

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE ORIGIN STORY OF JESUS

RLJ-1885

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PART 86: FORTY YEARS OF PROSPERITY

INTRODUCTION

In the quest for the origin story of Jesus, I started preaching on December 27, 2020 and that has culminated in 85 messages to date. As I came to the last verse in the book of Nehemiah, I realized this was the last historical book of the Old Testament. When the story of Nehemiah ends, there is a gap of 370 years before the incarnation of Jesus in Bethlehem.

During my time at Central Baptist Church in Salt Lake City from 1966-1969, I was given a Christian history book by pastor Robert McCullar. I had finished the Book of Acts and begged him to provide me with a history book that picked where the Bible ended. He gave me the history book he had used at his seminary time.¹

This book was a treasure because it was written before the introduction of the deadly German theology of Higher Criticism and thus the real history of the church was presented without the omission of historical facts. I received the satisfaction of finding out what happened after the end of the Book of Acts, but it was not until many years later that I also realized that Walker had partially covered the time period from 372 B.C. to the time of Jesus.

I met Gordon Ginn around 1979. He was a conservative Baptist pastor in Sacramento. We became good friends even though I embraced the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and became what is known as a Pentecostal. He shredded my belief in a pre-tribulation rapture before the coming of the Antichrist and introduced me to the Jewish writings of the Talmud and the Kabbalah.

The Lord connected me to Kjell Sjöberg in 1981, a Swedish Pentecostal pastor that I met in Finland in 1981. When I gave him a copy of my Swedish book, "The Message of the Bible in the Latter Days," he told me that he would read it get back to me the next day. Sjöberg was a strong Christian Zionist and my writing did not lean that way. The next day he told me the following:

"If it is true what you have written, my entire understanding of the world has been turned upside down. Give me six months and I will determine what is the truth."

True to his word, Sjöberg contacted me six months later in California and told me that he was totally shocked. The situation was far worse than what I had conveyed in my book. Sjöberg was a frequent visitor to Israel and had spent time at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. It is likely he met Professor Gershom Scholem, who was the head of the Kabbalah department. He returned with four books that Scholem had written on the Kabbalah and used as textbooks for his students. Once I got the titles and the

¹ Walker, A History of the Christian Church, New Haven, 1919. My copy was reprinted in 1952 in New York by Charles Scribner's Sons.



publishing house since there was no Internet at this time, I placed my order and received the books.

I realized that institutions like Christian seminaries and Bible colleges were in total darkness concerning the history of the Jews from the time of Christ until the present day. This in turn meant that pastors, evangelists, and Bible teachers were ignorant about what had taken place with the Jewish people, what they believe, and what they seek in the future.

In our study of the 370 years of silence, I will retrieve information from my sources to ascertain what took place during these years. Let me close this introduction with a quote from Gershom Scholem:

“Within rabbinic Judaism as a social and religious phenomenon three kinds of forces are active precisely at those points where it is the most alive: conservative, restorative, and utopian.

- 1. The conservative forces are directed toward the preservation of that which exists and which, in the historical environment of Judaism, was always in danger.*
- 2. The restorative forces are directed to the return and recreation of a past condition, which comes to be felt as ideal. More precisely, they are directed to a condition pictured by the historical fantasy and the memory of the nation as circumstances of an ideal past. Here hope is turned backwards to the re-establishment of an original state of things and to a ‘life with the ancestors.’*
- 3. But there are, in addition, forces which press forward and renew; they are nourished by the vision of the future and receive utopian inspiration. They aim at a state of things which has never yet existed. The problem of Messianism in historical Judaism appears with the field of influence of these forces.”²*

What you just read is the driving power behind Kabbalistic Judaism, which was the driving force to establish the nation of Israel, maintain it, and build a future temple that their messiah can enter and start his rule as a world dictator. In Christian terms, this Jewish messiah is none other than the Antichrist!

DISTORTED HISTORICAL RECORDS

The history textbooks were falsified when I was educated in the public schools of Sweden from 1945 to 1955. We were instructed that we should be very proud of the past Swedish kings. Men like Gustav Vasa (1523-1560), Gustav II Adolf (1611-1632),

² Scholem, Gershom: THE MESSIANIC IDEA IN JUDAISM, Schocken Books, New York, 1971, p.3

Karl 11th (1660-1697), and Karl 12th (1697-1718) were elevated above all others. It filled us with great national pride that these kings had been mighty warriors. They had forged young Swedish and Finnish men into soldiers and fought large armies throughout Europe. Despite the odds, they were able to win against their enemies.

Gustav Vasa was a common man who fought to break Denmark's rule over Sweden, drive out the invaders and establish Sweden as an independent kingdom. It did not take long for corruption to set in once he became king. He adopted the Lutheran faith, not because he was pious and seeking God, but so he could confiscate millions of acres owned by the Roman Catholic Church. Thousands of priests and monks who did not want to become Lutherans were decapitated.

Gustav II Adolf was the most righteous of the Swedish kings. When the Roman Catholic Church raised a large army to kill the Lutherans in Europe, the Swedish king mustered an army that was shipped to Germany via ships. The king personally led the fight to liberate the suffering Lutherans. Unfortunately, Gustav II was killed in battle. This conflict would last for 30 years and it broke the power of the Roman Catholic Church.

The Swedish army was led by skilled generals, and when the war was over, the officers and soldiers retired in Sweden as wealthy landowners and farmers. They had gained their riches through taxing and looting.

The other Swedish warrior kings were not any different than the kings of the past when it comes to corruption and waging war for personal fame and fortune. They all quickly figured out that the more land they could accumulate, the more taxes they could collect.

I was in for a rude awakening when my childhood pride and nationalistic feelings for Sweden were crushed upon learning this as an adult. It was a sad realization that the majority of these kings were murderers, thieves, extortionists of other nations and of their own population.

THE END OF THE PERSIAN KINGDOM

The majority of kings and emperors of the past thought nothing of murdering and stealing for gain. They had no legal right to subdue neighboring countries and build kingdoms upon the backs of the people they vanquished.

Artaxerxes II was the Persian king whom Nehemiah served as cupbearer. He reigned from 404-358 B.C. Assuming that Nehemiah was 30 years old when he started to serve as cup bearer, he would have been around 76 years old when Artaxerxes II died. Since there is no further mention of Nehemiah in the Bible, this would be a plausible assumption.

Jerusalem and Judah would have remained undisturbed until 332 B.C. when Alexander the Great took control of Judah and was welcomed into Jerusalem by the high priest.

ARTAXERXES III

Ochus was the son of Artaxerxes II. He took the name Artaxerxes III and ruled from 358-338 B.C. He had previously been assigned governor (satrap) over Phoenicia (Lebanon). The Persian kingdom at this time also covered Anatolia (Turkey), Syria,

Samaria, Judah and the Gaza strip in its western part. Egypt had rebelled and broken loose in 380 B.C.

As the custom, kings had harems with wives and concubines and most of his siblings had been murdered in different plots against them. Artaxerxes III hunted down the remaining members of his family (about 80) in order to secure the throne for himself.

Artaxerxes did not trust the nobility of Persia and he promoted a eunuch named Bagoas to be his chief of staff. Bagoas was the one effectively ruling Persia and eventually there was a fallout and Bagoas enlisted the palace physician to poison the king in order to save his own life. The insidious plot included the king's immediate family as well. The murder of Artaxerxes III was successful, but one of the king's sons, Arses, survived and became the next king. He took the name Artaxerxes IV and Bagoas thought he could control the young king.

ARTAXERXES IV

The reign of Artaxerxes IV only lasted 2 years from 338-336 B.C. He tried to kill the man responsible for his father's death, but Bagoas outsmarted Arses and was able to poison a king and his family for a second time. Bagoas then worked as a kingmaker and made Arses' cousin, Artashata, the new king of Persia. He took the regal name of Darius III.

DARIUS III

Darius III only got to rule Persia from 336-330 B.C. Bagoas eventually realized that he had lost control of the new king and made plans to poison him. But Darius III had his own spy network that alerted him to the plot and he forced Bagoas to drink the poison that had been intended for him.

THE DESTRUCTION OF PERSIA

In 336 B.C. King Philip II of Macedonia (also known as Macedon) sent his army to invade Asia Minor (Turkey) and forced the Persian army to retreat. Later that year he returned to his capital Aegae for the royal wedding of his daughter, Cleopatra. During the wedding festivities he was assassinated by one of his bodyguards, who in turn was also killed.

Philip's son, Alexander III, was immediately inaugurated as the new king. He would eventually become known as Alexander the Great for his military exploits. Alexander was just 20 years old, and like so many kings of the past, he decided to clean house and remove any perceived threat to himself. He ordered the execution of his cousin Amyntas IV, two princes from the region of Lyncestis and Attalus, and the commander of the advanced guard of the Army of Asia Minor.

Alexander III continued the war against Persia, and in 333 B.C., he engaged the Persian army led by Darius III. The Persians lost the battle and had to retreat. Darius III withdrew to the vicinity of Gaugamela – modern day Erbil located in the Kurdish area of Iraq. In 331 B.C. the Greek army engaged the Persians and handed them another defeat.

Bessus was one of the satraps that fought Alexander at Gaugamela. He was the ruler of the eastern part of Persia that reached all the way to India. When Darius III fled east to

the city of Ecbatana in Media, Bessus conspired with other satraps and they arrested the king. As the Greeks pursued Bessus and his companions, Darius III was killed and left on the road.

Bessus declared himself king and took the name Artaxerxes V. He tried to hold together the eastern part of the Persian kingdom, but his limited reign lasted less than one year when he was arrested by two of his army officers and turned over to Alexander who had him quickly executed.

From the time of Nehemiah, the Persian kingdom came to an end 40 years later and the Jews now had to deal with a Greek ruler. They had enjoyed four decades of peace and prosperity under Persian rule.

SUMMARY

As I stand on a virtual mountaintop and look back at mankind's 6,000 years of history, I can't help but see the billions of people who wasted their time on earth and died in their sins.

Adam and Eve sold themselves to sin for the price of fruit.

Millions of people who lived before Noah's flood exchanged eternity with God for a place in hell.

From the time of Nimrod, men have been seduced by the Devil to force their will upon the population. Instead of seeking God and working diligently to make a good living, it was simpler to force men to become soldiers and they in turn plundered other people to get paid.

The men who became kings of Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome were all possessed by evil spirits. They falsely believed it was their right to enslave other human beings and rule over them like cattle.

Underlings enabled the kings to act in such a horrible manner. They were willing to sell themselves into service and aid in the kings' ability to make war, take plunder, and terrorize the subjugated population.

King David realized that he was in the hands of God and relied upon His mercy. **Psalm 37:1-40**

The generations from 120 years ago and those dating all the way back to Adam and Eve are no longer on earth. While their flesh and bones cannot be found, their souls can be located in heaven or hell. **Revelation 20:11-15**

Alexander III is not so great any more. He found out that he wasn't divine. He has been twisting and screaming in the flames of hell for 2,345 years.

No one is attending to the ancient kings from different nations. They are chained in the same hell with rulers like Genghis Khan, Roman Catholic popes, Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, Adolf Hitler and millions of unknown rulers.

King Solomon started out well enough, but he became an evil man, and realized that his life had been wasted before he died. **Ecclesiastes 1:1-2; 12:1; 13-14**

Are you hell or heaven bound?