

Essay-The Eight Little Words

Judges 6:25 – Haras mizbeach Baal asher ab karath Asherah al

“That very night Yahweh said to him, ‘Take your father’s bull and the other bull, the seven-year-old. Destroy the altar of Ba’al which belongs to your father and cut down the Asherah that is beside it. Build a proper altar to Yahweh your Elohim on top of this stronghold in an orderly manner, and take the second bull and offer a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah which you cut down’.”

What has been traditionally taught?

In other words, **What have you heard this scripture means?**

Background

Israel had once again sinned against Yahweh and had been handed over to the Midianites for seven years. Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press in order to save it from the Midianites when an angel came and sat under the oak tree. Gideon prepared a young goat and unleavened bread and brought them out to the angel. Fire came down from heaven and consumed the offering, and Gideon realized that he had seen The “Angel Of Yahweh” who told Gideon to destroy both the altar and the Asherah.

On the surface, one would think this scripture would be really simple to understand, and on the surface level, it is. However, there are several levels of understanding that can be applied to the Biblical scriptures. They are:

- **the P’shat**, or plain simple, literal surface meaning,
- **the Remez**, or Allegorical, Parable meaning: in other words, the Hint,
- **the Drash**, or comparative meaning only found by intense searching
- **and the Sod Level**, or concealed, unrevealed meaning.

We will be looking at the Eight Little Words using the first three.

The Eight Little Words in Hebrew

In Hebrew it reads: (עַל אֲשֶׁרָה כָּרַת אֶבֶר בָּעַל מִזְבֵּחַ הָרָס)
Haras^{H2040} mizbeach^{H4196} Baal^{H1168a} asher^{H834} ab^{H1} karath^{H3772} Asherah^{H842} al^{H5921}

“*Destroy altar Ba’al which father destroy Asherah against.*”

Not all Bibles use the same words to translate The Eight Little Words!

For example when translating the Hebrew word Haras there are four different versions from over twenty different English Bibles:

- Two versions translate Haras as**Destroy**..... (CJB, DRB)
- Four versions translate Haras as**Tear down**..... (KJV, HCSB, TEV, TMSG)
- Six versions translate Haras as**Throw down**..... (KJV, ASV, WEB, DNT, YLT, HNV)
- Eleven versions translate Haras as**Pull down**.. (CEV, ESV, NASB, NCV, NET, NIV, NLT, NRSV, RSV, RVR, TLB)

And there are nine different translations for the word Asherah:

Asherah [אֲשֶׁרָה H842] a Phoenician goddess, a phallus shaped idol

1. **Asherah Idol**..... NCV
2. **Asherah Image** RVR
3. **Asherah Pole** NIV, NLT, NET, HCSB
4. **Asherah Fertility Pole** TMSG
5. **Sacred Pole** NRSV, CEV, CJB
6. **Shrine** YLT
7. **Wooden Idol** TLB
8. **Wooden Image** NKJV, TEV
9. **Grove (of Trees)** KJV, WEB, DRB

Most translations inform Gideon to cut down the Asherah, but others use the words chop down!

The six versions that ONLY use Asherah

1. New American Standard Bible (NASB),
2. American Standard Version (ASV),
3. English Standard Version (ESV),
4. Revised Standard Version (RSV),
5. J.N. Darby Translation (DBY),
6. Hebrew Names Version (HNB)

The Translations listed above by Acronym are: King James (KJV / NKJV), American Standard (ASV), Noah Webster (WEB), J.N.Darby New Testament (DNT), Young's Literal (YLT), Holman Christian Standard (HCSB), Today's English (TEV), The Message (TMSG), Contemporary English (CEV), English Standard (ESV), New American Standard (NASB), New Century (NCV), New English (NET), New International (NIV), New Living (NLV), Revised Standard Version (NRSV / RSV), Spanish Reina-Valera (RVR), The Living (TLB), Complete Jewish (CJB), Hebrew Names (*HNV*) and Douay-Rhims (DRB).

[B= Bible, T= Translation, V= Version N at front= New]

The most accurate translation of Judges 6:25

“Destroy the altar of Baal which belongs to your father, and cut down the Asherah that is beside it.”

The P'shat Level

The surface level of meaning (P'shat) is pretty straight forward:

Destroy the altar and cut down the Asherah.

2 Kings 23:4 tells us that King Josiah took similar actions when he *“burned all the vessels made for Baal, for Asherah, and for all the host of heaven outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron, and carried their ashes to Bethel.”*

This is confirmed in **2 Chronicles 34:4-7** *“They tore down the altars of the Baals in his presence, and the incense altars that were high above them he chopped down; also the Asherim, the carved images and the molten images he broke in pieces and ground to powder and scattered it on the graves of those who had sacrificed to them . . . throughout the land of Israel..”*

But what about other levels of meaning? What do they tell us? There are several reasons why God would tell Gideon and others to remove or utterly destroy these two items as both of these items would have been abominations in His eyes.

The Remez Level: The Altar To Baal



The Remez level of meaning of these eight words goes deeper.

The altar to Baal would have been formed in the shape of a manlike or owl like figure, with an open belly and a fire pit below the opening. It was into this fire that the Canaanites and Israelites would make a son or a daughter pass through fire as a sacrifice or offering to Baal, also known as Molech (**Deuteronomy 18:10; 2 Kings 16:3, 17:7, 21:6, 23:10; Ezekiel 16:21, 20:26-31; etc.**).

According to **2nd Chronicles Chapter 33** Kings Manasseh and Amon were well known for making such sacrifices to Baal. This god, whether called Baal or Molech, was thought to be a god of fire, one who would consume anyone in opposition to him. Children were sacrificed to him to ameliorate his anger.

We know from scripture that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, our God, Yahweh, is a *“consuming or a devouring fire”* (**Exodus 24:17, Deuteronomy 4:24 and 9:3, Isaiah 29:6, Hebrews 12:29.**

The owl-like Baal/Molech altar form had two serpents emanating from the top of the owl. In cultures throughout the world we see the serpent used to denote wisdom. This hails back to the Garden where we read in

Genesis 3:1 – “Now the serpent was more crafty [wise / cunning] than any of the wild animals Yahweh had made.” It also hails back to **Ezekiel 28:12** which tells of the wisdom of the King of Tyre, an allegory for Satan.

The Real Consuming Fire

We know from scripture that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Yahweh is a *consuming or devouring fire*.

Exodus 24:17 – “The glory of Yahweh looked like a raging fire on the top of the mountain.”

Deuteronomy 4:24 – “For Yahweh your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.”

Deuteronomy 9:3 – “Yahweh your God will himself cross ahead of you as a devouring fire.”

Isaiah 29:6 – “You will be visited by Yahweh-Tzva’ot with . . . flaming firestorms.”

Hebrews 12:29 – “For indeed, Our God is a consuming fire!”

Any altar to a false god portraying that god as a consuming fire would be a focus for Yahweh’s wrath.

The Real Source of Wisdom

Wisdom, scripture tells us, is only found in Yahweh. It is Yahweh who “gave Solomon great wisdom so he could understand many things” (**1 Kings 4:29**). King David declared it is Yahweh who will “give you wisdom and understanding so you will be able to obey the teachings of Yahweh your God” (**1 Chronicles 22:12**).

Ecclesiastes 2:26 puts it this way: “If people please Yahweh, He will give them wisdom, knowledge, and joy.”

Any altar to a false god portraying that god as a source of wisdom would also be a focus for Yahweh’s wrath.

The Remez level of meaning goes deeper: The Asherah Idol



The Remez level meaning of Asherah also goes deeper: Here is a list of the scriptures that describe that the Asherah is to be torn down and burned (**Exodus 34:13**; **2 Kings 21:7 and 23:4**; **2 Chronicles 34:3-4**). When torn down, the wood was to be used for a burnt offering.

The Bible suggests the idol beside the altar most likely would have been a wooden pole carved in the shape of a phallus (penis), what today we would call an obelisk or a dildo. The asherim were generally wooden symbols of the male genital related to the worship of the fertility Goddess Asherah, the consort of Baal. It was with these Asherim that the female prostitutes of the cult would perform sexual acts in order to provoke the gods into increasing the fertility of the land.

It could also have alternately been a living tree. Asherim are mentioned in the Hebrew Bible in the books of Exodus, Deuteronomy, Judges, the Books of Kings, the second Book of Chronicles, and the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Micah.

The term often appears as merely אֲשֵׁרָה, (Asherah) referred to as "groves" in the King James Version, which follows the Septuagint rendering as ἄλσος, pl. ἄλσων, and the Vulgate lucus, and "poles" in the New Revised Standard Version. ; no word that may be translated as "poles" appears in the text,” observes John Day.

The insertion of “pole” into the scripture translations “begs the question by setting up unwarranted expectations for such a wooden object.” Nor would it have been a grove, as the KJV indicates, and neither is it to be confused with Ashteroth, the Greek name of a goddess, Astarte, whose symbols were the lion, the horse, the sphinx, the dove, and a star within a circle indicating the planet Venus.

That the Asherim were not always living trees is shown in **Jeremiah 17:2**: “their asherim, beside [or beneath] every green tree.” The record indicates that King Manasseh, for example, is said to have placed a carved image of Asherah in the Holy Temple (**2 Kings 21:7**). King Josiah's reforms in the late 7th century BC included the destruction of many Asherim in almost every town in Judah and around Jerusalem. (**2 Kings 23:1-14** – a quote of **2 Chronicles 34:3-7**).

The Real Living Tree

Exodus 34:13 states: “*Break down their altars, smash their phallic pillars, and cut down their Asherim.*” (KJV again mistranslates Asherim as “groves”).

We know from **Deuteronomy 16:21-22** that Yahweh hated Asherim whether rendered as living trees or as poles — “*You shall not plant for yourself an Asherah of any kind of tree beside the altar of Yahweh your God, which you shall make for yourself. You shall not set up for yourself a sacred pillar which Yahweh your God hates*”.

Genesis 3:22-24, Proverbs 3:18, 11:30, 13:12, and 15:4, and Revelation 2:7, 22:2, and 22:24 all reference the “tree of life”. Truth, wisdom, righteousness, hope, wholesome speaking are all called the tree of life. These words also describe Yeshua, who is the root or shoot of David, who is the vine, who can therefore, be called our tree of life.

Any living tree or wooden object dedicated to a false god would also be a focus for God’s wrath!.

Going Even Deeper: The Drash Level (*found only by intense searching*)

But are the above reasons the only reasons Yahweh told Gideon to remove these two items? It goes much deeper than this:

1. The people called themselves “the children of the Yahweh of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob”, yet worshipped and gave offerings to other gods. This is a direct violation of Yahweh’s commandments: “You shall not give false testimony, you shall not steal, you shall not use my name in vain, and you shall not have any other gods before me”.
2. The Asherah was an idol, a direct violation of Yahweh’s commandment: “You shall not make for yourself an idol”.
3. The burnt offerings made upon this altar were often infants, placed alive on the burning coals in the open belly, and burned to death. This is a direct violation of Yahweh’s commandment: “You shall not commit murder”.
4. The Asherah was often used in fertility rituals – perverted sexual acts. This is a direct violation of Yahweh’s commandment: “You shall not commit adultery”.
5. The fertility rituals were performed to get the gods to have sex, and thus give fertility to the land. The people desired crops, herds, fruit, milk, etc. This is a direct violation of Yahweh’s commandment: “You shall not covet”.

The real reason behind the surface reasons for Yahweh telling Gideon to utterly destroy, tear down, remove, or obliterate the altar and idol to other gods, was to say:

“Return to Me! You and your people are grossly violating my commandments . . . and I will not tolerate this behavior.”

Conclusions

Those eight little words are far more meaningful than just the surface level meaning initially understood by a simple reading of **Judges 6:25**.

Just reading this passage in Hebrew tells us that this was not a casual demand from Yahweh to Gideon. He doesn’t just say “*Hey, Gideon. I have a favor to ask. When you’ve got the time, will you please get around to tearing down your dad’s altar to Baal and the Asherah?*” Oh, no. The unequivocal “haras” and “karath”, clearly indicate an intense, right now, immediate demand.

Indeed, those eight little words encompass the entire Ten Commandments!

I will leave it up to you to determine why Yahweh’s commandment to “Honor your parents” *seems* to be missing, both from the scriptures and from this teaching. It really isn’t, but this will take you deeper still if you are willing to take time to ponder and study further.

The Aaronic Blessing

(Numbers 6:24 – 26)

Y'varekh'kha Yahweh v'yishmerekha
Ya'er Yahweh panav eleikha vichunekka
Yissa Yahweh panav eleikha v'yasem l'kha shalom

Yahweh blesses you, and keeps you;
Yahweh makes His face to shine upon you, and is gracious to you;
Yahweh lifts up His countenance upon you, and makes you whole.

The Culture of Death

Today, altars to Baal / Molech remain. Today, Asherim are still erected. All over the globe a system of worship which was set up thousands of years ago remains, even in the United States of America. Is there a connection between the Owl God and what we see in the Bohemian Grove, and then leading back to the Levant (Syria)? Is there also a connection to the Asherim of the Canaanites and Israelites, the obelisks of Egypt, and the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C.? **Indeed there is.**

The Culture of Death in the USA

The Bohemian Grove

- The Bohemian Grove is more heavily guarded than even Fort Knox.
- Wines and other alcoholics are made exclusively for Grove members, and always feature the Owl on their labels.
- The forty foot Owl Shrine faces an artificial lake. Lakeside “talks” are given from this area.
- The “elite powerbrokers” of the world meet there annually– they must be initiated into the Illuminati to belong.
- Bohemians are responsible for selecting and promoting Presidential candidates, as well as other world leaders.
- The “Creation of Care” ceremony is held there on an annual basis. It is a ceremony of worship of the Owl, who represents Lucifer / Satan, during which demons are literally summoned into this world.
- A human sacrifice is performed when special blessings are sought from Lucifer / Satan.

The Washington Monument

Here is what Doc Marquis, a former Illuminati Master who has accepted Yeshua Ha'Mashiach as his Savior and Lord, said about the Washington Monument and the Bohemian Grove:

- The Washington Monument is just an Egyptian obelisk, a concrete pole carved in the shape of a giant phallus.
- The occultist believes that the spirit of the ancient Egyptian sun god, Ra, resides in the obelisk.
- The obelisk represents the very presence of the sun god, whom the Bible calls Satan.
- The Washington Monument is most important to the occultist, because it is an obelisk set inside a circle.
- The obelisk representing the penis faces the Capitol Building Dome– i.e. the womb of Isis

Further Conclusions

- How many altars to Baal have we erected in our lives? Is it not time to tear them down?
- How many Asherim have we placed beside our altars? Is it not time to cut them down and burn them to ash? Should we not do so immediately?
- What behaviors should we remove and which should we be practicing as the day of Yeshua's return approaches?