

Armor of God

SPECIAL ISSUE

Roman Holidays vs. God's True Holy Days

Sunday, Saturday—What Difference Does It Make? • Should Christians Observe Easter?
Hallowe'en is Pagan! • Facts You Should Know About Christmas!

Should Christians participate in the observance of Easter, Halloween and Christmas? For the majority of Christians, that's a strange question to ask. Of course we should, after all, we celebrate these festivals to honor Jesus Christ, what reason is there not to observe them? But do we really honor Christ by participating in these festivals?

Easter, Halloween and Christmas are all of pagan origin and not one is even mentioned in the Bible. Anybody can easily check out any encyclopedia or secular book on the subject and prove it. Believe it or not, God is very much displeased with the celebration of these festivals. And why would God like them? Easter is a festival of orgy in honor of the goddess Ishtar; Halloween is a festival in honor of the lord of the demons and the dead, Samhain; and Christmas is a festival originally known as Saturnalia in honor of the god Saturn! These have nothing to do with honoring God and Christ at all! These false gods are God's enemies!

Have you considered for one moment why a follower of Jesus Christ would dress himself or herself up as a demon or a witch? Do you honestly believe you give honor to Jesus Christ by celebrating the day of the lord of the demons and the dead? Today's teenagers are not merely exchanging gifts under the mistletoe, but engaging in pre-marital sex as their "gifts" to their "special loved one" which is originally a part of the celebration of Saturnalia! Does God approve of this promiscuity? Is this the way to give glory and honor to Him? No way!

We all know that the Bible doesn't tell us when Jesus Christ was really born, so why should we pick a day that is used to honor a pagan god (Saturn) as Jesus' birthday? While it is an undeniable fact that there was great celebration in heaven on the day Jesus was born, we are not told of the actual date of His birth. It is on the day of his death that Jesus confirmed how much he loved us. This doesn't mean that the birth of Jesus is less important. However, Jesus commanded the disciples to remember and observe that *specific* night before his death and *not* His birthday. And we are supposed to be *followers* of Jesus aren't we? Or do we claim to know better than Jesus?

God the Father, the Father of Jesus Christ, and also the Father of all Christians, gave seven festivals for His children to celebrate. If you claim to be a son or a daughter of God, and a disciple of Jesus Christ, these are the festivals you should observe. These feasts are outlined in Leviticus 23 and Deuteronomy 16. These are the Passover, Days of Unleavened Bread, Feast of Firstfruits (Pentecost), Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day. These festivals are not exclusive for the Jews as some believe, and as some would have you believe but they are the ones God "personally" commanded to be kept by those who believe and worship Him.

"But we are not celebrating these festivals in honor of the pagan gods but to honor the Almighty God..." But that's precisely what God doesn't want, to borrow pagan customs and use it to honor Him: "Learn not the way of the heathen..." (Jeremiah 10:2). "Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them ... and that thou inquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods. What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it (Deuteronomy 12:30-32).

Should we observe the Roman holidays in honor of the Roman gods or God's Holy Days in honor of the true Creator God—our Father? It's time to learn the truth about these pagan festivals and the truth about God's feasts. And we strongly hope everyone make the right choice... and choose God's ordained feasts in their appointed seasons!

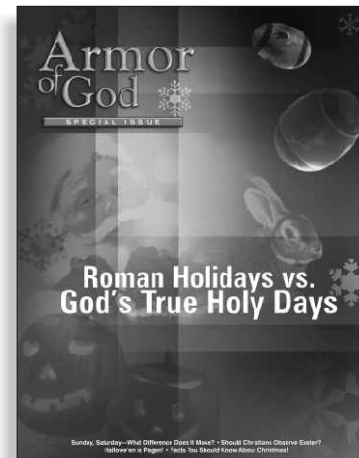


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SUNDAY, SATURDAY

What Difference Does It Make?

Some Christians observe Saturday as the Sabbath, while others, the majority, observe Sunday, claiming it is the “Lord’s Day.” But does it really matter which day one keeps? Can we know for sure which day is the seventh day? Is there any evidence that the weekly cycle has continued intact throughout all these centuries?

It was a glorious day for the people of Israel. David, their king, had proved himself a courageous leader, and was now taking steps to fully revive the nation’s allegiance to God.

David’s plan—to transport the all-but-forgotten ark of the covenant from the house of Abinadab to the king’s home city—was pleasing to the people, who had come out by the thousands to take part in the procession.

“So they carried the ark of God on a new cart from the house of Abinadab, and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart. Then David and all Israel played music before God with all their might, with singing, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on cymbals, and with trumpets” (1 Chronicles 13:7:8, New King James Version throughout).

Things couldn’t have been better. The men, the women, even the youth, were overflowing with joy. After all, this was not just any old ark; it was the ark of God!

But the day did not end the way it began. A single incident and the jubilation was over. Tears of joy became tears of sorrow. Rejoicing was replaced with mourning.

Had the oxen not stumbled, perhaps it would not have happened. But the oxen did stumble, and Uzzah, who was helping drive the cart, reached out to stabilize the shaken ark. “Then the anger of the LORD

was aroused against Uzzah, and He struck him because he had put his hand to the ark; and he died there before God” (verse 10).

You see, the ark was God’s ark—not David’s, not Uzzah’s. And being God’s ark, it had to be handled according to God’s specifications. Uzzah had touched the ark, an act contrary to God’s instructions (Numbers 4:15)—and God killed him!



Uzzah tried to steady the ark and when the oxen stumbled; but was struck dead by God when he touched the ark.

But the law forbidding touching the ark seems so minor, so trivial. Did it really matter that Uzzah disobeyed this seemingly minor commandment?

It mattered to God!

At an earlier date, before Israel had a king, a judge named Samson began delivering Israel from the Philistines. Samson, with the incredible strength God had given him, accomplished some amazing feats. On one occasion, for

example, he killed a lion with his bare hands. At another time, he slew a thousand Philistines with the jawbone of an ass.

Samson was a Nazarite from birth, and one of the things Nazarites were not permitted to do was cut their hair. So a razor never came upon Samson’s head, until...

You know the rest of the story: Delilah’s enticement led to the cutting of

Samson’s hair, which left him without his unusual strength. He then fell into the hands of the Philistines; his eyes were put out, and he was bound with brass fetters and put in prison, where his time was spent grinding at the mill—all this because his hair had been cut. (Read Samson’s story in Judges 13-16).

Sure, Samson had been told not to permit the cutting of his hair, but let’s face it, hair is hair—what’s the big deal? Did it really matter that Samson was careless in this seemingly minor bit of God’s instruction?

It mattered to God!

And then there was the unnamed prophet known as “the man of God.” His title, “man of God,” was not without good reason, for we see in him an excellent example of faith. For instance, he boldly cried against the altar of Bethel, and didn’t seem to feel threatened by the presence of the wicked king Jeroboam. On the same occasion, he prayed for the restoration of the king’s withered hand, and God answered his prayer—an

indication of strong faith. Indeed, this prophet had all the markings of a genuine “man of God.”

But failure to comply with a seemingly minor technicality brought the prophet’s career to an end. God had commanded him to neither eat nor drink while in Bethel, and apparently the man of God fully intended to obey. With the deceptive influence of another prophet, however, the man of God did eat and drink in Bethel. For his disobedience, God sent a lion to kill him (1 Kings 13:24).

Did it really matter that the man of God failed to obey some seemingly minor technicalities of God’s instructions?

It mattered to God!

No w, let’s consider another “technicality.”

The Fourth Commandment says: “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the

for sure we are keeping the day He blessed and sanctified. Consider the following:

The Jews have always observed the seventh day Sabbath. When they returned from Babylonian captivity, there was no question as to which day was the Sabbath. They were still observing the same day when Jesus came on the scene. In fact, Jesus observed the day the Pharisees and other Jews observed.

From their dispersion in the first and second centuries until the present, the Jews have observed the seventh day of the week, the same day Jesus observed. There have been no breaks in the weekly cycle, no change from the seventh to another day of the week. Since the advent of global telecommunication methods, Jews all over the world have been found observing the same weekly cycle, the same Sabbath.

Paul writes, “What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God” (Romans 3:1, 2). The “oracles” include the Holy Scriptures as well as the seven-day cycle, which began at Creation. The Sabbath has definitely not been lost.

A second witness to the true seventh day is, believe it or not, the historic Christian-professing church! From the early centuries to the present, Christian writers have acknowledged the

difference between Sabbath and Sunday; have presented arguments in favor of first day observance, and against seventh-day observance; and have accused Sabbath-keeping Christians of “Judaizing.”

So the claim that we cannot know for sure which day is the Sabbath is completely fallacious. All the currently popular television evangelists, all biblical historians and all educated Christian pastors know that Jesus observed the seventh-day Sabbath—the day we call Saturday—the day the Jews have always observed.

Clearly, God has specified which day, and has provided a means whereby we can know when that day occurs.

Again, does it matter which day we observe?

If it mattered whether Uzzah touched the ark of the covenant; if it mattered whether Samson permitted the cutting of his hair; if it mattered whether the man of God ate and drank in a certain place—it matters whether we keep the day God

specifies!

It certainly mattered in ancient Israel—as we shall see.

Israel Punished for Sabbath-breaking

The apostle Paul writes: “Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed [went with] them, and that Rock was Christ. But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after [desire to do] evil things as they also lusted” (1 Corinthians 10:1-6).

Notice that Christ was the “Rock” who went with Israel into the wilderness. The same Rock leads God’s people today through the spiritual wilderness of this world. It was He who reminded Israel of the Sabbath day, and commanded them to keep it holy. Has He changed?

Jesus Christ, says the book of Hebrews, is “the same yesterday, today, and forever” (13:8). He has not changed! The holy law He gave to Israel—including the commandment to keep the Sabbath day—still stands (Matthew 5:17-19).

Note also that Israel’s mistakes are “our examples” in that we should not desire to do the “evil things” they did. Paul lists several of their evil things. Including idolatry and fornication. But let’s notice some Old Testament scriptures that tell us of another of the evil things the Israelites did in their wilderness wandering.

In Ezekiel 20:12, 13, God says: “Moreover I also gave them My Sabbath, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them. Yet the house of Israel rebelled against Me in the wilderness; they did not walk in My statutes; they despised My judgments...and they greatly defiled My Sabbaths. Then I said I would pour out My fury on them in the wilderness, to consume them.”

Did it matter that Israel polluted God’s Sabbath?

God says, “So I also raised My hand in an oath to them in the wilderness, that I would not bring them into the land which

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work.”

Exodus 20:8-10

heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it” (Exodus 20:8-11).

God commands us to keep holy His Sabbath—the seventh day of the week, not the first.

But does it really matter which day we keep?

Did it matter that Uzzah touched the ark? Did it matter that Samson’s hair was cut? Did it matter that the man of God disobeyed God’s seemingly “minor” instructions?

If the Ten Commandments are in force today, then yes—it matters!

But, some will argue, we really cannot know for sure which day is the seventh day Sabbath, because the weekly cycle, which began at Creation, has been changed and time has been lost.

Has Time Been Lost?

Actually, time has not been lost. God has provided a way whereby we can know

I had given them, 'flowing with milk and honey,' the glory of all lands" (verse 15).

Why did God threaten to refuse His people entry into the promised land?

"Because they despised My judgments and did not walk in My statutes, but profaned My Sabbaths; for their heart went after their idols" (verse 16).

The children of Israel were allowed to enter the land of promise after forty years in the wilderness. But they went the way of their fathers; they broke God's law, disregarded His Sabbaths. The land flowing with milk and honey was eventually flowing with invading forces from surrounding nations.

God says: "Also I raised My hand in an oath to those in the wilderness, that I would scatter them among the Gentiles and disperse them throughout the countries, because they had not executed My judgments, but had despised My statutes, profaned My Sabbaths, and their eyes were fixed on their fathers' idols" (verses 23, 24).

The command to observe the Sabbath day may not seem as "spiritual" as some of the other commandments, but its violation was one of the major reasons why the children of Israel were overthrown in the wilderness and lost their privileges in the promised land.

Some believe that the Fourth Commandment is not among the "moral aspects" of the law—that only those commandments that have to do with "love" are important in the Christian era. But what is love? And how do we express love toward God?

In Exodus 20:6, God's mercy is promised to "thousands, to those who love [Him] and keep [His] commandments." Notice the connection between love and commandment

keeping. This concurs fully with I John 5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep His

commandments."

While love toward God certainly does involve human emotion, it is expressed first and foremost in obedience to Him. Jesus said, "If you love Me, [you will] keep My commandments" (John 14:15).

Our obedience to God's law, then, directly reflects the love we have for Him.

The Sabbath commandment may not seem "spiritual"; it may not seem to be one of the "moral aspects" of God's law. But if acknowledging the seventh day as God's holy day—and keeping the day holy because God says to keep it holy—is not a matter of morality and spirituality, then what is?

But, some argue the Sabbath is a "physical thing," isn't it? Yes, it is. So is your neighbor's wife, his property, and even his life. Nevertheless, the unlawful treatment of any of these constitutes sin!

In God's warnings to Israel, Sabbath-breaking is placed side-by-side with idolatry and worship of false gods. Never is there a distinction made between "physical" and "spiritual" transgressions.

Moreover, the Bible nowhere says that the Ten Commandments were for Israel only.

Sabbath for All, Not Just Israel

It is sometimes erroneously assumed that citizenship in the nation of Israel was restricted to the physical descendants of Jacob. Apparently, some do not realize that a "mixed multitude" left Egypt with Israel in the time of Moses (Exodus 12:38), or that God specifically instructed, "One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you" (Exodus 12:49).

There was never a time when Gentiles could not join themselves to Israel. From the Exodus to the time of Christ, many thousands of Gentiles became citizens of the nation of Israel. They kept the laws given to Israel, and were, in fact, considered Israelites.

God says, "Blessed is the man who does this, And the son of man who lays

hold on it; Who keeps himself from defiling the Sabbath, And keep his hand from doing any evil" (Isaiah 56:2).

Is this blessing promised to Israelites only? Continue: "Do not let the son of the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD Speak, saying, 'The LORD has utterly separated me from His people' ... Also the sons of the foreigner Who join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him, And to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants—Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And holds fast My covenant" (verses 3, 6).

Notice that the Gentile who "joined himself to the LORD" is commanded to keep the Sabbath. There are no differences in the way Israelites and Gentiles are to worship God, but only one law for both homeborn and stranger.

The same is true in the New Covenant. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:28, 29).

The seventh day is often referred to as the "Jewish Sabbath." But Jesus says, "The Sabbath was made for man..." (Mark 2:27). And in Genesis 2:1-3, we find conclusive proof that the Sabbath was made long before the first Jew was born.

The Sabbath, then, was made for mankind, not just the Jews. It was made for man's benefit, and carries with it God's own blessing.

How could a day of rest and relaxation, blessed and sanctified by a loving Creator, and given to His children for their physical and spiritual benefit, be regarded as a "burden" or "yoke of bondage"?

Men have contrived every imaginable argument to get rid of the Sabbath. They have attempted to nail it to the cross, label it "Mosaic," and exchange it for another day.

Nine of the Ten Commandments are



The Man Who Gathered Wood on the Sabbath

"While the Israelites were in the desert, a man was found gathering wood on the Sabbath day. Those who found him gathering wood brought him to Moses and Aaron and the whole assembly, and they kept him in custody, because it was not clear what should be done to him. Then the LORD said to Moses, 'The man must die. The whole assembly must stone him outside the camp.' So the assembly took him outside the camp and stoned him to death, as the LORD commanded Moses."

Numbers 15:32-36

accepted by almost everyone, whether Catholic or Protestant. A comparative few, however, accept and keep the Fourth Commandment. Interestingly, this is the one commandment God gave as a special sign between Himself and His people.

A Sign and Perpetual Covenant

God's laws make sense. They have purpose. The First Commandment, for example, is so sensible, so logical—for what good could possibly come of worshiping anything that is not God? Bowing down before a dumb idol—an object of worship so vastly inferior to the worshiper—is absolutely senseless. Speaking reverently of the one who made us, avoiding taking His name in vain is so perfectly sensible.

The commandments against murder, adultery, theft, lying, and coveting are “holy and just and good”—they are good for us—they make good sense, and have obvious purpose.

But what about the Fourth Commandment? Besides providing physical rest and spiritual rejuvenation, what is the purpose of the Sabbath? Why a specific day?

God says: “...Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you. You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed” (Exodus 31:13-18).

Notice that God says the Sabbath is a sign between Him and His people. It points directly to Creation week; thus, the Sabbath is an ongoing reminder of the Creator. Its purpose is to keep knowledge of the Creator perpetually in the minds of His people. Also, it is a “holy convocation” (Leviticus 23:3), or special time for assembly of God's people, who

are described as those who “keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 12:17).

The true worshipers, then, will be keeping the Ten Commandments. One cannot imagine a true worshiper bowing down before an idol, or taking God's name in vain, or serving false gods. But how many who profess to be “true worshipers,” or “Christians,” completely disregard or even reject the Fourth Commandment?

Christians who keep the seventh-day Sabbath are often thought to be “a little strange.” Sabbath-keeping churches are often labeled “cults.” Seldom does one find in a Christian book store material promoting Sabbath observance. Literature against Sabbath-keeping is far more common.

Yet, James writes: “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. For He who said, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ also said, ‘Do not murder.’ Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law” (James 2:10, 11),

If we break one point of the Decalogue, James says, we are guilty of violating the whole law. If we neither kill nor commit adultery, but do break the Sabbath, we are guilty of breaking the law—we are transgressors, sinners. He who said, “Do not commit adultery!” and “Do not kill!” also said, “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy!”

Some, however, insist that the Fourth Commandment is the one commandment of the Decalogue that has been abolished. But notice that the Sabbath is called a “perpetual covenant”—meaning a continuing covenant—between God and His people. Not one word in the entire Bible even remotely suggests that the perpetual Sabbath covenant was to come to an end with the advent of Christianity.

In fact, the prophet Isaiah gives us good reason to believe that the Sabbath covenant will continue into the Millennium. Speaking of that period, he writes, “‘And it shall come to pass That from one New Moon to another, And from one Sabbath to another, All flesh shall come to worship before Me,’ says the LORD” (Isaiah 66:23).

The phrase “all flesh” indicates that Israel as well as the Gentile nations will be keeping the Sabbath. This concurs with Zechariah's prophecy concerning the same period. The prophet writes, “And it

shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles” (Zechariah 14:16).

With two prophecies of inspired Scripture positively confirming the fact that all nations will observe God's weekly and annual Sabbaths during the Millennium, how can anyone claim that these observances are not for Christians today?

Summary

Those who reject the Sabbath would do well to carefully consider the following summary of scriptural facts:

1. The Sabbath was made at Creation; it was made for man.
2. The continuing cycle of Sabbaths, occurring every seventh day, was never lost. It was carefully preserved by both Jews and Christians.
3. The Sabbath was to be a sign between God and His true people.
4. The Sabbath was to be a perpetual covenant.
5. The command to keep holy the seventh day is found in the Decalogue, alongside commandments against idolatry, blasphemy, murder, adultery, and so on.
6. The importance of keeping the Sabbath (from God's perspective) is seen in the punishment Sabbath-breaking brought upon Israel.
7. The prophets tell us that both Israelites and Gentiles will keep God's weekly and annual Sabbaths during the Millennium.

When we add to the above the fact that Jesus Christ kept the Sabbath, the fact that the apostles and early New Testament church kept the Sabbath, and the fact that both Christ and the apostles upheld the so-called “Old Testament law,” the only conclusion we can come to is that we should be keeping the Sabbath!

Contrary to what you may have been told, the Sabbath day is not a burden; it is not a “yoke of bondage”; it is not an outdated “Mosaic” commandment that does not apply today.

The Sabbath was made for mankind—all mankind.

It was made for you. **AG**

Should Christians Observe Easter?

To millions of professing, churchgoing Christians, “Easter” is one of the chief religious festivals. But what do eggs, rabbits, new clothing, sunrise services, and hot cross buns have to do with Jesus Christ?

When was the last time you went to your public library, obtained one of the leading encyclopedias or histories, and studied an article on the subject of Easter?

If you're like the average person, the answer is probably “never.” Millions of sincere, churchgoing, professing Christians excitedly arise in the pitch-black hours well before dawn on Easter Sunday morning, hustle the kids out of bed, enjoy a quick breakfast, and bundle into the car for a drive to a nearby mountaintop, outdoor bowl, huge cathedral, or small countryside church. They are going to an “Easter sunrise service.”

At the precise moment of sunrise, the priest or minister may likely turn toward the east, extending both hands in a supplicatory gesture, heralding the dawn of “Easter Sunday,” and ask all of the audience to pray as they face the rising sun in the east.

While many of the less devout do not bother to arise early enough to go to an actual sunrise service, it is a well-known celebration, attended by millions in nations around the world.

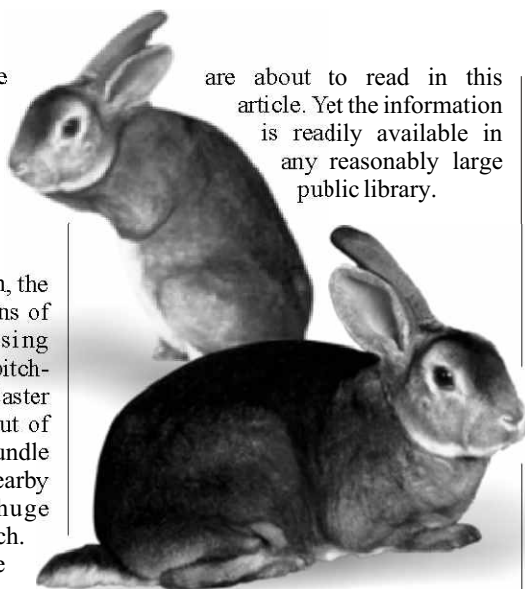
Why?

These many professing Christians suppose they are gathering together to commemorate the anniversary of the precise moment Jesus Christ rose from the dead!

They believe they are celebrating the resurrection.

Of course, it is doubtful that even one of these sincere people has read what you

are about to read in this article. Yet the information is readily available in any reasonably large public library.



Have you ever researched the question for yourself? Have you ever asked yourself why you do some of the things you do?

Have you ever looked up “Lent” in the history books or encyclopedias? Have you ever wondered why fasts, drunken ribaldry, drug-induced chaos, vandalism, and crime punctuate such pre-Easter celebrations as “Mardi Gras”?

Have you ever heard friends joke about their “Lenten fast,” giving up chewing gum or asparagus?

Surely you remember the gaiety of Eastertime; the projects you were given in the first elementary years of school, fashioning little gaily decorated baskets of paper and decorating them with paper “straw,” and jelly beans shaped like Easter eggs.

Probably, as a child, you dyed Easter eggs, engaged in Easter egg hunts, ate little chocolate bunnies, and perhaps even

gathered around a bonfire, singing and dancing in the streets.

Certainly you recall seeing old motion picture news reports or television coverage of the famous “Easter Parade” in New York City.

It's custom. And is custom to be questioned?

What Does Easter Mean?

What is *Easter*? Is it the opposite of “Wester”? Does it have something to do with one of the points of the compass, or the Far East?

Let's see what some of the historians tell us:

Easter: The English term, according to the Ven. Bede, relates to *Eostre*, a Teutonic goddess of the rising light of day and spring, which deity, however, is otherwise unknown...

“That the apostolic fathers do not mention it and that we first hear of it principally through the controversy of the Quartodecimans are purely accidental” (The Catholic Encyclopedia, article “Easter,” emphasis added).

In a sense, we are dealing with a “hostile witness” in this quotation, for the Catholic Church fully supports Easter. Therefore, it is doubly important to note that The Catholic Encyclopedia admits the “apostolic fathers” (including James, Peter, John, and the early apostles) do not mention Easter.

As we will see later, it is equally important that they admit we first hear of it during a controversy of the “Quartodecimans.”

Now notice another important historical authority:

"Easter: The annual festival observed throughout Christendom in commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The name Easter (Ger. Ostern), like the names of the days of the week, is a survival from the old Teutonic mythology[and] is derived from Eostre, or Ostara, the Anglo Saxon goddess of spring, to whom the month answering to our April, and called the 'Eostur-monath,' was dedicated. This month, Bede says, was the same as the Mensis Paschalis [which meant "Passover" month], 'when the old festival was observed with the gladness of a new solemnity.'

"There is no indication of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament, or in the writings of the apostolic fathers.

"The first Christians continued to observe the Jewish festivals, though in a new spirit, as commemorations of events which those festivals had foreshadowed. Thus the Passover, with a new conception added to it of Christ as the true paschal lamb and the firstfruits from the dead, continued to be observed, and became the 'Christian Easter'" (*The Encyclopedia Britannica*, eleventh edition, emphasis added).

Note well that this eminent history (the eleventh edition was the last edition of the Britannica to include theological history) admits that the celebration of Easter is not mentioned in the New Testament; that it was not observed by the early apostles, and was clearly a later addition to what has been called the "Christian church."

This later addition is reflected in Acts 12:4 of the King James Version, where the term pascha is erroneously translated "Easter." The term means Passover, not "Easter," and is so rendered by all modern English translations.

Just how Easter was adopted into the visible church, and how it became called "Christian," we shall see.

Now, notice what an American high school level encyclopedia has to say:

"Easter is a Christian festival that celebrates the

resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the most important holy day of the Christian religion. People attend churches and take part in religious ceremonies.

"In most countries, Easter comes in early spring, at a time when green grass and warm sunshine begin to push aside the ice and snow of winter. Its name may have come from Eostre, a Teutonic goddess of spring, or from the Teutonic festival of spring, Eostar [pronounced "Easter"].

"Christians everywhere celebrate Easter with great rejoicing. In many areas, children collect candy and chocolate bunnies, and hunt colorful Easter eggs. Many persons wear new spring clothes to church on Easter" (*World Book encyclopedia*, article "Easter," emphasis added).

The Encyclopedia Americana says: "Easter is a convergence of three traditions, (1) Pagan. According to the Ven. Bede, English historian of the early eighth century, the word is derived from the Norse Ostara or Eostare, meaning the festival of spring, at the vernal equinox, March 21, when nature is in resurrection after winter. Hence, the rabbits, notable for their fecundity, and the eggs colored like rays of the returning sun, and the northern lights, or aurora borealis. The Greek myth, Demeter and Persephone, with its Latin counterpart, Ceres and Persephone, conveys the idea of a goddess returning seasonally from the nether regions of the light of day."

Very early after being rescued from slavery and established as a new nation under God's own laws, the Israelites turned to the idolatrous customs and practices of neighboring nations.

"And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Eternal, and served Baalim [which means "many gods"; the term baal merely meant "lord"]: And they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the Lord to anger. And they forsook the Eternal and served Baal and Ashtaroth" (Judges 2:1113).

The pagan Zidonians, the Philistines, Moabites, Edomites, and other surrounding tribes served the same gods and goddesses sometimes manifested in different ways.

One of the prominent features (also adopted by sinning Israelites) was the worship of the goddess "Ishtar" in groves, called "asherim." This is merely the plural word for "Asherah," which meant an upright pale, or the trunk of a tree, stripped of its branches and leaves, and worshiped in the setting of a grove of trees, usually on a hilltop, representing life. (It was a phallic symbol.)

Notice: "The children of Israel sinned against the Lord their God...and walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the Lord cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made. And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the Lord their God...and they set them up images [Hebrew, asherah] and groves [Hebrew, asherim] in every high hill, and under every green tree: And there they burnt incense in all the high places, as did the heathen whom the Lord carried away before them; and wrought wicked things to provoke the Lord to anger: For they served idols, whereof the Lord had said unto them, ye shall not do this thing" (2 Kings 17:711).

The worship of the upright pales, or phallic symbols, was closely associated with the worship of other forms of the procreation of life.

The whole festival at springtime, in the minds of the ancient pagans, was closely allied to the midwinter festivals when pagans implored their sun god to begin his northern journey once again, bringing back the warming rays of the sun and hastening spring, when new life would once again spring forth.

When this was an accomplished fact, the heathens used the symbols of eggs, which they worshiped as a miraculous source of life; rabbits, as the most rapidly procreating domestic animal; and lit fires in order to bake cakes in sacrifice to the "queen of heaven" (Semiramis), the "Diana of the Ephesians," who was viewed as the goddess of sex and fertility.

Almighty God said He hated this imagery and idolatry, and called all such ceremonies of the pagans great abominations!

Read Ezekiel 8! In this shocking chapter of the Bible, Ezekiel, in spirit, is shown the horrifying abominations of the sinning Israelites who had made an "image of jealousy" which "provoked to jealousy" the Eternal God (verses 3,4)!

Showing Ezekiel, in spirit, even “greater abominations” (verse 6), Ezekiel said he “went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things [the pagans always used snakes, lizards, crabs, frogs, flies, and so on, in their imagery], and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed upon the wall round about. And there stood before them seventy men of the ancients of the house of Israel, and in the midst of them stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan, with every man his censer in his hand; and a thick cloud of incense went up. Then said he unto me, son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, The Lord seeth us not; the Lord hath forsaken the earth” (verses 10-12).

And is that not precisely what millions of churchgoing Christians believe today?

A day-by-day, close awareness of the immediate presence of God; the fact that He watches and clearly sees every human act and deed; that He is immediately available through prayer; that He is not only our God, but our Judge, and our Ruler—this concept of a living, ruling, Creator God is lost to the minds of millions! They do not know the living God!

Rather, they think of God in vague, unreal terms. It is as if He has truly “gone way off somewhere” into the blackness of the “other side of the universe.” Few really believe that Almighty God does see through the rooftops, sees in the dark, and literally beholds the deeds (good or evil) of humankind.

Later Ezekiel was shown “women weeping for Tammuz” (verse 14). Tammuz was their name for Nimrod, who made himself into “a mighty hunter before [in place of] the Lord” (Genesis 10:9)!

Next, read on in Ezekiel 8 as he was shown even greater abominations: “And he brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house, and behold, at the door of the temple of the Lord between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the Lord, and their faces were toward the east: and they worshiped the sun toward the east” (verses 15,16).

The sun is in the east at its rising!

This is a sunrise service, a pagan,

idolrous worshipping of the rising sun, in connection with pagan idols of “creeping things and abominable beasts,” with women wailing and weeping for Tammuz!

“But, so what?” some will ask. “What's the big deal?” some may complain. Are we to take away such innocent-appearing things as cute little chicks, chocolate bunnies, jelly beans, and dyed eggs; the excited, happy looks on the faces of our children as they search about the lawn for hidden Easter eggs?

“We're not doing it with all of these pagan things in mind,” some might reason. “We're doing it as a Christian ceremony and it is only something to get the children to look forward to Easter!”

Consider what God told Ezekiel concerning ancient Israel's practices: “Then He said unto me, hast thou seen

Israelites that sin required the death penalty (Exodus 16:430).

Later God revealed to them the remainder of His annual holy days (Leviticus 23), consisting of the Feast of Firstfruits (Pentecost), the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day, coming right at the end of the Feast of Tabernacles.

God revealed to them the beginning of months, or the “sacred year,” which commenced in the spring with the month of Nisan (also called Abib).

The Israelites were commanded to take an unblemished lamb from their flocks on the tenth of Nisan; to keep it unto the evening of the fourteenth, and then to slay it as the “Lord's Passover.”

By striking the blood of the slain, unblemished lamb on the doorposts and

“There is no indication of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament, or in the writings of the apostolic fathers. The first Christians continued to observe the Jewish festivals, though in a new spirit, as commemorations of events which those festivals had foreshadowed.”

this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? For they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger; and, lo, they put the branch to their nose. Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eyes shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them” (verses 17,18).

The Annual Holy Days of God

When God first called His nation Israel out of captivity in Egypt, He had to reveal unto them the months of the year; reveal to them once again the weekly Sabbath, and wean them away from the pagan, idolrous customs of the ancient Egyptians, who worshiped Isis and Osiris.

Prior to the exodus, God began revealing to the Israelites the Passover (see Exodus 12).

Directly connected with the Passover were the Days of Unleavened Bread. Later, in the land of Sinai, before the giving of the Ten Commandments, God revealed to them His weekly Sabbath, and enforced the observance of God's holy Sabbath day by showing the

lintels of their houses in Goshen, they would be under the sign of “the blood of the lamb,” and the death angel, who was to kill the firstborn of the Egyptians in the final and greatest plague, would “pass over” the homes of the Israelites.

That ceremony was to be conducted “with their staff in their hand,” and by a meal of roast lamb and the “bread of affliction” (unleavened bread), signifying the great haste with which God was going to deliver them out of the land of Egypt, out of slavery.

The spiritual types are set forth very clearly by Jesus Christ in the New Testament, and by the apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 11).

The paschal lamb was symbolic of Jesus Christ; the blood on the doorposts and lintels of the houses is symbolic of the blood of Jesus Christ to atone for our sins; the escape from Egypt is symbolic of our escape from the clutches of Satan the devil and sin; the passage through the Red Sea was symbolic of baptism (1 Corinthians 10:14); the land of Sinai, and the forty-years wandering prior to entering the promised land, are symbolic of the trials, testing, and tribulation which come upon every Christian; and the entrance into the promised land, across

the River Jordan, is symbolic of finally leaving this human, physical life and entering the very Kingdom of God.

There are many other biblical types which come clear in one's thorough study of the deep symbolism of the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Pharaoh is a type of Satan the devil; his two magicians, Jannes and Jambres, are symbolic of the beast and false prophet; Moses and Aaron, who continually say, "Let my people go," are symbolic of the prophesied "two witnesses" (Revelation 11), who will warn the beast and the false prophet just prior to Christ's second coming.

Leaven is used as a type of sin; the eating of "unleavened bread" for seven days signifies taking Jesus Christ into our lives, and overcoming our carnal human nature by the power of God's Holy Spirit.

Thus, in this first important holy day season of the sacred year, God revealed to the ancient Israelites rich symbolism which has great meaning to the very purpose of human life and which reveals, in large measure, what is our final, glorious destiny!

But, instead of remaining faithful to these deeply significant annual holy days of God, the Israelites quickly descended back into idolatry.

Idolatry, condemned of God in the first two of the Ten Commandments, is evil and a horrible abomination in God's sight for several reasons.

First, it puts inanimate, nonexistent, pagan "gods" (which are nothing more than the figment of the imagination of demented, ignorant, savage peoples) in place of God!

Such imagery blots out from superstitious minds the truth of God!

It is a substitute, a counterfeit, which God calls the "image of jealousy."

As the Creator, as well as our Protector and Provider, like a husband to the church (described as His bride), God is "very jealous" over His people.

The reason our English words idolatry and adultery are so similar is because they stem from the same original word.

God terms idolatry "spiritual adultery." In many analogies in the Bible, imagery and worship are directly spoken of as "adultery."

Read Revelation 17 and 18, where the great fallen woman (symbolizing a great, universal false church) is said to be "committing fornication" with the kings and rulers of the world!

The Pagan Holidays

Today, millions upon millions of professing Christians gaily go about the business of observing so-called Christian holidays, not realizing they are nothing but modern versions of ancient, pagan idolatries!

As the millions celebrate these days, they do so in abysmal ignorance of their origin, their true symbolism, and ignorant of the fact that such days obscure God's annual holy days.

How Was Easter Substituted for the Passover?

Believe it or not, it was many centuries before the apostate church was finally able to stamp out the celebration of the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread!

Actually, they never succeeded in stamping it out entirely, and history proves there were scattered remnants of God's true church observing the Passover, the Days of Unleavened Bread, and the other annual days all down through the centuries just as there are latter-day remnants of God's true church observing those days today!

Do you remember our earlier quotation from The Catholic Encyclopedia, in which they mentioned the "controversy of the Quartodecimans"?

The Quartodeciman controversy raged throughout the Mediterranean world for literally centuries.

"Quartodeciman" is merely another word for "fourteenth"! The controversy stemmed from the insistence that the early New Testament Church of God ought to follow the custom of Jesus Christ of Nazareth in observing the Passover on the fourteenth of nisan, the first month of the year, according to God's sacred calendar.

The "universal church" gradually began adopting pagan customs and traditions, and began insisting upon standardizing the date for the observance for the spring festival.

The masses of pagans who were being "converted" into this new religion

brought with them their ancient customs of the celebration of life, sexual reproduction, fertility and worship of the sun. Their gods and goddesses were Isis, Osiris, Astarte, Ashtaroth, Ishtar, Tammuz, and others. Apostate church leaders reasoned these pagans had to be accommodated.

History absolutely proves that pagan customs and ceremonies were allowed and merely given Christian names.

Finally, those who insisted on continuing to observe God's annual holy days were put out of the apostate church!

Notice! "The first council of Nicæa (325) decreed that the Roman practice should be observed throughout the church. But even at Rome the Easter term was changed repeatedly. Those who continued to keep Easter with the Jews were called Quartodecimans (14 Nisan) and were excluded from the church" (The Catholic Encyclopedia, article "Easter," emphasis added).

Interestingly, The Catholic Encyclopedia subtly inserts the word Easter in its article under that term, even though the writer of the article knew no one would keep "Easter with the Jews," for the Jews never recognized this pagan custom. The Catholic Encyclopedia continually refers to the Passover as "Easter." Note some further quotes from the same source:

"Easter eggs: The symbolic meaning of a new creation of mankind by Jesus risen from the dead was probably an invention of later times. The custom may have its origins in paganism, for a great many pagan customs, celebrating the return of spring, gravitated to Easter. The egg is the emblem of the germinating life of early spring....

"The Easter rabbit lays the eggs, for which reason they are hidden in a nest or in the garden. The rabbit is a pagan symbol and has always been an emblem of fertility (Simrock, Mythologie, 551).

"The Easter fire is lit on the top of mountains (Easter mountain, Osterberg) and must be kindled from new fire, drawn from wood by friction; this is a custom of pagan origin in vogue all over Europe, signifying the victory of spring over winter. The Bishops issued severe edicts against the sacrilegious Easter fires, but did not succeed in abolishing them everywhere. The Church adopted the observance into the Easter ceremonies,

referring it to the fiery column in the desert and to the Resurrection of Christ; a new fire on Holy Saturday is drawn from flint, symbolizing the Resurrection by the Light of the World from the tomb closed by a stone" (ibid).

What a shocking admission! Notice that even the Catholics admit that the origins of Easter, and even the name itself, are totally pagan! The rabbit is a pagan symbol! It is an emblem of fertility!

Easter fires, lit on the top of mountains, are "customs of pagan origin"!

"The church adopted the observance into the Easter ceremonies"! Could anything be plainer? Let's continue with the same source:

First phase [of the Easter Controversy]: The dioceses of all Asia, as from an older tradition, held that the fourteenth day of the moon, on which day the Jews were commanded to sacrifice the lamb, should always be observed as the feast of the life-giving pasch [Passover], contending that the fast ought to end on that day, whatever day of the week it might happen to be. However, it was not the custom of the churches in the rest of the world to end it at this point, as they observed the practice, which from apostolic tradition has prevailed to the present time, of terminating the fast on no other day than on that of the resurrection of our Saviour. Synods and assemblies of bishops were held on this account, and all with one consent through mutual correspondence drew up an ecclesiastical decree that the mystery of the resurrection of the Lord should be celebrated on no other day but the Sunday and that we should observe the close of the paschal fast on that day only. [No such fast is mentioned in the Bible.]

"A letter of Saint Iræneus is among the extracts just referred to, and this shows that the diversity of practice regarding Easter had existed at least from the time of Pope Sixtus (c. 120). Further, Iræneus states that St. Polycarp, who, like the other Asiatics, kept Easter on the fourteenth day of the moon, whatever day of the week that might be, following the tradition which he claimed to have derived from St. John the apostle, came to Rome (c. 150) about this very question, but could not be persuaded by Pope Anicetus to relinquish his Quartodeciman observance. The question thus debated was therefore primarily whether Easter

was to be kept on a Sunday, or whether Christians should observe the holy day of the Jews, the fourteenth of Nisan, which might occur on any day of the week. Those who kept Easter with the Jews were called Quartodecimans" (ibid., emphasis added).

Again, it must be noted in this lengthy quotation from *The Catholic Encyclopedia* that they have subtly substituted "Easter" for the "Passover." What Polycarp observed "like the other Asiatics" was not easter! It was the passover, on the fourteenth of Nisan, as all the apostles had kept it.

That they admit he kept a great event "on the fourteenth day of the moon, whichever day of that week that might be, following the tradition which he claimed to have derived from St. John the apostle" absolutely proves that the festival Polycarp (who was a student of John) kept was not "Easter," but the *Passover*!

In the final paragraph of the quotation, the distinction is subtly drawn between "Christians" and "Jews." Another obvious and flagrant misapplication of terms is the final quote: "Those who kept Easter with the Jews were called Quartodecimans." Nonsense! They were called Quartodecimans because they kept the *Passover* and absolutely shunned the pagan "Ishtar" (pronounced "Easter") being adopted by an apostate, increasingly *pagan church*!

Notice further: *Second Phase*: The second stage in the Easter controversy centers round the council of Nicæa (A.D. 325). The emperor himself [Constantine], writing to the churches after the council of Nicæa, exhorts them to adopt its conclusions and says among other things: 'At this meeting the question concerning the most holy day of Easter was discussed, and it was resolved by the united judgment of all present that this feast ought to be kept by all and in every place on one and the same day. And first of all it appeared an unworthy thing that in the celebration of this most holy feast we should follow the practice of the Jews, who have impiously defiled their hands with enormous sin—for we have received from our Saviour a different way—and I myself have undertaken that this decision should meet with the approval of your sagacities in the hope that your wisdoms

will gladly admit that practice which is observed at once in the city of Rome and in Africa, throughout Italy and Egypt with entire unity of judgment.' From this and other indications, we learn that the dispute now lay between the Christians of Syria and Mesopotamia and the rest of the world. The important Church of Antioch was still dependent upon the Jewish calendar for its Easter" (ibid., emphasis added).

Remember, these lengthy quotations are from *The Catholic Encyclopedia*!

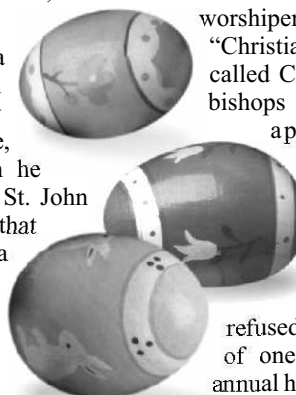
Constantine was a reformed sun-worshiper! When he embraced "Christianity" he embraced the so-called Christianity of the leading bishops who had already gone apostate! He did not embrace the Christianity practiced by those who were "holding fast to the faith once delivered to the saints," and who tenaciously refused to change the observance of one of the most important annual holy days Jesus Christ ever hallowed, the *Passover*!

Notice, in the quotation above of Constantine's exhortation to the churches after the Council of Nicæa, that he, too, showed disdainful contempt for "the Jews" (who are accused of having "impiously defiled their hands with enormous sin") and repudiates the "practice of the Jews," meaning the observance of the *Passover* (the Lord's Supper, as the apostle Paul began to refer to it) on the fourteenth of Nisan, as it had been observed for centuries!

At the end of the quotation concerning the development of keeping Easter in the Catholic Church, the encyclopedia admits "the important Church of Antioch was still dependent upon the Jewish calendar for its Easter." Again, a confusion of terms may be misleading to readers.

By no stretch of the imagination were the converted brethren in Antioch, in Syria, who were dependent upon "the Jewish calendar" (meaning Abib, or Nisan, 14), keeping "Easter." By tenaciously adhering to the fourteenth of Nisan, it is clear they were observing the *Passover*!

Notice now the next quotation: "Third Phase: It was to the divergent cycles which Rome had successively



adopted and rejected in its attempt to determine Easter more accurately that the third stage in the paschal controversy was mainly due. The Roman missionaries coming to England in the time of St. Gregory the Great found the British Christians, the representatives of that Christianity which had been introduced into Britain during the period of the Roman occupation, still adhering to an ancient system of Easter-computation which Rome itself had laid aside" (ibid., emphasis added).

What a fantastic admission!

Here we read of "Roman missionaries" arriving in the British Isles from Rome, yet discovering Christians in the British Isles adhering to the very same system of determining the date for the Passover as had always been observed by the early New Testament church!

Few have stopped to speculate on where all the other apostles mentioned in the Gospels went. Most disappear from sight, and the Bible quickly begins concerning itself with the ministries of, first, the apostle Paul, and then to some extent Peter and John. But what ever happened to Thomas, Simon the Canaanite, Mathias (who replaced Judas Iscariot), Andrew (Peter's brother), James the son of Alphæus (not the son of Zebedee), Bartholomew, and others?

Jesus plainly said He would "send them to the lost sheep of the house of Israel"! Is it strange, then, that peoples in faraway lands had been converted to true Christianity, and were observing God's annual holy days on precisely the correct dates, which actually created a controversy with Roman missionaries?

Now, under the article "Councils" in *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, notice one of the most important purposes for the Council of Nicæa:

"The First Ecumenical, or Council of Nicæa (325) lasted two months and twelve days. Three hundred and eighteen bishops were present. Hosius, Bishop of Cordova, assisted as legate of Pope Sylvester. The Emperor Constantine was also present. To this council we owe the Creed of Nicæa, defining against Arius the true divinity of the Son of God...and the fixing of the date for keeping Easter (against the Quartodecimans)."

Hot-Cross Buns Have you ever eaten a "hot-cross" bun?

At Easter one may go to the local bakeries, or the bakery counters of supermarkets, and see them by the dozen. They are served in restaurants and cafeterias.

The little rounded buns, with their quaint little sugar-coated crosses, evoke memories of childhood; and to unsuspecting professing Christians the tiny crosses are believed to represent the "cross of Christ."

How shocking to discover that hot-cross buns find their origins in paganism!

Notice what history has to say about the origin of "hot-cross buns":

"It is quite probable that it [the word bun] has a far older and more interesting origin, as is suggested by an inquiry into the origin of hot cross buns. These cakes, which are now solely associated with the Christian Good Friday, are traceable to the remotest period of pagan history. Cakes were offered by ancient Egyptians to their moon goddess; and these had imprinted on them a pair of horns, symbolic of the ox at the sacrifice of which they were offered on the altar, or of the horned moon goddess, the equivalent of Ishtar of the Assyro-Babylonians. The Greeks offered such sacred cakes to Astarte [Easter] and other divinities. This cake they called bous (ox), in allusion to the ox-symbol marked on it, and from the accusative boun it is suggested that the word 'bun' is derived. Like the Greeks, the Romans eat cross-bread at public sacrifices, such bread being usually purchased at the doors of the temple and taken in with them, a custom alluded to by St. Paul in I Cor. x.28. At Herculaneum two small loaves about 5 in. in diameter, and plainly marked with a cross, were found. In the Old Testament are references made in Jer. vii.18-xliv.19, to such sacred bread being offered to the moon goddess. The cross-bread was eaten by the pagan Saxons in honor of Eoster, their goddess of light. The Mexicans and Peruvians are shown to have had a similar custom. The custom, in fact, was practically universal, and the early church adroitly adopted the pagan practice, grafting it on to the Eucharist. The boun with its Greek cross became akin to the Eucharistic bread or cross-marked wafers mentioned in St. Chrysostom's liturgy. In the medieval church, buns made from the

dough for the consecrated Host were to be distributed to the communicants after mass on Easter Sunday. In France and other Catholic countries, such blessed bread is still given in the churches to communicants who have a long journey before they can break their fast" (The Encyclopedia Britannica, eleventh edition, article "bun").

Interesting reading, isn't it? But how many of your friends and relatives have ever taken the time and trouble to simply go to a public library and read such shocking admissions!

Remember, this is not someone's "church doctrine" you are reading; it is not the clever arguments of someone trying to confuse your mind and "trap" you into observing some strange customs! Instead, you are reading direct quotations from historians!

That certain Easter customs have pagan roots is a matter of authoritative, historical fact!

Almighty God soundly condemns the entire practice in the Bible!

Of course, if there is no God the plaintive cries of "I don't see what difference it makes," or "Why should we take away such joyous occasions from the children?" seem to make sense.

But, since there is a God, and since that Eternal Creator God is righteously angry at instilling pagan customs in the minds of our children, it does make a difference!

God says: "To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, it is a sin." Once you know the truth, you become responsible for it.

It is knowledge that, while readily available in any number of historical sources, is not known by the vast majority of humankind!

Millions of churchgoing professing Christians are blissfully ignorant of these startling facts!

Now, you know!

God, from heaven, wants to know what you are going to do with this knowledge. Write for and study the free materials offered in this brochure: *Facts You Should Know About Christmas, God's Seasonal Plan, and Sunday, Saturday—What Difference Does It Make?* **AG**

Halloween is Pagan!

Are you a slave to custom? Do you blindly accept whatever “society” imposes upon you, blissfully ignorant of the origin and meaning of commonly observed customs?

Each October, like so many dupes or slaves, hundreds of thousands of shopkeepers and clerks labor to install their usual “Halloween decorations” each October. Each autumn, thousands of markets, drugstores, department stores and millions of houses and lawns become scenes of “jack-o’-lanterns,” witches, broomsticks, black cats, leering skeletons, weird, bleeding skulls, knives, daggers, spears and swords, bloody masks, fake spider webs and other symbols of the devil and his demons, and macabre death.

Millions of yards of black and orange crepe paper is strung up on walls and ceilings. Replicas of corpses hanging from a gibbet dangled from chandeliers. Leering death’s heads and grinning skeletons festooned displays of masks and costumes.

In my neighborhood, people take a sheet, wind it around a fence post, or hang it in a tree, or drape it over a shrub, and pretend it is a ghost. Some merely place some pumpkins on their porches. Millions of pumpkins are destroyed, as vast numbers in third world countries starve, so neighborhoods can be in the spirit of Halloween.

Why? What’s it all about? Where did we get it? Should a Christian be observing such customs?

A “Ready Made World”

You were born into a “ready-made” world. You had no say-so in the customs, traditions, annual holidays and

celebrations which are faithfully and continually marked on the yearly calendar. From your earliest childhood, your parents repeated the myths, lies, superstitions and silly folly they, themselves, had been taught as children.

The “tooth fairy” will deposit money under your pillow if, when you lose a baby tooth, you sleep on it. The “Easter bunny” will lay candied eggs in your nest if you are good, or a licorice whip if you are bad. “Santa” will squirm down the chimney (even if it is a tiny stove pipe!), and leave you some goodies from his bag of toys. And “bobbing for apples” and playing “trick or treat” on neighborhood families is such fun! Hunting for “Ishtar” (pronounced “Easter” today) eggs, which are nothing less than symbols of sex and fertility, is fun and exciting for children. Pretending to be a ghost or demon is very attractive to imaginative little children.

Thus is it that, as the generations pass, millions of little children are gradually introduced to the myths, superstitions, lies, fairy tales and demonic observances of their parents and preceding generations.

Does God approve of such man-made holidays? Churches conduct Halloween parties; freely sanction revelry on October 31st. And why not, since the Roman Catholic Church adapted the pagan customs to its “All Saints’ Day,” or the “Evening of All Hallows?”

You did not invent “Halloween.” You did not invent “Easter” (which is a celebration of *Ishtar* of ancient Babylon and *Oestara* of the Nordics, and nothing short of sun worship) with its bunnies and eggs. You did not “invent” Christmas and its myths. They were just “there,” waiting for you to be introduced to them as wide-

HALLOWE'EN, commonly spelled without the apostrophe today, is utterly PAGAN! All its symbols and customs stem from ancient heathen mythology. Why should any Christ-centered, Bible-believing person revel in ghoulish death? What place have witches, goblins, demons, skeletons, “Jack o’ Lanterns,” black cats, and the worship of “Samhain, the Lord of the Dead,” in a Christian society? Millions use “Halloween,” as it is commonly misspelled today, as an excuse for wild revelry. Little do they know that it is the ghoulish “New Year” for Satanists!



eyed little children; to be inculcated into your mind and memory by yearly repetition; by school classrooms, family gatherings, and church services.

Little did you know that a very ancient, apostate church followed the practice of adopting *pagan* ceremonies, then “adapting” them to “Christian” customs. Thus, even though Christ was actually resurrected on a late Sabbath afternoon, and put to death on a Wednesday afternoon, the “Good Friday/Easter Sunday Morning” tradition was imposed. Christ was most likely born in September, on the first day of the “Feast of Tabernacles,” but since the pagan sun worshipers appealed to *Solis Invictus* their “invincible sun” god to begin his northern journey once again at the winter solstice on December 25th, the “Mass of Christ” was imposed, instead.

Ancient pagan Druidic superstitions about death, Satan, Samhain, wandering souls, weird demons and headless “Jacks,” Jicks, or Jokers (symbols of Satan), black cats, witches, goblins, ghouls, ghosts, poltergeists, trolls, mummies, and other symbols of death and Satanism have been superposed over “The Evening of ‘All Hallows,’” or “All Saints,” which is therefore dubbed, “Hallowed Evening,” or, for short, “Hallowe'en.”

Should God-fearing Christians be found observing celebrations of the devil and witchcraft?

“The Day When Columbus Discovered America”

I shall never forget the Halloween night when I attempted to find out whether the marauding little band of “trick or treaters” who came to my doorstep had the slightest inkling of what they were about. My wife and I, in self defense (for we didn't want the “tricks” and so, out of fear, as in a protection racket, we had to pay the blackmail to avoid our windows and screens being soaped, our trees “papered” or our dog strangled) decided to buy a box of apples. Not candy, or junk food, but healthful apples. We didn't know, then, that apples became one of the most suspicious and dangerous of all “treats,” since evil, perverted persons began delighting in

placing needles or razor blades in them.

A large band of giggling “monsters” came to our door. When I opened the door, it was to see a group which looked like they included a member of the Ku Klux Klan in a hooded sheet, a grotesque little monster in a Nixon mask, some skeletons, ghouls, witches, and death's heads.

There was much giggling and shuffling of feet as they all chimed, “*Trick or Treat!*!”

I said, “I've got something for each one of you but first, you have to tell me what is the *real meaning* of Hallowe'en!” More giggling. The masks look at each other without changing expression.

“Come on,” I prompted, “Surely you



Ancient pagan Druidic superstitions about death, Satan, Samhain, wandering souls, weird demons and headless “Jacks,” Jicks, or Jokers (symbols of Satan), black cats, witches, goblins, ghouls, ghosts, poltergeists, trolls, mummies, and other symbols of death and Satanism have been superposed over “The Evening of ‘All Hallows,’” or “All Saints,” which is therefore dubbed, “Hallowed Evening,” or, for short, “Hallowe'en.”

know *why* you're out dressed like demons and goblins, going to people's houses and demanding food or candy?”

Some said “I don't know.” Taken aback, they didn't know what to say! Obviously, they were completely ignorant of the meaning of the night; didn't know WHY they were doing what they were doing. They were just “having fun!”

Eventually, a little boy in the back of the group piped up, “I know! It's the *day when Columbus discovered America!*”

Obviously, he had heard somewhere of “Columbus' day,” and, not knowing when it fell on the calendar, improvised. I chuckled, and then, in a very brief thumbnail sketch, told them, “No, this is the evening before ‘all saints' day’ of the Roman Catholic Church. You see, they assigned one day of the calendar to each one of their ‘saints,’ and when they had more saints than three hundred and sixty-five, they simply lumped them all together on November 1st, and called it

‘All Saints' Day.’ They chose November 1st, because this was the day celebrated by the pagan Druids of Ireland, who believe that ‘Samhain,’ the lord of the dead who is like Satan, the devil would consign the souls of their departed loved ones to the bodies of animals, and they sought a lighter sentence. To do this, they would placate the evil spirits by offerings of food, or even by sacrificing cats. They put jack o' lanterns in their windows to frighten away evil spirits, and lit bonfires, and had all sorts of superstitions associated with that night especially their belief that witches and demons were abroad. It's called ‘Hallowe'en’ because it merely means ‘hallowed evening,’ or the evening of ‘All Hallows.’”

The grotesque masks simply leered at me. They then leered at each other. More embarrassed shuffling of feet and some giggles. I then handed each of them an apple. I know that must have been a really “yucky” kind of treat to them; they would far more have preferred a big fat Baby Ruth candy bar, and they fled.

A couple of station wagons with mothers anxiously awaiting them with the motors running then received the little horde, and off they went to the next neighbor's driveway. Could it have been that, with my brief speech, I was more frightening to the little children than they were to me?

Why would I do such a thing? After all, as a little boy, I had delighted in Halloween. My parents didn't believe in it, and told me I should not participate, and told me exactly *why* I should not, but, to a little kid of about 8 or 10, such lectures are to be shrugged off. There is something much too exciting about wearing a *mask*. And then, there is all that free candy!

Wanting to *conform*, and do the things everyone else is doing is a very powerful force.

Have You Ever Wondered About Hallowe'en?

If you ever decided to look up the origins of Hallowe'en in encyclopedias and the history books, here is what you would find in the Eleventh Edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*: “HALLOWE'EN, or All Hallows Eve, the

name given to the 31st of October as the vigil of Hallowmas or All Saints' Day. Though now known as little else but the eve of the Christian festival, Hallowe'en and its formerly attendant ceremonies *long antedate Christianity*. The two chief characteristics of ancient Hallowe'en were the lighting of bonfires and the belief that of all nights in the year this is the one during which ghosts and witches are most likely to wander abroad. Now on or about the first of November the Druids held their great autumn festival and lighted fires in honour of the sun god in thanksgiving for the harvest. Further, it was a Druidic belief that on the eve of this festival, *Saman* [*Samhain*, or Satan the devil], lord of death, called together the wicked souls that within the past twelve months had been condemned to inhabit the bodies of animals.

"Thus it is clear that the main celebrations of Hallowe'en were purely Druidical, and this is further proved by the fact that in parts of Ireland the 31st of October was, and even still is, known as *Oidhche Shamhna*, "Vigil of Saman." On the Druidic ceremonies were grafted some of the characteristics of the Roman festival in honour of Pomona held about the first of November, in which nuts and apples, as representing the winter store of fruits, played an important part. Thus the roasting of nuts and the sport known as 'apple ducking' attempting to seize with the teeth an apple floating in a tub of water were once the universal occupation of the young folk in medieval England on the 31st of October. The custom of lighting Hallowe'en fires survived until recent years in the highlands of Scotland and Wales. In the dying embers it was usual to place as many small stones as there were persons around, and next morning a search was made. If any of the pebbles were displaced it was regarded as certain that the person represented would die within the twelve months" (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, Eleventh Edition, Vol. XII, p. 857,858, emphasis mine).

There is a vast amount of literature available to prove the absolutely PAGAN origins of the customs surrounding "Hallowe'en."

It is fascinating that the term "Shaman" was used to indicate a communicator with spirits in cultures all over the earth; from the vast Siberian forests to the North American plains, where many of the "Indian" tribes

referred to their "medicine man" as the "Shaman."

Ralph Linnton, in his book, "*Halloween Through Twenty Centuries*," wrote, "The American celebration rests upon Scottish and Irish folk customs which can be traced in direct line from pre-Christian times. Although Halloween has become a night of rollicking fun, superstitious spells, and eerie games which people take only half seriously, its beginnings were quite otherwise. The earliest Halloween celebrations were held by the Druids in honor of Samhain, lord of the dead, whose festival fell on November 1st."

Another author, Ruth Kelley, in her book "*The Book of Halloween*," wrote that the Druids believed souls "...passed from onebody to another at death...they believed that on the last night of the old year (October 31st) the lord of the dead gathered together the souls of all those who had died in the passing year and had been condemned to live in the bodies of animals, to decree what forms the y should inhabit for the next twelve months. He could be coaxed to give lighter sentence by gifts and prayers."

The Druids, like many a religious leader today, managed to concoct a doctrine which repulsed and frightened their adherents about the fate of loved ones; a doctrine which inevitably caused an outpouring of "gifts" into the coffers of the priests, the Druids.

One is forcibly reminded of the beliefs commonplace among modern nominal "Christians" that gifts to their church help to alleviate protracted suffering or interminable anxiety as the souls of their dear departed allegedly progress through various stages of spiritual purgation.

"Let's Have Ourselves An Orgy"

As I was writing this article, I heard the announcer on television say a segment of their program would be "how to protect your children on Halloween." There was not the slightest hint that children should *not be participating* in such a Satanic ritual, but, instead, cautions for parents

because of many potential dangers.

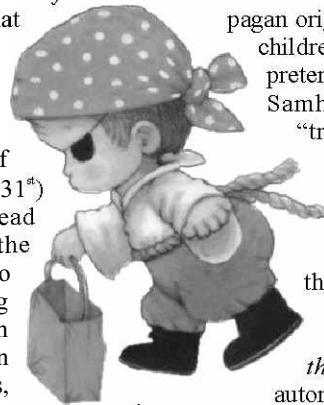
The dangers are many. After all, modern-day Satanists and self-professed witches and believers in "wicca" regard the evening of October 31st as their "Samhain," or "New Year's. It is a very important date for Satanists. Kidnapping and ritual murders are not unknown in our lands; the ritual slaughter of animals and evisceration is also not unknown. In past decades, children have been horribly injured, and some have died, as a result of needles and razor blades in apples, drops of LSD on candy, poisons, such as strychnine, arsenic, and acid have been injected into the goodies children collect and eat.

Parents, regardless of the utterly pagan origins of the practice, allow their children to enact the ancient rituals, pretending to be demons; agents of Samhain, demanding gifts and "treats" in exchange, in the modern version, for protection from harm to persons or property.

Neighborhoods in thousands of cities and towns are the scene, not just on the "Eve of All Hallows," but for *two or three nights in a row* of automobiles crowded with children as their mothers shepherd them about, hoping to load their big shopping bags with all kinds of goodies which they haven't earned, don't deserve and shouldn't eat, and which will, aside from the pimples, bad teeth, and assorted diseases they might cause, quite possibly kill them.

The murderers of dozens, who placed deadly poisons in various consumer products are still "out there," never having been found. The American bottling and packaging industries have had to spend billions of dollars to invent tamper-proof packaging on practically everything consumers eat or drink because of such evil, depraved, vicious killers. Why send one's children out among them?

But like a cold front from Canada, inevitable, inexorable, the spirit of conformity demands, "Do it!" The spirit of docile following of the masses cries, "Be 'in,' take part, celebrate!" Dutifully, millions of parents say "Yes lord" to Samhain, who is Satan, and cheerfully indulge themselves in his ready-made celebrations. It all seems so "harmless,"



somehow just “innocent fun,” like going to see “The Exorcist,” or some other demonic horror movie. Where’s the harm? At least, this is the way God-rejecting, carnal-minded people reason.

Time was when Hallowe’en was viewed as “for the children.” Most adults only performed the rite of handing out the “treats” to avoid the “tricks” of having their outhouses turned over, their cattle run off, or tied to the front door knob, their cats strangled, their trees papered, or their windows soaped. Not any more. Now, Hallowe’en is orgy time. Now, millions of adults seize upon Hallowe’en as an excuse to act out every ghoulish fantasy ever imagined. Dressing up in the weirdest, most threatening or horrendous garb they can find or manufacture; mummies, ghosts, goblins, sado-masochists, murderers, demons, devils, cats, witches or skeletons, they booze, pop drugs, and cavort to heavy metal in a wild orgiastic abandon called a “Hallowe’en party.”

In tens of thousands of bars, lounges, clubs and private homes, orgies reminiscent of the Bacchanalian orgies of ancient Rome are conducted.

Today, with the influence of all the “splatter movies,” the costumes are increasingly bizarre. Many feature blood and dismemberment, and, inevitably, one will see a weirdo wrapped in bandages which conceal his head, carrying a lighted “jack-o’-lanterns” instead, as he masquerades of the headless “Jack,” “Jick,” or “Joker,” the capricious, wanton trickster who in turn is a type of Satan.

Why do people do it?

Because it’s “FUN”, they say!

“So What? What Difference Does It Make?”

Of course, all of this makes no difference whatsoever *if there IS NO GOD!* Are you willing to bet your eternal life there is not? God’s existence can be PROVED, and proved scientifically! For many years, I taught college classes on the proofs of God from paleontology, geology, biology, archaeology, and the Bible. In those classes, students were taught the scientific PROOFS of the existence of the Creator; proofs which can be seen every day by any one of us.

If you have not yet written for it, send immediately for my brochure, *EVOLUTION: A WHALE of a Tale*, which shows how symbiosis demolishes the

theory of evolution.

The Bible is the word of our Creator, Who gives us every breath of air we breathe, and Who has the power to either save us or condemn us to eternal destruction in Gehenna fire.

God thunders at His people, “LEARN NOT THE WAY OF THE HEATHEN!” (Jeremiah 10:2). When God called His people out of Egypt, which is a type of Sin; Pharaoh being a type of Satan, He said, “When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.

“There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an *observer of times*, or an *enchanter*, or a *witch*,

“Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits [demons], or a wizard, or a necromancer [one who claims to communicate with the dead].

“For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

“Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God” (Deuteronomy 18:9-13).

Millions are completely IGNORANT of just WHO it was who issued this command.

Believe it or not, it was the member of the divine Godhead, called “Elohim” in Genesis who *became Jesus Christ* of your New Testament!

Notice the proof! “In the beginning was the Word [Greek: *Logos*, meaning Spokesman], and the Word was with God [*Theos*, the Greek equivalent of *Elohim*, meaning *more than One*] and the Word was God.

“The same was in the beginning with God.

“*All things were made by him* [He was the CREATOR of Genesis!]; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

“In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

“And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

“The same came for a witness, to

bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

“He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

“That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

“He was in the world, and *the world was made by him*, and the world knew him not.

“He came unto his own [the Jews], and his own received him not.

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name” (John 1:12).

There is no possibility of misunderstanding or misinterpreting these verses of your Bible! Jesus Christ of Nazareth was the GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT! He said to the Jews, “Before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8:58).

Most churches *will not accept* this truth, and therefore stand condemned of God! Why? Because they know it leaves in a shambles their commonly assumed doctrines that God’s laws are “done away”! Faced with the incontrovertible truth that the One who wrote the Ten Commandments with His own finger is Jesus Christ of the New Testament; that the One who called Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; the One who said “Let there be light” is Jesus Christ, they quickly hide behind their traditions, and refuse to admit the truth.

The same Person of *Elohim* says, “Let US make man in OUR image, and after OUR likeness” (Genesis 1:26).

He says, “For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed” (Malachi 3:6). Your Bible says, “Jesus Christ *the same* yesterday, and today, and for ever” (Hebrews 13:8).

Now, knowing that it was the Divine Member of *Elohim*, JESUS CHRIST, who spoke to the fathers, notice! “When the LORD thy God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land;

“Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou inquire not after their gods, saying, *How did these nations serve their gods?*

even so will I do likewise [God's people are NOT TO FOLLOW PAGAN CUSTOMS!].

“Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, *which he hateth*, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods.

“What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it” (Deuteronomy 12:29-32).

Any person deciding to delve into the “black arts” and become a “witch” was to be put to *death* in ancient Israel, ruled by the Member of *Elohim* Who became Christ: “Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live” (Exodus 22:18).

YOU DECIDE!

Are you a part of this present society; conforming, going along with its ways? As stated earlier, *if there is no God*, then none of this makes any difference. But since GOD DOES EXIST, and since Jesus Christ is soon coming to JUDGE this world, and rule it with a rod of iron (Revelation 2:26; 3:21; 20:4), it behoves each person to CHOOSE!

God (the One who became Christ) said, “See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;

“In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

“But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them;

“I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it.

“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore *choose life*, that both thou and thy seed may live” (Deuteronomy 30: 15-19).

Witchcraft, Wizardry, And The “Harry Potter” Books

Today, a female British author, J.K. Rowling, is filthy rich. The term is an accurate assessment for her new-found wealth, for she obtained it by writing a series of books about a little boy who spent the first 20 years of his life sleeping under the stairs in a house where he is hated by his parents. His parents are killed by an evil “Voldemort,” and Harry escapes with but a lightning-bolt scar on his forehead, and then discovers that he has mysterious powers.

Critics joyously acclaim the books, saying that the Harry Potter books are the “first books that a child reads ‘just for the fun of it,’ and therefore the books are

Literally millions of our youth are taught that wizardry, “magic,” witchcraft, and all assorted forms of demonism and satanism are “fun,” and exciting!



hailed as a wonderful incentive for the age group of from 9 to 12 to learn to read!

The first book is *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*; No. 2 is *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*; No. 3 is about the *Prisoner of Askaban*, and number 4 is about the *Goblet of Fire*. Children can buy “Harry Potter related products available just in time for Halloween” according to one major web site, which lists “Kids Wizard Hat in Black and Gold; a “Crimson Wizard Children's Costume,” and a “Small Miracles Iridescent Star Wand.”

Thus, literally millions of our youth are taught that wizardry, “magic,” witchcraft, and all assorted forms of demonism and Satanism are “fun,” and exciting! In her fourth book, the author writes about Harry's vision in which his scar burns, and how he returns to the “Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.” The book says that “happily, the prospect of attending the season's premier sporting event, the Quidditch World Cup, is enough to make Harry

momentarily forget that ‘Lord Voldemort’ and his sinister familiars the ‘Death Eaters,’ are out for murder.”

Such books were being snapped up faster than cabbage-patch dolls, beany babies, or the “Pokemon” toys! Again, it shows the alacrity with which unthinking human beings flock to the siren song of Satan; how eagerly they wish to look into the bizarre, the mysterious, the demonic occult.

Books about Jesus Christ or God would not even begin to compete with books about witches, demons and “death eaters.”

If such materials were to have been produced during God's rulership over Israel through Moses and Aaron, or during the period of the Judges or any of the very few righteous kings, the producers of such trash would have been stoned to death. Today, they become multi-millionaires!

God sets before every individual TWO OPPOSITES: The WAY of life, good health, peace of mind, prosperity, happy marriages, obedient children the way to everything we want, or the WAY which leads to rebellious children, broken marriages, disease, drug addition, crime, violence, insanity and DEATH!

Millions unconsciously CHOOSE the wrong way!

God commands us, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

“And *be not conformed to this world*: but be ye *transformed* by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:1,2). Peter said, “Repent ye therefore, and *be converted*, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19). To be converted means to become CHANGED. It means “turning around and going the other way.” Any old dead fish can float downstream, but it takes a lively one to swim upstream, battling rapids and falls!

Christ said it is the BROAD way; the dazzling, lighted, glitzy, attractive, wide, wide way of the world that leads to DEATH, but the narrow, rocky, difficult


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Facts You Should Know

Millions of us have grown up with fond memories of Christmas trees, bulging stockings, gaily wrapped gifts, jolly old "Saint Nick," Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer, yule logs, turkey or goose dinners, mistletoe, and Bing Crosby singing "I'm dreaming..." It's a major "Christian holiday—a barometer for business; the most important commercial season of the year in the Western world.

Yet, for all its importance to millions, most remain completely ignorant of its true origins. Where did we get Christmas? What about the original Christmas tree, the exchanging of gifts, the yule log, Christmas dinners, mistletoe and Santa Claus? You will be astounded to read the truth about Christmas!



In a world filled with enormous problems, millions will take time out to celebrate Christmas by traditional trappings such as gaily decorated trees, brightly wrapped packages, and perhaps one too many at the eggnog bowl. What is the meaning of all this revelry as millions plunge into the annual floodtide of Christmas shopping, endless traffic jams, neighborhood and office parties, Tom and Jerrys, blaring, monotonously repeated Christmas carols, exchanging of gifts and all the trappings of Christmas?

Most suppose they are honoring the Lord Jesus Christ, the "little babe away in a manger," as millions hear the oft-told tales of shepherds keeping watch in their fields by night, the Magi and the star, Mary in the manger, and the birth of the Christ child. But be honest with yourself. Have you ever really researched any authoritative sources about Christmas?

And—what difference does it make?

Probably, you have never bothered to go to a public library, obtaining help from the librarian with the card file, or using Reader's Guide to obtain information from various historical and current sources about Christmas. If you should do so, you would be in for some great shocks.

You would discover that the origins of "Christmas" are utterly pagan; Jesus was not born on or anywhere near December 25th; and that everything from mistletoe, "wassailing," exchanging of gifts, holly wreaths, Santa Claus, Christmas trees, gaily decorated lights and bulbs, eggnog bowls and Rudolph's red nose are merely heathenish, pagan inventions of men, and have nothing to do whatsoever with Jesus Christ of Nazareth

or His birth!

Naturally, none of this makes any difference whatever—IF THERE IS NO GOD!

For, if there is no God, then it is entirely man's own choice as to how he worships whatever god of his choosing. But if God does exist, if that great Creator God who gives us every breath of air we breathe has NOT given man the prerogatives as to "how" he will worship God—only left it up to us as to whether we will acknowledge and revere our God—then it is another matter altogether.

Are Pagan Customs All Right, So Long as Used in Honor of Christ?

Americans have always been smitten with the "quaint" customs of peculiar people in other nations. Gum-chewing, camera-toting American tourists take endless pictures, smiling at the "quaint" costumes, architecture, music, customs and religion of other nations. But Almighty God sternly warns His people not to copy pagans and heathens; wondering how they worshiped their pagan gods (which are merely figments of the imaginations of superstitious minds) and then adapt those "quaint" heathen and pagan customs, wrapping them in tinsel, whitewashing them, packaging them in gay colors, and calling them "Christian"!

Notice this! When God dispossessed the pagan nations before the advancing hosts of Israel, He explained to His people that these heathens were losing their lands because of the hideous abominations they practiced; including every perversion, depravity and bestial practice known to



About Christmas!

man. They worshiped nonexistent “gods” of the host of the heavens, of the sky, earth, water, rain, the sun and the seasons. They worshiped fertility, indulging in orgiastic celebrations and ceremonies in harvest time, in springtime and at the winter solstice, begging their “sun god” to resume his northward journey across the sky, warming the heavens towards spring and summer once again. The trappings of their various and sundry religions included everything from ritualistic worship of sex objects to human sacrifice!

God said, therefore, “When the Eternal your God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land;

“Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods?’ even so will I do likewise.

“Thou shalt not do so unto the Eternal thy God; for every abomination to the Eternal, which He hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods.

“What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it” (Deuteronomy 12:29-32).

God strictly commanded His people NOT to become inquisitive about the manner of worship of these heathens; wondering what various accouterments and paraphernalia of their worship service “meant,” in symbol—becoming curious about their “quaint” ways; their temples,

decorations, feasts, orgies, practices and customs—and then adapting such heathen customs to the worship of the true God!

Yet, godless, sinning mankind has done exactly that!

If a time machine could suddenly catapult ancient pagan Romans, Greeks, Egyptians, Babylonians, Persians, Huns, Scandinavians, Druids and others onto the streets and into the homes of modern, so-called “Christian” America, these pagans would immediately recognize the trappings of “Christmas”!

While they would no doubt see many modern innovations, the underlying symbols would remain the same!

They would see symbols having to do with the worship of life, fertility, sex and reproduction, Nimrod and his mother-wife, orbs and eggs, logs and trees, wreaths and berries, and the cheerful “ho, ho, ho” of jolly old “Saint Nick.”

Conversely, if modern Americans could be catapulted back in time to some of the ceremonies of the pagan Germanic races—the Scandinavians, Druids in Scotland and Ireland, or Babylonians, Egyptians and Greeks—they, too, would immediately recognize many of the trappings of the pagan ceremonies of these peoples: decorated trees, wreaths and berries, eggs and orbs, the “yule log,” exchanging of gifts and presents, roast goose and family meals, bonfires and celebrations, drinking and kissing under the mistletoe.

But wait! The modern American, Canadian or Briton, propelled backward

in time, would find some important ingredients of his modern “Christmastime” celebrations missing if he suddenly found himself in the streets of ancient Babylon, or observing a ceremony of the Druids in Scotland. He would find, nowhere amidst all these familiar trappings and surroundings, mention of Jesus Christ!

Conversely, the ancient pagans, transported forward in time, would see all the paraphernalia and revelry associated with their ancient orgies to the sun god, and would perhaps marvel that the professing “Christian” world had managed to subtly and cleverly substitute all of these methods of sun worship for worship of their “Son of God,” Jesus Christ, rather than the “sun-god,” Nimrod, or “Tammuz.” Others would think it a ceremony to “Mithra,” or Horus. None would assume the festival honored Christ!

But let’s understand, from history, the true origin of the trappings of “Christmas,” and see whether it is something Christians should do.

The Yule Log

The origins of the “yule log” are buried in dimmest antiquity—stemming from pagan superstitions surrounding Nimrod (Horus or Osiris) and his mother-wife, Semiramis.

Like the Christmas tree, it has its origins among pagan worshipers of trees, and a universal cult of tree worshipers, found in practically every nation in ancient times. However, the term “yule” stems mostly from the tree worshipers of Denmark and Sweden, for whom two

months of the year, December and January, were called “the former yule” and “the after yule,” stemming from the word “geol,” meaning coming before or after the winter solstice. The “yule log” merely meant the “solstice log,” or the ceremony of cutting trees out of the forest, and burning their bases and trunks in the fires, while stationing the smaller trees inside the homes, gaily decorated in commemoration of the solstice. Actually, the word has its origin common with the English word “joy” and properly means “noise, clamor; a season of rejoicing at the turn of the year before Christmastime.” The custom of burning the “yule” (pronounced “yool”) was apparently begun by Scandinavians who worshiped the god “Thor,” their “god of thunder.” Universally, the Babylonish mystery religion always allowed pagan peoples coming into the so-called Christian church to preserve their pagan ceremonies, merely adapting such customs and ceremonies into their new “Christian” religion. So it was with the Scandinavians in their “yule” log! As they burned their “yule” logs once each year at the solstice in honor of their “god of thunder,” Thor, it was only a matter of time until the word “yule” would connote the entire season, with all its festivities. Hence, the ancient English considered it good luck to retain an unburned part of the log from year to year, thus preserving, as it were, an unbroken chain of burnable materials from the original “yule log” which might have been originally lit by their ancestors.

From these ancient pagan tree worshipers who celebrated their winter solstice in honor of their pagan gods with noise, clamor, feasting and rejoicing, the word “yule,” first attached to their log stemming from ancient tree worship, gradually came to connote the season, and today is found in music poetry, as “yuletide,” or the “Christmas season.” The origins and preservation of the custom are completely pagan, and soundly condemned by the Eternal God in His Word!

The Christmas Tree

Perhaps a greater wealth of literature exists on the subject of tree worship than any other pagan custom.

Primitive man was utterly dependent upon the growth of trees in literally dozens of ways. In the Tigris-Euphrates

valley, a tremendous variety of the palm tree gave man a great variety of food, shelter and even clothing, woven from bark. In the northern latitudes, entire cultures were built around the harvesting of trees from the forest. The logs made homes and forts, and the lumber was planed and adzed into the hulls of Viking ships. The tall pines and spruce made excellent masts, and the gums and resins from their sap were used to make the ships watertight.

Ancient man, observing the growth cycle of trees, their obvious reaction to weather and seasonal changes, their marvelous elasticity, strength and almost endless utility—and bereft of the knowledge of the true God—scribed godlike qualities to these great plants.

But it was not only superstitious “heathens” of the more primitive cultures who ascribed godlike powers to trees! Even the vaunted Greek philosophers Aristotle and Plutarch believed trees possessed reason like human beings; taught that they had perceptions and passion! Once having reasoned that trees “thought” and reasoned, it was no great stretch of these ancient imaginations to see a direct connection between the life of a man and that of a tree. Ancient tree worshipers believed that, when the tree suffered, withered or was injured in some way, a man’s life, connected to the tree, also suffered sickness, or even death. This idea is originally encountered in the Egyptian “tale of the two brothers,” which is probably more than three thousand years old!

In this Egyptian fable, one of the brothers allegedly leaves his heart on the top of the flower of an acacia tree and falls dead when the tree is cut down.

Rather than the concept of an “internal” immortal soul, these heathens developed the idea of an external “soul,” which could be, in some way, directly attached to the life of a tree.

In various cultures, dozens of tree-worshipping rituals and beliefs are found. Sometimes, a newborn child is associated with a newly planted tree, and it was supposed the two lives were inextricably intertwined. On ceremonial occasions, such as marriages, personal success, royal appointments or betrothals, a tree would be planted—and the personal fortunes and the career of the individual in whose honor the tree was planted were

supposedly interrelated between that individual and the tree.

Sometimes, certain boughs or branches were selected and the individual drew omens of life and death from the condition of them. In many cultures, including those of Europe and early America, a man would put himself into relationship with a tree by depositing upon it something that had been in close personal contact with the man. This could include fingernail clippings, bits of hair or articles of wearing apparel.

Like the black arts of witchcraft and voodoo, in which it is supposed the piercing of a doll with pins can bring about the affliction of an individual far distant from the doll, tree worshipers believed there was a real interconnection between human life and trees. Hence, they believed it was possible to transfer disease or sickness from men to trees. Bits of hair, nail clippings, clothing and other personal items of the sick person would be affixed to the tree, or even inserted into a hole in the trunk. Sometimes, the tree would be split, and the patient actually passed through the aperture! The injured tree would nevertheless recover, and it was supposed this was a sure omen of the certain recovery of the patient. Customs have been preserved in practically every part of the world of hanging objects upon trees in order to establish some relationship between the gift giver and the tree.

In 19th century Europe, one could see bits of food, rags and other objects tied to the branches of trees by supplicants. In India, a sick person, supposedly tormented by a demon, would be provided a ceremony in which a tree could be planted nearby wherein the demon was supposed to dwell peacefully without further molesting the patient, so long as its tree was left unharmed!

It was in India that the Korwas hung rags on trees which formed the shrines of their various village gods.

In early America, Nebraskans believed hanging objects on the branches of trees propitiated supernatural beings, procured good weather, and insured good hunting. The inventor of modern evolutionary geology, Darwin, recorded a tree in South America festooned with various offerings, including rags, meat, cigars and so on. Not only were libations made to this tree, but even horses

sacrificed before it!

Many Arabs had sacred trees they believed were haunted by angels or the “Jinn.” They sacrificed to these trees, and it was believed the sick who slept beneath them would receive prescriptions in their dreams. Throughout Africa, in Burma, Central and South America and all over the world, for that matter, there were various beliefs connecting human life, various deities and trees. In early Buddhism, it was decided that trees had neither thought nor feeling and might lawfully be cut down. But it was believed that certain spirits might reside in the trees, though the trees themselves were devoid of mind or thought. African woodsmen placed a fresh sprig upon a hewn stump as a new home for the spirit they believed resided in the tree. Trees were planted around graves in ancient Greece, and in Roman tradition planted groves of trees were associated with the vaunted dead.

Anciently, the races disinherited by the advancing Israelites, including the Hivites, Amalakites, Amorites, Perizites, Philistines and others, worshiped under the “groves.” Sometimes, the trees were stripped of their branches and limbs, though left upright in the soil with their roots undisturbed. Then weird caricatures of their “gods” would be carved on the trunks, and the trees left upright, as phallic symbols and objects of worship.

On other occasions, the upper branches were left intact, and the heathen worshiped among the “groves,” which are mentioned many times in the Old Testament.

These “Asherah” were “groves” and usually located on a knoll or hill, and left upright in the ground, among other larger green trees. The 17th chapter of II Kings is an indictment against the Israelites, explaining in great detail why the Eternal removed Israel out of His sight, allowing Shalmanezar, the king of Assyria, to carry them away captive!

Read it!

“And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the Eternal their God, and they built them high places in all their cities,

from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city. “And they set them up images [pillars] and groves [Asherim] in every high hill, and under every green tree: “And there they burnt incense in all the high places, as did the heathen whom the Eternal carried away before them; and wrought wicked things to provoke the Eternal to anger: “For they served idols, whereof the Eternal had said unto them, ‘Ye shall not do this thing!’” (II Kings 17:9-12).

Notice the direct connection between the golden calf of Israel’s original rebellion and the later practices after hundreds of years had gone by!

“And they left all the commandments of the Eternal their God, and made them molten

In various cultures, dozens of tree-worshipping rituals and beliefs are found. Sometimes, a newborn child is associated with a newly planted tree, and it was supposed the two lives were inextricably intertwined.

images, even two calves, and made a grove [trees stripped to their branches and left in the ground, as upright obelisks!], and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal!

“And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Eternal, to provoke His anger” (II Kings 17:16,17).

When Gaal, the son of Ebed, saw Abimelech approaching the city of Shechem, he said, “See, there come people down by the middle of the land, and another company come along by the diviners’ oak” (Judges 9:35-37). In the Hebrew, the word meonenim in verse 37 should be rendered “the diviners’ oak.” This famous oak tree was used by the diviners of the pagan city which Abimelech and his forces destroyed, completely beat to the ground, and sowed with salt as the judgment of God.

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

Even in ancient Prussia, the chief sanctuary of the old Prussians was a “holy oak” around which the priests dwelt, and a high priest who was known as “God’s mouth.” A prominent English name is “Holyoke” or “Holyoak.”

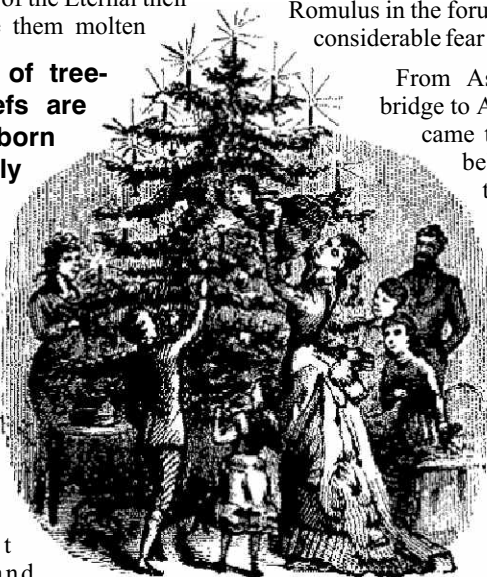
When a so-called “sacred tree” died, in west equatorial Africa, it led to the abandonment of the entire village site, and the migration of the inhabitants to a different region.

When in Rome, the sacred fig tree of Romulus in the forum withered, it caused considerable fear and consternation!

From Asia, across the land bridge to Alaska and the Yukon, came tree worshipers, who believed their sacred trees contained the spirits of all sorts of gods, and carved intricate caricatures of frogs, snakes, men and spirits, eagles and other creatures into the trunks of their trees, even adorning them with wings, legs and other appendages, setting them upright around their villages as their sacred “totem poles,” or Ashera!

No doubt, a certain amount of pagan mythology stems from the simple fact that the further earliest members of the human race migrated away from the original centers of knowledge and truth, the more bizarre and grotesque became their beliefs and customs, and the less accurate their retention of original knowledge.

Hence, because of the Genesis account of God placing His first two human beings in the midst of a garden, and discussing with them the two great opposites of eternal life on the one hand and death on the other, as represented by two trees, it requires no great stretch of the imagination to understand how early Babylonians and others could come to associate spirit beings (Satan appears in ancient art as coiled around the tree of the



knowledge of good and evil) with trees.

Perhaps the earliest origin of the “Christmas tree” comes from the fable of “St. Boniface” (Bonifacius), who allegedly destroyed the great oak of Jupiter at Geismar in Hesse, Germany, and supposedly built of the wood a chapel to “St. Peter.” The legend says Boniface (actually, an early English missionary named Winfrid), while traveling through northern Germany, found a group of heathens at their sacred oak preparing to sacrifice little Prince Asulf to their god, Jupiter. Allegedly, Winfrid stopped the sacrifice and cut down the tree. As the fable grew, the oak allegedly fell, not without protest, and instantly a young fir tree appeared! Winfrid told the heathens that the fir was the “tree of life” and represented Christ!

Thus, one of the first historical accounts of a so-called “Christian” missionary adapting pagan beliefs concerning tree worship into some form of “Christianity” is preserved.

The pagans were delighted to believe in this new myth, which is an almost identical replica of the ancient fable concerning the cutting down of a huge oak representing the life and death of Nimrod (Tammuz, or the sun god), and the idea that a young tree sprang out of the ancient log overnight, thus representing the rebirth or reincarnation of Nimrod as “Tammuz,” or the god of the sun!

Because the people in Scandinavia were tree worshippers, it was only natural that evergreen trees, their boughs and other evergreen plants (such as the holly tree, ivy and the like) should become part of their early “Christian festivals.”

In this fashion, the growing universal church allowed massive numbers of pagans and heathens to come right into the so-called “Christian” religion, while retaining their ancient superstitions, festivals and objects of worship!

Long before these pagans were ever introduced to so-called “Christianity,” they decorated their homes with evergreens and boughs.

The season of the year? At the winter solstice of the sun! Even the Romans exchanged green tree branches for “good luck” on the calends, or the first day of January! Early Englishmen adopted this custom for “Christmas,” taking it from the Romans, who built the first known towns and villages in the British Isles.

This ancient pagan custom of Scandinavians and other dwellers in the northern hemisphere came easily into the United States in the very earliest stages of European immigration into the New World. Finally, with the march of “civilization” westward, as American settlers continued their practice of hewing evergreen trees out of their forests and taking them into their log cabins in the west, while the Indians of Alaska, British Columbia, the Yukon and Pacific Northwest displayed their colorful “totem poles,” the ancient tree-worshiping cultures of both ends of the earth were at last united.

Almighty God condemns these heathen rituals and customs in His Word!

But modern Americans, utterly devoid of the awesome fear of God, use only human reason and concern themselves with the nostalgic memories of family, children and the “Christmas spirit.”

Thus, they attempt to justify the use of utterly pagan and heathen customs in a so-called “Christian” holiday! Trees are beautiful. They are among the most important and useful of all the plants the Eternal Creator has given to mankind. Perhaps nothing looks fresher, more symbolic of youth, vigor, symmetry and beauty than a young Douglas fir or blue spruce tree. So why destroy this vitally important plant, which someday could provide enough lumber for a home, fastening it to an upright stand, and bringing it inside the home, while it withers and dies? Indeed, why? The answer? Custom. Tradition. “We have always done it.” Our forebears did it. Everyone else is doing it.

Amazing. Millions upon millions of human beings delightedly gather around their “Christmas trees” each year, without the slightest knowledge whatsoever of the utterly Babylonish, pagan, heathen and demoniacal origin of the custom!

The Saturnalia

When Voyager satellites began sending back astounding pictures of the planet Saturn, with its impressive rings of debris and its many moons, the planet Saturn was much in the news.

One of the greatest festivals of the pagan calendar was that of Saturn, originally celebrated near the end of December.

The festival began, anciently, on the 19th, and extended for seven days, which would include the 25th and 26th of December!

All classes of the ancient Romans exchanged gifts during this celebration of the solstice of the sun, one of the more common forms of gifts being that of a clay doll. The dolls were especially given to children, and it was believed they represented the original sacrifices of human beings to the “infernal god.” There was a tradition that human sacrifices were once offered to Saturn, and Greeks and Romans gave the name of “Cronus” and “Saturn” to a cruel Phoenician baal to whom children were sacrificed at Carthage!

The Saturnalia was finally instituted by Romulus, the founder of Rome, under the name of “Brumalia,” which meant “winter solstice.” A solemn custom of kindling fires has prevailed in parts of Europe, with the “yule log” a prominent feature, just as fireside dinners and the exchanging of gifts are still prominent features of modern American celebrations of “Christmas.”

Santa Claus

Early Dutch settlers in New York brought the traditions of “St. Nicholas,” the bishop of Myra, in Lycia, to early America.

Though the cult of this supposed “saint” in history is obscure, and nearly everything that has come to us today is of a purely legendary character, it is believed he was bishop of Myra during the reign of the emperor Diocletian, and was persecuted and tortured for his faith. He was allegedly present at the Council of Nicea. Today, there are nearly four hundred churches in England dedicated to “St. Nicholas.” “He” is the patron saint of Russia, the special protector of children, scholars, merchants and sailors, and is sometimes invoked by travelers to protect them from crime.

Strangely, ancient art depicts this “St. Nicholas” of legend with three children standing in a tub by his side. There is no certain interpretation of this phenomenon, but one story says the three youths had been murdered, cut up and sealed in a salting tub by an innkeeper, in whose inn they had been lodging, and were supernaturally rescued and restored by “St. Nicholas.” Another legend told of

his surreptitious bestowal of dowries upon three daughters of an impoverished citizen who was at the point of giving his girls over to a life of harlotry. A custom of giving presents on the “eve of St. Nicholas” was finally transferred to Christmas day.

This is how the association of Christmas with “Santa Claus” (merely an American corruption of the Dutch form “San Nicolaas”) occurred. It was not until 1823 that an American minister and sometime poet, Clement C. Moore, wrote his poem “A Visit From St. Nicholas,” which was later changed to “The Night Before Christmas.” It is in this poem the “jolly St. Nick” of today, with his huge pack of toys, coming down the chimney, is described! As in all the other trappings of Christmas, the origins of “Santa Claus” have nothing whatsoever to do with the birthday of Jesus Christ, are buried in antiquity, and belong only to the Babylonish mystery religion.

Was Christ Born on December 25th?

How did the professing Christian church come to arrive at the date of December 25th for the birth of Christ? The earliest Gospel writers, Matthew and Luke, began their accounts, not with the birth of Jesus Christ, but with His baptism. Actually, the Bible carefully conceals the date of Jesus’ birth for the obvious reason that God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son intended no special celebration surrounding His birth, but did clearly sanctify the occasion of His death; Jesus Christ changing the old symbols of the paschal lamb, unleavened bread and bitter herbs into the wine and unleavened bread of “the Lord’s Supper.”

This does not mean that the birth of Jesus Christ was not the most important birth in all of history, nor that it was not accompanied by great signs, wonders, and miracles, or made important by the visit of the shepherds and the Magi.

The timing was not so important as the fact of Jesus’ birth, that a Savior had come into the world!

Many fables and false suppositions surround the birth of Jesus Christ.

Traditional Christmas stories picture the Magi with their precious gifts standing before the mother and child in the manger. Actually, as Matthew’s second chapter portrays, the Magi may have required up to one full year, or, at the very least, several months to make their journey, and by the time they arrived in Jerusalem it was to “come into the house, [where] they saw the young child with Mary his mother...” (Matthew 2:11).

Read the whole chapter, and notice carefully that Herod inquired of the Magi what time the star appeared, knowing they

to take place some months earlier than December—likely in September, or at the very latest early October.

Then why the custom of observing the birthday of Christ on December 25th?

December 25th fell near the end of the ancient pagan seven-day ceremony of “the Saturnalia,” later changed to “the Brumalia” by imperial Roman decree. This riotous festival was in celebration of the winter solstice of the sun, and honored Tammuz, or Nimrod, the “sun god.” But notice how this pagan festival gradually became inserted into the professing “Christian” calendar!

The very earliest known mention of December 25th as the birthday of Christ is in a passage written by Theophilus of Antioch, probably around A.D. 183, and is held to be very likely spurious. That this comment was mostly unknown is upheld in a statement by Origen in A.D. 245 in his eighth homily on Leviticus, wherein he repudiates as sinful the very concept of keeping the birthday of Christ!

The first valid mention of December 25th was published in A.D. 354 by a Latin chronographer who mentions nothing concerning any “festive occasion” but, falsely, states the date of Jesus’ birth as being “on a

Friday and the fifteenth day of the new moon” and links it to December 25th. Many were speculating toward the close of the second century about the date of Jesus’ birth, and another of the “antenicene fathers,” Clement of Alexandria, mentions such speculations, condemning them all as mere superstition!

Interestingly enough, Clement maintained that many believed Jesus was born about the 20th of May or on the 19th or 20th of April! Clement himself leaned toward the 17th of November, 3 B.C.

It was not until A.D. 242 when an author of a Latin tract called “De Pascha Computus” believed that a connection began to be drawn between the festivities in honor of the “sun god” and the birthday of Jesus Christ as “the Sun of Righteousness.”

The author argued that, since the world was created perfect, it must have been created in the springtime with all the



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had required some considerable time for their journey from Persia to Bethlehem. Notice also that, in attempting to insure he killed Jesus Christ, Herod commanded that all the children born in Bethlehem and the whole region be slain “from two years old and under according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men” (Matthew 2:16).

Luke’s account shows the shepherds still “in the fields” keeping watch over their flocks by night.

It has long been recognized by historians and scholars that this placed the birth of Jesus Christ sometime in the autumn, and not in the winter, when shepherds would already have driven their flocks into the sheepfolds, where they could be given shelter. Jerusalem is in the higher elevations and enjoys cool nights, even in summer. In the winter, temperatures fall considerably lower at nighttime, and, therefore, the account of the shepherds coming to the manger had

flowers in bloom and trees in leaf, and also at the equinox, with the moon created as in its full stage. Continuing his reasoning, and following the creation account of Genesis 1 (that the moon and the sun were “created” on a Wednesday), he believed the 28th of March suited all these considerations. Since he referred to Jesus Christ as “the Sun of Righteousness,” he deduced Christ must have been born on the 28th of March, and claimed “private revelation” for this amazing discovery!

It was apparently on such grounds that early Latins (in about 354) transferred the birthday of Jesus from the 6th of January to the 25th of December. The Latins called the 25th of December “Natalis invicti solis,” or the birthday of the “unconquered son.” Siprian called Jesus Christ “sol verus,” or “the true sun.” Ambrose spoke of Jesus as “Sol novus noster,” or “our unique sun.” Many other writers of this period waxed eloquent, utilizing such rhetoric in supposed honor of Jesus Christ, linking him to the “sun” of the heavens.

Syrians and Armenians clung to the 6th of January as the alleged birthday of Jesus Christ, and accused the Romans of sun worship and idolatry, saying that their feast on the 25th of December had been invented by disciples of Serinthis.

With the gradual growth and development of the Roman Catholic Church, the “great patriarchs” of Constantinople, Rome, Jerusalem, Alexandria, Antioch and elsewhere expressed various opinions concerning the celebration of “Christian” feasts (such as Epiphany and others). Several writers from A.D. 375 to 450, including Basil, Jerome and Epiphanius, contrasted the new festival being observed around December 25th with those celebrating the baptism of Jesus which was regarded “as a birth according to the spirit.” Apparently, the earliest acceptance of December 25 as “Christ’s birthday” occurred in the West and traveled eastward from there. It was about A.D. 400, in Rome, that an imperial writing included Christmas among the three important feasts of Christendom (the other two being “Easter” and “Epiphany”) and said theaters must be closed on those days.

Christmas was not made “official” in the so-called Holy Roman Empire until A.D. 534. Bishop Juvenal did not officially introduce the festival of the

birth of Christ on the 25th of December in Jerusalem until A.D. 440! At about the same time, the festival was established in Alexandria. Actually, the grounds upon which the church introduced the Christmas festival as a “Christmas feast” (which until then had been completely unknown) are found in arguments over adult and infant baptism!

The transition from adult to infant baptism was proceeding rapidly in the East, and had nearly been completed in the West. It was believed, previously, that the divine life in Jesus dated from His baptism, which naturally led to the regarding of Epiphany (celebration of Christ’s baptism) as the festival in honor of Jesus’ “spiritual rebirth.” With the gradual adoption of infant baptism, this concept had to be altered.

Therefore, the earlier custom which had prevailed for hundreds of years, i.e., the linkage together with the physical, fleshly birth of Christ and His “spiritual rebirth” on Epiphany, or the celebration of Christ’s baptism, was abandoned, and it was now easier to separate the two events, celebrating one occasion of His physical birth, or “Christmas,” and His “spiritual rebirth,” or “Epiphany.”

The ancient British writer Bede proves that in Britain the 25th of December was a festival long before the conversion of the British Isles to “Christianity.” He said, “The ancient peoples of the Angli began the year on the 25th of December when we now celebrate the birth of the Lord; and the very night which is so holy to us, they called in their tongue ‘the Mother’s night’ by reason we suspect of the ceremonies which in that night-long vigil they performed.” As late as 1644, the Puritan movement in England forbade any merriment or religious services on December 25th by an act of Parliament! Their grounds were that it was a heathen festival, and they ordered, instead, that the Puritans fast on that day!

Those who suppose Jesus’ birthday was known, that the events depicted in the early chapters of Matthew and Luke were “the first Christmas,” and who confidently and ignorantly assume that Jesus’ birthday was celebrated on December 25th down through the ages, are utterly and totally deceived!

The process of gradually adopting the ancient pagan rituals of the Saturnalia, on the 25th of December, and calling it the

“birthday of Jesus Christ,” span hundreds and hundreds of years, and is thoroughly condemned of God in the Bible!

There is no mention whatever in any New Testament passage that early Christians took any note of the date of Jesus’ birth, or held any celebrations in honor of that day. Rather, the Bible carefully conceals the date of Jesus’ birth, for God never intended that His birthday be an important “Christian” festival!

While the FACT of His birth was an event of great importance, the date was hidden!

Mistletoe

Mistletoe is a species *Viscum*, of a botanical family called the *Loranthaceae*. The entire genus is parasitical, containing about twenty species, distributed throughout many parts of the world. The parasite commonly used in connection with Christmastime is a native of Europe and England, forming an evergreen bush thickly crowded with forking branches and opposite leaves, and small, whitish berries filled with a viscous semitransparent pulp.

In ancient Scandinavian legend, mistletoe figured in the fable about Balder (the sun god) being slain by the blind god Hoeder, with an arrow furnished from mistletoe. It is the ancient Scandinavian word for the plant which is retained in the English pronunciation “mistletoe.” Pliny writes that mistletoe was held in reverence by the Druids, the pagan priests of ancient Scotland, who prepared the pulp into a draft and used it as a cure for sterility.

In any event, the use of a parasite for decoration in the northern hemisphere was perhaps natural to these pagans, for whole forests of deciduous trees lay naked of their leaves in December, and except for conifers and holly, there were few green things to be seen. Along with other winter-blooming plants of the northern hemisphere, mistletoe produces its berries in the winter.”

The Christmas Dinner

It is only natural that festive celebrations stemming from ancient paganism would feature lavish banquets. This custom was known in every ancient society, from Babylon to Rome. However, both riotous orgies (as we have seen, even the word “yule” meant clamor, or noise,

for the riotous nature of the festival) and abstinence, such as fasting, are found in history in association with the winter solstice of the sun.

In Eastern Europe, roast goose is often served as a famous Christmas dinner. In Scandinavia, various forms of puddings or pastry are featured, and in the United States the custom usually includes goose or turkey. In ancient Yugoslavia, the Serbs sacrificed and then ate roast pig in honor of their “Bozhitch,” their name for the sun god, whose name in modern Serbia means “Christmas.”

Traditional Christmas dinners in the Western nations are only natural improvisations of modern times, though these too have pagan origins. There is nothing “wrong” with a family dinner! There is certainly nothing “wrong” with a turkey dinner! But doing it at a specific time, for a specific purpose, in association with all the paraphernalia of paganism, is a different matter entirely!

The Exchanging of Gifts

It is supposed our modern custom of exchanging gifts comes from the fact that the Magi arrived at Jesus’ birth site bearing “gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”

From this tradition, it is supposed there were three wise men! Actually, Satan the devil is a member of a famous “triumvirate,” since there are only three archangels mentioned in the Bible: Lucifer, Michael and Gabriel. God the Father and Christ the Son represent duality in the Godhead, and the principle of duality, not a three-way form of government or a triumvirate, is represented throughout creation. (Write for the booklet *God is Not a Trinity*, for further study).

There are two sexes, two magnetic poles, and man is designed with two eyes, two arms, two legs, etc.

There is “the first man Adam and the second man Adam” (I Corinthians 15), and duality is illustrated throughout the Bible. There are the former and the latter prophets, physical and spiritual Israel, physical birth and spiritual rebirth, the old and the new covenants, and type and antitype!

Though Christmas carols speak of “the three wise men,” there could have been twelve, twenty or even one hundred twenty or more! It is supposed there were three only because three categories of gifts are mentioned. The amounts of those gifts are not specified.

Notice, however, that these priests (they may have been priests of the religion of Zoroaster) gave their gifts directly to CHRIST! In honor of the newly born King of the universe, they paid homage to Jesus as a King, by presenting HIM, not each other, with gifts.

How ludicrous it would have seemed if, after arriving in the house where the young child was, the Magi had turned their backs on Jesus, began noisily partaking at the Tom and Jerry bowl, slapping one another on the back and singing drunken carols, and then began exchanging their gifts

Pliny writes that mistletoe was held in reverence by the Druids, the pagan priests of ancient Scotland, who prepared the pulp into a draft and used it as a cure for sterility.

among themselves!

Yet, that is precisely what the professing “Christian” world does today!

Completely IGNORING Jesus Christ of Nazareth and His work, they frantically rush about, withdrawing an annual savings account and spending a great deal of money (which oftentimes they cannot afford) and exchange gifts among themselves.

Finally—Whose Opinion Counts?

Over the years, I have gotten a few pieces of “hate mail” from outraged mothers and housewives who accuse me of “taking away Christmas” from their children!

Plaintive and wistful bits of nostalgic Americana would be included, such as what Christmas meant in the memories of these young mothers; recalling their childhood fantasies concerning Santa Claus, the big family dinners with

grandparents present, the excitement of going to bed knowing the first thing they would do in the morning was rush to the mantle to see if their sock was filled with candy and toys; gathering around the Christmas tree to open gifts; or even such memories as sewing together strings of popcorn and other homemade Christmas tree decorations.

To these few, I was the “Grinch” of the famous Christmas tale who “stole Christmas.” If it is our childhood recollections and the opinions of babes that really count, then I suppose all these arguments are valid.

But if Almighty God, the Creator who gives us every breath of air we breathe, thunders from His high heavens that these man-made pagan customs are an abomination in His sight, then perhaps His opinion should count!

What about you? Do you believe and know, in your heart, that your Creator God does exist? Is He real to you? Does it make any difference in your life whether or not you please God, or whether you please your little children with lies, fables, fairy tales and paganism? God says, “hear ye the word which the Eternal speaks unto you, O house of Israel:

“Thus says the Eternal, learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven [such as the winter solstice!], for the heathen are dismayed in them.

“For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not” (Jeremiah 10:1-4).

In spite of this plain command of God, millions of professing “Christians” will journey into the forest, or go to the parking lots and shopping centers where millions upon millions of young conifers are sold, carrying them home and gaily decorating them with bits of tinsel as if with silver and gold; or brightly colored



orbs and bulbs representing the ancient signs of fertility.

Millions of parents will tell tiny children about “Santa Claus,” little realizing they are perpetuating an ancient myth, and concealing from their children the real truth of God, by supplanting it with a fable.

Instead of being told about the Creator God and the soon-coming Jesus Christ of Nazareth, who will rend the heavens and come to earth as conquering King; or about King David, Moses, Daniel, Samson, or the apostle Paul, millions of tiny children are led to believe that the kindest, friendliest, most generous and most interesting character in the universe is the elfish “Santa Claus,” who allegedly dwells at the North Pole, making toys all year round, and then on Christmas eve, supposedly visits countless millions upon millions of homes within only hours, transported about by his reindeer, including “Donner and Blitzen,” with Rudolph and his famous red nose leading the way!

Millions of fathers will quietly sneak into closets and other hiding places, bringing out presents for their delighted children to “discover” on Christmas morning, and then lie to their children and say “Santa” brought them.

Thus is the ancient pagan custom kept alive year by year as young parents, equipped with their own childhood memories, perpetuate the myth. As unbelievable as it may seem, thousands know better. But they fear what people should say; fearing the scorn of other people who might notice they have no Christmas tree or gaily decorated lawns and eaves this year, and question them about it!

To these people, it is clear whose opinion counts!

It is the opinion of tiny children, or the opinion of so-called “friends” and neighbors!

When, in the lives of millions of professing “Christians,” will the opinion of Jesus Christ and God the Father truly count? Years ago, it was said that one disgruntled little fellow, terribly upset when he finally learned (as all children eventually do) there was no Santa Claus, reportedly said, “Well, I guess I’d better look into this ‘Jesus Christ’ business too!”

AG

So You’re Not Keeping Christmas?

The halls are decked with boughs and holly; the stockings are hung by the chimney with care. The wistful voice of Tiny Tim mingles with the strains of “Silent Night” as he wishes a blessing on us, every one. All the world seems at peace.

Except you.

You, who can no longer in good conscience take part in the singing, party-going, the exchanging of gifts and greeting cards.

There are times you may wish you didn’t know what you know.

But you do know.

You know about the 4,000-year history of Christmas, about the origins of the Yule log and mistletoe, about the fact that Jesus wasn’t born on or anywhere near December 25. Most of all, you know what God says about taking pagan days and dressing them in cloak of sanctity.

And because you know, this can be the most miserable season of the year. At no other time do you feel so out of step with the society around.

But there’s a danger in that.

Two pitfalls

God opened your mind to understand the truth about Christmas—along with other biblical truths—for a reason. But even though you’ve been called out, there’s still a strong urge *to conform*.

Many recognize the origins of today’s Christmas observance, but these people still compromise. “What’s the difference?” they ask. Yet it must make some difference—some of them are your hottest antagonists! That you dare act on what you know torments them.

They urge you to compromise—but *you must not* (Romans 12:2)!

Let’s say you resist the urge to conform, obeying God instead. That’s good. For some, that’s even exhilarating. You see, some are nonconformists by nature. It doesn’t bother them at all to be out of step with all this world; that lets them feel exclusive and superior. They might even be disappointed if society abolished Christmas tomorrow—they would no longer be unique.

How will they feel in the world tomorrow, when false religious

observances will be wiped out, replaced by God’s Holy Days (Zechariah 14:16-19)?

Rather than feel smugly superior to the rest of humanity, we ought to be profoundly sorry that they cannot see and obey the truth at this time—that they even harass us when we do obey.

Note 1 Peter 4:16: “Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.”

If we do suffer harassment, even persecution, for not celebrating Christmas, we’re warned to avoid another wrong reaction: *shame*.

This was driven home to me one day as I walked my son and his friend home from kindergarten. “What’s Santa bringing you Erik?” the friend asked my son.

How would Erik react? This was his first exposure to people his own age who kept Christmas. Would he be awkward and ashamed about being “different”?

“No,” Erik answered simply, “We don’t celebrate Christmas.”

No *conformity*, no *superiority*, but most of all, no *embarrassment*. Children learn from their parents—but this time I learned from him.

In 1 Peter 3:15, we’re told, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.” Never with superiority, never with shame!

Get In Step with God

Make no mistake. *We must answer for what we do, not only to people who ask why we’re different, but also to God, if we deny the truth He’s given us* (Matthew 10:33, II Timothy 2:12).

In John 15:18-20, Jesus tells us we’re not out of this world, and that we will be persecuted as He was. God’s people have always seemed out of step to the society around them. But in reality, *it’s the world that’s out of step with God!*

God has called us out of this world and all of its false ways. That means resisting the temptation to conform with this world. That also means avoiding the traps of a superior attitude—or an embarrassed, inferior attitude—toward others.

How Seasonal Holy Days Reveal God's Plan

WHY does your Bible say Christ's FIRST GREAT EDICT after He sets up His world-ruling kingdom will be His command to all nations to come to His new world headquarters in Jerusalem to KEEP THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES? Why would Christ issue such a command if all the annual holy days of God are merely "Jewish," and are "done away"?

Did God command His people to keep His feasts, only to later decide to "do away" with them? Did Christ's atoning death "do away" with the annual Sabbaths? Did Christ come to ABOLISH these so-called "Jewish" Feasts?

If so, then WHY will He FORCE all nations to keep the Feast of Tabernacles in the millennium? You will be astonished at the TRUTH about God's seasonal holy days, and the marvelous HUMAN POTENTIAL revealed in their rich spiritual meaning!

Why have you never heard the Sunday-observing preachers explain the beautiful Christ-centered pictures, types and shadows contained in God's seven annual holy days? WHY does your Bible say Christ will command even present-day ISLAMIC nations, such as Egypt, to begin to *keep the Feast of Tabernacles* during His millennial reign?

WHY will Jesus Christ ENFORCE His weekly Sabbath days and His annual Sabbaths upon ALL NATIONS during His one thousand-year reign on this earth? Since Christ will FORCE all nations to keep His feast during the millennium, WHY do people assume all of God's annual holy days are "done away" today? If they are "done away" why will Christ force you, and every other human being to KEEP them when He rules this earth?

Your Bible says, "For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain."

"And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD."

"And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be

quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh" (Isaiah 66:2-24).

This is describing the horrible punishment for rebellious, unrepentant sinners. Sin is the transgression of God's law (1 John 3:4), and the wages of sin is *death* in Gehenna fire (Romans 6:23). Survivors of the Tribulation and Day of the Lord will see the decaying bodies and *ashes* that were once living human beings as a witness and warning to those who would rebel against God's laws. Describing this same period the final chapter of the Old Testament says, "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall *burn them up*, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch."

"But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall."

"And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts" (Malachi 4:1-3).

The "worm doth not die" because the larval stage of the fly *does not die*, but turns into another fly! This is describing rotting human flesh, fly-blown and teeming with maggots, being *burned*.

And the time setting? It is inescapable! This is another description of the horrendous events to occur just before and at the time of the second coming of Christ; the "Day of the Lord," and the beginning of Christ's RULE over this earth!

Notice the proof: "But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked" (Isaiah 11:4).

HOW will He do this? What will be the method He will use to "slay the wicked"? Notice, "And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Revelation 19:20).

Jesus Christ of Nazareth is coming again. He is coming to RULE this rotten, God-defying, sin-sick, decadent world with a *rod of iron* (Revelation 2:26). One of the first laws Christ will *enforce* upon all nations is His command that they must OBSERVE HIS FEAST OF TABERNACLES!

But WHY?

For the simple reason that God's seven annual feasts, or holy days, picture the entire PURPOSE for human life! They picture, in moving, beautiful, rich types and shadows, the plan of salvation; the progressive fulfillment of all prophecy; how the saints of this time are but the "first fruits" of the great latter-day time of judgment; the second coming of Christ; the banishment of Satan; the millennial reign of Jesus Christ, and the great general resurrection of the "rest of the dead" (Revelation 20:5) to take place AFTER the millennium.

By understanding the types and shadows implicit in each of the annual Sabbaths, or holy days, one comes to understand the very PURPOSE OF ONE'S OWN LIFE! It is awesome! It is mind-boggling! It is GLORIOUS beyond your wildest imagination! Your fantastic *human potential* is so breathtaking you will not want to believe it at first. Yet, it is TRUE, as you will see amply proved in these pages!

At creation, the Divine Member of *Elohim* who brought the entire universe, the solar system, this earth and all life upon it into existence, gave command after command. He compacted pure ENERGY into MATTER. Matter is but energy, arranged in almost limitless law-abiding forms.

After the first six days of the REcreation of this earth (from an earlier creation, perhaps billions of years in the past, which had been destroyed by Satan), the one who had caused the dry land to appear; who had said "Let there be light," and who had said "Let US make man in OUR image," continued His creation process by RESTING! He had finished the WORK of creation, but He had not finished creating!

As the sixth day waned, and the earth turned on its axis, bringing sunset once more to the Mideast, *Elohim* RESTED from all His works! Your Bible says, "And God [*Elohim*. A plural word, meaning more than one] saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

"And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

"And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made" (Genesis 1:31; 2:1-3).

Jesus Christ proclaimed, "The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:

"Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath" (Mark 2:17, 28). The Sabbath was something which was MADE. It was made when MAN was made. It was made for MAN, and not "for the Jews"! There was no person called a "Jew" (from "Judah," who was one of the sons of Jacob, or Israel) on the earth until thousands of years later!

The Sabbath was made when MAN was made, and it was made by its MAKER, who is, believe it or not, the same personage of the Godhead who "emptied Himself" and "became of no repute," and was born of the virgin Mary!

Notice that Jesus Christ said He is LORD of the SABBATH day, and not Lord of "Sunday"! The true "Lord's Day" is THE SABBATH; the day of which Jesus is LORD!

In His pre-human state, as a member of the divine family we call "God," the one who became Christ wrote with His own finger on two tables of stone the Ten Commandments. He wrote, "*Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*

"Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

"But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

"*For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it*" (Exodus 20:8-11).

He commanded Israel to REMEMBER the Sabbath because it was created at creation! Christ of the New Testament is the CREATOR of the Old Testament! Your Bible plainly says so! Notice it, "John 1:1: In the beginning was the Word [Greek: *Logos*, meaning "Spokesman"], and the Word was with God [Greek: *Theos* a plural, synonymous with *Elohim* in the Hebrew], and the Word was God.

"The same was in the beginning with God.

"*All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

"In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

"And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not...He was in the world, and *the world was made by him*, and the world knew him not.

"He came unto his own [the Jews], and his own received him not.

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

"Which were born [Greek: *gennao*, meaning "begotten"], not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

"And *the Word was made flesh*, and dwelt [Greek: "tabernacled"] among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:1-14).

Can anything be plainer? The one who said "Let there be light;" who said, "Let the dry land appear;" the one who spoke to Moses out of the burning bush and said "I AM"; The one who parted the Red Sea; the one who wrote the Ten Commandments with His own finger in stone IS THE SAME PERSON WHO WAS BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY!

Do you doubt this? No sane person can! Unless we are to rip John 1 out of our Bibles, the plain truth is that Jesus Christ, in His pre-human state, was the divine SPOKESMAN of the God family called *Elohim*. *Elohim* is a PLURAL word! This is why God (*Elohim*) said, "Let US make man in OUR image" (Genesis 1:26).

Do you require further proof? Then notice what Jesus said to the doubting Pharisees who challenged Him! "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.

"Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

"Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:56-58). The false prophets of this world WILL NOT accept these

divinely inspired words! They WILL NOT admit that Jesus Christ is the GOD OF THE OLDTTESTAMENT!

WHY?

Because if they admit that the one who wrote the Ten Commandments is the SAME personage of the Godhead who came in the flesh as Jesus Christ, they condemn themselves for *refusing to observe God's wonderful, righteous laws!* They know that if they admitted the truth about John 1 they would be condemned of God for refusing to keep the holy Sabbath days and God's annual Sabbaths!

Yet, the *first great edict* which the conquering, returning Christ will issue to the nations is to command them to come up to Jerusalem to KEEP THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES!

Read it in your own Bible: "And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

"And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

"And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

"This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles" (Zechariah 14:15-19). No matter who you are; no matter your racial, political or religious background, you WILL be keeping God's Sabbath days, and you WILL be keeping His annual Sabbaths when God sets up His kingdom on this earth!

In that day, there will be no Muslims, Shintoists, Animists, Buddhists, Confucianists, Hindus, Catholics, Protestants, or Satanists! Instead, there will be ONE GREAT WORLD RELIGION; the TRUE religion of Jesus Christ of Nazareth! All nations will be required to keep the LAWS OF GOD!

If they are still alive then (which is very much in doubt), such dictators as Maomarkadafi, Saddam Hussein, Fidel Castro and Slobodan Milosevich WILL BE KEEPING THE SABBATH AND THE HOLYDAYS!

You Live In A World Steeped In Paganism

This world is fascinated with paganism. If it is "pagan splendor," people want to know about it. When one visits ancient sites, such as the Pyramids of the Sun and Moon at "San Juan de Teotihuacan" near Mexico City, for example, it is to be told about the human sacrifices of the Aztecs; about their calendar and their way of life. But especially about their *religious superstitions*. Man's fascination with



Christmas is connected with purely *pagan* ceremonies: sun worship, ancient Roman festivals, and even more ancient Babylonian mysteries

spiritual ritual is endless. Isn't it strange that man's fascination with the mythological seemingly deliberately overlooks the rich typology seen in God's annual Sabbaths given to ancient Israel?

Historians know much about ancient, bygone civilizations from *religious* artifacts. As God charged, these nations, who worshipped *false, nonexistent "gods"* NEVER CHANGED those gods down through centuries and centuries of mythological, superstitious religious practice. Countless tens of thousands of helpless human beings have been slain as a sacrifice to a completely *fictitious* "god" who "demanded" such of his or her worshipers. Pagans have clung tenaciously to utterly *false* gods for thousands of years. Has China departed from Buddhism? India from Hinduism?

Loyalty seems common among pagan religions.

Yet, God's own people have *turned away* from the one true God, away from the beautiful, detailed, seasonally-revealed picture of His plan for the human family, embracing purely pagan myths, instead! Do you doubt this? What *are* some of the pagan myths gleefully accepted by modern, space-age "Christian" societies?

Annual "Holidays" of this "Christian" Civilization: What Do They Picture?

Which is the *chief* "Christian" holiday? Why, "*Christmas*," of course. Christmas means, simply, the "Mass of Christ." *The Catholic Encyclopedia* admits, "Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the church" (Vol. III, p. 724), and explains, "The well-known *solar* feast, however, of *natalis invicti*, celebrated on 25 December, has a strong claim on the responsibility for our December date" (*ibid.*, p. 727, emphasis mine).

History documents that the Roman Catholic Church did not settle upon the final date for the "Mass of Christ" as Christ's *birthday* until perhaps *five centuries* after Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

Christmas is connected with purely *pagan* ceremonies: sun worship, ancient Roman festivals, and even more ancient Babylonian mysteries. You will find that holly wreaths, mistletoe, bulbs and orbs, trees, "Old St. Nick," and many other trappings of Christmas are utterly pagan in origin!

Yet, for all its paganism, Christmas is eagerly embraced by countless millions in the professing Christian world as the birthday of Christ; a time to exchange gifts, have family reunions, enjoy roast turkey or goose; a time replete with its own nostalgic music, feelings of good will, and hospitality. For an in-depth study about the purely PAGAN origin of "Christmas" be sure to call (903) 561-7070 immediately, or write to the address listed in this booklet for your free copy of "Facts You Should Know About

CHRISTMAS!"

Pagan feasts revolved around the seasons because Satan the devil has *counterfeits* he has foisted on the world to *deceive*. They were based upon celestial observations, the summer and winter solstices, the vernal equinox. Most pagan holidays were essentially harvest festivals. Pagans prayed to their "invincible sun" (*invictus solis*) in the depths of winter to begin "his" journey further north once again, putting an end to winter, and bringing the springtime, and new growth.

The springtime festival of Ishtar, the pagan goddess of sex and fecundity of the ancient Babylonians (pronounced "Easter," with a long "ee" sound on the "I" and a silent "h") was in thanksgiving for the advent of the spring, the end of winter, and new life. It was celebrated with a plethora of mythological ritual: rabbits, for their rapid procreation; eggs, as the source of life and the pagan concept of the beginning of creation; the *bous*, or symbol of Tammuz (Nimrod), represented by the Ox, and cakes to Semiramis, Nimrod's mother-wife, and high priestess of the Babylonian mystery religion, as the "queen of heaven." Such cakes, called *boun*, or *bous*, featured a *cross*, as a solar symbol, and were baked in honor of *Ishtar*, or *Ashtoreth*, and are seen today as "Easter" (Ishtar) time as "hot cross buns."

What did you learn, as a child, about your purpose for being here, the plan of salvation, from "Easter"?

Your parents probably told you it was about the resurrection of Christ. Perhaps you went to a sunrise service, faced the rising sun as a minister chanted or prayed. Then there was the excitement of wonderful new clothes—yellows, greens, and whites, the colors of springtime—white patent-leather shoes for little girls; "Easter" (Ishtar) bonnets, parades, and, of special excitement to little children, "Easter egg" hunts! Cuddly little bunnies and eggs. How cute. How wondrous. How nostalgic. But what do the children who gleefully engage in the annual White House "Easter egg hunt" learn about the PURPOSE OF HUMAN LIFE?

But not one child in a million was taught that the rabbits and eggs were sex symbols; that sunrise services were conducted in sun worship; that "Easter" means *Ishtar*, or *Ashtoreth*, the pagan

goddess of sex and fertility.

Consider next the frivolous, capricious, demoniacal trappings of "Halloween." What is Halloween? Even the spelling has been altered, as the passing years and obfuscating tradition contrive to obscure the true, pagan symbolism of this most transparent of all the pagan harvest festivals.

Originally, the phrase "All Saint's Day" became called the "Evening of All Hallows" or "Hallowed Evening." Eventually it was shortened to "Hallowe'en." Were you taught this as a child? Catholics often celebrate the day of *their favorite saint*, perhaps the "saint" after which they were named. When the calendar was filled with 365 names, a convenient date was chosen, our November 1st, as a day for "All Saints." Many Central and South American countries feature towns and villages named *Todos los Santos*, meaning, "All Saints."

However, Halloween is not an invention of the Catholic Church, but an *adaptation* of an ancient, *pagan* festival. "Though now known as little else but the eve of the Christian festival, Hallowe'en and its formerly attendant ceremonies long antedate Christianity" (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, 11th Edition, Vol. XII, p. 857). History proves most of the superstitions connected with Halloween, including "apple dunking," and the like, are purely Druidic, from the pagan priests of pre-Christian Ireland.

The pagan Greeks and Romans celebrated a fall *harvest* festival in honor of their goddess "Pomona," which featured apples and nuts. Since the Druids believed "Saman," or Samhain, or Shaman, the "lord of the dead" (Satan), consigned the departed souls of people to the bodies of animals as punishment for wickedness, it was natural for them, in their darkened, pagan superstitions, to imagine it necessary to attempt to placate Saman with offerings, and to attempt to frighten away wicked spirits with "Jack o' lanterns."

Halloween features symbols of witchcraft, demonism, and death. What does it teach little children? The common practice of "trick or treating" is nothing more than children playing the part of Saman and his demons, approaching homes, demanding an "offering" of candies and the like in return for

refraining from vandalizing the house!

Today, people festoon their houses and yards with "ghost decoys," in blissful ignorance. Are they attempting to attract "ghosts," or demons? Naturally, were you to make such a suggestion, a neighbor who has festooned his yard with jack o' lanterns, witches, black cats and plastic ghosts would look at you in utter amazement, and wonder if you had gone crazy.

It would not seem "crazy" to the neighbor to decorate his home and yard with symbols of Satan, demons, and death.

Do modern space-age Americans, Canadians, Britons and many other nations actually "believe" they are frightening away evil spirits by pieces of white plastic hung in trees, or orange leaf bags with hideous faces, "jack o' lanterns," placed on their lawns? Of course not. They are "innocently" mimicking pagans, entering into the "spirit of Halloween," perhaps vying with the neighbors for decorations about the house.

Perhaps you have not realized Halloween is the most important annual festival to *Satanists*. You will be astounded at the rank paganism associated with this fall harvest festival!

These three—Christmas, Easter, and Halloween—are probably the most important among "Christian" holidays. Then there is "Valentine's Day," also rooted in paganism, with connections to Nimrod; and other days, like "New Year's" day, in the middle of a dead winter; "Groundhog Day," and many, many more. Among them all, "Thanksgiving" and the 4th of July stand out as celebrations one may safely assume God endorses.

For Americans to gather around a bounteous table, giving thanks to God in commemoration of the early Pilgrim's practice of doing so is surely a wonderful thing to do, and has no pagan connotations, and "Independence Day," or the 4th of July is certainly not condemned of God.

But why, in all your church-going and religious experience, have you never been told about the rich, CHRIST-centered, NEW Testament meanings of God's annual Sabbaths given to Israel and Judah? Look at the emphasis on Christ in

the Passover.

The Passover and the Exodus—Pictures of Christ

When God called His nation out of slavery under Moses, it was for the express purpose of “sacrificing the ‘Passover’” (Exodus 3:18; 5:1-3; Exodus 12).

Egypt is a type of *sin*. As ancient Israel was living as captive slaves in Egypt, so each one of us has lived as a slave to our appetites; to this world, with its false, vanity-ridden, materialistic values; held captive by the sway of Satan, who is the present world ruler (II Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2; Revelation 12:9).

Pharaoh is a type of Satan. Moses appears in *two* distinct shadowy roles: (1) as a type of God the Father, calling His people out of sin, breaking the grip of Satan, and granting repentance. Also, Moses typified the Father in giving the *law* of God from Mount Sinai. (2) As a type of Jesus Christ: as the shepherd of God’s people, leading them from Egypt; as the advocate for the people before Pharaoh (Satan); and as a “redeemer,” conveying them out of slavery, toward freedom.

Moses and Aaron are also seen as shadowy types of the future “two witnesses” of Revelation 11. Continually, Moses and Aaron went before Pharaoh (type of Satan), performing *miracles* (see Revelation 11:4-6). Pharaoh’s two magicians, Jannes and Jambres (types of the “beast and the false prophet” of prophecy [Revelation 19:19-20]), empowered by Satan and his demons, counterfeited the miracles until the plague of the lice, when they were forced to admit, “This is the finger of God.”

The perfect, helpless little sacrificial lamb is a type of Jesus Christ (Isaiah 53:7). The shed blood of the lamb on the lintels and door posts of the Israelites’ houses is a symbol of Christ’s shed blood atoning for our sins, causing the penalty of death (Romans 6:23) to pass over those who call upon Christ for forgiveness.

The death angel symbolizes God’s judgments against unrepentant sinners who *will* not obey God (Ezekiel 9:2-11; Revelation 14:17-20). The “firstborn” are to be sanctified to God. Instead, the Egyptian firstborn, and everyone else, was lost in the most repugnant idolatrous

paganism. God reaped a bitter harvest of the firstborn of Egypt as a terrible penalty for *sin*, but spared Israel as the “firstfruits” unto God from the earth, His own chosen people, protected under the symbol of the blood of Christ.

Once God had broken the hold of Pharaoh over the Israelites, they were hastily *thrust* out of Goshen. In like fashion, when one repents, receives baptism and God’s Holy Spirit, former friends—sometimes even beloved family members—have no further use for a person whose new understanding makes them uncomfortable. Instead, they attempt to dissuade such a repentant sinner from accepting God’s truth, talk them out of it, make them feel “out of step” with the rest of society.



The perfect, helpless little sacrificial lamb is a type of Jesus Christ (Isaiah 53:7).

When Israel was hemmed in by the wilderness, facing the Red Sea on one hand, Pharaoh’s army pursuing to the rear, and steep mountains on both sides, it typifies the newly-repentant sinner contemplating baptism, as a symbol of the burial of the old man; the washing away of sin in the waters; the resurrection of the “new man,” or the “new creature in Christ,” to live a new and different life, free from sin.

Satan and his minions do not give up easily. As Pharaoh’s armies pursued Israel, so do former friends, habits, appetites, moods and attitudes attempt to overtake the repenting sinner.

Moses had to say, “Stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Eternal!” at the Red Sea.

By a stupendous miracle, Israel walked through the Red Sea bed dry shod! When Pharaoh and his army assayed to follow, they were drowned. Paul wrote, “Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers passed through the sea; and were *baptized* unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all eat the same spiritual meat [manna]; and did all drink the same spiritual drink [water, brought forth from the rock miraculously. Christ is the rock; the water is a symbol of God’s Holy Spirit]: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ” (I Corinthians 10:1-4).

When Israel passed through the Red Sea, a Christ-centered, New Testament type, or picture, of God’s plan of redemption and salvation took place. Notice how Paul mentioned their miraculous sustenance on *manna*, which God sent down from heaven.

The Israelites were commanded to eat the Passover with “unleavened bread,” called the “bread of haste,” bread which was flat, plain—not light and fluffy, puffed up. Immediately following the Passover were the Days of Unleavened Bread.

God commanded them, “In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the Lord’s Passover.

“And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the Eternal: *seven days ye must eat unleavened bread*” (Leviticus 23:5, 6).

Leaven, as an agent which spreads throughout moist dough, and which causes bread or cakes to rise when baked, lending a light, airy texture, was pointed out as a type of *sin*. Jesus said, “Take heed and beware of the *leaven* of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees” (Matthew 16:5-12).

Unleavened bread, on the other hand, pictured sinlessness; humility, an absence of vanity, pride, and sin. Christ said, “I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

“This [pointing to Himself] is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

“I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this

bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world” (John 6:48-51).

Do not all Christian-professing churches believe in Christ as Savior? *Then why do they never teach the rich meaning of God’s annual holy days—the plan of redemption and salvation centering around Christ and His sacrifice as pictured in each of God’s annual Sabbaths?*

Can anything be more New Testament oriented than the meaning of the Days of Unleavened Bread?

There is an incontrovertible *anti-Judeo BIAS* among professing Christianity! From the earliest moments in the first century, when many *Gentiles*—Greeks, Romans, and others—were being converted, when the church wrestled with the problem of *circumcision* (Acts 15), a gradually increasing anti-Jewish bias began to emerge.

This rejection of all things Jewish took quantum leaps over the passing centuries. Though Christ Himself was Jewish, and though the apostles and the vast majority of the early church were Jewish, the Gentile leaders of the *apostate* church of the second and third centuries threw out the baby with the bath water: rejected God’s Sabbath day; rejected God’s annual Sabbaths; changed the date for the observance of the Passover, and called it *Ishtar* (Easter), instead; embraced the purely pagan festivals of Roman idolatry, such as Christmas, and effectively stamped out all knowledge of God’s holy days.

Finally, during the days of Constantine, who had “converted” from sun worship to apostate “Christianity,” the then *visible* church (God’s true church had been forced “underground” by horrible persecutions) issued a decree that Christians were not to be found “Judaizing” by observing the Passover on the 14th of Abib, but were ordered to observe *Easter*, instead!

Is there anything “Jewish” about the CHRIST-centered meaning of the Days of Unleavened Bread? No, nothing. Yet, you have not heard sermons preached in the Sunday-observing churches explaining the rich types and shadows of God’s holy days as they pertain to repentance, baptism, the receiving of God’s Spirit, the

second coming of Christ to set up His Kingdom, the binding of Satan, and the final great resurrection.

Today, the Christian-professing world is lost in a sea of *ignorance* about God’s plan! Embracing the pagan doctrines of the “immortality of the soul,” and “going to heaven when you die,” they fail to understand the plan of God as revealed in the progression of the seasons—fail to understand the truth about God’s mercy upon the darkened races of Gentile nations who have never heard the Gospel.

More Bible Types Revealed

The next holy day following the Days of Unleavened Bread is the “Feast of Sabbaths,” or the “Feast of Firstfruits,” which became named “Pentecost,” meaning “fiftieth,” by the Greek speaking world.

Why “fiftieth”?

Because the high priest was to cut the very first sheaf of grain on the weekly Sabbath *during the Days of Unleavened Bread*. This meaningful ceremony pictured the *first* of the firstfruits; the very first sheaf of the springtime barley harvest.

It pictures the RISEN CHRIST, now “cut off” from the world, ascending to the Father in heaven. The ceremony became known as the “wave sheaf” offering, since the priest would select a sheaf of the grain, harvest it, and then *wave* it toward heaven in thanksgiving to God.

God said, “And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering, *seven sabbaths* shall be complete:

“Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number *fifty days*...” (Leviticus 23:15, 16).

Christ ascended to His Father on a *Sunday*, after being resurrected late Sabbath afternoon. The wave sheaf pictures CHRIST, as the *FIRST* of the “firstfruits” of God’s righteous harvest of the earth.

The number seven pictures perfection. Seven times seven symbolizes *complete* perfection. Built around the land sabbaths and the year of release was the *Jubilee*. This shadowy type of the Kingdom of God is found in the seven sabbaths (49 days) which were to be

reckoned until the *fiftieth* day (Jubilee), which was the Feast of “Sabbaths,” or “Firstfruits.”

The firstfruits pictures God’s righteous harvest from among mankind from the time of Christ *until the Millennium and the Great White Throne Judgment* (Revelation 20:1-5; 11-15).

Is anything more richly rewarding to a farmer than seeing the fruits of his labor coming from his land, the early grain harvest of abundant food—giving thanks to God for rain in due season, for the *new wealth* coming forth from the soil?

God’s springtime holy days picture *repentance*, acceptance of Christ’s shed blood, allowing Christ to dwell within us through His Spirit (by eating unleavened bread for seven days), and shows us that we are part of an early harvest, a “firstfruits” unto God (James 1:18). It also shows us that God *is not trying to save the whole world now*, that there is to come a later, *fall* harvest unto God.

This is a vitally important point, for the vast majority of professing Christians simply do not understand the *schedule of events* in God’s plan. If they knew the beauty of His plan as revealed *seasonally* through His annual Sabbaths, they would never suppose most of the world is *lost* forever, never believe that God could be so cruel as to punish, in a blazing hell fire, little oriental infants who have never so much as heard the name of Christ.

Ample biblical proof exists to demonstrate that Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, not only *kept God’s annual Sabbaths*, but taught Gentile converts to do so.

He wrote to the Corinthians, “Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?”

“Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, *as ye are unleavened* [a clear contradiction of terms, unless he plainly means they were observing the Days of Unleavened Bread, for he had just told them they were “leavened,” meaning they were guilty of sins which needed to be purged, or expunged. When he said “as ye are unleavened,” it can only mean that they received this missive *during the Festival of Unleavened Bread*, that they were keeping it!]. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

“THEREFORE LET US KEEP THE

FEAST, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (I Corinthians 5:6-8).

Can anything be plainer?

Paul instructed these *Gentile* Christians in the large *Gentile* city of Corinth to *keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread!*

Not only did the Feast of Sabbaths picture the risen Christ, and the *firstfruits* unto God, it also foreshadowed the momentous events on the Day of Pentecost, explained in Acts, the second chapter.

How appropriate that the Feast of "Firstfruits" unto God should fall on the *very day God sent His Holy Spirit to this earth*, as Christ promised! (John 16:7).

Though many Protestants celebrate "Whitsunday," they do so *50 days after Easter (Ishtar)*, not 50 days from the weekly Sabbath during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Many myths and traditions sprang up surrounding "Whitsunday." The Church of England formerly celebrated *three* days surrounding it, and in May, 1871, the British government declared "Whitmonday" a legal bank holiday.

Those who keep God's annual holy days know that *Pentecost* is the *birthday of the church*, the Christian festival in commemoration of the great events on that original Pentecost when the Holy Spirit, with a loud, roaring sound like a rushing wind, filled all the room where the apostles and others were assembled, when the apostles appeared to have flaming crowns of fire atop their heads.

Nearly 30 years following Christ's resurrection, Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, wrote to the *Gentile* church in Corinth, "But I will tarry at Ephesus until *Pentecost*" (I Corinthians 16:8).

Trumpets and Atonement

When was the last time you heard a sermon expounding all these rich, detailed types and shadows of Christ, of *salvation*, as revealed through God's annual holy days? If you are among the majority, you will probably answer, "Never!"

Yet, *all* the annual Sabbaths given to Israel convey to our minds part of the detailed tapestry that is God's great plan of redemption and salvation.

Passover, the Days of Unleavened Bread, and Pentecost all come in the *springtime*. Just before the fall comes the *Feast of Trumpets*. God said, "In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a Sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation" (Leviticus 23:24).

The trumpet was Israel's means of communication. Study Numbers 10:1-10 for further details. To assemble the people, trumpets were blown. They were blown as "officers' call," just as in the military, to cause this or that tribe to

great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to another" (Matthew 24:30, 31).

Though this final trumpet blast occurs suddenly, God shows that the *process* of calling out God's elect from this earth over many decades is *also* typified by the blowing of a trumpet!

"Cry aloud, spare not, *lift up thy voice like a trumpet*, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sin," wrote Isaiah (Isaiah 58:1). Christ said, "And this gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14), and told His disciples, "What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops" (Matthew 10:27).

The primary focus of the Feast of Trumpets is the *return of Jesus Christ* to this earth. God says, "Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep [die the first death], but we shall all be changed,

"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, *at the last trump* [the last of all the trumpets listed in Revelation, the same trumpet call to which Christ referred]: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (I Corinthians 15:50-52).

Today, God sends out His *announcement* of Christ's coming Kingdom through His church, through the preaching of the Gospel, through proclaiming the *sins* of our peoples, through witnessing, warning, forth-telling, inviting people to *repent*!

But the time is coming when God will no longer speak through human voices, but will cause mighty angels to blow on ear-splitting *trumpets*! Then, the whole world will hear! The final trumpet blast heralds Christ's second coming as KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS to *rule* this earth with a rod of iron (Revelation 2:26; 3:21; 19:11-16).

The emphasis on the Feast of Trumpets is *mostly prophetic*! It focuses mainly on Christ's coming and the resurrection, but also foreshadows the *announcement* God is sending to mankind through His church, through the preaching of the Gospel of Christ as a



One goat was sacrificed, symbolizing an atonement for sin, a shadow of Christ's impending sacrifice

march, or to herald the arrival of special occasions. They were blown as an *announcement*—to say, in effect, "ATTENTION, everyone!" They were blown as an alarm if an enemy was approaching, and blown on solemn holy days.

In a sense, the trumpet was ancient Israel's "radio and television," for it was a means of instant, mass communication.

God's prophetic messages clearly show that God *announces* each great intervention of God by the sound of a *trumpet* (Revelation 8:6). Christ said, "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall *see* the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

"And He shall send His angels with a

witness and a warning!

Then comes the only commanded *fast* day of the year, the solemn Day of Atonement.

God said, “Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation [a commanded assembly] unto you; and ye shall *afflict your souls* [lives]...” (Leviticus 23:27).

In a solemn ceremony on this day of *fasting*, when God commanded Israel not to eat or drink from sundown of the previous day until sundown on Atonement, the high priest enacts a fascinating, meaning-laden ritual. Study Leviticus the 16th chapter to understand all the types.

Two goats were to be presented. One was “for the Eternal,” and the other an *Azazel*, erroneously called a “scapegoat.” The *Azazel* goat was to have all the sins of Israel symbolically placed upon its head, and then was to be led in the hands of a “fit man” who would not allow the goat to turn back into the distant wilderness, where it would be released.

One goat was sacrificed, symbolizing an atonement for sin, a shadow of Christ’s impending sacrifice. The other was to be allowed to wander in the wilderness, bearing, figuratively, the sins of Israel upon it (Leviticus 16:21).

Only *once* in the year was Aaron, or the high priests to follow through the centuries, to enter into the “Holy of Holies” in the tabernacle (later, the temple). The ninth chapter of Hebrews explains the deep meaning of this ritual. Paul wrote, in part, “But into the second [the Holy of Holies] went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:

“The Holy Spirit this signifying, that the way into the holiest [type of heaven, and God’s presence] of all was not yet made manifest, while as yet the first tabernacle was yet standing...But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us...” (Hebrews 9:7-12).

The sacrifice on the Day of Atonement was extremely elaborate. The priest had to carefully wash and dress, had to sacrifice an animal for his own sins, had to sprinkle blood upon the book and the people (Hebrews 9:19).

In this elaborate ritual, accomplished on a day of *fasting*, one sees the terrible consequences of sin. God has decreed that the penalty for sin is *death* (Romans 6:23). Yet, He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, as the “Lamb of God” to die for the sins of you and me, for all mankind—to atone for sin so that those who call upon Christ are symbolically covered by His shed blood, their sins forgiven.

To be sure, the ancient ceremony of Atonement was a bloody one. Now, see the whole picture: The high priest was a type of *Christ*, entering “through the veil” that separated the outer holy place from the “Holy of Holies,” a type of heaven itself. The veil in the temple *split* when the miraculous earthquake struck at the moment of Christ’s death, signifying that Christ’s death had made it possible for mankind to have *direct access to God the Father* through Christ!

The *Azazel* goat is *not* a type of Christ, but a type of Satan! Notice: “And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit [the abyss: see Jude 13] and a great chain in his hand.

“And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil, and Satan, and *bound him a thousand years*” (Revelation 20:1, 2). This angel was pictured by the “fit man” selected to take the goat over whose head the sins of Israel were confessed into a trackless wilderness, and there release it, *alive*.

Thus, God shows we have all had a *partner* in sin! This goat is *not* a “scapegoat,” for God places guilt where guilt squarely belongs! The Hebrew word *Azazel* comes from a word meaning “fierce, mighty, rough, or strong,” such as “rough goat.” It means, literally, “the rough goat that is sent out.”

Thus, the detailed ceremony of the Day of Atonement shows the necessity for Christ’s sacrifice to atone for sins; shows how His death opened the way into God’s presence in heaven itself; shows how Satan will finally be bound, unable to deceive the nations any more.

Paul wrote, “Moreover he sprinkled

with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry.

“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

“It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

“For Christ is not entered into the holy place made with hands, *which are the figures [types, pictures] of the true*; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

“Nor yet that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place *every year* [on the Day of Atonement!] with blood of others...but now *once* in the end of the world [age] hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself” (Hebrews 9:21-28).

Do you see how these rich *New Testament* truths were pictured so ceremoniously, so richly, and in such detail, by the accompanying rituals of the annual holy days?

WHY, then, do the churches *utterly ignore* these annual Sabbaths? *Why* have you not heard the Christ-centered, *New Testament* meaning of God’s annual holy days?

Now for one of the richest of all—the fabulous fall harvest festival, the *Feast of Tabernacles*, followed by the “Last Great Day.”

The Feast of Ingathering

At the time of the great fall harvest season, God set His “Feast of Tabernacles.” The word “tabernacle” merely means “booth,” or “kiosk,” a temporary domicile. God said, “And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,

“Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the Lord.

“On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein...Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the Lord seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath.

“And ye shall take you on the first

day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the Lord your God seven days.

“And ye shall keep it a feast unto the Lord seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

“Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths:

“That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

“And Moses declared unto the children of Israel the feasts of the Lord” (Leviticus 23:33-35, 39-44).

Notice that the Feast of Tabernacles, or little “booths,” was coincident with the time of the gathering in of the fruit of the land—a festival which emphasized the *harvest*.

Notice also that God said the *purpose* for their dwelling in these little tabernacles or temporary domiciles for seven days was so that they would remember that God “made the children of Israel to dwell in booths....”

All you really learn from this scripture, standing by itself, is that God said they were to “dwell in booths” so they would remember that God made them to “dwell in booths.”

It is only when one looks at all other relevant scriptures concerning the meaning of dwelling in temporary domiciles; only when one considers the Feast of Tabernacles in light of its logical seasonal progression, viewing it from the perspective of *all* the other annual Sabbaths, that the rich, detailed, inspiring picture of the meaning of the festival of temporary booths, or tabernacles, becomes clear.

God reveals that He has placed within each human being the “spirit in man,” or the *human spirit*, which, while it has no separate consciousness or intelligence apart from the brain, it is nevertheless *spiritual*.

Paul wrote, “The spirit itself [God’s Holy Spirit] beareth witness with OUR SPIRIT that we are the children of God” (Romans 8:16). All of us are endowed with the human *spirit*. This entire eighth

chapter of the book of Romans says a great deal about how God’s Holy Spirit is to dwell inside our mortal bodies.

Jesus said we are not to fear man, who after he has destroyed the body, cannot destroy the “soul.”

The traditional concept of the “immortality of the soul” misses the mark by a wide margin. There is no separate, intelligent, feeling, living “soul” which departs the body at death.

That there is something which is *spiritual* in connection with the human brain which man *cannot destroy* is obvious from Christ’s words. Christ said, “...fear not them which kill the body [Greek: *soma*] but are not able to kill the soul [Greek: *psyche*]: but rather fear Him which is able to *destroy* both soul and body in Gehenna” (Matthew 10:28). Notwithstanding the fact that the traditional concept of the “immortal soul” is erroneous, it is clear from Jesus’ words that there IS something *spiritual* in connection with the human mind which man simply *cannot destroy*.

That is why the Bible speaks of a complete *conversion* by the receiving of God’s Holy Spirit.

Paul put it this way, “...put off concerning the former conversation [conduct] the *old man*, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the *spirit of your mind*: and that ye put on the *new man*, which after God is *created* in righteousness and true holiness” (Ephesians 4:22-24).

Few have understood that God is begetting *children*, that a *new spiritual life* is engendered within each human being who repents and receives God’s Spirit. Plainly, it is “created.” Conversion—receiving the begetting of the Holy Spirit—is not merely a change in attitude or outlook; not merely “turning over a new leaf,” or making minor adjustments in life style. It is the creation of a *new creature* in Christ!

He wrote to the Colossians, “Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the *old man* with his deeds;

“And have put on the *new man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him...” (Colossians 3:9, 10).

Paul also wrote, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a *new creature*: old things are passed away; behold, all things

are become new” (II Corinthians 5:17). The word for “creature” is used for “creation” in many instances.

To be sure, there IS something “spiritual” about each human mind.

Almighty God is reproducing after His own kind. Creation was not completed in the Garden of Eden—only begun, in physical prototype.

God is the author of all life, Creator, and Life Giver. God has created the process of *reproduction* in all species of life, and is the Inventor and Designer of human procreation.

You will come to understand the beautiful analogy of human reproduction; where *you* came from; the miracle of human birth as it portrays the *spiritual* begetting, and ultimate spiritual *rebirth* into the very family of God.

What has this to do with the Feast of Tabernacles? *Everything!*

As Christ showed, though man can destroy this mortal, temporary *body*, he cannot destroy the *real you!*

Notice how the apostle Paul expounded this beautiful concept: “...we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake.

“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

“But we have this treasure [and it is real *treasure*, the priceless truth of eternal life and the Holy Spirit of God now creating in us a NEW SPIRIT BEING; a “New Creature in Christ”] in *earthen vessels* [our physical bodies], that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us” (II Corinthians 4:6, 7).

Paul went on to explain, “For which cause we faint not; but though our *outward man perish* [the aging process, and the ultimate fate awaiting every human being, death] yet the *inward man* [the new “creature in Christ”] is renewed day by day.

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

“While we look not of the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are

temporal; [like a temporary domicile, or “booth” made of branches, leaves and other materials, which will soon perish] but the things which are not seen are *eternal*.

“For we know that if our earthly house of this TABERNACLE were dissolved, we have a *building of God*, an *house* not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

“For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with *our house* which is *from* heaven:

“If so be that being found clothed we shall not be found naked.

“For we that are *in this tabernacle* [the new creature in Christ, dwelling temporarily in these physical bodies] do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that *mortality* [this human body, this temporary existence] might be swallowed up of life” (II Corinthians 4:16-18; 5:1-4).

What a *beautiful analogy*. Notice how many times our physical bodies are likened to a “tabernacle,” or a little booth, a temporary dwelling place. Study the entire 15th chapter of 1 Corinthians, and see how Paul showed we are to be CHANGED; to become GLORIFIED; to become a SPIRIT BEING; a member of God’s own great, expanding family, of which Jesus Christ is the Elder Brother; the first-born among *many brethren*.

The apostle Peter put it this way: “Yea, I think it meet [fitting], as long as I am *in this tabernacle* [Peter, the “new man in Christ” living in his human, physical body], to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;

“knowing that shortly I must put off *this my tabernacle*, [knowing his death was approaching!] even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath showed me” (II Peter 1:13, 14).

Can anything be plainer?

The apostle Paul plainly wrote, “There are also celestial [heavenly] bodies, and bodies terrestrial [earthly, of the flesh]: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another...so also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: it is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

“It is sown a *natural body*; it is raised

a *spiritual* body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body...as is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

“And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also *bear the image* of the heavenly” (I Corinthians 15:40-49).

This human, physical body in which we dwell is only a temporary “tabernacle.”

While it is a little bizarre to contemplate, what of someone who has lost a limb? That individual, with all his or her character traits, personality, knowledge and intelligence is *still there!* As horrifying as it is to contemplate, there are those who have lost *all four limbs*. Yet, they are still *there*; the person is still alive, though missing limbs.

You see, your personality, your innermost being, where your decision making powers reside, where your deepest and innermost thoughts dwell, where your moral *character* lies, is in your mind!

God’s Holy Spirit does not come into our elbow, or our big toe, or our femur or clavicle. God’s Holy Spirit comes into, and unites with the human spirit that dwells in our *minds!*

It took living cells to beget you, cause you to be born as a unique, once only, individual human being.

By the uniting of your father’s life with your mother’s life, YOU became to be.

In the same fashion, by Almighty God placing His life-giving Spirit within a human mind, uniting it with the “human spirit” to become a “new creature in Christ,” He reproduces His “children” after HIS, God’s, *kind!*

Look how plainly Paul puts this beautiful truth: “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption [sonship!], whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the *children of God*:

“And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ...” (Romans 8:14-16).

You were the child of your parents. You are like them in many ways, for you came from them. What was, or is, your relationship with them? Why, you are LIKE them; you are members of their family! My elder brother, Richard David, was an Armstrong. He was killed in an automobile accident in 1958. He was my brother. We both had the same father. I can never BECOME my father, for he was unique, and was the one who brought me into being by imparting his life to my mother; the two of them producing *me*. What was (am) I? Why, an Armstrong, of course. A member of their family! God’s FAMILY names, revealed to us through the Hebrew and Greek, are *Elohim* and *Theos*, respectively. Both are plural names, meaning more than one. However, we shall eventually be given a NEW name, and the secret name of divine *Elohim* will be revealed (Revelation 2:17; 19:12)

It is no mere accident that the analogy of *family relationships* occurs in the Word of God. It is not some theologians’ ideas, but God’s own revelation to us that He is our “Father,” while Christ is the firstborn Son, and we can become the “children of God.” In shadowy type, the invisible church, which is called a spiritual organism, is seen as “Jerusalem above, the mother of us all.” We are referred to in the Word of God as “brothers and sisters in Christ.”

When you were *born* of your parents, what did you become? Why, you became *you*, with your parents last name, and many of their own likenesses and characteristics.

And when you are finally *born of God*, when this temporary domicile that is your human body is of no further use, and has been completely *changed* by the resurrection from the dead or instantaneous change at Christ’s return (I Corinthians 15:50-52), *what will you become?*

You already read it: “And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we *shall also bear the image of the heavenly!*” (I Corinthians 15:49).

The word “image” in the Greek is rendered *substance* in the *Ivan Panin Greek Numerics Text*, and can be so rendered. As you and I presently consist of physical flesh—our substance is earthly, from the ground—so God’s Word says the *spiritual* creature, called the “new

creature in Christ,” is to become *spirit*. John wrote, “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, *we shall be like Him*; for we shall see Him as He is” (I John 3:2).

More Beautiful Types and Shadows

Remember the many shadowy types and analogies we learned concerning the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread? With the Passover, Almighty God brought His people, Israel, out of the slavery of pagan Egypt, and into a wilderness, where that older generation wandered for 40 years (a number which connotes trial, or testing).

But did you know that that entire older generation, save the family of Caleb, *died in the wilderness*, including Moses?

Look at the obvious analogy: Forming in the bodies of this older generation during the time of their trial and testing in the wilderness were *new human beings* who had never known Egypt! During those 40 years, a *whole new generation* of Israelites was born.

It was this new *generation* which crossed the River Jordan, which is a shadowy type of the transition from physical to spiritual, into the promised land.

Their leader? *It was Joshua*, which is the Hebrew form of the Greek word for *Jesus*!

Just as Joshua (Hebrew word for “Jesus”) led the NEW generation of Israelites into the promised land (a type of the Kingdom of God), so Jesus Christ will lead NEW spiritual generation of NEW “creatures in Christ” into His kingdom!

Even as God is begetting His own children within the human physical bodies (temporary tabernacles) of a present-day generation, so those “new creatures in Christ” will emerge as a completely new, never-before, unique *spirit being* in the Kingdom of God!

These human, temporal, physical bodies, with all their diseases, debilities, deformities, aches and pains—these fleshly bodies, which are growing older every day and will only ultimately return to the soil of this earth from which they came, *cannot inherit* the Kingdom of God!

Paul said, “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

“Behold I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.

“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump, for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

“For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” (I Corinthians 15:50-53).

Now consider another beautiful type: When the member of the Godhead who became Jesus Christ “emptied Himself” of His divine, powerful, spiritual form and “...took on Him the seed of Abraham,” (Hebrews 2:16) He was God, *temporarily “tabernacling”* in the human flesh! Thus, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the first begotten of Almighty God among all humankind lived a life of 33 1/2 years as “God in the flesh,” *tabernacling* in a human, physical body which was later on *changed to spirit*!

After Christ’s resurrection, He was able to appear and disappear at will. He would appear in a room where His frightened disciples were gathered, literally materializing through a stone wall! Yet, this resurrected, spiritual body still bore the wounds and scars inflicted by His torture and crucifixion, for He forced doubting Thomas to actually put his hand into the spear wound, and his finger into the wounds in His wrists.

Christ had the power to materialize in His previous human form, yet was once again *very God*, and ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven, to await His return to this earth as the conquering King of kings and Lord of lords.

When was the last time you went to a church service where the minister expounded and explained all of these many wondrous *Christ* centered New Testament truths concerning God’s plan of redemption, and salvation?

The Last Great Day

Immediately following the Feast of Tabernacles comes the “Last Great Day” (Leviticus 23:36). This is the *seventh* annual holy day in God’s seasonal plan, and falls on the 22nd day of the seventh month.

It is followed by late autumn, and the winter, when all deciduous trees; the grasses, shrubs, flowers and grasses become dormant, and there are no annual holy days or festivals of any kind in God’s beautiful plan of salvation until the early spring, and the Passover.

Now, review what we have learned. The Passover primarily focuses on Christ and His sacrifice for sin. The Days of Unleavened Bread focus on Christ coming to live within each newly repentant Christian, thus driving sin out. The Feast of the Firstfruits, or Pentecost shows us that God is calling only a comparative few at this time, that God has never attempted to “save the world” in the past; that He did not attempt to “save the world” during the time of Christ, that He is not attempting to save the world now! Rather, it emphasizes that God is calling only a “kind of firstfruits of His creatures” in this dispensation, and shows that the great latter, fall harvest of human lives is to come during the millennium, and even *afterward*.

The New Testament observance of Pentecost portrays Christ sending the “other Comforter” to be available to human beings for the first time.

The Feast of Trumpets pictures not only the announcements of Almighty God from the time of Christ until the time of the end by the preaching of the Gospel, but God’s own righteous angels, sounding the alarming trumpets leading up to the last plagues and the final great trump, announcing the second coming of Jesus Christ.

The Day of Atonement, the only FAST day (Acts 27:9; Lev. 23:32) among the seven holy days, depicts the whole world finally AT ONE with God through the atoning work of Christ; Satan banished, unable to deceive the nations any further.

The Feast of Tabernacles not only portrays all the beautiful types of *our temporary* dwelling places in these human physical bodies, but presages the *Kingdom of God*, and the *millennial reign of Jesus Christ* over all this earth.

The Feast of Tabernacles acknowledges that we are living, as human beings, in but a *temporary dwelling place*, but it *looks ahead* to the PERMANENT dwelling place in God’s Kingdom! Jesus Christ said, “In my Father’s house are many mansions,”

which can also be rendered “positions of responsibility,” or “offices.”

So, in addition to acknowledging our temporality, the Feast of Tabernacles also is a *foretaste* of the very *Kingdom of God*, the millennial reign of Christ.

Remember, the *first* resurrection of all of the “dead in Christ” occurs at the last trump, at the exact moment of Christ’s second coming (I Corinthians 15:50-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Matthew 24:31).

Now, notice: “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls [Greek *psuche*, meaning spirits, or lives] of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the Word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a *thousand years*” (Revelation 20:4).

Christ promised, “And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations ... To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne” (Revelation 2:26; 3:21).

Therefore, the “firstfruits unto the Lamb” as pictured by the Feast of Firstfruits or Pentecost, will “live and rule over the nations with Christ” for one thousand years, which is foreshadowed, in part, by the Feast of Tabernacles!

Now, what remains to be done to accomplish God’s great plan for the redemption and salvation of the vast majority of the human race?

God’s Word answers: “But *the rest of the dead* lived not again until the thousand years were finished!” (Revelation 20:5).

Jesus plainly said there is a resurrection unto *life* and a resurrection unto “judgment.”

But judgment is not *sentencing*! The “rest of the dead” includes the entirety of the human race who are *not* among the “dead in Christ.”

And who does this include? It includes the vast majority of all human beings who have ever lived and died from Adam until the present! It includes the hundreds of millions of China, India, many other Asian nations such as Japan,

Bangladesh, Korea, Taiwan, etc. It includes the vast multitudes of the world where paganism, animism, heathenism and idolatry—yes, and “professing” Christianity has been living in deception! (Revelation 12:9).

This last, great resurrection brings perhaps more than six billion people out of their graves!

It is a staggering, stupendous event!

All of these virtually countless human beings of so many races and nations will be resurrected at the end of the millennial reign of Christ, and will be given a glorious opportunity for salvation, at last!

This is what is pictured by the “Last Great Day.” It logically follows immediately after the Feast of Tabernacles, which foreshadows, in many ways, the Kingdom of God.

And what comes immediately after Christ’s millennial reign?

Read it, in the 20th chapter of Revelation: “And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

“And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:11-15).

These “books” which are opened mean nothing more than *biblos*, the Greek word for “book,” or “books.” It is only when the word “holy” is placed with the word “book” that it connotes the Bible. These “books” which are open, out of which these billions of human beings are to be judged are nothing more than the *books of the Bible*, the same books which are judging the Church of God today. God’s Word plainly states that the church is being judged now. Since God is

consistent, and says He “changes not,” and the Bible says Jesus Christ is “the same, yesterday, today and forever,” we know that God’s master plan for salvation will not *change*.

This vast multitude from all of the human family will receive a one hundred year lifespan (Isaiah 65:20-25), during which they will experience the incredible blessings and benefits of living on an earth which has been under God’s own divine rulership for *one thousand years*!

It is *then*, in that climate and at that time, that these countless millions of Asians, Africans, and so many more will finally be given a *thorough* education in God’s marvelous truth, and will be required to *choose* whether to obey God, repent of their sins and receive God’s Holy Spirit, or to rebel and force Almighty God to destroy them.

Jesus Christ gave us a shadowy type of the meaning of this Last Great Day from His inspiring invitation to repentance made on that very day during His earthly ministry.

“In the last day, that *great day of the feast*, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

“He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water” (John 7:37, 38).

Notice how Jesus made it clear that “*any* man” was being invited to come to Christ! Surely, this open invitation to all, including *Gentiles* presaged the meaning of this Last Great Day.

The Last Great Day typifies the “Great White Throne Judgment” of the 20th chapter of Revelation.

This final annual holy day signifies the *completion* of God’s plan, the last great general resurrection and the final destruction of the incorrigibly wicked, and leads directly from the Great White Throne Judgment in Revelation 20 to the “new heavens and new earth” of the last two chapters of your Bible.

Thus, when one comes to understand the beautiful types and pictures portrayed by the seasonal holy days of God, one comes to understand the **WHOLE PLAN OF GOD!**

There is **NO ROOM** in this beautiful plan for the pagan holidays of this world,

nor for the pagan doctrines of the “immortality of the soul” or an “ever-burning hell.”

Once again I must ask, WHY have you not heard? Why have not the Sunday-observing churches preached the beautiful truths about God’s plan of redemption and salvation by informing and educating their congregations of these rich shadows and types revealed through God’s annual Sabbaths?

Why on the one hand should there be such a fascination with rank paganism, as seen in Christmas, Easter, and Halloween, and an anti-Hebrew prejudice against the beautiful and merciful truths revealed in God’s seasonal plan?

The plain truth is, Almighty God commanded His annual Sabbaths to be observed down through all living generations of His people. Jesus Christ and the apostles kept these days. The apostle Paul—an apostle to the *Gentiles*—urged Gentile churches throughout the Greek and Roman world to observe these annual holy days! It took the large, visible *apostate church* many centuries to stamp out the observance of God’s Passover on the 14th of Abib, to eradicate any remaining knowledge concerning the rich meanings conveyed to the human mind through all seven of God’s annual Sabbaths.

Today, professing Christendom is locked into an annual ritual of pagan mythology, all the while thinking it is celebrating Christ’s birthday or His resurrection, or “All Saints Day,” yet doing so amid the symbols and accouterments of rank heathenism, Satanism, Babylonian mysteries, and caricatures of death.

One final question: Will *you* be keeping God’s Feast of Tabernacles after the second coming of Christ? For your answer, turn to and read Zechariah 14:16-19: “And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

“And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

“And if the family of Egypt go not

up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

“This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.”

There can be no mistake as to the *time setting* of this beautiful chapter. It is when the returning, conquering Christ fights against the nations resisting Him, and when His feet shall stand “...in that day upon the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east...” and when “...living waters shall go out from Jerusalem ... and the Eternal shall be King over all the earth: in that day there shall be one Lord, and His name One” (Zechariah 14:3-9).

One thing is sure. Every living human being of whatever religion, nationality, race or creed will be absolutely *forced* to observe God’s annual Feast of Tabernacles shortly after the arrival of Jesus Christ on this earth!

Those who are rebellious against God, those who adamantly *refuse* to obey Almighty God *now*, will no doubt be *absent* at this time, for they will very likely be among the stiff-necked, antagonistic, rebellious human beings who will *resist* God’s truth and will suffer the terrible consequences of the tribulation and the Day of the Lord.

When Jesus Christ is King over all this earth, the time of gentle, merciful *invitation* is past! Then, He will command and all will obey! May God grant you the spirit of repentance, the spirit of surrender to God, and lead you into His truth and an humble acceptance of His will in your life.

Now, you **KNOW**. Now, you should make plans immediately to attend with the nearest group to your home on God’s annual holy days, to hear these, and other inspiring, encouraging truths expounded! You should begin planning **NOW** to set aside so you can **COME TO THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES** this year! Write or call to obtain information on where the Feast site nearest your home is located, and determine to **BE** there! After all, since Christ will **ENFORCE** Feast attendance in His kingdom, why not get in the habit **NOW**? **AG**

Hallowe'en is Pagan!

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way which leads to LIFE, and “few there be that find it” (Matthew 7:13,14).

Christ inspired John to write, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

“And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

“If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you (John 15:18-20).

Hallowe'en, like pagan Easter (*Ishtar*, with a silent “h,” pronounced “Easter”) and Christmas, are all **PAGAN TO THE CORE**! They **CONCEAL** God’s true annual Holy Days, which reveal His great **PLAN** year by year. Christmas, with its pagan tree, bulbs and orbs, and mythical “Old Saint Nick” is laden with pagan symbolism. Just as Hallowe'en is replete with pagan symbols, yet masquerading as a “Christian” holiday, Easter, with its symbols of sex and fertility; rabbits, eggs, and rituals of Spring, with “hot cross buns” in honor of Horus, also masquerades as the resurrection of Christ.

But our God thunders at us, “**LEARN NOT THE WAY OF THE HEATHEN!**”

He leaves the choice with us. Which way will you choose? **AG**

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The Church of God Meeting Schedule

The Church of God, International welcomes everyone who wishes to attend its weekly meetings. We encourage you to bring along your family and friends. Admittance is absolutely FREE. You can also avail of our literature which are FREE for the asking.

Our weekly meeting schedule are as follows:

- 1st Saturday of the month
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Lubang Function Room
Edsa Plaza Hotel
- 2nd to 4th Saturday of the month
10:00 a.m. To 12:00 nn
6th Floor, Peaksun Building
1505 Princeton St., Cor. Shaw Blvd.
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