

*Sources of the "ism" s undermined in Jn.4: sexism, racism, classism, etatism, nationalism.

My favorite biblical text on "prophecy"? Jn.4: worship, life-centering, is to be on the biblical God in accord with God's nature ("spirit") and character ("authentic-honest-real-reliable-genuine-valid-sincere-true-righteous-heavenly-eternal-frank-forthright-straight (so trs. Hebrew *emet*, whose meaning is however not exhausted thus, so that the " is trd. also by "faith" and "righteousness")): *a-leetheia* is negative, so Hell. force is anti-concealment, pro-"full-disclosure"--(legally) against efforts to deceive the court, (historically) against efforts to obscure facts with myths, (philosophically) against claiming proximate realities as the absolute-ultimate reality, etc.). Note the close feel-correlation between this Gk. wd. and the Jew. *eris* on true/false prophecy. Now look up "lethe" (the stem of our Gk. wd. without its neg. prefix) in any Eng. dictionary and note that the life-experience in the stem is FORGETTING: and then remember that, acc. to the Hebrew-Israelite-Jewish prophets, "forgetting" is the central sin ("lest you forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage"), wandering away from the Center (in following lusts and greeds) and so letting consciousness of the Center fade, dim, wink out, and so be replaced by alternative centers ("idols"). Let's spell this out, as far as one 8½x11 p. will let us:

1. The Reminderer is the social functionary, everywhere and always, at base of our biblical "prophet": shaman, priest, recaller--the last, when the folk have forgotten the folk-Story. The biblical prophet, in anthropol. perspective, is thus the Caller to Return (*teshuvah*, "repentance") to the Forgotten Story and Live (in both senses of "live": to live the Story, and to live instead of dying).
2. Sociologically, this Recaller is in competition with "the principalities and powers"*in and impinging on the community in the interest of other centers than the community's historic Holy and other stories than the community's primordial Story. In short, up against all the demons: chthonic, spiritual, economic, political, historical. No wonder Jesus, accusing Jerusalem of killing these functionaries, was himself so killed and by the same city! To explain, the concept of the demonic is essential: the irrational forces of psyche and society (though that description does not exhaust "the demonic") get organized against the Recaller --so "anc. Xn symbolism interprets the cloud as synonymous with the prophet, since prophecies are an occult source" (48, J.E.Cirlot's A DICT. OF SYMBOLS). Competitive foretelling is one battleground, though in the late OT period this fades out because of poor batting-averages and messianism (trust in God's victory moving from future into present) fades in.
3. The Bible is thoroughly saturated with "prophecy" in the above sense. Its first verse attacks astral powers and therefore rejects astrology as alternate to biblical religion: "In beginning, God created the heavens"; and chthonic-fertility-hygeic-anthrocentric religions: "In beginning, God created....the earth." Here're a few competitive cults thus ruled out: (1) Spiritism, necromancy, and all other forms of divination (auguries, Tarot cards, palmistry, even gambling), parapsy.-based religion; (2) Erotic-romantic narcissisms, individual and collective (naturisms, back-to-nature commun^{es}); (3) Efforts to combine the signals of earth/heaven without benefit of "walking" with the biblical God (Sinic li/ti, Hindu atma/brahma, Buddhist dharma/nibbana-nirvana, Stoic autarcheia, the therapeutic cults' "health" and "wholeness")-- as to the last, the "Human-Potential" substitute fo^r biblical *shalom*.