

Why did all this come upon us? If anyone identifies with Israel, then it is because our ancestors sinned against God. Therefore He sent them into exile. Here is what the Scripture says about the estate of Israel:

KJV Ezekiel 37:1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, 2 And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, *there were* very many in the open valley; and, lo, *they were* very dry. 3 And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. 4 Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. 5 Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: 6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD.

The whole house of Israel are dead like dry bones. They had not preserved neither life nor truth, and will have to be revived by the Spirit of God. We are speaking corporately of course, but the Scripture does not take note of the exceptions, because they like Daniel, Noah, and Job were only able to preserve their own lives. Neither were they able to preserve their sons or daughters, nor where they able to revivify the bones.

Therefore, any claim of the Church to have transmitted truth independent of the written texts and the physical evidence left behind by their forefathers is a broken cistern. On the contrary, they heaped up lying traditions like dead men's bones. Claims to Apostolic succession or the institutional preservation of truth based on faith in those men or faith in those institutions are in invitation to stumble into a pit of bamboo knives.

I speak to you who are able to think, and not to children or new converts. After having received the truth, and having verified it from the written word, do you trust the word of God or in the Church tradition. Is your faith dependent on the faith of others or the opinions of others or on the power of your Church? Every believer has fought with this tension. Some are more able than others to reason from the Word to a solid faith. Others are weak and need to be held up by the strong. When the institution is struck down by the Antichrist, and it will be, then the sheep will be scattered. Only those who sought a firm foundation for their faith during a day of peace before the war started will spiritually survive.

God expects people to use the minds he created for them. He has preserved the physical evidence. The Greek and Hebrew texts are still there. The archaeology is still there. Mathematics is still truth. Astronomers can plot and calculate the course of the sun and moon, and linguists can still puzzle out and solve language puzzles. The Spirit of God is able and willing to help you think through and defend the truth you already know.

But put no faith in Judah. They have moved the boundary stone. Neither put any faith in Ephraim. For the Church has mixed itself with paganism. Church leaders love to claim an "I know better than you" spiritual connection to God. Insofar as this is not based on a hard evidence discovery of the truth, it is pure bluffing. They do it in many displays of piety. They are good actors. The bible calls them hypocrites.

So also were the Gentile Gnostics of the late first, second, and third centuries that deceived Gentile Christians.

Indeed, they overran and formed a majority of Christians until overcome themselves by a more logical form of neo-platonic Hellenism. They claimed to be the pure ones with the connection to the "eighth sphere." They claimed to be able to peer beyond the "seventh heaven". They asserted that they could show their followers the way of knowledge and enlightenment.

Yet they hated the Jews, and they hated the God of the Jews. Hated His laws too. Despised His worship. Most of all they hated his Word and sought to subvert it. So they proclaimed a spiritual messiah above and beyond the God of the Bible, and they proclaimed the God of the bible an evil *demiurge*. They hated the creation and despised material things, or so they said. It was they who first reinterpreted the bible for the Church. It was they who rejected solid grammatical and context based interpretation. It was they that turned the bible into an allegory to teach their demonic doctrines. It was they that exploited the mystical and magical world view of the Gentiles barely converted to Christianity.

The Gnostics did not base their worldview on historically preserved words of God, but rather on evolving revelations of special persons chosen to receive the "light". This "light" invariably involved the reinterpretation of older religions, which the Gnostics considered impure. Most of all, they considered the religion of the bible impure. On the other hand they had to adopt it, for the true word of God had proven to be a powerful influence in converting many Gentiles to the truth. So they acted Christian and put their tools of allegory to work on the Scripture. Working with them was religious natural selection.

This natural selection was the persecution of pagan Rome, which favored these Gnostic reinterpreters. Now here is an account of how the Sabbath first got changed to Sunday. It had nothing to do with contextual or grammatical principles, and everything to do with mysteries and allegories meant to deceive those insecure in their connection with God. It lies at the earliest layers of Gentile Christianity.

The Gnostic Christians were faced with the obvious Greek text "first of the Sabbaths". Their leaders allegorized it for the flock. This was the "first of the new Sabbath" or the new age of enlightenment by the light that came down from above the seventh sphere. In was the first day beyond the seventh, or the eighth day as they liked to call it. They also construed the word "first" to mean "chief" or "foremost", hence chief of the Sabbaths. Since the first day of the week came before the seventh, they reasoned that the chief of the Sabbaths was Sunday. Where the *demiurge* enters the picture is not quite clear, but probably the light and the separation of dark and light on the first day was not considered the work of the *demiurge*.

They took two approaches. The "first of the Sabbath" was the first sabbatism of the new age. This was a new age of spiritual rest (a.k.a. enlightenment), symbolized in the eighth day, as one sphere beyond Saturn. This moved them forward one day, and allowed them to exploit the chronological ignorance of the Gentiles. The other interpretation allowed them to go back to the first day, "head/chief of the Sabbaths" and refer it to the first day of creation of light.

Now there is no doubt that such interpretation is slavishly out of context. It breaks with all precedent and is completely ungrammatical and unhistorical. Yet it is the heart and soul of the ubiquitous allegorical interpretation of the first three centuries. Christianity did not conquer the mystical and