



BORDERLINES

- Today human history and spirituality are seen as disconnected
- History and the future are seen as entirely in the hands of humanity and fate
- God is only personal, and is for comfort, inner peace and happiness
- In ancient times history and spirituality were interwoven
- Gods directed human activity and therefore history was the result of what the gods decided

**Control your
own destiny
or someone
else will.**

– Jack Welch

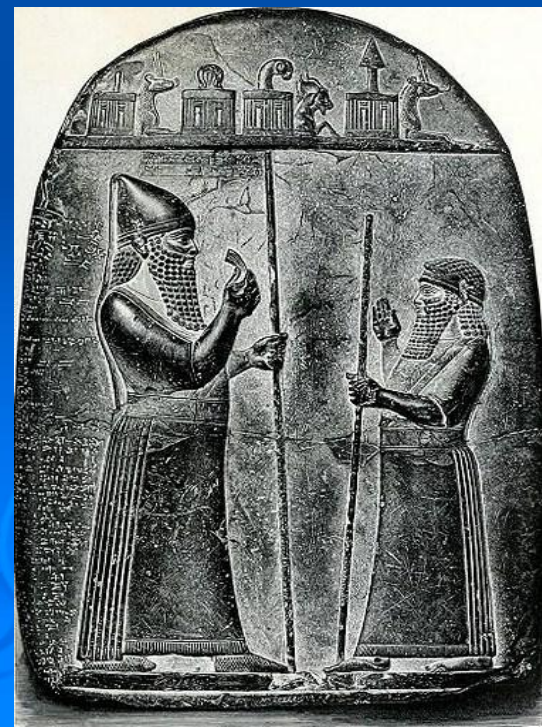
MODERN WORLDVIEW CREATES SPIRITUAL DOUBTS



- Reading the Bible through the lens of modern times is a mistake
- Makes us wonder if God is living and present in our lives
- The only question for the ancients was WHICH god to choose

HEZEKIAH'S NEW FRIEND

- Hezekiah went to God with his terminal illness, and God granted him healing
- The Lord provided a sign of reassurance by means of a sun dial
- B'rodakh-Baladan or Merodach-Baladan ?
- Why did Merodach come to Judah?
- Speculation that it was the sun dial miracle not backed up by Scripture
- Merodach wanted King Hezekiah as an ally and a friend



A POLITICAL SOLUTION

- Merodach always at war with Assyria, looking for allies
- King Shalmaneser died in 722 B.C., allowing Merodach to become King of Babylon
- Elam helped keep Merodach king until 710 B.C. when Sargon recovered Babylon for Assyria
- After Sargon died, Merodach became king again for less than 1 year
- Merodach came to Hezekiah during his 1st term as King of Babylon



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KING HEZEKIAH FLATTERED BY MERODACH'S VISIT

- Isaiah 39: 2
“...*Hizkiyahu* was pleased...”
- *Samach* = rejoice
- Hezekiah open to an alliance with heathen Babylon
- The Lord was against this as in Ex. 23 & 34, Dt.7, Judges 2
- Hezekiah doing as his father Achaz did
- *Melech Hizkiyahu* (King Hezekiah) had not learned lessons from his father's mistakes or his illness recovery



THE PRICE OF PRIDE

- 2Chron.32:25, 26 *“...did not respond commensurately for the benefit done for him....”*
- Instead of becoming humble he saw himself as worthy of divine favor
- 2Chron.32: 27-31 *“...God left him by himself...to test him...”*
- Instead of seeing his mortality as fragile, he saw himself as invincible
- He thought that since God loved him, he was the exception to the rule



FREE AT LAST

LIBERTY IN CHRIST....OR
FREEDOM FROM GOD?



- **Modern Christian viewpoint:** Redeemed by Grace, loved by God, relieved of obligations by Jesus
- Christians as the only people on the planet, or among angels in heaven, who have no duty to obey God's laws and commands ?
- Hezekiah displayed this attitude, but are we any different?

ISAIAH'S PROPHETIC JUDGMENT AGAINST HEZEKIAH



- 2Kings 20:16-18
- A 2-part judgment
- 1) All the wealth that Hezekiah treasured will be taken to Babylon
- 2) His royal descendants will serve Babylon
- Our arrogance and denial of accountability to God may only affect future generations
- Hezekiah glad he won't be around to experience the prophetic fulfillment !!

PLEASE GOD! NOT IN MY LIFETIME!

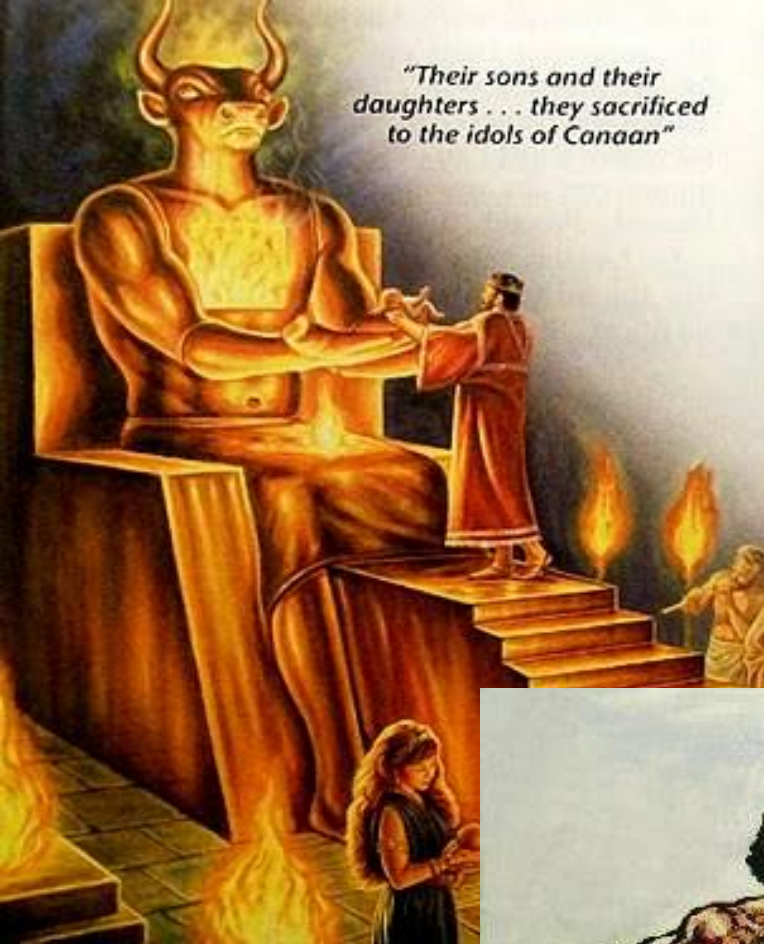
- When we sing of the glory of Armageddon, and the return of Messiah, we really hope for peace and prosperity in our own lives
- So we're hoping that our children and children's children will experience these cataclysmic events, but not us !!



2ND KINGS 21: THE EVIL OF KING MANASSEH



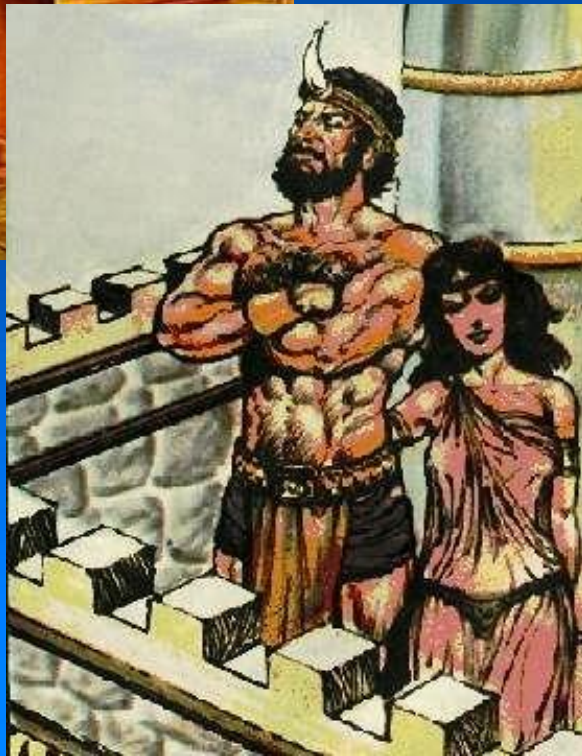
- Anointed king at 12 years old
- Was co-regent with his father Hezekiah for 10 years
- Manasseh was like his grandfather **Achaz**
- A steep spiritual decline for Judah
- **Bamot** rebuilt, Ba'al worship, astrology, pagan altars on the Temple grounds



"Their sons and their daughters . . . they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan"

MANASSEH LIKE NIMROD

- He gave up his own son to child sacrifice
- Manasseh INTENDED to anger God
- When we lose respect for the institutions who are supposed to guard our faith, we lose respect for the god of that faith
- The moral and spiritual fiber of Judah had become eroded
- Hebrew religion became a mix of culture, pagan customs, and Jewish ritual



JUDAH HEBREW-IZED PAGAN DEITIES



- Relics that connect YHWH and “his Asherah” have been found
- Prophets condemned this, but most were killed as a result
- Hebrew tradition is that Manasseh killed Isaiah
- Because Manasseh had no prophet, he received no oracle from God

Kuntillet 'Ajrud - Pithos A

'mr' []hm[!]'k' mrl'ylhl []m'w'sh.wl []bjkt. 'tkm
lyhwh.šmm.wf šrth

Said A[šyaw] the king: Say to Yahalallel
and to Yoawah and to[] I bless you
by YHWH of Shomeron and by Asheratah

