



## Mental Idolatry Precedes Overt Idolatry: When Truth is Banished Idolatry Follows; The Golden Calves of Canaan, the *Jornada*, & Israel; Judicial Tyranny in America

Tenney, Merrill C. (ed.). *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1976) 1:692-93:

It is a gross misconception, unparalleled in Biblical tradition, to view the golden calf as a direct representation of Yahweh. While it was indeed a common Egyptian practice to represent deities in animal form, this was not the case among the peoples of Syro-Palestine whose iconography often pictured the deity as enthroned or standing on the back of animals.

Orr, James (ed.). *The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*. (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing co., 1956), 1:543-44:

"Calf" worship was almost if not quite universal among all the ancient Semitic peoples. The Babylonians revered the bull as the symbol of their greatest gods, Anu and Sin and Marduk. Hadadrimmon \hā-dad-rim' on), an important Amorite deity, is pictured standing on the back of a bull. In Phoenicia the bull was a sacred animal, as well as in northern Syria where it ranked as one of the chief Hittite deities.

In Babylon the goddess Ishtar has the cow for her symbol on very ancient seal cylinders and when this nude or half-nude goddess appears in Palestine she often stands on a bull or cow. Under slightly different forms this same goddess is revered in Arabia, Moab, Phoenicia, Syria and elsewhere, while among the Semitic Canaanites the bull was the symbol of Baal, and the cow of Astarte.

The one real controlling *motif* of all these various representations and functions of the "calf" god ... is life-giving power closely connected with the reproductive processes of the animal ...and also with the sun, which from earliest historic times was considered as preeminently the "giver of life." But it seems certain that at least as early as the date of the Exodus these beasts were not regarded by all as being themselves deities, but rather as symbols or representatives of deity.

The bull and cow are now known to have been ordinary symbols for the most popular deities which were worshipped by all the race-relatives of the Hebrews and nowhere more devoutly than in Canaan and in the adjoining districts.

When Moses disappeared for forty days in the Mount, it was not unnatural that the people should turn back to the visible symbols worshipped by their ancestors, and should give to them the new name or new attributes which had been attached to deity by Moses.

Walvoord, John and Roy B. Zuck (eds.). *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*. (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1985), 155:

Perhaps the people considered the calf-idol an image of God. Since only one idol was made, the word **gods** (Exodus 32:1, 4, 8, 23, 31) may refer both to the idol *and* to God whom it supposedly represented.

What we learn from these references is that the Israelites had maintained in their culture the memory of the Canaanite cults that were prevalent in the land prior to their Egyptian captivity.

In their cultic history, the bull was a representative of *Yahweh* who, invisible, rode on the back of the bull-calf.

Aaron remembered this from the oral tradition passed down generation to generation during the captivity in Egypt. His solution to calm the rabble was to pull the bull calf idol out of moth balls and present it as the symbol of *Yahweh*.



In turn, Jeroboam I also remembered this in his effort to create a method for the believers in the Northern Kingdom to have a way to worship Jehovah without having to go down to the Temple at Jerusalem.

A problem emerges: by doing this, Jeroboam, as Aaron, is manufacturing an idol in direct violation of the second commandment. Once done the people were happy to bow down and worship these calves as idols, just as the first generation did in the *Jornada*. Both initially justified bowing down to the calves since they had been taught they were a representation of *Yahweh*. But soon, *Yahweh* was forgotten, the thinking of the people moved to idolatry in the soul, and consequently the idols and the sanctuaries soon became the habitations of demons.

It is instructive to consider the fact that just as demons are not allowed to indwell the bodies of believers, neither are they allowed access to geographic locations where positive-volition, Spirit-filled believers congregate.

This is an extremely important concept when it comes to divine protection of a client nation. While Moses was receiving the Law on Sinai, the people were reverting to idolatry down below. The one who allowed this was Aaron, their spiritual leader.

During the monarchies of Israel, kings were also commissioned as God's representatives on earth and thus were responsible for the orthodoxy of the people's worship of Jehovah.

Jeroboam failed in this regard. He did not want the people to worship Jehovah appropriately in Jerusalem for fear they would shift their allegiance to Rehoboam. Instead, Jeroboam went back in time 500 years to quote Aaron in the *Jornada*. He set a precedent in the Northern Kingdom from which the spiritual life of the people never recovered. The house of Omri, especially under the regime of Ahab and Jezebel, promoted the worship of Baal and the one who "rode the calf" was Baal himself. It was an easy conversion from bowing to a calf where *YHWH Elohim* was imagined as its Rider to one where Baal was considered its rider. Jehu repeated this error. Instead of restoring spiritual order in Israel he reverted to the examples of Aaron and Jeroboam.

Consequently, the sanctuaries that Jehu authorized in the Northern Kingdom for the worship of *YHWH Elohim* were furnished with a golden calf upon which the people were to imagine the Lord as its Rider. Again, this is a violation of the Second Commandment. Nothing good can come from this. Eventually the presence of idols brings about the worship of idols which in turn invites the presence of demons in the house of worship. Therefore, Jehu set up a system in which the people granted mental assent for the presence of demons and the permissive will of God allowed them to enter into the spiritual life of the people. Viewed from the Dark Side, the ambassador demons served as Special Forces who influenced Jehu's decision and the people provided the mental assent for the insurgency of rank and file demons. This always results in national apostasy, national decline, and national discipline.

From all this we can see the system Lucifer uses to infiltrate a client nation. Ambassador demons influence leadership to compromise orthodox worship in some way. The people accept the compromise. Eventually orthodoxy is replaced by the heresy that is inherent in any spiritual compromise. In this case it resulted in a reversion to ancient idolatry.



We have established how Aaron did this in the *Jornada*, how Jeroboam did this as the first king of Israel, and how Jehu did this following the purge of the Baal cult. Rather than moving forward with an advance in sound doctrine, they all reverted to the ancient practice of pagans.

This reversion is exactly what the Iraqis are doing in Baghdad with their new statue to *al-ilah*. It is exactly what Americans are doing as well. Gradually over the past fifty years the people have accepted the mantra that God, the Bible, Jesus Christ, Christianity, doctrine, and prayer must be banished outside the walls of the church and by application from the culture.

That this censorship is not supported by the Constitution is no longer an issue. The ambassador demons have had phenomenal success within the chambers of the Supreme Court justices. Justice Hugo Black's Opinion of the Court in *Everson v. Board of Education* (330 U.S. 1, 1947), asserted that a private remark about a "wall of separation between church and state," made by Thomas Jefferson in a personal letter to Connecticut Baptists in 1801, is somehow found in the penumbras of the First Amendment. This decision along with several others before it has led to judicial tyranny against Christianity. These decisions can be reviewed in the first 12 lessons of *Clanking Chains*.

These, plus a series of subsequent Court decisions, have had immeasurable impact on the "free exercise" clause of the First Amendment since its *protection* has been viewed as *less important* than the *prohibition* imposed by the "establishment" clause.

#### Constitution of the United States: First Amendment:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof ...

No matter which era of history you choose to examine, from the Tower of Babel to the present day, you will always discern the active influence of ambassador demons within the human governments of this world.