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YAHSHUA'S WITNESS MAGAZINE

Declaring a new and living way. (Heb. 10:20)

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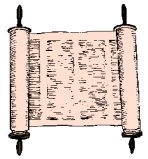
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A publication of Yahweh's Evangelical Assembly



Yahshua's Witness Magazine

is dedicated to His bride. Yahshua will be returning soon to receive His own unto Himself (Jn. 14:3). His bride must make herself ready (Rev. 19:7). A person who is called out of this world by the Father, who repents of his/her sins, is baptized in the name of Yahshua the Messiah (Acts 2:38), the only name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12), and receives the Holy Spirit must come to know Him as the Scriptures declare and witness of Him (Jn. 5:39-47). Peter encouraged, "But grow in grace, and the knowledge of our Sovereign and Saviour Yahshua the Messiah," 2 Pet. 3:18. We will, with Yahweh's help and the Spirit of Truth, seek to reveal a most wondrous Savior and Redeemer, a Savior and Redeemer that much of the world has spoken of, dreamed of, hoped for, but truly never known. While much of the world looks to a savior, the savior of whom they have been taught has become corrupted. Another has been substituted in the true Savior's place. Those who are called out of this world and given to Him are likened unto virgins. But in accordance with His own parable of those virgins, only five are wise while the other five are foolish. The five wise are able to enter into the planned marriage with the Messiah, but the five foolish have the door closed to them (Mt. 25:1-13). Let's be wise, remember our betrothal to the Messiah and the virginity to which He has restored us (2 Cor. 11:1-2), resist the wiles of the devil and look to and prepare for a joyous and glorious marriage that will endure for all eternity. HalleluYah!!!!

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OUR COVER: We have decided to focus on the end of the year holiday season in this issue. At one time Christmas was deemed a false pagan holiday in both England and America. The cover picture is of Prince Albert and Queen Victoria and family observing Christmas with their tree as a centerpiece. Just as in ancient Israel, the overall majority of the people follow their leaders, Oliver Cromwell had been the leader under Puritan influence. They rejected the pagan Christmas customs and the overall majority of the people followed. The prince was German and the queen was raised under German influence. Christmas and Christmas trees were very popular in the German society. With Christmas re-instituted by royalty, the people in both Britain and America have followed suit. It has become so popular that it will take divine intervention to restore the true ways to the people.

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A CHRISTMAS STORY

Recently my wife and I were consuming our evening meal when the telephone rang. (It seems that many people are inspired to place a call to our home during this period of time. Not that I am complaining, it's just a fact.) The voice on the other end of the line praised me for being such a good citizen (How did he know? Somehow my name was on his calling list and he was just parroting the same line that they say to everyone).

He eventually got into the meat of the matter...it seems that Newt Gingrich is traveling about the country promoting a new book that he has written about this country, God, etc. He was drumming up financial support for this endeavor.

It seems that this country needs to get back to God and the supposed things that makes God happy if we are truly ever going to be blessed again. He brought up a story about some school in either Michigan or Wisconsin that is no longer allowed to call their end of the year program the Christmas program, but rather a Holiday program because there was a Moslem attending school there who would have been offended at the term "Christmas." This was my chance!

I told him that December 25th is not the birthday of the Savior. HE AGREED! He acknowledged that it truly is not His birthday. I said, the Savior said that we must worship the Father in Spirit and in truth; since there is no truth in Christmas, then why does Christianity continue to hold onto a falsehood. He replied that they desired to honor His birthday, so they appointed Christmas (Dec. 25th) as the day to celebrate it. This, of course, is faulty and fallacious reasoning.

The Scriptures proclaim, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways death," Prov. 14:12; 16: 16:25. If Christmas observers would only take these two verses to heart, they would be able to get a better handle on the ability to walk in the truth.

The Apostle Paul writes, "For if the truth of Yahweh hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory; why yet am I also judged as a sinner? And not rather, (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us do evil, that good may come? whose damnation is just," Ro. 3:7-8.

Here is something for everyone to think about; what did Paul really mean here? Isn't this an oxymoron? Truth and falsehood (lies) are extreme opposites. So how can truth abound through a lie? The fact of the matter is that lies presented with a little truth are still lies. Lies are utilized to twist and corrupt the truth into something that it is not. Truth sets free, lies enslave.

I remember when I found out the truth as a child, that there was no Santa Claus. I was so disappointed. But the Christmas lie still kept me enslaved to observing the false birthday of the Savior until I found out the truth about that.

Christmas itself, is an enigma because on one hand people love to celebrate it, but on the other hand, the bills that mount up because of all the presents that family and friends expect to receive do enslave one to the credit cards and other loans that many are still paying (with burdening interest) even when the next Christmas rolls around. Of course, the ones who love it the most are the merchants, banks, lenders and politicians who reap the rewards of large sales, interest payments and taxes collected.

This leads me to the next question, If the Christian ministers, priests, churches, etc., have their hearts set on publishing the truth, then why do they continue to promote outright falsehoods and lies? The truth of the matter is that their own heart is set only on their own pocketbooks. They had rather promote a falsehood, a lie, from which they will prosper financially, than the truth, that may cause a backlash from a public who loves their pagan holidays. But they should remember what Paul stated, if we seek to promote the truth through a lie, then we are still labeled as a sinner. The penalty of sin is death (Ro. 6:23). We are supposed to repent of sin! Yahshua told the woman caught in adultery, "Go and sin no more." (Jn. 8:11)

These ministers, priests and churches are not only embracing sin, but they are leading the sheep of Yahweh's pasture down the broad way to sin and destruction. Paul says, "...whose damnation is just." Damnation has to do with judgment. The **crux** of the matter (a pun), is that Yahshua is the truth and we should serve Him in Spirit and in Truth! To those who are the leaders, the greater condemnation (judgment) will be meted out.

Our admonition to the ministers and priests is to REPENT OF YOUR SINS! Turn and feed the sheep with the true, pure, clean food of Spirit and Truth. Let the true light, our light, Yahshua the Messiah shine forth and leave behind the fallacious Christmas lights that have no truth in them at all.

JH

O TANNENBAUM - O CHRISTMAS TREE

How many of us haven't heard the song dedicated to the Christmas tree. It was originated in German and then translated into the English language. In German, the word Christmas tree is tannenbaum. The song goes:

*O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
Your branches green delight us.
They're green when summer days are bright:
They're green when winter snow is white.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
Your branches green delight us.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
You give us so much pleasure!
How oft at Christmas tide the sight,
O green fir tree, gives us delight!
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
You give us so much pleasure!*

In the German-speaking countries the Christmas tree is part of the **pre-Christian tradition** of the "12 Rauhächte" (12 harsh or wild nights), which later became the "Twelve Nights of Christmas." The tree is put up on December 24 and taken down after New Years or on January 6, known as "Twelfth Night." A part of the tradition of taking down the tree is the "Plündern," raiding the tree of cookies and sugar plums, an event, anxiously awaited by the children. January 6 is also known as "[Three Kings](#)." On that evening carolers, three of them dressed as the three kings or Magi, stroll from house to house. In some areas the old trees will be brought to a public place and burnt in a big bon-fire. January 7 ushers in the pre-Lenten Fasching or Carnival season.

Winter in the northern countries was harsh. As the early Germans observed Fall with the gradual dying of nature, when plants and leaves of trees began to change color, shriveled up and fell to the ground, followed by Winter with ice and snow, **they blamed evil spirits for the "killing."** Only a few trees stayed "alive," the evergreens, and to them they became a symbol of immortality. Good spirits and the magic power of the evergreen were believed to resist the life-threatening powers of darkness and cold. They believed in the special powers of these trees and wherever

they were, evil spirits could not go, so they brought the greenery into their homes.

First reports of people bringing holly and pine branches into their homes at Christmas-time date from the late Middle Ages. Live green branches, symbols of life in the cold and dead of winter, were placed on windows, mirrors, and in vases, and may have served to keep evil spirits



away. Over time, this mythical function of the greens became simply decorative. Evergreen ropes (garlands) were draped over staircase railings, mantels, picture frames and along ceilings. Fearful that dry branches would catch fire from oil lamps or sparks from the fireplace or heating stove, families waited until almost Christmas eve to hang the garlands.

The decorated tree was originally a pagan tradition in Germany's up-

per Rhine region. A decorated holly tree was brought into the house and even placed in the village square. We know this because in 14th-century Alsace laws were written which forbade farmers to cut down evergreens for Christmas uses.

In the 15th or 16th century, the church gave new meaning to the customary symbol of life by decorating trees during the holiday season with apples to symbolize Adam and Eve's expulsion from Eden. Greens were incorporated into medieval miracle plays and into a Christmas play, honoring Adam and Eve, that was traditionally presented. **An evergreen hung with apples, the fruit of knowledge, was the stage prop.** (Information from the Internet.)

Are you getting all of this? The Christmas tree is part of PRE-CHRISTIAN TRADITION! The PRE-CHRISTIANS blamed evil spirits for killing all vegetation during the winter. The evergreen trees, to them, were symbols of immortality. The evergreens had the power to keep evil spirits away!?! The decorated tree was originally a PAGAN TRADITION!

But the church itself gave new meaning to the customary symbol of life by decorating with apples which symbolized Adam and Eve's expulsion from Eden! Furthermore, the apples symbolize the FRUIT OF KNOWLEDGE!

WORSHIPPING TREES

Evergreens were a symbol of rebirth from ancient times. Egyptians brought green palm branches into their homes on the winter solstice as a symbol of life's triumph over death. The Romans decorated with evergreens during Saturnalia, a winter festival in honor of their god of agriculture. In Northern Europe the pagans observed the Soltice festival of Jul (Yule) - a two month feast beginning in November with prickly pine branches hung around doorways and windows to keep away demonic spirits. But the sacred trees of the druids and norsemen were deciduous oaks, not evergreen conifers.

It is generally acknowledged that the Christmas tree is of German origin. In the pre-Christian era the oak was the sacred tree for the Germanic peoples. Legend has it that the missionary to the Germans, St. Boniface, in order to stop sacrifices at their sacred Donar oak near Geismar, chopped the tree down [725 A.D.]. He is said to have replaced the oak by a fir tree, adorned in tribute to the new-born Christ. Ironically, the evergreen tree had been ascribed magical power by the Germanic peoples as a representation of fertility. Today, the fir and its next of kin enjoy the highest degree of popularity. The Christmas tree custom has spread across large parts of the world. (*Christmas Customs and Their Pagan Origins*)

What a wondrous thing it is that the so-called St. Boniface did! He cut down one sacred tree and substituted another in its place. The problem is that the ancient heathens and pagans worshipped just about everything in existence. If one is going to teach the worship of the Father and the Son, then he must not substitute one physical thing for another. St. Boniface accomplished nothing more than transferring worship from one tree to another.

Another thing that so called St. Boniface accomplished is he substituted another tree that had magical powers ascribed to it, as well as being a fertil-

ity symbol. This fits in quite well with the birth of the little sun-god who is later transferred to the Messiah.

THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE

As already touched on, religious plays called "Mystery Plays" included the popular Paradise Play depicting the story of Adam and Eve, their sin and banishment from the Garden of Eden. An evergreen tree was the logical choice for a lush garden tree on this winter festival, and it was decorated with **apples symbolizing the forbidden fruit**. It ended with the promise of the coming Savior and his incarnation, so gradually flat wafers symbolizing the forgiveness of sins in communion were added to the paradise tree, **making it now not just the tree of knowledge but also the tree of life**. This resulted in a very old European custom of decorating a fir tree in the home with apples and small white wafers representing the Holy Eucharist at Christmas time. These wafers were later replaced by little pieces of pastry cut in the shapes of stars, angels, hearts, flowers, and

The problem is that the ancient heathens and pagans worshipped just about everything in existence.

bells. (*Legends of the First Christmas Tree*)

When the article quoted says "LEGENDS" that is exactly what they are: LEGENDS AND MYTHS, FALSEHOODS AND LIES!

The fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil brought about sin, corruption and death, not life! "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die," Gen. 2:17.

If you will notice, the references of all articles quoted will call the tree the tree of knowledge and the fruit is the fruit of knowledge. The simple fact of the matter is that it was the tree of the

knowledge of good and evil and the fruit was the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil. The tree and its fruit brought forth death!

However, man, in his own limited knowledge and reasoning has now turned the fruit into a fruit of essential and life-giving knowledge and the tree is now presented as the tree of life. There is a Scripture that condemns such practices, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" Isa. 5:20.

BON-FIRES & YULE LOGS

In Scandinavia, the Norse celebrated Yule from December 21, the winter solstice, through January. In recognition of the return of the sun, fathers and sons would bring home large logs, which they would set on fire. The people would feast until the log burned out, which could take as many as 12 days. The Norse believed that each spark from the fire represented a new pig or calf that would be born during the coming year. (*History.com*)

There was some dispute about the proper date of the birth of Christ and not everyone agrees even to this day. It was not until A.D. 350, that December 25 was declared the official date for celebrating Christmas by Pope Julius I. When the fathers of the church decided to settle upon a date to celebrate the event, they wisely chose the day of the winter solstice, since it coincided with some rival religions' celebrations and **the rebirth of the sun, symbolized by bon-fires and yule logs**. December 25 was a festival long before the conversion of the Germanic peoples to Christianity, it seemed fitting that the time of their winter festival would also be the time to celebrate the birth of Christ. The darkness that had frightened and threatened to defeat the ancient pagans, was forever defeated by the coming of Christ.

Because of changes in man-made calendars, the time of the solstice and the date of Christmas vary by a few days.

As Christianity spread among the peoples of pagan lands, many of the practices of the winter solstice were blended with those of Christianity. In the dead of winter a celebration of rebirth of life was symbolized in the birth of Christ. The time of the winter solstice, when days grew longer again--the return of the light--became the hope of the world in the birth of Christ, "the light of the world." (*Christmas*)

Candles replaced bon-fires as a symbol for the returning sun. The imitative magic of the illuminated Christmas tree, as did the bon-fires, was to assure a steady supply of light and heat from the sun, and it had as a second aim the purification or destruction of the forces of evil (Symbols, p. 101). In the Christian tradition, candles represented Christ as the Light of the World. (*O Tannenbaum-O Christmas Tree*)

From these excerpts we learn that bon-fires and yule logs originally represented the re-birth of the sun. Candles on the Christmas tree became the replacement symbol for the bon-fires and yule logs, which the church changed to typify the birth of the Messiah. Today, the Christmas trees are enshrouded with the electric lights, but the symbols remain the same. They are celebrating the birth of the sun-god, not the birth of the true Messiah.

THE BRANCH

Legends about the first Christmas tree abound. One of these tells about a woodcutter who helps a small hungry child. The next morning, the child appears to the woodcutter and his wife, and is none other than the Christchild. The child breaks a branch from a fir tree and tells the couple that it will be a tree that, at Christmas time, will bear fruit. As foretold the tree is laden with apples of gold and nuts of silver. (*O Tannenbaum-O Christmas Tree*)

This is an outright blatant attempt to associate the pagan sun-god with the true Messiah Yahshua as the Prophet

Zechariah is inspired to write, "Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH," Zech. 3:8.

Furthermore, Isaiah is inspired to prophesy, "In that day shall the branch of Yahweh be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel," Isa. 4:2.

Notice that he talks of the fruit of the earth being excellent, but he certainly doesn't refer to any apples of gold, nor nuts of silver.

Jeremiah is inspired to write, "Hear ye the word which Yahweh speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: Thus saith Yahweh, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not," Jer. 10:1-4.

Legends about the first Christmas tree abound.

These Scriptures can be applied in two ways. One goes out to the forest to cut a Christmas tree, fasten it with nails and deck it with gold and silver. (At least that is the way it was done in the old days.)

But in another instance, the woodsmen can carve the wood into idols which they cover with gold (to represent the sun gods) and silver (to represent the moon gods and goddesses).

Both activities are acts of idolatry, heathenism and outright paganism.

The idolators want their branch to bring forth gold and silver. Yahweh's branch will bring forth the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

YAHWEH'S WARNING

Yahweh cautioned Israel, "These are

the statutes and judgments, which ye shall observe to do in the land, which Yahweh Elohim of thy fathers giveth thee to possess it, all the days that ye live upon the earth. **Ye shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree:** And ye shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and destroy the names of them out of that place. Ye shall not do so unto Yahweh your Elohim....When Yahweh thy Elohim shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land; **Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise.** Thou shalt not do so unto Yahweh thy Elohim: for every abomination to Yahweh, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods. What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it," Dt. 12:1-4, 29-32.

Christianity has been deceived to do the very things that Yahweh had forbidden Israel to do. We are supposed to forsake every false thing, idol, name and practice that He considers to be an abomination.

The heathens, pagans, idolaters, etc., had been serving their false deities with trees of every sort, especially evergreen trees before the Messiah was born. The winter solstice was the birthday of their sun-god.

The Christmas tree symbolizes the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, not the tree of life. How long will people continue to serve the tree of death and its false messiah? We encourage repentance now, for all who read this article. JH

THE LEGEND OF SANTA CLAUS

Who is Santa Claus? Where is he found in the annals of the past? Is it important? We will present the information here and you can be the judge, but remember this, we must judge righteous judgment.

By Jerry Healan

A careful study into the modern day seemingly loveable character Santa Claus produces alarming results; especially when one allows the truth of the Scriptures to be his guide.

An article entitled "*Christmas Customs And Their Pagan Origins*" has this to say, "The church also placed Christ's birth at the time of the winter solstice and fostered as the bringer of gifts [St. Nikolaus](#), the bishop of Myra in Asia Minor, who died on December 6, 343. **Christian symbols and earlier historical layers of Germanic mythological figures began to meld, or to live side by side. Consequently, the old German God Wotan, riding the wild skies with his retinue, emerged out of the pre-Christian past.**

To this day Nikolaus traditions vary as widely from region to region as his guise and name. He appears as St. Nikolaus (mainly in Catholic areas), Klaus, Nickel, Sünnerklas, Seneklos, Pelznickel, Knecht Ruprecht, Weihnachtsmann and Christkindl (in mostly Protestant areas). **He is afoot or astride a white horse, a reindeer, a mule, or even a goat.** More diverse than those of the saintly Nikolaus are the many legends and traditions surrounding his often wild companions: the Zwarte Pitt, Hans Muff, Schimmelreiter, Krampus, Leutfresser, Rumpelklas, Schmutzli. A religious myth whose source was in a Semitic nation, was subsequently developed by a Mediterranean people, and finally superimposed on the quite alien mythologies of the Northern Europeans. The result is a wide array of coexisting customs, Christian and Germanic...**In many regions, and also in the U.S., the festivities origi-**

nally attributed to the gift-giving [St. Nikolaus](#) have been transferred from December 6 to Christmas. The giver of gifts is the "Weihnachtsmann" [Santa Claus] or the "Christkindl" [Christchild, an angel]. The latter, misunderstood by Anglophones, became "naturalized" as "Kris Kringle." Christmas customs are perhaps the nicest example for cultural transfer and adaptation resulting in an American tradition with a German touch."

What!?!? Christmas customs are the nicest example for cultural transfer and adaptation resulting in tradition? We would say that they are one of the best examples for the blending of the

Christmas customs are the nicest example for cultural transfer and adaptation resulting in tradition?

false pagan customs and traditions of men who love not the truth, but love lies (2 Thes. 2:9-11).

Let's take a look at the things associated with this character called Santa Claus so we can truly understand his nature.

ST. NICKOLAUS

Supposedly, Santa Claus stems from a Christian bishop of Myra named St. Nikolaus who gave out many gifts to others. He died on December 6th 343 CE and his gift-giving tradition was transferred to December 25th to associate him with this Santa Claus figure.

In actuality, the name Santa Claus

does come from Saint Nickolaus. It is quite easy to see the association between the two names. The name Santa Claus is just a contracted form of Saint Nickolaus.

But Nickolaus is a Greek name coming from a combination of two words, "Nike" and "Laos." Nike is the name of a Greek Goddess that means "victory," or "conqueror." Laos is the Greek word for "people." Thus, Nickolaus means "conqueror of the people," or "victory over the people."

It is reported that this Nickolaus is presented afoot or astride a **white horse**, a reindeer, a mule, or even a goat.

The book of Revelation chapter six reveals Yahshua the Lamb stripping seals off of a scroll. The first seal reveals one on a **white horse**, going forth **conquering** and to **conquer**. (v. 2)

The words "conquering" and "conquer" both come from the root word "nike."

In the book of Genesis, the serpent conquered the woman with a lie. This same serpent is revealed in Revelation 12:9 to be, "...**that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world...**"

Are you one of those who continues to propagate this falsehood named Santa Claus (St. Nickolaus)? If so, then you are one who is being conquered by him.

WOTAN

The pagan Germanic god Wotan has been interwoven into the Santa Claus figure. The form of his name is quite varied in the various cultures. Wotan is his High German name, Woden is

the Low German name. He is known as Oden to the Norse and Odin to the Anglo Saxons. He was the leader of the “wild hunt.”

The original leader of the wild hunt was Nimrod, the world’s first tyrant/dictator/messiah after the flood, “And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before Yahweh: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before Yahweh. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar,” Gen. 10:8-10.

The beginning of his kingdom was Babel. Babel means “confusion.” Babel is none other than Babylon. Check out your interlinears, concordances and dictionaries to see if such is not the case. Babel/Babylon comes from another Hebrew word “balal,” which means to overflow, to mix, to fodder. Balal, in turn, comes from another Hebrew word “beliyl,” which means “mixed feed.” Another Hebrew word associated with these is beliyal, which is defined as without profit, worthlessness, wickedness, destruction, etc.

History.com says this about Oden, “The end of December was a perfect time for celebration in most areas of Europe. At that time of year, most cattle were slaughtered so they would not have to be fed during the winter. For many, it was the only time of year when they had a supply of fresh meat. In addition, most wine and beer made during the year was finally fermented and ready for drinking.

In Germany, people honored the pagan god Oden during the mid-winter holiday. Germans were terrified of Oden, as they believed he made nocturnal flights through the sky to observe his people, and then decide who would prosper or perish. Because of his presence, many people chose to stay inside.”

Odin’s/Oden’s/Wodan’s/Wotan’s place of dwelling was Valhalla. Valhalla means “Hall of the slain.” “The hall itself has 540 doors, so wide that 800 warriors could walk through side-by-side. It is said that there is room

enough for all those chosen. Here, every day, the slain warriors who will assist Odin in [Ragnarök](#), the gods’ final conflict with the giants, arm themselves for battle and ride forth by the thousands to engage in combat on the plains of [Asgard](#). Those who die in the fighting will be brought back to life. At night, they return to Valhalla to **feast on the boar [Sæhrímnir](#) and drink intoxicating drink.**” (*Wikipedia*)

So now we can understand why there is the Christmas ham tradition in America along with the boar’s head in England. Also, we can understand



An 1886 depiction of Odin. Put a red suit and cap on him, as well as a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face and GUESS WHO!?

why there is a lot of partying and drinking associated with the holidays at the end of the year.

The point is that this character, Santa Claus has been mixed (Hebrew balal) with the false pagan god Wotan/Odin so that the whole story becomes a mythological hodge-podge of belial (Hebrew beliyal).

WEDNESDAY & MERCURY

While our calendar is called the Ro-

man calendar which utilizes the names of many of the Roman deities for the months of the year, some of the days of the week are still primarily named after the Norse deities. Woden’s/Odin’s companions were Tyr (Tiw), Thor and Frigg. Tuesday is named after Tyr/Tiw, Wednesday is named after Woden/Oden, Thursday is named after Thor and Friday is named after the female goddess Frigg.

The naming of Wednesday after Woden also associates him with the Roman, Latin deity Mercury and the Greek Deity Hermes.

Mercury and Hermes were the messenger gods. Mercury was the Mediator between heaven and earth (blasphemy).

Odin, Mercury and Hermes were deities of the merchants. Words that issue forth from Mercury are merci (mercy), merchant and merchandise.

They were also “trickster” deities. Both Mercury and Hermes are represented with wings on their feet, which not only represented them as messengers, but as tricksters who could fly from place to place causing various troubles. Wotan/Odin could also fly about and so can Santa Claus.

Now let’s get to the gist of the matter. Santa Claus is a mythological, fictitious character. December 25th is not the true birthday of the Savior. Of course, the religious hierarchies are the ones who propagate the falsehoods, but the merchants also have their part.

The merchants love to focus on Christmas and Santa Claus because through their trickery, they profit greatly. They propagate a spirit around that time of the year, which if we allow it, it will turn our heads to think that it is a beautiful, heart warming time of love and gift giving. It seems good and like the right thing to do. After all, it’s especially for the children, right?

It is deceit, trickery. The religionists and merchants may rejoice in today’s world, but when the true Messiah is revealed, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. What will you be doing at that time?

THE SATURNALIA

Long before the Christians had designated December 25th as the birthday of the Savior, the Romans were observing a festival period at the end of the year called the Saturnalia. It appears many of the customs of the Saturnalia were inculcated into the end of the year Christmas observance. Who was this deity Saturn? The truth is shocking.

By Jerry Healan

The Saturnalia was a feasting period appointed by the Romans in honor of their god Saturn. Historically, it was held from December 17th to the 23rd. During the festival **schools were closed**; no war was declared or battle fought; no punishment was inflicted.

Distinctions of rank were laid aside: slaves sat at table with their masters or were waited on by them, and the utmost freedom of speech was allowed them. Gambling with [dice](#), at other times illegal, was now permitted. **All classes exchanged gifts**, the commonest being [wax](#) tapers and [clay](#) dolls. **These dolls were especially given to children**, and the makers of them held a regular fair at this time. Varro thought these dolls represented original sacrifices of human beings to the infernal god. **There was, as we have seen, a tradition that human sacrifices were once offered to Saturn**, and the Greeks and Romans gave the name of Cronus and Saturn to a cruel Phoenician [Baal](#), to whom, e.g. children were sacrificed at [Carthage](#). The Cronus to whom human sacrifices are said to have been offered in [Rhodes](#) was probably a **Baal**, for there are traces of Phoenician worship in Rhodes. It may be conjectured that the Saturnalia was originally a celebration of the winter [solstice](#). (*Classic Encyclopedia*)

The Christian church didn't know how to deal with unrepentant pagans, especially when the Caesars took over as the high priest (*Pontifex Maximus*), therefore, they were willing to bend and blend pagan practices in with church teachings.

St Nickolaus, the Saturnalia, the

birthday of Mithras as *Solis Natalis Invictus*, as well as rituals and customs of peoples all around the world, were inculcated into the modern day Christmas practices.

One might say that we don't do child sacrifices in today's world, but you are sacrificing your child or children on the altar of the false pagan deities if you persist in teaching and leading them into the errors of heathenism and paganism as found in the Christmas rituals.

Another most important point is the fact that the Greeks and Romans gave the names Cronus and Saturn to a cruel Phoenician god named Baal.

Thus, Baal worship continues to thrive in today's world.

Thus, Baal worship continues to thrive in today's world.

SATURN

Who was Saturn? He was primarily the Roman god of agriculture. The sickle was his instrument.

Alexander Hislop has done much to uncover "Mystery Babylon" (Rev. 17:5) in his book entitled *The Two Babylons*. On page 269 he writes, "If we know the Apocalyptic name of the system, that will lead us to the name of the head of the system. The name of the system is 'Mystery' (Rev. xvii. 5). Here, then, we have the key that at once unlocks the enigma. We have

now only to inquire what was the system by which Nimrod was known as the god of the Chaldean Mysteries. That name, as we have seen was Saturn. Saturn and Mystery are both Chaldean words, and they are correlative terms. As Mystery signifies the Hidden system, so Saturn signifies the Hidden god. To those who were initiated the god was revealed; to all else he was hidden. Now, the name Saturn in Chaldee I pronounced Satûr; but, as every Chaldee scholar knows, consists only of four letters, thus—Stûr. This name contains exactly the Apocalyptic number 666: —

S = 60
T = 400
U = 6
R = 200
666"

Mr. Hislop does an excellent job of tracing the whole Mystery system back to Nimrod after the flood, but he lacks linking it to the original individual before the flood. That individual is none other than Cain!

HIDDEN

Adam and Eve had taken of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, bringing sin, corruption and death not only upon themselves, but their posterity (Ro. 5:12). Their first-born son, Cain slew his own twin brother Abel becoming the first murderer.

While Adam and Eve had been banished from the Garden of Eden, Cain was banished from the face of Yahweh, "And Yahweh said unto Cain,

Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper? And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. And **now art thou cursed from the earth**, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth. And Cain said unto Yahweh, My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be **hid**; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me. And Yahweh said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And Yahweh set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him. And Cain went out from the presence of Yahweh, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden," Gen. 4:9-16.

The Hebrew for "hid" is presented in the English as *cathar*, but the Hebrew letters are samek, tau, resh (אחף, rts [remember that Hebrew reads from right to left, thus the English would be str). Samek = 60, Tau = 400, Resh = 200 = 660.

The Chaldeans added the waw, which equals to 6 into the mix, thus the word "Satur/Stur = 666." The Chaldean, Hebrew and Phoenician languages were all sister languages. They possessed the same letters and the same numbering system for each.

AGRICULTURAL GOD

Saturn, the Hidden One, was the god of agriculture. Cain was a tiller of the ground, a farmer (Gen. 4:2).

Abel was a keeper of sheep, a shepherd (Gen. 4:2).

In the process of time, both brought an offering to Yahweh. Cain brought of the fruit of the ground (because he was a farmer) while Abel brought of the firstlings of the flock and the fat

thereof (Gen. 4:3-4).

Yahweh had respect to Abel's offering, but not Cain's. Why? Because Abel's offering was a type of the sacrifice that Yahshua would make several thousand years in the future, but Cain's offering showed no real foresight nor understanding of the coming blood sacrifice of the Messiah.

Cain became angry and jealous, so he argued with Abel in the field and slew him. (Gen. 4:8).

ROMULUS AND REMUS

Interestingly, Rome had its own version of two twin brothers named Romulus and Remus. Their story, while mythological, has Biblical types and examples in it.

They were born of the vestal virgin Rhea. Mother Eve, of course, was a virgin until she had relations with her husband Adam.

Because of an evil uncle, the boys were placed in a basket or ark in the river Tiber. This smacks of Moses' miraculous deliverance in the ark in the river Nile.

Their basket came to rest in the roots

Interestingly, Rome had its own version of two twin brothers named Romulus and Remus.

of a fig tree. Again, the fig tree is associated with Adam and Eve in the book of Genesis, chapter three.

The twins, of course, are likened to Cain and Abel. Romulus slew Remus. Cain slew Abel.

As we have already linked Cain and Saturn, Saturn fled from Greece to Italy/Latium where he built a city. Cain had to flee from the face of Yahweh to the land of Nod, where he built a city named after his own son Enoch.

Rome was famous for consolidating pagan teachings and gods into her own brand of religion.

Romulus eventually disappeared in a storm and was subsequently deified as the god Quirinius. He was eventually

included in a trinity with Jupiter and Mars.

The whole thing has to do with "Mystery Babylon the great," things hidden that need to be brought to the light of day and carefully scrutinized. They need to be compared with the Scriptures so that we can understand how the people became so deceived, and yet, continue in that deception to this day. None of it pleases Yahweh.

Jude warns, "But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. **Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain**, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gain-saying of Core," vv. 10-11.

The Christmas season and celebration is a hodgepodge of ancient pagan legends and myths. We have focused on the Christmas tree, Santa Claus and the Christmas celebration itself in this issue of *Yahshua's Witness Magazine* in order to reveal to you the hidden things behind it all. We have been able to trace the whole matter all the way back to Cain.

If you love your Creator; if you love His word, which is truth, then you will embrace truth and turn from falsehood, legends and myths. As the Scriptures exhort, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and Yahweh hath remembered her iniquities," Rev. 18:4-5.

Revelation goes on to declare that the kings of the earth and the merchants will weep in the day of her fall. Will you be one of those weeping and wailing also, or of those who rejoice because of the judgment that will be poured out? Repent while there is yet time to do so.

CHRISTMAS ILLEGAL?

Did you know that it originally was illegal to observe Christmas in both England and America? How did this happen and what took place to restore it again?

In "Merrie England," from the 11th to the 17th century, Christmas had become increasingly the great festival of the year with observance from Christmas Eve (December 24) to Twelfth Night (January 6). It had become a rollicking good time, and after the Norman Conquest, with imported French flair added. By 1252 Henry III was slaying 600 oxen to go with the salmon pies and roasted peacocks. In the holly-decked great halls of the feudal lords, wassailing, feasting, singing, and games, dancing and masquerading, mummers presenting pantomimes, and masques were all part of the festivities. The Christmas feast was brought ceremoniously into the hall, headed by the chief cook carrying in the boar's head, followed by servants bearing an incredible number of dishes.

But the wild license of these celebrations, with no semblance of the inner vision and meaning of Christmas, came under the disfavor of the Puritans. During the Reformation, Protestants condemned Christmas celebration as "trappings of popery" and the "rags of the Beast". In Scotland, John Knox put an end to Christmas in 1562. In England the observance of Christmas was forbidden by act of Parliament in 1644. When Oliver Cromwell was Lord Protector, Puritans declared Christmas was "an extraeme forgetfulness of Christ, by giving liberty to carnall and sensual delights." So the House of Commons sat on Christmas day and sheriffs were sent out to require merchants to open for business. Pro-and anti-Christmas factions rioted.

For several weeks Canterbury was controlled by the pro-Christmas rioters, who decorated doorways with holly and shouted royalist slogans. The Restoration of 1660 ended the ban, but most of the Anglican clergy

still disapproved of Christmas celebrations, using Protestant arguments.

RESTORATION

The Catholic Church responded by promoting the festival in an even more religiously oriented form.

Charles II revived the feast. While the Scots adhered to their Puritan view, England gradually found Christmas again. However, in some places abolition was more permanent than in others. Prince Albert is credited with having brought Christmas from his native Germany and created the "Victorian Christmas" with the decorated tree and all the trimmings. When the term "Victorian Christmas" is used, it refers to the lavish customs and style popular at the time of the reign of Queen Victoria. Prince Albert himself was one of the greatest au-

The Puritans had brought to New England a Cromwellian detestation of Christmas.

thorities for the reinvention of the English Christmas, for in his native Germany Christmas had never disappeared. He introduced the first Christmas tree at Windsor (see cover picture with Royal Family), and this quickly became an institution throughout England and Wales. He also helped to popularize carol singing. People living in the new industrial communities had lost touch with the half forgotten customs of their rural past, so while new symbols like the Christmas trees and carols were being imported, other customs were being created (Crichton, p. 89).

However, the German influence did not only come from Albert, for Queen Victoria herself grew up German. She

was born in 1819, the same year as her first cousin Albert, whom she married in 1840. Her mother was Princess Mary Louisa Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. Prince Albert was the son of Ernest, Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, the brother of Victoria's mother and Albert's aunt.

Alexandria Victoria was eight months old when her father, the Duke of Kent, died. She was raised at Kensington Palace by her mother and her German governess, the Baroness Louise Lehzen, a native of Coburg. Her mother's nearest advisor was her brother, Victoria's uncle Leopold. He lived at Claremont, where Victoria would visit him until 1831, when he became Leopold I, the first king of the Belgians. Victoria grew up "to regard herself as a Coburg" (*Britannica*, Vol. 23, p. 125). She ascended to the throne in 1837 after the death of William IV.

AMERICAN HISTORY

The Puritans had brought to New England a Cromwellian detestation of Christmas. Because of the Puritan influence, the festive aspects of Christmas, including the tree, were not accepted in New England until about 1875.

It will be somewhat of a shock to learn that in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, most Pennsylvanians did not celebrate Christmas either. Puritanism is a thing of the spirit, and Pennsylvania's Puritans--who included the Quakers, Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, Baptists, and Methodists, as well as the Mennonites and other plain groups, who were Puritans in spirit--shared New England's aversion to paying a special honor to the 25th of December (Yoder, p. 5).

The celebration of Christmas was

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THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS VS. THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

By Elder George Kinney

The season is again upon us when the world is busily planning for a big celebration on December 25th. Gifts are exchanged, millions of greeting cards are sent, thousands of barrels of strong drink are consumed, a fat man in a red suit is glorified, and the birth of our Saviour is discussed.

Why such a big thing over this day, when we read nothing in the Scriptures concerning celebrating the birth of our Saviour, Yahshua? We read nothing of His birth on this big celebration day. Rather, the Scriptures indicate He could not have been born this time of year. Many, even knowing this, still engage in the worldly celebration. Why? Why do people do it even if they know it is a day of pagan customs and celebration? What makes People's minds think it is alright to partake of the heathen customs and associate the birth of our Saviour with it? Every year we can read in the newspapers of the paganism in it. Why do people not even know the true name of our Saviour, Yahshua? Why do they think it is alright to call Him something else? Why do they think it doesn't matter what they call Him or His Father, Yahweh? Why have they forgotten the Scriptural Sabbath, the seventh day of the week? Why do they think time has been lost and that we don't know which day of the week is the Sabbath? Why do they even think it makes no difference which day we keep; or if indeed we should cease from our labor in business, and buying and selling any day at all? Why don't they know the truth of these things? Why don't they know what the Scriptures

say? Why do they not know the Word is truth? Why don't they know?

DELIGHTING IN LIES

Actually, I was once caught up in this situation. As a young boy I loved the Christmas time, the pretty trees, the thrill of Santa Claus. I remember looking through the newspaper to see how many pictures of Santa Claus I could find. It all made me feel wonderful. A lovely feeling came over me. It was what is called "the Christmas spirit." It was a delightful, joyful emotion. But where did this spirit

As a young boy I loved the Christmas time, the pretty trees, the thrill of Santa Claus.

come from? Why would partaking of paganistic practices and believing a lie give me this ecstasy?

WHY DO PEOPLE BELIEVE LIES? The Scriptures give us the answer. "For the secret of law violation does already work. Only he who now restrains will restrain, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall the lawless [one] be revealed, whom the Master shall consume with the Spirit of His mouth, and render entirely idle by the manifestation of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power and signs and wonders of falsehood, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that PERISH, BECAUSE THEY

RECEIVED NOT THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH, that they might be saved. AND FOR THIS CAUSE THE ALMIGHTY SHALL SEND THEM STONG DELUSION, THAT THEY SHOULD BELIEVE A LIE, that they all might be judged who believed not the truth, but HAD PLEASURE IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS," 2 Thes. 2:7-12.

Because they receive not THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH, they believe lies.

REPENT OR PERISH

Y a h s h u a s a i d , "REPENT...[or]...PERISH. (Lk. 13:3) Yahweh is not willing that any should perish, but wishes that all would repent. (2 Pet. 3:9; Ez. 33:11) BUT THEY MUST REPENT ...or...PERISH. They must repent of sin (the transgression of the law— 1 Jn. 3:4) and start to obey Yahweh and keep His commandments. The atonement for our sin is by the death of our Ruler, Yahshua the Messiah; and it is a free gift. (Ro. 5:11 & 15) Then they can know the truth: "If you love Me, keep My commandments, and I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, WHICH THE WORLD CANNOT RECEIVE, BECAUSE IT SEEKS HIM NOT, neither knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you, and shall be in you," Jn. 14:15-17. "Howbeit when the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you into all truth," Jn. 16:13.

(Continued on page 22)

A MOMENT IN TIME

Where are we and where are we going? A prophetic look at past and present events that will determine our near future. This article is based on a seminar given in 2003. While it may be somewhat dated, the fact of the matter is that the subject applies today and in our near future.

By Hector Castillo

INTRODUCTION:

Brethren, we are currently living in some very exciting yet hair-raising times. While many people attribute not only their lives but also current events to happenstance, what I hope to do through this article is to prove that many, if not most, of the events that occur, have occurred, or will occur, are not based on random chance; or what some people call *luck*. Our past, current, and future events are merely fulfillments of many things that have already been foretold in the Scriptures.

Now the Bible is composed of so many prophecies that there is no way that we could possibly cover all of them in this article. Not to mention the fact that there are also many prophecies that we don't fully understand yet. Therefore I am limiting the core of this article to only mentioning a few of the current events that I believe have important ties to Yahweh's overall prophecies; largely because, as you will see, these current events are shadowing events that have already occurred in the past.

By reviewing these current events and by comparing them to the events that are mentioned in the Scriptures, this should give us a better understanding of how and why we are now living in the last days. I pray that this knowledge will help us prepare ourselves not just physically but most importantly spiritually in these last days.

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES AND THE WORD OF YAHWEH:

In the early 1900's a British scholar condemned the Bible a hoax because

of a verse that gives the idea that the whole world could be watching an event live, as it is happening. He was referring to verse 9 in chapter 11 of the book of Revelation. In referring to the two witnesses it says, "Those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their dead bodies for three and a half days, and will not permit their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb." His argument was that it was impossible for the whole world to be watching this when the whole world could not be in one place at the same time. Perhaps in the 1900's something like this could have seemed impossible but now, in the year 2003, we have witnessed the possibility. How many of you were able to watch the US-Iraq War on your television as it

Brethren, we are currently living in some very exciting yet hair-raising times.

was unfolding? From what I remember, if you had the time, you could have watched it 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Did you ever stop to think that this technology, which by the way, has improved since the end of the war, could possibly be used in the fulfillment of one of Yahweh's prophecies?

Revelation 13:17 gives the idea that the anti-christ will take advantage of a cashless society to force people to take on his "mark". For it says: "and he provides that no one will be able to buy or sell, except the one who has the mark, *either* the name of the beast or the number of his name." 25 years ago, a cashless society would have

been out of the question and yet today, with all the ATM's, Credit Cards, Electronic Banking etc. we can see that what was once thought of as crazy is now a possibility. Most of us have already found the convenience in using such a system (cashless system), we can order products through the internet and save money, some crimes have been reduced, the hassles that come with using cash have also been reduced. The list goes on and on.

What about the so-called Mark? Could it possibly be a computer chip or laser tattoo? Well as some of you might know, there are several states in the U.S. who tag animals by injecting a device in them. During the spring of 1998 it was documented that in Singapore a man had a computer chip installed in his forehead. In this same year, Time Magazine also had an article that spoke on the benefits of a cashless society. Imagine going to a grocery/retail store, buying what you need and walking out through a cashier less scanner that can read your hand or forehead. It is said that the military uses this chip technology along with the GPS (Global Positioning System) for their Special Operation Soldiers. It is also common knowledge that the FDA usually takes about 7+ years of testing before they approve a new medicine or technology. So, if this technology was introduced in 1998 that would mean that we should start to hear more about it around the year 2005. Does this mean that the chip could be the mark of the beast? Not necessarily! But it is important to take it into consideration and to keep our eyes and ears opened in case a similar technology is introduced.

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THE BEGINNING OF THE END:

It is not surprising that we find a parallel line between what the Scriptures say and what is going on around us. So where did all this begin and how did we get here? And what if any do the world empires or current governments have to do with what is going on? And most importantly, how do we know that we are in fact in the 'Last Days?' I think that it is important to answer those questions before we can begin to compare the past scriptural events to the events of today. We can do just that by reviewing the events that unfolded in the book of Daniel.

In the Book of Daniel, Chapter 2, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream in which Daniel, a prophet of Yahweh, received permission (from Yahweh) to interpret it. Let's begin by reading verse 31 to verse 38 and as we read we can identify who the interpretation is talking about: Dan 2:31-38

31 "You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. 32 The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. 34 While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth. 36 "This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. 37 You, O king, are the king of kings. The Elohim of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; 38 in your hands he has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds

of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.

So here we are told clearly that Yahweh recognized King Nebuchadnezzar as being the leader of the first World Empire. As we read on we will see that there will be 3 more world kingdoms with the 4th one being the last one.

Before we continue let's take a minute to discuss something interesting about the head of gold. Gold, among it being one of the most wanted metals on earth, it is also one of the softest metals and it has excellent qualities for resisting corrosion. That means that it easily forms into any shape and it looks great. It is not surprising that this kingdom is at the top, for as we know if the top was to melt, it would in fact spread itself (flow) right down to the bottom (similar to when wax flows down the shaft of a candle). We find that it is exactly what has happened with the Babylonian religions. They survive to this day because like gold they have been adjusted and/or shaped to fit our society. In fact, most,

As you can see, Babylon is alive and well in our society.

if not all, religions of today can be directly linked to the Babylonian era. Many Christian ministers, encyclopedias and dictionaries would testify that customs such as Christmas, Easter and others, have direct links to the Babylonian religions. The book of Daniel (Chapter 3: 4-13) tells us about a king that wanted people to bow down to a statue. Do you know of any modern religions that still teach those practices? As you can see, Babylon is alive and well in our society.

Now let's continue reading the first part of verse 39 and since the first part of verse 32 is talking about the same thing, we will review them together:

39 "After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours...

32 The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver...

As we already stated this part of verse 39 refers to the comment stated in verse 32 that describes the chest and arms of the statue being made of silver. The two kingdoms that had to unite to be able to defeat Babylon were the Medes and Persian. They, under the command of Cyrus defeated the Babylonia Kingdom by backing up the Euphrates River and going under the walls of Babylon to open the gates from within. History shows that shortly after Cyrus took control he allowed the Captive Jews to return to Jerusalem. Let's continue with the second part of verse 39 and 32:

39 ... Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth.

32 ... its belly and thighs of bronze,

This third kingdom described as the belly and thighs of the statute, turned out to be the Grecian Empire who was commanded by Alexander the Great. Alexander the III of Macedonia was the greatest general of the ancient times. Amazingly he never lost a battle. By 331 B.C. he had completely destroyed the Persians who had been led by King Darius. In less than 14 years, Alexander had conquered the world, however, because he didn't have any heirs, his kingdom lasted for only a short period. Upon his death at the young age of 32, his kingdom was divided between 4 of generals. It is ironic that the Grecian Empire was partly represented as a belly and it was the fact that Alexander had over-filled his belly with alcohol that ultimately killed him. Alexander's divided empire eventually crumpled into many smaller kingdoms. Out of this smaller kingdoms came the fourth and last kingdom described in verses 40 and 33:

40 Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron-for iron breaks and smashes everything-and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others.

33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay.

This fourth and last major kingdom is clearly the Roman Empire, which was led by Julius Caesar and whose brute force dominated the world for about 450 years. The name of the seventh secular month, July, was named after this ruler. We can see by continuing to read in verses 41, 42 and 43 that this kingdom described as being a mixture of iron and clay, is one that did not stand and eventually split into ten distinct kingdoms (10 toes). These kingdoms were probably the Alemani (Germany), the Franks (France), the Burgundians (Switzerland), the Suevi (Portugal), the Anglo-Saxons (Britain), the Visigoths (Spain), the Lombards (Italy), the Vandals, the Ostrogoths, and the Heruli. The Pope of Rome destroyed the last three because they refused to become "Christian." These kingdoms, or the individual European nations still stand today and amazingly they are looking to unite under the EEC or the United States of Europe. In 1999 some of those countries implemented the Euro Dollar so they can have just one currency. We know that for many years now the United Nations were established as a unity and support pact for many nations. Just this year we witnessed the birth of turmoil when France, Germany, Russia and others refused to support the U.S. attack on Iraq. The President's disregard for the United Nations seems to go inline with the fulfillment of prophecy, stating that they will not remain united for long (verse 43).

41 Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with

clay. 42 As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. 43 And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

We will cover the next part of Daniel's prophecy later, but for now let us move on to the current events that are in question. It is important that we compare the events that have occurred in the past and see how they are being replicated in the events of today. By reviewing past events that caused Yahweh to become angry and to cause destruction and by comparing them to the events of today we can clearly understand how and why Yahweh will soon send his anger upon this world. We are reminded of Malachi 3:6, which tells us that Yahweh does not change. So we can assume that if Yahweh hated certain events in the past then he continues to hate them to this day. Let us begin by noticing the events that led to the Great

This fourth and last major kingdom is clearly the Roman Empire, which was led by Julius Caesar...

Flood mentioned in Genesis.

THE GREAT FLOOD: GEN 6:11-13

11 Now the earth was **corrupt** [*OT:7843 shachath (shaw-khath'); a primitive root; to decay, i.e. (causatively) ruin (literally or figuratively)*] in Elohim's sight and was full of violence. 12 Elohim saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. 13 So Elohim said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.

In view of our horrifying trends of our day, we can see how Yahweh would be displeased with the violence and sexual immorality that affect many people throughout the world. The following events could definitely qualify as reasons that Yahweh should send a flood upon the earth.

·In one year Americans spend more than \$4 billion dollars on pornography.

·3 out 4 marriages end in divorce wrecking lives-and breaking homes.

·Mass murders, neglect of the aged, abuse of women and babies, children killing children, etc.

·Millions of people hooked on marijuana, "crack," heroin, and other chemicals will ruin their lives by detaching themselves from society and their maker.

·Many third world countries, the most recent one being Liberia, are experiencing mass killings of human beings. Many more will die in Civil Wars in the coming years.

·The Federal Communications commission has stated that children between the ages of 5 to 14, will witness the violent destruction of more than thirteen thousand human beings on television. Many more are being witnessed in computer games.

·A U.S. Senate subcommittee revealed in 1999 that in one decade, just as violence had increased in T.V., delinquency in real life grew nearly 200%.

Looking at these statistics, the Master's words spoken in Matthew 24:12 certainly ring true!

12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,

BABYLON: GEN 11:1-9

11:1 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. 2 As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. 3 They said to each other,

"Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. 4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth." 5 But Yahweh came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. 6 Yahweh said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them." 7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." 8 So Yahweh scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. 9 That is why it was called Babel--because there Yahweh confused the language of the whole world. From there Yahweh scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

So we can clearly see in verse 6 that the reason that Yahweh dispersed them is due to the fact that by banning together nothing that they would have wanted to do would be impossible for them. So what kind of things would they have wanted to do? Well, we don't know but we are told that they would have been able to do anything. We can see what Yahweh meant when we take into account some of the events that are now taking place. Although the headlines listed below sound like science fiction, they are very real. You should and could educate yourself on these topics by spending some research time on the Internet. As you read the headlines you should consider how they affect Yahweh's overall creation.

- How Human Cloning Will Work.
- Dozens of Human Embryos Cloned in China.
- Mini-Pig Clone Raises Transplant Hope.
- Dolly Lab To Create 'Virgin' Birth Embryos.
- Second Cloned Baby Claim.

- What Are Genetically Modified Foods?
- Concern Grows Over Genetically Modified Food.

SODOM AND GOMORRAH: GEN 13:13; 19:1-5

Gen 3:13 says:

13 Now the men of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against Yahweh.

As we continue reading in Gen 19 verses 1-5 we are given the reason that the men were sinning against Yahweh:

19:1 The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground. 2 "My Masters," he said, "please turn aside to your servant's house. You can wash your feet and spend the night and then go on your way early in the morning." "No," they an-

As you can see by the few examples that we covered, Yahweh definitely has a reason to put an end to this world.

swered, "we will spend the night in the square." 3 But he insisted so strongly that they did go with him and entered his house. He prepared a meal for them, baking bread without yeast, and they ate. 4 Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom--both young and old--surrounded the house. 5 They called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them."

By reading the rest of the story we are told that the angels that Yahweh had sent destroyed both the cities and their inhabitants. The sins that they were committing were so grand that Yahweh could not allow them to continue living. Their homosexual activities threatened Yahweh's established natural order of marriage and the ability to procreate. Genesis 2:24 makes it clear that a marriage is between a man and a woman, not a man and a man or a woman and a woman!

Gen 2:24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

Today's headlines indicate that both man and women are attempting to change the ordained union between a man and a woman. The current set of events that are being discussed in Canada with reference to homosexuals and lesbians being able to marry, is just a small glimpse of what is coming to the U.S. It is clear that homosexuality and lesbianism is no longer taboo when it comes to prime time television. Many church ministers are afraid to speak out against these things because of the labels that accompany their criticism.

As you can see by the few examples that we covered, Yahweh definitely has a reason to put an end to this world. It is no wonder that it will be during this times that he will send his Son, Yahshua, to crush this evil and sinister world and to establish his everlasting Kingdom.

YAHSHUA THE ROCK:

So now that we have seen the relationship between what happened in the past and what is going on in our present times and since we have seen that we are in the last days. Let us now regress back to Daniel Chapter 2 and discuss the Rock that is thrown at this statute, or what we now know to be world empires. We will begin by reviewing verses 34-35 and 44-45 because they covert the same topic:

34 While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

44 "In the time of those kings, the Elohim of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. 45 This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

It should be noted that although the NIV uses the word Rock in these verses, the actual Hebrew word 'eben, indicates that the word could also be read as **Stone**. So then, it should be clear to all of us that this Stone that is made without hands actually refers to Yahshua the Messiah. There are many verses in the New Testament that refer to Yahshua as being the Chief Cornerstone here are just a few:

Eph 2:20-22

20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Messiah Yahshua himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple for Yahweh. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which Elohim lives by his Spirit.

1 Peter 2:4-6

4 As you come to him, the living

Stone-rejected by men but chosen by Elohim and precious to him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to Elohim through Yahshua Messiah. 6 For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

There is one verse about Yahshua that I would like to single out because it rhymes so close to the events mentioned in Daniel Chapter 2 verse 35; this refers to the stone being thrown to the statute and it turning to powder "like chaff on a threshing floor." In Luke 20:17-18 Yahshua had just spoken a parable about the husbandman or caretakers of the Vineyard that belonged to the master. In this parable he basically describes the fact that he will ultimately be killed and that Yahweh will look to give other people (the Gentiles) the Kingdom. Some of the people became angry because of this but notice what Yahshua said

If we as believers don't keep our eyes and ears opened, he (Satan) will assuredly fool us too!

when referring to himself and notice that it really does rhyme with what is written in the book of Daniel:

17 And he beheld them, and said, What is this then that is written, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner? 18 Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

The rest of the verses in question in the book of Daniel explain the fact that the 5th or last world empire will be the one in which Yahshua the Messiah is King. It is described as a

Mountain that will be established forever. Verse 44 of Chapter 2 says that in the time of the kings, which we have already defined as the current world governmental systems, he will set up his Kingdom that will never be destroyed. This Kingdom will bring an end to every worldly kingdom. And just like powder that is carried away by the wind, no trace will be left behind.

44 "In the time of those kings, the Elohim of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. 45 This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

SUMMARY:

In summary, I pray that if nothing else, this article has opened your eyes and made you more aware of some of the techniques that Satan uses to fool the world. If we as believers don't keep our eyes and ears opened, he will assuredly fool us too!

It is amazing but not surprising that he can introduce technologies that contradict Yahweh's very creation, in a subtle and seemingly harmless way. Amazing also but not surprising is the fact that most people do not realize what is going on. They fail to see the seriousness of what these current events represent. In Matt 16:2-4 Yahshua said:

2 "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' 3 and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.

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WHO SANCTIFIED SUNDAY WORSHIP?

Yahweh commanded His people to set aside the seventh day of the week for a special rest day and holy convocation. Yet, millions of people are setting aside a different day of the week for this purpose. Who was it that changed the day from the Sabbath to Sunday?

By Jerry Healan

The Catholic Church admits: “Sunday is a Catholic institution, and its claims to observance can be defended only on Catholic principles...**From beginning to end of Scripture there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first.**” (*The Catholic Press, Sydney, Australia, August, 1900.* Emphasis ours throughout.)

“Protestants...accept Sunday rather than Saturday as the day for public worship after the Catholic Church made the change...But the Protestant mind does not seem to realize that...in observing the Sunday, **they are accepting the authority of the spokesman for the church, the Pope.**” (*Our Sunday Visitor, February 5, 1950.*)

“It was the Catholic Church which, by the authority of J-sus Chr-st, has transferred this rest (from the Bible Sabbath) to the Sunday...Thus **the observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the (Catholic) Church.**” (*Monsignor Louis Segur, Plain Talk about the Protestantism of Today, page 213.*)

Isn't it interesting that the church thought it had the authority to change one of Yahweh's commandments when the Savior never did, for He said, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men

so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven,” Mt. 5:17-19.

We all know and understand where the command came from to observe the Sabbath day. A quick look at Gen. 2:1-4, Ex. 16; Ex. 20:8-11, 31:12-17, Lev. 23:1-3, etc. should be proof enough. But just who was it that commanded Sunday to be observed and why?

CONSTANTINE THE SUN WORSHIPPER

Here is what is admitted in the revised *International Standard Bible*

We all know and understand where the command came from to observe the Sabbath day.

*Encyclopedia (ISBE), Vol. 3, p. 160, article “L-rd’s Day” — “The next step (toward Sunday observance) came with the accession of Constantine and his recognition and favoring of the Christian Church. Hitherto the Roman empire had had no firmly established week, although Mithraism had observed the first day as the day of the sun and the seventh had often been made a special day for feasting. In C.E. 321 Constantine, **who also had some attachment to the sun-god**, made the first day a regular public holiday, decreeing that all ‘judges, city-people, and craftsmen’ should ‘rest on this VENERABLE DAY OF THE SUN,’ but allowing farmers to*

attend to agriculture when natural conditions made it advisable. This law naturally facilitated Christian worship, and Christians not only hailed the day as the day of the true SUN of righteousness but also claimed that its observance as a day of worship rested not on compliance with a state decision but on apostolic tradition.” (end of quote.)

It is important and interesting to note that the *ISBE* admits that Constantine had some attachment to the sun-god. Such was absolutely the case for Constantine, as Caesar and Augustus of the Roman Empire, also held the office of Pontifex Maximus over all paganism.

The Immense Majesty — A History of Rome and the Roman Empire by Thomas W. Africa, under the heading of *The Christian Revolution* also reveals, “His (Eusebius, a supposed early church historian) apologetic works are crammed with references to authors now lost, and he welded Christianity to classical culture by claiming that Plato and other sages were either inspired by Biblical truth or had somehow intuited it. The Pax Romana had been divinely designed to make the world safe for Christianity, which was the culmination of all that was good in the past. **THE HERO WHO COMPLETED THE DIVINE PLAN, CONSTANTINE, WAS GLORIFIED IN A PANEGYRICAL BIOGRAPHY THAT CONTAINS MUCH USE-FUL MATERIAL...**The Roman Emperor was as divine as he could be while still remaining a Christian...**The widespread solar cult was incorporated by Constantine, whose views of Christ WERE ALLOYED with his old devotion to**

Sol Invictus. In 321 the emperor reserved Sunday as a holiday for Christians, and in 336 the birthday of Sol Invictus, December 25, was arbitrarily chosen as Christmas. A mosaic still survives under Saint Peter's in Rome which shows Christ as a solar deity in Apollo's chariot." (Chapter 9, pp. 356-357)

How is it that Constantine is considered to be the "hero who completed the divine plan?" I thought that it was the Messiah Yahshua Who did such! Notice also that Constantine alloyed his views of the Messiah with those of Sol Invictus.

Why would Constantine seek to do such a thing? The answer is found in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 14th Edition, Vol. 15 under the article *Mithras*, "Mithras, identified with Sol Invictus, thus became the GIVER OF AUTHORITY AND VICTORY TO THE IMPERIAL HOUSE...the sanctification of Sunday and December 25th were involved in his worship...Some icons in his worship were Mithras and Helios (the sun, or Apollo) banqueting together; Mithras and Helios mounting the chariot of the latter and riding over the ocean." (pp. 620-621)

The *Encyclopedia Britannica* also admits, "Constantine's claim to greatness rests mainly on the fact that he divined the future which lay before Christianity, **and determined to enlist it in the service of his empire.**" (14th Ed., Vol. 6, pp. 298-299)

Constantine was seeking his own power, his own authority, his own glory. He was more than willing to take that which was holy, precious and pure, blend it with abject paganism and then lead the public into this deceitful form of worship.

Upon his death, Constantine was declared to be a god by the pagan senate at Rome while the Byzantine Church in the east declared him a saint "equal to the apostles."

THE ROMAN BEAST

Just who was Constantine

specifically? Constantine was emperor of the Roman Empire. Rome was the prophesied fourth kingdom of Daniel 2 and the fourth beast of Daniel 7.

King Nebuchadnezzar had dreamed a dream which he couldn't remember (Dan. 2:1). He called for all of his counsellors, astrologers, etc. inquiring of them what it was that he had dreamed and its significance (Dan. 2:2-3). When they admitted that they couldn't explain the dream to him he threatened their lives and the lives of their families (Dan. 2:4-12).

Yahweh revealed the dream to Daniel who informed the king that he had dreamed of a great image whose head was gold, chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron and feet part of iron and part of clay (Dan. 2:17-33).

Nebuchadnezzar was informed that he was the head of gold and that other kingdoms would also follow his which would be inferior to his (Dan. 2:36-40). History reveals that Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom of Babylon was followed by Persia which in turn was followed by Greece, which also in turn was

*Under the influence of Rome,
many changes have taken
place in this world.*

followed by Rome. It was stated that the reason that the feet were part of iron and part of clay was because the kingdom of Rome would become divided (Dan. 2:41). History also records that Rome was divided between east and west.

But now notice in Dan. 7 that there is another description of these same kingdoms. While the kingdoms are given metals for specific symbolism in Dan. 2, Dan. 7 gives an animal-istic nature.

In order to clarify that these are the same kingdoms, we are given a geographic location wherein these kingdoms ruled. That geographic location is the "great sea" (Dan. 7:2).

The "great sea" was known to the ancients as the Mediterranean Sea.

These kingdoms all had their turn in ruling over that geographic location. Rome was the fourth kingdom to bear absolute rule over that area. The influence of all of these four kingdoms are evident and prominent in our world today, but the influence of the fourth kingdom, the terrible beast called the Roman Empire is more prevalent than them all!

THE CHANGE OF TIMES AND LAWS

One of the most important things to notice about this fourth kingdom is found in verse 25 of Dan. 7, "And he (the little horn of the fourth beast) shall speak great words against the Most High **and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws:**and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time." Notice it again! This fourth beast will make war against the saints of the Most High and **THINK TO CHANGE TIMES AND LAWS!**

Such has happened! Under the influence of Rome, many changes have taken place in this world. A day was originally observed as beginning and ending around sunset. Under Rome midnight begins and ends the day. A month was originally governed by the moon (from whence comes the word "month"). When the first visible crescent of the new moon appeared, the next month began, the old month had ended. Today the moon isn't even given consideration as having any influence toward monthly calculation. The year originally began and ended with the new moon closest to the vernal equinox. Under Roman influence, the year ends on Dec. 31 and begins on Jan. 1, in the dead of winter.

Yahweh had commanded annual festivals to be observed by His people (Lev. 23), but today the world is taken up with pagan festive "holidays" introduced by the Roman Emperors

(Continued on page 22)

INVOLVE YAHWEH AND YAHSHUA NOW

At this time we followers of Yahweh are living in relative ease and safety. However this will change in the future as the return of Yahshua and the beginning of the tribulation draws closer. Troubles will escalate and intensify for Yahweh's people. How will we handle it? This is a crucial question that we need to have the answer for. His word will prepare us for all adversity if we will seek it out and trust in Him.

By Dave Ganton

REV.13:17 The time is coming when we will not be able to buy or sell unless we have the mark of the beast. This mark is the number of a MAN's name. Just who that man is, we don't yet know.

AMOS 3; 7 This tells us that Yahweh does nothing without first telling His servants. He has revealed certain things about the beast power to come in the scriptures. At the right time He will give us the understanding we need to recognize the beast and his mark.

The beast power is only one of the problems we will face in the future as Yahweh's people.

[Today's problems prepare us for worse problems in the future](#)

1 JOHN 5:4. We cannot face these things alone, nor do we have to. We who are begotten of Yahweh overcome the troubles of this world by the faith of Yahshua. He got victory over this world and we can too, through Him.

HEB.13:5 He has promised to always be with us and never to forsake us, **MATT.28:20** even to the close of the age. **HEB.13:8** His word is sure and unchanging. We can rely on His loyalty.

[We need to begin preparing now to face what is ahead.](#)

[The following is a checklist of things we can do now.](#)

I) Think peace; Calmness is needed to handle trouble. There can be no clarity of mind without peace of mind.

JOHN 14:27 Yahshua has given us peace of mind through His promises. We don't face trouble alone. Our Heavenly Father and Yahshua face it with us. They

are always in control even when things seem to be out of control. Lean on them without doubt.

JAS.1:5-8 Use their strength. It is always there for us.

II) Delay action: You need time to prepare a plan of action. Carnal nature reacts, spiritual nature thinks first. We must tap the wisdom of Yahweh through His Spirit that is within us.

ISA. 55:8-9 His ways are not like our ways. His wisdom and knowledge are beyond our understanding. He has the answers already. He will reveal them to us.

PSA. 37:5 Commit your troubles to Yahweh in prayer and trust Him and He will deliver you in the way that best suits the situation.

ROM. 8:28 Yahweh works all things out for the good of those that love, trust and obey Him. Yahweh is in charge. Never doubt it.

PSA. 37:6 He will vindicate you. He has the power. Righteousness is our target. Yahweh works in us toward righteousness. Don't worry or fret. Don't get angry. We must overcome our fleshly, carnal inclinations.

III) Cry out to Yahweh; We can do this through deep, heartfelt periods of prayer. In doing this we come to know Yahweh's heart and mind and so we draw closer to Him.

PSA. 91:14 Because we love and trust Him, He will deliver us from all harm. He says He will protect us because we know His name and call on Him.

PHIL. 4:6 Don't be anxious but consult

Yahweh in all things. You will be close to Him and will feel His calm. If we involve Him now in peaceful times, then when trouble comes He will know we want Him involved and will become involved even if we forget to ask Him in a time of stress.

IV) Think Positive; Give it to Yahweh. Let Him handle it. See the problem as an opportunity to grow spiritually.

PHIL. 4:8 Think good thoughts. Think about the positive side of the problem. There is always a positive side because you can always grow spiritually in a problem. Let your mind be in Heaven not on earth. Tap the power of Yahweh's Spirit within you.

V) Look in the mirror. The bible is our mirror. It reflects what we truly are and should be.

JAS. 1:22 Be a doer of what we see and not just a seer. The bible is Yahweh's mind revealed to us. His is the perfect law of liberty and freedom.

GAL. 5:22-23 The fruits of the Spirit tell us a great deal about Yahweh and Yahshua. This is their Spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. This is Yahweh and Yahshua's mind.

1 COR. 2:16 We have that mind within us if we let it work. Their attributes are ours to have if we will let them develop within us.

VI) Thank Yahweh through Yahshua; be grateful for what He has already done for us. Tell Him about it. Just as we like to be appreciated, so does He.

1 COR. 15:57 Thank Yahweh for the victory that we have through Yahshua.

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CARROT, EGG, AND COFFEE

A carrot, an egg, and a cup of coffee...you will never look at a cup of coffee the same way again.

Author Unknown

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as if when one problem was solved, a new one arose. Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire.

Soon the water came to a boil. In the first she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs, in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them boil, without saying a word. In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl.

Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me; what do you see?" "Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied.

Her mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. The

mother then asked the daughter to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard boiled egg.

Finally, the mother asked the daughter to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma. The daughter then asked, "What does it mean, mother?"

Her mother explained that while each of these objects had faced the same adversity...boiling water...each reacted differently.

The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak.

The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened.

The coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" she asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are

you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

Think of this: Which am I?

Am I the carrot that seems strong, but in pain and adversity do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength?

Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and tough with a stiff spirit and hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you. When the hour is the darkest the trials are their greatest, do you elevate yourself to another level?

How do you handle adversity? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean? Count your blessings, not your problems.

THE BUZZARD, THE BAT, THE BUMBLEBEE AND PEOPLE

THE BUZZARD

If you put a buzzard in a pen that is 6' x 8' and is entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of its ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that a buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a run of 10-12'. Without space to run, as is its habit, it will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top.

THE BAT

The ordinary bat that flies around at

night, a remarkably nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and painfully until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. Then, at once, it takes off like a flash.

THE BUMBLEBEE

A bumblebee, if dropped into an open tumbler, will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way

out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself.

PEOPLE

In many ways, we are like the buzzard, the bat and the bumblebee. We struggle about with all our problems and frustrations, never realizing that all we have to do is look up. Sorrow looks back, worry looks around, but faith looks up. Live simply, love generously, care deeply and speak kindly.

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Our ultimate victory is assured through faith in the word of Yahweh as delivered to us by Yahshua. Be steadfast and immovable in doing the will of Yahweh.

JAS. 1:2 Be happy in trials. Yahweh is working through them to develop patience and perseverance in us.

MATT. 5:11. You are actually being blessed when people revile you for the faithfulness you have to Yahweh and Yahshua. Rejoice and be very happy be-

cause you are in the best company you could ever be in.

VII) Trust Yahweh; Know for a certainty that He is in charge.

LUKE 22:40-42 Accept Yahweh's will in every situation. He knows what is best. He is leading you to righteousness and eternal life. Do all His will to the best of your ability and you will never be on your own. Nothing is hidden from Yahweh.

2 TIM. 2:19 He knows who you are and

where you are and He will prevail.

PSA. 5:11-12 Trust in Him and be joyful even in times of trouble because your salvation is near.

HALLELUYAH

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and Popes.

Finally there is the week. While the seven day week continues to stand in exactness to the seven day week of creation and the week given to the Hebrews by Yahweh, the commanded day of observance has been changed. Yahweh commanded that the seventh day Sabbath be observed (Ex. 20:8-

11, Lev. 23:1-3, etc.). However, under the command of Constantine, the successive emperors of the Roman Empire who followed him, the Greek Orthodox (Catholic) Church of the east and the Roman Catholic Church (the Popes) of the west, Sunday, the first day of the week, has been embraced instead. If you are observing these things in the manner

of Rome, then you are under the influence and authority of the dreaded beast of Dan. 7 and Rev. 13 while also being influenced by MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT of Rev. 17 and 18.

It is our admonition that you repent (Acts 2:38) and come out of her (Rev. 18:4).

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Yahshua prayed, "Separate them through Thy truth; Thy Word is truth." And He said, "If you continue in My Word, then are you My taught ones indeed, and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free," Jn. 17:17 & 8:31-32.

There came a time in my young life that my dad decided it was time I knew the truth about Santa Claus. Guess what? On X-mas eve at my maternal grandparent's farm house with decorated tree cut by grandfather from his own land, when I was with great expectation and joy, dad took me aside and told me there was no Santa Claus. My dad was very effec-

tive in stating things in a few words at opportune times. And He saw to it that I learned Scriptural truths.

We see that those who believe lies and perish, have pleasure in unrighteousness. They do not know the truth because they do not love it. They do not seek it. If they would only love the truth, simply because it is the truth, they could ask Yahweh and He would show them the way. He would show them the true way of healing, repentance, and salvation. Let us love every bit of the truth we learn and follow all of it, so we will not believe lies. "But we are bound to give thanks always to the Almighty One for you, brethren beloved of Him, because He has from

the beginning chosen you to salvation through separateness of the Spirit and belief of the truth. Whereunto He called you by our glad tidings to the obtaining of the esteem of our Master Yahshua the Messiah. Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you have been taught, whether by word, or our letter. Now our Master Yahshua the Messiah Himself, and the Almighty, even our Father, which has loved us, and has given us everlasting consolation and good hope through favour, comfort your hearts, and establish you in every good word and work," 2 Thes. 2:13-17.

(Continued from page 17)

Notice here that Yahshua didn't say that it was impossible to determine the signs of the times. He is simply admonishing these people because they have not taken the time to do so. We have but to read the book of knowledge, the Scriptures, to learn and understand where the world is heading next. Many of the things mentioned in

the book of Revelation that haven't yet occurred are moving in the direction of fulfillment. Brethren we must prepare ourselves!

I believe that our current level of social degradation, world violence, cloning, genetically mixing vegetables or fruits with animal genes, the advent of homosexuality and the destruction of the marriage are a sign of the times

because they challenge the one and only True Creator Yahweh and our Redeemer Yahshua. When it comes to these topics and others that we didn't mention here, we should follow the suggestion given to the disciples by Yahshua in Matt 10:16:

"Be ye wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."

(Continued from page 11)

made a crime in Massachusetts in 1659. That edict was repealed in 1681, but in 1686 the governor needed two soldiers to escort him to Christmas services. In 1706 a Boston mob smashed the windows in a church holding Christmas services. Due to the early predominance of the Dutch in New York (founded by them and first named New Amsterdam), New Yorkers celebrated Christmas from the 17th century on, but as late as 1874 Henry Ward Beecher, America's most prominent preacher, said, "To me, Christmas is a foreign day." The Puritans and other Protestant groups were right when they said that Christmas observations in December had their origins in pagan festivals of the winter solstice, and that no one knew in what season Christ was born. Christmas customs have evolved from times that long antedated the Christian period--a descent from seasonal pagan, religious and national practices, hedged about with legend and tradition. Although many of the picturesque customs of the pagan feasts of the winter solstice were suppressed, they nevertheless, contributed much to modern observance.

THE GRINCH

In our modern era, Ted Geisel, under the pen name of Dr. Seuss, has greatly twisted reality. "Grinch" is synony-

mous with "grouch." However, the Grinch is portrayed as an ogre or demon type figure. He is much like Ebenezer Scrooge in Dicken's novel, *A Christmas Carol*. He is a grouch who hates Christmas. He only becomes loveable when he restores Christmas to the people.

Interestingly, Ebenezer is a Biblical name in reference to Yahweh as the Stone of Help to Israel (1 Sam. 7:12). "Eben" is a Hebrew word for "stone," and "ezer" is a Hebrew word for "help." Thus, the pagan, idolatrous world has a knack for twisting things around to make those who trust in Yahweh and His ways look like demon grouches (grinches), while all who love the idolatrous, pagan, riotous celebrations are the loveable ones.

JUDGMENT

A day of judgment is coming on the earth wherein all will stand before the Great Judge and will be judged according to their works. (Rev. 20:12) Only those who belong to Yahweh through Yahshua the Messiah will be able to stand in that judgment. Those who loved lies will have their part in the lake of fire, which is the second death. Get that!? Death, not life!

Those who love the seemingly joyous, riotous living and revelry, making the way of righteousness seem as if it is the way of the grinch (grouch), and making the false pagan lies seem

to be the acceptable ways will have their joy turned to weeping and gnashing of teeth (Mt. 25:30).

It is true that those who love the truths of Yahweh are in a very mournful, bitter state in today's world. But Yahshua did say, "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted," Mt. 5:4.

Remember this, in the day of judgment, those who are full of joy, rejoicing, revelry, and riotous living will be weeping and mourning in that day. Those who are full of mourning and bitterness in today's world, not only because of the delight that they see in others who love unrighteousness, sin and corruption, but their own shortcomings also, will be full of joy and rejoicing. The tables will be turned. The world will be turned upside down.

At one time in England and America Christmas was illegal. In Yahweh's eyes Christmas is illegal. Are you man and woman enough to stand for Yahweh's righteousness or are you going to allow yourself to be carried away by the world? The choice is presented to you here and now. Choose truth and life. Turn away from the world and its false abominable ways. Stand up for Yahweh, Yahshua, the Word of Righteousness and Truth so you will be able to stand in the day of judgment.

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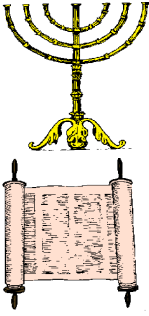
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