

**Straight Talk #4 On  
Prince Hall (African-American)  
Freemasonry  
by William J. Schnobelen, © 2010**

African-Americans often inquire about the issue of Masonry in their own communities. In fact, there is a substantial minority of Black people (especially older ones) who are in Freemasonry or its auxiliary bodies.

They ask, "Does the Masonry which some of us practice carry the same spiritual perils as does the conventional English, French or German Rites of the Lodge as practiced by white people. Masonry among the African American communities of this nation has been chiefly confined to Prince Hall Masonry.

Concerning Prince Hall Masonry, it is important to realize that for most of its existence, Freemasonry has been a very racist institution. Blacks were traditionally excluded from the Craft on the grounds that a Masonic candidate must be "a man, free born, of good report and well-recommended." (See endnote 1) Obviously, the "free born" qualification could be used, and in fact *WAS* used for centuries to keep Black men out of the Lodge, since most American Blacks were of slave ancestry.

It has only been since the 1980's or so that any "legal" Grand Lodges in the US have deigned to admit Black people, and then only under fear of government sanction (revocation of IRS non-profit status).

However, as with other segregationist situations; there did arise an *alternative* to belonging to one of these legally constituted Grand Lodges. This was the so-called **Prince Hall Grand Lodge** (currently headquartered in Milwaukee, WI.)

The Prince Hall Lodge was named for an African American man, one of fourteen initiated into Masonry on March 6, 1775, in a military lodge of the British army in Boston, MA. These men applied for a warrant from the Mother Lodge in England (a warrant being a legal charter and right to sit as a Lodge, duly constituted). They finally received it in 1787, and constituted themselves as "African Lodge #429" in Boston.

However, this lodge was struck off the rolls of the Mother Lodge (supposedly, for nonpayment of dues) in the early 19th century; and passed out of sight. It then revived in the 1820's and applied to England for recognition, which was summarily denied it. Thus, in 1827, it proclaimed its independence from the Mother Lodge and reconstituted itself as the Prince Hall Grand Lodge. This act, of course, was *illegal* according to Masonic landmarks; and Prince Hall was (and is, in most cases) considered to be a "clandestine lodge" by US and British Masons. (See endnote 2) (Clandestine lodges are those lodges operating without a legal warrant; and regular Masons are forbidden to converse with them by their oaths.)

This has not bothered Prince Hall too much, and today, to my understanding; it is fully equipped with all the auxiliary bodies (York Rite, Scottish Rite, Shrine, Order of the Eastern Star, and youth orders) that are a part of US Grand Lodge Masonry. Thus, they are "separate but equal." Of course, Prince Hall Masonry has never had the membership, wealth or political clout of its white counterpart; so its lodges tend to be fewer and more modest in appearance. However, this point must be understood: *there is substantially no difference* between the rituals worked in P-H Masonry and those of regular Grand Lodge Masonry.

**This means that P-H Masonry is just as sinful and idolatrous as its white counterpart!** It also means that any of the literature that we have dealing with regular Grand Lodge Masonry will probably apply equally well to Prince Hall Masonry. Thus, the Prince Hall Masons can be ministered to in much the same way as a white Mason.

This also means that the spiritual bondages of the white Mason are equally powerful upon the P-H Mason. It also means that the ancestral curses that can lay so heavy a burden upon the children and grandchildren of regular Masons can also impact African American families and need to be dealt with by the power of the Cross and the Blood.

While there are obviously many reasons for the social tragedies that has impacted the African American community in the past couple of generations (crime, poverty, huge numbers of out-of-wedlock births, drugs, etc.), I seriously believe that part of the reason can be traced to the fact that the parents and grandparents (and beyond) of these young people were involved in **Baal worship** – Masonry! The good news is that much of the dark spiritual power can be broken with faith in Christ and some simple prayers.

If you know of a Christian man or woman who is in Prince Hall Masonry (or auxiliary groups like the Eastern Star), you need to pray about lovingly confronting them with the issues. (See endnote 3) They need to formally renounce their membership before YHWH and send a letter of demit to every lodge or chapter to which they belong (see endnote 4).

You may wish to lead them in a prayer of renunciation which would go something like this:

*"Father, in Yah'shua's (Jesus') mighty name {see footnote 5}, I ask your forgiveness for my involvement in Prince Hall Masonry (specify group). I now know it was wrong of me to link myself together with those in Baal worship. I thank you for your forgiveness and I receive it, in Yah'shua's (Jesus') mighty name. Amen."*

*"Father, in Yah'shua's (Jesus') mighty name, I formally renounce my membership in any*

*and all Prince Hall Bodies, and I ask you to take the Sword of the Spirit and sever any spiritual ties which may exist between myself and the fraternity. In the name of the Lord Yah'shua the Messiah, I command any evil spirits that may have come into me [or my family/children] because of my involvement in Prince Hall Masonry to leave me at once, never to return. I especially come against the spirits of Ba' al, Tubalcain, Dagon, Baphomet, and Jahbulon. (See endnote 6) I bind you all together as one, and I command you to go where the Lord Yah'shua tells you to go, by the voice of His Holy Spirit."*

*"Abba Father, in Yah'shua's name, I humbly ask you to shut any doorways in my life [or my family's/children's lives] which may have been opened by my involvement in Prince Hall Masonry, and I ask You to seal those doorways shut forever by the blood of the Lamb, shed on the cross of Calvary, and I thank you for doing this in Yah'shua's name. Amen."*

## **Endnotes:**

1. Malcom C. Duncan, Duncan's Ritual Monitor of Freemasonry, David McKay Company, Inc., New York, (n.d.), P..29
2. Arthur Edward Waite, A New Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, Weathervane Books, 1970, vol.2, p.178-179.
3. See our Straight Talk #58 on Witnessing to Masons, available from With One Accord Ministries; also the major book on Masonry by the author, MASONRY BEYOND THE LIGHT, also available from this ministry.
4. A letter of demit is a formal request to be "demitted" from a Lodge. A sample copy can be found in the back of the book MASONRY BEYOND THE LIGHT, or can be downloaded free off our website (see below).
5. Yah'shua is the Hebrew way of saying the name of Jesus. It is what His followers called Him as He walked the earth. Actually, the name "Jesus" has only been around since the 17<sup>th</sup> century. We believe it is more respectful and more powerful (from a spiritual warfare component) to use His Hebrew name. Obviously, you must do what you prayerfully think best.
6. These strange names are the strongmen or principalities associated with Freemasonry by centuries of worship and invocation. They are masks for demons, and need to be renounced and cast out.

If you have any questions about cults, the occult, the Bible or evangelism, please feel free to contact the author through:

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