

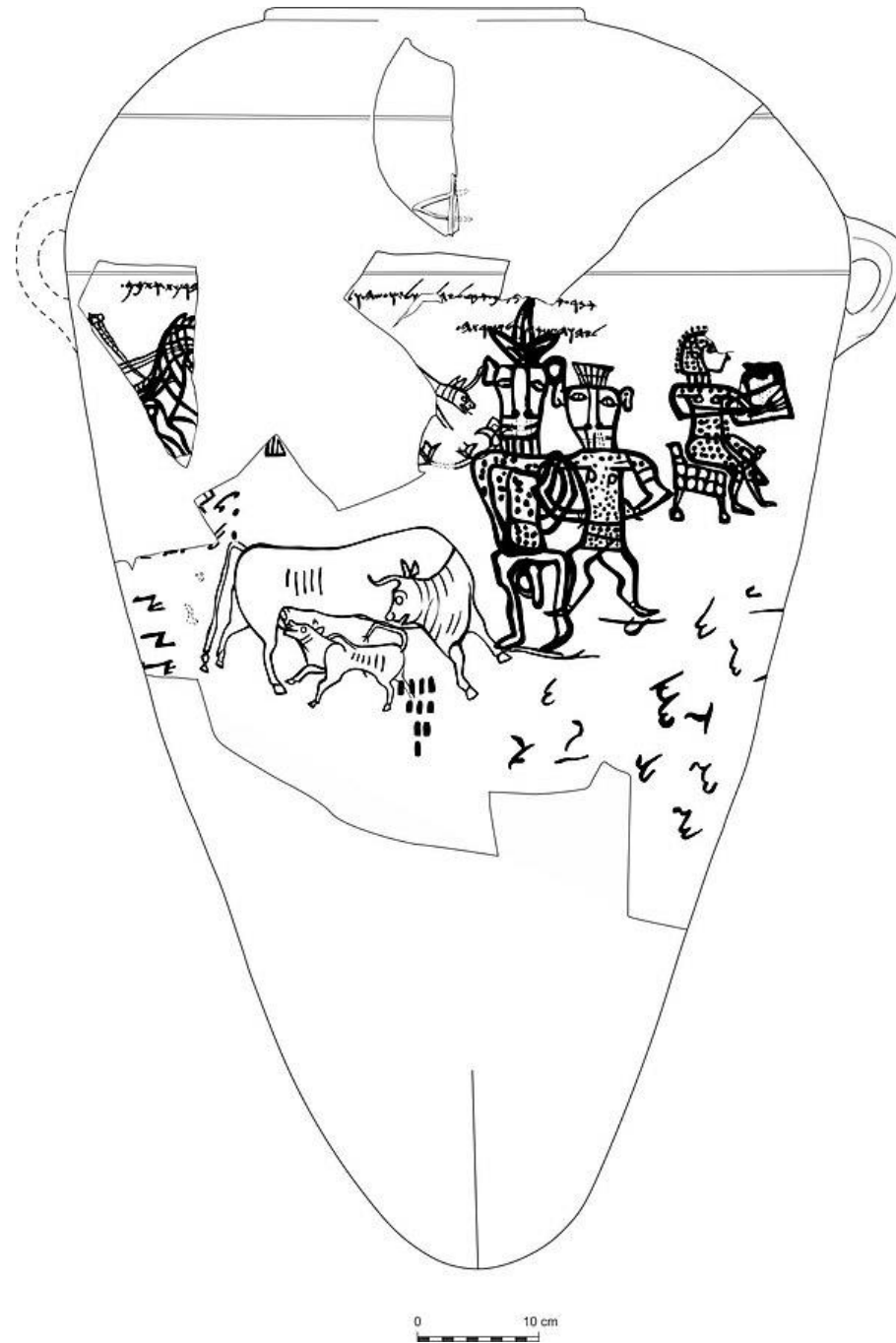
# “Yahweh and His Asherah”

Description: Painted on a jar found in Kuntilat Ajrud in the Sinai Peninsula

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> century [BC](#)

Source: Kuntilat Ajrud

Author: unknown jewish merchant



Source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ajrud.jpg>

Accessed: 10/8/2021

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# A Strange Drawing Found in Sinai Could Undermine Our Entire Idea of Judaism

Is that a 3,000-year-old picture of god, his penis and his wife depicted by early Jews at Kuntillet Ajrud?

Source: <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium.MAGAZINE-a-strange-drawing-could-undermine-our-entire-idea-of-judaism-1.5973328>

Article dated: April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## Does this mean Yahweh had a wife?

Opening Discussion

# Manichaeism

*Heresy Series*

# Mani

## *(216-276 CE)*

- Born in Babylon to a zealous religious family and a zealous religious community, the “Elchaisites”.
- Had a vision at 25.  
An angel told him that he is Jesus’ promised “Paraclete.”  
This angel was Mani’s glorified self, back from the future.
- The angel told Mani that the true Christian religion had been corrupted, and it was Mani’s responsibility to restore it.

# Did God *really* say?

A key aspect of heresy:

# Mani

## *(216-276 CE)*

- Mani rejects the OT entirely and much the NT.
- He declares all foods clean and is subsequently cast out of his religious community.
- Mani encounters Zoroastrianism and Buddhism, then adds elements of both to Christianity.
- He converts many, even the Persian emperor, Shapur.

# Manichaeism's Fundamentals

- Eternal, cosmic warfare between good and evil explains all that's good and bad with the universe.
- The evil forces imprisoned Primal Man, a fragment of God, in the material world.
- Redemption is God's extraction of Primal Man from the material world through teaching, which awakens the divine spirit in man.
- Humans are both saved by God and God's savior.

# Reading from *Knowing the Heretics*

• P. 68-69



How is this different  
from Christian faith?

Group Discussion

# But why is this important??

- Mani very neatly solved the problem of evil, the problem of pain, and co-opted many religions to do so.
- It's tempting to do the same, picking and choosing your favorite aspects of Christianity, rejecting whatever you dislike, whatever you don't understand, whatever is inconvenient, or whatever is unpopular.