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BlackSDA _ 3ABN _ John Lomacang : Saturday's Campmeeting Sermonette

Posted by: maggiecttr May 31 2007, 02:11 PM

Being the procrastinator I am, I just watched the tape I had made of 3ABN's Spring '07 campmeeting for Sabbath, May 26th.

Herewith, my transcription of John Lomacang's sermonette highlights:

He speaks about Satan opening the gates of Hell against Christ when Christ was on Earth, then:

"...Last year, on the heels of the Ten Commandments weekend -- and I want to say this in context -- the Gates of Hell were opened on 3ABN. And I want to say because we continue to go forward telling it like it is, the Gates of Hell are *still* opened against 3ABN. But what Satan did to Jesus was nothing compared to what Jesus did to Satan."

Speaks about the agricultural benefits of rain, then:

"So God does not bring rain to frighten us; God brings rain to prepare us for the planting of the seed, so that when the Latter Rain comes, we will be ready for the coming of the Lord. And so, my brethren, when it looks like it's not going to happen, there's God. When it looks like it's not possible at all, there's God. When your eyes contradict what your heart believes, there is God. I believe that God is allowing it to rain on 3ABN so that we can grow better than we have grown before--whaddoyousay? (amens from mostly elderly audience)...So I'm not concerned about the direction of 3ABN. I'm not concerned about the fight that we're fighting....I'm not concerned about that because Jeremiah the prophet said, 'Is there anything too hard for God?' And, brethren, God can do more with those with a lack of faith [sic] than God can do with those who think they can do all by their own strength...So I'm not concerned with the enemy that pursues us, because He said to the Church of Israel, 'The enemy that you see today, you'll see no more forever.' So I'm not concerned--and I'm going to say this clearly--(dismissive wave of hand) I'm not concerned about what the Internet says. I'm concerned about what God says. (Amens from audience; JL grins)
I'm not concerned about the sounds of the chariots from Egypt, because i know that the God that brought us out can block their way with His divine flame...So I'm not concerned about what I hear behind me -- I'm going to have my eyes fixed on the God that's ahead of me, whaddoyousay?

So they--they become fearful you know, there are times we don't know how it's going to happen --how it's going to pan out. But we gotta do what God has told us to do. You see, there are certain things that we have forgotten. You see, it was not Moses that delivered Israel from Egypt, it was God. It was not Pharoah that decided to let them go, it was God. It was not Moses that saved them from the hand of the Angel of Destruction, it was God. It was not Moses that gave them water or provided them bread, it was God. It was not Moses that protected them from the serpients [sic] and scorpons--err, scorpions---it was God. It was not the people (points to audience) who provided the finances for 3ABN -- it was God." (Amens from audience)

"...When you fail to see God's goodness, all you'll see is Satan's badness. Don't let fear dilute your faith. Don't be afraid--stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. I believe that God, in these last days, is going to pull off something that we could not possibly have imagined could happen with a deficit -- to be down is nothing to God, because God never runs out of resources. But God sometimes brings you to the point where your plate is empty, so that He can fill it to the brim and you'll know that when it happens, only God could've done it. Whaddoyousay? Sometimes God has to remind us that there is only one way to home. He said to the Children of Israel, 'Don't spend time looking in the rearview mirror; it's time to go forward. Whaddoyousay? Don't spend time in the Pit of Nostalgia and in the Maze of Mediocrity, wondering why things are not the way they used to be. The reason why they're not is because God has a different plan than He had for the past. God's gotta clear our mind from how it used to be, so that God can show us how it's going to be. So we look back at the last 22 years of 3ABN and we say,'Man, things were great!' But brethren, things are going to be better than they were before! God has not diminished.

God is better than He has ever been. Whaddoyousay?

Talks about Israel having to dip their toes in the River of Faith before they could go forward, etc., then:

"...You gotta know when to stand still and you gotta know when to go forward. Stand still, and see God defeat your enemy, then go forward so that God can part the way, and every obstacle that appears to be designed to defeat you will become the very way which God pronounces your deliverance. And, so, my brother, obstacles don't move if the people of God just decide to stand still....I'm going to close with something that I feel is absolutely necessary to do: And that is to remind Brother Danny Shelton, Mollie Steenson, Shelly Quinn, Pastor C.A. Murray, Pastor John Dinzy and everybody that walks through the doors of 3ABN and those of you that always join us every day, to pray for 3ABN. It's time for us to stop looking to man and look unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. This work is not going to be completed by 3ABN, God's going to use 3ABN in the completion process, but Paul the apostle says God will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness. So today, will you stand with me, as we do something that I believe we should always do when we hear the enemy coming behind us. We oughta pray. I believe that when the enemy hears us pray, he's got to stop at the command of God. And do something for me...join hands with the person next to you. And we're going to believe together that the fervent prayer of the righteous will avail much. (Prayer, including, "We've come too far to give the enemy credit for our defeats.." He also says, "...And so Father, today, give back to Danny Shelton the faith he had 23 years ago--give him back the vision he had when the night showed zero in the bank and You delivered the very next day. Help him to understand that before the asphalt was laid, the vision was laid. Before the antenna went up, the angels were ready to carry the message around the globe. Help him to look back to find courage to look forward. Help him to stand at his windows somedays and look out and see what mighty things that God has done. And, Father, may Danny give God the credit. May Danny give God the burden. May he give God the nights when his eyes are watered from the tears of uncertainty. And when he stands up and comes and wonders what to say to the people, may he say: 'The God whom I serve is able.' "

Whew! This took a long time of starting & stopping the tape, so I'm ready for a nap. If the sermonette seems disjointed at times, that's just the way he decided to present it, I guess.

Comments?

Blessings,
Maggie

Posted by: Pickle May 31 2007, 03:15 PM

QUOTE(maggiecttr @ May 31 2007, 03:11 PM)

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Kind of encouraging, isn't it? If you tell it like it is, the devil gets mad, and the gates of hell open up. So if you tell it like it is and you get sued to try to shut you up, who's behind the lawsuit?

But I don't think it is safe to conclude that just because you're getting picked on that you have to be on the right side. If I give my body to be burned and have not love, I am nothing. So we can't take John's words in an absolute sense.

Another difficulty is that these folks consider no problems at all to be evidence of the blessing of God, and lots of problems to be evidence of their being on God's side. Sorry. We can't insulate ourselves in that way from ever considering whether we are in the faith or not. We have to be open to the possibility that we might be wrong.

After the 10 Commandments Weekend? Or does he mean after Danny remarried, or his remarriage became known?

Posted by: Artiste May 31 2007, 03:55 PM

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It sounds like Elder Lomacang is trying to enourage the others, and gives me the impression that some are in panic mode.

Posted by: Skyhook May 31 2007, 04:17 PM

It sounds like the the 3abn crisis is escalating. I notice he prayed that Danny would give God the credit when he fixes everything for them. There must be a lot of anxiety among Danny and his inner circle for JL to talk like that.

Posted by: PeacefullyBewildered May 31 2007, 04:36 PM

Among other things said, JL prayed:

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EGW counsels:

> **QUOTE**
>
> "The prejudice which has arisen against us because we have reproved the wrongs that God has shown me existed, and the cry that has been raised of harshness and severity, are unjust. God bids us speak, and we will not be silent. **If wrongs are apparent among His people, and if the servants of God pass on indifferent to them, they virtually sustain and justify the sinner, and are alike guilty and will just as surely receive the displeasure of God; for they will be made responsible for the sins of the guilty.** In vision I have been pointed to many instances where the displeasure of God has been incurred by a neglect on the part of His servants to deal with the wrongs and sins existing among them. Those who have excused these wrongs have been thought by the people to be very amiable and lovely in disposition, simply because they shunned to discharge a plain Scriptural duty. The task was not agreeable to their feelings; therefore they avoided it. {3T 265.2}"

God says through Paul in 1Corinthians 6:1-6:

QUOTE

1 If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints? 2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! 4 Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account in the church! 5 I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? 6 But instead, one brother goes to law against another—and this in front of unbelievers!

And then God further says through Paul in 1 Corinthians 6:7, 8:

QUOTE

7 The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? 8 Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers.

Do they not realize that in this year that is supposed to be "The Year of Victory", instead of trusting in God to fight their battles as JL said in his sermon, instead they decide, perhaps by following after the pattern of their true leader, to sue Bob and Gailon who have followed scriptural and EGW principle of our duty to reprove sin. If what we read in 1 Cor. 6:7,8 is to be trusted, they have now been completely defeated. Sad.

Posted by: steffan May 31 2007, 07:53 PM

QUOTE(PeacefullyBewildered @ May 31 2007, 05:36 PM) ☐

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No PB. What is sad is that you or anyone that calls themselves christians would try and justify what these men have done. They have not followed any biblical principle and have went directly against SOP council by making unproven allegations public to the world. Remember that PB? Unproven?
For months you have been one of the main ones who continually try to quote EG and the Bible to try to "Make Right" what is 100% wrong. I have one question for you. As time goes on things begin to unfold, how will you feel, deep in your heart and soul, if you find out that you have been wrong? If you find that allegations against 3abn are unfounded and this has been a bitter campaign to bring 3abn down, how will you truly feel knowing that you have been a very vocal player in whatever damage has been done to the ministry? By all of your post history, it seems it has never occured to you or any of the others that you could be wrong. Maybe you need not only to think about that, but to dwell on it a little. The word tells us there will

be an accountability for hurting God's work and his workers. What a precarious position you and others are putting yourselves in with no information other than what you hear and what you read. If you are wrong, you could be risking your very soul.

Posted by: Rosyroi May 31 2007, 08:20 PM

QUOTE(steffan @ May 31 2007, 05:53 PM)

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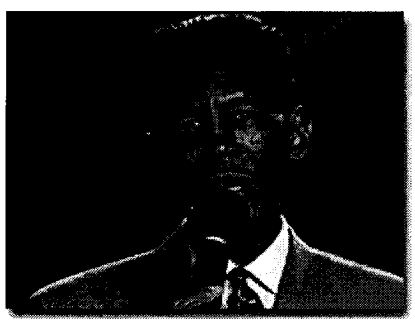
Hang onto all those beliefs. You will need them.

edited for content...

Rosyroi

Posted by: Clay May 31 2007, 08:26 PM

maybe John L is preaching what he is paid to preach.....



Posted by: Rosyroi May 31 2007, 08:30 PM

QUOTE(Clay @ May 31 2007, 06:26 PM)

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)h yea.... half his salary is paid by DannyShelton/3ABN.

'ou have revealed the problem.

{osyroi

Posted by: Clay May 31 2007, 08:37 PM

QUOTE(Rosyroi @ May 31 2007, 09:30 PM)

Oh yea.... half his salary is paid by DannyShelton/3ABN.

You have revealed the problem.

Rosyroi

here you go.....

Posted by: inga May 31 2007, 10:31 PM

QUOTE(steffan @ May 31 2007, 08:53 PM)

No PB. What is sad is that you or anyone that calls themselves christians would try and justify what these men have done. They have not followed any biblical principle and have went directly against SOP council by making unproven allegations public to the world.

Where've you been all this time, Steffan??

Bob Pickle has been absolutely scrupulous about verifying details to make sure he was *not* spreading mere rumors. And he went right to the source, to Danny himself, as the Bible counsels. It was when 3ABN folks started waffling and backing out of promises to "show the evidence" that Bob started to smell a rat. And he found a bunch of dead, stinking rats! Every one of them he identified with the backing of witnesses.

So, no, Bob did not make "unproven allegations"! Danny & the 3ABN board made "unproven allegations" against Linda. This seems to be a clear case of projecting one's own sins on others.

Posted by: sonshineonme May 31 2007, 11:11 PM

QUOTE(inga @ May 31 2007, 09:31 PM)

> Where've you been all this time, Steffan??
>
> ... This seems to be a clear case of projecting one's own sins on others.

Some specialize in *projecting*.

Posted by: PeacefullyBewildered May 31 2007, 11:21 PM

> **QUOTE(steffan @ May 31 2007, 05:53 PM)**
>
> No PB. What is sad is that you or anyone that calls themselves christians would try and justify what these men have done. They have not followed any biblical principle and have went directly against SOP council by making unproven allegations public to the world. Remember that PB? Unproven?

The Bible counsels us about having two or three witnesses. Bob and Gailon do. The things posted on save3abn.com are not careless allegations, they have been carefully documented. Since those in leadership have turned a blind eye to the questionable behavior of some involved in the ministry that much of the world sees as "the face of Adventism", Bob and Gailon finally were convicted that action must be taken and answered the call.

> **QUOTE**
>
> For months you have been one of the main ones who continually try to quote EG and the Bible to try to "Make Right" what is 100% wrong.

When the Lord puts a burden on one's heart it is dangerous not to go forward as called. It is not something that I have done lightly or with any delight. Instead, I have attempted to prayerfully weigh the evidence I have seen from many sources, including from those who you consider your comrades in arms, and to state my opinions as carefully and in the most Christian manner that I possibly can. I have leaned heavily on God's word and Sister White as well to understand what I am to do here.

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If the evidence that has been presented and upon which I have reached my personal opinions proves to be wrong I WILL REJOICE!!! If it is proven that this has been an unfounded, bitter campaign to bring 3abn down, I will turn my attention to those who are proven to have waged such a campaign.

On the other hand, if what has been alleged against some of those who have been in leadership positions at 3abn is true as it appears to be, perhaps they should be concerned about the accountability they will have

for hurting God's work, His workers and for supporting the abuse of some of the very people He views as precious enough to give His only Begotten Son to die to redeem.

And the bottom line is still that it was Biblically WRONG for the leadership at 3abn, who claim to be presenting the undiluted truth to the world, to try to resolve the issues between themselves and Bob Pickle/Gailon Joy with a lawsuit. That is diluting the message.

Posted by: mystery- man May 31 2007, 11:50 PM

Steffon,

I don't think you understand, at least I believe you don't. I have not really seen anyone attacking 3abn but rather the sin of the leaders. I am always confused when I hear statements like what if you are wrong as tho Danny and the like have not been given ample time to respond to the alligations. I am also very troubled by the references made (likening Danny to Moses and the like). If Danny stepped down and there was a change in the board it would seem to me that the mission of 3abn would still go forward since the majority of programs are taped sermons and the like. I truly believe that most of the individuals posting hear would like to see 3abn continue but not Danny and the rest that seem to uphold a contrary priciple to what they are preaching. If you would simply give a open mind and eye you could see that the people closest to Danny (step daughter) (ex-wife) (brother) are the ones in question and that have spoken.

People would be acting out of stupidity if they did not act and would be accountable for a worse sin than that alleged if they stood idly by. Steffon, I have nothing personally against Danny but you would have to be crazy not to be able to see there is a definite problem there. What is so terrible about Danny stepping down, in the case of Linda that was acceptable even with out her getting all the information as to why. Why not just give Danny 150.000 dollars and let him step away that would be fair wouldn't it?

What would be wrong with a change of leadership is not the Lord the one really in charge?

Posted by: sonshineonme Jun 1 2007, 12:03 AM

QUOTE(mystery- man @ May 31 2007, 10:50 PM) ☐

.....
What would be wrong with a change of leadership is not the Lord the one really in charge?

First of all, the leadership needs to make up their mind what the "Lord has told (or showed) me....". If they are going to communicate to the masses "the Lord has told (or showed) me....", knowing that no one can really argue with what the Lord tells them, obviously, they can still do as they please, even if this means that the "Lord" has changed His mind (you know, tell one person one thing, and another the opposite). How do they know it's the Lord anyway (ut oh, did I say that?)

So, how much can the Lord really be in charge if free-will human beings make their own choices based on their own wants...The Lord will have His way, one way or another, but, if some are unwilling to be in God's will, God will just use another option. It's happened this way for 6000 years. JMO.

Posted by: Artiste Jun 1 2007, 12:05 AM

QUOTE(PeacefullyBewildered @ May 31 2007, 09:21 PM)

When the Lord puts a burden on one's heart it is dangerous not to go forward as called. It is not something that I have done lightly or with any delight. Instead, I have attempted to prayerfully weigh the evidence I have seen from many sources, including from those who you consider your comrades in arms, and to state my opinions as carefully and in the most Christian manner that I possibly can. I have leaned heavily on God's word and Sister White as well to understand what I am to do here.some of the very people He views as precious enough to give His only Begotten Son to die to redeem.

It is comforting to know that, taking the issues seriously, you have put in the effort indicated above.

It does seem at times that the latest tidbits of information are passed along, and how do you know where serious and constructive interest ends and gossip begins.

(Not that I would want to stop hearing about the tidbits...)

Posted by: mozart Jun 1 2007, 12:16 AM

thanks so much maggie for taking all the time to transcribe that for us. i've done that before and i know how time consuming it can be. we appreciate you. God bless, Mo [x] than

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Posted by: steffan Jun 1 2007, 10:51 AM

QUOTE(Skyhook @ May 31 2007, 05:17 PM)

It sounds like the the 3abn crisis is escalating. I notice he prayed that Danny would give God the credit when he fixes everything for them. There must be a lot of anxiety among Danny and his inner circle for JL to talk like that.

No sorry. That is just his pattern. Whenever he prays for anyone for physical healing, mental, family problems or a ministry he usually prays that whatever happens they would give God the credit, praise and glory. This was not a "unique" prayer for your speculation.

Posted by: princessdi Jun 1 2007, 11:11 AM

Uh, nice to see you Steffan. You are here just in time. Your attention is needed here>>>>>>>>
http://www.blacksda.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=13633&st=60

QUOTE(steffan @ Jun 1 2007, 09:51 AM)

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Posted by: princessdi Jun 1 2007, 05:00 PM

That is very strange, Skyhook. I have heard that phrase all my life in prayers to God. Since it is Neo pagans, and the people whom I've heard use the phrase wouldn't know a pagan if they walked upa nd slapped them, let alone how they pray, also that the name is quite appropriate an daccurate being that God *is* Our Heavenly Father, could it be that their phrasing is just an imitation of the original, as with satan's other counterfeits. If so, why should we let the thief keep his goods?

Now, I know we can find plenty things to say about the computer guy.....Oooops! JL, but in this one thing, I believe we have to let him address his Heavenly Father out of the depths of his own heart. It is something akin got Michal criticizing David's dance before the Ark. Definititely, do not want to incur God's wrath as she did. Do we?

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Posted by: mozart Jun 1 2007, 06:05 PM

skyhook is correct. here is more info on the subject.

http://www.angelfire.com/mo/PsychicOrSatan/Praying.html

i sent this info to danny and linda about 10yrs. ago when i noticed a couple of pastors & mollie using the term regularly. linda wrote me a nice long letter back and said "it just makes me truly sick to my stomach to think of people doing this"...
within a matter of months, i noticed that everyone on 3abn had stopped using the term. the only time i heard it on 3abn after that was on rare occassions when "non-regulars" would be on "live". that was up until Psychidelic Shelly showed up however! She and C.A. Murray usually use that term when they pray and of course Linda isn't there to say anything to them about it.

 Guess it's time to send another letter.

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Posted by: SoulEspresso Jun 1 2007, 06:12 PM

 Doesn't the Lord know those who are His? (2 Tim 2:19)

I would assume the other guy knows who are his, too.

IMO it's not the words one uses but the intention of the heart ....

... and if a person is using prayer to cover up wrongdoing, well ... (John 8:44)

Posted by: mozart Jun 1 2007, 06:17 PM

SE,
did you read the link above?

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skyhook is partly correct. The term Father God is ubiquitous in the african-american church where prayers tend to be directed to God the Father in the name of Jesus and does not stem from any new age or pagan roots. Caucasians have adopted the terminology in some cases as you say leaning on new age thinking... but in others, particularly among televangelists, because they are seeking to have more of a black "feel" to their praying... usually overlooking the fact that the way people pray in the black church is not an outward form to be emulated but instead is an outworking of their walk with Christ and that is not just how they pray publicly; it is how they pray...period whether alone of in corporate worship... and the overwhelming majority of them are oblivious to new age thinking... and have been praying that way long before new age paganism came to be; it's how they learned to pray, while listening to their mothers and grandmothers and the old prayer warriors from the church of their youth... many of whom were barely literate at best and whose prayers were the result of their pouring out their souls before God.

In His service,
Mr. J

Posted by: SoulEspresso Jun 1 2007, 06:32 PM

QUOTE(mozart @ Jun 1 2007, 05:17 PM)

SE,
did you read the link above?

I went back and read it, yes, but I stand by my statement. "Father God" distinguishes Him from earthly fathers in the same way that "Heavenly Father" does, even if one appears in the Bible and one does not. Is anyone here willing to say that because a person gets the words wrong, God won't listen to their prayers? If so, what does that say about God?

I'm Caucasian, and I didn't know about the history of the phrase moving from black-to-white churches or Christians. All the people I know who use the phrase are white, and I've seen God answer prayers addressed to "Father God."

Mo ... did you look up my texts? 

Posted by: Clay Jun 1 2007, 06:51 PM

QUOTE(awesumtenor @ Jun 1 2007, 07:23 PM)

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In His service,
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preach on preacha..... the person (or persons) who gave the intercessory prayer when I was growing up in church back in the day more often than not begin their prayer with Father God, or Father God, Creator of the Universe..... and there was no new age back then....

Posted by: princessdi Jun 1 2007, 06:57 PM

Ok???!! Somebody needs to let them know that the phrase Pre dates New Age.

QUOTE(Clay @ Jun 1 2007, 04:51 PM)

preach on preacha..... the person (or persons) who gave the intercessory prayer when I was growing up in church back in the day more often than not begin their prayer with Father God, or Father God, Creator of the Universe..... and there was no new age back then....

Posted by: Skyhook Jun 2 2007, 01:07 AM

QUOTE(princessdi @ Jun 1 2007, 06:00 PM)

That is very strange, Skyhook. I have heard that phrase all my life in prayers to God. Since it is Neo pagans, and the people whom I've heard use the phrase wouldn't know a pagan if they walked upa nd slapped them, let alone how they pray, also that the name is quite appropriate an daccurate being that God *is* Our Heavenly Father, could it be that their phrasing is just an imitation of the original, as with satan's other counterfeits. If so, why should we let the thief keep his goods?

Now, I know we can find plenty things to say about the computer guy.....Oooops! JL,  but in this one thing, I believe we have to let him address his Heavenly Father out of the depths of his own heart. It is

something akin got Michal criticizing David's dance before the Ark. Definititely, do not want to incur God's wrath as she did. Do we?

rincessdi, I have more information on that somewhere. Sylvia Brown the Medium psychic uses "Father God lother God." the other version for neo-pagans is "Father God, Mother Earth."

have never personally heard Christians besides JL address God like that except for one that I can recall a ew years ago.
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Posted by: Voktar of Zargon Jun 2 2007, 04:45 AM

Addressing God as a mother is unbiblical, except in a rare metaphorical sense. We are enjoined by Jesus Himself to address God as our Father. Does that mean that we can only address Him as "Our Father who art in Heaven?" Of course not. Does that mean that we cannot address Jesus or the Holy Spirit directly either? If we get caught up in pronouncing just the right name, or just the right formula, then we are no better than superstitious Catholics or Jehovah Witnesses. Is God our Father? Then there is nothing wrong with addressing Him as "Father God." Pagans have addressed their god in a fatherly way ever since Baal. Does that mean we should shun addressing the true God in a fatherly way. Of course not. Neo-pagans even address Jesus as 'the son.' Should we stop doing that? The use of the title 'Father God' is wide spread among African American Christians. Does that mean they are all unwittingly invoking the neo-pagan deity? Balderdash!
On a side note, my experience with the use of the title "Father God" in public intercessory prayer is that it is often used in a highly repetitious way, more than most appellations for God. Often every sentence has the title used. I am not sure how this practice began. Would we address any other person in this way? They would probably think we were crazy or tell us to stop. Why then do we address God this way? Is it possible that this practice originated in a superstitious way? If Jesus enjoined us to address God as Father, then doing so more often than normal will be even more efficacious? Or, is it because sometimes public prayer is not only coveted for its heartfelt sincerity and theological relevance, but also for its poetic and musical quality? (Father/God rhymes)

Posted by: SoulEspresso Jun 2 2007, 05:43 AM

QUOTE(Skyhook @ Jun 2 2007, 12:07 AM)

I have never personally heard Christians besides JL address God like that except for one that I can recall a few years ago.

n my circles for five or ten years there was a praise song making the rounds ...

Father God, just for today
Help me walk the narrow way ...

QUOTE

As for Michel, I don't know about God's wrath, but she shre incurred David's. He in effect made a nun out of her. He put her in a convent.

low would you interpret 2 Sam 6:23, in context, then? Was that something David determined? What's this ıbout putting her in a convent? I was unable to find it in the Bible.

QUOTE(Voktar of Zargon @ Jun 2 2007, 03:45 AM)

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I don't know, Voktar, I talk to my friends, Voktar, like this all the time, Voktar, just to let them know, Voktar, how much I care, Voktar ...

Yeah drives me bananas too.

Posted by: watchbird Jun 2 2007, 06:49 AM

QUOTE(Voktar of Zargon @ Jun 2 2007, 06:45 AM)

Addressing God as a mother is unbiblical, except in a rare metaphorical sense. We are enjoined by Jesus Himself to address God as our Father.

What we need to remember when we read scripture is that God met people where they were. And most likely the reason for not making more of God's mothering of his children has to do with the prominence of female deities in scriptural times. But God does liken himself to a mother at times... as he also likens himself to a father. But in Bible times, the father was the protector of the family or clan, and females were mere possessions. This undoubtedly restrained God from picturing himself as mother equally much as father. But the facts are that it was male and female together which were created in his image.... suggesting, not that God was bi-sexual, but that his attributes were represented by both male and female together.

If God were directly meeting today's "neopagan" views of the earth as "Mother-god" He would no doubt emphasize that the earth was NOT a god, nor the Mother of all... but that it was only a created object and HE was both the Creator of it and the genuine Mother of all.

But that is, of course, mere speculation. What is not mere speculation is the fact that some women have been abused so much by their earthly fathers, that they simply cannot relate to a God who is presented as being Father. Thus it is useful in those cases to allow ... and even encourage... them to look for the non-gender specific descriptors of God in scripture, and to even think of God as their Mother rather than only as Father.

QUOTE

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As I mentioned above, pagans have also invoked female goddesses. And just as with many acts of worship enjoined in scripture, the act itself was often similar to that of the "nations around". The significant

difference was in WHOM the act of worship addressed. The commands were to "have no other gods before me" and "do not bow down to them nor serve them". There is no command to not bow down to God because pagans bow down to their gods.

As for using terms adopted by new agers....

When I first began researching new age philosophies some 25 years ago, I was dismayed at the "new content" that I found in standard Christian terms. My first reaction was as has been expressed here on BSDA... "We should avoid using that term!"

I soon found, though, that nearly every term we as Christians used had been pre-empted by these various new age groups. So my next exclamation was, "They have stolen my vocabulary, so how shall I speak?!" For even words like "atonement"... especially our way of "explaining" the concept by saying "at-one-ment"... were widespread in new age and neo-pagan groups... with mystical pagan meanings of becoming actually "one" with their god.

So I came to the conclusion that, yes, we should be aware of new age and neo-pagan uses of Christian terms.... but not for the purpose of eliminating them from our vocabulary. Rather, it should be for a two-fold purpose.... on the one hand to make sure that we understand what new converts mean when they say the terms so as to sufficiently instruct them on the difference where we find they have understandings different from Christian meanings. and on the other hand to be alert to the **context** of the terms when they are used in Christian settings, so as to be able to recognize when the one using them is putting non-Christian meanings into them.

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Posted by: SoulEspresso Jun 2 2007, 08:42 AM

I suppose we could make a few heads spin by pointing out that the Israelite sanctuary was *identical* in layout to pagan temples that had been around for hundreds of years before the Hebrews returned from Egypt and were established as a nation ...

I still remember in seminary when a guy from the archaeology department dropped that bomb in Sanctuary class ... there was dead silence for about 10 seconds.

Posted by: mozart Jun 2 2007, 04:54 PM

yeppers i did. i can't say that i agree it is the same thing tho'. if a person gets the words wrong, of course i don't think our Lord has a problem with it. God doesn't hold us accountable if we do not know better right? but, isn't it a good thing to discover truth about things picked up unknowingly? i would want to know.

> **QUOTE(SoulEspresso @ Jun 1 2007, 05:32 PM)** ☐

I went back and read it, yes, but I stand by my statement. "Father God" distinguishes Him from earthly fathers in the same way that "Heavenly Father" does, even if one appears in the Bible and one does not. Is anyone here willing to say that because a person gets the words wrong, God won't listen to their prayers? If so, what does that say about God?

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Mo ... did you look up my texts?

Posted by: SoulEspresso Jun 2 2007, 06:13 PM

QUOTE(mozart @ Jun 2 2007, 03:54 PM)

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I think I agree at least in principle. God--the real one--may deign to answer prayers offered in ignorance by pagans praying to a god that doesn't exist, but if they come to know better, well ... I just don't think calling the Father of Jesus Father God falls into the category of paganism even if some pagans hijacked the term.

Since we're off it bears saying that while John Lomocang can be fairly criticized for his role in the 3ABN scandal, how he addresses the Almighty, at least to me, isn't an issue. I'm just one guy though.

Posted by: princessdi Jun 2 2007, 06:47 PM

Skyhook, I believe by now you will ahve read Awsumtenor's short history of the phrase. The name Father God, used in prayer, predates New Age/NeoPagans, and Sylvia Brown. It has long been a way of addressing God, the Father in prayer in the black community. So if anyone has "borrowed" the term, it is the other groups. We all know that the enemy has acounterfeit for everything that is of God. this y et another one of his counterfeits.

Skyhook, that was God's wrath that Michal incurred. It was God who made her barren. No one would have known if it was a matter of David ceasing to have marital relations with her. But she more no children, in spite of ahving relations. That is how it is known she was barren. She was barren like Sarah.

QUOTE(Skyhook @ Jun 1 2007, 11:07 PM)

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Posted by: joyce Jun 2 2007, 06:50 PM

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That info is fascinating for sure. I never heard about that before in my whole life. Where could I find out more about the pagan temples being like the sanctuary?

Goes to show that just because the pagans do something, it does not make it necessarily evil.

oyce

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Well, I guess its almost unanymous that JL can just keep praying the way he wants to.

A couple of days ago one of our members showed me pictures of John and his wife taken when they were visiting at her home some years ago. One picture showed John riding a horse. He and his wife are very well thought of. I think the pictures were taken when he was pastoring at Weaverville.

I think 2 Samuel 6:23 can reasonably be interpreted to imply that David put Michal aside. The text says that she "had no child" not that she was barren. Barren, as in "Sarah was barren" Gen. 11:30 means sterile-an inability to conceive. It is possible to infer that David put Michal aside in the same way he did his 10 concubines after his son Absalom "went in to his father's concubines" 2:Sam. 16:22.
And David came to his house at Jerusalem; and the king took the ten women his concubines, whom he had left to keep house, and put them in ward, and fed them, but went not in unto them. So they were shut up *unto the day of thier death, living in widowhood."* 2 Samuel 20:3.
That's what I meant by the convent remark.

The history of David and Michal's relationship is interesting in that David took her as his wife when she was actually married to someone else. 2Sam. 3:14-16

Posted by: SoulEspresso Jun 3 2007, 08:45 AM

QUOTE(joyce @ Jun 2 2007, 05:50 PM)

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Goes to show that just because the pagans do something, it does not make it necessarily evil.

Joyce

Well, God meets people where they are. People in those days were used to thinking of their temples as "models of the universe," so God directed one to be made that would lay out the plan of salvation--the prime activity of the cosmos. There were some major differences--the Most Holy Places of Canaanite temples had idols in them, and if I remember right it was a lot easier to go before the false gods than before the Real One.

I tried googling it but didn't have much luck--getting the right search terms is probably the trick. Perhaps a good local library? A book on Palestinian archaeology is where I ran across the material in print--Canaanite architecture in particular. I think Egyptian temples are very similar too.

Posted by: beartrap Jun 3 2007, 11:24 AM

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Posted by: inga Jun 3 2007, 11:36 AM

You might also want to consider several other possible options:

The pagan sacrifices were a counterfeit of the sacrifices that pointed forward to Christ. The sacrificial system was instituted at the gates of Eden. Thus all humanity would have this in their history.

It is even possible that there were earlier temples dedicated to the worship of the true God, though there's no evidence on which to base that assumption. I agree with SE that God meets people where they are. The Hebrew temple was not **precisely** like the pagan temples, but only so in approximate features.

All archeology can discover is the physical ruins of the temples, not a lot about how they were used. If a thousand years from now, someone dug up the ruins of our house and yours and found the dimensions to be similar, it would likely be a wrong deductions that those who lived in these houses were very similar, had similar habits, beliefs, etc. ⌐ They'd even be wrong about assuming the same architect. ⌐

QUOTE(SoulEspresso @ Jun 3 2007, 09:45 AM) ☐

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Posted by: PeacefullyBewildered Jun 3 2007, 12:02 PM

QUOTE(watchbird @ Jun 2 2007, 05:49 AM) ☐

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ment"... were widespread in new age and neo-pagan groups... with mystical pagan meanings of becoming actually "one" with their god.

So I came to the conclusion that, yes, we should be aware of new age and neo-pagan uses of Christian terms.... but not for the purpose of eliminating them from our vocabulary. Rather, it should be for a two-fold purpose.... on the one hand to make sure that we understand what new converts mean when they say the terms so as to sufficiently instruct them on the difference where we find they have understandings different from Christian meanings. and on the other hand to be alert to the **context** of the terms when they are used in Christian settings, so as to be able to recognize when the one using them is putting non-Christian meanings into them.
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NB,
This is fascinating information! It seems that, perhaps, the gender of God issue falls into the same realm as he man's time vs. God's time issue - we measure ours in minutes, hours, days, etc. and God may not even have clocks.

Posted by: mozart Jun 3 2007, 12:04 PM

good observation inga, as the world is always looking into the "which came first. the chicken or the egg" theory i suppose many think that the pagan temple came first.

QUOTE(inga @ Jun 3 2007, 11:36 AM)

You might also want to consider several other possible options:

The pagan sacrifices were a counterfeit of the sacrifices that pointed forward to Christ. The sacrificial system was instituted at the gates of Eden. Thus all humanity would have this in their history.

It is even possible that there were earlier temples dedicated to the worship of the true God, though there's no evidence on which to base that assumption. I agree with SE that God meets people where they are. The Hebrew temple was not **precisely** like the pagan temples, but only so in approximate features. All archeology can discover is the physical ruins of the temples, not a lot about how they were used. If a thousand years from now, someone dug up the ruins of our house and yours and found the dimensions to be similar, it would likely be a wrong deductions that those who lived in these houses were very similar, had similar habits, beliefs, etc. They'd even be wrong about assuming the same architect.

Posted by: PeacefullyBewildered Jun 3 2007, 12:08 PM

QUOTE(beartrap @ Jun 3 2007, 10:24 AM)

PBS recently aired a documentary on the history of God that showed footage of those pagan temples, and followed the parallels between the gods and worship of the "pagans" and the Hebrews. It was very interesting.

This was actually also airing in our area yesterday. I was amazed at the similarities between the two. It shouldn't come as a big surprise though, for the very reasons that Inga points out.

SE,

ITA! I doubt that the Egyptian high priests needed that rope around their ankles, LOL!

Posted by: SoulEspresso Jun 3 2007, 02:44 PM

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Of course. All of these are possibilities. We don't have archaeological evidence of Eden, but the textual evidence of Genesis indicates some strong sanctuary resemblences.

As for the Canaanite/Egyptian temples, it all depends on how much you rely on archaeological dating techniques. Some of these can be fairly reliable. Which came first is theologically irrelevant to me. You can interpret similarities as Satan's attempt to deceive people, or as attempts by pagans at reaching truth, without the advantage of revelation that God's people have.

QUOTE(PeacefullyBewildered @ Jun 3 2007, 12:08 PM)

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Ya know? Unlike the pagans' temples, in the Hebrew one Someone was actually in the Most Holy Place for a good many years!

Different subject, same general idea: If you want to make your head spin, think on this: how clearly would you get a picture of the Messiah's death and resurrection just by reading the Old Testament? Can you think of any clear prophecies that can't only be understood in retrospect?

You get a hint here, and a hint there, but the idea of a dying-and-resurrecting deity only comes through loud and clear in paganism. You can say that Satan originated the Osiris, Balder, etc myths to lead people away from the reality of Christ; or you can say that God permitted them to figure it out thus far so they could be prepared for hearing about the historical death and resurrection of the True God, God the Son, Jesus of Nazareth.

Posted by: Pickle Jun 8 2007, 09:03 PM

QUOTE(SoulEspresso @ Jun 3 2007, 03:44 PM)

Different subject, same general idea: If you want to make your head spin, think on this: how clearly would you get a picture of the Messiah's death and resurrection just by reading the Old Testament? Can you think of any clear prophecies that can't only be understood in retrospect?

Abraham told Isaac that God would "provide" a lamb. A ram, not a lamb, died in the place of Isaac. Thus the ram must have symbolized the lamb that God would one day provide to die in our place.

The place where that happened was called Jehovah Jireh, for "in the mount of the Lord it shall be seen." The Hebrew for "seen" is the same as "provide." Thus it would be right there, on Mount Moriah where the temple was later built, where God would one day provide the lamb.

On that occasion with Abraham as when Noah got off the boat and when the destroying angel stopped short of reaching Jerusalem in the days of David, God showed mercy and grace prior to the sacrifice, but then poured out a huge blessing after the sacrifice was offered. This showed that blessings come only because of the merit of a sacrifice, but it also showed that the sacrifice of the ram by Abraham, the clean beasts by Noah, and the animals by David did not merit the blessings but only typified the merits of the lamb God would one day provide.

If you became poor and sold yourself and your land, you could be redeemed by a kinsman at any time, and if not, you were redeemed by God Himself at the jubilee, which suggests that God Himself would become our kinsman, if it really be true that only kinsmen can redeem.

Ahab sold himself to do evil, so slavery is used in the OT as a symbol of bondage to sin, from which a redeemer needs to buy us back. Now since God Himself sold His people into the hands of their oppressors when they would sell themselves to do evil, it appears that it is God that must buy them back.

The reason you could get your freedom and land back is because you had entered into a covenant with God. Because of that you received an inheritance of land. Sometimes that land is called God's inheritance, which points to the fact that the land was inherited from and given by God.

But in order to inherit something from someone, that someone has to die. And thus tied in with jubilee theology is the notion that the God who would become a man would also die that we might inherit the blessings of the covenant/testament/will.

If no kinsman stepped in to redeem you prior to the jubilee, God did it Himself. Twice in the latter part of Isaiah it refers to this when it pictures God wondering that there was no man, and then His own bringing salvation. The surrounding verses speak of a) God being our Redeemer, b) His people being the redeemed, c) the desolate land blossoming as the rose (thus being reclaimed as in the jubilee year), and d) God bringing vengeance upon the oppressors of His people.

On the idea of vengeance being tied to redemption, it is interesting to note that often salvation/saved/redeemed is tied together with the idea of vengeance upon the oppressors. Indeed, the Hebrew word translated "Redeemer" is also translated as "avenger" in the phrase "avenger of blood," and as "kinsman."

As far as how much of all this the people understood in OT times, consider the wise woman whom Joab used to convince David to bring Absalom home. One thing she said was that God makes a way to bring His banished back home. She evidently understood quite a lot.

Posted by: mozart Jun 8 2007, 11:06 PM

WOW Bob what a great post. i feel so blessed. We truly have an AWESOME GOD.
thank you so much for posting this.

QUOTE(Pickle @ Jun 8 2007, 08:03 PM)

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