

Parallel Religions.

That scholar who makes himself thoroughly familiar with the religion of ancient Rome, antedating the alleged birth of Jesus hundreds of years, is always shocked as he runs parallel with the old belief and that which is pretendedly new, known as Christianity. It is not a matter of faith alone, but it extends to every department of church literature and practice, from the chief priest—Pontifex Maximus—down to the lowest subordinate priest and humblest layman. We trace the history of that pontif back seven hundred years before our era, and his sacerdotal powers merged with the monarch, were identical with that of the later Catholic popes clothed with civil authority. Their ideas of heaven and hell were substantially the same as are now taught in orthodox pulpits. Saturn was the father of the gods, as was Elohim in the Hebrew system, while Jupiter, parallel with Jehovah, became the active reigning monarch of heaven. Pluto presided over hades, as does Satan in Christian mythology. The millions of lesser gods are known as saints in the modern system.

Jes or Yes was one of about forty different names which Bacchus—Dionysius of the Greeks—bore. He was the son of Jupiter by a mortal woman. He was personified as a glorious and sublime being, who, under the form of an eternally flourishing youth, subdued all enemies and traveled from east to west through all countries. He taught the culture of the vine, and thus, by a sort of miracle, turned water into wine. It was the image of Jes, otherwise Bacchus, which was removed from Pontus, on the Black Sea, near 300 years before our era, to Alexandria, Egypt, where a huge temple, one of the seven wonders of the world, was erected for his reception and was dedicated to his worship; and there he was posed as the resurrected god, Osiris. He was anointed, christened, made a christ, after the manner of ancient kings. Temples were also erected and dedicated to his worship at Memphis and Conopus. In the year 140 the worship of this god, Serapis—the resurrected Osiris—was introduced into Rome by Antonius Pius. His mysteries were celebrated on the 6th of May, agreeing with Ascension Day. The name Jes, spelled in Greek characters, as near as we can give them in English type, was IHS. The H is the capital Eta, with the power of E long. Now convert this Jes into Latin, with the Latis termination, us, and we have Jesus. This Jesus, anointed, christened, became when wrongly capitalized, Jesus Christ.

Will some Greek scholar be so kind as to inform us why the Greek letters IHS, spelling Jes in English

characters, were wrested from their meaning and used as initials for Jesus Hominum Salvator, rendered in English, Jesus the Savior of Men? Was it not designed to mislead? It certainly does to those who are ignorant of the Greek characters, or who are thoughtless in the premises.

There is scarcely a festival or a holy day on the Catholic calendar which had not its counterpart in Roman mythology. And the sacraments of baptism and of the Lord's supper were in vogue among the Pagans of Rome, just as they are celebrated among Catholics now. Cicero, born 106 years, according to accepted chronology, before Jesus, made mirth of people eating their god, as skeptics do now of the eating of the body and drinking the blood of the dear Savior. To quote Cicero accurately, he inquired: "How can a man be so stupid as to imagine what he eats to be a god?" May not the same question be asked with propriety today?

Prayers were directed to the gods and hymns were sung in their praise with as much fervor 2500 years ago as now.

As said in these columns awhile ago, every rite, ceremony, festival, and holiday of the old Romans is preserved and is still in force among Roman Catholics. Their gods have been slightly changed, several of them, as Esculapius, the physician, who raised the dead to life; Bacchus, the god of wine; and Prometheus, who came down from heaven, was clothed with flesh, gifted with prophecy, suffered for the salvation of men—all were merged into the common character Jesus; while Isis and her son, with her home in Egypt, and temples to her honor in Rome before the Christian era, and known as the queen of heaven, was converted into the Madonna, the mother of our Lord.

The ritual used in Catholic worship is retained in its present Latin tongue, its very language, when carefully criticised, betraying the fact that it is a survival of Paganism. The Protestant reformers, ignorant of the real beginning of Christianity, attempted to remodel the worship, but its barbarian origin crops out in all their exercises.

Every symbol and emblem of the church, as the cross, the miter, the crozier, the fish, the lamb, the dove, were in use by Pagans long centuries before the Christian era. Originally the cross was an emblem of the male life principle in nature; then it was used as a sign of victory, and was placed on banners, borne at the head of armies, and worn upon the breast as a charm, as now by Christians.—[Progressive Thinker.

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