

True Stories

About Christmas

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Published By

The House of Yahweh

The Pillar and Ground of the Truth. I Timothy 3:15

**P.O. Box 2498
Abilene, Texas 79604
325-672-5420—325-676-9494
1-800-613-9494**

Publishers of *The Prophetic Word Magazine, Bringing News in Advance!*
A HOUSE OF YAHWEH®™ Publication!

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Books In The Holy Scriptures As Written In The Book Of Yahweh					
<i>If you are unfamiliar with The True Names of The Prophets and Apostles, this box will acquaint you. We also recommend Taped Sermons to help learn the correct pronunciation.</i>					
Volume One					
Genesis	<i>Genesis</i>	II Chronicles	<i>II Chronicles</i>	Daniyl	<i>Daniel</i>
Exodus	<i>Exodus</i>	Ezrayah	<i>Ezra</i>	Hosheyah	<i>Hosea</i>
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Galatians	<i>Galatians</i>	Philemon	<i>Philemon</i>	Revelation	<i>Revelation</i>

—A House of Yahweh Publication—

-Notes-

True Stories About Christmas

In the month of November, we start hearing Christmas carols on the radio. We see children and adults singing carols on television as merchants advertise their products, persuading people to buy gifts. Christmas is the most commercialized holiday of the year. People overspend to buy gifts for their friends and relatives. They try to celebrate what they believe is the birth of their Savior, who was sacrificed for their sins.

Was The Messiah's Birth On December 25th?

Authoritative educational books, such as encyclopedias, give us the truth. In our own Holy Scriptures, long before the virgin birth, the Creator speaks of this festival being celebrated, as **Yeremyah 10:1-5** indicates.

The Encyclopedia Britannica, Volume II (1943-1973), under Christmas, says:

'' In the Roman world, the Saturnalia was a time of merrymaking and exchanging of gifts. December 25th was also regarded as the birthdate of the Iranian Mystery god, Mithra, the Sun of Righteousness.

On the Roman New Year houses were decorated with greenery and lights and gifts were given to children.

To these observances were added the German and Celtic Yule rites... Food and good fellowship, the Yule log and Yule cakes, greenery and fir trees, gifts and greetings all commemorated different aspects of this festive season. Fires and lights, symbols of warmth and lasting life have always been associated with the winter festival, both pagan and Christian. ''

In *A Book of Christmas*, by William Sansom, McGraw-Hill, 1968, pages 28-39, we find the following information:

To get green food for his beasts and later for himself when the first corn was planted, primitive man needed rain and sun. So, with their primitive eyes on the great and mysterious sky...the first religious instincts prayed to the sun! The moment of the Sun's Annual rebirth in late December was one of the vital religious times of the year. This time of year was also the least laborious. There was time to make merry. Early Northern people, who had no exact astronomical findings began their Winter festivals earlier...in November...when the signs of the sun's recession... (dying) and the scarcity of animal food made the slaughter of the increase of the herd necessary. Later, the ceremonies moved forward to mid-December and the anticipation of the Saturnalia...that wonderful, heartwarming, emotional festival introduced by the Romans by their occupation of the then-known world.

In Roman Times... a Pre-Christian Message of 'peace and god's will' to all men accompanied the Saturnalia! The Saturnalia was within the solstice and Saturnalia-Kalendae period...starting December 17 and going through January 1st. The Roman Saturnalia is recorded in writing and was the function of a highly civilized people. The first period of feasting was generally for seven days. The god celebrated was Saturn...farmer of a former gold age and eater of his own children.

The giving of presents...particularly candles and dolls called Sigillaria also derives from the insistent origin of human sacrifice at this time of year!

Directly following the Saturnalia was the Kalendae...more mathematically concerned with the date of the new Roman year...and the celebration of the god Janus, god of doors (as a two-way engine) who looks back on the past and forward to the future.

One may think of the Saturnalia as 'Roman in Rome'...but the truth is: The Roman Empire was a World-Ruling Empire at that time. The customs of Rome were spread to all the known world! Britons and Celts, Indians and Egyptians were all called part of the Roman Empire at one time. These nations brought their own Sun Worshipping Cults to join into the Saturnalia Celebrations! It was an Empire-Wide Celebration. All the people in this Empire, save only a few...gathered in their homes to drink wine...to dance and sing...to light their candles and exchange presents...giving their children the little clay dolls that represented their former sacrifices!

The Strenae...honoring the goddess Strenia...were given for 'good luck!'

The Feast of Fools and the Lord of Misrule derived directly from the Saturnalia.

Many other customs have become engrafted into the ancient celebration occurring at this time of year. Mummers and Wild Men roam the British Isles and Europe. The Mari Lwyd ritual in Wales is revived. The evergreen tree is an ancient custom incorporated. The Vikings gave their Yule... the druids donated their magic mistletoe... the Father Christmas in Briton and the Santa Claus of German origin were all donated and incorporated into the holidays known worldwide as Christmas and New Year!

It was not until the middle of the fourth century c.e. that the 'Birth' of the Messiah was officially celebrated at the time of year when the lighting of fires... the praising of the new sun... relaxation and feasting was set on the very same date as that of the birth of the sun god... Mithra!

MITHRAISM: The worship of Mithra shared many similarities with the newer Christian ceremonies. There was baptism, a sacramental meal, and observance of Sunday, and the god himself was born on December 25th.

The Ancient Pagan Celebrations Of Modern Christmas And New Year

In Revelation 1:1, the Apostle Yahchanan is given the revelation of what will shortly come to pass at the end of this Age. Yahchanan is shown the history of The House of Yahweh and the end of the Babylonian Mystery Religions that this whole deceived world worships in this very day and time.

● Revelation 17:1—

And there came one of the seven malakim who had the seven bowls, and talked with me, saying to me: Come, I will show you the sentence of the great whore that sits upon many WATERS.

The word waters in this verse is referring to **peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues**, as we find in:

● Revelation 17:2-6—

2 With whom the KINGS OF THE EARTH HAVE COMMITTED FORNICATION; practiced idolatry: godworship (the worship of elohim), and the INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH HAVE BEEN MADE DRUNK WITH THE WINE OF HER FORNICATION.

3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the *midst of* godworshippers (worshippers of Elohim); and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet colored beast, FULL OF NAMES OF BLASPHEMY, having seven heads and ten horns.

4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls, having

a golden cup in her hand FULL OF ABOMINATIONS AND FILTHINESS OF HER FORNICATION.

5 And upon her head was a name written: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF THE HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

6 And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Yahshua. And when I saw her, I wondered with great astonishment.

● **Revelation 17:15—**

And he said to me: The WATERS which you saw, where the whore sits, are PEOPLES, and MULTITUDES, and NATIONS, and LANGUAGES.

In Revelation 17:5, we are shown a religion of mystery, the Great Whore, or Great God Worshiper, as this religion should be called, which brings abominations to all peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.

Collier's Encyclopedia, 1980, Volume 16, pages 349-350, tells us of these Ancient Mystery Religions.

THE MYSTERY RELIGIONS

The mystery religions furnish an ancient example of a missionary movement. Originally they were magical ceremonies designed to induce bountiful crops. They dramatized the annual decay of vegetation in the autumn as the death of a divine youth over whom a goddess mourned. Later they celebrated with ecstatic joy the return of verdure in the spring as the coming to life again of the departed youth. Participating in these rites was believed to cleanse the devotee of his sins and unite him mystically with the god. They were crude and orgiastic but they had a dynamic quality which led to their expansion.

The devotees of the cult of Dionysus, which celebrated the annual death and resurrection of the god of the grape and of wine, carried it from Macedonia into Greece and established it at Delphi beside the worship of Apollo. They even managed to have Dionysus declared to be the son of Apollo though it was not natural to associate a bibulous deity with the god of light, of music, and of prophecy. The horror with which the cult of Dionysus was originally regarded is vividly depicted by Euripides in his play *The Bacchae*, written around 407 B. C. The dramatist, in representing King Pentheus of Thebes as first trying to stamp out the cult of Dionysus by force but finally capitulating to him, seems to be testifying to the irresistible advance of this religion. About a generation later, Plato in *The Republic* complains about the itinerant initiators of the Orphic religion who were offering absolution from sin by means of sacrifices and ecstatic revels, alleged to

benefit both the living and the dead.

In spite of the protests of such men as Euripides and Plato the mystery religions continued to make converts because they supplied something which neither the religion of the Olympic gods nor the philosophers of Greece could offer. This was especially true of the Eleusinian mysteries which may have had their origin in Egypt. In these ceremonies, Demeter, the goddess of agriculture, was represented as weeping over her daughter Persephone, who had been carried off by Pluto, god of the nether world, to become his bride. She reappeared, however, in the spring and spent six months (according to some accounts, eight) with her mother before returning to Pluto. By a natural development, these mysteries came to teach that, just as the vegetation was reborn in the spring, after its death in the autumn, so the initiates might be reborn after death. Though the details of these rites are unknown, because they were secret, it is evident that the drama which the initiates saw enacted was a source of great comfort to them thereafter, attracting at Athens alone thousands of candidates who thronged to be initiated.

The Syrian mystery religion in which the goddess Astarte wept over Adonis was carried by Phoenician sailors and traders to various ports in the Mediterranean at an early date. Later, when this sea was controlled by the Ptolemies, Egyptian sailors and traders carried the mystery religion of Isis to Cyprus, Sicily, Italy, Gaul, and Spain. This religion, transformed considerably from its Egyptian prototype, had great popularity in Rome, and held its own for 500 years. It was at one time a formidable rival of Christianity.

Mithraism, which was also a rival of Christianity in the early centuries, seems to have had many affinities with the mystery religions, especially in its graded series of seven stages of initiation. Mithra or Mithras was the name of an ancient deity among the Aryans. Originally he was the god of the social order, but in Persian religion he had warlike characteristics, being a manifestation of the power of the sun, fighting against darkness on behalf of Ahura Mazda. His emblem was *sol invictus*, the invincible sun, and his help was sought especially by those engaged in warfare.

The Romans became acquainted with Mithraism in 66 B.C. Pompey had been given dictatorial powers to suppress the pirates who swarmed the Mediterranean. He captured their strongholds in Cilicia at the eastern end of the Mediterranean, took 20,000 prisoners and settled them at various points in Asia Minor and Greece. These captured Cilician pirates intro-

duced Mithraism to the Romans. It did not make much headway, however, till toward the end of the second century A. D., when soldiers recruited in Pontus, Cappadocia, and Lesser Armenia spread the faith through the Roman legions. It was also propagated by merchants and slaves from these regions, but its strength lay chiefly in the army. Emperor Diocletian favored it, and so did Constantine at first, even using the emblem of the invincible sun on his banners. He later replaced this by the Christian emblem. Mithraism had already received a severe setback through the loss of the important outpost of the army in Dacia on the Danube, where the faith was especially strong. While for a time Mithraism seemed a formidable rival of Christianity, it had an outstanding weakness. It was a masculine religion with little or no place for women. Consequently it could never become strongly entrenched in family life. Its vogue came to an end toward the close of the fourth century, though it lingered on in a few isolated places.

Has Mithraism, Or Sun Worship, Really Come To An End In These Modern Times?

In the earliest millennium, the great mother goddess was a symbol of procreation and fertility and was worshiped in every corner of the world. This mother goddess was pictured as the sun and earth and her consort as the moon and the natural elements.

The Babylonians, in their popular religion, worshiped a goddess mother and a son, represented in pictures and images as a mother with her son in her arms. From Babylon this worship of the mother and her child spread to the ends of the earth.



The original Babylonian mother goddess was Semiramis. The adored little child in her arms was Ninus, signified as the son. This same little child was also signified as the husband of Semiramis.

In Egypt, where this mother and child worship spread, the mother was worshiped as Isis and her son/husband was worshiped as Osiris. Osiris was represented in Egypt as the son and husband of his mother and actually bore the name, husband of the Mother.

In India this same worship is of Isi and Iswara. In Asia Cybele and Deoius are venerated. Pagan Rome worshiped Fortuna and Jupiter-puer (Jupiter the boy).

In ancient Greece this mother and son worship was represented as Ceres the Great Mother with the babe at her breast; or as Irene the goddess of peace, with the boy Plutus in her arms.

Even Tibet, China and Japan had prototypes of this fornication and abomination which Yahweh hates. The Madonna and Child worship certainly did not start in the Christian Era.

We are told of the first government by man, and of man, and against Yahweh in:

● **Genesis 10:8-9**—

8 Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth.

9 He was a tyrant who DECEIVED, who turned against Yahweh; therefore it is said: Like Nimrod the tyrant who deceived, who TURNED AGAINST YAHWEH.

Nimrod built the tower of Babel, the original Babylon, Ancient Nineveh and many other cities. Nimrod also brought forward a way of worship that was against the worship of Yahweh.

Nimrod was so evil that he married his own mother, Semiramis. After Nimrod's untimely death, his mother/wife brought forward the doctrine of the resurrection of Nimrod. She claimed a full grown evergreen tree sprang up overnight from a dead tree stump. She also claimed that Nimrod would visit the evergreen tree on each anniversary of his birth and leave gifts upon it. This ancient Roman coin shows the yule log—the slain God come to life again.

Semiramis, through her scheming, became the Babylonian Queen of Heaven. She introduced a worship to usher in the rebirth of her son every year.

● **Yeremyah 7:18**—

How the children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, while the women knead dough to make cakes for the QUEEN OF HEAVEN, and how they pour out drink offerings

to the hinder gods (elohim), so they may provoke Me to anger!

● **Yechezqyah 8:14**—

Then he brought me to the door of the gate of Yahweh's House, which was toward the north; and behold, there sat women WEeping FOR TAMMUZ.

In this ancient act of sun worship, women would ceremonially weep until Nimrod—Tammuz was reincarnated as the evergreen tree. Nimrod's birthday was December 25th.

In Egypt, Osiris, the Sun God, the son/husband of Isis was born on December 25th. In the Syrian Mystery Religion, Astarte—Semiramis wept over Adonis—Nimrod. The birthday of Adonis, the Sun God of Syria, was December 25th. The festival of Mithras, the Sun God of Ancient Persia, was celebrated on December 25th. Tree Worship and celebrating a birthday on December 25th certainly did not start in the Christian Era.

Mithraism, or Persian Sun God worship was a well known religion in Yahshua's day. The Romans became acquainted with this religion about 200 b.c.e., by the year 200 c.e., it was popular in the Roman armies. Mithras was a manifestation of the power of the sun. The emblem of Mithras read: Sol Invictus—the Invincible Sun. The cult of Mithras ennobled fighting as a manly virtue and was especially attractive to the Roman soldiers.

The leaders of this Mithraic religion were the very ones that brought the last two persecutions on what remained of The House of Yahweh. These persecutions were first recorded in the book of Acts. By the time the tenth persecution under Diocletian was formulated, The House of Yahweh had allowed paganism to creep in; therefore, they were not strictly following Yahweh, as the First Era had been when Yahshua walked the earth.

Diocletian restored order, but only by instituting a reign of regimentation and despotism. His eventual successor in 307 c.e. was Constantine, but by that time the Roman Empire, as a strong military entity, had suffered irreparable damage.

Diocletian, who brought the most severe persecution forward, worshiped Mithras. His successor, Constantine, who was the historical savior of the Christian religion, also worshiped Mithras. Constantine had the emblem of the invincible sun on his banners. *The Last Two Million Years*, by The Readers Digest Association, 1971, page 77, says:

Worship of the sun-god

For the next 500 years Persia came under the rule of the Parthians, a warlike people from the north-east. This was a period of almost ceaseless conflict with Rome, from which neither side emerged victor. Roman

soldiers carried back to Europe the Persian worship of Mithras, the sun-god. If Mithraism had not been superseded in the Roman Empire by Christianity, Europe might have adopted the Persian religion.

● ***Collier's Encyclopedia, 1980, Volume 9, page 431, says:***

Roman Religion and the Emergence of Christianity.

The religion of the Romans also displayed lack of imagination. As encouraged by Augustus and some of his successors, it was a cold, remote affair of ceremonies and rituals. Much had been borrowed from the Greeks, but, as so often occurred, the Romans took the shell and left the kernel; the charm of the old Greek religion was lost. As social and economic conditions became worse, the Roman masses turned more and more to the colorful, strongly emotional, and superstitious mystery religions imported from the East. The cults of the Great Mother, of Isis, and of Mithras were the most popular. They all emphasized spiritual salvation and a future life—in a word they offered comfort. The cult of Mithras, which appealed primarily to men, became very strong and was carried throughout the Empire by the constantly moving Roman legions. It was to be the chief rival of Christianity.

Was Mithraism the chief rival of Christianity or is Christianity just the name of Mithraism in this day and age?

Constantine was a pagan worshiper of Mithra. He used religious toleration for the Christians as a political ploy to strengthen his own power as the pagan emperor of Rome.

The Last Two Million Years, by The Readers Digest Association, 1971, pages 116-118, says:

By the 2nd century many foreign religions were being practiced as well, imported from the various regions of the empire by traders and soldiers. Most of these religions appealed because they contained an element of secret initiation and intense group-identity, which official Roman religion lacked. Thus the Persian cult of Mithras, which ennobled fighting as a manly virtue, attracted the soldiers, while Christianity offered a democratic after-life to the underprivileged, and made a particular appeal, in its early days, to slaves and women.

Worship of the emperor

For those with a taste for Oriental mysticism there

were the Egyptian cults of Isis, the mother goddess, and Serapis, her spouse; while for those who favoured hallucinogenic revelation through frenzy and trance there were the Bacchic rites from Greece.

Further off, in the more remote provinces, the weird local deities continued to flourish; all gods were tolerated, as long as everybody paid the proper respect on the appointed festival days to the official worship of the emperor, the focus of loyalty to Rome. It was the Christians' refusal to pay this homage that made Christianity the single faith that, for three centuries, Rome would not tolerate.

While these sources claim that the Christians were the ones who did not worship these gods, it is important to note that the ones who were not worshipping these gods were in fact the true worshipers of Yahweh and not the Christians. The true followers of Yahweh would never bow down to worship Gods. This loyalty to Yahweh's Way was the sign of a true follower. By the time the persecutions ended, The House of Yahweh had also ended as a religious organization. You can believe, there were no true followers of Yahweh or His Way left.

Constantine was still a sun worshiper when the religion that is called Christianity today was initiated.

Collier's Encyclopedia, 1980, Volume 21, page 632, says:

SUNDAY. To understand the meaning and significance of Sunday as the first day of the week it is necessary to consider the five contributions which have been made to its place in the calendar and to its manner of observance: (1) the worship of the sun among ancient peoples, (2) the popularity of Mithraism among the Romans, (3) the Roman observance of the day of the Sun, (4) the early Christian dedication of the first day of the week as a memorial of the resurrection of Christ, and (5) the Scottish Presbyterian conception of Sunday as a day of rest and the adoption of this conception by Puritan Massachusetts, with the resulting Sunday laws, usually known as Blue Laws.

From prehistoric times to the close of the fifth century of the Christian Era the worship of the sun was dominant. Deified in Egypt as Ra, the Sun-god, he is pictured in the oldest passages of the Pyramid texts. The sun-disk (Aton) with the outspread wings of the falcon became the most generally used symbol of Egyptian religion. In Babylonia, cylinder seals picture the sun as a deity coming forth through open doors

which attendants hold open for him, at the same time turning their faces away so as not to be blinded by his brightness. This idea of the sun having a habitation is reflected in the Biblical reference to his coming forth as a bridegroom from his chamber rejoicing as a strong man to run his course. When the Israelites entered Palestine they found the worship of the sun under the name of Baal-hammon, the latter part of this title meaning sun images.

At an early unknown date the mystery cult of Mithra or Mithras arose in Persia. In Zoroastrianism he is named Yazata, a power of light serving as aide to Ahura-Mazda. In the valley of the Euphrates he attained the eminence of an Assyrian god. Mithraism reached Rome in the second century B.C.E. It became popular in the Roman army, in the commercial class, and among the slaves and eventually was adopted by the Roman emperors because it supported the divine right of kings. From very ancient times, the Romans had marked each eighth day as a holiday. It is not surprising, since they were influenced not only by the favored cult of Mithras but also by the Egyptian cult in North Africa that they gradually came to observe a holiday dedicated to the sun. Dies solis was substituted for dies Saturni. The earliest known Sunday law appeared in the edict of Constantine (A.D. 321) enacting that 'magistrates, city people, and artisans' were to rest on the venerable day of the Sun. This law probably bore no relation to Christianity.

The early Christians had first adopted the Jewish seven day week with its numbered weekdays, but by the close of the third century the planetary week, and in the fourth and fifth centuries the pagan calendar names had become general in western Christendom.

This says: "The earliest known Sunday Law appeared in the Edict of Constantine in 321 C.E. enacting that magistrates, city people and artisans were to rest on the vernal day of the sun." This is not the only enactment that resembles present day Christianity.

***The Last Two Million Years*, by The Readers Digest Association, 1971, pages 217-218, says:**

By a stroke of tactical genius the Church, while intolerant of pagan beliefs, was able to harness the powerful emotions generated by pagan worship. Often, churches were sited where temples had stood before, and many heathen festivals were added to the Christian calen-

dar. Easter, for instance, a time of sacrifice and rebirth in the Christian year, takes its name from the Norse goddess Eostre, in whose honour rites were held every spring. She in turn was simply a Northern version of the Phoenician earth-mother Astarte, goddess of fertility. Easter eggs continue an age-old tradition in which the egg is a symbol of birth; and cakes which were eaten to mark the festivals of Astarte and Eostre were the direct ancestors of our hot-cross buns.

By harnessing the emotions generated by pagan religions, one can truthfully say that the pagan religions are a part of Christianity.

Constantine, was also the leader of the First Council of Nicaea in the year 321 C.E. Sunday Worship was established for Christianity at that time. The Christian church did not want to have anything to do with the “wicked rabble of the Jews,” including Yahweh’s seventh day Sabbath.

Easter, or the worship of the goddess, Eostre, was established at that Council because Passover was part of the “Jewish” religion. The doctrine of the trinity was established and Yahweh’s Feasts were changed to the pagan celebrations the deceived Christian world celebrates today.

● **Daniyl 7:24-25—**

24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom *are* ten kings *that* will arise; and another will rise after them; and he will be different from the first *ones*, and he will subdue three kings.

25 And he will speak *great* words against Yahweh, and will wear out; *mentally attack to cause to fall away*, the saints of Yahweh, and THINK TO CHANGE TIMES; YAHWEH’S FEAST DAYS. AND LAWS; and they will be given into his hand until a time, and times, and the dividing of time.

History has proven this prophecy correct. The last, diverse kingdom that subdued three kingdoms is the religious power of papal Rome. This religious power changed the Feast days of Yahweh to the pagan festivals that were already popular.

The most popular pagan festival was the birthday of the Invincible Sun on December 25th. The Mithraic and Roman religions were already celebrating the rebirth of the sun. It was not a hard task to place the mask of Christianity over this pagan birthdate and call it the birthday of Jesus.

Strange Stories Amazing Facts, by The Readers Digest Association, pages 283-284, says:

Christmas and Easter, although the greatest festivals in the Christian calendar, are celebrated with customs that originated in superstition and heathen rites hundreds of years before Christ was born.

Even the dates owe more to pagan practices than to the birth and resurrection of Jesus. It was not until the fourth century that December 25 was fixed arbitrarily as the anniversary of the Nativity—because the pagan festivals from which so many Christmas customs spring were held around that time.

And Easter, still a movable feast despite much pressure to allot it a specific date, falls according to the phase of the moon that the pagans long ago decided was the appropriate time to venerate their gods.

Although Christianity has swept the world in a relatively short time, as the histories of great religions go, the early missionaries faced an uphill task. The pagans were reluctant to give up their false gods and ancient practices.

So the missionaries, unable to convert them easily to an entirely new code of worship, did the next best thing. They took the pagan festivals as they were and gradually grafted the observances of the new faith onto these festivals and the rites and customs surrounding them.

December 25 was not called Christmas until the ninth century. Until then it had been the Midwinter Feast, a combination of the Norse Yule Festival and the Roman Saturnalia, both of which took place in late December.

How was this deceit perpetrated on mankind? *The Last Two Million Years*, by The Readers Digest Association, 1971, pages 217-218, tells us how:

Since bishops were educated men at a time when education was a rarity, they became civil servants, chancellors and secretaries to rulers. Much of the history of medieval England, for instance, revolves around its bishops and archbishops, such as Augustine, Stephen Langton and Thomas Becket. Many such men had a first loyalty to the pope; some, like Cardinal Wolsey, Henry VIII's chief minister for nearly 20 years, even had ambitions to be pope themselves. Meanwhile at the centre, in Rome itself, the popes had an efficient organization, the curia, patterned on that of the Roman Empire. Papal legates abroad reported back to the pope on shifts of policy and political power, and held a powerful diplomatic weapon in their right to refer disputes to Rome. The pope claimed the sole power to grant absolution for sin. Through the bishops

and the parish priests, his authority reached into almost every corner of Europe.

The only educated people were the Roman Catholic clergy. The great majority of the population were ignorant, uneducated, and superstitious. When the priests said this was the way of worship, this was the way of worship no matter that it originated in paganism, or that it had nothing to do with the bible.

It is one thing to be illiterate, unlearned, and deceived about the pagan holidays worshiped today; but it is an entirely different thing to know what the bible says, and then refuse to obey what the bible says.

What The Bible Says About Pagan Holidays!

● Yechetzqyah 16:2-3—

2 Son of man, make Yerusalem realize her ABOMINATIONS,

3 And say; This is what Father Yahweh says to Yerusalem: Your BIRTH and your NATIVITY are of the land of Canaan; your father was an Amorite, and your mother was a Hittite.

Birth And Nativity?

The people of Israyl that Yechetzqyah was prophesying to were not Canaanites our father Abraham was a Mesopotamian from the land of Ur. He was speaking of God worship. The birth and nativity are as old as the history of The Holy Scriptures.

The father of this pagan God Worship was Amorite. The Amorite means the High One. The first dynasty of Babylon was Amorite. That Amorite—Babylonian dynasty fell to the Hittites when they conquered Babylon. The Hittites were the third most influential of Ancient peoples of the Middle East, rivaling the Egyptians and Mesopotamians. About 1550 B.C.E., the Hittites destroyed the Babylonian capital of the Great Amorite king, Hammurabi.

Unger's Bible Dictionary, page 493, tells us:

Hittite religion is a grand medley of Egyptian and Babylonian deities. They transported Ishtar of Nineveh as far west as Asia Minor. Marduk, the patron god of Babylon, is said on one tablet to have gone to the land of the Hittites where he sat upon his throne for twenty-four years. With Egyptian deities they also assimilated the gods of Syria and Asia Minor. Hittites early dwelt

in what later became prominent centers of early Christianity: Tarsus, Iconium, Lystra, etc. The famous Ephesian Diana may have been a Hittite Artemis. Hittite gods are frequently depicted astride the backs of animals or enthroned between them. However, they are not actually presented as animals. This was evidently the arrangement in Jeroboam's cultic calves at Dan and Bethel, with Jehovah invisibly enthroned.
M. F. U.

As we have previously proven, the people throughout the known pagan world, including Babylon, Egypt, and Syria, all worshiped the sun and the moon through their gods and goddesses. Mother and child worship was prevalent. The rebirth of this child each year was manifested in the form of an evergreen tree. In **Yechetzqyah 16:2-3**, Yechetzqyah spoke of this abominable worship. He also says in:

● **Yechetzqyah 16:15-21—**

15 But you trusted in your own beauty, and PLAYED THE HARLOT because of your renown; *fame*, and POURED OUT YOUR FORNICATIONS UPON EVERY ONE WHO PASSED BY; *worshipping the gods (elohim) of every nation*; his it became.

16 You took some of your garments, decked your high places with many different colors, and PLAYED THE HARLOT upon *your high places*. *Such things* should not have come to pass, nor should they ever have been!

17 You also took your beautiful jewelry, My gold and My silver which I gave you, and MADE MALE GODS (elohim) for yourself, and COMMITTED WHOREDOM; *god (el) worship*, with them;

18 And *you* took your embroidered garments and clothed them, and you set My oil and My incense before them.

19 My food that I gave you—the fine flour, oil, and honey that I fed you—you set it before them for a sweet aroma. This is so, says Father Yahweh!

20 Moreover, you have TAKEN YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS, whom you have borne to Me, and you have SACRIFICED THEM as meat *for your gods (elohim)! IS YOUR HARLOTRY NOT ENOUGH,*

21 THAT YOU MUST SLAY MY CHILDREN, offering them up and causing them to pass through *the fire* to your gods (elohim)?

Playing the harlot and committing whoredom in these scriptures is giving worship to gods rather than to Yahweh.

● **Yechetzqyah 16:25-26—**

25 You have built your high places at the head of every road, and made your beauty to be abhorred. YOU HAVE OFFERED YOURSELF TO EVERY ONE THAT PASSED BY, AND MULTIPLIED YOUR WHOREDOMS.

26 YOU HAVE ALSO COMMITTED FORNICATION;

god (el) worship, WITH THE SONS OF EGYPT, your neighbors who are great of flesh; and YOU HAVE INCREASED YOUR WHOREDOMS, to provoke Me to anger.

In Yechetzqyah 16:27-29, Yahweh goes on to show that the children of Israyl also committed god worship with the Philistines, the Assyrians, and the Chaldeans. The children of Israyl celebrated the religious festivals of the Middle Eastern versions of Christmas and New Year. They brought gifts to the gods. The high places were where sacred poles had been set up, for the renewed God and sun. Their children were sacrificed to the high god Molech at the time of the new year.

Child Sacrifice

● *Mythology of All Religions, Volume 5, page 52, says:*

At this festival a great fire was lighted and having lost his old age in fire he obtains in exchange his youth. There was in consequence a feast on the second of this month throughout Syria called, Dies Natalis Solis Invicti... Natal (birth) day of The Unconquerable Sun.

This legend of the death and burial of the sun god of Tyre is undoubtedly based upon the legend of the tomb of Bel-Marduk at Babylon. As Marduk (Bel-Baal-Lord) rose from his tomb at the New Year's Festival... so also the Tyrians believed their sun god to come forth from his tomb, symbol of his annual sleep of death in the lower world.

At Aphaca in the Lebanon, east of Gebal, was the tomb of BAAL, who, as shall be seen, is probably Adonis of Gebal, also a sun god. The burning of the image of Melgart, the Tyrian Hercules, that by passing through the fire he may receive his youth again to revive the life of a dying world, seems to have been peculiar to Tyre and the land to which this cult spread.

It may be presumed from the human (infant-child) sacrifices to Malik (Molech) in Canaan and to Melgart (Bel-Baal-Lord) as Cronus at Carthage that the Phoenicians offered the first born in the fire which celebrated the Sol Invictus (the same Invincible Sun Constantine worshipped) and insured themselves against the wrath of the relentless god. The Malik of Tyre was identified with Hercules...

Living infants and children were burned in the fire to the God Molech during this time. This was the time of the winter solstice when those heathen were dismayed at the signs of heaven.

● *Unger's Bible Dictionary*, page 416 says:

Mo'lech (mo'lek; Heb. *Melek, king*), a detestable Semitic deity honored by the sacrifice of children, in which they were caused to pass through or into the fire. Palestinian excavations have uncovered evidences of infant skeletons in burial places around heathen shrines. Ammonites revered Molech as a protecting father. Worship of Molech was stringently prohibited by Hebrew law (Lev. 18:21; 20:1-5). Solomon built an altar to Molech at Tophet in the Valley of Hinnon. Manasseh (c. B.C. 686-642) in his idolatrous orgy also honored this deity. Josiah desecrated the Hinnom Valley altar but Jehoiakim revived the cult. The prophets sternly denounced this form of heathen worship (Jer. 7:29-34; Ezek. 16:20-22; 23:37-39; Amos 5:26). No form of ancient Semitic idolatry was more abhorrent than Molech worship. *M. F. U.*

Mo'loch (mo'lok), another form in English (Amos 5:26; Acts 7:43) of *Molech* (q. v.).

● *The Concise Encyclopedia of Greek and Roman Mythology*, by Sabine G. Ostwalt, page 261, under **SATURNUS**, we find:

A Sacrifice was made to Saturnus in his temple with uncovered head according to the Greek observance because Saturnus had come from Greece. After the Sacrifice there was a public banquet... People exchanged presents, most frequently clay puppets (dolls) in memory of the fact Hercules (Molech) abolished human (infant-child) sacrifice when he introduced the cult of Saturnus.

● *The Encyclopedia Britannica*, Eleventh Edition, under **SATURNALIA**, says:

''These dolls were especially given to children and the makers of them held a regular fair at this time. ''

It was believed that these dolls represented the original sacrifices to the infernal god. This infernal god was the original Molech that the Greeks renamed Cronus and the Romans renamed Saturnus. Under Romulus, the founder of Rome, the Saturnalia was unified with the Brumalia—the winter solstice.

This same Babylonian worship of Molech, which came down through the Greeks and Romans, through Constantine and through the Great Whore of **Revelation 17:1**, is worshiped by the same practices and the same customs, at the same time of year, by the whole deceived Christian world today.

● *Holidays Around The World*, by Joseph Gaer, 1953, page 133, says:

The Old Winter Solstice

Christmas is a very old holiday.

It clearly started as a celebration of the passing of the winter solstice, and the start of the sun's return journey from the north to the south.

All the early nations of the earth joyfully celebrated the arrival of this season in the sun's journey. The ancient Romans observed this time with a festival dedicated to Saturn, the god of agriculture, and it was called Saturnalia. This festival was observed with great merriment and abandon. Gifts were exchanged. And great liberties were allowed between freemen and slaves—just as the Hindus allow the breaking of the barriers between castes on certain holidays.

When Emperor Constantine decreed Christianity as the new faith of the Roman Empire, early in the fourth century, the Christians gave the holiday an entirely new name and an entirely new meaning.

They called the holiday the Mass of Christ, or Christ Mass, which was shortened to Christmas. And they declared that Christmas was the birthday of Jesus of Nazareth. Though the exact day and year when Jesus was born are not known, tradition has set the date as December 25, 4 B.C., according to our present-day reckoning.

All of the practices of Christmas have come from paganism. They are merely the modern day practices of the same worship that Yahweh says is an abomination to Him.

Irregardless of the fact that these pagan festivals are covered with the mask of Christian respectability—the adoration of the child; the tree worship with the burning of the yule log; ham on Christmas and New Year; exchanging of gifts; and all of the magic of this season—they are still the ancient worship of Nimrod, the mighty one of the earth who opposed Yahweh.

New Year?

● *The Book of Holidays*, by J. Walker McSpadden, 1958, pages 183-184, says:

The first presents given at this time of year, at the Roman Saturnalia which began on December 17, were green branches for good luck. Way back in the reign of King Tatius of the Sabines, the King received this

woodland token from a 'lucky tree' in the grove of Strenae. The branches (and later fruits, cakes, and other things as well) were therefore called *strenae*. Since the Saturnalia was celebrated up through the Calends (or first) of January, the branches were also one of the earliest ways of wishing Happy New Year. Green, in those days of nature worship, was for luck and for warding off evil. And even now, for the Christian festival, to 'bring home Christmas' is to bring into the house the beauty and the blessing of the woods and outdoor world. What would Christmas be for any of us without the green—the holly and the mistletoe, the evergreen boughs and, above all, the tree?

The Saturnalia was celebrated up through the Calends, or first of January, as it is still being celebrated today by the whole deceived Christian world.

Hogmany (Chag-Meni) Feast Of God Luck!

● **Isayah 65:2-11—**

2 I have spread out My hands all the day to a REBELLIOUS PEOPLE, who walk in a way *which is* not right, after their own thoughts; *devices*;

3 A people who provoke Me to anger continually to My face; who sacrifice in gardens, and burn incense on altars of brick;

4 Who assemble and spend the night keeping MEMORIALS FOR THE DEAD, who eat swine's flesh, and the broth of abominable things; *unclean foods, is in their vessels*,

5 Who say; Stand by yourself! Do not come near me, for I am holier than you! These *are* a smoke in My nostrils, a fire that burns all the day.

6 Behold, *it is* written before Me; I WILL NOT KEEP SILENCE, BUT I WILL RECOMPENSE, even recompense into their bosom—

7 Your iniquities and the iniquities of your fathers together, says Yahweh: who have burned incense upon the mountains, and blasphemed Me upon the hills. Therefore I will measure their former work into their bosom.

8 This is what Yahweh says: As the new wine is found in the cluster, and *one* says; Do not destroy it, for a blessing *is* in it; so will I do for My servants' sake, that I may not destroy them all.

9 And I will bring forth a seed out of Yaaqob, and out of Yahdah an inheritor of My mountains; and My elect will inherit it, and My servants will live there.

10 Sharon will be a fold of flocks, and the Valley of Achor a place for herds to lie down, for My people who have sought Me.

11 But you *are* those who forsake Yahweh, who forget My

holy mountain, who prepare a table for that TROOP and who furnish a drink offering for that NUMBER.

The word troop is translated from the Hebrew word gad. *Unger's Bible Dictionary*, on page 415, shows us:

Gad, a Canaanite deity improperly rendered "troop" (Isa. 65:11), was the god of good fortune, supposed to be the deified planet Jupiter. This star is called by the Arabs "the greater luck" as the star of good fortune.

The word gad is word # 1408 a variable of word #1409 which comes from word #1464 in *Strong's Hebrew Dictionary* and means:

1408. גַּד **Gad**, *gad*; a var. of 1409; *Fortune*, a Bab. deity:—that troop.

1409. גָּד **gād**, *gawd*; from 1464 (in the sense of *distributing*); *fortune*:—troop.

1464. גָּוַד **gāwḏ**, *goode*; a prim. root [akin to 1413]; to crowd upon, i.e. *attack*:—invade, overcome.

This word number comes from the Hebrew word mene. *The Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament*, by Brown, Driver, and Briggs, page 584, shows us that this word means:

† [מִנְהָרָה] **n.[m.]** counted number, time;— only עֲשֶׂרֶת מְנִים . . . הִחֲלִיף Gn 31^{7,41} *changed ten times*.

† מְנִי **n.pr.div.** **Me'ni**, god of fate (*award, apportionment*; cf. Ar. n. pr. div. *Maniyyat*, and perh. *Manāt*, We^{Skizzen} III. 22 f. 190, مَنَوَات Nö ZMG xl. 1886,709; in Nab. מְנוֹתוּ Eut^{Nab.} No. 2. l. 5, etc.);— מִלְאָה לְמִנֵי מִמְקָדָה Is 65¹¹ (|| לְפָדָה)—v. Che Di Bac Sem. Rel. 79

● ***Unger's Bible Dictionary*, page 416, also shows us:**

Me'ni (me'ni; Heb. *meni*, *destiny* or *fate*). Name of the god of destiny or fortune worshipped by the ancient Hebrews in time of apostasy (Isa. 65:11): "But you who forsook the Lord, who forget my holy mountain, who set a table for Fortune and fill cups of mixed wine for Destiny" R. S. V. Fortune is "Gad" (q. v.) and Destiny is "Meni." M. F. U.

● ***Strong's Hebrew Dictionary*, word #4507, says:**

4507. מְנִי **men-ee'**; from 4487; the *Apportioner*, i.e. *Fate* (as an idol):—number.

What were these condemned people doing when Isayah prophesied against them? They were celebrating Christmas

and New Year. *The Two Babylons*, by Alexander Hislop, 1959, pages 94-96, shows us:

''Christmas Day among the ancient Saxons... was observed to celebrate the BIRTH of any lord of the host of Heaven... The Saxons regarded the sun as a female god and the moon a male god. The birth of this 'Lord Moon' was on December 25th. The name of this 'Lord Moon' in the East... Babylonians, Chaldeans and among the Canaanites... was Meni—The Numberer.''

According to Hislop, Gad refers to the Sun—God, and Meni the Moon—God. The people offered sacrifices to these Gods in Isayah 65:11.

Holidays Around The World, by Joseph Gaer, 1953, page 137, says:

A Happy New Year!

Exactly one week after Christmas comes New Year's Day. In the minds of many people these two holidays seem to go together as if they had something in common. Actually, of course, there is no relationship between them. Christmas is a deeply religious holiday, whereas New Year's Day does nothing more than mark the beginning of the civil year.

The date we celebrate as New Year's, like the date of Christmas, is an inheritance from the Romans.

Bah! Humbug!

Christmas and New Year go together like hand and glove today, just as they have from ancient ages. The ancient birth of the male moon was modernized as Christmas, which the whole deceived Christian world is celebrating today.

Hogmanay means feast of the numberer. It is the feast of the God Meni. Even in this age the deceived world bows down on New Year's Day, to Gad and Meni the Gods of luck and fortune, just as they did when Isayah prophesied against them in his day.

Spreading a feast of luxuriant 'lucky' foods and toasting drink offerings to 'good luck' still takes place in Christendom today. The Feast of Hogmanay is still celebrated today with special foods and hard liquors, on the evening before New Year's day, 'for good luck.'

Collier's Encyclopedia, Volume 6, 1980, page 404, tells us:

Gifts and Cards. The practice of exchanging presents

at Christmas stems from the ancient Roman custom called Strenae. During the Saturnalia Roman citizens used to give 'good luck' gifts (strenae) of fruits, pastry, or gold to their friends on New Year's Day.

These 'good luck' gifts are in honor of the Gods of fortune and destiny *The Book of Holidays*, by J. Walker McSpadden, pages 7-8, says:

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Both on the Eve and on the Day we indulge in the old, old custom of 'Wassail.' 'This universal toast comes from the old Gaelic words, *was hael*, meaning 'good health,' and signifies the special food and drink with which we wish each other well at this time. In Scotland and northern England wassail cakes and wassail bowls are still called by that name.

An entire book, instead of a chapter, could be written on the omens and rituals of New Year's Day throughout the ancient and modern world.

● **Yeremyah 7:18—**

How the children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, while the women knead dough to make cakes for the Queen of Heaven, and how they POUR OUT DRINK OFFERINGS TO THE HINDER GODS (elohim), so they may provoke Me to anger!

There is no question that the first day of the pagan New Year is spent in acquiring 'good luck' from the Gods of Luck—Fortune and Destiny.

There is also no question that the ancient festivities of Saturnalia—Brumalia—Chag Meni are nothing more than the Christmas—New Year of today. Christmas and New Year is still the ancient pagan worship of the ancient pagan Gods Yahweh tells us is an abomination to Him.

Janus: The God Of January

● *Holidays Around the World*, by Joseph Gaer, pages 138-139, says:

Two-faced Janus

Janus was represented among the Roman gods as having two faces. He was called Janus Bifors, meaning 'Janus with the two faces.' One face always looked back to the old year, and the other always looked forward to the new. In his right hand Janus held a key, with which he closed the old year and opened the new; in his left hand he held a scepter, symbol of his power.

A great temple with immense gates was built to Janus. And when Rome was at war, the gates of the temple of Janus stood open. But when peace was declared, the gates were closed with great rejoicing.

There was also great rejoicing before the gates of the temple of Janus on New Year's Day when the people gathered to do homage to the god of all beginnings. Gifts were exchanged among friends. Resolutions to be friendly and good to each other were made. And the entire day was given to festivities.

When the Romans under Constantine accepted Christianity as their new faith, they retained the Festival of Janus as their New Year's Day.

● ***The Two Babylons*, by Alexander Hislop, 1959, pages 209-210, tells us about the **Key of Janus**:**

When the Pope came, as he did, into intimate connection with the Pagan Priesthood; when they came under his control, what more natural than to seek not only to reconcile paganism and Christianity, but to make it appear that the pagan, 'Peter-Roma', with his 'keys' meant 'Peter of Rome' and that 'Peter of Rome' was the very Apostle to whom Jesus gave 'the keys of the kingdom?' Hence, from the mere jingle of words, persons and things essentially different were confounded; and paganism and Christianity jumbled together, that the towering ambition of a wicked priest might be gratified; and so... to the blinded Christians of the apostasy, the Pope was the representative of Peter the Apostle... while to the initiated pagans... he was only the representative of Peter... the interpreter of their well known Mysteries. Thus was the Pope the express counterpart of 'Janus, the double-faced.'

Janus, the God that the month of January is named for was the Father of the Gods, and at the same time the mediatorial divinity. He is identified with Bacchus or Adonis (the Sun God) and was invoked in the Religion of Mystery as Satur, Saturn, Mystery. *The Two Babylons*, page 269, says:

As MYSTERY signifies the HIDDEN SYSTEM so SATURN signifies the HIDDEN GOD.

This hidden God is the same God this whole deceived world worships today in the celebrations called Christmas and New Year.

● *Collier's Encyclopedia*, 1980, Volume 20, page 449, shows us who **Saturn** is:

SATURN [sæ'tɜrn] (Lat. Saturnus), an ancient Roman god of sowing and agriculture, hence considered a mythical king who had introduced civilization and morality into Italy, which was thus called Saturnia. The wife of Saturn was Ops, goddess of plenty. Saturn was later identified with the Greek god Cronus, father of the gods, who was said to have fled to Italy after being dethroned by Zeus and to have reigned there during the Golden Age. The festival of the Saturnalia, originally on December 17, was later extended by five or seven days; candles were lighted, friends exchanged gifts, and slaves were served by their masters; it was a period of good will and general festivity, the prototype of Christmas. The earliest extant reference to Saturn's day dates from the first century B.C. (Tibullus). See also AGES OF MAN; CRONUS.

Saturn is identified with Kronos, the father of the Gods. *A Dictionary of Non-Christian Religions*, Geoffrey Parrinder, 1971, page 157, says: "Kronos, time in ancient Greek mythology..."

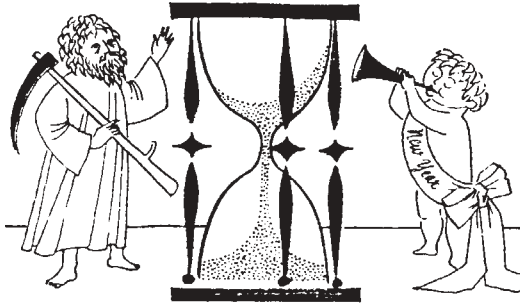
Gods and Mortals in Classical Mythology, Michael Grant and John Hazel, 1973, pages 124-125, tells us more about Kronos, the father of the Gods:

According to a different tradition, Cronos had not been a grim tyrant but a benign ruler who presided over a blessed golden age; after his deposition he left to become ruler of the Isles of the Blessed in the Western Ocean. This aspect of Cronos links him with Saturn, the Roman god with whom he was identified. Some Greeks associated Cronos' name, wrongly, with the word *chronos* (time), and consequently depicted him as an old man with a scythe—Father Time. The oldest account of the story of Cronos is given by Hesiod in the *Theogony*.

Saturnus and Kronos are one and the same God. *The Concise Encyclopedia of Greek and Roman Mythology*, Sabine G. Ostwalt, page 261, says this about Saturnus:

...an ancient agricultural deity who came to Rome from Etruria. But he was very early identified with the Greek-Cronus and his consort was thought to be Ops (Greek-Rhea)... Saturnus introduced the cultivation of the vine and taught them to use a sickle for reaping corn; hence... his statue held a sickle.

Following is the modern picture of Father Time; the same Roman Saturn, Greek Kronos and Babylonian Molech the whole Christian world pays homage to at this very day and age.



The modern version of Father Time is that of an old man with a sickle (representing the old year) who dies at the year's end and is immediately reborn as an infant in the New Year.

Mythology of All Religions, Volume 5, page 52, shows that Kronus is the ancient prototype of this modern holiday:

Bel-Melgart (Kronus) . . . renews himself each year as the 'Invincible Sun' in the fires that burned the infants and children to the god-Molech!

● *A Dictionary of Non-Christian Religions*, by Geoffrey Parrinder, 1971, page 246, says:

Saturn, Saturnalia. Saturn was a Roman god, perhaps of autumn sowing, and identified with the Greek Kronos (q.v.). His festival, the Saturnalia, was on 17 December, when there was considerable licence. Slaves could do as they liked, for a time. There was a Lord of Misrule, and presents were exchanged. Some of this was transferred into Christmas and New Year festivities. Saturn was also a planet from which Saturday is named.

● *Strange Stories, Amazing Facts*, by The Readers Digest Association, 1980, pages 283-284, tells us of some of the customs that were transferred to Christmas and New Year:

Weeklong feast

The seven days of Roman feasting were an occasion for exchanging presents—one of the pagan customs that was gladly incorporated into Christmas. Even the sternest advocates of the new faith could not eradicate the notion that Saturnalia was a time for merrymaking.

The Romans used to switch roles with their slaves, who were encouraged to elect their own 'king' for the holiday. He would preside over a great banquet, at which the master would wait on him and his fellow servants.

A similar idea survives in the armed forces in Britain, where it is still an honored tradition for the officers and senior NCO's to serve the Christmas dinner in the lower ranks' mess. The reason Christian practice could never go the whole way with the Roman custom is that the unfortunate slave 'kings,' after their brief exaltation, were put to death.

When the Normans invaded England in 1066, they introduced into the Christmas festivities a mocking, called the Lord of Misrule, whose job was to ensure that the celebrations were conducted in the old pagan style.

Wearing paper hats and using firecrackers are throwbacks to the wilder excesses of ancient Rome. Yule logs and candles belong to the Norse tradition: They were symbols of fire and light, bringing welcome relief in the cold and darkness of the northern midwinter.

In the centuries that followed the Norman Conquest, as Christianity gained a firmer hold, carols and the Nativity play were added. And Father Christmas evolved as a mixture of the red-robed Lord of Misrule and St. Nicholas (Santa Claus), the patron saint of children.



The mistletoe

Mistletoe, a plant sacred to the Druids, was hung outside Viking homes as a sign of peace and welcome to strangers.

The custom of kissing under the mistletoe has been traced to the Roman Saturnalia. It has also been associated with certain primitive marriage rites.

● ***The Universal Reference Encyclopedia, 1948, under Christmas, says:***

When the festival was at length placed in December, it afforded a substitute to the various nations who had observed a festival of rejoicing that the shortest day of the year had passed, besides spanning over the great interval between Whitsuntide of one year and Good Friday of the next. Coming to the Roman Christian converts, in lieu of the Saturnalia, to which they had been accustomed while they were heathens, its purity became sullied almost at the first by revelry which had crept into it from this source. Similarly the Yule log and the mistletoe are relics of Druidism.

It is a proven fact that the festivities of Christmas and New Year are the same worship to the same pagan Gods which Yahweh tells us is an abomination to Him. Yahweh also says to us in:

● **Yeremyah 10:2-5—**

2 This is what Yahweh says: DO NOT LEARN the way; *religious practices*, of the heathen; *Gentile nations*; and do not be deceived by the signs of heaven; though the heathen are deceived by them; *using them to set their feasts*.

3 For the *religious CUSTOMS* of the peoples *are vain; worthless!* For one CUTS A TREE out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax.

4 THEY DECORATE IT WITH SILVER AND WITH GOLD; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, so that it will not move; *topple over*.

5 They *are* upright, like a palm tree, but they cannot speak; they must be carried, because they cannot go *by themselves*. Do not give them reverence! They cannot do evil, nor *is it* in them to do righteousness!

Yahweh has told us emphatically, “Do not learn the way of the heathen!” The way of the heathen is written in the chapters of man’s customs and traditions that have come down from Nimrod—Semiramis—Ninus—mother—son—husband adoration—worship.

Yahweh’s Way is written in The Holy Scriptures. His Way is there for His House to read and then to obey.

● **Deuteronomy 4:1-2—**

1 Hear now, O Israyl, THE STATUTES AND THE JUDGMENTS WHICH I TEACH YOU TO OBSERVE AND DO, THAT YOU MAY LIVE, and go in and possess the land which Yahweh, the Heavenly Father of your fathers, is giving you.

2 YOU SHALL NOT ADD TO THE WORD WHICH I COMMAND YOU, NOR SHALL YOU TAKE ANYTHING FROM IT, SO THAT YOU MAY KEEP THE LAWS OF YAHWEH YOUR FATHER WHICH I COMMAND YOU.

We realize that these **customs of Christmas and New Year are presented to this world as beautiful things. These worldly**

holidays are well bounded in the very fabric of life in the Christian world. These are times when families come together, gifts are exchanged, and the tree is set up with all the old, familiar decorations. These festivals play on the emotions and senses of mankind. These are exactly the kinds of feelings Satan uses to get this world to give her the worship she desires.

The worldly preachers who claim to follow the Scriptures are afraid to condemn these pagan practices. They are afraid of upsetting all the rich merchants who benefit during the yule-tide season. They are afraid of upsetting the worship of the sun that brings them so much wealth.

● **II Corinthians 11:14-15—**

14 And no marvel; for Satan herself is transformed into an angel of light.

15 Therefore, *it is* no great thing if her **MINISTERS** also are transformed as the ministers of righteousness—whose end will be according to their works.

Satan makes the emotional holidays at this time of the year seem so right. But to know these customs and traditions are the worship of pagan Gods and then to still willfully participate in them is an abominable sin.

● **Hebrews 10:26—**

For if we SIN WILLFULLY after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins.

To know that these Christian holidays of Christmas and New Year are nothing more than the worship of the ancient pagan Gods is to also know that to bow down and worship them is breaking the first two of the Ten Commandments.

The First Commandment is that Yahweh is our Heavenly Father and we are to have no hinder Gods at all, (**Exodus 20:2-3**).

The Second Commandment is that we are not to make any carved image in the form of anything in heaven, on earth, or in the waters, to bow down and serve them. (**Exodus 20:4-5**).

To bow down and serve Yahweh is to obey every Word that proceeds out of His mouth, not adding to it nor diminishing from it in any way.

All one needs to do in order to serve hinder gods is to turn from Yahweh's Way. Do not be mistaken, Yahweh is alive and sees all. Yahweh is the rewarder of those that diligently seek Him.

● **Hebrews 11:6—**

But without the faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*; for he who comes to Yahweh must believe that He is, and *that* He is a REWARDER of those who DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM.

The only reward that this sin-sick world has is the emotional reward they receive as they keep these pagan festivals. Their names are not written in the Book of Life and they will not know what has hit them when Yahshua returns. What is Yahweh's Word on this pagan worship?

● **Deuteronomy 12:30-32**—

30 Be careful not to be ENSNARED INTO FOLLOWING THEM BY ASKING ABOUT THEIR GODS (elohim), saying: How did these nations serve their gods (elohim)? I also will do the same.

31 You must not worship Yahweh your Father in THEIR way, for every ABOMINATION TO YAHWEH, WHICH HE HATES, they have done to their gods (elohim). They even burn their sons and daughters in the fire as sacrifices to their gods (elohim).

32 Whatsoever I command you, be careful to OBSERVE AND DO it, you shall not add to it, nor take away from it.

Yahweh also shows us the judgment of the religious system of Mystery Babylon the Great, mother of harlots and abominations of the earth.

● **Revelation 18:2,8**—

2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying: BABYLON THE GREAT IS FALLEN, IS FALLEN, and is become the habitation of demons, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

8 Therefore, her plagues will come in one day—death, and mourning, and famine; and she will be utterly burned with fire; for strong *is* Father Yahweh Who judges her.

To those of Yahweh's House whom He has called or is calling in these Last Days, to all who would enter into His Kingdom, Yahweh says:

● **Revelation 18:4**—

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying: COME OUT OF HER, MY PEOPLE, SO THAT YOU DO NOT PARTAKE IN HER SINS, AND SO THAT YOU DO NOT RECEIVE OF HER PLAGUES.

Yahweh promises to His servants, those who obey every Word that proceeds from His mouth:

● **Isayah 65:13-15**—

13 Therefore, this is what Yahweh our Father says: Behold, My servants will eat, but you will be hungry. Behold, MY SERVANTS WILL DRINK, but you will be thirsty. Behold, MY SERVANTS WILL REJOICE, but you will be ashamed.

14 Behold, MY SERVANTS WILL SING FOR JOY OF HEART, but you will cry for sorrow of heart, and wail for vexation; *grief*, of spirit;

15 And you will leave your name as a curse to My chosen; for Yahweh our Father will slay you, and CALL HIS SERVANTS BY ANOTHER NAME.

● **Revelation 21:5-8—**

5 And He Who sat upon the throne, said: Behold, I make all things new. And He said to me: Write, for these words are true and faithful.

6 And He said to me: It is done! I am Aleph and Tau, the Beginning and the End. I will give to him who thirsts of the fountain of the water of life freely.

7 HE WHO OVERCOMES WILL INHERIT ALL THINGS; and I will be his Father, and he will be My son.

8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and worshipers of gods (elohim), and all liars, will have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone—which is the second death.

● **Revelation 22:13-17—**

13 I am the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

14 BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO DO HIS COMMANDMENTS (LAWS), THAT THEY MAY HAVE RIGHT TO THE TREE OF LIFE, AND MAY ENTER IN THROUGH THE GATES INTO THE CITY.

15 For outside *are* dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and worshipers of gods (elohim) and everyone *who professes* to love, yet practices breaking the Law.

16 I, Yahshua, have sent My malak to testify to you these things in the congregations of The House of Yahweh. I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the Bright and Morning Star.

17 And the Spirit and the bride, say: Come! And let him who hears, say: Come! And let him who is thirsty come. And whoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Personal From The Editor About Christmas And New Year

Greetings in the Name of Yahshua,

When most people first begin to study their Bible for themselves, they are shocked to find that their Bible does not say what their church teaches.

Every honest Bible student who has studied the Bible for any length of time will admit that there has been vast changes in doctrine from the time of the early followers of Yahshua. These students may not all agree on the times these changes took place, but they will all agree that this did take place.

In *The New International Dictionary of the Christian Church*, Revised Edition, by Zondervan Publishing, on page 222, we find this statement concerning the Disciples that were personally taught by Yahshua:

CHRISTIAN YEAR, THE. The early Christians who were mainly Jews were used not only to keeping one day in the week as separate but also to marking the

year with certain religious festivals, notably Passover, Tabernacles, and Pentecost. From early times Christians kept a commemoration of Christ's resurrection. This was held at Passover time and was finally fixed on the Sunday following Passover. Pentecost was then celebrated at the appropriate time; the fifty days between the two were days of joy and rejoicing. The choice of 25 December (in the East, 6 January) for the birth of Christ is almost certainly because that day was the great pagan day of honor to the sun, and in Rome in the fourth century it was transformed into a Christian festival.

From the fourth century the Christian calendar became more historical in character, and Holy Week and Ascension Day appeared. Pentecost became the day of the giving of the Holy Spirit. Lent arose out of the custom of preparing catechumens for baptism at Easter. Saints' days came into the calendar either through the commemoration of a martyrdom or through the date of a dedication of a church in honor of a particular saint. The advantage of the Christian Year is that through the church services, and in particular the choice of Scripture passages to be read, worshipers are regularly reminded of the great events of the Christian faith and a balance is kept between them. In recent years there have been various suggestions for modification of the calendar, particularly in relation to Advent and Lent, and some demand, supported by secular sources, for a fixed date for Easter.

Peter S. Dawes

Please note when these changes appeared on the pages of man's history. Also note that, the followers of Yahshua, the Disciples and early believers, did not celebrate these pagan days. Do not be deceived, these pagan celebrations were being observed even during the time of the Apostles, but Yahweh's People did not observe any of these pagan celebrations.

The Apostles and early believers kept the commanded holy days of Yahweh—the weekly Sabbath, Yahshua's Memorial, the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Day of Pentecost, the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day.

The Apostle Shaul warned the flock of Yahweh of the changes that he knew would take place in:

● **Acts 20:29-32—**

29 For I know this, that after my departing grievous wolves will enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

30 Also among your own selves will MEN ARISE, SPEAKING PERVERSE THINGS, TO DRAW AWAY DISCIPLES AFTER THEMSELVES.

31 Therefore watch, and remember, that for the period of three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

32 And now, brothers, I commend you to Yahweh, and to the LAW WHICH HE GAVE, WHICH IS ABLE TO BUILD UP THE HOUSE OF YAHWEH, AND IS ABLE TO GIVE YOU AN INHERITANCE AMONG ALL THOSE WHO ARE SAINTS.

Shaul knew Yahweh's Way of Salvation would be rejected by ones there. He knew these men would turn back to the pagan worship he had taught against for three years. He warned them night and day with tears.

Shaul knew that only Yahweh's Way of Salvation, the true doctrine, was able to build one up to the inheritance of eternal life, as he said in:

● **Acts 20:32**—

...which is able to build up The House of Yahweh, and *is able* to give you an inheritance among all those who are saints.

Sanctified means: **to be set apart for a holy purpose.** Shaul knew that only the Way of Yahweh would sanctify a person and give that person the right to the Tree of Life.

● **Revelation 22:14**—

Blessed *are* those who do His laws, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

The Apostles and early believers never taught the pagan custom of Christmas. This deception was brought into the congregations after the death of the Apostles.

This celebration was not a new doctrine by any means. The pagans had been practicing these celebrations hundreds of years before Yahshua was born!

These celebrations were condemned by the early prophets. Yeremyah had this to say about the pagan celebration which early Christians renamed Christmas:

● **Yeremyah 10:1**—

Hear the word which Yahweh speaks concerning you, O house of Israyl.

The world does not hear Yahweh's Words. The reason this world does not hear the Word of Yahweh is because Satan has deceived this whole world, as we are told in **Revelation 12:9**. Our Savior also said in:

● **Mattithyah 13:13**—

That is why I speak to them in parables; because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

Yahweh's Word is very clear, the world knows what the prophets have written, they even believe the prophets spoke these things; yet they do not practice what the prophets under Yahweh's inspiration taught, as we see written in:

● **Yeremyah 10:2**—

This is what Yahweh says: DO NOT LEARN THE WAY; religious practices, OF THE HEATHEN; Gentile nations; and DO NOT BE DECEIVED by the signs of heaven; though the heathen are deceived by them; *using them to set their feasts.*

The people of this world have disobeyed Yahweh not only by learning heathen ways, but also by practicing these heathen ways yearly.

● **Yeremyah 10:3**—

For the *religious* CUSTOMS OF THE PEOPLES ARE VAIN; WORTHLESS!...

Notice what Yahweh says in **Yeremyah 10:3**. This custom that all the world practices is a vain custom. This custom will not bring Salvation, but its vanity will most definitely bring death. We are also told in Yeremyah what this vain custom is that Yahweh tells us not to learn:

● **Yeremyah 10:3-5**—

3 ...For *one* CUTS A TREE OUT OF THE FOREST, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax.

4 THEY DECORATE IT WITH SILVER AND WITH GOLD; THEY FASTEN IT WITH NAILS AND WITH HAMMERS, so that it will not move; *topple over.*

5 They *are* upright, like a palm tree, but they cannot speak; they must be carried, because they cannot go *by themselves*. Do not give them reverence! They cannot do evil, nor *is it* in them to do righteousness!

This vain custom that Yahweh commands us not to learn is practiced by all of Christendom every year. They cut their evergreen trees, and they deck their trees just as they did in the time of Yeremyah. This world thinks nothing of practicing this vain custom, although it is a custom of worship to pagan gods! The practice of this vain custom also breaks the First Commandment: "I am Yahweh, you shall have no hinder Gods."

The breaking of Yahweh's Law is sin (**I Yahchanan 3:4**). The wages you earn for practicing sin is death (**Romans 6:23**)! This world believes the fact that Yahweh inspired these Scriptures to be written. His words are there for all to read, but they refuse to believe what Yahweh says. Yahweh says throughout the Scriptures that this vain way leads to death, and if you practice these vain customs which Satan instituted, you are a servant of Satan and not of Yahweh.

● **Romans 6:16**—

Do you not know that to whom you yield yourselves as servants to obey, his SERVANTS YOU ARE WHOM YOU OBEY—whether of sin, *which leads to death*, or of obedience, *which leads to righteousness*?

● **Yeremyah 10:2**—

This is what Yahweh says: DO NOT LEARN THE WAY; religious practices, OF THE HEATHEN; Gentile nations; and do not be deceived by the signs of heaven; though the HEATHEN ARE DECEIVED by them; *using them to set their feasts.*

It was through ignorance, and the dread and fear of the signs of a dying sun, that this vain custom of Christmas was introduced, though it was not called Christmas at that time. What is even more amazing is the fact that today's educated world still worships Satan through these vain customs that pagans practiced because of their ignorance.

● **Revelation 21:7-8**—

7 HE WHO OVERCOMES WILL INHERIT ALL THINGS; and I will be his Father, and he will be My son.

8 But the FEARFUL, and UNBELIEVING, and the ABOMINABLE, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and WORSHIPERS OF GODS (elohim), and all liars, WILL HAVE THEIR PART IN the lake which burns with fire and brimstone—which is THE SECOND DEATH.

● **Yeremyah 10:8**—

But they are altogether senseless; as one THEY ARE CONSUMED BY THEIR FOOLISHNESS; their stock is a doctrine of vanities; *preaching about worthless gods (elohim, teraphim) made of wood!*

This custom practiced during this month of the year is not a new doctrine ordained by any of the followers of Yahweh. This custom named Christmas is an old, pagan practice from the worship of Baal.

The Apostles warned against and taught against this pagan practice. However, this pagan practice was brought back into the congregations by the Christians who claimed they were following the Apostles—by men whom Shaul described as grievous wolves in **Acts 20:29**.

The New International Dictionary of the Christian Church, Zondervan, page 223, says this about this vain custom:

CHRISTMAS. The English name for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ kept on 25 December by the Western Church. There is no evidence of a Feast of the Nativity before the fourth century, except possibly among the Basilidians. The earliest mention of 25 December is in the Philocalian Calendar, compiled in 354, which cites

its observance in Rome in 336. It would not appear to have been celebrated in Antioch until approximately 375. By 380 it was being observed in Constantinople, and by 430 in Alexandria. It was still unknown in Jerusalem early in the fifth century—it was not until the sixth century that the Nativity was finally detached from 6 January and celebrated on 25 December. By the middle of the fifth century—it was being gradually observed throughout East and West. The Armenians still observe 6 January, the closely related Feast of the Epiphany, as Christmas Day.

There is no authoritative historical evidence as to the day or month of Christ's birth in Jerusalem. 25 December was the date of a Roman pagan festival inaugurated in 274 as the birthday of the unconquered sun which at the winter solstice begins again to show an increase in light. Sometime before 336 the Church in Rome, unable to stamp out this pagan festival, spiritualized it as the Feast of the Nativity of the Sun of Righteousness. Christmas in the Eastern Church celebrates the birth of Christ together with the visit of the shepherds and the adoration of the wise men. In the Western Church the adoration of the Magi is attached to Epiphany on 6 January. In the Roman Catholic Church three masses are usually said to symbolize the birth of Christ eternally in the bosom of the Father, from the womb of Mary and mystically in the soul of the faithful. The traditional customs associated with Christmas have been derived from several sources. The merrymaking and the exchange of presents find their origin in the Roman Saturnalia festival (17-24 December), and the greenery and lights come from the Kalends of January (1 January, the Roman New Year) with its solar associations. The Germano-Celtic Yule rites introduced the tradition of feasting and fellowship. In the USA (and in England during the Commonwealth) Christian celebrations were at first suppressed by the Puritans, who objected to their pagan origins. Since the nineteenth century the celebration of Christmas has become increasingly popular.

James Taylor

These pagan practices brought on the death of the first established House of Yahweh. Satan managed to slowly bring pagan practices and false doctrines into The House of Yahweh after all of the Apostles died. The Apostles fought against these practices and doctrines until their deaths.

The House of Yahweh was the Pillar and Ground of the Truth of Yahweh when it was under the direct leadership of the Apostles. When pagan practices and false doctrines entered in, those polluted assemblies were no longer the Pillar and Ground of Yahweh's Truth.

As the Apostles would not yield to pagan customs or false doctrines, we also should not yield to churches today that teach these doctrines. Yahshua gave us this warning in:

● **Yahchanan Mark 7:7—**

But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrine the commandments of men.

These pagan customs and practices are the worship of pagan gods that Yahweh warned against in:

● **Deuteronomy 12:30-32—**

30 Be careful not to be ensnared into following them by asking about their GODS (elohim), saying: How did these nations serve their gods (elohim)? I also will do the same.

31 You must not worship Yahweh your Father in their way, for every abomination to Yahweh, which He hates, they have done to their gods (elohim). THEY EVEN BURN THEIR SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN THE FIRE AS SACRIFICES TO THEIR GODS (ELOHIM).

32 Whatsoever I command you, be careful to observe and do it, you shall not add to it, nor take away from it.

What is the Way of worship that brings Salvation? Your Savior, Yahshua Messiah through Yahweh our Father, gives you the answer—and it is not through the worship of pagan Gods.

● **Mattithyah 19:17—**

But He said to him: Why do you question Me about righteousness? There is only One Who is the standard of perfection, and that is Yahweh; so IF YOU WOULD ENTER INTO LIFE, KEEP THE LAWS.

● **Mattithyah 4:4—**

But He answered, and said; It is written: MAN DOES NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD (LAW) THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF YAHWEH.

Yahshua quoted **Mattithyah 4:4** from the Law—Torah:

● **Deuteronomy 8:3—**

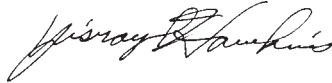
So He humbled you, and allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna, which you did not know of nor did your fathers know of it; so He might make you to know that MAN DOES NOT LIVE BY BREAD ONLY, BUT BY EVERY WORD (LAW) THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF YAHWEH. DOES MAN LIVE.

Pagan practices will not lead to eternal life. Those who follow vain customs are called whoremongers and worshipers of

Gods by Yahweh. Yahweh also says such will suffer the second death in **Revelation 21:8**.

**THE ONLY WAY TO EVERLASTING LIFE IS
YAHWEH'S WAY. THERE IS NO OTHER WAY!
PRAISE YAHWEH!**

Love In Yahshua's Name,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yisrayl Hawkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elder Yisrayl Hawkins
Pastor and Overseer of
The House of Yahweh

-Notes-

-Notes-

The House of Yahweh

The Pillar and Ground of the Truth. I Timothy 3:15

**P.O. Box 2498
Abilene, Texas 79604**