

# THE PATHFINDER

#303.19

## FROM WHERE DID ALL THE GODS COME?

Part 1

From antiquity people of every nation and culture had their gods. Being humans, they were intelligent enough to know that there had to be a higher power than themselves, especially when they observed the sun, the moon, the earth and the weather. Therefore, being void of any sensing of the God who created those powers, they were left to their own creative imaginations.

The God of all creation revealed Himself and spoke to the first human beings that were created in His image and after His likeness. Yet, for the most part was silent after speaking to Adam and Eve after passing judgment upon them. He then spoke to their son, Cain, due to the murder of his brother, Abel. It was seventeen hundred years or so before He spoke again to anyone else, at least as far as we know.

It was Noah, Abraham, Jacob and, of course, the prophets to whom He then spoke. And finally, His first begotten Son, as well as following with the members of His body.

Prior to the written word, nomadic tribes worshiped things in

nature; such as the wind, the moon, stars, the sun, and the earth. Later on, the rest of people relied on the more educated thinkers to tell them what, or who, the gods were. Those gods took on the form of their makers, yet with much more power and super natural abilities.

For the Greeks and Romans two poets, Homer and Hesiod, are credited for most of their gods; of course, there were others, such as, Virgil, Plato, and Dante Alighieri. Homer created quite a number in "***The Odyssey.***" Around 700 BC, Hesiod wrote his ***Theogony***, which described the origins and genealogies of the gods as he had envisioned. It is also known as — "***Birth of the Gods.***"

One of his primary gods was ***Gaia*** and she was said to be the ancestral mother of all life: the primal ***Mother Earth goddess***. She was the mother of ***Uranus, the sky***, from whose incestual union with her son, bore the Titans who were parents of many of the Olympian gods and the Giants. From the union with Pontus (the sea), she bore the primordial sea gods.

Gaia was angered, for while giving birth, her son Uranus shoved their children back into her body (where they remained alive). She then asked her children, the Cyclopes and the Titans, to help with her revenge upon Uranus. The Titan, Cronos, agreed to do her bidding and attack his father. Gaia made a huge sickle out of flint and gave it to him with some explicit instructions.

When Uranus came to have sex with Gaia, he was met with a horrific surprise. Cronos who was inside Gaia's womb reached out with the sickle and attacked Uranus, or

specifically, that part of Uranus that was nearest at hand. Cronos cut off his father's genitals and threw them into the sea. From his blood were born several more monsters, the Giants and the Furies.

As Uranus's genitals fell into the water, the sea boiled and foamed which produced the goddess Aphrodite. Her name means "*gift of the sea foam.*" She floated around in the sea for a while, and then came to shore on the island of Cyprus, which is why she is often called the *Cyprian Aphrodite*.

It seems amazing that anyone could come up with such fantasies; but having been void of a revelation of the Living God, and living in a world full of superstitions, we suppose it was the best they could do at the time. Even two thousand years later in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, it was believed that mice were spontaneously generated in dirty clothing and a few grains of wheat, and maggots would do the same on raw meat that was left out for a week.

It is ironic that as late as the 19<sup>th</sup> century that although Charles Darwin avoided discussing the spontaneous generation of life in his book, *The Origin of Species*, other texts written by him, and of the correspondence he exchanged with friends and colleagues shows that he took for granted the possibility of *a natural emergence of the first life forms*. Darwin was convinced that "the intimate relation of Life with laws of chemical combination, and the universality of the two rendered *spontaneous generation* as not improbable." His thoughts in those days of spontaneous

generation and evolution were considered to be *theories*; but today they are believed and taught in schools as *irrefutable facts*.

One educator had this to say about those who disbelieve the *so called facts*: "It is absolutely safe to say that if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid or insane (or wicked, but I'd rather not consider that)." Richard Dawkins, British evolutionary biologist.

But not to digress, we will continue. By observing ancient history and following it to a small degree to our day, it is not strange that mythological gods were created by human beings, and then made physical representations of them while regarding the lifeless and unfeeling images as being very real, thinking, powerful entities worthy of receiving homage. We can read about this in the writings of Old Testament prophets; such as Amos, Micah, Nahum, and Isaiah.

Lifting up images as gods led others to do the same. The prophet's words tell us how other nations created their own gods that in reality were not gods. Such were simply the works of religious craftsmen. That which the prophets wrote about are historical records of how religion, even when it is a lie, can be a very real part of people's lives.

It was in the mythology of old that gods were created in the minds of men; but there may be some of this that strikes a little closer to home in our day of "*superior*" logic,

knowledge, and understanding.

We have seen that man can create his own gods, ever so lifeless as they are, but gods to him just the same. He can make physical forms from the templates of his imagination, and once they are made, he will worship the work of his hands, as we are told in *Isaiah 2:8*. "Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made."

One would believe that with such intelligence and increased knowledge, every soul would forsake such folly, but not so. For that matter, it seems that the folly is greatly increasing. From creeping, crawling, swimming and flying things of nature, even trees, grass and flowers are made to be gods, in some way or another.

For most, however, higher forms of life are revered and looked to as being their gods, their potential saviors from the evil of today's world. Some men, women, political parties and/or their leaders, religious organizations and/or their leaders are revered with expectations that they will save the day or perhaps bless them with worldly riches and the Elysian fields of happiness.

It is a mystery; yet very common, for people to trust more in manmade gods or self-serving men in government offices or churches whose foot is often upon their necks rather than looking to God's Son in their hearts. We cannot say this is the case for everyone; but we can certainly see that it happens on a large scale.

Let us pause for a moment and notice what a couple of biblical scholars said regarding *Jeremiah 16:20*:

"Shall a man make gods unto himself.... Can a man make his own gods? a poor, weak, mortal man? Can he make gods of gold, silver, brass, wood, or stone? Can he put deity into them? And when he has made images of these, can he be so stupid as to account them gods, and worship them? Can he be so sottish, and void of understanding, as to imagine that anything that is made by himself or any other, can be God?

"And there are no gods that are made by men; he only is the true God, that is the Maker and Creator

of all things; or there are no gods themselves that pretend to make them, and therefore how should they make gods? Can they give that which they have not, or impart deity to others which they have not themselves?" *Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible*.

"Shall a man make gods unto himself? - Can any be so silly, and so preposterously absurd? Yes, fallen man is capable of anything that is base, mean, vile, and wicked, till influenced and converted by the grace of Christ." *Clarke's Commentary on the Bible*.

We consider mankind over the past two thousand years, especially those of our own day, and we ask, has it been any different than with the ones that the prophet rebuked? Frankly, there has been very little or no difference at all, and it goes much deeper than religious ornaments, images adorning church buildings, or those setting silently on mantles and dressers in people's homes.

The ones we will notice are more intangible. They are idols in the minds of men. They are subtle and much more powerful than sticks, stones, gems, or men's bones lying in cathedral tombs, and they are no different than that which Eve did after the serpent beguiled her. Adam's creative mind, that of the man and woman, has been at work ever since in making their own image/imaginings in just about every phase of men's religions.

The *image* and *likeness* of God in which man was created

was *male* and *female*. With this completeness came the ability to create. No other creature was graced with this godlike attribute. There are a few animals that can use tools in a limited way to retrieve food or build dams, nests, dens, crude shelters, etc., but they are all lacking when it comes to possessing the ability to truly think analytically and create.

As far as we know, man alone can muse, formulate thought, generate and build in his mind something that has never been. He can then figure out how to bring it into physical expression. As God creates no snow flakes alike, man is similar with his creations. He can create thoughts and make things that have never been, and with no two being alike. He can create the invisible within himself and then make it visible. As there is no end to God and that which He creates, so it is with man. There is no end to him or that which he creates, whether for good or for evil, and he does very well with both. And please know, as it is with God who created the heavens, the earth, and all their inhabitants from Himself, likewise with man.

God did not create anything from nothing. He drew everything from within and created it. All things were and are made in Him, through Him, and from Him. Therefore, with man being a creator in similar fashion, everything he creates originates in him.

Perhaps we can now see why the gods of men's religions have such variations of character. Man himself is a multifaceted being, and whatever those imaginative facets

might be about the gods and/or God, that is what he will believe He is and teach it as fact. Without a relationship and knowing Him, the human creature is left to his own imaginations.

Some of those images of God can be close to what He is, such as a God of love, while others are not. They can come from people they think God might be, should be, or that which is fabricated due to what they have been told by others. When people do not know God in a personal, living way, they can be very easily swayed toward just about any form of belief.

When people have been awakened spiritually they will have clear and truthful images of Him. When they hear the voice of the Son of God they will not only see Him as He is, but they will also live, as He said they would in ***John 5:25***. They will know more about Him than just having been told by someone else. The closer they are to Him the more they will know Him and what His purpose is for them and the rest of creation. They will also know that He not only can fulfill His purpose, but He will fulfill it! Without such a familiar relationship, their images of Him will be imaginary illusions and will be as far from reality as daylight is from dark.

Paul mentioned something of their illusions when he wrote, "Because that when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in **their imaginations**, and their foolish heart was darkened.



Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into **an image made like to corruptible man....**" *Romans 1:19-23.*

Men have built strongholds that 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:4-5 calls *imaginations*. They believe God to be very much like themselves but usually a little more supreme. Their image of Him can also be one that is far less than man. For instance, they say that He loves all, is all powerful, and always does that which pleases Him; but at the same time, they maintain that He will not save all, or He cannot do so because of man's so called "*free will,*" which would make man greater than God.

Just about everyone who professes Jesus as their savior will say that they would not burn their worst enemies in hell forever who might have never quite measured up to their church's standard of righteousness or embraced their tenets of faith and requirements for salvation. And they certainly would not condemn to eternal torment their loved ones no matter what they had done or not done.

If they would not subject their own rebellious or unfortunate children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends to endless punishment, but they believe that God will do so, they are then bowing to a god that is lesser than what they are. If He, as the Father of ALL, will burn the majority of humanity, this tells me that their love and mercy goes way beyond that of God's. Not only do they make God in the image of man, but they

make Him lower than themselves, so much lower that their image categorizes Him as a diabolical fiend.

Think about this! The creature that He created *in His image and after His likeness* shows more love, and is more benevolent and merciful than his Creator. The train of truth does not track on those rails of irrational thought; but such things are created in the confines of man's ignorance.

Men take pride in their creations, and it is painful when their masterpieces are threatened, defaced, or destroyed. Although they do not consciously say, "*Let us make God in our likeness and after our image,*" this is exactly what they do when they project their own image upon Him in the laboratory of their minds. Therein they create Him as one who chooses special people to set up religions that consist of hierarchies, rituals, dogmas, tenets of faith, and programs.

Although some images that come from these imaginative *God Makers* exalt Him, others create images of Him that are very belittling. For instance, they imagine Him as having created two entities of which He has no control; namely, Satan and Adam. The first supposedly foiled God's plan and afterwards came the second who joined ranks with him when he chose the first's lie over the command of his Creator.

So there you go, God's prized creations, Satan and Adam, failed Him and became as loose cannons rolling around on

a deck in the midst of the world's perpetual stormy seas. *The God that was created in man's image* simply lost control and fell apart. That spurious image portrays Him as one who is not able to hold at bay and overcome the devil.

According to some calculations, this enemy will have possessed countless billions to be consigned to everlasting hell. This image is of an impotent God who either will not or cannot save His creation. He is seen as one who is easily provoked. If someone tells a small lie to save his skin, off to hell forever with no mercy or hope of relief, that is, if he isn't saved or doesn't belong to the right church when he dies, etc.

Man's image of God has Him as being constantly frustrated, forgiving up to a point and then eternally unforgiving. It seems that in this scenario He is just waiting to get even. He becomes intensely vindictive and enjoys the suffering of all those in opposition to Him. This is in man's image and comes from his own heart that is desperately wicked. If you think not, let us notice what a couple of well-known religious leaders said:

***"If my own Mother were being carried to the mouth of HELL I would stand and applaud."***

This a quote from a professor in a mainline denominational seminary, explaining that hell will be "understandable," and the saved will rejoice in the misery of the unsaved, once the saved see the glory of Christ and the justice of God. (From the

book *"Four Views on Hell"* Zondervan, 1996, p. 48)

**"I think one of the joys of eternity will be that the redeemed will see all the unholy dead judged,** but the unholy won't see the judgment of the saints, because they won't be there." Leonard Ravenhill, *"Your Day In Court"*

Another is noted as having said:

"The road to hell is paved with the skulls of unbaptized babies....It is everlasting wrath. It would be dreadful to suffer this fierceness and wrath of Almighty God one moment; but you must suffer it throughout all eternity. There will be no end to this exquisite horrible misery. When you look forward, you shall see a long forever, a boundless duration before you, which will swallow up your thoughts, and amaze your soul; and you will absolutely despair of ever having any deliverance, any end, any mitigation, any rest at all. You will know certainly that you must wear out long ages, millions of millions of ages, in wrestling and conflicting with this almighty merciless vengeance; and then when you have so done, when so many ages have actually been spent by you in this manner, you will know that all is but a point to what remains. So that your punishment will indeed be infinite. Oh, who can express what the state of a soul in such circumstances is! All that we can possibly say about it, gives but a very feeble, faint representation of it; it is inexpressible and inconceivable: For 'who knows the power of God's

anger?" Jonathan Edwards (1703–1758) in his sermon, "*Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*"

He also said:

"The view of the misery of the damned will double the ardour of the love and gratitude of the saints of heaven.

"The sight of hell torments will exalt the happiness of the saints forever...Can the believing Father in Heaven be happy with His unbelieving children in Hell...I tell you, yea! Such will be His sense of justice that it will increase rather than diminish His bliss." Jonathan Edwards (April 1739) in his sermon, "*The Eternity of Hell Torments*"

As with the ancients, the above are prime examples of men creating God in their own image and after their likeness. They are imaginations created from within themselves which gives God a form in their minds as that of corruptible man, and it doesn't stop there. After creating the image, they then give homage to it. They then, by definition, become idol worshipers. Regardless of how unreal their "brain-child" is, in effect, they have become "*God Makers,*" and rather than worshiping the living God in Spirit and in Truth, they worship a fabricated lie — the creation, the creature of their own imaginations. Such are the offspring of men who bring forth after their own kind.

According to his own nature does he make *gods*. Like Homer and Hesiod, men today, and centuries past, became

god makers of various kinds, yet with the same name and title given to them all, Jehovah God, etc.

As high and holy, as endless is the expanse and majesty of the Living God, so is the opposite true with man's world of pitiful darkness. And it is from that dark side which brings forth a terrible god that men say demands to be good and requires to be worshiped or His subjects will spend eternity in hell. People are tormented to no end with such threats. Some actually go insane, even commit suicide when faced with such fear and dread.

I knew a man who had gone insane and was confined to an asylum due to the mental horror that overwhelmed him day in and day out. This was after his pastor and elders had told him that he had committed the "unpardonable" sin and would be suffering eternal damnation. Before that, he had a vasectomy to make sure he would never bring children into the world and subject them to the possibility of being condemned to hell forever.

But he was delivered from this lie when he read our Pathfinder studies, along with J. Preston Eby and Gary Amirault's works. With a sound mind, he was released from that horrid pit of darkness into which men of the clothe had cast him.

Fortunately, there are quite a number these days who are being enlightened by the truth of who the living God really is, while forsaking the one akin to some of the mythological

gods.

Sadly, however, it will not matter with some how clear the scriptures are about God and His sovereign purpose for humanity. There will always be those with darkened, minds that will portray Him to be something other than what He is. For instance, some are quick to quote the verses about the good Shepherd going to the extremities to find the one lost sheep and not giving up until it is found. Yet they still teach the opposite, saying, that if the lost sheep of the world do not *find their way home of their own free-will choice*, they will be forever lost.

It is seen that most of them will do everything in their power to keep from losing one of *their own* flock. However, they seem to believe that Jesus is not able or willing to keep and save each and every one of His flock that he bought and paid for. Please, do not buy into that scenario of Jesus sadly, but willingly, standing by while His Father consigns the majority of His purchased possession to a burning hell forever.

It seems that in the same way that Homer, Hesiod, and other ancients created merciless gods, so it is today in our Christian churches. One of their gods in league with the one who passes the judgment of eternal damnation on his less than perfect enemies, is well known worldwide. He is similar to the mythological *Hecatonchires* that were overseers and in charge of *Tartarus*; that is, *the devil and all his demons*. He and his evil imps have been given power

equal to, or sometimes greater than, God Himself and His saints.

His image seems to be more calculating and cunning than the God who created him. Man hardly stands a chance against such a foe. For if the devil slipped up on God once, and then has foiled His Son's commission of saving the whole world, what would stop him from throwing another monkey wrench into the works? He just might pull the rug from underneath God once more, and no one could be saved. Therefore, the only thing left for the few faithful ones would be to hope God has a few tricks up his own sleeve and finally wins the war, yet with innumerable casualties.

To be continued...

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