

PART 1: THE APIS BULL

In May of 2020 God began to reveal the increase of knowledge to this church. The studies opened with the subject of the Apis Bull. Elder Tess has suggested that we will never be able to appreciate the formalisation of the message which arrived in August 2021, unless we fully understand the increase of knowledge. In fact, if you think about it, each increase of knowledge has been essential to its own formalisation and test, as well as essential to our entire message. Our first increase of knowledge was Daniel 11:40-45 which is still of the utmost importance to us today, especially in understanding the prophetic roles of Russia and America. The next increase of knowledge was the 2520 without which we would not understand the 126 and time setting, and therefore would have rejected 2014 and 2019. In fact the 2520 makes an appearance in the next increase of knowledge too, Acts 27. If we did not take time and effort to understand Acts 27, then the rest of Elder Tess' message would have meant nothing. The 273 Levites aboard the ship brought us to Pyrrhus and therefore Putin and what to expect at Raphia, Panium and Argos. So today we will look back at the increase of knowledge during our harvest, and start at the beginning - the Apis Bull.

THE IMPORTANCE OF HISTORY

When the children of Israel built an altar to the golden calf in Exodus 32, that golden calf was actually the Apis Bull, a god they had learned about from Egypt. So just as Elder Tess emphasised in the formalisation, we need to understand the history of ancient Israel in order to make sense of our history - modern Israel.

It is not just the alpha of ancient Israel that is important to study. There are only two dispensations that were lines of success in Israel, and there are only two dispensations where God first calls His people out of the church in two steps, and then out of the world. These two dispensations are the omega of ancient Israel and the omega of modern Israel, or you could say, at Jesus' first and second advent. So in order to find hidden treasure regarding our dispensation, we should look back at both the alpha and omega of ancient Israel.

And how do we find hidden treasure? Parable methodology. There is very little specific detail given in Inspiration about our dispensation, but there are volumes written about the Millerites, or the children of Israel, or the Jews at the time of Christ. So parable methodology tells us we must study the known to explain the unknown. We must look at literal Israel to explain spiritual Israel. This is comparing and contrasting literal to spiritual to uncover hidden treasure.

The children of Israel had spent four hundred years in slavery, when,

*“The Lord commanded Moses to go and speak unto Pharaoh, bidding him to allow Israel to leave Egypt. For four hundred years they had been in Egypt, and had been in slavery to the Egyptians. They had been corrupted by **idolatry**, and the time came when God called them forth from Egypt, in order that they might **obey his laws and keep his Sabbath**, which he had instituted in Eden. He spoke the ten commandments to them in awful grandeur from Mount Sinai, that they might understand the sacred and enduring character of the law, and build up the foundation of many generations, by teaching their children the binding claims of God's holy precepts.”* (Review and Herald, January 9, 1894, paragraph 6)

So during the darkness in Egypt before their time of the end, the children of Israel practiced idolatry and had lost the Sabbath. Then at Mount Sinai, while God is restoring the Sabbath, they fall back into idolatry, and that is the story of the Apis Bull. Whilst they thought they were worshipping Jehovah,

*“...[Aaron] made a molten calf, in imitation of the gods of Egypt. The people proclaimed, “**These be thy gods**, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.” And Aaron basely permitted this insult to Jehovah... **Under the pretense of holding “a feast to the Lord,”** they gave themselves up to gluttony and licentious reveling.”* (Patriarchs and Prophets, 317.1)

All the pagan gods had a form, or an image which served as a visual representation to their worshippers. For example these gods might have antlers or horns protruding from their head, or serpents for hair, or be very powerful and muscular, like Hercules for example. In line with that visual image, the god would have a matching character or personality. He may be a fearless warrior, or a great lover, or be supremely powerful above all other gods, or even be a god of revelry and gluttony, or a god of music etc. etc.

So idol worshippers had a visual form plus it's complementary spirit, or characteristics, and it is from this that this movement has coined the phrase, "the form and the spirit".

THE APIS BULL

The Form

*"These be thy gods. The calf would naturally suggest itself to the Israelites because they had witnessed in Egypt the worship of **Apis the bull**, but the golden calf was presumably a material representation of the **true god**, not of some heathen deity."* (1Bible Commentary, page 665 (hardback book only))

The ancient Egyptians would choose a real, living bull and declare it to be the Apis Bull. When the prevailing Apis Bull died, the priests would go through Egypt looking for a newborn calf with various distinct markings on its body. Then they would say it's birth was due to an immaculate conception, from a bolt of lightning or a ray of sun etc., and it would be declared the new Apis Bull. It would be ceremoniously led through the streets and worshipped by all, and set apart from the other bulls. It was identified with the Pharaoh himself, and both were said to become Osiris in the afterlife. So there were in effect, two living gods or kings - Pharaoh and the Apis Bull. This is how important the Apis Bull was in Egypt, and therefore to the children of Israel in their apostasy. So remember, the Apis Bull was closely connected to kingship, and that is why kings were often depicted with the bull-like attributes of the tail and horns.

The Spirit

That was the form, but what was the spirit of the Apis Bull? Well, bulls of course are very strong and can be aggressive fighters if provoked. So they would represent courage, strength, and the warrior spirit of the king, going forth conquering for his nation, and like any strong, male stereotype, bulls were also very fertile.

ANCIENT ISRAEL AND THE SPIRIT OF APIS

King Saul

At Sinai, the children of Israel had blended Egyptian idolatry with the true God. After Moses, they eventually took the glorious land, and were succeeded by the period of the Judges, until they desired a king.

*“Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto **Ramah**, And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations... Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us...” (1Samuel 8:4, 5, 19)*

What is most interesting is that this happened at a place called Ramah. In Hebrew, Ramah means, a height, high place, as a seat of idolatry (Strong's). Gesenius' Hebrew and Chaldee Definition says it is, *“a lofty place, especially one consecrated to the worship of idols”*, and references Ezekiel 16:24-25, where it is translated as *“an high place”* for idolatry. So it is no coincidence that when Israel demanded an earthly king, they did it at a place which represented idolatry. So it is not hard to imagine what type of king they desired. They wanted a king with all the characteristics of the Apis Bull. They wanted a king who would have courage and strength, be fearless in battle, and go forth with a conquering spirit.

They were at a place consecrated to idolatry, and they were still worshipping the character of the Apis Bull. They had returned to idolise the spirit of Apis Bull worship, just as they had at Sinai. Not the literal form this time. This time there was no golden calf, but they exhibited exactly the same spirit when they chose King Saul, and herein lies the warning of our message today.

At Sinai they could not let go of the literal, physical form of Apis as an actual bull. But by the time they find themselves at Ramah, they have let go of the literal form, the idol, but have held on to the spirit of Apis. It was not just any god they wanted. There were many gods in the surrounding pagan nations. They could have chosen the sun god, the moon god or the fish god, but Apis represented the spirit of kingship, and a strong, male ruler. When they wanted a king, they may not have realised it, but they wanted Apis the bull. All that time they had retained the spirit of the golden calf, and they could not overcome that mindset. That is why when Israel set up a temple in northern Israel, they made two calves. We will see how, from beginning to end, ancient Israel always wanted the Apis Bull.

The Jews

The Babylonian captivity had cured the Jews of their worship of the literal image, or the form of idolatry, but not the characteristics, or the spirit of that form.

*“By the Babylonish captivity the Israelites were effectually **cured of the worship of graven images**. During the centuries that followed, they suffered from the oppression of heathen foes, until the conviction became fixed that their prosperity depended upon their obedience to the law of God. But with too many of the people obedience was not prompted by love. The motive was selfish. They rendered outward service to God as the means of attaining to **national greatness**. They did not become the light of the world, but shut themselves away from the world in order to escape temptation to idolatry. In the instruction given through Moses, God had placed restrictions upon their association with idolaters; but this teaching had been misinterpreted. It was intended to*

prevent them from conforming to the practices of the heathen. But it was used to build up a wall of separation between Israel and all other nations. The Jews looked upon Jerusalem as their heaven, and they were actually jealous lest the Lord should show mercy to the Gentiles.” (Desire of Ages, 28.5)

In their prideful nationalism, the Jews only sought “*national greatness*”, and thought of themselves as a superior nation, and as a special people who were better than others. So when Jesus came at His first advent, His selfless character was totally unrecognisable to the Jews who still sought a conquering Messiah. They still perceived a King who would feed their nationalism, who would be strong and courageous, fearless in battle, conquering the Romans and destroying their enemies.

*“The Man of sorrows, who bore our griefs and carried our sorrows, who was bruised for our iniquities, and wounded for our transgressions, by whose stripes we are healed, was indeed without form or comeliness to the Jews; and yet he was the predicted Messiah, who was to shine before the ancients gloriously, to reign from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth. As he came in his humiliation to our earth, no **conquering armies** were visible to mortal eyes, and the unbelieving Jews decided that he could not be the **illustrious King for whom they were looking**, as there was no outward display.” (Signs of the Times, May 1893, paragraph 9)*

From the alpha to the omega of ancient Israel, God’s people never let go of the idolatry of Egypt. They did not always worship the actual, physical idol, or form, just the spirit of the idol. Yet they never understood this was still the idolatrous worship of the Apis Bull. Signs of the Times continues,

“And why did the people of Chorazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum, and Jerusalem reject the Lord of life and glory? Why did they keep up a continual controversy with him? It was because those who claimed to believe and teach the word of God interpreted its utterances to suit their own preconceived opinions, so that the word of God might seem to harmonize with the traditions and commandments of men. It was because

the people did not see the necessity of searching the Scriptures for themselves, of comparing scripture with scripture, that they might know the truth. They gave credence to what the priests and Pharisees taught, in place of seeking to understand the true meaning of the word of God for themselves... Let us take a lesson from the mistake of the Jewish people, and not be found committing a similar error.” (Ibid.)

Perhaps to labour the point, but this is no small thing - God's people rejected their Messiah because they wanted a strong, male leader, and a conquering, battle-hardened king like Apis.

When Ellen White tells us to learn from their mistake, we should realise it was the mistake of the Pharisees, the church leaders, and not the Samaritans or the publicans and sinners. The Pharisees had their prophet and their pioneers. Their prophet was Moses and their pioneers were the patriarchs. They had their strict Sabbath-keeping, precise tithing, and Ellen White says they were exact in dress and diet. So the spirit of Apis was not the spirit of the liberals. It was the Pharisees who wanted to conserve all this.

Just as Elders Tess and Parminder have taught over and over again, the problem is always that God's people fail to understand the nature of the kingdom, and therefore the nature of the King. The two are inseparable because in the Bible, a king is a kingdom. What they needed was parable methodology. Jesus knew this, and that is why He only taught in parables. The parables of Jesus did not even come from their Scriptures. Nowhere in the Old Testament do you find a reference to the wheat and the tares, or the rich man and Lazarus, the good Samaritan or the lost coin, and while the agricultural cycle is mentioned in the Old Testament, you might be challenged to show it as a parable typifying end time events.

So Jesus faced three accusations; that He undervalued the writings of Moses, He did not honour the Sabbath properly, and that His parables were not from Inspiration. He was being accused of not conforming to a plain thus said the Lord. In fact His parables came from their recent history or experiences.

MODERN ISRAEL

The omega of modern Israel can be paralleled with the omega of ancient Israel, but we can also parallel our line with the alpha of modern Israel. As the alpha of modern Israel can be paralleled with the alpha of ancient Israel, it means that we also parallel the alpha of ancient Israel. If we were to try to simulate a mathematical equation, it might look like this:

The omega of modern Israel = the alpha of modern Israel

The alpha of modern Israel = the alpha of ancient Israel

Therefore,

The omega of modern Israel = the alpha of ancient Israel.

It is not surprising that each dispensation above shares a number of characteristics. They all have two leaders. Whether it be Moses and Joshua, John the Baptist and Jesus, William Miller and Samuel Snow, or Elders Jeff and Parminder in their respective dispensations. Just as the alpha of ancient Israel had lost the Sabbath and adopted Apis Bull idolatry in their Egyptian captivity (their darkness), the alpha of modern Israel had lost the Sabbath and adopted the idolatry of conservative Protestantism during the 1260 years of darkness. While God used Moses to try to restore the Sabbath and rid them of idolatry, He used Ellen White to try and restore the Sabbath and rid them of the spirit of the idolatry of Conservative Christianity.

In this article we saw how the spirit of the Apis Bull has pervaded the mindset of God's people from beginning to end in ancient Israel. When they finally overcame the form of idol worship they simply continued to worship the spirit of Apis in seeking strong, warrior-like, male leaders. The seriousness of this idolatry cannot be understated as it eventually led them to reject their Messiah. In the next article we will see how this same spirit of Apis worship has entered the Apostate Protestant churches and what is more, has been adopted into the conservative Seventh-day Adventist mindset, particularly through the vehicle, and false methodology of conspiracy theories.

Source:

"1. Worshipping the Apis Bull (16-05-2020)" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3-XirrFytk>