

WHERE *did we get* CHRISTMAS?

... from the Bible, or paganism? Here are astonishing FACTS which may shock you!

STOP and think! Very few know **WHY** we do the things we do—**WHERE** our customs came from! We were born into a world filled with customs. We grew up practising them, taking them for granted, but **NEVER QUESTIONING WHY!**

We have supposed **CHRISTMAS** to be the chief of the Christian holidays. Without asking questions, we have blindly assumed its observance must be one of the principal teachings and commands of the New Testament. We have supposed Jesus was born December 25th, and that the New Testament set this day aside as the chief Christian festival. We have supposed we exchange gifts because the wise men presented gifts to the Christ-child.

But let's quit supposing, and look into history and the Bible for the **FACTS!**

A PAGAN—Not Christian—Festival

The word "Christmas" means "Mass of Christ," or, as it later became shortened, "Christ-Mass." It came to us as a Roman Catholic mass. And where did they get it? From the **HEATHEN** celebration of December 25th, as the birthday of **Sol** the **SUNGOD!** It is, actually, an ancient rite of **BAALISM**, which the Bible condemns as the most abominable of all idolatrous worship!

It is not so much as **MENTIONED** anywhere in the New Testament. It was never observed by Paul, the apostles, the early true Christian church!

The idea Jesus was born December 25th is one of the **FABLES** the Apostle Paul prophesied (II Tim. 4:4) would deceive the world in these latter days.

The plain truth is, Christmas is **NOT** Christ's birthday at all! And this festival, important as it seems to so many, is not of Christian, but of pagan—Babylonish—origin! But does that make any difference? Isn't it all right to go ahead and observe it anyway? Isn't the "Christmas **SPIRIT**" a good and splendid thing, regardless of how it got started? **WE SHALL SEE!**

Jesus NOT Born December 25th

Now let's look to the interesting **PROOF!** When was Jesus born?

Jesus was not even born in the winter season! When the Christ-child was born "there were in the same country shepherds *abiding* in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night" (Luke 2:8). This never could have occurred in Palestine in the month of December. The shepherds always corralled and

brought their flocks from the mountain sides and fields not later than October 15, to protect them from the cold rainy season that followed that date.

Any encyclopedia, or any other authority, will tell you that Christ was not born on December 25. The Catholic Encyclopedia frankly states this fact.

The exact date of Jesus' birth is entirely **UNKNOWN**, as all authorities acknowledge—tho if I had space in this article I could show you Scriptures which at least strongly indicate that it was in the early Fall—probably September—approximately six months after Passover.

If God had wished us to observe and celebrate Christ's birthday, He would not have so completely hidden the exact date.

What Encyclopedias Say

There is not one word in the New Testament, or anywhere in the Bible, telling us to observe Christmas.

Then where did we *get* "Christmas"? Since it has come to us thru the Roman Catholic Church, and has no authority but that of the Roman Catholic Church, let us examine the Catholic Encyclopedia, published by that Church. Under the caption "Christmas," you will find:

"Christmas was *not* among the earliest festivals of the Church . . . the first evidence of the feast *is from Egypt* . . . *Pagan customs*, centering around the January calends, gravitated to Christmas." And, further, we find this truth acknowledged: "In the Scripture, *sinner* alone, not saints, celebrate their birthday."

Encyclopedia Britannica has this: "Christmas (i.e., the Mass of Christ). Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the church." It was not instituted by Christ or the apostles, or by Bible authority—it was picked up afterward from paganism.

The Encyclopedia Americana says: "**CHRISTMAS.** It was, according to many authorities, not celebrated in the first centuries of the Christian church, as the Christian usage in general was to celebrate the death of remarkable persons, rather than their birth" (the "Lord's Supper," which *is* instituted by New Testament Bible authority, is a memorial of the **DEATH** of Christ). "A feast was established in memory of this event (Christ's birth) *in the fourth century.* In the fifth century the Western Church ordered it to be celebrated forever *on the day of the old Roman feast*

of the birth of Sol, as no certain knowledge of the day of Christ's birth existed."

HOW This Pagan Custom Got Into the Church

Now notice! These recognized historic authorities show Christmas was **NOT** observed by Christians for the first two or three hundred years—a period longer than the entire history of the United States as a nation! It got into the Western, or Roman church, by the **FOURTH** Century A.D. It was not until the **FIFTH** century the Roman church ordered it to be celebrated as an official "Christian" festival!

Then **HOW** did this heathen custom **CREEP INTO** a so-called Christianity?

The Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia explains clearly, in its article on "**CHRISTMAS.**" "How much the date of the festival depended upon the Pagan **Brumalia** following the **Saturnalia** (Dec. 17-24) and celebrating the shortest day in the year and the 'New sun,' . . . cannot be accurately determined. The pagan Saturnalia and Brumalia *were too deeply entrenched in popular custom to be set aside by Christian influence.* . . . The pagan festival with its riot and merry-making was so popular that Christians were glad of an excuse to continue its celebration with little change in spirit and in manner. Christian preachers of the West and of the Near East protested against the unseemly frivolity with which Christ's birthday was celebrated, while Christians of Mesopotamia *accused their western brethren of idolatry and sun worship for adopting as Christian this pagan festival.*"

Remember, the Roman world had been **PAGAN.** These people had grown up in **PAGAN** customs, chief of which was this idolatrous festival of December 25th. It was a festival of merrymaking, with its special **SPIRIT.** They **ENJOYED** it! They didn't want to give it up! Now this same article in Schaff-Herzog encyclopedia explains how the recognition by Constantine of Sunday, which had been the day of pagan **SUN**-worship, and also the influence of the pagan Manichaeism, which identified the **SON** of God with the physical **SUN**, gave these pagans of the fourth century now turning over wholesale to "Christianity" their **EXCUSE** for calling their pagan-festival date of December 25th (birthday of the **SUN-god**) the birthday of the **SON** of God.

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Where did we get CHRISTMAS?

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And so *that* is how "Christmas" got into our so-called Christianity! We may call it by another NAME, but it's the same old pagan sun-worshipping festival still! The only CHANGE is in what we CALL IT! You can *call* a rabbit a "LION," but it's a RABBIT just the same.

The Real ORIGIN of Christmas

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

It is a chief custom of the corrupt system denounced all thru Bible prophecies and teachings under the name of BABYLON. And it started and originated in the original Babylon of ancient Nimrod! Yes, it stems from roots whose beginning was shortly this side of the Flood!

Nimrod, grandson of Ham, son of Noah, was the real founder of the Babylonish system that has gripped the world ever since.

Nimrod was so evil, it is said he married his own mother, whose name was Semiramis.

Thru her scheming and designing, Semiramis became the Babylonian "Queen of heaven," and Nimrod, under various names, became the "divine son of heaven." Thru the generations, in this idolatrous worship, Nimrod became the false Messiah, son of Baal the Sun-god. In this false *Babylonish* system, the "Mother and Child" (Semiramis and Nimrod), became chief objects of worship. This worship of "Mother and Child" spread over the world.

Every Christmas season you'll hear sung and chanted dozens of times the hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night," with its familiar "Mother and Child" theme. We, who have been born in such a Babylonish world, reared and steeped in these things all our lives, have been taught to revere these things as holy, and sacred. WE NEVER QUESTIONED TO SEE WHERE THEY CAME FROM—WHETHER THEY CAME FROM THE BIBLE, OR FROM PAGAN IDOLATRY!

We are SHOCKED to learn the TRUTH—some, unfortunately, take offense at the PLAIN TRUTH! But God commands His faithful ministers, "CRY ALOUD, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and SHOW MY PEOPLE THEIR TRANSGRESSIONS!" Shocking as these facts are, they are the plain facts of history and the Bible!

The real origin of Christmas goes back to the ancient Babylon. It is bound up in the organized apostacy with which Satan has gripped a deceived world these many centuries! In Egypt, it has always been believed the son of Isis (Egyptian name for "Queen of Heaven") was born December 25th. Paganism celebrated this famous birthday over most of the known world for centuries before the birth of Christ.

December 25th is NOT the birthday of Jesus, the true Christ! The apostles and early true Church never celebrated Christ's birthday at *any* time. There is no command or instruction to celebrate it in the Bible—rather, the celebrating

of birthdays is a HEATHEN, not a Christian custom, believe it or not!

Thus the ancient idolatrous "Chaldean Mysteries" founded by this mother of Nimrod, have been handed down thru the pagan religions, into the Catholic church under new Christian-sounding names, and from there into the Protestant denominations and on to all of us today!

Origin of Holly Wreath, Mistletoe, Yulelog

Now where did we get this MISTLETOE custom? Among the ancient pagans the mistletoe was used at this festival of the winter solstice because it was considered sacred to the SUN, because of its supposed miraculous healing power. The pagan custom of kissing under the mistletoe was an early step in the night of revelry and drunken debauchery—celebrating the death of the "old sun" and the birth of the new at the winter solstice. Mistletoe, sacred in pagan festivals, is a PARASITE!

Holly berries were also considered sacred to the sun-god. The Yulelog is in reality the "sun log." "Yule" means "wheel," a pagan symbol of the sun. Yet today professing Christians speak of the "sacred YULE-TIDE season!"

Even the lighting of fires and candles as a Christmas ceremony is merely a continuation of the pagan custom, encouraging the waning sun-god as he reached the lowest place in the southern skies!

Yes, and Even SANTA CLAUS!

But surely dear old Santa Claus is not a creature of pagan birth? But he IS, and his real character is not so benevolent and holy as many suppose!

The name "Santa Claus" is a corruption of the name "St. Nicholas," a Roman Catholic bishop who lived in the 5th century. Look in the Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol. 19, pages 6 & 9.

Thru the year, parents punish their children for telling falsehoods. Then, at Christmas time, they themselves tell their little children this "Santa Claus" lie! Is it any wonder many of them, when they grow up and learn the truth, begin to believe God is a myth, too?

One little fellow, sadly disillusioned about "Santa Claus," said to a playmate, "Yes, and I'm going to look into this 'Jesus Christ business,' too!" Is it CHRISTIAN to teach children myths and falsehoods? God says, "Thou shalt not bear FALSE WITNESS!" It may seem right, and be justified by human reason, but God says "There is a way that seemeth RIGHT to a man, but the ends thereof are the ways of DEATH!" "Old Nick" also is a term for the devil! Is there a connection?

Satan appears as an "angel of LIGHT," to deceive!

The Americana says "the holly, the mistletoe, the Yulelog, etc., are relics of pre-Christian times." "PAGANISM!" The book "Answers to Questions," compiled by Frederick J. Haskins, found in public libraries, says: "The use of Christmas wreaths is believed by authorities to be traceable to the pagan customs of decorating buildings and places of worship at the feast which took place at the same time as Christmas. *The Christmas tree is from Egypt*, and its origin dates from a period long anterior to the Christmas era."

And so when we examine the facts, we are astonished to learn that the practice of observing Christmas is not, after all, a true Christian practice, but a Pagan custom—one of the ways of BABYLON our people have fallen into!

What the Bible Says About the Christmas Tree!

But if the Bible is silent about telling us to observe CHRISTMAS, or recording any such observance by the apostles or early true Church, it *does* have something to say about the Christmas tree!

This will come as a real surprise to many. But here it is:

Jeremiah 10:1-6 "Thus saith the Lord, *Learn not the way of the heathen . . . for the customs of the people are vain; . . . for one cutteth a TREE out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and gold; they fasten it with nails and hammers, that it move not.*"

There is a perfect description of the Christmas tree, termed by the Eternal as "the way of the heathen—the custom of the people." We are commanded NOT to learn that way or follow it! It is also viewed in this passage as idolatry. The fifth verse shows that these trees cannot speak—cannot walk—must be carried. "Be not afraid of them, for *they* (the trees) cannot do evil neither also is it in them to do good." They are not gods to be feared. Some people *mis*-read this to make it say there is no harm in having a Christmas tree, but that is not what it says.

Isn't Exchanging GIFTS Scriptural?

But when it comes to the most important part of all, in this Christmas observance, the Christmas SHOPPING season—the buying and exchanging of GIFTS—many will exclaim triumphantly, "Well, at least the Bible tells us to do THAT! Didn't the wise men give gifts, when Christ was born?"

Again, we are due for some SURPRISES, when we learn the PLAIN TRUTH! First, let's look at the his-

toric origin of trading gifts back and forth, then see exactly what the Bible *does* say about it.

From the Bibliotheca Sacra, Vol. 12, pages 153-155, we quote: "The interchange of presents between friends is alike characteristic of Christmas and the Saturnalia, and *must have been adopted by Christians from the Pagans*, as the admonition of Tertullian plainly shows."

The fact is, this custom fastened upon people of exchanging gifts with friends and relatives at the Christmas season *has not a single trace of Christianity about it!* Strange tho that may seem! This does NOT celebrate Christ's birthday or honor it or Him! Suppose someone you love has a birthday. You want to honor that person on his or her birthday. Would you lavishly buy gifts for *everyone else*, trading gifts back and forth with all your *other* friends and loved ones, but IGNORING COMPLETELY any gift for the one whose birthday you are honoring? Rather absurd, when viewed in that light, isn't it?

Yet this is exactly what people the world over are doing! They honor a day that is NOT Christ's birthday by spending every dime they can scrape together in buying presents to trade back and forth among friends and relatives.

But when the month of December rolls around, almost all professing Christians forget to give gifts to CHRIST and HIS CAUSE almost altogether! December always is the most difficult month to keep CHRIST'S work from dying! People are too busy TRADING gifts back and forth among themselves to think of HIM and HIS WORK, it seems. Then, in January and even into February, it seems they have to catch up from what they spent for Christmas, so they seldom get back to normal in supporting CHRIST and HIS WORK before March!

Now consider what the Bible says about giving gifts when Christ was born. It is in Matthew 2:1-11: "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying Where is he that is born *King of the Jews?* . . . and when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: *and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto HIM gifts; gold and frankincense, and myrrh.*"

WHY Gifts Presented to Christ

Notice, they inquired for the child Jesus, who was born KING of the Jews! Now WHY did they present gifts to Him? **Because** it was His birthday!

Not at all, because they came several days after his birthday! Was it to set an example for US, today, to trade gifts back and forth among ourselves? No, notice carefully!—they did not *exchange gifts* among themselves, but "they presented unto HIM gifts." They gave THEIR gifts to CHRIST, not to their friends, relatives, or one another!

Now WHY? Let me quote from the Clark Commentary, Vol. 5, page 46: "Verse 11. (*They presented unto Him gifts.*) The people of the east never approach the presence of kings and great personages, without a *present* in their hands. The custom is often noticed in the Old Testament, and still prevails in the east, and in some of the newly discovered South Sea Islands."

There it is! They were not instituting a NEW Christian custom of exchanging gifts with friends to honor Christ's birthday. They were following an OLD and ANCIENT eastern custom of presenting gifts to a KING when they come into his presence. They were approaching Him, born KING of the Jews, *in person*. Therefore custom required they present GIFTS—even as the Queen of Sheba brought gifts to Solomon—even as many people today take a gift along when they visit the White House for an appointment with the President.

No, the custom of TRADING GIFTS back and forth does not stem from this Scriptural incident at all, but rather, as quoted from history above, it is the *continuance* of an ancient PAGAN custom. Instead of honoring Christ, it invariably RETARDS His work, sets it back, at the Christmas season every year! We're IN BABYLON, and Haven't KNOWN IT!

Christmas has become a COMMERCIAL

season. It's sponsored, kept alive, by the heaviest retail advertising campaigns of the year. You see a masquerader "Santa Claus" in many stores. Ads keep us deluded and deceived about the "beautiful Christmas SPIRIT." The newspapers, who sell the ads, print flowery editorials exalting and eulogizing this pagan season, and its "spirit."

A gullible people has become so inoculated, many take offense when told the TRUTH! But the "Christmas SPIRIT" is created each year, not to honor Christ, but to SELL MERCHANDISE! Like all Satan's delusions it appears as an "angel of LIGHT," is made to appear GOOD. BILLIONS OF DOLLARS are spent in this merchandising spree every year, while the CAUSE OF CHRIST must SUFFER! It's part of the economic system of BABYLON!

We are God's people ISRAEL! Yes, we're IN BABYLON, as Bible prophecy foretold, and we don't know it! "Come OUT of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her SINS, and that ye receive not of HER PLAGUES"—now soon to fall, is the warning of Rev. 18:4.

THIS YEAR, INSTEAD OF GIFT-TRADING, WHY NOT PUT THAT MONEY INTO GOD'S WORK, AND SEND YOUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES A COPY OF THIS ARTICLE, SO THEY'LL UNDERSTAND!

A small number of booklets reprinting this article will be sent upon request.