

# Is Christmas Christian



# CHRISTMAS IN AMERICA

from this:

—ARIZONA CURRENTS—

December, 1968 — Page Five

## **It's a Fact!**

Christmas was not established as a legal holiday throughout the U.S. until late in the 19th century.

In 1659 the Puritan colony in Massachusetts passed a law that anyone "found observing any such day as Christmas or the like, either by forbearing labor, feasting or in any other way, shall be fined five shillings."

Many early Americans who refused to work on Christmas either went to jail or paid fines.

## **Christmas Was Banned**

BOSTON (AP) — Christmas was once banned in Boston.

The Puritans forbade the celebration of Christmas because it was a "pagan feast."

Episcopalians were the first in Boston to observe the holiday. They were followed by increasing numbers of young people who raised 18th century eyebrows with "frolics, a reveling feast and ball."

But it wasn't until 1856 that the legislature — recognizing a losing battle when it saw it — gave in and made Christmas a legal holiday.

*The Phoenix Gazette*  
DECEMBER 22, 1967

Wasn't that strange of the Christian founders of America? Is it possible they knew something you don't know about "Christmas?" Please read all of the pages in this book. They will show you why "Christmas" comes



to  
this

**CHRISTMAS  
EYE  
POPPERS**

BOWLEPS!  
BALLS - PAGES - SHOES  
GIFT  
CIGARETTES

**A FREE CHRISTMAS GIFT**  
*... From Your Free Checking Bank!*

We have a beautiful, Swiss-made wrist watch for you... FREE!  
It's packaged in an elegant jewelry case, perfect for Christmas giving. A magnificent gift for yourself or a loved one.  
This watch is the new digital de-

tells you the exact time, just at a glance. Merely open or renew a \$50 Passbook or Time Certificate of one year. That's worth doing. The watch, because you earn 5% interest on your money. For two comp-

**Holiday  
Party  
Scheduled**

Members of the Western Saddle Club are planning what they call "An Old-Fashioned Holiday Party" begin-

**Holiday Special**

COUPON  
2 OFF

**CHRISTMAS SPECIALS**

**SLEIGH-  
FULS** of  
**SALE STARTS NOON SUNDAY**



**GIFT IDEAS**

**Bank of America**  
PRICES GOOD THROUGH DEC. 6, 1985

**Santa time**

**PRE-CHRISTMAS  
SALE!**

**NEW STORE HOURS  
SUNDAY 12 to 5**

**CANADIAN LORD  
CALVERT  
BLEND**  
Imported blend & aged  
FIFTH - 80 PROOF  
Reg. 5.59  
**4.99**

**BOURBON**  
World's only  
4 Year - 86  
Buy the b

The w



BY APPOINTMENT  
TO THE REALTY SOUTH EASTERN  
BRANCHES OF THE WESTERN SADDLE CLUB  
HARVEY WALKER & SONS LIMITED  
WALKERVILLE CANADA

**\$6.99**  
4/5 Qt.

Luxuriously  
gift-wrapped at  
no extra cost



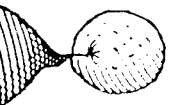
**CHRISTMAS CRYSTALS**

Dear Santa,  
All I want for Christmas  
is a Mason-Built  
any style you want  
will be fine for  
me and my family.  
Happy New Year!  
The Merriest  
Christmas we  
ever know.

Thank you  
Santa  
in 1973 please  
my Christmas  
to SUPERSTITIOUS  
A MESA

**Mesa's  
Ceremon**

By OPAL JOHNSON  
Children and adults  
community will gather  
sixth Christmas tree  
ceremony on the grounds  
Mesa police station at  
Macdonald at 7 o'clock to



**CHRISTMAS**  
**EYE**  
**POPPERS**

BOWLEPS!  
BALLS - BAGS - SHOES  
GIFT  
CASCATES

**GIFT**

Holiday  
Party  
Scheduled

Members of the Western  
Saddle Club are planning  
what they call "An Old-Fash-  
ioned Holiday Party" begin-



**ARTS NOON SUNDAY**

**PRE-CHRISTMAS**  
**SALE!**

**NEW STORE HOURS**  
SUNDAY 12 to 5



**BOUY**

World's only  
4 Year - 86  
Buy the b

**The world's most popular  
Christmas Club**



**\$6.99**  
4.5 Qt.

Luxuriously  
gift-wrapped  
at no extra cost



**Now He'll Have  
To Buy A New  
Christmas Tree**

BOSTON (AP) — Twelve  
years ago Joseph Mucci  
planted a seedling in his  
backyard and nurtured it un-  
til it was a 7-foot blue  
spruce — his own personal  
Christmas tree.

Yesterday, while reading his  
newspaper, I glanced out  
the dining room window and I  
saw something was wrong.  
The 7-foot old retired con-  
struction worker had  
called to my wife to  
come look, and then it hit me  
that my tree was gone.

The vandals left Mucci with  
only a five-inch stump.

**CHRISTMAS CRYSTAL SPECIALS!**  
Crystal light fix-

Dear Santa,  
All I want for Christmas  
is a Mason built home  
in any style you select  
will be fine and give  
me and my folks many  
Happy New Years and  
the Merriest  
Christmas we've  
ever known.

Thank you  
Santa, and  
in 1973 please bring  
my Christmas presents  
to SUPERSTITION VILLAGE  
A Mesa, Nev. on Sat.  
12:00 PM.



**If You Like It ...  
Charge It!**



**Tempe Club  
Out To Sell  
7,000 Trees**

TEMPE — The Tempe  
Kiwanis Club is conducting its  
annual Christmas tree sale at  
three lots in ...

**Toys Wanted For Children**

MALE — Toys are  
wanted on the Salt  
Lake Indian  
Reservation.

MASS NEWMAN — Toys are  
wanted also. Gifts, wrapping  
paper and ribbons, with a  
party used at the student  
center in the student  
center from noon to  
5:00 p.m.

**Mesa's Tree-Lighting  
Ceremony at 7 Tonight**

By OPAL JOHNSON  
Children and adults of the  
community will gather for the  
sixth Christmas tree lighting  
ceremony on the grounds of the  
Mesa police station at 44 N.  
Macdonald at 7 o'clock tonight.

Maurice Bateman, director of  
the Mesa Parks and Recreation  
Department, who will preside  
over the festivities.  
The 23-foot Aleppo Pine 1  
grown for years on the ...

**Poachers  
are rifling  
tree farms**

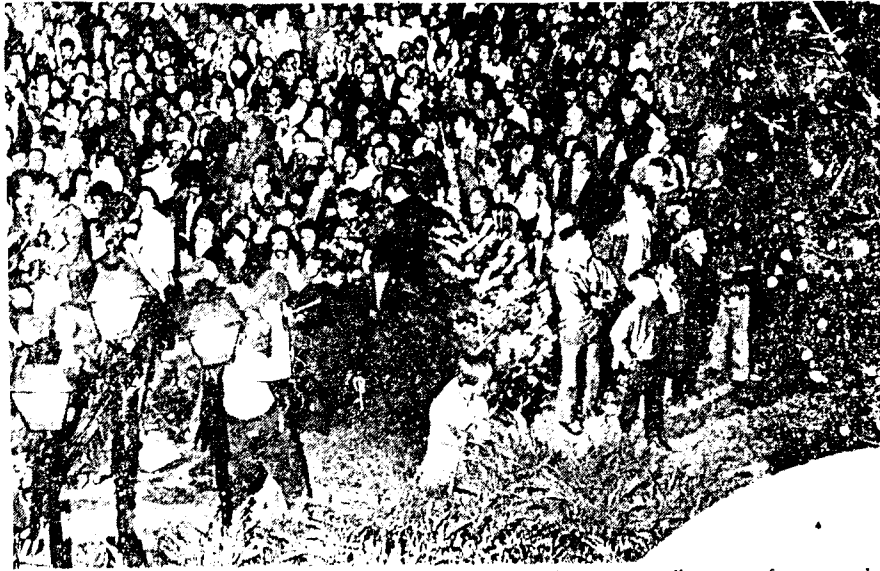
United Press International  
SEATTLE, Wash. — With  
prime noble fir fetching as  
much as \$2 a foot, Christmas  
tree rustlers are plaguing  
U.S. Forest Service planta-  
tions and private tree farms  
to the point where the Fed-  
eral Bureau of Investigation has  
been called to catch the  
poachers.

More than 500 trees have  
been stolen from the White  
River District of the Snoqual-  
mie National Forest within  
the last two weeks, and other  
fir forests in the Pacific north-  
west have been hit almost  
as hard.

Supervisor Don R. Camp-  
bell of Snoqualmie National  
Forest said yesterday rangers  
and guards had been patrol-  
ing reforestation areas but  
have had little success be-  
cause of the vast area in-  
volved.

Consequently, he called the  
FBI Agents.

## WHO GETS THE WORSHIP ?



the lights flicked on at the Holiday Tree Lighting Festival and a big "Oooo" went up from crowd

To be annual festival

The Arizona Republic  
Sunday, Dec. 3, 1972

### Santa steals hearts at city tree lighting

By ATHA HARDT

Dick Van Dyke charmed the thousands of persons who swarmed on the Phoenix Civic Center last night, but Santa Claus stole their hearts.

"Hurrah!" the crowd cried in unison as the red-and-white-bedecked gentleman with a long white beard climbed the podium.

"Merry Christmas!" he yelled back.

Police estimated the crowd—mostly mommies, daddies and little children—at 6,000 to 7,000.

People began arriving in late afternoon for the city's Holiday Tree Lighting Festival, which city officials say will become an annual event.

By 5:30 p.m., an hour before the holiday fun was to start, about 500 had arrived to welcome the Christmas Season to the Valley.

As the West High Chorus, East High Brass Heralds and Phoenix Boys' Choir presented Christmas-~~carol~~ programs, the crowd gradually spilled into Central Avenue, blocked to traffic by Phoenix police.

Some of the children who left their parents to crowd closer to the activity said they came to watch Van Dyke, who recited "The Littlest Angel" while a tableau of the Christmas tale, complete with angels in gold halos, was performed atop the Phoenix Art Museum.

The TV and movie comedian's 11-year-old daughter, Carrie

Beth, joined him on a wooden bench decked with red ribbons and surrounded by elves.

Then Santa arrived in a motorized sleigh, bringing with him Mayor John Driggs and a belly-ful of "ho-ho-hos."

He gave the mayor a big hug and handed him a present—the button to turn on the lights of the city's \$1,000 live 25-foot California pine tree.

The crowd oohed and ahed and then moved on—at the request of Santa and the mayor—to refreshments, art displays and more fun in the library auditorium and courtyard. Children got oranges, nuts and candy, and there were red carnations for the moms.

There were a few mumbled criticisms from those who came on time and were pushed to the back about not being able to see Van Dyke and about being blinded by TV lights.

There were a few lost children—reunited with their parents after the ceremony—and more than a few stomped on toes.

Some of the crowd thought the price tag for the long-needed pine was a little high.

"That's it?" Mrs. Eleanor Lato chuckled when asked what she thought of the tree. "I can't believe that's the one."

But the most serious mishap of the evening was on stage.

"Ouch—you've got my beard!" Santa cried.

And the mayor, who caught the beard as he grabbed the microphone, let go.

"Blessed  
counsel a  
way of si  
the scorn

## IS CHR

Ans

From the p  
servation of  
called "the Ch  
obvious that M  
decidedly NOT  
deed the day i  
costly prepara

The Script

mind is enmity

"world," i.e.

God, actually

"Ye shall be ho

(Matt. 24:9, M

"because ye (d

have chosen yo

hateth you," (

not to be surpr

if the world ho

And so that

was directed pr

Disciples, "If

Me before it ha

And yet the

Word all of the

scription of "t

rituals of "Chr

passion!

How can thi

stirred at THIS

proclaimed as t

Saviour of the

*"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."* (Psalm 1:1)

## IS CHRISTMAS CHRISTIAN?

Answered by Pastor Sheldon Emry

From the preceding pages, and from a realistic observation of the strange "goings-on" during what is called "the Christmas Season," or "the Holidays," it is obvious that MOST of what passes for "celebration" is decidedly NOT Christian. But how can this be, if indeed the day itself to which all this splendiferous and costly preparation leads is Biblical or of Christ?

The Scripture teaches us that *"the carnal (worldly) mind is enmity against God"* (Romans 8:7), and that the "world," i.e. people who love the world rather than God, actually hate Christ and Christians, as we read in *"Ye shall be hated of all nations for My Name's sake,"* (Matt. 24:9, Matt. 10:22, Mark 13:13, Luke 21:17, and *"because ye (disciples) are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you,"* (John 15:19). John wrote to the Christians not to be surprised at hatred, *"Marvel not, my brethren if the world hate you."* (1 John 3:13)

And so that we should understand that that hatred was directed primarily at Jesus Christ, He told His own Disciples, *"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you."* (John 15:18)

And yet those who pay no attention to Christ or His Word all of the rest of the year, those who fit the description of "the world," enter into the activities and rituals of "Christmas" with a frenzy that borders on a passion!

How can this be so? How can the unbelievers be so stirred at THIS ONE TIME OF THE YEAR to venerate a day proclaimed as the "very birthday" of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the World?

## IS THE CHRISTMAS "SPIRIT" CHRISTIAN?

Some credit the "goings-on" of Christmas to a nebulous "spirit" they call the "Christmas spirit," and many praise the wonderful workings of such a "spirit."

But, do the people suddenly change their beliefs? Do they suddenly all act like Christians? And then cease to act as such after December 25th? But that isn't right either, is it? For most of their actions have nothing whatever to do with Christ!! In fact, the "Christmas spirit" seems to cause almost all to act in a manner that is totally out of line with the teachings of the Word of God. Stores raise many prices, often pushing cheap and flimsy merchandise for "gifts," men exchange bottles or cases of whiskey, employers give "Christmas parties" with free liquor with often tragic consequences in auto accidents, or illicit sex liaisons, and tens of thousands of families, caught up in the "Christmas spirit," overspend, and lay an additional burden of debt upon themselves for months afterward.

In addition, untold millions of little children are deceived about the existence of a little creature called "Santa Claus." Parents, who under most circumstances would severely punish their children for telling lies, blithely lie to these same children, and do it with a smile on their faces and joy in their hearts!

Are those things "Christian?" Of course not. Then what is this "thing" called "Christmas?"

The answer, which should be suspected by Christians as they watch the world "celebrate," is that this festival called "Christmas" is NOT a Christian holiday at all, but is exactly that which it appears to be, a pagan debauchery whose origins are not, and can not, be in the Holy One of Israel, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus, in the sermon on the mount, taught that *"a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit."* (Matthew 7:17-18)

### TRY (TEST) THE CHRISTMAS "SPIRIT"

We are told by John, *"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits (plural) whether they are of God."* (1 John 4:1)

This simply means that the Christian is NOT to believe everything that seems to have a "spirit" behind it to be originated by God. Jesus warned of deceptions that, *"if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."* (Matthew 24:24)

Peter told believers that there would be "*false teachers among you, who privily (secretly) shall bring in damnable heresies.*" (2 Peter 2:1) A heresy is a religious teaching that has the appearance of truth, but is, in fact, a lie. Is it possible that "Christmas" is a "heresy," something that masquerades as "Christian," but is not?

Perhaps we should take this festival "apart" and examine the "parts" and see what it really is.

#### THE "DAY"

When the "day," December 25th, is examined, some rather strange things are discovered. Firstly, and this should certainly lead professing Christians to read on, Christians observed no such day as "the birthday of Jesus" during the lives of the Disciples, or those that followed immediately after them (see page 26). Neither did the Christian founders of the American colonies who were of those who had come out of "the great whore, the Roman church." (see page 1)

Secondly, no one has ever come forward with even one verse of Scripture admonition to believers to observe any such "celebration" of "the birthday of Christ," nor is there any. Although such Hebrew holy days as the Passover, the Sabbath, and the annual giving of the tithes are mentioned in both Old and New Scriptures, God has left NO INSTRUCTION about Jesus' "birthday."

Thirdly, the description of Jesus' birth night, tells of a time to be taxed, of shepherds in the field with their flocks at night, and the city of Bethlehem full of travelers, "*no room for them in the inn.*" (Luke 2:1-8) Tax time was harvest time throughout the Roman Empire, and tithing time was harvest time according to the Law of Moses. (Exodus 23:14-19; Leviticus 23:1-10; Deuteronomy 16:16-17) Common sense and custom would have the Roman governor collect taxes at the time the people had money from the harvest; when they had been taught to pay their tithes under Moses' Law.

Midwinter, i.e. December 25th, simply does NOT fit the season described in the Holy Word.

Fourthly, even a very brief search of history books of various nations and peoples, shows that almost all had a mid-winter "festival" embodying all the customs of the modern "Christmas," such as feasting, drunken revelry, sexual excess, burning a log, a tree, giving gifts, etc., and it was ALWAYS done in conjunction with THE WORSHIP OF A PAGAN GOD!! See page 26 for a news



article demonstrating how EASY it is for ministers to find the truth of the pagan origin of December 25th.

Fifthly, almost all Bible scholars who have made attempts to ascertain the actual birth day of Jesus, have admitted failure to find the "exact" date, but all have estimated it to be no earlier than September 20th nor later than November 6th on our present calendar. (I have several calendar calculations in my files.) This, coupled with the available evidence that neither the early Christians, nor those of early America, observed any "birthday of Jesus," leads one to contemplate in wonder, our sixth observation!

Which is - that in spite of all evidence AGAINST December 25th being at or near the "birthday" of Jesus, and in spite of total lack of Scriptural admonition to believers to observe any day at all in commemoration of Jesus' birth, the professed Christian churches, almost without exception, APPROVE, AND PARTICIPATE IN, ALMOST ALL OF THE "RITUALS" BY WHICH "NON-BELIEVERS" CELEBRATE "CHRISTMAS!"

WHY?

Perhaps we will find the answer by continuing our examination of the "parts" of the whole thing.

#### THE MOTHER AND CHILD

There is an almost universal use of pictures or statues of a mother and a small baby by those who celebrate "Christmas." Believer and unbeliever alike, send cards with such pictures, place "manger" displays on their front lawns or at their place of business. Some towns or other government bodies erect them on public property weeks before December 25th. Some who do this are professing Christians, but many never darken a church door, open a Bible, or repent of a sin. Could a "mother and child" be a non-Christian symbol?

Our contemporary world has the Roman Catholics with their veneration of the "woman," calling her "Mary, the mother of God," but worshipping her as a god, for they pray to her for intercession to her "god-child." In countries where Romanism holds total sway, all pretence of worshipping the "Father" is forgotten, and the whole ritual of worship is to the woman and her child (along with worship of dead "saints" as gods, which is part of the ancient system of Baal worship.)

And speaking of Baal, a look at ancient, pagan, re-

ligions gives us the origin of the "woman and child."

The Babylonians worshipped a woman-god, "Rhea," the goddess "mother," and ascribed to her son great powers. His name was "Tammuz," and in Ezekiel 8:13-14, women are condemned for professing to worship Jehovah, while in secret ACTUALLY WORSHIPPING TAMMUZ! The next verse condemns worship of the "sun," which was also a part of the Babylonian "abominations." This was an example of a religion which outwardly was the "true" religion, but secretly its adherents were "Baal worshippers."

The Greeks called the son "Bacchus," and he was the god of revelry and drunkenness. His "birthday," which was supposed to be at the winter solstice (mid-December on our calendar) was marked with parties and sexual orgies in honor of the birth of this "son of the mother-god."

In Egypt, the mother-god and child were worshipped as "Isis" and "Osiris" (or Horus). In India, where the ancient religion still holds sway, they are called "Isi" and "Iswara." In other parts of Asia they are known as "Cybele" and "Deoious." In each case the child is known as a "reincarnation" of his father, making these pag-



From Babylon.\*



From India.†

an "religions" counterfeit of the true religion of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The Mediterranean civilizations adopted these Asiatic abominations as "Fortuna" and "Jupiter" in Rome, and in Greece as either "Ceres," the great goddess-mother with a baby at her breast, or "Irene," the goddess of peace, with the baby "Plutus" in her arms.

That this worship of "mother and child" is both ancient AND Asiatic was verified when the first Jesuit (Catholic) missionaries entered China, Japan, and Tibet, for in each nation they found the same worship of a mother and child! She was "Shing Moo," or "the holy mother," and she was portrayed complete with a "light of glory" around her, exactly as the Romanists paint their "Madonna and Child!"



## "MADONNA AND CHILD"

And the name "Madonna" should be explained, as it demonstrates the paganism of Roman Catholicism and also leads us back to a goddess mentioned in the Bible.

Babylonians called their father-god "Baal," and his wife "Beltis," or "the mother of gods," but the Mediterranean Latin was "Mea Domina," the feminine form of "mother ruler." The modern Italian (Roman Catholic) name "Madonna" is but a corruption of "Mea Domina," or "the god mother," and it is she who is really worshipped by the Roman Catholic Priests.

She is also the "goddess" who caused Paul, Gaius, and Aristarchus so much trouble at Ephesus, as recorded in Acts 19. Her name there was "Diana" (as in Greece it was "Juno," "Hera," and "Athena," varying from city to city), and the merchants who made money selling statues and objects for her veneration attempted to drive Paul from the city when they realized his teachings would destroy their "business," just as the truth about "Christmas," and the worship of the "Madonna and Child" would destroy the "business" of so many shoddy merchants today! If it had not been for the intervention of the town clerk, they might have killed Paul. (Read Acts 19:22-41)

As we have seen, the pagan religions' main objects of worship were the "Mother and Child," but the father-god was also worshipped, although kept mostly in the background - and that brings us to "Santa Claus."

## SANTA CLAUS

Santa Claus, that jolly old fellow who appears once a year, and then only to do good by bringing toys and games to "good little children." Is that ALL there is to "Santa?" No, my Christian friend, it is not.

Although you may not believe in "evolution," Santa, as we know him today, is a product of evolution. Let us trace his origin from the ancient times.

In Egypt, where the mother and child were worshipped, the "father-god" was known as "Khons" or "Khonos." The name means "hunter," or "god of the chase," and scholars have identified him as the "Nimrod" of Genesis 10, "*the mighty hunter*," and the builder of "*Babel*" (or Babylon). (Pagan gods are always deified humans, but that is a story too long for this small book.) He is represented in Both Babylon and Egypt as a half-man and half-gull, and also half-man and half-horse (the centaur

of mythology), usually with wings and called "Baal-abirin," or "the winged one." He is called "the omnipotent one," and also "the unknown one," giving him the unknowable qualities that left him in the background. He would be "THE UNKNOWN GOD" worshipped in Athens in Acts 17:23.

Over the centuries, his images evolved into more human form, usually clothed in a leopard skin, signifying his hunting prowess over the swiftest of animals. This spotted garment became a mark of kings and priests in Africa and Asia. The priests of "Bacchus" in Greece were clothed in leopard skins, later adopting the spotted skin of a young fawn, or dyeing their robes to look like a spotted skin.

The "spotted deer" seems to have been adopted as combining both the spots of the leopard and the bull (or calf) of idol worship. In Ninevah, the capitol of Assyria, statues of Nimrod (Baal) show him wearing a spotted deer skin, or in some cases, carrying a spotted deer, AND NOW WE ARE GETTING CLOSE TO "SANTA CLAUS!"



In the drawing of Nimrod at the left, the similarity to "Santa Claus" can plainly be seen. The long, flowing white beard, the ornate dress, the "reindeer," the fir tree (the "Christmas" tree!), and the wings, giving him power to "fly through the air!"

The drawing on the right is of the Greek "Bacchus" and the similarity is certain. He does not carry the spotted deer, but has a spotted robe, the tree of uncertain origin, and the "cup," the symbol of drunken revelry, so great a part of "Christmas."

The true God has not left believers without testimony of the actual identity of this false "god." He describes him, and lays on him three "names" by which we can know who, or what, he is. Below are reproduced three descriptive verses in Isaiah 14, but if you will also read verse 4 and verse 25 (not shown here), you will see he is called "*the king of Babylon*" and "*the Assyrian*." Since the "Nimrod" of Genesis 10 is the founder of BOTH Babylon and Assyria, these verses can only be speaking of Nimrod, alias "Baal." His third name is "*Lucifer*," as we see below:

#### ISAIAH, 14

12 How art thou fallen from heaven,  
O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art  
thou cut down to the ground, which  
didst weaken the nations!

13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I  
will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my  
throne above the stars of God: I will sit  
also upon the mount of the congrega-  
tion, in the sides of the north:

14 I will ascend above the heights of  
the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Let us briefly analyze this "*Lucifer*," whose destruction is prophesied from verse 4 through verse 27.

Verse 12: His origins seem to be the heavens, and his activities prior to his destruction weakens the nations, i.e. they are NOT good.

Verse 13: His desire is to be "*above*" all things, to have a "*throne*" even above God. Santa Claus in the department stores is often seated on a "*throne*," and little children are required to come "*up*" to him to solicit his good favor. He will be in the "*congregation*," i.e. in the "*church of God*," which he is, most churches bringing in worship of "Santa" in some way.

Even the direction of his abode is given as being "*north*." Santa is supposed to reside at the "*north pole*," or the regions of the north!

Verse 14: We are told Santa comes to every home, flying through the air with his reindeer and sleigh. "Modern" promoters now often have him arrive at a shopping center by helicopter.

"*I will be like the most High*," should have an ominous ring to believers. It means he intends to usurp God's glory, God's praise, to ACTUALLY TAKE THE PLACE OF GOD!! This "Santa Claus" does in the hearts and minds of untold millions of little children every year

as both evil and foolish adults tell them of the good things "Santa," not God, will bring them as a "reward" at "Christmas!" For most of these children the true God, the Lord Jesus Christ, then never becomes as real to them as "Santa Claus" was when they were a child. He, "Lucifer," has become "*like the most High.*"

MY ANSWER: By Billy Graham

## TELL THE CHILDREN SANTA'S A MYTH

QUESTION: What should Sunday School teachers tell their pupils about Santa?—G.H.

ANSWER: Tell them the truth. Explain that Santa is a mythical character, that he symbolizes the merriment accompanying the yuletide season, that he has no connection whatsoever with the real meaning of Christmas, which is the celebration of the birth of Christ.

The name Santa Claus probably comes from Saint Nicholas, bishop of Myra, and patron saint of Russia, young people and sailors. His day is actually Dec. 6, but somehow through the years, Santa Claus slipped into Christmas. He has come to be more associated with folklore than with the birth of the Christ child—but, since it has become custom to portray him as the one who brings gifts on Christ-

mas, his intrusion into this Holy Day seems to have been inevitable. Little children must have difficulty separating the two, and this is unfortunate. I have talked to people who, as children, found out that Santa was a myth, and dismissed Christ as a myth too.

A Christian parent can follow one of two courses: Make room for Santa, but explain to your children that he is just a mythical symbol of good will, and that he doesn't really exist. Or, make Christmas the birthday of Christ, as it truly is, and let Santa Claus shift for himself. Explain to them that the giving of gifts is to celebrate the love of God, who loved the world so much that He sent His only begotten Son to redeem it. Such a practice would enhance the meaning of Christmas.

Billy Graham has apparently recognized HOW the deception of "Santa Claus" creates a negative spirit in the minds of little children, often preventing them from being able to believe in Christ. And that, after all, is the object of all of Satan's deceptions.

If Billy had the courage of his convictions, he'd go on nationwide TV and preach "against Santa Claus," but perhaps that is too much to expect of ministers who desire to retain their position in the "world."

In case the above has not convinced you that "Santa Claus" is "*like the most High,*" there is more.

—The Phoenix Gazette — MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1971

If you do not think "worship" of Santa Claus is the natural result of "Christmas," read the article below - and think of the millions of little children who learn to "believe" the same way.

# 'Will Santa come?'

*the answer is with you ...*

By APRIL DAIEN

The children gathered on the gray stone steps. There were three of them and they had come to see the visitors off.

They had overheard us talking in low tones with their mother about Christmas. They had heard their mother say she didn't think there would be a Christmas.

They heard her say she would try to get them "something."

So the children followed the visitors, waiting eagerly for some refutation of the conversation.

One of them clutched a tiny Christmas tree in her hands.

"You want our picture?" they said. "Nobody ever took our picture."

They posed quite earnestly, then started to make faces.

The visitors asked what they would like for Christmas.

"A truck. A white doll." The replies were easy.

"But how do you know Santa will come?"

"Because he always came before. Because he brings doll babies," they said.

"What if he doesn't come? What would you think?"

"We wouldn't believe no more," they said.

**CHRISTMAS  
FOR  
CARING**



They scowled. Their anxiety made them conscious of the cold, of the fact that they had no coats.

"Why didya ask all them questions?" they said.

Then, in unison, they beamed. "We know who you are. You're Santa Claus' helper. You're coming to see if we believe. Right?"

They scattered joyfully. They didn't wait for an answer.

\*\*\*

Perhaps you can give that answer. Send a check or money order to Christmas for Caring, Women's Forum, P.O. Box 2406, Phoenix, Az. 85002. Your gift is tax-deductible, and unless you request anonymity, your name will be published along with other donors.

The Arizona Republic

Phoenix, Sunday, Dec. 3, 1972



To truly be "*like the most High*;" it would make sense that "Santa" (alias Baal, Nimrod, the Assyrian, Lucifer, and others) would try to look like God. And he does, for the Bible gives us a description of God, part of which is in the verses below:

#### DANIEL, 7

9 ¶ I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

#### REVELATION, 1

12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

Yes, "Santa," the counterfeit "God," who appears to do "good," even as God, and who comes to us with white hair and beard, sparkling eyes, and a deep, low laugh, as he deceives all nations, and kindreds, and tongues. He truly is "St. Nick," Old Nick himself, Satan in disguise. Even his name is but a corruption of "Satan," yet how few seem to suspect it. OR DO THEY KNOW - AND APPROVE?

Do you need more convincing that "Christmas" has its origins in Baal worship? Then read on - and we'll take "apart" more of this strange "festival."

#### THE "CHRISTMAS TREE"

We have already seen the origin of the "tree" with Nimrod (Baal), which makes more significant the many times "*green tree*" is mentioned in the Bible in relation to heathen, idol worship and heathen gods.

When Israel came into Canaan, they were ordered to destroy the heathen altars, groves, and graven images, (Deuteronomy 7) and then, "*Ye shall utterly destroy all the places wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon*

the hills, and under every GREEN TREE." (Deut. 12:2)

Among the scores of places in the Old Testament where Israel was warned against Baal worship, or "the ways of the heathen," nine of them specifically mention serving their gods, or worship, under "green trees." In most cases other terrible abominations are listed as accompanying these heathen practices, such as we read in Isaiah 57:3-5: "But draw near hither, ye sons of the sorceress, the seed of the adulterer and the whore. Against whom do ye sport yourselves: Against whom make ye a wide mouth, and draw out the tongue? Are ye not children of transgression, a seed of falsehood, enflaming yourselves with idols UNDER EVERY GREEN TREE, slaying the children in the valleys under the cliffs of the rocks?"

Green trees were of Baal worship, and Halley's Bible Handbook says of Baal worship, "Priestesses were temple prostitutes. Sodomites were male temple prostitutes. The worship of Baal, Ashtoreth (his wife - same as the "Madonna"), and other Canaanite gods consisted of the most extravagant orgies; their temples were centers of vice." (Page 166, 1965 edition)

Now you may more easily understand why the saloons, night clubs, and other places where adulterers, whores, homosexuals, and other blasphemers congregate, put up "Christmas Trees!"

Halley added information that showed "Baal-rites" further consisted of "murdering their first-born children as a sacrifice to these same gods," and their temples, upon excavation, were found to be full of images and carvings of sex organs and "pornographic" paraphernalia! (page 167 under "Religion of the Canaanites.")

The idol worship under "green trees" is condemned in the following Scripture - read them: 1 Kings 14:22-23; 2 Kings 16: 1-4; 2 Kings 17: 9-10; 2 Chron. 28: 4, Isaiah 57:3-5 (quoted above); Jeremiah 2:20; Jeremiah 3:6,13; Jeremiah 17:1-2 and Ezekiel 6:13

There is a further condemnation of those who cut down a tree for any kind of worship service. "Learn not the way of the heathen...for the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest.... they deck it with silver, and with gold, they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not....be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good....they are altogether brutish and foolish: the stock (tree) is a doctrine of vanities (lies)." (Jeremiah 10:2-8 in part)

The tree was also used in ancient, pagan, festivals

to symbolize rebirth. A log (yule log) was burned to symbolize the death of the father-god, and then a green tree was set upright to imply his reincarnation in his son. This was followed by placing gifts under the tree, in effect, "offering" the gifts to the god (idol) represented by the tree. Then, as in all pagan nations, the "sacrificed" gifts were distributed to the worshippers to consume. How many millions of families in Christendom perform this pagan "ritual" every winter at "Christmas!" May God open their blinded eyes!

For "Christians" who still may say, "Well, it is just a harmless custom, what can it hurt - and besides it is fun," I shall only ask: How can performing the rituals of the heathen glorify Jesus Christ?

The writers of the New Testament warned Christians against partaking of things offered to idols in Acts 15:29; Acts 21:25; 1 Cor. 8 (entire chapter): 1 Cor. 10:18-21; 1 Cor. 10:28; and Rev. 2:14, 20, which should be enough to make any believer stop and think.

We shall end this section on the "tree" by quoting 1 Cor. 10:20-21: *"But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table and of the table of devils."*

The "Christmas Tree" is but the modern version of the pagan custom of offering gifts to idols; it is of *"the cup of devils."* It is NOT Christian.

#### THE THREE WISE MEN

In modern "Christmas" tableaux, or stories, we are often told of "the three wise men" who came to the "babe" in the manger bearing gifts. This in spite of the simple truth that the Bible does not tell of such an event attending Jesus' birth.

Not only is the number of wise men not stated in the Bible, the Bible says they came to Jesus in a house! *"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him."* (Matthew 2:11)

That their arrival was upwards of two years AFTER the birth of Jesus, is evident from King Herod's actions after he had questioned them as to *"what time the star appeared."* (verse 7) He desired the death of the Christ child, and we read he *"sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the*

*coasts thereof to the time when the wise men."* (v

Herod must already two years already the killing

Also, in the Luke 2, we read the shepherds, child (verse 21) the prophetess men. Was it because but came months

With so plain accept three with birth of the Babe attended by the true Messiah was

Truly the man have no other o

Candles and times in Scripture the "candle of t 21:17; Proverbs take from Babylon and in Revelation BABYLON THE GREAT OF THE EARTH is candle shall shine ing of candles i It is NOT Christ

There is no exchange of gifts all of the pagans exchanging. It of such a time in story of the two deaths seeming to read, *"And they over them, and m another."* (Revel actions of the

log) was burned to  
od, and then a green  
eincarnation in his  
ifts under the tree,  
the god (idol) rep-  
all pagan nations,  
ibuted to the wor-  
ics of families in  
ual" every winter at  
inded eyes!

say, "Well, it is  
t hurt - and besides  
can performing the  
s Christ?

t warned Christians  
ed to idols in Acts  
chapter): 1 Cor.10:  
20, which should be  
d think.

he "tree" by quoting  
*the things which the  
to devils, and not  
ould have fellowship  
cup of the Lord, and  
takers of the Lord's*

e modern version of  
to idols; it is of  
istian.

EN

or stories, we are  
who came to the  
This in spite of  
es not tell of such

e men not stated in  
came to Jesus in a  
*into the house, they  
mother, and fell down,*  
)

s of two years AFTER  
om King Herod's act-  
as to "what time the  
ired the death of the  
t forth, and slew all  
em, and in all the

*coasts thereof, FROM TWO YEARS OLD AND UNDER, according  
to the time which he had diligently inquired of the  
wise men." (verse 16 - emphasis added)*

Herod must have been convinced Jesus was possibly  
already two years old when the wise men arrived, other-  
wise the killing of two year olds would make no sense.

Also, in the more detailed story of Jesus' birth in  
Luke 2, we read of the angel, of the "heavenly host," of  
the shepherds, even the eighth day circumcision of the  
child (verse 21), of both Simeon (verse 25-55) and Anna,  
the prophetess (verse 36-38), yet NO WORD of any wise  
men. Was it because they were NOT present at His birth,  
but came months, or years later?

With so plain an account, why do ministers still  
accept three wise men at the stable? Is it because the  
birth of the Babylonian Messiah, the false Christ, was  
attended by the priests of Baal, while the birth of the  
true Messiah was waited upon by NO religious persons?

Truly the manger scene so common to "Christmas" can  
have no other origin but "Baal."

#### CANDLES

Candles and candlesticks are mentioned a number of  
times in Scripture in relation to God, but there is also  
the "candle of the wicked" which is to be put out (Job  
21:17; Proverbs 24:20). In Jeremiah 25 God promises to  
take from Babylon, "the light of the candle" (verse 10),  
and in Revelation 18:23, as the destruction of prophetic  
BABYLON THE GREAT, MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS  
OF THE EARTH is complete, we read, "And the light of a  
candle shall shine no more at all in thee." The burn-  
ing of candles is a pagan, and a Roman Catholic ritual.  
It is NOT Christian.

#### EXCHANGING GIFTS

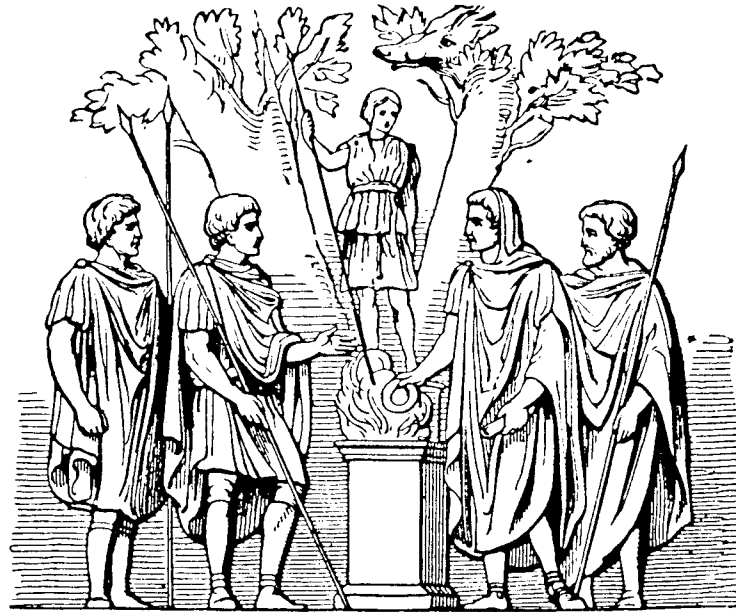
There is no instruction in the Bible for the mutual  
exchange of gifts among believers, for ANY reason, yet  
all of the pagan, mid-winter "festivals" included gift  
exchanging. It seems significant that the only mention  
of such a time in the Holy Word is in the Apocalyptic  
story of the two witnesses of God being killed, their  
deaths seeming to bring such joy to the ungodly that we  
read, "And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice  
over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to  
another." (Revelation 11:10) Isn't it strange that the  
actions of the ungodly at the death of God's prophets

IS IDENTICAL TO THE ACTIONS OF "CHRISTMAS" CELEBRANTS?  
Not really, when you realize that the hidden promoters  
of "Christmas" rituals are antichrists.

#### HAM DINNER FOR CHRISTMAS

In spite of the very plain order in God's Law that we are not to eat swine (pig), *"And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be clovenfooted, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you. Of their flesh shall ye not eat, and their carcase shall ye not touch; he is unclean to you"* (Leviticus 11:7-8), most Christians eat it all of the time, and especially make a great show of having their "Christmas Ham" on December 25th. They may not know that in Egyptian and Greek worship, the son of the "mother-god" was believed killed by a wild boar which was then killed by the "mother-god" prior to the "resurrection" of her son. In commemoration of this act the worshippers killed and offered as a sacrifice a pig which was then eaten by the "celebrants!"

Diana (mentioned in Acts 19) was often portrayed with a dead boar or boar's head, and in the woodcut below, the Roman Emperor Trajan is shown burning incense to Diana while the boar's head hangs on a tree.



For over 3,000 years, it has been common among the pagans to kill and eat a pig at their winter festival of the return of the sun (our Christmas). In Rome, it

was called "th  
ed as a sacrific  
cooked, often s  
mouth. The cu  
of Europe.  
the eating o

(If you  
eating pig,  
INTERPRETATI

In Egypt  
offered at an  
winter, the

In Rome,  
could be pa  
cake." (Th  
the Roman Ca  
one of the ni  
feated when t  
roused the Ro

In India,  
Brahma. In Ba  
by the priest  
page 227, sta

CHRISTMAS" CELEBRANTS?  
The hidden promoters  
ts.

TMAS

in God's Law that  
and the swine, though  
noted, yet he cheweth  
of their flesh shall  
ye not touch; he is  
most Christians eat  
make a great show of  
ember 25th. They may  
worship, the son of  
ed by a wild boar  
r-god" prior to the  
oration of this act  
as a sacrifice a pig  
ants!"

was often portrayed  
and in the woodcut  
nown burning incense  
s on a tree.



been common among the  
their winter festival  
stmas). In Rome, it

was called "the feast of Saturn" and the boar was killed as a sacrifice to Saturn. The entire animal was cooked, often served with an apple or pomegranate in its mouth. The custom still prevails in England and parts of Europe. In America, almost every minister promotes the eating of swine's flesh by his congregation.

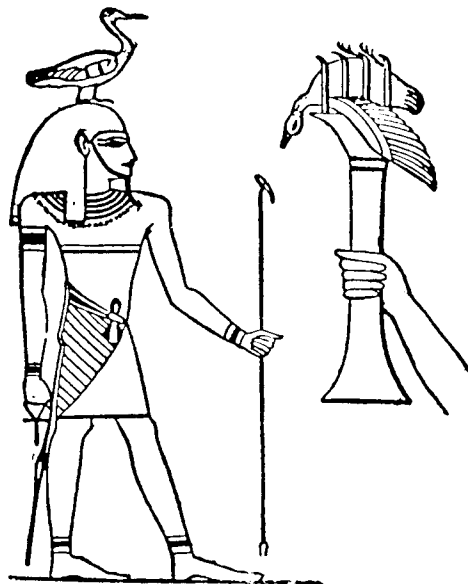
(If you want Biblical AND medical reasons for not eating pig, send for SWINE'S FLESH AS FOOD - SOME WRONG INTERPRETATIONS CORRECTED by Pastor Emry)

#### THE CHRISTMAS GOOSE

In Egypt a favorite offering to Osiris was a goose, offered at any time, but when offered in the dead of winter, the goose was then eaten.

In Rome, Juvenal writes, "that Osiris, if offended, could be pacified only by a large goose and a thin cake." (The thin cake has become the "wafer" used in the Roman Catholic sacrament.) Historians record that one of the night attacks by the Gauls on Rome was defeated when the geese kept in the temple of Jupiter aroused the Roman soldiers with their cackling.

In India, they have the "Brahmany goose," sacred to Brahma. In Babylon the goose was offered as a sacrifice by the priests of Baal. Wilkinson (Egyptians, Vol. V, page 227, states that ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics



The Egyptian God Seb, with his symbol the goose; and the Sacred Goose on a stand, as offered in sacrifice. §

indicate the goose symbolized a son, giving itself up in sacrifice that the family might be preserved. (That this is from Baal worship where the firstborn son was sacrificed to Baal is probable - see Halley's Bible Handbook on "Religion of the Canaanites.")

It seems that sacrifices to false gods were usually of unclean species. The goose is unclean, being classified with the swan and the pelican of Leviticus 11:18, but then, so is everything else about "Christmas!"

#### CONCLUSIONS

There are many other things I could write about, but the story is almost too terrible to continue - how most of Christendom, even professing Christians, have been deceived by the forces of darkness into acting out the filthy rituals of Baal worship.

Most astonishing is the almost universal rejection of these truths about the origin of "Christmas." by the men in the Protestant pulpits. There seems to be only one answer for them - that most of them are not truly followers of the true Messiah, but are secretly priests of the false Messiah of Babylon, and their job is to prate the Name of Christ to the flock while diligently leading them in the "way of Baal."

Our Christ warned that *"many shall come in My Name, saying I am Christ (actually proclaiming that Jesus is the Christ); and shall deceive many."* (Matthew 24:5) In Matthew 7:15 He said, *"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing (professing they are believers), but inwardly they are ravening wolves."*

Paul voiced a similar warning to his followers, *"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock."* (Acts 20:29)

It seems a truth, that if we will not hold fast to God's Truth, we shall be deceived by men who claim to be Christians, yes, even ministers. May God grant that this booklet on "Christmas" be used to enlighten and warn Christ's sheep, for His glory, in Jesus' Name,

Pastor Sheldon Emry

The need for  
would be faithfu  
Holy Word of God  
that end, I shal  
instructions fro  
turn and read mo  
so graciously g  
might, IN TRUTH

13  
who  
com  
dut  
14  
to  
who  
evil

10  
jud  
ma  
acc  
it b

11  
wit  
hat  
nes  
wit  
12  
BE  
bel  
13  
10

ten  
ten  
said  
the  
sha  
17  
the  
and  
wil  
18  
ye  
the

H  
sel  
sp  
Go

giving itself up  
preserved. (That  
firstborn son was  
e Halley's Bible  
es.")  
e gods were usually  
clean, being class-  
of Leviticus 11:18,  
"Christmas!"

The need for Christians, old and young alike, who would be faithful in Christ, is to study the Bible, the Holy Word of God, and obey the True God of Israel. To that end, I shall reproduce here some very pertinent instructions from God. Read them, heed them, and then turn and read more in God's Wonderful Book which He has so graciously given to the children of men, that we all might, IN TRUTH, worship Him.

### ECCLESIASTES 12

13 ¶ <sup>5</sup>Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

### 2 CORINTHIANS 5

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

### 2 CORINTHIANS 6

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with BĒ-lī-āl? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

18 And I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

### CHAPTER 7

HAVING therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

could write about,  
e to continue - how  
g Christians, have  
ess into acting out

universal rejection  
"Christmas." by the  
re seems to be only  
them are not truly  
are secretly priests  
d their job is to  
ck while diligently

all come in My Name,  
aiming that Jesus is  
" (Matthew 24:5) In  
lse prophets, which  
professing they are  
avéning wolves."

to his followers,  
parting shall griev-  
sparing the flock."

ill not hold fast to  
by men who claim to

May God grant that  
ed to enlighten and  
in Jesus' Name,  
or Sheldon Emry



COLOSSIANS, 2

8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

1 JOHN, 2

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

2 JOHN

8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

1 JOHN, 5

19 And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

THE SPIRIT OF

HON. LOUISE

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 1892

Mrs. HICKS of  
Speaker, the words  
suggest something  
which the advent of  
As Christmas comes  
is a rich heritage of  
folklore, and legend  
age and time, and for  
peoples. To unravel  
nating and inspiring  
story, in essence, of  
of the human heart  
ing for spiritual r  
ment. The words are  
"The time draws near,  
The Moon is hid;  
The Christmas bells  
Answer each other

The idea of cele  
December 25 was  
peoples long before  
peoples who were  
tronomy and who k  
of December were  
solstice when the  
powers of darknes  
over the forces of  
the turning-point  
to reassert itself, a  
promise of life an  
Rome, it was the  
solis—the birthda  
sun.

Inevitably, the  
found this vener  
appropriate for h  
Christ, the "light  
overcome the dar  
was that gradual  
men's hearts and  
pression in the cu  
now transformed  
faith and prayer  
monwealth.

In the same m  
originally of pa  
assimilated into

The "mu  
can somehow  
Nonsense -  
demned. But  
the truth o

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

HON. LOUISE DAY HICKS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 1971

Mrs. HICKS of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the words of Alfred Tennyson suggest something of the beauty with which the advent of Christmas is clothed. As Christmas comes down to us today, it is a rich heritage of customs, traditions, folklore, and legend, drawn from every age and time, and from many lands and peoples. To unravel its mystery is a fascinating and inspiring experience—the story, in essence, of the deepest desires of the human heart, that universal longing for spiritual renewal and refreshment. The words are:

"The time draws near the birth of Christ.  
The Moon is hid; the night is still;  
The Christmas bells from hill to hill  
Answer each other in the mist."

The idea of celebrating on or about December 25 was born among ancient peoples long before the birth of Christ, peoples who were close students of astronomy and who knew that the last days of December were the time of the winter solstice when the sun dwindled and the powers of darkness seemed to be gaining over the forces of light. December 25 was the turning-point at which the sun began to reassert itself, and its power gave new promise of life and fruitful harvests. In Rome, it was the dies natalis invicti solis—the birthday of the unconquered sun.

Inevitably, the Christian community found this venerable symbolism highly appropriate for heralding the coming of Christ, the "light of the world" which has overcome the darkness of despair. So it was that gradually the light of Christ in men's hearts and minds founds its expression in the customs of the sun-feast, now transformed and hallowed by the faith and prayer of the Christian commonwealth.

In the same manner, other customs, originally of pagan origin, have been assimilated into our Christmas herit-

age—the decorative tree, the glowing candles, the stories of Santa Claus, stockings by the fireplace, greeting cards, yule logs—all are now associated with the birthday of Christ.

In our own day the keeping of Christmas has often been commercialized beyond recognition of its spiritual essence and identity. Yet, while allowing for the excess that exists in any institution or custom, the Christmas commerce we so often deplore does, in fact, mean a livelihood for millions of people and often the difference between success or failure in business. Christmas is, when all is said and done, the birthday of Jesus who spent much of his life in honest commerce as a carpenter, sharing, we may presume, in the economic support of his family. Like the very parables he told, His life is an example of an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. So it is with Christmas. Whatever the excesses of its commercialization, it has probably stimulated more people to help the poor and to care for others than has any other holiday in the calendar. So long as Christmas serves to make children happy, the presence of Christ will hallow it.

It was one of Christianity's wisest moves to maintain the older midwinter festival and to transform it in the spirit of Christ. The variety of ways in which Christmas is celebrated tells us that its appeal is universal. Even those outside the Christian faith are able to share in the spirit of Christmas in the generosity of giving, the exchange of greeting and song, the sense of life to be renewed. For Christians, the feast has a special and precious meaning, set forth in the old carol:

"God rest ye merry gentlemen; let  
nothing you dismay;  
Remember Christ Our Saviour was  
born on Christmas Day . . .  
O tidings of comfort and joy!"

May the spirit of Christmas enter our hearts and bring us all "even unto Bethlehem" to behold his birth and to heed the ancient song of "peace on earth, good will to men."

The "muddled" thinking above is typical - that we can somehow "hallow" pagan practices by all joining in. Nonsense - man CANNOT "hallow" that which God has condemned. But anyway, she put in the Congressional Record the truth of the origin of our "Christmas" rituals.

**BIRTH OF CHRIST NOT CELEBRATED UNTIL 5TH CENTURY**

read the headline across the top of the page above this article. Except for 2 short paragraphs, it is complete for you (and your minister) to read here.

**DECEMBER 18, 1968 Phoenix Gazette**

TEMPE — The Christmas world did not commemorate the birth of Christ until the 5th Century, according to Dr. Arnold Tilden, professor of history at Arizona State University.

"Christians considered it to be a pagan practice to celebrate birthdays, unless they occurred on the days on which a person was born to eternal life — the day of martyrdom," he observed. "Actually, it was the death-day which was celebrated, and most of the Saints' days on the calendar mark the day on which they died."

OVER THE YEARS, Tilden has researched the history of Christmas customs, passing along his observations to students at this time of the year.

"Actually, Christmas is the youngest of the Church holidays, although it has outstripped all others in importance," he commented.

The Western church was eminently practical, however. When it encountered pagan practices, it either stamped them out or adapted the festival rites to the Christian faith. In Germany, the church was successful in stamping out the eating of horse flesh because of its sacramental significance to pagans, while in Italy, it adopted the statues portraying Isis and the god-child Horus, merely retaining them Mary and Jesus. This same system of assimilation, the ASU historian explained, gave rise to Christmas as we know it.

WHEREVER the Christians went, they discovered that the latter half of December was the high season for festivals. It was the time of the winter solstice, when the days began to lengthen; the time when the Sun-God turned in his path and started back to his people; it was Saturnalia, a time for licentiousness, revelry, drunkenness and sensual pleasures. The Romans marked the day by feasting friends. There was a general exchange of presents (mostly wax dolls or tapers). Roman shops at this time resembled our own stores during the Christmas season.

THE CHURCH was anxious to distract the attention of its new converts from these heathen feast days and assimilated them, clothing them in a new and Christian significance.

"The date of the actual introduction of Christmas is disputed," Tilden states. "However, in 324, Latins may have transferred the human birth of Christ to Dec. 25. Certainly, by 400 A.D., Christmas, as a Christian festival, was established in the West and gained some ground in the East. Attempts by the church to wipe out the Manichean heresy in the first half of the fifth century may have hastened the official adoption of the date."

The Manicheans, he explained, believed God would not demean Himself to become man, but only took the form of man. Therefore, the apparent life and death of Christ were mere delusions. This belief was directly antagonistic to accepted teachings, and in the hope of destroying the creed, the church instituted Christmas, celebrating the actual, human birth of Christ.

"SO CHRISTMAS entered the official list of holy days, taking on the features of the various nations among whom it was introduced, and adopting certain pagan rites from the religions which it supplanted," said Tilden.

The Romans gave it the Latin name "Dies Natalis" (birthday of God); The Italians "Natale"; the Spanish "Nadal"; and the French "Noel." The Germans retained their old heathen designation of "Weihnachten," while in Holland and England, it was referred to as "the Mass of Christ," or as we say "Christ's Mass" (Christmas).

Be  
You  
That  
With  
And  
You  
Eight  
You  
Old  
You  
"Nov  
"Just  
"And  
Seven  
You  
And  
So we  
And  
His  
Is end  
He'll  
And  
A lie  
He ne  
Shame  
You  
God's  
In a  
You  
And  
Then  
A gre  
Shame  
You  
Beau  
And  
9:27.

Christians celebrate birthdays, unless they practice to celebrate birthdays, unless they occurred on the days on which a person was born to eternal life — the day of martyrdom," he observed. "Actually, it was the death-day which was celebrated, and most of the Saints' days on the calendar mark the day on which they died."

OVER THE YEARS, Tilden has researched the history of Christmas customs, passing along his observations to students at this time of the year.

"Actually, Christmas is the youngest of the Church holidays, although it has outstripped all others in importance," he commented.

of the winter solstice, when the days began to lengthen; the time when the Sun-God turned in his path and started back to his people; it was Saturnalia, a time for licentiousness, revelry, drunkenness and sensual pleasures. The Romans marked the day by feasting friends. There was a general exchange of presents (mostly wax dolls or tapers). Roman shops at this time resembled our own stores during the Christmas season.

THE CHURCH was anxious to distract the attention of its new converts from these heathen feast days and assimilated them, clothing them in a new and Christian significance.

"SO CHRISTMAS entered the official list of holy days, taking on the features of the various nations among whom it was introduced, and adopting certain pagan rites from the religions which it supplanted," said Tilden.

The Romans gave it the Latin name "Dies Natalis" (birthday of God); The Italians "Natale"; the Spanish "Nadal"; and the French "Noel." The Germans retained their old heathen designation of "Weihnachten," while in Holland and England, it was referred to as "the Mass of Christ," or as we say "Christ's Mass" (Christmas).

# Dear Mom and Dad

You say, there is a Santa Claus  
That wears those big red suits,  
With long, white beard, and tasseled cap,  
And great, big, high topped, boots.

You say, he has a great, big, sleigh,  
Eight tiny reindeer pull;  
You say, with toys, and things for children  
Old Santa has it full.

You always say, on Christmas Eve,  
"Now he'll be here tonight."  
"Just go to bed, and go to sleep,  
"And things will be alright."

Several days before Christmas comes,  
You take us up the street,  
You tell us Santa Claus is there,  
And he always has a treat.

So we go up, with Mom, or Dad,  
And look at old Saint Nick. Rev. 2:6, 15  
His old false face, and big red suit  
Is enough to make you sick.

He'll shake your hand, and lie so big,  
And ask you what to bring:  
A lie it is, I'll tell the truth;  
He never brings a thing.

Shame on you parents, to tell such things.  
You should not be a liar, John 8:44. Rev. 22:15.  
God's book says, you'll have your part  
In a lake that burns with fire. Rev. 21:8.

You go to church, and sing, and shout,  
And also testify,  
Then go home and tell your child  
A great big Santa lie. 1 Cor. 6:9,10.

Shame on you, Mom. Shame on you Dad.  
You ought not do that way.  
Because you'll have to face the Lord,  
And give account some day! Eccl. 12:14. Heb.  
9:27. 2 Cor. 5:10. Mat. 12:36, 37. Isa. 8:20.

Glenn D. Waters

# COMMUNIST

COU

(Read these two newspaper articles. The rulers of world "communism" have NO OBJECTION to Santa Claus and other emblems and symbols of Baal worship. They are certainly antichrist, and would oppose any Christian symbols.)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER

8-G The Arizona Republic Phoenix, Thurs., Dec. 12, 1968

Soviet

By HENRY SHAPIRO

## East Berlin gayer this Yule

Associated Press

BERLIN — A light and bustling air pervades Communist East Berlin this Christmas season compared to previous years.

There are more lights, more decorations and attempts at making the season visible; more traffic and more street activity than before, despite large-scale earth upheavals because of a building program in the city center.

SHOPS ARE well stocked and more buying power seems evident. Exclusive shops on Unter den Linden still offer goods priced beyond the normal consumer but people buy everything from Scotch and Havana cigars to traditional — and expensive — German Meissen china.

Toy lines are complicated, featuring imports from both the Soviet Union and West Germany. A battery-powered Red Army T54 tank, for example, sells for the equivalent of \$11.90. An ordinary shirt can cost about \$20.

Christmas decorations are spreading outward from downtown past the now traditional Christmas market area on Karl Marx Allee and onto the fronts of apartment buildings.

THERE ARE lighted trees near the wall shutting off West Berlin and one directly under the Brandenburg Gate.

The style of the East's Christmas is still far short of West Berlin's, but progress is

considerable from an East Berliner's view. Santa Claus in this formal atheist country.

As one woman put it, "We have to live here, not West Berlin, so we must adjust to what we have." Joy, clearly, lies not only in the giving and the receiving but in being able to go out and buy. But a Martian dropped down from the skies the day before Christmas in Moscow would find little superficial difference in the atmosphere between the Soviet and an western capital.

THE COMMUNIST regime subordinates the religious aspect of Christmas but nonetheless it plays a large role in East Berliners' lives. Little shops sell hand-carved cribs, and these always go by Christmas Eve. The public buildings, shops and central thoroughfares are decorated with Christmas trees — only they are called olka (fir tree).

Christmas Eve is the traditional German time for celebrating Christmas. Services in the Protestant Marienkirche, Berlin's oldest church, are packed. Midnight Mass, celebrated by Alfred Cardinal Bengsch, also draws a full house in St. Hedwig's Cathedral, although most Germans in this area of what once was Prussia are Protestant. Santa Claus is there in his glory — all wrapped up in a red coat, fur cap, white beard and high booted. His name is Dod Mor (Grandfather Frost), a popular non-Christian figure from Slavic mythology.

THE WALL, of course, plays a big role of dampening spirits at this time of traditional family gatherings. Grandfather Frost comes down from the Northpole riding a reindeer sled and is accompanied by his granddaughter Snegurochka (Snow Maiden).

What the separation means to the Berliners is evident in the questions put by West Berlin residents to foreigners who have access to East Berlin. He carries a bag full of gifts not only for good little boys and girls but for adults as well.

"Tell me," one woman asked, "what does it look like over there? Are the people better off? My last Christmas across the Wall was in 1965."

It now appears that this will be the third successive Christmas that the Communists have refused to grant West Berliners passes to visit their East Berlin relatives. To help him in his choice

# COMMUNIST

es. The rulers of world  
o Santa Claus and other  
hip. They are certainly  
Christian symbols.)

Public Phoenix, Thurs., Dec. 12, 1968

## er this Yule

derable from an East Berliner's view.

one woman put it, "We have to live  
not West Berlin, so we must adjust to  
we have." Joy, clearly, lies not only in  
giving and the receiving but in being  
to go out and buy.

THE COMMUNIST regime subordinates  
religious aspect of Christmas but none-  
ess it plays a large role in East Berlin-  
lives. Little shops sell hand-carved cribs,  
these always go by Christmas Eve.

Christmas Eve is the traditional German  
e for celebrating Christmas. Services in  
Protestant Marienkirche, Berlin's oldest  
rch, are packed. Midnight Mass, cele-  
brated by Alfred Cardinal Bengsch, also  
fills a full house in St. Hedwig's Cathedral,  
though most Germans in this area of what  
e was Prussia are Protestant.

THE WALL, of course, plays a big role of  
opening spirits at this time of traditional  
family gatherings.

That the separation means to the Berlin-  
is evident in the questions put by West  
Berlin residents to foreigners who have ac-  
cess to East Berlin.

"Tell me," one woman asked, "what does  
it look like over there? Are the people better  
? My last Christmas across the Wall was  
1965."

It now appears that this will be the third  
recessive Christmas that the Communists  
ve refused to grant West Berliners passes  
to visit their East Berlin relatives.

# COUNTRIES!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1968

The Phoenix Gazette

PAGE 18

## Soviet Santa Saluted

By HENRY SHAPIRO

MOSCOW (UPI) — There is  
no God, no Christmas and no  
Santa Claus in this formally  
atheist country.

But a Martian dropping  
down from the skies the day  
before Christmas in Moscow  
would find little superficial  
difference in the atmosphere  
between the Soviet and any  
western capital.

The public buildings, shops  
and central thoroughfares are  
decorated with Christmas  
trees — only they are called  
yolka (fir tree).

Santa Claus is there in all  
his glory — all wrapped up in  
red coat, fur cap, white  
bearded and high booted. But  
his name is Dod Moroz  
(Grandfather Frost), a popu-  
lar non-Christian figure from  
Slavic mythology.

Grandfather Frost comes  
down from the Northpole rid-  
ing a reindeer sled and is ac-  
companied by his grand-  
daughter Snegurochka (the  
Snow Maiden).

He carries a bag full of  
gifts not only for good little  
boys and girls but for adults  
as well.

To help him in his chores

the department stores and  
specialized novelty shops car-  
ry larger than usual stocks of  
goodies and people are en-  
couraged to do their shopping  
early to avoid crowds.

The trouble is that all these  
preparations, although made  
on or about Christmas time,  
are not intended to observe  
Christmas which is non-  
existent here legally, but to  
usher in and celebrate the  
New Year, six days later.

There is a real, religious  
Christmas too, but that is  
only for the Russian Orthodox  
believers and it comes on  
Jan. 7 which is the Dec. 25 of  
the Julian Calendar still ob-  
served by the Church.

But a few years before the  
war, a clever old Bolshevik,  
Alexander Postyshev, the  
leader of the Ukrainian Com-  
munist Party, who was later  
"liquidated" by Stalin, per-  
suaded the country to revive  
the old Russian mid-winter  
traditions of dressing up a  
Yolka and welcoming Dod  
Moroz.

The idea spread like wild-  
fire and soon enough New  
Year's day became not only a  
legal holiday but the most  
joyful day of the year,

marked by grand balls in the  
Kremlin, spending the night  
on the town and exchanging  
of gifts.

Gala caviar and champagne  
dinner are served in all the  
hotels and restaurants, and  
pity the poor fellow who has  
not made his reservations by  
the middle of December.

There is endless party giv-  
ing and party going and the  
universal exchange of gifts.

There is a real Christmas  
tree (yolka), and none of  
those puny synthetic trees of  
the west. In every house and  
institution many of the yolkas  
are put up before Dec. 25 so  
foreigners, accustomed to the  
western Christmas, get the il-  
lusion of actually celebrating  
it here.

The country is all decorat-  
ed and ready to celebrate by  
Christmas time but except for  
the small western colony the  
big day comes on the eve of  
the new year.

Probably more money is  
spent, more food and liquor  
consumed and more gifts ex-  
changed during the Soviet  
equivalent of Yule than on  
any other holiday of the year,  
including May Day and the  
National Holiday of Nov. 7.

THE MORNING AFTER!

'Twas the day after Christmas, and all through the land  
Millions were ailing on every hand.  
With heads ever aching and bleary red eyes  
From gorging themselves on plum puddings and pies  
On top of their chicken, or ham or goose,  
To say nothing of wallowing in Christmas-gift booze.

They worship an image in church or at home -  
An old pagan practice promoted by Rome.  
'Twas a Jesuit priest who, many years past,  
Tied Christ in His crib and His corpse to the mast,  
So Rome's flock would bow down - against God's command  
To pay homage to images made by man's hand.

N.W.W.

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS AND QUESTIONS:

Perhaps some well-meaning parents may say; "But we only keep Christmas because it is so much fun for the children, we're not REALLY worshipping Santa Claus and the tree, or those heathen gods!"

Let me pose some final questions for you to consider in your heart:

1. Have you considered that children understand things DIFFERENTLY than you might think they do?
2. Had you considered that your "acting out" the rituals of pagan Baal will teach them to do so also? And thus begin another generation of the same rituals?
3. Had you considered that the emotions generated by "Christmas" rituals may well affect the ENTIRE LIFE of the children God has given you to teach and protect?

A few days ago, while in a local store, I overheard a mother tell of her little boy catching she and her husband putting the gifts under the tree. She said, "He saw us, and began to cry, shouting, 'You lied to me, you lied to me,'" and ran back to his room crying." She was laughing as she told it, for she thought his tears were only over "losing Santa Claus." What she may never realize, was HE HAD JUST LOST HIS TRUST IN HIS FATHER AND HIS MOTHER! That little boy will never forget that night. He will NEVER AGAIN trust his parents as he had before. What a victory for satan. God alone knows how much evil is wrought by "Christmas."

My Christian friend - leave this pagan ritual - you will be amazed and delighted at the serenity and rest that will come upon you as you pass by the tensions and

false emotions of these things for you, and for Him. God will His promise, "and when he is

It seems obvious pagan customs, and we take a pagan cu on behalf of Him, h heathen pagan tradit one mediator betwe Yahshua Messiah m anyone else besides It is our hope this bo bring you closer in y

11 through the land  
d eyes  
ings and pies  
oose,  
tmas-gift boozee.

at home -  
ome.  
s past,  
se to the mast,  
ainst God's command  
's hand.  
N.W.W.

QUESTIONS:

ts may say; "But we  
so much fun for the  
ing Santa Claus and  
as for you to consid-

children understand  
think they do?  
our "acting out" the  
them to do so also?  
of the same rituals?  
e emotions generated  
ffect the ENTIRE LIFE  
to teach and protect?  
al store, I overheard  
catching she and her  
the tree. She said,  
ing, 'You lied to me,  
his room crying." She  
she thought his tears  
s." What she may never  
IS TRUST IN HIS FATHER  
will never forget that  
his parents as he had  
. God alone knows how  
s."  
his pagan ritual - you  
the serenity and rest  
ss by the tensions and

false emotions of "Christmas." And teach your children of these things. You will see the new respect they have for you, and for Christ. God will honor those who honor Him. God will prove in your children and grandchildren His promise, *"To bring a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*

---

It seems obvious that the Word is quite clear as to pagan customs, and that they were despised. The very idea we take a pagan custom observe it in name of our Savior, on behalf of Him, his mother or any saint is wrong. It is still a heathen pagan tradition no matter what you call it. There is but one mediator between our Heavenly Father and man, our Savior Yahshua Messiah most know as Jesus. Praying to any saint or anyone else besides Him is condemned by the Word of God. It is our hope this booklet has been a blessing to you, to bring you closer in your relationship with your Creator & Savior.



## EXODUS 20

3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

---

*Printed in the United States of America*

**Donated by:**  
**Yahshua Messiah's Sabbath Day Ministry**  
**USPS Box 212**  
**Waxahachie, Texas Republic (75168)**

*First printing December 1972*

