

original Babylon, ancient Nineveh. He organized this world's first "One World Government." His Name Nimrod, in Hebrew, is derived from "Marad," meaning "He rebelled."

Ancient writings, showed he was so evil that, "it is said he married his own mother," whose name was Semiramis. After his untimely death, Semiramis propagated the evil doctrine of survival of Nimrod as a spirit being. She claimed a full-grown evergreen tree sprang overnight from a dead tree stump, which symbolized the springing forth unto new life of the dead Nimrod. On each anniversary of his birth, she claimed, Nimrod would visit the evergreen tree and leave gifts upon it.

Through her scheming and designing, Semiramis became the Babylonian "Queen of Heaven," and Nimrod, under various names, became the "divine son of heaven." Through the generations, in this idolatrous worship, Nimrod also became the false Messiah, son of Baal the Sun-god.

"Mother and Child" (Semiramis and Tammuz) according to the Babylonian tradition, Nimrod's wife Semiramis bore a son whom she named Tammuz. She claimed that Tammuz was Nimrod reborn, the son of the sun god. This was a satanic deception of the promise of a coming Savior in *Genesis 3:15*: "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shall bruise his heel." The birth of Tammuz was, of course, another part of the satanic lie. Semiramis claimed that her son was supernaturally conceived, so the mother was worshipped as well as the child. Many of the Jews in Babylon accepted, at least in part, this satanic religion, and one of the Jewish months is Tammuz. This worship of "Mother and Child" spread over the world. The names varied in different countries and languages. In Egypt it was Isis and Osiris. In Asia, Cybele and Deolus. In pagan Rome, Fortuna and Jupiter. In Papal Rome, Mary and "christ child". Even in Greece, China, Japan, and Tibet is to be found the counterpart of the Madonna, *long before the birth of Christ!*

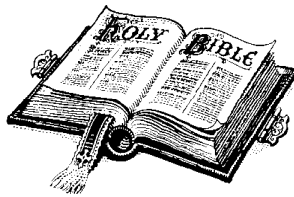
Every Christmas season you'll hear sung dozens of times the hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night" with its familiar "Mother and Child" theme. We who

have been born into a babylonish world, reared and steeped in these things all our lives, have been taught to revere it as holy and sacred. We never questioned to see where they came from—Bible or pagan idolatry.

"The customs and practices... unfit the minds... for the entrance of truth... the great importance placed upon holidays,-- are all a species of idolatry, a sacrifice upon idol altars." (*Fundamentals of Christian Education 1923 pg.312*)

It would be more appropriate to observe the 7th day Sabbath, as a rest day in honor of the finished Creation (Gen. 2:1-3), to the Glory of God, each week, than to celebrate a pagan Christmas or Easter once a year. The weekly Sabbath, most Christians forget to observe, although there is an explicit command in

God's Word, to do so, and even though the command begins with the words "*Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy...*" (*Ex 20:8-11*) most have chosen to substitute it with another day. How is it with you my friend, will you please God, or men? That is the question.



FINAL THOUGHTS

The facts that have been discussed, should cause every professed Christian to doubt the godliness of the Christmas celebration. The scriptures say, "*for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.*" (*Romans 14:23*). Everything associated with the Christ-less-mass requires faith in man's customs, traditions, and fables. If you choose Christ over all these, and choose to put your faith in Him alone, asking the Lord Jesus Christ for guidance, His Holy Spirit will lead you into all truth, found in His Holy Word. Will you determine in your heart to give up these abominations and follow Christ? Please dear friend, Jesus is coming soon to take His faithful people home. Those only who have been obedient to all of His commands, will be saved.

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SOME THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT



CHRISTMAS

Where did Christmas come from? Does it have anything to do with Christ's birth? History reveals that it was being kept in the pagan festivals, long before Jesus was ever born. The date of Jesus' birth has never been revealed to us. The celebration of His birthday is no where commanded for Christians to practice. Why is there so much fuss about a holiday which came to us through pagan Brumalia [*The December 25 celebration*], celebrating the shortest day of the year and the "new sun"? Its origin is in idolatry, paganism and Sun-Worship, and was celebrated with riot and merrymaking. *New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge, "Christmas"*

CHRISTMAS CHRISTIANIZED

The word "Christmas" means "Mass of Christ," or, as it came to be shortened, "Christ—Mass." It came to the Protestants from the Roman Catholic Church. Where did they get it? Not from the original apostles who were personally instructed by Christ—but it gravitated in the fourth century into the Roman Church from paganism. "Christmas was *not* among the earliest festivals of the Church... the first evidence of the feast is *from Egypt.*" "*Pagan customs* centering around the January calends gravitated to Christmas." *Catholic Encyclopedia 1911 edition "Christmas"*

It was not instituted by Christ or the apostles, or by Bible authority. It was picked up afterward from paganism. Christmas was, according to many authorities, not celebrated in the first centuries of the Roman Church, as its usage in general was to celebrate the death of remarkable persons rather than their birth.

In the formative years of the Christian Church the Church's arch enemy, Satan, changed his tactics for destroying Christianity. Early on he used persecution, but finding that not to be as effective as he wanted he changed his method of assault. "Satan and his angels decided that there was a more successful way to destroy souls, and more certain in the end. They saw that although they caused Christians to suffer, their steadfastness, and the bright hope that cheered them, caused the weakest to grow strong, and that the rack and the flames could not daunt them... Satan decided that he must come in a milder form." *1858 Great Controversy p. 125* Christmas is one of those milder forms. Keep reading to find out how.

Most people never stop to ask themselves about the major symbols of Christmas— Santa Claus, reindeer, decorated trees, holly, mistletoe, the giving of gifts to one another —what do all of these have to do with the birth of the Savior of mankind? Absolutely nothing, all these traditions came from *ancient pagan festivals*.

WHAT ABOUT MISTLETOE?

Among the ancients, mistletoe was considered sacred to the sun, and was used in December, winter solstice festivities, when the sun was lowest in the sky. Kissing under the mistletoe was thought to be an act of pagan solar worship. Very licentious and temple prostitutions were performed during the eight-day Roman Saturnalia which immediately preceded December 25 sun-birth celebration.

WHAT ABOUT CHRISTMAS TREES?

Green trees were cut down, mounted, and then decked with offerings of food and precious gifts to Mithra. "The Christmas tree is from Egypt, and its origin dates from a period long anterior to the Christian era." —*Frederick J Haskins, Answers to Questions* Jeremiah 10:2-6 "Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen... 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." This is a perfect description of the Christmas tree, termed by the Eternal as "the way of the heathen—the customs of the people." We are commanded not to learn that way of the heathen or follow it! It is also viewed in this passage as idolatry. The fifth verse shows that these trees cannot speak, or walk but must be carried. "Be not afraid of them; for *they* [the trees] cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good. They are not gods to be feared. Some people misread this to make it say there is no harm in having a Christmas tree, but that is not what the verses are saying.

WHAT ABOUT SANTA CLAUS?

<u>SANTA</u>	Vs.	<u>CHRIST</u>
Comes in the Night	Vs.	Comes as a thief in the night (2 Peter 3:10, 1 Thess 5:2)
Dressed in white and red	Vs.	Clothed in white and red (Rev 19:13-14, Isa 63:1-3)
Brings gifts and rewards	Vs.	Brings gifts and rewards (Rom 6:23, Rev 22:12)
Knows if you've been good or bad	Vs.	Knows if your heart is good or evil (Rev 2:23)
White, curly hair	Vs.	White, curly hair (Rev 1:14)
Sits and talks with children	Vs.	Sits and talks with children (Matt 19:14)
Comes with reindeer	Vs.	Comes with horses (Rev 19:11, 14)
Comes with a sleigh	Vs.	Comes with chariots (Isa 66:15)
Lives at the North Pole	Vs.	Lives on the sides of the north (Ps 48:2)
Children tell him what they want	Vs.	We pray to Him (Matt 7:7)
Santa Claus is not real, only imaginary	Vs.	We should not take part in lies (Rev 22:14—15)

Old Saint Nick, one of Santa's names, is the name for Satan. (*See "Nick" in the 1828 Webster's dictionary) the word, "Santa," unscrambled, is Satan.

WHAT ABOUT WREATHS AND HOLLY?

Circular wreaths of evergreen branches (especially holly) were a featured part of the festi-

* **NICK**, n. In the northern mythology, an evil spirit of the saters; hence the modern vulgar phrase, Old Nick, the evil one.

val. These were formed in the shape of the sun, and represented life which could not exist without sunlight, placing them on the inside and outside walls during these celebrations. "The use of the Christmas wreath is believed by authorities to be *traceable to the pagan custom* of decorating buildings and places of worship at the feast which took place at the same time as our Christmas." *Answers to Questions compiled by Frederic J. Haskins*

SHOULD CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?

History shows that Christmas does not represent Christ. It misrepresents sound biblical teaching and is in opposition to God's truth. God wants us to worship Him in truth (John 4:23-24), not fable. In Deuteronomy 12:28-32, God told His people to worship only in the ways He commanded, telling them "What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it." He explicitly ordered them not to copy or adopt the religious practices of the pagans, calling such practices "abomination's which He hates." (Eze 8:6-18)

Should faithful Christians after learning the truth about Christmas and its pagan origin, still continue to celebrate it? Definitely not! The early Christians dared not accept pagan practices of pagan holidays. Those heathen customs were not condoned in the Bible, so they ought to be shunned by conscientious Christians. "In the Scriptures, no one is recorded to have kept a feast or held a great banquet on his [Christ's] birthday. It was sinners like pharaoh or Herod who made great rejoicings over the day on which they were born. —*Catholic Encyclopedia, 11th ed., art: "Natal day."*

If we got Christmas from the Roman Catholics, and they got it from paganism, where did the pagans get it? Where, when, and what was its real origin?

It is a chief custom of the corrupt system denounced all through Bible prophecies and teachings under the name of Babylon. Nimrod, grandson of Ham, son of Noah, was the real founder of the Babylonish system that has gripped the world ever since—the system of organized competition—of man ruled governments and empires, based upon the competitive and profit-making economic system. Nimrod built the tower of Babel (*Gen 11*), the