

## A P P E N D I X A:

### *The Judaizer Theory*

Though we cannot say with any certainty that this theory is true, there is a wealth of evidence to suggest that it may be. Since we are not even sure it *can* be proven, we are only putting forth the idea here as an interesting speculation. A lot more research could be done on it and we may eventually get around to it. For the time being, we consider it an interesting thought. However, if it turns out to be true, it holds vast implications for the Catholic Church and for many of the more liturgical Protestant denominations.

This theory arises in part from my own childhood experience. I grew up Catholic from birth and was heavily indoctrinated. I attended Catholic schools and religion classes five days a week and Mass six days a week. Being a sensitive child, I absorbed all the minutiae of Catholicism with its history and trappings. I liked it. It was authoritative, intimidating, and full of mystery, and my little mind gravitated to it as the epitome of religious credibility.

I often went into the church sanctuary during recess to sit and absorb its grandiosity. I lit candles and knelt before statues, offering up my little petitions like flowers on an idol altar. I also prayed the rosary alone in my bedroom well into high school. I was obsessed with saints, relics, martyrs and all things religious and wanted to be a nun for most of my youth. A vocation to the convent or priesthood ensured one of a higher place in heaven and I was all for that!

It wasn't until I left home and began reading the Bible for myself that I discovered how deeply contrary on some points Catholicism is to the truth of Scripture, though not all by any means. I was particularly struck by the book of Hebrews' explanation of the once-for-all sacrifice of Christ, which contradicted the Catholic notion of a constant re-immolation of Jesus (during the Mass) on the altar to pay for continuous human sin. And I was shocked to learn that Mary had at least six other children besides Jesus, four or five of whom are named! (Mat. 13:55-56) She was not the *ever-Virgin* Mary I had been taught to honor. (It never occurred to me to feel sorry for poor celibate Joseph. No wonder he wasn't mentioned much after Jesus' appearance in the Temple at age 12!)

Thus began my quest to discover truth. One day as I was struggling to find my way in this maze of religious options, I cast up a prayer to God: "God, if you're out there, I really need to know the truth. If I don't find out the truth about who You are, I can't go on." And I meant it. To me, truth was the ultimate value and without it, I was like a rudderless ship drifting pointlessly in an endless sea.

Shortly after my prayer, I started taking a coed fencing class at my local college. The first day of class the teacher lined us up on either side of the room, boys on one side, girls on the other, and then pulled me out of the line of girls so that I could fence with the next girl and if I won, so on down the line. As I looked down this long line of girls, way in the back of the dimly lit, high-ceilinged gymnasium stood a young woman who, literally, was glowing from head to foot. I kid you not. Like a light bulb. I had never seen anything like this, but I knew that there stood the answer to my prayer.

Though I had never spoken to her before, I went up to her after class, grabbed her by the sleeve and said, “Come with me! What you have I want!” Then I hauled her into the bathroom and made her tell me what she believed. She shared the gospel of Jesus Christ, that He died for my sins and that I could put my trust in Him for forgiveness and go to heaven.” This was the simple message I had never heard in 12 years of Catholic education and religion classes. I had been taught a person must be baptized into the Catholic Church, attend Mass faithfully, confess one’s sins to the priest and have the sacrament of Extreme Unction performed at death to make it into heaven (without a detour into a temporary hell called purgatory). Immediately I did as she suggested and spent the next few months on a spiritual cloud—one I suspect was a higher high than any drug could hope to produce. I was filled to overflowing with the love of God and could feel His joy, peace, confidence, love and mercy flowing out of me like a river. God was experientially validating His truth.

Though this feeling did not last forever, it was a good indication that something radical had happened to me and gave me a living picture of what sanctification felt like. This was the beginning of my long quest for understanding of who this God is and what this life is all about.

In reflecting back on my Catholic upbringing, I’ve noted that there are certain similarities between Catholicism and Judaism. And so here is my theory. I’ll pose it as a question:

Is Catholicism an outgrowth of the mindset of the so-called Judaizers, legalistic Jewish believers who plagued Paul during his ministry and who insisted on holding new Gentile converts captive to the Law and circumcision of the Old Covenant? It certainly looks that way. For example, it shares much of the same emphasis on laws, rituals, daily sacrifices, circumcision, rote prayers and hierarchical structures.

In the centerpiece of Catholic worship, one can see a number of parallels between the Catholic Mass and Temple worship in Israel, as if transposed directly from one to the other. The basic elements of Temple worship have simply been replaced with like-symbols in the Mass, creating a redux of the priesthood and the Levitical system. This development apparently stems from a

faulty understanding of the cross and what Jesus accomplished once-for-all as expressed by Paul in the epistles and particularly by the author of Hebrews. Whoever came up with this ritual of worship apparently did not grasp the finality of the cross and its efficacy for all time and all men. Or perhaps it morphed over time from an elaborate memorial of the death of Christ (on the order of the Lord’s Supper) to an atoning rite. In any case, this is Pharisaism at its ultimate, blurring the truth of Jesus’ finished work on the cross with compulsory attendance at, and participation in, a religious ritual that ceremonially re-sacrifices Jesus for sin daily (i.e., the Sacrifice of the Mass), thus promoting a false view of the Atonement and worse, requiring others to embrace it. This kind of tactic was adopted by elements of the Protestant church as well during its birth out of the shadows of the Middle Ages. Once religion becomes institutionalized or attached to the state, it becomes perverted. All religions, apart from the truth of Christianity, are “works” religions. Satan’s attempt to keep individuals out of the true Church of Jesus Christ by whatever means reaches its zenith in his diabolical creation of false *Christian* religions, where black is white and white is black and where there is no clarity for those who are its captives.

Here is a brief chart showing the parallels between symbols in Judaism and the various forms of Christianity.

<u>JUDAISM</u>	<u>CATHOLICISM</u>	<u>PROTESTANTISM</u>	<u>NT CHURCH</u>
Temple	Cathedrals	Church Buildings	Homes/Parks/Offices
Altar	Altar	Altar/Stage	No Altar
Showbread	Eucharist	Host/Bread	Real Bread
Blood	Blessed Wine	Juice	Juice
Menorrah	Candleabra/Candles	Candleabra/Candles	No Candles
Bronze Laver	Glass Laver	Laver/No Laver	No Laver
Levites	Priests	Ministers/Clergy	Priesthood of Saints
Holy of Holies	Tabernacle	Tabernacle (some)	Believers’ Hearts
Shekinah Glory	Sanctuary Lamp	Sanctuary Lamp (some)	Indwelling Holy Spirit
Curtain	Curtain	Curtain (some)	Free Access to God
Vestments	Vestments	Robes/Stoles (some)	No Vestments
Animal Sacrifice	Sacrifice of the Mass	Liturgical Services (some)	Once-for-all Sacrifice
Inner/Outer Courts	Sanctuary vs. Pews	Stage vs. Seating	Circles/No Divisions
No fellowship w/Gentiles	“The one True Church”	“Separated Brethren”	One Faith, One Baptism
High Priest	Pope	Presidents/Patriarchs	Elders
Sanhedrin	Magisterium	Councils/Boards	Group Discussion

Those of our readers who’ve been raised in Catholic or liturgical churches will readily see the similarities with Judaism and its ritual worship. God had a purpose in Israel’s “forms,” as they were types of things to come. Fulfilled in Christ, the time to lay them aside has long since past.

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