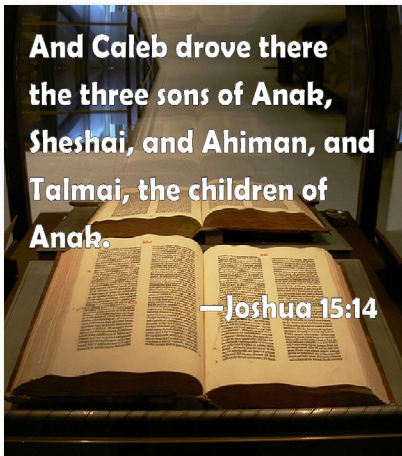




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RELIGION AND THE AMERICAN/YORK RITE - PART 3



Ahiman (a-hi'-man, or a-chi'-man) is the name of two persons in the Bible: One of the three giant sons of Anak (the other two being Sheshai and Talmi) whom Caleb and the spies saw in Mount Hebron (Book of Numbers 13:22) when they went in to explore the land. They were afterwards driven out and slain (Joshua 15:14; Judges 1:10). The second was a Levite who was one of the guardians of the temple after the Exile (1 Chronicles 9:17). The Hebrew meaning of the name Ahiman is "brother of the right hand."

Rezon (re'-zon) prince, son of Eliadah. Abandoning the service of Hadadezer, the king of Zobah, on the occasion of his being defeated by David, he became the "captain over a band" of marauders, and took Damascus, and became king of Syria (1 Kings 11:23-25; 2 Sam. 8:3-8). For centuries after this the Syrians were the foes of Israel. He "became an adversary to Israel all the days of Solomon." The Hebrew meaning of the name Rezon is "prince, small, lean, or secret."

Among the numerous definitions of Ahiman Rezon, as a name, it could mean "Guardian of the Temple Secrets" by direct name definition. Since Hebrew words always have multiple meanings, this could be a direct definition, a sub-definition, or a meaning within a meaning.

In the American/York Rite, we see the seeds of Judeo/Christian faith within all of our ritual and education throughout the Chapter, Council, and Commandery. This may not be so in the Blue-Lodge, as the ritual had most of its Judeo/Christian components removed in order to accommodate men



FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to encourage all Sir Knights to submit articles, letters, pictures, or comments for inclusion into this supplement. Articles need to be submitted to me by the 1st of the month for the next issue. (March 25th for the April issue.)

who aren't of the same religion. But what we do see are the similarities between the Jewish and Christian faith within American/York Rite Masonry. And the similarities are numerous.

The concepts of the Royal Arch Degrees, The Cryptic Degrees, and the Templary Degrees cannot function without certain aspects of this faith. Whereas the Blue-Lodge degrees are capable of assisting Masons in all of their current building, and faith based undertakings, regardless of their faith specifics.

A Judeo/Christian system are found throughout the Blue-Degrees, but are not primarily faith specific. The tenets are taught directly from the Holy Bible, one of the three Great Lights of Masonry, and are Judeo/Christian in origin. However, when we enter the chapter degrees of the Royal Arch, this system becomes more refined, and focused on the finishing of our original temple building. We change our concern, not just to finishing our temple, but more so the reason it needs to be finished.



taking apart the building ourselves, time can lend its hand to our own negligence in continuing to build, and even repair our temple. It is at this point, the internal is revealed to always have the ability to build, improve, and look towards perfection. The lessons of Cryptic Masonry apply to both Jewish and Christian Masons alike.

