

## THE CONFLICT OF RELIGIONS AND CULTURES

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*True Christianity is different to other religions, and a Bible culture is distinct from an anti-Bible culture.*

“Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye are passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan; Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places: And ye shall dispossess *the inhabitants of* the land, and dwell therein: for I have given you the land to possess it.” (Numbers 33:51–53).

The conflict between Israel and the Canaan was a spiritual conflict, but it manifested in a physical and cultural conflict. Both were religious, but the religion of Israel was very different from the religion of Canaan.

The conflict between true religion and false religion is manifest in different cultures. The Canaanites had filthy pictures, idols and followed all sorts of abominable customs. Therefore, it was only right that such things be utterly destroyed.

People have spoken of Australia as being a multicultural society. What this means is that they can allow both true religion and false religion to exist side by side. However, there are certain forms of false religion which are very destructive, both on individuals and, if allowed, onto the community. People have done much evil in allowing such things to flourish, so that “multiculturalism” has changed to a “multi-value society”. This means that there are people who live in an isolated culture of hatred of society and reject anything to do with it.

In the Bible, there were various wars between the Philistines and the Israelites. There was a clash between two very different identities. The Philistines had a false god called Dagon while the Israelites followed the true God. Every attempt to bring the true religion into conformity with the heathen religions failed. This is because the Bible shows that God’s way is separate from other ways.

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” (2 Corinthians 6:14–18).