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TO BURN INCENSE

Some people burn incense in their home because they love the fragrance of it. They do it without understanding, that is, in ignorance of its meaning.

The burning of incense has been an act of worship for at least four thousand years or more, done in worship unto a deity, whoever that deity or spirit being might be.

When God gave Moses instructions to build Him a tabernacle, it included the most holy place (holy of holies), a compartment within the tabernacle in which God's presence was to dwell. The Ark of the Covenant rested therein.

On the annual Day of Atonement, the High Priest would enter therein to elicit God's presence to cover all the sins of Israel. Before entering, the priest was to burn incense in that holy place to invite and to represent the very presence of Jehovah.

Incense was always used as an invitation for God's presence or to honor His presence. However, the counterfeiter, Satan, also uses incense to invite or to give obeisance to himself and any of his dark spirits [demons]. Consequently, burning of incense is used in various religions to honor or invite their gods or their spirits.

God's chosen people, Israel, did this in rebellion, serving pagan gods. Let us look at just one single bible chapter to see how often God spoke about this to one of His greatest prophets, Jeremiah.

In Jeremiah chapter 44:3 God spoke of, ***"their wickedness which they have committed to provoke Me to anger, in that they went to burn incense, to serve other gods..."*** Verse 4 rebukes them for doing this and says, ***"this abominable thing that I hate."*** Verse 5 further rebukes them and says, ***"they hearkened (listened) not...to turn from their wickedness, to burn incense unto (invitation of) other gods (evil spirits)."***

Still, in Jeremiah 44:8 and 23 the practice is condemned. It gets more specific in verses 17, 18, 19, and 25 where it condemns the burning (worship, adoration) of ***"incense unto the queen of heaven."***

One might burn incense sticks at home for the fragrance, but have no idea that it can invite a dark spirit into their home. Ignorance is no excuse for innocence. Incense has been used for spiritual worship for centuries. There is no changing that fact. If you burn incense, make sure you invite the Holy Spirit when you use it and not a dark spirit.