

# I have a question, which concerns me for some time!



**Is the Moon really in charge of the Biblical Month?**

**The Lunar Deception**

**Or are we dealing with something much more serious?**

**A Lunatic Authority!**

**The Jews and the Moon**

Most Christians that know anything about the Scriptures, or Jewish beliefs, do know the Jews follow

the moon to calculate their Biblical month.

Because of this, most assume (and believe) the Biblical month really is based on the moon.

Job 31:26-28 (New Living Translation)

**Have I looked at the sun shining in the skies, or the moon walking down its silver pathway, 27 and been secretly enticed in my heart to worship them? 28 If so, I should be punished by the judges, for it would mean I had denied the God of heaven.**



Here is something to seriously think about before we proceed!

**The Islamic calendar is lunar based, with each month coinciding with the phases of the moon and lasting either 29 or 30 days. Traditionally, one marks the beginning of an Islamic month by looking at the night sky and visibly sighting the slight crescent moon (hilal) that marks the**

**beginning of the next month. This is the method which is mentioned in the Quran and was followed by the Prophet Muhammad.**

<https://www.thoughtco.com/moon-sighting-at-ramadan-2004608>

**Questions that Need Answers for this Study**

**Where did sun and moon worship really begin?**

**Did this happen somewhere between the generations of Adam and Noah?**

**Do the sun god and moon goddess represent the major “no gods” or are there other more important pagan gods?**

**If the sun god and moon goddess are the dominant pagan gods, which one of the two takes the #1 position?**

**If sacred regard is given to the sun and moon for any reason, is this classed as worship?**

**If the sighting the sun and moon are part of the worship calendar, is that action regarded as worship.**

**Will this study be able to conclude which is more deceptive? Sun worship, or moon worship?**

### **Job & the Moon... Was it a Mystery?**

**Job lived around the time of Abraham – long before the 12 tribes of Israel, or any Jews.**

**At the time of Abraham, Yahuwah's people were known as Hebrews.**

**This study will begin to examine the history beginning with Adam to Noah.**

**Then we will examine the history from Shem to Abraham, words of Job, the Torah commands of Moses, and the Old Testament history of the northern tribes of Israel and the tribe of Judah.**

**The mystery will be solved through understanding the history.**

### **Jews & their Moon - Are we dealing with a Mystery?**

Most people believe the Jews (today) are correct in following certain phases of the moon in connection with their feast and festival worship statutes. In fact, it is a mystery why their "moon" isn't even questioned!

This mystery will be solved through:

1. Understanding exactly what happened after the flood (from Shem to Abraham) and when the worship of "other gods" actually became a strong practice among pagans.
2. Understanding the history of Terah, Abraham coming out of Ur of the Chaldees and how they were affected by pagan gods.
3. Understanding that we are to follow the examples of Job and Abraham.
4. Understanding exactly what Moses taught through Torah on the worship of "the created" rather than "the Creator."
5. Understanding the history of both the northern tribes of Israel before they were scattered, and then the history of Judah from that point onward. What gods were the 12 tribes mesmerized by?
6. Finally, we'll see what the non-Torah books teach on the "this mysterious moon." Will it agree with our Jewish friends?

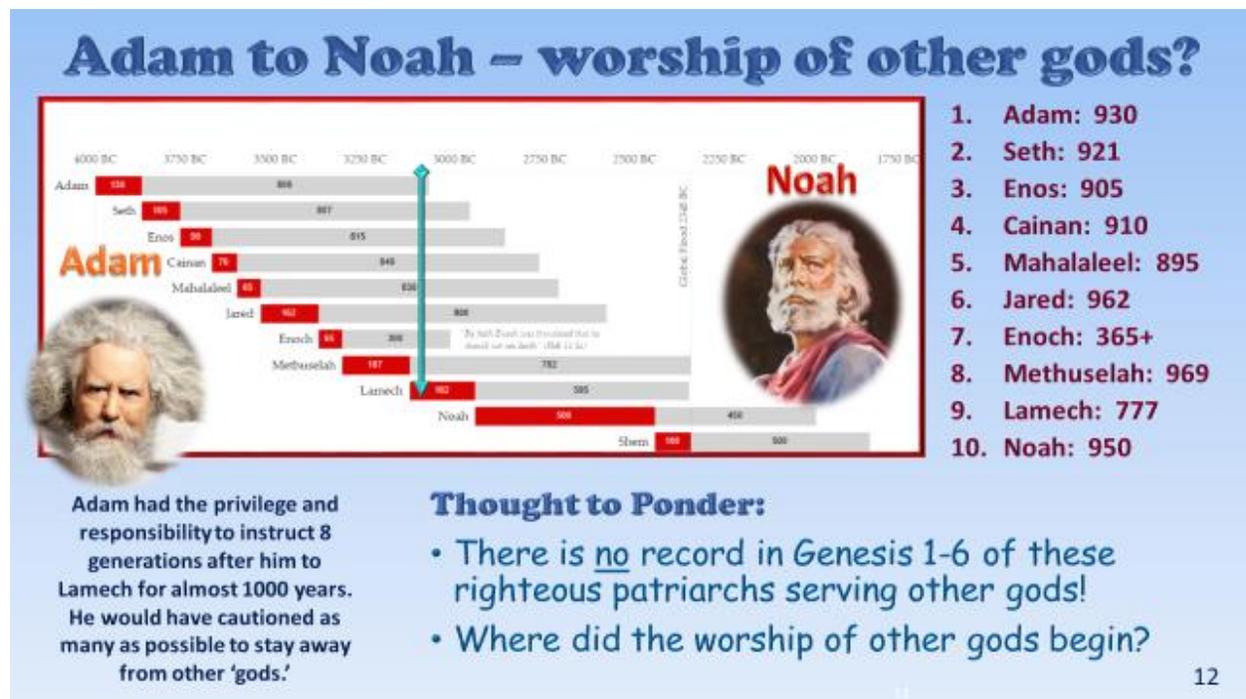
## Yes, we will be picking on the moon in this study!

1. Out of all the “no gods” what “gods” take supremacy?
2. Would the sun god and the moon goddess be two supreme gods?
3. Out of these two, which “god” earns 1<sup>st</sup> place?

## Adam, Eve and the Serpent

- Satan, as fallen Lucifer, posed as one that knew more than the Creator.
- Therefore, he was posing as a “higher” god, or the purpose of usurping worship.
- The serpent was the first of every “no god.”
- Assuming the two most popular choices of “no gods” are the sun god and moon goddess, which one would Satan most likely be representing in the garden?

Romans 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator.



## “No gods” Before the Flood

- Today there are 1000s of “no gods,” but this wasn’t always so.
- Before the flood, it is now believed pagan gods were actually mortal men. **They were born, waged war, had children, and died, whereupon they were deified as gods by their descendants.** This is not wild speculation. On the contrary, this is a position taken by nearly all historians of antiquity including: Isaac Newton; Augustine of Hippo; Eusebius; Justin Martyr; Josephus, etc.
- It was commonly believed that if a man was good enough, he could become a god too. This carried on down to the Roman Caesars and the Roman Pontiffs today.
- The mythologies were real stories of real men, embellished as gods in their afterlife.

### Humans Worshipped as Pagan “gods”

- **Augustine** (~400 AD wrote): “.... *those deities who are reckoned gods of the higher orders have gone from us into heaven. Ask whose sepulchers are pointed out in Greece.*”
- To simplify it, the pagan gods of the higher order were simply men; their graves in Greece.
- They started life as men and were deified and “dressed up” by those who survived them.
- This was a pagan practice common enough to be captured in the pages of scripture.

**Acts 12:21-23** “On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. They shouted, ‘This is the voice of a god, not of a man.’ Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.” (NIV)

### Jewish heroes were not deified.

**Gen 7-9 ~2350 BC - After the Flood - Only 8 people were saved at the time of the flood.**

- Noah’s families grew and became dispersed/estranged from one another in the land of Ur of the Chaldees.

- **Ham**: idolatry/heathenism changes the glory of Yahuah into images like man, birds, beasts and creeping things. (Rom 1:23)
- **Yahuwah had to separate a people for himself from the next rising heathen kingdom.**
- **Shem**: preserved the pure knowledge and worship of Yahuwah down to his descendants of Terah and sons Haran, Abram and Nahor.

Note: All dates are approximate calculations.

**Gen 10:8-9 ~2250 BC – Nimrod/Babel - “And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.9 He was a mighty hunter before YHVH.”**

- **When Nimrod died, he was the first human that became deified as the “sun god” eventually named Baal.**
- **His wife, Semiramis, became the “moon goddess” [named Ashtoreth].**
- **Tammuz, the illegitimate son, became the “false messiah.”**
- **Many new languages confused the construction on the Tower of Babel.**
- **Therefore, the “sun god,” “moon goddess” and Tummuz were given many new names with each culture.**
- **These are the 3 main false deities of the Scriptures.**

# NIMROD'S SECRET IDENTITY

## THE GREATEST CONSPIRACY ON EARTH

ASTROLOGY  
HINDUISM  
ZOROASTRIANISM  
MITHRAISM  
CHRISTIANITY  
ISLAM

**NIMROD, THE FIRST SUN DEITY, STARTED IT ALL:  
WORSHIP OF THE HOST OF HEAVEN**

### Names of “no gods”

Culture	Nimrod <small>Lord of Heaven</small>	Semiramis <small>Queen of Heaven</small>	Son <small>False Messiah</small>
Israelites	Baal	Ashtoreth	Tammuz
Phoenicians	El	Astarte	Bacchus
Babylon	Belus	Rhea, Ishtar	Tammuz
Assyria	Ninus	Beltis	Hercules
Greece	Zeus	Aphrodite	Dionysius
Rome	Jupiter	Cybele, Diana	Attis
Egypt	Ra	Isis, Hathor	Osiris, Horus

**The Scriptural history of pagan gods  
begins with Nimrod, the sun god.**




### Gen 11 ~1925 BC – Terah’s Family

- Even though the family of Shem, through Terah, had a knowledge of the proper worship of Yahuah, their worship was corrupted by idolatry, serving other gods in Ur of the Chaldees.

- **Gen 11:31** Terah took Abram, Lot and Sarai "... and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees ..."
- **Josh 24:2** And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith Yahuwah of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the river in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods.

Genesis 11:31 = 1925 B.C. "And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there."

- Yahuwah needed to separate out "a people" for Himself that would not serve "other gods."
- Haran was a leading settlement with a temple dedicated to moon worship!
- Abram was "called out of Haran" to Canaan. He continued to be righteous and faithful never turning to pagan worship.

### Terah Remains in Haran

- Terah did not proceed beyond Haran he felt that was "his" land of Canaan.
- Terah (H8646; *Terach*) had a family business of manufacturing idols.
- The main "no gods" of Ur were the "sun god" and "moon goddess."
- What kind of gods may Terah have been involved with?
- Josh 24:2 declares Terah (and family) served other gods. Out of Ur this would have been gods fashioned after Nimrod and Semiramis.
- Note: Abraham left for Canaan. Laban didn't!

### Abram Searches out Canaan (Gen 12:1-4)

- It was in Haran that Abram received the divine call to continue to Canaan (Gen 12:1-4).
- Question: Was Abram an idolater before his call?

- Although Abram was not entirely free from idolatry in his father's house, there is no indication in the Scriptures that idol worship was part of his life.
- Gen 26:5 Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.
- This may be the reason why Abram was "called out" to Canaan. Lot went with him.
- What about the rest of Terah's family - Nahor?

### Laban Remains in Haran

- Laban was born about 1890 BC.
- About 1740 BC Rachel stole Laban's images (Gen 31:19).
- Images and idols were still in Terah's [H8646] family 200 years later.
- images H8655; teraphim; a family idol.

It's time to make the connection between: "teraphim" images and Great-grandfather "Terah"!

### Commentary for "Terah" and "teraphim"

#### Gen 31:25-35 "Why hast thou stolen my gods?"

- **(The Wycliffe Bible Commentary)** Here he [Laban] referred to his (teraphim) (v. 30; cf. 19). Evidently Laban was more concerned over losing his images than over losing Jacob's family. His search failed to discover these little "gods."
- **(Barnes' Notes)** Teraphim; (OT:8655). This word occurs three times in this chapter, and nowhere else in the Pentateuch. It is always in the plural number. **The teraphim were symbols or representatives of the Deity, as Laban calls them his gods.** They seem to have been busts of the human form, sometimes as large as life (1 Sam 19:13). Those of full size were probably of wood; the smaller ones may have been of metal. They have been worn on an ephod for the purposes of divination (Gen. 30:27). **The employment of them in the worship of God, which Laban seems to have inherited from his fathers (Josh 24:2), is denounced as idolatry (1 Sam 15:23); and hence, they are classed with the idols and other abominations [eventually] put away by Josiah (2 Kings 23:24).**

Which "no god" gains the authority? The Sun god or the moon goddess? Let's begin by examining "Laban."

## Investigation on the Hebrew Name Laban

Gen 31:30, 34 And [Laban said], yet wherefore hast thou stolen my gods? 34 Now Rachel had taken the images ... and sat upon them. And Laban searched all the tent, but found them not.

### Comparing “Terah & Laban” to “Images and the Moon”

Column 1 +	Column 2 =	Column 3
Laban (H3837)	Lebanah (H3842) “Whiteness” (color of the moon)	Spelling, Pronunciation and Word Numbers Connect to the <b>Moon</b>
Terah (H8646)	“teraphim” Images (H8655) “Family Idols”	Spelling, Pronunciation and Word Numbers Connect to <b>Idols</b>

- There is very strong indication now that Terah did have an occupation in Haran of making idols for distribution.
- Remember, Terah came out of Ur, the first center for major idol worship and Haran was also a moon worshipping center.
- There is no Scripture stating those words, but the connection can be proven through the name Terah, and the “teraphim” family idols that were in Laban's possession about 200 years later – only to be coveted and stolen by Rachel.

## The Family Business of Terah

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- Terah's business of manufacturing idols would have been passed down through the generations, thus a line of precious family idols.
- Everything is pointing back to these "family idols" as being connected to moon worship (Laban/Lebanah). These were very likely moon idols - straight from Semiramis in Babylon.



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### Egypt & Moon Worship

- Abraham was told his descendants would be in bondage to Egypt, not returning to Canaan for 430 years.
- Egypt had their own sun gods and moon gods.
- It's very likely these two major gods were a snare to Yahuah's people while in bondage.
- "Ra" was Egypt's sun god, challenged with the 10<sup>th</sup> plague of Egypt and the death of the first born of each family.
- At Passover, all firstborn "under the blood" were delivered from death.
- There are 42 campsites on the journey to Canaan. Let's examine Campsite #11.

### 1490 BC Mt Sinai: 11<sup>th</sup> Campsite

- The #11 connects with reproof, warning and disorder.
- The root word for "Sinai" means "tares, thorns and demons" [neg. form].
- In the Syric language, "Sinai" means "to shine" as the "moon" which was an object of worship in the area.

- This campsite, found in an area of moon worship, is the very place where the enemy planned to again exalt his throne over Yahuah's.
- Only 40 days after the everlasting covenant was spoken, Yahuah's people had broken their covenant agreement, and found dancing before the image of the Egyptian false trinity.
- This action was clearly a case of blasphemously mixing worship to Yahuah with idolatry.

### 11<sup>th</sup> Campsite: The False Trinity

Ex 32:4-5 ... he [Aaron] had made it a molten calf: and they said, these be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.  
5 And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it ...

- The golden calf was not a single entity. There were three "gods" represented in the Israelite altar at the base of Mt Sinai.
- The physical altar site still stands at the base of *Jebel el Lawz* along with photos of what the Egyptian calf "god" most accurately looked like.

### Egypt's Unholy Trinity



In this image 2 gods are seen.

- The golden Egyptian calf "god does NOT depict a single "god."
- The solar disk represents the serpent/sun "god," as the "father" of the calf "god," shown on the head of the golden calf.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> deity is the female component. It is not part of the golden calf itself, but rather was part of the altar base.
- Upon the stones are petroglyphs depicting the Egyptian "god."
- These deities were also known as the "sun god," with the "moon goddess" being his wife. Their son was the false messiah. (*Called to Canaan*, Bk 1, Davis & Manfredine.)

What is still standing 3450+ years later? The "altar" representing the moon goddess!

## **Moses' Gives Strict Commands in Deuteronomy 4:15-19; 17:2-5**

If there be any found among you that:

1. **Corrupt yourselves by lifting your eyes unto heaven, seeing the sun, moon, stars and all the host of heaven ...**
2. **If then you are driven to worship them, serve them, or give them sacred regard for any reason...**
3. **That person shall be stoned until they die.**
4. **For Yahuwah hath commanded that none should serve or give sacred regard to other gods represented by the sun, moon and stars.**

**Moses told the people not to follow the pagan gods. But, he also said, after he dies that is exactly what they will do!**

## **Yahuwah's Calendar!**

- The pagans began their days with looking to the sun.
- They also began their months by looking to the moon.
- Yahuwah's calendar commencements do not follow the ways of the pagans by looking to the sun or the moon for calculation of His worship times.
- Therefore, there is nothing more offensive to Yahuwah than the mixing of these profane, idolatrous practices with His sacred worship.
- This would be the ultimate blasphemy and an act tantamount to the highest level of spiritual rebellion – it's an abomination.
- It was these pagan roots that were found at the base of Mt Sinai of Yahuwah's holy mountain!
- Beware of falling into idolatry while professing to worship your Creator.

## **What about the Christian Churches Today?**

- **Sunday Christians:** all honor their day of worship on "**Sunday**" – giving homage to the "sun god" from ages past.
- **Sabbath Keepers:** all honor the beginning of their worship days beginning with the sunset the night before Sabbath, paying homage to the "sun god" from ages past.

- **Sabbath Keepers/most Feast Keepers:** In addition to honoring sunset, most also honor the moon for the Biblical month-start, thus paying homage to the “goddess of the moon.”

Which of the 3 groups is most deceived?

### 1450 BC Joshua Follows Moses' Leadership

- Joshua's 1<sup>st</sup> campaign before entering the land of Canaan was to destroy Jericho, a moon worshipping city.

~1430 BC: For 20 years he fought to rid the land of Canaan of pagan people and practices.

Before Joshua died, he gave them strict warnings NOT to run after and serve other gods. The people promised to be obedient ... But, the pagan gods were still a problem!

~1425 BC: Josh 24:22-23 appeal is given. “And Joshua said unto the people, ye are witnesses against yourselves that ye have chosen YHVH, to serve him. And they said, We are witnesses. 23 Now **therefore put away**, said he, the strange gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto the Yahuwah God of Israel.”

Joshua said “Shout! The walls will come down!”

So Israel still had “strange gods” among them?

**Shechem – Place of Decision for Yahuwah! Josh 24:25 Shechem was the place where Joshua renewed the covenant with the people just before he died.**

1. **Gen 12:6-7** Abram built an altar to Yahuwah at Shechem; the everlasting covenant was confirmed with him there.
  2. **Gen 33:18-20** Jacob's altar was at Shechem, his 1<sup>st</sup> dwelling place in Canaan.
  3. **Gen 35:4** Jacob hides the family idols under the oak tree at Shechem.
  4. **Josh 24:32** Joseph's tomb is at Shechem.
  5. **Josh 24:1-15** Joshua assembled Israel at Shechem to choose the “Elohim” they are planning to serve.
- **Josh 24:14-15** Now therefore fear Yahuwah ... and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood,

and **in Egypt** ... 15 ... choose you this day whom ye will serve; **whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell**: but as for me and my house, we will serve Yahuwah.

## History from Judges to Malachi!

The history of the apostasy in the Old Testament magnifies considerably after Moses dies. Beginning with Judges is where the Scriptures **FIRST** mention Baal and Ashtoreth.

Common Terms in the Old Testament:

**Baal** = sun god (or Baalim, plural)

**Ashtoreth** = moon goddess! Will one of these pagan gods be dominant?

Definitions for this Study

**Baal** - The chief male deity of the Phoenicians and Canaanites; Ashtoreth was their principle female deity. **The worship of Baal**, together with that of Astarte, **was common among the Hebrews**.

**Human sacrifices were also offered to Baal by the Jews** (Jer 19:5).

**Ashtoreth, Ashtaroth** - A Syrian goddess/idol whose worship was very ancient and common among the Israelites. She is generally mentioned in connection with Baal, and is **commonly identified with Astarte, the goddess of the moon**.

**Queen of Heaven** - **The moon was called the “queen of heaven.”** There are 3 rebukes from Jeremiah to Judah for this abomination (Jer 7:18; 44:7-19, 25).

**Groves** - “Tree image(s)” for worship of the goddess Ashtaroth. It was forbidden by Yahuwah for “groves” to be established for worship. (11 references in the OT for Israel’s worship of groves.)



**Isa 40:20** He that is so impoverished that he hath no oblation **chooseth a tree** that will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman **to prepare a graven image** that shall not be moved.

- **2 Kings 17:16** And they left all the commandments of Yahuwah their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.

**High Places:** A term used to describe places of worship for Yahuwah in groves (13 in OT); **idolatrous worship** (9 in OT); **idolatrous high places to be destroyed** (5 in OT).

**Chiun** - An idol made and worshipped by the Israelites in the wilderness.

**Molech, Moloch, Milcom** - An idol of the Ammonites; worshipped by Solomon and his wives. Israel sacrificed their children to Molech's molten arms (12 in OT).

- **Jeremiah 7:31** And they have built the high places of Tophet ... to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my heart.

[Some] Names	of Scripture	Pagan Gods
1. Adrammelech [sun]	11. Castor/Pollux	21. Nebo
2. Anammelech [moon]	12. Chemosh	22. Nehushtan
3. Ashima	13. Chiun	23. Nergal
4. Ashtoreth [moon goddess]	14. Dagon [sun god]	24. Nibhaz
5. Baal [sun god]	15. Diana [moon goddess]	25. Nisroch
6. Baal-berith	16. Golden Calf [trinity]	26. Queen of heaven [moon]
7. Baal-peor	17. Jupiter	27. Rimmon
8. Baalzebub	18. Mercury	28. Succoth-Benoth
9. Baal-zephon	19. Molech or Milcom	29. Tammuz [also a sun god]
10. Bel [sun god]	20. Merodach	30. Tartak

**Please note one more def.:**

**Haran:** A city of the main trade routes between Babylonia and the Mediterranean Sea. Like the Chaldeans, Haran's inhabitants worshipped Sin, the moon-god from very ancient times. It was a natural stopping place for Terah to settle on his departure from Ur. The cult of moon worship persisted far into the Christian era after the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.

## Abundance of Pagan Worship

For the listed phrases there are at least **887** Old Testament references linking to pagan worship. OT history books = 549 chapters!

# in OT	Phrase	# in OT	Phrase
140	Image/Images	80	High Places (moon worship)
46	Graven Image(s)	3	High Places of Baal
23	Molten Image(s)	2	Priest of Baal
5	Carved Image(s)	4	Sun, moon and host of heaven
2	Images of Baal	14	Host of heaven
95	Idol(s)	220	gods (pagan)
62	Baal	6	no gods
18	Baalim	10	thy gods
5	Queen of Heaven	34	their gods
3	Ashtoreth (moon goddess)	52	Altars
10	Molech/Moloch/Chuin	12	Burnt their children in fire
41	Grove(s) (moon worship)	<b>887</b>	References to pagan worship/practices

Average mention of apostasy = 15 times in every 10 chapters!

### The Snares of the “no gods”

Right from the Garden of Eden, where “another god” was honored, the whole Old Testament history is tainted with roots that link to paganism.

Israel (and all pagan nations) worshipped many, many gods. Was every pagan god a snare to Israel, or was something else going on in the background?

### The Snares of Baal & Ashtoreth

- This study will show the many times Israel and Judah fell back into apostasy.
- The main gods that were a snare to Israel and keep coming to the forefront are: 1) the sun god (Baal/Baalim) and 2) the moon goddess (Ashtoreth).
- Right from Mt Sinai these are the first two gods that Moses commanded NOT to be worshipped. Moses told the people to not even think about “looking to the sun or moon” as they would soon be enticed to worship them as the pagans do.

- Moses was right! It will become clear, and very obvious, very quickly ... that Israel and Judah were both inflicted with this terrible sickness to seek other gods, even after they were delivered so mightily by Yahuwah (from Ur, Egypt & Babylon).
- Judah is most responsible, as Israel was scattered, and did not have anything to do with the reform that was supposed to happen once the Babylonian exile was completed.

### Who is Baal? Do we really know?

Baal the most significant male deity of the Canaanites, with his consort Asherah, were the most alluring deities confronting Israel in the Promised Land.

Numerous references to Baal in the Old Testament indicate his attractiveness and influence on the Israelites.

The Book of Judges chronicles the numerous times the people fell to the temptation of Baal worship.

Ahab and Jezebel made Baal worship the royal religion of the northern kingdom (1 Kings 16:29-31) with a Baal temple in Samaria.

Baal, like Asherah, was also worshipped at high places (also known as “groves”) and required child sacrifices.



## **Baal's Consort ~ Who is it?**

- Because of Israel's incomplete conquest of the land of Canaan, the roots of Asherah-worship from Semiramis survived and plagued Israel, starting as soon as Joshua was dead (Judg 2:13).
- Considered as the moon-goddess, Ashtoreth/Asherah was often presented as a consort of Baal, the sun-god. (See Judg 3:7; 6:28; 10:6; 1 Sam 7:4; 12:10.)

## **The Groves of Ashtoreth/Asherah**

- This moon-goddess was represented by a limbless tree trunk planted in the ground.
- The trunk was usually carved into a symbolic representation of the goddess.
- Because of the association with carved trees, the places of Ashtoreth, or Asherah worship, were commonly called groves.”

The Hebrew family words of “Asherah” (plural, “asherim”) could refer either to the moon goddess or to a grove of trees.

## **Asherah Worship Forbidden**

- Yahuwah, through Moses, forbade the worship of Asherah.
- The Law specified that a grove of trees was NOT to be near the altar of Yahuwah (Deut 16:21).
- Despite these clear instructions, Asherah-worship was a perennial problem in Israel.
- As Solomon slipped into idolatry, one of the pagan deities he brought into the kingdom was Asherah, called “the goddess of the Sidonians” (1 Kings 11:5, 33).



### **Names & Symbols of Ashtoreth!**

- Ashtoreth, Asheroth, Asherim, Athirat – all are plural forms of the moon goddess name.
- Imaged as a full-breasted earth mother, both symbols speak to regeneration, sustenance and fruitfulness.
- She was the goddess of the woods.
- Groves of trees were her temples.
- This goddess is often referred to as a tree or pole. The “May Pole” is attributed to this goddess!

### **Ashtoreth – the Moon Goddess**

In Babylon the moon was a god, but after the rise of the solar theology, when the larger number of the Babylonian gods were resolved into forms of the sun-god, their wives also became solar, Ishtar, "the daughter of Sin" the moon-god. In Canaan, Ashtoreth, as distinguished from the male Ashtar, dropped her warlike attributes and became a moon-goddess.

### **The “Queen of Heaven”**

In Canaan, Baal passed into a sun-god. The goddess who stood at his side became the representative of the moon – or the pale reflection of the sun. In about 628 BC Jeremiah refers to Asherah when he uses the title “Queen of Heaven” referring to the moon goddess (Jer 7:16-18; 44:17-19, 25).

### **Jezebel & Moon Goddess Worship!**

Along with Baal, Jezebel made Asherah-worship even more prevalent, with 400 prophets of Asherah on the royal payroll (1 Kings 18:19). Throughout history the Jews were constantly tempted to worship this pagan goddess and attend her rituals. It was this forbidden practice which finally led to Judah’s captivity and the seventy years in Babylon even though many good kings destroyed the Asherah groves.

### **Stay Away from the Groves!**

Yahuwah absolutely detested the worship of His people to visit the tree poles in the high places and groves - paying tribute to the moon goddess!

- Deut 16:21-22 Thou shalt not plant thee a grove of any trees near unto the altar of Yahuwah thy God ... 22 Neither shalt thou set thee up any image.
- 1 Kings 11:5 Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.
- 1 Kings 11:33 They have forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in mine eyes, and to keep my statutes and my judgments, as did David his father.
- It was an abomination to Yahuwah. Why?

**The Groves & The Garden**



Compare the Ashtoreth tree pole with The Garden Tree Pole.

This is the tree pole of Ashtoreth moon worship.

Did the abomination of worship "at the tree" start here?

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It is now time to review the Old Testament records of Israel's sacred regard for pagan gods and what they stand for!

## 1425 – 1250 BC Book of Judges

The following tables chart a brief review of the worship of pagan gods and apostasy in the 12 tribes.

Please take special note of the dates, as we travel through Israel's history to 400 BC.

Ref.	Date	Description
Judg 2:3	~1425 BC	Israel did not drive out the pagans. They would be constantly snared by false gods.
Judg 2:11-13 1 <sup>st</sup> mention	~1425 BC	Israel served Baalim (sun god), the most important god; & Ashtoreth (moon goddess).
Judg 2:17, 19	~1425 BC	Israel would not hearken to judges but whored after other gods bowing down to them.
Judg 3:6, 7	~1405 BC	Intermarried the sons/daughters with pagan nations and served their Baalim gods.
Judg 5:8	~1315 BC	Israel chose new [strange] gods. [Deut 32:16]
Judg 6:10	~1250 BC	Yahweh cautions to not fear the gods of the Amorites.

Remember: 200 years earlier Moses had given very strict commands to Israel so the people would be kept free from the worship of pagan gods.

**Question:** Did Israel have troubles with running after the sun gods and moon gods in the remainder of the history of the Old Testament?

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## 1250 BC Gideon as Judge

Ref.	Date	Description
Judg 6:25-33	~1250 BC	Gideon throws down the Baal altar (sun god) that belonged to his father.
Judg 10:6	~1205 BC	The children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim [sun god], and Ashtoreth [moon goddess], and the gods of Syria, Zidon, Moab, Ammon, and the Philistines, and forsook the LORD, and served not him.

Judges 10:6 **"The children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord."** This apostasy seems to have exceeded every former one in the grossness and universality of the idolatry practiced. The Hebrews adopted the objects of worship among the several pagan countries contiguous to the district of Palestine in which they lived. Some scholars feel Israel may have actually erected a Pantheon. It's hard to believe Israel became universal idolaters, adopting every god of the surrounding nations. Baalim and Ashtaroth signify gods and goddesses in general reckoned as:

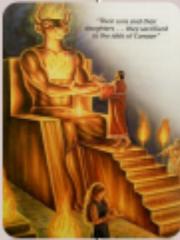
1. The gods of Syria; Bel and Saturn, or Jupiter and Astarte
2. Gods of Zidon; Ashtoreth, Astarte or Venus
3. The gods of Moab; Chemosh
4. Gods of the children of Ammon; Milcom
5. Gods of the Philistines; Dagon.

Yahweh gave up Israel to be in bondage to the Philistines & Ammonites.

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## 1120 - 985 BC Samuel, Saul, Solomon

Ref.	Date	Description
Judg 17:5	~1120 BC	Micah had a <b>house of gods</b> ...
1 Sam 7:3-4	~1110 BC	<b>Samuel</b> told Israel to put away their <b>strange gods &amp; Ashtoreths (moon goddesses)</b> . Israel did this for a while under Samuel.
1 Sam 12:10	~1095 BC	Israel serves <b>Baalim &amp; Ashtoreth</b> ... again.
1 Sam 28:13	~1055 BC	<b>Saul</b> meets witch of Endor that called up <b>other gods</b> looking for Samuel.
1 Kings 9:6, 9	~990 BC	Yahuah's warning to Solomon about worshipping <b>other gods</b> .
1 Kings 11:2-10	~985 BC	<p>"But King <b>Solomon</b> loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites -- from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, "You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods."  <b>Solomon had 700 wives; 300 concubines; they all turned his heart after other gods. Solomon went after Ashtoreth the [moon] goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.</b> (Also see: 1 Kings 11:33.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Milcom: or <b>Moloch/Molech</b> was a bronze statue heated with fire into which the victims were thrown – often <b>child sacrifices</b> were placed upon molten hot arms.</li> </ul>



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## 905 - 785 BC Ahab, Athaliah, Amaziah

Ref.	Date	Description
1 Kings 18 & 19	~905 BC	<b>King Ahab and Queen Jezebel's "other gods"</b> are no match for Elijah's Elohim.
2 Kings 10:18-28	~885 BC	King <b>Ahab's</b> worshippers of Baal killed. Sacred pillars in the temple of Baal burned.
2 Kings 11:18		Again, the house of Baal broken down along with the altars and images.
2 Chr 23:17	~880 BC	<b>King Jehoiada</b> broke down the altars, images and killed the priest of Baal.
2 Chr 24:7	~880 BC	For the sons of <b>Athaliah</b> , that wicked woman, had broken up the house of God; and also all the <b>dedicated things of the house of Yahweh did they bestow upon Baalim.</b>
2 Chr 25:14	~825 BC	<b>King Amaziah</b> set up <b>Edom gods</b> , worshipped them and burned incense unto them.
Amos 5:21,26	~785 BC	Yahweh despises " <b>their</b> " [Israel's] <b>feast days; tabernacle to Moloch and Chiun images.</b>

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## 785 BC Israel's Pagan Feasts

Ref.	Date	Description
Amos 8:5, 10	~785 BC	Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit? KJV See vs 10: your feasts will be bitter. Israel (10 northern tribes) were NOT following Yah's "months" or honoring His Sabbaths as they should have been. Yes, the phrase "new moon" should be translated as "new month" – but this is the pagan "new month" not Yahuah's "new month." We know this for sure, because of the rebellion against them not honoring the Sabbath, and the apostasy that had gone on for a very long time already.
Hosea 2:11	~785 BC	I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts. KJV her = the pagan feast days, pagan new moons, pagan Sabbaths!
Hosea 2:8-17	~785 BC	Israel's offerings were prepared for Baal with the burning of incense.
Hosea 3:1	~785 BC	Children of Israel look to other gods and love the raisin cakes of the pagans.

There will be a closer look at Israel's pagan feast-keeping later on.

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## 760 - 740 BC Abominations of Ahaz

Ref.	Date	Description
Isa 1:13-14	~760 BC	Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. 14 Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. KJV <u>Note: 25 years later the 10 northern tribes are being warned by Isaiah to get rid of the pagan worship – he specifically mentions (again) your new moons and appointed feasts. These are the pagan celebrations, not Yah's "new months" or Yah's feasts.</u>
Mic 1:7	~750 BC	Transgressions of Samaria & Jerusalem: graven images, idols.
2 Chr 28:2	~740 BC	Judah's King Ahaz made molten images for Baalim [sun gods], burnt incense in the high places, (hills and under every green tree), burnt his children in the fire as the heathen do.
2 Chr 28:23		King Ahaz sacrificed to the gods of Damascus; made altars and high places to burn incense to other gods.
Hos 10:1-2	~740 BC	Israel's goodly images and altars.
Hos 11:2		Sacrificed to Baalim [sun gods]; burned incense to graven images.

The Old Testament is filled with pagan abominations!

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## 725 – 710 BC Hezekiah, Hoshea, Manasseh

Ref.	Date	Description
2 Chr 31:1	~725 BC	Hezekiah's kingdom reformed: images were broken to pieces; groves cut down; high places and altars utterly destroyed.
Hos 13:1-2	~725 BC	Ephraim sinned with molten images of silver, many idols.
2 Kings 17:10, 16, 41	~721 BC	King Hoshea set up images, groves, high places and served idols, made 2 molten calves, worshipped all the host of heaven, and the whole kingdom served Baal [sun god].
2 Kings 17:7, 16	~720 BC	10 northern tribes of Israel scattered by Assyria because they feared other gods, made molten images, two calves and groves to worship all the host of heaven & serve Baal.
1 Chr 5:25	~715 BC	Manasseh plays the harlot and follows the gods of the people of the land.
Isa 10:10-11	~715 BC	Prophecy to Isaiah that Jerusalem is worse than Samaria with her idols, graven images.
2 Kings 18:4	~710 BC	King Hezekiah cleans up all the idols, groves, and images.
Micah 5:13	~710 BC	Israel's graven images will be destroyed; they will not worship the work of their hands.

Approximately 700 years before, both Moses and Joshua had given very firm, strict counsel to Israel to NOT be enticed by the pagans and their gods for sun worship and moon worship. Israel did NOT heed the counsel. This is basically their sad history with rounds of pagan bondage and cries for deliverance throughout the whole Old Testament. Next, Yahuah steps in with two signs to see if He can't move His people to follow His ways for the next 700 years.

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**About 701 BC Hezekiah's Sundial Event! 2 Kings 20:9-11; 2 Chronicles 32:24; Isa 38:7-8  
Sent by Yahuwah to Correct Israel's Apostasy with the "moon goddess."**

### **An Important Announcement**

**There were two signs given to King Hezekiah around 701 BC:**

1. The sign for the approaching Jubilee year in Isaiah 37
2. The sundial miracle in Isaiah 38.
  - ❖ One commentary says this: The extra fifteen years given to Hezekiah ended with the deliverance of Jerusalem, marking the completion of the third year of the 3rd-year sign ...

The sundial miracle and other events around Hezekiah connect to:

1. The Jubilee Calendar used to calculate every 50 years of the 120 allotted;

2. The Covenant Calendar used from month to month each year.

- ❖ Hezekiah's testimony is the **only marker in the Old Testament** and **the pivotal point** that challenges the pagan "moon" calendar, AND, also establishes the exact year for the years 49, 50 and the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the Jubilee calendar.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Sign: Jubilee Calendar Marker**

**Isa 37:30** And this shall be a sign unto thee,  
Ye shall eat **this year [49<sup>th</sup> yr] such** as groweth of itself;  
and **the second year [50<sup>th</sup> yr] that** which springeth of the same:  
and in **the third [1<sup>st</sup> yr] year** sow ye, and reap, and plant vineyards,  
and eat the fruit thereof.

Assuming the sundial miracle of Isaiah 38 is about 701 BC, then:

- a) **This year [49<sup>th</sup> yr] = 701 BC**
- b) **The second year [50<sup>th</sup> yr] = 700 BC (Some say this is about the 66<sup>th</sup> Jubilee.)**
- c) **the third [1<sup>st</sup> yr] = 699 BC**

**This information is part of a Jubilee Calendar study. Today's study is examining the "moon" component of the Covenant Calendar.**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sign: Calendar Adjustment**

**There are 3 Scriptures for confirmation of this spectacular event.**

- 1) **Isa 38:7-8** And this shall be a sign unto thee from Yahuwah that Yahuwah will do this thing that he hath spoken; **8**  
Behold, I will bring again the shadow of the degrees, which is gone down in the sun dial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward. So the sun returned ten degrees, by which degrees it was gone down.

- 2) **2 Chronicles 32:24** In those days Hezekiah was sick to the death, and prayed unto Yahuwah: and he spake unto him, and he gave him a sign.
- 3) **2 Kings 20:9-12** And Isaiah said, this sign shalt thou have of Yahuwah, that Yahuwah will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the shadow go forth ten degrees, or go back ten degrees? **10** And Hezekiah answered, It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees: nay, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees. **11** And Isaiah the prophet cried unto Yahuwah: and he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz. **12** At that time Berodach-baladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present unto Hezekiah: for he had heard that Hezekiah had been sick.

**Later, this study will show why/how the sundial miracle has a direct connection to the moon and Israel's worship of the pagan moon goddess.**

### **Hezekiah Used in a Mighty Way**

- **Hezekiah was a very good king and cleaned up the land from paganism in a grand way.**
- **That all went to pieces when his son Manasseh came to the throne for 55 years.**
- **As wicked as King Manasseh was, he did repent before he died.**
- **Unfortunately, the seeds of pagan worship (sun gods and moon gods) were sown deep and lasted to the end of the Old Testimony historical account – as will be shown.**

## 698 – 625 BC Manasseh & Josiah

Ref.	Date	Description
2 Chr 33:3-6  <b>Vs 15</b> <b>Vs 21-25</b>	~698 BC	<b>King Manasseh</b> built the high places, altars for Baalim and all the groves to worship all the host of heaven. He caused children to pass through the fire; used witch craft and dealt with familiar spirits & wizards; he set up carved idols in Yah's house; (see 2 Kings 21:3). <b>Manasseh repented and took away the strange gods, idols, altars &amp; repaired Yah's house. In 2 years King Amon brought back all the evil that Manasseh had finally done away with.</b>
2 Kings 22:17	~640 BC	<b>King Josiah</b> reads the consequences for burning incense to other gods if there is no repentance.
2 Chr 34:3-7	~640 BC	<b>King Josiah cleans up all the idols, groves, and images.</b>
Jer 1:16	~630 BC	Jeremiah utters judgments against Judah for burning incense to other gods.
Jer 2:5, 8, 20	~630 BC	Judah has followed idols; prophesied by Baal [sun god]; played the harlot.
Zeph 1:4, 5	~630 BC	Yahweh will punish Judah for worshipping Baal [sun god] and all the host of heaven.
2 Kings 23:5, 13 14, 24	~625 BC	<b>King Josiah again</b> cleans up all the idols, groves, and images that were worshipped to all the host of heaven. He also put away consulted mediums, household gods and idols and all the idolatrous priests that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven.

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## 610 – 600 BC False Shepherds of Judah

Ref.	Date	Description
Jer 12:16	~610 BC	<b>False shepherds</b> taught Yahweh's people to swear by Baal
Jer 19:4, 5, 13	~605 BC	High places of Baal [sun god] built to pass their children through the fire to Molech.
Jer 7:9, 18, 31	~600 BC	<b>Judah</b> worships other gods, burns incense to Baal; makes cakes to the queen of heaven [the moon goddess]; build high places; burn their children in the fire.
Jer 8:1-5	~600 BC	Jerusalem has loved to worship the sun, moon, all the host of heaven.
Jer 8:2	~600 BC	The bones of Judah's leaders shall be spread before the sun and the moon and all the host of heaven, which they have loved and served; have walked after and sought; which they have worshipped.
<b>Vs 19</b>		<b>Jerusalem has provoked Yahweh to anger with her carved images and foreign idols.</b>
Jer 9:14	~600 BC	<b>Judah</b> has walked according to the imagination of their own heart and followed the Baals [sun gods] as their fathers taught them.
Jer 11:10, 13,17; 16:11	~600 BC	Both the house of Israel and Judah have gone after other gods to serve them and worship them. (Question: Want to guess which ones they were?)
Jer 23:13, 27	~600 BC	<b>Prophets</b> in Samaria prophesied in Baal and caused Yahweh's people to sin.

**Apostasy has a severe increase as time marches on!**

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## 595 - 593 BC Judah Weeping for Tammuz

Ref.	Date	Description
Ezekiel	Review	Most of the book of Ezekiel is a warning to get rid of pagan worship. Ezekiel is exiled to Babylon; those left in Jerusalem are still worshipping pagan gods in pagan ways.
Eze 8:14 Eze 8:16	~595 BC	Women weeping for Tammuz [son of Nimrod, the sun god]. Priest's backs facing the temple, their faces toward the east, worshipping the sun!
Eze 20:26	~593 BC	Caused their firstborn to pass through the fire [sacrifices to Molech].



More than 800 years earlier Moses had warned Israel to not seek out other gods. Because they refused to listen, things just got worse!

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## 590 - 397 BC Pleas for Judah

Ref.	Date	Description
Jeremiah	Review	Jeremiah also confirms what was happening in Jerusalem after Babylon's attack.
Jer 32:29-30,35	~590 BC	Both Israel & Judah built high places of Baal [sun god]; caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire to Molech. Babylon will burn Judah's houses that have offered incense to Baal and poured out drink offerings to other gods, and have done only evil from their youth.
Jer 44:3-8	~590 BC	Judah has cooked her own children for their food.
Lam 4:10	~585 BC	Judah has burned incense to the queen of heaven [moon goddess].
		400 BC there are still warnings about pagan feasts, most certainly connected to the worship of many pagan gods.
Mal 2:3	~397 BC	Yahweh will take away the dung of Judah's solemn feasts; these are pagan feasts.

The very last record verifies how deep this apostasy went, burning and eating their children, seeking the pagan feasts and the moon goddess.

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- We have just reviewed a portion of Israel's history and what happens when the sun and moon [gods] are

followed. Israel eventually sought the pagan feasts over Yahuwah's worship statutes.

- It was their sacred regard for the moon [goddess] that affected their feast calendar the most.
- The moon goddess is still given sacred regard today, by having the authority to appoint the moon as the commencement of the Biblical month or a weekly Sabbath.

That's nothing new under the sun!

- As the day closes on the 4000 years of history for Israel and Judah - it is a sad commentary to find them very unrepentant, continuing even faster on their path of abomination.
- As Yahuwah's calendar is being restored, He can be worshipped on His terms, not pagan terms.
- This historical piece of history is evidence of what not to do, and of where not to go.
- The next piece of this investigation will be a very specific study on the moon, and whether or not it deserves any sacred regard.
- Will the study reveal if we are dealing with a:
  - 1) Lunar Deception (or a)
  - 2) Lunatic Authority?

**We want to have open hearts and ears in order to discover what Scripture and history has to say about this topic.**



In 1. Timothy 5, 21, every one of us is being summoned to prove all things! Why?

**“Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit.”** Jeremiah 16:19 KJV

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