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### The Seven Spirits of the God of Abraham

Whether they were ordained by God or established by man, the seven world religions--Jewish, Catholic, Muslim, Eastern Orthodox, Protestant, Mormon, and Jehovah's Witnesses--all claim to worship the God of Abraham. And regardless of whether or not God ordained them, these religious organizations were founded in chronological order. The Jewish Faith was founded in 1300 BC, the Catholic Church around 33 AD, the Muslim Faith around 662 AD, the Eastern Orthodox Church around 1054 AD, the Protestant Church around 1517 AD, the Mormon Church around 1829 AD, and the Jehovah's Witnesses Kingdom Hall around 1870 AD. This chronological footprint is as distinctive as if it were imprinted in the sand by first the heel (the past) and then all the way to the toe (the future). Although these parts of the foot are put down in the sand at different times, the heel certainly is not the toe. However, they all make up the foot, and so it is with the Seven Spirits of the God of Abraham.

Most assuredly, it would be almost impossible to get any of these seven religions to agree on anything other than the God of Abraham is the God they all worship. Some may even argue this point:

Whether we are Christians, Moslems or Jews, we are children of God and our efforts as peacemakers will be blessed and rewarded by the one God whom we share as common Creator. (Bartholomew).

Yet each of these seven religions denies some if not all claims of the others as being the only one true Spirit of the God of Abraham. In fact, a person would be hard pressed to go into any temple, church, mosque, synagogue, or sanctuary and find more

than a handful of persons who can even agree about their own religion's doctrine. In an email to me, Dr. Gary Don Sands, Ph.D. Res., an administrative minister from The Church of God-Protestant denomination, states the following:

“The differences between these groups are doctrinal, in fact according to the “ecclesia” many are not even biblically considered as churches”.... The Jewish do not accept Jesus as the Messiah; the Catholic, whose church traditions are equated with scripture; Muslim, who also do not accept Jesus as the Son of God; The Eastern Orthodox, whose ascetic podivg is what gets one to heaven rather than grace; Mormon, who are baptized for the dead, not knowing that it is appointed unto man once to die then the judgment; The Jehovah's Witnesses, who do not believe in an eternal punishment (though Christ Himself said it) and that only 144K are entering heaven among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Sands)

He is correct in stating there are doctrinal differences among the seven religions, yet each of his claims about the other six can be rebutted by some of the same books of scripture he quotes his position from. As you can see, his position eliminates all of the other six religions. If asked about other religions within his own Protestant denomination, I am sure he would eliminate many of them as well. How confusing this is to the billions of members to organized religion and non members seeking the truth. Each religion claims they are the one and only true Spirit of the God of Abraham. At the very least they would say that their way of worship is preferred by God. How can this be? If God really exists and He is the God of Abraham of the Bible, Torah, Koran, Book of Mormon and the same Jehovah God the Jehovah's Witnesses claim to serve, where has the confusion come from, and why are there so many different religions? If there is a God why would He ordain so many different religions, and what would be their purposes? These questions can be best answered by looking at the creation account of humankind adhered to by the different seven religions and by considering the purposes of each of the Seven Spirits of the God of Abraham.

To better understand the purposes of the Seven Spirits, and how they came into existence, we must first understand human beings. We must understand what the seven religions understand about humans consciously or unconsciously. All seven religions acknowledge truths in the Torah (Jewish Bible) or what the Christians call the Old Testament, at least the first five books of the Torah--Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Regardless of disagreements over other doctrine, the Jewish and Muslim religions agree concerning the legitimacy of the first five books of the Torah, which are God's laws given to Moses:

We believe in Allah, (GOD) and (in) that which had been revealed to us, and (in) that which was revealed to Ibrahim (Abraham) and Ismail (Ishmael) and Ishaq (Isaac) and Yaqoub (Jacob) and the tribes, and (in) that which was given to Musa (Moses) and Isa, (Jesus) and (in) that which was given to the prophets from their Lord, we do not make any distinction between any of them, and to Him do we submit. (*The Koran 2.126*)

The other five religions have also acknowledged the legitimacy of the first five books of the Torah, and both the Torah and Old and New Testament of the Bible as Holy Scripture. The Koran and Book of Mormon both use the Torah as a foundation as does the Christian New Testament. Of course, each of the seven religions claims that the interpretation offered by the others of these Holy Scriptures is incorrect, thus making their religion false.

A single scripture found in the first book of the Torah, "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them," (Genesis 1:27, *NKJV*) is the starting point to understand whether God or man ordained the purposes of the seven religions. All seven religions agree on the theory of creation; therefore we need to begin with that in mind.

Understanding what it means to be in God's image leads to wisdom concerning

the purpose of the Seven Spirits of the God of Abraham. What does it mean to say humans are created in the image of God? Of course, all seven of the religions believe that there is only one God and His attributes are “omni” characteristics, that is, omnipresent, omnipotent, and omniscient. God by definition is eternal, all present, all-powerful, all knowing. These are His characteristics, or His person. Certainly all seven religions agree that humans have none of these characteristics because we are not God. This then begs the question, how then are humans made in the image of God? To better answer the question, let us look at what we know about humans and their being. We know that all humans have seven dimensions to their beings—a history, mind, body, spirit, finances, family and a future.

1. Our history: humans have a history. We record our history in many different ways: oral, written, and taped, for example. We have a history, and our history is a very important aspect of our personal experience.
2. Our mind: humans have a mind. We know that humans, unlike other beings, have the ability to reason, gain knowledge, and communicate ideas.
3. Our body: humans have a physical body
4. Our spirit: humans have a spirit, which is a light and energy source.
5. Our finances: humans have finances or some system of barter for goods and services; we are interdependent on one another.
6. Our family: humans have immediate and extended family members
7. Our future: humans have a future; every second that clicks by propels us into our future.

Therefore, all rational persons would agree that all seven of these dimensions make up what we call the human being. We clearly see in the natural world what the image of a human being looks like. However, we cannot see God, so how can we know what His image is; does He have these same dimensions? I believe He does. The seven religions represent these seven dimensions or Seven Spirits of God.

Whether it is a conscience or unconscious act of the seven religions, whether God established the seven religions, or whether man established them by means of reverse engineering, they mirror the image of man and represent the following seven spirits or dimensions of God:

1. The Jewish Faith recorded and revealed to the world God's History with man through both oral and written scripture.
2. The Catholic Church has revealed God's Mind; through the person and teachings of Jesus Christ.
3. The Muslim Faith restored God's temple in Jerusalem and has put great emphases on the cleansing and healing of God's new temple the human body.
4. The Eastern Orthodox Church revealed the person of the God's Holy Spirit; it split from the Catholic Church over two major issues, the papacy and the procession of the Holy Spirit. The procession differs between the Catholic and Orthodox. The Catholics added, "the Holy Spirit flows from the Father and Son" and not simply from the Father as scripture had recorded. This main difference in the Eastern Orthodox Church leaves the Holy Spirit proceeding from the Father guiding the Church.

5. The Protestant Church represents God's finances, the Protestant movement deregulated the Church, and, as many historians agree, helped create capitalism. Now anyone desiring to start a church and become a minister could in fact do so without the established Church's permission or authority. The Protestant Church also came forth from the Catholic Church.
6. The Mormon Church represents God's plan for the Family. The Mormon Church was founded by Joseph Smith who as a young Protestant sought God's true Church. Smith was also confused by all the different denominational claims. He founded The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.
7. The Jehovah's Witnesses Kingdom Hall represents God's Future and comes from Seventh Day Advents, a Protestant denomination.

Therefore, each of the seven religions has been established to reveal God's seven spirits or dimensions. Regardless of whether it comes from God or man, this image we have of God looks like the image of man. Thus, the seven religions represent the entire seven spirits of God that guide the seven dimensions of the human soul. According to the tenets of the seven religions, God has a History, Mind, Body, Spirit, Finances, Family and Future and so do human beings.

And I Looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, ***stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.*** (Rev 5:6, NKJV)

Plato's Myth of the Cave, discusses two types of ignorance, simple and double ignorance. There was a time in my life I must confess I would have been considered

doubly ignorant, because of my upbringing in a small Southern Baptist Church not far from my parent's home out in the country around Midland, Georgia. I was taught by my pastor, friends, and family, all of whom are Southern Baptists and claim that "The Southern Baptists are the only true believers of God." Our church believed that the other churches were cults, and many of the other Protestant denominations were not real churches. Like the people in the cave all I could see was what was around me, and all I could hear were the people who surrounded me. I was thirty-five years old before I questioned some of the beliefs I was taught. I have known many Jews, Muslims, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses and Catholics, and members of different Protestant churches. If there is a God, He must love and desire their worship as much as that of the Southern Baptists.

I began to understand that if God is real, He is bigger than the Southern Baptists or the Protestants. In fact I came to believe He was bigger than all seven of the religions that claim to worship Him. Let me share with you my understanding of each of these seven religions, and the understanding of those who have been left in the cave within their own denominations. Father D. Johnson, Associate Priest from the Orthodox Church of St. Matthew, writing to me in response to my claim of the Seven Spirits of the God of Abraham stated that, "You are in fact an excellent example of the soft-brained and empty-hearted delusion that has for so long characterized and continues to govern the American religious scene." These words of an ordained minister who refuses to consider the possibility that life exists outside the cave in which he presides are an excellent example of Plato's "double ignorance" theory. Yet when the same theology (the Seven Spirits of the God of Abraham) was suggested to an educator at the Franciscan School of

Theology, he wrote, “yes a fruitful purpose within a dedicated teleology” (Dr. J. Kiesler). Stepping out of my own cave, I have made the following observations regarding the seven religions and their purpose, whether they are man made or God ordained.

I propose that the Jewish Faith is the very foundation of the seven Spirits of the God of Abraham. The Torah, or God’s written Laws, which is called by some the Old Testament or as I prefer to say the First Testament of the Bible, is not just a book of do’s and don’ts. God gave us the Torah or the First Testament to be our instruction book on how to receive His blessings and live a clean, healthy, and prosperous life free from bondage. The Jewish Faith not only recorded the Torah; the Jewish people also recorded the New Testament. All other books used by the six other religions would have no basis without the reference of the Jewish records of the God of Abraham. All seven religions practice foundationalism in this sense and cannot deny the fact; the Jewish Faith and its recorded history is the foundation for its holy scripture. Whether God or the Jewish people established His History, the existence of the seven religions demonstrates that He has a history.

Through the teachings of Jesus, the Catholic Church gave us a living example of how to live a holy life and please God. With Christ came knowledge, which led to the understanding of God’s mercy. The Catholic Church continued the teachings of Jesus for the renewing of our mind. The Catholic Church has excelled in the area of education and mental health. In the beginning, the Catholic Church practiced exorcism on a routine basis. Now the Catholic Church leans more toward mental health care than exorcism. A large number of Catholic priests have been educated in the mental health field and are practicing psychiatrists, psychologists, and licensed counselors. All of these are for the



Mind. Some of the Roman Catholic priests and clergy to whom I proposed my Seven Spirits of the God of Abraham theory were closed-minded. For example, in response to my email message Ssjaquille wrote, “Jesus founded one Church; it is the Holy Roman Catholic Church, certainly not what you propose, please do not write me again. May the Lord lead you to His true Church.” Nevertheless, the existence and expansion of the other religions cannot be denied and they to serve the same God of Abraham.

After the destruction of God’s temple, according to the Muslims, God ordained them to begin restoring His temple, and it still stands in Jerusalem today. When Omar, a Muslim leader, came to Jerusalem he saw the ruins of God’s temple and began to rebuild it. To him the Temple was the Body that housed God when He visited man.

The Muslim community has excelled in the giving of medical services for the human body. With Muslim doctors we can see in the natural world what God has ordained in the spiritual realm. Muslim men and women dominate almost every field of medicine today.

The Eastern Orthodox Church keeps a focus on God’s Holy Spirit as well as the human spirit. The Church still recognizes the need for and still practices exorcisms of unclean spirits and demonic possession. The Eastern Orthodox Church understands that demonic possession is still happening today, and that not all illness is mental or physical in nature. Without the practice of the casting out of evil spirits known as exorcism, the human spirit cannot be free. By the power of God’s Holy Spirit, priests are able to cast out demons and unclean spirits through exorcisms.

Rev. George C. Papademetriou, Ph.D. of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America confirms the role of God’s Holy Spirit in human experience:

The demonic possession of individuals and even of objects has been accepted by the Orthodox Church today in the Sacrament of Baptism, in exorcising satanic powers in the case of the evil eye (vaskania), and in exorcising the devil in the case of a possessed person.... The Church continues in its liturgical rites what Christ enacted in His ministry. The Church recognizes the influence of evil and renounces it in the name of Christ in prayers and fasting. Special ministry through the exorcist offered the prayers of exorcism in the early Church. This is evidenced from the early prayers that have survived. From the fourth century onwards, the priest has fulfilled the ministry of the exorcist. (Papademetriou)

Regardless of whether it was God or man that established the Protestant Church, the protestant movement deregulated the established church despite the many obstacles placed by man made religions. Persons called by God can begin their ministry without the approval of the larger established church and its leaders.

Max Weber, a well-known sociologist, said that the Protestant Church is responsible for capitalism in America. The Protestant Church made it possible for anyone wanting to start a church to do so, opening up opportunities to almost anyone who wanted to serve in the ministry.

The Mormon Church was established to minister to God's Family. The Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) maintains family birth records that are vital to the restoration of families. These records make it possible to reunite the right families after adoptions, abandonment's, deaths, and separation in general. Without these vital records, this task would be impossible.

Not only does the Mormon Church maintain these vital records but also it puts almost its entire energy into the preservation of the Family. An example of Temple work is the Baptism of the Dead, which is for lost family members to be restored by proxy to their families in Heaven. This is the spiritual work of the Church and done in the Mormon Temples are around the world.

The Church provides access to these records through the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and in over 3,000 local family history centers. The Church has also developed large databases of genealogical information for the restoration of family.

For a natural sign of their part in the Church, The Mormon Church also has enacted Family Home Evenings and the First Presidency statements that follow encourage every church member to participate, placing the importance of the Family at the forefront of the Mormon faith.

We call upon parents to devote their best efforts to the teaching and rearing of their children in gospel principles, which will keep them close to the Church. The home is the basis of a righteous life, and no other instrumentality can take its place or fulfill its essential functions in carrying forward this God-given responsibility. We counsel parents and children to give highest priority to family prayer, family home evening, gospel study and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints)

The Kingdom Halls of the Jehovah's Witnesses was established to proclaim God's Future with humankind. They proclaim the second coming of Jesus Christ, and His millennial reign on earth. They have a spirit of witnessing that burns bright. Their witnessing is more organized and diligent than the other six churches combined. In comparison they make evangelism look like it is dead in all other religions. They proclaim that man's future is with God, and they will not rest until every soul on Earth has heard His message that His Kingdom is coming to be established on Earth. This differs from the participation of members of the other religions. The other four religions who serve Jesus do not make this proclamation--that is, the coming Kingdom on Earth and the millennial reign of Christ--the focus point of the practice of their faith is the Future.

They go where you and I could not even imagine going. They search the prisons,

jails, hospitals, mental wards, streets, back roads, ditches, highways, and every house on every street to proclaim God's coming Kingdom. They speak to every human being that is in their path of the coming Kingdom:

An incorruptible government that is both loving and firm, God's heavenly Kingdom under Christ—the government for which Christians have been taught to pray, will enforce God's superior standards. (Matthew 6:10) In that new world, learning God's superior laws will reform every inhabitant. Then it will be true as never before that "the earth will certainly be filled with the knowledge of Jehovah as the waters are covering the very sea." (Isaiah 11:9) The law-abiding inhabitants of the new world "will indeed find their exquisite delight in the abundance of peace."—Psalm 37:11. ("The Only Realistic Hope for an Earthly Sanctuary," *Watchtower*)

Whether the Seven Spirits of the God of Abraham were ordained by God, or they have found their purposes over time through the conscious or unconscious efforts of men, they certainly have adapted to the image of man. The footprint that we find in the sand definitely has a distinct imprint. The only question that remains asks whether it is a shoe that is worn by man or by the God that each of the seven religions worship. One open-minded minister's wife from California writes to me with this report; "This past month we have received your email letters and my husband has studied the subject in depth. We have prayed and our entire congregation has been in prayer, we will follow God in all things" (Schmidt). This is what it takes to come out of the darkness of denominational blinders and to open up our hearts and minds and begin to understand that God has a bigger plan for us than we may realize.

While seeking God's wisdom in this matter in my own prayers, I was caught up in a vision. The spirit of the Lord came upon me, and in a vision took me up to a great coliseum. There were thousands of spectators watching what appeared to be an Olympic track and field event. As I looked down at the track, a relay race had just begun. The first

runner out was holding in his hand a baton with the word **Jewish** carved in it. The man was dressed like a Jewish Rabbi. He began to run around the track repeatedly until he became weary.

Just when it appeared as if he were about to collapse another man ran up and took a piece of his baton. I watched him run. He appeared to be dressed in a Catholic robe, and the word **Catholic** carved in his baton. He ran for a while. Then the third runner appeared and took a piece of the second runner's baton. He appeared to have Arab clothing on, and the word **Muslim** carved in his baton. Then the fourth runner appeared and took a piece of the Muslim runner's baton. He was wearing a black robe and the word **Eastern Orthodox** carved in his baton. Then the fifth runner appeared and took a piece of the baton from the Eastern Orthodox. He had a business suit on and the word **Protestant** carved in his baton. The sixth runner to enter the race came up and took a piece of baton from the Protestant. On his baton was the word **Mormon**. The seventh runner came up and took a piece of baton from the Mormon. On his baton was the word **Jehovah's Witnesses**. He ran as the last runner of the race.

When the race was over, they were all still standing on the track holding their relay batons. Each was preparing for the pole vault, which was the last event. They all looked at what they had in their hand and appeared puzzled, for they knew that their baton was not long enough to get them over the pole vault's high crossbar.

Then I heard a very loud voice from the heavens say, "This last event will be your hardest one yet because you cannot do it alone." They began to ask the one who was speaking to them "what shall we do?" and he replied, "Join your batons together, and together you will make it over this last high crossbar." I watched them as they tried to put

their batons together, but there was no glue to join them together.

Then suddenly from the sky came a bolt of lightning fusing their batons one to another making them into one. They picked up this pole and began to run together for the glory of God down the track. When they were almost over the crossbar, a hand reached down from heaven and pulled them off like a shish ka bob, and they disappeared into the sky.

Therefore the theory of The Seven Spirits of the God of Abraham is the only one that I can accept; to think of the alternatives is depressing. To think that there is only one true religion and to put my future and salvation in my own hands by having to pick from among the hundreds of denominations all claiming to be the right choice is frightening. To believe that all seven religions are wrong, and none of them could be right because they all claim to serve the same God and each deny the others is terrifying. To believe that God is the author of confusion is horrendous. Even worse is the thought that there is no God and we are on our own. No, I would rather believe that the God of Abraham does exist and His thoughts and ways are higher than our thoughts and ways, and that all Seven of these Spirits belong to him. Whether my vision was from God or from my own conscious or unconscious thoughts isn't really important. The idea of these seven religions combining their assets and gifts and working together to overcome poverty and suffering in our world should be what is really important.

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