

DISCOVERING GOD

THROUGH THE BIBLE #15 - THE GENESIS ACCOUNT IN CHINA

Chinese Christians believe roots of Christianity can be seen in Buddhism. Here is why.

Genesis 1-10 presents one unique worship of GOD from one original family. Science agrees all modern humans can be traced back to one race through both paternal and maternal DNA.

THE TEMPLE OF HEAVEN COMPLEX IN BEIJING

In Beijing's Forbidden City there is one temple that has received particular interest by both Eastern and Western archaeologist.

It is the 450-year-old Temple of Heaven complex. This Temple records a specific ceremony that goes back over 4,000 years!

According to ancient Chinese texts (the Shu Jing or Book of History, compiled by Confucius, it is recorded of Emperor Shun (who ruled from about 2256 BC to 2205 BC) that "he sacrificed to ShangDi" (Pronounced Zhan-Di, long "i", which means "Heavenly Ruler"), a bull on the great white marble altar." There are no idols either in the temple or ceremony itself.

Chinese scholars have pondered how this would be possible considering its Buddhist roots.

What has made this of particular interest to Chinese scholars is the unusual reverence shown to ShangDi in contrasted to the many gods of China.

Participating in this rite, the god-emperor himself would quote the following liturgy, remnants of which are still engraved on the walls of the 4,000 old Temple. (Incidentally, there is nothing like this in today's worship of Buddha or Confucius) I include it here followed by text from the Bible for comparison.

(Shu Jing) 'Of old in the beginning, there was the great chaos, without form and dark.'

(Genesis) 'In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. ...'

(Shu Jing) 'The five elements [planets] had not begun to revolve, nor the sun and moon to shine.'

(Genesis) And God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: He made the stars also. ... - Genesis

(Shu Jing) 'You, O Spiritual Sovereign, first divided the grosser parts from the purer.'

(Genesis) And God said, "Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters called He Seas. - Genesis

(Shu Jing) 'You made heaven. You made earth. You made man. All things with their reproducing power got their being'

(Genesis) So God created man in His own image; - Genesis (Also Genesis 2)

(Shu Jing) 'When Te [ShangDi], the Lord, had so decreed, He called into existence [originated] heaven, earth, and man. Between heaven and earth He separately placed in order men and things, all overspread by the heavens.'

(Genesis) '...by the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. ... For He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast' - Psalm 33:6, 9

EL SHADDAI

One of the Hebrew names for God is El Shaddai, which is extremely similar phonetically to ShangDi (long "l"). The Early Shou pronunciation of ShangDi is 'djanh-tigh' [Zhan-dai], thus, (Shad-dai).

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