## Why We Don't Celebrate Christmas



If someone is steeped from childhood in the belief that *Christmas* is a Christian holiday, and should be celebrated, even when it is proven that it comes from pagan origin, will tend to be loudly *rejected*.

The plain truth is that nowhere in the Bible are believers in the God of *Abraham, Isaac*, and *Jacob*, or of *Jesus Christ*, required to celebrate Christmas.

You can search your Bible from cover to cover, you will not find this holiday among God's appointed days of celebration. It just isn't there. Yet Christians <a href="https://happily.com/happily">happily</a> and <a href="https://happily.com/happily">blindly</a> make this one of the biggest yearly celebration about the birth of Christ. It's one of the Devil's biggest lies ever perpetrated on mankind.



#### **Christmas, What Is It Really?**

<u>Christmas is an annual festival commemorating</u> the **birth of Jesus Christ**. It is observed on December 25th as a religious and cultural celebration by billions of people around the world, religiously by most Christians, and culturally by many non-Christians. Christmas Day is a public holiday in many countries.

The traditional Christmas narrative recounted in the New Testament, known as the Nativity of Jesus, says that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in accordance with messianic prophecies. When Joseph and Mary arrived in the city, the inn had no room, so they were offered a stable where Christ was born. There were angels proclaiming this news to shepherds

There are different hypotheses regarding the date of Jesus' birth and in the early fourth century, the church fixed the date as December 25<sup>th</sup>. This corresponds to the traditional date of the winter solstice on the Roman calendar.

For Christians, believing that God came into the world in the form of man to atone for the sins of humanity, rather than knowing Jesus' exact birth date, is the primary purpose in celebrating Christmas. The celebratory customs associated in various countries with Christmas have a mix of Christian, and secular themes and origins. This by-the-way, is Christians and non-Christians biggest excuse for celebrating Christmas!

Customs of the holiday include *gift giving*; *completing an Advent calendar or Advent wreath*; *Christmas music and caroling*; *viewing a Nativity play*; an *exchange of Christmas cards*; *church services*; *a special meal*; and the display of various *Christmas decorations*, including *Christmas trees*, *Christmas lights*, *nativity scenes*, *garlands*, *wreaths*, *mistletoe*, and *holly*. Additionally, interchangeable figures, known as *Santa Claus*, *Father Christmas*, *Saint Nicholas*, and *Christkindl*, are popularly visited at malls and churches.

#### Christmas...continued

Christmas is an ancient pagan festival that was adopted by the Roman Catholic church and given a Christian covering. This pagan festival is a myth handed down through the centuries by the Roman Catholic Church. It has no Biblical truth about it. It is a fiction that became extremely popular worldwide throughout the centuries.

The Christian church is guilty of placing the traditions of men above the commandments of God. The celebrating of Christmas, Easter, Ash-Wednesday, the Nativity of St John, the Feast off the Assumption, Halloween and Sunday etc., are all human traditions. **Not one of these festivals are authorized by God.** Almighty God condemns these heathen rituals and customs in His Word!

And Rituals

**Christmas** 

It was a stellar festival the Pagans celebrated at the <u>winter solstice</u>. That same festival at Rome was called the <u>feast of Saturn</u>, and the mode in which it was celebrated there, showed its true origin - pagan.

The feast influenced by Caligula, lasted five days; no restrictions were given to drunkenness and revelry; slaves were given temporary freedom and used all manner of pleasures with their masters. This is precisely the way in which the festival of drunkenness from Babylon, is now widely celebrated by many in December, as *Christmas*.

<u>2 Timothy 4: 3</u> "For the time will come when they <u>will not endure sound doctrine</u>; but after their <u>own lusts</u> shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall <u>turn away their ears from the truth</u>, and shall be turned unto fables." People are rejecting the Bible record of Christs' birth and are embracing fiction and outright falsehood.

#### **Historical Facts About Christmas**

- "Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the church...the first evidence of this celebration was in Egypt" (Catholic Encyclopedia, 1911 edition).
- December 25 was celebrated in ancient days as the birthday of the insurmountable *SUN god* (variously know as <u>Tammuz</u>, <u>Mithra</u>, <u>Saturn</u>, <u>Adonis</u>, or <u>BAAL</u>). All occurring *centuries before Jesus Christ was born*.
- "Christmas customs are an evolution from times *that long predated the* Christmas period. It is a *descent from seasonal pagan, religious and national practices*, hedged about with legend and tradition."
- In Egypt and Persia, the <u>sun-gods</u> were worshipped with <u>elaborate</u> <u>colorful</u> <u>ceremonies</u> at the season of the winter solstice.
- <u>Christmas</u> has no Christian origin. Rather, it derive from Eastern and Central Europe customs surrounding the celebration of the Winter Solstice, which include hanging ornaments on trees and burning logs.
- <u>Christmas</u> is marketed in modern societies to create more interest in having <u>colorful decorations</u>, <u>lights</u>, <u>festive</u> <u>celebrations</u>, <u>gift-giving and exchanging</u>, and <u>extravagant spending</u>.

#### **Historical Facts, Continued**

- The exact day and year of Christ's birth have never been satisfactorily settled, but the fathers of the church in A.D. 340 chose the day of the *Winter Solstice* which was firmly fixed in the minds of the people, and which was their most important festival" (Encyclopedia Britannica, article "Christmas").
- "In a famous letter to Augustine, Pope Gregory directs the great missionary to accommodate the ceremonies of the *Christian worship as much as possible to those of the heathen*, that the people might not be startled at the change, and in particular the Pope advised Augustine, to allow converts to kill and eat at the Christmas festival a great number of oxen to the glory of God, as they had formerly done when *worshipping the Devil*."
- It is certain that the <u>25th of December cannot be the nativity of the Savior</u>, because it is the height of the rainy season in Judea, and shepherds are hardly watching their flocks at nighttime and very rarely that late in the month of <u>December</u>.
- One of the principal causes that led to fixing this period was the heathen nations who regarded the **Winter Solstice** as the turning point of the year; the beginning of the renewed life and the powers of nature, and of their **pagan gods**.
- At the Winter Solstice, the Norsemen held their great Yule feast in commemoration of the fiery sun.

#### **Historical Facts, Continued**

- "There is no authoritative tradition as to the day or month of Christ's birth. The winter solstice was regarded as the birthday of the pagan festival of the nativity of <u>'sol Invictus."</u>
- Each year on December 25, the ancient pagans held a festival in honor of the *SUN god*. In order to win Gentile converts to the Christian faith, the Roman Church, centuries after the apostles, adopted this ancient pagan winter festival of the *SUN god* and renamed it the "Mass of Christ" the shorten version being, "*Christmas.*"
- Their play on words would shift the honor to the SON of God, the Savior of the world, to a festival adorned in pagan worship. Christmas is pagan and therefore cannot be holy.
- <u>Pew Research Center survey, December 2017</u> Nine-in-ten Americans (90%) and 95% of Christians say they celebrate Christmas. While these figures have generally held steady in recent years, the <u>role of religion in Christmas</u> <u>celebrations appears to be declining</u>. Today, 46% of Americans say they celebrate Christmas as primarily a religious holiday, down from 51% (5% decline) who said this in 2012.
- Millennials are less likely than other adults to say they celebrate Christmas in a *religious way*. A majority of U.S. adults (56%) also say religious aspects of Christmas are emphasized less in American society today than in the past.
- Most Americans believe that elements of the biblical <u>Christmas story</u> reflect actual historical events, although the percentage expressing this view has <u>dropped noticeably in recent years</u>.
- As you can see, there is no shortage of historical evidence that Christmas long predated Christ and less people
  celebrate Christmas today than in 2012. There are substantive evidence that some Scholars and theologians have
  known these facts for centuries but chose to hide it from the general masses. However, there are more being written,
  preached on and thought today, debunking the celebration of Christmas.

## **Scripture Warnings**

The Bible tells us the God hates those pagan customs that are attributed to Him!

Deuteronomy 12: 30-32 God warns, "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 the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, 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."

Jeremiah 10:2-4 "Thus saith the LORD, 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."

#### The Christmas Tree

A great wealth of literature exists about tree worship, more than any other pagan custom. Customs have been preserved in practically every part of the world of hanging objects upon trees in order to establish some relationship between the gift giver and the tree.

Tree worship, in its many forms, is found again and again in the Bible as God's people would adopt some pagan customs of the heathen races with whom they came in contact.

Pagans and heathens were allowed in massive numbers to come into the "Christian" religion; They retained their ancient festivals and objects of worship. Long before these pagans were introduced to "Christianity," they decorated their homes with evergreens and boughs at the winter solstice of the sun.

One of the first historical accounts of adapting pagan beliefs concerning tree worship in Christianity was the ancient practice of cutting down trees and decorating them to represent the reincarnation of "Nimrod" as 'Tammuz," or the "god of the sun!"

#### **Santa Clause**

The corruption of the name <u>"Saint Nicholas,"</u> who was a Roman Catholic bishop from the fourth century. St. Nicholas was later transferred to <u>Christmas Day</u>, as <u>"Father Christmas"</u> - <u>Santa Claus</u>, show a mixture of pagan customs and worship.

Throughout the centuries, these customs came to be centered around children. How often have we heard Christmas is "for the children." Thereby giving it reason...it is okay, or "we have always done it like this for years." It is a Christian tradition!

Children are lied to about Santa Claus coming down the chimney to bring them gifts, but only if they behave themselves (naughty or nice). What happens when they grow up? They perceive that *lie* was designed to *manipulate their behavior*.



#### What are some excuses?

**There** is nothing wrong with Christmas. **It** is a time for everyone to be joyful. **It** is the thought of giving that counts. **We're** celebrating it because of the children. **It** is a time to exchange gifts. **It** is the birth of Jesus Christ. **It's** a tradition. **We** have always celebrated Christmas.

The two most attended Christian church services worldwide: Easter Sunday and Christmas!

#### Are Pagan Customs Okay, So Long As They Are Used In Honor of God?

God sternly warns His people not to copy pagans and heathens; wondering how they worshiped their pagan gods and adopt their pagan customs, by wrapping them in tinsel, whitewashing them, packaging them in gay colors and calling them Christian!

Revelation 18: 4 "Then I heard another voice from heaven say: " 'Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues."

The purpose of God's people coming out of Babylon is to be free from partaking of her sins, so they may not receive her plagues.

When God dispossessed the pagan nations before the advancing hosts of Israel, He explained to His people that these heathens were losing their lands because of the hideous abominations they practiced; including every perversion, depravity and bestial practice known to man. They worshiped nonexistent "gods" of the host of the heavens, of the sky, earth, water, rain, the sun and the seasons.

The Almighty God condemns these heathen rituals and customs in His Word! But modem societies remain utterly devoid of the awesome fear of God and use human reasoning and nostalgic memories of family, children and the "Christmas spirit." They attempt to justify the use a pagan and heathen customs in a so-called "Christian" holiday!

#### **How Did Christmas Get Into Christian Churches?**

Historians wrote that Christian preachers in the West and East protested the thoughtlessness with which Christ's birthday was celebrated, while Christians of Mesopotamia accused their western cohorts of idolatry and sun worship in adopting this pagan festival."

The Roman Emperor Constantine professed Christianity, <u>placing it on an equal footing with paganism</u>. Most of the "converts" had been brought up in pagan customs, the main one being December 25. They enjoyed this festival and refused to give it up!

The Syrians and Armenians accused the Romans of sun worship and idolatry, claiming the December 25 festival was invented by the disciples of Cerinthus – (one of the two "false apostles" in the Bible.)

#### The Christmas tree, decorations, gift-giving, and Santa Clause:

- The concept of the Christmas tree originated around **3000 B.C**. in ancient Egypt with King Osiris and Queen Isis.
- During the Middle Ages, the Germans believed the evergreen trees were especially permeated with life since they remained green throughout winter. Greenery was prominent in pagan winter celebrations in honor of the tree spirit, or spirit of fertility.
- The Romans trimmed the trees with trinkets and toys at this time of year.
- The Druids tied gilded apples to tree branches and other decorations of orbs and fruit-like objects symbolizing the tree of life in the Garden of Eden. Believe it or not!

#### Was Christ Born on December 25th?

The Bible carefully conceals the date of Jesus' birth for the obvious reason that God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son intended no special celebration surrounding His birth but did clearly sanctify the occasion of His death; **Jesus Christ who became the sacrificial lamb for the sins of man.** 

This does not mean that the birth of Jesus Christ was not the most important birth in all of history. Christ' birth accompanied great signs, wonders, and miracles. The timing was not so important as the fact that a Savior had come into the world!

Believe it or not, this is precisely the excuses most Christian use to validate them celebrating Christmas. Although, some admit knowing *that it is not the Savor's birthday* by saying, "We worship Christmas because God sent His Son into the world." However, the origin of "Christmas" are utterly pagan, so, when they celebrate Christmas, with <a href="mistletoe">mistletoe</a>, <a href="exchanging of gifts">exchanging of gifts</a>, <a href="holy wreaths">holly wreaths</a>, <a href="Santa Clause">Santa Clause</a>, <a href="Christmas trees">Christmas trees</a>, and <a href="decorated lights">decorated lights</a>, and tie it to Christ, they are linking the Holy Deity of God with Babylonian heathen rituals of paganism — *That is a sin!* 

Ephesians 4:17-19 "So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

<u>Psalm 9:15</u> "The nations have sunk down in the pit which they have made; In the net which they hid, their own foot has been caught."

#### When Was Jesus Born?

Let me state plainly that the Scriptures <u>do not</u> give a precise date of Jesus' birth. What we know is, if Christmas is a pagan custom that long preceded Jesus Christ, when then, according to Scripture, was Jesus Christ born?

<u>Question</u>: If God had intended for us to *celebrate the birthday of Jesus*, why then didn't He *reveal the exact date to us in the Scriptures?* Careful examination of various Scriptures, we see plainly that Christ *was not* born on December 25, but some time in the autumn of the year. Let's begin with an important Scripture to establish a timeline.

Luke 1:5-13 "There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of <u>Abia</u>: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years. And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course, according to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense. And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said unto him, <u>'Fear</u> not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John."

#### Continuing...

This passage tells us that the angel Gabriel visited Zacharias "during the course of Abia." What is meant by "the course of Abia"?

The "course of Abia" (Abijah in Hebrew) was the 8 of 24 courses during a 12-month period. Each group of priests (all but the most senior, who were on duty more often) officiated in the Temple for 2 weeks every year. Zacharias' turn of duty came when the 8th group (Abijah) attended, which was during weeks 15 and 16 after the start of the year.

<u>I Chronicles 24:7-10</u> "The first lot fell to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah, the third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim, the fifth to Malkijah, the sixth to Mijamin, the seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah..."

A year in the sacred calendar begins with the new moon nearest the spring equinox. Consequently, the new year starts in *March or very early April*. For the purpose of *this Bible Study*, we will consider the equinox dates of the 20th – 21st of March. Fifteen weeks, or 105 days, after the 20th of March (106 if starting on 21 March), brings us to early July. So, in early July the angel Gabriel told Zechariah that his wife Elisabeth would conceive and bear a son, whose name was to be John (John the Baptist).

#### **Timeline of Birth**

• Six months into Elisabeth's pregnancy, and in early January, Gabriel informed the virgin Mary that she also was to conceive and bring forth a son - the Messiah!

Luke 1: 26-36 "And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. 36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren."

- We observe three vital facts:
- 1) Elisabeth conceived in early July;
- 2) Mary conceived some six months after Elisabeth, probably some time in early to mid January;
- 3) Jesus was born nine months later, which brings us to an autumn date in late September or early October at the very latest.

#### Discovering a timeline of Jesus's Birth

This is an amazing fact, why? Because late September or early to mid October coincides with the **Day of Atonement** and **Feast of Tabernacles**. It is the most sacred period in God's sacred calendar (Leviticus 23:23-44).

The *Day of Atonement* points to a specific time in the future when the great High Priest of the Melchizedek Order (The Messiah) will literally bring the redeemed host of mankind into the very presence of His Father, to be *at-one* with Him.

The week of the *Feast of Tabernacles* is a memorial of Israel's forty years in the wilderness when the nation dwelt in temporary dwelling places, booths, or <u>"tabernacles."</u>

God took up residence in a "tabernacle," which was pitched in the center of the camp. That is the <u>low-level</u> memorial of Tabernacles.



The <u>high-level</u> reality of Tabernacles was when Jesus Christ, the Messiah, came to this earth and took up residence in a human body. In other words, God "tabernacled" with mankind in the person of His Son – Jesus Christ!

### **Exchanging Gifts At Christmas**

Those who celebrate Christmas desperately seek justification for continuing this pagan custom of giving gifts to one another, they claim they are just doing what the three wise men did who came to see Jesus. Is this a valid excuse? **No, it is not!** 

Matthew 2:1-2,11 "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, '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." "...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"

The wise men gave gifts unto Jesus, because *He was KING* of All the earth; it was not because of His birthday. This event took place almost a year after the time of His birth; and It was Customary then and even today to give gifts to a king. Notice that they Gave Gifts Unto *Him*, not to *each other*!

"The practice of exchanging of gifts among friend and relatives at "yule-tide season" is simply not found in the Scriptures. It is a custom derived from paganism out of Babylon and Rome."



#### **Pagan Practices In Christmas**

The practice of exchanging of gifts among friend and relatives at "yule-tide season" is another event that is non-scriptural. This is a custom derived from paganism.

The Christmas tree, now so common among us, was equally common in Pagan rituals. In Egypt it was the Palm tree; in Rome it was the fir tree; both denoted *pagan Baal-Tamar*.

Christmas worshipers proclaim, "it is the thought that counts"; however, reality is that we are bombarded by commercial advertising, that "how much you love someone is determined by how much money is spent on a gift for them."

Consider fourth-century author Libanius, describing the end of-year festival of the pagan Roman Empire: "Everywhere may be seen...well-laden tables The impulse to spend seizes everyone. He through the whole year has taken pleasure in saving....becomes suddenly extravagant. A stream of presents pours itself out on all sides" (Christmas in Ritual and Traditions).

Consider The Biblical Sacra (pages 153-155) which describes the exchanging of gifts at Christmas: "The interchange of presents between friends is alike characteristic of Christmas and the Saturnalia, and must have been adopted by Christians from the pagans, as the <u>admonition of Tertullian</u> plainly shows"

The exchanging of gifts does not honor Christ in any form. Those who exchange gifts at Christmas *deceive themselves* into thinking they are "honoring Christ"! When we put this in its proper perspective – it is folly!

Is it any wonder that Scripture says that Satan has deceived the whole world. **Revelation 12:9**, "...that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray...".

### Pagan Practices in Christmas, Continue

The account of the shepherds coming to the manger had to take place some months earlier than December-likely in September, or at the very latest early October.

Then why the custom of observing the birthday of Christ on *December 25th?* Because, *December 25th* fell near the end of the ancient pagan seven-day ceremony of "the Saturnalia," later changed to "the Brumalia" by imperial Roman decree. This <u>riotous festival</u> was in celebration of the <u>winter solstice of the sun</u>, and honored Tammuz the "sun god."

The first valid mention of December 25th was published in A.D. 354 by a Latin chronographer who mentions nothing concerning any "festive occasion" but, falsely, states the date of Jesus' birth as being "on a Friday and the fifteenth day of the new moon" and links it to December 25th.

Many were speculating toward the close of the second century about the date of Jesus' birth. Clement of Alexandria, mentions such speculations, condemning them all as mere superstition!



Clement maintained that many believed Jesus was born about the 20th of May or on the 19th or 20th or April! Clement himself leaned toward the 17th of November, 3 B.C. It was not until A.D. 242 when an author of a Latin tract called "De Pascha Computus" believed that a connection was drawn between the festivities in honor of the "sun god" and the birthday of Jesus Christ as "the Sun of Righteousness."

Anyone who confidently and ignorantly celebrates December 25th as anything to do with Christ *are utterly and totally deceived!* 

# The Two Babylons, Author, Alexander Hislop, Chapter III, "Festivals" Section I. Christmas and Lady-day, Page 97

"If Rome be indeed the Babylon of the Apocalypse, and the Madonna enshrined in her sanctuaries be the very queen of heaven, for the worshipping of whom the fierce anger of God was provoked against the Jews in the days of Jeremiah, it is of the last consequence that the fact should be established beyond all possibility of doubt; for that being once established, every one who trembles at the Word of God must shudder at the very thought of giving such a system, either individually or nationally, the least countenance or support. Something has been said already that goes far to prove the identity of the Roman and Babylonian systems; but at every step the evidence becomes still more overwhelming..." That which arises from comparing the different festivals is peculiarly so.

"The festivals of Rome are innumerable; but <u>five</u> of the most important may be singled out for explanation, <u>Christmas-day, Lady-day, Easter, the Nativity of St. John, and the Feast of the Assumption.</u> Each and all of these can be proved to be <u>Babylonian</u>. And first, as to the festival in honor of the birth of Christ, or <u>Christmas</u>. 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 (Christ) was born. What is recorded there, implies that at what time soever His birth took place, <u>it could not have been on the 25th of December</u>. 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, <u>from December to February, is very piercing</u>, and <u>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.\*"</u>

"How, then, did the Romish Church fix on *December the 25th* as Christmas-day? Why, thus: Long before the fourth century, and long before the Christian era itself, a festival was celebrated among the heathen, at that precise time of the year, in honor 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*. This tendency on the part of Christians to meet *Paganism half-way* was very early developed; and we find Tertullian, even in his day, about the year 230, bitterly lamenting the inconsistency of the disciples of Christ in this respect and contrasting it with the strict fidelity of the Pagans to their own superstition. "By us," says he, "who are strangers to Sabbaths, and new moons, and festivals, once acceptable to God, the Saturnalia, the feasts of January, the Brumalia, and Matronalia, are now frequented; gifts are carried to and fro, new year's day presents are made with din, and sports and banquets are celebrated with uproar; oh, how much more faithful are the heathen to their religion, who take special care to adopt no solemnity from the Christians." Upright men strive to stem the tide, but in spite of all their efforts, the apostacy went on, till the Church, with the exception of a small remnant, was submerged under Pagan superstition. That *Christmas was originally a Pagan festival, is beyond all doubt*. The time of the year, and the ceremonies with which it is still celebrated, prove its origin. 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." The very name by which Christmas is popularly known among ourselves-- Yule-day --proves at once its Pagan and Babylonian origin. "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," (Christmas eve) long before they came in contact with Christianity, that sufficiently proves its real character."

#### **Paganism and Disobedience**

"God is a Spirit: and "...they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). God's Spirit is the spirit of truth, and the spirit of truth does not lead us to the truth by error, half truths, lies, or false doctrine. God's truth exposes falsehood every time.

1 John 4:6 "We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."

<u>Hebrews 4:12</u> "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Mark 7:7 "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, ...teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

Worshiping Christ by honoring His birthday on a day that is not His birthday and **borrowing pagan customs** in the process, **is not worshiping Him "in spirit and in truth"! Instead, it is taking His name in vain and honoring Him falsely!** 

Mark 7:13 "Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."

<u>Colossians 2: 8</u> "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ."

<u>John 4:23</u> "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks."

#### **What Scriptures Tell Us**

<u>Deuteronomy 12:30-31</u>, we read, "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 the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, 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."

There it is in plain language, what God thinks of transferring pagan customs to His Holy name!

What about my family? Have anyone heard this before? Many will ask, "But what about my family, my children, my friends? How can I possibly stop keeping Christmas? It is a family day for us, and the children and grandchildren all expect presents to give them something." <a href="Response">Response</a>: Just tell them the truth: tell them that Christmas is not a festival that God wants Christians to keep.

Instead learn and teach them about God's Holy Feast Days. His *command* Holy Day and Feast celebrations are sprinkled throughout the year, the *Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day lasting eight days*. Christmas for whatever it is to some, lasts just one day.

<u>Proverbs 16:25</u> God says, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

<u>Acts 5:29</u> tells us "We ought to obey God rather than men." When, in the lives of millions of professing "Christians," will the opinion of Jesus Christ and God the Father take first place in their hearts?

#### **How Do People Change...Turn Away From Celebrating Christmas?**

## Is it possible to stop keeping Christmas? – Yes!

Thousands of Christians the world over have already done so. In learning and accepting *spiritual truth*, some have simply stopped, and others now keep the **festivals that God commands**.

The Bible commands us to "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21). It implies, if it is not Scriptural, not good to do, and it is not true, then do not hold fast to it; let it go.

We prove all things by comparing what <u>we hear to what the Word of God says</u>. And when we thoroughly study the true meaning behind Christmas, we are left with two choices:

- 1) Take heed to what we learned and obey Yahweh's Commandments. For true believers, this is the only option.
- 2) Disregard everything and continue to celebrate the pagan proven festival of Christmas. Matthew 7:23 Jesus says, "And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

#### **God's Commanded Celebrated Feasts and Holy Days**

"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, 'Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts" (Leviticus 12:1-2).

God says these are *His feasts, His holy days*. These are the *only sacred festivals in the Bible that believers are commanded to observe.* 

- 1. The Passover This service commemorates the death of Jesus Christ, the Passover Lamb of God, who gave his life to purchase our salvation.
- 2. The Feast of Unleavened Bread This week-long feast commemorates Israel's hurried departure from Egypt when they lived on unleavened bread.
- 3. Pentecost This festival commemorates the out pouring of the Holy Spirit. Historically, this event happened on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2).
- 4. The Feast of Trumpets This feast still awaits partial fulfillment. It foreshadows the time when God's people will fulfill the Great Commission to "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."
- 5. The Day of Atonement This solemn day of fasting and prayer foreshadows the time of the putting away of Satan the devil for I 000 years; and the time of judgment and atonement.
- 6. The Feast of Tabernacles This festival pictures the Millennium, the I 000-year reign of Jesus Christ upon the earth at His return.
- 7. The Last Great Day This feast prefigures the great general resurrection-the time when all those who never had their first chance for salvation will be resurrected to physical life and given their first opportunity for salvation (Revelation 20:5).

## **Other Holidays**

## Federal and other Annual Holidays that are okay to keep. All - Non-Religious (8):

- January Martin Luther King Jr.
- February Washington's Birthday
- June Juneteenth National Independence Day
- July Independence Day (4th of July)
- September Labor Day
- October Columbus Day
- November (2) Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day

#### **Jewish Holidays (Not Commanded By Yahweh)**

- Hanukkah Commemorates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after a group of Jewish warriors defeated the occupying mighty Greek armies.
- **Purim** Celebrates the deliverance of the Jewish people from the wicked Haman in the days of Queen Esther of Persia.



#### **Holidays We Do Not Celebrate**

- Good Friday and Easter
- Lent/Ash Wednesday
- All Saints Day
- Valentin's Day
- St Patrick's Day
- Halloween
- Christmas



#### **Questions To Ask "Christmas" Celebrators**

- Should a true believer in God celebrate Christmas?
- Is it acceptable to keep this pagan festival knowing its heathen origins?
- Will God object to putting up and decorating a fir tree, attending Christmas parties and dinners, and exchanging gifts?
- If Almighty God, the Creator who gives us every breath of air we breath, declares from heaven that these man-made pagan customs are an abomination in His sight, then perhaps His opinion should count!
- Do you believe and know, in your heart, that your Creator God does exist and is He real?
- Does it make any difference in your life whether you please God, or whether you please your family, or little children with lies, fairy tales, paganism, and a vain celebration to The Almighty God?

Let Them Know immediately: When a person celebrates Christmas, which is motivated by a *pagan ideology* he/she is honoring the *demons* who conceived that pagan festival in the first place; a *Babylon* and *Roman* influence which is totally opposed to the Holy Spirit of God; and instead, prompts many Christians into committing (some unknowingly) the *winter solstice and yule festival*.

<u>Jeremiah 10: 1-4</u> "...Thus says the Eternal, learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven for the heathen are dismayed in 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."

#### **Summary And Essential Facts to Consider**

- Christmas is a PAGAN festival not a CHRISTIAN festival.
- The 25th of December was celebrated in ancient days as the birthday of the SUN god centuries before Jesus Christ was born.
- Nowhere in the Bible are <u>true believers</u> in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel required to celebrate the birth of Christ or the pagan day of worship known as *Christmas*.
- The early Christian church *DID NOT* celebrate *Christmas*. Instead, it celebrated the sacred festivals of God Almighty as outlines in <u>Leviticus chapter 23</u>.
- In order to <u>win</u> gentiles converts to the Christian faith, the Roman Church, centuries after Jesus Christs' birth in Bethlehem and the apostolic era, <u>adopted this ancient pagan winter festival of the SUN god</u> and renamed it <u>"Christmas,"</u> perpetrating one of the biggest lie in human history that dishonors the true <u>Son of GOD</u> <u>Jesus Christ the Messiah</u>.
- Historians and Scholars, to include Jewish Scholars, have known these facts for a very long time.

#### Those Who Worship Christmas Must Chose ...

<u>Deuteronomy 30:15-19</u> "See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you...But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient...I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed...This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live."

For those who may have questions whether Christians should celebrate Christmas? Consider the information presented. You Have a choice to make.

We pray that God's Holy Spirit will grant you the understanding, and the courage to break the vein cycle of pagan traditions, and stand for the truth of the Almighty God! Then celebrate with us... God's Annual Commanded Feast Days!



## **Scriptural References**

Revelation 18:4 Matthew 2:1-2

Deuteronomy 12: 30 -32 Matthew 7:23

Jeramiah 10:2-4 John 4:23

Luke 1:5-19 1 John 4:6

I Chronicles 24:7-10 Hebrews 4:12

II Timothy 4: 3 Mark 7:3

Ephesians 4:17-19 Mark 7:7

Psalm 9:15 Acts 5:29

Colossians 2:8 Leviticus 12:1-2