

THE  
SACRED NAME  
BROADCASTER

10/2022

# THE SACRED NAME BROADCASTER

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### Our Cover:

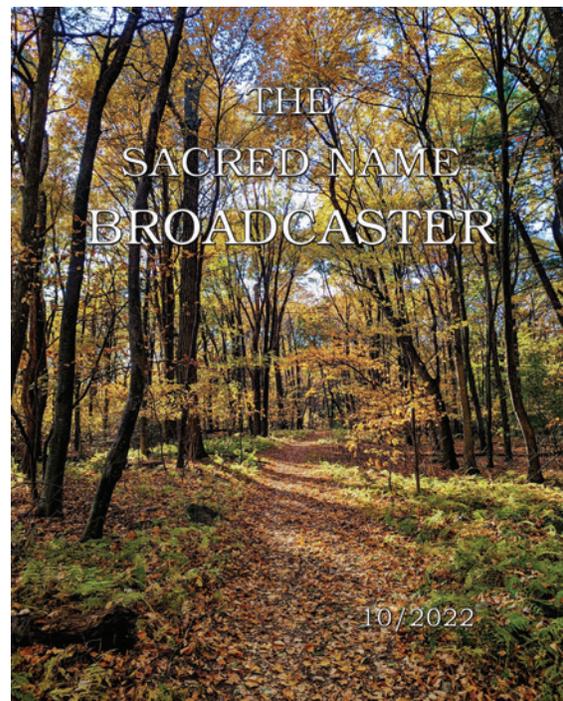
Following the flood, Yahweh made the promise to the human race that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood. The sign of this Covenant is visible every time we see a rainbow in the sky.

Yahweh also assured us that the seasons of the year will continue in their cycles as well.

**“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”** (Genesis 8:22).

Much fear has been sown in recent years regarding our climate; however, Yahweh is still in control of His Creation. Therefore, we put our complete faith in Him. **“Blessed is the man that trusts in Yahweh, and whose trust Yahweh is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, that spreads out its roots by the river, and shall not fear when heat comes, but its leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.”** (Jeremiah 17:7-8).

**“He gives snow like wool; He scatters the hoarfrost like ashes. He casts forth his ice like morsels: Who can stand before his cold? He sends out his word, and melts them: He causes his wind to blow, and the waters flow.”** (Psalm 147:16-18).





# Thanksgiving

## Is the American Thanksgiving Scriptural?

During the month of November, many people begin looking forward eagerly to the Thanksgiving Day celebration held annually near the end of this month. Children taking art classes in school are asked to draw representations of Pilgrims carrying a blunderbuss walking through the snow, or turkeys, or pumpkins, items usually featured at the Thanksgiving season. People look forward to having a sumptuous feast (calling it Turkey Day) when they invite relatives to enjoy the day with them. However, only infrequently do people attend religious services on that day.

The President of the United States each year makes a proclamation establishing the national holiday of Thanksgiving Day. Join-

*by Elder Jacob O. Meyer*

ing him in this proclamation are state governors, mayors of cities, and leaders of municipalities. Sometimes these proclamations are published in the daily newspapers for the public to read.

However, most people never question the authenticity or origin of the American Thanksgiving Day observance. Since most consider it such a joyful occasion, they seldom question if it should actually be observed, or why it was established for this particular time of year. The true Bible student will be sincerely interested in the facts regarding the observance of this holiday so that he can regulate his life by obedience to the com-

mandments of Almighty Yahweh. Read this article carefully, because it explains many things concerning this holiday you may never have realized.

### *A Brief History of Thanksgiving Observance*

One of the better accounts of the history of Thanksgiving observance appears in the book **The Customs of Mankind**, published in 1924 by Doubleday, Page, and Company; Garden City, New York; a work authored by Lillian Eichler. We find on pages 440-449 the product of the author's research into the subject of our national Thanksgiving Day.

Thanksgiving observance is not new. She says, "The Israel-



ites appear to have been among the earliest to observe a special day [sic] of Thanksgiving. They observed faithfully, with great rejoicing and solemn ceremonies, their Feast of Tabernacles, a day [sic] of thanks not only for the bounties of the land, but for the escape from Egypt. 'Thou shalt observe the feast of tabernacles seven days, after that thou hast gathered in thy corn and thy wine,' Deuteronomy 16:13."

Obviously, those who know the Bible realize that the Feast of Tabernacles (as Almighty Yahweh legislated its observance in Leviticus 23:33-44) outlines a feast of seven days with an added eighth day called the Last Great Day of the Feast. Therefore, the cumulative observance of the Feast of Tabernacles is an eight-day festival, beginning on the evening of the fifteenth day of the seventh month (at sundown, which begins the day) until, and including, the twenty-second day of this same seventh month (not one day).

Few people in the world understand very much about the

***The Feast of Tabernacles represents a time of happiness and joy which can only be realized in the Millennium when the Kingdom of Yahweh is established on this earth.***

observance of the biblical holy days of Leviticus 23. They observe worldly holidays rather than the sanctified holy days Almighty Yahweh has legislated in His Word.

The paradox is shocking! Why not observe the sacred seasons

Almighty Yahweh in His Word, the inspired Scriptures, has legislated? Why celebrate holidays for which there is no biblical support whatsoever?

It is obvious that the Feast of Tabernacles, at the end of the agricultural year, is Yahweh's thanksgiving harvest festival. It is a time when Almighty Yahweh commands His people to gather together to worship Him and to rejoice before Him in their blessings. This observance occurs in late September, or during the month of October.

The Feast of Tabernacles represents a time of happiness and joy which can only be realized in the Millennium when the Kingdom of Yahweh is established on this earth. Therefore, when the people of Yahweh worship during the Feast of Tabernacles, we already, in this life, enjoy a time when the atmosphere and attitude of the people reflect the Kingdom of Yahweh ruling on this earth. We faithfully observe in solemn worship the holy days on which no work is done (the first day

of the Feast of Tabernacles, the weekly Sabbath that falls within this period, and the eighth day of the feast). During the remainder of the week—the intermediate days—we live together doing our necessary chores as will the people in the Millennium, ruled by an attitude of love and joy.

It is clear from comparing the biblical message with the secular reference above and what appears in other noted reference works such as the **Encyclopedia Britannica**, the **World Book Encyclopedia**, and **Collier's Encyclopedia**, that when someone does not observe the thanksgiving feast legislated in the Bible, he is not observing Yahweh's original thanksgiving. To substitute another day is contrary to the Will of Yahweh. It is a sin not to observe His legislated holy days, and it is a sin to substitute different days.

### ***The First American Thanksgiving***

Few people realize that the first American Thanksgiving observed by the Pilgrims was not held at the end of November. When the Pilgrim fathers set foot on the soil of the New World in 1620, they found it very difficult to establish themselves. More than half their number died that first winter. At one time, only six or seven of the Pilgrims were not sick at the same time. Enemies could easily have destroyed the entire colony.

After planting and harvesting a crop sufficient to maintain them for the winter—under the direction of friendly Indians named Samoset, Squanto, and the great Chief Massasoit—Governor William Bradford sent out a number of men to shoot game so that a thanksgiving observance could be held. When the Indians heard of this thanksgiving feast, they brought five deer and joined the

festivities. A sumptuous feast was held over a period of several days. This may have emulated the harvest home festival observed in England, but some students believe that it was held during the Feast of Tabernacles.

Few people realize that the first thanksgiving was not held at the end of November as it is today. The reference work mentioned previously suggests that it was observed December 13, 1621. Other reference works such as the **Encyclopedia Britannica** and **World Book Encyclopedia** indicate that the original thanksgiving observance at Plymouth, Massachusetts, was observed October 3-6, 1621. It was observed soon after the harvest had been put away. If the earlier date is accurate, it is clear that some association was indeed intended between the biblical Feast of Tabernacles and this Thanksgiving observance. Although there is no record that a religious service was held, the history could be incomplete.

Governor Bradford remarked about that first Thanksgiving that the feast was prepared to include *“as much fowle as with a little helpe beside, serve the company almost a weeke.”*

There is later record of 20 additional Thanksgiving festivals being observed over the next 50 years.

In 1789, the Congress of the United States recommended that a universal Thanksgiving Day be established. President George Washington appointed Thursday, November 26, as the national American Thanksgiving Day. After a while, however, various states began observing different days. Until just before the Civil War, each one observed Thanksgiving Day on a different day, but all of these were in November. It is a

fact interesting to note.

Lillian Eichler draws a correlation between the Chr-stmas celebration and the reason for keeping a Thanksgiving. She says, *“It seems to be a common notion among writers on this subject that ‘to the mind of the Puritan, Chr-stmas smelled to heaven of idolatry.’ They believe that the Puritans abolished Chr-stmas as a hateful relic of popery and that they established Thanksgiving as a purely Puritan festival to take its place.*

*“The distaste for Chr-stmas among the Puritans may very possibly have helped to establish Thanksgiving as a national festival. There are even today certain people who regard Chr-stmas as a strictly heathen holiday. But, we can be absolutely certain that Thanksgiving had its true inception in 1621 when 55 grateful men and women, surrounded by 90 painted Indians, gave thanks for the corn and the fowl upon which they feasted.”* (Ibid.)

The current establishment of Thanksgiving Day dates from the year 1863. It was then that Mrs. Sarah J. Hale, the editor of **Ladies' Magazine**, wrote President Abraham Lincoln regarding establishing a day of thanksgiving for the entire nation. On October 3, 1863, he issued the first national Thanksgiving proclamation, setting apart the last Thursday in November to be observed. It has been so specified by succeeding Presidents. President Roosevelt, in 1939, set the Thanksgiving celebration forward to the third Thursday of November in order to assist the merchants by extending the Chr-stmas shopping period (traditionally the Chr-stmas shopping time begins the day after Thanksgiving Day). However, a Congressional joint resolution, approved by President Franklin

D. Roosevelt on December 26, 1941, fixed a permanent date for Thanksgiving Day on the fourth Thursday of November. It is observed in every state of the union and in the District of Columbia on that day.

It is interesting that the Canadian Thanksgiving each year is held the second Monday of October, a time that frequently corresponds with the Feast of Tabernacles held in the biblical seventh month.

### ***Biblical Reference for Celebrating Thanksgiving in November***

Almighty Yahweh legislated that His people faithfully observe as a time of worship the period of time from the fifteenth to the twenty-second of the seventh biblical month. What Almighty Yahweh has sanctified we cannot change or eliminate. Let us submit to His directions and humble ourselves before His commandments.

Here your Bible steps into the picture. Observing a time in the month following Yahweh's Feast of Tabernacles as a time of thanksgiving actually dates from the declaration by King Jeroboam of the northern nation called Israel. When the 10 northern tribes seceded from the Davidic monarchy, the faithful Israelites continued to worship Yahweh at the Temple in Jerusalem that had been built by Solomon a generation earlier. Here is what the writer of Kings says: ***“And Jeroboam said in his heart, now will the kingdom return to the house of David: if this people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of Yahweh at Jerusalem, then will the heart of this people turn again to their sovereign, even to Rehoboam king of Judah; and they will kill me, and return to Rehoboam king***

***of Judah. And the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold; and he said to them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem; behold your elohim, O Israel, which brought you up out of the land of Egypt. And he set the one in Beth-el, and the other he put in Dan. And this thing became a sin; for the people went to worship before the one, even to Dan. And he made houses of high places, and made priests from among all the people, that were not of the sons of Levi. And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like the feast that is in Judah, and he went up to the altar; so he did in Beth-el, sacrificing to the calves that he had made: and he placed in Beth-el the priests of the high places that he had made. And he went up to the altar which he had made in Beth-el on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart: and he ordained a feast for the children of Israel, and went up to the altar, to burn incense.”*** (1 Kings 12:26-33).

Let us analyze this passage more closely.

Jereboam observed that when his subjects returned to worship at Yahweh's Temple in Jerusalem, they would come under the heavy influence of a teaching priesthood that was loyal to the Davidic dynasty. Therefore, he plotted to forestall his own possible deposition from the throne of the House of Israel. It was already obvious in verse 25 that problems developed between Jereboam and his subjects, since he *went out of* Shechem in the area of Ephraim and built Penuel, a city in Transjordan, as his capital. The

term in Hebrew means *to be driven out*, so perhaps some Israelites raised a rebellion against him.

By setting up the shrines in Bethel and Dan, he hoped to have his people gravitate toward a worship he, himself, was devising. Josephus quotes Jereboam at the dedication of the shrine in Bethel as saying, *“A man built that Temple in Jerusalem and a man built this Temple in Bethel.”* Just like other monarchs of the ancient Middle East, Jereboam believed that a unified national religion would unite his nation in other ways.

Have you seen the real meaning of Jeremiah 31:21, which points out the importance of the name *Bethel* in the preaching of end-time sound doctrine as a sign to the people of modern Israel? The way that Israel departed from Yahweh they must again return. Whereas Jereboam took Israel into false doctrine at Bethel, the sound doctrines of the Bible are today being preached from Bethel as a sign to modern Israel and the rest of the world, recalling them to the worship of Yahweh.

Since the Feast of Tabernacles is a pilgrim feast when all Israelites (especially the males of the congregation) are required to attend (please see Deuteronomy 16:13-16), the faithful Israelites would depart from the kingdom of northern Israel each fall and assemble at Jerusalem. By building the competing shrine at Bethel, located on the Israelite national road approximately 12 miles north of Jerusalem near the border of his kingdom, Jereboam was hoping to intercept his people on their journey southward. Then, by establishing through government decree a feast in the eighth month rather than in the seventh, his influence over his people would preclude their going to Jerusalem

at all.

Who can resist the injunctions of the government? When Jereboam announced that he would observe the fifteenth day of the eighth month as the national thanksgiving day rather than the seventh month, those who were not faithfully committed to the worship of Almighty Yahweh followed this governmental declaration. The people of the 10 northern tribes began staying away from the Temple worship in Jerusalem in droves. It became a sin and, eventually, became a prime contributing factor to the disintegration of the House of Israel.

### *The Eighth Month, 2022*

In 2022, the American Thanksgiving Day will be observed on Thursday, November 25. Let us see how this date corresponds very closely to Jereboam's eighth-month feast.

This year, the Feast of Tabernacles was observed October 12-19, 2022. October 12 was the fifteenth day of the seventh month. October 19 was the twenty-second day of the seventh month. Both of these days were holy convocations for the Assemblies of Yahweh. The new moon of the eighth scriptural month this year was visible on October 26. Therefore, the fifteenth day of the eighth month would be November 10. The eighth day of the Feast of Tabernacles (if it is observed as Jereboam's thanksgiving was observed), in competition with Yahweh's holy days, would be November 17 this year. How shocking to learn that this is day before the third Thursday of November! The current American Thanksgiving Day will be observed one week later, however.

The year 1978 contains a perfect illustration of how the American thanksgiving fell within the eighth-

***Those who keep  
the American  
Thanksgiving  
Day are  
actually  
keeping a  
modern-day  
form of  
Jereboam's  
substitute  
Feast of  
Tabernacles!***

day pseudo-festival devised by Jereboam out of his own heart to counter Yahweh's true holy days. The seventh month of the year 1978 (when reckoned with the visible new moon) saw the Feast of Tabernacles observed from October 17-24. That year the American Thanksgiving, observed on the fourth Thursday of the month of November, was held on November 23. This day fell precisely on what would have been the twenty-second day in the eighth biblical month, the eighth day of the Feast of Tabernacles if observed one month late. You can check a calendar for yourself, if you please.

The Assemblies of Yahweh observes the holy days of Leviticus 23 which were legislated by our Heavenly Father. We strive to eliminate all vestiges of errone-

ous doctrines from our worship. Jereboam sought some way to undermine the True Worship of Almighty Yahweh and, thereby, fell into error. It is obvious to us that the American Thanksgiving Day held on the fourth Thursday of November deceptively masquerades as a thanksgiving day acceptable to Almighty Yahweh. But it was never sanctioned by Almighty Yahweh. Those who keep the American Thanksgiving Day are actually keeping a modern-day form of Jereboam's substitute Feast of Tabernacles!

You must make the decision of which holy days you will keep. When you begin studying your Bible, you must decide if you will obey Almighty Yahweh, or obey the decrees and laws of men. The

*Continued on page 21.*

# Christmas

## A New Slant on an Old Holiday

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

At this time of year, one cannot seemingly enter any business establishment or listen to radio or television broadcasts without being deluged with Christmas music, commercials about purchasing Christmas presents, or reminders to “Keep Christ in Christmas.” People from every walk of life seem to concentrate upon their desire of getting other individuals they encounter into “the Christmas spirit.” Greeting cards and expressions of “Christmas” cheer are almost universally given.

Although most people in the world deplore

the extensive modern-day commercialization of Christmas, each year the merchandizing of this day grows much more pronounced. People will actually go on a monumental spending spree at this time of year and impose great financial hardship upon themselves when the bills eventually come due. “It’s Christmas,” they exclaim as they purchase many more gifts than they realize that they should.

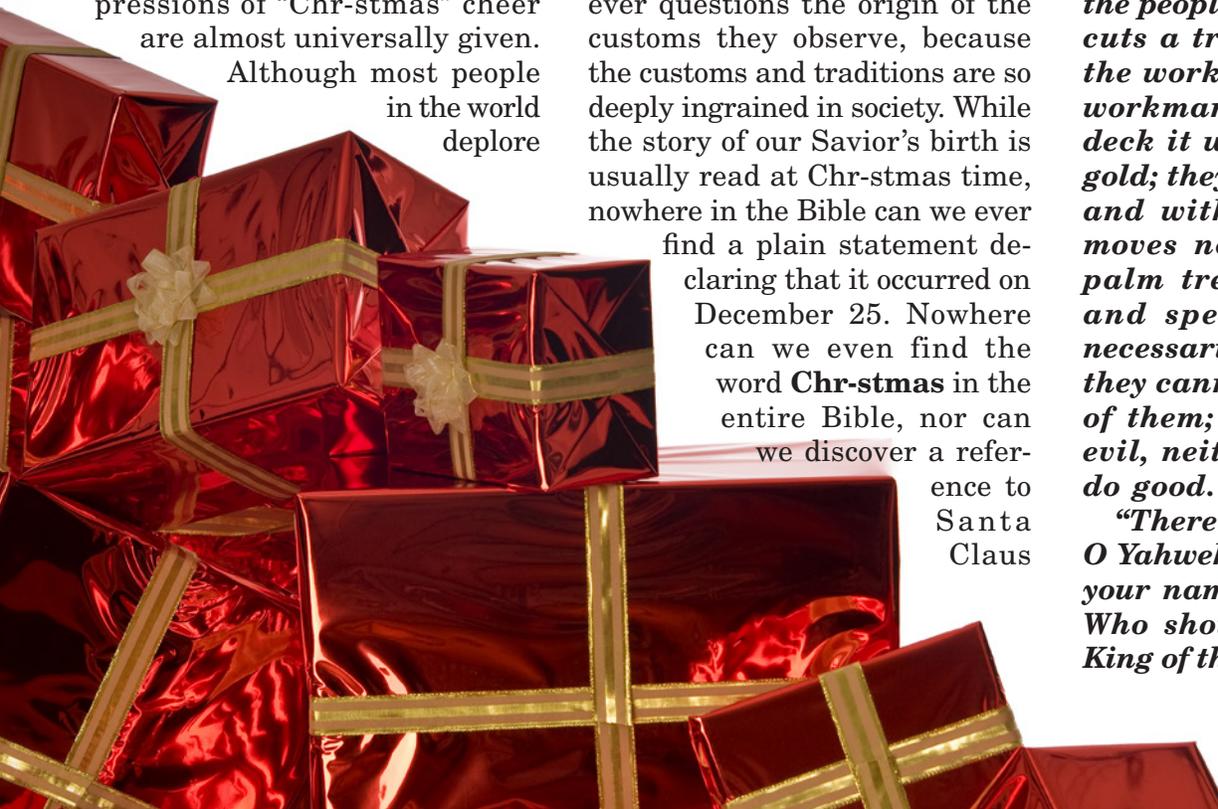
Paradoxically, almost nobody ever questions the origin of the customs they observe, because the customs and traditions are so deeply ingrained in society. While the story of our Savior’s birth is usually read at Christmas time, nowhere in the Bible can we ever find a plain statement declaring that it occurred on December 25. Nowhere can we even find the word **Christmas** in the entire Bible, nor can we discover a refer-

ence to Santa Claus

and his reindeer or Christmas stockings, common stories repeated by worldly people year after year. As a matter of fact, the use of Christmas trees is heavily condemned in Yahweh’s Word. Let us listen to Yahweh as He condemns the practice:

***“Thus says Yahweh, Learn not the way of the nations [heathen], and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the nations are dismayed at them. For the customs of the peoples are vanity; for one cuts 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 moves not. They are like a palm tree, of turned work, and speak not: they must necessarily be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good.*”**

***“There is no one like you, O Yahweh; you are great, and your name is great in might. Who should not fear you, O King of the nations? For to you*”**





*does it pertain; since among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their royal estate, there is no one like you.”* (Jeremiah 10:2-7).

On a radio talk show, some time ago, on which appeared a minister of note, someone called in and asked if he had ever read a passage of Scripture that instructed against the use of a Christmas tree in celebration of the Messiah's birth. He denied ever having read a Scripture like this. Another person called later and corrected him with the passage from Jeremiah, which we have just read.

As December 25 approaches, millions of trees are cut out of the forest and brought into homes. A thriving industry has developed here in the United States around the use of Christmas trees. Tree farms grow this product. Trees are especially cultured, trimmed, and shaped for the Christmas market. Truckloads of trees come from mountain farms, where a variety of evergreens are cultivated. The trees are mounted on pedestals to keep them upright, gaily decorated with fancy trimmings and picturesque lights. Sometimes, around the holiday season, they are carried in parades, or placed on floats.

On Christmas morning, the little children awaken early and rush into the living room where the Christmas tree is located. There

they find many brightly wrapped packages placed under the tree. As they eagerly tear through the wrappings of these packages, their Chr-stmas presents emerge. The parents tell their youngsters that Santa Claus stopped by during the night. He landed on the roof of the house with a sled and eight tiny reindeer, came down the chimney with a big sack on his back, to deposit the Chr-stmas presents, they say. Although this explanation constitutes blatant untruth (prevarications, false witnessing), nevertheless, people wink at these lies in the name of Chr-stmas fun.

### **Modern Traditions Come From Ancient Beliefs**

A very clear description of the origin of the Chr-stmas tree is published in the **Encyclopedia Britannica**, Jr., volume 5.

*“The Chr-stmas tree, common today in many countries,*

*is thought to have originated in Germany. Before Chr-stianity was introduced, the members of many pagan religions worshiped trees as symbols of their mighty ones. Nordic peoples honored the oak tree as a sacred symbol of Odin. Saint Boniface, the English missionary who brought Chr-stianity to Germany, is credited with the introduction of the evergreen tree in place of the oak. The evergreen was a traditional Chr-stian symbol of resurrection and everlasting life. In Germany, during the Middle Ages, a play about the Garden of Eden was performed at Chr-stmas. The tree of knowledge was represented by an actual tree hung with apples. Some legends say that Martin Luther was the first Chr-stian to cut down a fir tree and bring it indoors as a Chr-stmas decoration. Candles, used by centuries of Chr-stians to symbolize [Messiah] as the ‘Light*

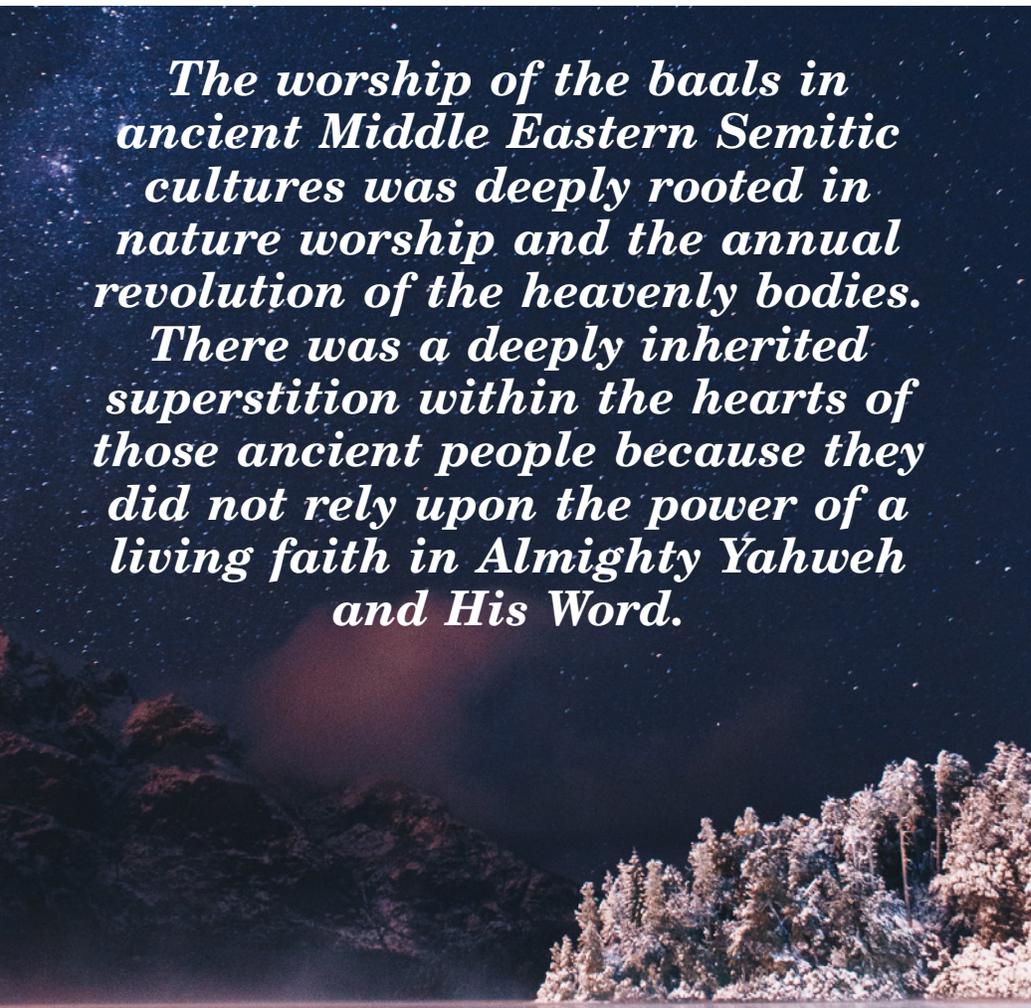
*of the World,’ became a popular decoration for the tree. The use of holly, mistletoe, and evergreen boughs as Chr-stmas decorations was derived from pagan practices. Holly became particularly popular because it was considered symbolic of [Messiah’s] crown of thorns.”*

When you carefully analyze the preceding quote from this noted reference work, you will suddenly discover candid admissions that the CHR-STMAS CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS ARE DERIVED FROM PAGANISM. The use of trees, holly, mistletoe, and candles especially harks back to a pagan origin.

We can, however, trace the roots of ancient tree worship all the way back to ancient Babylon, the source of false religion. The religion of this Fertile Crescent nation has closely paralleled the Faith in the inspired Scriptures. Indeed, it is the belief of the author that the first anti-Messiah was Nimrod. You may find reference to him in Genesis 10:8-12.

*“And Cush procreated Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before Yahweh: that is why it is said, ‘Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before Yahweh’. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. Out of that land he went forth into Assyria, and built Nineveh, and the city Rehoboth-Ir, and Calah, and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (the same is the great city).”*

We can clearly perceive that it was this Babylonian ruler who became the world’s first human despot by supplanting Almighty Yahweh. He led the opposition (anti-) as a mighty



*The worship of the baals in ancient Middle Eastern Semitic cultures was deeply rooted in nature worship and the annual revolution of the heavenly bodies. There was a deeply inherited superstition within the hearts of those ancient people because they did not rely upon the power of a living faith in Almighty Yahweh and His Word.*

hunter of men. It was the worship of Nimrod, along with that of his wife-mother Semiramis, that invaded True Worship and almost totally captured it. Pagan worship appropriated the Sacred Scriptures to proof-text its beliefs; nevertheless, pagan religions fails to obey the commandments of Almighty Yahweh.

An excellent reference work to peruse in proving this statement is the book, **The Two Babylons**, written by Dr. Alexander Hislop. Dr. Hislop has conclusively proven in many different ways that the religion of ancient Babylon, along with its customs and traditions, has infiltrated and virtually conquered nominal christianity. (Copies of this book may be obtained through your book dealer.)

The worship of Babylon was primarily nature worship. It was most fully developed in the Baal myths of ancient paganism. The worship in Babylon spread into Canaan and was appropriated by those ancient descendants of Ham. From these people sprang the Phoenicians and, ultimately, the Carthaginians. They took the myths of Babylon and tailored them for each area, setting up regional doctrines and traditions that have been handed down through the generations.

When Almighty Yahweh brought His people Israel out of Egypt and placed them in the Promised Land, He demanded that they abstain from assimilating the customs of the native people. He intended His worship to be completely faithful to His Word—clean, and pure from false doctrine. Nevertheless, before too many years had elapsed, His people Israel assimilated some of these ancient mythological practices. Eventually, Ahab, of the dynasty of Omri

in the House of Israel (the ten northern tribes), entered into a political alliance through a marriage with the ruling family of Sidon by taking as his wife the Canaanite-Phoenician princess named Jezebel. Her father, Ethbaal, the king of the Sidonians, apparently served as a priest to the Phoenician idol Astarte. Some historians suggest that he was a priest of Baal Melkart. See **Josephus Against Apion** 1:18 and the **Antiquities of the Jews** 8; 13; 1.

From that time on, until the reign of Jehu, Baal worship proliferated in the northern Israelite Kingdom. It was never completely obliterated by even the reformation of Jehu, but various customs adhered tenaciously to the Israelite society. EliYah the prophet battled mightily against Baal worship and almost lost his own life in the bargain. Idolatrous Baal worship finally spread its tentacles into the southern Kingdom of Judah and became one of the downfalls of that nation. See Ezekiel chapters 16 and 23.

As we have already noted from Jeremiah 10, the ancient heathen peoples were nature worshipers. We should notice that the signs of the heavens appeared to terrify heathen people. Those signs apparently were related in some way to the seasonal solar cycle.

The worship of the baals in ancient Middle Eastern Semitic cultures was deeply rooted in nature worship and the annual revolution of the heavenly bodies. There was a deeply inherited superstition within the hearts of those ancient people because they did not rely upon the power of a living faith in Almighty Yahweh and His Word. When they observed the sun gradually going further south in the heavens every year on its an-

nual seasonal journey, and the weather becoming cooler, they became alarmed. Thinking that the sun would leave them forever and never return again to warm the earth, they invented ceremonies hoping to invoke its return.

This dismay, or terror, as they watched the sun seemingly depart from them, caused them to stand in awe of the movement of the heavenly bodies. As a consequence, when the sun stopped and began a new annual journey northward with lengthening days, they could depend on the belief that a new season had again begun. This became known as *Sol Natalis Invictus*, or the *birthday of the unconquerable sun*. An old year had ended. The sun had reached its furthest point in its journey to the south. Now, the northward travel of the sun had begun. A new year and new growing season soon would be theirs to enjoy. Forthwith, a feast of uninhibited rejoicing could be held.

The relationship between ancient Nimrod and the annual solar cycle is demonstrated in the traditions perpetuated by ancient mythology. As pictured by the pagans, the cycle was represented by the dead trunk of a tree around which was coiled a serpent. The serpent, which represented the mighty one Aesculapius, was coiled around the cut-off dead trunk of the tree, representing the slain Nimrod or the old year. Next to the trunk of the tree reposed the “horn of plenty” (cornucopia), while on the other side of the tree trunk a new little shoot of a palm tree emerged from the roots.

The ancient pagan people depicted the solar cycle in this manner. In reality, it is associated very closely with the

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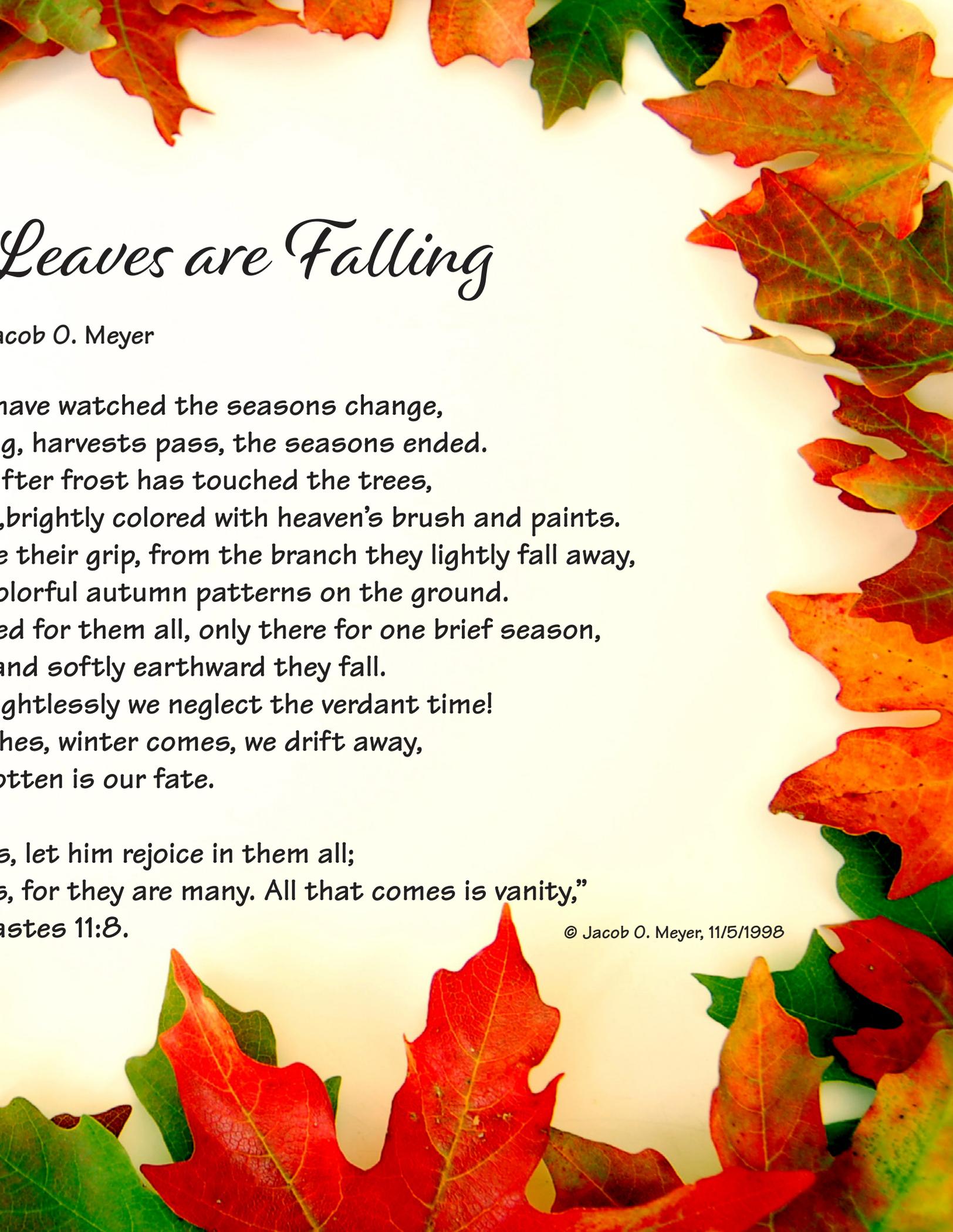


# Once Again the

by Elder Ja

Many autumns in my lifetime, I h  
We saw times for tilling and plantin  
Sitting in a park so pleasant, a  
Leaves are falling, gently fluttering earthward,  
A soft breeze stirs, suddenly the leaves release  
Softly carpeting the lawn, creating co  
Leaves are falling, O how quickly life has ende  
Now the soft breeze stirs, a  
Life is so much like the foliage, thou  
All too soon life's end approach  
Too soon forg

"If a man lives many years  
But let him remember the days of darkness  
Ecclesia



# Leaves are Falling

Jacob O. Meyer

I have watched the seasons change,  
g, harvests pass, the seasons ended.  
After frost has touched the trees,  
brightly colored with heaven's brush and paints.  
As they lose their grip, from the branch they lightly fall away,  
colorful autumn patterns on the ground.  
I grieve for them all, only there for one brief season,  
and softly earthward they fall.  
How thoughtlessly we neglect the verdant time!  
When winter comes, we drift away,  
rotten is our fate.

Let us, let him rejoice in them all;  
for they are many. All that comes is vanity,"  
Ecclesiastes 11:8.

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pagan messiah, Nimrod. He was described in mythology as having been the “old tree” chopped down in its prime. The serpent, Aesculapius, the healer, coiled himself around the tree and gave it new life. From the root of that fallen tree emerged the new, little, regenerated shoot of the new son (sun). This same mythological ceremony is being re-enacted annually, down to our modern times, as the world celebrates the birthday of the new son (sun) by bringing an evergreen tree into the house and decorating it. Interestingly, the new shoot depicted in the pagan pictures was a palm tree (just as Jeremiah 10:5 described).

The decorations on the tree were to represent the light and rays that the sun sends to this earth. Some of the pagans were known to wrap the tree with various types of fabric decoration and tinsel. Over the years, a custom developed that many religious organizations practice today. They decorate the tree with literal gold and silver (money). Many religious organizations will bring a bare tree into the sanctuary, where they encourage people to hang currency on the tree or, in some cases, even jewelry. They justify their customs by saying that this money is used for a good purpose; however, will two wrongs ever make a right? Hardly!

### ***The Yule Log—An Ancient Mythological Custom Modernized***

In addition to Chr-stmas trees, the annual celebration of this solar festival, in some countries, includes the burning of the yule log. The yule log represents the old tree that was hewn down. The

significance, from pagan mythology, was that the old log, Nimrod, or the old sun, would be reincarnated as the new sun, Tammuz. From the flames of the old dead log burned at the end of the year would arise the warming flame of the new sun, which is depicted as the rebirth of the old log in the Chr-stmas tree. A new tree will take the place of the old, and new light (or life) will arise from death, depicted by the decorations on the tree.

According to Dr. Hislop, the word *yule*, in the Chaldean, means *child* (Hebrew is *yalad*, *young man*). We might note that the yule log is rarely burned in the United States; however, the modern practice of collecting Chr-stmas decorations for a ceremony called “the burning of the greens” (with a currently popular religious service attached) may certainly be a throwback to this ancient pagan practice.

Up to this point, we have seen that a number of ancient pagan traditions have been reinterpreted through the biblical account of the Messiah’s birth in the New Testament and are presently being observed. Frequently, theologians will take a passage of Scripture that cannot contextually relate to a doctrine they wish to prove, but, by forcing an interpretation (known as deductive study), they will try to proof-text what they believe. Such is surely the case with the Chr-stmas celebration today.

Frequently, authors who write noted research works will conclude that the observance of December

25 as a holiday obviously relates to the Saturnalia, the Bacchanalia, or to the ancient Mithraic feast of the sun mighty one (*Natalis Solis Invicti*).

The *Saturnalia* was a name given to a series of rural festivals featuring mythology, also sometimes called the *Paganalia*. Almost every authority declares that the origin of Chr-stmas is a modern-day innovation of the ancient Saturnalia. In ancient Rome this festival was observed beginning with December 17, lasting for 5-7 days. The Saturnalia was characterized by unrestrained festivity. It began with a religious ceremony in honor of Saturn, followed by an sumptuous feast. Interestingly, the etymology of the name *Saturn* means *abundance*.

People often took precautions to bathe in the morning, before the festivities began, so that they could spend the entire day in feasting and revelry. Slaves were given liberty for the duration of the festival. Frequently, their masters served them at the feast. A general suspension of all political and judicial functions, schools, commercial and military activities, was usual. Obviously, this description almost precisely corresponds to the contemporary Chr-stmas celebration. How many wars have been halted for the day as both hostile armies celebrated the holidays?

Under the article “Chr-stmas,” in the **McClintock and Strong’s Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature**, we find the following quote:



*“Prynne says in his strong way (in historio-mastix), our Chr-stmas l-rds of mis-rule, together with dancing, masks, mummeries, stage-players, and such other Chr-stmas disorders, now in use with Chr-stians, were derived from these Roman Saturnalia and Bacchanalia, which should cause all pious Chr-stians to abominate them.”*

One might note the reference to masks and mummeries in use during the ancient pagan festival. Today, we find them replicated in the Pasadena Rose Parade and in the Philadelphia Mummers Parade. Could True Worshipers participate in such revelry when the facts prove that these traditions were invented to honor pagan idols? Hardly! Conversely, if we wish to please Almighty Yahweh Elohim, we must eliminate all false worship from our spiritual lives.

In ancient mythology, Bacchus was a mighty one of feasting and revelry. His worship consisted mainly of heavy drinking bouts (the Greek term is #2970, **komos banquets**). Characteristic of the Chr-stmas celebration is the heavy imbibing of alcoholic beverages. During the winter holidays, each celebrant usually finds himself forced to take a drink of alcoholic beverages, while many Chr-stmas bottles containing strong alcoholic beverages are given as gifts. The wassailing bowl of Chr-stmas, undoubtedly, had its precise counterpart in the drunken festival of ancient Babylon in the worship of Bacchus (a depiction of one facet of Nimrod’s personality).

Can you find a Scripture anywhere that might support partying or drinking with your colleagues at a Chr-stmas party? Can you imagine the apostles scheduling

an office party to celebrate the birthday of the Messiah? Because of the extreme alcoholic indulgence at the Chr-stmas holiday season, many people drop their mental reserve and turn to immorality. Divorces following the Chr-stmas celebration escalate sharply.

Mithraism was the favorite religion of the ancient Roman legions. The etymology of the name *Mithra* means **friend**, but it could also mean **dead ruler**. The death of the ruler occurred on December 25 and, one week later, a new year was announced. The worship of Mithra was the veneration of light, calling attention to the unconquerable sun (*Sol Invictus*). From the book **Golden Bough** by Frazer we find the following quote, *“Now Mithra was regularly identified by his worshipers as the sun, the unconquered sun, as they called him; hence his nativity also fell on the twenty-fifth of December.”*

From **McClintock and Strong’s** article entitled “Mithra” comes this enlightening quote, *“The most important of his many festivals was his birthday, celebrated on the twenty-fifth of December, the day subsequently fixed—against all evidence—as the birthday of the [Messiah]. In the early days of the [Messianic Assembly] it was not an uncommon occurrence to find an apologist of the inspired teacher laying undo stress on some points of resemblance between Mithraism and [Messianic worship], and thus the triumphant march of the latter was much retarded.”*

The mixture of truth and error in pagan religion brought the message of the Bible into disrepute. People became confused by the relationship of December 25 to the Messiah’s birthday. When ancient, pagan, mythological re-



ligion infiltrated True Worship, it caused the Truth of Yahweh to be evil spoken of. Some researchers, who have seen this relationship for themselves, have rejected the message of the Bible because they took the wrong direction and believed that even the religion of the Hebrews was a product of evolution. (Horrors!) Nothing could be further from the truth! Yahweh’s True Worship was given to Adam. All other worship and traditions derive from Satan and man’s imagination. Our objective has been to eliminate pagan concepts and interpretations from the message so that Yahweh’s Truth may emerge from the Bible in all its purity.

Kissing under the sprig of mistletoe provides one of the most delightful distractions of the holiday season. People of the opposite sex try to catch each other standing under the suspended mistletoe. Historians tell us that this little Chr-stmas innovation was borrowed from the ancient Druids.

The mistletoe was regarded by them to be a branch which fell from heaven and grew upon a tree on the earth. In this manner, heaven and earth had reconciled. Even in the Bible, the kiss is

the token of reconciliation and forgiveness (Psalm 85:10-11). Therefore, the custom of kissing under the mistletoe developed and attached itself to the Christmas celebration. It is believed that this branch (son) of Yahweh fell to this earth on December 25 to bring about the reconciliation between Yahweh and men. It must be noted, however, that the mistletoe is a parasite. Never mentioned in the Bible, the practice of kissing under the mistletoe cannot become a part of True Worship. It comes directly from paganism and has attached itself to the worldly celebration of their savior's birth.

### **December 25—Not the Messiah's Birthday**

In Luke 1 can be found the chronological account of events leading up to the Messiah's birth. By tracing the datings given there, it becomes obvious that the Messiah could not have been born at Christmas time, December 25.

Most people have never recognized how truly plain and clear Yahweh presents His message of salvation in the Bible. Luke 1 certainly gives us an indication of the clarity which Almighty Yahweh has inserted in His Word. The passage begins with verse 5. During the days of Herod the Great, who ruled over Judea, a certain priest (Hebrew—*kohane*) named Zechariah served in the Temple. He was of the priestly course called AbiYah. Few people understand what this means, because they do not study and accept the Old Testament as the basis of their faith.

Turning back to 1 Chronicles 24 we discover that David was responsible for dividing the descendants of Aaron into 24 courses (divisions). These divisions were created so that a certain number

of priests would regularly come to Jerusalem to serve in the Temple. By perusing Yahweh's sacred calendar, we find that there are 24 weeks between the observance of the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Tabernacles and, again, between the Feast of Tabernacles and the following Days of Unleavened Bread. Occasionally, a thirteenth month must be added to maintain the feast days in their correct season when Israel came forth out of Egypt during the Exodus, but the priests for that intercalary month were selected at random from among all the courses. Therefore, adequate manpower to perform the required ceremonies of the Temple was always available in Jerusalem by the system David had developed.

When we scan the entire 24<sup>th</sup> chapter of 1 Chronicles, we discover that the eighth division or course was assigned to the descendants of AbiYah.

### **Josephus Confirms the Date of Service**

That the priests served in twenty-four courses, one week in the spring and fall per year, may be confirmed from the history of Flavius Josephus (Joseph Ben-Mathiah) in **Antiquities of the Jews**, book 7, chapter xiv, section 7.

*"But David being desirous of ordaining his son king of all the people, called together their rulers to Jerusalem, with the priests and the Levites; and having first numbered the Levites, he found them to be 38,000, from thirty years old to fifty; out of which he appointed 23,000 to take care of the building of the temple, and out of the same 6,000 to be judges of the people and scribes; 4,000 for porters to the House of [Yahweh], and as many for singers to sing to the instruments which*

*David had prepared, as we have said already. He divided them also into courses; and when he had separated the priests from them, he found of these priests 24 courses, 16 of the house of Eliezer and 8 of that of Ithamar; and he ordained that one course should minister to [Yahweh] eight days, from Sabbath to Sabbath. And thus were the courses distributed by lot, in the presence of David, and Zadok, and Abiathar the High Priest, and of all the rulers: And that course which came first, was written down as first, and according to the second, and so on to the twenty-fourth; and this partition hath remained to this day."*

Consequently, when the priests served in their courses, two divisions would be in attendance for services each Sabbath. One course departed and the second course or division remained to perform their ceremonial duties throughout the forthcoming week until relieved at the end of the following Sabbath by another group of priests. Therefore, the course of AbiYah served one week each year two months after the Feast of Unleavened Bread and again two months after the Feast of Tabernacles. They performed their duties regularly, twice annually, in the spring and in the fall.

As we continue reading from Luke 1, we discover that the angel of Yahweh appeared to Zechariah as he was serving in his office before Elohim in the order of his course (AbiYah). This means that he was in regular service during his normal divisional rotation rather than performing extra service in a drafted capacity during the thirteenth month (Luke 1:8).

Zechariah went into the Temple having been chosen in a lot to burn incense on the altar of incense in the holy place of the Temple. There

the angel of Yahweh spoke to him, informing him that his wife Elizabeth, who had been barren up to this point, would soon bear a son. They were to name him John (Yahannan). He was to be a Nazarite, filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb as were several of the Old Testament prophets. Zechariah would be unable to speak until the baby was born, as a sign from Yahweh that this prediction would come true.

After the days of his service, Zechariah returned back to his home, which we see from Luke 1:39 was in the hill country of Judah, south of Jerusalem. In fulfillment of the angelic message, Elizabeth soon thereafter became pregnant. During her sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from Yahweh to Miriam living in Nazareth with the announcement of our Savior's imminent conception and birth. Thereafter, the virgin Miriam went to visit her kinswoman Elizabeth, remaining there until about the time of the birth of John the Baptist.

Six months after John's birth, Yahshua the Messiah was born. John 1:14, from the Greek text,

points clearly towards the Feast of Tabernacles as the time of His birth. ***"And the Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us (and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth."*** Additionally, in Luke 2 we find that the Roman taxation enrollment took place during the time of year when the Judean nation could travel, not in winter. Taxes were normally collected in the fall of the year, because that is when people have money from their harvest. Simultaneously, people would travel to keep Yahweh's holy days and, thereby, ill will against the Roman occupation could be avoided.

To send an entire nation on the roads in the dead of winter to pay taxes to a hated foreign emperor occupying their land would surely have produced a rebellion. The Romans wished to avoid such an eventuality. Joseph, Miriam's husband, was from the family of David, whose home town was in Bethlehem. Taking his wife with him, although she was quite well advanced in her pregnancy, they headed south from Nazareth.

Bethlehem lay just about five miles south of Jerusalem. While at Bethlehem for the tax enrollment, the time of Miriam's delivery arrived. There was no room for them to stay in the inn because throngs of travelers were there to attend the Feast of Tabernacles.

However, that did not inconvenience Joseph and Miriam. They, undoubtedly, had made some arrangements to bring with them a temporary dwelling (tent) for the feast. It might be well to observe that nowhere in the Evangels are we told that Yahshua was born in the inn stable, but simply that His parents used a convenient manger as a bassinet or cradle for their newborn son. Probably this was only a feed box someone had used to feed animals and left in the pasture near where their tent was erected.

After the birth of Yahshua Messiah, an angel announced His nativity to shepherds who were staying in nearby fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. With several million pilgrims attending the feast at Jerusalem, the crowd usually spilled over into the surrounding area. Bethlehem

***Flocks and herds are not pastured in the Holy Land at night during the end of December. By that time the rainy season has set in and the weather in the Jerusalem-Bethlehem area has turned quite cool.***



would have provided accommodations for them since it was only five miles from the Holy City.

The vast flocks and herds of sacrificial animals that the pilgrims had brought with them had to be tended. Therefore, this labor was undoubtedly exchanged among the worshipers at the feast. These shepherds were men who had volunteered to tend the flocks and herds of sacrificial animals, watching them by night in the field (the Greek word is **agros**, meaning cultivated land). The crops had been harvested, but the flocks and herds were still out at night. Flocks and herds are not pastured in the Holy Land at night during the end of December. By that time the rainy season has set in and the weather in the Jerusalem-Bethlehem area has turned quite cool.

Yahshua the Messiah was not born on December 25. Luke chapter 1 demonstrates this fact clearly. He was conceived in December, but born the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles (which occurs in late September or in October). He was then circumcised on the eighth day, the Last Great Day of the feast. This, in itself, bears great significance. One can take the account of Luke chapter 1 and work it out on a sacred calendar each year. Try this for yourself sometime.

### **December 25 in Pagan Worship**

December 25 was a sacred day for the worship of Zeus and other pagan mighty ones related to sun worship. At the winter solstice (this means the time when the sun stands still in the southern heavens) the pagans celebrated the birthday of the new sun (son). Some writers even claim that Zeus, himself, was born on December 25. The pagan religions

customarily related the birthday of their anti-Messiah savior to the end of a solar cycle and the resumption of the sun's journey north—the birthday of a new sun (son).

Let us note carefully what we find in 1 Maccabees 1:52-64. Described here is the attempt of a despotic ruler to impose his false religion upon the Jewish people who sought to obey the Scriptures.

*“And many of the people and everyone who was ready to forsake the law joined with them and they did wrong in the land, and forced Israel to hide in every hiding place they had.*

*On the fifteenth day of Chesliu [the Jewish month corresponding to December] in the one hundred and forty-fifth year, he erected a dreadful desecration upon the altar, and in the towns of Judah round about they built altars, and all at the doors of their houses and in the squares they burned incense, and wherever they found the book of the law, they tore them up and burned them, and if anyone was found to possess a book of the agreement or respected the law, the king's decree condemned him to death. The Israelites who appeared from month to month in the towns they treated with force. On the twenty-fifth of the month (December 25) they offered sacrifice upon the altar which was set up on the altar of burnt offering. The women who have circumcised their children they put to death under the decree, hanging the babies around their necks, and destroying their families and the men who had circumcised them.*

*Yet many in Israel stood firm and resolved in their hearts not to eat what was unclean; they preferred death to being polluted with food or profaning the sacred agreement, and so they died. And Israel suffered intensely.”* (from the

**Complete Bible, An American Translation**, Smith, Goodspeed).

Antiochus Epiphanes (the Greek-Syrian ruler of the Holy Land about 150 years before the Messiah) tried to convert the Jews to pagan religion. You will notice that he offered a sacrifice on the twenty-fifth of Chesliu (corresponding to December 25). Other historical records indicate that a young sow was offered at this desecrating sacrifice.

These pagan mighty ones born on December 25 are idolatrous figures representing sun worship. The birthday of Mithra, Osiris, Hercules, Bacchus, and others were all said to occur that day. China's pagan savior, Zas, was born on December 25 (note the close similarity to the Greek word Zeus). The Egyptian mighty one Horus, the Hindu mighty one Vishnu, the Syrian mighty one Tammuz, and the Greek mighty one Dionysus (who was one of the personifications of Zeus) all had their birthdays on December 25.

After looking carefully at these facts, we must conclude that December 25, the winter solstice, was the birthday of pagan mighty ones from ancient antiquity. Licentious feasts were held in the honor of those pagan mighty ones. This observance relates to the great anti-Messiah—Nimrod—who was symbolized by the sun. Yahshua the Messiah was not born on December 25, but, rather, during the Feast of Tabernacles. Why does the world today (even those who are not Catholic) observe the **mass of Chr-st** during this pagan season? Should we not reject this error that can be clearly proven wrong, so that we can eliminate the false doctrines that have, like the parasite mistletoe, attached themselves to the true message

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by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

# *The Revealed Name of Our Heavenly Father*

Let us read together Psalm 96. Please pay special attention to each word as you read.

*“Oh sing to Yahweh a new song: sing to Yahweh, all the earth.*

*Sing to Yahweh, bless his name; show forth his salvation from day to day.*

*Declare his glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples.*

*For great is Yahweh, and*

*greatly to be praised: He is to be feared above all elohim.*

*For all the elohim of the peoples are idols; but Yahweh made the heavens.*

*Honor and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.*

*Ascribe to Yahweh, you kindreds of the peoples, ascribe to Yahweh glory and strength.*

*Ascribe to Yahweh the glory due his name. Bring an offer-*

*ing, and come into his courts.*

*Oh worship Yahweh in holy array: tremble before him, all the earth.*

*Say among the nations, Yahweh reigns: The world also is established that it cannot be moved: He will judge the peoples with equity.*

*Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and the fulness of it;*

*Let the field exult, and all*

*that is in it; then shall all the trees of the wood sing for joy*

*Before Yahweh; for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth: He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.”*

*“Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for from now on there shall no more come into you the uncircumcised and the unclean. Shake yourself from the dust; arise, sit on your throne, O Jerusalem: loose yourself from the bonds of your neck, O captive daughter of Zion.*

*“For thus says Yahweh, You were sold for nothing; and you shall be redeemed without money. For thus says the Sovereign Yahweh, My people went down at the first into Egypt to sojourn there: and the Assyrian has oppressed them without cause. Now therefore, what do I here, says Yahweh, since my people is taken away for nothing? They that rule over them howl, says Yahweh, and my name continually all the day is blasphemed. Therefore my people shall know my name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that does speak; behold, it is I.*

*“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that brings good tidings, that publishes peace, that brings good tidings of good, that publishes salvation, that says to Zion, Your Elohim reigns! The voice of your watchmen! They lift up the voice, together they sing; for they shall see eye to eye, when Yahweh returns to Zion.” (Isaiah 52:1-8).*

In the passage of Scripture which we have just read, you will

notice that Almighty Yahweh, our Heavenly Father, refers to a time wherein His true Name continually, every day, is blasphemed. The thinking person will immediately wonder why such a situation should exist, wherein the true, revealed Name of our Heavenly Father could be used in an indiscriminate manner. When we malign the true, genuine Name of our Heavenly Father, we are, in fact, speaking evil of the one Being upon whom our very existence depends. We owe our life upon this very earth to Him. We owe to Him the blessings of the abundance of this earth which so richly feeds, clothes, and houses us. It is by His foresight that this earth was endowed with all the rich resources that make our human lives so very comfortable. Can it be true, then, that the people living in this modern age are using this Name in an indiscriminate manner, perhaps even devoting it to profanity? Yes, certainly this is true!

However, it is also true that there are some people who are maligning this magnificent and majestic Name through bringing it to naught, asserting that we may call upon the Almighty by using in worship any Name which we humans may choose to call Him. The Almighty Creator and Sustainer of this universe has spoken! Can we, mortal men, annul this Word of the Most High? Can we say something which is diametrically opposite to the inspired Scriptures? Those who would bring to naught the revealed, personal Name of our Heavenly Father are equally as guilty of blasphemy as are those who use this Name in a profane manner. If those who know the Truth of the Sacred Name would proclaim its importance for salvation, for deliverance, and for

protection, everywhere on earth, a mighty witness would be presented to glorifying the Name of our Mighty One.

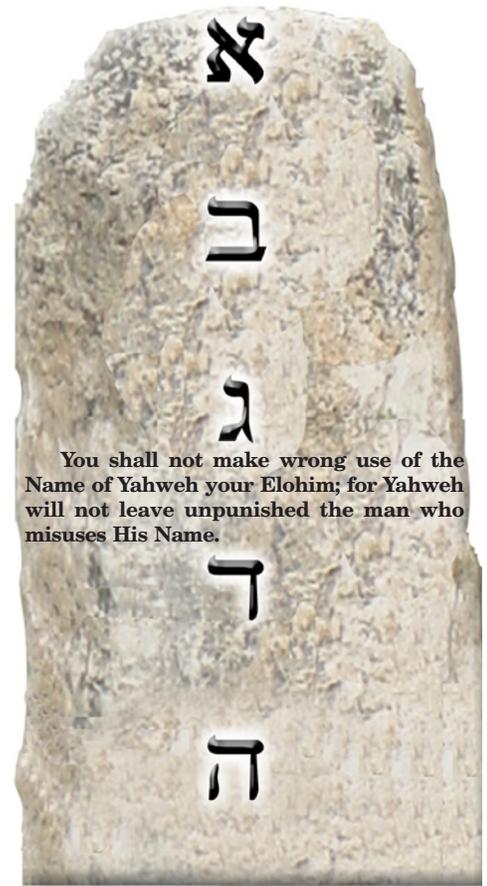
In verse 6 of Isaiah chapter 52, the Almighty thunders in defiance of those who are blaspheming the Sacred Name. ***“Therefore my people shall know my name; therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that does speak; behold, it is I.”*** In these last days of man’s age, educated individuals—who should know better—are saying that the Almighty has died, while ministers are erroneously teaching that the Almighty can be called by any Name that we ourselves may choose. Our Heavenly Father, thereupon, replies that His True Worshipers shall indeed know His Name! In a resounding voice, He declares to the world that, when He begins to speak to the people of this age and to judge them, His true people can depend on His Name to protect them. They will know that our Heavenly Father Himself is speaking to the world, because they will identify Him through His revealed, personal Name! If we are to be His faithful people, then, in order for this prophecy to be fulfilled in the last days, we will have to know the true, revealed, personal Name of our Heavenly Father. Verse 7 of this remarkable chapter says, ***“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that brings good tidings, that publishes peace; that brings good tidings of good, that publishes salvation, that says to Zion, Your Elohim reigns!”*** How wonderful it is to receive good news and to learn the true Name of our Heavenly Father! How wonderful it is to enter into a close, personal relationship with the Almighty that can come to the human family only by knowing

His true, revealed Name!

Many times people raise the question, "Can the average person actually know the Name of the Almighty? I am not a student of foreign languages; how can I learn what the true Name of the Heavenly Father is? Must I study Hebrew? I wish, above all, to be one of the people of the Most High and I wish to know His Name, but this seems hopeless for me."

To the sincere inquirer, Almighty Yahweh replies in His Word: "My Name is not nearly as well hidden as most people would have you believe." We can perceive this fact by looking into the great reference works of our day. If you are really interested in finding Truth, why not resolve in your mind right now (this very minute) that you will no longer take the word of another for your salvation, but you will prove all things for yourself and hold fast that which is good, as the Apostle Paul (Saul) exhorts the Assembly of Yahweh at Thessalonica (1 Thessalonians 5:21). You do not even need to own these books which are rather expensive to acquire. There are numerous public libraries and school libraries available that would be only too happy to aid you in any study you would care to make on your own.

We must begin our search for the Heavenly Father's Name in the Hebrew language. This inspired text comprises His Word (instruction to humankind). Here is where His Name would naturally be found and not in another common ethnic language. There is a reason why Almighty Yahweh chose ancient Israel as a nation. These were people who could understand Him when He spoke. At no time, and in no other place, do we find any reference to the Almighty speaking to any people other than to those who knew



Hebrew or one of the sister languages. Hebrew has been shown to be the language of heaven.

In the inspired Hebrew Scriptures, we are pointed to a word of four letters which comprises the Name of the Almighty as it appears in the **Hebrew Bible**. The Greek word *Tetragrammaton* means a *four-letter word* and has been employed to refer to the personal Name of the Almighty as it appears in the Hebrew Bible. The term comprised by this four-letter word in the Hebrew texts begins with a *yod* (the letter spelled *jot* in Matthew 5:18), the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet. The next letter is the *hey*, then a *waw*, followed once more by another *hey*. Many Hebrew scholars would tell you that Hebrew is a language made up entirely of consonantal letters. This assertion is erroneous. As a matter of fact, the Hebrew language makes use of similar vowels as does the

English language. Those readers who follow modern church news will remember that a half century ago various ancient scrolls were discovered in the Qumran caves in the Holy Land. These constitute some of the oldest manuscripts of the Hebrew Scriptures. They do not contain the vowel points which characterize the more modern Masoretic text of the Hebrew Scriptures. Therefore, we conclude that, before the addition of the vowel points (in the years 600-900 C.E.), the Hebrews were able to read their manuscripts accurately in some way. While they did, in many cases, read the consonants and supply the vowels, there are also letters in the Hebrew text which serve as vowels. These are known as *matres lectiones* (mothers of reading). The historian Flavius Josephus relates that the Name of our Heavenly Father was embroidered upon the band of the miter worn on the head

of the high priest, and he states that IT WAS FOUR VOWELS. Some scholars assume that this is an error, but it is not. The four letters which Almighty Yahweh chose for His Name are vowels (vowel letters) and this can be conclusively proven.

In a Hebrew grammar which I have in my library, we find this startling quotation. It reads, "*In current Hebrew writing, vowel points are seldom used. There are four letters which can be used as vowels. The Hey and the Aleph have the vowel sounds of AH or EH, the Waw, that of O or OO, and the Yod that of EE.*" Why, these letters are precisely the four letters which constitute Yahweh's Name! This proves that they are vowels and that we can actually know the sounds of these letters which we are pronouncing! The *yod* is pronounced as a long E or double E. The *hey* is pronounced as *ah*. The *waw* as double O or the long U. The last *hey* would be pronounced as *eh*, since this serves as a masculine ending and Almighty Yahweh is always spoken of in the Scriptures as being masculine. Verbs related to the Name Yahweh are always masculine.

Let us forthwith pronounce these letters then with the sounds which they represent: *EE AH OO EH* (Yahweh).

Modern learning is truly phenomenal. We can substantiate the Truth of the Sacred Name from myriads of sources if we would but look for it! For instance, we can turn to the **Webster's Unabridged Dictionary**. There we can find the name Yahweh. Webster explained that this is a more accurate transliteration of the Tetragrammaton from the Hebrew texts than is Jehovah. This noted reference work is to be found in almost every public

school, and I know that the teachers would be only too happy to let you use it for reference (if you do not interfere with their classes).

You may also find this Name in most encyclopedias. In our modern times, to own an encyclopedia has become a sort of status symbol. Yet, there it stands in many homes, gathering dust, while the valuable information which it contains goes unused. I like to pick up a volume of the encyclopedia when I visit a home. Most people are shocked when I show them the Sacred Name in the encyclopedia in their own home. Here this reference work was sitting in their own home for so long, and, yet, they had never discovered the Sacred Name until now!

Some time ago, a relative came to visit me and handed me a booklet which was published by a leading Protestant church denomination. It was written in a rather peculiar manner, the text appeared in the "first person." It consistently used the Sacred Name Yahweh! It even had several passages in which the writer referred to the Words of the Heavenly Father which unequivocally state that the Name of our Heavenly Father is Yahweh. Showing this booklet to a minister of that denomination, my relative reported that the minister stated THAT THIS WAS ONLY ONE OF THE Names of the Almighty. So what are we going to believe—the explanation of this minister, or the inspired Scriptures which comprises the Words of Almighty Yahweh, our Heavenly Father, that clearly state that this is His only Name? See Psalm 83:18.

I could cite many additional references for you to check, wherein you could prove to yourself beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Name the Almighty has chosen to call Himself in the pages of His Word

is Yahweh. You might check the prefaces of Bible translations such as the Moffatt version, which can be found in the libraries of most religious and secular institutions since it is a very readable translation. You might check the **Revised Standard Version of 1952**. You might check the **Rotherham** translation, which is a very old and reliable translation work. The **Rotherham Version** (*Emphasized Bible*), in fact, contains seven pages in the introduction which clearly explain the Sacred Name of the Heavenly Father, and why it is imperative that we use it in our worship of Him. Then there are such newer translations as **The Jerusalem Bible**, **The Anchor Bible**, and **The Sacred Scriptures, Bethel Edition**, Bible, all of which have inserted the Name Yahweh in the text.

If you are a true, called-out child of the Heavenly Father, you should be sincerely interested in knowing His True Name. In our day and age when knowledge is being increased, you, as an individual, can now, for certain, know that the Name of the Almighty is Yahweh! This Sacred Name message comprises the last warning message which is to be preached to mankind just before our Heavenly Father begins to take over the rulership of this earth, to send Yahshua the Messiah back to judge an errant generation for their sins.

Why not begin the "back-to-Yahweh" revolution in your neighborhood? Why not begin to study the Scriptures to see what they teach? You might be surprised with what you will find. This is dynamic and living Truth, and it will mean salvation and eternal life for you! You will be fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy by becoming one of those True Worshipers who knows His Name! **SNR**

# Is the American Thanksgiving Scriptural?

Continued from page 5.

President of the United States proclaims the fourth Thursday of the month of November to be the American Thanksgiving. Almighty Yahweh proclaims His acceptable thanksgiving to be during the seventh scriptural month of the year, the fifteenth to the twenty-second day of that month.

The American President each year declares this day to be a time of thanksgiving to G-D for the blessings we have received from him. Almighty Yahweh commands us to honor HIM by keeping the days He legislated. Please read Hosea 2, especially in the Bible published by the Assemblies of Yahweh, **The Sacred Scriptures, Bethel Edition**. You will see there how people offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to Baal for the produce of the land, while believing that they are giving honor to Yahweh, but, in fact, are conferring this thanksgiving to Baal (the L-rd).

***“For she did not know that I gave her the grain, and the new wine, and the oil, and multiplied to her silver and gold, which they used for Baal. Therefore will I take back my grain in the time of it, and my new wine in the season of it, and will pluck away my wool and my flax which should have covered her nakedness. And now will I uncover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and none shall deliver her out of my hand. I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feasts, her new moons,***

***and her sabbaths, and all her solemn assemblies. And I will lay waste her vines and her fig-trees, of which she has said, These are my hire that my lovers have given me; and I will make them a forest, and the beasts of the field shall eat them. And I will visit upon her the days of the Baalim, to which she burned incense, when she decked herself with her ear-rings and her jewels, and went after her lovers, and forgot me, says Yahweh.***

***“Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably to her. And I will give her her vineyards from there, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope; and she shall make answer there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt. And it shall be at that day, says Yahweh, that you shall call me Ishi, and shall call me no more Baali. For I will take away the names of the Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be mentioned by their name.”*** (Hosea 2:8-17).

It is imperative that we eliminate from our religious practice all things that are displeasing to Almighty Yahweh. One of those things is the observance of days that He has not commanded. Let us determine to obey Him and keep His commandments, as did Ezra and Nehemiah (Nehemiah 10:28-35). **SNR**

## Christmas A New Slant on an Old Holiday

Continued from page 16.

of the Bible?

Chr-stmas is an old, pagan holiday given a modern twist. Nevertheless, one cannot find mention of it in the New Testament. Actually, no date (in the Roman calendar) is given in the New Testament for the Messiah's birth. Almighty Yahweh does not wish us to celebrate the birthday of His Son, but He has commanded us to observe His holy days specified in Leviticus 23, on which have occurred all the important events relating to our salvation.

Now that you have examined for yourself these amazing facts, you must make a decision. Standing squarely before you is a confrontation with the issue. Will you continue following heathen customs and pagan traditions as before and, perhaps, try to justify from the Bible your observance of this pagan holiday? Or, will you turn to serve Almighty Yahweh, our Heavenly Father, in obedience to His commandments?

Weigh your decision carefully because it will determine which Messiah you worship (the true Jewish Messiah, Yahshua, or the pagan anti-Messiah, Nimrod)—and it will mean whether or not you will be accepted by Yahweh Elohim into the eternal salvation in His Kingdom that He has promised in His Word. **SNR**

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