

SPIRITUAL CRACK COMES RIGHT FROM THE SHACK

Some time back I wrote an article about reading myths, allegories and stories that are fictional and believing them to be true. I asked the question of how people could read the Chronicles of Narnia and justify reading it by saying that the whole thing was really the Gospel of Yeshua in a veiled form. I questioned why we would want to take the most beautiful love story and veil it so that, as it was explained to me, “unbelievers could see the Gospel of Jesus” without thinking that it really was a Biblical story. Well, to me that would be like taking the Book of Mormon and putting a Bible cover over it and handing it to an unbeliever to read. They would think that the Book of Mormon was really the Bible.

How is presenting the Bible in the form of “The Chronicles of Narnia” ever going to click with someone if they have never read the Bible to begin with. Are they to somehow subliminally know that it is really the account of the Gospels? Is some divine revelation going to go throughout the whole world and all of a sudden, people who have never known the truth to begin with will equate the Chronicles with the truth that they’ve never been exposed to? I have NEVER heard anyone tell me that they came to faith after watching the Chronicles of Narnia. I have NEVER had anyone tell me that they saw a parallel. Heck, I read the books before I was saved and I had exposure to the Gospel before my conversion and I NEVER saw the parallel. As they say in the South, “that dog don’t hunt” when it comes to presenting pagan stories and “Christianizing” them. As Protestants we’re the first to condemn the Vatican for doing this same practice all over the globe, and we’ve seen how they have melded pagan tradition with Christianity and it’s never led to any good. NEVER!

I ran into something similar to this years ago when talking to a Jehovah’s Witness coworker. He was a young man, probably all of twenty years old. We were talking about the Bible and science. He was trying to enforce to me that the accounts of Genesis are the same as evolution; the “in the beginning” account. He mentioned that the Bible parallels the evolution account. I told him that it does not. One “for instance” is that the Bible says that God brought forth the land out of the water. Evolution says that there was land first then water later. I told him that the “days” in Genesis could not be “epochs,” it was impossible. For instance. Yahweh created all of the plants before the Sun, moon and stars. If the days were really epochs then how did the plants use photosynthesis to create food? Also, Yahweh created the pollinating animals on a latter day too; how did the plants pollinate? He decided to just walk away and not listen; sound familiar?

So, I'm sitting about a week ago listening to a friend of ours talking with my wife about something called "The Shack." My ears perked up as I heard our lady friend talking about this book that is supposed to be fiction, and is supposedly written as such, and how it is being preached from altars in churches as being a message from Yahweh. I immediately flashed on The Di Vinci Code, another fictional book that took off a few years ago and also which many people took to be sort of a coded truth about another Gospel, or at the very least a gross perversion of the original Gospel of Yeshua Ha Mashiach.

I have to be honest and say that I am at odds with Christian bookstores. There was a time, years ago when such stores would only sell books that stood on good Biblical principles. However, for the past thirty years or maybe even longer, you have been able to find books about every subject under the sun, and if the title of the book has "Christian" within it or some other Christian buzz word it is on the shelf. True believers, upon entering such establishments are buffeted by books that are either pagan in nature or that pose "theories" that aren't biblically sound. The Shack appears to be such a book.

I'll be upfront with you; I have not read "The Shack" nor will I read it. I live in a college town and if I want to hear New Age dribble I will just go downtown and talk with some of the college kids; they're ripe in that trash. I do trust many sources for obtaining information. These sources are accurate, have been accurate for years and they always seem to be discerning things that the Ruach Ha Kodesh is confirming to me. One such research site is The Cutting Edge. You can read their assessment of "[The Shack](#)" by clicking on the link in this sentence.

My purpose in this blog entry isn't to critique so much "The Shack," but to ask believers in Yeshua why they would want to read fantasy and equate it with Scripture Truth? The Word Of Yahweh is truth and we have 66 books to read that teach us lessons, history and the true nature of Yahweh. When we start to read fiction like The Shack, or The Di Vinci Code then we start to walk on dangerous ground. I'm not saying that we shouldn't read fiction, but it should be that when you end the book you should not feel like you were spiritually raped and satisfied by what just happened to you.

I was sitting in a fellowship amongst a group of women and brought up "The Shack" and was surprised at what I heard. One woman said that she read the book. She said that there were problems with the book, but she still thought that it was a good book. In my estimation, the words "problems" and "good" do not go together. Only when someone knows that there is going to be a resolution of the problem can it then be seen as good. Simply put, a problem is bad and

bad could never be good. It is a common practice of the New Age to sew in a little bad with a lot of good; that is how they operate. Not saying that the woman that I was talking to is New Age, not at all, but she bought into it. I know that I've used the analogy of rat poison many times, but it is such a good analogy that I use it again. The compound in rat poison is placed in good food but in very small amounts. It is a blood thinner that builds up in the body and over time it causes the rat or mouse to hemorrhage from inside and they literally bleed to death. Yeshua himself compared sin to leaven. Yeshua knew that just a little bit of leaven (yeast) quickly grows into a lot of leaven and it takes over the whole lump of dough. Within the pages of *The Shack* the author mixes in unbiblical principles so lightly and with so much fluff that it seems to be perfect common sense that appeals to the fleshly side of people without them actually thinking about it.

We here in America have grown up in prosperity, for the most part, and we've had it pretty good compared to people around the world. We somehow think that the prosperity that we have had is a good thing, and in most ways, it is not bad; but we've grown up like the spoiled rich kid in the neighborhood who lives with blinders on his eyes. We don't want to see the evil in this world and don't want to recognize that it is taking over the world. Even Christians to day want to see Yahweh as a God who forgives without condition and whom all paths lead to for salvation. Ecumenism has crept into the Church in a big way and with the growth of political correctness and multiculturalism the enemy has achieved this quite successfully. The world has bullied us, in a sense, to believe that if we aren't accepting of all we are bigots and haters and sad to say, this will only increase as time marches on. The question that every believer in Yeshua should seriously ask themselves is, "am I going to allow this in my life and seriously hamper my walk with Yeshua?" We need to call sin, sin; evil, evil; and deception, deception. We all want to emulate Yeshua and that is wonderful. However, many only tend to see the Yeshua who was meek and mild; not the Yeshua who chided the Scribes and Pharisees and not the Yeshua who made a whip and whipped the traders in front of the Beit Ha Mikdash. If we want to be like Yeshua, let's be like Him in all ways guided by the righteousness that the Ruach Ha Kodesh give us as we walk humbly with Yahweh in righteousness.

While in the company of the other believers I had another woman sitting next to me who, when challenged by my comments about *The Shack* gently rebuked me by telling me that the book was only fiction. I told her that the *Di Vinci Code* was only fiction and that she should remember what people did with that book. Almost overnight the book was praised as being a book that held veiled secrets as to what the world says "really" happened to Yeshua; that he survived the cross, married Mary Magdalene and raised a royal line of children. It fit very well with the replacement theology people who want to write off the Jewish people as well as the

emergent church movement. For the first time since I've known this woman, she was quieted by what I said and had to agree with me. To say that this action by her surprised me is a gross understatement.

But I wanted some more opinions about *The Shack*, so I decided to approach cautiously my Christian friends on Facebook. I thought for sure I would get the same reaction that I got at the church but was quite surprised to see that the few who wrote back strongly condemned the book. Here are some of their responses:

KF from Denmark says:

It's new age. Why?

In the book his Jesus says he has many followers in other religions!

His God says he died on the cross together with Jesus!

Any one that knows the Bible and has the Holy Spirit will know this book is a lie from Hell to deceive people. The problem is that Christians get another view of God and Jesus – and that is the idea! Many read it as if it's news from God – it's not – it's a novel.

She continues in a further post:

In the book God is a big black lady, Jesus wears jeans and some times for fun walks on water and the spirit is kind of a nervous woman. Not at all biblical. I don't know why so many think it's a Christian book. It's not. Rather a tickling book.

I'm assuming that by tickling she means that it tickles the ears of those who want a different gospel.

PM wrote:

Heard about this book a few years ago, bought it and could not, I do mean, "could not" read it. Finally threw it away. Along with the rick warren junk, out in the trash! Did not need to read this either, to know it was junk. That's what discernment is all about!

ML wrote:

Started reading it and couldn't finish it!

JHS Wrote:

Had people try to give it to me after my husband (name withheld) died & I wouldn't take it. I can't accept any "personification" of Messiah other than His actual personification as so clearly recorded in the Bible. For me, I can't even accept Narnia as Biblically valid, so something like The Shack is way whacked out!

I have presented views of "The Shack" by people who have read it, or tried to read it. Why no men responded I can only wonder. Perhaps men are more into reality rather than fiction; we're less emotional and more pragmatic when it comes to life and the things thereof. What I saw in the answers by the two different groups is that one group is very discerning while the other two ladies seemed to be more into the fluff of this world. To use an analogy, all women walked into an orchard filled with trees and beautiful flowers. The two who liked the book saw the flowers. The ones with discernment saw the flowers but also noticed that the trees that were supposed to be apple trees were growing nightshade mushrooms as fruit.

In closing, I'd like to say that I just don't think that it's important, I know that it's important that we compare all things to scripture. We have to be in our Bibles all the time looking, reading and memorizing scripture so that when we're handed a plate or rat poison, we can notice that it is rat poison and not caviar. The very survival of Yeshua's Church depends on our holding up to our end of our relationship with Him by serving Him faithfully and knowing His will in its entirety, not just bits and pieces that Satan can use to build a different puzzle in our lives than Yahweh intended for us to have.