

The Answering Service

FROM AMERICA'S PROMISE

Answers to questions from Radio and Tape Listeners

No. 13 - January 15, 1982

Question No. 1:

Some religious groups teach that use of the cross is Idolatry. What do you think?

Answer:

Idolatry is defined as worshipping anything other than the God of Israel: **Exodus 20:3**, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me (other than me)". In other words, Israel had only ONE GOD, and they (the Israelites) were not to introduce any other person, place, or thing which required a portion of that respect and allegiance. due Him. Therefore, in reference to the cross, idolatry would be indicated only if one WORSHIPPED IT.

There are those who "revere" the "powers of the Cross". And there are those who use it only as a symbol of illustration. The resultant confusion to those in between is unfortunate, but not insurmountable.

The traditional Christian cross is a SYMBOL that represents something. A sentence, a word, or a letter represent somethings and are, likewise, SYMBOLS; symbols of communication. We use these symbols daily to help us form our thoughts, in terms of those symbols.

When we drive our car, we may see an octagon sign, or a red light along the way. These SYMBOLS are associated in our mind, and the thought, "Stop," is communicated to us. There are many other symbols (words, shapes, sounds, colors,

actions) which evoke particular thoughts and responses. This is called communication.

To many people, the cross represents Christianity. It depicts the cross that Christ died upon (not a symbol of Jesus himself, but of His death). It would be less than fair to condemn someone for using this symbol in their thought process, while we use similar symbols to express other thoughts of our own.

In the case where a person uses this symbol (or any other symbol for that matter) to designate a mystic concept of their god, it must be condemned. Pagans have misused symbols such as this for centuries, in the exercise of their demented religions. Crosses, swastikas, hexagrams, ahnks, hammer and sickle, etc., have been, and still are, used to represent a god. But let's be fair. Even the word, "God," itself is in question in certain circles, on the basis that it has been used by pagans to represent one or more of "their own gods".

This question might carry more credibility if there were really more than one God; thus causing confusion as to which of them we would address. But, since this is not the case, and realizing that any alternative god is merely imagined and not a real one, we then must ask, "Who is offended? God, or those who don't realize that there aren't several viable Gods?" The point of this, and the logical answer

is: anything (picture, drawing, words, etc.) can be mis-used and incorporated into idolatry by those who are idolatrous.

Paul commented on the heathen's proclivity to profane everything they use: **Titus 1:15**, "Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them who are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even thier mind and conscience is defiled."

Consequently, one's intention is all important in this issue. If the symbol of the cross is used to mystically represent diety, or if it is used as a part of some pagan ritual, it is condemned. The Christian cross properly represents Jesus' death, and our death in Him (**Rom. 6:6**).

In this sense it is in the same catagory as the symbol of the fish, which is, also, a historical symbol of Christianity. And for that matter, the word "Christian," itself, is a symbol which would fall into the same catagory. I suspect that one would have a long and frustrating search if he went hunting for words, or other symbols of communication which have never been used and defiled by pagans in any way.

Question No. 2:

What happened to "the dry bones" (in Ezekiel. 37) after they came to life and fought in the battle? Did they die again, or continue to live?

Answer:

This wonderfully-symbolic vision was given to Ezekiel as a prophecy of the restoration of "the whole House of Israel." (**vs. 11**) The "resurrection," depicted in this passage, makes use of the term "dry bones" for sake of illustration. We shouldn't think of this as a literal valley, where literal bones will physically-grow flesh back upon them and come to life. We must see it in a greater light.

The bones (representing Israel) are lying in a valley, and they seem to have been dead for a long time for they are "very dry" (**vs. 2**). This seems to be saying that Israel is dead, and her bones are dry. What can this mean?

Hosea 13:9, "Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself, but in Me is help. I will be thy King:..." **Verse 12-14**, "The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; his sin is hid. The sorrows of a travailing woman shall come upon him: he is an unwise son; ... I will ransom them (Israel) from the power of the grave. I will redeem them from death: ... "

Verse 14:1, "O Israel, return unto the Lord thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. ..." **Verse 14**, "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him. I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon..." **Verse 7** "They (Israel) that dwell under his (God's) shadow shall return (repent); **THEY SHALL REVIVE** as the corn, and grow as the vine..." **Verse 9**, "Who is wise, and he shall understand these things; prudent, and he shall know them."

In her sin, Israel had become destitute and lost. For all practical purposes she was dead, at least spiritually and nationally. But God promises to revive her (resurrect her).

Again, we read in the prophet Daniel: "And he (antichrist communism) shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain (America); yet he (communism) shall come to his end, and none shall help him. And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people:...and at that

time thy people (Christian Israel) shall be DELIVERED; every one that shall be found written in the book. AND MANY OF THEM THAT SLEEP IN THE DUST OF THE EARTH (spiritually dead Israel) SHALL A WAKE (revive), some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness (turn them to repentance) as the stars for ever and ever...Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand." **Daniel 11:45 & 12:10**

The dry bones of the covenant people are being brought to life in this scenerio. This depicts the Gospel age in which we now are; thus, we preach the Gospel Of The Kingdom.

How are they resurrected? **Ezekiel 37:4**. "Again, he said unto me, Prophecy unto these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD. "The revival is caused by PREACHING THE WORD! **Verse 5**, "Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and you will live. " **Verse 14**, "AND I SHALL PUT MY SPIRIT IN YOU, AND YE SHALL LIVE, and I shall place you in your own land:" This is not a physical resurrection, but rather a spiritual resuscitation of Israel. A revival of the covenant people. The fulfillment of the New Covenant. This is the great harvest of souls in the kingdom of Christ. Even Jesus speaks with similar description concerning the earlier firstfruits, which were brought in before the main harvest: **John 5:23,24**, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, the hour is coming, AND NOW IS, WHEN THE DEAD SHALL HEAR THE VOICE OF THE SON OF GOD (preaching the

word), AND THEY THAT HEAR SHALL LIVE (they shall be revived)." And then He spoke of "the GREAT harvest" in **verse 28**, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which ALL that are in their graves shall hear His voice, and come forth;" The whole house of Israel was promised a revival, and a land to inherit, from which they will never be uprooted. ISRAEL, AS A NATION, WILL DIE NO MORE! **Daniel 2:44** explains, "and in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and IT SHALL STAND FOR EVER."

Question No. 3:

I have heard that Adam was not the father of Cain, but that the devil, Satan, or some other creature impregnated mother Eve. Can you give a short answer?

Answer:

(We will use an excerpt from an article by Robert T. Woodworth for our answer.)

It's a pretty well-established fact that Adam and Eve's first two sons were Cain and Abel. Then Cain killed Abel and fled from the country of his parents to the land of Nod (**Gen.6**). After this, Adam and Eve had another son, Seth, and many more children (**Gen. 5:1-4**). When I announced my subject, "Was Cain Adam's Son?" for a Sunday night's sermon, my grandson showed his mother **Genesis 4:1** which says, "And Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord. " So my grandson added, "That settles it. What is grandpa going to preach about tonight?"

Well, son, it isn't that simple for some people. There are people who believe that Eve's encounter with the serpent was a

seduction, and that Cain was the son of Eve and the serpent or the devil. From this, they establish a "serpent seed" line, which they say has been responsible for most of the heinous sins and atrocities committed by so-called men. There are some people in the kingdom identity movement who believe this, and point to the enemies of our Lord as being the offspring of this serpent line; half Eve and half Satan. (Also the "Moonies" of the Unification church founded by Sun Myung Moon of Korea, believe this. They claim that both Adam and Eve "were tempted by the archangel Lucifer into illicit and forbidden love," Unification Theological Seminary Affirmations, Barrytown, N.Y. 12507)

It is difficult to trace the origin of this idea, but when our nation was founded in 1776, a godless group called the Illuminati was being formed in Europe as a secret society to undermine this new nation, and all Christian nations.

One of the prominent leaders was Adam Weishaupt, and his anti-Christian

cohorts were called, "Seeds of the serpent" by the defenders of the faith in early American pulpits. However, the term "Seeds of the serpent" was not used by them to mean literal descendants of the devil.

In the first place, the Bible says plainly that Cain was the result of the union of Adam and Eve (**Gen. 4:1**). Eve announced that she had received a male child "from the Lord."

There is no evidence, Biblical or otherwise, to show that devils and humans may crossbreed, or that devils reproduce devils at all.

Cain was the son of Adam and Eve, as were Abel and Seth. There are no beings on earth who are part human and part devil or part angel. These are all myths and legends apart from the Bible, and ought not to be allowed in the Christian faith or doctrines.
