

Morning
Star



Son of the Dawn

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On The Devil,
Hell, & the Nature of Evil



Dr. John Robert Genesis

THE BEST STORIES ARE ALWAYS DRIVEN, NOT BY THE HERO, BUT BY THE VILLAIN. IN FACT THE HERO IS MOST OFTEN DEFINED BY THE VILLAIN. HE IS ONLY AS GOOD AS HIS OPPONENT IS EVIL. GENERALLY THEY ARE OF A DICHOTOMY. THE TWO ARE EQUALLY MATCHED. EQUALLY CAPABLE. EQUALLY CUNNING. EQUALLY ABLE TO ACHIEVE THEIR OWN DESIRED DOMINANCE OVER THE OTHER. AND ON THE OCCASION WHEN THEY ARE NOT ON PAR WITH EACH OTHER, THE HERO IS NEARLY ALWAYS THE WEAKER OF THE TWO YET IN POSSESSION OF AN OBJECT OR QUALITY WHICH WILL AFFORD HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO EEK OUT A LAST MINUTE WIN TO EDGE OUT HIS ENEMY. IN THE CASE OF CHRISTIANITY, HOWEVER, THIS DICHOTOMOUS RELATIONSHIP SEEMS TO BE NONEXISTENT. AND YET THE CHRISTIAN STORY IS STILL DRIVEN PREDOMINATELY BY ITS VILLAIN.

IN OUR STUDY OF DEMONOLOGY, SUBCATEGORY OF ANGELOLOGY, WE LEARN ABOUT THE DEVIL OR SATAN, SOMETIMES CALLED BEELZEBUB OR BELIAL, THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS, FATHER OF LIES, AND AUTHOR OF SIN WHO RULES OVER A PLACE CALLED HELL AND WORKS ALL MANNER OF MISCHIEF AND MALFEASANCE UPON THE EARTH. HE IT IS WE ARE TAUGHT WHO IS THE ENEMY OF SOMEONE CALLED “GOD” AND CHIEF OF DEMONS. IN POPULAR KNOWLEDGE, THE DEVIL IS RED SKINNED WITH HORNS ON HIS HEAD AND A POINTED DRAGON’S TAIL. IT IS SAID THAT HE IS COVERED IN REPTILIAN SCALES, AND HE HAS A FORKED TONGUE, AND CLOVEN HOOVES AND CARRIES A PITCHFORK. BUT ALL THAT IS QUITE OBVIOUSLY A WORK OF FICTION, CONCOCTED OVER THE CENTURIES FROM A COMPILATION OF FABLES, FAIRY STORIES, AND FOLKLORE.

CONTRARIWISE, IN THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION, WE ARE TAUGHT A SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT TALE. IT IS SAID IN OUR THEOLOGY THAT THE DEVIL IS ACTUALLY NOT A DEMON AT ALL BUT AN ANGEL...AN ARCHANGEL TO BE EXACT, AND FAR FROM BEING A HIDEOUS MONSTER, HE IS SAID TO BE AMONG THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BEINGS IN EXISTENCE. ACCORDING TO ACCEPTED CHURCH DOCTRINE, THE BEING NOW KNOWN AS SATAN FIRST BEGAN AS THE ARCHANGEL KNOWN BY THE NAME OF LUCIFER. AS THE STORY GOES, HE WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF ALL “GOD’S” ANGELS AND HIS FAVORITE. HE STOOD IN THE PRESENCE OF “GOD” ALWAYS AND WORSHIPPED HIM FAITHFULLY EVEN LEADING THE HEAVENLY CHOIRS IN CONTINUOUS SONG...UNTIL THAT IS, THAT “GOD” MADE MAN. AND HE COMMANDED ALL ANGELS, EVEN LUCIFER TO BOW DOWN BEFORE THIS NEW LOWLY CREATURE MADE FROM DIRT AND TO SERVE HIM. ALL DID, BUT LUCIFER, WHO REFUSED. AND IN HIS PRIDE, HE RALLIED A THIRD OF THE ANGELS IN HEAVEN AGAINST “GOD” AND STARTED A CIVIL WAR. SUPPOSEDLY, AS AN ARCHANGEL, LUCIFER HAD FOUR HEADS LIKE THE OTHER CHERUBIM, ONE OF A BULL, ONE OF AN EAGLE, ONE OF A LION, AND ONE OF A MAN. IN HIS REBELLION, LUCIFER TORE OFF HIS FOURTH HEAD (THE ONE LIKE TO A MAN). HIS REBELLION WAS SOON CRUSHED AND LUCIFER WAS CAST OUT OF HEAVEN DOWN TO THE DEPTHS OF HELL WHERE HE RULES OVER THE DAMNED AND SEEKS TO INCREASE HIS DOMAIN ALWAYS BY LURING SOULS INTO SIN, ALWAYS HATING MAN FOR BEING SET OVER HIM....THAT IS THE STORY ANYWAY... AND LIKE ALL THE MYTHOLOGIES OF OLD AND THE RED DEVIL DELUSION DESIGNED UP OVER THE CENTURIES, THIS TOO IS A WORK OF PURE IMAGINATION AND AN UTTER FANTASY THROUGH AND THROUGH.

IRONICALLY, WE WHO BELIEVE IN THE BIBLE, AS SOLA SCRIPTURA, ARE THE ONES WHO WHOLE HEARTEDLY EMBRACE THIS EMBELLISHMENT THOUGH IT CAN NOT BE FOUND ANYWHERE IN SCRIPTURE. NEITHER IN DETAIL NOR IN HINT. THE BIBLE NEITHER INFERS NOR IMPLIES ANY SUCH ASPECTS OF THE CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS ABOUT LUCIFER.

IN FACT LUCIFER IS NEVER EVEN MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE AT ALL. NOT SO MUCH AS A NOD. AND WHY? BECAUSE THAT NAME HADN’T YET BEEN INVENTED. THE ONE SINGLE TIME WE MIGHT THINK TO FIND THE TERM LUCIFER IN THE BIBLE WOULD BE IN ISAIAH 14:12. YET IT EXISTS HERE ONLY IN LATE ENGLISH VERSIONS THEREOF BUT NOT IN THE BIBLE ITSELF. IRONICALLY, EVEN IN THIS PASSAGE, THE ONE BEING SPOKEN OF IS NOT ACTUALLY EVEN THE DEVIL. “HOW ART THOU FALLEN FROM HEAVEN, O LUCIFER, SON OF THE MORNING! HOW ART THOU CUT DOWN TO THE GROUND, WHICH DIDST WEAKEN THE NATIONS!” IS THIS THE DEVIL ON THE RECEIVING END OF CONDEMNATION? AND FOR THAT MATTER, WHY ARE WE CALLING HIM LUCIFER? IS THAT WHAT WAS WRITTEN IN THE SCRIPTURE? WE READ IN THE HEBREW - “HEYLEL BEN SAHAR”. HEYLEL... NOT LUCIFER. AND EVEN IN THE GREEK SEPTUAGINT THIS WORD WAS TRANSLATED AS HEOSPHOROS. HEOSPHOROS...NOT LUCIFER. WHERE THEN DOES DOCTRINE DRUM UP LUCIFER FROM HEYLEL AND HEOSPHOROS? AND FOR THAT MATTER, WHY?

WE WERE FIRST INTRODUCED TO LUCIFER AS A NAME IN THE LATIN VULGATE TRANSLATION OF THE SCRIPTURES WHERE IT IS WRITTEN, “LUCIFERUS”. TILL THEN THIS WAS NOT A NAME KNOWN AS REPRESENTING THE DEVIL OR ANYONE ELSE FOR THAT MATTER. THE TRANSLATION SHOULD BE SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF “MORNING STAR” OR “LIGHT BRINGER”.



AND WHILE LUCIFERUS WAS PERHAPS A SUFFICIENT TRANSLATION FROM HEBREW INTO LATIN, IT WAS NOT TO BE RIGHTLY TAKEN AS A NAME FOR SATAN, OR ANYONE ELSE, AND SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN CARRIED OVER TO THE ENGLISH BY TRANSLITERATION, THEREAFTER TO BE SOLIDIFIED IN TRADITION.

WITH THE REMOVAL OF THIS MINOR MISTRANSLATION TO SCRIPTURE, WE DISCOVER ONLY THE MENTIONING OF THE SATAN OR THE DEVIL. BUT THIS BEING IS NEVER AFFORDED A BACKSTORY IN THE BIBLE. ALONG WITH THE NOMENCLATURE OF LUCIFER, WE HAVE LENT THE DEVIL A DRAMATIC BACKGROUND NEVER BROUGHT FORTH FROM THE BOOK ITSELF BUT RATHER READ INTO IT IN-DEPTH.

ACCORDING TO THE STORY, SATAN WAS A GREAT ANGEL WHO WAS JEALOUS OF THE CREATOR AND WANTED HIS PLACE. ALL THAT HOWEVER WAS INFERRED FROM ISAIAH 14:12 FROM THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE DEVIL WAS ONCE LUCIFER, THE MORNING STAR, SON OF THE DAWN WHO EXALTED HIMSELF TO TAKE THE THRONE OF THE LORD AND SUBSEQUENTLY FELL FROM HEAVEN.

SANS THIS MISAPPLIED SCRIPTURE, WHAT THEN IS SATAN?

IF HE WAS NEVER LUCIFER AND THE BIBLE NEVER SPEAKS OF HIM ONCE BEING AN ARCHANGEL, LEADING A REBELLION AND FALLING FROM HEAVEN, WE ARE LEFT WITH ONLY WHAT THE GOOD BOOK DOES TELL ABOUT THE DEVIL...WHICH IS VERY VERY LITTLE.



WHAT HIS RIGHT NAME MAY BE, WE CAN NOT SAY, AS HE IS SIMPLY SAID TO BE SATAN. BUT THAT IS NOT A NAME. IT IS RATHER A DESIGNATION, A TRANSLITERATION OF THE HEBREW “HASHATAN”, OR “THE ADVERSARY”. IN PRACTICAL USAGE, SHATAN WAS USED GENERALLY OF ALL OPPONENTS. EVEN THE MESSIAH UTILIZED THIS TERM AND APPLIED IT TO HIS DISCIPLE, PETER WHEN THE FISHERMAN SPOKE IN OPPOSITION TO THE COMING CRUCIFIXION. MISUNDERSTANDING THE BROAD TERMINOLOGY REGARDING THE WORD “SATAN”, AND BELIEVING IT EXCLUSIVE TO THE DEVIL, THE CHURCH ERRS IN ITS THEOLOGY TEACHING THAT THE DEVIL HIMSELF POSSESSED PETER FOR A MOMENT TO OPPOSE THE WILL OF THE LORD. YET THIS PASSAGE IN MATTHEW WAS MERELY, THE MESSIAH TELLING PETER TO FALL IN LINE BEHIND HIM AND NOT TO STAND BETWEEN HIM AND HIS MISSION.

BUT THE SPECIFIC USAGE OF THE TERM SATAN AS A TITLE CAN AND MOST OFTEN IS EXCLUSIVELY APPLIED TO THE ENEMY. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THOUGH THAT HIS POSITION AS ENEMY IS IN OPPOSITION TO MAN, NOT THE ALMIGHTY.

THIS IS NOT A DICHOTOMY OR DUAL-THEOLOGY WITH A “GOOD ‘GOD’” AND A “BAD DEVIL”. IT IS A FACT THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE THAT WHETHER HE WANTS TO OR NOT, THE DEVIL DOES THE WILL OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER. YES, IT IS TRUE. UNLIKE WHAT WE LEARNED IN CHURCHIANITY, THE DEVIL DOES NOT DO ONE SINGLE THING THAT IS NOT PART OF THE PLAN OF PROVIDENCE. HIS JOB IN CREATION IS TO OPPOSE MEN, TO BE OUR ADVERSARY NOT THE ADVERSARY OF THE ALMIGHTY. DOES THAT MEAN THE DEVIL IS BEST PALS WITH THE MAJESTY? HARDLY. BUT WHEN THE KING CALLS, SATAN SHOWS UP. AND WHEN THE MOST HIGH COMMANDS HIM, THE DEVIL OBEYS. MAYBE HE DOES SO GRUDGINGLY. OR MAYBE JOYOUSLY. WHO’S TO SAY? THE BIBLE CERTAINLY DOESN’T TALK ABOUT IT.

BUT WHAT IT DOES SAY IS ASTOUNDING. KEEPING IN MIND THAT HEBREW HAS NO INDEFINITE ARTICLE LIKE WE HAVE IN ENGLISH, AND NOTING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SHATAN AND HASHATAN (ESSENTIALLY “A SATAN” OR “THE SATAN”). WHILE SHATAN (A SATAN) SHOWS UP ALL THROUGHOUT THE WRITINGS AND THE PROPHETS, AND REFERENCING ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE BEING CALLED THIS TERM, SHATAN, THE ACTUALLY ENTITY HASHATAN, WHO IS THE DEVIL HIMSELF, APPEARS ONLY A SMATTERING OF TIMES.

IN THE CREATION ACCOUNT SATAN IS SEEN AS THE SERPENT IN THE GARDEN DECEIVING EVE, INTO DISOBEDIENCE, YET HE’S NEVER SO NAMED THEN AS SATAN, THOUGH LATER IN THE WRITINGS OF THE DISCIPLES HE IS RETROACTIVELY GIVEN THE TITLE AS HIS ROLE WAS TO ACT AS THE ADVERSARY.

THE FIRST TIME WE ENCOUNTER SATAN BY NAME IN SCRIPTURE (AGAIN WHETHER OR NOT SATAN IS HIS ACTUAL NAME OR JUST A TERM DESCRIBING HIS OCCUPATION IS UNCLEAR) IS THE STORY OF JOB. AND IN ALL OF SCRIPTURE THIS BOOK ALONE GIVES US A GLIMPSE AT WHAT THE DEVIL IS LIKE AND HIS RELATIONSHIP TO THE MOST HIGH. AFTER THAT WE DO NOT SEE HIM AGAIN UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF THE MESSIAH ON THE SCENE. AND LASTLY AT THE END IN THE REVELATION.

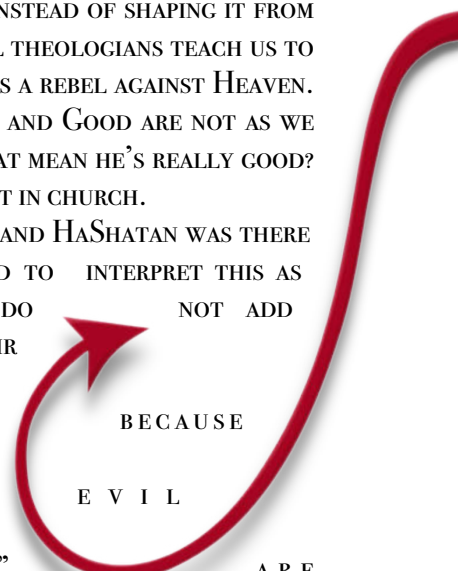
IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN WE SEE THE SERPENT TEMPT THE WOMAN TO DISOBEY THE DIVINE INSTRUCTION. BUT WHAT WE DO NOT SEE IS WHETHER OR NOT HE DID SO BY HIS OWN PROMPTINGS OR BY THE COMMANDMENT OF THE ALMIGHTY. IN CHURCH WE WOULD LEARN THAT IT WAS OBVIOUSLY HIS OWN PROMPTINGS BECAUSE THE LORD WOULD NEVER TEMPT US... BUT IS THAT WHAT HE SAID? NOT EXACTLY. IF WE FORM OUR THEOLOGY FROM SCRIPTURE INSTEAD OF SHAPING IT FROM INFERENCE AND THEN AFTERWARD READING IT BACK INTO SCRIPTURE (THE WAY TRADITIONAL THEOLOGIANS TEACH US TO DO) WE MAY BE SURPRISED TO FIND, THE BIBLE NEVER ACTUALLY TELLS US THAT THE DEVIL IS A REBEL AGAINST HEAVEN. WE MAY BE SURPRISED TO FIND THAT ALL THE REFERENCES IN THE BIBLE SHOW THAT EVIL AND GOOD ARE NOT AS WE WOULD IMAGINE THEM TO BE AND THAT SATAN IS ACTUALLY AN AGENT OF HEAVEN. DOES THAT MEAN HE'S REALLY GOOD? NO. AS WE'VE MENTIONED GOOD AND EVIL ARE A LOT MORE COMPLEX THAN TYPICALLY TAUGHT IN CHURCH.

JOB TELLS US THAT THE SONS OF ELOHIM PRESENTED THEMSELVES BEFORE THE MOST HIGH AND HASHTAN WAS THERE AMONG THEM ASWELL. ACCORDING TO TYPICAL CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY WE ARE SUPPOSED TO INTERPRET THIS AS HASHTAN AS A REBEL ANGEL APPEARING BEFORE THE CREATOR IN CHALLENGE. BUT IF WE DO NOT ADD IN THOSE EXTRANEOUS DETAILS WE FIND THE SONS OF ELOHIM ALL REPORTING THEIR ACTIVITIES TO THEIR AUTHORITY AND THE DEVIL THERE TOO DOING THE SAME. NOT IN REBELLION BUT IN COMPLIANCE. PRESUMABLY BASED ON CONTEXT, HE IS WITH THE ANGELS HE IS ONE OF THEM.

IN CHURCH WE LEARN THAT ANGELS ARE GOOD AND DEMONS ARE BAD, BUT SINCE GOOD AND AREN'T THAT SIMPLE WHY WOULD ANGELS AND DEMONS BE? IN ALL OF SCRIPTURE WE FIND NO SUCH TERM AS DEMON. DEMON FROM THE LATIN "DAEMON" AND THE GREEK "DAIMOS" ARE GRAECO-ROMAN CONCEPTS SUPERIMPOSED UPON WHAT THE SCRIPTURES CALLED NEFESH-RA OR NEFESH TEIMEI; THAT IS TO SAY, AN EVIL SPIRIT OR AN UNCLEAN SPIRIT. WHAT WE HAVE BEEN TRAINED TO CALL DEMONS ARE REFERRED TO IN THE SCRIPTURES AS SHEIDIM. SO WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE WHETHER WE TALK OF A THING IN HEBREW, GREEK OR ENGLISH? IS IT NOT THE NATURE OF THE THING THAT MATTERS RATHER THAN WHAT WE CALL IT? IT SEEMS A REASONABLE QUESTION THOUGH IT IS ASKED IN IGNORANCE OF THE CONNECTION BETWEEN NATURE AND NAME. WHEN WE CALL THINGS BY GREEK, LATIN, AND ENGLISH TERMS OR THOSE OF ANY LANGUAGE REALLY, OTHER THAN THEIR ORIGINAL HEBREW, WE ARE IMPORTING INTO THE STORY THE BAGGAGE AND BACKGROUND OF THOSE OTHER LANGUAGES AND CULTURES TO WHICH THEY BELONG. AND WE SUPERIMPOSE UPON THESE CONCEPTS THE VIEW THAT WAS NOT INHERENT TO THEM...NOT TO MENTION THE MYTHOLOGIES IMAGINED BY THE EVOLUTION OF TIME.

BY CALLING THE BEINGS THE BIBLE REFERS TO AS MALEKIM BY THE TITLE OF ANGEL WE ARE ADOPTING THE FOREIGN INFLUENCE OF GREEK INTERPRETATION WHICH IS ALIEN BOTH TO US AND TO THE TEXT IN QUESTION. WHEN WE ABSORB TERMINOLOGY FROM OTHER PLACES WE LIKewise BRING WITH THEM THE PERSPECTIVES OF THOSE PEOPLES. AND THUS MALEKIM AND SHEIDIM BECAME IN OUR MINDS ANGELS AND DEMONS. WHEN WE CALL THE BIBLICAL ELOHIM BY THE ANGLO-SAXON TITLE "GOD" AND RENAME THE PLACE OF HIS ABODE "HEAVEN" AFTER THE OLD ENGLISH TERM FOR THE SKY, INSTEAD OF THE BIBLICAL HEBREW CONCEPT OF "SHAMAIM" TELL A HEBREW STORY WITHOUT THE HEBREW CONTEXT AND WE DO SO WITH ENGLISH CUSTOM FOREIGN TO THE TEXT. THE WAY THE STORY IS TOLD IS SEMINARY IS THAT "GOD" REMAINED THE RULER OF A PLACE CALLED "HEAVEN" AND IN COMMANDED OF BEINGS CALLED "ANGELS" WHILE THE REBELLIOUS CREATURE CALLED THE "DEVIL" OR SATAN (FORMERLY KNOWN AS LUCIFER) BECAME THE RULER OF A PLACE CALLED "HELL" AND CREATURES CALLED "DEMONS". BUT IS ANY OF THAT TRUE? IS ANY OF THIS UNDERSTANDING NATURAL TO THE TEXT? NO. DECIDEDLY NOT.

THIS IS THE COMMON CHRISTIAN MYTHOLOGY TO BE SURE, BUT NONE OF IT IS FOUND IN THE BIBLE. SO WHERE DOES IT COME FROM? MOSTLY THIS MESS OF IMAGINATION HAS BEEN DEVELOPED OVER CENTURIES TO EVER MORE ELABORATE



DETAIL IN THE TELLING AND RETELLING TILL THE ENTIRETY IS EXPOUNDED UPON WITHOUT THE NEED OF EVIDENCE FROM SCRIPTURE. AND IT PASSES AMONG THE MASSES BECAUSE PEOPLE ALL BELIEVE THESE DETAILS ARE IN THE BIBLE SOMEWHERE. FEW EVER GO THROUGH THE BOOK FROM FRONT TO BACK AND BACK TO FRONT HOWEVER, SO THEY NEVER DISCOVER THE DEARTH OF DETAIL ON THE DEVIL'S TALE. PREACHERS WILL WAX ON ABOUT THE SERPENT IN THE GARDEN, SATAN IN THE TRIALS OF JOB, LUCIFER IN ISAIAH EXALTING HIMSELF ABOVE THE MOST HIGH, AND THEN SATAN SHOWING UP IN THE GOSPEL TO TEMPT 'JESUS' IN THE WILDERNESS...AND FINALLY SEEN AS THE DRAGON IN THE REVELATION WHO FORMERLY SWEEP A THIRD OF THE STARS FROM HEAVEN WITH HIS TAIL. THEY TELL THE TALE IN GORY DETAIL INSERTING IN SELECTED SCRIPTURES STRATEGICALLY PLACED TO "PROVE" THEIR POINT. BUT WITHOUT THIS FAIRY TALE FRAMEWORK, WHAT DO WE REALLY HAVE FOR INFO ON THE DEVIL? LITTLE AND LESS.

WE'VE SEEN THAT ISAIAH ISN'T SPEAKING ABOUT SATAN AT ALL SO THAT PASSAGE IS OUT. WITHOUT WHICH WE CAN CONCOCT IN NO WAY THE PREHISTORIC REBELLION THEOLOGY. THE DEVIL WAS NEVER CALLED LUCIFER BUT BY TRANSLITERATION FROM LATIN INTO ENGLISH EXTRAPOLATED FROM A SINGLE PASSAGE HE IS ENTIRELY ABSENT FROM.

SANS THIS MISAPPLIED SCRIPTURE, WE GO BACK TO THE GARDEN WHERE THE SERPENT IS TEMPTING THE FIRST HUMANS. WE DO NOT SEE HIM REFERRED TO IN THE NARRATIVE AS THE DEVIL OR SATAN BUT SIMPLY AS THE SERPENT. OF COURSE WE THINK OF AN AVERAGE SNAKE WHEN WE THINK OF SERPENT BUT THE TERM SERPENT IS QUITE OFTEN ANOTHER DESIGNATION FOR A DRAGON WHICH THE REVELATION RELAYS TO US THAT INFACIT THE DEVIL WAS AND IS...THE DRAGON AND THAT SAME SERPENT FROM EDEN. SO REALLY WHATEVER THIS BEING IS, HE SHOULD BE PICTURED IN THIS PRIMORDIAL SCENARIO AS MORE LIKE A DRAGON THAN A SNAKE.

BUT WHAT OF THE STORY ITSELF? THE CREATOR SETS THE MAN AND WOMAN INTO THE GARDEN AND TELLS THEM NOT TO EAT OF THE FRUIT OF THE TREE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GARDEN. ALONG COMES "THE SERPENT" TALKING TO THE WOMAN TO TRY TO CONVINCE HER TO DISOBEY AND EAT FROM THE TREE. WHEN WE VIEW THIS PASSAGE AS CHRISTIANITY COMMONLY CALLS US TO DO, IT IS IN LIGHT OF A NEW CREATION AFTER A WAR IN HEAVEN AND A REBELLION BY SATAN. WE ARE TAUGHT TO SEE THIS STORY AS IF THE DEVIL WHO WAS JUST TOLD TO BOW AND WORSHIP THESE BEINGS AND REFUSED, HAS BEEN FRESHLY THROWN OUT OF HEAVEN, TAKES POSSESSION OF A SNAKE AND SPEAKS THROUGH THAT ANIMAL TO THE WOMAN SO HE CAN TRY TO DECEIVE AND DESTROY HER AND HER FUTURE PROGENY. BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE REMOVE FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE ALL THAT EXTRA DETAIL WE'VE ADDED IN? TAKE AWAY THE IDEAS THAT WE SUPERIMPOSE ON THE STORY - THAT THE DEVIL POSSESSED AN ANIMAL, THAT HE ENTERED THE GARDEN IN REBELLION TO TRY TO DESTROY MANKIND AGAINST THE WILL OF THE CREATOR, THAT HE HAD JUST FOUGHT AND LOST A WAR AND WAS THROWN OUT OF HEAVEN WITH A THIRD OF THE ANGELS. GET ALL THAT GARBAGE OUT OF THE WAY AND READ IT AGAIN. WHAT DO WE FIND? WE SEE THE SERPENT TALKING TO THE WOMAN. WAS THE SERPENT POSSESSED BY THE DEVIL OR WAS IT JUST THE SERPENT ITSELF OR HIMSELF? THE TEXT DOES NOT SAY. WAS THE SERPENT TEMPTING MANKIND OR WAS HE TRYING THEM? WAS HE SENT TO MAKE THEM FALL OR TO PROVIDE A GENUINE CHOICE? DID HE APPEAR AS THE TEMPTER OF HIS OWN ACCORD OR WAS HE SENT?

UNFORTUNATELY WE ARE OFFERED NO DETAILS FOR ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS. BUT HOW DIFFERENT THE STORY IS WITHOUT THE BAGGAGE WE'VE BURDENED IT WITH?! THERE'S NO WAR IN HEAVEN YET, NO FALLEN FOE, NO REBEL ANGEL, NO ADVERSARY OF THE MAJESTY...THERE IS SIMPLY A CHOICE IN A GARDEN AND AN ADVERSARY OF MAN OFFERING IT. NO KNOWING FROM THIS PASSAGE WHO THE ADVERSARY IS. OR IF HE WAS SENT THERE OR THERE OF HIS OWN INCLINATION.

BUT THERE'S A FUNNY THING. HE IS CLEARLY A SERPENT, AND HE BY HIS ROLE IS CLEARLY A SATAN; BUT IS HE THE SATAN OF JUST A SATAN. AND WE ARE NOT ASKING IF HE IS A LESSER DEVIL OR THE BIG KAHUNNA. NO, WE ARE ASKING IF HE IS A SATAN OR THE SATAN. AS BRIEFLY MENTIONED SATAN ITSELF IS A TERM THAT APPLIES TO A GREAT MANY THINGS IN SCRIPTURE THE MOST NOTABLE BEING A TITLE OF THE DEVIL BUT IRONICALLY THE LEAST USED FUNCTION OF THE TERM.

THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE THE TERM SATAN OR RATHER SHATAN IS USED MOST OFTEN OF HUMAN BEINGS, AND NOT HUMAN BEINGS POSSESSED BY DEVILS BUT SIMPLY OF REGULAR PEOPLE PERFORMING AN ADVERSARIAL ROLE. A HUMAN BEING IN A POSITION OF BEING A SATAN, BIBLICALLY SPEAKING, IS NOT SETTING HIMSELF AGAINST HEAVEN EITHER, BUT MERELY AGAINST SOMEONE ELSE OR EVEN SOMETHING ELSE.

TWO OPPONENTS IN A GAME ARE SATAN TO EACH OTHER. A PERSON IN AN ARGUMENT IS A SATAN TO THE OTHER PERSON AND VISA VERSA. A PERSON ALONE PUSHING WEIGHTS IN THE GYM IS SATAN TO THE IRON HE IS MOVING. AND THE IRON IS SATAN TO HIM. ANYTHING OR ANYONE WHICH OR WHO IS SET AGAINST, OPPOSED TO, STANDING IN THE WAY OF, OR WORKING ADVERSARIALLY TO OUR WILL, ACTION, OR INTENTION IS SATAN TO US.

NO THAT THING IS NOT THE SATAN. NO THAT PERSON IS NOT THE SATAN. WE DON'T HAVE TO TREAT THEM LIKE THEY ARE POSSESSED OR EVIL. NO WE DON'T HAVE TO TRY TO REBUKE THEM IN THE "NAME OF THE LORD" AND DEMAND THEM TO FLEE. THAT IS NOT THE HEBRAIC MEANING OF SATAN NOR THE UNDERSTANDING WE SHOULD TAKE AWAY FROM THIS STUDY. RATHER WHAT WE SHOULD AND MUST UNDERSTAND IS THE MEANING OF THIS TERM APART FROM OUR TRADITIONAL CHRISTIAN INTERPRETATION. WE HAVE BEEN WELL TRAINED TO LOAD THE TERM SATAN WITH THEOLOGICAL BAGGAGE TO THE EXCLUSION OF ITS MOST COMMON USE. WE HAVE MADE IT A NAME FOR THE DEVIL, AND REMOVED ALL ITS OTHER MANY USES. NOT ONLY IS THIS INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR FOR SCHOLARS, BUT IT IS DANGEROUS FOR TRANSLATORS IN THE EXTREME. AND SUBSEQUENTLY DANGEROUS FOR THE PEOPLE WHO WILL FORM THEIR DOCTRINES OFF THE MISINTERPRETATIONS OF TRANSLATORS.

THROUGHOUT THE SCRIPTURES, SATAN IS MOST OFTEN A COMMON WHETHER A PERSON OR A THING. NOT SOMEONE WHO WORSHIPS THE POSSESSED. AND CERTAINLY NOT THE DEVIL HIMSELF. ALMOST IN SCRIPTURE, IT IS REFERRING TO US AND INANIMATE THINGS REACTING IN THIS FASHION TOWARDS EACH OTHER AND FOR EXAMPLE, AS WE NOTED EARLIER WHEN THE JERUSALEM, TO BE CRUCIFIED, PETER CONFRONTED WHICH THE MESSIAH RESPONDED, "GET BEHIND SCENARIO INSINUATING IN THEIR IGNORANCE MOMENT TO HINDER THE ROAD TO THE THEY WERE USED IN THEIR DAY, AND ESPECIALLY WHEN THE MAJORITY FIND THE MESSIAH SIMPLY THE WAY OF HIS INTENTION.



TERM FOR AN ADVERSARY, DEVIL. NOT ONE WHO IS DEMON EVERY TIME THE TERM SATAN OCCURS AND HOW WE ARE ACTING AND THESE THINGS.

MESSIAH WAS EXPLAINING THAT HE WOULD GO TO HIM SAYING THIS WOULD NEVER HAPPEN TO HIM. TO ME, SATAN" ... THEOLOGIANS MAKE MUCH OF THIS THAT PETER WAS POSSESSED BY THE DEVIL HIMSELF AT THIS CROSS. BUT IF WE SIMPLY APPLY THE MEANING OF THE TERMS AS DO NOT FORCE THE TERM SATAN TO BE A NAME EXCLUSIVELY, OF THE TIME IT IS NOT REFERRING TO THE SATAN HIMSELF, THEN WE WILL TELLING HIS DISCIPLE TO FALL IN LINE BEHIND HIM, INSTEAD OF STANDING IN

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER INSTANCES IN SCRIPTURE IN WHICH THIS CAN BECOME A PROBLEMATIC TERM. IN THE WRITINGS OF PAUL, WE ARE TOLD TO TURN OUT THOSE REBELS IN OUR MIDST AND TO "DELIVER THEM TO SATAN, TO BE TAUGHT NOT TO BLASPHEME". THIS BECOMES A TOUCHY, THEOLOGICAL SUBJECT WHEN WE ARE NEEDING EVERY INSTANCE OF THE TERM SATAN TO BE REFERRING TO THE DEVIL. IT IS LESS PROBLEMATIC IF WE DO NOT REIMAGINE THE DEVIL AS A REBEL ANGEL, HOWEVER, AND WE DON'T ALWAYS NEED THE TERM TO REFER TO THE DEVIL AT ALL. IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, THIS IS REFERRING TO ONE OF TWO THINGS. EITHER SATAN IS BEING USED IN THIS PASSAGE AS A REFERENCE TO THOSE HUMAN BEINGS WHO ARE THE UNRIGHTEOUS, OR IT IS REFERRING TO THE AGENT OF THE MOST HIGH, WHOSE JOB IT IS TO OPPOSE US IN THIS LIFE, TO BRING US PAIN AND SORROW AND CHALLENGE, AND SUFFERING AND EVIL. IN THIS INSTANCE IT IS EQUALLY POSSIBLE FOR EITHER INTERPRETATION, BUT DEFINITELY NOT A GUARANTEE THAT IT IS A REFERENCE TO THE DEVIL, NOR IS IT THE MYTHICAL RULER OF THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS REBELLING AGAINST HEAVEN.

ANOTHER SUCH PASSAGE THAT COULD BE PROBLEMATIC WHEN WE MISINTERPRET THE TERM SATAN IS THE REFERENCES TO THE "SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN" IN THE REVELATION. MUCH IDEOLOGY HAS BEEN MADE ABOUT THIS OVER THIS CENTURIES, MOST OF WHICH WAS ANTI-SEMITIC, ASSOCIATING THE CONCEPT OF THE SYNAGOGUE WITH SATAN MEANING THE DEVIL. IN MODERN TIMES MANY DENOMINATIONS ASSOCIATE THE NOTION THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN SYNAGOGUES, RATHER THAN ALL OF THEM, WHICH WERE SYNAGOGUES OF SATAN MEANING THE DEVIL. WHEN WE SIMPLY RETURN TO A RIGHT READING OF HISTORY, WE FIND THAT IN FACT, IN SUCH A PASSAGE, SATAN IS SIMPLY A COMMON TERM OF ADVERSARY. IN OTHER WORDS IN THE TIME, WHEN THE FOLLOWERS OF THE WAY WERE BEING EXPELLED FROM THE SYNAGOGUES EVERYWHERE THE

SYNAGOGUES WERE BECOMING PLACES, SET AGAINST AND OPPOSED TO (ADVERSARIES OF) THE RIGHTEOUS RATHER THAN PLACES THAT WORSHIPED THE DEVIL.

THERE ARE MANY SUCH PASSAGES THAT CAN BE MISINTERPRETED BASED OFF OF OUR MISREAD OF THE TERM SATAN AS A NAME, INSTEAD OF A COMMON TERMINOLOGY FOR ADVERSARY. BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF OUR LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROPER USAGE OF SUCH THINGS, WE ARE IN DANGER OF MISREADING THE MEANING OF OTHERS WHEN THEY REFER TO SATAN OR LUCIFER. WHETHER WE AGREE WITH THESE PEOPLE ON THEIR THEOLOGY OR NOT, IT IS IMMATERIAL. BUT IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE NOT MISUNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS WE DISAGREE ABOUT. FOR EXAMPLE, THE JEWS TEACH THAT SATAN GAVE JACOB THE NAME ISRAEL. THEY SAY THAT SATAN WAS THE ONE WRESTLING WITH JACOB... AND WE ARE INSTANTLY AGHAST AT THAT. WHY WOULD THE DEVIL BE THE ONE TO GIVE A NAME TO ISRAEL? AND WHY WOULD THEY ACCEPT IT?... EXCEPT THAT IS NOT THE MEANING THE JEWS GIVE TO THIS PASSAGE. THEY SAID THAT SATAN GAVE THEM THEIR NAME. THEY SAY THAT THEIR ANCESTOR WRESTLED WITH SATAN. WE ARE THE ONES WHO INFERRED THAT THIS IS REFERRING TO THE DEVIL, BUT THEY NEVER DID. AND IN FACT, THEY ARE THE ONES APPLYING THE TERMINOLOGY PROPERLY. WHETHER THE THE BEING THAT WRESTLED WITH JACOB WAS ONE, WE CALL AN ANGEL OR THE MESSIAH, OR SOMETHING ELSE OR SOMEONE ELSE, HE WAS THE ADVERSARY OF JACOB IN THAT PASSAGE, AND THUS HE WAS SATAN TO HIM. NOT THE DEVIL. JUST THE PROPER TERM FOR AN ADVERSARY.

OR WE COULD TAKE SOMETHING MORE RECENT. WE ARE NOT HERE TO DEFEND ANY PARTICULAR ORGANIZATION, BUT THE FREEMASONS GET A BAD WRAP FOR MISQUOTES BY SCOTCH RITE, FOUNDER ALBERT PIKE, WHO SEEMS TO SAY THAT THEY WORSHIP LUCIFER. THIS AND OTHER THINGS LEAD MANY PEOPLE TO SAY THAT FREEMASONS ARE SATANIC. MAYBE THEY ARE IN THE SENSE OF THOSE WHO WORSHIP THE DEVIL. MAYBE THEY ARE IN THE SENSE THAT THEY ARE ADVERSARIAL. OR

MAYBE THEY ARE NOT SATANIC AT ALL. THAT IS IMMATERIAL TO THIS MATTER. BUT THIS DOES SHOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE MISUNDERSTAND THE MEANINGS OF WORDS AND WE ARE ENCOUNTERING THOSE WHO DO KNOW THE MEANINGS. WHEN WE HEAR THE WORD LUCIFER, WE ARE CONSTANTLY TRAINED TO IMAGINE THIS IS A REFERENCE TO THE DEVIL. BUT ONE WHO KNOWS THAT HIS NAME WAS NEVER LUCIFER, AND THAT LUCIFER MEANS LIGHT BRINGER OR MORNINGSTAR, IF WE FIND SUCH A ONE SAYING, THEY WORSHIP LUCIFER, WE SHOULD BE CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT THEY MAY BE SPEAKING OF THE MESSIAH, AND NOT THE DEVIL, SINCE THE MESSIAH IS THE REAL LIGHT BRINGER, AND THE TRUE MORNINGSTAR, ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE, AND THE DEVIL NEVER HAS BEEN, AND NEVER WILL BE.

BEEN NOTHING IS AS SIMPLE AS WE'VE BEEN TRAINED TO BELIEVE. WE HAVE BEEN CONDITIONS BY CHRISTIAN TRADITION TO UNDERSTAND GOOD AND EVIL, IN A DICHOTOMOUS WAY. AND WE HAVE TRAINED TO SEE GOOD AND EVIL IN THE GRECO-ROMAN AND ANGLO-SAXON PERSPECTIVE. WE HAVE BEEN TAUGHT TO SEE GOOD AND EVIL AS BOTH BEING SUBSTANTIVE. BUT IN TRUTH, GOOD IS THE ONLY SUBSTANCE, WHILE EVIL IS OTHERWISE.

GOOD IS IN FACT, THE ONLY REAL THING. THE ONLY TRUTH. THE ONLY LIFE. THE ONLY WAY. PEOPLE LOVE TO ASK "HOW COULD A GOOD CREATOR MAKE EVIL?" A QUESTION DEMONSTRATING A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE SUBJECT ITSELF. SUCH A COMPLAINT ASSUMES THAT EVIL IS ALWAYS A SUBSTANCE. WE HAVE A WORD FOR IT, BUT THAT DOES NOT MAKE IT AN ACTUAL THING. DOES THAT MEAN THAT NOTHING IS EVIL?. NO. IT SIMPLY MEANS WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE MATTERS WE FIND SO SIMPLE ARE QUITE COMPLEX IN REALITY. FOR EXAMPLE WE REFER TO DEATH, DARKNESS, AND COLD AS THINGS. WE HAVE NAMES FOR THEM, AND WE REFER TO THEM AS IF THEY ARE SUBSTANTIVE. BUT THEY ARE NOT. EACH OF THESE CONCEPTS ARE OUR WAYS OF DESCRIBING AN ABSENCE RATHER THAN A SUBSTANCE. THE HUMAN MIND CANNOT COMPREHEND THE NEGATIVE.... YET BECAUSE IT IMPACTS US SO MUCH IN SO MANY DIFFERENT WAYS, WE NEED TERMS TO REFER TO IT WHEN NOTHING IS THERE. WE CALL IT EMPTY. WE CALL IT VACANT. WE CALL IT VOID. AND WE UNDERSTAND THESE AS TERMS TO DESCRIBE THE LACK OF MATTER OCCUPYING THE SPACE REFERRED TO. BUT WHEN IT COMES TO THINGS, LIKE DEATH, DARK, COLD... OR EVEN EVIL, WE TEND TO FORGET THAT WE ARE SPEAKING ABOUT THE SAME SORT OF THING... OR RATHER NON-THING. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS DEATH. YES, PLANTS AND ANIMALS AND PEOPLE DO DIE. BUT DEATH IS

NOT A THING IN ITSELF. DEATH IS BUT THE CESSATION OF LIFE. NOR IS DARKNESS A THING IN AND OF ITSELF. DARKNESS IS, IN FACT ONLY THE ABSENCE OF LIGHT. SO ALSO WITH COLD. COLD IS NOT A THING NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE REFER TO IT IN OUR SPEECH PATTERNS. IT IS SIMPLY THE ABSENCE OF HEAT. THEORETICALLY LIFE AND LIGHT AND HEAT CAN INCREASE EXPONENTIALLY ETERNALLY. BUT THE TOTAL REMOVAL OF ALL LIFE IS TRUE DEATH. THE COMPLETE REMOVAL OF ALL LIGHT IS CALLED PERFECT DARK. AND THE ENTIRE REMOVAL OF ALL HEAT IS REFERRED TO AS ABSOLUTE ZERO. IT IS POSSIBLE TO REMOVE ALL OF THE SUBSTANCE TO A CERTAIN POINT WHERE THERE IS NO MORE. BUT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE THEREAFTER. WHY? BECAUSE THERE IS NO MORE SUBSTANCE TO BE REMOVED. DEATH, DARKNESS, AND COLD ARE ALL SIMPLY TERMS TO DESCRIBE NO MORE LIFE, LIGHT, AND HEAT.... THE SAME AS SO SO OFTEN WITH EVIL. WE SPEAK OF EVIL, AS IF IT WERE ALWAYS A THING IN AND OF ITSELF BUT EVIL IS, IN FACT, THE OPPOSITE OF GOOD. NOT AS AN OPPOSING FORCE. NOT AS A SUBSTANTIVE THING. NOT AS AN OBJECT, AN ENTITY OR A KINGDOM. EVIL IS THE ABSENCE OF GOOD. IT IS THE ABSENCE OF SUBSTANCE. THE SUBSTANCE BEING ALL THAT IS HOLY, RIGHTEOUS, AND TRUE.

WHEN WE CHOOSE A LIE OVER THE TRUTH, WE CHOOSE TO REMOVE SOME OF THE SUBSTANCE IN FAVOR OF SOME OF THE ABSENCE. WHEN WE CHOOSE THE COMMON OVER THE HOLY AND THE WICKED OVER THE RIGHTEOUS, WE ARE CHOOSING THE ABSENCE OVER THE SUBSTANCE. WHEN WE CHOOSE EVIL OVER GOOD WE ARE CHOOSING THE ABSENCE OVER THE SUBSTANCE. WE ARE NOT NECESSARILY CHOOSING BETWEEN A NEGATIVE SUBSTANCE, AND A POSITIVE SUBSTANCE.

AND YET THE FULL TRUTH IS EVEN MORE COMPLEX THAN THIS, BECAUSE IN ANOTHER MANNER OF SPEAKING, GOOD AND EVIL ARE UNDERSTOOD BIBLICALLY AS BEING THE PART THAT WE KEEP, AND THE PART THAT WE THROW AWAY. GOOD BEING THE PART, THAT WE KEEP AND EVIL BEING THE PART THAT WE THROW AWAY. THE PART OF THE SUBSTANCE WE KEEP IS THE FRUIT AND THE PART WE THROW AWAY IS THE PEEL OR THE RIND OR THE SHELL. FOR THIS REASON GOOD AND EVIL ARE EVEN MORE COMPLICATED BECAUSE THEY ARE OFTEN A MATTER OF CONDITION OR CIRCUMSTANCE. IF WE LOOK AT AN ORANGE OR A BANANA OR AN EGG, WE REFER TO THEM AS ORANGE AND BANANA AND EGG... AND YET WHAT WE ARE SEEING WHEN WE CALL THESE "FRUIT" BY NAME IS NOT THE FOOD PART ITSELF BUT THE PEEL AND THE RIND AND THE SHELL. ONCE WE REMOVE THE PEEL AND THE RIND AND THE SHELL WHICH WE JUST SAW AND LABELED ORANGE OR BANANA OR EGG, WE THEN REFER TO THE SAME PART THAT WE ARE NOW THROWING AWAY AS PEEL OR RIND OR SHELL. AND NOW THAT WE HAVE REMOVED THE PEEL, THE RIND, AND THE SHELL, WE REFER TO THE THING AS THE ORANGE OR THE BANANA OR THE EGG. THIS IS MUCH THE SAME NATURE AS GOOD AND WITHOUT THE EVIL, THE GOOD WOULD NOT BE IDENTIFIABLE AS GOOD. WITHOUT THE EVIL, THE GOOD WOULD BECOME ROTTEN AND ITSELF EVIL. YES, WE REMOVE THE EVIL AND DISCARD IT BUT UNTIL WE REMOVE THAT EVIL, IT IS WHAT DISTINGUISHES GOOD FROM EVIL.



AND AS IF THE SUBJECT IS NOT COMPLICATED ENOUGH, AS WE KNOW, FULL WELL, WITH SUCH THINGS AS RINDS AND PEELS AND SHELLS WHICH ARE DISCARDED IN GENERAL, CAN BE REPURPOSED FOR GOOD IF A LITTLE EFFORT IS APPLIED. IN THE SAME WAY MANY THINGS THAT ARE NATURALLY EVIL MAY BE ALTERED OR REPAIRED TO BE MADE INTO SOMETHING GOOD.

THIS IS WHY THE CHURCH TAUGHT US THAT GOOD IS ONE THING AND BAD IS ANOTHER. ALWAYS SIMPLE AND NEVER COMPLICATED. BOTH ARE SUBSTANCE AND BOTH ARE OPPOSITES. PERIOD. THE END. DON'T ASK ANY QUESTIONS. IT IS SIMPLE. IT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND...AND AS WITH SO MANY THINGS WE WERE CONDITIONED TO BELIEVE, IT IS AN ABSOLUTE LIE.

OUR CHRISTIAN TRAINING HAS OVERSIMPLIFIED SO MANY THINGS THAT OUGHT TO REMAIN COMPLEX AND OFTEN AMBIGUOUS. FEW ASPECTS OF REALITY ARE BLACK-AND-WHITE, AND THE MORE WE DELVE INTO THE DEEPER MATTERS OF REALITY, PARTICULARLY THE SPIRITUAL, THE MORE SHADES OF GRAY ARE REVEALED. SATAN IS NOT WHAT WE THOUGHT HE WAS. GOOD AND EVIL ARE NOT WHAT WE THOUGHT THEY WERE. ANGELS AND DEMONS. HEAVEN AND HELL.... ALL OUR THEOLOGIES ARE MYTHOLOGIES MANUFACTURED OVER CENTURIES. AS OUR FAITH PROGRESSED FROM HEBREW TO GREEK, AND FROM GREEK INTO LATIN, AND FROM LATIN INTO ENGLISH SO TOO DID OUR UNDERSTANDING MORPH. WE ADDED SOME ELEMENTS AND REMOVED OTHERS. WE MANIPULATED AND MOLDED OUR RELIGION INTO A RELATABLE FORM... BUT HOW FAR IT IS FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE SCRIPTURES.

WE LIKE TO THINK THAT OUR BIBLE IS THE BASIS OF OUR BELIEFS, BUT IN FACT MUCH OF THE DETAILS HAVE BEEN DRAFTED FROM EXTRA BIBLICAL WORKS, DRAWN IN FROM FOREIGN MYTHOLOGIES, AND DRAWN UP FROM MEDIEVAL DRAMAS. IS IT A COINCIDENCE THAT WE BELIEVE THE “BAD PLACE” IS CALLED “HELL” WHEN THAT JUST SO HAPPENED TO BE THE NAME OF THE REALM OF DISHONORABLE DEAD IN NORSE MYTHOLOGY AND WAS NEVER THE BIBLICAL NAME OF THE “BAD PLACE” UNTIL CONVERTS FROM THE NORSEMAN CAME INTO THE CHURCH? WHY DOES SO MUCH OF OUR OWN MYTHOLOGY SURROUNDING THE DEVIL AND HIS DOMAIN MATCH EXACTLY THAT OF THE OLD MITHRAIC RELIGION? IN FACT, IT IS NOT COINCIDENCE NOR IS IT HAPPENSTANCE BUT RATHER PERSISTENCE ON THE PART OF THE ANCIENT CLERICS, WHO WERE THE KEEPERS OF THE FAITH IN TIMES PAST. AS IT IS THE NATURE OF MAN TO CLING TO BELIEF OF CREED AND CLAN, CONVERTS TO CHRISTIANITY IN THE EARLY CENTURIES COULD NOT BE EASILY PERSUADED AWAY FROM PRACTICED ANCESTRAL HABIT. THEREFORE IT BECAME THE HABIT OF THE CHRISTIAN BISHOPS TO BAPTIZE HEATHEN PRACTICE, TO SANCTIFY PAGAN HOLY SITES, AND TO INCORPORATE ELEMENTS OF OTHER RELIGIONS INTO THEOLOGICAL EXPLANATIONS. SOME OF THESE ALTERATIONS WERE UNDOUBTEDLY WELL INTENTIONED, WHILE OTHERS WERE COMPROMISES MADE TO CORRUPT THE FAITH ON PURPOSE, BUT WHATEVER THE REASON, THE RESULT WAS RUINOUS. AND TODAY WE ARE LEFT WITH THE REMAINS OF THOSE WRONG CHOICES OF THE OLD CHURCH. WHAT WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM OUR FATHERS AND FROM THEIRS WAS NOT “THE FAITH ONCE FOR ALL GIVEN TO THE SAINTS” BUT WAS INSTEAD A BASTARDIZED ENGLISH VERSION OF A LATIN VERSION OF A GREEK VERSION OF A HEBREW STORY... MINUS MOST OF THE HEBRAIC ELEMENTS TO THE TALE.

WHEN WE READ IN THE ACTUAL SCRIPTURES, WE ARE TOLD OF A PLACE CALLED SHEOL WHICH IS SIMPLY DEFINED AS THE GRAVE. NO EXPLANATION IS GIVEN TO DESCRIBE IT, AND WE HAVE NO TRUE UNDERSTANDING OF ITS NATURE. AND YET THE TRANSLATORS RENDER THIS FROM GENESIS TO MALACHI OVER AND OVER AS “HELL”. FROM MATTHEW TO THE REVELATION, WE ARE TOLD OF A PLACE CALLED GEHENNA WHICH IS THE NAME OF THE VALLEY OUTSIDE OF JERUSALEM, YET THE LYING PEN OF THE SCRIBES HAS GIVEN US “HELL” AS A TRANSLATION NOT ONLY OF SHEOL BUT OF WHAT THE BIBLE CALLS GEHENNA ASWELL. HOW DID WE GET FROM SHEOL AND GEHENNA TO HELL? ONE COMPROMISE AT A TIME.

THE LATIN VERSION OF THE BIBLE WAS TRANSLATED FROM THE GREEK AND SINCE GEHENNA WAS MENTIONED IN ASSOCIATION WITH FIRE, THE TRANSLATORS RENDERED GEHENNA AS INFERNO.... LATER, WHEN TRANSLATING INTO ENGLISH, INSTEAD OF WORKING OFF THE ORIGINAL HEBREW AND GREEK, THE SCRIBES EXTRAPOLATED OFF OF THE LATIN INFERNO, AND IT’S ASSOCIATION WITH FIRE, ATTEMPTING TO REPLACE IT WITH A TERM FAMILIAR TO ANGLO -SAXONS. LACKING UNDERSTANDING OF THE LOCAL MYTHOLOGY OF THE LAND THE TRANSLATORS MISTOOK HELLHEIM, THE SHADOWY REALM OF THE DISHONORABLE DEAD, CONFUSING IT FOR MUSPELHEIM, THE REALM OF FIRE, AND THEREFORE TAUGHT PEOPLE THAT THE DAMNED ARE CONDEMNED TO ETERNITY IN HELL.

SO WHAT ARE WE TO DO WITH ALL THIS INFORMATION? SHOULD WE THROW OUT OUR ENTIRE RELIGION BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN RUINED BY ANCIENT THEOLOGIAN AND THEIR CROOKED WAYS? WE SEE THAT THE DEVIL WAS NEVER LUCIFER. THERE WAS NEVER YET A WAR IN HEAVEN AT WHICH TIME SATAN TRIED TO OVERTHROW THE CREATOR AND LOST. (ACCORDING TO THE REVELATION, THERE YET WILL BE A WAR TO THROW OUT THE DEVIL FROM HEAVEN, BUT NOT BECAUSE HE IS TRYING TO CONQUER THE PLACE. THAT WAR IS SPOKEN OF IN THE FUTURE PROPHECY OF THE REVELATION, AS BEING A WAR TO OUST THE ADVERSARY FROM BEING ABLE TO ACCUSE THE RIGHTEOUS BEFORE THE MOST HIGH AND A WAR TO THROW HIM DOWN TO THE EARTH TO WORK HIS ULTIMATE EVIL AGAINST THE NATIONS.) WHEN WE LEARN THAT HELL IS NOT EVEN AN ORIGINAL PART OF OUR RELIGION, THAT ANGELS ARE NOT ANGELS AND DEMONS ARE NOT DEMONS, THAT GOOD AND EVIL ARE NOT AS WE BELIEVED THEM TO BE, WHAT THEN ARE WE TO MAKE OF ALL OUR FAITH? WHAT WE MUST MAKE IS AN ESCAPE. NOT FROM TRUE FAITH IN THAT OLD TIME RELIGION, BUT WE ARE ESCAPING FROM THE RUIN OF ALL THAT TRUTH. WE ARE ESCAPING FROM THE EXTRA THAT WAS ADDED AFTER. WE ARE ESCAPING FROM THE EMENDATIONS OF THE SCRIBES. OUR ESCAPE MUST BE MADE FROM THE ADOPTIONS, THE AMALGAMATIONS, THE ABSORPTIONS, AND ABORTIONS. AN ESCAPE FROM THESE AND A RETURN TO THE SCRIPTURES. WE MUST UNLEARN ERROR AND LEARN TRUTH. WE MUST CHOOSE TRUTH OVER TRADITION.