

Mother And Child Worship

One of the most outstanding examples of how Babylon paganism has continued to our day is the worship of the mother of Jesus Christ.

The story of the mother and child was widely known in ancient Babylon and developed into an established worship.

Numerous monuments of Babylon show the goddess mother Semiramis with her child Tammuz in her arms. [*Encyclopaedia of Religions*’ volume 2, page 398]

When the people of Babylon were scattered to various parts of the earth [**Genesis 11:5-9**], they carried the worship of the divine mother [Semiramis] and her child [Tammuz] with them.

This explains why many nations worshipped a mother and child, in one form or another, long before the true Saviour, Jesus Christ, was born into the world.

The Chinese had a mother goddess called Shingmoo or “*holy mother.*” [*The Heathen Religions*’ by Gross, page 60]

The ancient Germans worshipped the virgin Hertha with a child in her arms.

The Scandinavian called her Disa who was also pictured with a child.

The Druids worshipped Virgo-Patitura as the “*mother of god.*”

In India, she is known as Indrani, who is also represented with child in arms.

The Greeks Aphrodite or Ceres was a mother goddess.

Rome worshipped Venus or Fortuna and her child was Jupiter. [*The Two Babylons*’ Hislop, page 20]

Mother and child, Devaki and Krishna, were worshipped.

In India temples have been erected for the worship of Isi, the “*great goddess*” and her child Iswara.

When the children of Israel went into apostasy, they were defiled with this mother goddess worship.

Judges 2:13 [King James] “*And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth.*”

Ashtaroth was the name by which the mother goddess was known to the children of Israel.

It is pitiful to think that those who had known the true Creator God would depart from Him and worship a pagan mother and child, yet this is what they did repeatedly. [**Judges 10:6; 1 Samuel 7:3-4; 1 Samuel 12:10; 1 Kings 11:5; 2 Kings 23:13**]

One of the titles the goddess was known by was “*the queen of heaven.*” [**Jeremiah 44:17-19**]

Acts 19:27-28 [King James] “*There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited, and the goddess herself, who is worshipped throughout the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty. When they heard this, they were furious and began shouting: ‘Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!’*”

Diana the goddess in Ephesus was represented with all the attributes of the mother of the gods, she wore a turreted crown that linked her to the Tower of Babel, expressly identified with Semiramis.

This mother and child worship was very popular under the Roman Empire.

Inscriptions proved that mother and child received divine honour in Rome and Roman provinces, Africa, Spain, Portugal, France, Germany and Bulgaria. [*The Golden Bough* by Frazer, volume 1, page 356]

It was during the period of mother and child worship was very prominent that the Saviour Jesus Christ, founded the true New Testament Church.

However, what was known as the “*church*” by the third and fourth centuries had in many ways departed from the original faith, falling into apostasy about which the apostles had warned. [2 Thessalonians 2:3, 7; 1 Timothy 4:1-2; Jude 1:3-4]

As this apostasy was taking place much paganism, that was familiar to all in the Roman Empire, was mixed with Christianity. To boost the numbers truly unconverted Gentiles who still practiced paganism were taken into the church and in instances were allowed to continue many of their pagan rites and customs.

Often these pagan customs were changed slightly to appear more similar to Christian doctrine.

One example is the professing church allowed the very popular worship of mother and child to continue, only in a slightly different form with a new name.

Compromising church leaders saw that if they could find some similarity in Christianity with the worship of the mother goddess, they could greatly increase their number.

Mary the mother of Jesus, was the most logical person for them to choose.

The people could then continue their popular devotions to a mother goddess, only call her by the name of Mary instead of the former names by which she was known.

Little by little, the worship that had been associated with the pagan mother was transferred to Mary.

Mary worship was no part of the original Christian faith.

Mary was a fine, dedicated and godly woman, especially chosen by God to bear the physical body of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Yet none of the apostles or Jesus Himself ever hinted at the idea of Mary worship.

During the first centuries of the Church no emphasis was placed on Mary whatsoever [*Encyclopaedia Britannica* volume 14, page 309]. **It was not unto the time of Constantine, early fourth century, that anyone began to look on Mary as a goddess.**

Even in this period such worship was frowned upon by the Church. [*The Catholic Encyclopaedia* volume 15, page 459, article ‘*Virgin Mary*’]

Yet within Mary worship became an official doctrine at the Council of Ephesus in 431.

People who were truly converted destroyed their idols of the goddess. [Acts 19:24-27]

The scriptures make it plain that there is only one mediator between God and humans, the man Jesus Christ. [1 Timothy 2:5]

Yet Roman Catholicism teaches that Mary is also a “*mediator*.”

Prayers to Mary form a very important part of Catholic worship.

There is no scriptural basis for this idea, yet this concept is not foreign to the ideas linked with the pagan mother goddess. One of her names was “*Mylitta*,” that is “*the mediatrix*” or mediator.

Mary the mother of Jesus is often called the “*queen of heaven*” but this is the title of the mother goddess who was worshipped centuries before Mary was born.

Jeremiah 7:18-20 [King James] “*The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger. Do they provoke me to anger? saith the LORD: do they not provoke themselves to the confusion of their own faces? Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, mine anger and my fury shall be poured out upon this place, upon man, and upon beast, and upon the trees of the field, and upon the fruit of the ground; and it shall burn, and shall not be quenched.*”

In the day of Jeremiah people were worshipping the queen of heaven.

One of the titles of the pagan goddess Isis was “*mother of god*,” a title that was applied to Mary by the theologians of Alexandria.

Mary was the mother of Jesus Christ but only in the sense of His human nature, not exalting her to a divine plane.

In numerous ways, leaders of the falling away attempted to make Mary, human mother of Jesus, appear similar to the goddess of paganism and exalt her to a divine plane.

Even pagan statues of Isis [with her child] were simply renamed as Mary and the Christ-child.

No archaeologist can now tell whether some of these objects represent pagan worship or worship of Mary mother of Jesus. [*The Paganism in our Christianity*’ by Weigall, page 129]

True Christianity teaches that Jesus Christ and He alone is “*the way, the truth and the life.*” [**John 14:6**] Jesus Christ alone can forgive sins. [**Acts 4:12; Ephesians 1:5-7; Colossians 1:13-14**] Jesus alone is to be worshipped [**Matthew 4:10; Luke 4:8**] as God, **not His human mother.**

Catholics are taught that the reason for praying to Mary is that she can take the petition to her son Jesus and since she is his mother, He will answer the request for her sake.

There is a basic difference between the Roman Catholic approach to Christianity and the general Protestant view.

The Roman Catholic Church, as it acknowledges, has long grown and developed around a multitude of traditions and ideas handed down by church fathers over the centuries, even beliefs brought over from paganism if they could be “*Christianised*” as well as the scriptures.

Concepts from all of these sources have been mixed together and developed, finally to become dogmas at various church councils.

On the other hand Protestant reformation sought to return to the actual scriptures as a more sound form of doctrine, with little or no emphasis on ideas that have developed in later centuries.

Further attempts to exalt Mary to a glorified position within Catholicism by the doctrine of “*immaculate conception*” was a doctrine pronounced and defined by Pius IX in 1854. [*The Catholic Encyclopaedia*’ volume 7, page 674]

It would appear this was to make Mary not appear inferior to the mother goddess of paganism by giving her a supernatural element also. [*The Catholic Encyclopaedia*’ volume 7, page 675]

Scripture has no proof for the idea of immaculate conception of Mary but evidence of the contrary.

While she was a chosen vessel of God, a virtuous woman and a virgin she was also human, [Romans 3:23] so like every other human, the only exception being Jesus Christ Himself.

Mary needed a Saviour and she admitted it. [Luke 1:47]

The idea that Mary was superior to other human beings was not the teaching of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 12:46-50 [King James] *“While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.”*

Plainly anyone who does the will of God is on the same level as Mary.

The attempt to justify the way Mary has been exalted, some have quoted a passage in Luke.

Luke 1:28 [King James] *“And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.”*

But a similar pronouncement is made about Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite. [Judges 5:24]

Further attempts to glorify Mary are in the Catholic doctrine of “perpetual virginity.” This was not taught until the Council of Chalcedon in 451. [‘Encyclopaedia Britannica’ volume 14, page 999]

According to scripture, the birth of Jesus Christ was the result of a supernatural conception. [Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:27-35]

After Jesus was born, Mary gave birth to other children, the natural offspring of her union with Joseph her husband. [Matthew 13:55-56]

To more closely identify Mary with the mother goddess, some taught that Mary’s body never saw corruption, and that she bodily ascended into heaven and is now “queen of heaven.” [‘Encyclopaedia Britannica’ volume 2, page 632]

This is not according to scripture.

John 3:13 [King James] *“And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.”*

Jesus Christ is the only one at God’s right hand as our mediator, not His mother!

Closely connected with the idea of praying to Mary is an instrument called a rosary, this instrument is not of Christian origin.

Mohammedans use a similar instrument for counting the names of Allah.

The **Buddhists** of Japan also have similar rosaries.

Phoenicians used a circle of beads in their worship of Astarte, the mother goddess about 800BC. [‘The Cross in Tradition, History and Art’ by Seymour, page 21]

The worshippers of Vishnu gave their children rosaries.

Buddhists in India and Tibet use a similar rosary. [‘Encyclopaedia of Religions’ volume 3, pages 203-205]

The complete rosary involves repeating the Hail Mary 53 times, the Lord's Prayer 6 times, 5 Mysteries, 5 Meditations on the Mysteries, 5 Glory Be's and the Apostles' Creed.

Those who worshipped the goddess Diana repeated a religious phrase over and over. [Acts 19:34]

Matthew 6:7-13 [King James] *“But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”*

If this prayer is not to be repeated over and over, but given as a subject guideline, how much less should a manmade prayer to Mary!

Memorised prayers are not the spontaneous expression of prayer from our hearts.