

Today's Religious Customs... *how did they begin?*

What is the real origin of Easter, Christmas, St. John's Day?
Here is the surprising answer!

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Part VI

IT WILL come as a shocking surprise. You probably have never noticed it before, but it is true!

Easter was being observed 4000 years ago! It was still being observed when the Christ-child was born—during His ministry—when He built His Church—*yet Christ did not institute it—Christ never observed it—the apostles never observed it—the Church JESUS BUILT never observed it—the Apostle Paul commanded Gentile-born Christians to cease observing it!*

More startling, Christ commands us, today, to cease observing it!

How, then, did Easter—and the host of religious customs now celebrated in this Western World—get into professing Christianity?

And *DOES IT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE?*

Listen! *Your eternal destiny* depends upon the answer! You are soon—very soon—going to stand before the judgment bar of Christ. Do not say carelessly: "Well, here is the way I look at it;" or, "I do not think it makes much difference." God says it *does* make a difference. God declares there is a way that seems right to a man—to YOU—but the end result are the ways of death (Prov. 14:12).

You will be judged by what God says—not by what you think. Now let us unveil the facts of history.

World Deception Planned from Time of Flood

The vast majority today believe they are on the right road to salvation. They are honest, sincere people. They do what *they think* is right. Never has it entered their minds to question that they might be *wrong*.

This series of articles is a stern warning against the confusion and failure of professing Christianity in our tottering

Western World. This series of articles may be obtained in a forthcoming book entitled *Satan's Great Deception*.

Just after the flood Nimrod founded in *Babylon a civilization which ignored the rule of God* (Gen. 11:1-9). The gospel of the *coming Christ* and *much* of the Bible teachings were counterfeited in such a way as to *appeal* to its followers but lead them to **DESTRUCTION INSTEAD OF SALVATION**. From Babylon these deceptive teachings spread throughout the whole world—including the Christian-professing nations! Because of their marked similarity to Christ's teachings, the pagan counterfeits became mingled with His, and have *deceived the people to this very day*—just as the devil had planned!

Millions celebrate—unknowingly—the supposed birth of Nimrod on December 25 and call it the birthday of Christ, the Saviour, who was *not* born in the winter season.

At the beginning of spring men face and bow in the presence of the rising sun on Easter morning—in the same act of worship as that of the pagans who bowed in honor of Ishtar, the Queen of Heaven, the supposed mother of the sun god. And Christians have been led to believe that this abominable kind of heathen worship was ordained by Christ and the apostles!

Jesus Christ never commanded us to celebrate His resurrection. He commanded us to commemorate annually His death—on the eve of the very day on which He gave Himself for the world. Strange as it seems, almost no one obeys the very One whom Christianity acknowledges as its Saviour!

Now notice the facts of history. They are startling!

Pagan Worship Continues Today

You will recall that in the time of Nimrod, the sun (which was associated

symbolically with the Serpent, or Satan) was symbolized on earth by *fire*. NIMROD, as the SUN-GOD or fire-god in the *Mysteries*, was worshipped by the sacrifice of HUMAN BEINGS IN FIRE TO HIM. Has this pagan custom persisted even in our "Christian" times? Let us examine.

The Feast of the NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN is set down in the *Papal calendar* for the 24th of June. *The very same period* was equally memorable in the Babylonian calendar for one of its grand original festivals—to commemorate the death and reviving of Tammuz, or Nimrod (Stanley's *Sabean Philosophy*, p. 1065).

Why is this "coincidence"? The apostate Church followed the now famous advice of Pope Gregory I, that by all means they should *meet the pagans half way* and so bring them into the Church (Bower's *Lives of Popes*, vol. ii, p. 523).

Here is how it happened.

About the sixth century A.D., emissaries were sent over Europe, with an eye to *gathering the pagans into its fold*. Remember, the apostate Church was formed by a *union of pagans and professing Christians* (Consult Gibbon's *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, vol. i, chap. 15). These emissaries or investigators found that the keeping of the 24th of June in honor of Tammuz (Nimrod) was very popular.

To *gain numbers* to the Church was the thing! This meant *both* professing Christians and pagans must be satisfied. The pagans wanted this festival. The Christians would not *tolerate a name suggestive of its real meaning*. So a *Christian name* was put on this pagan festival. This is exactly the way our pagan Christmas came into Christianity and why there are so many pagan festivals observed in the churches today.

Now what Christian name was at
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tached to June 24—a pagan festival?

As the *pagans* had already established December 25th as Christ's supposed birthday (*actually* it is in the *autumn*), that could not be used. *But* June 24th—six months earlier—*could pass for* John the Baptist's birthday! John was born 6 months before Christ. The Feast could be called the nativity of St. John. But where could a connection be found between John and the name of Tammuz? In the Latin language adopted by the Church, John was called *Joannes*.

One of the many sacred names by which Tammuz or Nimrod was called, when he reappeared in the *Mysteries* after he was slain, was *Oannes* (Bunsen's

Egypt, vol. i, p. 707). How similar is *Oannes* to *Joannes* or John!

But *Oannes* was the ancient Fish-god. How did Nimrod acquire this characteristic and name?

When Nimrod was overcome by Shem, Semiramis concocted a fable. She said that Nimrod took refuge in the sea. When he therefore "reappeared" he did so in the very character of *Oannes*, the Fish-god (*Hislop*, p. 114).

So the PAGAN "NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN" FESTIVAL, which actually commemorates the death and reviving of pagan *Oannes* or Tammuz, BEARS A CHRISTIAN NAME!

How was this Christian-named fes-

tival originally observed? How has it been observed even into *our* times!

"St. John's Day" in Britain

Before Christianity entered the British Isles, the 24th of June was celebrated by the Druids with blazing *midsummer fires* in honor of their great divinity who was Baal (another name for Nimrod or Tammuz). It was thus observed to our times! "I have seen the people running and leaping through the St. John's fires in Ireland . . . proud of passing through unsinged . . . thinking themselves in a special manner blest by the ceremony" (Toland's *Druids*, p. 107). It has been a *widespread* custom. Herodotus, Wilkinson, Layard, and many others record its observance in various countries.

The grand distinguishing solemnities of St. John's Eve are the mid-summer fires. These were lighted in France, Switzerland, Ireland, and Scotland (Hislop, p. 114). "When the FIRE had burned for several hours and got very low, everyone PASSED THROUGH IT . . . here was . . . worship of Baal, if not Molech (II Kings 23:10) too, by millions professing the Christian name" (Bell's *Wayside Pictures*, p. 225).

SO, WE SEE THE WORSHIP OF THE SUN-GOD OR SERPENT AGAIN IN OUR TIMES, UNDER THE CLOAK OF A CHRISTIAN NAME! Our world is not as far removed from paganism as we think!

What does *God* say about this heathen practice? The people of Old Testament times were practicing this identical rite to honor this *same* pagan god. They built the high places of Baal ". . . to cause their sons and their daughters to PASS THROUGH THE FIRE TO MOLECH [Nimrod]: which I commanded them *not!*" (Jer. 32:35). Again *God* says, "When ye make your sons to *pass through the fire*, YE POLLUTE YOURSELVES WITH YOUR IDOLS, even unto this day" (Ezek. 20:31). *God* COMMANDS that this idolatrous festival NOT be kept! He says it is IDOLATRY!—in honor of an idol god! THE PEOPLE TODAY HAVE OTHER GODS BEFORE THE TRUE GOD. The very *first* of the Ten Commandments says, "THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME" (Ex. 20:3).

What About Christmas Observance?

The day set apart by Semiramis in memory of the "*new birth*" of Nimrod,

her husband who had been slain by Shem, is familiar to everyone. What day is this? CHRISTMAS!

Through her *mysteries* her dead husband was said to have been miraculously conceived of Semiramis and to have returned in the form of Horus (Semiramis' illegitimate son). It was the BIRTHDAY OF THE UNCONQUERED SUN! (Giesler's *Ecclesiastical History*, vol. ii, p. 42). She claimed Shem had not vanquished Nimrod even though he had slain him.

In Egypt, the *son* of Isis (Semiramis), the Babylonian queen of heaven, was supposedly born at the approximate time of the winter solstice (Wilkin's *Egyptians*, vol. iv, p. 405). The winter solstice was then December 25, the place marking the beginning of the days becoming longer and longer. TO THE PAGAN SUN-WORSHIPPERS IT MEANT THAT THEIR GOD—THE SUN—WAS NOT GOING TO DIE AFTER ALL, BUT WAS BECOMING STRONGER AND STRONGER. The very name "Yule-day" which is used among us today proves its pagan and Babylonian origin (Mallet's *Northern Antiquities*, vol. 1, p. 130). "Yule" was the

Chaldee name for "infant" or "little child" *long before Christ's* time. It did not appear in Christian worship until around 350 A.D.!

The Sabeans of Arabia regarded the 24th day of December as the birthday of their pagan "Lord" (Stanley's *History of Philosophy*, p. 1066, col. 1). The Saxons observed December the 25th. Hislop, p. 96 states: "It was an essential principle of the Babylonian system, that the Sun or Baal was the only God. When, therefore, Tammuz was worshipped as *god incarnate*," (after he had supposedly taken the human form, as Christ did centuries later) "that implied that he was an *incarnation of the Sun*."

Here again, then, we see why observing the BIRTHDAY of Tammuz is *Sun-worship!* In observing THIS DAY, PEOPLE OF OUR TIME ACTUALLY PAY HOMAGE TO A MORTAL MAN (now *dead*) AS BEING GOD INCARNATE, WHILE THEY THINK THEY ARE HONORING CHRIST'S BIRTHDAY.

And the Christmas Tree?

What about *today's* Christmas tree? The *Christmas tree* in Egypt was the palm; in Rome it was the fir. The mother (Semiramis) of Adonis the Sun-God (Grecian name of Nimrod) was *mystically* said to have been changed into a tree—the Christmas tree. While in this state she was said to have brought forth her so-called 'divine' son (Ovid's *Metain*, lib. XV 500-513). Hislop, on page 97, indicates that if the mother was the tree, the son must have been the counterfeit "Man of the branch." But Christ is the *true* "Branch" (Jer. 23:5). This is *another* pagan duality.

This, he states, accounts for putting the Yule Log into the fire on Christmas eve and the appearance of the Christmas tree next morning—the tree that supposedly brings all *divine gifts* to men. When people use the Christmas tree in their celebrations, they pay homage to Semiramis, the mother (and giver) of the false "Savior." Who then do they thus acknowledge as their savior? NIMROD—the very man who "saved" mankind from following God at the tower of Babel (Gen. 11:6).

What does *God* say about the Christmas tree? "Learn *not* the way of the heathen . . . for one cutteth a tree . . .

They deck it with silver and gold, and fasten it . . . that it move not . . . they are altogether brutish and foolish" (Jer. 10:1-8). God commands us to commemorate Christ's death (Mark 14:22-24)—not His birth, which occurred before winter (Luke 2:8).

Christ's Conception Counterfeited

Is there a counterfeit for the *miraculous conception* of Christ? Yes! Lady Day, celebrated each March 25—9 months before the supposed "Savior" was born. This day was observed long before Christ's time in honor of the Babylonian "Messiah" (*Ammianus Marcellinus*, book 23, ch. 3, p. 355).

How clear it is becoming that the Devil supervised the fashioning of these counterfeits. They not only could be used in deceiving mankind then, as to the *True* way to salvation, but also could be used in deceiving people today after the *real* Savior came! So we see that **THOSE WHO KEEP CHRISTMAS TODAY MARK THEMSELVES AS WORSHIPPERS OF THE SUN, SATAN, NIMROD, HORUS, AND SEMIRAMIS**—the apostate heroes who founded civilization after the Flood in defiance of the way of God. What a group for a modern "Christian" to be worshipping!

And Semiramis? Does she have a day? Yes, she *has* a day reserved for herself also—Lady Day—and the people here and in other countries are dutifully keeping it! After all, had it not been for her, the MYSTERIES (II Thes. 2:7) which deceive the earth today would never have been formulated and the pagans would never have had a false "savior."

The name of Semiramis found on Assyrian monuments is "Ishtar." This corresponds to one of the titles of the Babylonian Beltes (Semiramis)—called Astarte in the Bible. So, the very word "Easter" shows that this festival originated in Babylon (Layard's *Nineveh and Babylon*, p. 629).

What does this day commemorate?

Origin of Easter Observance

To discover the origin of Easter we have to go back to Semiramis and her Mysteries again!

Notice what Hislop admits on page 110: "As everything that was good . . .

to mankind was represented in the Chaldean (Babylonian) mysteries, as in some way connected with the Babylonian goddess (Semiramis), so the greatest blessing to the human race which the ark contained . . . was held to be Astarte . . . the great civilizer and benefactor of the world . . . It was easy for her worshippers to be made to believe that in a previous incarnation she had lived in the Antediluvian world."

The words for "egg" and "house" in the Hebrew and Chaldean are very similar. So the house or ark of Noah floating on the waters, became the "Egg." "An egg of wondrous size is said to have fallen from heaven into the river Euphrates . . . out came Venus, who afterward became the Assyrian goddess" (Hyginus' *Fabulae*, pp. 148, 149)—that is, Astarte. The pagan classic poems are full of fables of the Mystic egg of the Babylonians.

The event that the "Ishtar egg" or Easter egg first commemorated was the "arrival" (birth) of the future *mother of the Sun-god* on this earth after the Flood! So we see *Easter commemorates Semiramis' birthday*—not Christ's resurrection!

Easter worship is actually sun-goddess worship!

What does God say about observing Easter? "Trust ye not in lying words, . . . the women . . . make cakes to the queen of heaven [This world today is doing the same thing!] . . . walk ye in the ways I have commanded . . . But they hearkened not . . ."

And what happens to those who continue to disobey?—"The carcasses of this people shall be meat for the fowls of heaven" (Jer. 7:1-33). *This* is the *result* of Easter keeping—of following the Devil's deceptive Mysteries!

Jesus knew that men would attach His

name to pagan practices, claiming to worship Him. He shouted the warning: "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and *do not* the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).

There is not space in this issue of the magazine to reveal the full and astounding history of Easter—and of the origin of the "Good Friday—Easter Sunday" tradition. But you can have the full answers *free* in the three eye-opening booklets: *Easter is Pagan!* and *The Resurrection Was NOT on Sunday!* and *The Crucifixion Was NOT on Good Friday!*

You have never read anything like them. The truth is shocking.

Let us now notice one more of these deceptions that masquerade as Christian—but are actually pagan!

The Counterfeit Cross

Is the cross which took Christ's life a thing to be proud of and adored? Or has the Devil *deceived* us here also? Our sins and the Devil's deception killed Christ. Satan was to *bruise* the heel of the seed of woman (Gen. 3:15)—*Satan* was to kill Christ. How did he do this?

Satan deceived us into sinning and **OUR** sins killed Christ. Should we parade **OUR INSTRUMENT OF DEATH** which took Christ's life before the world and be *proud* of it? But notice even more about the practice of parading the cross.

The true original form of the Chaldean (Babylonian) alphabet letter "T" is made like "†"—like the **CROSS THE CHURCHES USE TODAY**—and **WAS THE INITIAL OF TAMMUZ**, the sun-god. "This was marked on the foreheads of those initiated into the *Mysteries*; the Vestal virgins of *pagan* (not modern) Rome wore it suspended from their necklaces as nuns do now. There is hardly a *pagan* tribe where the cross has not been found . . . the X which in itself was not an unnatural symbol of Christ, and which was once regarded as such, was allowed to go entirely into disuse and the Tau, "†," the sign of Tammuz, the false Messiah, was everywhere substituted in its stead" (Hislop, *The Two Babylons*, p. 119).

People and churches nowadays are even going to great lengths to *identify themselves with* the symbol of the *Sun-god!* The great display of this symbol today is an outward sign of how blinded this *world* is to the truth of God.

(To be continued next issue)