

# 17th of Tammuz and Compromise

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By Joseph F. Dumond

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## News Letter 5854-013

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The 2nd Year of the 4th Sabbatical Cycle

The 23rd year of the 120th Jubilee Cycle

The 8th day of the 4th month 5854 years after the creation of Adam

The 4th Month in the Second year of the Fourth Sabbatical Cycle

The 4th Sabbatical Cycle after the 119th Jubilee Cycle

The Sabbatical Cycle of Sword, Famines, and Pestilence

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June 23, 2018

Shabbat Shalom To the Royal Family,

Last week's article on **I AM THAT I Am** and how this leads you to the understanding that the name is pronounced Yehovah did not register with many of those who commented last week. Almost all of the comments were about Yehovah and Yehshua not being the same entity. We

are also now getting comments from those who practice Islam and they are not in favour of our teachings. Can't imagine why.

## Masking the Truth

One of the comments we got last week about our I AM THAT I AM article was the following from Kurt McPherson. Highlights in bold are from me.

AMEN Joe, thanks for putting this all together in one spot. This is where my head has been at (it is also a bit lonely here) for a while now, thanks to your teachings and those of Eric Bissel and learning what I can of Hebrew. In the shema, echad is one. ( this would have been a good time to introduce the second "god" if there was one, there isn't so He didn't). The man on the stake was YHVH himself. I slew YHVH by my sins. And by His shed blood I am washed clean! This was exciting to read your article. It didn't come from my own head. I've been struggling with this for a while. The "new" testament doesn't seem to match up with the "old" in certain respects. **It is like they went and created a new golden calf for themselves.** Maybe this is actually what happened. I'm speculating now but is it possible that the "christians" did just that.

**Made a new golden calf with the name of Jesus.**

The problem is the English translations. If we only could understand what He said and what He meant in the original language. Not from a translated point of view but actually a deep understanding but because we "know it" like the language of our upbringing.

To the glory of YAH.

Shalom all.

This week's teaching was going to be about Compromising. How each of us does it and how the blessings we were to be given are held back because of our sins. I feel this teaching is from above as it connects what Kurt wrote to us after we had this article done, as he pondered what Christians have done to the name of Yehovah, and what the Jews have done by the weeping and fasting in the 4th month of Tammuz.

Many of you have sinned. Many of us have sinned. And then we moan and complain about the trials we are going through. Some for a while and others for years and years. We all can easily see the sins of others and point them out to them, but should anyone ever point out our sins to us, look out. The person who does so is in for a torrent of words they never knew of from the one they wanted to help.

We sin by compromising. We say this one time is OK. Yehovah knows my heart so that this is then justified. We say, no one will know but me. We say I am doing His work and this is OK to hire others to work for me on the Sabbath or Holy Days. They are pagans anyway. They reasoned they were above the laws.

King Saul thought that because he was the King over Israel he was above obeying Yehovah.

Some of you want to make sacrifices and offerings today. You justify doing this because you say or think this is the way to worship Yehovah. Saul thought the same thing.

1Sa 13:8 And he waited seven days, according to the set time with Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal. And the people were scattered from him. 9 And Saul said, Bring a burnt offering here to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. 10 And it happened as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came. And Saul went out to meet him and to kneel to him. 11 And Samuel said, What have you done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and you did not come in the days appointed, and the Philistines gathered themselves at Michmash, 12 and I said, The Philistines will come down now on me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to Jehovah. And I forced myself and offered a burnt offering. 13 And Samuel said to Saul, You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of Jehovah your God, which He commanded you.

**For now Jehovah would have established your kingdom on Israel forever. 14 But now your kingdom shall not stand. Jehovah has sought Him a man after His own heart,**

and Jehovah has appointed him to be leader over His people, because you have not kept what Jehovah commanded you.

We could have been singing the psalms of Saul instead of David had Saul obeyed. We could have been reading about the things you are doing if you had obeyed. We can still see the great things Yehovah will do with you if you repent. Did Saul repent?

1 Samuel 15:1 And Samuel said to Saul, Jehovah sent me to anoint you to be king over His people, over Israel. And now listen to the voice of the words of Jehovah. 2 So says Jehovah of Hosts, I will visit Amalek with what he did to Israel, how he set against him in the way when he came up from Egypt. 3 Now go and strike Amalek, and completely destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

1Sa 15:7 And Saul struck the Amalekites from Havilah, as you come to Shur, which *is* over across from Egypt. 8 And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive. And he completely destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. 9 But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep and of the oxen and of the fatlings and the lambs, and all *that was* good, and would not completely destroy them. But everything *that was* vile and feeble they completely destroyed. 10 And the Word of Jehovah came to Samuel saying, 11 It repents Me that I have set up Saul *to be* king. For he has turned back from following Me and has not done My commands. And it grieved Samuel, and he cried *out to* Jehovah all night. 12 And when Samuel rose up early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told to Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he set up a place for himself, and has gone around and passed on and gone down to Gilgal. 13 And Samuel came to Saul. And Saul said to him, You *are* blessed of Jehovah. I have done the command of Jehovah. 14 And Samuel said, What then *is* this bleating of the flock in my ears? And *what is* the sound of the herd which I hear? 15 And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites. For the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen to sacrifice to Jehovah your God. And the rest we have completely destroyed. 16 And Samuel said to Saul, Stop! And I will tell you what Jehovah has said to me tonight. And he said to him, Speak. 17 And Samuel said, When you *were* little in your own sight, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? And Jehovah anointed you king over Israel. 18 And Jehovah sent you on the way and said, Go and completely destroy the sinners, Amalek, and fight against them until you destroy them. 19 Why then did you not obey the voice of Jehovah? Why did you fly on the spoil and do evil in the sight of Jehovah? 20 And Saul said to Samuel, Yes, I have obeyed the voice of Jehovah, and have gone the way which Jehovah sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have completely destroyed the Amalekites. 21 But the people took from the spoil, of *the* flocks and herd, *the* best of the things devoted to sacrifice to Jehovah your God in Gilgal.

**22 And Samuel said, Does Jehovah delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of Jehovah? Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice! To listen *is* better than the fat of rams! 23 For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idol-worship. Because you have rejected the Word of Jehovah, He has also rejected you from being king!**

24 And Saul said to Samuel, I have sinned. For I have disobeyed the command of Jehovah, and your word, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. 25 And now please pardon my sin and turn again with me so that I may worship Jehovah.

Saul heirs could have been passed the throne but because of Saul's sin, they had it taken from them. Think about how many blessings you or your family could have had if only you had obeyed. You may never know how much you have missed out on because you refused to repent or you kept on sinning justifying it.

Notice also that Johnathan, David's best friend who was a good person also died because he was an heir to the throne of Saul. Saul sin caused others to die as well.

Here is another example in Samuel.

**2Sa 12:1**And Jehovah sent Nathan to David. And he came to him and said to him, There were two men in one city, one rich and one poor. **2**The rich one had exceeding many flocks and herds, **3**but the poor one had nothing except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished up. And it grew up together with him and with his sons. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was to him like a daughter. **4**And there came a traveler to the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd to dress for the traveler that had come to him. But he took the poor man's lamb and dressed it for the man who had come to him. **5**And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. And he said to Nathan, *As the Lord lives, the man who has done this shall surely die.* **6**And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity. **7**And Nathan said to David, *You are the man!* So says Jehovah, the God of Israel, I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. **8**And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if that *was* too little, I would have given to you such and such *things* besides. **9**Why have you despised the Word of Jehovah, to do evil in His sight? You have stricken Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife *to be* your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon. **10**And therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. **11**So says Jehovah, Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house, and I will take your wives before your eyes and give *them* to your neighbor. And he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. **12**For you did *it* secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun. **13**And David said to Nathan, I have sinned against Jehovah.

**And Nathan said to David, Jehovah also has put away your sin; you shall not die.**

**14**Only, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of Jehovah to blaspheme, this child born to you shall surely die. **15**And Nathan left to go to his house. And Jehovah struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it was very sick.

For at least 9 months David justified his actions and thought no more about his sins. Then Nathan comes along and tells him after David repents that David would not die, which meant David was about to be executed by Jehovah.

Saul tried to justify and excuse his sins and David repented. In both cases, there were consequences for those sins. In both cases, they were lusting after something.

This week we are kind of talking about the Golden Calf.

**Exo 32:4** And he took *them* from their hand, and fashioned it with an engraving tool. And he made it a molten calf. And they said, These *are* your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.

The word Golden Calf is

**H454** masse?ka?h *mas-say-kaw'*

From H5258; properly a *pouring* over, that is, *fusion* of metal (especially a *cast* image); by implication a *libation*, that is, league; concretely a *coverlet* (as if *poured* out): – covering, molten (image), veil.

Or the masking of the calf. That is the masking of Yehovah. The people when they place another god in front of Yehovah they hide Yehovah from themselves. Just as they told Moses to talk to Yehovah and not to have Yehovah speak to them.

Are you now saying you are above the law, and it is OK because you kept some parts of the law but not this part? Are you justifying your sins? Are you masking Yehovah into another god in order for you to justify your sins? Have you replaced Yehovah with another god like Tammuz or the Trinity or two gods? Have you masked Yehovah.

Compromising with sin, compromising with obeying Yehovah is going to lead to your death and to your missing out on the Kingdom and the blessing to be had in that Kingdom. How many more Sabbaths are you going to compromise? How many more sins are you going to justify and overlook? How many false practices are you going to accept and do because of the majority of that faith also do? Even when it is clearly against the word of Yehovah.

How many of you are going to justify;

1. the Fast of the Tammuz?
2. Christmas?
3. Easter?
4. Halloween?
5. Not keeping the Sabbath?
6. Not keeping the Holy Days?
7. Not keeping the Sabbatical Year?
8. Watching Porn?
9. Support of the LGBT way of life?
10. Hiring people to serve you on the Sabbath or Holy Day?

How many of you are going to continue to justify your compromising the Torah of Yehovah? The hiding of Yehovah, the masking of Yehovah by your worshipping of other gods claiming them to be Yehovah?



How much longer before you humble yourself and look seriously at yourself? If not today, then when will you return to Yehovah?

### The 17th Day of Tammuz-Why Do The Fast

The 17th day of the 4th month is the day that comes 40 days after the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai.

Exodus 24:9And Moses went up, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. 10And they saw the God of Israel. And *there was* under His feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as the essence of the heavens for clearness.11And upon the nobles of the sons of Israel He did not lay his hands. Also they saw God, and ate and drank.12And Jehovah said to Moses, Come up to Me in the mountain, and be there. And I will give you tablets of stone, and the Law, and commandments which I have written, so that you may teach them.13And Moses rose up, and his attendant Joshua. And Moses went up into the mountain of God.14And he said to the elders, You stay here for us until we come again to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur *are* with you. If any man has any matters to do, let him come to them.15And Moses went up into the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain.16And the glory of Jehovah abode upon Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. And the sight of the glory of Jehovah *was* like devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the sons of Israel.18And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and went up into the mountain. And Moses was in the mountain forty days and forty nights.

In 2018, the 40th day for the Jews will be June 30. For those of us on the Biblical calendar, the 40th day will be this year July 6, 2018.

Why am I mentioning this to you this year? One to see if anything happens on these dates.

But two is the main reason.

Many of you that come to know the truth go from being a law-breaking Christian to a Torah obeying Jew to then a wannabe Jew in every way possible. But Torah is not Jewish and never was. It is for all people of all nations to obey. You do not have to become Jewish to obey Yehovah.

There is no commandment to fast on the 17th day of Tammuz. Yet many of you will mourn and fast and weep on this day. Why? Well because the Jews tell you to do so, that is why, and you want to be thought of as Jewish. So you fast when they fast.

But there is a logical reason to be mournful on this date.

1. Moses Breaks the 10 Commandments on this day after seeing the Golden Calf.
2. During the Babylonian siege of the first temple the Kohanim ran out of sacrificial animals
3. Among five catastrophes said to have overtaken the Jews on the Seventeenth of Tammuz, the Mishnah includes “the burning of the Torah by Apostomus”.
4. The Mishnah adds the following statement to its account of the burning of the Law: “And he put up an idol in the sanctuary.” The Babylonian Talmud knows only the reading

(“and he put up”) in the Mishnah, as the remark of the Gemara proves, where the “abomination of desolation,” of which Daniel speaks, is connected with the image of the idol in the Temple. By this expression can only be meant the statue of Zeus Olympius set up by Antiochus Epiphanes.

5. Before the Temple was destroyed on the 9th of Av, the 5th month, the Romans breached the walls of Jerusalem on the 17th of the 4th month.

Where did we get the Name Tammuz From?

The name of the month was adopted from the Assyrian and Babylonian month Ara Dumuzu, named in honour of the Assyro-Babylonian god Tammuz also known as Dumuzid. the Shepherd.

Dumuzid,<sup>[a]</sup> later known by the alternate form Tammuz,<sup>[b]</sup> was the ancient Mesopotamian god of shepherds, who was also the primary consort of the goddess Inanna (later known as Ishtar). In Sumerian mythology, Dumuzid's sister was Geshtinanna, the goddess of vegetation. In the Sumerian King List, Dumuzid is listed as an antediluvian king of the city of Bad-tibira and also an early king of the city of Uruk. In the Sumerian poem Inanna Prefers the Farmer, Dumuzid competes against the farmer Enkimdu for Inanna's hand in marriage. In Inanna's Descent into the Underworld, Dumuzid fails to mourn Inanna's death and, when she returns from the Underworld, she allows the galla demons to drag him down to the Underworld as her replacement. Inanna later regrets this decision and decrees that Dumuzid will spend half the year in the Underworld, but the other half of the year with her, while his sister Geshtinanna stays in the Underworld in his place, thus resulting in the cycle of the seasons.

Gilgamesh references Tammuz in Tablet VI of the Epic of Gilgamesh as one of Ishtar's past lovers, who was turned into an allalu bird with a broken wing. Dumuzid was associated with fertility and vegetation and the hot, dry summers of Mesopotamia were believed to be caused by Dumuzid's yearly death. During the month in midsummer bearing his name, people all across Mesopotamia would engage in public, ritual mourning for him. During the late twentieth century, scholars widely thought that, during the Sumerian Akitu festival, kings may have established their legitimacy by taking on the role of Dumuzid and engaging in ritualized sexual intercourse with the high priestess of Inanna as part of a sacred marriage ceremony. This notion is now generally rejected by scholars as a misinterpretation of Sumerian literary texts. The cult of Dumuzid was later spread to the Levant and to Greece, where he became known under the West Semitic name Adonis.

The cult of Ishtar and Tammuz continued to thrive until the eleventh century AD and survived in parts of Mesopotamia as late as the eighteenth century.

So Brethren, who is the husband of Ishtar? Yes, it is Nimrod. So, Tammuz or Dumuzid is just another name for Nimrod who is also known as Gilgamesh. Nimrod also went into His Mother as did Cush and as did Ham. And so did Horus the son of Nimrod. Yes Horus went into his mother as well. This line of Ham was not following Yehovah.



According to the Sumerian King List (ETCSL 2.1.1), Dumuzid was the fifth antediluvian king of the city of Bad-tibira. Dumuzid was also listed as an early king of Uruk, where he was said to have come from the nearby village of Kuara and to have been the consort of the goddess Inanna.

Just a note to consider. Noah, Ham, Cush, Nimrod and Horus. Many of the legends about Nimrod and Horus are mixed with those of Cush and Ham.

The Death of Tammuz

## Section II

### Sub-Section IV

#### The Death of the Child

How Nimrod died, Scripture is entirely silent. There was an ancient tradition that he came to a violent end. The circumstances of that end, however, as antiquity represents them, are clouded with fable. It is said that tempests of wind sent by God against the Tower of Babel overthrew it, and that Nimrod perished in its ruins. This could not be true, for we have sufficient evidence that the Tower of Babel stood long after Nimrod's day. Then, in regard to the death of Ninus, profane history speaks darkly and mysteriously, although one account tells of his having met with a violent death similar to that of Pentheus, Lycurgus, \* and Orpheus, who were said to have been torn in pieces. \*\*

\* Lycurgus, who is commonly made the enemy of Bacchus, was, by the Thracians and Phrygians, identified with Bacchus, who it is well known, was torn in pieces.\*\* LUDOVICUS VIVES, *Commentary on Augustine*. Ninus as referred to by Vives is called "King of India." The word "India" in classical writers, though not always, yet commonly means Ethiopia, or the land of Cush. Thus the Choaspes in the land of the eastern Cushites is called an "Indian River" (DIONYSIUS AFER. *Periergesis*); and the Nile is said by Virgil to come from the "coloured Indians" (*Georg*)—i.e., from the Cushites, or Ethiopians of Africa. Osiris also is by Diodorus Siculus (*Bibliotheca*), called "an Indian by extraction." There can be no doubt, then, that "Ninus, king of India," is the Cushite or Ethiopian Ninus.

The identity of Nimrod, however, and the Egyptian Osiris, having been established, we have thereby light as to Nimrod's death. Osiris met with a violent death, and that violent death of Osiris was the central theme of the whole idolatry of Egypt. If Osiris was Nimrod, as we have seen, that violent death which the Egyptians so pathetically deplored in their annual festivals was just the death of Nimrod. The accounts in regard to the death of the god worshipped in the several mysteries of the different countries are all to the same effect. A statement of Plato seems to show, that in his day the Egyptian Osiris was regarded as identical with Tammuz; \* and Tammuz is well known to have been the same as Adonis, the famous HUNTSMAN, for whose death Venus is fabled to have made such bitter lamentations.

\* See WILKINSON'S *Egyptians*. The statement of Plato amounts to this, that the famous Thoth was a counsellor of Thamus, king of Egypt. Now Thoth is universally known as the "counsellor" of Osiris. Hence it may be concluded that Thamus and Osiris are the same.

As the women of Egypt wept for Osiris, as the Phoenician and Assyrian women wept for Tammuz, so in Greece and Rome the women wept for Bacchus, whose name, as we have seen, means "The bewailed," or "Lamented one." And now, in connection with the Bacchanal lamentations, the importance of the relation established between Nebros, "The spotted fawn," and Nebrod, "The mighty hunter," will appear. The Nebros, or "spotted fawn," was the symbol of Bacchus, as representing Nebrod or Nimrod himself. Now, on certain occasions, in the mystical celebrations, the Nebros, or "spotted fawn," was torn in pieces, expressly, as we learn from Photius, as a commemoration of what happened to Bacchus, \* whom that fawn represented.

\* Photius, under the head "Nebridzion" quotes Demosthenes as saying that "spotted fawns (ornebroi) were torn in pieces for a certain mystic or mysterious reason"; and he himself tells us that "the tearing in pieces of the nebroi (or spotted fawns) was in imitation of the suffering in the case of Dionysus" or Bacchus. (PHOTIUS, *Lexicon*)

The tearing in pieces of Nebros, "the spotted one," goes to confirm the conclusion, that the death of Bacchus, even as the death of Osiris, represented the death of Nebrod, whom, under the very name of "The Spotted one," the Babylonians worshipped. Though we do not find any account of Mysteries observed in Greece in memory of Orion, the giant and mighty hunter celebrated by Homer, under that name, yet he was represented symbolically as having died in a similar way to that in which Osiris died, and as having then been translated to heaven. \*

\* See OVID'S *Fasti*. Ovid represents Orion as so puffed up with pride on account of his great strength, as vain-gloriously to boast that no creature on earth could cope with him, whereupon a scorpion appeared, "and," says the poet, "he was added to the stars." The name of a scorpion in Chaldee is Akrab; but Ak-rab, thus divided, signifies "THE GREAT OPPRESSOR," and this is the hidden meaning of the Scorpion as represented in the Zodiac. That sign typifies him who cut off the Babylonian god, and *suppressed* the system he set up. It was while the sun was in Scorpio that Osiris in Egypt "*disappeared*" (WILKINSON), and great lamentations were made for his *disappearance*. Another subject was mixed up with the death of the Egyptian god; but it is specially to be noticed that, as it was in consequence of a conflict with a *scorpion* that Orion was "added to the stars," so it was when the *scorpion* was in the ascendant that Osiris "*disappeared*."

From Persian records we are expressly assured that it was Nimrod who was deified after his death by the name of Orion, and placed among the stars. Here, then, we have large and consenting evidence, all leading to one conclusion, that the death of Nimrod, the child worshipped in the arms of the goddess-mother of Babylon, was a death of violence.

Now, when this mighty hero, in the midst of his career of glory, was suddenly cut off by a violent death, great seems to have been the shock that the catastrophe occasioned. When the news spread abroad, the devotees of pleasure felt as if the best benefactor of mankind were

gone, and the gaiety of nations eclipsed. Loud was the wail that everywhere ascended to heaven among the apostates from the primeval faith for so dire a catastrophe. Then began those weepings for Tammuz, in the guilt of which the daughters of Israel allowed themselves to be implicated, and the existence of which can be traced not merely in the annals of classical antiquity, but in the literature of the world from Ultima Thule to Japan.

Of the prevalence of such weepings in China, thus speaks the Rev. W. Gillespie: "The dragon boat festival happens in midsummer, and is a season of great excitement. About 2000 years ago there lived a young Chinese Mandarin, Wat-yune, highly respected and beloved by the people. To the grief of all, he was suddenly drowned in the river. Many boats immediately rushed out in search of him, but his body was never found. Ever since that time, on the same day of the month, the dragon-boats go out in search of him." "It is something," adds the author, "like the bewailing of Adonis, or the weeping for Tammuz mentioned in Scripture." As the great god Buddah is generally represented in China as a *Negro*, that may serve to identify the beloved Mandarin whose loss is thus annually bewailed. The religious system of Japan largely coincides with that of China. In Iceland, and throughout Scandinavia, there were similar lamentations for the loss of the god Balder. Balder, through the treachery of the god Loki, the spirit of evil, according as had been written in the book of destiny, "was slain, although the empire of heaven depended on his life." His father Odin had "learned the terrible secret from the book of destiny, having conjured one of the Volar from her infernal abode. All the gods trembled at the knowledge of this event. Then Frigga [the wife of Odin] called on every object, animate and inanimate, to take an oath not to destroy or furnish arms against Balder. Fire, water, rocks, and vegetables were bound by this solemn obligation. One plant only, the mistletoe, was overlooked. Loki discovered the omission, and made that contemptible shrub the fatal weapon.

Among the warlike pastimes of Valhalla [the assembly of the gods] one was to throw darts at the invulnerable deity, who felt a pleasure in presenting his charmed breast to their weapons. At a tournament of this kind, the evil genius putting a sprig of the mistletoe into the hands of the blind Hoder, and directing his aim, the dreaded prediction was accomplished by an unintentional fratricide. The spectators were struck with speechless wonder; and their misfortune was the greater, that no one, out of respect to the sacredness of the place, dared to avenge it. With tears of lamentation they carried the lifeless body to the shore, and laid it upon a ship, as a funeral pile, with that of Nanna his lovely bride, who had died of a broken heart. His horse and arms were burnt at the same time, as was customary at the obsequies of the ancient heroes of the north." Then Frigga, his mother, was overwhelmed with distress. "Inconsolable for the loss of her beautiful son," says Dr. Crichton, "she dispatched Hermod (the swift) to the abode of Hela [the goddess of Hell, or the infernal regions], to offer a ransom for his release. The gloomy goddess promised that he should be restored, provided everything on earth were found to weep for him. Then were messengers sent over the whole world, to see that the order was obeyed, and the effect of the general sorrow was 'as when there is a universal thaw.'" There are considerable variations from the original story in these two legends; but at bottom the essence of the stories is the same, indicating that they must have flowed from one fountain.

Do not Worship as they do



“and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz.” Ezekiel 8:14

Most modern Jews refer to the Fourth Hebrew Month as “Tammuz”, the name of a pagan fertility deity mentioned in the Book of Ezekiel. The prophet Ezekiel described a vision in which an angel brought him to the Temple in Jerusalem:

“Then he brought me to the door of the gate of Yehovah’s house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz.” Ezekiel 8:14

In the 19th century, archaeologists began to uncover archaeological remains that shed light on the ancient pagan religion that led the Israelites astray. Today we know the women were weeping over Tammuz, because he was a fertility god who represented the life cycle of wheat. In Israel, wheat becomes ripe in early Summer when the wheat plant dies, leaving behind a viable seed that can be planted the next year. The Winter rains provide moisture, causing the

new wheat crop to rise out of the ground. Unlike in Europe and North America, the Summer in Israel is characterized by a dry period with no rain in which everything green dies and the Winter is characterized by rain with abundant growth and life. The ancient pagans believed that this agricultural cycle of Summer death and Winter rebirth was a shadow picture of the life of Tammuz. The god Tammuz died in early Summer leaving behind the life giving food that sustained the world; then he was resurrected in the Winter, beginning the cycle again.

Tammuz is often thought to be a Babylonian fertility god. However, a stone monument discovered at Arad in southern Israel may be the earliest representation of the Canaanite Tammuz. The "Arad Stela" (see above image) dating to the Early Bronze Age shows a personified grain deity standing and lying down. Archaeologists have suggested that this represents the death and resurrection of Tammuz.

Later Israelites in the time of Ezekiel adopted this pagan belief. The women were weeping over Tammuz because of his tragic death, which brought life to the world.

Today, echoes of the worship of Tammuz survive in Jewish tradition. The name Tammuz itself only appears in the Bible in reference to this pagan deity. However, Jewish tradition adopted the name "Tammuz" for the Fourth Hebrew Month. Over the centuries the pagan origins of the "Month of Tammuz" were forgotten, only to be rediscovered in modern times. Jewish tradition considers Tammuz to be a month of mourning, and rabbinical Jews even observe a fast on the 17th day of the month. They also refrain from listening to music and other joyous acts from the 17th to the end of the month. The origins of these mourning practices have become obscured over time, and today tradition associates them with the destruction of the Temple. Little do they know that mourning during the Month of Tammuz began long before the destruction of the Temple with a mourning over the death of Tammuz.