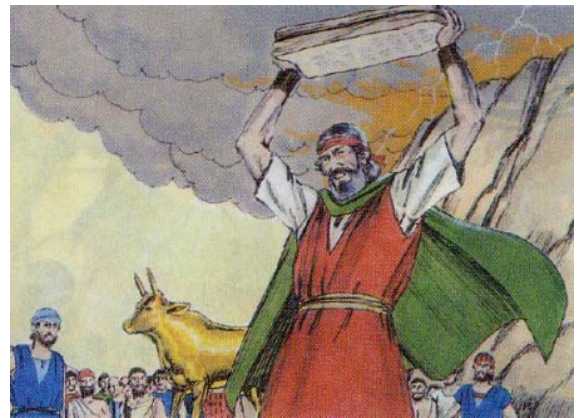


1. The first chapter of the book of Romans speaks of what theologians call "general revelation": information that God has put into the heart of all humankind. This explains why all humans throughout history have a concept of god and an understanding about right and wrong in their consciences. So some idea of God is inherent in virtually all cultures past and present.
2. As recorded in the first book of the Bible, Genesis, after the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were then clothed by God Himself with animal skins. The first animals to be slain were killed by God to cover up the first couple's nakedness that became apparent to them as a result of sin: Innocence lost. And their sons Cain and Abel then in-

For those who understand the Bible's progressive revelation, it is no surprise that civilizations have similarities in spiritual concepts as part of their collective memory. That does not discount the truth of the Bible, on the contrary, it establishes it. These facts have to be kept in mind:

3. Another collective memory of a Bible event is of the worldwide flood – Gilgamesh, etc.
 4. Another one is the pyramids – from the Bible account of the building of the tower of Babel – which explains the similarities to Egypt's pyramids and those of ancient Peru.
 5. The collective memory of the promise of eternal life and resurrection of the dead that predated Christianity and is seen in the oldest book of the Bible: the book of Job—a story that goes back to approximately 1600 BC.
- Admittedly there are elements of paganism that have crept into Catholicism and Christian offshoots such as Freemasonry and Mormonism. But none of these groups are representative of biblical Christianity

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine...and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths." (2 Timothy 4:3-4)



Urban Myth:

"Christianity's Roots are in Ancient Paganism"

Under the secular academic worldview there is no God, so all empirical data that appears spiritual is examined from that presupposition. So if ancient pagan mystery religions that predated the historic life of Jesus Christ have something similar to a resurrection story or rebirth however defined, they assume they are all the same. But that is a fallacy: similar does not mean same.

since they put their own books and dogmas on equal status with the Bible, which alone is God's direct revelation to man. This is nothing new, as the Israelites found out in the Old Testament days whenever they tried to adopt beliefs of other peoples incurring God's wrath. The golden calf they fashioned in the wilderness is a prime example.

Jesus said that it is hard for a rich man to enter into heaven – but today it would be accurate to say that it is hard for a person educated in public universities to enter into heaven. That is because they have spent their entire life being programmed not to believe in anything that cannot be seen under a microscope. Truth never defies reason and Christianity is a reasonable faith. Pagan mythology is unreasonable – that sets biblical Christianity apart from the rest.

For more information about the Bible here are some on-line resources:

- <http://www.walkwiththeword.org/>
- <http://www.blueletterbible.org/>
- <http://www.crosswalk.com/>

Or email: jalnor@yahoo.com