

fortunes and ghost stories, which are now Hallowe'en customs, **are all relics of paganism**. About thirteen centuries ago, **pagans** celebrated November 1 as *All Spirits' Day*, when spirits, both good and evil, were believed to be on earth. The Druids also celebrated their harvest festival about that time, and many strange ceremonies were performed. Even after the **pagans** adopted Christianity, they still observed many of their old customs, including those which have survived as the Hallowe'en **diversions** of today." (Volume 8, p. 3022).

The Encyclopedia Britannica also has this to say: "**HALLOWE'EN** or **ALL HALLOWS EVE**, the name given to Oct. 31, as the vigil of Hallowmas or All Saint's Day, now chiefly known as the eve of the Christian festival. **It long antedates Christianity**. The two chief characteristics of ancient Hallowe'en were the lighting of bonfires and the belief that this is the one night in the year during which ghosts and witches are most likely to wander abroad. History shows that the main celebrations of Hallowe'en are purely Druidical, and this is further proved by the fact that in parts of Ireland Oct. 31 is still known as *Oidhche Shamhna*, 'Vigil of Saman.' **This is directly connected with the Druidic belief in the calling together of certain wicked souls on Hallowe'en by Saman, lord of death**. On the Druidic ceremonies were grafted some of the characteristics of the Roman festival in honour of **Pomona** (a Roman goddess of fruits and fruit trees) held about Nov. 1, in which nuts and apples, representing the winter store of fruits, played an important part. The custom of lighting Hallowe'en fires survived until recently in the highlands of Scotland and Wales." (Volume 11, pp. 102-103)

Notice it once again, Hallowe'en observance long antedates Christianity. Hallowe'en is an observance taken from paganism. Pagans and heathen were idolaters, worshippers of polytheistic deities.

TRICK OR TREAT

Today's custom is for the children to go from house to house trick or treating. Where did this custom come from? Here is what Anne Ross and

Don Robins reveal, "**On the Eve of Samain** it was customary throughout the Celtic world **to put food out for the dead**. **The dead were** not regarded as benign, but frequently **held to be tricksters and to possess potent powers of evil** like the fairies, who were themselves sometimes regarded as the dead." (*The Life And Death Of A Druid Prince*, p. 141)

Isn't it amazing! Children are dressed up to represent witches, goblins, ghosts, the dead, devils, etc. and are allowed to go from house to house demanding food (a treat) or threatening a trick. This is all in the spirit of Samain/Saman, the sovereign (lord) of the dead.

The Celtic World Edited by Miranda J. Green also says under the caption of **Samain**, "The Celtic New Year began on the eve of 1 November. It was the most dangerous and the most portentous of all the calendar festivals. **At this time the gods moved freely in the world of mankind, and played cruel tricks on unsuspecting people.**" (p. 434)

Don't all of these customs and traditions that we have covered so far continue to be practiced in some manner even today, especially on Hallowe'en?

The next question would be How does this practice relate to the Scriptures, the Heavenly Father or His beloved Son Yahshua the Messiah?

YAHWEH'S COMMANDS

As Israel was about to enter the land of promise Yahweh commanded them, "When thou art come into the land which Yahweh thy Elohim giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you *any one* that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, *or* that **useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer**. For all that do these things *are* an abomination unto Yahweh: and because of these abominations Yahweh thy Elohim doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with Yahweh thy Elohim. For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee,

Yahweh thy Elohim hath not suffered thee so *to do*," Dt. 18:9-14.

What are all of these things that Yahweh forbade the Israelites to imbibe? One that uses **divination** is one who casts a lot or utilizes a magic scroll, or exercises witchcraft in order to make a determination. This would be similar to using a horoscope in order to determine what would happen on a certain day in order to plan that days activities or future events.

An **observer of times** is one who practices magic, a sorcerer or is a fortune-teller. An **enchanter** is one who can whisper a magic spell or a prognosticator, one who is able to foretell events or seeks to control future events through magic spells. A **witch** is also a sorcerer, someone who practices magic, incantments, witchcraft, etc. A **charmer** is one who is able to utilize spells to join with something (the spirits of the underworld?). A **consulter with familiar spirits** is one who mumbles, prattles, is a ventriloquist or consults with the spirit world. A **wizard** is one who is able to conjure up ghosts (spirits). A **necromancer** is one who inquires of the dead. (All definitions come from *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* and *The Interlinear Bible*.)

A witch or sorcerer was such a hated thing with Yahweh that He commanded, "Thou shalt not suffer a witch (can also be translated as sorcerer) to live," Ex. 22:18.

Yahweh also commanded, "He that sacrificeth unto any elohim, save unto Yahweh only, he shall be utterly destroyed," Ex. 22:20.

Ancient Israel disobeyed Yahweh's commands concerning these things and was eventually utterly removed from the land. Truly, such things are considered to be deadly to Yahweh, and clearly against His commands.

A NEW TESTAMENT COMMAND

The Apostle Paul wrote, "What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing? But I *say*, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, **they sacrifice to devils**, and not to Yahweh: and **I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils**. **Ye cannot drink the**

cup of Yahweh, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of Yahweh's table, and of the table of devils," 1 Cor. 10:19-21.

Wouldn't Paul's warning here be the same as a New Testament command? It certainly is a very strong warning.

The Savior Yahshua did not come in order to approve of such things. He rather came to obey the commands of the Heavenly Father (Mat. 5:17—20). Yahshua set an example for us that we should walk in His steps (1 Pet. 2:21-22).

WHO IS SAMAN/SAMAIN?

Saman is the lord or sovereign of death. Death came through the Devil's lie, "Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. **He was a murderer from the beginning,** and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for **he is a liar, and the father of it,"** Jn. 8:44. Saman is none other than Satan.

The serpent Satan originally deceived Eve in the garden of Eden as is revealed by the very first book of the Bible (Genesis 3). The very last book of the Bible (Revelation) reveals that he is still in the process of deceiving the whole world (Rev. 12:9).

If Christianity is practicing the rites and rituals of paganism and heathenism, which is idolatry, then Christianity has also become deceived by the serpent Satan. The Apostle Paul also warned that such was beginning to happen even in his day, "Would to Elohim ye could bear with me a little in *my* folly: and indeed bear with me. For I am jealous over you with a pious jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to the Messiah. But I fear, lest by any means, **as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in the Messiah,"** 2 Cor. 11:1-4. The word "simplicity" could also have been translated as purity or cleanness.

Satan is the prince and elohim of this world (Jn. 14:30, 2 Cor. 4:4). He has no part in the true Savior Yahshua nor does Hallowe'en.

To paganize the faith of Yahweh and the Messiah Yahshua is to hold them in idolatry, impurity and uncleanness. Such is forbidden in both Old

and New Testament Scriptures. It is time to repent of these abominable practices, turn and worship the Father and Son in the acceptable commanded way of the Scriptures.

Old Testament Israel was an example for the New Testament believer. Israel was destroyed and utterly removed from Yahweh's sight because of their idolatrous behavior. The same thing will happen to the New Testament believer if they do not repent and change their way.

The Apostle Peter cried out, "Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Yahshua the Messiah for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." The Holy Spirit will lead you into the truth and obedience of the Scriptures and not into the abominations of idolatry.

The time to ACT is now before it is too late!

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Y. E. A.

The Menorah Shines on the Torah



Should A New Testament Believer Observe

HALLOWE'EN?

What do goblins, ghosts, evil spirits, witches, demons, jack-o-lanterns, trick-or-treating, etc. have to do with Yahweh, Yahshua or the New Testament Assembly? Is the observance of Hallowe'en Biblical?
By Jerry Healan



Jack-O-lanterns and witches, symbols of Hallowe'en

They come in droves on the evening of every October 31st. They are dressed up in various costumes and disguise. Many of them are dressed as some kind of goblin, a witch, a ghost, a devil or whatever else may suit their fancy. It is not a costume ball, it is Hallowe'en. On this night the children dress in their costumes and roam the streets knocking on the doors. When the householder opens the door he is met with the famous cry, "Trick or treat!" The householder usually is stocked up with all sorts of candies to pass out to the expectant children.

Hallowe'en is a modern day tradition of the Christian church. Many of the churches sponsor parties with all sorts of contests, apple bobbing, etc. on this night. It is made to appear as if it is a harmless, innocent observance especially for children.

But where does Hallowe'en come from? Is it Biblical? Is it an acceptable tradition to the great Creator Yahweh and His beloved Son Yahshua?

ORIGINS

The World Book Encyclopedia has this to say about Hallowe'en: "On October 31, a night to play at being witches, ghosts, and fairies. It is the eve of the Christian festival of *All Saints*. The name means *Holy Eve*, a time originally set apart to honor the memory of all saints.

The building of bonfires, cracking of nuts, bobbing for apples floating in tubs of water, and **telling of**