

**GIMME DAT END TIMES RELIGION – PART II**

**“And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” (2Thess 2:11-12)**

*In order to understand the coming End Times religion of the Antichrist, we must first get a handle on the world's first and on-going attempt to establish a human-generated religion. After all Alice Bailey, prophetess of the New Age, clearly teaches that the coming of the New Age 'Christ' (Antichrist), will be followed by the “definite restoration of the Mysteries” that age-old religion founded near the dawn of civilization itself.<sup>1</sup> It's all related. Man's End Times rebellion has its roots in all those ancient forms of Satanic worship that have permeated societies from Egypt and Babylon to the present.*

**FOUNDATIONS**

The history of man made religion can be traced back to a man named Nimrod. He first shows up in Genesis 10:8-9, where we are told **“Cush was the father of Nimrod, who grew to be a mighty warrior on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD”**. We can actually trace it back even farther. Nimrod was the great grandson of Noah through Noah's son Ham.<sup>2</sup> He built several cities in Babylonia, (including Babylon), and also founded more cities in Assyria, including Nineveh. His existence is testified to by the fact that besides the Bible he shows up in the ancient literature of the Sumerians, Babylonians, Assyrians, and Hittites; being the central figure in the Epic of Gilgamesh. He is even written of by the Jewish-Roman historian, Flavius Josephus.<sup>3</sup>

But who was this man? Now the word Nimrod, may not be a name at all but rather an appellation derived from his chief characteristic. The root word in the ancient Hebrew means “rebel”, and rebel he was. Extra-Biblical literature tells us that he was born of the mixed parentage of ‘the gods’ and men. Genesis 6 tells us of these unnatural unions that produced **“giants on the earth in those days, [before the flood] and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown”**. (Genesis 6:4) Many scholars believe that these “sons of God” refer to nothing less than the Fallen Angels who followed Lucifer when he rebelled against God. More on that later. And in addition, get this, there is a Masonic connection. The Masons can trace their roots to the globe's first master builder. Mackey's History of Freemasonry names “Nimrod as one of the founders of Masonry”.<sup>4</sup>

Now Nimrod became the founder of empires, (Babylon & Nineveh), the builder of the tower of Babel, (an act of rebellion against God), and the dictator of the known world. His was an empire that exercised both civil and religious control. He introduced the black arts including “astrology, occultism and devil worship”. He married a beautiful woman named Semiramis, and together they established a religion based on the worship of themselves, - and eventually their son. It was a religion full of mystery and ceremony and sacred secret knowledge. As a unifying centerpiece, he began to build a tower that was to house an astrological / astronomical observatory at its' peak. So when God scattered the people after their attempt to build the Tower of Babel, they took aspects of their Babylonian Mystery Religion with them to the far ends of the earth.<sup>5</sup> What they took with them was a strange amalgam of both the dimly remembered “revelations of God” as well as the Devil & Nimrod worshiping cultic ideas originating in Babylon. This system is known as ‘The Babylonian Mystery Religion’.<sup>6</sup> As we will see later, this manifested itself in some very interesting ways.

Just for the record: While Semiramis was busy developing her following, Nimrod was gathering one of his own, - again transferring from culture to culture with only the name changing. In Israel and the surrounding nations such as

Phoenicia, Syria and Caanan; - the Babylonian god named Bel became the more well known and Biblically condemned Baal. (It is from here that we get Satan's appellation Beelzebub, or Lord of the Flies.)<sup>7</sup>

You see, the people apparently bought into this whole notion of worshiping Nimrod, Semiramis and her son, Tammuz. Banking on the remembered promises of God later recorded in Genesis 3:15; - that salvation for the human race would come from 'the seed of the woman'; - she presented her son as the fulfillment of that prophecy. So Nimrod and Semiramis developed what you might call a 'shadow religion' or imitation of God's real plan, - as best they could. Tammuz would play the role of the world's savior. Semiramis, desired worship for herself and was presented as the 'mother of this savior'. She became the only way to God and the "Queen of Heaven".<sup>8 9</sup> Through their contacts with other cultures in the region, even the Hebrews picked up the worship of this "Queen of Heaven". Jeremiah 7:18 quotes God saying: **"The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger"**. Chapter 44 of Jeremiah details how the Israelites persisted in their rebellion by continuing this pagan worship. They subsequently lost the favor and protection of God for a season for this sin.

But it was not just the Israelites that were involved in this abomination. Statues began appearing all around the world depicting the likeness of the Queen of Heaven, all in the form of a mother holding an infant child. The worship of mother and child spread throughout the ancient world, taking on local names. In Egypt, mother and son were Isis and Horus or Osiris. In parts of India it was Devka and Krishna. The Greeks called the mother figure Ceres or Irene or Aphrodite and Eros. Rome gave us Venus. Even Germany and Scandinavia had their versions. The cult spread as far as Japan and China where the mother Shing Moo was portrayed holding her child with a halo of light around her.<sup>10</sup>  
*Now where have I seen that before?*

What's even more interesting is the whole look of the thing. This Mystery Religion introduced practices that while innovative at the time, were adapted successively by the various adopting cultures. One of the central feasts of this religious system was based on the 'resurrection' of Semiramis' son, Tammuz. The story goes that he was killed by a wild boar and after 40 days raised from the dead. Temple virgins would fast those 40 days each year, in mourning over the dead son. After the days of fasting came the feast of Ishtar, (from whence we get our name Easer), which is just another name for Semiramis, at which time colored eggs as a sign of fertility became part of the celebration: Son and mother were both being celebrated: He as savior and she as Co-Mediatrix between God and man.<sup>11</sup>

Here are some other practices and characteristics of this Mystery Religion:

- The son, Tammuz was the 'savior of the world'.
- Semiramis was the "Queen of Heaven".
- Salvation came by following certain ceremonial rituals or sacraments.<sup>12</sup>
- A period of purging followed death, 'cleaning' one of his remaining sins. Instead of entering paradise, the dead person would at first reside in an intermediate place where they awaited the release of their soul.
- To release the soul from this bondage, prayers for the dead were instituted as well as a system that credited donations to the Babylonian priesthood to the account of the imprisoned dead person.<sup>13</sup>
- An order of virgins were dedicated to Semiramis alone. They wore long robes and lived in community.<sup>14</sup> These vestal virgins were known as "Daughters of Nimrod", and according to one source they got their name from the Chaldean word "NUN".<sup>15</sup>
- A black robed celibate priesthood was developed. They were marked by the 'clerical tonsure' or the shaving of the middle of the top of the head bald, leaving the edges to grow in a circle in honor of the Sun God. In the Old Testament this became a mark of the priesthood of Baal and was forbidden in Leviticus 19:27 & 21:5.<sup>16 17</sup>

In some form or another, this strange hybrid religion manifested itself throughout the ancient world. It was headed by a supreme High Priest who took the title Pontifex Maximus, (bridge maker), - and who served as the gate or bridge

between life on earth and the afterlife. This Pontiff remained in Babylon, - a kind of head of the amalgamated pagan religions, - through the life of the Babylonian and Medo-Persian Empires when the seat of power moved to Pergamos, in present day Turkey. It remained there officially until 133 BC when the leadership of this “Babylonian Priesthood” moved to Rome. Pergamos, however remained a hotbed of Satanic / pagan activity. Jesus Himself acknowledged this fact in his letter to the Church at Pergamos found in Revelation 2. In Revelation 2:13, He instructs John to write “**I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is**”, and later refers to the city as “**where Satan dwells**”.

By 63 BC the civil and religious power had merged once again, - just as in the days of Nimrod. It was in that year that Julius Caesar was made Supreme Pontiff of the Babylonian Order. From that point forward that religious office became the purview of the line of Roman Caesars until AD 376, when the Emperor Gratian refused it as an improper office to be held by a Christian. Two years later, Damas, the Bishop of the Church at Rome was prevailed upon to accept the office. Thus in the words of Clarence Larkin, author of *Dispensational Truth*: “So in AD 378, the Head of the ‘Babylonian Order’ became the Ruler of the ‘Roman Church’”.<sup>18</sup> And thus was laid the foundation for the infiltration of the Church and the Great Apostasy of the Last Days.

### **TEHRAN’S PLAY**

If you want proof that Iran is the main player behind the entire Middle East terror / insurgency, you need only look at the words of Hassan Nasrallah;- head of the Hezbollah branch in Lebanon, that went to war against the Israeli’s last summer. Speaking on Lebanese national TV, Nasrallah openly made the connection between the four of the most major terror or terror-sponsoring entities. The Lebanese Army has been trying to establish government control in Lebanon. That means balancing the violently opposing factions in that country. In doing so they have launched an attack against the al-Qaeda sponsored terrorists in the Nahr al-Bared refugee camp, occupied primarily by Palestinians. Nasrallah, of course, opposes this action, expressly warning government forces not to attack the refugee camp. He openly stated: “The Iranian-Syrian-Hizballah alliance should support the Sunni group fighting in the Lebanese Palestinian camp, not oppose it”. And there in their own words is the lot of them; - Tehran, Damascus, Hezbollah, Sunni terrorists, al-Qaeda, and throw in the Palestinians for good measure. The terror connection is complete.<sup>19 20</sup>

That connection has become if anything more open in recent weeks. DEBKAFfile reports that Syrian sponsored insurgents have been reinforcing the camp led by Palestinian extremist Ahmed Jibril. [Think of what it must take to be labeled a *Palestinian* extremist!] As the Ein Hilwa Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon begins to percolate, both the US and Israel are reacting. Washington has decided to provide the Lebanese Army with modern weaponry in its cause and Israel has put the forces on its northern (Lebanese) border on alert for possible incursions and artillery fire.<sup>21</sup> Lebanese government forces face a tough battle. Learning from their cousins in Hezbollah, the Islamist insurgents have spent the last several months digging underground bunkers in the camp.<sup>22</sup>

We need couple the actions in Lebanon with the continued violence in other parts of the region to see the connective totality of the situation. Damascus continues to make noise about seizing the Golan. The newly modernized forces of Hamas are launching rocket attacks against Israeli towns and civilians. Israel conducts its own sporadic reaction in the Palestinian held territories. A spokesman for the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, associated with the ‘*moderate*’ Palestinian President Abbas, has bragged that they have in place a cell of Israeli residents in place in the area of Jerusalem who are bent on launching shooting and suicide bombings “in the coming days and weeks”. To lend credibility to the claim, two Israeli-Arabs were just arrested in a shooting attack against Israeli police in East Jerusalem.<sup>23</sup> Evidence of Iranian and Syrian involvement in the Iraqi violence mounts. And feeding it all is the Iranian nuclear issue. Iran is preventing effective inspections by the UN. That refusal, - in the words of International Atomic Energy Head, Mohamed ElBaradei, - has the world “heading toward confrontation”.<sup>24</sup>

President Bush has consistently confronted Tehran in order to check terrorist Iranian ambitions. The UK's Telegraph is reporting that Bush has authorized the use of "black ops" aimed at toppling the regime. Propaganda, disinformation, and the manipulation of currency and international financial transactions are all on the table. According to security officials, the US has managed to engineer the sale of defective parts to Iran for use in its uranium enrichment program. In addition they will support democratic forces in the country already committed to regime change.<sup>25</sup>

Through it all, Tehran remains the senior player in the rising violence; - putting its forces in place for an assault against Israel. Iranian President Ahmadinejad recently warned that in the next war "the ocean of nations of the region will get angry and will cut the root of the Zionist regime from its stem".<sup>26</sup> A successful attack there would pay a quadruple dividend: It would solve the 'Jewish problem', restore Israel / Palestine to the forces of Islam, shatter the lynchpin of the American superpower in the region and raise Iran to a position of dominance, - both in the region and all of Islam. It may even provide just enough chaos to bring about the Shiite dream of bringing about the return of the Madhi.

## **SLIPPING TOWARD MAGOG**

Turkey is a US ally, a member of NATO, an erstwhile candidate for EU membership, and as such a part of the Western Alliance. All of that may be slipping away. Through their electoral process, the Turks may soon take their place among the Islamist nations. She has been labeled persona-non-grata for EU membership and a few years ago, she began to break her ties with the US when she refused to allow American forces to operate from Turkish bases during the invasion of Iraq. Ezekiel 38 is clear that Turkey will be an integral part of the anti-Israeli Gog / Magog alliance that invades Israel during the last days. And now there are signs that we may be farther down that road than previously thought.

Turkey borders on the Kurdish area of northern Iraq. The Kurds there long opposed Saddam's Iraqi regime. In fact, Saddam used WMD's, (poison gas), against them in the 1980's. They would like to see an independent Kurdistan. The Turks have a Kurdish population of their own with many of the same aspirations. But the Iraqi Kurds are American allies. And therein lies the rub. The independence minded Kurdistan Workers Party, (PKK), has been active in the use of violence to unite the border-divided wings of the Kurdish population. The PKK are being blamed for a recent suicide bombing in Ankara. In another incident, 6 Turkish soldiers were killed by a PKK landmine near the border. Complicating matters even more is the fact that Washington and the EU both view the PKK as a terrorist organization.

With all that trouble brewing, tens of thousands of Turkish troops and hundreds of tanks have massed at the border with Iraqi Kurdistan. Now the Turks have threatened a limited invasion of the Kurdish territory, under the ostensible control of US forces, - and against the will of Washington. Alarmed, the Americans have been monitoring troop movements using planes and helicopters. Then last week, 4 US planes inadvertently flew over Turkish airspace. And so we have the sight of allies; - America and Turkey, - marshalling armed forces that neither intend to use against each other, - to accomplish divergent ends; - Washington to attain stability in the region and Ankara to protect the status-quo, - or possibly even gain control of any Kurdish energy resources. It's all just one more step toward the Magog Alliance. [The Bible tells us that Turkey is to be a key part of that invading force. Several of the countries mentioned in Ezekiel 38 as uniting for the last days invasion of Israel are located in modern day Turkey. These include: Magog itself, which is directly linked to the Scythians who lived in Anatolia, or Asia Minor, - a part of Turkey.<sup>27 28</sup> In addition, the peoples Ezekiel refers to as Meshech, Tubal, Gomer and Beth-Togarmah are currently called Mushki, Tabal, Gimaraya, Tegerama, and are identified as living in central Turkey.<sup>29</sup>]

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- <sup>1</sup> Alice Bailey, *The Externalization of the Hierarchy*, 1957, pg 570
- <sup>2</sup> Dr David P Livingston, *Nimrod, Associates for Bible Research*
- <sup>3</sup> See Flavius Josephus, *Antiquities* 1:4:2
- <sup>4</sup> Albert Mackey, *History of Freemasonry*, pg 601
- <sup>5</sup> *Babylon Mystery Religion*, Petersburg Gospel Center
- <sup>6</sup> *Nimrod, Mars and the Marduk Connection*, Bryce Self, (onesimus@ix.netcom.com) Edited November 1985 by Lambert Dolphin
- <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>8</sup> Woodrow Kroll, from a sermon entitled *The History of False Revelation, Back to the Bible*, broadcast on WDCX , Buffalo, NY, 2006
- <sup>9</sup> *Babylon Mystery Religion*, Petersburg Gospel Center
- <sup>10</sup> This admission is presented by an official website of the Bahai Faith, arguing in short that all paths to God are ultimately the same. *The Bahai's Under the Provisions of the Covenant. The article entitled : Worship of Semiramis.*
- <sup>11</sup> *Babylon Mystery Religion*, Petersburg Gospel Center
- <sup>12</sup> Woodrow Kroll, from a sermon entitled *The History of False Revelation, Back to the Bible*, broadcast on WDCX , Buffalo, NY, 2006
- <sup>13</sup> Alexander Hislop, *The Two Babylons*, pg 169
- <sup>14</sup> Woodrow Kroll, from a sermon entitled *The History of False Revelation, Back to the Bible*, broadcast on WDCX , Buffalo, NY, 2006
- <sup>15</sup> Alexander Hislop, *The Two Babylons*, pg 222
- <sup>16</sup> Alexander Hislop, *The Two Babylons*, pg 222
- <sup>17</sup> *Fausset's Bible Encyclopedia*, pg 291 as quoted by *Babylon Mystery Religion*, Petersburg Gospel Center
- <sup>18</sup> Clarence Larkin, *Dispensational Truth*, pg 140. I was led to this reference by *Babylon Mystery Religion*, Petersburg Gospel Center
- <sup>19</sup> *Hezbollah head warns Lebanon*, May 26, 2007
- <sup>20</sup> *Hezbollah to Lebanese army: Stay out of refugee camp*, CNN, May 25, 2007
- <sup>21</sup> *US to airlift ammunition and advanced weapons to Lebanon...*, DEBKAFfile, May 25, 2007
- <sup>22</sup> *Lebanon gunmen dig in for 'two-year battle'*, London Telegraph, May 27, 2007
- <sup>23</sup> Aaron Klein, *Militant leader claims Israeli residents recruited to carry out bombings*, World Net Daily, May 28, 2007
- <sup>24</sup> Yaakov Lappin, *'World heading toward Iran confrontation'*, Y-Net News, :May 24, 2007
- <sup>25</sup> *Bush sanctions 'black ops' against Iran*, Telegraph, May 28, 2007
- <sup>26</sup> *Iranian President Warns Israel Against Attacking Israel*, FOX News, AP, May 24, 2007
- <sup>27</sup> *Walid Shoebat, Islam And The Final Beast*
- <sup>28</sup> Mark Hitchcock, *The Coming Islamic Invasin of Israel*, 2002, pg 31
- <sup>29</sup> Martha Lucia, *The 40/70 Window*, Watchmen Network, Fall 1999