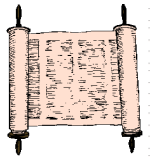




THE CHRISTMAS MAGAZINE



THE LIGHT OF THE MENORAH SHINES FORTH ON THE TORAH



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FROM THE EDITOR:

What is contained in the pages of this magazine is a combination of tracts that we at Y.E.A. have put together concerning the observance of the Christmas season. These tracts will briefly explain the state and condition wherein we find ourselves in today's world.

There is a proverb or statement that says, Things are not always as they appear. Another saying is, A deceived person doesn't know that he is deceived.

As you peruse the simple little articles that you will find in the pages of this magazine, we truly do hope and pray that the truth will be revealed to you. We also hope that you will love the truth enough to embrace it and make the necessary changes in your life to prepare yourself for the soon coming Savior and His glorious Kingdom.

JH

DECEPTION

Scripture says that the whole world has been deceived by the serpent Satan (Rev. 12:9). Do you understand the depth of that deception? How has it all happened?

The book of Psalms asks, “¹Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? ²**The kings** of the earth set themselves, and **the rulers** take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, ³Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us,” 2:1-3.

Did you notice that? It says that the kings and rulers of the earth take counsel against the LORD and His Anointed, His Messiah.

This means that the kings and rulers have been in league with the serpent in order to lead the people away from their great Creator.

What else does the Scriptures say about the kings and rulers? “¹And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of **the great whore** that sitteth upon many waters: ²With whom **the kings of the earth** have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. ³So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a **scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy**, having seven heads and ten horns. ⁴And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: ⁵And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. ⁶And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration,” Rev. 17:1-6.

So now we have the serpent, and the kings and rulers of the earth in league with the harlot of mystery Babylon, who are deceiving the earth and its inhabitants. She is riding on a scarlet colored beast, so we also have the

beast kingdom in the mix.

Let’s continue on to Revelation 18, “¹And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. ²And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. ³For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and **the kings of the earth** have committed fornication with her, and **the merchants of the earth** are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies,” vv. 1-3.

The list continues to grow. We have the serpent, the harlot, the kings, the rulers, the beast, and the merchants, but there is more.

The Prophet Jeremiah is inspired to declare, “¹Woe be unto **the pastors** that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD. ²There-

***The list continues to grow.
We have the serpent, the
harlot, the kings, the rulers,
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more.***

fore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD,” Jer. 23:1-2.

Furthermore, the prophets (also can be translated as preachers) are condemned as being false, “¹³I have seen folly in **the prophets of Samaria**; they prophesied in Baal, and caused my people Israel to err. ¹⁴I have seen also in **the prophets of Jerusalem** an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all

of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah.

¹⁵Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets; Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall: for from the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the land....²⁵I have heard what **the prophets** said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed. ²⁶How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? yea, they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart; ²⁷**Which think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour, as their fathers have forgotten my name for Baal,**” Jer. 23:14-15, 25-27.

There is one more group to deal with, “¹And now, **O ye priests**, this commandment is for you. ²If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give **glory unto my name**, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart. ³Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces, even the dung of your solemn feasts; and one shall take you away with it....⁷For **the priest’s** lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. ⁸But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts,” Mal. 2:1-3, 7-8.

Wow! Look at the list! There is Satan, the kings, rulers, harlot, beast, pastors, prophets (preachers), and even the priests.

These have all worked together to lift up the names of blasphemy, causing the people of Israel and the earth to forget the Creator’s name and the name of His Son, the Anointed or Messiah. Because of these people, the earth has been led to commit fornication.

tion with the harlot and the beast that she is riding upon.

THE BEAST

Who is the beast? It is revealed in the book of Daniel chapter seven. Four beasts came up out of the Great Sea (Mediterranean) diverse from one another. The first beast is the ancient kingdom of Babylon; the second is Medo-Persia; the third is Greco-Macedonia; and the fourth is Rome. Rome is the indescribable dreadful and terrible beast, which is also dealt with in the book of Revelation.

The Caesars became the emperors of Rome. They waged war against the New Testament Assembly that the Savior raised up until Constantine utilized deceptive practices, feigned repentance, entered into the assembly and took over as its Pontifex Maximus (Great High Priest).

Constantine took counsel against the Sabbath and holy days commanded in the Torah (the first five books of Moses). He commanded Sunday, the first day of the week, the day of the ancient pagan sun god to be observed, as well as the birthday of the sun god, December 25th. He also instituted Easter instead of the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread originally observed by the Hebrews and New Testament Assembly.


Originally, the only day of the week that was named was the seventh day Sabbath. But the pagans named all of the days of the weeks after the sun, moon and planets, which were worshipped as gods, the host of heaven. The book of Job reveals that to name the days is to establish a curse as well as causing Leviathan, or the great sea serpent to be raised up. (Job 3:8)





All of the aforementioned entities

have been instrumental in aiding the harlot to lead the world into fornication, which is the drunkenness of spiritual harlotry. The world has been deceived to worship the beast, his way, his images, his names, etc.

THE NAME

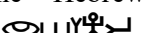
It was made obvious in Jeremiah that the people have forgotten the name of the Creator. The name of the Creator is Yahweh. There is powerful meaning to this name. Yahweh is Hebrew and consists only of four letters which serve as both consonants and/or vowels. Both Josephus and Rabbi Arthur Green admit that in the name, they serve as four vowels.


The letters are  (ancient Pictorial Hebrew). The modern Hebrew letters look like this: יהוה.

Hebrew letters serve not only as letters, but also as numbers and pictures (hieroglyphics). The Hebrew reads from right to left. The Yod () = a hand, the Hei () = a window, to reveal, behold, lo, etc., the Waw () = a nail, or tent peg, the Hei () again serves as a window, to reveal, behold, lo, etc.

The Savior was not named Jesus, but rather Yahshua (equal to our English







It was made obvious in Jeremiah that the people have forgotten the name of the Creator.

Joshua). The Hebrew letters of Yahshua are .



The name Yahweh () reveals the Savior because it means "Behold the hand, behold the nail." Both the Heavenly Father and the Son bear this

name. The Son sits at the right hand of the Father (Psa. 110:1-5; Heb. 1:1-3, etc.) He is the Father's right hand, so the name applies to them both.

When the Disciple Thomas doubted Yahshua's resurrection, Yahshua appeared to him and the other disciples saying, "Reach hither thy finger, and **behold my hands**; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing," Jn. 20:27.

The name Yahshua () carries this idea, Yod () = hand; Hei () = Behold, lo, reveal, window; Waw () = Nail; Shin () = teeth, consume; Ayin () = Eye, well, fountain.

Yahshua told the people of His day, "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Yahshua stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. ³⁸He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. ³⁹(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Spirit was not yet given; because that Yahshua was not yet glorified.)," Jn. 7:37-39.

The name Yahshua has to do with once the nails were driven into His hands, we can drink () from the fountain () of living waters (the Holy Spirit).

The name Jesus cannot even begin to equal to the name Yahshua. The LORD, cannot even begin to equal with the name Yahweh.

Have you been deceived? You have now been given information to begin your deliverance from that deception and march toward the TRUTH!

FLY FROM IDOLATRY!

In accordance with Revelation 12:9, the old serpent called the devil and Satan has deceived the whole world, especially the so-called followers of the Messiah, the Christian and Messianic world; especially the ones who trust in the current Scrip-

tures, the King James Version with all of its off-shoots.

As pointed out in our article on deception, not only is the serpent the perpetrator of this great deception, but so are the kings, rulers, heathen (Psa. 2:1-

1-3), priests, prophets (so-called; Jer. 23), MERCHANTS, and the great harlot called Babylon the Great. (Rev. 17:1-5; 18:1-3).

These Scriptures reveal that

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the Harlot and kings have committed fornication and have made the earth drunk with the wine of her fornication.

Isn't it interesting that the Christmas season, along with the so-called secular New Year, has to do with a lot of partying, drinking, adultery, fornication, gift giving (which the merchants love and promote), etc.? Have you ever thought about these things?

What does Paul admonish us concerning fornication? "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. 13 Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but Yahweh shall destroy both it and them. Now **the body is not for fornication**, but for the Master; and the Master for the body. 14 And Yahweh hath both raised up the Master, and will also raise up us by his own power. 15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of the Messiah? **Shall I then take the members of the Messiah, and make them the members of an harlot? Yahweh forbid.** 16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall be one flesh. 17 But he that is joined unto the Master is one spirit. 18 **Flee fornication.** Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. 19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of Yahweh, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: there-

fore glorify Yahweh in your body, and in your spirit, which are Yahweh's," 1 Cor. 6:12-20.

What Paul is doing here is associating physical fornication (sex sins) with spiritual fornication, which is what the harlot and kings are in the process of causing the world to commit. That is exactly what the Christmas season does! December 25th IS NOT the birthday of the true Messiah! Therefore, December 25th is a tool of Satan, the harlot, kings, priests, false-prophets, and MERCHANTS of the earth to lead people away from the true Messiah to a false idolatrous, fornicating situation.

Remember what happened to Israel when they were led out into the wilderness? Moses, who was a type of Yahshua, ascended into the mount for 40 days and nights while receiving tables of the covenant, instructions for the tabernacles, statutes, ordinances, judgments, etc. But while he was away, the children of Israel, who had just promised that they would refrain from idolatry (witness the 2nd commandment), made a golden calf and proceeded to proclaim a paganistic orgiastic feast dedicated to Yahweh, of all things. Notice what Paul says about this incidence, "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; 2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat; 4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was

the Messiah. 5 But with many of them Yahweh was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. 6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. 7 Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. 8 **Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.** 9 Neither let us tempt the Messiah, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. 10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. 11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. 12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but Yahweh is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. 14 **Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.**" 1 Cor. 10:1-14.

Given the few facts in this magazine, shouldn't we consider what has taken place in the world? Shouldn't we consider where we are, how we have been led astray, and change our ways?

Our encouragement is to FLEE FROM IDOLATRY! Turn to serve your Creator and Savior today!

The Spirit of Christmas Vs. The Spirit of Truth

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?

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

Rather, the Scriptures indicate He could not have been born this time of year.

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 STRONG 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. Yahshua said, "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. 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

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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 effective 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.

WHY TRUE CHURCHES SHOULD NOT CELEBRATE

CHRISTMAS!

BY HOLLACE H. COMBS

We of Yahweh’s Evangelical Assembly are re-publishing this tract that was originally written in 1948 by the Baptist ministry. While we do not agree with everything that is presented in this tract, as well as disagreeing with the pagan names and titles, we do agree with the reasons presented against the observance of the Christmas season. We are interested in this tract because it does reveal that Protestantism can come to the truth concerning these things. However, once learned, we must make a stand in favor of the things learned and against the falsehoods. This is a thing which Protestantism has failed to do.

1. Christmas is of heathen origin; therefore did not originate under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, of whom God said, “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of Truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come,” John 16:13. According to history, Christ’s birthday was not celebrated until the **fourth century after Christ**, and then by the Roman Catholic Church. The following few brief excerpts from standard encyclopedias will suffice to prove the origin of Christmas.

CHRISTMAS

“**Befanna**. A corruption of the word “epiphania” (Epiphany) is the name of an old female character in Italian folk-lore who was so busily engaged in house cleaning where three wise men of the East passed by on the way to offer their treasures to the infant Saviour, that she excused

herself for not going out to see them, thinking that she would have an opportunity of doing so when they returned. Not knowing that they went home by another road, she has been ever since watching for them. She, like the Dutch Santa Claus, is supposed to take a great interest in children, who in Italy, are put in bed early on the “twelfth night,” a stocking of each being hung up before the fire. Soon the cry “Ecco la Beffana” is raised when the children jump up and seize their stockings, each of which contains a present bearing value in proportion to the conduct of the child during the year. One whose behavior has been particularly bad finds his stocking filled with ashes, in token of Beffana’s displeasure.

“The custom of carrying an effigy called the Beffana’s on “Twelfth Night,” in procession through the streets is probably a relic of one of the “mysteries of the middle ages”—

New Americanized Encyclopedia Britannica Edition 1899, vol. XI, page 404.

“Saturn, an ancient Italian god...”

“Saturnalia, this is the great “Festival of Saturn” celebrated on the 19th, but after Caesar’s reform of the calendar, on the 17th of December.

“Augustus decreed that the 17th and 18th should be sacred to Saturn, and the 19th and 20th to Opheha, the festival of Ops.

“Caligula added a fifth day, “The Day of Youth,” December 25. Lasted seven days. The time was one of general joy and mirth. The woolen fetters were taken from the feet of the Image of Saturn and each man offered a pig. During the festival schools were closed...

“Gambling with dice, at other times illegal, was now practiced. All classes exchanged gifts, the

commonest being tapers and clay dolls. These dolls were especially given to children. Varro thought that these dolls represented original sacrifices of human beings (children to the 'Infernal God').—New Americanized Encyclopedia Britannica, 1900, vol IX, page 5236.

"Epiphany, a festival held on the 6th of January by the Roman Catholic Eastern, and Anglican churches in commemoration of the manifestation of Christ. Three different events are included in this celebration. As early as the third century, at least, it was observed as The Commemoration of the Baptism of Christ...Later in the East it was taken to commemorate the manifestation of divine power in Christ's first miracle at Cana in Galilee...In the fourth century the birth of Christ was also connected with it by some writers...Many special observances are to have been connected with the day, which, under the name of Twelfth Day, Twelfth Night, was a time of special **merrymaking** in England and closed the Christmas festivities."—The New International Encyclopedia...second edition, vol. 3, page 27.

"Christmas. It was, according to many authorities, **not celebrated in the first centuries of the Christian Church**," as the Christian usage in general was to celebrate the **death** of remarkable persons rather than their **birth**.

"A feast was established in memory of the birth of the Saviour in the fourth century. In the fifth century the Western Church (Roman Catholic) **ordered** it to be celebrated forever on the day of the Old Roman Feast of the **birth of Sol**.

"The Holly, the **Mistletoe**, the **Yule Log** and the **Wassel Bowl** are of pre-Christian times.

"The Christmas Tree has been **traced back to the Romans**. It went from Germany to Great Britain."—The Encyclopedia Americana, 1942 edition. vol. 6,

page 623.

"Christmas. Christmas properly begins with the evening of December 24...and continues until Epiphany, January 6, the whole period called Christmas-tide. In the **Roman, Greek, Episcopal, and Lutheran** churches, Christmas is observed as a religious festival with special services. Its celebration was formerly **forbidden** by the **Puritans**."—The Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia, 1903, vol. II, page 987.

"Christmas Day. There is, however, a difficulty in accepting this (December 25th) as the date of the Nativity, December being the height of the rainy season in Judea, when neither flocks nor shepherds could have been at night in the fields of Bethlehem.

"By the fifth century, however, whether from influence or some tradition, or from the desire to supplant heathen festivals of that period of the year, such as Saturnalia, the 25th of December had been generally agreed upon"—

We believe, according to history, that Christmas is a heathen custom and God said to His people, "Learn not the way of the heathen...for the customs of the people are vain..." Jer. 10:2-4.

Encyclo-pedia Britannica, 9th edition, vol. 5, page 611.

HEATHEN CUSTOM

2. We have shown you what encyclopedias say about Christmas and its origin, now let us look into the Scriptures. We believe, according to history, that Christmas is a heathen custom and God said to His people, "Learn not the way of the heathen...for the customs of the people are vain..." Jer. 10:2-4. This meant that God's people were not to

let vain customs of heathen people become a part of them and their worship. Christmas celebrations are definitely of vain heathen customs.

THE NAME

3. The name "Christmas" is an abomination to the Lord. "Christmas" is a combination of two words, "Christ" and "Mass." Christ is the Divine title of our Lord. "Mass" is from the Roman Catholic mass. We believe that church to be a harlot church and the 'mother of harlots.' Nothing will stir a man to anger more quickly than for someone to connect his mother's name with a harlot. What about blending the title of our blessed Lord with a harlot church (not His bride)—'Christmas?'

HEATHEN RELICS

4. The Christmas tree, Mistletoe, Yule log, Wassel bowl, Holly wreath, Santa Claus, etc., are of heathen origin, therefore they are not of the Spirit of God and should not become a part of worship.

SCRIPTURE SILENT

5. Christmas is not stated nor implied in the Scriptures yet Paul says, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works," II Tim. 3:16, 17.

CORRUPTING WORSHIP

6. **The example of Nadab and Abihu** in regard to religious matters teaches the seriousness of corrupting the worship of the true and living God, "And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and **offered strange fire** before the Lord, **which He commanded them not**. And there went out fire from the Lord and devoured them, and they **died** before the Lord," Lev. 10:1, 2. It is a serious matter to tamper with God's

(Continued on page 10)

ordained plan or order of worship. These men went beyond God's commandment.

ERROR OF GOOD INTENTIONS

7. **The example of David and Uzzah** was one of substituting God's plan. God had told David how the Ark should be transported. David found a **more beautiful** way. David let the people choose the Philistines' beautiful and sensible method of moving the Ark rather than God's method, I Chron. 15:1-14. Verse 4 reads, "...for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people." But we read again, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death," Prov. 14:12. God had told the Levites to walk and bear the Ark, and others not to touch it. It seemed right to David and the people to build a nice new cart to move the Ark. "And when they came unto the threshing floor of Chidon, Uzza put forth his hand to hold the ark; for the oxen had stumbled. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzza, and he smote him, because he put his hand to the ark: and there he died before God," I Chron. 13:9, 10.

No doubt but that Uzza's intentions were good. He only tried to save the cart from overturning and to preserve the Ark, but God had said, "To obey is better than to sacrifice,"

Dr. Scofield says, "The story of David's new cart and its results is a striking illustration of the spiritual truth that blessings do not follow the best intentions in the service of God except as that service is rendered in God's way."

Three months after David's blunder, he had the Ark moved God's way, I Chron. 15:1-3. Verse 13 reads, "For because ye did it not at the first, the Lord our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order."

ERROR OF THE HEART

8. The example of Ananias and Sapphira in regard to religious

matters is another lesson to those who would dare to pollute the house of God. God had not commanded the church members to sell all of their property and donate it to the church, but since they had promised to, they should not have lied.

ERROR OF IGNORANCE

9. Ignorance will not excuse one in religious errors. Read I Sam. 6:1-19. Because the people of Bethshemesh merely looked (ignorantly) into the Ark when the oxen and cart had stalled, God killed 50,070 of them.

So God has expressed His disapproval, and inflicted the death penalty, where worship is corrupted by (1) going beyond His command. (2) by substituting His plan. (3) by willful disobedience and (4) by ignorantly violating His commands.

NATURAL MAN

10. Most Christmas activities, decorations, feasts, gifts, etc., appeal to the natural man who "receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God," 1 Cor. 2:14. Any activity which can be enjoyed equally by both the

The churches should not follow the world, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world."

unregenerated and regenerated definitely feeds the natural man, for the Adamic nature is the only nature they have in common. The unregenerate cannot enjoy the things of the Spirit. The natural man does not worship God. Rom. 8:5-8, yet the worldly minded do heartily enjoy Christmas.

CARNAL CELEBRATIONS

11. The churches should not follow the world, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the

Father, but is of the world," I John 2:15,16.

Paul said to the Galatians, "Ye observe days, and months, and times and years. I am afraid of you lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain," Gal. 4:10, 11. Paul was not speaking of Christmas here, for there was no Christmas at that time, but the principle would apply to Christmas. Read I Peter 2:9.

CHURCH VS. WORLD

12. The fact that the world joins in the celebration of Christmas proves that it is not according to the will of God. The world does not desire to obey any precept of God. "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God."

England does not celebrate the Fourth of July, for it means nothing to them. If Christmas were really a celebration of the birth of Jesus, the world which rejects Christ would not have anything to do with it. The world does enjoy Christmas, therefore it is not of God.

PURPOSELY OMITTED

13. It is wrong to try to seek out what God has purposely hidden from us. The Bible was truly written by inspiration. Everything recorded in the Scriptures was purposely recorded. Everything that was omitted from the Scriptures was purposely omitted. God knew the birth day of Jesus, the central figure of the Scriptures and He omitted any record of His birth date. Therefore, God purposely omitted the record of Jesus' birth date.

JOSEPHUS OR STONE CARVERS

14. Why did not the great historian, Josephus, record His birth date? Providence prevented him. Why was not the date carved upon a stone, to be discovered later by the archaeologist? Providence of God. If man had found the date of the birth of Jesus to be the 25th of December, after God had hidden it, then God would not be an all wise God.

MERRY MAKING AND GIFTS

15. The only record in the Bible of “Merry making and sending gifts to one another” is found in Rev. 11:10. Those referred to as participating are evil people celebrating the slaying of God’s two faithful witnesses. This does not mean that it is sin to give gifts. It is not. Yet God purposely breathed this record into the Holy Scriptures for our learning, to mold our thinking.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

16. God purposely recorded two and only two birthday celebrations in the Scriptures. Each of them is connected with murder. One was recorded in the Scriptures before Jesus was born. It was the feast of Pharaoh’s birthday celebration where the chief baker was hanged and then beheaded. The other was Herod’s birthday celebration where John the Baptist was murdered. So it would be embarrassing to try to justify the celebrating of the birthday of Jesus, and the giving of gifts to one another, by Bible examples.

SONGS AND LITERATURE

17. Christmas literature and songs almost unanimously teach falsely concerning the birth of Jesus. Books, plays, pageants, and Christmas music constantly picture three wise men of the East visiting the infant Jesus on the day of His birth along with the shepherds in the stable in Bethlehem.

The Scriptures do not say how many wise men there were. There may have been three, but could have been more. According to the Scriptures, Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Matt. 2:6. The shepherds went immediately to the infant Jesus and found him in a manger, Luke 2:8-16. When Jesus was born, evidently the “star” appeared to the wise men of the East announcing His birth, Matt. 2:2, but the star did not lead the wise men to Jerusalem, according to the Scriptures. If they were wise men, they knew that the Messiah would be born in

Bethlehem, and they knew how to get to Jerusalem without the leadership of a star. There is nothing in Scripture to indicate that the wise men went immediately, or soon, to seek the infant Jesus.

When Jesus was 41 days old, Joseph and Mary carried Him into the Temple in Jerusalem, Luke 2:22-38; Lev. 12:2-6. Then they immediately returned to their home in Nazareth of Galilee, Luke 2:39, not to Egypt, as most writers say. Since Joseph and Mary with Jesus fled to Egypt immediately after the wise men left, Matt. 2:13, the wise men could not possibly have visited Jesus before He was 41 days old, and at this age Jesus was taken to Nazareth. So the wise men must have visited the child in the “house” in Nazareth, Matt. 2:11.

The wise men came to Jerusalem possibly more than a year and a half after Jesus was born, inquiring for the “young child,” not the infant babe. Herod naturally thought that the child was in Bethlehem, Matt. 2:16, but He was in Nazareth, Luke 2:39. No one in Jerusalem knew

Christmas literature and songs almost unanimously teach falsely concerning the birth of Jesus.

where the child was, so the “star” reappeared, Matt. 2:9, to the wise men as they were leaving Herod’s palace, to lead them where the child Jesus was in Nazareth, Luke 2:39. God, through the wise men, supplies Joseph and Mary with gifts sufficient to care for them on their trip into Egypt, which they made immediately after the wise men presented their gifts and left, Matt. 2:13.

Matt. 2:17 indicates the age of Jesus when the wise men visited Him, for Herod “slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the

time when he had diligently enquired of the wise men,” verse 7.

The wise men gave their gifts to Jesus; not to one another, and even this did not happen on the birthday of Jesus. So there is no connection between Christmas and the birthday of Jesus in this respect.

VAIN WORSHIP

18. Vain worship is promoted by Christmas programs, which are doctrines of men. Jesus said to the Pharisees, “This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips: but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men,” Matt. 15:8, 9. This statement was true when the Lord uttered it in Isaiah’s time. Isaiah 29:13; true when Jesus repeated it during His ministry, and it is true in a large measure today concerning Christmas programs. Proof: People will sing in Christmas and Easter programs who cannot be depended upon at any other time, and many who do not attend church regularly, will go to swell the crowds at these programs. The largest crowds in the church for the year will be at these two programs. Be not deceived; the class of people who go to make up this supplementary crowd are not usually attracted by things of a spiritual nature. These statements are not made to reflect upon true Christians, but merely to identify the true type of program it is that will attract the carnally minded, and the Christmas programs do attract such. Remember that, “He that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit, I Cor. 6:17, not one flesh, or carnal mind.

Paul said, “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ,” Col. 2:8.

COMMANDMENT REJECTED

19. The commandment of God is rejected in Christmas celebrations. Jesus said to the Pharisees, “...Full

well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye keep your own tradition,” Mark 7:9. “Making the word of God of none effect through your traditions, which ye have delivered: and many such like things,” Mark 7:13. “And many such like things” certainly would include the traditions of Christmas. Proof: (1) “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...” Heb. 10:25 is made of “none effect” by Christmas, according to the almost universal low attendance on the Lord's day nearest Christmas day (except for the Christmas program). Some say that the low attendance is due to the business of holidays when people visit their families and friends. This is no worthy excuse, for this visiting is reciprocal between the cities, and there are churches at both ends of the line. (2) The Word of God is made of “none effect” in the point of financial support at this season. Churches as a whole will show a record of low finance nearest Christmas. Christmas is a time of low spirituality and high carnality.

INCONSISTENCY

20. Those who make the most of Christmas celebrations, pretending to honor the birthday of Jesus, usually are those who make the least of His Resurrection Memorial—the Lord's Day. The Lord's day is desecrated by secular work, open business houses, worldly amusements, and sports. The Lord did not want His birth memorialized, yet some men will not observe the Lord's day, but will close their places of business, or refrain from working on Christmas day.

TRADITIONS VS. SCRIPTURE

21. Christmas traditions are not in harmony with the Scriptures. (1) Old man “Santa Claus” (a Catholic monk) is the central character of Christmas, and has no Scriptural connection with the child Jesus. (2) The gifts of the wise men were gifts of gratitude and worship, the best of their substance, given to Jesus, not to one another.

(3) The traditional winter scene—evergreen trees and artificial snow—does not harmonize with the shepherds being in the fields with their flocks.

(4) All manner of fireworks and miniature implements of war can have no connection with the birth of the “King of Peace.”

(5) Most all Christmas cards are centered around wishing one “A Merry Christmas.” The word “merry” occurs more than twenty-five times in the Scriptures, and almost, if not every time it is used, it has reference to the natural man. The natural man does not rejoice in the Saviour. Wishing one a “sacred Christmas” would be more becoming than wishing one a “Merry Christmas.” Is “merry making” a Christian attitude according to the Scripture?

THE MOTIVE

22. Christmas time is a time of social enjoyment and merry making, rather than that of spiritual gratitude and joy in the Saviour. Can one really and truthfully say that his

Christmas traditions are not in harmony with the Scriptures.

actual motive for observing Christmas celebrations is that the Saviour was born in Bethlehem nearly two thousand years ago?

UNHOLY BARGAIN

23. The source of Christmas equipment will condemn the tradition. Up to the time of the second World War, most Christmas goods bore the stamp, “Made in Germany,” “Made in Japan,” or “Made in Italy.” It is significant to note that the very nations from whom the United States and England have purchased most of their Christmas goods, which have been used in reveling and polluting the worship of God have been instruments of providential judgment against us. How did these congested nations of so limited

supply of raw materials finance the great war? By exports of the fruits of their cheap labor. Among these exports, Christmas goods played a major role. England and the United States have literally poured billions of dollars into these nations in the past fifty years for Christmas goods. In time, a nation will reap whatsoever she sows, “Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil,” Eccl. 8:11.

DRUNKENNESS AND GLUTTONY

24. Christmas time is a time of drunkenness and gluttony. The Holy Scriptures place gluttony in the same class with drunkenness and several times in the same verse of Scripture. Deut. 21:20, Prov. 23:20, 21; I Cor. 11:21. Many people who would never think of getting drunk will commit the sin of gluttony (which is the cousin of drunkenness in their Christmas feasts and call it God honoring. The term, “eat drink and be merry,” is associated with evil in the Scriptures, Isaiah 22:12, 13; Luke 12:19. Jesus said to His disciples, “Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness,” Luke 21:34. The overeating at Christmas feasts is definitely included in the word “surfeiting,” and this verse. Gluttonous feasts are inconsistent with saints, according to I Peter 4:1-4. Also read Prov. 23:2, 3: Num. 11:33; Psalm 78:29-31.

There is always a wave of illness and death as a postlude to Christmas feasts and activities.

Remember that fasting and prayer are associated together throughout the Bible, and are opposite to feasting and drunkenness.

FLESH GRATIFYING

25. Christmas time is a time of great reveling and the gratifying of the flesh. We are told in Rom. 13:14, “Make not provision for the flesh,” yet much provision is made

for the flesh in the Christmas season. "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts," Gal. 5:24. Peter said, "Abstain from fleshly lusts," I Peter 2:11. "Abstain from all appearance of evil," I Thes. 5:22.

CENTRAL FIGURE

26. Jesus Christ, the supposed central figure of Christmas, is forgotten in the celebrations. It is significant to note that when Jesus was twelve years of age and about His Father's business, He attended the Passover, where many thousands of Jews were gathered for the feast which spoke of Him (Jesus), while He, the true Passover Lamb, was lost amid the celebrations, and was not found for three days. Three days in the Scriptures speak of death, burial, and resurrection to a new life. Let Christmas crucify affections for heathen customs, bury them, and arise to walk after the Spirit, thus finding Jesus the "third day."

COMMERCIAL WORLD

27. Christmas is boosted by the commercial world. It is the greatest money-making season of the year. Professed Christian businessmen look forward to the Christmas season, not for the sake of Christ, but for the sake of financial gain.

Quoting from the press of November, 1948, "Americans are going on the biggest buying spree in

history this Christmas season, surveys throughout the nation reveal. Storekeepers the land over are looking forward to the greatest Yuletide business they ever had."

BIRTH OR DEATH

28. We are not to remember Jesus Christ after the flesh now, except as historically, not memorially, "Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh, yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth, know we him no more." II Cor. 5:16. "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ..." Gal. 6:14. We are not to glory in His flesh, "For I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ, and him crucified," I Cor. 2:2 (Not born.)

ABOMINATION

29. Christmas is an abomination in the sight of the Lord, "And he (Jesus) said unto them (the Pharisees), Ye are they which justify yourselves before men. God knoweth your hearts for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God," Luke 16:15. This latter statement is true regardless of who is being addressed. Just what did Christ name is this verse as being "abomination?" "That which" means, "Anything which." Then anything which men highly esteem

is abomination. Men esteem Christmas more highly than almost anything else. It is the only thing requiring a two week holiday in schools over the nation. Business houses that never close any other time of the year, close for Christmas. It is the only time of the year that some people will give a gift; the only time some people get drunk; the only time many firms will give employees a bonus. Many large stores have a "Christmas Saving Fund" for customers. Immediately after Christmas, customers begin depositing money into these saving accounts, to assure them, not of grocery or doctor bills, but to assure them of spending money for the next Christmas. Preparations are made further in advance for Christmas than for any other large event, Christmas is so highly esteemed among men that, according to the press of November 13:1948, "Last December retail sales reached a staggering total of \$12, 641, 000,000," and "they expect sales to reach about \$14,000,000,000" in 1949.

Since Christmas is so highly esteemed among men, it is definitely included in the abomination spoken of by Christ.

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin," James 4:17.

MANGER SCENE CONFUSION!

Every year in November and December, the world becomes excited about December 25th and the supposed birth of the Savior. All kinds of Christmas decorations will be exhibited until well after the event. One of the more popular exhibits will be the manger scene depicting an adoring Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels, kings (magi), animals, all gathered around a little baby in a manger. A quick check of the Scriptures written about this event will begin to confuse a person if they look into those writings too carefully. What is the real truth of the matter?

By Jerry Healan

Your news media, along with the clergy will excitedly proclaim it even though they will also admit that the Savior wasn't really even born on December 25th. Does it matter? Didn't

the Savior, Himself, proclaim that Yahweh is spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth? (Jn. 4:24)

The Scriptures reveal that

there is a great deceiver in the world, and he is very subtle. How does one deceive? Through lies, falsehoods, confusion, of course! Even though more and more people are becoming skept-

tical concerning there even being a Creator Elohim, and the viability of the Scriptures because of the teachings of science concerning evolution, etc., there are still myriads of people who at least go through the ritual of Christmas observance along with its manger scenes, and other practices. After all, the merchants still need Christmas sales to keep their sales records in the black.

The serpent has even long ago had to admit that the Savior was born into the world, but being the master of deception that he is, he causes man to put together a manger scene, and Christmas plays of confusion in order to keep the people focused on physical things rather than the powerful spiritual truths, and lessons that are contained in the Scriptures.

THE MANGER

What is the spiritual lesson concerning the manger? I am sure that there are more lessons than I will be able to bring out here, but I do hope that I can at least bring some of the truth forth.

In Luke chapter two, Miriam, Yahshua's mother brings him forth, wraps him in swaddling clothes and places Him in a manger. (v. 7) What is a manger? Isn't it a crib where farmers place food for their animals? What was the purpose for Yahshua to be placed in a manger? For Yahweh, nothing is without purpose or reason. There is a purpose and reason for everything that He does.

Isn't it interesting that Yahshua was born in Bethlehem, Judah? Bethlehem is a combination of two Hebrew

words *bayith* (house, tent, temple, family) and *lechem* (bread). Yahshua told the people of His day that He is the true bread from heaven, "33For the bread of Elohim is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. 34 Then said they unto him, Master, evermore give us this bread. 35 And Yahshua said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst....48I am that bread of life. 49Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. 50This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. 51I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world," Jn. 6:33-35, 48-51.

Is this not a prophecy in the beginning of His life as to what would happen to Him at the end of His life?

The true bread from heaven was born in Bethlehem, the house, tent, temple, family of bread!

Yahshua called His followers His sheep, "Then said Yahshua unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of **the sheep**....I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for **the sheep**," Jn. 10:7, 11.

Thus, the true bread from heaven was born in the house of bread and placed in a manger which is a crib for fodder, or food for animals. He came to

provide food, bread for His sheep.

Are you beginning to see some of the hidden things that should be searched out and addressed rather than focusing on a corrupted, physical manger scene?

THE DOOR

In the above verses, Yahshua proclaims that He is the door. He was born in Bethlehem-Judah. Both Joseph and Miriam were descendants of the patriarch Judah. The name Judah is יהודה in Hebrew. Notice the dalet (ד), which is equivalent to our letter "d". In Hebrew, all letters not only represent letters to make words, but they are also numbers, and pictures, or hieroglyphics. The dalet (ד) is the picture of a "door."

If we remove the dalet (ד) from the name Judah (יהודה), what we have left is hwhy, Yahweh! Yahshua is the door that this letter represents. He is the door to Yahweh, "6Yahshua saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. 7If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him," Jn. 14:6-7.

Yahshua told the people, "All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him," Mat. 11:27.

Yahshua is the Mediator between heaven and earth, between the Father and us, "5For there is one Elohim, and one mediator between Elohim and

men, the man the Messiah Yahshua; "Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time," 1 Tim. 2:5-6.

Yahshua is the Mediator of a new and better covenant, "But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also **he is the mediator** of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises," Heb. 8:6. "And for this cause **he is the mediator** of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance," Heb. 9:15. "And to **Yahshua the mediator** of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel," Heb. 12:24.

Yahshua is the door to the Father. He had to come and be the Mediator (a door) to a new and better covenant based solely on the Word of Yahweh, because the covenant of Moses was based upon two promises, Yahweh's Word, which never fails, and Israel's word, the word of men, which always fail.

It is through Yahshua that the heavens and earth can be brought back as one again, "11Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: 10That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in the Messiah, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him," Eph. 1:9-10.

Are you beginning to see that there is more to the story of His birth than meets the eye?

SWADDLING CLOTHES

When He was born, Yahshua's mother wrapped Him in swaddling clothes. (Lk. 2:7). The Greek word for "swaddling clothes" is *sparganoo*. It is defined as: from *sparganon* (a strip; **from a derivative of the base of 4682** meaning to strap or wrap with strips); to swathe (an infant after the Oriental custom). (Strong's Exhaustive Concordance) Furthermore, #4682 is the Greek word *sparasso*, which is defined as: to mangle, i.e. convulse with epilepsy. It is variously translated as; rend, tear.

Is this not a prophecy in the beginning of His life as to what would happen to Him at the end of His life? Wasn't His flesh stripped with a cat-o-nine tails? "Then Pilate therefore took Yahshua, and scourged him," Jn. 19:1.

Isaiah prophesied, "Surely he

This means two things, #1 Joseph and Miriam were impoverished, and #2 the kings (magi) from the east had not yet arrived, because they brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of Elohim, and afflicted. 5But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with **his stripes we are healed**," Isa. 53:4-5.

Peter confirms Isaiah's prophecy, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the

tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: **by whose stripes ye were healed**," 1 Pet. 2:24.

POVERTY

The manger scene confuses things because the Magi, or kings are shown around the child presenting gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The plays also depict Joseph and Miriam fleeing to Egypt immediately after His birth, but such is not the case.

Yahshua's parents were impoverished when He was born to them. In Luke, He is circumcised on the eighth day, but the parents are still in the environs of Jerusalem after the days of Miriam's purification because she went to the temple to perform the prescribed offering in the Torah, "And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called YAHSHUA, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb. 22And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to Yahweh; 23(As it is written in the law of Yahweh, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to Yahweh;) 24And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of Yahweh, **A pair of turtle-doves, or two young pigeons**," Lk. 2:21-24.

What did the law of Moses decree? "Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a woman have conceived seed, and born a man child: then she shall be unclean seven days; according to the days of the separation for

her infirmity shall she be unclean. ³And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. ⁴And she shall then continue in the blood of her purifying three and thirty days; she shall touch no hallowed thing, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying be fulfilled. ⁵But if she bare a maid child, then she shall be unclean two weeks, as in her separation: and she shall continue in the blood of her purifying threescore and six days. ⁶And when the days of her purifying are fulfilled, for a son, or for a daughter, **she shall bring a lamb of the first year for a burnt offering, and a young pigeon, or a turtledove, for a sin offering**, unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, unto the priest: ⁷Who shall offer it before Yahweh, and make an atonement for her; and she shall be cleansed from the issue of her blood. This is the law for her that hath born a male or a female. ⁸And if **she be not able to bring a lamb, then she shall bring two turtles, or two young pigeons**; the one for the burnt offering, and the other for a sin offering: and the priest shall make an atonement for her, and she shall be clean,” Lev. 12:2-8.

Notice this again! She was supposed to bring a lamb for a burnt offering, and a young pigeon or turtledove for a sin offering. But if she is not able to bring a lamb, then she can bring two turtledoves, or two young pigeons. The offering that Miriam gave was a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons because she didn't have the means to bring a lamb! This means two things, #1 Joseph

and Miriam were impoverished, and #2 the kings (magi) from the east had not yet arrived, because they brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Had Joseph and Miriam been in possession of the gold, they would have had the means to provide a lamb for the burnt offering.

Once they had performed these purification rites, and the prescribed sacrifices, what do the Scriptures say happened? “And when they had performed all things according to the law of Yawheh, **they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth,**” Lk. 2:39.

What? No flight into Egypt? Let's continue.

THE KINGS

The book of Matthew records, “Now when Yahshua was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold,

Lies, deceit, falsehoods, and confusion serve to kill, to murder.

there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, ²Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him,” Mat. 2:1-2.

Now, let's think about this for a moment. The kings came from a far place in the east, probably around the environs of ancient Babylon. They saw the star in the east announcing Yahshua's birth. The trip from where they were to Jerusalem would have been a long trip.

They couldn't have been there on the night of Yahshua's birth, or even 30 days later. After they had seen the star, they would have had to prepare for the trip, assimilate the gifts, etc. Wouldn't it take a while to plan the trip, get packed up, and then leave?

Matthew should read, “Now Yahshua, having been born in Bethlehem of Judaea....” The way it is worded, it promotes the idea that this is on the night of His birth, and it isn't.

The wise men arrived in Jerusalem, met with Herod, who stalled for time because he called for the chief priests and scribes and demanded where the Messiah would be born (Mt. 2:2-5).

After they gave him the information, he called for the wise men once again, “Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, **enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.**” ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also,” Mt. 2:7-8.

Furthermore, the star appeared to them to lead them where the child was, “When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy,” Mt. 2:9-10.

Why did they need the star to guide them? Hadn't shepherds of the field seen angels who told them the news? When they came and found the child, didn't they make His birth known

to many in Bethlehem? (Lk. 2:8-18)

But notice what else happened, "And when **they were come into the house**, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh," Mt. 2:11.

Joseph, Miriam, and the child weren't in a stable now, they were in a house. Remember that they had to resort to a stable with a manger because there was no room at the inn. (Lk. 2:7)

THE FLIGHT

The wise men were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod because he would seek to destroy the child so they took an-

other route back to their homeland (Lk. 2:12).

Joseph was also warned in a dream to flee to Egypt because Herod would seek to destroy the child (Lk. 2:13-15).

When Herod realized that he had been made to look like a fool, he sent his troops in to destroy the children, "Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, **according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men,**" Mt. 2:16.

Herod had cross examined the wise men quite thoroughly. He found out that the wise men had seen the star somewhere around two years before or maybe a little less.

Do you now see how the serpent has confused the issue by putting it all together in a neat, but confusing, and deceptive package? Isn't it strange that Christianity continues to promote the confusion and deception, rather than getting to the truth of the situation?

Christmas with its manger scene looks good, sounds good, feels good and seems good, but there is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death (Prov. 14:12-16:25). Lies, deceit, falsehoods, and confusion serve to kill, to murder. That is the way of the serpent Satan. But the truth of Yahweh, Yahshua and His Word sets us free. Will you be set free from these things, or will you continue on the path of death? May Yahweh bless you to choose truth, freedom, and life!

WHO IS SANTA CLAUS?



He is called Santa Claus, Old Saint Nick, Saint Nicholas, Kris Kringle, a jolly old Elf and other acronyms. He lives at the North Pole, rides in a sleigh drawn by 8 tiny reindeer and visits every home in the world on Christmas Eve bringing gifts to all, especially children. Just who is this jolly little fat man? The answer is surprising!

Santa Claus is a name that is riveted in the heart of the great overall majority of young children in the United States and many other parts of the world. Children love him, they write to him, they sing of him. When Christmas time nears there are many men who don Santa Claus suits and appear in parades, shopping malls, toy

stores, etc., all over the country. Many, many of the little children are taken for a visit to these men so that they can put in their special request for their Christmas toys.

On Christmas Eve the trees are all trimmed and stockings are hung. The children are generally nestled in their beds as early as possible in anxious anticipation of the soon

coming visit. Some leave food, snacks and pastries out as a treat for Santa.

Just who is this little fat elf in the red felt suit? Does he really exist? Many have written of him. There are songs and movies that portray him as being real, but he isn't!

Do you remember when you discovered that Santa wasn't real?

Do you remember how much of a let down that was? One man once told me that when he finally found out that his parents, whom he loved and trusted very much, had lied to him about Santa Claus, then he was also going to look into this J-sus Chr-st thing and see if that was also real.

Even though most of us may not have reacted in such a distrusting manner, it certainly is a big let-down when one discovers that a being that he has been taught to look up to and love very much doesn't even exist! What's more, one does learn that one's parents haven't been on the up and up and are, therefore, capable of lying to you.

CONSEQUENCES OF LIES

Everyone, except for the little children who are purposely deceived, knows that Santa is not real. Little children are so open, honest and naive that they will believe just about anything their parents will tell them. For parents to purposely mislead their children is damaging, to say the least.

Where do lies come from? Yahshua said, "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.

Satan the devil is the father of lies. Have any parents ever thought that when they are deceiving, lying to their children about Santa Claus that they are following in the footsteps of and mimicking the father of lies, Satan the devil? Believe it or not, such is the case.

Satan lied to Eve in the garden of Eden. Yahweh had told the man Adam that he could eat of every tree of the garden, but he was not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:16-17). Notice that He told the man that if

he took of that tree he would die (v. 17). Satan lied to Eve and said, "Ye shall not surely die....," Gen. 3:4.

Eve may have believed the serpent because she wanted to, but he contradicted Yahweh's word through lies, deceived the woman into taking of the tree and her husband, Adam, followed suit bringing the penalty of sin and death on every man (Ro. 5:12-19; 1 Cor. 15:21-22).

Such is the power of lies. Lies kill, lies murder, lies are of Satan the devil. Satan, through his lies, has deceived the whole world (Rev. 12:9).

THE ELF

Santa is called a jolly old *elf*. His supposed helpers are *elves*. Just what are elves anyway? The *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 14th Edition, Vol. 8 has this to say about elf, "a diminutive supernatural being of Teutonic mythology, usually mischievous, causing diseases and evil dreams, stealing children and substituting

The Apostle Paul warned, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables," 2 Tim. 4:3-4.

changelings." (p. 353.)

Webster's New World Dictionary gives the etymology of the word elf as coming from the German word *alb* meaning **nightmare**. It gives the definition as; a tiny, often prankish fairy, supposedly exercising magic powers and haunting woods and hills; sprite. *The Consolidated-Webster Com-*

prehensive Encyclopedia reveals that an *elf* and *goblin* are one and the same thing. A *goblin* is described as an evil or mischievous sprite.

Elves are generally depicted as tiny woodland entities that are very similar to the Greek God Pan and the Roman God Faunas in other words they have the ears and beard of a goat.

THE NAME SANTA CLAUS

What does the name Santa Claus mean and where does it come from? Santa Claus is simply another form for the name Saint Nickolas. Nickolas is a Greek name. Nickolas is a name that is a compound of two words *Nike* and *laos*. *Nike* is a primitive Greek word meaning victory, conquest, to conquer. *Laos* means people. Nickolas, therefore, means Victor, or Conqueror of the people.

We read in Rev. 6:1, "And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, 'Come and see.' And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering and to conquer." The words *conquering* and *conquer* both stem from the Greek word *Nike*.

Yahshua explained the first seal in Mat. 24:4-5, "And Yahshua answered and said unto them, 'Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in My name, saying, 'I am Messiah;' and shall deceive many.'"

The one sitting on the white horse, going forth to conquer (nike) the people (laos, [Nickolas]) is doing so in deceit.

The one on the white horse is not the TRUE Messiah but a false messiah. He conquers the many with deceit.

Santa Claus (Saint Nickolas) is a conqueror of the



people. He is used to conquer the hearts of our children at their youngest and most tender age. He conquers their hearts through deceit for he is not real. The sad thing is the lie comes through the child's closest living relatives, his parents.

Santa Claus is also associated with the time of the year that is supposedly the birthdate of the Savior. But this is yet another lie that is foisted upon an unsuspecting public (see our tract titled "*Just Whose Birthday Is December 25th?*")

THEY LOVE A LIE

Santa Claus is a character of mythology falsehood, fables. The Apostle Paul warned, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto **fables**," 2 Tim. 4:3-4.

Satan is the one who loves lies. He is the father of lies. Paul warns that one is coming, "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 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 Yahweh shall send them strong delusion, that **they should believe a lie**: that they all might be damned (judged) who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in

unrighteousness," 2 Thes. 2:9-12.

Santa Claus may not be the one that this Scripture is speaking of, but he is a part of the system of lies, falsehood, fables, etc. which is used to sow the seeds of deceit and destruction.

The prophet Isaiah was inspired to write, "Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever: That this is a rebellious People, lying children, children that will not hear the law of Yahweh. Which say to the seers, 'See not;' and to the prophets, 'Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits: Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us,'" Isa. 30:8-11

Many people argue that Santa Claus is harmless. After all he is just for the children. They worry about what people would do without Christmas and old Santa. But the truth is, things would be much better for them if they would only serve and worship Yahweh according to the way that He has commanded.

It seems hard to believe that men love lies, but the Scriptures are replete with the revelation that such is the case. They are full of warnings against going the wrong way while those to whom the warnings are spoken and written, continue to go on heedlessly against the warnings.

Satan is a very subtle deceiver. He makes his false ways to appear

as if they are the way of light. Even though they look beautiful and harmless, the intent behind it all is very evil indeed. Satan's purpose is to glorify himself and his ways. He wants to keep people from having a good and truthful relationship with our Heavenly Father Yahweh and His Beloved Son Yahshua.

REPENT

Admittedly, it is very difficult to go against the grain. After all, the great overall majority are in favor of Santa Claus and do observe Christmas. But, remember that Yahshua said that it would be the many that go the broad way to destruction (Mt. 7:13). He also said that many are called, but few are chosen (Mt. 20:16; 23:14).

Don't let the majority persuade you to lose out on your calling. The Apostle Peter cried out, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Yahshua Messiah for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit," Acts 2:38. The Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come He will guide you into all truth," Jn. 16:13. The world cannot receive this Spirit, "Even the Spirit of truth; Whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you," Jn. 14:17.

Don't be foolish and let a deception like Santa Claus conquer you.

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 re-

sults; especially when one allows the truth of the Scriptures to be his guide.

An article entitled "*Christmas Cus-*

toms 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 bring-

er 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 originally 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 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. Nickolaus 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**

Are you one of those who continues to propagate this falsehood named Santa Claus (St. Nickolaus)?

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 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 Roman 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 pa-

gans, 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.

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 firstborn son, Cain slew his own twin brother Abel becoming the first murderer.

While Adam and Eve had been

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.

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 (4Xפ, RTS [remember that Hebrew reads from right to left, thus the English would be STR). Samek (פ) = 60, Tau (X) = 400, Resh (4) = 200 = 660.

The Chaldeans added the waw (Y), 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.

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(Continued from page 22)

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 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 gainsaying of Core," vv. 10-11.

The Christmas season and celebration is a hodgepodge of ancient pagan legends and myths. We have been able to trace the whole matter all the way back to Cain. Cain, a murderer, was of his father the devil who murders, slays through deceit

and lies.

Yahshua told the people of His day that Yahweh is spirit and must be worshipped in spirit and in truth. (Jn. 4:24) Legends and myths may have a little truth behind them, but they are surrounded with lies and deceit. It is true that the Savior was born, but not on December 25th. Therefore, for one to think that they are serving the Father and Son's birth with Dec. 25th is a lie and not acceptable to them.

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.

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 Rauhnächte" (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 upper 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

The decorated tree was originally a pagan tradition in Germany's upper Rhine region.

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 fertility 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 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

Egyptians brought green palm branches into their homes on the winter solstice as a symbol of life's triumph over death.

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

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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.

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.

SHOULD WE OBSERVE

HOLIDAYS or HOLYDAYS?

There are days of the year which are set aside to observe as holidays. Most people look forward to these days with great anticipation not only for their meaning, but also because of the time of rest, relaxation and recreation that they will experience. What is a holiday? Where do they come from? Should we observe them?

As stated, there are certain days of the year that are looked forward to with great anticipation. These days are looked forward to, not only because of their meaning, but because of the time given off from work. They are generally set aside or dedicated as days of observance with rest, relaxation, celebration and recreation. The whole year is full of these days beginning with New Year's Day, President's day, Martin Luther King Day, Easter, Memorial

Day, the 4th of July, Labor Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas, etc.

Is there anything wrong with these days? Should they be observed with such fanfare? Just what is a holiday anyway? Here is the definition of holiday given by *Webster's New World Dictionary*; **n.** [**< ME. holidei**, with shortened first vowel **< OE. haligdæg**; see **HOLY & DAY**] **1.** a religious festival: see **HOLY DAY** **2.** a day of freedom from

labor; day set aside for leisure and recreation **3.** [often pl.] [chiefly Brit.] a period of leisure or recreation; vacation **4.** a day set aside by law or custom for the suspension of business, usually in commemoration of some event.

The dictionary further defines **HOLY DAY** as **a day consecrated to religious observances** or to **a religious festival**.

Since the word "holy" is involved, we also need to look at its

definition; **ho·ly** 1. dedicated to religious use; belonging to or coming from G-d; consecrated; sacred 2. spiritually perfect or pure; untainted by evil or sin; sinless; saintly 3. regarded with or deserving deep respect, awe, reverence, or adoration. (*Webster's New World Dictionary*.)

From these definitions we learn that the word "holiday" is the same as "holy day." It is a day or period of time that is set aside in consecration to G-d and is observed with religious rites, while business is suspended.

THE ORIGINAL HOLY DAYS

Holidays are essentially a by-product of Holy Days that were originally commanded by Yahweh. The complete list of these holy days is found in Leviticus 23. The very first commanded holy day was the weekly Sabbath, "And Yahweh spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, *Concerning* the feasts of Yahweh, which ye shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, *even these are* my feasts. Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day *is* the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; **ye shall do no work therein:** it is the sabbath of Yahweh in all your dwellings," v.v. 1-3.

The rest of the chapter focuses on enumerating the other "rest" days that were to be observed annually. Passover and Unleavened Bread are covered in verses 5-8, Pentecost in verses 9-22, Trumpets in verses 23-25, Atonement in verses 26-32, and Tabernacles and the Last Great Day are dealt with in the remaining verses (33-44).

Yahweh commanded the observance of these days wherein all regular business activity was to cease. However, the majority of the world, with the exception of the Jewish community and some certain religious organizations who have deemed the importance of these days, does not give any credence to the observance of these days. The majority of the world observes "holidays" with much fanfare. Does

this mean that Yahweh's commanded days are no longer in effect?

MAN'S HISTORY

The problem is that man's history has been a history of disobedience and disbelief when it comes to the commands of Yahweh. The first man, Adam, was given a job to do. That job was to dress and keep the garden of Eden with the permission to eat of the fruit of all the trees of the garden EXCEPT the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and his wife Eve disobeyed, ate of the forbidden tree and were banished from the garden to a life of pain, grief, suffering, corruption and death.

Yahweh called Israel out of Egypt, made His covenant with them, warning them against going the way of the heathen who were dwelling in the land. Israel was to fulfil the law (Torah) given to them by Yahweh. But Israel disbelieved and disobeyed Yahweh and had to be cast out of the land with much pain, grief, suffering and death. Most of the survivors went into a captivity that

The problem is that man's history has been a history of disobedience and disbelief when it comes to the commands of Yahweh.

was harsh and oppressive indeed!

In these last days, the Savior Yahshua has appeared on earth. He set an example for us that we should walk in His steps (1 Pet. 2:21). Notice verse 22, "Who did **no sin**, neither was guile found in His mouth." Sin is defined by the Apostle John as the transgression of the law (1 Jn. 3:4). If Yahshua did no sin then he fulfilled (obeyed) the law. This is the very thing that He promised He would do at the beginning of His ministry, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil," Mt. 5:17.

Many people erroneously teach that Yahshua came to do away with

the law, but such is simply not the case. According to Scripture, Yahshua never sinned, therefore, He perfectly fulfilled (obeyed) the law, setting an example for us that we should follow Him. This means that He observed the Sabbath and Holy Days in accordance with the commandment.

MAN RESPECTS MAN

Yahweh sets aside His own Holy Days and proclaims them to be special rest days. Man sets aside his own holidays and proclaims them to be special rest days. The age old problem is that man highly respects his own holidays that he himself proclaims, but when it comes to respecting that which Yahweh sets aside, he doesn't even give it a second thought.

Yahweh proclaimed that the seventh day Sabbath was to be sanctified and made holy. Man declares that the first day of the week, Sunday is sanctified and holy. Yahweh says not to work on the seventh day Sabbath, but man says that that day will be his biggest and most important day of business while he sets aside another day (the first) to refrain from work.

Yahweh established His own annual Holy Days, but man goes about establishing his own "holidays," esteeming his own as being greater and more important than Yahweh's. Look at how all of man's days are observed compared to Yahweh's. Few of man's days are set aside to worship the Creator. President's day, Martin Luther King Day, Memorial Day, the 4th of July and Veteran's Day are dedicated to the sacrifices that many have made in helping to establish this nation to become what it is today.

While Sunday, Christmas and Easter are supposedly dedicated to the worship of the Creator, they ARE NOT periods of time which He has declared to be set aside for observance in His Holy Word.

Yahweh has also given us a set of righteous laws to live and govern our lives by, yet man decides to go

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about making his own set of laws, rules and regulations. He is always more fervent in the enforcement of his own laws while carelessly apathetic and heedless to Yahweh's decrees.

Man respects and esteems his own chosen ways over those commanded ways that His own blessed Creator has declared.

REBELLION/WITCHCRAFT

When man disesteems the things of Yahweh, he is found to be in open rebellion and disobedience to Him. The Prophet Samuel proclaimed to King Saul, "For rebellion is as the sin of **witchcraft** and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry," 1 Sam. 15:23.

Sorcery and witchcraft are great sins in the eyes of Yahweh. Yahweh commanded, "Thou shalt not suffer a **witch** to live," Ex. 22:18. "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," Dt.18:10-11. The Hebrew word for sorcerer and witch is the same.

When man stubbornly clings to his own ways rather than submitting to

Yahweh's it is regarded as iniquity and idolatry. As a matter of fact, Christmas, Easter and Sunday were associated with heathenism, paganism and idolatry before being incorporated into Christianity.

PLAN REVEALED

Yahweh's plan of salvation is actually revealed in the Sabbath and Holy Days. Through the observance of the Sabbath day we learn that Yahweh has apportioned 7000 years in order to perform His work of salvation. The Apostle Peter reveals that a day is to Yahweh as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day (2 Pet. 3:8). Yahweh has allotted 6000 years for man to do his own work, but the last period of 1000 years belongs to Yahweh and His Son Yahshua. It will be a tremendous period of rest from wars, sins and other grievous conflicts.

Through the observance of Passover and the days of Unleavened Bread (Lev. 23:4-8), we are brought to our Passover that is sacrificed for us (1 Cor. 5:7) and are able to eat of the bread of life that came down from heaven (Jn. 6). The feast of Pentecost (Lev. 23:15-16) reminds us of the giving of the Holy Spirit, the seal of promise which Yahweh bestows to those of His

firstfruits assembly. These will be in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6). The feast of Trumpets (Lev. 23:24-25) reminds us of Yahweh's soon coming intervention into this world's affairs in order to take power and rule (Rev. 11:15). The day of Atonement (Lev. 23:27-32) reveals the atonement received through the Savior (Ro. 5:1-11). The feast of Tabernacles (Lev. 23:34-35) reminds us of the millennial rule of Yahshua and His saints in Yahweh's kingdom (Rev. 20:4-6). Finally, the last day (Lev. 23:36) points us to the final great white throne judgment period (Rev. 20:11-15).

Those who observe Yahweh's commanded holydays are reminded of His plan and purpose on a weekly and annual basis. Those who observe the first day of the week and the annual holidays have a tendency to forget Yahweh and His plan of salvation. Sunday and holiday observance are misleading and help to sow confusion and error.

It is our admonition that people repent and turn to Yahweh with all their heart, restore the Sabbath and holydays and knowledge of the great Creator.

For a more in-depth expose' on the true meanings of holydays and holidays, you may order our *FREE* booklet entitled "*Col. 2:16-17 Or Holidays Vs. Holydays?*" JH

WHOSE BIRTHDAY IS

DECEMBER 25TH?

December 25th is one of the most celebrated times of the year. It is certainly one of the most profitable periods for businesses. Many even seek to stir up the spirit of Christmas in the month of July by proclaiming a "Christmas in July" sale. What is the truth behind December 25th. Is it really the birth date of the Savior?

By Jerry Healan

December 25th has been made famous for being the birth date of the Savior. As stated, it is definitely an important time for businesses. Most retail businesses are either "made" or "broken" by this time of the year. It seems that the retail merchants begin their celebration of it earlier and earlier each year. At one time, the preparations for Christmas began immediately after Thanksgiving, but now they are beginning to prepare the public before Halloween! Many businesses even declare a "Christmas in July" Sale.

However, it is also an extremely important time of the year for religion and churches. There are many "Christmas plays" which seek to portray the birth of the Savior as related in the Biblical books of Matthew and Luke. Many of the churches and charitable organizations also profit greatly at this time of year for it is proclaimed as a great time of giving.

Just whose birthday is December 25? Is it the TRUE birthday of the Savior? Many people have been led to believe that such IS the case, however, if the Christian ministry or many

who are privy to the TRUTH of the matter are confronted on the subject, they will openly confess that December 25 IS NOT the TRUE birthday of the Savior. They will openly admit that December 25th is deeply rooted in paganism and idolatry.

ROOTS OF PAGANISM

The *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 14th Edition, Vol. 5 has this to say, "Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the church, and before the 5th century there was no general con-

sensus of opinion as to when it should come in the calendar, whether on Jan. 6, Mar. 25, or Dec. 25th...In Britain, Dec. 25 was a festival long before the conversion to Christianity, for Bede relates that 'the ancient peoples of the Angli began the year on Dec. 25 when we now celebrate the birthday of the L-rd; and the very night which is now so holy to us, they call in their tongue *modranecht* (*mōdra niht*), that is, the mother's night, by reason we suspect of the ceremonies which in that night-long vigil they performed'" (pp. 641-642).

Alexander Hislop writes, "Long before the fourth century, and long before the Christian era itself, a festival was celebrated among the **heathen**, at the precise time of the year, in honour of the birth of the son of the Babylonian queen of heaven; and it may fairly be presumed that, in order to conciliate the heathen, and to swell the number of the nominal adherents of Christianity, the same festival was adopted by the Roman Church, giving it only the name of Christ" (*The Two Babylons*, p. 93).

Hislop also says, "The very name by which Christmas is popularly known among ourselves—Yule-day—proves at once **its Pagan and Babylonian origin** [*emphasis ours throughout*]. 'Yule' is the Chaldee name for an 'infant' or 'little child,' and as the 25th of December was called by our Pagan Anglo-Saxon ancestors, 'Yule-day' or the 'Child's day,' and the night that preceded it, 'Mother-night,' long before they came in contact with Christianity, that sufficiently proved its real character," (*The Two Babylons*, p. 93-94).

What is a *heathen* or *pagan*? The primary definition given for **heathen** in *Webster's New World Dictionary* is "orig., and in the Old Testament, a member of any nation or people not worshipping the G-d of Israel." It also says this about both words, "**pagan** and **heathen** as being applied to non-monotheistic peoples, but **pagan** specifically refers to one of the ancient polytheistic peoples, esp. the Greeks and Romans, and **heathen** is applied to any of the peoples regarded as primitive idolaters."

WHOSE BIRTHDAY?

Just whose birthday was December 25? Hislop writes, "Therefore, the 25th of December, the day that was observed at Rome as the day when the victorious g-d reappeared on earth, was held at the *Natalis invicti solis*, 'The birth-day of the unconquered sun'" (Ibid. p. 98). The *Encyclopedia Britannica* agrees, "...certain Latins as early as 354 may have transferred the birthday from Jan. 6 to Dec. 25, which was then a **Mithraic** feast, the *natalis invicti solis* or birthday of the unconquered Sun of Philocalus" (Ibid. p. 642).

Hislop further reveals, "In Egypt, the son of Isis, the Egyptian title for the queen of heaven, was born at this very time, 'about the time of the winter solstice'" (Ibid. p. 93).

Raymond Capt writes, "Long centuries before the Christian era, the 25th of December was celebrated as a pagan holiday in honor of **Nimrod, the 'virgin-born' son of Baal**, the sun-god. His mother was worshipped as the 'Queen of Heaven' with **Nimrod as the (false) Messiah**. Eventually, this pagan holiday (Christmas Day) was incorporated into the Christian calendar with Christian overtones" (*The traditions of Glastonbury*, p.; 85).

The Christian world has been DECEIVED into believing that they can worship our Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son through lies, deceit, deception, outright paganism and heathenism.

The *Encyclopedia Britannica* further reveals, "Mithras, identified with Sol Invictus, thus became the giver of authority and victory to the imperial house" ([The Roman Caesars], 14th Edition, Vol. 15, p. 620). It goes on to say that the sanctification of Sunday and of the 25th of December are associated with Mithras.

There you have it! December 25th is associated with the birth of the Babylonian Queen of Heaven (Tammuz), the Egyptian Queen of Heaven

(Horus), Nimrod (the false Messiah, son of Baal), Mithras, and the unconquered sun (*Solis Invicti*). It is a day that is associated with paganism, heathenism, Baal worship, and ancient false saviors, false messiahs.

Is it possible that it could still have been the Savior's birthday? Hislop writes, "How comes it that that festival was connected with the 25th of December? There is not a word in the Scriptures about the precise day of His birth, or the time of the year when He was born. What is recorded there, implies that at what time soever His birth took place, **it could not have been on the 25th of December**. At the time that the angel announced His birth to the shepherds of Bethlehem, they were feeding their flocks by night in the open fields. Now, no doubt, the climate of Palestine is not so severe as the climate of this country; but even there, though the heat of the day be considerable, the cold of the night, from December to February, is very piercing, and **it was not the custom for the shepherds of Judea to watch their flocks in the open fields later than about the end of October**" (Ibid. p. 91).

Raymond Capt also writes, "Some writers state the blooming of the Thorn Tree around Christmas time is in honor of Chr-st's birthday. However, one thing is certain, **December 25th was not the birthday of Jesus**" (Ibid. p. 85).

DECEPTION FORETOLD

The Savior warned long ago, "Take heed that no man **deceive** you. For many shall come in My name saying 'I am Messiah;' and **shall deceive** many...And many false prophets shall rise, and **shall deceive** many...For there shall arise false messiahs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect," Mt. 24:4, 11, 24.

We also read, "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, **which deceiveth the whole world**: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him," Rev. 12:9.

Deceive means, to make (a person) believe what is not true; delude; mislead, to be false to, betray (*Webster's*

New World Dictionary).

The Christian world has been DECEIVED into believing that they can worship our Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son through lies, deceit, deception, outright paganism and heathenism. They think that it is all right to take a period that is rooted and grounded in paganism and heathenism and apply it to the worship of the Father and Son.

When the children of Israel were delivered into the land of Canaan they were warned, "When Yahweh thy Elohim shall cut of 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 Elohim, saying, How did these nations serve their Elohim? 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 Elohim; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their Elohim. What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it," Dt. 12:29-32.

Notice the word **nations**. The Hebrew word from which it is translated is "goyim" and is elsewhere translated as HEATHEN or GENTILES. The people of Canaan were pagans, heathen, Gentiles. Their idolatrous religious worship was an abomination to Yahweh.

Ezekiel also reveals that the worship of tammuz was an abomination to Yahweh (Ez. 8:13-14).

Yahweh also inspired the prophet Jeremiah to write, "Learn not the way of the heathen...for the customs of the people are vain..." Jer. 10:2-4.

Has Yahweh changed? "For I am Yahweh, **I change not**; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed," Mal. 3:6.

SHAME AND CONFUSION

Scripture reveals that the worship of the Queen of Heaven and her son Tammuz were not only an abomination, but it was confusion, "Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah

and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings to other elohim, that they may provoke Me to anger. Do they provoke Me to anger? saith Yahweh: do they not provoke themselves to the **confusion** of their own faces?" Jer. 7:17-19.

The Hebrew word translated as **confusion** in this instance is "*bosheth*" and also means "**shame**" and "**an idol**."

This is **Babylon**! The word **Babylon** comes from the Hebrew word **Babel** which also means **confusion**! Yahweh condemned both Judah and Israel because they turned to the ways of the pagans, the heathen, the ways of the people of Canaan and also to the ways of Babylon! They were overthrown and destroyed because of their refusal to repent. Look at the judgment of the great whore called MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT in the book of Revelation 17 & 18. She will be overthrown and destroyed just as Israel and Judah were.

TURN TO THE TRUTH

December 25th is a lie, a deception, a fraud, Babylon, confusion and shame.

Even the sincerity of the Nativity Scene is wrong Scripturally. Lk. 2:8-39 reveals that only the shepherds visited a babe in a manger. His parents left for their home in Nazareth after 40 days.

Mt. 2:9-13 reveals that the wise men saw a young child in a house. Afterwards, his parents took Yahshua to Egypt as Herod was seeking to kill all males two years and under (v. 16). We really don't even know the real number of wise men who came to visit the newborn Savior. Scripture doesn't say. Scripture reveals that there were three types of gifts offered; gold, frankincense and myrrh. The number of wise men portrayed by the Nativity Scene is also a myth.

December 25th is NOT the birth-

day of the TRUE Savior. It was the birthday of the gods of paganism and heathenism. The pagan and heathen NEVER worshipped the TRUE Elohim, nor do they today. December 25th is a lie, a deception, a fraud, Babylon, confusion and shame.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Master shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming: *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 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 Yahweh shall send them strong delusion, **that they should believe a lie**: That they all might be damned **who believed not the truth**, but had pleasure in unrighteousness," 2 Thes. 2:7-12.

The Savior Yahshua said, "Yahweh is Spirit: and they that worship Him **MUST** worship Him in spirit and in TRUTH," Jn. 4:24.

The Apostle John wrote, "I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that **no lie is of the truth**," 1 Jn. 2:21.

Neither the Heavenly Father nor His Beloved Son can be worshipped through lies, deceit nor falsehood. They desire to be worshipped through the TRUTH ONLY. December 25th IS NOT the true birthday of the Savior. It is our heartfelt desire to urge you to REPENT of the lie, come out of deception, turn to the truth and it will set you free (Jn. 8:32). We urge you to escape the judgment which will be brought on this world because of belief in lies.

A Short History of "Christmas" Customs

By Thomas "Arkie" Hobbs

The Americana (volume 6, page 623), as copyrighted by the Americana Corporation in 1937, reveals the following:

{CHRISTMAS: It was, according to many authorities, not celebrated in the first centuries of the Christian Church, as the Christian usage in general was to celebrate the death of remarkable persons rather than their birth.}

The above quotation is true. While they were under the supervision of the Apostles, they did not observe any day in commemoration of YAHshua's birthday. Instead, they obediently observed the commemoration of His death (the 14th day of Nisan). Continuing:

{... In the 5th century the Western Church ordered it to be celebrated forever on the day of the old Roman feast of the birth of Sol, as no certain knowledge of the day of Christ's birth existed. Among the German and Celtic tribes the winter solstice was considered an important point of the year, and they held their chief festival of Yule to commemorate the return of the burning-wheel [symbol for the sun].}

The World Book Encyclopedia, as copyrighted in 1948 by Field enterprises (vol. 3, page 1425), states the following:

{No one knows definitely when the Christmas festival was first celebrated. It is spoken of in the 400's by Clement of Alexandria. Chrysostom speaks of it in the 380's as a custom of long standing. Other dates were often celebrated as the day of the Nativity, but in the year

354, by order of Bishop Liberius of Rome, December 25 was adopted. The early Church Fathers probably chose December 25 because the feast of the sun, or winter solstice, was a familiar Roman feast celebrating the victory of the light over darkness. This idea was easily turned from a pagan to a Christian one, since Christians consider Christ as the light of life.}

The Compton's Encyclopedia and Fact-Index (Volume 5, page 332 & 333), as copyrighted in 1970 by F. E. Compton Co., Division of Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., reveals the following:

{The Origin of December 25 as Christmas: The exact date of Christ's birth is not known. For the first two centuries, while Christians were being persecut-



Pagan bell (Baal) symbols.

ed for their new faith, the Christian church did not celebrate Christmas. Soon after A.D. 200, however, Christmas was being observed, but on various dates—especially January 6, March 25, and December 25. By the middle of the 4th century the church in the West (the Roman Catholic church) was celebrating Christmas on December 25. Later various branches of the

Orthodox Eastern church also accepted December 25 for observing Christ's birthday.}

The clause in the second sentence "while Christians were being persecuted for their new faith" could be very misleading. Concerning whether or not the Congregation of YAHshua observed a day in commemoration of His birthday, persecution was not an issue. As seen in the quotation from the Americana, the true reason was that they commemorated the deaths of remarkable persons instead of their births. Continuing:

{In England the festival came to be called Christes Masse (Christ's Mass) because a special Mass was said that day. The French name Noel, the Spanish Natividad, and the Italian Natale mean "birthday."

Germans call the season Weihnachten, "holy nights."}

Many of the customs associated with Christmas came from elements of ancient pagan worship. Continuing:

{Many of the customs now associated with Christmas go back thousands of years when the people of Europe worshipped pagan gods. They celebrated the winter solstice, December 21 or 22, as the birthday of the sun—heralding the beginning of longer days. The early Christian church [not the original Assembly that was under the supervision of YAHshua's Apostles] took the ancient festival time and gave new meaning to it—the religious meaning of Christianity—and made it a holy season.}

The "Church" made the pa-

gan customs and season that are in honor of the sun and other false gods holy by honoring **YAHshua** (the Son of **YAHWEH**) and **YAHWEH** and **made it a holy season? Ridiculous!** Only **YAHWEH**, not humans, can make a season holy. One can not keep a season holy that **YAHWEH** did not make holy. By not polluting them, one can only keep the seasons holy that **YAHWEH** made holy. Continuing from Compton's Encyclopedia and Fact-Index:

{Many of the customs can be traced back to the pagan mid-winter festival of the Teutonic people of northern Europe. It was their gayest time of the year. They called the month Yule, or Jol, from which comes the word "jolly." Closed in by winters of bitter cold and long nights, they rejoiced when the year's shortest day passed, for they knew the sun would then grow stronger and the days longer.}

One should also consider very carefully the origin of the "Yule log" and the traditional "Christmas ham." Continuing:

{The Yule Log and Boar's Head:

Two of their great festival customs were bringing in the yule log and the procession of the boar's head. The great yule log was brought in on Christmas Eve and was lighted with a brand kept from the log of the year before. Its ashes, saved through the year, were supposed to guard the house from fire and lightning. They were also thought to have power to heal wounds and to make animals and fields fertile. The boar's head procession goes back to when the Teutons be-

lieved the hog harbored the spirit which made corn grow. At yule time they sacrificed a boar to the "corn spirit" to bring good crops, then ate the meat. In Scandinavia today the boar is represented by little cakes or bread loaves baked in the shape of a pig. In medieval England a boar's head was brought into every Christmas banquet.}

The World Book Encyclopedia, as copyrighted in 1948 by Field enterprises (vol. 3, page 1425) states the following:

{The giving of presents and the use of holly, mistletoe, Yule logs (see Yule), and wassail bowl have all come to us from the days before Christianity...When the pagans of Northern Europe became Christians, they made their sacred evergreen trees part of the Christian festival, and decorated the trees with gilded nuts, candles (a carry-over from sun worship), and apples to stand for the stars, moon, and sun.}

From The World Book Encyclopedia (volume 18 page 8992) we find this:

{YULE, yool, is an old name for the Christmas season. The term comes from the Anglo-Saxon word for the months of December and January. The Anglo-Saxons called December "the former Yule," and January "the after Yule." The early pagans of Scandinavian countries held Yule festivals near the end of each year. After Christianity was introduced into Europe, these festivals became Christmas celebrations. The custom of burning a yule log started in pagan times. The early Norsemen honored Thor, their god of war, by burning a yule log with great ceremony during the yule

season.}

The Americana (vol. 6, page 623), as copyrighted by the Americana Corporation in 1937, reveals the following:

{...The holly, the mistletoe, the Yule log and the wassail bowl are relics of pre-Christian times...The custom of making presents at Christmas is derived from ancient usage; but it has become **consecrated by ages**, and contributes greatly to make this festival an interesting event to families.}

"Consecrated by ages"? Since when is anything consecrated by ages? Everything to be **consecrated to YAHWEH** can only be **consecrated by the authority of YAHWEH**, not by ages nor tradition!

If one seriously wishes to trace to their Babylonian roots the origin of a great many of the traditions that have been adopted by professing "Christianity," there are many books written on this subject. Two books that are worthy to be mentioned for tracing the history of the so-called "Christian" holidays and customs are: Babylon Mystery Religion-Ancient and Modern by Ralph Woodrow, and The Two Babylons by Alexander Hislop. In both books, there are much deeper discussions on the pagan traditions and customs that have been adapted to Easter and Christmas. These books also reveal many other pagan traditions and customs that have been adapted into "Christianity's" common rituals and acts of public and private worship.

It may seem to be a good idea to see how the pagans worshipped their gods and recruit them by "Christianizing" (changing the names and

meanings to things concerning **YAHWEH** and **YAHshua**) their pagan customs and festivals. Many people think that it is all right to worship with the pagan customs and festivals as long as they worship **YAHWEH** instead of the pagan gods, **BUT---YAHWEH SAYS** through the mouth of Moses and Jeremiah:

Deu. 12 (29) 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; (30) Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that THOU INQUIRE NOT AFTER THEIR ELOHIM, SAYING, HOW DID THESE NATIONS SERVE THEIR ELOHIM? EVEN SO WILL I DO LIKEWISE. (31) THOU SHALT NOT DO SO UNTO **YAHWEH** THY **ELOHIM**: for every abomination to **YAHWEH**, which **HE** **hateth**, have they done unto their **elohim**; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their **elohim**. (32) What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: THOU SHALT NOT ADD THERETO, NOR DIMINISH FROM IT.

Jer. 10 (1) Hear ye the word which **YAHWEH** speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: (2) 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. (3) 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 ax. (4) They

deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. (5) They *are* upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also *is it* in them to do good.

The last sentence in the above quotation does not mean that there is neither harm or nor good in having them. It means that the pagan's wooden idols have no life, and they have no power of their own to do good or to do harm to anyone. The description of the wooden idol that Jeremiah was describing is also a perfect description of modern day "Christianity's" Christmas tree. The "christianized" Christmas tree that has been adopted from the pagan custom of using evergreens in their idolatrous winter solstice season is just as lifeless and it is just as abominable to **YAHWEH** as the pagan's wooden idol! Therefore before one chooses to use elements of pagan worship in the worship of **YAHWEH**, one would be wise to carefully consider the following quotation.

Deu. 4 (1) Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do *them*, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which **YAHWEH**, **Elohim** of your fathers giveth you. (2) **Ye shall not add unto** the word which I command you, **neither shall ye diminish ought** from it, that ye may keep the commandments of **YAHWEH** your **Elohim** **which I command you**.

If one wisely chooses to

completely replace those pagan customs and practices that have been added to the gospel and build upon the foundation of **YAHshua** with only the **TRADITIONS** that **YAHWEH** ordained for HIS people, the **RUDIMENTS** of the **KINGDOM** of **HEAVEN**, the **COMMANDMENTS** of **YAHWEH**, and the **CUSTOMS** that HE instituted one will be in compliance with the following command.

Deu. 6 (4) Hear, O Israel: **YAHWEH** our **ELOHIM** *is* one **YAHWEH**: (5) And thou shalt love **YAHWEH** thy **ELOHIM** with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

May **YAHWEH** richly bless all who have read this article and were not offended.

LINUS TELLS THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS



The Scripture given in the cartoon is Jeremiah 10:1-5, "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. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good."

Here is what Yahweh told Israel, "And Yahweh spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, I am Yahweh your Elohim. After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do: and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do: neither shall ye walk in

their ordinances. Ye shall do my judgments, and keep mine ordinances, to walk therein: I am Yahweh your Elohim. Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am Yahweh," Lev. 18:1-5.

Again, He warned, "Ye shall therefore keep all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them: that the land, whither I bring you to dwell therein, spue you not out. And ye shall not walk in the manners of the nation, which I cast out before you: for they committed all these things, and therefore I abhorred them," Lev. 20:23.

Moses writes, "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.

TRUTH

Furthermore, Yahshua said,

“...the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. Yahweh is Spirit: and **they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth,**” Jn. 4:23-24.

John also wrote, “I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that **no lie is of the truth,**” 1 Jn. 2:21.

Finally, Paul writes, “For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of

the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Master shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after **the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 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 Yahweh shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the

truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. But we are bound to give thanks alway to Yahweh for you, brethren beloved of Yahweh, because Yahweh hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit **and belief of the truth:** Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Master Yahshua the Messiah,” 2 Thes. 2:7-14.

We encourage you to REPENT, turning away from the falsehood and deceit of this world, and embrace the TRUTH to the salvation of your souls! JH

TODD BENNETT ON CHRISTMAS

Well if you are reading this letter, you survived another Christmas season. What saddens me the most is how many Christians know the truth about Christmas, but they decide to compromise and succumb to the false traditions as well as the pressures of friends, family and society at large. For anyone unfamiliar with the pagan holidays rampant in our culture I suggest you watch the trailer of my book Pagan Holidays for a little taste.

I find it particularly disturbing that so-called “watchmen” are not only failing to warn people about participating in clearly pagan holidays, but they are actually encouraging believers to participate in them. A watchman sees the approaching danger and warns the people. He sounds the shofar (ram’s horn) so that people are warned of the approaching danger. (see Ezekiel 33). Now there are many people warning of imminent economic collapse, food shortages, tyranny, FEMA camps, the New World Order and even Planet X. This is all well and good, but it is fruitless if they ignore the most insidious lies that lead to the destruction of both the body and the

soul. (Matthew 10:28).

Participating in pagan holidays is not simply harmless fun – it is serious sin. Deuteronomy 12:4 specifically warns us not to worship Elohim as the pagans worship their gods. (see also Deuteronomy 12:30-31). To participate in sun worship rituals and traditions is disobedience to these specific commandments and disobedience is sin also known as “lawlessness.” (1 John 3:4).

This is clearly established in the Scriptures and we need watchmen to warn against the real threat - the enemy of our souls! Messiah warned that MANY will call Him Lord, but will be cast aside at judgment despite their supposed service because of their lawlessness. He does not know them because of their lawlessness. (see Matthew 7:21-23). Our actions ultimately determine our relationship with the Messiah. If we have made Him our Master and Savior then we must not return to the wicked ways of the world.

This is specifically what Peter warned of: **20** “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of

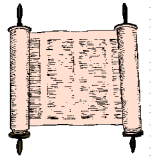
the Master and Savior Yahshua Messiah, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. **21** For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. **22** But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: ‘A dog returns to his own vomit,’ and, ‘a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.’” **II Peter 2:20-22.**

It is important for people to understand that obedience is directly linked to blessings and disobedience is directly linked to curses. America is being cursed because her citizens, particularly Christians, continue down the path of lawlessness and curses. I recently completed a new video teaching on the blessings and curses. I encourage you to take a look at it and send it along to people you know. My prayer is that the people who are called by His Name will hear the cry of the watchman and the sound of the shofar before it is too late.

Blessings, Todd Bennett



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