

THE
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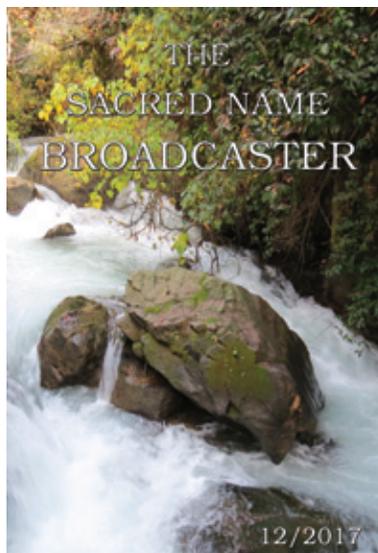
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Founder and Author: Elder Jacob O. Meyer



Our Cover:

The cover this month depicts the headwaters of the Jordan River as they flow from the base of Mt. Hermon. The cleansing waters of the Jordan healed Naaman from his leprosy after dipping himself seven times in its waters.

Israel passed through the waters of the Jordan as they entered the Promised Land. Yahshua the Messiah also, as an example to follow, entered the Jordan River to be baptized by John.

Have you followed the example of Yahshua the Messiah and been immersed into His Name? Salvation awaits all who follow His steps. "For to this were you called: because the Messiah also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow his steps... who his own self bore our sins in his body upon the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness; by whose stripes you are healed. For you were going astray like sheep; but are now returned to the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls." (1 Peter 2:21, 24-25).

Are We ROMANS Today?

Concern about the times in which we are now living should turn our attention toward a study of history and the experiences that were confronted by people in antiquity. Of all of the classes taught in the Obadiah School of the Bible, **New Testament Survey** is perhaps one of the most interesting when we look into the background of the New Testament. Have you ever delved into this subject? Several good books are available for this study if you care to go to your local library and peruse them.

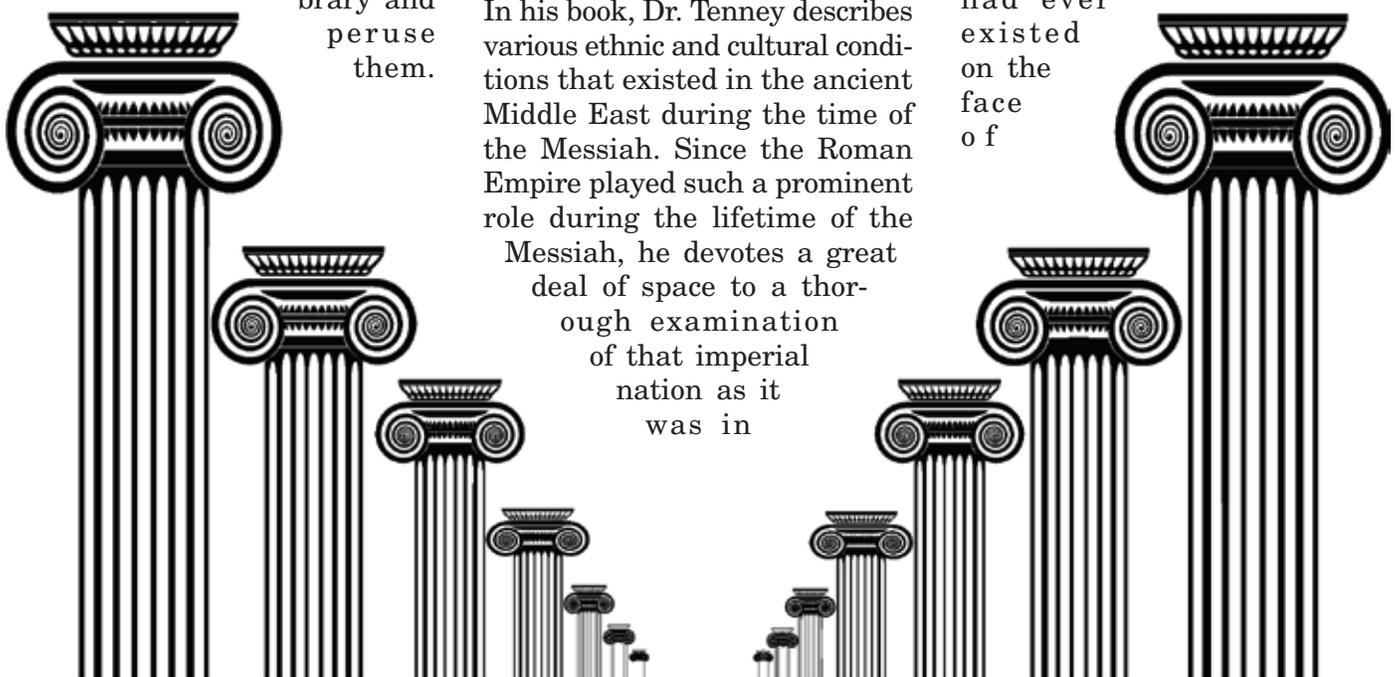
by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

Concentrate on the subject of New Testament Survey or New Testament History. Such research will orient you into a better understanding of the life setting preceding and surrounding the establishment of the Apostolic Assembly.

The basic textbook for New Testament Survey in Obadiah School of the Bible is a book called **New Testament Survey** written by Dr. Merrill C. Tenney. In his book, Dr. Tenney describes various ethnic and cultural conditions that existed in the ancient Middle East during the time of the Messiah. Since the Roman Empire played such a prominent role during the lifetime of the Messiah, he devotes a great deal of space to a thorough examination of that imperial nation as it was in

contact with the Jewish nation. It is, indeed, astonishing to see the close similarities between that bygone age and the times in which we are now living. Truly, we, today, are the modern Romans. Let us take a look at some of the passages in this book to prove that statement. It might be quite enlightening to those who have never studied into this timely subject.

When the Roman Empire reached its height, it was the most prosperous nation that had ever existed on the face of



this earth. That far-flung empire, with provinces on several continents, was tremendously prosperous. But then decay set in. Stability in the family and home was lost due to the high divorce rate. The people became avaricious, and there was much fraud evident. Religion deteriorated to the point that it no longer influenced the lives of the average Roman citizen. This led to internal decay, which eventually toppled the Roman Empire and caused it to be decimated by the barbarian hordes.

Does the following quote sound like a description of the times in which we are now living? *“The old landholding populace of Italy had disappeared. Many of the earlier senatorial families had perished in the party struggles, though some had survived. In their places had risen a new aristocracy, the land holders, who controlled public lands by their influence and who bought cheaply the private lands of those whose families were impoverished by war or by the impossibility of making a living from a small farm.... The consequent luxury enervated the aristocracy and discouraged the lower classes, who found that for all their toil they seemed to prosper less as the years rolled along.”*

Isn't that amazing? Such a situation exists in our very own time: the lower classes of people today are beset by those identical frustrations. The old proverb, *“The rich get richer and the poor get poorer,”* apparently had its origin in ancient times. The attitude of defeat among the lower classes of people in Rome caused a loss in public fortitude.

Let us examine yet another quote from the book. *“Many others had been (unable) to meet the competition of slave labor*

and had slowly been starved out of their small farms and estates. Gradually they swelled the homeless and foodless mobs which filled the great cities, especially Rome, and they became dependent for sustenance upon the state. The hungry, idle crowds, who would vote for any candidate whose promises sounded better than those of his competitor, were a dangerous and unpredictable factor in the social life of the empire.” Apparently, in ancient Rome, the art of politics flourished. It must have been one of the original examples of how politics can deteriorate in a short time. Many times, politicians made outrageous promises to the electorate that they could never fulfill, merely to get the votes of the people. Similarly, in our own country today, the voters are being manipulated by some unscrupulous politicians, whose only aim is to get elected. Few and far between are those who speak out and take a firm stand for the right. As the wealthier people began to install labor-saving devices (the modern slaves), the laboring class of our time has been gradually pushed aside, and they have literally become wards of the state. Just as in ancient Rome, those who have gone to the cities in search of employment have found few jobs. There they have allowed themselves to be exploited by the politicians, and they have filled the welfare rolls. Do you see how precisely we are following in the footsteps of Rome?

In ancient Rome, the theater played a very pronounced part in the moral degeneration of the people. Here is another quote from Dr. Tenney's book: *“Music and the stage were committed to entertainment of the mob rather than to stimulating the thought*

of intellectuals. The Roman stage degenerated rapidly and contributed directly to the moral degradation of the people. The farces and mimes of the early empire were coarse and cheap; their plots dealt with the lowest kind of life and presentation was shameless.”

Along with the theater, the sports arena, for entertainment of the masses, was popular also. In ancient Rome, people began to pay increasingly more attention to spectator sports rather than to intellectually stimulating thinking. Dr. Tenney says, *“The amphitheater was a more pernicious influence on the Roman public than the stage. The bloody contests between men and beasts and between men and men were promoted by the emperor, or occasionally by aspirants for public office who wished to gain the favor of the crowds.... The gladiatorial shows accustomed the audience to the sight of bloodshed, and even whetted their appetite for it. In order to please their patrons the spectacles became increasingly elaborate and increasingly shocking. If the stage with its coarse mimes and farces schooled the populace in obscenity and lust, the gladiatorial shows glorified brutality.”*

Again, we have seen in these two preceding descriptions of Roman entertainment a very obvious similarity to the era in which we are now living. For example, in just the past few decades, television has been largely responsible for the rapid slippage of the morals of our country. Obscenity, profanity, and lust seem to be on the minds and voices of most of the worldly people today until the language you hear in public places has become most repulsive and obnoxious. The

more violent contact sports are increasing in popularity in our time just as they did in ancient Rome. This is producing a hardened conscience and attitude among the people, so that they demand more and more brutality and blood in their sports. As usual, good people in Rome went unnoticed, because of their virtue, while the criminals were singled out for attention. Just such a situation exists today.

Here is another very electrifying quote by Dr. Tenney. *“Only crime was ‘news’.... Human life was cheap and murder was frequent. Divorce was easy to obtain and was generally accepted in ‘society.’ The exposure of unwanted infants was a common practice, as illustrated in the well-known letter of Hilarion to his wife, Alis; ‘Should you bear a child, if it is a boy, let it live; if it is a girl, expose it.’”* And then we see in the note of explanation made by Dr. Tenney at the bottom of the page: *“Expose meant to abandon the child to die.”* Horrors! Well, in Rome they called infanticide “exposure;” in our world today it is called “abortion.” There is no difference between the Roman era and the time in which we are now living. Millions of innocent little babies are dying each year as the people of the world become psychologically hardened against the sanctity of life. The sad commentary is that those who are seeking to live righteously are not nearly vocal enough in their opposition to this SIN!

Even religion could not lift the people of the Roman Empire out of the perilous times that developed through laxness in character. Similarly, today the religions of our times seem powerless to influence people to establish a righteous moral standard. Dr. Tenney says, *“Cor-*

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ruption in politics, debauchery in pleasure, fraud in business, deceit and superstition in religion made life in Rome depressing for the many and unendurable for the few.” Life is rapidly becoming unendurable for a great number of people in our time who have developed a feeling of utter hopelessness and desperation. Some of the elderly people are ending it all, because they see no hope. Perhaps this was intended by the planners who are anxious to inaugurate a euthanasia program.

In New York, an elderly couple was mugged on the street. In abject despair and hopelessness, they withdrew all of their life savings from the bank, which amounted to over \$20,000. They sent this sum, along with a letter of explanation of what they were doing, to a well-known charity. Then they went into the kitchen,

turned on the gas stove, and committed suicide. Such a waste of resources is truly horrible to behold! If only those people would have heard about the true message of salvation. Had they only heard about the Assemblies of Yahweh and the true fraternal love in the brotherhood; had they only attached themselves to the brethren of the Assemblies of Yahweh, they would have been inspired to press on. They still had a number of productive years ahead of them, since they were only in their early seventies.

Beloved reader, there is hope! You need not live the rest of your life in despair. This present age will not continue for too much longer because of its gross wickedness. Bible prophecy shows that Almighty Yahweh will establish His Kingdom on this earth in the near future. That Kingdom will be an age of righteousness. It will be an age of productivity, joy, and happiness among all of the inhabitants of this earth. We would like to introduce you to the message of the Kingdom of Yahweh. Will you write in for our free article on the subject? Why not begin to study your Bible today? It alone holds the message of hope for our time. You need not be in despair as you see the degeneration of this age, but you can have hope and faith in your heart by looking forward to the age when Eden will be restored, and this earth will be filled with the knowledge of Yahweh as the waters cover the sea. (Habakkuk 2:14). If you would like to be assisted toward a better understanding of the purpose for your life and the joy of living, give us the opportunity to help you today. We want to help you receive the same hope and faith that rests in our hearts. ^{SNB}

THE BIG Picture

Many people drift aimlessly through life, completely engrossed in their mundane personal existence, without ever seeing, in full scope, the reason for their lives. We might compare such a situation to the old proverb, *“One can’t see the forest for the trees.”* People become absorbed with their personal, petty problems and their immediate surroundings to the point that they do not expand their vision to include the far and distant future—for example, their eternal salvation.

In Proverbs 29:18 we read, ***“Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint; but he that keeps the law, happy is he.”*** This passage of Scripture brings to our attention that we should always take into account the BIG PICTURE, rather than just drifting along aimlessly in our lives from day to day. We should have fixed a goal, or destination, for ourselves. Instead of allowing surrounding events

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

to govern us, we should be in complete charge of our lives, directing the way we go. Remember the writer of Proverbs said, ***“Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint....”*** Undoubtedly, you have come to recognize that in the Western world and, especially, in our very own country, there is very little attention being paid to the far-reaching consequences of the decisions that are implemented in the secular governments, in ecclesiastical affairs, and in the personal lives of most people. We live for the moment and are unconcerned about what lies ahead.

Yahshua the Messiah described the situation perfectly when He said in Matthew 7:13-14, ***“Enter you in by the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is***

the way, that leads to destruction, and many are they that enter in through it. For narrow is the gate, and straitened the way, that leads to life, and few are they that find it.” It was the intention of Yahshua the Messiah to show that there are two distinct, separate ways that an individual can travel through life. The easy way—the broad way—will eventually lead to destruction. The narrow way is the more difficult way, but it will eventually lead to life everlasting. One must exercise a certain amount of perception (vision) in order to determine the end of each one of these pathways. We must raise our sight above the immediate surroundings in which we find ourselves and look far into the future to see the end destination of the way we are following. We must look forward in time to see the consequences of every action that we take each

day. We must regulate our lives so that we can look into the future and make certain that the end result of those actions will be delightful at the end rather than unpleasant.

One of the most vital visions of the future that we must remember to include in the **BIG PICTURE** of our personal situation is our hope to enter into the Kingdom of Yahweh. That Kingdom of Yahweh is His government that is manifested for us through the structure of the constitution that He has given us in the Bible, in His Covenant Law. You will remember the writer of Proverbs included mention of the Law of Yahweh in association with the word *vision*. Realizing, then, that the scriptural Law depicts the righteous government rule by Yahweh, when Yahshua the Messiah establishes the Kingdom on this earth, will give us a better understanding of how His Kingdom will be structured.

Obedying the Law of Yahweh during our human lives will bring us into direct contact with the Kingdom of Yahweh and will allow us to glimpse the beauties of Yahweh's Kingdom through spiritual eyes. Thereby, we can see how life will be lived throughout the earth when Yahshua returns. The joy and glory of Yahweh's Kingdom can already be ours as we obey the Laws of Yahweh. This will assist in clarifying our vision of things to come, so that we can see the reason why Almighty Yahweh gave us these commandments. We can see how all of the problems will simply dissolve and disappear if we obey Almighty

Yahweh, allowing Him to rule over our lives through His righteous government. We can literally become a part of that vision of the age to come which Almighty Yahweh has given us in His book of the Law and in His prophetic writings. We can see how the people who obeyed Almighty Yahweh benefited by

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receiving His blessings, and we can learn how those who disobeyed received the curse and the punishment for sin.

Have you seen the joy that awaits the believer who has obeyed the commandments of Yahweh and has had his sin washed away in Yahshua's blood? Already, we may have a partial view of the changes that the Kingdom of Yahweh will bring to pass when it takes over the rule of this earth. Blessings of peace, prosperity, productivity, and harmony among the people who are living in that Kingdom may already be realized, because they are promised in the Bible to every obedient believer.

The vision of the Kingdom of Yahweh will guide us through the

great tribulation era that stands between this very moment and the establishment of the Kingdom of Yahweh. The vision of that Heavenly Kingdom coming to this earth will strengthen us in times of trouble, during times of testing and trial in our human lives. We must have the vision of the Kingdom so imprinted upon our minds and hearts that we are willing to sacrifice everything to achieve a place in that Kingdom.

In addition to His government being established on this earth, remember that the Kingdom of Yahweh means that we can one day enter into the very family of the Most High Heavenly Father through being adopted as one of His children. We may finally achieve this greatest blessing at the second coming of Yahshua and the resurrection to immortality, if we are faithful to the Word of Yahweh.

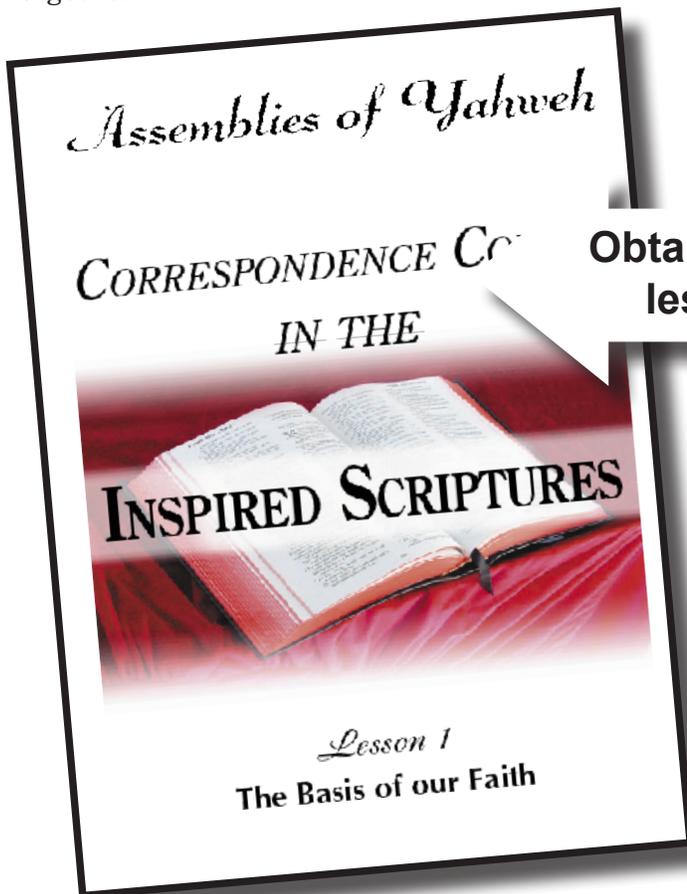
Let us remember that the Prophet Daniel said that, in the latter days, knowledge should be increased, and the message of the Bible will be unsealed (Daniel 12:4, 9, 10). The signs of the times clearly indicate that we are definitely in the last days at the close of the age of man. Consequently, if you are interested in understanding the Bible, the Holy Spirit of Yahweh is given to open your understanding and to reveal the deep things that are hidden in the Word. Let us never forget that the Kingdom of Yahweh has as one of its central doctrines the importance of the Name of the One who rules over that Kingdom. This indicates the Name of the Heavenly Father, whose Name has been revealed

as Yahweh, and the Name of the Savior and Redeemer Yahshua the Messiah, the King who will rule over this earth. If you have never seen these great messages from the Word of Yahweh, why not begin now to study His Word and to understand what He has planned for the human family?

We invite you to write in immediately for your copy of the first lesson of the **Assemblies of Yahweh Correspondence Course** in the inspired Scriptures. Many letters from students all over the world express their appreciation for this systematic course of bible study. Why not write in immediately before you forget it?

SNB

The Assemblies of Yahweh Correspondence Course in the inspired Scriptures provides a study of the Bible, Yahweh's sacred Word, without explaining away, or falsely rationalizing, texts that clearly instruct the individual in obedience to Yahweh's Covenant.



Obtain your first lesson today!

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- The Great First Cause
- The Doctrine of the Messiah
- The Sacred Name
- The Holy Spirit
- The Scriptural Law
- The Annual Sabbaths
- The Seventh-Day Sabbath
- The Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread
- The Feast of Weeks
- The Feast of Tabernacles
- The Feast of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement
- Scriptural Giving
- Yahweh's Calendar
- The Kingdom of Yahweh
- The Lake of Fire
- Baptism
- The Dietary Law

Also available online

There is no cost or obligation. After you answer the quiz attached to each lesson, send it to us, and we will correct it and send it back to you with the next lesson.

ASSEMBLIES OF YAHWEH

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As the pressures of the end of the age continue to escalate and intensify, the people of our time will be forced to make a decision. The crisis times, in which we are now living, demand a personal decision from each one of us. No longer can we sit on the fence and safely view either side of the many issues confronting us.

Make Your Decision NOW

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

Such a situation is predicted by the Prophet Joel to be characteristic of the end times. ***“Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of Yahweh is near in the valley of decision.”*** (Joel 3:14). All of the people of the world are being confronted with making a choice between this world’s system of things and the Kingdom of Almighty Yahweh. There can be no middle ground of indecision.

Just recently, a very inspiring

letter was received here at the Home Offices of the Assemblies of Yahweh. This letter was written by a steady listener to the **Sacred Name Broadcast** and a regular reader of the **Sacred Name Broadcaster**. The following is a quote from that letter: *“When things are proven by the Scriptures, that settles it! ‘My sheep hear My voice.’ They know the ‘SPIRIT OF TRUTH’ (which is to lead and guide) if they will LISTEN. ‘Take heed what*

you hear’ and ‘he that heareth (he who will listen to what the Spirit is saying) to him shall more be given.” Here is a truly heart-warming letter, since it reveals that the convicting power of the Holy Spirit of Yahweh is making a deep impression upon some of our readers. As these sincere people hear the Word being preached, they are acting decisively upon what the inspired Scriptures tell them to do if they wish to be saved.

However, it is all too painfully apparent that a great majority of the readers of the **Sacred Name Broadcaster** magazine are not acting on the doctrines that the Bible teaches. As the messages go out over the air on the **Sacred Name Broadcast** and as the sound doctrines of the Bible are being explained in this publication, many more people should be spurred to action. The Sacred Names—Yahweh and Yahshua—and the Truth of the inspired Scriptures are today being proclaimed with greater power than ever before in the history of this ministry. More people are hearing the messages than ever before, and the **Sacred Name Broadcaster** subscription list is growing at a very encouraging rate. Nevertheless, Yahshua the Messiah said that **“For many are called, but few chosen.”** (Matthew 22:14). The seed of the Word is being scattered across all of the earth today through the Broadcast and the printed literature mailed from the Home Offices of the Assemblies of Yahweh. We labor under the realistic conclusion that only a few will receive the end-time warning message, but those few who do receive the message of Yahweh’s Kingdom to come begin to bear fruit.

Procrastination

Undoubtedly, we are all guilty at some time or another of putting something off until tomorrow what should be done today. Those are the human characteristics and tendencies so prevalent within the carnal nature. When our personal situation is comfortable, we tend to drift along from day to

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day not wishing to change what we are doing. Although we can undoubtedly see something that needs improving, we, nevertheless, realize that change requires effort and determination. Such changes will require personal sacrifice that we, occasionally, do not wish to make.

One of the most inspiring books of the Bible is the Acts of the Apostles. If you have become lackadaisical, or complacent, recently, you should read through this marvelous historical book and restore your zeal for True Worship. One cannot help but admire the apostles in the first Messianic Assembly for their total dedication. They suffered terrible injustices at the hands of their contemporaries. They were stoned, beaten, and imprisoned for the message of the Kingdom of Yahweh which they were

preaching. Besides this, they voluntarily took upon themselves arduous journeys into barbarian lands, many times coming right up to the doors of death as they took their lives into their own hands for the sake of reaching sincere people who needed to know the glad tidings. When we read the 11th chapter of Hebrews, it becomes candidly apparent that we are unworthy even to stand in a close fraternal relationship with those men of faith who suffered severe privation for the sake of preaching Yahweh’s Word.

Many times, they, themselves, also encountered procrastinators. For example, after the moving sermon Paul preached on Mars’ Hill, we find that only a few listeners accepted the convincing message he was preaching. Let us read Acts 17:32-34, **“Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: but others said, We will hear you concerning this yet again. Thus Paul went out from among them. But certain men adhering to him, believed: among whom also was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.”** Isn’t that exactly what we find today? Only a few people are truly moved to act upon what they are learning and hearing. Only a few view their personal salvation with enough importance to do something about making a decision. It would appear, from this passage in Acts, that Paul did not remain in Athens because of the hardness of heart obviously manifested among the citizens of this renowned

city. Therefore, they never had another opportunity to hear this message. They made their decision and came down on the wrong side of the question. How many people hear the radio broadcast or telecast today and are moved by the message, but fail to act and make the knowledge that is being dispensed a part of their very being? Not very many! They may never again hear the radio broadcast. Some of the readers of this magazine, also, are not allowing the message to penetrate into their hearts to take root, and this is indeed sad, because so many wonderful things are to be found in the Word of Yahweh that will strengthen us in these times of tribulation. Apparently, these Athenian philosophers could do nothing better than to hear of new ideas, to question and discuss them. They never made the living Faith of Yahweh and the inspired Scriptures a part of them by following what was being taught. They failed to learn what it means to leave the entanglement of the carnal world to become a child of Yahweh.

Perhaps, some people are like Felix and his wife Drusilla, about whom we read in Acts 24:24-26. ***“But after certain days, Felix came with Drusilla his wife, who was a Jewess, and sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in the Messiah Yahshua. And as he reasoned of righteousness, and self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was terrified, and answered, Go your way for this time; and when I have a convenient season, I will call you to me. he hoped withal that money***

We must all stand before the judgment seat of the Most High to give account of the things that we have done during our lifetimes. Will we be ready for that awesome moment, clear in our mind and conscience?

would be given him by Paul: therefore also he sent for him more often, and communed with him.” Possibly, it is just not convenient for us right now to take that necessary initial step toward the Messiah so that He can meet us. Those who are being invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb are guilty of making excuses, just as Yahshua said in Matthew 22:5, ***“But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his merchandise....”*** Perhaps, just like Felix, people are unable to tear themselves away from the clutches of the world and follow the path of righteousness outlined by the Scriptures. They are enslaved by worldly riches and the quest for materialism. But all those things will perish, and it is only spiritual things that can be taken

into the life to come.

How long must someone study and consider the Truth of the Bible before he is confronted with making that personal decision and commitment? One must be cautious and count the cost before taking action. But, finally, after doctrines like the Sacred Name of the Heavenly Father and the keeping of His commandments have been proven conclusively from the Word, then the time has come when we must act upon what we have learned, or we will be held accountable. We cannot sidestep this issue. We must all stand before the judgment seat of the Most High to give account of the things that we have done during our lifetimes. Will we be ready for that awesome moment, clear in our mind and conscience? Or will we be guilty of having rejected this magnificent Truth and the way to life everlasting? If we reject it, we may finally hear the voice say to us, ***“Depart from me, ye workers of iniquity, I never knew you.”*** Salvation will come to us only if we bear good fruit, if we do works worthy of repentance, and if we follow the Lamb wherever He goes. Faith must take the form of action. Romans 10:9-11 reads as follows: ***“...because if you shall confess with your mouth that Yahshua is Sovereign, and shall believe in your heart that Yahweh raised him from the dead, you shall be saved: for with the heart man believes to righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made to salvation. For the scripture says, Whoever believes on him shall not be put to shame.”*** ^{SNB}

Xmas

A Worldly Celebration to Avoid

by Elder Jacob O. Meyer

When viewing the practices of the people of the world and comparing them to what the Bible teaches, we confront a very puzzling situation. Many religious organizations today insist that their members adhere to certain practices and directives that are NOT found in the Bible. When someone questions these practices, the people generally attempt to locate some Scripture to support, or justify, what they

are doing. Why could they not just read the Bible and orient their lives with what it plainly directs? How paradoxical that people **do not** follow every Word of Yahweh, when, in reality, they bend the Scriptures to their own interpretation! They have established traditions and customs which they seek to support with a minute portion of Scripture and, thereby, justify their actions. This has been known as “putting

the cart before the horse,” or “having the tail wag the dog.” In scholarly terms, it is called “proof texting” your beliefs, or deductive analysis. One should allow the Word of Yahweh to be the absolute authority, to reason **INDUCTIVELY** to determine sound doctrine.

Nevertheless, an even more amazing and puzzling situation develops when True Worshipers begin to observe the command-

ments of Yahweh. As they learn about the importance of keeping Yahweh's holy days of Leviticus 23, and begin to observe them with a spiritual sacrifice of the praises of their lips (Hebrews 13:15-16), the people around them will usually resort to casting a severe persecution upon those who desire to serve the Most High faithfully.

Although there are many plain and candid Scriptures that direct us to keep the commandments of Yahweh, the nominal Christian desperately seeks to find passages in the Bible which appear to indicate that the True Worshipers are no longer under such an obligation. They believe that when the Messiah died, He did away with the Laws of His Father Yahweh. They seek some kind of Scripture to support such a conclusion, which is absolutely nonexistent. The complete converse is true. Consider Matthew 5:17-20.

Consequently, every True Worshiper who desires to serve the Most High is confronted with a host of conflicting doctrines espoused by the various religious groups and denominations. On the one hand, we find plain Scriptures in the Bible which indicate that we must keep the holy days that our Heavenly Father has legislated, while, conversely, we are living in a world which observes totally different holidays than what the Bible **commands**. The people of the world appear to present a few Scriptures which they use to support their customs and practices; consequently, True Worshipers are faced with a dilemma. They must make a personal decision! Which group of holy days will

we observe? Will we follow the teachings of plain Scripture? Or will we follow the customs of our friends, relatives, and the common rituals that society in general observes?

At this time of year, you, yourself, are undoubtedly confronted with such a dilemma. Therefore, it is imperative that we all take a good look at the facts regarding the holy days observed by contemporary people, first beginning to seek to trace **their origin**. Where did the traditional customs that are practiced during this time of year originate, anyway?

The Bible Speaks Very Plainly on This Subject

When our Father in heaven, Almighty Yahweh Elohim, brought His people out of Egyptian bondage, He cautioned them **very** strongly to avoid the traditions, customs, and practices of the people around them. For example, a very striking passage may be found in Exodus 34:10-15.

“And he said, Behold, I make a covenant: before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been wrought in all the earth, or in any nation; and all the people among which you are shall see the work of Yahweh; for it is a terrible thing that I do with you. Observe you that which I command you this day: behold, I drive out before you the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite. Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you go, lest it be

for a snare among you: but you shall break down their altars, and dash in pieces their pillars, and you shall cut down their Asherim; for you shall worship no other El: for Yahweh, who is zealous for His Name is a jealous El: lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot after their elohim, and sacrifice to their elohim, and one calls you and you eat of his sacrifice....”

At the end of Yahshua's life, after he had led Israel to victory in the conquest of the Holy Land, when the tribes of Israel had finally entered into their heritage, he assembled the people in a convocation and challenged them to remain faithful forever to Yahweh, their Mighty One. Yahshua, the great Israelite general, reminded his people of their solemn promises to serve Almighty Yahweh and to eliminate the worship of other mighty ones. Notice carefully how he presented this challenge to them, urging them to make the correct choice to serve Yahweh and, then, to always remain faithful to Him.

“Hold [Yahweh] in awe then, and worship him in loyalty and truth. Banish the [mighty ones] whom your fathers worshipped beside the Euphrates and in Egypt, and worship [Yahweh]. But if it does not please you to worship [Yahweh], choose here and now whom you will worship: the [mighty ones] whom your forefathers worshipped by the Euphrates, or the [mighty ones] of the Amorites in whose land you are liv-

ing. But I and my family, we will worship [Yahweh].’ The people answered, ‘[Elohim] forbid that we should forsake [Yahweh] to worship other mighty ones, for it was [Yahweh] our [Elohim] who brought us and our fathers up from Egypt, that land of slavery; it was he who displayed those great signs before our eyes and guarded us on all our wanderings among the many peoples through whose lands we passed. [Yahweh]

Will you adhere to what the Bible teaches, or will you continue to allow yourself to be dominated by the worship of unconverted people around you?

drove out before us the Amorites and all the peoples who lived in that country. We too will worship [Yahweh]; he is our [Elohim].” (Joshua 24:14-18, The New English Bible, corrected to conform to the text).

The Bible contains the record of how Yahweh, the True Mighty One of this universe, chose a people to serve Him. He called upon them to serve Him. He called them out of bondage and brought them into a land of freedom. They were instructed to learn the True Worship of the Heavenly Father and elimi-

nate from their lives every last vestige of the erroneous, pagan practices and traditions of the people around them. We may apply these instructions literally to the family of ethnic Israel, as well as to the spiritual Israelites today who join themselves to the ancient True Worship of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

That challenge is being presented to **you** today! Will you adhere to what the Bible teaches, or will you continue to allow yourself to be dominated by the worship of unconverted people around you? Let us carefully consider some of those customs and closely examine their origins. If we can determine from the evidence we discover that these holiday customs were derived from **pagan sources**, noting that the evidence is clearly demonstrated in scholarly material, and if we compare these customs with what the Bible teaches, the dividing line between True Worship and the traditional practices of the people around us will become more pronounced, definite, obvious and plain. If we then follow Yahweh’s directive to **eliminate paganism** from our lives, we must, indeed, then **SEPARATE** ourselves completely from any close association or relationship with it.

The Worthless Customs of the People

Almighty Yahweh, the Heavenly Father, has cautioned us in His Covenant Law against accepting the customs and practices of the various nations of this world, as we have already noted from previous Scriptures. The people of the world have

inaugurated worthless religious practices. Let us carefully consider the implications of what the prophet Jeremiah writes in chapter 10.

“Thus says Yahweh, Learn not the way of the nations [heathen], and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the nations are dismayed at them. For the customs of the peoples are vanity; for one cuts a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it moves not. They are like a palm tree, of turned work, and speak not: they must necessarily be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good.

“There is no one like you, O Yahweh; you are great, and your name is great in might. Who should not fear you, O King of the nations? For to you does it pertain; since among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their royal estate, there is no one like you.” (Jeremiah 10:2-7).

This passage contains one of the most astonishing and enlightening instructions in the entire Bible for the people of Yahweh. Here we find condemned the idolatry as practiced among the nations, and Israel is directed to separate themselves **completely** from these erroneous customs. One need not have a very vivid imagination to notice in this passage an obvious reference to tree worship, to the modern Chr-stmas tree! In the

world today, as December 25 approaches, millions of trees are cut out of the forests and brought into homes. A huge, thriving industry has developed here in the United States around the use of Chr-stmas trees.

Truckloads of trees come from mountain farms which cultivate various varieties of evergreens. These trees are purchased by individuals who take them into their homes (and places of work and worship) where they are set upright on pedestals or stands. The trees are gaily decorated with fancy silver and gold trimmings. Usually picturesque electric lights and other decorations are attached to the branches. Occasionally, the trees are adorned with various small, tasty delicacies.

On Chr-stmas morning, the children awaken and rush into the living room where the Chr-stmas tree is customarily located. There they find that someone has placed many brightly wrapped packages under the tree. As they tear through the wrappings of these packages, they discover Chr-stmas gifts. Perhaps they even pinned up a stocking before they went to bed, and, now, these stockings are filled with small trinkets, possibly fruit and candy.

Where do practices like this originate? Are they scriptural? Does Almighty Yahweh condone, or condemn, them? What did Jeremiah the Prophet teach us?

When confronted with the plain statements from Jeremiah chapter 10, we are convinced that any sincere believer will immediately begin to eliminate from his life such customs as the Chr-stmas tree. Almighty



For the customs of the peoples are vanity; for one cuts a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it moves not. They are like a palm tree, of turned work, and speak not: they must necessarily be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good.

—JEREMIAH 10:3-5

Yahweh directs that the True Worshiper must not engage in these worthless, worldly customs.

Where have they originated? If they are unscriptural, they must have an origin somewhere in the annals of history.

The **Britannica Junior Encyclopedia**, Volume 5, gives a very outstanding description of the origin of the Chr-stmas tree. *“The Chr-stmas tree, common today in many countries, is thought to have originated in Germany. Before Chr-stianity was introduced, the MEMBERS OF MANY PAGAN RELIGIONS WORSHIPED TREES as symbols of their mighty ones. Nordic peoples honored the oak tree as a sacred symbol of Odin. St. Boni-*

face, the English missionary who brought Chr-stianity to Germany, is credited with the introduction of the evergreen tree in place of the oak. The evergreen was a traditional Chr-stian symbol of resurrection and everlasting life. In Germany, during the Middle Ages, a play about the Garden of Eden was performed at Chr-stmas. The Tree of Knowledge was represented by an actual tree hung with apples. Some legends say that Martin Luther was the first Chr-stian to cut down a fir tree and bring it indoors as a Chr-stmas decoration. Candles, used by centuries of Chr-stians to symbolize [Messiah] as the “Light of the World,” became a popular decoration for the tree. The use of holly, mistletoe, and evergreen



boughs as Chr-stmas decorations was DERIVED FROM PAGAN PRACTICES. Holly became particularly popular because it was considered symbolic of [the Messiah's] crown of thorns."

If you glance back over this enlightening passage again, you will notice the mention of the term *pagan* on several instances. **Chr-stmas trees are definitely derived from ancient pagan worship.** Trees symbolized the ethnic pagan mighty ones of the nations. Rather than remaining separate from these pagan practices and condemning them as not being in harmony with the Scripture, those who said they believed in the New Testament worship eventually capitulated to pagan philosophy and adopted these abominable practices from unconverted people. The converts from paganism carried into the Messianic True Worship the false doctrines from their heathen past, and they corrupted True Worship. The people, then, were **compelled** to support such pagan traditional practices with the Sacred Scriptures, so they searched about in the Bible and located a verse or two here or there that they interpreted to support what they wished to believe. Therefore, the pure Messianic Faith became corrupted as it allowed the incorporation of pagan traditions and practices.

However, the humorous thing (but, nevertheless, simultaneously tragedy) is that no one has ever been able to support the Chr-stmas tree custom with a single Scripture! Conversely, as you have seen from Jeremiah 10, **IT IS PLAINLY CONDEMNED IN THE BIBLE. No Chr-stmas tree is ever associated with**

the birth of the Messiah in any of the biblical accounts.

The practice of decorating an Xmas tree is absolutely and completely derived from pagan idolatrous sun worship.

The practice of setting up a Chr-stmas tree takes an even more bizarre turn. Many ch-rches still bring into their sanctuaries a bare evergreen tree. They situate it in the front of their sanctuary. Announcements are made that all who have money or jewelry to contribute during this "holy time" should fasten these items upon the tree as decorations in honor of the Messiah's birthday. These dollar bills and coins, along with jewelry, are then used to finance a ch-rch project.

Truly, this is a strange turn of events! The prophet Jeremiah had even predicted that the people would be covering the **traditionally pagan** tree with gold and silver. **This, then, is a literal fulfillment, in our time, of a prophecy made over 2,500 years ago!** This is truly amazing! The Bible is the true Word of our Heavenly Father Yahweh, because it accurately describes the customs of the people down through history—even into the end times in which we are now living at the close of man's age. Nevertheless, why follow a proven pagan custom which the Bible condemns? It is not the Will of Yahweh to allow pagan practices to infiltrate His True Worship.

If you would like additional information on the Chr-stmas tree, why not check an encyclopedia that you may have right there in your home? The library near your home will certainly have several sets of excellent encyclopedias. In

addition, Alexander Hislop, in his noted work **The Two Babylons**, discusses tree worship and how most ancient cultures venerated certain kinds of trees. Dr. Hislop even points out that the ancient Egyptians worshiped the palm tree! Jeremiah described that very practice, and he compared the trees that Israel worshiped with the Egyptian palm (Jeremiah 10:5).

Was the Messiah Really Born on Chr-stmas Day?

One need not study too deeply into the inspired Scriptures until he will discover that Yahshua the Messiah was not born on December 25, known as Chr-stmas day. A careful research of Luke chapter 1 will reveal that the birthday of Yahshua, our Savior, could not have been at Chr-stmas which, ironically, occurs near the winter solstice. Beginning with Luke 1:5, we can uncover a sequence of events that will give us the true time of His birth.

The crucial point of beginning is here in this passage where the term "THE COURSE OF ABIJAH" appears. Few people have understood how this word can serve as the starting point of a time sequence, but it will definitely prove to be such. By turning to 1 Chronicles 24:10, we can discover that the course of Abijah was a priestly division. All of the priests serving in the Temple of Yahweh served for one week in the first half of the year and one week in the second half of the year. The beginning of each one of these cycles of service was the week immediately following the major holy convocation observances of Unleavened Bread and

Tabernacles. There are actually about 50 weeks to the scriptural lunar year (354 days). Zachariah, John the Baptist's father, was of the course of Abijah, the eighth course, or division. Therefore, his period of service began eight weeks after the Feast of Unleavened Bread and eight weeks after the Feast of Tabernacles. This is not difficult to locate on any calendar that shows the scriptural holidays in relation to Roman time, which we commonly use.

Six months after the conception of John the Baptist, the angel Gabriel appeared to the virgin Miriam (her genuine name in the Scriptures) and announced the conception of Yahshua the Messiah. Consequently, if John the Baptist was conceived eight weeks after the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Yahshua the Messiah would have been conceived just a few weeks prior to December 25. Then how could He have been born on the day that the world presently celebrates as His birthday? ***It is totally and completely impossible!*** Using this knowledge, we must come to the conclusion that Yahshua was born during the Feast of Tabernacles rather than December 25.

This will, indeed, harmonize with other passages of Scripture. Let us notice what we find in John 1:14. ***“And the Word became flesh, and TABERNACLED among us (and we behold his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth.”*** By perusing the Greek text here, you will discover that the word translated *dwelt* (*eskanosen*) means *tabernacled*. Once again, here we observe that various scriptural passages will

complement and harmonize with each other very nicely, greatly broadening our understanding of the Bible. Write immediately for our free article, **The Birth**

It is obvious that the observance of December 25 did not originate in Rome, nor did it originate in Jerusalem, but it originated in the less civilized areas of the ancient world and was then finally incorporated into the Messianic worship hundreds of years after the Savior was born.

of the Messiah. This article will explain many more of these facts.

Then how did it happen that the Messiah's birthday was specified to fall on December 25, and why is the world today observing it at this time? Let us turn again to the **Britannica Junior Encyclopedia** for a

very enlightening description of what occurred.

“Although Christmas is celebrated on December 25, the actual date of [the Messiah's] birth is not known. The earliest Christians did not even set aside a feast day for observing the Nativity, or birth of [the Messiah]. They were much more concerned with the celebration of the Resurrection (Easter) and the gift of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost). In addition, they did not feel that it would be suitable for them to celebrate [the Messiah's] birth in the worldly way that the Romans observed their emperor's birthday. It was not UNTIL THE 4TH CENTURY, when worship of the emperor was no longer a problem for Christians, that the celebration of [the Messiah's] birth began.

“When it first arose, outside Rome, the celebration of the Nativity was held on January 5 and 6. Among Christians IT REPLACED A POPULAR PAGAN FEAST celebrating the appearance of, or revelation of, a mighty one. The Christian holiday came to be known as Epiphany, for the Greek word epiphaneia, meaning ‘the appearance.’

“By the year A.D. 336, however, the birth of [the Messiah] was being celebrated at Rome on December 25. THIS WAS THE DAY ON WHICH PAGANS OBSERVED THE FESTIVAL OF ‘THE UNCONQUERED SUN,’ their celebration of the winter solstice. The Romans also celebrated the Saturnalia, or feast of the mighty one Saturn, during the week before December 25. This was intended to bring cheer to the dark days of winter. For the

Christians at Rome, Christmas replaced both of these pagan celebrations. Each December they commemorated the birth of Jesus Christ, whom they often referred to as their 'light' or 'sun.' Christmas, therefore, came to be observed on a date originating from pre-Christian times, which was given a new significance in the 4th century.

"From Rome, the December holiday spread to Christians everywhere. Sermons by early Christian leaders show that it was introduced at Constantinople around the year 380 and spread as far as Egypt by 430. The Christians of Jerusalem did not adopt the December festival until the 6th century, while the Armenian church refused to accept it at all. At the same time, the January festival of the Epiphany spread to Rome. By the 5th and 6th century, then, most Christians were celebrating two important winter holidays—Christmas and Epiphany. Christmas, celebrated

on December 25, marked the anniversary of [the Messiah's] birth. Epiphany, celebrated on January 6, came to have a mixed significance. In the Roman Catholic church, the Epiphany holiday became a commemoration of the visit of the Magi, or Wise Men, to the Infant [Messiah]. In the Eastern Orthodox churches, Epiphany came to be celebrated primarily as a commemoration of [the Messiah's] baptism.

"For several centuries Christmas was kept only as a church festival and observed by religious services. Gradually, however, it developed into a holiday marked by feasting and gaiety. During the Middle Ages, Christmas was one of the most popular holidays of the year. In the 16th century, leaders of the Protestant Reformation objected to the nonreligious aspects of the celebration. There was also a reaction against Christmas and other festivals that were not specifically mentioned in the

Bible. In England, Christmas was abolished by the Puritan Parliament, although it was restored when Charles II came to the throne in 1660. In North America, the Massachusetts Bay Colony—founded by a group of English Puritans [known as the Pilgrims]—forbade the observance of Christmas. As a result, the holiday continued to be ignored in much of New England until the 19th century. Elsewhere in the Americas Christmas was celebrated according to the customs brought over by settlers from other lands."

This historical record is simply amazing! ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO SCRIPTURAL BASIS WHATSOEVER FOR OBSERVING DECEMBER 25, the world today observes the birthday of the Messiah much as a birthday of the emperor was observed in ancient Rome! It is also obvious that the observance of December 25 did not originate in Rome, nor did it originate in Jerusalem, but it originated in the less civilized areas of the ancient world and was then finally incorporated into the Messianic worship hundreds of years after the Savior was born.

A historian, Julius Sextus Africanus, in Alexandria, Egypt, wrote a history in 221 C.E. wherein he became the first person ever to specify that December 25 was the Messiah's birthday. Do you not find it strange that over 200 years had elapsed until someone finally designated December 25 as the Messiah's birthday? This, in itself, should be indicative that the Messianic worshipers adopted a false doctrine. Furthermore, the original



Roman disc in silver depicting Sol Invictus.

observance was to (venerate) the birthday of the new SUN (not SON), *natale sol invictus*, the birthday of the unconquerable sun.

Additionally, did you know that there is no commandment in the Bible to celebrate birthdays? Actually, the three times birthdays are mentioned in the Sacred Scriptures, violent deaths took place! Also, the Jews did not celebrate birthdays as did the gentiles. Additionally, the term Chr-stmas never appears in the Bible! It is a Roman Catholic invention.

Roots of December 25 in Ancient Pagan Sun Worship

If you will notice the quote above, where the origin of Chr-stmas is traced to the winter solstice and the Roman Saturnalia, you will notice that you have finally located the TRUE ORIGIN OF DECEMBER 25 to designate the observance of the birthday of the Messiah. The winter solstice was the time when the shortest day of the year occurred in the northern hemisphere. The sun seemingly was departing from the earth, but on December 25 it appeared to stop; by the first of January the days became visibly longer by several minutes. The sun appeared to be returning again. Since most ancient pagans worshiped the sun as the most powerful heavenly body, they incorporated a reverence for this annual natural phenomenon into their religion, making it to be the appearance or the **reappearance** of a mighty one, or a son of the mighty one.

Obviously, this pagan practice can be traced to ancient Nimrod

worship, which appears to be the root of all pagan worship. Please see Genesis 10:8-12.

When Nimrod died, the ancient people represented him as a tree that had been cut down. A serpent encircled the dead stump of the tree (symbolic of Escalapius, the healer), and, on Chr-stmas day (the winter solstice), the pagans were told that a new shoot had miraculously appeared out of the dead tree stump. They broke out in a riotous celebration to welcome the return of their mighty one. This death of the mighty one, and his reappearance each year, became the beginning of a new solar cycle. And, so, you can see that all of these modern religious practices are ultimately derived from rank and abominable paganism. Also, from the dead tree trunk which had been cut down came the yule log that was burned at that time of year, while the new green tree represented the new year.

The Saturnalia in Rome was observed much as is the modern Chr-stmas celebration. Gifts were exchanged; schools, courts, and businesses were closed. A drunken orgy took place as the slaves found a brief time of freedom, while their masters provided a feast for them. All over the world in most ethnic cultures, one can find remnants of these heathen practices, our own culture being no exception. Turn to Isaiah 65:11 where you will discover that Almighty Yahweh is very definite in His rejection of these customs. ***“But you that forsake Yahweh, that forget my holy mountain, that prepare a table for Fortune, and that fill up mingled wine***

to Destiny.” (Isaiah 65:11).

The following is a quote from **Barnes’ Notes on the Old Testament**, a commentary on Isaiah 65:11.

“And that furnish the drink-offering. In all ancient worship, it was customary to pour out a libation, or a drink-offering. This was done among idolaters, to complete the idea of a repast. As they placed food before their idols, so they also poured out wine before them, with the idea of propitiating them (see Notes on ch. lvii. 6).

“To that number. Marg. ‘Meni.’ The phrase, ‘to that number’ evidently conveys no idea, and it would have been much better to have retained the name Meni, without any attempt to translate it. The rendering, ‘to that number’ was adopted because the word meni is derived from manu, to allot, to appoint, to number. Various opinions also have been entertained in regard to this. Rosenmller and many others suppose that the moon is intended, and it has been supposed that the name Meni was given to that luminary because it numbered the months, or divided the time. Bynus and David Mills have endeavored to demonstrate that this was the moon, and that this was extensively worshiped in Eastern nations. Vitringa supposes that it was the same [mighty one] which was worshiped by the Syrians and Philistines by the name of Astarte, or Ashtaroth, as it is called in the Scripture; or as the queen of heaven; and if the name Gad be supposed to represent the sun, the name meni will doubtless represent the moon. The [female mighty one] Ashtaroth or Astarte, was a [female mighty

one] of the Sidonians, and was much worshiped in Syria and Phenicia. Solomon introduced her worship in Jerusalem (1 Kings xi. 33). Three hundred priests were constantly employed in her service at Hierapolis in Syria. She was called 'the queen of heaven;' and is usually mentioned in connection with Baal. Gesenius supposes that the planet Venus is intended, regarded as the source of good fortune, and worshipped extensively in connection with the planet Jupiter, especially in the region of Babylonia. It seems to be agreed that the word refers to the worship of either the moon or the planet Venus, regarded as the [female mighty one] of good fortune. It is not very material which is intended, nor is it easy to determine."

Other Unscriptural Customs in the Chr-stmas Celebration

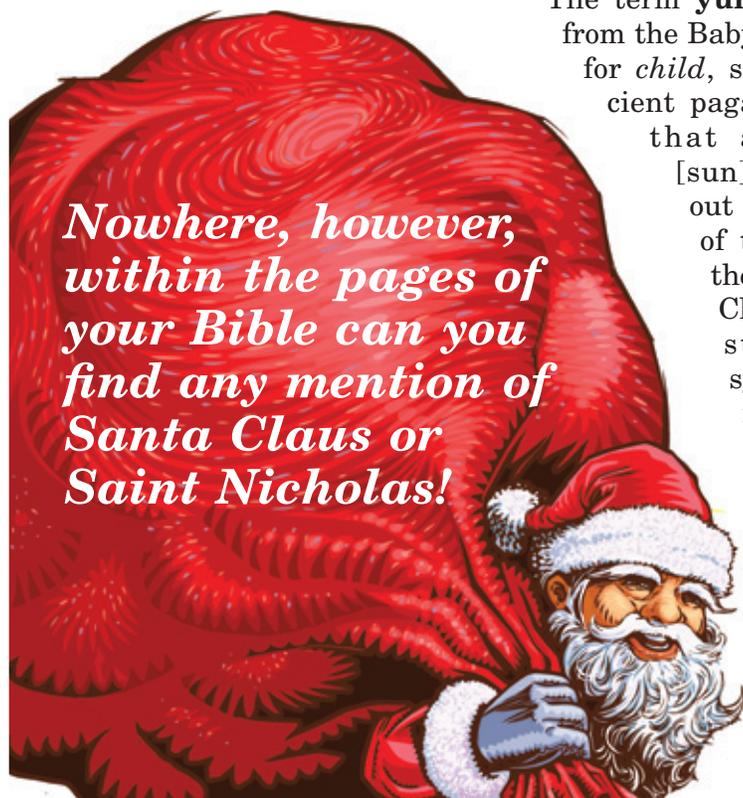
Various additional customs and traditions have attached themselves to the observance of Chr-stmas. These customs and traditions were once associated with the festival of the winter solstice that commemorated *solis natalis* (the birthday of the sun [son?]). For example, the yule log was reminiscent of the dead tree trunk that represented Nimrod. It also represented the death of the old sun and "father time." The pagans thought that by bringing in a log and burning it in the fire they commemorated the end of the old year. The ancient pagans thought that by burning the yule logs they were getting rid of the things that had taken place during the old year and a new beginning was given them.

The term **yule** is derived from the Babylonian word for *child*, since the ancient pagans believed that a new son [sun] would rise out of the ashes of the dead father. The green Chr-stmas tree stands as a symbol of the new solar

year. This is undoubtedly reminiscent of the traditional account of Nimrod who was supposed to have died, after which his wife-mother Semiramis became pregnant. Subsequently, she declared that her child was a re-incarnation of her dead husband. Even up to our time, yule logs continue to be burned in some places. Furthermore, we have come to the conclusion that the modern custom of the burning of the greens is reminiscent of this ancient pagan custom.

Santa Claus— Paganism to the Core

In the United States, and some of the European nations, we find that the most popular traditional figure at Chr-stmas is Santa Claus. Many people look forward to taking their children for a visit to Santa. Nowhere, however, within the pages of your Bible can you find any mention of Santa Claus, or Saint Nicholas! It has been thought that Santa Claus is a representation of an individual who lived in Asia Minor and befriended the poor of his area. Nothing could be farther from the truth, however, since the way the modern Santa Claus is depicted makes it obvious that he has nothing whatsoever in common with a saint. As a matter of fact, some have compared the word Santa with **Satan** (a slight rearrangement of the letters will produce this stunning effect). In American tradition, he is supposed to be a jolly little elf who comes down the chimney on Chr-stmas eve to deliver gifts that are placed under the tree. In that case he would be covered with soot, but,





usually, he is depicted with a red suit. Red, you will remember, is the symbol of the great harlot woman in Revelation 17. In our time, Santa Claus has become firmly attached to Chr-stmas, and he is accorded a position in the Chr-stian religion.

Santa rides around in a sleigh drawn by reindeer. Again, we must point out very emphatically that no reindeer are mentioned in relation with the birth of the Messiah. A stag, however, was related to the death of Nimrod (according to tradition) and this may be the association that was made by the ancient pagan peoples.

Usually, at Chr-stmas, the main gift to a little girl is a doll. It has been suggested that the etymological root of the word doll is "idol." These little Chr-stmas dollies are reminiscent of human sacrifice, according to most reliable authorities, such as Alexander Hislop in **The Two Babylons** book. (It is not wrong for a little girl to have a doll baby, since this will foster their mothering instincts, but they should not be given as Xmas gifts.)

Other pagan ceremonies, such as the boar's head festival, kissing under the mistletoe, Chr-stmas cookies, and the use of candle light are all derived from ancient pagan customs. We must renounce them, because they are totally unscriptural. ***"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh."*** (Matthew 4:4). Should we not heed Yahshua's Word? We believe so!

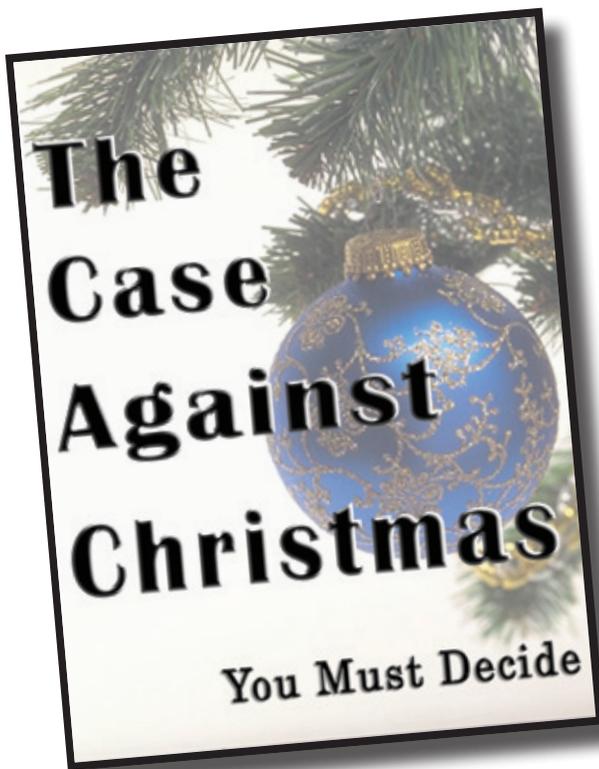
The Mass of Chr-st

Chr-stmas actually means the ***mass of Chr-st***. It was introduced by the Roman Catholic Ch-rch when the custom of celebrating the birthday of the Messiah on December 25 was adopted. Do you not find it strange that the Bible never commands any such religious ceremony as holding a midnight ch-rch service on December 24-25 and, yet, millions of people will attend? If Yahshua the Messiah was not born on December 25 (as we have already seen), then continuing such practices is absolutely worthless, and, not merely worthless, but it is an **abomination** in the sight of Almighty Yahweh. Do you find it puzzling and paradoxical that Protestants, who have rejected the Catholic mass, will continue to call a day designating the birthday of the Savior by a Catholic name? Remember, we have already seen plentiful encyclopedic evidence that the Pilgrims did not observe Chr-stmas, because they were seeking to serve the Heavenly Father. And, how about all of the people who have no religious conviction at all, but, nevertheless, are very ardent celebrators of Chr-stmas? Their very lives indicate that they have no desire to serve the Heavenly Father, or obey Him; nevertheless, they make a very lavish celebration of Chr-stmas. It is obvious that the Chr-stmas celebration has been derived from a pagan source, or unconverted people would be unable to engage in this celebration because their consciences would condemn them. Today, the Chr-stmas celebration is highly commercialized so that any reli-

gious association is marginalized.

We have traced some of the traditional customs and practices associated with the Chr-stmas celebration to the ancient Roman religion of Mithra. Thereby, we have seen that the popularity of the Chr-stmas celebration dates back to the time when Mithra was the prominent religion of the Roman Legions. The soldiers had discovered this captivating nature worship in outposts among the nations where the Imperial Roman armies of occupation were stationed. Then, when their tour of duty was over and they returned to Rome, they brought this new religion back with them. Eventually these customs and traditions infiltrated the Messianic True Worship, because not enough care was taken to maintain the purity of the way of life that the Apostles had proclaimed. Some of those ancient heathen customs still continue to cling tenaciously to Chr-stianity and the modern True Worshiper must eliminate them from his life if he wishes to please the Almighty.

Let us hear a warning given by Yahweh through Moses to His people Israel just before their entry into the Promised Land. ***"When Yahweh your Elohim shall cut off the nations from before you, where you go in to dispossess them, and you dispossess them, and dwell in their land; take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you; and that you inquire not after their elohim, saying, How do these nations serve their elohim? even so will I***



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do likewise. You shall not do so unto Yahweh your Elohim: for every abomination to Yahweh, which he hates, have they done unto their elohim; for even their sons and their daughters they burn in the fire to their elohim. Whatever I command you, that shall you observe to do: you shall not add to it, nor diminish from it. (Deuteronomy 12:29-32).

By all means, we must obey this instruction, or suffer rejection by Almighty Yahweh.

Conclusion

Why do the majority of the people, seemingly most of the nations of the world, follow along with the crowd? Few and far between are those who make a stand concerning the doctrines

that are taught by the inspired Scriptures and reject all of the practices in society that are unscriptural. These things are being revealed to you today. Almighty Yahweh is calling you to obey Him and keep His commandments. He demands that you reject all of the pagan traditions of the world. This system of things is primarily Babylonish and pagan in its origin. We must remember to come out of Babylon (Revelation 18:4).

Why not allow your life to take a new direction this year? When the world begins to get their Chr-stmas spirit (usually out of a bottle), why not seek Yahweh's Holy Spirit instead of following the practices of false doctrine? Why not spend the time you would normally spend in the celebration of Chr-stmas in extra

prayer and Bible study? Thereby, you will gain an immeasurable amount of spiritual strength. Almighty Yahweh will honor your dedication and determination to serve Him. Teach your children the Truth about the Chr-stmas season, rather than following the crowd and indoctrinating them with falsehood. Teach them the keeping of Yahweh's annual holy days of Leviticus 23, sacred seasons that He has commanded.

Special Note: Do you have our published booklet on Chr-stmas? If not, write to us immediately requesting it. The booklet is absolutely free for the asking. It is a thorough study of the subject of Chr-stmas and the origins of the traditional customs. Write to: **Assemblies of Yahweh, PO Box C, Bethel, PA 19507.** ^{SNB}

Television

These television stations air the Sacred Name Telecast. Check the program time and frequency of the station in your area.

Cable and Satellite

Cars.TV

AT&T U-verse, Channels 280 & 1280
Verizon FiOS Channel 599
Sunday 7:00-7:30 a.m. ET

Comedy.TV

AT&T U-verse, Channels 281 & 1281
Verizon FiOS Channel 695
DirecTV Channel 382
Sunday 7:00-7:30 a.m. ET

ES.TV

AT&T U-verse, Channels 282 & 1282
Verizon FiOS Channel 558
Sunday 7:00-7:30 a.m. ET

JusticeCentral.TV

AT&T U-verse, Channels 166 & 1166
Verizon FiOS Channel 186
DirecTV Channel 383
Dish Network Channel 240
Sunday 7:00-7:30 a.m. ET

MyDestination.TV

AT&T U-verse, Channels 284 & 1284
Verizon FiOS Channel 674
Sunday 7:00-7:30 a.m. ET

Pets.TV

AT&T U-verse, Channels 279 & 1279
Verizon FiOS Channel 633
Sunday 7:00-7:30 a.m. ET

Recipe.TV

AT&T U-verse, Channels 283 & 1283
Verizon FiOS Channel 676
Sunday 7:00-7:30 a.m. ET

Chicago and Upper Midwest

Comcast Cable Channel 138-TLN
Streaming @ www.tln.com
Tuesday 10:30 - 11:00 p.m. CT
Thursday 11:00-11:30 a.m. CT

KTLN-San Francisco Channel 47

Tuesday 8:30 - 9:00 p.m. PT
Thursday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. PT

KXLA

Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 PT

WMGM Atlantic City

Sunday 11:00-11:30 a.m.;
Monday - Friday, 8:00-8:30 a.m.

WSEE & CBS Satellite

Channel 16, Erie, PA.
Sunday 7:30-8:00 a.m.

WUXP Channel 30, Nashville, TN

Sunday 6:00-6:30 a.m. CT

Canada

CTV-CIVT Channel 32, and
cable 8 and 9 Vancouver, British Columbia
Sunday 5:00-5:30 a.m.

CTV Nationwide on Satellite

Bell ExpressVu 250,
Shaw Direct (Star Choice) 321
Rogers Cable 112

THE SACRED NAME PROGRAMS



Caribbean Region

HTS Channel 4, St. Lucia
Sunday 10:30-11:00 a.m.

Cable TV Channel 15, St. Maarten
Sunday 3:30-4:00 p.m.

MSR Cable TV Channel 6, St. Martin
Sunday 10:00-10:30 a.m., 7:00-7:30 p.m.

WSEE & CBS Satellite

Sunday 7:30-8:00 a.m. EST

Public Access Cable Channels

Hartford, CT
Rochester, MN
Richmond, VA
Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Please be sure to check local listings

Radio

These radio stations air the Sacred Name Broadcast. Check the radio time and frequency of the station in your area.

Atlantic

West Indies

DBS Radio (Dominica) 88.1 FM
Sunday 9:00-9:30 a.m.

Radio GBN (Grenada) 535
Sunday 6:45-7:15 p.m.

Guyana Radio Roraima 760
Sunday 6:00-6:15 a.m.

Radio St. Lucia 660
Sunday 6:00-6:30 a.m.

Radio PJD2 (St. Maarten) 1300
Sunday 7:30-8:00 a.m.

Trinidad Radio Power 102.5
Sunday 6:45-7:00 a.m.

Eastern

Pennsylvania

WWSM 1510, Lebanon
Sunday 7:30-8:00 a.m.

West Virginia

***WWVA** 1170, Wheeling
Friday 10:00-10:30 p.m. (also
streamed)

Ohio

***WCKY** 1530, Cincinnati
Sunday 6:30-7:00 a.m.

Central

Texas

***KCKM** 1330 AM, 98.7 FM, Odessa
Sunday 8:00-8:30 a.m.

Tennessee

***WSM** 650 AM Nashville
Sunday 5:30-6:00 a.m.

Philippines

DWNW 756, Bicol Region
Sunday 6:00-6:15 a.m.

DXCC 828, Cagayan de Oro City
Sunday 6:30-6:45 a.m.

DXWG 855, Iligan City
Sunday 6:00-6:15 p.m.

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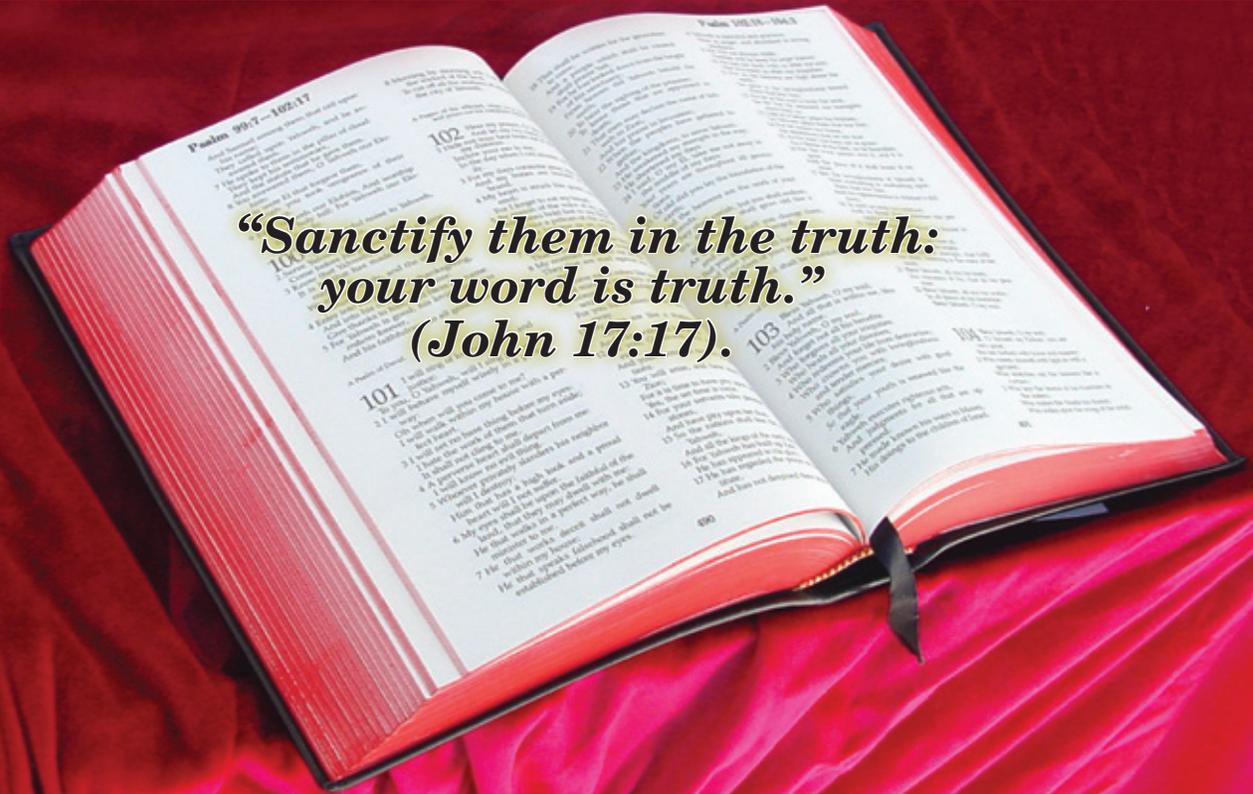
WMLK Radio

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(Note: There are times that WMLK is not broadcasting because of maintenance or repairs.)

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