



THE SACRED NAME BROADCASTER

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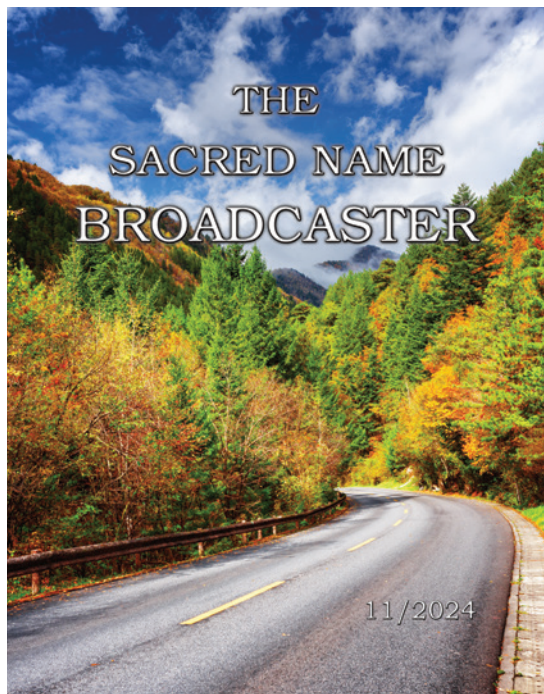
The brilliant color of leaves painted by the palette of Yahweh, our Creator, punctuates the end of another growing season. **"And out of the ground made Yahweh Elohim to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food...."** (Genesis 2:9a).

If we place our trust in Yahweh, He has promised that we will be as a tree planted by the waters that will endure every time of drought—still bearing fruit. (Jeremiah 17:7-8).

Yahshua used the analogy of a fruitful tree that bears good fruit. **"Either make the tree good, and its fruit good; or make the tree corrupt, and its fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by its fruit."** (Matthew 12:33). Are you bearing good fruit?

"The righteous shall flourish like the palm-tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. They are planted in the house of Yahweh; they shall flourish in the courts of our Elohim. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap and green: to show that Yahweh is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him." (Psalm 92:12-15).

Become a tree of righteousness—the planting of Yahweh—by living a life that glorifies Yahweh each day. **"That they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of Yahweh, that he may be glorified."** (Isaiah 61:3b).



Will You Observe It This Year?

Christmas

People frequently follow customs set by society without first questioning where these time-honored traditions originated. They assume that the world around them accurately portrays the way people should live. It is their belief that, since the various denominations of nominal Christianity use the Bible in their teachings, they are faithfully following the biblical way of life with the traditions and customs that they keep.

However, your Bible warns continually against accepting the ways of the world. Jeremiah 10:2 admonishes us not to learn the way of the heathen (the Hebrew word is *goyim*, meaning *the nations of the world*). The line drawn between the practices of the Apostolic Assembly on the one hand, and the religious lifestyle of the world

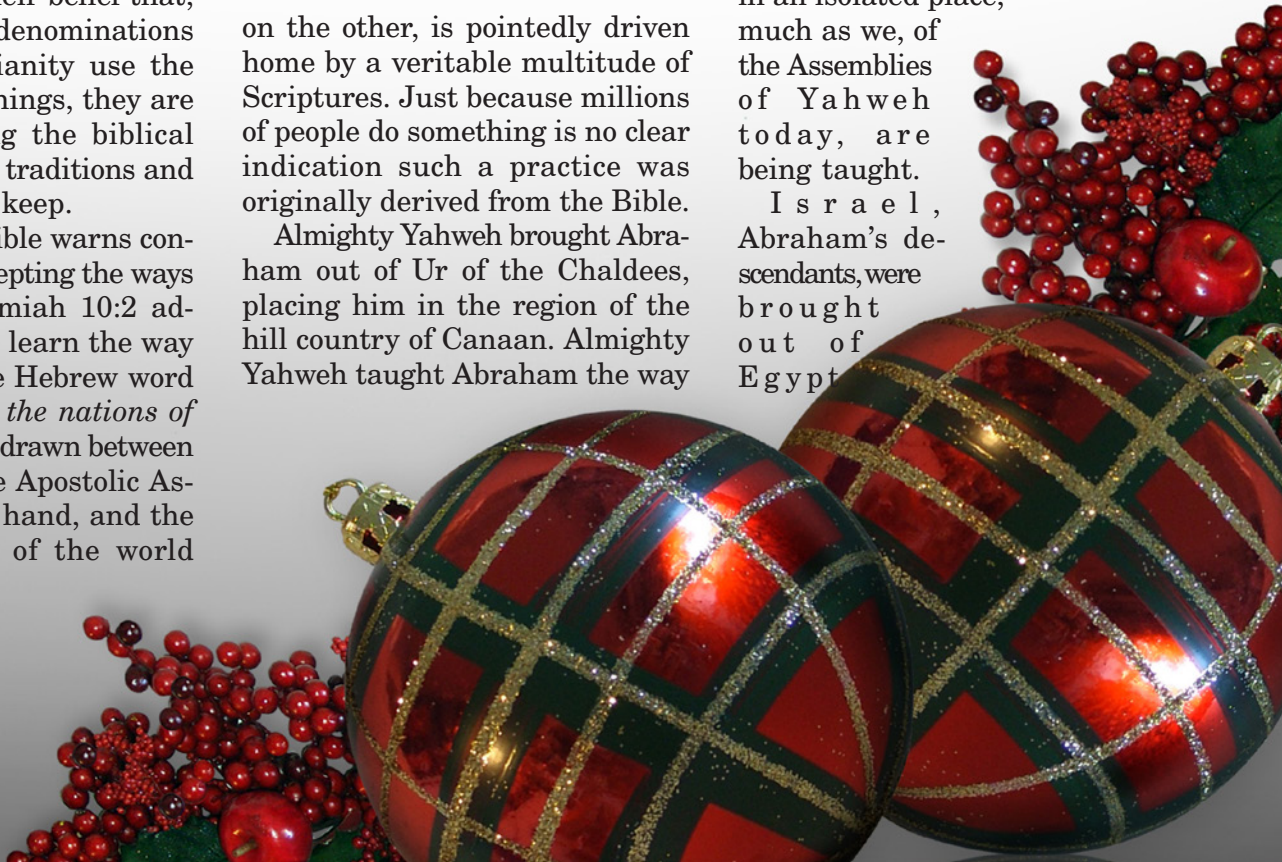
by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

on the other, is pointedly driven home by a veritable multitude of Scriptures. Just because millions of people do something is no clear indication such a practice was originally derived from the Bible.

Almighty Yahweh brought Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldees, placing him in the region of the hill country of Canaan. Almighty Yahweh taught Abraham the way

of Truth. Such a physical description can be spiritually explained to mean that Yahweh brought Abraham out of the degenerating system of the world and taught him the true way to eternal life in an isolated place, much as we, of the Assemblies of Yahweh today, are being taught.

Israel, Abraham's descendants, were brought out of Egypt



Why do Christians celebrate Christmas on December 25?

YAHSHUA THE MESSIAH WAS NOT BORN ON DECEMBER 25.

and spent 40 years in the wilderness learning the ways of Yahweh. Paul describes this event in Acts 13:18 by saying, ***“And for about the time of forty years as a nursing father he bore them in the wilderness.”*** Yahweh intended Israel to leave behind the ways of that sinful society. Yahweh intended Israel to provide a bold witness of the heavenly way of life to the surrounding nations. Your Bible contains a record of the progress and the failures of people who were to be Yahweh’s witnesses.

For several years, in the office of the author, a file of newspaper and magazine articles relating to the pagan origin of the customs attached to the Christmas celebration has been growing. Studying the contents of this file in preparation for writing this composition was again quite enlightening. The numerous authors who wrote these informative articles fully comprehend and understand the pagan origins of the traditions and customs observed at Christmas time (as well as many of the other holidays celebrated by the world). Nevertheless, few and far between are the determined individuals who actually advocate eliminating those customs from their practices. While they know and comprehend these authentic facts, yet they will still not allow themselves to be corrected by the biblical and secular evidence. Many people of the world reflect this stubborn attitude.

Are you truly an open-minded person? Have you dedicated your

personal life exclusively to serving the Most High Heavenly Father? Will you be guided by the Word of Yahweh the Most High? Do you humbly allow the Bible to correct you? If you can answer in the affirmative to all of these questions, then we would urge you to read this article very carefully. Check these facts for yourself, then make up your own mind. The facts published here can be verified in libraries which contain the quoted reference works. But, remember, these facts will not benefit you unless you act on the information by bringing your personal life into harmony with what they prohibit.

Contending with Paganism

When the Apostolic Assembly came into existence, the members totally committed themselves to making their personal preparation for the Second Coming of Yahshua the Messiah. The Apostolic Assembly of the book of Acts was never numerically large. It was a small group, but completely dedicated to obeying the Truth of Yahweh’s Word.

The brethren of the Apostolic Assembly found themselves in the midst of a very strong government—the Roman Empire. The religion of this mighty empire was based primarily upon that of ancient Greece. In the Pantheon—a huge building located in the city of Rome—every major religion was represented, and the image of every mighty one was enshrined. Foremost among these pagan

mighty ones was Jupiter, the Latin equivalent and representation of the ancient Greek mighty one—Zeus. So strongly was the religion of Jupiter and Zeus (the father of the mighty ones) imprinted upon the minds of ancient peoples that, evidently, some of those pagan religious ideas were subsequently carried over into the Messianic Assembly by people who had begun to follow the biblical Faith.

December 25 was a sacred day on the calendar for the worship of Zeus and other pagan mighty ones. Some writers even claim that Zeus was born on December 25. This day was called the *winter solstice*, when the sun appears to stand still in the heavens as it departs toward the south and, several days later, resuming its next journey north, portending another summer.

Let us note what we find in 1 Maccabees 1:52-64.

“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 Chislew, 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 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 they offered sacrifice upon the altar which was set up on the altar of burnt offering. The women who had 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.” **The Complete Bible, An American Tradition.**

Why do Christians celebrate Christmas on December 25? YAHSHUA THE MESSIAH WAS NOT BORN ON DECEMBER 25. Our published article on that subject will clearly prove this statement of fact to you if you are open-minded. The Scriptures indicate that Yahshua the Messiah was born on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles in the fall of the year. This can be ascertained from Luke chapter 1. Also, John 1:14 should be considered. **“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.”**

The word *Christmas* actually means *the mass of Christ*, the mass held in celebration of his birth. You can prove this from any good dictionary. If Yahshua the Messiah was not born at this time of year, why observe His birthday?

Furthermore, how can a Protestant believer keep any day which was dedicated to holding a mass, a Roman Catholic observance? How can the Protestant any longer

protest when he joins in worship with those he ostensibly protests against? Are you confused now? Did you know that confusion is the meaning of “Babylon”?

Since they are idolatrous figures which represent sun worship, most pagan mighty ones were born around the winter solstice which was anciently set at December 25. The birthday of Mithra fell on December 25. Mithra symbolized the sun, as did other heathen mighty ones like Osiris, Hercules, and Bacchus, who were also said to have been born on that day. Interestingly, China’s pagan savior, Zao, was born on December 25. (Did you note the close similarity of the Greek word *Zeus*?) Additionally, the Egyptian mighty one Horus, the Hindu mighty one

Vishnu, and the Syrian mighty one Tammuz had their birthdays on December 25, as did the Greek mighty one Dionysus, who was a personification of Zeus.

We must specify that sun worship represents the key to understanding why Christmas today is celebrated on December 25. The seasonal circuit of the earth around the sun had become a great concern to ancient agrarian people. On the night between the 24th and 25th of December, the sun was perceived to have passed the farthest point from the earth and was beginning its new journey back from south to north. Since the sun provides the light of the world and produces heat for the earth and growth of crops, cold and famine would inevitably



Bas-relief depicting Mithras looking to Sol Invictus as he slays the bull. Sol and Luna appear at the top of the relief.

exterminate the human race if the sun did not return from the south. Consequently, in the north regions where most of the early civilizations arose, great rejoicing broke out when the people perceived that the sun had stopped on its departure from the earth and now was returning. This is how such mythological traditions as the Christmas celebration originated.

The ancient heathen religions called the sun their savior. Since the solar savior had come, or returned, to save the world from suffering a harsh winter, it means that new life and hope was given to the people of the world. Therefore, you can perceive how these pagan thoughts are retained in some of the Christmas carols. Songs that do not actually express the true biblical message of the Messiah's birth are sung to praise the birth of their savior. The obvious relationship between ancient pagan sun worship and the modern Christmas celebration can readily be noted.

Roman Customs

In ancient Rome, the time of the Saturnalia and Brumalia was fixed on a date in the middle of December. These feasts were known as the *Paganalia*. The name *Saturn* meant *abundance*. Distinctive traditions of the Saturnalia are closely akin to those of Christmas as it is celebrated today.

Here is a review of some of these Romish customs. Prove our assertions from a good encyclopedia. Gigantic feasts were held throughout the day on Saturnalia. Slaves were given liberty for the day and often were served by their masters at the feast. There was a general suspension of all public affairs. Courts and schools were recessed; commercial and all military activities were suspended. Most prominent among the fes-



tive dishes served were the boar's head with an apple or orange in its mouth, plum pudding, mince pies, decorated sweets, and cookies for dessert. Dolls were frequently given as gifts. Some historians link these dolls to original human sacrifices, since human sacrifices were once offered to Saturn. The word *Brumalia* means *winter solstice*. The word *solstice* comes from a combination of words meaning *the sun* (Latin word *sol*) *standing still*.

Additionally, parades and mummeries, such as one will find in our time at the Pasadena Rose Parade and the Philadelphia Mummers Parade, were conducted at the Saturnalia. Such revelry formed an integral part of the extended observances of Saturn at the winter solstice just as they do today with the Christmas /New Year celebrations. If anyone was to be transported to our age from those ancient times, he might conclude that he is right at home among the present-day Christmas /New Year celebrations. Actually, it would seem that the eight-day Christmas /New Year observance of today has replaced Yahweh's annual festival called the Feast of Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:33-44).

Norse Customs

Common in some European countries, especially England, is the yule log. The term *yule*, ac-

ording to **Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language**, Second College Edition, is defined as *the original name of a heathen festival at the winter solstice akin to the old Norse Jol*. From the old Norse festival comes our word *jolly*, used most frequently around the Christmas season to describe the revelry that cannot be scripturally supported.

It is interesting to note that the word *yule* also means *wheel* in the ancient Norse language. In Scandinavia, the celebration of yule honored the mighty one Woden with the rebirth of the wheel-shaped sun. To use anything with a wheel during the two weeks of rejoicing (work was suspended), such as wagons or spinning wheels, would have been an insult to the sun, implying that it was not moving north fast enough. To hasten the return of the sun, ancient people built huge bonfires (a yule fire with the log). Traps, snares, and fish nets were also brought in so that even the fish, birds, and animals might find yuletide (two weeks, a fortnight; 12 weekdays plus two Sundays) a time of peace. In ancient Chaldean, yule meant *the feast of the child*. Yule has a distinct relationship to the Semitic word for child or begettal—*yeled* and *yalad*.

Lighting the yule log signaled the beginning of the holiday merriment. In Britain, it was a

religious ceremony for the Druids who blessed the log. The charred remains of the past year's log were used to light the new fire. The burning fire symbolized home and safety. The Teutons believed the burning of the yule log represented the death of the old sun, and the evergreen Chr-stmas tree stood for the annual rebirth of the solar savior. The Romans called this annual rebirth *Sol Invictus*—the unconquerable sun.

The legend of Santa Claus coming down the chimney also was derived from the early Norsemen. Their tales tell of the mighty one called Hertha appearing on the hearth of the fireplace and bringing good luck to the house. Therefore, a Santa Claus-type figure came down the chimneys of the ancient Norse people.

Santa Claus is usually called by the term *Old Nick*. You can prove to yourself that this was one of Satan's names by checking the word *Nick* in any dictionary. Satan has been masquerading under a variety of names to draw worship to himself. (This makes the Sacred Name doctrine so much more weighty.) The word *Santa* actually means *saint*, and he was supposed to have been called *Saint Nicholas*. You will notice in Revelation 2:6 and 15 the word *Nicolaitanes*,

derived from the Greek word *Nike*. She was the winged victory who, in mythology, was the evangelist of Zeus. Santa Claus is said to be a contraction of the term *Saint Nicholas* and this term can then present a clear name association with Nike. Santa Claus, therefore, was sent to announce the advent, or annual birth, of the solar mighty one Zeus.

Some traditional beliefs are that the present Santa Claus myth was developed from an actual Saint Nicholas who lived during the 14th century. He was credited with miraculous healings. According to one legend, he tossed bags of gold into the windows of three girls who had no dowries, but wanted to get married. Some believe that here is where the custom of giving Chr-stmas gifts began. The wise men, you will remember, did not give gifts to each other, but they gave them to the Savior, Yahshua the Messiah.

Clement Moore, in 1822, wrote the composition, "**The Night Before Chr-stmas .**" The cartoonist Thomas Nast, in 1863, dressed Santa Claus in a red suit with reindeer and toys and had him coming down the chimney on Chr-stmas eve. However, the entire corpus of this tradition is based upon telling lies to the chil-

dren, cleverly undermining their faith and trust in spoken Truth.

Tree Worship

Chr-stmas trees are entirely pagan also. You will see in Jeremiah 10:2-4 a scriptural passage that closely relates to tree worship. ***"Thus says Yahweh, Learn not the way of the nations, 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."*** What better description could we compose to describe the modern-day Chr-stmas tree? But Yahweh prophesied it for us over 2,500 years ago.

In America, the Chr-stmas tree was brought to our shores by German immigrants. Long before they acquired the custom, worship with the use of the tree had been a traditional custom in the ancient Middle East. Reverence for trees dated back to Nimrod, whose death was represented by the cutting down of the tree. Aescalapius, the physician or healer,



was portrayed as a serpent who wrapped himself around the dead stump, which, thereupon, brought forth a new shoot from its roots with the rebirth, or reincarnation, of Nimrod's son—Tammuz. This Babylonish idolatry continues to be reenacted each year at Chr-stmas time.

Surprisingly, the wise men did not arrive to pay homage to the Savior at the same time as did the shepherds, although they are so depicted in the creche scene. Shepherds abiding in the fields near Bethlehem (Luke 2) would have undoubtedly been tending the sacrificial animals for the Feast of Tabernacles. They were pasturing their animals in a cultivated field (Greek is *agros*—a field in which agriculture is pursued). They would have come to pay homage to the Messiah the same night, but the wise men arrived several

weeks later and found the Messiah in a house (Matthew 2:11). The angels did not announce to the shepherds the Messiah's birth by singing a song or carol. The angel spoke—angels in the Bible never sing. The sincere Bible student is, each year, insulted to hear the Chr-stmas carols declaring how the angels sing songs!

When the wise men arrived in Bethlehem, Yahshua and His parents lived in a house (Matthew 2:11). He was no longer in a stable, if He ever was born in a stable. (We are not told that He was, only that He was laid in a manger.) The manger could have been in a pasture. Yahshua the Messiah was most likely born in a tent out in a field where a small manger stood for feeding animals at pasture. Such a manger was then used as a crib for the Messiah. No mention is made that He was born in the inn stable, only that there was no room for them in the inn.

During the month of December, the shepherds had brought their flocks into the folds for the winter around Bethlehem in the Holy Land. Shepherds would not abide in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night, after the eighth month of the biblical year (October-November), since the weather turns cold and wet after the Feast of Tabernacles (usually held in early October).

To this very day, the Scottish people celebrate Hogmanay at the winter solstice. The word is said to

It would appear as though most of the customs of the Chr-stmas are derived directly from the ancient anti-messiah and false-savior, Nimrod, and his mother-wife, Semiramis. The world today worships a false savior and an anti-messiah under the guise of sun worship.

be derived from the old Norman-French term *hoguinnane*, a festival in which New Year's gifts were given or exchanged between friends. Traditionally, Hogmanay feasting begins at midnight with the arrival of a tall, dark stranger. Music and alcoholic beverages constitute an indispensable part of a traditional Hogmanay.

But where does this festival originate? Is it found in the Bible? Actually, none of the customs, traditions, and festivals attached to the Chr-stmas /New Year holidays can be found anywhere in the BIBLE, except that some of them are condemned as being idolatry and paganism. Hogmanay actually comes from the Hebrew word for feast (*hog*—in Hebrew *chag* means feast, and *manay* which means number—*Mene*).





See Daniel chapter 5 where a wine feast was dedicated to Mene. Please research Isaiah 65:11 very thoroughly from the original text where you find that those who forsake Yahweh and the keeping of His commandments are keeping pagan feasts. One of these feasts is furnishing a drink offering (alcohol) to Mene. Customarily on New Year's eve, people of the world go out partying, dancing, and drinking to celebrate the arrival of a new numbered year. (Did you know that the words *money* and *mene* can be traced to a single root? What do such word associations mean to you?)

One of the most abominable aspects of the Chr-stmas /New Year celebration is people's quest for the Chr-stmas spirit (out of a bottle of alcoholic beverage, that is). During the Chr-stmas holidays, more people get drunk, more divorces result, more automobile accidents occur from drunken driving, and more tragedies happen than at any other similar period throughout the year. These tragedies are connected with intemperate use of alcohol. Evidently, this kind of Chr-stmas spirit is evil—from the Adversary and not from Yahweh, our Father in Heaven, or from the One whose birthday they are said to celebrate—the Messiah of Israel.

Modern Chr-stmas plants can kill you if you're not careful. Poinsettia, holly, and mistletoe contain deadly poisons that can

sicken, or kill, a child or pet curious enough to eat the leaves. Mistletoe, a parasite plant, was originally designated by the Druids as a type of peace-making plant. Kissing under the mistletoe was explained as heaven reaching down to kiss the earth through the rebirth of the son of heaven (at the turning of the sun when a new cycle begins). None of these plants are mentioned in the Bible, yet they are almost venerated at Chr-stmas time.

Merchants Profit from Deceit!

Many people go deeply into debt to buy Chr-stmas presents, a practice which is not at all scriptural. The wise men did not give presents to each other, but they brought presents to Yahweh's designated King, Yahshua the Messiah. Wouldn't it be better to give Yahshua the glory as did the Magi? Better yet, we should keep Yahweh's holy days rather than any birthday. But, remember, Yahshua's birthday was probably on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Among the Hebrew people, birthdays were never observed. It is not wrong to wish each other a happy birthday, but to engage in birthday parties and other festivities may be traced directly to paganism, especially to ancient

Greece and Rome.

Julius Sextus Africanus was the first person to specify December 25 as Yahshua's birthday. Before the year 225 C.E. (Common Era), it was never observed as such. The winter solstice was selected by Julius Sextus Africanus as the Messiah's birthday through His association with pagan religious practices.

It would appear as though most of the customs of the Chr-stmas are derived directly from the ancient anti-messiah and false-savior, Nimrod, and his mother-wife, Semiramis. The world today worships a false savior and an anti-messiah under the guise of sun worship. To restore the pure worship of the Bible and to eliminate from our lives festivals and celebrations displeasing to Almighty Yahweh should be our aim. Let us read the Bible and see for ourselves how groundless are the traditions attached to the X-Mass festivities observed today.

The Truth That Makes You Free!

Now that you have seen the facts for yourself, will you observe Chr-stmas this year?

Now that we have examined the customs and traditions of the Chr-stmas /New Year celebration and have found them to be derived

from ancient pagan mythology, what will you personally do? Should we continue to observe them, however half-heartedly we may enter into the celebration, now that we know the celebration is wrong?

Or should we do as Yahshua the Messiah Himself has instructed us—OBEY His Word and keep His commandments (Matthew 5:17-20)? Yahweh gives His Spirit only to those who obey Him (Acts 5:32).

Those who keep Yahweh's commandments will be blessed (Revelation 22:14). Those who do not curse themselves (Deuteronomy 27, 28).

Let us not add to the Word, or diminish from it, but let us keep the commandments of Yahweh for our good (Deuteronomy 6). Eliminate that which is displeasing to Yahweh from your worship and receive His blessing today.

Why not take a closer look at the doctrines of the Assemblies of Yahweh? We can prove that the

“way of life” we practice is commanded by the Word of Yahweh. It is our intention to obey our Covenant with Yahweh just as strictly as we can.

This holiday season watch the newspapers and magazines for articles that straightforwardly confess the pagan origin and meaning of the customs and traditions attached to the Christmas observance. When we know where these customs and traditions originated, we must reject them from our lives. Then we must obey Yahweh's Covenant so that we may please Him as obedient children.

For more informative literature on the subject of the origin of the worldly holidays, write to Assemblies of Yahweh, PO Box C, Bethel, PA 19507. You may be astounded at the customs of the world.

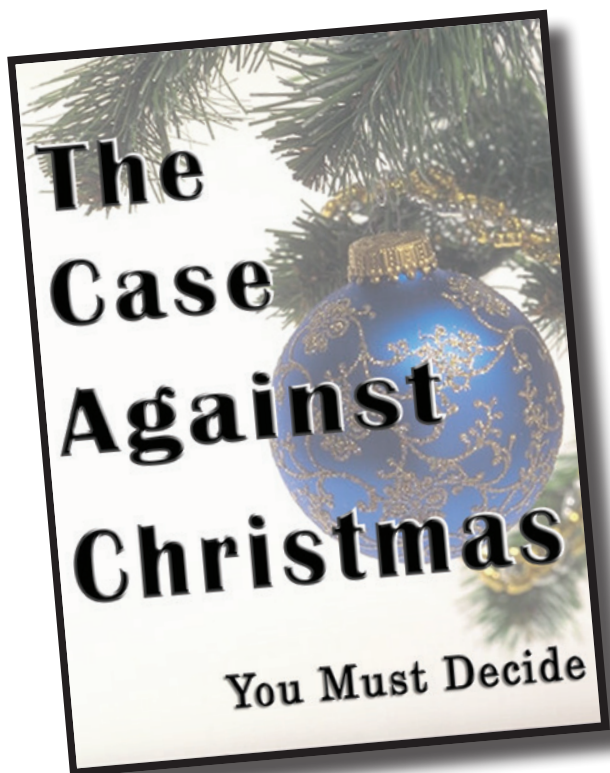
Remember Yahshua's description of the True Worshiper: **“You worship that which you know not: we worship that which we know; for salvation is from the**

Jews. But the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth: for such does the Father seek to be his worshippers. Yahweh is Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:22-24).

“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh.” (Matthew 4:4).

“And he humbled you, and suffered you to hunger, and fed you with manna, which you knew not, neither did your fathers know; that he might make you know that man does not live by bread only, but by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh does man live.” (Deuteronomy 8:3).

The question remains: Will you obey? ^{SNB}



Learn the Startling Truth About Christmas!

The high point of the pagan religion and secular calendar was, and remains, December 25—Christmas. Revelry and worship, commercialism and customs, ornaments and rituals have been examined and identified in **The Case Against Christmas**, a thorough, scholarly study of this pagan holiday.

Christmas is despicable in the eyes of Yahweh. Do you fully understand why?

Write today for this free, in-depth study.

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Christmas

As the Bible Teaches It

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

The Apostolic Assembly, at its inception, began zealously to witness the Truth of the Messiah's advent to the world. They took this message into the far reaches of the known world. Especially outstanding was the Apostle Paul, who accomplished much through his extensive travel, preaching

throughout the Roman Empire.

But a very strange development took place. Ancient ethnic peoples could not maintain sound doctrine! The pagan people appropriated the account of the supernatural person of Yahweh's True Messiah and superimposed His life upon their pagan customs and practices.

Worldly people prefer their pagan practices; nevertheless, they want salvation also!

With unreasoned abandon at the Christmas season, the people of the Western World spend lavishly for gifts which they cannot afford. They indulge in parties featuring alcoholic beverages. They



Actually, the diligent Bible student already knows that nowhere within the pages of our Bibles can you ever find any commandment to observe a birthday, especially that of the Messiah. As a matter of fact, on the three instances where birthdays are mentioned in the Bible, on each of these occasions a violent death occurred. Please verify this fact from Genesis 40:9-22, Job 1:4 and 19, and Matthew 14:3-12.

The celebration of birthdays was unknown in primitive Judaism, so it is certain that the Messiah never celebrated His birthday. Apparently, Almighty Yahweh did not wish it to be observed; consequently, we can readily understand the reason for omitting mention of a specific day in the Scriptures for the Messiah's birthday.

feast on a variety of seasonal delicacies. All of these traditional practices are done in the name of celebrating the birthday of the one they profess to be their King. As a matter of fact, the reverse is true. Through false doctrine, the Messiah becomes subservient to their own human concepts. Would Yahshua the Messiah approve of such loose conduct to celebrate His birth? Obviously not!

The traditional practices of nominal christianity never find a foundational basis in the Scriptures. Decorative lights displayed upon colorfully trimmed Christmas trees, and the hanging of evergreen branches and mistletoe, are never mentioned in the sacred Scriptures, much less commanded. Holding a boar's head festival, sending Christmas cards, and having midnight masses or church services on December 25, cannot be found anywhere in the sacred Word of Almighty Yahweh.

Many times, authors will confess sheepishly that December 25 is not the Messiah's birthday. Did you know that it was over 200 years after the birth of the Messiah before anyone ever fixed December 25 as His birthday? Apparently, the first one to set the date of December 25 for the Savior's birth was Julius Sextus Africanus, a historian from Alexandria, Egypt, who composed a chronicle of events of the world to 221 C.E. Did you notice that date? It took historians two and a quarter centuries after the Messiah's birth to decide upon the date of December 25 as His birthday.

The Messiah Not Born on December 25

Several scriptural passages prove that the Messiah could not have been born in the winter, on December 25th.

Turn in your Bible to Luke 1:5. Zachariah the priest was a member of the priestly course, or

section, of AbiYah. If we calculate correctly, the Messiah would have been conceived near the middle of December, rather than being born on December 25. Such information is quite staggering when you realize that Luke pinpoints the time of the conception of John the Baptist to have occurred two months after the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which occurs in the spring. The course of AbiYah was the eighth priestly section to serve in the Temple (1 Chronicles 24:10). These priests served eight weeks after the conclusion of the spring sacred season. Read Luke 1, following every specified mention of time. You will note that the Messiah was conceived six months after the conception of John.

"The first rain falls in the month of Marchesvan, which answers to the latter part of our October and the former part of November... From whence it appears that [the Messiah] must be born before the middle of October, since the first rain was not yet come," **The Two Babylons**, Alexander Hislop, page 91-92.

Here we discover accurate historical information set forth by an objective writer. Ample proof that the Messiah was not born during the dead of winter, but at a time when shepherds were still grazing their flocks out in the fields near Bethlehem, can be read in Luke chapter 2.

Logically, the only timeframe that can accommodate all facts of evidence concerning when our Savior was born would be the fall of the year. The crops had been harvested; people were traveling to the Feast of Tabernacles at Jerusalem anyway; the weather was still agreeable enough to impose no extreme hardship upon the women and children, and revenue was readily available to pay the Roman tax. All of these points combined

will direct the Bible student to focus his attention upon the fall of the year, around the annual feast days of the seventh month which are legislated in Leviticus 23.

It is no coincidence that we should encounter confirmation of the fall time for the Messiah's birth in John 1:14, where **The Sacred Scriptures, Bethel Edition**, translates: "**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.**" Yahshua the Messiah took upon Himself a human existence. He came to tabernacle (live temporarily) with the human family He was appointed to save.

Frequently, at the winter holiday season we discover obvious similarities between the Chr-stmas traditions and the ancient Roman Saturnalia. When we understand that this ancient Roman observance was celebrated close to the

winter solstice, the association between traditions relating Chr-stmas to the feast of the ancient pagans becomes more obvious.

December 25th has been celebrated as a holiday in pagan worship from antiquity. In fact, one of the names given to the Saturnalia series of royal festivals in mythology was "Paganalia!" Possibly this is the origin of the term *pagan worship*, which is often conferred upon false, unscriptural worship of any kind. Please see Larousse's **Encyclopedia of Mythology**, page 219.

The Saturnalia was a festival popular in ancient Rome and observed for a duration of five to seven days, beginning with December 17. This pagan festival was characterized by unrestrained festivity. It began with a religious ceremony to honor Saturn, which was followed by an immense, glutinous feast. The etymology of the name *Saturn* means *abundance*.

From the **McClintock and**

Strong's Bible Cyclopedia, article "Chr-stmas," we find the following: "*Trynne says in his strong way (in histrio-mastix) 'our Chr-stmas lords of misrule, together with dancing, masks, mummeries, stage-players, and such other Chr-stmas disorders, now in use with Christians, were derived from these Roman Saturnalia and Bacchanalian festivals, which should cause all pious Christians to abominate them!'*"

Sun Worship Holiday— December 25

"*The choice of December 25 was probably influenced by the fact that, on this day, the Romans celebrated the Mithraic feast of the Sun G-d (natalis solis invicti) and that the Saturnalia also was celebrated about this time,*" (article, "Chr-stmas," **Collier's Encyclopedia**).

Yahshua the Messiah was never born on December 25th. Observance of the winter solstice

When they beheld the sun slowing down in its southward movement and then stop, the heathen believed that their petition to the sun had been successful.



was derived entirely from ancient pagan superstitions. Chr-stmas IS NOT EVER NAMED IN THE SCRIPTURES. It has never been sanctified by Almighty Yahweh! Mankind cannot make it holy, however fervently the people seek to observe it.

In his book **The Golden Bough**, Frazer shows that Augustine and Leo the Great both explained away the concept that the sun was being worshiped, although they admitted tacitly in their writings that many “Chr-stians” were given to associate the terms SUN with the SON.

Paganism Imitates Truth

The ancient pagan peoples saw the sun gradually moving south in the heavens and the days growing shorter. With their superstitious minds, they believed that the sun was departing never to return. By using decorations and religious ceremonies, they believed their devotion would influence the sun to return.

When they beheld the sun slowing down in its southward movement and then stop, the heathen believed that their petition to the sun had been successful. A time of unrestrained rejoicing broke out. Feasting and revelry were indulged. Drinking alcoholic beverages heightened the excitement.

Then, when the pagans saw the sun again begin to move northward, and a week later were able to determine that the days were growing longer, a new year was proclaimed. The ancient people were known to plant poles or stones in the earth to mark the shortest and longest days of the year and how the sun would travel from north to south and then north again (Stonehenge in England, for example).



The Mother and Child

At the celebration of Chr-stmas each year, you will observe the mother-and-child figures in the nativity scene frequently in use. Almost every pagan culture, however, yields the historical record of the veneration of a mother and child. This tradition traces back to Nimrod, who was believed to be reincarnated through his new son (sun), Tammuz.

Furthermore, why make an idol out of the Mother-and-Child crèche, nativity scene, anyway?

It was not the birth of Yahshua the Messiah that will save us, but His DEATH upon the tree of Calvary and His righteous life which was lived as an example for us. A child cannot save the world, but the righteous, dynamic teacher of Nazareth must be the Captain of our salvation, along with His atoning blood.

Chr-stmas Trees

Have you ever puzzled over the reason why a pine tree is brought into the house at Chr-stmas time and decorated with bright tinsel and lights? Nowhere can you find a command to do this in the Bible.

This heathen custom also stems from the worship of Nimrod, and the Bible actually forbids the custom!

When Nimrod was executed by Shem (Noah’s son) for his apostasy against Almighty Yahweh and His ruling Kingdom, Nimrod was depicted in mythology as a dead tree that had been cut down. Mythology represented him with the serpent symbol, Aescalapius (the life restorer), that had twisted itself around the dead stump. By the side of the dead stump, a new tree springs forth to life from the dead roots. Actually, we must remember that the serpent in the Bible stands for Satan the Devil (Revelation 12:9 and Genesis chapter 3).

This pagan mythology (the dead tree and a new shoot) symbolizes the dying sun, and the new sun restored to splendor at the December 25th solstice each year.



Tree Worship Condemned

Let us hear Almighty Yahweh speak to us in Jeremiah 10:2-8. ***“Thus says Yahweh, Learn not the way of the nations, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the nations are dismayed at them. For the cus-***

Xmas Wreaths



toms 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. But they are together brutish and foolish: the instruction of idols! It is but a stock.”

The True Worshiper must never be apprehensive at the changes of the seasons, or other signs in the heavens, as are the pagan worshippers. We must serve and obey Yahweh by keeping His commandments, trusting Him for salvation. We must not become foolish and degenerate in our thinking by worshiping the creation rather than the Creator (Romans 1:25). We shall serve the mighty King of the universe, Yahweh Elohim, and fear Him and His Son, as the Creator of all.

Made from evergreens, the wreaths are most frequently round. Evergreen means eternal life, a never-dying existence in pagan mythology. The round form symbolizes the sun, just as do the halos in common religious art. Consequently, the round Chr-stmas wreaths stand for an eternal sun, a never-dying or self-renewing sun. In addition, the round form can also relate to the sign of the female which stands for the regeneration of life. Such symbols appear throughout Christian art and were copied from ancient Canaanite religion. Please study Numbers 25, among other passages.

We, who would come out of Babylon, must eliminate such rank paganism from our lives as is memorialized in religious art and pagan holiday symbology. We must eliminate from our lives all that could possibly displease our Heavenly Father.

Chr-stmas Spirits?

Characteristic of the Chr-stmas celebration is a time of imbibing (the spirit of Chr-stmas). During the winter holidays, it is impera-



tive that each person engaging in that celebration take a drink of alcoholic beverages. Many bottles of alcoholic beverages are given as Chr-stmas gifts. Frequently, imbibing in the bottled Chr-stmas spirit leads to tragedy.

“The feast, as regulated by Caligula, lasted five days, loose reins were given to drunkenness and revelry (the Saturnalia). This was precisely the way, in which, Berosus, the drunken festival of the month of Tebeth, answering to our December, in other words, the festival of Bacchus, was celebrated in Babylon... the wassailing bowl of Chr-stmas had its precise counterpart in the “drunken festivals” of Babylon, and many other observances still kept up among ourselves at Chr-stmas came from the very same quarters.” **The Two Babylons**, by Alexander Hislop, pages 96-97.

Where in the Scriptures can you find a passage to support taking an alcoholic drink with your colleague at a Chr-stmas party? Can you imagine the Apostles staging an office party to celebrate the birthday of the Messiah? Certainly, no Scripture can be found that even remotely alludes to such loose conduct among the Apostles, whose singular goal in life was to fulfill the Great Commission.

Santa and His Reindeer

Where did the man in the little red suit, who is to represent the Spirit of Chr-stmas, originate? He was called Saint (?) Nicholas, shortened to St. Nick! Have you ever considered who “Nick” really is? It is a “nick” name for Satan the Devil! Prove this fact to yourself from any good dictionary.

Why must parents tell children a lie like the Santa Claus myth

Continued on page 20.

THE LAW OF YAHWEH

The Eighth Commandment

You Shall Not Steal

“But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the devoted thing; for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the devoted thing; and the anger of Yahweh was kindled against the children of Israel.

“And Yahshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Beth-aven, on the east side of Beth-el, and spoke to them, saying, Go up and spy

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

out the land. And the men went up and spied out Ai. And they returned to Yahshua, and said to him, Do not let all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and strike Ai; do not make all the people to toil there; for they are but few. So there went up there of the people about three

thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai. And the men of Ai killed of them about thirty-six men; and they chased them from before the gate even to Shebarim, and struck them down at the descent: and the hearts of the people melted, and became as water.

“And Yahshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of Yahweh until the evening, he and the elders of Israel;

and they put dust upon their heads. And Yahshua said, Alas, O sovereign Yahweh, why have you at all brought this people over the Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to cause us to perish? If only we had been content and dwelt beyond the Jordan! Oh, sovereign, what shall I say, after that Israel has turned their backs before their enemies! For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it, and will surround us, and cut off our name from the earth: and what will you do for your great name?

“And Yahweh said to Yahshua, Get up; why have you fallen upon your face? Israel has sinned; yes, they have even transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: yes, they have even taken of the devoted thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also; and they have even put it among their own stuff. Therefore the children of Israel cannot stand before their enemies; they turn their backs before their enemies, because they have become cursed: I will not be with you any more, unless you destroy the devoted thing from among you. Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against tomorrow: for thus says Yahweh, the Elohim of Israel, There is a devoted thing in the middle of you, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies, until you take away the devoted thing from among you. In the morning therefore you shall be brought near by your tribes: and it shall be, that the tribe which Yahweh takes shall come near by families; and the family which Yahweh shall take shall come near by

In our modern times, we live in a society that has obviously developed a double standard. People have obviously come to imagine that the law only holds authority over other people. As long as one can get away with perpetrating a wrong, even breaking the law, it is considered acceptable conduct.

households; and the household which Yahweh shall take shall come near man by man. And it shall be, that he that is taken with the devoted thing shall be burnt with fire, he and all that he has; because he has transgressed the covenant of Yahweh, and because he has wrought folly in Israel.

“So Yahshua rose up early in the morning, and brought Israel near by their tribes; and the tribe of Judah was taken: and he brought near the family of Judah; and he took the family of Zerahites: and he brought near the family of the Zerahites man by man; and Zabdi was taken: and he brought near his household man by man; and Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah was taken. And Yahshua said to Achan, My son, I appeal to you, give now the glory to Yahweh, the Elohim of Israel, and make confession to him; and tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me. And Achan answered Yahshua, and said, Truly I have sinned against Yahweh, the Elohim of Israel,

and this have I done: when I saw among the spoil a good Babylonish mantle, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them: and behold, they are hidden in the earth in the middle of my tent, and the silver under it.

“So Yahshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and, behold, it was hidden in his tent, and the silver under it. And they took them from the middle of the tent, and brought them to Yahshua, and unto all the children of Israel; and they laid them down before Yahweh. And Yahshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the mantle, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them up to the valley of Achor. And Yahshua said, Why have you troubled us? Yahweh shall trouble you this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire, and stoned

them with stones. And they raised over him a great heap of stones, to this day; and Yahweh turned from the fierceness of his anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called, The valley of Achor, to this day." (Yahshua 7:1-26).

Today, we shall concentrate upon the subject of the eighth commandment, found in Exodus 20:15, "**You shall not steal.**"

Just as with the two previous commandments, this one also is very brief and to the point. It comprises a commandment that can hardly be misunderstood, yet, today, it appears to be one of the most frequently violated of the commandments. In the Hebrew Bible, it appears as only two words (a verb and a negative particle).

In our modern times, we live in a society that has obviously developed a double standard. People have obviously come to imagine that the law only holds authority over other people. As long as one can get away with perpetrating a wrong, even breaking the law, it is considered acceptable conduct. The Bible pinpoints the very root cause of all the crime and violence which we see rampant in the United States today. This crime wave far surpasses the percentage of increase in population, and derives from the base elements of human nature-materialism and selfishness. Educators, government officials, newspaper executives, and religious and business leaders throughout the United States have sounded the alarm to warn our country, and the world, of the rising menace of crime and violence. Nevertheless, the crime

rate rises! Few people actually heed the warnings, preferring to shift the blame to others.

The average person will insist at this time, "Well, you can't mean me. I didn't go and rob a bank," or, "I didn't falsify the books of

**What
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any organization and embezzle thousands of dollars. I don't steal!" The average person might say, "I didn't even do any shoplifting." However, to steal may be described as the principle of appropriating anything which is not lawfully yours.

Let us carefully scrutinize the eighth commandment with an analytical eye. What does it say? The Savior, Yahshua the Messiah, came to magnify the Law of Yahweh and to make it honorable, more glorious, as some translations render Isaiah 42:21. The fleshly mind can only behold superficially what is obvious on the surface to the human eye, while the spiritual eye penetrates deeply to comprehend the hidden things and it finds new meaning in the Word of Yahweh.

This thought is voiced so perfectly in 1 Corinthians 2:10. "**But to us Yahweh revealed them through the Spirit: for the**

Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of Yahweh." In the fourteenth verse we read, "**Now the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of Yahweh: for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot know them, because they are spiritually judged.**"

Throughout the Sacred Scriptures, we find an extension to this commandment of not taking for our personal possession what belongs to another individual, what another person has possibly worked hard to acquire. Leviticus 19:11 sets forth special instructions for the Israelites, which can also apply equally as much to the modern-day spiritual Israelites. "**You shall not steal; neither shall you deal falsely, nor lie to one another.**" (Please read Leviticus 19, noting how the world would change quite dramatically for the better if these commandments were faithfully obeyed.)

We have witnessed, in our times, noxious scandals in the business community-for example, price fixing among some of the larger companies. Yet those business executives have voiced no pangs of conscience (it would seem) for dealing falsely with their fellow men, many of their customers being from the poorer classes of the land who, perhaps, do not earn what they should to provide even a nominal subsistence for their families.

Also, how many times have you heard stories of people who were cheated on a purchase by unscrupulous automobile, or home-appliance dealers, businessmen who misrepresented certain

items that they were trying to unload upon the unsuspecting public? Those who have been cheated in this way have come to experience the meaning of the old proverb, "Let the buyer beware." I know of few laws on the books to protect innocent parties caught in such a plight, and, yet, in the Book of Books appears a Law that covers this very situation. Leviticus 19:13 states very nearly the same thought. ***"You shall not oppress your neighbor, nor rob him: the wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning."***

Luke 6:38 also sets forth this righteous concept of doing business, given to us by our Savior, Yahshua the Messiah. ***"Give, and it shall be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, shall they give into your bosom. For with what measure you measure it shall be measured to you again."***

What a wonderful world this would be if this noble concept of the scriptural Law against defrauding or cheating one's neighbor would be obeyed in all its spiritual magnification. Workers would be interested in doing a good day's work for a fair day's wages. Workers would be interested in, and deeply concerned with, producing products of superior quality, and concerned with making products with "zero defects." Not just in the United States, but all over the world today, the attitude is evident that just as long as we turn out a product that is marketable, it does not matter in what condition it reaches the buyer, or how durable it is.

A major news magazine of the United States has, only several weeks ago, published an article, featured most prominently, analyzing the problems of manufacturers

concerning the production of products that will meet the standard of an exacting consumer public. They noted the casual and unconcerned attitude of their employees as a prime source of their difficulties. Production workers are more concerned about the length and frequency of their coffee breaks, or the newest extramarital affairs in the plant, and do not concentrate on doing their jobs. We find that Solomon, in Ecclesiastes 5:19, tells his listeners to rejoice in their labors.

When I was a youth being raised on the farm, my father once sent me to a neighbor to buy several bushels of seed wheat to finish sowing a field. When we went into the granary and he started to measure out the seed, this man clearly followed the Scriptures, because he took the half bushel measure and filled it, and then shook it, but then smoothed off the top with a straight-edged board. I wondered at this as he did this four times in filling a bag with two bushels of grain. However, when we had measured out the two bushels and the bag was nearly full, he scooped some more grain out of the bin with his measure and proceeded to fill the bag to the brim, leaving only room at the top to tie the bag closed with a string. He smiled at me and commented, "Running over, that's what the Scripture says!"

Ministers and students of the Bible can also be guilty of stealing. Turn with me to Jeremiah 23:30-31. ***"Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, says Yahweh, that STEAL my words every one from his neighbor. Behold, I am against the prophets, says Yahweh, that use their tongues, and say, He says."*** We are cautioned by the Sacred Scriptures only to believe what the Bible tells us about the

pathway to salvation. Many times people can be guilty of sinning against Yahweh by believing what another tells us is the truth about the Bible, when it is not actually the Truth.

Often a point of doctrine that is in contention among brethren can be cleared up by reading the surrounding verses and obtaining the context. An older brother in the Faith once told me, "Know what you're talking about at all times. Stick to the context, and you'll never go wrong. Any text taken out of context is a pretext to false doctrine!"

This is sound advice to follow. We are responsible for the salvation of our own souls. We must know what we, ourselves, believe about the Bible. What someone else believes about it can never save us. We will surely receive the punishment described for the end of the age if we persist in following people who are doing nothing but stealing words from their neighbor or twisting Yahweh's words (2 Peter 3:16).

In the Scriptures we read at the beginning of this article (the account of Achan), we found that the Israelite armies were denied victory in the battle against the city of Ai. It was really a very insignificant city with few inhabitants, compared to other Canaanite cities, towns, and villages yet to be conquered. When the elders inquired of Yahweh concerning the reason for their defeat, Almighty Yahweh told them that there was sin in the camp. Someone had stolen things for himself from a previous battle and hidden them away. These were a Babylonian robe, a large number of silver coins, and a bar of gold. We must understand that we can incorporate nothing from pagan worship into our hearts.

Yahweh says in verse 11 that

Achan had stolen these things, and He says in verse 15 that someone had transgressed (or broken) the Covenant, Yahweh's Law. Achan had to pay the supreme sacrifice of his life for this disobedience to the Law of Yahweh—death for himself and loved ones—the penalty of sin under the Law. See also Romans 6:23.

Today, we are no longer bound by the punishment Law of offering sacrifices. We are, nevertheless, required to obey the royal Law of love. We are required to obey Yahweh's Law of liberty. The Covenant Law of obedience, the 10 Commandments of the moral law, along with the statutes and judgments pertaining to them, are for us to obey in our time. What a wonderful world this will be when all the nations learn righteousness (right-use-ness), when they learn to obey Yahweh's Law, as is foretold in the second chapter of Isaiah and Micah the fourth chapter. Are you living a life of dedicated obedience to Yahweh's Law that will bring you eternal life?

Remember to obey and really live what the Scriptures direct

us to do. In Romans 6:23 we find, ***“For the wages of sin is death; but the free gift of Yahweh is eternal life in the Messiah Yahshua our Master.”*** What a small price to pay for such a great gift at the end of our human life: faith in the Messiah Yahshua and obedience to our Heavenly Father Yahweh. Praise His holy Name forever!

Let us not forget that another way people today are stealing from Yahweh is explained in Malachi chapter 3. ***“Will a man rob Elohim? Yet you rob me. But you say, In what have we robbed you? In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse; for you rob me, even this whole nation. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and prove me now with this, says Yahweh of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your***

ground; neither shall your vine cast its fruit before the time in the field, says Yahweh of hosts. And all nations shall call you happy; for you shall be a delightful land, says Yahweh of hosts.” (Malachi 3:8-12).

I leave you with this thought found in Ephesians 4:28. ***“Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing that is good, that he may have something to give to him that has need.”***

Then let us be like Zaccheus in Luke 19, who experienced a profound, genuine conversion based upon restitution.

Let us take the example of Almighty Yahweh, our beloved Father in heaven, which describes the giver and the gift. ***“For Yahweh so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes on him should not perish, but have eternal life.”*** (John 3:16).

May we imitate our Father in heaven and be generous rather than materialistically demanding to acquire. SNB

“Give,

and it shall be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, shall they give into your bosom. For with what measure you measure it shall be measured to you again.”





Once Again the Leaves are Falling

Many autumns in my lifetime, I have watched the seasons change,
We saw times for tilling and planting, harvests pass, the seasons ended.
Sitting in a park so pleasant, after frost has touched the trees,
Leaves are falling, gently fluttering earthward, brightly colored with
heaven's brush and paints.

A soft breeze stirs, suddenly the leaves release their grip,
from the branch they lightly fall away,
Softly carpeting the lawn, creating colorful autumn patterns on the ground.
Leaves are falling, O how quickly life has ended for them all,
only there for one brief season,
Now the soft breeze stirs, and softly earthward they fall.
Life is so much like the foliage, thoughtlessly
we neglect the verdant time!
All too soon life's end approaches, winter comes,
we drift away,
Too soon forgotten
is our fate.

*"If a man lives many years, let him rejoice in them all;
But let him remember the days of darkness, for they
are many. All that comes is vanity..."*

~ECCLESIASTES 11:8

BY ELDER JACOB O. MEYER

Christmas As the Bible Teaches It

Continued from page 13.

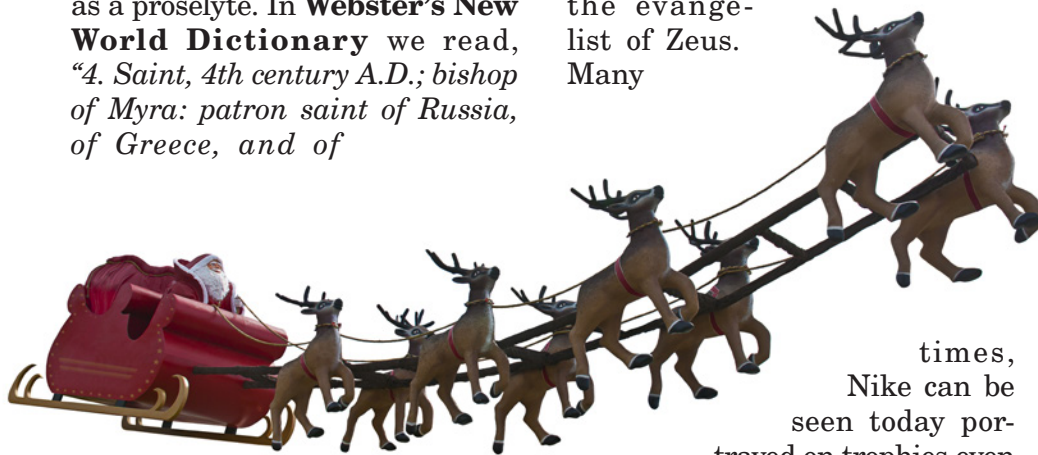
at Christmas time? The deception in telling children that a little elf named Santa Claus (St. Nicholas) will leave the presents under the tree is a prevarication that will psychologically damage a child.

Santa Claus is reputed to have been a contraction of the name Saint Nicholas. However, from research, a strange fact emerges. Little is known about this saint from the fourth century. A Nicolaus is mentioned in Acts 6:5, where he was ordained one of the first deacons, but nothing is known of him except that he is described as a proselyte. In **Webster's New World Dictionary** we read, "4. Saint, 4th century A.D.; bishop of Myra: patron saint of Russia, of Greece, and of

traced to #3534, Nikos. If this is true (and there is no reason to disbelieve it), then the root of the word *Nicholas* is *Nike*. The latter part of the word would then be #2992, *Laos, a people*.

Let us also remember that the term Nicolaitanes, Revelation 2:9 and 3:9, was a doctrine HATED by Yahshua the Messiah and Almighty Yahweh, our Heavenly Father.

Who was Nike? The word *Nike* could form the basis of the word *Nicholas*. It was the pagan winged victory, the evangelist of Zeus. Many



young people, sailors, etc.: his day is December 6: SANTA CLAUS."

One can readily tie in the term Nicolaitanes here.

Commentators assert that this must have been an apostate sect founded by Nicolas (perhaps the one in Acts or another), but they readily admit to their uncertainty. By checking the lexicons we learn that **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance** lists it as #3531 (the **1901 American Standard Version** corrected the spelling to Nicolaitans). The word is then

times, Nike can be seen today portrayed on trophies even

in our modern times. Look for it. Santa Claus, St. Nicholas, or St. Nick, brings gifts to herald (proclaim) the advent of the birth of J-sus Chr-st. Obviously, there exists another very remarkable, close association here with paganism.

Pilgrim Fathers Rejected Christmas

Many of the original immigrants came to the New World with the intention of re-establishing the true Faith of Yahshua the Messiah, and the Faith of the Apostles

outside of Roman, papal persecution. The Pilgrim Fathers, who were essentially Puritans, came to the New World at an early date (1620) and settled in New England. It was their intention to serve the Heavenly Father and Yahshua the Messiah in Spirit and in Truth.

The following is quoted from the **Encyclopedia Britannica**, 11th Edition: "In 1644 the English Puritans forbade any merriment or religious act by act of parliament, on the ground that it was a heathen festival, and ordered it to be kept as a fast. Charles the 2nd revived the feast, but the Scots adhered to the Puritan view."

In fact, for centuries, the true Messianic worship was never large or extensive. It was always composed of a few people, perhaps one or two individuals, or families, who earnestly sought to serve Yahweh and refrained from association with idolatry or false worship. Very little is heard from them through the reports of the world's historians. But, nevertheless, occasionally small groups, such as the Nazarenes, the Waldenses, and the Pilgrim Fathers, do make historical headlines.

Why do people in our modern times continue to cling tenaciously to customs which were derived from ancient pagan superstitions? Why do they never question from whence they came? Why not read the Bible and obey the inspired Scriptures rather than attempting to support traditional, unscriptural observances with the Sacred Scriptures? ^{SNB}



PROPHETIC TRENDS today's news in prophecy

New Ark Replica Revealed!



ABOVE: Project financier Lewis Topper unveils the replica of the Ark of the Covenant in Jerusalem on October 20, 2024. Photos by Alex Traiman.
BELOW: Depiction of the pillar of cloud and fire.

"A replica of the Ark of the Covenant, painstakingly constructed, its creators say, to the Torah specifications of the sacred vessel that was the First Temple's central fixture, was displayed in Jerusalem on Sunday evening, during the intermediate days of the Sukkot holiday.

"The ark described in the Torah, which housed the Ten Commandments tablets among other holy objects, was hidden after the destruction of the First Temple, per rabbinic tradition," as reported by Alex Traiman at JNS.org.

Constructed from boards selected from acacia wood and overlaid with donated gold, the ark replica was assembled without mechanical fasteners.

Will this ark be in the Third Temple that is soon to be rebuilt?



ABOVE: The burning bush.
BELOW: The crossing of the Red Sea.



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