

The Greek Connection - "The Queen of Heaven"

Jeremiah 44:17-19; John 1:1-5

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<u>Logos</u> is a Greek word. The book of John was written in Greek, and the word we translate as "Word" in English in **John 1:1**, is actually the Greek word *Logos*. But, *Logos* does not mean "word" as we use it in English. In English, the word "word" means, 'a written symbol, or spoken utterance, with meaning to those using the same language—a means of communication.' But in the Greek understanding, *Logos* (the term used in the original Greek translation of John in the Bible), means something quite different, and it goes back to Babylon. Logos in the Greek understanding, meant the divine order, or divine rational reason, the animating principle, the way God brought things into being, and holds things together (through His Word – **Genesis 1:3**). Logos (this rational principle), meant, "That which holds all things together (God), and from whom all things develop (God)."

Greece became a world empire under Alexander the Great, over 300 years before Jesus became flesh. When Greece became a world empire, they set up their capitol in the city of Babylon...yes Babylon. So, Babylon, which saw the beginning of the religion opposed to God (**Gen. 10:8-11** -- Nimrod), became the center for this new world empire from the west (Greece), and the western world adopted the Babylonian beliefs and practices going all the way back to Nimrod. John used the term Logos to help the world understand that the Logos they were worshiping (a false Babylonian god system), was, in fact, actually only an imitation of the true God of the Bible, and that they had, in fact, denied the true God (Jesus, who is fully God -- **John 1:10-11**).

Logos, for the Greeks, was directly related to the god of Thunder (Thor), one of the original primary gods from Babylon. Thor spoke thunder (a loud voice), and the earth's seasons and life responded. To really understand the roots of how the western world understood the creation and God (or the gods that the western nations adopted from Babylon), we need to go back to where it all began—Babylon. We only have general information about the Babylonian gods and their system, but the Greeks gave us a very detailed understanding of how their religion, and these gods, developed from Babylon. We can, therefore, study the Greek history and understand how it all began in Babylon, the capital of the Greek Empire. Eventually, these Greek gods, originally from Samaria and Babylon, were also adopted by the Roman Empire, at the time of Christ, hundreds of years later. John, who wrote at the time of the Roman Empire (in **Revelation 17:5**), refers to all these false teachings, when it refers to "**The Mystery**," and "**Babylon**," and "**The Great Harlot**," the false religion, or false church. What is the **Mystery**? Why **Babylon**? Who is the **Woman**?

In the beginning, was the Zodiac, a story in the heavens, created by God, about His plan of salvation (**Job 38** – constellations, Mazzaroth, or Zodiac – **Psalm 147:4**; **Isa. 40:26**). This story, from God, involved a virgin, and a child who was to redeem those who would trust in Him. This redemption story of the Zodiac became perverted as men endeavored to take control, and be worshiped themselves. (see Zodiac Study, or books *God's Plan/Satan's Plan*, or, *Revelation, Apostasy, End-Times, & "This Generation"* – **Target Truth Ministries.com**). Worship, for these ancient nations, centered around a woman and child, a copy or imitation of God's plan. The earliest of these mother/child cults began with Nimrod and Babylon (**Gen. 10:8-9**). This was only a couple of generations after Noah and the flood. Nimrod ("*marad*," in the Hebrew), means "he rebelled," and from Nimrod came the Babylonians who built the tower of Babel (rebellion). As nations divided, the original story given in the Zodiac became perverted.

Nimrod set himself up as a god, and had priests to cater to him. Nimrod was called a "mighty one" (**Gen. 10:8**), which in the Hebrew (*gibbor*), meant giant (**Gen. 6:1-4**). After his death, Nimrod was worshiped as the sun god (Baal). Nimrod had a queen Semiramis (the moon goddess – Semiramis is also known as Baal-Ti, or "my lady," or in Latin, as "Mea Dominain," or in Italian, as "Madonna"). As the ancient myth goes, after Nimrod's death, Semiramis (Baal-Ti), became pregnant, supposedly from a sunbeam (from Baal – the sun god - Nimrod), and she gave birth to Tammuz, who was presented to the people as the reborn (resurrected), Nimrod. When Tammuz died, he was supposedly resurrected 40 days later (there are no eyewitnesses, or any other evidence to support this myth, however). Semiramis introduced Tammuz as the promised savior (**Gen. 3:15**). Both mother

and child were worshiped, and God's Zodiac story had now been forever perverted. From this myth (false worship of the mother goddess and child), came Babylon's religious practices. The cultic worship of mother, child, and fertility, goes back to the earliest writings. From the very beginning, even in **Genesis 10:8-10**, one finds reference to the beginnings of this false worship, with the reference to Nimrod (who with Semiramis and her son, Tammuz, have fostered many forms of cultic worship through the centuries). These include Anu and Ishtar birthing Tammuz at the time of old Israel (**Jer. 7:18, 44:17-19, 25**), and they lead eventually to Egypt, with Osiris and Isis birthing Horas (the Egyptian copy of Tammuz), and later on to Greece, and eventually Rome, at the time of Christ.

These mythical deities were all based on rites of fertility, and even today, many celebrate Easter as "a season of fertile springtime." In ancient Samaria, this spring celebration involved the exchanging of Ishtar (Easter) eggs. Further, the son (Tammuz), of this goddess was "resurrected to life" in these mythical legends. As one looks through history, one finds numerous "imitations" of God's plan which put, either some person (such as Nimrod), or this world, or Satan, at the center of attention, instead of God.

Whether one is a Protestant, Catholic (Roman, Eastern, etc.), Muslim, Buddhist, or any faith, the God of our Bible tells us that the only path to God's kingdom is by trusting in Jesus, who is called "God the Son" (**John 14:6**; Acts 4:12). This *title* "God the Son" meant to Jews that the promised Messiah would be a flesh human being (**Dan. 7:13**), and to the pagans, this term "God the Son" meant that Jesus was only a flesh human being born to Mary. This confusion over this "*title*" led John to write that what the world called "God—Logos," was in fact the person of Jesus (**John 1:1-18**—Logos was the Creator God, and the Logos became Jesus—see Message "God, or Son of God, or Son of man, or What?" – Target Truth Ministries.com).

Jesus also claimed He is God (**John 10:30**; **Matt. 28:18**; **Rev. 1:8**, **21:6**, **22:13**), and also that He alone is the way (**John 14:6**; **Acts 4:12**). Jesus gave us eyewitness evidence of His power over death (**1 Corin. 15:1-8**; **Acts 1:1-8**), and Jesus welcomes all who will <u>trust</u> in Him. Many Christians, a few Muslims, a few Jewish, and others, have put their <u>trust</u> in Jesus, and they will all be welcomed into the kingdom of heaven. There are also many who call themselves Catholic, or Protestant, who are not truly born again (**John 3:1-7**), and even though they think of themselves as pretty good people, and go to church, etc., their priority in this life is not Jesus. And, Jesus Himself said that they will not be welcome in God's kingdom (**Matt. 7:21-23, 25:1-13**). The key to the kingdom of God is <u>trusting</u> in Jesus, and spending time with the one you love--Jesus.

In the ancient world, the mythical deities were first defined by the Sumerians (Babylon). The Sumerians, a literate civilization, worshiped the moon god, which was called by many names, including Nanna, and Suen. This was the dominant god of the Fertile Crescent. Later on, the Akkadians (Semite peoples), took the name Suen, and transliterated it to Sin. Thus, Sin became the favorite name for the moon god throughout the ancient Fertile Crescent. From the very beginning, the crescent moon was the symbol of the moon god Sin.

The Egyptians adopted many of these false gods and goddesses along with Babylon, and all these empires were followed by Greece, with its capital at Babylon, and then Rome at the time of Christ. All these empires had their mythology rooted in these Babylonian deities, and the moon god Sin. In the city of Ur (Abraham's home), ancient tablets list the primary deities as An (the male god), and Inanna, or Nammu (the Queen of Heaven). The Stella (stone tablet), of Ur-Nammu (the female goddess – Queen of Heaven), has the crescent moon placed at the very top of the register of gods, because the moon goddess was the highest of gods (*not the male*, as would be the case in Egypt centuries later). All this took place thousands of years before Islam and the crescent moon adopted by Mohammed around 650 A.D.

In the Sumerian (Babylonian), mythology, the origin of the whole universe was due to Nammu, the water goddess (man's imitation of **Gen. 1:6**). From her waters was birthed all we see, including all male gods. One of these gods was the god of thunder (Thor), whose voice, or "word" (thunder), became the creation force of our seasons and life. Thus, "Logos" (**John 1:1**), was a direct reference to what the Greeks thought of as the god of life on earth (the word, or thunder). Another of these births was to the moon god Sin (male). In Mesopotamia, the female goddess figure was dominant, until animal husbandry and domestication later became established, and only then, did the male god figure begin to dominate in some cultures. The Queen of Heaven (also know of

as the Mother of Earth), was the dominant deity, due to her acts of renewal and regeneration. The kings of Mesopotamia were often regarded as subservient to the goddess because, unlike Egypt, with its predictable cycle of flooding for agriculture (which the male kings could predict), the river waters in Mesopotamia were unpredictable (indicating the male kings had no power), and thus, all worship was directed to the Queen of Heaven (who was also the Mother of Earth), not the male kings, or their male deities. In Mesopotamia, where Abraham came from, the male god remained a servant to the Mother Goddess. The Mother Goddess was considered unmarried, and in some locations, a virgin (an imitation of God's plan -- Luke 1:34). It was the reproductive power of the earth which was associated with the Mother Goddess (Mother Earth), and which was of paramount importance in daily life in the ancient world.

Sin, the *male* moon god, which became later known as Al-ilah in the Arab world (the highest of gods), also has a female form (Allat – the *female* moon goddess). In the Sumerian origins, a god could also be a goddess. This has confused scholars for centuries. But, the origin of this male-female change can be cleared up by studying the Greek myth, which was based upon the old Babylonian myths. The Greek Empire, which came much later, and which had its capital at Babylon, has given us better records of their mythical deities' origins, and how this moon god could be also know as a moon goddess (Queen of Heaven). All this mythology is a product of perverting God's Word from the very beginning. God, in Genesis 2:21-24, tells us how God first created man (Adam), and then "out of man," God made woman (Eve – the bearer of life). In the Greek myth, Zeus (equivalent of Adam), produces Hera, the female goddess. Hera is not born to Zeus, but she comes "out of him" (just as Eve comes out of Adam). Thus, a male god can become a female goddess (if you believe that Adam, or Zeus, was a god, which the Babylonians and Greeks did). In the Greek myth, Hera became known as Athena after a great flood (perhaps Noah's?). Athena, the mother goddess, is usually pictured with the serpent. The serpent is central to mythology in all ancient cultures all over the world, due to the fact that, as in the Greek understanding, it was the serpent who gave man knowledge, which was previously restricted to only God (a perversion of God's message - Gen. 3:1-5). This is all the perversion of God's Word. The Sumerians at Babylon began a false worship where the serpent became the source of knowledge, and worship was therefore given to the serpent and the moon goddess, the bearer of life. All of this Greek myth is actually rooted in Babylon, the capital of the Greek Empire at the time of Alexander the Great. God told Adam and Eve to obey, but Satan (the serpent), caused their fall. In these false religions, it is Satan (the serpent), who is worshiped through these various gods, as a moon god of life, or the god of thunder and creation, or the serpent god of knowledge, and so on.

The moon god Sin (male), eventually became transformed to a female goddess. This was brought about in mythology as the result of the earth goddess, Inanna, becoming the Queen of Heaven, as well as the Queen of Earth, due to her marrying many other gods, including Anu. She became the moon goddess with resurrection power, thus, replacing the male moon god Sin.

As the Sumerian origins gave way to the Semitic culture, these deities' male names became Nimrod, Marduk, Assur, and Ba'al, and the female names became Semiramis, Inanna, Ishtar, Astarte, and Ba'al-Ti, depending upon the area of the world you lived in. Many of them had a child called Tammuz. Tammuz, son of Inanna (Semiramis, Ishtar, Astarte, etc.), was considered a god, and was supposedly resurrected in these myths after his death. But, he was always the earthly servant of the Mother Goddess of the universe. The Assyrian counterpart of Inanna was Ishtar (where we get Easter from), the Queen of Heaven and Earth. The Bible's Old Testament rebuked the worship of the moon god (**Deut. 4:19, 17:3; 2 Kings 21:3, 5, 23:5; Jer. 8:2, 19:13; Zeph. 1:5**, etc.). Over time, as men gained control over agriculture and animal husbandry, the sky god (the sun), was seen as the greater, more powerful of gods, controlling seasons, and weather, and war, while the Mother Goddess, being associated with the moon, as well as the earth, was still venerated as a source of life and re-birth.

As time progressed, the moon goddess, combined with Isis (from Egypt), and became known as Namaia. Eventually, male dominance caused a return to the worship of the moon as a male god (Sin) once again, and in time, Sin became Al-ilah (a <u>title</u> meaning highest deity). Montgomery Watt, in the *Journal of Semitic Studies* Vol. 16, "Belief in a High God in Pre-Islamic Mecca," states that this moon god (goddess - Sin), was the primary god of Ur, where Abraham lived around 2,000 B.C. Nabonidus, the last king of Babylon (555-539 BC

– a thousand years before Muhammad), built Tayma, Arabia, as a center of moon god worship. The Arab tribes always remained steadfast in worship of the moon god, Al-ilah – the highest of gods. Mecca was, in fact, built as a shrine for the moon god. At the time of Mohammad, around 650 A.D., this moon god Sin (male), was seen as married to the sun goddess, and three stars of heaven were his daughters, Al Lat, Al-Uzza, and Monat, all considered high gods. The moon god was <u>named</u> Sin, and his <u>title</u> was Al-ilah (the highest god), which became Allah under Muhammad. Muhammad declared that Sin (Allah), was not only the greatest god, but the only god. This was due to a vision Muhammad received that the main god of his city (Al-ilah -- the moon god), was the one true god (symbolized by the crescent moon today, by Islam, as well as the Wicca, and Mother Earth groups). To this day, the Muslim faithful fast during the month which begins and ends with the appearance of the crescent moon in the sky.

Centuries later, in Egypt, the ancient Tammuz myth becomes the story of Osiris, Isis, and their son Horas. Many ancient myths, including the Tammuz and Horas myth, which seemed to parallel the story of Christ (virgin birth, resurrection, etc.), were elevated to historical status in the late 1800's and the early 1900's. However, recent scholarship has shown each of these myths fall far short of being historic parallels to the story of Jesus. Lee Strobel, in the book *The Case For the Real Jesus*, has provided evidence showing these myths have been either *later* embellished to relate to Christ, or were actually created *after* the time of Christ. Historically, these myths in no way even closely relate to the life of Christ. We must remember the original story of the virgin, the child, and the resurrection, were given in the Zodiac by God, and it has been perverted into these other myths. The Zodiac (Job 38 – constellations, Mazzaroth, or Zodiac – Psalm 147:4, Isa. 40:26), pre-dates all these cultures and myths.

After the time of Christ, all the variations of the Mother Goddess, the Queen of Heaven, whether called Ishtar in Mesopotamia, or Asherah, Anat, or Astarte in Syria, or Isis in Egypt (Isis actually means "she of many names"), all of these had formed into the universal female goddess, a beautiful virgin, generally known as the Queen of Heaven. Eventually, the Babylonian practices, including the celebration of Dec. 25th (the traditional date celebrated in the pagan world as the date of birth of all gods including the sun god Nimrod), were passed onto the church by the Roman emperor Constantine when he was pushing the empire to convert to Christianity. These Babylonian practices include the sacred traditions of the mother/child cult of Semiramis (known in various nations as Ishtar, Ashtaroth, Isis, etc.), and her child Tammuz (Ezek. 8:14; Jer. 44:17-19). When the nations scattered (Gen. 11:9), they formed various new nations, with various new languages, and variations of this mother/child cult developed around the world in Egypt, with Osiris (Nimrod), and Isis (Semiramis), and their child Horas (Tammuz). Historian, Herodotus, recorded how the ancient Babylonian rites began being practiced in various nations around the world, as did Hislop, Leyard, Woodrow, and Bailey. Even in the Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. 14, pages 515 ff, and Vol. 15, pages 450 ff, it is noted that these practices pre-date the Christian Church. These religious practices were eventually adopted by the Roman Empire when it came into power before Christ was even born. A few hundred years after Christ, these ancient Babylonian practices found their way into the Christian Church, because the Roman emperor desired to unite pagan Babylonian practices and the Christian Church, into a single religion for the empire. This, of course, seemed a natural fit, as Mary and her Son (Jesus), matched well with the mother goddess and child pagan cults of most nations. Of course, Mary was never elevated to worshipful status by the early Christians. The elevation of Mary happened several hundred years after Christ died, due to the Roman emperor's desire to unite Christians and pagans under one set of religious practices, which included worship of the Queen of Heaven (seen now as Mary).

Some of these <u>symbols and practices from Babylon</u>, which after 300 years found their way into the Christian Church, include:

- Elevation of the mother, the virgin Mary, to Queen, or Goddess co-equal to God.
- Lighting of candles, used to signify the sun god of light (Nimrod).
- Prayer beads, used to count, and repeat, prayers to the Queen of Heaven.
- Resurrection of Nimrod as Tammuz is celebrated at Ishtar (Easter).
- Birth of Nimrod is celebrated on Dec.25th.

- 40 days of lent prior to Ishtar (Easter), were practiced in recognition of the death, and resurrection, of Nimrod as Tammuz (Ezek :14; Jer. 44:17-19).
- Purgatory is a place where the dead await purification, and dates back to these Babylonian pagan beliefs, which pre-date Christianity.
- The later Babylonians worshiped the mother by making an offering as a memorial to Heras (the Queen of Heaven the Moon Goddess). For the Greeks, Hera was equivalent to Eve of the Bible—the mother of all.
- The **cross**, the mystic Tau (the symbol of Tammuz), was used by Babylon to symbolize <u>man's power</u> over death. To Christians, the **cross** represents God's love (being willing to suffer the curse for us), <u>God's power</u> over death (1 Corin. 1:17-18).
- Babylonian priests were to be celibate, and virgin women who wore crosses around their necks, were to attend the priests.

The Roman emperor, Constantine, combined these cultic practices with Christian worship, and in 378 A.D., Demasus, the Bishop of Rome, was crowned Pontifus Maximus (High Priest of Mysteries - the great High Priest of the Mysteries of the bridge between the dead and the living, from the Babylonian tradition). Even at this date, most bishops did not recognize the pope in Rome as the authority of the church. Rome was not recognized by the other bishops until around 1,000 A.D., and even then, the Eastern Catholic church still did not recognize the authority of the pope in Rome. This is still true today. Today, the Pope's crown is an exact replica of the Babylonian priest's crown (a fish head), used over 2,000 years before Christ.

Logos, for the ancient world, represented their understanding of all these ancient Babylonian mysteries, and the people relied on the high priests to intercede for them with these gods, and their mysteries. John used the word Logos to help the people understand that <u>Jesus is the true Logos</u> (**John 1:1**), and we need only to be born again (**John 3:1-7**), be reconciled to God, and develop a personal relationship with God. There is no need for Babylonian sacraments and rituals (**Eph. 2:1-9**). Jesus is the only way (**John 14:6**; **Acts 4:12**; **Matt. 28:18**; **Rev. 1:8**), and He gave us the eyewitness evidence (The New Testament – **1 Corin. 15:1-8**; **Acts 1:1-8**).

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