



ALTAR OF HEAVEN, BEIJING, CHINA



# SECRET ORIGINS OF THE ANCIENT CHINESE



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Di, was gradually replaced by the term 天 or Heaven, leading to a reduced conception of personhood and majesty of the Almighty.

It was also around this time that the Zhou ruler gave the edict that Shang Di worship be confined to the royal family. Commoners were only allowed to worship their ancestors. With the loss of the fear of God in their private and public lives, Chinese history became increasingly chaotic. Buddhism arrived in China from India in 67 B.C.

**Let's take a closer look at the relationship between God and the Chinese people.**

The Chinese people were bound to God by a blood covenant. This was renewed each year by the emperor as the son of heaven. This took the form of a ritual called the Border Sacrifice. It was in effect, the most important work of the emperor - to approach the Almighty, that the country may be blessed with peace and good harvest.

The emperor had to ritually cleanse himself for 3 days, depriving himself of wine, women and song, humbling himself before the Sovereign of

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Chinese history spans nearly 5000 years. The earliest classical texts, the Classic of Poetry and the Classic of History recorded that the Chinese people originated from God. They also tell us that the earliest Chinese only worshipped the the Creator and Ruler of heaven and earth, whom they called Shang Di, 上帝, meaning Supreme Ruler.

The character of Shang Di and the God of the Bible is in essence the same. The Chinese script can therefore be traced to the earliest events of Man and God as recorded in Genesis, the first book of the Bible. See references below.

The earliest Chinese called their country 神州, or God's Country. It was a time of public and private piety, both ruler and ruled submitting to the fear of God. The person whose moral excellence pleased God received the mandate of heaven and was appointed ruler by God. Indeed, whether the country was blessed or not depended on the moral state of the ruler and the people.

This happy state of affairs did not last for long. After about 1,500 years, at the time of the third dynasty (Zhou dynasty), the name for God, Shang

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Heaven. At a raised empty platform devoid of any statues, he had to kill a male calf or sheep without blemish by shedding its blood. With music and praise to God in heaven, the dead animal is finally consumed by fire together with other precious offerings. This ritual is very similar to those described in the Bible.

### What is the meaning of this ritual?

By the time of Confucius, the meaning of the ritual was already lost.

God Almighty is a Holy Being. For sinful persons such as ourselves to approach Him, he demands the shedding of blood. From the Bible, "without the shedding of blood, there is no remission (forgiveness) of sins." Hebrews 9:22. This is why sinful man cannot see God, 'God explains, "Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live;" Exodus 33:20

Man is, by nature, sinful. Sin is anything that goes against his moral law. Lies, greed, unreasonable hatred, lust, not seeking God, these are sins committed against God and man. All our evil thoughts are laid bare before God. God is holy,

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As illustrated by the Border Sacrifice, **the only way to heaven**, is through the shed blood of Christ - the true Son of Heaven: "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12)";

The blood of Christ restores our relationship with God. God with man. We are given the privilege to be His children. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name (John 1:12)";

Jesus' blood is shed to pay for our sins so that we need not perish in hell after death: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:" Hebrews 9:27"; "For our God is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29)";

### China lost sight of the blood of the Lamb many years ago. What about you?

Do you believe? Will you acknowledge your sins against God and man and be sorry for them? Will you want God to forgive you your sins? Will you want Jesus to bear your sins and not you

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He will judge sin: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. (Ezekiel 18:4)";

It is not that the blood of the bull or calf is effective. Rather, the blood points us to the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)";

"God (proved) his love toward us... while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.(Romans5:8)"

He lived a life unlike ours. His was a sinless life. Through multiple miracles, He was showed that He was God, *and* the Son of God.

In Matthew 16: 15-17, "He (Jesus) saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God'";

Though he was without sin, he was condemned to death by evil men and crucified on the cross. He bled and died on the cross. He was buried according to the custom of the day but rose again, alive, on the third day.

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yourself? Will you want to a child of the Almighty? If so, you can pray so to God in your heart to receive Jesus as your God, Lord and Saviour:

*Dear Lord God Almighty, thank you for showing this to me, I am sorry for all my sins against you. Save me from my sins. Forgive me my sins. I receive Jesus Christ, your Son, as my Lord and Saviour. I commit the rest of my life to you. Strengthen me to live the life that is pleasing to you through your Spirit given to me. Thank you for saving me. I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.*

If you prayed this prayer, you are now a child of God, forgiven of all your sins through what Jesus did for you on the cross. Seek out a Bible. Pray to God in Jesus' name and God will direct your next step.

### References:

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- 4) Discovery of Genesis, CH Kang, 1979

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