

EXPLORATION: BIBLE

By Chip Thompson

TRUTH CLAIM #5: THE TRUE GOD SURVIVES

The Bible is a detailed history of the Middle East in which the ancient civilizations enter into the narrative. Each of these empires worshipped a “supreme deity” that they believed empowered them to rule over the other nations. Through ancient history, archaeology, and the Bible we know the names of many of these pagan gods. The Egyptians worshipped—Amun Ra, the Arameans—Hadad, the Canaanites—Baal, The Philistines & Phoenicians—Dagon, the Edomites—Kose, the Moabites—Kemosh, the Assyrians—Ashur, and the Babylonians—Marduk. Ancient images of many of these gods have been found in archaeology.



Amun Ra
Supreme deity
of Egypt

Hadad
Supreme deity
of Aram

Baal
Supreme deity
of Canaan

Israel was the only ancient nation that did not have an image of their Supreme Deity. Israel's God commanded them not to make any carved images (Deuteronomy 4:15-20), therefore, no images of Israel's God have ever been found. This is how the Bible compares Israel's God with all the other gods,

“Our God is in the heavens; he does whatever he pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; they make no sound in their throats.” (Psalm 115:3-8).

Israel's God was known to the ancient nations only by his name—YHWH (pronounce Yahweh). Inscriptions bearing this name have been found in archaeology dating as early as the 15th Century BC. This would have been when Moses was still leading the Children of Israel before they entered the Land of Canaan.

This is the Oldest “Yahweh” Inscription in the world



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This inscription was found on a pillar at the Soleb Temple, today located in Sudan. The inscriptions found at this site name the enemies of Egypt. This inscription names, “The Lands of the Nomads of Yahweh” as one of Egypt's enemies. The only ancient nation that worshipped a God named Yahweh was Israel and at this time Israel didn't have a land of their own, they were nomads.

Why is all this important? It is very important because a true God must continue, he must survive the ravages of time. If his name is forgotten or people stop worshipping Him, then he has no power. He is not a true God.

So, let me ask you, who in the world today worships the mighty Amun Ra? Does anyone recognize Hadad as a deity? How many Baal worshippers are there? How many worship the mighty sea god Dagon or the powerful Ashur, war god of Assyria? I think you get my point. If it were not for history and a few dusty archaeological finds, none of these gods would even be remembered. Their importance has been lost to time. All the ancient gods have lost the bid to be named—true God. They are all losers.

But, what about Israel's God, Yahweh? Is Yahweh's name remembered in our world today? Is Yahweh worship still happening today? The answer is YES! Millions of Jews and Billions of Christians name the name of Israel's ancient Supreme Deity in their daily worship. The name Jesus (Yeshuah in Hebrew) means, “Yahweh is Salvation.” Every Jesus worshipper is worshipping Yahweh. The Apostle Paul said this about the believers in Thessalonica,

“You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

—(1 Thessalonians 1:9-10).

Today the name Yahweh not only survives but He is worshipped by more people than any other so called “deity.” Jesus is Yahweh, he is still the only true God who can save you from the wrath to come.

Questions? Comments? ephchip@gmail.com