

# Was Satan/Heylel/Asherah "Married" to Yahweh

## Part 2

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A few months ago I wrote an article entitled "Was Satan/Heylel/Venus "Married" to Yahweh?" It was an attempt to bring understanding to the readers about who Satan/Heylel is and why he/she hates Yisrael. This is part 2 of that study, and I pray it will help to bring even more understanding and reveal the true nature of Satan/Heylel! This is an adventure into the "What if" world of possibilities from the Scripture and history.

From the Weekly World News January 6, 1998:

### IS Satan Really a Woman?

#### Stunning new evidence says the Prince of Darkness may be a Princess

By Mike Foster

Bonn, Germany-Is Satan really a woman? That intriguing question was posed at a recent theological conference here-and surprisingly, more than a dozen TOP BIBLICAL SCHOLARS who were gathered together at the international event agreed that the Evil One is indeed FEMALE!

"Lucifer has many characteristics usually considered feminine and is usually depicted consistently in the Scriptures as a manipulative, sensual, and alluring," says Rev. Werner Priebe, a leading Lutheran minister from Hamburg whose lecture entitled "The Devil is a Woman" sparked the discussion.

"What's more, eyewitness evidence drawn from encounters with the Devil over the centuries clearly indicates that the so-called Prince of Darkness is in fact a princess."

The Old Testament never explicitly identifies Satan as a male...

"As shocking as this may sound, the so-called war in heaven between G-d and Lucifer may have simply been the start of the battle of the sexes."

Most of our images come from Hollywood movies...

But Rev. Priebe says the image is all wrong and offers several pieces of evidence for his theory:

1. The OT NEVER specifies Lucifer's gender. "In Genesis, the Devil is referred to as the serpent and in Job, as Satan. The terms "he" and "him" are not used," notes the minister.
2. In recently completed translations of the Dead Sea Scrolls, Satan is repeatedly called "SHE", and the "Temptress." This proves that the early Jews and Christians understood that Lucifer was a FEMALE," says the Rev. Priebe. "The confusion must have developed in latter centuries."

A recent e-mail listing the NEW tape series from Rabbi Moshe Koniuchowsky dated Tuesday July 18, 2000:

- B-8-YAHWEH'S FALLEN BRIDE! Enter a NEW understanding of s.a.tan's hatred for you. Learn who you represent to HIM/HER, and how s.a.tan sees you and your place in Messiah. Begin to understand the JEALOUSY and ANGER felt towards you by s.a.tan in a NEW light. This study will reveal s.a.tan's fall from grace. Three tape set \$18

From a review of the book **“Yahweh’s Bride: Sex and Evolution of Monotheism: A Study of Yahweh, Asherah, Ritual Sodomy, and Temple Prostitution”** by Arthur Frederick Ide I quote:

- “...El takes Asherah as His wife but she later becomes sexually involved with the SUN god Ba’al...”
- “...There was a vigorous and lengthy competition between the gods Yahweh and Ashterah...”
- “...Later Asherah was considered the consort (wife) of Yahweh (a male).....”
- “Today Asherah is frequently described as the consort of the god *EL*” *page 27*
- “The word *EL* means “mighty one” or “most high god”. Although a non-Hebraic Semetic god, the Hebrew turned to *EL* as if he was originally their god. It was on *El* that Yahweh was ultimately draped.” *page 28*
- “To set an example, *EL* took a wife: the popular and fertile Ashterah. For a time, to register the wedding, Ashterah’s name was changed to *ELAT*-the female form of *EL*. This action noted her martial status-not her alleged subordination to *EL*. Known as *El’s* consort, Ashterah was proclaimed to be the mother of the all gods: the theotokos that the Mary of Nazareth would replace in the Semetic/Christian pantheon” *page 29*.
- “Later recognition by the Israelites of Yahweh’s wife comes the benedictions found on large storage jars. One of the blessings read: I have blessed you by Yahweh (the god) of Samaria and his Ashterah. That Ashterah was, indeed, the wife of Yahweh can be determined by the etymological study of the inscription, compared internally (by analysis of composition) as well as externally (compared with similar inscriptions).” *pages 59-60*
- “One particular drawing dramatizes not only the popular concept Yahweh had a wife, but shows how music (*shir*) and dance (*machol*) were intricate and an intricate part of the worship...” *page 71*
- “Asherah was always a FEMALE deity...” *page 73*
- “Since both Asherah and Eve were wiser than man, the priests of Levi merged and wrote their legends, refashioning woman into symbols of evil: from the DRAGON guarding the gates of glory, to the SNAKE or SERPENT that became the persona of the DEVIL: the source of temporal WISDOM (*hokmah*)” *page 88*

This is a small example of the material in the book *Yahweh’s Wife*. The purpose was to show you that the concept of Asherah/Lucifer/Heyl being Yahweh’s consort is NOT a NEW concept or teaching, but has existed for millenniums (between 1300-1400 BCE). Please note that this concept was put forth in an article from **Biblical Archaeological Review** (March/April 1979 issue by Ze’ev Meshel) and can be proven by archaeological finds. Brother Eddie Chumney also hints at this idea in his book **“Who is the Bride of Christ”**.

### Who is Ashterah?

- **The Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible**: Ishtar, the goddess of love and fertility, who was actually identified with VENUS STAR and is actually entitled the “Mistress of Heaven in the Amarna Tablets...”
- **Unger’s Bible Dictionary**: Ashtoreth, Astarte, and a Canaanite goddess. A god identified with the planet VENUS. The name is cognate of the BABYLONIAN ISHTAR the goddess of sensual love, maternity, and fertility...”
- **Gesenius’ Hebrew Chaldee Lexicon**: Ashterah pr. fortune, i.e. in the idolatry of the Phoenicians and Armaeans, Astarte pr the planet VENUS; the apparently the companion and consort of Baal...As VENUS answered to Ashtaroth...” [Rav Ed-recalling the words of Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 14:12 we read in *The Hebrew English Lexicon* by Brown Driver and Briggs: Heyl-shining one, son of the dawn, i.e. the star of the morning, epith. of (VENUS as) the morning star.”
- **The Interpreter’s Bible Dictionary**: Ashterah: **the goddess**: She figures prominently as the MOTHER-GODDESS... illustrating the Ashterah a: a plain pole, a carved pole, a staff, a TRIANGLE on a staff, A CROSS, a double ax, a tree, a tree stump, a head-dress for priests, and a

wooden image...it was an object that stood upright rather than lying flat..The same conclusion would hold if the cult object was a staff or a pole.

- **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance**: #842 Asherah or Asheyrh from #833 HAPPY; Asherah (or Astarte) a Phoenician goddess also an image of the same; -GROVE.Comp.6258. #833-ASHAR-to be straight, to be level, right, happy; fig. To go forward, be honest, go, guide...".However in the **Lexicon in Veteris Testamenti Libris** the word Asherah is represented by a sacred pole set up near the altar! This pole was used to set the FALSE FEAST DAYS by the EQUINOXES and the SUN'S SOLSTICES!
- **The Dictionary of Mythology, Folklore, and Symbols**: At the vernal equinox (ascertained exactly by the SUN's shadow) the heathen Fertility Goddess represented by a Temple prostitute-priestess and a chosen MOCK-KING, a man (representing the Husband/Son/God) met and had sexual intercourse. At the Summer Solstice the chosen mock king (husband/son/god) was chopped into pieces-symbolically the "god" died. Then at the Autumn Equinox the Goddess and all the pagan women wept for the dead king/husband/son/Lover of the goddess. {Rav Ed- This ancient "god" had many names, but the Scriptures condemned this under the name of Tammuz –see Yechezqel 8:13-14!} At the Winter Solstice this slain "god" was reborn! Forty days after the birth of this god. The goddess would reappear in public in a rite of purification. The pagans celebrated his birth at the Winter Solstice or January 5 (Epiphany) but today due to the fact Pope Gregory cut 10 days from the calendar to adjust the calendar to the Equinoxes, this god's birthday is NOW CELEBRATED ON DECEMBER 25, although it is now called "CHRIST-MASS". ALL THIS IS ASSOCIATED WITH SUN WORSHIP AND THE CULTIC PHALLIC SYMBOL OF ASHTERAH/VENUS/HEYLEL/SATAN!

Asherah/Astarte/Ishtar/Venus is just another name for whom the Scriptures call Satan/Lucifer/Heylel or commonly known as the Devil (*diabolos*). It is unfortunate that we as Yisrael have allowed the Roman/Babylonian System create a perverted image of Satan that comes from **Dante's Inferno** and the false idea of a horned-red-suited-evil looking MAN carrying a pitchfork with a goatee who is feeding fires of hell. What a great plan to deceive millions to the TRUE IDENTITY of the Adversary?

#### A look at Yechezqel 28:14

- **Sacred Name Bible: Rotherham Version**: "Thou was the anointed cherub that covered, when I appointed thee, in the Holy Mount of Elohim thou wast..."
- **KJV**: "Thou *art* the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee *so*: thou wast upon the holy mountain of G-d..."<sup>1</sup>
- **The Holy Bible/ Isaac Leese**: "Thou wast a cherub with outspread covering (wings); I had set thee upon the holy mountain of G-d (as thou wast)..."
- **Green's Interlinear**: "You *were* the anointed cherub that covers, and I had put you in the holy height of G-d..."
- **The Scriptures**: "You were the anointed kerub that was covered. And I placed you; you were on the set-apart mountain of Elohim..."
- **Exegeses Bible**: You, the overspreading cherub who covers; and I gave you on the holy mountain of Elohim..."
- **Holy Bible: Aramaic Peshitta**: "You were with the anointed cherub that shelters; and I have set you on the holy mountain of Elohim..."
- **Book of YHWH**: "You were the guardian cherub<sup>2</sup>, and I married you on the holy mountain of YHWH..."

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<sup>1</sup> Dakes Bible on page 832 says that Elohim placed Satan over all the earth to rule and reign over His creation. The holy mountain of Elohim is where Satan had his Kingdom before Adam was created.

<sup>2</sup> Hebrew root-RAV, meaning cherub, an ancient Hebrew term for one who holds ministerial office such as a priest, elder, Malak, Levite, Deacon, or Deaconess. Gesenius Hebrew Lexicon page 753 shows this word also means "she who has many children, referring to Ezek.28:13-19, to YHWH's estranged wife, who was an officer in the Dwelling Place.

We will study the words “appointed, set, put, placed” you on the set-apart Mountain of Elohim.

- The word is #5414 *NaTaN* in Hebrew. It is a verb and means “give, put, and set”. On page 678 of **The Hebrew English Lexicon** by Brown, Driver, and Briggs and in **the Analytical Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon** by Benjamin Davidson, we find that the word CAN mean **TO MARRY** or to GIVE a woman to a man as a WIFE and to give woman to man as wife. In fact the name HEYLEL, means to **give in marriage #1984 Halal** – “to celebrate, give in marriage, praise, shine, give light, to be worthy of praise” according to **The New Wilson’s OT Word Studies** page 506. [Contrast **Mishle** (Proverbs) 31 with Satan/Hillel/Venus’s personality. Maybe that is why we say this to our wives on Shabbat? –Rav Ed]

We COULD translate this verse, “...And I MARRIED you on the set-apart mountain of Yahweh.” Could Yahweh have “married “ Satan/Hillel/Venus /Ashterah on His set-apart mountain? Could this “marriage have taken place on Mt. Sinai or even Mt. Moriyah?

### Good Questions

I want to give you some food for thought. Is this the reason Yahweh brought Yisrael of old to Mount Sinai to take part in what every rabbi knows was a “marriage” ceremony or celebration? Could this have been the very same mountain that the previous marriage to Ashterah took place upon? And then later He would bring Yisrael into the land of Promise to build a House for Him in Yerushalayim. Could it be mount Moriyah, or what is now known as the Temple Mount, was once the home of Yahweh and Ashterah? Remember that Shelomoh had Hiram (who was a Phoenician) help him to build the Temple of Yahweh in Yerushalayim. Phoenicia was a center for the worship of Ashterah, Baal, and Chemosh. The builders patterned the Temple of YHWH after the form similar to their own pagan temples<sup>3</sup>. Later we read in **1 Melekim 11:5-9** that Shelomoh did evil in the sight of Yahweh and whored after Asherah! Shelomo *Melek* Yisrael introduced her worship in the *Kadosh* city of Yerushalayim! His many marriages to foreign wives were political marriages but also led to his backsliding. He married a Sydonian princess just about the time he needed help in building the Temple of YHWH. A Hittite princess in the court resulted in the introduction of pagan deities worshipped by his wives<sup>4</sup>.

- 5And Shelomoh went after Ashtoreth the mighty one of the Tsidonians, and after Milkom the abomination of the Ammonites. 6Thus Shelomoh did evil in the eyes of YHWH, and did not follow YHWH completely, like his father David. 7Then Shelomoh built a high place for Kemosh the abomination of Mo’ab, on the hill that is east of Yerushalayim, and for Molek the abomination of the children of Ammon. 8And so he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and slaughtered to their mighty ones.

He back slid<sup>5</sup> so badly that he placed a SACRED POLE<sup>6</sup> in the House of YHWH! SUN WORSHIP and the worship of Ashterah was right in the center of the Dwelling Place of Yahweh! But he did even more! In **2 Melakim 23:13-14** we read that:

- “Shelomoh the King of Israel had built high places to Ashterah the abomination of the PHOENECIANS and he had erected SACRED POLES! 13And the sovereign defiled the high places that were before Yerushalayim, which were on the right hand of the Mountain of Destruction, which Shelomoh sovereign of Yisra’el built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Tsidonians, and for Kemosh the abomination of the Mo’abites, and for Milkom the abomination of the children of Ammon. 14And he broke in pieces the pillars and cut down the Asherim, and filled their places with the bones of men.

<sup>3</sup> The Tell Tainat temple in Syria (9<sup>th</sup> century BCE) most closely resembles Solomon’s Temple

<sup>4</sup> There were also Edomites, Moabites, and Ammonites in his court.

<sup>5</sup> 1 Kings 11:5

<sup>6</sup> Asherah’s most common representation is a phallic symbol of a pole or pillar. The rites of the cult of Asherah were sexual in nature.

## Asherah and the Two Houses

The division of the Two Houses was a result of the sin of King Shelomo, who was worshipping Asherah!

- 8And so he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and slaughtered to their mighty ones. 9Therefore YHWH was enraged with Shelomoh, because his heart had turned away from YHWH Elohim of Yisra'el, who had appeared to him twice, 10and had commanded him concerning this word, not to go after other mighty ones. But he did not guard what YHWH had commanded. And HWHY said to Shelomoh, "Because you have done this, and have not guarded My covenant and My laws, which I have commanded you, I shall certainly tear the reign away from you and give it to your servant. 12"Only, I do not do it in your days, for sake of your father David. Out of the hand of your son I shall tear it.13"Only, I shall not tear away all the reign but give one tribe to your son for the sake my servant David, and for the sake of Yerushalayim which I have chosen." **1 Melekim 11:8-13**
- 29And it came to be at that time, when Yaroboam went out of Yerushalayim, that the prophet Abiyah the Shilonite met him on the way. And he was wearing a new garment, and the two were alone in the field. 30And Abiyah took hold of the new garment that was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces, 31and said to Yaroboam, "Take for yourself ten pieces, for thus said YHWH, the Elohim of Yisra'el, 'See, I am tearing the reign out of the hand of Shelomoh and shall give ten tribes to you, 32but he shall have one tribe for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Yerushalayim, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Yisra'el. 33'Because they have forsaken Me, and bow themselves to Ashtoreth the mighty one of the Tsidonians, to Kemosh the mighty one of the Mo'abites, and to Milkom the mighty one of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in My ways **1 Melekim 11:29-33**

Thus the worship of the EX-wife was the cause of the Two Kingdoms, Yisrael and Yehudah. She/he had succeeded to divide a nation. Our Master Yahshua said, "A Nation divided against itself cannot stand."

Yaroboam, King of Yisrael, resurrected the golden calf and placed an altar at Beth-EL and Dan and appointed non-Levites as priests to conduct its worship. Yaroboam's orgies in honor of Asherah and Ba'al were well known in Yisrael.

- 28So the sovereign took counsel and made two calves of gold, and said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Yerushalayim. See, your mighty ones, O Yisra'el, which brought you up from the land of Mitsrayim!" 29And he set up one in Beyth El, and the other he put in Dan. 30And this matter became a sin, for the people went before the one as far as Dan. 31And he made the house of high places, and made priests from all sorts of people, who were not of the sons of Levi. 32And Yaroboam performed a festival on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the festival that was in Yehudah, and he offered on the altar. So he did at Beyth El, slaughtering to the calves that he had made. And at Beyth El he appointed the priests of the high places which he had made.

Under King Ahav, his Sidonian wife Jezebel (daughter of Ethbaal<sup>7</sup>, King of Sidon) built altars to Ba'al in Samaria and made an Asherah.

- 33And Ahav made an Asherah. And Ahav did more to provoke YHWH Elohim of Yisra'el than all the sovereigns of Yisra'el before him. **1 Kings 16:33**

When the reign of King Jehu's son Joahaz (from Yisrael) came to an end (798 BCE) the statue of Asherah still stood in Samaria. If it stood, then it was worshipped.

- 9And the children of Yisra'el secretly did against YHWH their Elohim matters that were not right, and they built for themselves high places in all their cities, from watchtower unto the walled city, 10and set up for themselves pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green

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<sup>7</sup> According to Josephus Ethbaal was the King of Tyre not Sidon, and he was a priest of Astarte.

tree,; do like them. 16And they left all the commands of YHWH their Elohim, and made for themselves a molded image, two calves, and made an Asherah and bowed themselves to all the host of the heavens, and served Ba'al, 17and caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, and practiced divination and sorcery, and sold themselves to do evil in the eyes of YHWH, to provoke Him. 18So YHWH was very enraged with Yisra'el, and removed them from His presence – none was left but the tribe of Yehudah alone. **2 Kings 17:9-10, 16-18**

- We can see from the Scriptures that the worship of Asherah in the House of Yisrael was from the days of the first settlement in Canaan; the Yisraelites having adopted it from the Canaanites. The Asherah cult escaped the anti-Ba'al uprisings in Yisrael led by Eliyahu haNavi. The Assyrians put an end to the Kingdom of Yisrael in 721 BCE, yet the worship of Asherah survived for over 100 years.

However, in the Kingdom Yehudah, Hezekiah's son, Manasseh, reintroduced Asherah worship to Yehudah.

- Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-five years in Yerushalayim. And his mother's name was Hephtsiyah. 2And he did evil in the eyes of YHWH, according to the abominations of the gentiles whom YHWH dispossessed before the children of Yisra'el. 3For he turned and built the high places which Chizqiyahu his father had destroyed, and raised up altars for Ba'al, and made an Asherah, as Ahav sovereign of Yisra'el had done, and he bowed himself to all the host of the heavens and served them. 4And he built altars in the House of YHWH, of which YHWH had said, "In Yerushalayim I put My Name." 5 And he built altars for all the host of the heavens in the two courtyards of the House of YHWH. 6And he made his son pass through the fire, and practiced magic and used divination, and consulted spiritists and mediums. He did much evil in the eyes of YHWH, to provoke Him. 7And he placed a carved image of Asherah that he had made in the House of which YHWH had said to David and to Shelomoh his son, "In this house and in Yerushalayim, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Yisra'el, I put My Name forever, **1Kings 21:1-7**

King Josiah of Yehudah (639 -609 BCE) carried out the Torah and removed the entire all the Asherah around 621 BCE .He also removed them from the House of YHWH the House of Yahweh. **2 Melekim 23:4**.

- 4Then the sovereign commanded Hilqiyahu the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the doorkeepers, to bring out of the Hekal of YHWH all the objects that were made for Ba'al, and for Asherah, and for all the host of the heavens. And he burned them outside Yerushalayim in the fields of Qidron, and took their ashes to Beyth El. 5And he put down the black-robed priests<sup>8</sup> *d*<sup>9</sup> whom the sovereigns of Yehudah had appointed to burn incense on the high places in the cities of Yehudah and in the places all around Yerushalayim, and those who burned incense to Ba'al, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the constellations, and to all the host of the heavens.
- 6And he brought out the Asherah from the House of YHWH, to the wadi Qidron outside Yerushalayim, and burned it at the wadi Qidron and ground it to ashes, and threw its ashes on the graves of the sons of the people. 7And he broke down the houses of the male cult prostitutes that were in the House of YHWH, where the women wove tapestries for the Asherah.
- 13And the sovereign defiled the high places that were before Yerushalayim, which were on the right hand of the Mountain of Destruction, which Shelomoh sovereign of Yisra'el built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Tsidonians, and for Kemosh the abomination of the Mo'abites, and for Milkom the abomination of the children of Ammon. 14And he broke in pieces the pillars and cut down the Asherim, and filled their places with the bones of men. 15And also the altar that

<sup>8</sup> This were called "Dog-priests" dressed in female garments and engaging in pederasty between male and young unmarried girls acting as Temple prostitutes in Yerushalayim. **Sepher Hayashar 63-65**

<sup>9</sup> *d* Heb. *kemanim*.

was at Beyth El, and the high place which Yaroboam son of Nebat made, by which he made Yisra'el sin, both that altar and the high place he broke down. And he burned the high place and ground it to dust, and burned the Asherah. **2 King 23:13-15**

Then the king of Yehudah commands the Yehudim to keep the Passover according to the Torah-not the sacred-pole of Ashterah-**2 Melekim 23:21**.

21And the sovereign commanded all the people, saying, "Prepare the Passover to YHWH your Elohim, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant." 22For such a Passover had not been prepared since the days of the rulers who ruled Yisra'el, or in all the days of the sovereigns of Yisra'el and the sovereigns of Yehudah, 23but in the eighteenth year of Sovereign Yoshiyahu this Passover was prepared before YHWH in Yerushalayim.

After the death of Yoshiyahu ( 609 BCE), Asherah returned to the Temple of YHWH and remained until its destruction in 586 BCE. Thus of the 370 years the Temple stood Yerushalayim, 236 years or 2/3rds of the time Asherah was present in the Temple. Only a few prophetic voices (such as Yirmeyahu) spoke out to warn Yehudah of the coming destruction.

Could this be the reason for such a battle over who possesses this set-apart place and even the correct calendar dates for the Feasts of Yahweh? We are to set the Feasts by the lunar calendar-not the sun! Why has there ALWAYS been a battle for control of the Temple Mount and the Dwelling Place of Yahweh? Does the EX-WIFE want to keep possession of it? Was it once her House? Why has Satan been forced to set up a false throne in another Temple/House in Rome with another (unholy) father and proclaim a false Bride of Messiah? Is this the real root of the division between Ephraim and Yehudah? These are ALL good questions to study from the Scriptures and as Yahweh give more revelation on this fascinating subject.

### **Image of Jealousy**

Proceeding Josiah's reforms, the prophet Yechezqel had a vision around the year 592 BCE of idolatry in the Temple. In the vision he is transported to the Temple and sees a vision: **Yehezkel 8:3-17**

3And He stretched out the form of a hand, and took me by a lock of my hair. And the Spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heavens, and brought me in visions of Elohim to Yerushalayim, to the door of the north gate of the inner court, where the seat of the image of jealousy was, which causes jealousy. 4And see, the esteem of the Elohim of Yisra'el was there, like the vision that I saw in the plain. 5And He said to me, "Son of man, please lift your eyes toward the north." And I lifted my eyes northward, and north of the altar gate I saw this image of jealousy in the entrance. 6And He said to me, "Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations which the house of Yisra'el are doing here, driving Me away from My set-apart place? And you are to see still greater abominations." 7Then He brought me to the door of the court. And I looked and saw a hole in the wall. 8And He said to me, "Son of man, please dig into the wall." And when I dug into the wall I saw a door. 9And He said to me, "Go in, and see the evil abominations *c* which they are doing there." 10And I went in and looked and saw all kinds of creeping creatures, abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Yisra'el, carved all around on the walls. 11 And facing them stood seventy men of the elders of the house of Yisra'el, and in their midst stood Ya'azanyahu son of Shaphan. Each one had a censer in his hand, and a thick cloud of incense went up. 12And He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Yisra'el are doing in the dark, each one in the room of his idols? For they say, 'YHWH does not see us, YHWH has forsaken the land.'" 13And He said to me, "You are to see still greater abominations which they are doing." 14And He brought me to the door of the north gate of the House of YHWH, and I saw women sitting there, weeping for Tammuz. 15Then He said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? You are to see still greater abominations than these." 16And He brought me into the inner court of the House of YHWH. And there, at the door of the Hekal of YHWH, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the Hekal of YHWH and their faces toward the east, and they were bowing themselves eastward to the sun. 17And He said to me, "Have you seen, O son of man? Is it a small matter to the house of Yehudah to do the abominations which they have done here? For they have filled the land with violence, and turn back to provoke Me. And see, they are putting the branch to My nose.

In this vision, “the image” has no worshippers but is standing in the Temple. Its mere presence is the sin! What is this image that provokes the jealousy of YHWH? It was a statue of Asherah that was set in the Temple by King Manasseh.

- **Image:** *semel*<sup>10</sup> likeness, image, an idol, especially Aschera -**A Hebrew Lexicon** by Furst pg.986
- **Samael:** from the amoric period onward the major name of satan in Judaism –**The Encyclopedia Judaica** Vol.14, page 719

It was the image and worship of Asherah (Satan)-the Queen of Heaven- that provoked YHWH to jealousy.

- **Jealousy:** *qinah*: ardent zeal, the zeal of YHWH towards His people, ardent love. **Gesenius Hebrew Chaldee Lexicon**
- **From the root qana-** used of elohim as not bearing any rival; the severe avenger of departure from himself –**Gesenius Hebrew Chaldee Lexicon**
- **Hebrew English Lexicon** by Brown, Driver, & Briggs: *qana*=used only of Elohim as punishing those who hate Him, demanding exclusive service.
- **Analytical Hebrew Lexicon** by Benjamin Davidson page 661; *qana*=to be jealous of a **WIFE**, rival, to provoke to anger, to be jealous or jealous for.

From the Hebrew in Yechezqel the understanding is that YHWH was provoked to jealousy by the image of his ex-wife in His Temple or House. She had become His rival. She had stolen the worship of both Yisrael and Yehudah by having her image placed in places of worship that should have been set-apart to YHWH.

Just imagine how YHWH’s jealousy is provoked with the statues of Mary in the RC system!

- This Babylonian queen was not merely in character coincident with the Aphrodite of Greece and the **Venus** of Rome, but was, in point of fact, the historical original of that goddess that by the ancient world was regarded as the very embodiment of everything attractive in female form, and the perfection of female beauty; for Sanchuniathon assures us that Aphrodite or Venus was identical with Astarte, and Astarte being interpreted, is none other than "The woman that made towers or encompassing walls"--i.e., Semiramis. The Roman **Venus**, as is well known, was the Cyprian Venus, and the Venus of Cyprus is historically proved to have been derived from Babylon. Now, what in these circumstances might have been expected actually took place. If the child was to be adored, much more the mother. The mother, in point of fact, became the favorite object of worship....The Roman Church maintains that it was not so much the seed of the woman, as the woman herself, that was to bruise the head of the serpent. In defiance of all grammar, she renders the Divine denunciation against the serpent thus: "She shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise her heel." The same was held by the ancient Babylonians, and symbolically represented in their temples. In the uppermost story of the tower of Babel, or temple of Belus, Diodorus Siculus tells us there stood three images of the great divinities of Babylon; and one of these was of a woman grasping a serpent's head. Among the Greeks the same thing was

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<sup>10</sup> While the Pagan system, so far as a Goddess-mother was concerned, was founded on this identification of the Celestial and Terrestrial mothers of the "blessed" immortals, each of these two divinities was still celebrated as having, in some sense, a distinct individuality; and, in consequence, all the different incarnations of the Savior-seed were represented as born of two mothers. It is well known that Bimater, or Two-mothered, is one of the distinguishing epithets applied to Bacchus. Ovid makes the reason of the application of this epithet to him to have arisen from the myth, that when in embryo, he was rescued from the flames in which his mother died, was sewed up in Jupiter's thigh, and then brought forth at the due time. Without inquiring into the secret meaning of this, it is sufficient to state that Bacchus had two goddess-mothers; for, not only was he conceived by **Semele**, but he was brought into the world by the goddess Ippa (PROCLUS in Timoeum). This is the very same thing, no doubt, that is referred to, when it is said that after his mother **Semele's** death, his aunt Ino acted the part of a mother and nurse unto him. The same thing appears in the mythology of Egypt, for there we read that Osiris, under the form of Anubis, having been brought forth by Nephtys-**The Two Babylons**

symbolized; for Diana, whose real character was originally the same as that of the great Babylonian goddess was represented as bearing in one of her hands a serpent deprived of its head. As time wore away, and the facts of Semiramis' history became obscured, her son's birth was boldly declared to be miraculous: and therefore she was called "Alma Mater," \* "the Virgin Mother." **The Two Babylons** concerning Mary

### **The TRUE BRIDE persecuted by EX-WIFE**

In Revelation Chapter 12, we see the TRUE BRIDE, YISRAEL, with a crown of 12 stars (the 12 tribes of Yisrael as described in Yosef's dream in **Bereshit 37**) giving birth to the TRUE MOSHIACH, YAHSUA (verse 5).

A war then takes place in heaven between *Michael* (Who is like EL) and Satan/Heylel/Ashtorath. This word WAR in this verse means, "to be violently thrown from a position previously gained" (#4171-*polemos*,"war, fight, encounter, battle, QUARREL"). Satan/Heylel/Ashtoreth is thrown out or cast down the earth-never to be allowed into heaven again!

We see him/her persecuting the woman (the TRUE BRIDE –Yisrael) that flees into the wilderness on eagle's wings for a time and times and a half from the presence of the serpent/Satan. In that wilderness period, Yahweh provides for His Bride! The land (Yisrael) opens and protects the persecuted Bride from Satan/Venus from the flood that spews from his/her mouth (Anti-Semitic propaganda?). The dragon is so ENRAGED that she/he cannot get to the Bride she/he therefore goes to and fro across the rest of the earth to make war with the rest of the woman's SEED or children (the remnant of Yisraelites) that did not flee into the wilderness. We know these are Yisraelites and not "kirche" members as they are keeping the Torah and possess the WITNESS (Torah) of Yahshua-the Moshiah!

- 17And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to fight with the remnant of her seed, those guarding the commands of Elohim and possessing the witness of Yahshua Messiah.  
**Revelation 12:17**

This to me sounds like a jealous ex-wife that is focusing her anger against the NEW BRIDE of her ex-husband because she is finally banned from His Dwelling Place forever. These are all thoughts to consider.

My prayer is that Yahweh will give us more revelation on this study of Yahweh's wife, as we continue to study the Scripture

### **Addendum: 2003**

There have been new discoveries in archeology that seem to support this teaching. In the find at Kuntillat 'Ajrud in the northeast Sinai, two large jugs (*pithoi*) were found. One carries the inscription, "Amaryau said to my lord...may you be blessed by YHWH and by his Asherah. May he bless you and keep you, and be with my lord." Another inscription at this site reads, "I have blessed you by YHWH *shrm* and his Asherah."The word *shrm* could mean *Shomron*, or Samaria. These jugs have been ascribed to ca. 800BCE, the middle period of the division of the Two Houses.

At Khirbet al-Qom, nine miles west of Hebron, another inscription was found, "Uriah the rich has caused it to be written: Blessed be Uriyah by YHWH and by his Ashereh; from his enemies he has saved him.

These inscriptions prove historically that the worship of Yahweh was associated with the worship of Asherah, probably as his wife. Yahweh and Asherah was the most popular "divine couple".

There is also difficult passage in **Hoshea 14:8**:

- 8"“What more has Ephrayim to do with idols? It is I who answer and look after him. I am like a green cypress tree, your fruit comes from Me.” Hebrew: *ani 'aniti wa'ashurenu*.

The text makes no sense as it stands. The form *wa'Asherato*, appears repeated in the a.m. inscriptions, suggest a reading *ani 'Anato wa'Asherato*-"I am his Anath and his Asherah". Or "I am the one who provides the people with the blessings of fertility". This would restore the parallelism between Hoshea 14:8a and 8b, lost in the Massoretic text.

- 8“What more has Ephrayim to do with idols? I [YHWH] am his Anath and his Asherah. I am like a leafy cypress tree; your fruit comes from Me.”

The conclusion is that the worship of Asherah as the consort of YHWH (his Asherah) was an integral part of the worship of ancient Yisrael prior to all the reforms of King Josiah in 621 BCE.

#### NOTES:

\*Asherah — The original bread of life. Hebrew and Canaanite women molded loaves of this figure which were blessed and ritually eaten, the precursor of the communion wafer. Her idols were found under every green tree, were carved from living trees, or erected as poles or pillars beside roadside altars. Crude clay images of her as tree of life later evolved into the more refined Syrian Artemis. Ancient sexual rites (dismissed to this day by male scholars as cult prostitution) associated with worship of Asherah insured that matrilineal descent patterns, with their partnership rather than dominator values, would continue. Hebrew priestly iconoclasts finally uprooted Asherah, supplanting matrifocal culture with patriarchy. Our Judeo-Christian inheritance of this law of the Levites, passed on by the Roman Empire, is one source of present-day sex inequality. — JBL

"There are still in existence today remarkable specimens of original phallic symbols...steeple on the churches...and obelisks...all show the influence of our phallus-worshipping ancestors." Perhaps it is fortunate that we do not know the origin of many things and statements we take for granted. Therefore, whether the erected column is a fence post, our god or a symbol of power may depend upon our attitude. However, seeing the spread of the use of the column as an "artistic enhancement" to churches it is tempting to ask: "Knowest thou what thou doest?"Piney.com

#### Strong's Exhaustive Concordance: Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary:

"842. **Asherah** ... *Asherah* (or Astarte) a Phoenician goddess; also an *image* of the same: —grove."

#### Encyclopedia Britannica:

"**Asherah**. Ancient West Semitic goddess, consort of the supreme god.... The word *Asherah* in the Old Testament was used not only in reference to the goddess herself but also to a wooden cult object associated with her worship."

#### International Standard Bible Encyclopedia:

"**ASHERAH** ... mistranslated 'grove' in the Authorized [King James] Version.... Was the name of a goddess whose worship was widely spread throughout Syria and Canaan; plural, *Asherim*.... It is probable that it was originally an epithet of Istar (*Ashtoreth*) of Ninevah.... *Asherah* was the goddess of fertility."

#### Catholic Encyclopedia:

"*Asherah* [is] wrongly interpreted grove in our Bibles." ("Baal" article)

#### New Scofield Reference Bible:

"The groves (Hebrew *asherim*) so often mentioned in the O.T. were devoted to the worship of *Ashtoreth*, who was the Babylonian goddess *Ishtar*, the *Aphrodite* of the Greeks, the *Venus* of the Romans."

(Deuteronomy 16:21 note)

"*Ashtaroth*, plural of *Ashtoreth* ... were figures of *Ashtoreth*, the equivalent of the Phoenician goddess of fertility, *Astarte*." (Judges 2:13 note)

#### Amplified Bible:

"*Asherim* ... symbols of the goddess *Asherah*." (Exodus 34:13 note)

# The '*Asherah*.

## This Is Appendix 42 From The Companion Bible.

The word '*Asherah*' is from the root '*ashar, to be straight, erect, or upright*'. From this comes the meaning, in a moral sense, *to be upright*, hence, *to prosper* or *be happy*. The '*Asherah*' was so called because it was something set *upright* or *erect* in the ground, and worshipped. The word occurs forty times, and only a careful study of each passage will give a correct view.

Compared with this, all that men may think or say about the '*Asherah*' is of little value. The word is always rendered *grove* or *groves* in the Authorized Version; and always left as a proper name in the Revised Version.

From a conspectus of the passages, we learn that it was either a living tree with the top cut off, and the stump or trunk fashioned into a certain shape (Deuteronomy 16:21); or it was artificially fashioned and set erect in the ground (Isaiah 17:8. 1 Kings 14:15; 16:33). It was made of wood (Judges 6:26) or stone. What the shape is indicated in 1 Kings 15:13, and 2 Chronicles 15:16, where in the Authorized Version. "An idol in a grove", should be (as in the Revised Version) "an abominable image for an '*Asherah*'. It could be "cut down" (Exodus 34:13, the first occurrence of the word); "plucked up" (Micah 5:14); "burnt" (Deuteronomy 12:3); or "broken in pieces" (2 Chronicles 34:4).

It is often coupled with *mazzevoth*, or stone "pillars" (Revised Version) (and rendered images in Authorized Version), connected with Baal-worship.

That it could not have been in a "grove" is clear from 2 Kings 17:10, where it is forbidden to set one up "under any green tree".

While it is distinguished from *Ashtoreth* the goddess, it is yet associated with that goddess, *Ashtoreth* being representative of the *productive* (or passive) principle of life; and *Baal* being representative of the *generative* (or active) principle.

The image which represents the Phoenician *Ashtoreth* of Paphos, as the sole object of worship in her temple, was an *upright block of stone*, anointed with oil, and covered with an embroidered cloth.

Such stones are to be met with all over the Semitic world; especially in Babylonia, in Syria, Palestine and Arabia. Even the Mohammedan sacred stone (*kaaba*) at Mecca remains an object of reverence.

The place Beth-el was so called because of its anointed stone. There was another Beth-el in Northern Israel.

Two columns of stone stood before every Phoenician temple. Those at Tyre are described by Herodotus and the "pillars of the sun" are mentioned in 2 Chronicles 34:4. Isaiah 17:8, etc.

Like every form of "religion," it had to do with the "flesh;" and hence, by the law of evolution (which is seen operating only in human affairs) it soon became corrupted. Evolution is seen in the progress of man's works, because he begins from ignorance, and goes on learning by his mistakes and failures. From the moment he ends his works devolution at once sets in and deterioration begins. This is especially true in the "religious" sphere. All religions have become corrupt.

So with the '*Asherah*'. Originally a tree, symbolical of the "tree of life," it was an object of reverence and veneration. Then came the perversion of the earlier idea which simply honored the origin of life; and it was corrupted and debased into the organ of procreation, which was symbolized by the form and shape given to the '*Asherah*'. It was the *Phallus* image of Isaiah 57:8, and the "image of the male", Ezekiel 16:17.

These symbols, in turn, became the incentive to all forms of impurity which were part of its libidinous worship, with the swarms of "devotees" involved in its obscene orgies.

The serpent was accepted as the symbol of the nexus, and was thus associated with the "pillar" and the "tree". Hence, it too became an object of worship.

The principal factor in this form of Canaanite idolatry is that it was not a primitive conception of a religious rite, but *the corruption of an earlier idea* which began with honoring the origin of life.

All the ancient systems of idolatry, connected with Astrology and Mythology, etc., were, in the same way, not original inventions of what was new; but the corruption of what was old, and the perversion of primitive truth.

There can be no doubt about its being, in its essence, *Phallic* worship pure and simple, whatever may have been its origin. This abomination was common to all the ancient nations; and relics of it are found to-day in various forms, in India and elsewhere. The *menhirs* of the Celtic religion are the true descendants of the '*Asherim*.

At first it was centered in the Canaanitish nations; and from them it spread to the others. It was the great abomination of Canaan, and that is one reason why the Canaanites, as the descendants of the *N<sup>o</sup>philim*, had to be destroyed by the sword of Israel. The other reason was the origin of those nations themselves with which it was closely connected. The first mention of the '*Asherah* stamps it as being the special object of Jehovah's hatred. It is given to explain His name as "jealous"; for that is the name He takes in denouncing it. Compare His threats in 1 Kings 14:15; 15:13; 16:32, 33; 2 Chronicles 36:14, etc.

It led to Israel's banishment from the land; and subsequently to that of Judah's. .

A recrudescence of this is more than hinted at; and it will be better understood when "the abomination" of Antichrist shall stand once again <sup>2</sup> in the Temple at Jerusalem (Matthew 24:15).

The following passages will show further the nature of this form of idolatry: - Jeremiah 5:7; 7:30, 31; 19:4, 5; 37:34 - 35. Hosea 4:12 - 14. Amos 2:7 - 9.

Exodus 34:14. ; Deuteronomy 7:5; 12:3; 16:21. ; Judges 3:7; 6:25, 26, 28, 30.

1 Kings 14:15, 23; 15:13; 16:33; 18:19 (sing). ; 2 Kings 13:6; 17:10, 16; 18:4; 21:3, 7; 23:4, 6, 7, 14, 15. ;2 Chronicles 14:3; 15:16; 17:6; 19:3; 24:18; 31:1; 33:3, 19; 34:3, 4, 7.

Isaiah 17:8; 27:9. ; Jeremiah 17:2. ; Micah 5:14.

The Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition. 2001.

### **Asherah**

(*Āsh'erā*) or **Asheroth** (-*rōth*), Canaanite fertility goddess and the wooden cult symbol that represented her. She is the consort of El in the Ugaritic texts. Several passages in the Bible may refer to the planting of a tree as a symbol of Asherah, or the setting up of a wooden object as an asherah—the Hebrew words for "tree" and "wood" are the same.

ASHERAH

By : Morris Jastrow Jr George A. Barton

A Hebrew word occurring frequently in the Bible (R. V.) and signifying, except in a few late passages noted below, a wooden post or pole planted near the altars of various gods. In the Authorized Version the word is rendered "grove." It has often been inferred from Deut. xvi. 21 that the Asherah was originally a tree, but the passage should be translated "an asherah of any kind of wood" (compare Moore, "Ency. Bibl." and Budde, "New World," viii. 734), since the sacred tree had a name of its own, *el, elah, elon*, and the Asherah was sometimes set up under the living tree (II Kings xvii. 10). This pole was often of considerable size (Judges vi. 25), since it could furnish fuel for the sacrifice of a bullock. It was found near the altars of Baal, and, down to the days of Josiah, near those of Yhwh also, not only at Samaria (II Kings xiii. 6) and Beth-el (II Kings xxiii. 15), but even at Jerusalem (II Kings xxiii. 6). Sometimes it was carved in revolting shapes (I Kings xv. 13), and at times, perhaps, draped (II Kings xxiii. 7). It is most often associated in the Bible with the pillars ("maẕẕebot") that in primitive days served at once as a representation of the god and as an altar (W. R. Smith, "Religion of the Semites," 2d ed., p. 204). It was proscribed in the Deuteronomic law and abolished in Josiah's reform (II Kings xxii. 23). In a few passages (Judges iii. 7; I Kings xviii. 19; II Kings xxiii. 4) Asherah appears to be the name of a goddess, but the text has in every case been corrupted or glossed (compare Moore and Budde, as cited above). In the first of the three passages the name Ashtaroth should stand, as it does elsewhere, in the case of similar charges of defection from Yhwh (compare Judges ii. 13, x. 6; I Sam. vii. 4, xii. 10). In the other two passages, the term Asherah is superfluous. These passages may indicate, as Moore suggests, that the Asherah became in some localities a fetish or cultus god.

**Asherah the Name of a Syrian Goddess.**

Asherah was also the name of a Syrian goddess. In the El-Amarna tablets of the fifteenth century B.C. her name appears with the determinative for deity as a part of the name Arad-Ashirta (or 'Ebed-Asherah). It also appears in a Sumerian hymn published by Reisner ("Sumerisch-Babylonische Hymnen," p. 92), on a hematite cylinder ("Zeit. f. Assyriol." vi. 161), and in an astronomical text of the Arsacide period (*ib.* vi. 241). She appears to have been the consort of the god Amurru, a Baal of the Lebanon region (compare Jensen, "Zeit. f. Assyriol." xi. 302-305). Arad-Ashirta in the El-Amarna tablets represents not only a sheik, but a clan, and is possibly the one which afterward became the tribe of Asher. Possibly a trace of this goddess is to be found in an inscription from Citium in Cyprus, which dedicates an object to "My lady mother Ashera" (compare Schröder, "Z. D. M. G." xxxv. 424). Many scholars, however, interpret the passage otherwise (compare Moore, *l.c.*). Hommel has recently announced ("Expository Times," xi. 190) that he has discovered in a Minæan inscription a goddess Athirat, phonetically equivalent to Asherah. This would indicate that Asherah was a name for an old Semitic goddess long before the fifteenth century B.C.; but for the present this must be regarded merely in the light of a possibility. The relation of this goddess to the pole called Asherah in the Bible is a difficult problem. The name in the Bible is masculine; the plural "Asherim" occurring sixteen times, and the plural "Asherot" but three times. The latter is clearly an error. Asherah must be a *nomen unitatis*. G. Hoffmann has shown ("Ueber Einige Phönizische Inschriften," pp. 26 *et seq.*) that these posts originally marked the limits of the sacred precincts, and that in the Ma'sub inscription it is the equivalent of "sacred enclosure." Moore finds in this fact the explanation of the use of the word in Assyrian (*ashirtu, ashrâti; eshirtu, eshrâti*), in the sense of sanctuary. Hommel fancies that he sees in the original form of the ideogram for Ishtar (compare Thureau-Dangin, "L'Écriture Cunéiforme," No. 294), a post on which hangs the skin of an animal. Quite apart, however, from Hommel's somewhat imaginary conjecture, the Assyrian and Phœnician use of the word in the sense of "sanctuary," taken in connection with the Arabian and Syrian use of it as the name of a goddess, indicates that the posts were used at the sanctuaries of the primitive Semitic mother-goddess, and that in course of time their name attached itself in certain quarters to the goddess herself, and has survived in South Arabia and Syria. When, therefore, the late editors of the Old Testament books made of the Asherah a fetish or cultus god, history was but repeating itself (see Ashtoreth; Worship, Idol; Maẕẕebah; Phœnicia).

