

**Getting Paganism out of the Church, and hopefully out of your home, and Putting God's Festivals in our lives**



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**(A non-Jewish Christian examines God's Feast Days for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church)**

The party is over, "But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD"  
(Joshua 24:15) by Dr. Rex Duff

## Introduction

In Revelation 3:14-22 we find the church **of** the Laodiceans. This is the church that has everything, but Jesus. In Revelation 3:19 and 20, the Bible declares, “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me” (NKJV).

The Bible also states in Revelation 2:4-5, concerning the Church at Ephesus, which had let its first love, Jesus. “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen: repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place – unless you repent” (NKJV).

Many today, go to church on a Saturday or Sunday, and leave just like they came, not experience the real power of God. I am not talking about a charismatic experience with drums and rock music, having plenty of emotion, like being at the Super Bowl, but lacking one thing – JESUS! A false healing, and false tongue speaking, do not bring Jesus to the service. Tongues is languages in the Bible, not gibberish! Christ sadly was on the outside of the door, at the church of the Laodiceans.

Where have most churches gone wrong? I remember the day of the revival meeting, where conviction was in the air, you could feel it. Where the revival could not end, because the Holy Spirit was leading men and women to Christ by the preaching of the true Bible, the singing of hymns, and often a choir that had been praying for days before the revival got started. There was no rock music, no drums, no politically correct sermon, and everyone brought their King James Bible with them, and followed closely the preaching of God’s Word, and took notes. I am not saying that you can only use a KJV when using English, but it must be a Greek (TR) Textus Receptus translation, or you have a Satanic counterfeit. I cover this in my article on a Devil in the pulpit! (See article at Anabap.com) I use a NKJV Bible, because it is the best (TR) Textus Receptus translation. The other modern Bibles are translated from Origen’s doctored manuscripts, out of Egypt. What then are the main critical problems in the church?

## **1 – The message**

The church must get back to preaching the old time Gospel. There must be a salvation message of faith and repentance. Repentance is turning from sin, not feeling sorry you got caught by God. This involves a commitment to God as your Lord. Salvation is not a process, but a supernatural experience from God, when a person receives Christ as both Lord and Savior. The church must use a real Bible again.

## **2 – The worship**

Worship must return to singing praises unto God, with the presence of God in the service. The early church met weekly, preaching strong Gospel messages, sang hymns and prayed often. The women wore head coverings in the Church for the worship services. (I Corinthians 11)

## **3 – Pagan elements in the church removed and solutions for today!**

Around 321 AD, all paganism was incorporated into the Catholic Church, by Constantine, and has stayed there ever since. Protestantism brought these elements over with them, the Orthodox Church did also, and these pagan elements slowly have crept into Anabaptist, Bible, Seven Day Baptist, Brethren, and Baptist churches. Other denominations have always had them. These elements must be removed.

### **The history of paganism**

To fully understand paganism, we must begin by examining the Word of God, and see how God dwelt with it.

In Genesis 10: 6-12 the Bible declares' "The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put and Canaan. The sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and

Sabtechah; and the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan. Crush begot -----  
**Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter**  
before the LORD. And the beginning of his **kingdom was Babel**, Erech, Accad, and  
Calneh, in the land of Shinar. From that land he went to Assyria, and built Nineveh,  
Rehoboth Ir, Calah and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (that is the principal  
city)” (NKJV).

The Bible further declares in Genesis 11:1-9, “Now the whole earth had one  
language and one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east,  
that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. Then they said  
to one another, Come let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly. They had  
brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. And they said, Come let us build  
ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for  
ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth. But the  
Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.  
And the Lord said, Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and  
this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they purpose to do will be  
withheld from them. Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that  
they may not understand one another’s speech. So the Lord scattered them  
**abroad from there over the face of all the earth**, and they ceased building the  
city. Therefore its name is called Babel, because there **the Lord confused the  
language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over  
the face of all the earth”** (NKJV).

From these Scriptures we learn of man’s attempt to make the first false religion. It  
is clearly worship apart from God. It is Nimrod that is their leader.

The tower represents the glory of man’s work, a part from God. Man's self-glory  
was so bad, it brought Divine judgment.



The word Nimrod means to rebel. Finis Dake comments that Nimrod not only was a hunter of animals, but a hunter of men. All men who opposed Nimrod were hunted and killed. Josephus states that Nimrod persuaded men not to give God the glory for their happiness, but to Nimrod as the cause of their happiness. Here we see the beginnings of worshipping man, instead of God. (Dake's Annotated Reference Bible, pg.9, 1998)

Nimrod "was also a priest of devil worship and of heathenism of the worse kind. Then finally, Nimrod, the priest-king of Babylon, died. According to the old stories, his body was cut into pieces, burnt, and the pieces were sent to various areas. Similar practices are mentioned even in the Bible (Judges 19:29; 1 Samuel 11:7).

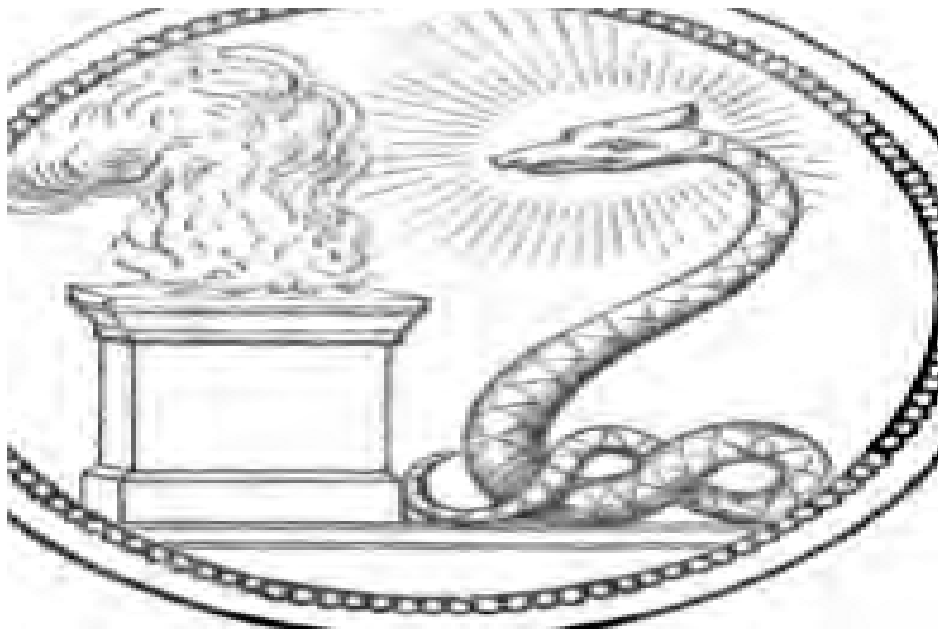
Judges 19:29 states, "When he entered his house he took a knife, laid hold of his concubine, and divided her into twelve pieces, limb by limb, and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel" (NKJV).

1 Samuel 11:7 states, "So he took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces, and sent them throughout all the territory of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, Whoever does not go out with Saul and Samuel to battle, so it shall be done to his oxen" (NKJV).

The death of Nimrod was greatly mourned by the people of Babylon. But though Nimrod had died, the Babylonian religion of which he played a prominent part, continued on and developed further under the leadership of his wife. After Nimrod's death, his wife, Queen Semiramis, claimed that he (Nimrod) was now

the Sun-god” (Ralph, Woodrow, Babylon Mystery Religion, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1966, 1979, pg. 9). When Semiramis had a child after Nimrod’s death, she claimed her child Tammuz was Nimrod reincarnated.

“The early religion of pagan Rome was but the Babylonish worship that had developed into various forms and under different names in countries it had gone” (Ralph, Woodrow, Babylon Mystery Religion, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1966, 1979, pg. 11).



An image of the sun god from Egypt – Notice the snake!

A side note here is needed, because many today believe that when God divided the earth and the people of the earth, that it was only a local occurrence. They do not believe that Babylonian was the start of paganism, after the flood. They deny that as people were divided by land and different languages, that original Babylonian paganism, took on different forms and names because of different languages. However, all paganism has one thing in common, their god is Satan, and he is the author of paganism no matter which country an element was added too, or a name was changed. Just like most countries have a legend of the Biblical flood, all paganism has its roots in Babylon. Babylon, Hawaii, China, and Greece,

all have interesting stories about a universal flood. In all “there are over 200 myths from all over the world” about a universal flood ([arkencounter.com/ flood](http://arkencounter.com/flood)).



Besides the Universal flood, paganism also adopted the Bible teaching of the Trinity, once again from Babylon. The Babylon trinity was Nimrod (Baal) Semiramis/Ishtar and Tammuz. In India it was “Brahma, Shiva, and Vishnu”. In Scandinavia it was “Odin, Frya, and Thor”. In Greece we find “Zeus, Athena, and Apollo”. In “platonic philosophy (affectionate, but not sexual) the demiurgic (the Gnostic deity, the originator of evil (Wikipedia) is comprised of Zeus, Poseidon, and Pluto.” In Egypt we find Osiris, Horus, and Isis” (Elisha Israel, *The Pagan Origins of Christian Holidays*, 2013, pgs. 50-57) Even though the author of that book claims Christianity was adopted from Paganism, he proves that, just like the universal flood, a view of a doctrine of the trinity came from Babylon! A belief in God, tells us that God came before paganism, not the other way around.



Top, a trinity medal from the pagans of Siberia, Russia -- Top right, a trinity from from St. Petersburg, Russia -- Also Babylonian Trinity -- India

In his latter book, **rejecting** his earlier writings, based on Hislop's the Two Babylons, author Ralph Woodrow wrote, "Primitive people who had no contact with each other – or with ancient Babylon – might develop similar practices and beliefs. Because life depends on it, the sun could easily become an object of worship, and for which images could be made. Phases of the moon, as well as seasons, could be used to mark times for festivals. Some rites would develop around sexual acts, cycles, birth, puberty, and death. The awe that the birth of a



baby would inspire, could result in images of a mother with a child in her arms as objects of worship. Ritualistic uses of water and fire might easily find a place. The fact is, many things have been a **natural** development of religion – totally separate from any supposed Babylonian origin” (Ralph Woodrow, *The Babylon Connection?*, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1997, p.25).

Sadly, Woodrow in his book to defend paganism in the Catholic and Protestant churches, wrote a book to show all the errors of Hislop’s ancient book, but failed to show where all the elements came from. He begins by saying the descendants from Babylon were primitive, and knew not each other. Therefore, the premise of his book is false, the Bible states all came from Babylon. It appears that Woodrow is saying that all paganism developed from Evolution? Sadly, Woodrow once wrote from a Christian point of view.

The Bible states in Genesis 11:9, “Therefore its name is called babel, because there the LORD scattered them (the people) abroad over the face of all the earth” (NKJV).

The Bible states in Genesis 10:25, “To Eber was born two sons: the name of one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided” (NKJV). This took place after the tower of Babel, when people had scattered throughout all the earth. After this God divided the land into continents as we find today. This was a rapid process, and did not take millions of years like Evolutionist falsely teach!

However, notice throughout his work all the pagan elements Woodrow admits to from other countries, that end up in the Catholic Church after Constantine. Since Ralph Woodrow was one of the very few, who deny Paganism in the church today (a goggle search of all most any subject’s origin will list the pagan origins), different points throughout his work will refer back to his second book on paganism. Interestingly, his first work, against the Catholic church, is all most impossible to purchase. You might have to pay more than \$100, for a small paper-back book on Ebay. His second book, supporting the Catholic Church, [The Babylon Connection](#), is very cheap, and easily purchased on Ebay. Why Woodrow would believe that similar ideas, if not exactly the same, and even birth dates, (an example being the birth date of the gods, December 25<sup>th</sup>) would miraculously show up in different countries, with no connections, is beyond me. Honest

Catholics do not deny pagan origins, I wonder why Woodrow at the end of his life would?

### **The History of the pagan religion of Nimrod, Semerimus, Tammuz, and Ishtar**

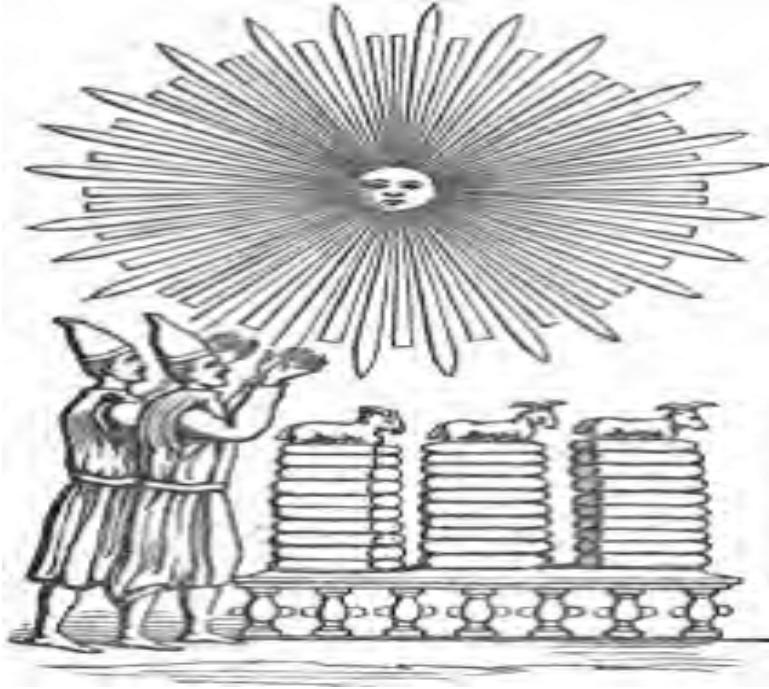
Satan's false church began at the tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9) Many believe that the first full time minister of Satan was Nimrod. This was Noah's great-grandson (Genesis 10:8-10)

According to secular history and multiple traditions from various sources, Nimrod married a wicked girl named Semerimus. Some legends claim she was his real mother, but this seems doubtful. Nimrod was later killed by Shem, one of Noah's sons, for his wickedness. Another name claimed by many, given Nimrod, was that of Moloch (Leviticus 18:21). This was the god of the Ammonites. Here we find the mention of child sacrifices mentioned with pagan worship. This (name change) might be because of language differences after God divided the languages at the tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9).

Semerimus quickly moved to keep Nimrod a god. She called Nimrod **Baal**, the sun god. When Semerimus was found pregnant, claiming she was still a virgin, she gave birth to a son, and called him Tammuz. Semerimus told everyone that Nimrod had been reincarnated. She proclaimed her son Tammuz the Savior of the world (Genesis 3:15).



The worship of the Sun from Egypt



Semerimus tried to fulfil Scripture her way. Semerimus proclaimed that both she and her son were Divine. Semerimus stated that she was the way to God. She took the title, **Queen of Heaven**. Salvation became through several types of sacraments, not all moral.



goddess and son from India

When Tammuz was killed by a wild boar, it was claimed that his lover Ishtar, **or** his mother Semerimus, according to some, (David Inghram, Pagan Traditions, Hearthstone Publishers, 2000, pg. 33) went to the underworld and brought Tammuz back after **40 days**. It was then claimed he was resurrected. The mourning for Tammuz became a worship, fast and then a celebration in Babylon and later in Israel. Today the fourth month of the Jewish calendar is called Tammuz. This **40-day weeping fast** became a fast for the dead. **After this**, there was a celebration and feast for the **Resurrection** of Tammuz. This feast was called Istar, because she had gone and brought Tammuz back from the dead. At this feast, colored eggs were eaten and exchanged, as a symbol of the resurrection. A yule log was also burned. Cakes with the letter T (the Tau cross) were also baked and eaten. (H.L. Willmington, Basic Stages in the Book of Ages, Old Testament, 1975, page 342; & Dake's Annotated Reference Bible, pg. 812, 1998).



**Ishtar** is known as the god(dess) of spring, when life reemerges (John MacArthur, MacArthur Study Bible, NKJV, Word Publishers, 1997, pg. 1162) Woodrow writes in opposition, “Tammuz is never described as an actual real person” (Ralph Woodrow, The Babylon Connection?, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1997, p.41). I guess Woodrow forgot about Ezekiel 8:12-18, where the Bible talks about women weeping for this imaginary person?

According to the book, Pagan traditions, the holiday Easter comes from the Anglo-Saxon spring goddess Eostre, who was also known as Ishtar. She was known as the fertility goddesses. Ishtar symbol was the **moon**-hare, who would lay eggs for good children to eat.



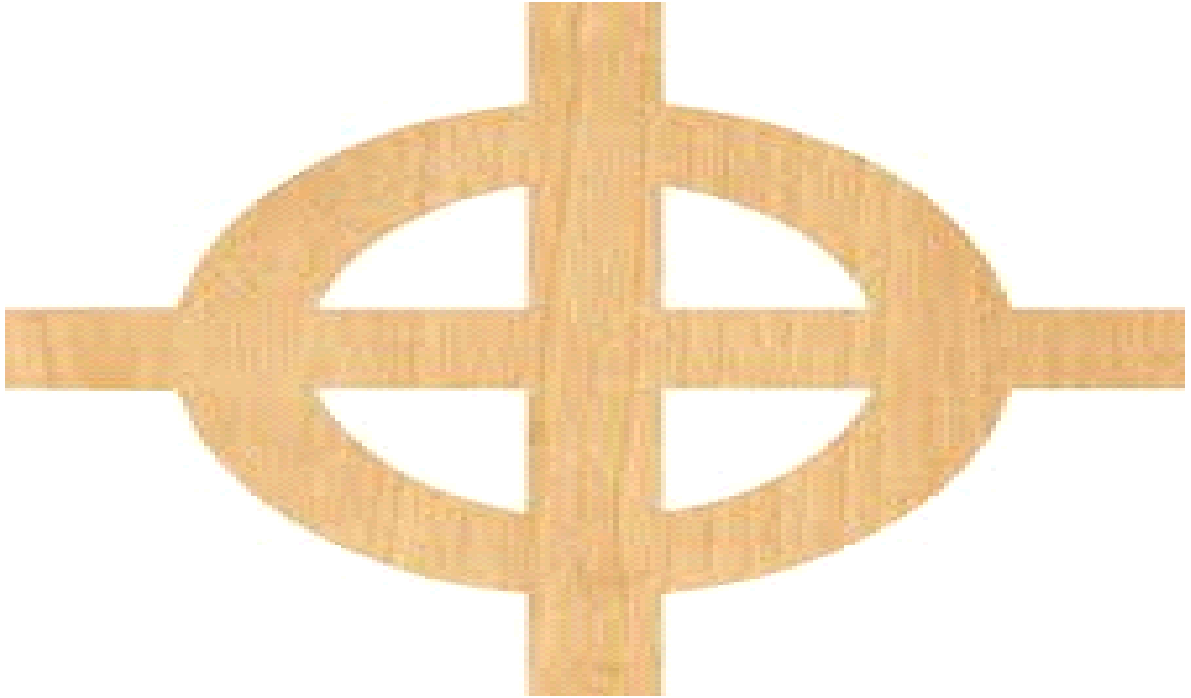
Eostre, according to Germanic legends, saved a bird who had frozen wings, and magically turned him into a hare who laid eggs. Some traditions state that flowers grew from Eostre's footprints. "In some cultures, this sacred day (Easter) included the ringing of bells, singing of songs, and decorating of hard-boiled eggs. Eggs were a symbol of both the sun god (the golden yolk) and fertility (the white shell symbolizing the white goddess) and were used both as talismans (an object with magical powers) and eaten in ritual.

The eggs of wild birds were gathered and these eggs are recreated today with the dyes used in Easter celebrations. The weaving of Easter baskets harks back to the weaving of birds' nests, a necessity prior to egg laying and the continuation of the life cycle."



Hot cross buns are also linked to Eostre or Istar with the ‘crossed lines on top represented by **Wotan’s cross**” (D. Ingram, Pagan Traditions, Hearthstone Publishing, 2000, page 9-10) Wotan’s cross (A Latin cross in a circle) is a Sun cross. “It represents the chief god in Germanic Paganism, Woden, and in Norse Paganism Odin. Woden and Odin are usually considered to be the same god; his symbol is not meant to be a cross, but like Taranis, (the Druid’s symbol, a circle with spokes) it represents a wheel.

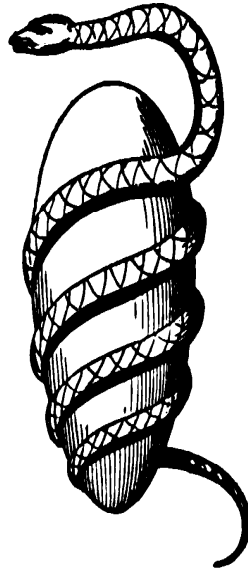
This wheel symbolizes the turning of life, into death” (See [www.selyaku.com](http://www.selyaku.com), Woden’s / Odin’s Cross



Another tradition states, “an egg of wondrous size fell from heaven one day and landed in the Euphrates River. Some equally wondrous fishes managed to roll the egg to shore, whereupon several doves descended from heaven and incubated the remarkable find. Soon, out popped Ishtar (Semiramis), the goddess Easter. The egg eventually became the universal symbol for fertility, and as such can be traced in pagan cultures worldwide (Ralph Woodrow, *Babylon: Mystery Religion*, pg. 153).

Sacred egg of Heliopolis





**Sacred Egg of Heliopolis ; and Typhon's Egg. From BRYANT'S *Mythology*,  
vol. iii. p. 62.**

Typhon's Egg

When the Catholic Church “later desired to become popular with both pagan and saint, it amalgamated (combined) the celebration of Jesus’ resurrection with the fertility rites, eggs, and other accouterment’s (elements) of a pagan holiday” (David, Ingram, Pagan Traditions, Hearthstone Publishing, page 34).

The Roman Catholic 40-day celebration of Lent corresponds with the death and Resurrection of Tammuz (Russell Tardo, Rabbits, Eggs, and Other Easter Errors, pp. 13-14). “The so-called “Easter lily” has long been revered by pagans of various lands as a holy symbol associated with the reproductive organs. It was considered a phallic symbol! One might easily surmise what was being suggested by sending a gift of such nature in ancient times” (Russell Tardo, Rabbits, Eggs, and Other Eastern Errors, pages 11-12).



In order to justify Easter eggs today, Woodrow writes, ““If at some other time and place there were people who worshipped eggs, this is not the case now” (Ralph Woodrow, The Babylon Connection?, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1997, p.96). Did Woodrow forget about the golden calf, and the consequences for the Jews?



The sacred egg of paganism

Ralph Woodrow in his first book writes, “The golden calf, for example, was a symbol of Tammuz, son of the Sun-god. Since Nimrod was believed to be the Sun-god or Baal, fire was considered as his earthly representation .....

Candles and ritual fires were lighted in his honor” (Ralph, Woodrow, Babylon Mystery Religion, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1966, 1979, pg. 10).

In the US, the Puritans outlawed the celebration of Christmas and Easter, declaring them as Pagan holidays. This ban lasted widely, until after the Civil War (David Ingraham, Pagan Traditions, p.35)

Ezekiel 8:12-18 (mentioned earlier) declares, “Then He said to me, Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the rooms of **his idols**? For they say, The LORD does not see us, the LORD has forsaken the land. And He said to me, Turn again, and you will see greater abominations that they are doing. So He brought me to the door of the north gate

of the LORD's house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there **weeping for Tammuz**. Then He said to me, Have you seen this, O son of man? Turn again, you will see greater abominations than these. So He brought me into the inner court of the LORD's house; and there, At the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east, and they were **worshipping the sun** toward the east. And He said to me, Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it a trivial thing to the house of Judah to commit the abomination which they commit here? For they have filled the land with violence; then they have returned to provoke Me to anger. Indeed they put the branch to their nose (they mock me). Therefore I also will act in fury. My eyes will not spare nor will I have pity; and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, I will not hear them. (NKJV).

Deuteronomy 4:19 declares, "And take heed, lest you lift yours eyes to heaven, and when you see the **sun**, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to **worship them and serve them**, which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage" (NKJV).

2 Kings 23:5 declares, "Then he (King Josiah) removed the idolatrous priests whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense on the high places in the cities of Judah and in the places all around Jerusalem, and those who burned **incense to Baal, to the sun**, to the moon, to the constellations, and to all the host of heaven". (NKJV).

2 Kings 23:10-11 further declares, "And he (King Josiah) defiled Topheth ("drums were beaten to drown out the cries of children being sacrificed" J. MacArthur, pg. 557) which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, that no man might take his son or his daughter pass through the fire to Molech. Then he removed the horses that the kings of Judah had **dedicated to the sun**, at the entrance to the house of the LORD, (NKJV)



**Jeremiah 7:18** states, “The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the **queen of heaven**; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger”. (NKJV).



Jeremiah 44:15-19 declares, “Then all the men who knew that their wives had burned incense to other gods, with all the women who stood by, a great multitude, and all the people who dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying: As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of the Lord, we will not listen to you! But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our mouths, to **burn incense to the queen of heaven** and pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For then we had plenty of food,

were well-off, and saw no trouble. But since we stopped burning incense to the **queen of heaven** and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have been consumed by the sword and by famine. The women also said, And when we burned incense to the **queen of heaven** and poured out drink offerings to her, did we **make cakes for her**, to worship her, and pour out drink offerings to her without our husbands' permission?" (NKJV).

In Jeremiah 44:29, we see the consequences for the Jews actions in Jeremiah 44:15-19. The Bible declares in Jeremiah 44:29, "And this shall be a sign to you, says the LORD, that I punish you in this place, that you may know that My words will surely stand against you for adversity." (NKJV)

Jeremiah 10:2-5 states, "Do not learn the ways of the Gentiles; Do not be dismayed (distressed) at the signs of heaven, For the Gentiles are dismayed at them. For the customs of the peoples are futile; For one cuts a tree from the forest, The works of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They decorate it with silver and gold; They fasten it with nails and hammers So that it will not topple. They are upright, like a palm tree, And they cannot speak; They must be carried, Because they cannot go by themselves. Do not be afraid of them, For they cannot do evil, Nor can they do any good" (NKJV).



“We seem blind to the fact that the evergreen tree has been a symbol of Tammuz for nearly four thousand years. Although Tammuz is the god of vegetation, he experiences annual death in autumn and resurrection in the spring. His continuing presence is a reminder of him during his winter absence, and a reminder of him during his winter absence is the evergreen tree, (our Christmas tree), his abiding symbol until the greenery of spring emerges. Whether in the form of a tree or that of a wreath made from its boughs, the evergreen represents paganism in a big way. We seem to forget that mistletoe and holly are fertility symbols that for centuries accompanied orgiastic celebrations including those of the winter solstice and Saturnalia. In fact, our Christmas celebration is fashioned according to the festival of Saturnalia” (David Ingraham, Pagan Traditions, Hearthstone Publishing, 2000, page 114 and 115).



Augustinus (Augustine) who lived from 354-430 CE, “came to a new conclusion about the cutting of the holy trees of the heathens. He declared: “Do not kill the heathen – just convert them; do not cut their holy trees – consecrate them to Jesus Christ” (de civitate Dei). So it came to pass that the Christmas tree was cut down, but it was also brought into the home as a Christian shrine. In early times, it

was holy to the gods and goddesses. When the church could not drive the tree cult out of the people, it dedicated the trees to the Christ Child.” (C. Ratsch & Claudia Muller- Ebeling, Pagan Christmas, Inner Traditions, 2003, p.25). “Bringing the spruce into the room had originally to do with the worshipping of the spirits that guarded the forest” (Strassmann, Rene A., 1994, Baumheilkunde, Aarau: AT Verlag, p.138)

“Before too many years had passed, however, men began to set themselves up as “lords” over God’s people in place of the Holy Spirit. Instead of conquering by spiritual means and by truth – as in the early days – **men began to substitute their ideals and their methods**. Attempts to merge paganism into Christianity were being made even in the days when our New Testament was being written.” “Instead of the church being separate from the world, it became a part of this world system” (Ralph, Woodrow, Babylon Mystery Religion, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1966, 1979, pgs. 11 & 12).

Today, Santa, becomes a god to young children. Children write to him, pray to him, and wait for his return every year. He knows all, does not age, has magical powers, can be everywhere at once, and can enforce punishment on bad children. All you have to do as a child is have faith in Santa, to receive his blessings. He is truly a pagan idol. In most shopping centers during December, Santa often appears with an elf helper. Where did this come from?





“Wotan is the ancestor of that famous bringer of presents, Santa Claus himself” (C. Ratsch & Claudia Muller- Ebeling, *Pagan Christmas, Inner Traditions*, 2003, p.16), and the elf that we see accompanying Santa in the shopping centers was Ruprecht, “a demonized, punishing helper.. with his rod and his sack” (Vossen Rudiger, *Weihnachtsbrauche in aller*, 1985, p.56). The rod, a rod of punishment, was a witch’s broom (Christian Ratsch & Claudia Muller-Ebeling, *Pagan Christmas, Inner Traditions International*, 2013, pg. 33).

During an event called the Wild Hunt, Oden would ride an “eight legged horse named Sleipner. Sleipner is likened to the eight-original reindeer of Santa due to his ability to leap across the night sky.” Rudolph, the 9<sup>th</sup> reindeer was not added until 1939 by Robert May. (Elisha Israel, *The Pagan Origins of Christian Holidays*, 2013, pg. 86). Another legend has Oden’s son, Thor riding a “chariot pulled by two reindeer named Gnasher and Cracker” (Elisha Israel, *The Pagan Origins of Christian Holidays*, 2013, pg. 85). Our modern Santa Clause is a combination of several legends from many countries. All of these legends have pagan origins, and have nothing to do with the birth of Jesus. The number 8, the original number of reindeer, on its side is an occult symbol for infinity, reincarnation (Doc Marquis, *America’s Occult Holidays/VHS, The Prophecy Club*, Topeka, KS., 1997).



“Tammuz was a predecessor to the Roman god Saturn. Both Biblical and secular sources indicate that these practices moved westward out of Mesopotamia (Babylon) centuries before Christ. Then, with the Rise of the Roman Empire came the rise of the mid-winter festival of Saturnalia, namesake of the Roman god”. (David Ingraham, Pagan Traditions, Hearthstone Publishing, 2000, page 99).

“In his booklet The Shocking Truth about Christmas, Dr. Russell K. Tardo writes: Saturnalia was the most vile, immoral feast that ever-disgraced Rome. It was a season of license, revelry prevailed, and the entire city wantonly indulged in the filthiest sorts of immorality imaginable” (David Ingraham, Pagan Traditions, Hearthstone Publishing, 2000, page 100).



“Saturnalia adopted the motif of green boughs, fir trees, fertility rites, and protection from evil spirits” (David Ingraham, Pagan Traditions, Hearthstone Publishing, 2000, page 101). Holly, Ivy, red berries, and mistletoe, were all connected to magic, fertility, good luck, and the worship of Saturnalia. “One of the most popular holidays in the Roman year was the Saturnalia. It was a week - long festival with torchlight processions, gift giving, and merrymaking culminating in a winter solstice feast on **December 25**, called Natilis Solis Invictior, the **Birthday of the Unconquerable Sun**” – (Sheryl Ann Karas, The Solstice Evergreen, p. 88).

Lights either on a tree, or in a window, or outside were for the purpose of inviting the winter god, to come and bless your house. The colors of red and green at Christmas (YULE) also have an occult origin. In one tradition Santa, was told how to take a snow ball, and turn it into a crystal ball, by the winter god. For those who put a five sides star on the top of your Christmas tree, should know this is the cultic symbol for a pentagram, and is a symbol for the sun god. The crescent moon is a symbol of the goddess (Doc Marquis, America’s Occult Holidays/VHS, The Prophecy Club, Topeka, KS., 1997).



“In 375 A.D. the Catholic Church declared that Christ birth was as you could guess, December 25<sup>th</sup>. “This date was without biblical or historical grounds, however, and became official only for the sake of convenience so that the celebration of the birth of Christ could be merged with pagan festivities of the season” (David Ingraham, Pagan Traditions, Hearthstone Publishing, 2000, page 102). However, some say it happened in 354 A.D., when “Liberius commanded that Christ’ birth be observed on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December to counteract” pagan celebrations. (Elisha Israel, The Pagan Origins of Christian Holidays, 2013, pg. 79)

### **Just who was born on December 25<sup>th</sup>, according to Pagan Legends?**

In **Persia**, the birth of the god Mithras was born by a virgin on December 25<sup>th</sup>, 600 BC. In **Egypt**, the birthday of Ra, once again is on December 25<sup>th</sup>. In **Babylonian** Tammuz was born (by a virgin) on December 25<sup>th</sup>. Zeus – Syrian god, born on December 25<sup>th</sup>. (Michael Rood, The Pagan-Christian Connection Exposed, Bridge-Logos, 2004, pgs. 58, & 80). These gods were said to have also have been born by a virgin on December 25<sup>th</sup>, Horus – Ethiopian Sudanese, 3000BC; Buddha – Nepal god, 563 BC; Krishna – Indian god, 900 BC; Zarathustra – Irian god, 1000 BC; Hercules – Greek god, 800 BC; Dionysus – Greek god, 500 BC; Hermes – Greek

god, 200 BC; Adonis – Phoenician god, 200 BC (Dr. K. Olukoya, List of gods born by a Virgin on 25<sup>th</sup> December; Nairaland.com)

“Throughout his reign Constantine retained the title of Pontifex Maximus (Greatest Pontiff), and continues to refer to the first day of the week...the day of the sun... the invincible sun” (Elisha Israel, The Pagan Origins of Christian Holidays, 2013, pgs. 5-6). Many historians have comments that Constantine was not baptized until his death bed. There is little doubt, that Constantine himself, was a pagan worshipper of the SUN (Nimrod), and used a form of Christianity to united his kingdom, by uniting all paganism, by simply using some name changes.

Where did the word Christmas come from? It is Christ’s mass, a Roman Catholic worship service! (John McCollister, The Christian Book of Why, Jonathan David Publishers, 1983, p. 205).

2 Corinthians 6:15-18 declares, “And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.” Therefore “Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.” (NKJV).

“The first (in Exodus 20:1-6; of the 10) commandment (vs. 3) forbids worship of other gods; the second commandment (vss. 4-5) forbids the use of **visual portrayals** of God **in worship**, or the use of aspects of God’s creation as symbols of God **in worship**. (David Ingraham, Pagan Traditions, Hearthstone Publishing, 2000, page 20).

Exodus 3:3-6 declares, “You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a **carved image** – any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall **not bow down to them nor serve them**. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous

God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments” (NKJV).

Besides the fact that the symbol of the original cross comes from the worship of Tammuz (Jeremiah 7:18, already quoted), should Christians have any symbols in the worship of God?

Repeating Jeremiah 7:18, the Bible states, “The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make **cakes** for the **queen of heaven**; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger”. (NKJV). These cakes had the letter T on them for Tammuz. This was also the symbol for the original **cross**, not a Latin Catholic cross.

However, the worship of the cross did not happen until Constantine made it official after 325 AD. Could this worship of the cross, have been another attempt to bring Paganism into Christianity by the Catholic Church?



According to Ralph Woodrow again, “Hislop gives no evidence the cross was a distinctive religious object in Babylon, but cites examples in other countries. These examples are varied in style and unrelated in purpose – with nothing to suggest a common origin” (Ralph Woodrow, *The Babylon Connection?*, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1997, p.55).



Woman with cup and **cross** from Rome – Elliott's Hora

“In my earlier Christian experience, when I came to realize the cross design was used in pre-Christian times.... I suppose the cross could not truly be a Christian symbol. But this fails to take into account **that bad can become beautiful** through Jesus Christ!” (Ralph Woodrow, *The Babylon Connection?*, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1997, p.57). Woodrow goes on to say that according to Ezekiel 9:4-6, quoting the Pulpit Commentary, “the mark seems to have been a cross” (Ibid, p.59). “Now here is the point and it is weighty: It was the Lord who ordered the t to be placed on the foreheads of the righteous. If this was a recognized, evil, Babylonian symbol of Tammuz, why would the Lord designate this as the mark?” (Ralph Woodrow, *The Babylon Connection?*, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1997, p.60).

A reading of Ezekiel 9:4-6, shows this is clearly a **fabulation of Woodrow's mind!** No where does it say in Ezekiel 9:4-9 that God ordered a **pagan cross symbol** placed on the forehead of the righteous!

Also notice further what Woodrow wrote, “While it is true that round glow of light, sometimes called a glory, halo, or nimbus, was used in Hellenic and Roman art to encircle the heads of gods, heroes, and other distinguished persons, the

symbol itself is not evil” (Ralph Woodrow, The Babylon Connection?, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1997, p.67). Almost every authority agrees this is a symbol of Deities. It is used commonly in the Roman Catholic Church today, and is beginning to be seen in Protestant literature.

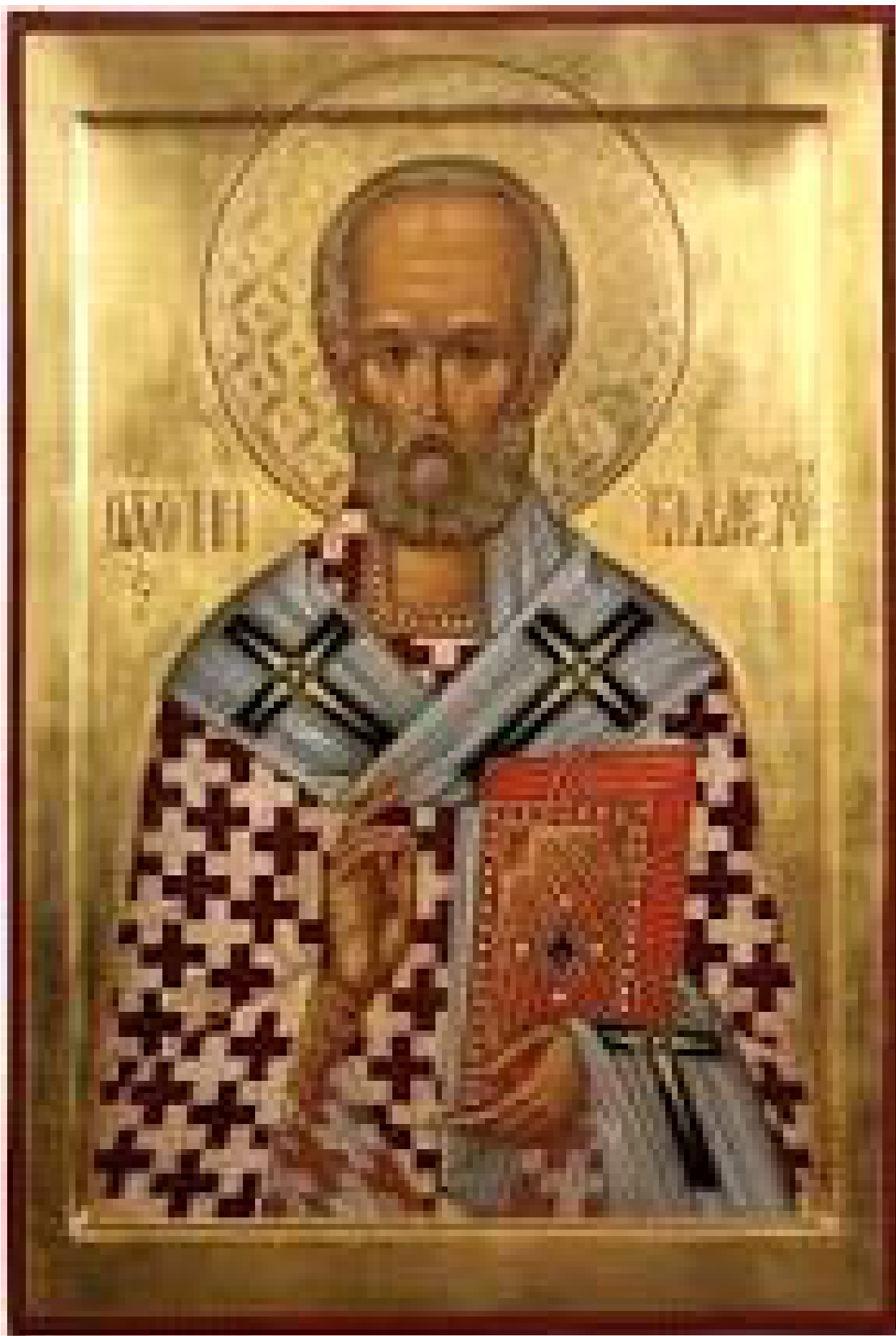


“If at some other time and place people actually worshipped trees, this is not the case of a Christian family that chooses to decorate with a Christmas tree today.” (Ralph Woodrow, The Babylon Connection?, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1997, p.93)”.



Why do Christians worship a tree today? Yes, I know it is traditional, but whose tradition? "Does it (our practices) glorify Christ? Is it in harmony with the Bible? If not, then of course it should be discarded along with anything that is truly pagan" (Ralph Woodrow, *The Babylon Connection?*, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1997, p.100). This statement I finally agree with. Sadly, Woodrow did not agree with his own statement.

Early in my Christian upbringing, the illustration of a garbage can full of maggots was given to me. If a person adds a nice piece of meat into the can and stirs it up, how many would now eat it? Simply by Christianizing Paganism, does not change paganism. What have we really done? We have taken a statue of Semiramis and her child Tammuz, and made it Mary and Jesus. We have made this Mary, today, a goddess on the same level as Jesus. Some would argue she is even greater than Jesus. We have made her a virgin forever. She is prayed to. We have taken pictures of pagan gods and goddesses and made them Christian icons. The orthodox church prays to these pictures.





We have statues of pagan gods and goddesses with new Christian names. We have taken pagan holidays and now call them Christian holidays. A good example is EASTER!!! Jesus resurrected on the day before the Feast of First Fruits (A Bible name). Nothing about Easter, including the name, is Christian. It is a pagan celebration, with the Resurrection added in. We will look further at the **Resurrection of Jesus** later in this book.

Take a real look at Christmas. What is **Christian** about it? Even the name means Christ mass. Jesus was **not** born on December 25<sup>th</sup>, the birth date of the gods! There were no Wise men present, there was no Christmas tree, no Santa Clause, no festival partying. In short, there was no Jesus there either. Jesus was born probably, the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles, proven later. In Luke 2: 8, the Scriptures declare, “Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in

the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night” (NKJV). Traditionally, to this day, Shepherds keep their flock in the fields only until the second week in October, after that it is too cold. (Doc Marquis, America’s Occult Holidays/VHS, The Prophecy Club, Topeka, KS., 1997).

Halloween is the worship of the Devil. Much has been written on this subject, and since most Christians agree on this fact, time will not be taken to prove this.



A goggle on the origins of Halloween on the internet, will easily prove this for any doubting Thomas's. A few facts unknown by most is, the Druids would come by a house, and declare **trick or treat**. If the house did not give a servant or child from the house for sacrifice, then they would mark the house with blood, so a death could happen in the house. The victims were taken to a sacrificial site, where they were given the choice to bob for an apple, on the first attempt only, and be set free if they got an apple in their mouth, or suffer a beheading if they refused. The apples were in a pot of cider, but the cider was boiling. Those who survived the ordeal, were scarred and crippled for life.



Halloween costumes were invented to keep away demons who were roaming on Halloween. (Doc Marquis, *America's Occult Holidays/VHS*, The Prophecy Club, Topeka, KS., 1997).



Cupid

Sadly, even Valentine was the worship of pagan gods. In one Valentine tradition, it began as a fertility celebration. Sweets and spring flowers were brought to the

pagan temples to worship the goddess. In Acts 19:27-34, the goddess was called Diana at Ephesus. Originally cupid, was the child of the goddess. Another name for Cupid is Tammuz. The symbol for this holiday was a heart, because that is the center of emotions (Doc Marquis, America's Occult Holidays/VHS, The Prophecy Club, Topeka, KS., 1997). Has anything changed over the centuries?

In short, the church and **the home** have become pagan worship centers. If you are not yet convinced read on! I will give you some easy solutions how to honor Christ on his birthday and death, from a Biblical bases.

“It has been said that blowing out candles with a single puff in order for a wish to come true was originally a rite to gain the favor of the goddess Artemis:” (Ralph Woodrow, The Babylon Connection?, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1997, p. 108). Maybe, we should also reevaluate are birthday celebration traditions? No, I am not some crack-pot, I am simply wondering what all we do, that displeases our Lord and Savior.

Let me be clear, this author does **not** believe pictures, symbols, and teaching objects, violate the second commandment, as long as they are not objects of worship. A manger scene is a teaching object, as well as pictures of Bible stories in a book for children, even adults, and is acceptable, provided they never become objects of worship. Praying to a picture, or any object, including a Bible, is idolatry. The problem is, how many churches have symbols of a Latin cross, people pray too, or even wear, for good luck? I have seen people enter a church, go up in front of the church, and pray to a cross. I strongly believe this is pagan worship. I also believe Christian should not wear crosses.

“I personally have not read in the Bible where God has asked us to honor Him by celebrating the holidays, we celebrate each year. Each holiday is set with the desires of human beings.” “When I read my Bible, I could not find where we were told to practice a celebration for Christmas, Easter, Halloween, and Valentine’s Day” (Lillie Sandridge Hill, Pagan Holidays of Traditional Beliefs, Universe books, 2021, pages 3 & 8).

“You must celebrate days that do not have pagan beginnings or anti-Christian origins, as done in the Bible.” (Lillie Sandridge Hill, Pagan Holidays of Traditional Beliefs, Universe books, 2021, page 12).

“The Bible does not instruct Christians to celebrate such holidays as Christmas, Easter, Valentine’s Day, or any of the days we celebrate during the year” (Lillie Sandridge Hill, Pagan Holidays of Traditional Beliefs, Universe books, 2021, page 16).

Please remember, “the Roman Emperor Constantine feigned becoming a Christian and was not baptized until he was on his deathbed. He only wanted to consolidate his rule by incorporating the pagan holidays and festivals into the church rituals to attract the pagans but by giving the holidays and festivals new Christian names and identities, thus appeasing the Christians” (Lillie Sandridge Hill, Pagan Holidays of Traditional Beliefs, Universe books, 2021, page 16).

“Read your Bible and see if you can find where God has asked you to honor him by taking pagan holidays and turning them into a Christian celebration” (Lillie Sandridge Hill, Pagan Holidays of Traditional Beliefs, Universe books, 2021, page 19).

Hill comments that besides Christmas, Easter and Halloween, New Year’s Day, Valentine’s Day, Mardi Gras, Lent, Mother’s Day and a few less known world-wide holidays were all “born out of pagan-rooted traditions” (Lillie Sandridge Hill, Pagan Holidays of Traditional Beliefs, Universe books, 2021, page22). Is she right? Sadly, even Mother’s Day has a pagan origin.

Mother’s Day, “the beginning of this holiday may have been in the ancient spring festival known as Hilaria, dedicated to the mother goddess Cybele” (Ralph Woodrow, The Babylon Connection?, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1997, p.97)

New Year Day comes from the god of New Beginnings, and open doorways. This god from Rome was Janus. “Janus had two faces, one looking forward to the



future and the other gazing backwards to the past” (Elisha Israel, *The Pagan Origins of Christian Holidays*, 2013, pgs. 21).

Another origin of Valentine’s Day comes from the ancient Roman feast of Lupercalia, which was celebrated from February 13-15. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of February goats and dogs were sacrificed because of their “strong sexual instinct”. In Rome boys would run “throughout the city scantily covered with goat hides striking women with thongs.” “It was believed that such a strike would aid conception and childbirth, thus women of rank received these lashes willingly.” “In 496 A.D. Pope Gelasius I replaced the licentious pagan Lupercalia with a festival in the honor of the martyr Valentine” (Elisha Israel, *The Pagan Origins of Christian Holidays*, 2013, pgs. 25-27). However, we are not sure which Valentine the Pope had in mind? It is possible it was a compilation of several people.

Sprinkling ashes on the forehead on Ash Wednesday comes from the practice of worshipping the Norse god Odin. (Elisha Israel, *The Pagan Origins of Christian Holidays*, 2013, pgs. 36).

“Halloween is considered a high day among those who follow the Wiccan religion” (Elisha Israel, *The Pagan Origins of Christian Holidays*, 2013, pgs. 68). As previously stated, it is not necessary here to write pages upon pages demonstrating that Halloween is the worship of the Devil, and all the things that accompany it!

As I look at worship in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, I still find not only Catholics and the Orthodox church worshipping Mary, but recently I heard the practice in a Brethren Church.

From Babylon





From India

Judges 2:13 declares, “They forsook the Lord and served Baal and the Ashtoreths” (NKJV). Astoreths was the Canaanite goddesses.

“In Ephesus, the Great Mother was known as Diana” (Ralph, Woodrow, Babylon Mystery Religion, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1966, 1979, pg. 14). Interestingly, the worship of Astoreths, Diana, Semiramis, Isis, (Mary) was not a local occurrence. Note- In Egypt she was known as Isis (Ralph, Woodrow, Babylon

Mystery Religion, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1966, 1979, pg. 15)  
Just how far did the worship of Diana (Semiramis) go?



Ancient Diana

Notice what Acts 19:26-27 states, “Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess **Diana** may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, who all Asia and the world worship” (NKJV).

What Paul was able to destroy by the preaching of the Gospel of Christ, the Catholic Church in just a couple of hundred years, was able to put back, by the merger of paganism and Christianity.



Mary Queen of Heaven with Jesus?

Here are some things today a Christian might consider

“Quite plainly then, the scriptures are against the use of idols and images in church worship”. “Not only were the Israelites to destroy the idols of the heathen nations they conquered, but they were to destroy all their pictures” (Numbers 33:52. “The artists and sculptors of ancient Babylon used the disk or aureola around any being they wished to represent as a god or goddess.”

From Pompeii – A representation of Circe, the daughter of the sun



“Originally, ...obelisks were associated with sun-worship. They were symbols of Nimrod or Baal in deified form”. “When the backslidden children of Israel mixed heathen worship with their worship of the true God, they too erected an image of jealousy in the entry of the Temple (Ezekiel 8:5)”. “Numerous writers mention how the spire or steeple was originally but another form of the obelisk – a symbol of the phallus”. (Ralph, Woodrow, Babylon Mystery Religion, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1966, 1979, pgs. 36, 37, 39, 40, and 48).

Though it is true that Christmas and Easter only come once a year, sadly, every Sunday that most go to some Church, they find a Cross located somewhere on the building. Is the Cross really a Christian symbol at all? A further look at the cross.



The cross, an amulet used in Ancient Rome, Egypt, and Babylon



Bacchus, the Babylonian messiah, with a head band covered with crosses

“All (most) all Catholic homes, hospitals, and schools have the cross adorning the walls” “The sign of the cross is often used in in Catholic rites” and it is done before prayers by Catholics. Protestant, Baptist, and Bible Churches, “have made use of the cross on their steeples, on their church roofs, on pulpits, and in various other ways. And so, to one degree or another, Christendom – both Papal and Protestant – has assumed that there is virtue in the cross image; that our church building should be decorated with it; that it is a Christian symbol” (Ralph, Woodrow, Babylon Mystery Religion, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1966, 1979, pgs. 49-50). Where in the Bible are we told too, or permitted to display a cross on a building or around our neck?

“A study of historical evidence plainly reveals that the cross symbol is of pagan origin! The early Christians did not consider the cross as a virtuous symbol, but rather as “the accursed tree”, a devise of death and “shame” (Hebrews 12:2)

“As early as the days of Cecrops, founder of Athens, (1500 BC), such buns were used in the worship of the queen of heaven. The history of the **cross** bun goes back to ... the LIBA offered to Astarte – the Queen of Heaven”, another name for Semiramis. See - Jeremiah 7:18-20; where the word cake is kavvan, translated



bun” (Ralph, Woodrow, Babylon Mystery Religion, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1966, 1979, pg. 154).

Hebrews 12:2 states, “looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (NKJV)

“The apostles preached about the cross and gloried in it (I Corinthians 1:17-18). Such references to the cross in the epistles never refer to a piece of wood one might wear around his neck or carry in his hand. The message of the apostles was concerning the **ONE** that hung and died on the cross..... Never did those of the early church consider a piece of wood as a protector, a good luck charm, or as an object of worship..... It was in 431 AD that crosses in Churches and chambers were introduced, while the use of crosses on steeples did not come until about 586 AD. In the 6<sup>th</sup> Century, the crucifix image was introduced and its worship sanctioned by the church of Rome. It was not until the second council at Ephesus that private homes were required to possess a cross..... Its entrance into the professing church was but a further attempt to mix paganism with Christianity” (Ralph, Woodrow, Babylon Mystery Religion, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1966, 1979, pgs. 50-51)

1 Corinthians 1:17-18 states, “For Christ **did not send me to baptize**, but to preach the gospel, not with the wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the **message** of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (NKJV)

“Centuries before the Christian era, the cross was honored as a religious symbol by the people of Babylon. It is seen on their oldest monuments. Historians say that it was a symbol associated with TAMMUZ.....The cross symbol – in its original form – came from the first letter of the name Tammuz, the T..... The Christian cross was originally no Christian emblem at all, but was the mystic Tau of Chaldeans and Egyptians... (it) was used in every variety of way as the most sacred symbol... it was used as an amulet over the heart; it was marked on the official garments of the priests, as on the official garments of Rome today. ...Any book on Egypt.... (shows) kings and gods of antiquity holding crosses in their hands” (Ralph, Woodrow, Babylon Mystery Religion, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1966, 1979, pg. 51).

“The cross of Egypt or the Tau cross, is shaped like the letter T, often with a circle or ovoid above it, yet this mystical symbol was not peculiar to this country, but was revered.... among the Chaldeans, Phoenicians, Mexicans, and Every ancient people in both hemispheres....Among the Chinese, the cross is ...acknowledged to be one of the most ancient – devices... it is painted upon the lanterns used to illuminate the most sacred recesses of their temples... In Northern India, the cross is used to mark the jars of sacred water...In Southern India the cross is used as an emblem of disembodied Jaina saints...Among the Hindoos of India, the cross was regarded as sacred to their god Agni. The Buddhists, and numerous other sects of India, marked their followers on the head with the sign of the cross .... In Africa ... the Kabyle women although Mohammedans, tattoo a cross between their eyes...In Mexico... the cross symbol, when the Spaniards arrived... was raised as an object of worship in the temples of Anahuac....In old times, the Mexicans worshipped the cross as TOTA (Our Father). This practice of addressing a piece of wood with the title “father” is also mentioned in the Bible” (Ralph, Woodrow, Babylon Mystery Religion, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1966, 1979, pgs. 52-53).

Jeremiah 2:27 states, “Saying to a tree, You are my father, And to a stone, You gave birth to me” (NKJV).

“In Italy, before the people knew anything of the arts of civilization, they believed in the cross as a religious symbol. Even at this early period, they believed it was a protector and it was placed upon tombs.... The Greeks depicted crosses on the head bands of their god corresponding to Tammuz of the Babylonians.... Porcelli mentions how that Isis was shown with a cross on her forehead. Her priests carried processional crosses in their worship of her. The temple of Serapis in Alexandria was surmounted by a cross...The cross was used as a religious symbol by the Aborigines of South America in ancient times. New born children were placed under its protection against evil spirits. The Patagonians tattooed their foreheads with crosses.....Monuments show that Assyrian kings wore a cross suspended on their necklaces.....There is hardly a pagan tribe where the cross has

not been found...The cross was used in ancient times as a punishment for flagrant crimes in Egypt, Assyria, Persia, Palestine, Carthage, Greece, and Rome...Tradition ascribes the invention of the punishment of the cross to a woman, the Queen Semiramis!....

In the ruins of Nineveh, a king is shown wearing a Maltese cross on his bosom. The form of the cross that is today known as the Latin cross was used by the Etruscans ....The two beamed cross... which had its origin in ancient Chaldea, ...was used as the symbol of the god Tammuz (being in the shape of the Mystic Tau, the initial of his name)....( Ralph, Woodrow, Babylon Mystery Religion, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1966, 1979, pgs. 53-56).

Constantine and the Cross symbol. “On the day before the Battle of Milvian Bridge, (October 28<sup>th</sup>, 312 AD) Constantine prayed to his sun-god (Nimrod) and there appeared a cross – we are told – over the setting sun with the inscription...In this sign conquer... Did Jesus ever tell his people to go forth to kill others under a cross-banner supposedly representing Him? .... After his (Constantine) supposed conversion (to Christianity) he committed several murders – including the murder of his own son! ..... By adopting the cross as a symbol on the banners of his army, Constantine figured he could establish a UNITY among his troops ..... The noted historian Durant: (stated) To the worshipper of Mithra (his pagan soldiers) in Constantine’s forces, the cross could give no offense, for they had long fought under a standard bearing a Mithraic cross of light. And thus the so-called Christians and pagans Mithraists in the army of Constantine were united and successfully fought the battle (Ralph, Woodrow, Babylon Mystery Religion, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1966, 1979, pgs. 57-60).

2 Kings 18:4 states, “He (Hezekiah) removed the high places (places of pagan worship) and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan” (NKJV)

## Why is the symbol of the cross so hard for churches to get rid of?

Take a look at a lot of Evangelical hymnals. You might find, The Old Rugged Cross, At the Cross, and the Glory of the Cross, and many other traditional hymns. A cross is on many outside buildings, on the top of our Church steeple, on our pulpit, on the front of our church, in our stained- glass windows, on our ties, on our hymnals, on our Bible covers, all most everywhere. There are even cross rings!

The early Christians rejected the cross as a symbol of worship. Then came Constantine and the dark ages (the rule of the Catholic Church). “During the 16<sup>th</sup> century, a minority of theologians in the Anglican and Reformed traditions Nicholas Ridley, James Calhoun and Theodore Beza, rejected practices that they described as cross worship. Considering it a form of idolatry, there was a dispute in 16<sup>th</sup> century England over the baptismal use of the sign of the cross and even the public uses of the cross:” (Peter Blickle, *Macht und Ohnmacht der Bilder: Reformatorischer Bildersturm im Kontext der europäischen Geschichte*, Oldenbourg Verlag, 2002, pp. 253-272).

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were many writers indicating the Pagan origin of the cross. Many churches forbid images of a Latin cross in those days. However, as more Leaven continued to infiltrate the church, the Latin cross became a symbol of Christianity. Today, apart from the Jehovah witness cult, hardly anyone objects to cross worship!

One of the biggest arguments, besides the worship of a cross being idolatry is the definition of the Greek word for the cross which is Stauros.

Stauros – Strong (4716) –a stake or post (Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance). An upright stake (Thayer’s Greek Lexicon).

However, since Pilate wrote, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews” ... and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin” (John 19:19-20; NKJV), this would take some

space if it was written large enough so the people could read it from the ground. Therefore, it is possible a beam was attached to the top of the pole, so Pilate's words could be read. This would end up being at the best a Tau cross, and definitely not a Latin (Roman Catholic) cross. It might have even been a pole, with a sign on it?

Many Christians even after hearing all the evidence for the paganism in cross worship, still insist that the cross today for **them personally**, is simply a symbol that reminds them of a crucified Christ. However, how about the millions of people who worship the cross throughout the world?

The Bible states in I Corinthians 8:9, "But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak" (NKJV).

Romans 14:13 states, "....but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way" (NKJV)

#### Other pagan traditions, hopefully not in your Church?

Saint Patrick's Day is all about Leprechauns (demonic earth creatures). They are green because they are creatures of the earth. The pot of gold is in exchange for the giving of a human sacrifice to the gods (Doc Marquis, America's Occult Holidays/VHS, The Prophecy Club, Topeka, KS., 1997).

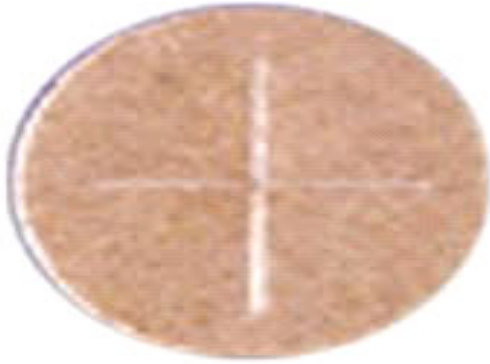


The “practice of kissing an idol or statue (or icon) is of pagan origin – the very paganism condemned by the Bible! ... Baal worship was nothing more or less than the worship of the ancient Nimrod in deified form (as the sun – god). And the practice of kissing a statue of him was an ancient custom! (Ralph, Woodrow, Babylon Mystery Religion, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1966, 1979, pg. 89).

The Bible states in 1 Kings 19:18, “Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every month that has not kissed him” (NKJV).

What is wrong with a round wafer in the Lord’s Supper? Remember, the Lord broke the bread! “The round wafer is nothing more nor less than an ancient symbol of the sun! The round wafer whose roundness is so important...is only another symbol of Baal, or the sun...Such cakes were used in the ancient Mysteries in Egypt.... In 1854 an ancient temple was discovered in Egypt with inscriptions that show these little round cakes on an altar. Above the altar is a

large image of the sun (Ralph, Woodrow, Babylon Mystery Religion, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1966, 1979, pgs. 132-133).



The Bible states in 2 Chronicles 34:3-5, “For in the eighth year of his (Josiah) reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, (places for pagan worship) the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images. They broke down the altars of the Baals in his presence, and the incense altars which were above them he cut down; and the wooden images, and the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images he broke in pieces, and made dust of them and scattered it on the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. He also burned the bones of the priests on their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem” (NKJV).

The part of a sunrise worship (Easter Sunday?) “was a part of old pagan customs connected with sun-worship”... fire also being a symbol of sun-worship (Ralph, Woodrow, Babylon Mystery Religion, Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Association, 1966, 1979, pg. 155).

The Bible states in Jeremiah 16:19-20, that there is coming a day when even the Gentiles (non-Jews) will come and admit that their paganism is false gods! “O LORD my strength and my fortress, My refuge in the day of affliction, The Gentiles shall come to You From the ends of the earth and say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, Worthlessness and unprofitable things. Will a man make gods for

himself, Which are not gods? (NKJV). How many pagan traditions do we keep, that make a mockery of the true worship of Jesus Christ?

Many deceived Christians today see most paganism as seemingly having fun, especially concerning children. The Bible states in Matthew 18:6, "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea" (NKJV). Many Christians teach paganism in the church to children, only to see these same children, never amount to God for anything, once they grow up.

The Bible declares in Deuteronomy 12:30-32, "take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise. You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way; for every abomination to the Lord which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire too their gods. Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it" (NKV).

The Bible declares in Acts 17:30, "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent" (NKJV). Has God woken you up to the fact that it is time to REPENT, and get paganism out of the church, your home and your life?

Hopefully, it will not be said of us (GENTILES) what Isaiah said to the Jews. In Isaiah 29:13 the Bible declares, "Therefore the LORD said: Inasmuch as these people draw near to Me with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men," (NKJV).

In Jeremiah 16:17-18 God declares to Israel the price of idolatry. What might the price be to the church today?

Jeremiah 16:17-18 declares, "For my eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity hidden from My eyes. And first I will



repay double for their iniquity and their sin, because they have defiled My land; they have filled My inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable and abominable idols” (NKJV).

Ezekiel 8:10-12 declares, “So I went in and saw, and there – every sort of creeping thing, abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed all around the walls. And there stood before them seventy men of the elders of the house of Israel, and in their midst stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan. Each man had a censer in his hand, and a thick cloud of incense went up. Then He said to me, Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the room of his idols? For they say, The LORD does not see us, the LORD has forsaken the land” (NKJV).

Zechariah 10:2 declares, “For the idols speak delusion; The diviners envision lies, And tell false dreams; They comfort in vain. Therefore the people went their way like sheep; They are in trouble because there is no shepherd” (NKJV). Maybe God will be merciful and raise up Shepherds today, for the backslidden churches?

“Our immutable Lord has proclaimed these pagan practices, accoutrements (additional items used for a particular purpose) of worship, and acts of sacrilege to be sinful and unacceptable. Whether we duplicate them exactly, or even in some oblique way incorporate these pagan elements into our holiday seasons, our immutable Lord would seem to be offended and our walk with Him diminished” (David Ingraham, Pagan Traditions, Hearthstone Publishing, 2000, page 119).

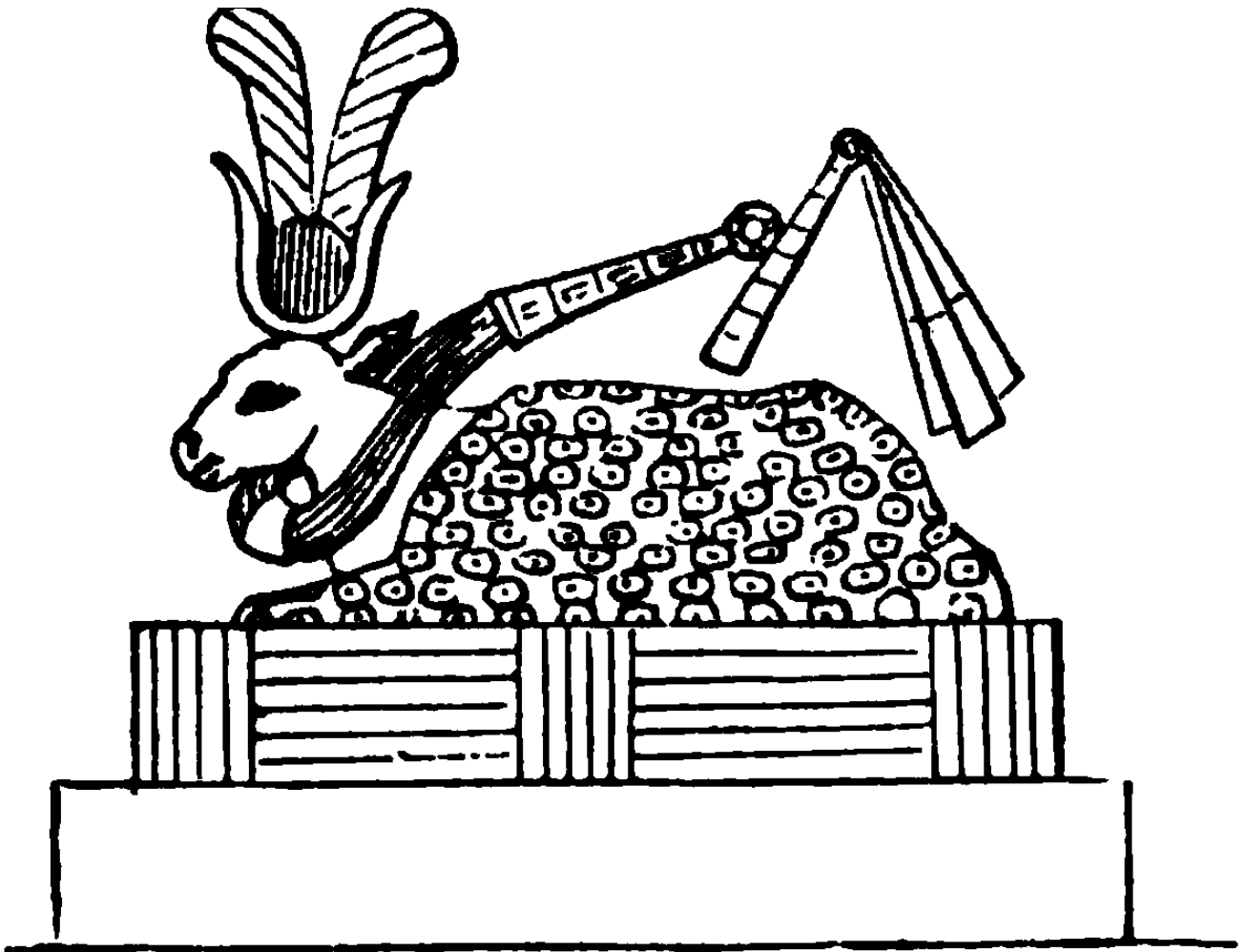
It is sad to see what happened to Israel when they decided to worship God in a pagan way. Clearly, God had warned them not to do this!

The Bible states in Exodus 23:24, “You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works; but you shall utterly overthrow them and completely break down their sacred pillars.” (NKJV).

This leads us up to Exodus 32:1-6, “Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him. And Aaron said to them, Break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me. So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then he said, This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt! So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD. Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings and peace offerings: and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose to play.” (NKJV).



Bull from Nimrod, From Vaux



## **Egyptian Calf Idol.**

The Hebrew word for play, can have a meaning of sexual activities (Genesis 26:8)

Interesting here, is that Israel named the golden calf or young bull, Yahweh or Jehovah. Israel simply tried to “Christianize” a pagan religion from Egypt, by simply given the calf god Apis, (Tammaz) a “Christian” name. (Bible history dot com, the Egyptian calf god). The northern Kingdom would again set up golden calves to worship before God took them into captivity. (See I Kings 12:28-29). But where did the worship of Apis come from? From Ralph Woodrow, we learn that

another name for the golden calf was Tammuz, the son of the sun god, Nimrod (Ralph Woodrow, Babylon: Mystery Religion, pp.9-10).

In Exodus 32:7-35, we see the result of combining paganism with the worship of God. This author has always been troubled when he finds contemporary worship music or dancing in the worship of God. Can anyone believe that the reaction of God today, has changed since the worship of a golden calf named Jehovah (the LORD)?

Exodus 32:7-35 declares, "And the LORD said to Moses, Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, This is your god; O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt! And the LORD said to Moses, I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people! Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation. Then Moses pleaded with the Lord his God, and said: LORD, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people.

Remember Abraham, Issac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken or I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever. So the LORD relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people. And Moses turned and went down from the mountain, and the two tablets of the Testimony were in his hand. The tablets were written on both sides; on the one side and on the other they were written.

Now the tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God engraved on the tablets. And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp. But he said: It is

not the noise of the shout of victory, Nor the noise of the cry of defeat, But the sound of singing I hear.

So it was as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw **the calf** and **the dancing**. So Moses' anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. Then he took the calf which they had made, burned it in the fire, and ground it to powder; and he scattered it on the water and made the children of Israel drink it. And Moses said to Aaron, What did this people do to you that you have brought so great a sin upon them? So Aaron said, Do not let the anger of my lord become hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil.

For they said to me, Make us gods that shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him. And I said to them, Whoever has any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it to me, and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out. Now when Moses saw that the people were unrestrained (for Aaron had not restrained them, to their shame among their enemies), then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, Whoever is on the LORD's side – come to Me! And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him. And he said to them, Thus says the LORD God of Israel: Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor. So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day.

Then Moses said, Consecrate yourselves today to the LORD, that He may bestow on you a blessing this day, for every man has opposed his son and his brother. Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, You have committed a great sin. So now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin. Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! Yet now, if You will forgive their sin – but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.

And the LORD said to Moses, Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book. Now therefore, go lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you. Behold, My Angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit for punishment, I will visit punishment upon them for their sin. So the LORD plagued the people because of what they did with the calf which Aaron made” (NKJV).

The book here is the Book of the living, not the Lamb’s Book of Life. After 3,000 men were killed, apparently, Moses stopped the killing. Moses might have been hoping that God would accept this number of deaths as enough, to calm the anger of God. As the Scriptures are very clear, it was not enough. The final death sentenced can in Numbers 14:26-30, After Israel refused to go into Canaan.

The Bible declares in Numbers 14:26-31, “And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron saying, How long shall I bear with the evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me. Say to them, As I live, says the LORD, just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in the wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in. But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised” (NKJV). It might be argued, that most of the misery that fell upon Israel, was because of combining paganism with the true worship of God!

The Bible states in Hosea 8:4-5, “They set up kings, but not by Me; They made princes, but I did not acknowledge them. From their silver and gold They made idols for themselves – That they might be cut off. Your calf is rejected, O Samaria! My anger is aroused against them – How long until they attain to innocence?” (NKJV).

A Good Quote- The world is separating itself from the church because the church has failed to separate itself from the world (David Ingram, Pagan traditions, page 98)

### A look at God's Feast Days

Before one begins this important study two important Scriptures need to be looked at. First again is Colossians 2:16 which says, "Therefore let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival (feast day) or a new moon or sabbaths" (NKJV). In Colossi, the false religious teachers no doubt had perverted God's festivals, the worship of God on the Sabbath and come up with crazy dietary laws. These "could only have been of a rigorous, superstitious type" (Bacchiocchi, Samuele, The Sabbath under Crossfire, Biblical Perspectives, pages 248-249, 2001). Therefore, the Christian is told not to follow man made ways of worshipping God, He did not approve!

The other passage is Romans 14:5-6. The Bible declares, "One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. **He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks**" (NKJV).

To fully understand these verses and not to take them out of context, we need to quote Romans 14:1-3. The Bible states, "Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is **weak** eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him"(NKJV).

How do we interpret this passage? Roman 14:5-6, refer to days of fasting. One decides he must fast a certain day, another decides he does not need to fast! This passage, taken out of context by many, has nothing to do with the Sabbath or Festival days! A good modern application might be churches that have a Wednesday night service. Does God require a Christian to attend such a service? Some churches have conferences every night of the week, during certain parts of



the year. Are these days that have required attendance by some churches, man-made days?

In regards to the festival days in Leviticus 23, are Christians required to keep these? Leviticus 23 says the festival days are “**a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings**” (Leviticus 23:14) (NKJV). Leviticus 23:44 also states the Feasts are “the Feasts of the Lord”. (NKJV). The Bible does not state these are the Feast of only Israel.

It is however important to remember, that the Bible Feast Days from Leviticus chapter 23, **both Jesus and the Apostle Paul did celebrate**. However, God did separate the Sabbath celebration in Leviticus 23 from the rest of the Biblical Feasts. From Genesis 2:1-3, we learn this weekly Feast -day is different from the rest. From Genesis 2:3 we learn that God established the weekly Sabbath Feast-day, long before there were even Jews. The Bible declares in Genesis 2:1-3, “Thus the heavens and earth, and all the host of them were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made” (NKJV).

The Bible declares in Leviticus 23:1 -44, “And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: **The feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are my feasts. Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.**

These are the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. On the fourteenth day of the first month at **twilight** is the LORD’s Passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it. But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the first-fruits of your harvest to the priest. He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the LORD. Its grain offering shall be two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the LORD, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin. You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD. You shall bring from your dwellings two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven. They are the firstfruits to the LORD. And you shall offer with the bread seven lambs of the first year, without blemish, one young bull, and two rams. They shall be as a burnt offering and their drink offerings, an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma to the LORD.

Then you shall sacrifice one kid of the goats as a sin offering, and two male lambs of the first year as a sacrifice of a peace offering. The priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits as a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs. They shall be holy to the LORD for the priest. And you shall proclaim on the same day that it is a holy convocation to you. You shall do no customary work on it. It shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field when you reap, nor shall you gather any gleaning from your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

Then the LORD spoke to Moses saying, Speak to the children of Israel, saying: In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a

memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord.

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God. For any person who is not afflicted in soul on that same day shall be cut off from his people. And any person who does any work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people. You shall do no matter of work; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls, on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath.

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, Speak to the children of Israel, saying: The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the LORD. On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work in it. For seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation, and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. It is a sacred assembly, and you shall do no customary work on it.

These are the feasts of the LORD which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire to the LORD, a burnt offering and a grain offering, a sacrifice and drink offerings, everything on its day – besides the Sabbaths of the LORD, besides your gifts, besides all your vows, and besides all your freewill offerings which you give to the LORD.

Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep the feast of the LORD for seven days; on the first day there shall be a sabbath-rest, and on the eighth day a sabbath-rest. And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days. You shall keep it a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month. You shall dwell in booths for seven

days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths, that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. So Moses declared to the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD. (NKJV).

A general overview of the Feast of the Lord (apart from the weekly Sabbath)

The Feasts (Leviticus 23)

Christ's Fulfillment

Passover (March/April).....Death of Christ (I Corinthians 5:7)

Unleavened Bread (March/April).....Sinlessness of Christ (**I Corinthians 5:8**)

**(Therefore, let us keep the feast; NKJV)**

Firstfruits (March/April).....Christ takes the OT saved to heaven from paradise (Matthew 27:52-53; John 20:17)

Pentecost (May/June).....Outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5;2:4)

**Paul kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Acts 20:6) This was Passover, Unleavened bread, and Firstfruits by the days of Jesus. Paul also kept the Feast of Pentecost (Acts 20:16). See also Acts 18:21 (probably the Feast of Tabernacles, because in Jerusalem) and Acts 27:9 (Feast of Atonement), that Paul kept.**

**3 Major feasts, all Males of Israel were required to travel to the temple in Jerusalem (Ex. 23:14-19). Passover, Pentecost and the Feast of Tabernacles.**

Clearly, in the New Testament era, after Jesus had already fulfilled the ceremonial law, and gone back to Heaven, New Testament Christians were celebrating God's Feasts **not** Holidays.

Just what do some of the other feasts symbolize?

Trumpets (September/October).....The church taken up by Christ (I  
Thessalonians 4:13-18)

Atonement (Sept./October)..... Substitutionary Sacrifice by Christ/ Second  
Coming (Romans 11:26)

Tabernacles (Sept./October).....rest and Reunion with Christ (Zechariah  
14:16-19)

**(to keep the Feast of Tabernacles; NKJV)**

(John MacArthur, The MacArthur Study Bible, Word Publishing, 1997, page 186)

**A look at the feasts during the Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus**

Passover- Exodus 12:1-14; 43-49; Num 28:16; Deut. 16:1-2 Nisan 14<sup>th</sup> (April 25<sup>th</sup>,  
31 AD) Happened TUESDAY-Wednesday, in 31AD; the real time of the death of  
Jesus. (Scroggie, W.G., A Guide to the Gospels, 1948) &  
( [http://intercontinentalcog.org/Appendix/Passover dates 26-34 AD.php](http://intercontinentalcog.org/Appendix/Passover%20dates%2026-34%20AD.php))

A look at Passover in 31AD, shows that it took place beginning on a Tuesday  
evening, Nisan 14<sup>th</sup>, and ending Nisan 15<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday evening at around 6pm,  
are time. Jesus was dead around 3pm on our Wednesday afternoon (Luke 23:44-  
46). "Now it was about the sixth hour, (noon Roman time) and there was  
darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour (3 pm Roman time). Then the sun  
was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. And when Jesus had  
cried out with a loud voice, He said, Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.  
Having said this, He breathed His last". (NKJV).

According to Josephus, the lambs on Nisan 14<sup>th</sup>, were slain in the temple between  
3 and 5 pm. Therefore, Jesus died as our Passover lamb, at the exact same time.  
(Ramsundar, Pallant, University of Cambridge, 2028end.com) The Jews in order to

eat the Passover lamb on the 15<sup>th</sup>, declared a long day so they would not run into the 15<sup>th</sup> of Nissan, a high Holy Sabbath. (Shurpin, Yehuda, Why is Passover on Nissan 15, not Nissan 14?, chadbad.org). Jesus, ate a Passover lamb on the night of the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nissan, which was a Tuesday night after 6pm. Maybe the Jews never understood Leviticus 23:4-8)?

Unleavened Bread, Exodus 12:15-20; 13:3-10; Num 28:17-25; Deut. 16:3-8 Nisan 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> (April 26<sup>th</sup>, 31 AD) Wednesday night before sundown, Jesus is in the tomb. After Sundown, begins the high day Sabbath, the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

John 20:31-33, "Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a **high day**) the Jews ask Pilate that their legs might be broken, that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs" (NKJV). John 20:41- 42 declares, "Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So there they laid Jesus, because of the **Jews' Preparation Day**, for the tomb was nearby" (NKJV).

From this passage we learn that the **high Sabbath** was the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This first day was a **high day**, or a special Sabbath. Because of the Jewish Bible Festival days. The next day Thursday night unto Friday night (the weekly Sabbath) was a working day for the Jews. It would have been the only day the women could have purchased spices and fragrant oils to return later to prepare the body of Jesus for a proper burial.

The Bible states in Luke 24:55-56, "And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. **And they rested** on the Sabbath according to the commandment" (NKJV).

Firstfruits, Numbers 28:26; 23:10,11; Ex 29:40; Rom 8:23; 11:16; 1Cor. 15:20; James 1:18) Nisan 18<sup>th</sup> (April 29<sup>th</sup>, 31 AD)- the first Sunday after the two Sabbaths (Saturday night after sundown until sundown on Sunday). This would have been the day Jesus took the Old Testament saints to Heaven, before Christ returned to the earth for His final forty days. (Matthew 27:52-53; John 20:17; and Acts 1:3)

Or Silvan 6 (May/June) The day after the Second Sabbath of Unleavened bread – First Sabbath Wednesday night until Thursday at Sundown; Second Sabbath Friday after sundown until Saturday at Sundown. Between these two Sabbaths was the Roman Friday, Thursday night after sundown until sundown on Friday, in which the women purchased the spices and prepared them (Luke 23:56).

It is interesting what Matthew 28:1 states in a version, which realizes that the Catholic Friday death of Jesus is a fable. First let us notice how most translate Matthew 28: 1, “In the end of the sabbath” (NKJV). Also see Matthew 28:6, “He is not here: for **He is risen**” (NKJV). Now notice how an honest translation translates these first Greek words. “Matthew 28:1, “Now after the Sabbaths” (Literal Standard Version, Covenant Press, 2020, page 762). Also notice the same translation in Matthew 28:6, “He is not here, for He rose, as He said; come, see the place where the LORD was lying; and having gone quickly, say to His disciples that He rose from the dead; and behold, He goes before you **to Galilee**, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you” (Literal Standard Version, page 762). Even though this translation is not a Greek Textus Receptus in most places, here is an exception. The literal Greek word in all versions, should have been translated Sabbaths. The words (is risen) are in the aorist tense. The aorist tense is “a simple act occurring in **past time**” (Spiros Zodhiates, The Hebrew – Greek Key Study Bible, AMG Publishers, Chattanooga, TN, 1991, page 1585). An honest person reading the popular translations of both these passages, might lead you to the Catholic fable of the death and Resurrection of Christ. The women simply were told Christ is gone, He arose sometime **in the past**.

It might be important to read Matthew 13:40 here, “For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth” (NKJV).

Now let us examine just what this verse states. First, Jesus would only be dead 72 hours. Any other interpretation is not honest to the Bible. Secondly, Christ soul would only remain in the earth (Abraham’s bosom), this time period.

Maybe, Matthew 27:52-53, might help explain this further. “and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and **coming out of the graves after His resurrection**, they went into the holy city and appeared to many” (NKJV).

These verses tell us that Jesus emptied paradise, Abraham’s bosom, after the Resurrection, on His way to a quick trip to Heaven. The blood of Jesus had to be shed first, before saints could go to Heaven. Jumping a little ahead, John 20:17 declares, “Jesus said to her, (Mary) Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God”.

Therefore, a very important question remains, what day did Jesus rise from the dead? If we believe Jesus rose after 72 hours, as the Bible declares, Jesus must have risen around 3pm on the Sabbath (the 9<sup>th</sup> hour Jewish time). Finis Dake, in all his scholarship about Jesus dying on Wednesday around 3pm, still places the Resurrection after 6pm on Saturday evening, to **stay with tradition!** He forgot (maybe) about Christ soul only in the earth, not the tomb, 72 hours. (Dake’s Annotated Reference Bible, DBS, 1991, page 33, NT, and many others!).

Another question one might ask, is, if Jesus died in 31AD, how could he have been born in 4BC, if Herod died in 4BC., and Jesus ministry was 3 ½ years?

Two important facts are needed. “When counting from BC to AD, astronomers correctly add one year since there is no year zero, while historians and chronologers generally neglect to do this.” Another important factor is the time of Herod’s death. Josephus states the eclipse of the moon is important in determining the time of Herod’s death. There was an eclipse in 4BC, so all most everyone places the time of Herod’s death as March 13<sup>th</sup>, 4BC (Pack, David, Saturday or Sunday, Which is the Sabbath, The Restored Church of God, 2019, page 147) & (Christ’s Crucifixion was not on Friday, rcg.org). The problem with this is it would place Jesus birth at around 6 or 7 BC, since Christ was around 2 years old when the wise men came to the house where the child Jesus was staying (Luke 2: 11-16). The family was probably in Bethlehem, because of the requirement to come every year to one of the 3 Feast, in Jerusalem. Passover, Pentecost, or the Feast of Tabernacles. Bethlehem was only about 5 miles away.



The solution to the problem rest in the fact that there were two eclipses of the moon, during Herod's life, (if he did not die in 4 BC). The second one was on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1BC, and would easily fit into a 4 B.C. birth of Christ (Filmer, W.E. The Chronology of the Reign of Herod the Great. The Journal of Theological Studies, 1966, 17(2), page 283).

Taking these 2 facts together, this author believes Jesus was born in the fall of 4BC, and died in 31AD at Passover, being 33 ½ years old at His death. Having began His ministry at 30 years old.

One final thought here is there is no Bible verse that states Jesus Resurrected was on the First day of the week. The Bible states the women went to the tomb on the first day of the week, and discovered Jesus had already been Resurrected.

The only verse that can be used, to try to prove a Sunday Resurrection is Mark 16:9. Interestingly, all modern verses reject this verse from the Bible, but the New King James (Textus Receptus translation). However, since this author believes this verse is in the Bible, we shall take a look at it.

Mark 16:9 declares, "Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons" (NKJV). In the Greek there is no comma after week. This author, like many other scholars, believe there should be a comma after **He rose** and no coma after **week**. But for those who still want to hold on to this verse to prove a Sunday Resurrection, might want to know this final thought. The word when (Greek 3753-hote) is properly translated **after**. An honest translation might look like this, "Now **after** He rose, early on the first day of the week He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons". (Revised NKJV). The main problem with a Sunday morning Resurrection is, we end up with 4 complete nights. Would Jesus have stayed dead, longer than necessary? You must be the judge. Once this author realized there was no Sunday Resurrection, then I realized that in Revelation 1:10, the Lord's Day, must have been the Sabbath, not Sunday as I had always been taught! We will revisit the issue of the Sabbath, latter in this book.

Pentecost / Feast of Harvest/ Shavuot/ Deut. 16:9-12; Acts 2:1; Ex 23:16; Numbers 28:26-31; Sivan 6 (50 days after harvest) May/June – 31AD.

This special Festival Day, always falls on the first day of the week, because it is the day after the 7<sup>th</sup> Sabbath from the Passover. There are some Jewish groups who believe it is the day after the high Sabbath, (First day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread), instead of the weekly Sabbath, but this author believes it is a reference to the weekly Sabbath. I admit, they could be right, but I don't think so. If I decide in the future, they were right, and I was wrong, I will post it in a revision, or on my web site at (Anabap.com).

### A close look at all the Fall Bible Feasts

Trumpets (**NOT** Rosh Hashanah) Numbers 29:1-6; Tishri 1,2 (Sept-Oct) – **Yom Hateruah**

We have been reviewing the pagan elements in many churches today, which mainly originated in Babylon. Sadly, the Jews have also perverted a Bible holiday, they have perverted the feast of Trumpets, and changed its name to Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. This takes place during the 7<sup>th</sup> month of the Jewish calendar, not the first. You might ask why? Going back to Babylon there was a feast to enthrone the Babylonian gods and goddesses. This coronation took place in the fall when the Babylonians “were hoping for rain and a good harvest.” The theme of enthroning the gods of Babylon was change to the theme of enthroning God. This is “the basis for what became Rosh Hashanah”, around the first century, “in the time of the Mishnah”. The holiday changed from a time of Repentance (teshuvah), to a New Year celebration and partying! (Cantor Matt Axelrod, Your Guide to the Jewish Holidays, Jason Aronson publisher, 2014, pgs. 7-11). As I am not really in shock, on what the Jewish rabbis did in the first century, I recall they also have the 4th month of the Jewish calendar named Tammuz (a pagan god from Babylon). (Michael Rood, The Pagan- Christian Connection Exposed, Bridge-Logos, 2004, page 60).

Exodus 23:13 states, “And in all that I have said to you, be circumspect and make no mention of the name of other gods, nor let it be heard from your mouth” (NKJV). It would not surprise me at all, if the Rapture of the Church took place at

the Feast of Trumpets, when the Jews should be repenting of their sins, instead of celebrating and welcoming the Antichrist. (I Thessalonians 3:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-17).

As one Jewish writer stated, the reason for the feast of Trumpets is “mysterious.” (Cantor Matt Axelrod, Your Guide to the Jewish Holiday, Jason Aronson Publishers, 2014, pages 6)

This same writer declares that one of the forgotten themes of this Feast, is “teshuvah,” Repentance. (Ibid. page 11). Repentance, is probably taken from Numbers 29:5, where the Bible states, Israel was to “also (a burnt offering of) one kid of the goats as a sin offering, to **make atonement for you**” (NKJV). Another interesting comment is this. “The Torah (the law), mandated that this first day of Tishrei (the 7<sup>th</sup> month) should be marked with the sounding of the horn. It makes no similar pronouncement about any other sacred day.” (Cantor Matt Axelrod, Your Guide to the Jewish Holiday, Jason Aronson Publishers, 2014, pages 16).

Notice what the Bible states about the Rapture of the saved, right before the Antichrist makes a 7-year treaty with Israel (Daniel 9:27). Could this be compared to a New Year’s Celebration, Rosh Hashanah?

I Thessalonians 4:13-18 declares “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words” (NKJV).

I Corinthians 15:51 declares, “Behold, I tell you a **mystery**: We shall not all sleep, (die) but we shall all be changed – in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the **trumpet will sound**, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, **and we shall be changed**. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this mortal has

put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord". (NKJV).

However, the Bible gives this warning in 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12, about the coming Antichrist, "And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among **those who perish**, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that **they all be condemned** who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (NKJV).

The scripture reading each year by the Jews for the Feast of Trumpets (**now called Rosh Hashanah**, the Jewish New Year) is Genesis 22:1-19. Here God provides "a ram caught in a thicket by its horn" for a sacrifice, instead of Isaac, Abraham's son (Genesis 22:13) (NKJV). Interestingly, Jewish author, Cantor Matt Axelrod, declares that Abraham failed his test with God. He claims it caused Sarah's death, and neither Isaac nor God spoke to Abraham again. He concludes with this statement. "We might also learn **that blind and fundamentalist adherence to religion without thought or common sense can become dangerous.**" (Cantor Matt Axelrod, *Your Guide to the Jewish Holiday*, Jason Aronson Publishers, 2014, pages 17-22). Maybe the sacrificing of Abraham's own son, was too close to home, as God sacrificing His only Son the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross on Calvary? However, this is what God said to Abraham because of his obedience and willingness to sacrifice Isaac, his son.

Genesis 22:15-22 states, "Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: By Myself I have sworn, says the **LORD**, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son (of promise) – blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the

stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice” (NKJV).

The Jewish writer, Cantor Matt Axelrod, gives two other themes for the feast of trumpets. One is the book of life, where Jews each year hope they will be alive for another year. He writes, “Don’t wait to make positive changes because there may not be as much time as you think.” The final theme this Jewish writer states is the theme of “tashlich”, casting away. “The idea originates with the biblical book of Micah, (7:19) in which the prophet explains that God will cast off our sins into the depths of the sea. Whether it’s the ocean, a stream, or a river, we recite this section from Micah and throw crumbs or small pieces of bread into the water”. (Cantor Matt Axelrod, Your Guide to the Jewish Holiday, Jason Aronson Publishers, 2014, pages 20-22).

Sadly, the Bible declares in Romans 3:12, “They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.”

Romans 3:20 declares, “Therefore by **the deeds of the law** no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin” (NKJV). All people, even Jews need to realize that it is only the righteousness of Christ that makes anyone good. Romans 3:21-22 declare, “But now the righteousness of God **apart** from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe” (NKJV). The reference to the prophet Micah, where God is casting all our sins into the depths of the sea, is a reference to the second coming of Christ and His Millennial Kingdom. How long will Israel be blinded to the Messiah who they crucified, but rose again on the third day?

In a study of Paul and God’s holidays or Feast, this is the only Feast where there is no New Testament reference of Paul keeping this feast. Maybe, the Jews of Paul’s day, had already perverted the Feast of Trumpets, by changing it to Rosh Hashanah, and Paul did not want to leave an impression he supported such a perversion? In any event, there is no reason for gentile New Testament Christians, not to celebrate the Feast of Trumpets, in a Biblical way, like the other 6 Feasts of the Bible. Isn’t it better for New Testament Christians to celebrate Biblical Feast

Days, instead of pagan holidays with all the pagan elements that go along with them?

Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) Hebrews 9:27 Tishri 10 (Sept-Oct) (Leviticus 23:26-32) - (9<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month). A celebration on the 9<sup>th</sup> day before the Day of Atonement on the 10<sup>th</sup> day.

Tabernacles/ Feast of Booths/ Feast of Ingathering/ Neh. 8:13-18; John 7:2; Ex 23:16; Numbers 29:12-38; Deut. 16:13-15; Zech. 14:16 Tishri 15<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> (Sept/Oct)

The 3 Major feasts, all Males of Israel were required to travel to the temple in Jerusalem every year, were the **Feast of Tabernacles**, Passover and Pentecost. (Ex. 23:14-19) This should explain why Joseph was taking Mary (9 months pregnant) all the way to Jerusalem, staying in Bethlehem, 5 miles away. From Luke 1:5-9; and Luke 1:23-25 we learn that John the Baptist was born to Zacharias and Elizabeth, at the time of Passover. From Luke 1:36 we learn that Jesus was 6 months younger than John. If John was born at Passover, then Jesus (6 months latter) was born at the Feast of Tabernacles. Remember, Joseph was required to go to Jerusalem for this feast every year. He would have taken Mary with him.

An interesting note is that the Jews are looking for the return of Elijah every Passover, and did set an empty chair for Elijah, waiting for his return. (Paley, Yaakov, Why is Elijah invited to the Seder?, lessons.myjli.com). Jesus said this about John the Baptist. Matthew 11:13-14 declares, "For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to receive it, he is **Elijah** who is come" (NKJV).

Was Jesus actually born beginning the Feast of Tabernacles? Realistically, there are only 2 choices. Jesus was either born on Passover or The Feast of Tabernacles. If John the Baptist (fulfilling the role of Elijah was born on Passover, than Jesus being born 6 months later, was born on the Feast of Tabernacles.

**Let examine the proof from Luke 1.**

“In order to determine more precisely the timing of Messiah's birth, we have to know the context surrounding the events. That includes the timing of when priests served in the Temple. 1 Chronicles 24 describes how their service was managed. It tells about how King David, in preparation for the building of the Temple, assigned the descendants of the 24 grandsons of Aaron (the original High Priest) to specific times of service.

Their groups were called *mishmarot* in the Hebrew, which is translated as "orders, courses or divisions." Their dates were determined by lot. Twice a year they went to Jerusalem where they served for an entire week, rotating on midday on the Sabbath, and then returning home. And in addition, all 24 divisions served during the three pilgrimage festivals: Passover, *Shavuot* (Pentecost) and *Sukkot* (*Feast of Tabernacles*)

***The schedule of service by the priests in the Temple***

<b>Division</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>First Service</b>	<b>Second Service</b>
1	Jehoiarib	Tishri 1-7	Adar 29 - Nisan 5
2	Jedaiah	Tishri 8-14	Nisan 6-13
All		Tishri 15-21 (Sukkot)	Nisan 14-21 (Passover)
3	Harim	Tishri 22-28	Nisan 22-28
4	Seorim	Tishri 29 - Cheshvan 5	Nisan 29 - Iyar 5
5	Malchijah	Cheshvan 6-12	Iyar 6-12
6	Mijamin	Cheshvan 13-19	Iyar 13-19
7	Hakkoz	Cheshvan 20-26	Iyar 20-26
<b>8</b>	<b><u>Abijah</u></b>	<b><u>Cheshvan 27 - Kislev 4</u></b>	<b><u>Iyar 27 – Sivan 3</u></b>
<b>All</b>			<b><u>Sivan 4-6 (Shavuot)</u></b>
9	Jeshua	Kislev 5-11	Sivan 7-13
10	Shecaniah	Kislev 12-18	Sivan 14-20

11	Eliashib	Kislev 19-25	Sivan 21-27
12	Jakim	Kislev 26 - Tevet 2	Sivan 28 - Tamuz 4
13	Huppah	Tevet 3-9	Tamuz 5-11
14	Jeshebeab	Tevet 10-16	Tamuz 12-18
15	Bilgah	Tevet 17-23	Tamuz 19-25
16	Immer	Tevet 24 - Shvat 1	Tamuz 26 - Av 3
17	Hezir	Shvat 2-8	Av 4-10
18	Happizzez	Shvat 9-15	Av 11-17
19	Pethahiah	Shvat 16-22	Av 18-24
20	Jehezkel	Shvat 23-30	Av 25 - Elul 1
21	Jachin	Adar 1-7	Elul 2-8
22	Gamul	Adar 8-14	Elul 9-15
23	Delaiah	Adar 15-21	Elul 16-22
24	Maaziah	Adar 22-28	Elul 23-29

In Luke Chapter 1:5-9, we discover a priest named Zacharias.

“Zacharias was part of the division of Abijah (the eighth division in the table above), which served one week that took place during the end of the month of Cheshvan and continued into the beginning of Kislev (late November/early December). And they served another week that spanned the end of Iyar and the first part of Sivan, which then piggybacked with a short time of serving for Shavuot. So this second time of service would correspond to **May/June**. Luke does not tell us which time of service is the setting for this chapter. But it has to be one or the other”.



Due to the fact that John the Baptist was a typology, relating to Elijah, and he would have been born at Passover, when the Jews were looking for Elijah, we see Luke 1:5-9 took place at Shavuot (Pentecost).

“Luke chapter 1 tells us that Zacharias was going about his business as he had been trained to do. They drew lots to see who would have specific responsibilities. He had been given the privilege of tending to the incense that burned in the Temple. We know that incense was symbolic of prayers rising up to God. And the passage tells us that the people were outside praying at that very moment. Moreover, Zacharias and his wife Elizabeth had been praying for a child.”

The angel Gabriel declared in Luke 1:17 -

"He who will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." (NKJV)

“This proclamation is the fulfillment of God’s promise in Malachi 4:5 that He would send Elijah before the day of the Lord. This promise became a theme that was included in the observance of Passover, which carries over to today.”

Shortly after the second week of Sivan, Elizabeth became pregnant just as the angel Gabriel had declared. “This would be late in the month of Sivan, which is the equivalent of mid to late June.

The story then moves ahead until Elizabeth is in her sixth month of pregnancy. Beginning in Luke 1:26, we are told that Gabriel appeared once again, this time in the city of Nazareth, to Elizabeth's relative (Mary). She received the news from Gabriel that she was about to conceive, through the miracle of the Holy Spirit, and she would give birth to the promised Messiah of Israel. And, indeed, Mary conceived Jesus six months after Elizabeth conceived John.

Luke 1:56 indicates that Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months before returning home to Nazareth. Then Elizabeth gave birth to John. If we count forward 280 days (the normal length of gestation for humans) from John’s conception in late Sivan, it brings us to the middle of the month of Nisan, which corresponds to the month of April, and it would be right at the time of Passover.

In the same way, if we count forward 280 days from Jesus’s conception in late Kislev, it brings us to the middle of the month of Tishri, right at the time of Sukkot. This corresponds to late September/early October.”

“The arrival of the prophet Elijah is a key element of Passover. Dating back into antiquity, during the Passover Seder Jews have set a place for Elijah and opened a door, calling out “Tonight? Is it tonight that you are coming?” So why not tonight?”

Jesus “was very clear that John fulfilled the role of Elijah as the forerunner of the Messiah (Mat 11:14). So if Yeshua (Jesus) was born on Sukkot, then John was born on Passover and thus satisfies his connection with that day. But if it was the other way around, John loses the Elijah connection to Passover. The order of events in Luke 1 fits perfectly with this longstanding expectation during the Seder of the arrival of Elijah, which then supports a Sukkot arrival for Yeshua (Jesus)”

***The complete chronology in the book of Luke***

<b>Hebrew month</b>	<b>Modern month</b>	<b>Event</b>
Late Iyar to early Sivan	May/June	The angel Gabriel appears to Zacharias, a priest in the 8th division of priests—Abijah (Lk 1:11)

Mid Sivan	June	Zacharias returns home (1:23)
Mid to late Sivan	June	Elizabeth conceives John the Baptist (1:24)
Late Kislev	December	Mary conceives Jesus (1:31) and then goes to visit Elizabeth who is in her sixth month of pregnancy (1:36-39)
Mid Nisan	March/April	Elizabeth gives birth to John after a 280 day full term (1:57)
Mid Tishri	September/October	Mary gives birth to Jesus (Yashua) after a 280 day full term (2:6,7)

**Why do some think Jesus was born on Passover, instead of the feast of Tabernacles which was exactly 6 months later?**

In Luke 1:26-27 the Bible reads, "Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

Just when is the sixth month? According to Luke 1:24 and verse 36, it is the sixth month of Elisabeth's pregnancy. In fact notice how the NIV translates Luke 1:26, "In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee" (NIV)

Many Christians without a study of the context of Luke 1:26 assume the sixth month in Luke 1:26, is the 6th month of the Jewish Calendar. If this were so, than Jesus would have been born at Passover. However, the context of the verse, the timing of the death of Herod, and the birth of John the Baptist 6 month's earlier, do not support this interpretation.

John 1:14 might settle this for you. "And the Word (Jesus) became flesh and dwelt (tabernacled) among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" NKJV.

## **Evidence regarding the journey of Joseph and Mary**

The second chapter of Luke describes how Joseph and Miriam traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem in order to register for the Roman census because it was Joseph's ancestral home. The census was required as a means of taxation and it had to be performed before the end of the Roman year, which was December 31. Taxation in that context offered no incentive to make the payment in an early fashion, and it would be typical for people to put off doing so, which mitigates against a springtime birth.

We also know that all adult males (often accompanied by their families) were required to make an annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the observance of *Sukkot* (Deuteronomy 16:16). So it seems reasonable to conclude that they may have decided to make one 180 mile round trip journey right before *Sukkot*, rather than one for the holy day as required by *Halakah* (Jewish law) and another trip in winter as required by Roman law.

From Bethlehem, it would be easy to travel the five miles to Jerusalem for the feast. Because it is estimated that one and one-half million people descended upon Jerusalem for the feast, that would have an impact on surrounding communities, which might explain why there was no room at the inn. This makes particular sense when you consider the negative implications of a pregnant woman having to make that journey twice." (Peterson, Galen, How the Feast of Tabernacles Helps Us to Pinpoint the Date of Messiah's Birth,

[http://www.remnant.net/sukkot\\_y.htm](http://www.remnant.net/sukkot_y.htm))

This author is indebted to Dr. Galen Peterson for his lengthy explanation on why Jesus (Yeshua) was born on the Feast of Tabernacles. Instead of trying to paraphrase Dr. Galen Peterson, every attempt has been made to quote him in his original section in its entirety, with a few comments and explanations added in. To read his full article, the web site has been given of his extensive quote!

The author would also thank Dan Hardin, who he has known for years for his article why Jesus was born at the Feast of Tabernacles. It reaches the same conclusions as Dr. Galen Peterson, but I do not believe there is a better explanation than what Dr. Galen Peterson has written. Dan Harden's article can be

found at <http://www.gatewayanabaptistchurch.com/2017/11/13/was-the-birth-of-christ-during-the-feast-of-tabernacles> of-tabernacles.

Dan Hardin writes, “Today a number of Christians are celebrating Christ’s birth during the Feast of Tabernacles, complete with decorations and even strings of electric lights on their succoths, with music celebrating Jesus’ first advent. Is there any other way to legitimately show your love for God and that He made you different from the world?”

(<http://www.gatewayanabaptistchurch.com/2017/11/13/was-the-birth-of-christ-during-the-feast-of-tabernacles> of-tabernacles).

Besides these 7 Biblical Feast Days, Leviticus 23:1-3 calls the weekly Sabbath a special Biblical Feast Day (already mentioned). It is set apart from the other 7 Feast Days of Leviticus 23. Therefore, it is important to make a special examination of the Sabbath, and what it should mean to all Christians today.

Considering all the Commandments, the Sabbath is the most ignored Commandment in the New Testament Church. Why, because Constantine, the Roman emperor, and the Roman Catholic Church, changed the Sabbath to Sunday in 363AD, at the Counsel of Laodicea. Constantine, who was a Sun worshipper all his life, even placed a Statue in Constantinople to the worship of the SUN.

Understand, the worship of the Sun, goes all the way back to Babylon, and was practice by even the Jews. In Ezekiel’s day, Ezekiel writes in Ezekiel 8:16, “So He brought me into the inner court of the Lord’s house: and there, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east, and they were worshipping the sun toward the east” (NKJV).

Nowhere in the New Testament are we permitted to change the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week, our Saturday. A few Scriptures for those who say it is all right to change Sabbath worship and go to Church on Sunday should be considered. It should also be noted, both Paul and Jesus kept the weekly Sabbath. How can a Christian say they keep the 10 Commandments, and not keep all 10, including the Sabbath?

Genesis 2:1-3 states, “Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made” (NKJV).

Here God created the Sabbath day rest day, from the Garden of Eden. This was before there were any Jews.

In Isaiah 66:22-24, one finds the start of the millennial reign of Christ. Just what day of the week will all flesh worship on, whether they be Jew or Gentile? From this passage we also learn that all flesh will keep God’s Bible festivals (from one New moon to another). This passage also teaches eternal punishment for the lost, and this passage is no parable.

The Bible declares in Isaiah 66:22-24, “For as the new heavens and the new earth Which I will make shall remain before Me, says the LORD, So shall your descendants and your name remain. 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. And they shall go forth and look Upon the corpses of the men Who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, And their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh” (NKJV).

Mark 2:27-28 states, “And He said to them, The Sabbath was made for man (not just the Jews) and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath” (NKJV)

In John McArthur’s Study Bible published by Word Publishers in 1997, page 1463, it declares, “Jesus claimed He was greater than the Sabbath, and thus was God. Based on that authority, Jesus could in fact reject the Pharisaic regulations concerning the Sabbath and **restore God’s original intention for Sabbath** observance to be a blessing not a burden” (NKJV)

Notice, nowhere does it say the Sabbath was made for the Jew. There is nowhere, in the Bible where Jesus ever stated not to worship God on the Sabbath.

Hebrews 4:9-10, states “There remains therefore a rest (Greek- Sabbath rest) for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from

his works as God did from His” (NKJV). When did God cease from His work and rest? From Genesis 2:1-3, once again we learn it was only on the 6<sup>th</sup> day.

Acts 18:1-11 states, “After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers. And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks. When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, Your blood be upon your own heads, I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles. And he departed from there and entered the house of a certain man named Justus, one who worshipped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized. Now the lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city. And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them” (NKJV)

After the Jews walked out, Paul spoke on the Sabbath mainly to Gentiles for 18 months. At no time does the Bible say that Paul told them to start worshipping God on Sunday!

Colossians 2:16 states, “Therefore let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or **sabbaths**” (NKJV) Notice again, the word Sunday is absent! Also, Sabbaths is plural, and refers to festival days!

There are really **only two verses** used to support Sunday worship.

The Bible states in I Corinthians 16:1-3, “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches in Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. And when I come,

whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem” (NKJV).

The believers were to start collecting aid for Jerusalem saints, on their first work day, storing up goods at home, for Paul, when he came to collect it. The word money interesting is never mentioned.

The main passage for Sunday worship is Acts 20:7-11. Most who quote this passage never quote verses 9-11, which destroy Sunday morning worship.

Acts 20:7-12 states, “Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and **continued his message until midnight**. There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together. And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing him said, Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him. Now when he had come up, had **broken bread and eaten**, and talked a long while, even **till daybreak, he departed**. And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted” (NKJV).

What is stated here is a Saturday night meal, and continued preaching by Paul from the Sabbath service. (He continued his **message**; he did not start it!) The first day of the week began our Saturday at Sundown. Paul preached all night, after reviving the young man, and left Sunday morning. This was the next day light. Verse 11 tells us **after daybreak, Paul departed**. He left on Sunday morning, not Monday morning.

As you can plainly see, there are no verses for not worshipping God according to the fourth commandment, on the Sabbath!

The warning of Colossians 2:8, should be considered here!

Colossians 2:8 declares, “Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ” (NKJV).



What are some of the passages in the New Testament used to keep Christians from celebrating the Sabbath or any of God's feast days?

In Galatians 3:15-25-

Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, And to seeds, as of many, but as of one, And to your Seed, who is Christ. And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect. For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise. What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one. Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor" (NKJV).

"With the coming of Christ, the ceremonial, sacrificial Laws ended, but the Decalogue (moral law) is written in human hearts (Hebrews 8:10)". (Samuele Bacchiocchi, *The Sabbath Under Crossfire, Biblical Perspectives*, 1998, page 210).

"On the basis of the above considerations, we conclude that Paul's (apparent) negative comments about the Law must be understood in the light of the polemic (a strong or written attack against what some ones believes) nature of Galatians. In this epistle, the apostle is seeking to undo the damage done by false teachers who were exalting the Law, especially circumcision, as a *means* of salvation. In refuting the perverse and excessive exaltation of the Law, Paul is forced to depreciate it in some measure, especially since the issue at stake was the

imposition of circumcision as a means of salvation” (Samuele Bacchiocchi, *The Sabbath Under Crossfire, Biblical Perspectives*, 1998, page 211).

1Corinthians 16:1-3- **Repeated here with commentary**, as the second verse used to try to teach Sunday worship, instead of Sabbath worship

“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches in Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem” (NKJV).

The believers were to start collecting aid for Jerusalem saints, on their first work day, storing up **goods at home**, for Paul, when he came to collect it. The word money interesting is never mentioned. It is also possible that this special offering, which was stored at home, was to start after the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for the word translated week is plural in the Greek (4521). Thus, on the first of the weeks. (Pack, David, *Saturday or Sunday, Restored Church of God* 2019, page 132). There is no day in any Greek text! This author has checked Thayer’s Greek Lexicon, and it agrees with David Pack. Though I strongly disagree with David Pack’s theology, I can appreciate his scholarship.

Acts 20:7-11- This **verse and commentary is repeated** here, as it is the **main verse** used for Sunday worship!

“Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message **until midnight**. There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together. And in a window sat a certain young man name Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing him said, Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him. Now when he had come up, **had broken bread and eaten**, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed. And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted” (NKJV).

What is stated here is a Saturday night meal, and continued preaching by Paul from the Sabbath service. (He continued his message; he did not start it!) The first day of the week began our Saturday at Sundown. Paul preached all night, after reviving the young man, and left Sunday morning. This was the next day light. Verse 11 tells us **after daybreak, Paul departed**. He left on Sunday morning, not Monday morning. Does this passage really teach a Sunday morning worship? According to Acts 2:46, the phrase **had broken bread and eaten**, cannot refer to a communion service, but an ordinary meal, which was customary in those days to break bread.

Acts 2:46 declares, “So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart” (NKJV).

Revelation 1:10-

I (John) was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet” (NKJV)

No where does this verse tell us Christians are to worship on Sunday. Where does it state that the Lord’s Day is even Sunday? If Jesus was crucified on Wednesday, which is the only day to fit all Scriptures, than the Lord’s Day is Saturday, the Sabbath!

2 Corinthians 3:7-18-

“But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? For if the **ministry** of condemnation had glory, the **ministry** of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious.

Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech – unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look

steadily at the end of what was passing away. But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord” (NKJV).

In this passage two ministries are contrasted, not two dispensations. One is a ministry of condemnation, the purpose of law. The other, the ministry of the Spirit, to give life. There was never salvation by the law. The law was only to point us to our need of a Savior. The glory of the law passes away compared to the glory of the new birth. The liberty spoken of here, is not the liberty to SIN, but the liberty to serve Christ, because of the new birth, given to us by the Holy Spirit who lives within us.

Colossians 2:14-17

“And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out **the handwriting** of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, **having nailed it to the cross**. Having disarmed principalities and powers. He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ” (NKJV).

The phrase, **the handwriting of requirements that was against us** , is in relationship to the term cheirographon (handwriting) “which was used to denote either a certificate of indebtedness resulting from our transgression or a book containing the record of sin used for the condemnation of mankind” (Samuele Bacchiocchi, The Sabbath Under Crossfire, Biblical Perspectives, 1998, page 213).

It is this document of our sins, which was nailed to the cross, not the Law!

The word **Sabbaths** (in Colossians 2:16) is plural here, and refers to the Sabbaths connected with the other feast days, and has no reference to the weekly Sabbath, made special all the way back in Genesis 2:3. The Bible states in Colossians 2:16-17, "So let no one judge you in food or in drink, (OT dietary restrictions), or regarding a festival (Greek- 1859; Feast Day), or a new moon or **sabbaths**, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ" (NKJV).

Remember - Christians who choose not to celebrate the Bible Feast Days, should not celebrate any pagan holidays. As demonstrated earlier, both Christmas and Easter are completely pagan holidays. However, the reverse is also true. If a Christian chooses to celebrate God's Festivals, let no Christian judge you for doing this.

Romans 14: 4-8

"Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand. One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's" (NKJV). This passage deals with fasting; it is optional when you do it or if you do it. Any other application from this passage is contrary to the word of God.

Ephesians 2:15-

Having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, (NKJV).

Here Paul is talking about ceremonial ordinances that separated Jews and Gentiles from worshipping God together. Now in Christ, both can worship together.

Romans 10:4 –

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes”  
(NKJV)

The Greek word for end is telos. Telos is best translated (goal, or point, Greek 5056) not end. No one can come to Christ without Repentance from sin (Luke 13:3) requiring the Law.

Romans 6:14-

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not **under law** but under grace” (NKJV).

Under law simply means that Christians are no longer under the power and bondage of sin. Therefore, the law has no power to condemn us, who are children of God, by the new birth in Christ. We are not under the condemnation of the law. The law was to bring us to Christ. We who are saved, have demonstrated the effectiveness of the law. The law today is still needed to bring people to Christ. Without the law, I do not know that I am a sinner.

### **How might New Testament Christians celebrate the 7 Biblical Feasts, found in Leviticus 23?**

How than, might a NT Christian celebrate the **Feast of Trumpets?**

- To begin with, by rejecting the title – Rosh Hashanah! Rosh Hashanah is a pagan name for a Bible Feast. If a person were to read Leviticus 23:23-25, they would see that no where does God call this feast a celebration of the New Year. The Bible name is Yom Hateruah or Zicharon Truah. These names are taken from Leviticus 23:24 and Numbers 29:1.

- One might start with reading Leviticus 23:23-25. Another Old Testament passage that this author believes is appropriate is Genesis 6:1 – 7:24. Here there was a day of coming Judgment on the wicked. At the flood only the righteous were taken to safety. At the Rapture, the righteous are removed, and then the Judgment of God happens on the wicked world.
- Blow a Ram's Horn (A Shofar). This is the only Feast, where God commands the blowing of the Shofar.

Cantor would suggest -

- A. one long- to get your attention
- B. three medium horn blowing -
- C. 9 short blowing's of the horn –

(Axelrod, Cantor Matt, Your Guide to the Jewish Holidays, Jason Aronson, 2014, pages 16 and 19). Interestingly, I Thessalonians 4:13-18 talks about the horn blowing. Could the Rapture of the Save possibly take place one year, at the Feast of Trumpets, when almost all Gentiles are not looking for the Lord's Return?

4) Reading the New Testament - I Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17 and I Corinthians 15:50-58. The last trump here probably refers to the dead in Christ rising first (first trump). Then we who are alive taken up (the last trump).

5) A sermon (if in Church) on the coming Rapture of the Church

6) Singing some appropriate songs

Examples being-

The King is Coming, Music by Bill Gather, Verses 1 and 3, by unknown author, Verse 2- Dr Rex Duff; Verse 4 and the chorus by Gloria & Bill Gaither and Chuck Milhuff

- – Many graves will split wide open  
And the babies taken home,

Many loved one disappearing  
As the lost are left alone.  
Many airplanes crash in mystery  
As their pilot's disappear  
In the streets, a mass of wreckage,  
Panic grips men's hearts with fear.

- – I can see astonished faces  
of lost preachers left behind,  
who preached in easy salvation  
no repentance to be saved  
they trusted words of pleasure  
Looking for the answer there  
But the answer has departed  
For that meeting in the air
- – I can see the happy faces  
As we rise up thru the air,  
Tis the end of sin and sorrow,  
No more tears of dark despair.  
I am gone to see my Savior  
Who died on Calvary's tree  
And I'm gone to live forever  
Far beyond the glassy sea.
- – I can hear the chariots rumble,  
I can see the marching throng,  
The great flurry of God's trumpets  
Spells the end of sin and wrong  
Regal robes are now unfolding,  
Heaven's grandstands all in place  
Heaven's choir is now assembled,  
They're sing-ing Amazing Grace!

as

CHORUS



The King is coming, the King is Coming,  
I just heard the trumpets sounding,  
and now His face I see,  
Oh, the King is coming, the King is Coming,  
Praise God He's coming for me.

I'll See you in the Rapture – By Charles B. Feltner, 1973, Kingsmen Publishing Company (Revised slightly) - Verse 3 (Dr. Rex Duff)

Verse 1- If we never meet again on this earth, my precious friend, If on Christ we do depend, then we'll praise Him to the end;  
Then for us, there'll be a greeting, for there's gonna be a meeting,  
I'll see you in the Rapture some sweet day.

Verse 2 – To my loved ones let me say, that there'll surely come a day,  
When the Lord will come again, and He'll take His bride away;  
So, get ready now to meet Him, and with hallelujahs greet Him,  
I'll see you in the Rapture some sweet day.

Verse 3 - If the Rap-ture comes just now, and to Christ you have not bowed, Then no sec-ond chance is found, doomed to Hell for-ev-er bound; But to those who now re-ceive Him, will for-ev-er live be-side Him, I'll see you in the Rap-ture some sweet day.

CHORUS:

I'll see you in the rapture, see you in the rapture,  
See you at that meeting in the air;  
There, with our blessed Savior, we'll live and reign forever,  
I'll see you in the rapture some sweet day.

The Last Service, Words and Music by Tracy Dartt, Upward Bound Music, Original title – The Last Sunday

Verse 1 – Misses Jones does her knitting in the rocker by the window, As she watches kids at play across the street, Down the road and not too far, sitting at the corner bar, Mister Daily buys a drink for Misses Fleet; While at Thirty-fourth and Vine in their car at the stop sign, Are the Smiths on their way to Sabbath School, They both wave to Mister Grote who is bringing out his boat, He'll be staying at the lake a day or two. At the church near Valley Station the preacher tells the congregation, about social action, war, and civil rights, While many in the subdivision sit and watch their television, Hoping that their favorite ball team wins the fight.

Verse 2 – Misses Jones does her knitting in the rocker by the window, Wond'ring where are the kids across the street, Down the road and not too far, sitting at the corner bar, Mister Daily buys a drink for Misses Fleet; While at Thirty-fourth and Vine in her car at the stop sign, Misses Smith wonders where her husband's gone, She cries out to Mister Grote who is bringing out his boat, He ex-claims, "What on earth is going on!" At the church near Valley Station there's less than half the congregation, And the preacher stands and trembles at the sight, While many in the subdivision sit and watch their television, Hoping that their favorite ball team wins the fight.

CHORUS

The Last Service in Pleasant Valley Township, a trumpet sounds, And the clouds are rolled away, they all were warned, But they just did not believe it, The last Service, Jesus Christ has come again.

Jesus Is Coming Soon (Revised slightly) by R.E. Winsett

Verse 1. -- Troublesome times are here, filling our hearts with fear  
Freedom we all hold dear, now is at stake.  
Humbling your hearts to God, saves from the chastening rod,  
Seek the way pilgrims trod, Christians awake!

Verse 2-- World-ly are lost and cold, Lost with no home of gold, This in God's Word  
is told, sin does a-bound. When these signs come to pass, nearing the end at last,  
It shall come ver-y fast, trum-pet will sound.

Verse 3 – Troubles will soon be o'er, we'll be happy forevermore  
When we meet on heaven's shore, free from all care;  
Rising up in the sky, telling this world "goodbye"  
Homeward we then will fly, glory to share.

#### CHORUS

Jesus is coming soon – morning or night or noon,  
To take us from all this gloom,  
The trumpet will sound,  
And before our eyes,  
Saints will meet in the skies  
Going where no one dies,  
Heavenward bound

#### For All The Saints

Sadly, many of the good verses are missing in most hymnals, and some verses do not fit for New Testament Christianity. However, most Churches do now use overhead projectors for congregational singing. If this is the case, make sure to print **Scriptural** verses for the congregation to sing. This author gives these suggested verses. This author also dislikes war and the use of Ghost for the Holy Spirit, therefore, minor changes have been made. Some changes were made

simply to keep everything rhyming, as the original author planned it. For those who simply want to print the music with the words for everyone in the church or home, to be placed in a folder, the music with changes is given to you, without any copyright to worry about.

Verse 1- For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
Who Thee by Faith be-fore the world confessed,  
Thy name O Jesus be forever blest.

Verse 2 – Thou wast their Rock, their For-tress and their Might;  
Thou Lord, their captain in the well fought fight;  
And Thou, in darkness was their one true light:

Verse 3 – O may Thy pilgrims, faithful, true, and bold,  
Love as the saints who nobly gave of old,  
And share with them the victor's crown of gold:

Verse 4 – O bless communion, fellowship di-vine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine:

Verse 5 – From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,

Thru gates of pearl through death the victory's won,  
Singing to Father, Son, and Spirit one:

Verse 6 – But lo! There breaks, a yet more glorious day;  
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;  
The King of glory comes back in His way:

**CHORUS -- Alleluia! Alleluia!**

# For All The Saints

## Hymn # 630

William W. How, 1864; revised

Ralph Vaughan William, 1906

1. For all the saints who from their labors rest, Who  
 2. Thou wast their Rock, their For-tress and their Might; Thou  
 3. O may Thy pil-grims, faith-ful, true, and bold, Love  
 4. O bless com-mun-ion, fel-low-ship di-vine! We  
 5. From earth's wide bounds, from o-ccean's far-thest coast, Thru  
 6. But lo! there breaks a-yet more glo-'rous day; The

5  
 Thee by Faith be-fore the world con-fessed, Thy  
 Lord, their cap-tain in the well fought fight; And  
 as the saints who no-bly gave of old, And  
 fee-bly strug-gle, they in glo-ry shine; Yet  
 gates of pearl thro' death Thy vic-'tries won, Sing-  
 saints tri-um-phant rise in bright ar-ray; The

9  
 name O Je-sus be for-ev-er blest. Al-  
 Thou, in dark-ness was their one true light:  
 share with them the vic-tor's crown of gold:  
 all are One in Thee, for all are Thine:  
 ing to Fa-ther, Son and Spir-it One:  
 King of glo-ry comes back in His way:

13  
 le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

I wished we'll all be ready – (Original – I wish we'd all been ready) song by Larry Norman, Album – Upon this Rock, 1969 – edited slightly (Verse 3, Dr. Rex Duff)

- Life will fill with guns and war, and every one gets trampled on the floor, I wish we'd all be ready. Children die, the days grow cold, a piece of bread will buy a bag of gold. I wish we'd all be ready.
- Man and wife asleep at dawn, she hears a noise and turns her head, he's gone, I wish we'd all be ready. Two men walking up a hill, one disappears and one's left standing still, I wish we'd all be ready.
- One day soon Christ will descend, and all the saved be caught up with no sin, I wish we'd all be ready. No one knows the hour or date, but once the Rapture happens it's too late. I wish we'd all be ready.

#### CHORUS

There's no time to change your mind, the Son will come and you'll be left behind

There's no time to change your mind, how could you still be so blind?

The Father speaks the demons dine, the Son will come and you'll be left behind

You'll be left behind-----You'll be left behind.

7) Another idea would be a showing of a video on the Rapture. (Don't show one where people rejecting the Gospel before the Rapture, are saved after the Rapture)! FALSE

8) The date of the Feast of Trumpets each year can be from the Jewish Calendar on line.

How then, might a NT Christian celebrate the **Feast of the Day of Atonement** (Yom Kippur) Tishri 10 (Sept-Oct) - Hebrews 9:27-28; Leviticus 23:26-32

Substitutionary Sacrifice by Christ/ Second Coming (Romans 11:26-27)

In the Jewish Tradition, Yom Kippur is considered “the most sacred day of the entire Jewish Calendar.” Many Jews fast the whole day. Many Jewish people take the day to examine themselves, and see what behavior needs to change. The book of Jonah is read by Jews on Yom Kippur. (Axelrod, Cantor Matt, Your Guide to Jewish Holidays, Jason Aronson, 2014, page 25-40).

During the Tribulation (after the Rapture takes place), all the Jews that survive the Tribulation period of 7 years will be saved (Matthew 24:11-14). At the Second Coming, all Jewish survivors are saved (Romans 11:26-27). Sadly, during the tribulation 2/3 of Israel will die, and will not endure to the end (Zechariah 13:8-9). Maybe, this is the Lord’s way of getting rid of all Tares! However, when Jesus returns at the second coming, the world will have a lot of lost goats, who have survived the tribulation. All the saved in the world, (with all Israel), will enter the Millennial Kingdom. All the rest, who are lost will be cast into eternal Hell (Matthew 25:31-46). The book of Revelation from Chapter 4:1 until the end of the book, begins the Tribulation period. This should be a time that all lost people should want to avoid. Lost people need to realize that it could happen today!

How do you celebrate a feast, that cost so much to get to the prize?

- Maybe reading all the passages that have already been stated.
- A message on, what if, Nineveh had not Repented?
- A self- examination on the sins in our lives that are keeping us from serving God.
- Singing Hymns with some conviction in them

Examples:

I Surrender All



Is Your All On The Altar

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Cleanse Me (Search Me O God)

Lord, I'm Coming Home

- Maybe fasting the day.
- A commitment to share the love of God with a lost sinner this week!

How than, might a NT Christian celebrate the **Feast of Tabernacles**/ Feast of Booths/ Feast of Ingathering/Leviticus 23:33-36; Neh. 8:13-18; John 7:2; Ex 23:16-17; Numbers 29:12-38; Deut. 16:13-17; and Zech. 14:16

Tishri 15th-22<sup>nd</sup> (Sept/Oct)

Of all the Feast days, the Feast of Tabernacles might be the greatest possibility for a Christian witness. Why? Because it is the real birth date of Christ. If we **put off** all the paganism associated with Christmas, the Feast of Tabernacles, can have a meaningful experience to last for the entire year.

This author believes instead of a pagan Christmas tree, why not have a Sukkot, with a Biblical manger scene inside. It has already been suggested, to even place lights around the Sukkot. I am not telling you that this must be done, but it might get the children to stop thinking about Christmas, and look forward to the Feast of Tabernacles. This author sees nothing wrong with giving gifts at Sukkot. The Jews give gifts at Hanukkah (Gross, Judith, Celebrate a Book of Jewish Holidays, Penguin Group, 1995, unnumbered page 13). What is wrong with Sukkot cards? Maybe wishing all, a joyous Sukkot celebration on Facebook. The feast of Tabernacles is a time to praise God for His blessings. The sukkot is "to remind us that Israelites built and dwelled in similar temporary structures while they were wandering in the

desert” (Axelrod, Cantor Matt, Your Guide to Jewish Holidays, Jason Aronson, 2014, page 42). For the Christian, the application is simple, we are simply traveling through this world on a journey. We are not to put down permanent roots, for we are not home yet. Are home being in heaven, and are citizenship is Heaven once we are born again. (I Peter 2:11; John 14:1-3; Hebrews 11:13-16; and Philippians 3:20).

My favorite Scripture for the occasion is John 1:14. John 1:14 declares, “And the Word became 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” (NKJV)

This author also likes Luke 2: 1-24. Interesting is verse 21, with the circumcising of Jesus on the 8<sup>th</sup> day (Leviticus 12:3). The 8<sup>th</sup> day of the Feast of Tabernacles is also a Holy Day (Leviticus 23:33-36). There is no explanation given in the Old Testament, why the 8<sup>th</sup> day of the Feast of Tabernacles is special? It is probably the day, the Lord Jesus Christ, fulfilled the Law by being circumcised.

Please do not read the Scriptures of the coming wise men, for they arrived around 1 ½ years up to two years later, when Jesus was a child (not an infant) at a house, not a manger (Matthew 2:11; 16). This probably took place at Passover time, when Jews were required to return to Jerusalem.

The three Major feasts, all Males of Israel were required to travel to the temple in Jerusalem (Ex. 23:14-19) - The Feast of Tabernacles, **Passover** and Pentecost.

One of the great things about this feast day, is that all the hymns concerning the birth of Christ, can be sung at the Feast of Tabernacles

Even, with a little imagination, some songs you might never guess, can be sung at the Feast of Tabernacles.

Example –

I'm dreaming of Christ true birthday

Not like the ones I used to know

Where the Sukkot's glisten, and children listen  
to God's story of His birth.

I'm dreaming of Christ true birthday

With every Scripture that I read

May your days be merry and bright –

And may all your Festivals be right (BY Dr. Rex Duff)

Other Examples –

Ring the Bells

What Child Is This

It came upon the Midnight Clear

O Come, all Ye Faithful

O Holy Night

A Child is born in Bethlehem

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Joy to the World

I Wonder as I wander

Let Us go, Shepherds

Birthday of a King

The First Noel (First 2 verses only)

Star of the East

Silent Night

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

God Rest You Merry Gentlemen (altered one word)

God rest you merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay,

Remember Christ our Savior, was born on Sukkot's Day;

To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.

O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

One of the things that a Church, and even a Christian home can do is construct a Sukkot in your house or in the Church. I am placing a manger scene from now on in my Sukkot. I have constructed my Sukkot out of PVC pipe so it can be used year after year. The sides are made of white material with Velcro. I am having my children paint scenes on paper and stick them on the sides to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. It might be appropriate to put some fruit on the sides. Why not use your Bible imaginations! For the top, I am using Bamboo. I see nothing wrong with placing presents on the outside of the Sukkot. However, since the Feast is a whole week, why not give the presents out another day than the day you are celebrating the birth of Christ. It is my hope, that children will shortly look forward to **Sukkot**, as much as the world looks forward to that pagan holiday called Christmas.

Here are the materials I used for my portable Sukkot. I will tell you my process as I go along. I began by purchasing 8 PVC 10 ft, 1 inch PVC plastic pipe from Home Depo. I choose 1 inch because of the availability of the pipe connectors. I was able to buy a jar of 3 sided curved connectors, so this saved a lot of money. For each side I used 4 curved 3 way connectors; 4 regular 3 way connectors; and 14 way connector (very expensive). Therefore, you need twice as many for both sides. For the back in the middle (top and bottom) by used 2 regular 3 way connectors. This took care of all pipe and connectors. The pipe was cut in 12- 18 inch sections. I also use 12- 24 inch sections. The 18 inch pipe went across, and the 24 inch pipe went up and down. I used 2 -58 inch pipes across the front (top and bottom). In the back in the middle I used 1- 51 inch pipe. I also used 4 -24 inch pipe in the back. I bought one extra 10 foot pipe for mistakes! I did have to occasionally cut a pipe off a little so it would fit. I used an electric saw to cut the PVC. I sprayed the PVC once together with a brown spray paint from Home Depo. It had both an undercoating and top coating in one. I never used any PVC glue as it DESTROYS all paint. Once I sprayed the Sukkot frame I touched it up when dry. It took 3 or 4 cans of spray paint all together. I next concentrated on the roof. I ordered 2 boxes of bamboo, but it was not enough, they were too thin! I went to a man in the church and got 25 1inch bamboo poles. (All poles are 4 feet long). I also used about 100

feet of Velcro. I put it on both sides, and I glue it to the material for both sides. In the back I got a piece of material I could drape over. My sides used 36 x 54 inch -wide white heavy material (times 2). The back used 61 x 106 inch piece of material draped over the back. All 3 pieces of material was heavy white material. I used 3 bottles of wood glue, and scotch tape to hold the Velcro on until it was dry. I used 3 containers of scotch tape. I used 3 strains of colored lights on the top, and an extension cord, connected to an electric shut off strip. I used a 3 piece lighted nativity set, that was 30 inches high. There was also one bale of straw! My daughter made a 6 pointed star of David to put over the manger.

This was made to take down and put back up year after year. Here are some pictures of what can be done.



Side View



Front View





Putting on the top



Finished Top



Side view with material connected



Almost done, but something is missing?



Finished Sukkot, our first year!

**And it is always nice to have new hymns for the occasion:**

# Why Do You Celebrate

Dr. Rex Duff, 2021

Ancient Irish

1. Why do you cel - e - brate, Christ - mas each year?  
 2. God's Ho - ly Feast days, are there for al - ways,  
 3. God's birth what tra - di - tions, the world's view, not mine.

5  
 Know - ing it's pa - gan does cul - ture bring fear?  
 Both Paul and Je - sus kept all of these days,  
 No kings, no San - ta, no tree do I find.

9  
 Christ was born at Suk - kot, when Jews kept the law  
 God's Word has spok - en, Feast days are for all.  
 His birth was low - ly, ful - fill - ing the Law.

13  
 It's time we Hon - or God, And an - swer His call  
 It's time we wake up, And an - swer God's call.  
 We see now on - ly Christ, why not an - swer God's call?

**UPDATED Third Verse: (3.Je-sus be- gin-nings, take God's view, it's mine.)**

How than, might a NT Christian celebrate the **Passover Feast Leviticus 23:4-5; Exodus 12:1-30; Deuteronomy 16:1-8**

**Some of my thoughts on this subject are:**

**A reading of both the OT Scriptures and the last Passover by Jesus and the Disciples**

**A common meal**

**A foot washing service**

**And The Lord's Supper (John 13)**

**A testimony service to follow seems appropriate.**

**Reading Exodus 12**

**Reading John 13**

**Sermon on the sayings of Jesus on the Cross**

**Singing - (On A Hill Far Away)- New Hymn**

# On A Hill Far Away

Hymn # 325

George Bennard, 1913;  
Revised by Dr. Rex Duff

George Bennard, 1913

Very Slowly

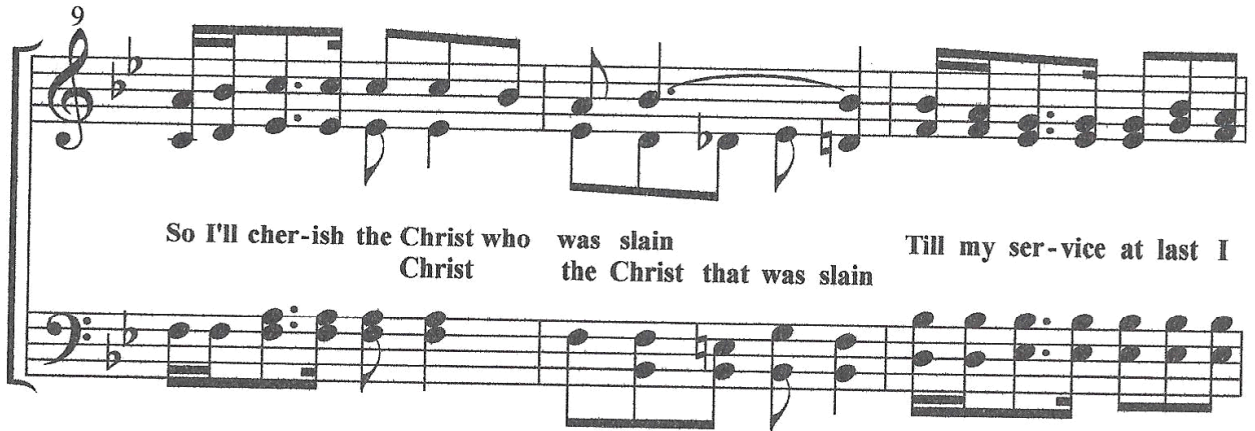
1. On, a hill far a - way stood My cru - ci - fied Lord,  
2. Oh, God's Son that was slain, so de - spised by the world,  
3. In the nails that did pierce, stained with blood from Di - vine,  
4. To my God who a - rose, I will ev - er be true,

3  
The bear - er of suf - f'ring and shame; And I love my dear Lord,  
Has a won - drous at - tract - ion for me; For the dear Lamb of God  
A won - drous beau - ty I see; For 'twas on that dark day  
Its shame and re - proach glad - ly bear; Then He'll call me some day,

6  
Twas for me He did die, For a world of lost sin - ners was slain.  
left His glo - ry a - bove, To bear it to dark Cal - va - ry.  
Je - sus suf - fered and died, To par - don and san - ti - fy me.  
to my home far a - way, Where His glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.



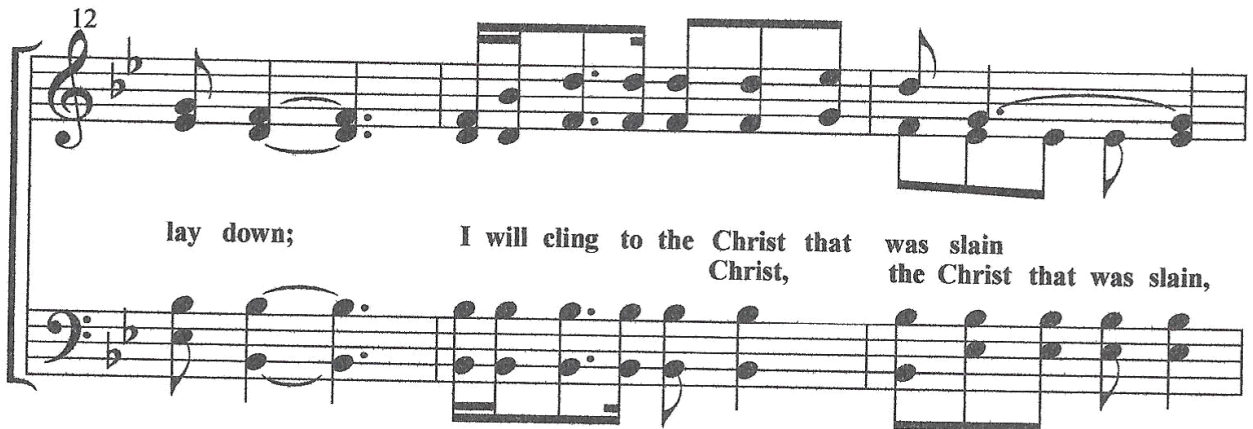
9



So I'll cher-ish the Christ who was slain  
Christ the Christ that was slain Till my ser-vice at last I

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of music, measures 9 through 11. It features a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, with a long note in measure 10. The bass clef staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

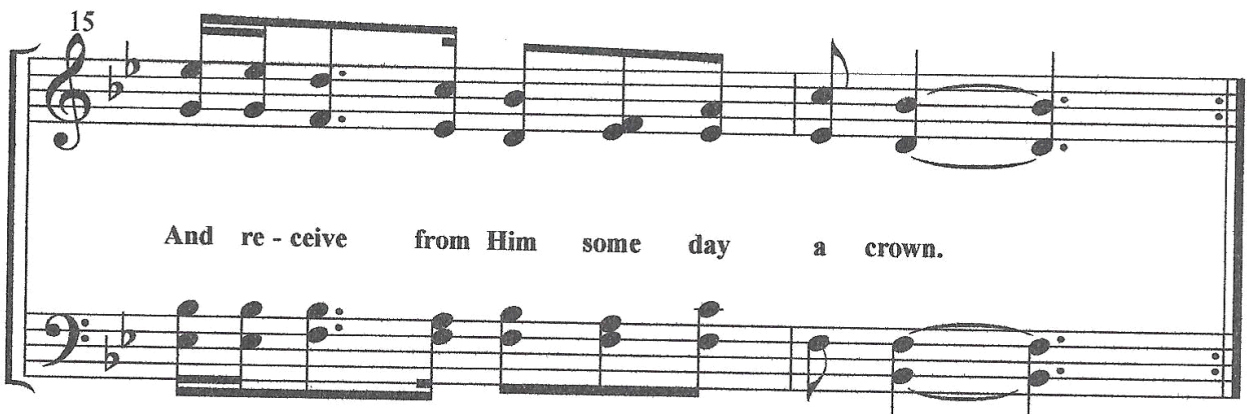
12



lay down; I will cling to the Christ that was slain  
Christ, the Christ that was slain,

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of music, measures 12 through 14. The musical notation continues from the previous system. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

15



And re - ceive from Him some day a crown.

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of music, measures 15 through 17. The musical notation continues from the previous system. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

How than, might a NT Christian celebrate the **Feast of Unleavened Bread**

**The exciting thing about the Feast of Unleavened Bread, is that during this Feast the Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead. According to Leviticus 23:4-8, the Feast begins the night Passover ends. The first day of the feast is a high Sabbath. After Jesus was crucified, (our Wednesday), The Feast of Unleaved Bread would have begun after Sundown on Wednesday. Jesus body was in the tomb, before the Feast started. (Luke 23:50-56) This feast can also be found in Numbers 28:16-26. Because Jesus was risen on the weekly Sabbath (after 3 days and 3 nights), all the songs that the pagan church sings on the pagan holiday of Easter, can be sung during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The Feast of Unleavened Bread is best explained in Exodus 12:31-42. Because the Jews were leaving Egypt in haste, they took Unleavened Bread. According to Exodus 16:1, the Jews ate this Unleavened Bread for one month. The Jews ate only this bread, until God gave quail and Manna from Heaven (Exodus 16:1-36). What is the importance of Unleavened Bread? According to Matthew 16:11; and Matthew 13:33, Leaven is a picture of evil and sin. It starts out slow, but evidentially will consume everything. This is what sin does, it spreads till the whole body is full of darkness (Matthew 7:23).**

**Traditionally the Jews, spend this Feast examining themselves, to see what sins need Repent of. This author would suggest celebrating the Resurrection in a Biblical way, not on Easter, but the weekly sabbath Christ rose on.**

**Songs that might be sung are:**

**Rise Again**

**Christ the Lord is Risen today**

**Christ arose**

**A sermon on the resurrection of Christ using Matthew 12:38-40.**

**Other ideals might include a**

**Testimony service**

**A hymn sing**

**And a garbage pail service. (Can also be used on different occasions)**

**Many years ago, I was introduced to a garbage pail service by Evangelist Charles Hughes. Charles Hughes is known as Liberty's walking miracle after surviving a 10-week coma, after a tragic car accident, over 40 years ago. I remember Charles both before and after his accident. When this author was a teenager, Charles gave each person in my church a list of sins that he felt were listed in the Bible. He challenged each person to check their sins from the list. At the end of the service, he pleaded with Christians to bring their sins forward, and put the sheets in the garbage can. These sins were later, after the service, taken out of the Church and burned up! This author has reproduced this list, with a few variations. This list is in my main Bible, and has been used often when visiting a family, and a question about a particular sin came up. This list is over 40 years old, and maybe it is a condemnation of our present generation.**

## **SINS AND WEIGHTS**

**"let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us"**

**Hebrews 12:1 (NKJV).**

**Wrongs attitudes and actions**

- **Lack of love.....I John 4:7,8,20; I Peter 4:8**
- **Judging wrongly.....Matthew 7:1,2; Romans 2:1**
- **Bitterness.....Hebrews 12:15**
- **Unforgiving spirit.....Mark 11:25,26**
- **Pride..... Proverbs 16:18; Galatians 6:14; James 4:10; I Peter 5:5,6**
- **Selfishness.....Philippians 2:4,21**
- **Boasting (conceit)..... I Corinthians 4:7; Proverbs 27:1, 2; Proverbs 26:12**

- **Stubbornness.....Proverbs 29:1; I Samuel 15:23**
- **Lack of submission and /or disrespect....Eph. 5:21, 22; Eph. 6:1,2; Pro. 20:20**
- **Rebellion.....I Samuel 15:23; Deuteronomy 9:24**
- **Disobedience..... Isaiah 1:19,20**
- **Ungratefulness.....Ephesians 5:20; I Thessalonians 5:18**
- **Impatience..... James 1:2-4**
- **Discontent..... Philippians 4:11-13; I Timothy 6:6-8**
- **Covetousness..... Exodus 20:17; Luke 12:15; I Timothy 6:9,10**
- **Murmuring.....James 5:9; I Corinthians 10:10**
- **Complaining..... Philippians 2:14,15; Jude 15,16**
- **Sassing..... Ephesians 6:2**
- **Irritation to others..... Proverbs 15:1**
- **Jealousy (envy).....Proverbs 27:4; Proverbs 14:30**
- **Strive..... James 3:16; Romans 12:18; Proverbs 25:8**
- **Losing temper.....Proverbs 16:32; Proverbs 25:28**
- **Bodily Harm..... Proverbs 16:29**
- **Anger..... Proverbs 14:17; Psalms 37:8**
- **Wrath..... James 1:19,20; Job 36:18**
- **Hatred..... Matthew 5:21,22; I John 3:15**
- **Murder or Abortion.....Exodus 20:13; Psm. 51:5; Psm. 139:14-16; Jer. 1:5**
- **Gossip (slander).....I Timothy 5:13; Proverbs 26:20, 22; Matthew 12:33**
- **Lying..... Ephesians 4:25; Proverbs 24:28; Proverbs 19:5**
- **Bad language.....Ephesians 4:29; Matthew 12:34,35**
- **Profanity (cursing).....Psalms 109:17; James 3:10; James 5:12**

- Idle words..... Matthew 12:36; 2 Timothy 2:16
- Evil thoughts..... Proverbs 23:7a; Proverbs 30:32; Ecclesiastes 12:14
- Bad motives.....I Samuel 16:7; Proverbs 5:21
- Complacency (indifference)..... James 4:17; Revelation 3:15,16
- Hypocrisy (phoniness).....Job 8:13,14; Matt. 23:28; Matt. 7:15-23; Job 13:16
- Other gods.....Deuteronomy 11:16; I Corinthians 10:7; Deuteronomy 8:19
- Lost first love..... Revelation 2:4; I John 4:10,19; Jeremiah 2:19
- Lack of rejoicing always.....I Thessalonians 5:16; Philippians 4:4
- Worry (fear).....Matthew 6:25-32; Philippians 4:6; 2 Timothy 1:7
- Doubt (unbelief).....1 Thess. 5:24; Romans 14:23b; John 20:29; John 16:31,32
- Skipping Church.....Proverbs 28:9; Hebrews 10:25
- Dating wrongly..... Proverbs 29:15
- Wrong associations.....2 Thessalonians 3:14; Ephesians 5:11; I Tim. 6:3-5

## Christian Responsibilities

### PUT ON

- 45. Unfaithfulness... I Corinthians 4:2.....Psalms 31:23
- 46. Copping Out.....Matthew 24:26.....Luke 14:27
- 47. Neglect of Bible Study.....2 Timothy 3:14-17.....Psalms 119:9-11
- 48. Neglect of Prayer.....I Thessalonians 5:17;..... Psalms 55:17
- 49. No Soul Winning Desire...Psalm 126:5,6;.....Romans 10:1
- 50. Burying Talents.....I Corinthians 4:2;.....Luke 12:48
- 51. Irresponsibility (family/work)...I Timothy 5:8.....Ephesians 4:28
- 52. Procrastination.....Proverbs 27:1;.....Luke 12:24-31
- 53. Laziness.....Ephesians 5:15,16.....Proverbs 6:6-11

- 54. Not doing your best (sloth)...Ecc.9:10;.....Colossians 3:23
- 55. Conduct in Church.....Hebrews 10:25.....Ecc. 5:1
- 56. Not financially giving to God....Malachi 3:10;.....2 Corinthians 9:6,7
- 57. Inhospitable.....I Peter 4:9; .....Romans 12:13

**Worldly Mindedness**

- 58. Masturbation.....I Corinthians 7:9;.....I John 2:16
- 59. Demonic, Evolution, & Violent Video games.....Psm 101:3;..... Psm 119:37
- 60. Mixed
- Swimming.....Matthew 5:20.....Romans 12:2 61.
- Gambling cards.....Proverbs 14:12.....Romans 12:2 62.
- Filthy talk.....Colossians 3:8; Ephesians 4:29.....Eph. 5:4 63.
- Bad TV & Internet....Psm 119:37; Psm 101:3; Luke 11:34.....Phil. 2:5 64.
- Women exposing flesh (shorts, low tops) Deu. 22:5; I Tim 2:9; Rom 12:1-2; Isa 47:2
- 65. Temporal values....Matthew 6:19-21.....2 Timothy 2:4
- 66. Following the Crowd.....Mark 8:36.....Matthew 6:33
- 67. Cheating.....Proverbs 15:3 ..... Luke 8:15
- 68. Stealing.....Ephesians 4:28.....Luke 6:38
- 69. Lack of Moderation.....Philippians 4:5.....2 Peter 1:5-10
- 70. Over-eating.....Proverbs 23:20.....1 Corinthians 9:27
- 71. Speeding.....1 Peter 2:13,14;.....I Peter 2:13
- 72. Improper dating relations....I Corinthians 15:33.....Philippians 1:20
- 73. Dating wrong people.....2 Cor. 6:14;.....1 Corinthians 6:12
- 74. Lust of the Flesh.....1 John 2:16;.....I Peter 2:11
- 75. Lust of the Eyes.....1 John 2:16;.....Phil. 2:4
- 76. Fornication.....I Cor.7:2; I Thess. 4:3-7;.....I Cor, 10:8
- 77. Necking/Petting.....Proverbs 7:10; Proverbs 11:22; .....2 Cor. 5:14
- 78. Adultery.....Matthew 5:27,28..... Exodus 20:14
- 79. Homosexuality.....Romans 1:26-27.....I Timothy 5:22; I Cor 6:9-11
- 80. Worldly Hair styles.....I Tim.2:9;..... I Cor. 11:14-15
- 81. No head covering on women in church...I Cor 11:6,10,1...I Tim. 2:9-10
- 82. Bad Music.....Proverbs 23:7;.....Ephesians 5:19
- 83. Worldly partying (Revellings)....Gal 5:21; I Thess. 5:22; ....I Cor. 10:31
- 84. Illegal drugs.....Rev. 21:8;.....I Cor. 3:16,17

85. Alcohol drinking...I Peter 5:8; Habakkuk 2:15; Pro. 23:20; Pro 23:29-33 86.  
 Cigarette smoking.....1 Cor. 6:19-20.....I Cor. 3:16,17 87.  
 Gambling....I Tim. 6:6-10; Rom 12:17; I Thess. 5:22;...I Peter 2:13; Rom 12:1-2  
 88. Bad Movies.....Proverbs 23:7.....2 Cor. 3:2  
 89. Stumbling Block.....1 Cor. 8:9-12;.....Romans 14:21  
 90. Preferential treatment.....James 2:1-6; .....Luke 6:31  
 91. Presumption on the Future.....James 4:13-14;..... Proverbs 27:1  
 92. Tattoos..... Leviticus 19:28.....I Corinthians 10:31-32 93.  
 Witchcraft/astrology/ occult practices.....Eph. 5:11-13; Amos 5:23,  
 Deuteronomy 18:10,11.....Micah 5:12-15; Acts 19:18-20  
 94. Not worshipping on the Sabbath.....Exodus 20:8-11; Mark 6:2  
  
 .....But there is forgiveness with You..... Psalm 130:3,4

### How than, might a NT Christian celebrate the Feast of First Fruits

(March/April).....Christ takes the OT saved to heaven from paradise, with His blood (Matthew 27:52-53; John 20:17) -- (No more wait on Heaven, the blood has been shed)- Hebrews 9:12 – “Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption” (NKJV).

Old Testament references--

Ex 23:15-16; Numbers 28:26; Dt. 16:9, and Leviticus 23:9-14.

Originally, the Feast of First Feast, was a demonstration of putting God first in your life. Interesting on the Feast of First Fruits, in the New Testament, Christ made a little trip to Heaven with the Old Testament saved, and with His blood. Christ did not stay long, for He returned to earth that same day and meet two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and then the 10 disciples minus Thomas (Luke 24:13-43; John 20:24-29). Imagine the celebration in Heaven, however, when not only did

Christ place His blood in the Heavenly Holy of Hollies, but He brought the Old Testament saints with Him. They had been waiting in paradise for the blood of Christ to be shed and pay for their sins. I wonder if the celebration is still going on, nearly 2000 years later? In I Corinthians 15:20 the Bible declares, "But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (NKJV). Just what does first fruits mean here? A good explanation might be that Christ is the **first** person to die, and actually go to Heaven. Some might bring up Enoch and Elijah, but they have never died yet. This author believes they will die during the last half of the tribulation period, and will be resurrected after 3 ½ days to be taken up to Heaven (Revelation 11:1-12). Paul stated in 2 Corinthians 5:8, "We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord" (NKJV). Now, because Jesus emptied Paradise (Abraham's bosom), when Christians die, they all get to go immediately to Heaven.

### **How than should we celebrate the Feast of First Fruits today?**

This author would begin by reading both the Old and New Testament Scriptures, on what happened on the Feast of Tabernacles. First by putting Christ first, (Lev 23:9-14) and second by being rewarded, a trip to Heaven. (Matthew 27:52-53; John 20:17; and 2 Corinthians 5:8)

Secondly, having pondered this for some time, this author believes having a time of remembrance of those who have passed on to Heaven, might be a worthwhile experience. A time of sharing how departed Christians **put Christ first** in their lives, might be very meaningful. Sadly, not very many Christians have put Christ first in their lives, but there should be some, that the Church can remember. If not, the Bible gives us several examples of those who put Christ first.

Finally, a great possibility would be reading the stories of some of the martyrs from Martyrs Mirror or Foxe's Book of Martyrs. These Martyrs put Christ first in their lives, by dying for Christ!

A Church could also throughout the service, sing **hymns** on Heaven. I hope the Church stays away from most of the contemporary garbage.



**How then, might a NT Christian celebrate the Feast of Pentecost/  
(Feast of Weeks)/ Feast of Harvest/ Shavuot/Lev 23:15-21; Deut. 16:9-12; Ex  
23:16; Numbers 28:26-31; Acts 2:1; Sivan 6 (50 days after harvest) May/June.**

According to most Jewish scholars, Moses went up to God on Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments, during the Feast of weeks/ Feast of Pentecost. Because the Feast is only one day, many Jewish writers place this Feast as a very minor celebration. Cantor Axelrod calls it the “Forgotten Festival” (Axelrod, Cantor Matt, Your Guide to Jewish Holidays, Jason Aronson, 2014, page 135-149). The time chronologically does fit! Assuming the Ten Commandments, the moral law were given during this Feast Day, one must ask themselves, what was the purpose of the Law? Galatians 3:24-25 declares, “Therefore the law (the first 5 books of the Bible) was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor; For **you are all** sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus” (NKJV). Many people state the Law is over, I am under Grace. The problem with this, is what Law? Clearly Christians are not under dietary laws, circumcision, and Governmental Laws. (Colossians 2:16; I Corinthians 7:19; Acts 15:5-29; and Galatians 5:2-4) We are not the nation Israel. But to say we are not under any law, clearly disputes the teachings of Jesus on the sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Notice clearly what I Corinthians 7:19 declares, “Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters” (NKJV). What commandments of God? Clearly Paul was talking about the moral law of God! Christ expanded on the moral law (The Ten Commandments), and made them even harder to keep, by His interpretation of the Ten Commandments. Even Paul states in I Corinthians 5:8, “Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, not with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth” (NKJV). What was the problem in Galatia? People were trying to keep the law for their salvation (Galatians 3:3). Paul even calls this another gospel (Galatians 1:6-10). This book ends with this warning, the purpose of the law, then and now, is to show us we are sinners, and need Christ to save us. The law cannot save anyone, for no one has ever been able to keep it, but Christ! In Acts 2:1-43, we find the

first New Testament converts brought into the NT church. This was on the Feast of Pentecost. The law showed them they were a sinner, and faith in Christ with repentance, converted them to salvation. A side note here, is just like keeping the law, baptism saved no one (Acts 2:38) The word **for** should have been translated **because of**, like it was in Acts 25:20. “And **because**” (NKJV). The Greek word is eis, and means because of. This author only brings this up, because keeping works of any kind, saves no one.

How than might we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost?

1<sup>st</sup>-, Tell the story of God giving the law (Exodus 20

2<sup>nd</sup> -, Read Acts 2:1-43, and explains the law was to bring us to Christ (Galatians 3:24)

3<sup>rd</sup> -, Ask individually to join the Church, to live and serve Christ

**Have a Church growth Sabbath or Sunday (if not convicted yet?)**

4<sup>th</sup>-, Challenge Christians to go bring the lost to the house of God (the assembly of the Church)

5<sup>th</sup>-, For those who have been preparing for this day, have a Baptismal service and welcome the new members into the local church.

Please understand, these are only suggestions, you do as God directs you!