

Putting Down Our “Pagan Hammers” And Losing Our Arrogance

Sukkot at Lake Murray 2012



and
Beit Tefillah Fellowships of Lawton, OK and Wichita Falls, TX

מֵה־טֹבוֹ אֱהָלֶיךָ יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁכְּנֹתֶיךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל:

**Mah tovu ohaleykha, Ya'akov,
Mishkenoteykha, Yisra'el
How goodly are your tents, O Jacob,
Your dwelling places, O Israel**
(Bemidbar/Numbers 24:5)



Plea for *Chesed*

*Please don't throw your
“Pagan Hammer” at me
when I ask you to put down
your “Pagan Hammer.”*



Background: Why We Have “Pagan Hammers”

Many of us have come out of the “church system” that has numerous syncretic mixtures with pagan religious practices (Christmas, Easter, etc.)

We want to let others know that what they are doing is mixing paganism with Yah’s instructions.

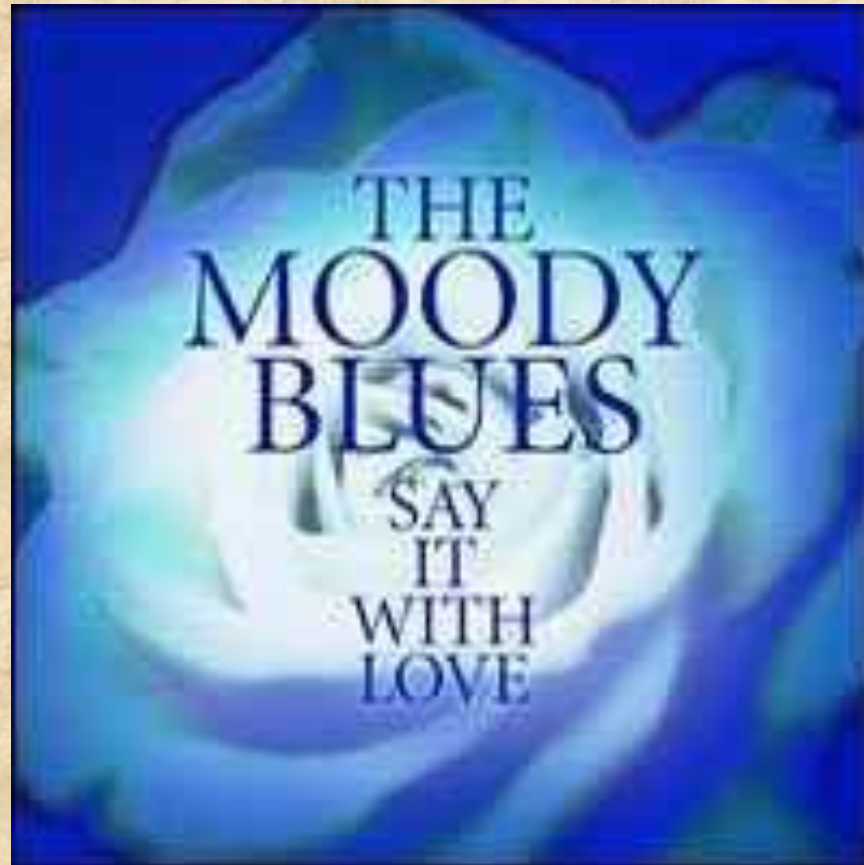
Background: Why We Have “Pagan Hammers”

When there aren't any pagan practices to hit with our hammers, we sometimes turn to **words and those who speak them, unleashing our hammer on them both.**



The Words We Say....

...Are to be said with love. Even (mostly) secular musicians tell us to “Say it with Love”:



Things that are *Tov* Become Perversions

....But are not necessarily perversions to start with:

For example:

Have you ever heard the teaching that calling upon “the Lord” is calling upon Ba’al?

Let’s take a look:

The Renewed/New Covenant

Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 31: 31 (30) (HRV)

Behold the days come, says YHWH, that I will make a renewed covenant with the House of Yisra'el, and with the House of Y'hudah.

32 (31) Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers, in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt: forasmuch as they broke My covenant, although **I was a husband** over them, says YHWH.

The Renewed/New Covenant

Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 31: 33 (32) (HRV) But this is the covenant that I will make with the House of Yisra'el after those days, says YHWH: I will put My Torah in their inward parts, and in their heart will I write it. And I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people. 34 (33) And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know YHWH: for they shall all know Me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, says YHWH. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin will I remember no more.

Even Though I was....

- The Greek LXX and the Aramaic Peshitta read a bit differently: I was neglected by them, or I was despised by them, but the Hebrew text here reads even though I was....

בַּעַלְתֵּי

ba'altiy

...a husband to them

...a *ba'al* to them.

Your Husband is Your Maker

Yeshayahu/Isaiah 54:5 (ISR'98) “For your Maker is your husband, יהוה of hosts is His Name, and the Set-apart One of Yisra’el is your Redeemer. He is called the Elohim of all the earth.”

בְּעַלְיֶךָ

Bo'alayikh

בְּעַל **qal**: to marry, rule over; **niph**: to be married
verb qal participle masculine plural
construct suffix 2nd person feminine singular

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Conclusions & Application

Ba'al is a Hebrew word that means “to husband,” or “to marry” or “to rule over.”

The prophets describe YHWH’s relationship with Israel as a husband, with the root word of *ba'al*.

Conclusions & Application

The original Hebrew meaning and understanding of “*ba’al*” describes an attribute of YHWH.

Pagan cultures usurped this attribute, twisted it, and applied it to a pagan fertility deity....but pagan twisting doesn’t change YHWH’s attributes.

Conclusions & Application



If “lord”=master=*ba'al*, and according to Scripture, *ba'al* describes YHWH’s relationship with Israel.....we need to put down the hammer, and stop “lording it over” brethren by saying:

“Calling upon ‘the Lord’ is calling upon a false deity named ‘*Ba'al*.’”