Resurrection Life of Jesus Church TRACING THE DEVELOPMENT OF EVIL RLJ-1926 JOHN S. TORELL AUGUST 20, 2023

Tracing the development of evil leads to a forensic study of humanity. It begins in the Garden of Eden with the fall of mankind when Adam and Eve ate from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. The rest is history. Right? Actually, no, there is more to the story. The fall was the introduction of evil to mankind, but its development continued from that point with each succeeding generation. The end result is a pernicious form of evil that seeks to indoctrinate and dominate all of earth's civilizations. You can read about it in the Book of Revelation.

Evil is like a cancer that is identified by the symptoms it produces. You can find it if you know what to look for. This is nearly impossible for a new believer. I know from personal experience. Even as I was growing in Christ, I came across passages in the Bible which didn't make sense. A lot of these have to do with the Kabbalah. So let me take you on a short journey through the Bible to trace the development of evil and the players associated with promoting and condemning it.

KING SOLOMON

King Solomon reigned from 970 to 931 B.C. The Book of Revelation was given to the apostle John around A.D. 90. This is a time period of some 1,000 years. Jesus revealed to John the number of the Antichrist is 666. **Revelation 13:18**

King Solomon had a strange passion for the number 666 as well. 1 Kings 10:14, 18-20

The word "Kabbalah" means "receiving," but it also means "the teaching of the secret."¹ The Kabbalah dates back to the time that twelve tribes lived in Egypt. More than likely, it could be tracked back to the time of Abraham and the evil religions Satan invented and gave to people who worshiped idols.

There are some 500 plus books that make up the Kabbalah with its writing taking place during a 3,000-year time period. Solomon was the one that streamlined the core teaching of the Kabbalah, which deals with the coming satanic Jewish messiah. There is no reference in the Bible, except strong rebuttals by the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, John the Baptist, and Jesus.

THE KABBALAH

What is the teaching of the Kabbalah? They believe that when God was working to create the universe and all its beings, he got confused and a portion of him fell into the bottomless abyss where it took the form of a holy serpent. Incidentally, this is the same place Satan will be kept during the millennial kingdom. **Revelation 20:1-3**

¹ https://tinyurl.com/bddubzzu

The Kabbalah teaches that God did not have the power to bring up the holy serpent from the abyss; it has to be done by humans. It became the duty of the Israelites to bring the serpent to the earth since he also is the promised messiah.

There was a debate among the priests who had converted to the Kabbalistic faith during the time of Solomon. What was the method for getting their holy serpent from the abyss? It was suggested to make all men good on the earth. But they decided that this talk would be too difficult. It was far easier to make everyone evil and that would achieve the same goal. This became known as taking "the low road."

The low road became the new doctrine for the Kabbalists. This depravity led them to declare that sinning was not evil, but a way of serving God. The more they sinned, the more they served the Lord. This twisted form of thinking led to the idea that good is bad and bad is good. The five books of Moses (also known as the Torah) was the gold standard for what was good. Therefore, a Kabbalist should strive to break as many laws listed in the Torah as possible and teach others to do likewise.

They could utilize the low road to make the whole earth evil and only then could their messiah rise from the abyss to start a global kingdom and rule from Jerusalem. This new world government would feature Jews on the top with Gentiles serving as slaves.

RE-THINKING THE SPLIT OF ISRAEL

King Solomon began his life walking with God. **1 Kings 9:1-5**

But the end of his life was vastly different as he had departed from the Lord by marrying pagan women from other nations that led him astray. This reprobate mindset caused him to embrace idolatry that involved human sacrifice. **1 Kings 11:1-8**

Here is what I believed happened. Solomon embraced the Kabbalah, taking the number 666 as his Kabbalistic name. He started sinning as much as possible, because in this twisted form of thinking, he was actually serving God and helping usher in the serpent from the bottomless abyss.

The Bible tells us that God was upset with Israel and this is why the kingdom was split into two parts with ten tribes to the north and two tribes in the south. **1 Kings 11:28-38**

Jeroboam became the first king of the ten northern tribes and he set up two places of worship in Israel – as the northern kingdom was referred – where his subjects could worship. He ordered two golden calves fashioned and deposited in Bethel and in the territory of Dan.

He did not necessarily believe that these golden calves had any spiritual power, but by worshiping them, he and the people sinned, and they were ignorantly following the Kabbalah. **1 Kings 12:28-31**

The Kabbalistic teaching and practices eventually led to the destruction of the northern kingdom when the Assyrian army invaded in 721 B.C. and carried its people away into captivity.

By sinning, the people of the northern kingdom thought they were serving God, when in reality, they were serving Lucifer, believing his lie about the serpent in the bottomless abyss.

CONDEMNATION BY THE PROPHETS

God dealt with the southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin differently. He raised up the prophet Isaiah, who was active between 740-700 B.C. For the first time, God directly confronted the Kabbalistic teaching:

"Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope: That say, Let him make speed, and hasten his work, that we may see it: and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw nigh and come, that we may know it! Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!" (Isaiah 5:18-21)

"Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem. Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves:

Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place. And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it." (Isaiah 28:14-18)

"Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?" (Isaiah 29:15)

God activated Jeremiah as a prophet from 627-587 in Judah and he too confronted the Kabbalists:

"Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. Trust ye not in lying words,

saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, are these. For if ye throughly amend your ways and your doings; if ye throughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbour; If ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt: Then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever.

Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit. Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not; And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations? Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith the LORD." (Jeremiah 7:3-11)

"And the LORD said unto me, A conspiracy is found among the men of Judah, and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem. They are turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, which refused to hear my words; and they went after other gods to serve them: the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant which I made with their fathers. Therefore thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them." (Jeremiah 11:9-11)

The prophet Ezekiel was active from 593-571 B.C. He was among the captives taken to Babylon after Jerusalem was conquered. God used him to confront the Kabbalists among the Jewish leadership.

"And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, say unto her, Thou art the land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation. There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof.

Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them. Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain.

And her prophets have daubed them with untempered morter, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken.

The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully. And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD." (Ezekiel 22:23-31)

MY EYES WERE OPENED

I attended Sunday school every week from the age of four until I was thirteen at the Mission Covenant Church in my hometown of Husqvarna, Sweden. I lived in a backslidden condition until I turned twenty-six. Living in the United States, I attended Central Baptist Church in Salt Lake City from 1966-1969. Then I attended Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary for the next four years until I graduated with a master of divinity. Then I served as an evangelist/pastor from 1973-1979.

During this time period, I did not come across anyone that spoke about the Talmud or the Kabbalah. I would say this is fairly typical of most Christians. Then in 1979 my good friend, Pastor Gordon Ginn, shattered my worldview with the sinister writings of the Kabbalah. I was absolutely stunned, but I wasn't content to sit idle. He and I coauthored "The Rise of the Antichrist" in 1982. The same year I published "The Message of the Bible in the Last Days in Swedish.

My knowledge of the Kabbalah at the time was limited. During our crusade meetings in Sweden and Finland in the summer of 1982, I met Kjell Sjöberg, a Swedish Pentecostal pastor who was a strong Christian Zionist. I gave him a copy of my book and the next morning he told me, "If this is true what you have written in this book, my whole worldview is upside down. Give me six months to prove you right or wrong." Later that year he traveled to Jerusalem and went to the Hebrew University and spent time with the Kabbalah faculty. Six months later he contacted me and told me that everything I had written was true, but it was far worse than what I knew. He told me about Professor Gershom Scholem and recommended that I purchase four of his books on the Kabbalah.

This took place in 1982 when there was no internet or computers. In those days we had "The Yellow Pages," which came in conjunction with the phone book every year. I was able to find a Jewish publishing house in New York that carried Scholem's books.

1. Sabbatai Sevi, the Mystical Messiah, published in 1975

- 2. Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism, published 1946
- 3. Kabbalah, published 1978
- 4. The Messianic Idea in Judaism, published 1971

HOW IT IMPACTED ME

I realized that as a pastor/evangelist, I had been totally ignorant of the political and theological activities among Jews. When I read these books, I finally began to understand what the prophets in the Old Testament had rebuked. Any Christian ignorant of the Kabbalah and the Talmud is like a blind man trying to drive a car. The Man of Sin described in the Book of Revelation will be a Kabbalistic messiah. He will be the physical incarnation of their holy serpent. In short, the Kabbalah is the religion of the Antichrist.

I never understood why John the Baptist seemingly name-called the Jewish leadership when he described them as a "generation of vipers." (Matthew 3:7) Jesus also talked about them the same way. (Matthew 12:34)

I was also ignorant why Jesus used the term "Synagogue of Satan." (Revelation 2:9; 3:9)

GERSHOM SCHOLEM

Professor Gershom Scholem (1897-1982) was a German Jew that became a philosopher and historian. He left Berlin in 1923 and immigrated to what was then called the "British Mandate of Palestine." By 1925, Scholem started to study the Kabbalah and he became a scholar on the subject. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem opened a faculty chair named "Jewish Mysticism," which in reality was a Kabbalistic faculty of the university. He became its first professor in 1933 and he held this position until his retirement in 1965 when he became a professor emeritus until his death in 1982.

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?