE WERE REACTIVATED

and the desired fertility in soil, beast, and man were thereby secured.”

□

The Interpreter's Dictionary Of The Bible, Vol. 2, on p. 265, describes the fertility rites of ancient Canaan in the following manner:

*“FERTILITY CULTS - the oldest common feature of the religions of the ancient Near East was the **worship of the great Mother-Goddess, the personification of fertility**... The Old Testament furnishes abundant evidence as to the character of the religion of the land into which the Israelites came.*

Fertility rites were practiced at the numerous shrines

which dotted the land,

as well as the major sanctuaries

...A characteristic feature of the fertility cult was a SACRAL INTERCOURSE BY PRIESTS AND PRIESTESSES AND OTHER SPECIALLY CONSECRATED PERSONS,

SACRED PROSTITUTES OF BOTH SEXES

, intended to emulate and stimulate the deities who bestowed fertility...Child sacrifice was also a feature of the rites.”

□

The Jewish Encyclopedia, art. Chastity, says:

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*“The ancient Semitic religions gave a prominent place to the adoration of those powers in nature which either fertilize or produce; THE WORSHIP OF THE **SEXUAL WAS PROMINENT IN THEIR CULT;** **AND RITUAL PROSTITUTION WAS A RECOGNIZED AND WIDE-SPREAD INSTITUTION** . The gods were male and female; **SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WAS PART OF THE RITES AT THE SHRINES OF BAAL AND ASTARTE in Phoenicia and at SIMILAR SANCTUARIES ELSEWHERE...**The “qadesh” and the “qedeshah,” the **MALE AND FEMALE PROSTITUTES** “consecrated” to the worship of the goddess of **FERTILITY**, were recognized adjuncts of the **Canaanitish cults.**”*

□

The same source, art. Qedeshah, says:

*“The qedeshot were **SACRED PROSTITUTES** attached to the Temple as **PRIESTESSES** of Ashtoreth or Astarte. The worship of Ashtoreth was introduced by Solomon and it is possible **THAT THE OBSCENE RITES CONNECTED THEREWITH WERE PRACTICED NEAR THE TEMPLE** , which was practically a chapel royal while the kingdom lasted.”*

□

We shall see later that these male and female prostitutes indeed practiced vile and obscene rites in the Jerusalem Temple and that King Josiah destroyed their dwelling quarters which were built adjacent to the temple. The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Vol. 3, on p. 430, says:

*“The Mesopotamian goddess Innana, later called Ishtar and Astarte, was the embodiment of love and the power of procreation. **NUMEROUS CLAY AND STONE FIGURINES DEPICTING SEXUAL ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN FOUND ON THE SITES OF TEMPLE TO ISHTAR.** Human sexuality was thought to be connected with the fertility of nature. During the New Year Festival celebrations a **PRIEST AND PRIESTESS ENGAGED IN RITUAL INTERCOURSE TO SECURE AGRICULTURAL FERTILITY FOR THE COMING YEAR.**”*

□

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The same source, on pp. 932-933, sub-title 'The role of the sacred prostitute in the fertility cult' says:

"The prostitute who was an official of the cult in ancient Palestine and nearby lands of biblical times exercised an important function. This religion was predicated upon the belief that the processes of nature were controlled by the relations between gods and goddesses. Projecting their understanding of their own sexual activities, the worshippers of these deities, through the use of imitative magic, ENGAGED IN SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WITH DEVOTEES OF THE SHRINE, IN THE BELIEF THAT THIS WOULD ENCOURAGE THE GODS AND GODDESSES TO DO LIKEWISE. Only by SEXUAL RELATIONS AMONG THE DEITIES could man's desire for INCREASE IN HERDS AND FIELDS, as well as in his own family, be realized. In Palestine the gods Baal and Asherah were especially prominent...Attached to the SHRINES of these CULTS were PRIESTS AS WELL AS PROSTITUTES, BOTH MALE AND FEMALE. Their CHIEF SERVICE was SEXUAL IN NATURE - the offering of their bodies for ritual purposes." □ □

Collier's Encyclopedia, Vol. 9, Art. Feasts and Festivals, sub-title 'Babylonia,' on p. 622, tells us that ancient Babylonians on the festival sacred to Ishtar indulged in phallic rites:

*"The Babylonians regulated their feasts and festivals by the calender of a LOCAL TEMPLE...The ISHTAR festivals were symbolical of ISHTAR as the goddess of love and generation. As the daughter of Sin, the moon god, she was the MOTHER GODDESS, who presided over child birth; and WOMEN, IN HER HONOR, SACRIFICED THEIR VIRGINITY ON THE FEAST DAY OR **BECAME TEMPLE PROSTITUTES**, their earnings being a source of revenue for the TEMPLE PRIESTS and servants."*

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The Encyclopedia Judaica, Vol. 11, on p. 144, tells us that the most holy and sacred terms were reserved for the male and female temple prostitutes:

“The pagan world [and the Jews and the Israelites] worshipped and deified sex. It reserved the term “holy ones” for its CULT PROSTITUTES.”

The most sacred titles were reserved for male and female temple prostitutes. The male prostitute was a “qadesh” while the female temple harlot was styled “qadesha.” Both words mean “holy” - one being a masculine while the other a feminine form of the Hebrew word “qodesh.” The Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition, 2001, art. Phallic Worship, says:

“worship of the reproductive powers of nature as symbolized by the male generative organ. Phallic symbols have been found by archaeological expeditions all over the world, and they are usually interpreted as an expression of the human desire for regeneration. Phallic worship in ancient Greece centered around Priapus and the Orphic and Dionysiac cults. In Rome, the most important form of phallic worship was that of the cult of Cybele and Attis; prominent during the empire, this cult was notorious for its festive excesses and its yearly “Day of Blood,” during which the frenzied participants wounded themselves with knives; self-inflicted castration, a prerequisite for admittance into the priest caste of this phallic cult, took place during the festival. In India, the deity Shiva was often represented by and worshipped as a phallic symbol called the lingam. Phallic worship has also been practiced among the Egyptians in the worship of Osiris; among the Japanese, who incorporated it into Shinto; and among the Native Americans, such as the Mandan, who had a phallic buffalo dance.” □ □

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Ask Why Publications, in its article 'God or Goddess? Phallic Elements in Religion' says:

"Ancient people happily venerated models of the MALE ORGAN - the phallos or penis or lingam, the Greek, Latin, and Hindu names for it. Less venerated was the FEMALE ORGAN, the pudenda or the yoni, the Latin and Hindu names. "Ithyphallic" images were images with an erect phallus from the Greek word "ithys," which means "straight or straight up." The phallic cult has spread over the entire world of all ages. Even still, there are millions of phallic worshippers today in India and other parts of the world...SEX HAS BEEN ALLIED TO RELIGION THROUGH THE AGES UNTIL MODERN TIMES."

Illustrated Encyclopedia of Man, Myth, and Magic, art. Phallic Symbolism, on p. 2173, says what the ancients used to do:

"They made images of the SEXUAL ORGANS in realistic or symbolic forms, and treated them both as objects of REVERENCE and the source of FECUNDITY and increase, and as the power behind paternity, motherhood, fertility, food and seasonal cycles." On page 2173, the same source gives us these pertinent details:

"From prehistoric times men have made clay idols, wooden figures and metal sculptures, depicting the primary sexual attributes of their chief deities. The walls of many old Egyptian TEMPLES have PHALLIC CARVINGS, and the Greek historian and traveller Herodotus described phallic statues of Osiris in Egyptian villages in his day, in the 5

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century BC. In certain ancient Egyptian ceremonies the figure of the male deity was carried in procession with organ erect. Such ithyphallic statuettes were modelled on a smaller scale and popularly used in various rites as talismanic figurines to cure disease, obtain children, cure impotence or bring good luck. Similar representations are found in the early centres of civilization in Central and South America. Phallicism is found in profusion in the religious life of India, notably in the stylized representations of the male and female principles known as the 'lingam' and the 'yoni.' China and Japan are no less prodigal in their portrayal of the sex organs, both separately and in union. Phallicism is also widespread among certain tribal religions in West Africa, and was prominent in the RELIGIOUS life of Arabia before Islam. The prophet Mohammed was said to have destroyed dozens of OBSCENE IDOLS when he conquered Mecca, in a determined campaign to obliterate all traces of the OLDER RELIGION. Wherever phallic worship prevailed, ritual dances were enacted, hymns were sung, and the SACRED SYMBOL adored as the supreme deity of the pantheon. TEMPLE PROSTITUTES were in attendance to serve

□

the devotees, and on certain occasions the ACT OF INTERCOURSE WAS DRAMATIZED BY THE HIGH PRIEST AND PRIESTESS, to imitate the principal divine function. At appointed times and seasons of the year PHALLIC EMBLEMS WERE CONSUMED AT A RITUAL SUPPER. Bread was baked IN THE SHAPE OF THE MALE OR FEMALE ORGAN, or the female breast, or the TWO ORGANS CONJOINED IN UNION, and THESE WERE EATEN BY THE WORSHIPPERS or carried home to the family in order to increase or induce their power of fertility. Even the more civilized Greeks used PHALLUS-SHAPED CAKES at their SACRATED FESTIVALS, such as the Thesmophoria.”

Let us recapitulate what these sources have told us. The ancients were very religious people and they served their Gods and Goddesses with great devotion. Baal and Asherah played a major role in the Canaanite religion. We have also seen that fertility rites of very degrading nature were practiced near the altars of the sacred shrines. Holy prostitution was practiced at the shrines. Both heterosexual and homosexual harlots were available for a fee which was used to increase the revenues of the sanctuaries. “Pillars” and “Groves” were erected at these sacred places of worship. These objects were phallic in nature and represented the male and female genitals of the deities. The devotion of the devotees was so strong that they even offered their own children in sacrifice to these Gods and Goddesses. But what does all this have to do with the Jews and the Israelites? Very much in every way. The Bible clearly shows that all these rites were practiced by the Israelites and Jews.

This is especially true of the Jews. The first thing we know from the Bible is the fact that the Israelites adopted the Canaanite ways and that their favourite God was

BAAL

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We also know that they served **ASHERAH** and also erected “pillars” and “groves” on all their “high places” [bamoth] under every green tree - near their sacrificial altars. We also know from the Bible that the Israelites also had male and female temple prostitutes and that for their very comfort adjoining rooms to the Jerusalem Temple were provided. Cultic image of Asherah was also placed in the Jerusalem Temple and the child sacrifice was very rampant in both ancient Israel and Judah.

Hebrew Bible

female reproductive organs were objects of veneration and worship in ancient Israel. The importance of their sacredness cannot be exaggerated. In Deuteronomy 25:11-12 we find this enacted law in the Jewish Pentateuch:

The Sanctity Of Phallus In The

□ Both male and

*“If two men are having a fight and the wife of one tries to help her husband by grabbing hold of the other man’s **genitals**, show her no mercy; **cut off her hand**.”□*

It does not matter what the situation is. It does not matter whether the man is guilty and actually provoked the fight. You simply do not touch the genitals of a man. It is too holy and too sacred. To injure someone’s genitals was one of the most heinous crimes in ancient Israel. The phallus of an Israelite was so important in ancient Israel that if there was anyone with a deformed testicles or cut off penis he was an outcast from the community of God and could not participate in any religious functions. A eunuch simply had no place in the religion of ancient Israel. In Deuteronomy 23:1 we read:

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“No man who has been castrated or whose penis has been cut off may be included among Yahweh’s people.” □

If you were a eunuch you had no religion in ancient Israel. Thus we see just how important the phallus was to the Jews and the Israelites. The Prophets of El Elyon and El Himself naturally rejected this notion and they believed that eunuchs could be included in the community of Israel and that they could be God's people. In Isaiah 56:3-5 God points out that He would accept any eunuch, that is, castrated person, as long as he obeys His commands and does His will. God says that to obedient eunuchs He will grant a name that is more noble than those of sons and daughters. Prophet Daniel was a eunuch and yet he was also God’s great prophet.

The Phallic Oaths In Ancient Israel □

The “lying pen of the scribes” [Jeremiah 8:8] shows that the phallus was sacred to both the early Patriarchs and the later Israelites. When they swore important oaths they swore them by *taking hold of a penis and testes*

. It is related in Genesis 24:2 that Abraham charged his servant to bring a wife for his son Isaac from Mesopotamia and not from among the Canaanites. Abraham made his servant swear an oath that he would do so. The manner in which it is said he had to swear it, reveals the importance and the significance of

penis

to Abraham and other ancient Israelites:

□

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*“And Abraham said to his eldest servant of his house, that ruler over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, **thy hand under my THIGH, and I will make thee swear...**and the servant **put his hand under the THIGH***

of Abraham his master, and sware to him concerning that matter [KJV].

The word “thigh” in this text is a euphemism for ‘genitals.’ The Hebrew word used is “yarek.” This word was translated “loins” in Genesis 46:26 and Exodus 1:5:□

“All the souls that came with Jacob into Egypt, which came out of his LOINS...were three score and six.”□

The words “thigh” and “loins” are euphemistic words for male and even female *generative organ* . In Hebrews 7:9-10 it is said that Levi was in the “loins” of his father before he was born:

*“And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham. **For he was yet in the LOINS of his father** , when Melchisedek met him.”*

□

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The Encyclopedia Biblica, Vol. 3, art. Oath, says:

“Thigh refers to the generative organ.” □

The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Vol. 4, art. Thigh, on p. 839, says:

*“Among the Hebrews the **thighs** were associated with human vitality, perhaps because of their proximity to the reproductive organs. Thus children were regarded as offspring **of the father’s THIGH***

*[yose e yereko, Gen. 46:26; Ex. 1:5 etc]...Because of the association of the **thighs***

with

procreation

, an OATH taken with the hand UNDER THE THIGH [Gen. 24:2,9; 47:29], i.e.,

IN CONTACT WITH THE GENITALS

, was sworn by the life-power of the individual who requested the procedure.”

□

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Such was the custom of the old Abraham and his servant - portrayed by the "lying pen of the scribes" - who had to take hold of his master's precious "doodle" in order to swear an oath in the name of God. Genesis 47:29 also shows how Jacob made his own son Joseph swear a phallic oath by taking hold of his own father's "doodle." When Solomon was made king, his important officials and army officers, as well as all his brothers - the potential rivals - were made to take phallic oaths and swear allegiance to the new king:

*"Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king instead of David his father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him. And all the princes, and the mighty men, and all the sons likewise of the king David. ¹⁰**submitted** themselves unto Solomon the king" [1 Chronicles 29:23-24].*

The word "submitted" is preceded by a number 10 in the King James Bible. In the Centre Reference we are told that the Hebrew meaning is: **gave the hand**. The reader is referred to Genesis 24:2 and 47:29 where it is said that the servant of Abraham and Joseph swore the phallic oaths. The New American Standard Bible uses the phrase "pledged allegiance." In the Side Reference we are told that the Hebrew literally says "put a hand under Solomon." The Rotherham Emphasized Bible reads:

*"...and all the rulers and the heroes, yea moreover all the sons of King David **gave a hand under Solomon the king**
."*

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Clearly all pledged allegiance by taking hold of Solomon's "doodle" and by swearing a phallic oath. Jewish king Zedekiah was made to swear an oath to the king of Babylon by "giving his hand" [Ezekiel 17:12-18]. The Jews in trouble "gave their hand" in order to have some food to eat [Lamentations 5:6]. All this shows and proves just how high status the phallus enjoyed in both pagan world and that of Judah and Israel. This form of oaths and "witness" was common among nomadic Arabs until recent times. The practice was so widespread that even in Latin [and English] the words "testicles," "testify," and "testimony" have the same root word "testis."

Worship Of The Gods In Ancient Israel□

From the very beginning of its history as a nation until it was finally dissolved - almost a thousand years - the Israelites served the foreign Gods and practiced the depraved phallic rites on a national scale. Their ancestors while still living on the other side of the river served "other Gods." While they were in Egypt they served the Gods of Egypt and loved the phallic idols and images of Egypt. In Ezekiel 20:5-10 we read:

*"On the day when I chose Israel and swore to the descendants of the house of Jacob and made Myself known to them **in the land of Egypt**...and I said to them, **cast away, each of you, the detestable things of his eyes, and do not defile yourselves with THE IDOLS OF EGYPT**... but they **REBELLED AGAINST ME** and **WERE NOT WILLING** to listen to Me; **they DID NOT CAST AWAY the detestable things of their eyes, NOR DID THEY FORSAKE THE IDOLS OF EGYPT***

*. Then I resolved to pour out My wrath **ON THEM**, to accomplish My anger **AGAINST THEM IN THE MIDST OF THE LAND OF EGYPT***

. But I acted for the sake of My name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations among whom they lived, in whose sight I made Myself known to them by bringing them out of the land of Egypt. So I took them out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness."

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While the Israelites lived in Egypt they served the Egyptian Gods and worshipped the idols and images that the Egyptians themselves worshipped. When God appeared to them He asked them to get rid of all the idols of Egypt and serve Him alone. They refused to get rid of the idolatry and clung onto the disgusting figurines they loved and adored so much. God was ready to destroy them all "in the midst of the land of Egypt." That is, before He ever led them out of Egypt, He was ready to crush them because of their idolatry and refusal to accept Him as their Mighty One. But what was their attitude in the wilderness - after they were led out of Egypt? Let us continue with Ezekiel 20:

*"But the house of Israel rebelled against Me in the wilderness...their heart **continually went after their idols** ...An
d I said to their children in the wilderness, do not walk in the statutes of your fathers, or keep their ordinances,
or defile yourselves with THEIR IDOLS
...but the children REBELLED AGAINST ME; they did not walk in My statutes, nor were they careful to observe My ordinances...their eyes were on
the IDOLS of their fathers
...and I pronounced them unclean because of their gifts, in that **THEY CAUSED ALL THEIR FIRSTBORN TO PASS THROUGH THE FIRE.**"*

□

Clearly God testifies to Ezekiel that the Israelites were idolatrous and practiced idolatry - clinging to their disgusting idols - throughout the forty years they spent in the wilderness. The children of the first generation continued in the steps of their ancestors - worshipping the same idols and serving the same Gods. In the presence of Moses they kept on sacrificing in fire their firstborn sons to the Gods they served and loved. In Amos 5:25-26 God says that the Israelites

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offered sacrifices in the wilderness but not to Him but rather to the Gods they made and carried in procession while they were in the desert. God turned away from them and left them steeped in idolatry. They served the Gods they made and carried images that they made and served and worshipped the starry host throughout the forty years they were in the desert. In Acts 7:42-43 we read:

*“So God turned away from them and gave them over to worship the stars of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets: People of Israel! It was not to me that you slaughtered and sacrificed animals for FORTY YEARS in the desert. It was the TENT of THE GOD MOLECH that you carried, and the IMAGE OF REPHAN, YOUR STAR GOD; **they were IDOLS that you had made to worship** .”*

This gross idolatry took place while Moses was alive. There was nothing Moses could do. The people were hard headed and steeped in idolatry and loved the phallic rites of Baal Peor. They worshipped demons in the desert and offered sacrifices to the Satyrs - that is, Goat Demons:

*“The people of Israel must no longer be unfaithful to Yahweh by killing their animals in the fields **as sacrifices to the GOAT DEMONS**”*

[Leviticus 17:7].

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So much for the rampant idolatry in which the Israelites indulged while they wandered through the desert for forty years. It is preposterous to say that the Israelites served God under the leadership of Moses while in the desert. The Israelites refused to listen from the very beginning. God kept sending on His prophets from the day the Israelites left Egypt in order to reform the people and cause them to see the gross error of their idolatry. But they refused to listen [Jeremiah 7:25-26]. What was the attitude of the Israelites after they entered the land of Canaan? Did they repent of the gross idolatry and the phallic rites they practiced in the desert for forty years? Did they finally turn to God and serve Him alone? Did they in their new homeland finally adopt strict monotheism as commonly supposed? The answer to all these questions is emphatic no! In Judges 3:7 we read:

*“The people of Israel forgot Yahweh their God; they sinned against him and **worshipped the idols of BAAL and ASHERAH***

.”

□

From this point on - and throughout their recorded history in the Bible - that is, until the Babylonian Captivity, the Jews and the Israelites worshipped BAAL and ASHERAH. More particularly, they worshipped and adored the GENITALS of this God and Goddess and displayed them on every “high place” [bamoth] and under every “green tree” beside the altars on which they performed both animal and human sacrifices. They also made phallic images and figurines of Baal with which the women of Israel and Judah performed lewd sexual acts. In Ezekiel 23, God summarises the history of Israel and Judah - from their days in Egypt until their national exile. In this historical summary we find a vivid picture of Israel’s and Judah’s devotion to their idols and phallic images which they worshipped and adored:□

*“There were once two sisters. When they were young, **living in Egypt, they lost their virginity and BECAME PROSTITUTES***

. The

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older one was named Oholah [she represents Samaria], and the younger one was named Oholibah [she represents Jerusalem]. I married both of them, and they bore me children. Although she was mine, Oholah continued to be a prostitute and was full of lust for her lovers from Assyria...She was the whore for all Assyrian officers, and her lust led her to defile herself **worshipping Assyrian idols**

. She continued what she had begun as a prostitute in Egypt, where she lost her virginity. From the time she was a girl, men slept with her and treated her like a prostitute. So I handed her over to her Assyrian lovers whom she wanted so much. They stripped her naked, seized her sons and daughters, and then killed her with a sword...Even though her sister Oholibah saw this, she was wilder and more of a prostitute than Oholah had ever been. She too was full of lust for Assyrian noblemen and officers - and for the cavalry officers, all of those handsome young men. I saw that she was

completely immoral

, that the second sister was as bad as the first. She sank deeper and deeper in her immorality. She was attracted by the images of high Babylonian officials carved into the wall and painted bright red, with sashes around their waists and fancy turbans on their heads. As soon as she saw them, she was filled with lust and sent messengers to them in Babylonia. The Babylonians came to have sex with her. They used her and defiled her so much that finally she became disgusted with them. She exposed herself publicly and let everyone know she was a whore. I was as disgusted with her as I had been with her sister. She became more of a prostitute than ever, acting the way she did

as a girl, when she was a prostitute in Egypt

. She was filled with lust for oversexed men who had all the lustfulness of donkeys and stallions. Oholibah,

you wanted to repeat the immorality you were guilty of as a girl IN EGYPT, where men played with your breasts and you lost your virginity

...I will hand you over to people you hate and are disgusted with. And because they hate you, they will take away everything you have worked for and leave you stripped naked, exposed like a prostitute. Your lust and your prostitution have brought this on you. You were a prostitute for the nations

and defiled yourself with THEIR IDOLS

...Mortal man, are you ready to judge Oholah and Oholibah? Accuse them of the disgusting things they have done. They have committed

adultery and murder

- ADULTERY WITH IDOLS and murder of the SONS THEY BORE ME. THEY SACRIFICED MY SONS TO **THEIR IDOLS**

."

□

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A detailed description of two sisters - Israel and Judah - and their lewd prostitution and whoredom. They were prostitutes already in EGYPT and that is where they had lost their virginity. Their pollution began in Egypt while they were still a young and tender nation. Their eyes lusted after the idols of Egypt and they served the Gods of Egypt. Their idolatry and cultic prostitution continued throughout their history. In Jeremiah 2:20 God says:

*“Israel, long ago you rejected my authority; you refused to obey me. **On every high hill and under every green tree YOU WORSHIPPED FERTILITY GODS***

.”

□

In Jeremiah 3:2, 6-9 God says:

*“Look up at the HIGH PLACES. Is there any place where you have not acted like a prostitute?..When Josiah was king, the LORD said to me, have you seen what Israel, that unfaithful woman, has done? She has turned away from me, AND ON EVERY HIGH HILL and UNDER EVERY GREEN TREE she has ACTED LIKE A PROSTITUTE. I thought that after she had done all this, she would surely return to me. But she did not return, and her unfaithful sister Judah saw it all. Judah also saw that I divorced Israel and sent her away because she had turned from me and had become a prostitute. But Judah, Israel’s unfaithful sister, was not afraid. She too became a prostitute and was not at all ashamed. She **defiled the land and she committed adultery with PILLARS and POLES***

.”

□

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The shrine harlots of Judah and Israel indulged in lewd phallic intercourse with the figurines of Baal. In Ezekiel 16:17-18 God says to the Jewish cult prostitutes:

*“You used some of your clothes to decorate your PLACES OF WORSHIP, and just like a prostitute [qudsha] you gave yourself to everyone. You took the silver and gold jewellery that I had given you, **used it to make MALE IMAGES, and COMMITTED ADULTERY WITH THEM.**”*

□

The male images or phallic figurines were used in public worship by the shrine prostitutes while they practiced the sex rites of the fertility cult. The virgins of Moab used the phallic figurine of Baal for their first sexual act - after being initiated as temple harlots. This figurine of Baal was later called **Baal Peor** which means “Lord of Penetration” or “Lord of Hymen Breaking.” In Isaiah 57:5-10 [Good News Bible] we find the following explicit and pertinent information concerning the Jews and their idolatry and phallic rites - information given by very God Himself:

“You worship the FERTILITY GODS by HAVING SEX UNDER THOSE SACRED TREES of yours.□ You offer your children as sacrifices in the rocky caves near stream beds. You take smooth stones from there and worship them as gods. You pour out wine as offerings to them and bring them grain offerings. Do you think I am pleased with all this? □ You go to the high mountains to offer sacrifices and have sex. YOU SET UP YOUR

OBSCENE IDOLS JUST INSIDE YOUR FRONT DOORS

. You forsake me; you take off your clothes and climb in your large beds with your lovers, whom you pay to sleep with you. And there you satisfy your lust. You put on your perfumes and ointments and go to worship the god Molech. To find gods to worship, you send messengers far and wide, even to the world of the dead. You wear yourselves out looking for other gods, but you never give up. YOU THINK YOUR

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GIVE YOU STRENGTH, and so you never grow weak.”

In Deuteronomy 6:9 God instructed the Israelites and Jews to display His true and original laws on the doorposts of their houses. But the Jews displayed their phallic figurines and an OBSCENE IDOL inside their FRONT DOORS. It is hard to imagine today just how rampant was the phallic worship in ancient Israel and Judah and in fact the whole ancient world. But it will be clearly demonstrated later that in one way or another these same phallic rites and symbols continued to be venerated in the Christian Church through all centuries. □

The Grove Under Every Green Tree

1 Kings 16:33 says that King Ahab served Baal and made a GROVE. While Jehoahaz ruled there remained a GROVE in Samaria - the capital of Israel [2 Kings 13:6]. Prophet Ahijah pointed out that God was going to destroy Israel because of their GROVES:

“For the LORD shall smite Israel...because they have made their GROVES, provoking the LORD to anger.” □

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2 Kings 17:7-16 says:

“For so it was, that the children of Israel sinned against the LORD their God...and walked in the statutes of the heathen...and they built them high places in all their cities...and they set them up images and GROVES in every high hill, and under every green tree...and they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a GROVE, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.”□

The Israelites made GROVES on every high place and under every green tree. But what is a grove? A ‘grove’ is a “small forested area or a group of trees.” The King James translators used the wrong word to translate the Hebrew word “asherah.” A grove could not be planted “under a green tree.” Nor would such a useful act of forestation provoke God to anger. The New Unger’s Bible Dictionary, on p. 508, art. Grove, says:

*“In the KJV ‘grove’ is the **incorrect** rendering of two Hebrew words: [1] ashera, the Canaanite goddess, a wooden idol generally set up beside the altars of Baal; [2] eshel, actually the tamarisk tree.”* □

The Hebrew word “asherah” was the name proper of the Goddess and it was also used to denote her phallic image which was displayed on every high place under the green tree. It was a wooden image. This cultic image of the Goddess Asherah is specifically referred to in 1 Kings 15:13, 2 Kings 21:7 and 2 Chronicles 15:16. As the “pillars” [mazzeboth] represented the male

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generative organ of the Gods so did this cultic image represent the female generative organ [asherah]. In the entrance hall of the Mercantile Library at St. Louis, is an ancient stone slab from the walls of the Assyrian palace at Nippur. On it is carved the female generative organ called "asherah" in the Hebrew Bible and "grove" in the King James Bible. The oval vulva is here represented, with a fanciful fan-shaped clitoris within its upper arched point, divided into seven whorls exemplifying the seven days of menstruation. Around the edge of the vulva are thirteen conventionalised tufts of the pubic hairs - symbolising the thirteen menstruations of a woman within a year. Penetrating erect within the female "yoni" is the male "linga" or phallus. Such phallic images were displayed and erected in Israel and Judah on every high place of worship - in the full view of the worshippers. □

The Jerusalem Temple And Its Phallic Objects And Rites □

It was a pagan practice to erect obelisks, pillars, and phalluses in front of the temples and sacred shrines. Such an obelisk or pillar stood at the entrance of the Temple of Tum, at the entry of the Temple of Hathor, the abode of Horus. Such an obelisk also stood in ancient Egypt - at the entrance of the Temple of Luxor. One of such obelisks or column pillars from Egypt was transported by Caligula to Vatican Hill. In 1586, by the order of Pope Sixtus V, it was relocated to the entry of St. Peter's Cathedral - the most holy shrine of the Roman Catholic Church. Such obelisks or pillars were purely phallic in nature and represented the male organ of the chief God worshipped at the shrine. Now it is interesting to note that Solomon also erected such phallic pillars at the very entrance of the temple he built in Jerusalem. 1 Kings 7:15-22 says:

*"He cast two hollow bronze PILLARS, each twenty-seven feet high and eighteen feet around, with three-inch-thick walls. At the tops of the PILLARS he made two LILY-SHAPED CAPITALS from molten bronze, each seven and half feet high. The upper part of each capital was shaped like a LILY, six feet high. Each capital was decorated with seven sets of bronze, chain-designed lattices and four hundred POMEGRANATES in two rows. Hiram **SET THESE PILLARS AT***

THE ENTRANCE OF THE TEMPLE

.”

□

It wasn't enough to erect just obelisks or pillars - symbols of male generative organ. Solomon also added "lilies" and "pomegranates" to the capital of these columns. On the walls of the temple Solomon engraved the figures of lions and bulls. Lions and bulls were symbols of fertility. Lilies and pomegranates were symbols of sex in the ancient world. The Goddess Asherah was represented with a "lily" in her hand. The New Unger's Bible Dictionary, art. Asherah, on p. 484, says:

"Frequently represented as a nude woman bestride a lion, with a LILY in one hand...characteristically Canaanite, the LILY symbolizes grace and SEX appeal."□

The ancient Sumerians and Babylonians associated the lily [lilu] with the "genital magic" of their Lilith - the Goddess of creation. The "pomegranate" was an express symbol of SEX and CARNAL KNOWLEDGE. Pomegranate is called "rimon" in Hebrew. It was referred to in the Song of Solomon as a symbol of erotic love. Pomegranate was a fruit full of seeds - hence it symbolised fertility and procreation. Asherah, known also as Astarte and Cybele was represented with a pomegranate in her hand. In the language of the Chaldean initiates, Astarte was known as IDAIA MATER - that is, the MOTHER OF KNOWLEDGE. The word "knowledge" was a euphemistic word for "sex." *"And Adam KNEW his wife"* [Genesis 4:1]. *"And Adam KNEW his wife again"*

[Genesis 4:25].

"And Cain KNEW his wife"

[Genesis 4:17].

"And he [Judah] KNEW her [Tamar] again no more"

[Genesis 38:26].

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□

The Jewish Encyclopedia, Art. Pomegranate, points out that the two columns of the Solomon's temple were called Jachin and Boaz. It also points out that the pomegranate was embroidered on the garment of the High Priest.

Finally the Jewish Encyclopedia candidly admits that the pomegranate in the East was a sex symbol:

“Throughout the East the pomegranate is the symbol of LUXURIANT FERTILITY.”

The two PILLARS which Solomon erected at the very entrance of the temple were purely phallic in nature. Later, another obelisk or pillar was erected at the entrance of the temple [Ezekiel 8:5]. Solomon also built rooms which were adjoining the temple. These rooms were used as living quarters for male and female temple harlots. Later King Josiah demolished these rooms and expelled the male and female prostitutes from Jerusalem [2 Kings 23:7]. 1 Kings 11:5-9 gives us the following information concerning Solomon:

“He worshipped Astarte, the goddess of Sidon, and Milcolm, the disgusting god of Ammon... On the mountain east of Jerusalem he built a place of worship for Chemosh, the disgusting god of Moab, and a place to worship Milcolm, the disgusting god of Ammon. He also built places of worship where all his foreign wives could burn incense and offer sacrifices to their own gods.”□

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Then in 2 Kings 23:13-14 we are told:

“Josiah desecrated the altars that KING SOLOMON HAD BUILT east of Jerusalem, south of the Mount of Olives, for the worship of DISGUSTING IDOLS - ASTARTE the goddess of Sidon, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcolm the god of Ammon. King Josiah broke the STONE PILLARS to pieces, cut down SYMBOLS OF THE GODDESS ASHERAH, and the ground where they had stood he covered with human bones.” □

Solomon erected “pillars” and “asherim” - symbols of male and female reproductive organs. From the days of Solomon until the days of Josiah the phallic rites in the Jerusalem Temple and the places which Solomon built continued unmolested and uninterrupted. There were three reformers prior to the days of King Josiah. But these reforms were only partial and half-hearted. King Joash made a religious reform in Judah but he left the high places in general and the places Solomon built untouched. 2 Kings 12:3 explicitly states concerning the reform of Joash:

“However, the pagan places of worship [bamoth] were not destroyed, and the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense there.” □ King Asa also made a religious reform which was short-lived. 1 Kings 15:12-13 says: *“He expelled from the country all the male and female prostitutes serving at the pagan places of worship, and he removed all the idols his predecessors had made. He removed his mother Maacah from her position as queen mother, because she had made an OBSCENE IDOL OF THE FERTILITY GODDESS ASHERAH. Asa cut down the idol and burned it in Kidron Valley. ”*

Verse 14 explicitly states that the shrines on the HIGH PLACES were not removed or abolished. It is also difficult to perceive how could King Asa remove “all the idols” his “predecessors had

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made” when actually the phallic pillars and asherahs that Solomon made stood intact until the days of Josiah. It is said that King Hezekiah destroyed the pagan places of worship and that he broke the stone pillars and cut down the images of Asherah. It is said that there was no better king either before his time or after [2 Kings 18:3-8]. Again it is difficult to see how could Hezekiah abolish and destroy the pagan places of worship and destroy the pillars and asherim which stood on the pagan places of worship when actually the high places with all their phallic images erected by King Solomon were untouched. It was Josiah who destroyed them. Likewise, it is difficult to see how could Hezekiah be the best king ever when the same is said of Josiah. From the days of Solomon until the days of Josiah, the Jerusalem Temple was the sanctified brothel and the place where gross idolatry took place. In Jeremiah 7:30 we read:

*“For the children of Judah had done evil in my sight, says Yahweh, they have erected **their ABOMINATIONS** in the HOUSE which is called by my name, to pollute it.”*

□

The cultic image of Asherah was placed in the temple [2 Kings 23:6]. Horses and chariots dedicated to the sun were in the temple [2 Kings 23:11]. Male and female prostitutes were active in the temple [2 Kings 23:7]. Even after King Jehoiachin was exiled to Babylon and many other Jews were taken captive, idolatry and desecration of the temple continued. An abominable idol of some sort was erected at the entrance of the temple. All sort of crawling animals and wild beasts were engraved on the inside walls of the temple. Old men worshipped them and offered incense to them. Women sat in the temple weeping for Tammuz, the Babylonian God. Other men were standing in front of the temple worshipping the sun. [See Ezekiel 8 for details]. Lest you think that only minority served the Gods and indulged in the phallic rites of Jerusalem and the rest actually served God and clung to the Covenant, I must point out the passages of Scripture which show otherwise. In Jeremiah 5:1 God says:

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*“People of Jerusalem, run through your streets! Look around! See for yourselves! Search the market places! Can you find **one person** who does what is right and tries to be faithful to his God? If you can, the LORD will forgive Jerusalem.”* □

The situation was worst than that of Sodom. At least Lot was found righteous in that city. But then God says that Sodom was innocent in comparison to Judah and the Jerusalemites. We all know that perverse sexual acts are referred to as “sodomy.” But it should be really changed to “judanomy” since the Jews were guilty of much greater sexual crimes than the Sodomites ever were. In Ezekiel 16:46-52 God says of Judah:□

*“Your older sister, with her villages, is SAMARIA, in the north. Your younger sister, with her villages, is SODOM, in the south. Were you satisfied to follow in their footsteps and copy their disgusting actions? No, in only a little while you were acting WORSE than THEY WERE in EVERYTHING YOU DO...your sister SODOM and her villages **NEVER DID THE EVIL THAT YOU AND YOUR VILLAGES HAVE DONE***

...Samaria did not sin HALF AS MUCH AS YOU HAVE. You have acted MORE DISGUSTINGLY than she ever did. YOUR CORRUPTION makes YOUR SISTERS look INNOCENT by comparison. And now you will have to endure your disgrace. YOUR SINS ARE SO MUCH WORSE THAN THOSE OF YOUR SISTERS THAT THEY LOOK INNOCENT BESIDE YOU. Now blush and bear your shame, because you make YOUR SISTERS LOOK PURE.”

Since Sodom looks pure in comparison with Judah it is then more appropriate to use the term “judanomy” for perverse sexual acts rather than “sodomy.” The books of Kings and Chronicles are replete with records of idolatry, sex worship and the phallic images, and the records of child sacrifice in ancient Israel and Judah. The altars Solomon built in Jerusalem and the altar Jeroboam built in Beth El survived and were fully functioning until the days of King Josiah when they were destroyed. This shows the national and continuous idolatry of the “chosen race.” It is preposterous therefore to say that the Israelites were peculiar people and set aside from other nations. They served the Gods of other nations, they murdered their children in sacrifice to those Gods. They practiced phallic rites just like all other nations of Canaan and they also had male and female prostitutes in all their shrines and even in the Jerusalem Temple. In addition the Israelites and the Jews persecuted and murdered the true Prophets the Most High kept on sending in hope that the wicked Israelites and Jews would reform their ways. The “pagans” at least were not guilty of shedding the blood of the Prophets.

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