

MOTHER NATURE vs. FATHER GOD

Introduction

We are all familiar with the creation account found in the first two chapters of the book of Genesis. This is the inspired Word of God and, as such, it is true and accurate in every way. Here is a brief summary of God's creative work by day:

- Day 1 - Light
- Day 2 - The firmament (atmosphere)
- Day 3 - Seas, land and vegetation
- Day 4 - Sun, moon and stars
- Day 5 - Animals in the sea and air
- Day 6 - Animals on the earth and man
- Day 7 - No creative work done

Other deities

From ancient times though, there have been other deities that have been worshipped and alternate accounts of the origin of the earth and man. These may well have come into existence after the confusion at Babel (Gen. 11:9), as people were scattered abroad and forced to develop their own regional cultures. Joshua 24:2 mentions that Abraham's father, Terah, served "other gods" which are not named. Laban, too, was an idol worshipper who searched for his images among the belongings of Jacob and Rachel, in Gen. 31:30-37. The Apostle Paul referenced idolatry in Rom. 1:22-23, 25 - a direct violation of the first two commandments.

The feminine Influence

Since it is the female gender that gives birth to new life, it is easy to see how the simplistic reasoning of men would have attributed the origin of all life to a female entity. Many female deities were created by people, including Aphrodite, Artemis, Athena, Brigid, Ceres, Demeter, Diana, Eos, Freya, Gaia, Hecate, Hera, Selene, Hestia, Inanna, Iris, Isis, Kali, Minerva, Nye, Nike, Persephone, Rhea, and Venus - to name a few. Some of these were specifically associated with the earth, with the fertility of the land, with the harvest of crops, and with nature in general.

"Mother Nature" or "Mother Earth" is a personification of nature that focuses on its life-giving and nurturing aspects by embodying it in the form of a mother. The word "nature" comes from the Latin word "natura," meaning birth. In English, its first recorded use (in the sense of the entirety of the phenomena of the world) was in 1266. "Natura" and the personification of Mother Nature were widely popular in the Middle Ages (476 AD to 1453 AD). As a hybrid between the divine and the human, it can be traced to Ancient Greece. [This paragraph comes from the Wikipedia listing for "Mother Nature."]

Folding in the feminine

Civilizations such as the Greeks, the Romans, the indigenous Americans, the Southeast Asians and others had mythological deities of the female gender, and the scriptures speak of idol goddesses like Ashtoreth (I Ki. 11:5) and Diana (Acts 19:35). It has been suggested that the doctrine of mariolatry (the worship of the virgin Mary), was introduced as a way to entice pagans to convert to Christianity, since they would have a feminine figure to pray to, as they were accustomed to doing. This makes perfect sense, as her worship is certainly not supported by scripture.

Conclusion

Certainly, the female population is a wonderful part of the human family. Taken from Adam's side, Eve was the perfect helper/companion, who eliminated his loneliness. But to elevate the female gender to the level of deity is incorrect and heretical. As early as Gen. 1:5, God is referred to in the masculine form, and this continues throughout the scriptures. Feminism and other movements may try to apply a female attribute to God, but it is simply not in the Bible.