

Rituals - Godly Or Not - Genesis 4

John 4:24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

1 Corinthians 11:28-30 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of *that* bread, and drink of *that* cup. 29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this cause many *are* weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

John 8:44 Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Genesis 4:3-8 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. 4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. 6 So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." 8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

Psalms 34:18 The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.

Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart--These, O God, You will not despise.

Isaiah 57:15 For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones."

Wikipedia - Rituals - A ritual "is a sequence of activities involving gestures, words, and objects, performed in a sequestered place, and performed according to set sequence." Rituals may be prescribed by the traditions of a community, including a religious community. Rituals are characterized by formalism, traditionalism, invariance, rule-governance, sacral symbolism and performance. Rituals of various kinds are a feature of almost all known human societies, past or present. They

include not only the various worship rites and sacraments of organized religions and cults, but also the rites of passage of certain societies, atonement and purification rites, oaths of allegiance, dedication ceremonies, coronations and presidential inaugurations, marriages and funerals, school "rush" traditions and graduations, club meetings, sports events, Halloween parties, veterans parades, Christmas shopping and more. Many activities that are ostensibly performed for concrete purposes, such as jury trials, execution of criminals, and scientific symposia, are loaded with purely symbolic actions prescribed by regulations or tradition, and thus partly ritualistic in nature. Even common actions like hand-shaking and saying hello may be termed rituals. The field of ritual studies has seen a number of conflicting definitions of the term.

For examples, we have some Mass Deliverances on different ritual topics. Summarized the rituals for the day of Atonement ceremony.

Biblical Examples:

Matthew 6:7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Deuteronomy 23:17 "There shall be no ritual harlot <06948> of the daughters of Israel, or a perverted one of the sons of Israel.

Hosea 4:14 "I will not punish your daughters when they commit harlotry, Nor your brides when they commit adultery; For *the men* themselves go apart with harlots, And offer sacrifices with a ritual harlot <06948>.

Therefore people *who* do not understand will be trampled.

Strong's #06948 q@deshah *ked-ay-shaw'* AV-harlot 4, whore 1; 5 1) female temple prostitute, harlot

2 Kings 17:26,27 Wherefore they spake to the king of Assyria, saying, The nations which thou hast removed, and placed in the cities of Samaria, know not the manner <04941> of the God of the land: therefore He hath sent lions among them, and, behold, they slay them, because they know not the manner <04941> of the God of the land. 27 Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, Carry thither one of the priests whom ye brought from thence; and let them go and dwell there, and let him teach them the manner <04941> of the God of the land.

2 Kings 17:33 They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, after the manner <04941> of the nations whom they carried away from thence.

2 Kings 17:34 Unto this day they do after the former manners <04941>: they fear not the LORD, neither do they after their statutes, or after their

ordinances <04941>, or after the law and commandment which the LORD commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel;

2 Kings 17:37 And the statutes, and the ordinances <04941>, and the law, and the commandment, which he wrote for you, ye shall observe to do for evermore; and ye shall not fear other gods.

2 Kings 17:40 Howbeit they did not hearken, but they did after their former manner <04941>.

Strong's #04941 mishpat *mish-pawt'*

AV-judgment 296, manner 38, right 18, cause 12, ordinance 11, lawful 7, order 5, worthy 3, fashion 3, custom 2, discretion 2, law 2, measure 2, sentence 2, misc 18; 421

1) judgment, justice, ordinance 1a) judgment 1a1) act of deciding a case 1a2) place, court, seat of judgment 1a3) process, procedure, litigation (before judges) 1a4) case, cause (presented for judgment) 1a5) sentence, decision (of judgment) 1a6) execution (of judgment) 1a7) time (of judgment)

1b) justice, right, rectitude (attributes of God or man)

1c) ordinance 1d) decision (in law) 1e) right, privilege, due (legal)

1f) proper, fitting, measure, fitness, custom, manner, plan

2 Kings 17:24-29 Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they took possession of Samaria and dwelt in its cities. 25 And it was so, at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they did not fear the LORD; therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which killed some of them. 26 So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, "The nations whom you have removed and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the rituals of the God of the land; therefore He has sent lions among them, and indeed, they are killing them because they do not know the rituals of the God of the land." 27 Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, "Send there one of the priests whom you brought from there; let him go and dwell there, and let him teach them the rituals of the God of the land."

1 Kings 12 Summarized the account of Jeroboam & his ungodly false religion.

Judges 10:14 Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation.

2 Kings 17:28 Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD.

2 Kings 17:29 However every nation continued to make gods of its own, and put them in the shrines on the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in the cities where they dwelt.

The priest did not say "Repent & turn to the True & Living God." like many prophets did.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

2 Kings 17:30,31 The men of Babylon made Succoth Benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima, 31 and the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burned their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

Inside many Catholic saints in Mexico, there is a statue of the local deity inside.

2 Kings 17:32-34 So they feared the LORD, and from every class they appointed for themselves priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places. 33 They feared the LORD, yet served their own gods--according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away. 34 To this day they continue practicing the former rituals; they do not fear the LORD, nor do they follow their statutes or their ordinances, or the law and commandment which the LORD had commanded the children of Jacob, whom He named Israel,

Exodus 20 Summarized God's commandments - no other god, no idols, etc.

2 Kings 17:35 with whom the LORD had made a covenant and charged them, saying: "You shall not fear other gods, nor bow down to them nor serve them nor sacrifice to them; 36 "but the LORD, who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power and an outstretched arm, Him you shall fear, Him you shall worship, and to Him you shall offer sacrifice.

Matthew 26:28 For this is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

2 Kings 17:37 "And the statutes, the ordinances, the law, and the commandment which He wrote for you, you shall be careful to observe forever; you shall not fear other gods.

Deuteronomy 18:9-14 When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. 10 There shall not be found among you *any one* that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, *or* that useth divination, *or* an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, 11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a

necromancer. ...

2 Kings 17:38-41 "And the covenant that I have made with you, you shall not forget, nor shall you fear other gods. 39 "But the LORD your God you shall fear; and He will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies." 40 However they did not obey, but they followed their former rituals. 41 So these nations feared the LORD, yet served their carved images; also their children and their children's children have continued doing as their fathers did, even to this day.

2 Kings 23:7 Then he tore down the *ritual* booths <01004> of the perverted persons that *were* in the house <01004> of the LORD, where the women wove hangings <01004> for the wooden image.

Strong's #01004 bayith *bah'-yith* AV-house 1881, household 54, home 25, within 22, temple 11, prison 16, place 16, family 3, families + 01 2, dungeon 2, misc 23; 2055

1) house 1a) dwelling habitation 1b) shelter or abode of animals 1c) human bodies (fig.) 1d) of Sheol 1e) of abode of light and darkness 1f) of land of Ephraim

2) place 3) receptacle 4) home, house as containing a family

5) household, family 5a) those belonging to the same household 5b) family of descendants, descendants as organized body

6) household affairs 7) inwards (metaph.) 8) (TWOT) temple adv 9) on the inside prep 10) within

Ezra 6:20 For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves; all of them *were ritually* clean <02889>. And they slaughtered the Passover lambs for all the descendants of the captivity, for their brethren the priests, and for themselves.

Strong's #02889 tahowr *taw-hore'* or tahor *taw-hore'*

AV-clean 50, pure 40, fair 2, purer 1, variant 1; 94

1) pure, clean 1a) clean (ceremonially-of animals)

1b) pure (physically) 1c) pure, clean (morally, ethically)

Ezekiel 20:26 "and I pronounced them unclean because of their *ritual* gifts <04979>, in that they caused all their firstborn to pass through *the fire*, that I might make them desolate and that they might know that I am the LORD."

Strong's #04979 mattanah *mat-taw-naw'* AV-gifts 16, as he is able 1; 17 1) gift

Luke 18:9-14 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I

thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Rituals vs Sacraments:

Mark 7:13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

Luke 22:19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

Cannibalism is NOT part of Christianity like some pagan religions do.

1 Corinthians 11:24 and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

1 Corinthians 11:25 In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me."

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