

THE "PERFECT" CHRISTIAN

BY JASON McLEAN

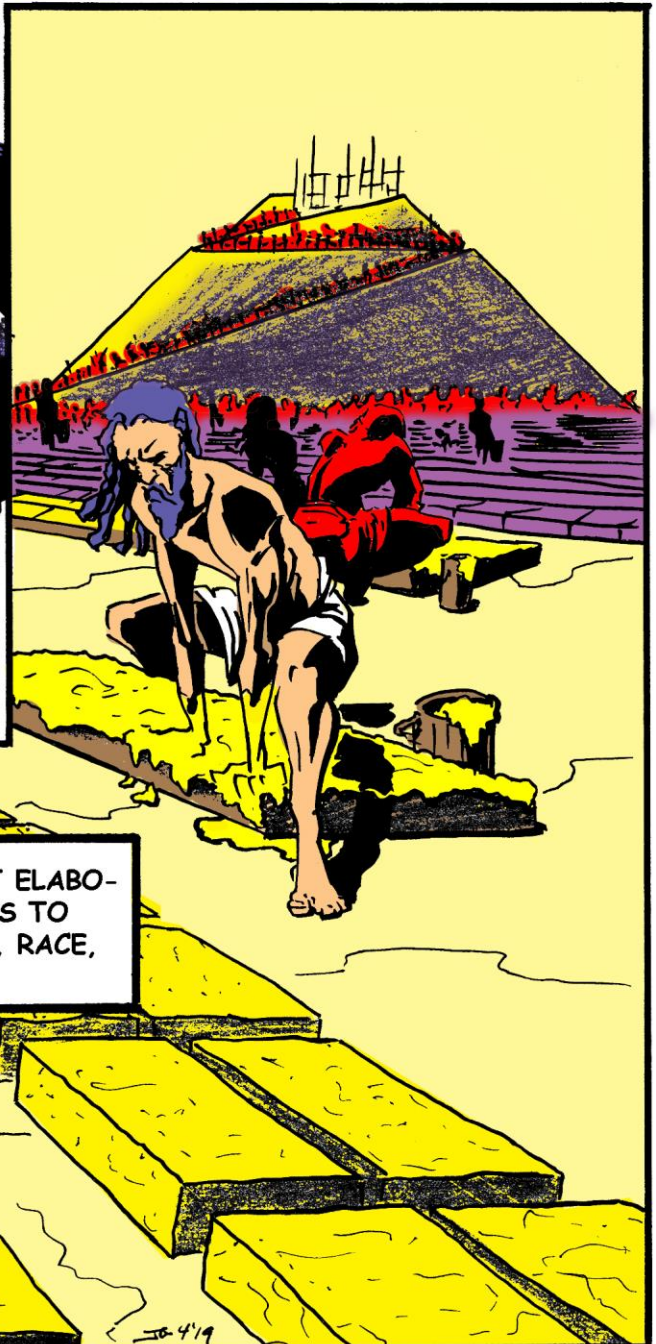
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IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, NIMROD AND PHARAOH ARE THE FIRST TWO HUMAN TYRANTS LISTED. THEY OPPRESSED THEIR SUBJECTS THROUGH THE MAKING OF MUD BRICKS.

YOU SEE, MUD BRICKS WERE CHEAP, AND THE UNIFORMITY OF THE BRICKS MADE CONSTRUCTION OF ALTARS (LIKE THE TOWER OF BAB'EL) SIMPLE. IT ALSO MEANT THAT NO SINGLE BRICK WAS OF ANY REAL VALUE.

MUD IS A GREAT METAPHOR FOR HUMANITY. WE'RE 70% WATER, AND MADE FROM THE DUST OF THE EARTH...



BASICALLY OUR BODIES ARE JUST ELABORATE, MUD AND THE WORLD TRIES TO FORCE US INTO MOLDS OF CLASS, RACE, AND WEALTH...

MAKING US INTO UNDIFFERENTIATED, WORTHLESS BRICKS.

IDENTICAL AND OF NO SINGULAR VALUE.

BUT GOD HAS A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE.

WHEN GOD ASKED THE ANCIENT HEBREW TO BUILD AN ALTAR (DEUTERONOMY 27:6) HE INSTRUCTED THEM TO USE UNHEWN (OR UNCUT) STONE.

UNHEWN STONE ARE ROCKS THAT ARE FOUND AND USED AS-IS, NOT QUARRIED AND SHAPED BY A MASON.

THOUGH THE STONES CAME FROM THE SAME ROCK-FACE EACH PIECE WAS A DIFFERENT SIZE AND SHAPE. EACH ONE UNIQUE AND REQUIRING A MASTER BUILDER TO FIT ALL THE DIFFERING STONES TOGETHER.

WHEN GOD MADE ADAM HE BREATHED THE HOLY SPIRIT INTO HIM WHICH CREATED THE HUMAN SOUL, THE DIVINE SPARK THAT ANIMATES US. SO WHILE THE WORLD SEES OUR MATERIAL SELVES - ONLY THE MUD - GOD LOOKS AT OUR SOULS.

GOD LOOKS AT OUR ETERNAL SELVES - THE DIVINE UNHEWN STONE SHAVED FROM HIS OMNIPOTENT ROCK FACE. WHEN HE SEES US HE SEES THE UNIQUE AND INDIVIDUAL BUILDING BLOCKS OF HIS HOLY ALTAR. HIS HOLY CHURCH...



BUT WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH PERFECTION? EVERYTHING

TO THE GREEKS PERFECTION WAS AN IDEAL. LIKE A MATHEMATICALLY PERFECT CIRCLE, SQUARE, OR TRIANGLE, HUMAN PERFECTION WAS FOUND IN AN IDEALIZED BEAUTY, INTELLIGENCE, AND STRENGTH.

FOR THE LAST TWO THOUSAND YEARS, WESTERN CULTURE HAS CLUNG TO THIS CONCEPT, EVEN CONTINUALLY BUILT UPON IT. WE ARE SOLD IT DAY AFTER DAY IN ADVERTISEMENTS WHERE SURGICALLY ENHANCED SUPER-MODELS ARE DIGITALLY MANIPULATED TO BE EVEN MORE "PERFECT."

EACH COMMERCIAL BILLBOARD REMINDING US THAT THE PERFECTION THEY SEEK TO SELL US IS UNOBTAINABLE. EACH REMINDER A CONDEMNATION OF OUR "FLAWS."

BUT THE BIBLICAL CONCEPTION OF "PERFECTION" IS ABOUT COMPLETION OF A TASK OR ASSIGNED PURPOSE.

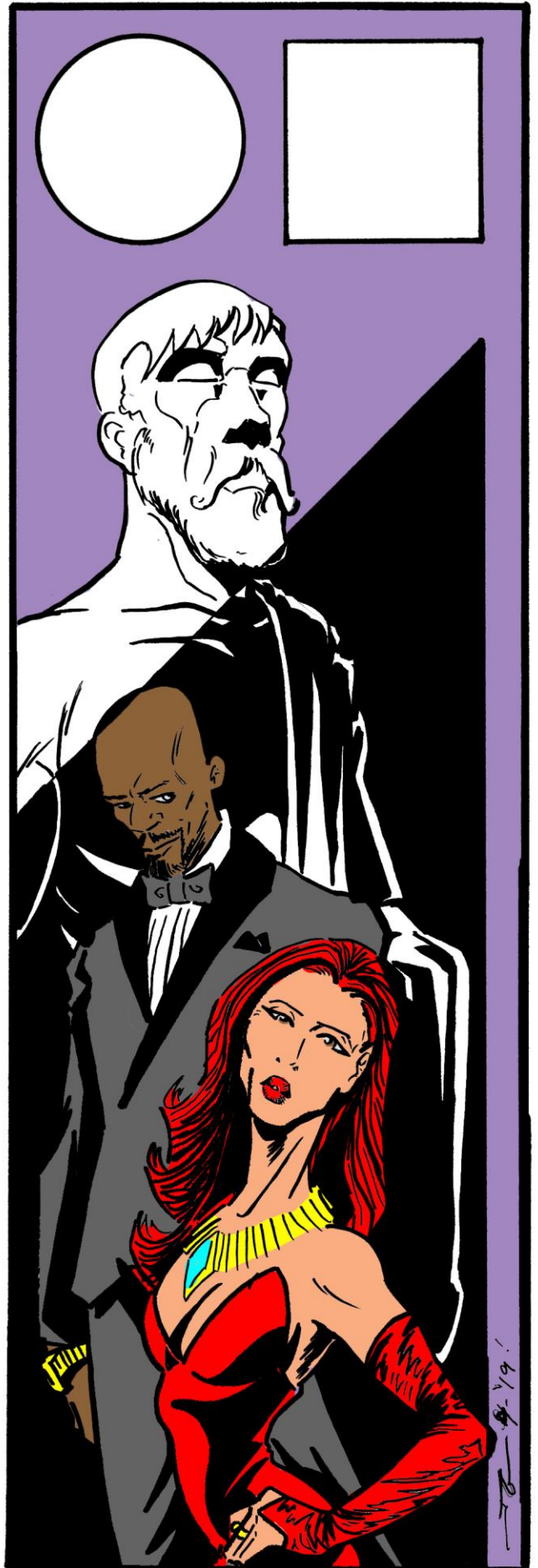
SO WHILE THE GREEKS HAD ONLY ONE "PERFECT" CIRCLE, THE HEBREWS WOULD SAY, "YES, THIS IS MATHEMATICALLY PERFECT..."

"BUT THIS CIRCLE PERFECTLY DESCRIBES THE EARTH..."

"OR THIS CIRCLE IS PERFECT FOR THIS KIND OF GEAR, ETC..."

THIS UNDERSTANDING IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE JUST AS EACH STONE IN THE BIBLICAL ALTARS WERE UNIQUE AND SERVED A SPECIFIC PURPOSE,

YOU ARE UNIQUE AND SERVE A SPECIFIC PURPOSE.



NO MATTER HOW RICH OR POOR,
YOUNG OR OLD, TALL OR SHORT,
NO MATTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE, WHERE
YOU WERE RAISED, NO MATTER YOUR
RACE OR SEX, YOU HAVE A PURPOSE,
A TASK ONLY YOU CAN DO.

TO KNOW THAT TASK, THAT PURPOSE,
YOU MUST GET TO KNOW THE MASTER
BUILDER. THROUGH PRAYERFUL STUDY
OF THE BIBLE, THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL
BRING YOU CLOSER TO CHRIST JESUS
AND GUIDE YOU IN ORDER TO FULFILL
YOUR ROLE IN HIS HOLY CHURCH. A
ROLE ONLY YOU CAN PLAY...

BY FOLLOWING CHRIST AND HIS
TEACHINGS, OBEYING THE DIRECTION
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT YOU WON'T BE
MOLDED INTO SOME ARTIFICIAL
EVER-CHANGING IDEAL BY THE
WORLD.



YOU'LL BECOME A UNIQUE AND
INTEGRAL PART OF A WHOLE.
COMPLETE AND PERFECT.

THE END