

DANIEL - The Ram and the Goat - Part 2

DN-15

The Bible is its own expositor. Scripture is to be compared with scripture. The student should learn to view the word as a whole, and to see the relation of its parts. He should gain a knowledge of its grand central theme, of *God's original purpose for the world, of the rise of the great controversy*, and of the work of redemption. **He should understand the nature of the two principles that are contending for supremacy, and should learn to trace their working through the records of history and prophecy, to the great consummation.** He should see how this controversy enters into every phase of human experience; how in every act of life he himself reveals the one or the other of the two antagonistic motives; and how, whether he will or not, he is even now deciding upon which side of the controversy he will be found. {Ed 190.2}

We will see how the above statement reveals these ‘two principles’ which have contended for the supremacy down through the ages of the history of the world.

I. What Greece Bequeathed to the World (Daniel 8:4-8)

Babylon, Persia, Rome & the Papacy literally enslaved and persecuted God’s people. What about Greece?

Greece overthrew Persia (modern Iraq and Iran) at the Battle of Gaugamela in 331 BC. Alexander the Great conquered Darius III of the Persian Empire. In the same year Alexander founded the city of Alexandria, Egypt—which became a center of learning. Alexandria through the Greek philosophers taught nature worship, natural philosophy and natural immortality of the soul.

These Greek Philosophers, are commonly known today as _____, _____ and _____. The radical idea was gaining ground that there were no gods—but man could decipher the laws of the universe to master all nature. Supreme amongst such thinkers was Aristotle. Plato was the philosopher of the intellect while Aristotle of nature (his followers held to the immortality of the soul concept). {-John Loughborough 1873 HPGO 70.8}

Satan gave to Adam and Eve the same teachings “to obtain forbidden knowledge” {GC 554.1,2} that were taught in Alexandria Egypt “Spiritualism teaches that man is the creature of progression. Each mind will judge itself and not another...because it is the judgment of self...said a spiritualistic teacher, “My fellow men, all were unfallen demigods.” {ibid}

Aristotle taught that the laws of nature was the essence of all that is divine in the universe. —i.e. Pantheism as a “better and surer” way than those which are engraved upon tablets.” In essence, we don’t need the Ten Commandments.

What is not so widely known, is how the teachings of Socrates, Plato and especially Aristotle were disseminated worldwide? Alexander the Great!

II. Jews Became Seduced into Greek Philosophy

It is a sad fact that ‘many of the Jews flocked to Egypt (for education) and those who remained in Jerusalem and Palestine imbibed many of the ideas of the Greeks. (This is how the Jews went into captivity by Greece.) Jews sat at the feet of pagans in Alexandria Egypt—so the way was paved for Jewish leaders to reject Jesus when He came to earth to redeem man.

The space of time between Malachi and Matthew was the period when this took place.

Alexander
established
Alexandria
Egypt in 331
BC--same date
Media Persia
was defeated.

The last three books of O.T. –Malachi, Haggai, Zechariah—all prophesied when Jews were rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem between 457 BC – 408 BC. There were no prophets after 408 BC

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But God didn't forsake His people. He was working to **redeem** them.

- When Jews were brought into Egyptian captivity >> God called Moses to lead them out.
- When Jews were brought into Babylonian captivity >> who did God call as prophets to warn them what would take place and bring them back to their own land?
>> Daniel, Jeremiah, Nehemiah, Ezra, Haggai, Zechariah.
- But when the Jews chose to go into captivity into Greece, Alexandria, Egypt which prophet did God raise up to call them out? >> John the Baptist (after that silent period)

Zechariah 9:12-14 indicates the Great Controversy, where we see that battle between God's people and Greece. The Jews were "Prisoners of _____" in Greece. There was hope for them only if they came out, taking the counsel of God through self-examination. Just is it is today.

III. Counsel and Warnings from Heaven

The Jews should not have sought education from Egypt because they had:

1. _____ Account (see 1 King 4:29-34)—who's wisdom "excelled the wisdom of the east and the wisdom of Egypt."
As a result of the visit by the Queen of _____, she went back to Africa with a knowledge of the true God (see 1 Ki 10:1-9)
2. _____ Account (per Acts 7:22 – this man was learned "in all the wisdom of the Egyptians", so God had to 'unlearn' him in the land of Median.
3. _____ Account Per this prophetic book, we are studying, if the Jews had followed the example of this prophet and held to his writings, they would not have sought an education in Alexandria, Egypt.

Time prevents us from looking at Paul's encounter with the Philosophers, Epicureans and Stoics in the book of Acts and his burden to preach at Corinth the power of the cross of Christ to the Greeks, Barbarians, Jews, and Romans. Not to mention how Timothy and Titus were rescued from Greek Philosophy and Egyptian idolatry.

IN SUMMARY, the philosophy of the Greeks has been handed down through successive generations to our world the enslaved teachings of the papacy to "overthrow Protestantism". The education of Egypt via the wisdom of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle has lead to doubt, witchcraft, spiritualism and higher criticism in the universities of the world, which Martin Luther predicted would become "the gates of hell". Further, Greek teachings have brought about the LGBT movement and pedophilia, children's nudity and abortion and the 'sports of Greece have brought about "vain deceit and the tradition of men" {Col 2:8} The world is ripe for destruction.

Now more than ever the prophecies of Daniel, particularly chp. 8 and 9 need to be given to the world. We need to be thankful God has given us the privilege of revealing light on this great subject. Next week, we will study how Paganism and the Papacy tried to shut out the light of Sanctuary truth.