

The Path to Salvation

by Phillip W. Weiss

The only person known to have beat death was a man who claimed to be a deity disguised as a human being who came to earth as a baby whose mother was a virgin and who died to return to earth in fulfillment of prophesy. He died for our sins, so we are taught. He took on our sins so that we can receive salvation and gain eternal life. All we need to do is have faith in him and obey his precepts which he announced through a sermon that was recorded by men who were Jews and were his disciples.

Please understand that the story of this man who claimed to be the son of God was written by Jews who were descendants of the Hebrews who were once slaves and later established themselves in the Holy Land where they became powerful and smit their enemies who were heathens, until they were brought low by the Babylonians who destroyed the Temple that was built by Solomon, the greatest ruler in history.

Much of the story of these people, the chosen ones, involves their inequities in violation of the Lord's commandments and the Lord having to punish them for their own good. For being the Chosen Ones came at a price. In return for the Lord's protection, the Chosen Ones had to obey the Lord's commandments which were humanly impossible to always follow. So, the Chosen Ones were set up to fail, which they did and for which they were disciplined.

But the Lord never forsook his people. He never abandoned them, and so they still survive today while other nations and people disappeared. For instance, take the commandment not to commit adultery. That is asking a lot from humans for whom sex is a primordial and powerful drive that can easily get out of control. Or the commandment not to steal. Wow, that's a tough one to always obey. It's all about resisting temptations to have sex, amass money, consume huge amounts of food, get drunk, and act out.

The Lord wants his Chosen People to act responsibly and thereby bring credit to themselves and incur the Lord's pleasure. This formula seems so simple, yet we humans violate it, like that Christian minister who had to resign from the pulpit after it was revealed that he had sex with a twelve-year old girl and blamed the girl for his indiscretions. He was out of control, a hypocrite, who lived a lie until he was exposed. Or the case of a certain famous Jewish businessman, Alfred Bloomingdale, who while married kept a mistress, Vicki Morgan, on the side for twelve years. This man lived two lives, one as a respectable married man and the other as a swain who acted out his sexual proclivities without restraint. He was out of control but couldn't help himself. These things happen. The point is that we are human and as such act out, disobey the rules, do stupid things, get caught and but then try to do better. In that is contained the chance for salvation.