

The Truth about Xmas - christmas

Beloved in Yahushua **THE** Messiah (Yeshua, [Jesus] Christ), I am well aware that many who will read this study will be somewhat shocked by its contents as it contains a number of statements in regard to customs that so many believers in the Lord have upheld for so long and these may have left many happy memories because of the family involvement. I fully understand this!

However, it is my attention to bring us all closer to our beloved Lord and Saviour and not for us to be disillusioned, but, sadly, like myself when I was an Orthodox Jew, I blindly followed the customs of my faith only to discover that so many of the laws that I followed were man made and not from the Word of God and I had to get rid of them and get back to the ways of the Word, for the Word come before the traditions of man, especially if they have a pagan background!

The word 'Christmas' is derived from 'mass for Christ' or 'Christ-mass.' The Christmas festival came to the Protestants and the secular world from the Roman Catholic Church. However, the Roman Catholic Church did NOT get Christmas from the writings of the Apostles or from the Word of God. Christmas was first officially celebrated on December 25 in 336 AD, after Emperor Constantine had declared Christianity the empire's new favoured religion.

'Christmas' is not found among the earliest festivals of the faithful in Messiah Yahushua, however, the first evidence about the feast is from several sources: In ancient Babylon (the winter solstice), the feast of the son of Isis (goddess of nature) was celebrated on December 25 and Israel is warned powerfully against this feast that was celebrated on that very day in Jeremiah, yes, you read it right, Israel was warned against this feast, the very feast that Christians celebrate every single year TODAY!

YHVH Elohim, blessed be He, even describes the very thing that every christian has doing most of their lives, but this is placed with this study, but I am sure that you will be shocked and that you never realised that we were so clearly warned in the Word of Elohim, thus why did the Church Fathers allow such a hideous pagan festival to be celebrated! We all know well how the greater community love raucous partying, gluttonous eating and drinking, and gift-giving during

Christmas, which were the typical traditions of this pagan feast in ancient times.

In the Scriptures there is NOT record of anyone who have kept a feast, or held a great banquet in honour of our Saviour's birthday, which certainly would not have been in December! In truth, only those who live in the flesh that make a great rejoicing over the day they were born into this world, for the Hebrew's, Israel did not have the custom of celebrating their birthdays, this is another of the European customs which has become the norm.

Catholic Encyclopaedia, 1911 Edition, published by the Roman Catholic Church, states ... "Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church."

Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1946 edition states ... "Christmas. It was, according to many authorities, not celebrated in the first centuries of the Christian Church, as the Christian usage in general was to celebrate the death of remarkable persons (eg Communion - death of Christ) rather than their birth ... A feast was established in memory of this event [the birth of Jesus] in the fourth century. In the fifth century the Western Church ordered it to be celebrated forever on the day of the old Roman feast of the birth of SOL (the SUN), as no certain knowledge of the day of Christ's birth existed."

Encyclopaedia Americana, 1944 Edition ... "Christmas was not celebrated by the Church until the fourth century. Christians did not celebrate Christmas for the first 300 years." "That is longer than the history of modern Australia or the United States of America!"

We need to understand that Christmas day falls on December 25th, which is near to the middle of winter in the Northern Hemisphere, including the State of Israel. The question we may ask ourselves was Yahushua born during the winter?

What do the Scriptures have to say?

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding (living) in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night." Luke 2:8.

Obviously, we would all be well aware that shepherds would NOT be keeping their sheep in the fields during the Hebrew month of Kishlev, being today's December. For all farm animals were always brought indoors and placed under cover from late October to protect them from the cold rainy season that would follow. And this is still done throughout Europe to this day.

"For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over (and) gone." Song of Songs 2:11.

"Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered themselves together unto Jerusalem within three days. It (was) the ninth month (Kislev), on the twentieth (day) of the month; and all the people sat in the street of the house of Elohim, trembling because of (this) matter, and for the great rain." Ezra 10:9.

The "ninth month" corresponds to December today. In the Word, it is clearly characterised with winter rains in Israel. Thus, the sheep would not be wandering around in the fields at that time.

Here is what the Adam Clarke Commentary (Vol 5, page 370, New York edition) has to say about the date of birth of Yahushua, the Lord Jesus the Messiah ...

"It was an ancient custom among Jews of those days to send out their sheep to the fields and deserts about the Passover (early spring), and bring them home at commencement of the first rain. During the time they were out, the shepherds watched them night and day. As the first rain began early in the month of Heshvan, around October and November, we find that the sheep were kept out in the open country during the whole summer. And, as these shepherds had not yet brought their flocks indoors, it is a presumptive argument that October had not yet commenced, and that, consequently, our Lord was not born on the 25th of December, when no flocks were out in the fields; nor could He have even been born later than September, as the flocks were still in the fields by night. On this very ground, the nativity in December should be given up. The feeding of the flocks by night in the fields is a chronological fact."

If you have been to Israel winter, you will know, that the winter in the Judea is extremely cold, wet, and it yes it frequently snows. I have experienced a white Jerusalem as well as a white Bethlehem, and I know that no shepherd with any sense would keep their flocks out in the field at that time of the year!

The exact date of our Lord's birth is unknown, though evidently he was born sometime during September, being six months after the Passover.

If YHVH Elohim, the LORD our God, had intended us to celebrate the birthday of Yahushua, why did He not reveal the exact date to us in His Word? However, I should say here that I personally DO celebrate His birth, His coming and you may ask, "When do you do this?" - Every single day, when I wake! I praise the Living God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob for sending His only begotten Son, who freely gave his life, He who is "the Passover sacrificed for us," but He did this as a man, and not a baby, like when God gave the provision of a RAM on the Mount to be sacrificed instead of Isaac! A man, not just a baby lamb! Our Lord, is typified as "HaSeh Elohim" - "The Lamb of God" but Yahushua died symbolically as a Ram of God, without sin and blemish, for that was the miracle to be at that age and sinless!

Thus, how did Christmas get into the Church?

The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopaedia of Religious Knowledge gives a clear explanation in the article on 'Christmas.'

"How much the date of the festival depended upon the pagan Brumalia (December 25th) following the Saturnalia (December 17th-24th), and celebrating the shortest day of the year and the '**new sun**'... cannot be accurately determined. The pagan Saturnalia and Brumalia were too deeply entrenched in popular custom to be set aside by Christian influence. The pagan festival with its riot and merrymaking was so popular that Christians were glad of an excuse to continue its celebration with little change in spirit and in manner. Christian preachers of the West and the Near East protested against the unseemly frivolity with which Christ's birthday was celebrated, while Christians of Mesopotamia accused their western brethren of idolatry and sun worship for adopting as Christian this pagan festival."

The Roman Empire was entirely pagan, and before the 4th century, the faithful in the Lord were few in number, and they were persecuted by Rome and many were killed by the Church of Rome. Then, Emperor Constantine professed (a new form of) 'Christianity,' combining paganism with aspects of Christianity. Undoubtedly this new religion became popular among the masses, as it retained much of their earlier practices, and the worship of a new set of statues, which resembled their former gods. These new 'Christians' continued to uphold their pagan customs, the chief of which being December 25. They enjoyed this festival of joy and drunken merrymaking, and refused to give it up!

It is also interesting to note that Antiochus erected an idol to Zeus in the Holy Temple of YHVH Elohim in Jerusalem, defiling the Temple on Kislev 15, 168 BC. Then on the birthday of Zeus Kishlev/December 25, Antiochus offered a pig on the altar. The pig was the ultimate abomination to the Jewish mind and YHVH Elohim, however Antiochus continued and sprinkled the pig's blood in the holy of holies. And this is the day Constantine choose as the day to celebrate – *"HEP, HEP HURRAH" - *See the special note at the bottom of the page.

The pagan Manichaeism identified the "Son of God" with the physical "Sun," giving new 'converts' an excuse to call December 25th (re-birth, birthday of the SUN).

According to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, some Latin's, as early as 354AD, may have transferred the birthday of Messiah from January 6th to December 25th, which was then aMithraic feast or birthday of the unconquered Sun. The Syrians and Armenians who clung to January 6th accused the Romans of Sun worship and idolatry, claiming the December 25th festival was invented by the disciples of Cerinthus.

So where did it all begin?

The concept of Christmas originated in ancient Egypt in the days of King Osiris and Queen Isis around about 3000 BC - long before the Christian faith was even thought of!!

After the untimely death of King Osiris, his wife, Isis, propagated the evil doctrine of the survival of Osiris as a spirit. She claimed a full-grown evergreen **tree** sprang overnight from a dead stump, symbolising the new life of the Osiris spirit from his death. On each anniversary of Osiris birth, which was the date we now know as December 25th, Isis would **leave gifts around this tree.**

Isis became the 'Queen of Heaven' and Osiris became the reborn 'divine son of heaven.' Osiris later became, through the later Phoenicians, Baal the Sun-god. The 'Mother and Child' became chief objects of worship by the Babylonians, from which it spread over the world under various names, such as, Cybel & Deoius in Asia, Fortuna & Jupiter in pagan Rome.

Then during the fourth and fifth century, the Romans under their new popular 'Christianity' popularised the 'mother and child' concept especially around Christmas time - from which we have many of the Christmas carols such as 'Silent Night Holy Night' with its familiar 'mother and child' theme.

The concept of the Christmas tree originated around 3000 BC in ancient Egypt with King Osiris and Queen Isis and it was part of the winter solstice festival, a pagan feast. Read what Jeremiah had to say about this feast, and see if you still would want to put up a tree in your house, or even be part of the pagan festival of "Christmas" you will be in great error!

"Hear the word which YHVH speaks to you, O house of Yisroel. Thus said YHVH, Do not learn the way of the gentiles, and do not be awed by the signs of the heavens, for the gentiles are awed by them. For the prescribed customs of these peoples are worthless, for one cuts a tree from the forest, work for the hands of a craftsman with a cutting tool. They adorn it with silver and gold, they fasten it with nails and hammers so that it does not topple." Yirmyahu (Jeremiah) 10:1-3.

Obviously this speaks of the days when non-believers in YHVH Elohim who worshipped pagan gods and were "awed" or worshipping heavenly signs, such as the winter solstice, which just happened to be on, what we now know in this pagan calendar as December 25. For this occasion they would travel, often far away into a suitable forest and cut down a

suitable tree, the most holy being the "fir" tree, and they would fasten it to the floor inside the dwellings and they would "adorn it with silver and gold." Does this sound familiar to you? Remember this is Jeremiah speaking!

Beloved, believe what YHVH Elohim and His Son Yahushua have so clearly stated, you will be a sinner if you follow the way of the world and uphold any part of these feasts, be it "Christmas" or "Easter" (a feast to Estra the goddess) for you will NOT have a place in the "Kingdom of Elohim" unless you repent and totally remove yourself from everything that has anything to do with these evil festivals, including your children, regardless of the circumstances!

The pagan tradition continued and the early Roman Catholic Church loved paganism for it was the way they could easily convert people into their circle of evil, for men are far more inclined to worship stone gods, and pagan festival, having worshipped such all their lives. These new ones just had new name, that's all! The early Romans and the later church trimmed their trees with trinkets and toys at that time of year, whilst the Druids tied gilded apples to tree branches. For many, a tree decorated with orbs and fruit-like object symbolised the tree of life.

During the Middle Ages the Germans believed that evergreen trees were especially imbued with life since they remained green throughout all of winter. Greenery was prominent in pagan winter celebrations in honour of the tree spirit or spirit of fertility.

Mistletoe.

The mistletoe was used at the festival of the winter solstice by ancient pagans because it was considered sacred to the sun. The mistletoe supposedly had miraculous healing powers, probably due to the fact that not only the plant remained green throughout winter but it actually bore fruit during this time, a type for fertility spirits!! Druidic belief that the "mistletoe" was an aphrodisiac, since it's waxen-white berries are always present in the winter the mistletoe is hung over entrances and doorways as well as light fixtures and ceilings, in order that if one encounters one's neighbour's wife "under the mistletoe," (according to tradition) it is mandatory to kiss her or any woman they would come across and this would usually occur early in

the night of revelry and drunken debauchery, celebrating the death of the 'old sun' and birth of the 'new sun' at the solstice. These days it is still used as an excuse to kiss a lady by men and women in this world of equality and "free love."

Holly berries were also considered sacred to the sun-god. Holly was revered along with the mistletoe, with decorations in those greenery's prominent in buildings and places of worship during the winter festival - leading to the holly wreath that we have today.

The burning of the Yule log originated with the Druids and their ritual burning of a carefully chosen log during the winter. The word 'Yule' is derived from the old Anglo-Saxon word 'weol' which means 'wheel,' a pagan symbol of the sun. Indeed the 'Yule Log' is in fact the 'Sun log.'

The lighting of candles, bonfires, the Yule log and originates from the pagan custom of lighting fires and candles during the solstice season, to encourage the waning sun-god as he reached the lowest point in the southern skies.

The modern practice of decorating trees and buildings with flashing electric lights seems to be a logical extension of the lighting of candles and bonfires at Christmas time.

Santa, who is he?

Also known as 'Father Christmas,' the myths and legends surrounding Santa Claus are a mixture of pagan customs from differing regions. 'Santa Claus is a corruption of the name 'Saint Nicholas,' a Roman Catholic Bishop who lived in the 4th century. He was a saint honoured by the Greeks and Latin's on December 6th, for the legendary bestowal of dowries on the three daughters of an impoverished citizen, said to originate the custom of giving gifts in secret on the eve of St. Nicholas (December 6th), later transferred to Christmas day.

The legend of Santa Claus entering the house through the chimney, and the hanging of socks and stockings by the fireplace, relates to the ancient superstitions around hearth spirits. The Chinese and others would traditionally sweep and scour the house in preparation for the visit by the hearth spirit. Dressed in a pointed red cap and red jacket,

this fire god travelled from the heavens above, visiting homes to distribute favours or punishments.

Each Christmas time today, children are told the lie about Santa Claus coming down the chimney to distribute gifts to them if they behaved themselves!! Sooner or later, the children learn of the myth, many becoming disillusioned. Such disillusiones are easily transferred to the belief in the Almighty God and our Lord and Saviour, for if Santa Claus does not exist, then God and Yahushua also may not exist! The Scriptures plainly state, "You shall not bear false witness." Also, the idea that Santa is all knowing, and we all know that only YHVH our God knows all!

Far from adding to the 'joy of Christmas, the Santa Claus legends actually turn away lives from the Lord. No true believer in Lord should ever involve themselves in this abomination, the legend of Santa Claus, no matter how good it may seem for the children at the time! God says, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

Now, let's see what the Bibliotheca Sacra (vol 12 pp 153-155) says about the exchanging of gifts at Christmas ... "The interchange of presents between friends is alike characteristic of Christmas and the saturnalia, and must have been adopted by Christians from the pagans, as the admonition of Tertullian plainly shows."

The exchanging of gifts does not honour Messiah. Suppose it is your birthday and yet at your party, your friends and relatives exchange gifts among themselves and almost completely ignore you! This is exactly what happens at Christmas, Christians and non-Christians, exchange gifts among themselves. Anyway, it is not Yahushua's birthday. He was either born in during the Feast of the Blowing of the Shofar (Trumpets) around September, which I tend to believe. However, it must be said that the date is not known.

As I said earlier beloved, I wake each morning and I praise and thank YHVH Elohim, the LORD God for giving me one more day to proclaim His Word, and for sending His anointed one, Yahushua THE Messiah, who gave his life in order that through faith and repentance, we might have life eternal!

Giving of gifts.

The question might be asked, "What about the giving of gifts to the infant Yahushua by the wise men?"

Consider what the Scriptures say ...

"Now when Yahushua was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem. Saying, 'Where is he that is born King of the Judeans? For we have seen his star in the east, and we have come to give honour to him.' And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Miriam his mother, and fell down, and adored him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh." Matthew 2:1-2,11.

Notice here, the wise men gave Yahushua gifts because He was a KING of the Judeans, it was not because it was his birthday. It was customary to give gifts to someone who is a King, just as it is so in many cultures today. And remember, the wise men did not give these gifts to Him until quite some time after his birth.

In Verse 11, we see that they presented to him gifts. The people of the east never approached the presence of kings and great personages, without a gift, the custom is often spoken of in the OLD Testament, and this custom still prevails in the east. The exchanging of gifts among friends and relatives is not found in the Scriptures or from amongst the Hebrew customs in general as birthdays were not celebrated.

Okay! So, Christmas (and yes Easter, but that is another study) is a Pagan feast. But, what if we just honour Messiah and do not take part in any of these Pagan customs? Beloved let the Scriptures speak for themselves.

" ... be careful not to be ensnared by inquiring about their gods, saying, 'How do these nations serve their gods? We will do the same.' You must not worship YHVH your Elohim in their way, because in worshipping their gods, they do all kinds of detestable things YHVH

hates. They even burn their sons and daughters in the fire as sacrifices to their gods." Deut 12:30-31.

"Remember them, O my Elohim, because they have defiled the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood, and of the Levites. Thus cleansed I them from all strangers [of everything pagan], and appointed the words of the priests and the Levites, every one in his business;" Nehemiah 13:29-30

The Scriptures declares, "Elohim is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." John 4:24.

Worshipping Messiah Yahushua, Jesus the Messiah by honouring his birthday on a day, which is NOT his birthday, and borrowing pagan customs is NOT giving honour to Him, or His Father "in Spirit and in Truth."

Celebrating a Festival to YHWH.

What about the view that as long as we are celebrating a feast or festival to the Lord our God, it is acceptable, even if it is not God ordained? Beloved, we should look back at the shameful golden calf incident for a Biblical example of people doing this very thing, when the Children of Israel grew weary of waiting for Moses to return from the Mount and they took off their gold earrings and jewelry and gave them to Aaron who used the gold to make an idol in the shape of a calf. Aaron then built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "tomorrow there will be a festival to YHVH - The LORD." (Exodus 32:5). God's anger was so great against His people that He told Moses to leave Him alone so that, in His anger could destroy all of Israel. Thankfully, Moses interceded for the people and God relented from His wrath. The people may have thought that they were worshipping YHVH by celebrating this 'festival to YHVH'. But their sincerity was no substitute for obedience; nor was it an excuse in God's eyes for disobedience. All we need to do is look around us and see the tremendous numbers of sincere people, who think they are worshipping God who are completely deceived. Whether it be the New Age, Mormon, Jehovah Witness, or Buddhists and Hindu's the problem with these and other such false religions it is not the sincerity of the people, nor their love for their God's in sincerity, but that the practice

of their religion does not line up with the Truth according to the Word of God.

Truth or Lie?

Another serious argument along this line that we need to examine is the issue of Truth. The more we walk in truth, the more we are walking in the light. Inversely, the more we walk in a lie, the more we are covered with and by darkness. We know **who the Father of lies is and the deceiver for he comes to steal, kill, and destroy;** but **Yahushua came to bring us out of darkness into the light.** I believe that as much as the Holy Spirit reveals to us, that we need to **walk in light and in truth**, casting off any shadow of darkness or lie. If December 25`x' is not the truth, then why should we persist in walking in this falsehood?

The most important point, though, is the actual significance of this date. It seems that we would have enough reasons to abandon the celebration of December 25`x' as a `festival of our own choosing or as a festival to the YHVH, if it had just been chosen at random. However, there exists a sinister and evil root to this date that must be revealed. And remember, this celebration also hides a Scriptural Feast, the one recorded in the Word of God ...

"Then came the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Yahushua (Yeshua/Jesus) was in the temple area walking in Solomon's Colonnade." John 10:22-23.

"The Feast of Dedication" was celebrated by all believers in the first few hundred years, for in this feast as in the "Seven Feasts of YHVH" The Lord, it contains a prophecy of our Lord and Saviour! In this one the most significant one is His own statement:

"I AM the LIGHT of the World"

In Conclusion.

HaSatan the evil one is the great counterfeiter and the arch deceiver, who will go to any lengths to deceive and mislead Elohim's people. He knows the old adage, "a miss is as good as a mile." Did you know that the word for "sin" means "to miss the mark?" Just one tiny slash of a

knife across the "smile" of the Mona Lisa would be enough to destroy the painting, just as only a "little" poison in an otherwise good meal can kill you. If people "miss the mark" in observing purely pagan customs, with pagan, mystical symbols what it is all about, **but call it "Christian,"** the HaSatan is happy and satisfied, for he has duped the people into committing a great SIN against YHVH Elohim for they will have "missed the mark" of the pure worship of the Creator of all things by doing the opposite of what He has commanded, "Learn NOT the way of the heathen."

For decades, I have been sharing how HaSatan has concealed the real truth about the Passover (Pesach) with the pagan substitution of a feast called "Easter," or "Ishtar," (a fertility goddess) a celebration of fecundity, procreation, and new life. I knew that eggs and rabbits symbolize fertility, and have nothing to do with Messiah's resurrection. In addition, Halloween was first an all American evil children's pagan event, but now it is sweeping the world, like so many Americanisms. It is obvious that Halloween is blatantly pagan, but is a Harvest celebration of sorts, featuring corn stalks, squashes and pumpkins, along with all the demonic symbolism, and obfuscates Elohim's true fall harvest festival. Yes beloved, I am speaking about the "Feast of Tabernacles," (Sukkot) which always falls on the 15th day of the 7th month of Elohim's sacred calendar.

Beloved, uphold the Word of Elohim, and follow no one, and certainly no other god than our beloved Creator of heaven and earth - YHVH Elohim, and Yahushua His beloved Messiah, our blessed Saviour! Learn how to give yourself an honest answer to the question "What would Yahushua do?"

Hereby we do KNOW that we KNOW Him, **IF** we keep his commandments and keep His ways we shall abide in Him!

"And by this we know that we know Him, **if we keep His commands.** The one who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 2:2-3.

I believe that observing Christmas is not part of a Holy life in Messiah! Need to re **read "Truth or Lie"?** A brand new study is now online, entitled - **"When was Messiah Yahushua really Born?"**

Shalom in Messiah - Yahushua.

May YHVH Elohim bless and keep you in the palm of His hand always,
in Messiah Yahushua's loving Name!

Ministry Elder/teacher: Reuben ben Gershom - in Ministry since 1978.

**“Teach me Your way, O YHVH. I will walk in Your truth.
UNITE MY HEART TO FEAR YOUR NAME!”**

Tehillim – Psalms 86:11

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