

AFRICAN SPIRITUALITY (4): DID AFRICANS KNOW GOD BEFORE THE COMING OF CHRISTIANITY?

DR. MANTEY TAKES US THROUGH HIS FASCINATING NARRATIVE OF AFRICAN LIFE BEFORE THE COMING OF CHRISTIANITY.



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In our previous articles, we looked at the coming of the missionaries to Asiwa – a village in Ghana, West Africa; and the introduction of another God other than the ancestral gods worshiped by Asiwa residents. This created tension among the people. A big meeting was called to defend the ancestral gods. After much debate, the chief of Asiwa who is also the head of the Asiwa Traditional Area, ruled that the missionaries be allowed to carry on preaching about their God. Dadzie and Dialo had different views about the ruling. Dialo was in favor of the ruling while Dadzie opposed it.

Two weeks after the big meeting, Dadzie and Dialo have not seen each other. Both of them, however, are good soccer players for the Asiwa Soccer Club; so their coach decided to bring them together to practice for a crucial upcoming match between their team and their arch rival from another village. This rekindled their friendship. “Tell me Dialo,” Dadzie was curious to know. He continued; “I hear you’ve been attending the meetings organized by the missionaries?” “That’s true.” “Replied Dialo. He went on: “We do meet at the courtyard of where the missionaries live. At moment, there are six of us. We meet on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings. The Thursday meetings are for studies. We teach the missionaries the Akan dialect; and they also teach us English. It’s amazing to see them trying to write our dialect. They told us they will help us by developing our dialect into writing so it could be studied as any other language or dialect. Sundays are for studying the Bible. They tell us that there is only one God in the whole world.”



You hold on to your comments until I finish talking.” Dialo suggested. He went on “Yes, there is only one God. The missionaries said God created many angels who...”

what?” Interrupted Dadzie. “How about our own ancestral gods and all the other gods mentioned when our great Professor read from his book at the big meeting the other day? He told us that there are ancestral gods in Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa and other parts of Africa.” Continued Dadzie.

“You hold on to your comments until I finish talking.” Dialo suggested. He went on, “Yes, there is only one God. The missionaries said God created many angels who always worship him in heaven. These angels bow down to him and sing “Hallelujah” to his name all the time; until one day the leader of the angelic choir whose name is Lucifer, (also known as Satan, Devil, Dragon, or Serpent) rebelled against God. Lucifer wanted to be worshipped like God. He thought he had received enough power from God to overthrow him. This brought war between the angels who were loyal to God and a few who listened to Lucifer / Satan. These rebellious angels together with Satan were thrown out of heaven unto the earth. All the angels who followed Satan are known as demons. These demons can inhabit any of God’s creation – trees, mountains, stones, rocks, rivers, the seas, thunder, sun, and even human beings. That is why there are so many gods in this world. They also told us these demons create lots of problems like sicknesses, diseases, poverty, or death. And because our ancestors didn’t know the true God they chose to worship these lesser gods or demons.”

“Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!” Dadzie ridiculed Dialo. He continued, “Dailo, so within two weeks you’ve swallowed all these myths? I didn’t know you are so gullible? All along I saw you as a friend who is wise, intelligent, and strong; a friend who will resist any dust thrown into your eyes. Now let me ask you. Do you remember the first meeting the missionaries had when we met under the straw and palm branches shed? They said at that meeting that: “The God of the Bible is a good God, a God who loves everybody, a God who forgives sin.” You remember that?

“You say what you want to say.” Replied Dialo with a frown. Dadzie went on “Good! I know you remember.” Let’s think critically outside the box here; continued Dadzie, “If God is so loving and forgiving, why didn’t he forgive Lucifer / Satan when he rebelled against him? Why didn’t he bring him and those angels back to himself and reprimand them, but rather drove them away? If God truly loves us why should he send Satan to this world to trouble us? Let me tell you, if somebody wrongs me, I will forgive that person and get along with him. How much more God? I now regret for not been around you for the past two weeks otherwise, I don’t think you would have gone this far? Stay Tuned.



Not by might nor by power,
but by My Spirit!

SERVICES:
SUNDAY—Church Service — 10am
THURSDAY—Bible Study and Prayer — 6p.m.
FRIDAY—ADULT INTERCESSORY PRAYERS — 7:00p.m. & **YOUTH SERVICE** — 7:30p.m.



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