

WHY ARE RELIGIOUS PEOPLE SO ANNOYING?

If you've read my posts here on this blog you know that I am a Jewish believer in Yeshua (Jesus). It's not easy being me (to quote Rodney Dangerfield). Many Christians accuse me of being a Pharisee because I don't go with the idol worship stuff that comes with Christian Tradition and Jews see me as being messed up because I happen to believe that Yeshua is the Lamb of Yahweh that came to take away the sins of the world. Christians have accused me of not being a Christian because I don't celebrate Christmas or Easter, instead we celebrate Hanukkah and Passover, just like Yeshua did. We celebrate Yeshua's resurrection during Passover, just in case you were guessing. Jews accuse me of being an idol worship because they don't understand the unity of Elohim. Like I said, it isn't easy being me.

I recently made a friend on Facebook named Dan. He seemed to be right on, but a little intense. For instance, he was adept at calling Christian's pagans because they celebrate Christmas. My take on Christmas is that I believe I know the truth, but I pray for people to know what I know and I don't insult them by calling them pagans. After all, there was a time when I celebrated Christmas and it took a while for Yahweh to get through to me; how can I treat people with intolerance. It's all about love, isn't it? Dan was the same way about Easter, and again I agree that the whole tradition of Easter is pagan. We choose to celebrate the resurrection during Passover, which is around when Yeshua actually rose from the dead, and for those who call it Easter, well, we refer to it as Resurrection Day. But just like Christmas, we don't go around castigating our loved ones and our supposed friends on Facebook by calling them pagans. Dan did call Christians pagan during those times. I'll admit, I didn't argue with Dan because technically he is correct, but like the adage says, you can better catch flies with honey rather than vinegar. I do believe in the grace of Yeshua and I know that He knows how to be God better than I could ever fathom. I'll let Him do the judging and convicting. When I'm asked why I believe how I do, I usually hand people a copy of "A Woman Rides the Beast," and I tell them that it made a lot of sense to me. Let them read it for themselves and judge for themselves.

My wife and I are in concord when it comes to the celebrating of these days. Yes, we celebrate Shabbat every Friday night, but we also attend church on Sunday as sort of an informal gathering with other believers in Yeshua. Admittedly, Christmas is a sticky wicket for us. One of our daughters believes like we do where Christmas and Easter are concerned, but the two other daughters are heavily into the traditions of those two days. Easter is no sweat because nobody really gathers for that day anymore. Christmas is difficult however. All of our daughters know

how we feel about these days, but the hard ones to explain to are the grand-kids. I was floored last December when we brought three of our grandchildren with us to church around Christmas. It's hard enough for us to see a tree at the front of the church and all of the wreaths hanging around, but we're adults and we can just suck it up. We know that Yeshua was born, probably around Sukkot. So, when Christmas comes around, we just acknowledge the birthday aspect of it and pray that someday people will come to know the truth. This December, my older grandson tugged on my arm during worship and asked me why my wife and I were at Church during Christmas, and how come there was a tree at our church. He's always heard that we don't believe in trees and/or Christmas and was basically asking me why we were being hypocrites. My explanation was that as far as grandma and I are concerned, we know the truth, but we didn't want to insult people that we love by staying away from them during a time that they find so special. I didn't want him to think that we had become as closed minded and hateful as Dan was online. His condemnations were insulting and calloused and weren't done out of love. I want my grandchildren to grow up to be lights, not lamp shades.

When I made friends with Dan on Facebook, I sort of had a feeling that we would someday have a parting of the ways. I knew that when I observed him castigating others, he would someday find an area where we would not see things the same. That time came today. As most of you know, I believe that the "sons of God," called B'nei Elohim in Hebrew were fallen angels. A good read of the other uses of "sons of God" in Job prove that without a doubt. Well, Dan came out with a post today, saying that the angelic view of Genesis 6 is not Biblical. Of course, I addressed this. I did this by asking questions. I have found that asking questions is much better than starting off with "what, are you nuts?" The questions that I asked were proper and done in love. My questions were?

- *If Genesis 6 is not referring to angels, then what about the three other uses of B'nei Elohim that are used in Job that is clearly speaking about angels?*
- *Since you seem to hold the Vatican in contempt judging by previous posts, why would you keep their tradition where Genesis 6 is concerned?*
- *If the book of Enoch isn't valid, then how come Jude quotes from it?*
- *I cited the Jewish Encyclopedia, which says that the angel hypothesis was held until the Catholic Church changed it to the Sons of Seth myth.*

Now, I know a little about this subject. I wrote a book about it for goodness sake. I have been researching it for a number of years, even decades, so I think I know what I'm talking about. So, when someone comes out with a blanket statement saying that the Angel hypothesis is not

Biblical, I have to say something. I won't go into the whole discussion because the lunacy of this guy's thinking and his lack of discussion skills is fresh in my mind and I don't want to sin. But the end result of the discussion was that he told me that the events in Job were only Metaphors, that there is no proof that Jude quoting Enoch is just a coincidence, he never addressed the Jewish encyclopedia definition, that he does in fact hold to some traditions of the Vatican (citing that believing in the Ten Commandments is a Vatican thing) and that what I was saying was nonsense and that I was believing false doctrine. There were no words like perhaps, maybe or any indication that he would consider something that was outside of his box.

The sad thing is that this is the way that many "Messianics" come across and their rigidness gets placed on the whole body of Messianics. It's really no different than the actions of a few Jewish leaders bringing Yeshua to Pilate to be crucified getting all Jews the title of Christ Killers. It's also no different than all Christians being thought of as intolerant because of the actions of the Catholic Church throughout the ages.

Jim Wilhelmsen and I have said repeatedly on our Opposing the Matrix radio show that the things to argue and defend are the core issues of our faith, not the peripheral areas. It's not hard to find one group of Christians arguing with another group about things like the timing of the Rapture, or Calvinism vs. Arminism, or other such things. In these forums you hear things like what Dan said tonight; that if you don't agree with him in the gray areas, then you are deceived and believing false doctrine. These are religious people, all fighting over peripheral things and forgetting about things like love, mutual respect and not putting aside pride, but proving that they are smarter because they can label someone as a pagan because those people don't live like they do. In Dan I see the very embodiment of the lesson that Yeshua taught about the Pharisees:

And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. Luke 18:9-14

I just had to laugh. I went back to the thread and Dan is still talking about me. All I know is that I backed up my belief with scripture. Dan didn't offer scripture once. I offered questions and he offered condemnation. Yeshua said that we would know them by their fruit, and if someone

offers an opinion merely by using their own worldly wisdom and then they gossip when one leaves a room, then that fruit is quite evident, and it is rotten. I'll let Dan revel in what he thinks is a victory because I left the discussion and unfriended him. I'll let him continue to gossip and let all of his little sycophants agree with him, but I have a peace in my heart that I did the right thing and although hurtful his comments are, I'll be justified at the end of all things.