

SHOULD YOU CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?

NO! NO! NO!

Please take note that in this article I use the correct Names of our Creator, Redeemer and Saviour, written in the Biblical Hebrew text as follows:

יהוה = YAHWEH (יהוה – The True Name of our Creator); יהושע = Yahushua (which means, Yahweh is our Saviour)

TRADITION

Many times, when people are asked why they do what they do, they may not always have a concrete answer that is able to clearly define the reason for following certain practices that they always have done and may then simply say, 'It is our tradition'! Yet, sadly they do not necessarily know the origin of their tradition.

A tradition is any kind of teaching, written or spoken, that is handed down from generation to generation. We live in a world that is filled with various customs and traditions, but few ever take the time to seek to understand their origin. Most will generally accept widespread traditions without question, as most people will basically do what everyone else does—simply because it is easy and natural to follow the crowd!

Sometimes tradition is acceptable and perhaps even pleasing in the sight of יהוה.

Sometimes it is not acceptable and is even hated by Him.

The evil of the traditions that transgress the commandment of יהוה was a key teaching of יהושע the Messiah:

Mattithyahu/Matthew 15:1-2 “**Then there came to יהושע scribes and Pharisees from Yerushalayim, saying, 2 “Why do Your taught ones transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.”**

I often hear people ask me this, "Why do you not celebrate Christmas (transgress the traditions of our elders)?" Let me remind you of the following:

Nowhere in the pages of Scripture:

do we find a command to keep the celebration of Christmas.

and

Nowhere in the pages of Scripture:

do we find an example of any disciple keeping Christmas.

The only time Christmas is even mentioned in the pages of scripture is to condemn it (as we will see).

So, my answer to this question would be, as our Master answered:

"Why do you also transgress the commandment of Elohim because of your tradition?"

Mattithyahu/Matthew 15: 3-6 “**But He answering, said to them, “Why do you also transgress the command of Elohim because of your tradition? 4 “For Elohim has commanded, saying, ‘Respect your father and your mother,’ and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ 5 “But you say, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me has been dedicated,” 6 is certainly released from respecting his father or mother.’ So you have nullified the command of Elohim by your tradition.”**

This was an example of how the scribes and Pharisees forsook the commandment of יהוה in favour of their tradition.

As I will share:

Christmas is also transgressing the commandment of יהוה in favour of tradition.

What does יהושע think about this?

Mattithyahu/Matthew 5: 7-9 "Hypocrites! Yeshayahu rightly prophesied about you, saying, 8 'This people draw near to Me with their mouth, and respect Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. 9 'But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as teachings the commands of men.' "

Christmas, for many ignorant folks, is simply an 'honouring with the lips' while hearts are far from the Master, and it is one of many vain doctrines and commandments of men. A vain tradition that ought to be an abomination rather than a celebration!

Again, there is not a single scripture in the bible that tells us that we are to celebrate the birth, or the resurrection of יהושע the Messiah.... Let alone in a pagan way!

So yes, I do believe we must question these traditions that have been handed down to this generation, even though few dare to do so.

Many Christians speak against the Catholic traditions of Lent, Ash Wednesday, etc. but fail to recognize that the same types of pagan elements exist in the celebration of Christmas and Easter!

But how did these festivals get their start?

Origin of Christmas

The following is a quote from the 2000 [Encyclopaedia Britannica, Volume 11 ; page 390.](#)

"During the later periods of Roman history, sun worship gained in importance and ultimately led to what has been called a 'solar monotheism.' Nearly all the gods of the period were possessed of Solar qualities, and both Christ and Mithra acquired the traits of solar deities. The feast of Sol and Victus (open unconquered Sun) on December 25th was celebrated with great joy, and eventually this date was taken over by the Christians as Christmas, the birthday of Christ."

Notice how it says "**both Christ and Mithra acquired the traits of solar deities**"?

The Christians were apparently trying to get more converts, so they tried to "paganize" the Messiah in order to make Him more attractive to pagans.

They even officially brought the feast of the unconquered sun into their worship in 336 AD.

This is the origin of Christmas.

But the real question is, "**Who converted who?**"

Do we murder to bring a murderer to יהושע?

Do we rape to bring a rapist to the Messiah?

It is true that by 336AD, the mainstream beliefs of Christianity were already so far from the truth that the apostles taught anyway.

However, even giving them that, shouldn't true believers be teaching the unbelievers the true way of יהודה rather than the unbelievers teaching believers these pagan customs and practices?

Certainly!

Yet, the Christians not only learned these heathen ways, they also incorporated them into their worship.

Scripture says:

Eph'siyim/Ephesians 5:11 "And have no fellowship with the fruitless works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

Today, Christmas is a very popular holiday. However, as is often the case, what is popular is not always right and what is right is not always popular.

Christmas means '**mass for Christ**'. The name of the holiday is much newer than the holiday itself.

The customs associated with Christmas, in one form or another, have been celebrated for literally thousands of years. 'Christmas' is just a new name for an old holiday.

There is no doubt that the customs that are associated with Christmas, as well as the idea of a deity being born on December 25th are of pagan origin.

One need only look to an encyclopaedia or even many local newspapers in the 12th month of the year to find this truth.

The real issue is whether or not we should walk in these customs.

So, what is so bad about it? Is it just for the children?

What should we be teaching our children? Truth or lies?

THE TRUTH IS THAT THE MESSIAH WAS NOT BORN ON DECEMBER 25TH.

December 25th is the birthday of nearly every pagan god ever invented!

In fact, the pagan customs associated with Christmas are clearly condemned in the scriptures.

Paganism/Idolatry is something that is against יהוה.

If we know that the roots of Christmas are of pagan origin, shouldn't the roots of our worship be in the Scriptures, rather than paganism?

Consider the Scriptures, that I will quote, that clearly proclaim that the keeping of these festivals is sinful.

However, for now I ask that you seek this out for yourself.

יהוה's people should always seek the truth.

Consider these scriptures:

Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 10:1-4 **"Hear the word which יהוה speaks to you, O house of Yisra'el. 2 Thus said יהוה, "Do not learn the way of the gentiles, and do not be awed by the signs of the heavens, for the gentiles are awed by them. 3 "For the prescribed customs of these peoples are worthless, for one cuts a tree from the forest, work for the hands of a craftsman with a cutting tool. 4 "They adorn it with silver and gold, they fasten it with nails and hammers so that it does not topple."**

First of all, יהוה is telling us in this verse:

"DO NOT LEARN THE WAY OF THE GENTILES"

Don't even learn it, let alone practice it and incorporate it into the worship of יהוה!

Secondly, it says that the Gentiles were dismayed at the signs of heaven.

History tells us that when the sun began to go further away from the earth and the days grew shorter in the winter, the sun worshipping Gentiles were "dismayed", and feared that the sun would not return.

So, they held certain festivals just after the time of the Winter Solstice, when it did begin to return.

This return of the sun is why December 25th is the birthday of so many solar deities.

One of the customs that the pagans had was to decorate a tree that they had cut down and fasten it so that would not topple. יהוה tells us not to learn the way of the heathen. And here in Yirmeyahu, יהוה even goes so far as describe a custom, that was a way of the heathen.

Yet, we see this same custom still exist even today, which is called the Christmas tree.

Have you ever wondered why in the world someone would do something as strange as cut down a tree and put it in their house and then decorate it with all different types of ornaments?

These prescribed customs are worthless!

The Hebrew word that is translated as 'worthless' comes from the root word הֶבֶל **hebel** – Strong's H1892 and means, '**vapour, breath, delusion, emptiness, futility, vanity, idols, worthlessness**', and we see this word being used in the following verses:

Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 2:4-5 **"Hear the word of יהוה, O house of Ya'aqob and all the clans of the house of Yisra'el. 5 Thus said יהוה, "What unrighteousness have your fathers found in Me, that they have gone far from Me, and went after worthlessness, and became worthless?"**

Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 16:19 **"O יהוה, my strength and my stronghold and my refuge, in the day of distress the gentiles shall come to You from the ends of the earth and say, "Our fathers have inherited only falsehood, futility, and there is no value in them."**

In **Melakim Aleph/1 Kings 16:25-26** we are told that Omri did more evil in the eyes of יהוה than all those before him, by walking in the ways of Yarob'am and provoking יהוה with their **worthlessnesses**.

Another powerful verse I found is spoken by Yonah while he was in the big fish:

Yonah/Jonah 2:8 “Those observing false worthlessnesses forsake their own loving-commitment.”

This expresses it very clearly – when you go after worthlessness, idols, vanity and that which does not satisfy, you will be handed over to the delusion of futility and forsake true loving-commitment!!!

So many people think that they gain so much ‘treasure’ through the twisted, misguided and destructive traditions and theologies of man, yet are unaware of how worthless all that false information is and how it is a path that leads to death, despite its falsified appearance of an outward beauty and loveliness that attracts those who run after the flesh!

Not only is this custom of bringing a tree that has been cut down into your home in order to fasten it in its place and decorate it with silver and gold odd and worthless, **it is wrong!**

This custom, along with other pagan customs like it are clearly condemned in this passage.

We don't need a prophet to come and tell us today that this custom is wrong.

Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah said so a long time ago! It has already been told to us – he who has an ear hear!!!

This custom, along with other pagan customs like it are clearly condemned in this passage.

Other customs include Mistletoe, the Yule log and Santa Claus.

If you do a little bit of research you will find that these things are rooted in idolatry also. Also, as you do your research you will find that less than 200 years ago ‘Christmas trees’ were actually banned in the USA!!!!

Now why would that be? Perhaps that generation knew some truth to this pagan practice, yet sadly fell prey to the pressure of holding fast to traditions of man while forsaking the commands of Elohim!

Just think about it for a moment – at the time of Yirmeyahu, it is made very clear by יהוה that putting up a tree in your home and decorating it with silver and gold is a worthless act. So why would this act no longer be worthless in the eyes of our Creator and Saviour today, when He is the same yesterday, today and forever and He does not change!!!

As we see from **Yonah/Jonah 2:8** – those who observe false worthlessnesses forsake loving-commitment!

In other words, those who hold fast to worthless traditions forsake the command of Elohim to have nothing to do with worthless customs that the nations practice!

Mishlê/Proverbs 3:3 “Let not loving-commitment and truth forsake you – bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart”

Tehillah/Psalm 107:43 “Who is wise? Then let him observe these matters! Let them understand the loving-commitment of יהוה.”

For more on ‘loving-commitment’ please see sermon notes on the message called, ‘**FORSAKE NOT LOVING-COMMITMENT**’ under the **sermons 2013/2014** menu from our site: <http://atfotc.com> or go to the following link:

<http://atfotc.com/index.php/our-sermons/sermons-2013-2014/503-forsake-not-loving-commitment-jeremiah-2>

Santa Claus

All over the world, ‘Santa Claus’ is ‘God’ to the children of the world (move the n to the end of Santa and what do you get?).

Others say ‘Father Christmas’. Parents purposely and deliberately lie to their children and tell them that they should fear Santa Claus because “he knows if you've been bad or good”.

These same parents also lie to their children about the Easter Bunny and Tooth Fairy. Then they wonder why their children become liars and don't believe the Messiah is real later on in life.

This is clearly a total abomination to יהוה.

You don't have to look very far in the word of יהוה to find out how much He loathes idolatry and lies. יהוה is the only true Mighty One. Our children look to us and believe every word we say. Do they not deserve the truth?

How abominable it is for a believer to teach their children to fear Santa Claus and, in so doing, creep an idol into the conscience of a child!

LIES, LIES - EVERYTHING IS LIES

The very foundation of the Christmas holiday is a lie.

The Messiah was not born December 25th.

He did not ask us to celebrate His birthday.

He did not say to us that we are to set up a tree in our house and decorate it and our houses with anything.

Santa Claus does not exist. He doesn't have reindeer that fly and he isn't going to come on December 25th and leave any gifts.

Everything is a lie.

Is יהוה the originator of this holiday? Or is it the father of lies?

יהושע condemned the leaders of that generation for teaching lies:

Yohanan/John 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you wish to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has not stood in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks of his own, for he is a liar and the father of it."

IT'S HIGH TIME THAT WE FORSAKE THESE LIES AND ABIDE IN THE TRUTH!

Let's forsake this foolish practice of yoking the Messiah (who said "I am the TRUTH") together with lies, for He has nothing to do with lies.

Hazon/Revelation 22:14-15 "Blessed are those doing His commands, so that the authority shall be theirs unto the tree of life, and to enter through the gates into the city. ¹⁵ "But outside are the dogs and those who enchant with drugs, and those who whore, and the murderers, and the idolaters, and all who love and do falsehood."

The book of Hazon/Revelation also predicts that those who hate יהוה will be glad when the two witnesses of יהוה die, for they will make merry and have a gift exchange:

Hazon/Revelation 11:9-10 "And some of the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations see their dead bodies for three and a half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be placed into tombs, **10** and those dwelling on the earth rejoice over them and exult. And they shall send gifts to each other, because these two prophets tortured those dwelling on the earth."

Sound familiar?

Mixed worship condemned in scripture

Now let's take this a step further.

Not only is it sinful in the eyes of יהוה to practice these traditions, it is also a sin to take these traditions of pagans and apply them to the worship of יהוה.

Debarim/Deuteronomy 12:29 "When יהוה your Elohim does cut off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land"

(This is יהוה warning the children of Yisra'el/Israel about what **NOT to do** when going into the Promised Land)

Debarim/Deuteronomy 12:30 " guard yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire about their mighty ones, saying, 'How did these nations serve their mighty ones? And let me do so too.'"

It is NOT, "Let us serve their elohim (gods)" but, DO NOT even inquire and ask "HOW did these nations serve their elohim"

Debarim/Deuteronomy 12:31-32 " Do not do so to יהוה your Elohim, for every abomination which יהוה hates they have done to their mighty ones, for they even burn their sons and daughters in the fire to their mighty ones. **32** "All the words I am commanding you, guard to do it – do not add to it nor take away from it."

Very CLEAR...

"DO NOT DO SO UNTO יְהוָה YOUR ELOHIM:"

It is abundantly clear. Do not worship יְהוָה in that way, the way of the heathen!

DO NOT ADD TO HIS COMMANDMENTS AND DO NOT TAKE AWAY FROM HIS COMMANDMENTS.

Both Christmas and Easter take pagan festivals and traditions and apply them to the worship of יְהוָה.

This is clearly condemned here. Would it be right to take a satanic holiday that Satanists have invented and then incorporate that holiday into the worship of יְהוָה?

Surely not. Yet, all paganism is Satanism. Satan is behind all pagan worship. And whatever 'god' the idolaters worship, they are actually worshipping Satan.

Qorintiyim Aleph/1 Corinthians 10:20 "No, but what the gentiles offer they offer to demons¹ and not to Elohim, and I do not wish you to become sharers with demons."

Now consider this next verse:

Qorintiyim Aleph/1Cor 10:21 "You are not able to drink the cup of the Master and the cup of demons, you are not able to partake of the table of the Master and of the table of demons."

Which table will you choose?

I hope it is יְהוָה's table!

SOME IMPORTANT FACTS OF THE ORIGINS AND ANCIENT ROOT PRACTICES OF CHRISTMAS THAT MOST DO NOT KNOW AND REFUSE TO ACKNOWLEDGE!

What is worth taking note of is the following quote from the Catholic Encyclopaedia, 1911 edition:

Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church. Irenaeus and Tertullian omit it from their lists of feasts; Origen, glancing perhaps at the discreditable imperial Natalitia, asserts (in Lev. Hom. viii in Migne, P.G., XII, 495) that in the Scriptures sinners alone, not saints, celebrate their birthday.

Even in their own encyclopaedia the Catholic Church acknowledges that Christmas was not celebrated by the early believers. Both Irenaeus and Tertullian lived in the 2nd and 3rd centuries and are considered by many as 'early church fathers'. They clearly did not celebrate Christmas!!!

Origen was a Scriptural scholar who also lived in the 2nd and 3rd centuries and was also considered as a 'church father' by many. He made it clear that it was only sinners, like Pharaoh and Herod who celebrated the day they were born into this world.

HOW DID CHRISTMAS COME TO BE CELEBRATED ON DECEMBER 25?

A. Roman pagans first introduced the holiday of Saturnalia, a week-long period of lawlessness celebrated between December 17-25. During this period, Roman courts were closed, and Roman law dictated that no one could be punished for damaging property or injuring people during the weeklong celebration. The festival began when Roman authorities chose "an enemy of the Roman people" to represent the "Lord of Misrule." Each Roman community selected a victim whom they forced to indulge in food and other physical pleasures throughout the week. At the festival's conclusion, December 25th, Roman authorities believed they were destroying the forces of darkness by brutally murdering this innocent man or woman.

The ancient Greek writer poet and historian Lucian (in his dialogue entitled *Saturnalia*) describes the festival's observance in his time. In addition to human sacrifice, he mentions these customs: widespread intoxication; going from house to house while singing naked; rape and other sexual license; and consuming human-shaped biscuits (still produced in some English and most German bakeries during the Christmas season – "ginger bread men").

In the 4th century CE, Christianity imported the Saturnalia festival hoping to take the pagan masses in with it. Christian leaders succeeded in converting to Christianity large numbers of pagans by promising them that they could continue to celebrate the Saturnalia as Christians.

(BEARING IN MIND THAT CHRISTIANITY PRIMARILY TEACHES THE PRACTICE OF LAWLESSNESS, IN THE CASTING ASIDE OF THE TORAH OF יְהוָה!)

The problem was that there was nothing intrinsically “Christian” about Saturnalia. To remedy this, these Christian leaders named Saturnalia’s concluding day, December 25th, to be Jesus’ birthday.

(Jesus is not the name of our Saviour, but is rather a Greek constructed substitute that points conveniently to their long-held deity – Zeus!

The name of the Saviour is יהושע = Yahushua (Yahweh is our Saviour) - יהוה = YHWH (יהוה – The True Name of our Creator)!

Christianity is a man-made religion based on the syncretisation of pagan practices with the promises of the Word of Elohim, while it conveniently casts aside the need to walk and live according to the Torah.

Christians had little success, however, refining the practices of Saturnalia.

As Stephen Nissenbaum, professor history at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, writes,

“In return for ensuring massive observance of the anniversary of the Saviour’s birth by assigning it to this resonant date, the Church for its part tacitly agreed to allow the holiday to be celebrated more or less the way it had always been.”

The earliest Christmas holidays were celebrated by drinking, sexual indulgence, singing naked in the streets (a precursor of modern carolling), etc. WOW – did you realise where the modern practice of carolling came from? Now you know!!!

The Reverend Increase Mather of Boston, observed in 1687 that ***“the early Christians who first observed the Nativity on December 25 did not do so thinking that Christ was born in that Month, but because the Heathens’ Saturnalia was at that time kept in Rome, and they were willing to have those Pagan Holidays metamorphosed into Christian ones.”***

Because of its known pagan origin, Christmas was banned by the Puritans and its observance was illegal in Massachusetts between 1659 and 1681.

The Puritans originally kept the true feasts of יהוה as recorded in **Wayyiqra/Leviticus 23** and they also kept the True Sabbath, as opposed to the Roman decreed change of the Sabbath to Sunday observance for all Christians as a sign/mark of their authority!

Sun-day is not and never has been the Sabbath, and observance of such decreed man-made changes to law is to take on the mark of the beast!!!

However true the pagan rooted origins of Saturnalia that was constructed into a man-made feast called Christmas; it was and still is celebrated by most Christians – those who are blinded by the veil of tradition and lies!

Some of the most depraved customs of the Saturnalia carnival were intentionally revived by the Catholic Church in 1466 when Pope Paul II, for the amusement of his Roman citizens, forced Yehudim (Jews) to race naked through the streets of the city.

An eyewitness account reports,

“Before they were to run, the Jews were richly fed, so as to make the race more difficult for them and at the same time more amusing for spectators. They ran... amid Rome’s taunting shrieks and peals of laughter, while the Holy Father stood upon a richly ornamented balcony and laughed heartily.”

(David I. Kertzer, *The Popes Against the Jews: The Vatican’s Role in the Rise of Modern Anti-Semitism*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2001, p. 74.)

As part of the Saturnalia carnival throughout the 18th and 19th centuries CE, rabbis of the ghetto in Rome were forced to wear clownish outfits and march through the city streets to the jeers of the crowd, pelted by a variety of missiles.

When the Yehudi (Jewish) community of Rome sent a petition in 1836 to Pope Gregory XVI begging him to stop the annual Saturnalia abuse of the Jewish community, he responded, ***“It is not opportune to make any innovation.”***

On December 25, 1881, Christian leaders whipped the Polish masses into Anti-Semitic frenzies that led to riots across the country. In Warsaw 12 Jews were brutally murdered, huge numbers maimed, and many Jewish women were raped. Two million rubbles worth of property was destroyed.

THE ORIGINS OF CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS

The Origin of Christmas Tree

Just as early Christians recruited Roman pagans by associating Christmas with the Saturnalia, so too worshippers of the Asherah cult and its offshoots were recruited by the Church sanctioning “**Christmas Trees**”.

Pagans had long worshipped trees in the forest, or brought them into their homes and decorated them, and this observance was adopted and painted with a Christian veneer by the Church. (**Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 10:1-4**)

The Origin of Mistletoe

Norse mythology recounts how the god Balder was killed using a mistletoe arrow by his rival god Hoder while fighting for the female Nanna. Druid rituals use mistletoe to poison their human sacrificial victim. The Christian custom of “**kissing under the mistletoe**” is a later synthesis of the sexual license of Saturnalia with the Druidic sacrificial cult.

The Origin of Christmas Presents

In pre-Christian Rome, the emperors compelled their most despised citizens to bring offerings and gifts during the Saturnalia (in December) and Kalends (in January). Later, this ritual expanded to include gift-giving among the general populace. The Catholic Church gave this custom a Christian flavour by re-rooting it in the supposed gift-giving of Saint Nicholas (see below).

The Origin of Santa Claus

Nicholas was born in Parara, Turkey in 270 CE and later became Bishop of Myra. He died in 345 CE on December 6th. He was only named a saint in the 19th century.

Nicholas was among the most senior bishops who convened the Council of Nicaea in 325 CE where the law was decreed that any observance of ‘Jewish’ law was forbidden. At this council it was decreed that no longer was any ‘Christian’ permitted to keep what was called the “Jewish feasts’. They portrayed Jews as “**the children of the devil**” who sentenced Jesus to death.

Once again we can clearly see through historical events how there is a clear difference between what is presented by the pagan rooted church system by their constructed Saviour being presented as a Greek/Roman ‘Jesus’, that is taught and presented by a man-made religion, that seemingly forbid obedience to the Torah by doing away with it **versus** the True Hebrew Saviour who was a ‘**Yehudi**’ (Jew) and had a Hebrew Name and spoke Hebrew and practiced, fulfilled and taught the observance of the Torah, as revealed through His life, death and resurrection.

In 1087, a group of sailors who idolized Nicholas moved his bones from Turkey to a sanctuary in Bari, Italy. There Nicholas supplanted a female boon-giving deity called The Grandmother, or Pasqua Epiphania, who used to fill the children's stockings with her gifts. The Grandmother was ousted from her shrine at Bari, which became the centre of the Nicholas cult. Members of this group gave each other gifts during a pageant they conducted annually on the anniversary of Nicholas’ death, December 6.

The Nicholas cult spread north until it was adopted by German and Celtic pagans. These groups worshipped a pantheon led by Woden –their chief god and the father of Thor, Balder, and Tiw. Woden had a long, white beard and rode a horse through the heavens one evening each Autumn. When Nicholas merged with Woden, he shed his Mediterranean appearance, grew a beard, mounted a flying horse, rescheduled his flight for December, and donned heavy winter clothing. The name of the day Wednesday was named so after the false pagan god – Woden; and Thursday after the pagan god – Thor!

In a bid for pagan adherents in Northern Europe, the Catholic Church adopted the Nicholas cult and taught that he did (and they should) distribute gifts on December 25th instead of December 6th.

In 1809, the novelist Washington Irving (most famous his *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *Rip Van Winkle*) wrote a satire of Dutch culture entitled *Knickerbocker History*. The satire refers several times to the white bearded, flying-horse riding Saint Nicholas using his Dutch name, Santa Claus.

Dr. Clement Moore, a professor at Union Seminary, read *Knickerbocker History*, and in 1822 he published a poem based on the character Santa Claus: ***“Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, in the hope that Saint Nicholas soon would be there...”*** Moore innovated by portraying a Santa with eight reindeer who descended through chimneys.

The Bavarian illustrator Thomas Nast almost completed the modern picture of Santa Claus. From 1862 through 1886, based on Moore’s poem, Nast drew more than 2,200 cartoon images of Santa for *Harper’s Weekly*. Before Nast, Saint Nicholas had been pictured as everything from a stern looking bishop to a gnome-like figure in a frock. Nast also gave Santa a home at the North Pole, his workshop filled with elves, and his list of the good and bad children of the world. All Santa was missing was his red outfit.

In 1931, the Coca Cola Corporation contracted the Swedish commercial artist Haddon Sundblom to create a coke-drinking Santa. Sundblom modelled his Santa on his friend Lou Prentice, chosen for his cheerful, chubby face. The corporation insisted that Santa’s fur-trimmed suit be bright, Coca Cola red. And Santa was born – a blend of Christian crusader, pagan god, and commercial idol.

The Christmas Challenge – (it is simple – do not keep it!)

Christmas has always been a holiday celebrated carelessly. For millennia, pagans, Christians, and even Jews have been swept away in the season’s festivities, and very few people ever pause to consider the celebration’s intrinsic meaning, history, or origins.

Christmas celebrates the assumed birth of the Christian god who came to rescue mankind from the “curse of the Torah.” It is a 24-hour declaration that Judaism is no longer valid. Or rather it declares ‘lawlessness’ as it proclaims a doing away with the Torah of יהוה by the birth of the ‘sun-god’ which is none other than pagan rooted Tammuz worship.

Christmas is a lie – from the father of lies – the devil.

December 25 is a day on which true believers and followers of Messiah have been shamed, tortured, and murdered.

Christmas is a time of year where the highest blasphemy against the Creator is openly practiced and celebrated by most and the fact that we see how the modern application of a ‘week of lawlessness’ is seen through the engaging in wild parties and lusts of the flesh in the week from Christmas to New year ought to cause those who earnestly are seeking the truth to wake up and come out of the lies and traditions of man!

What we must remember is that at the time of the birthing of the Christian church at the council of Nicaea in the fourth century, when decrees were made to be forbidden to practice or perform any ‘Jewish’ feasts and Sabbaths, we must recognise that the ‘Jews’ at that time were the only tribe of Yisra’el that were not ‘divorced’ and they still had the Torah of Elohim.

While they did add to the Torah, which is forbidden, the Torah was still preserved for us and we are to strip away the lies and traditions of man-made religion and return to the Torah and walk in it.

The rest of the 10 northern tribes of Yisra’el had been scattered through the nations and ‘lost their identity’ after being ‘divorced by יהוה’. It is His adulterous bride that He came to save and redeem from lawlessness and renew the Marriage Covenant. יהושע Messiah made it very clear that He came only for the lost sheep of Yisra’el – He did not come for the church, but for the lost 10 tribes that would be gathered from the nations.

So, as we recognise today that we who are returning to the True voice of the True Shepherd and Saviour of Yisra’el are too returning to obedience in walking in the Torah and repenting of all lawlessness – and this the enemy hates as it runs contrary to his lawless regime as promoted through falsehood and lies inherited and taught by the church at large!

Many of the most popular Christmas customs – including Christmas trees, mistletoe, Christmas presents, and Santa Claus – are modern incarnations of the most depraved pagan rituals ever practiced on earth.

Many who are excitedly preparing for their Christmas celebrations would prefer not knowing about the holiday’s real significance. If they do know the history, they often object that their celebration has nothing to do with the holiday’s monstrous history and meaning. **“We are just having fun, and it doesn’t mean that for us!”**

WHO CARES WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU!!! WHAT DOES FALSE WORSHIP MEAN TO יהוה???

IT IS AN ABOMINATION BEFORE HIS EYES!!!

On December 25, 1941, Julius Streicher, one of the most vicious of Hitler's assistants, celebrated Christmas by penning the following editorial in his rabidly Anti-Semitic newspaper, *Der Stuermer*:

If one really wants to put an end to the continued prospering of this curse from heaven that is the Jewish blood, there is only one way to do it: to eradicate this people, this Satan's son, root and branch.

If you have celebrated Christmas and New year in any way, then heed these truths and repent! Test all that is being written here and do your own research and be like the Bereans in the days of Sha'ul (Paul) who tested everything according to the Torah of Elohim!

Do not partake in this man-made sanctioned time of 'lawlessness' – **COME OUT OF HER MY PEOPLE!!!**

Come out of the adulterous and wicked practices of the whore and turn back to the Truth and keep the Creators Appointed Times as commanded in Wayyiqra/Leviticus 23.

As a side note I want to make it very clear that this time of year, where Christmas and New Year is celebrated, is NOT the end of the year according to the Creator's Timetable (which never changes!)

Just look at the pagan named months and it will tell you - September through to December are actually named after the number of the relevant month, from the Latin numbers! Septem (7); Octem (8); Novem (9) and Decem (10)!!!

Confused!!!

Of course you are, because this is the twisted practices of Babelon (confusion of On – "On" being the name of the pagan Phoenician sun-god). Babelon is the confusion of sun-worship, which the masses of Christianity and the world have been sold under; and Messiah came to redeem us from ALL LAWLESSNESS (**Titos/Titus 3:14**)!

The beginning of the year is at the time of the barley being **Abib** – when Yisra'el came out of Mitsrayim (Egypt) at the Passover of the Lamb and coincides yearly around the new moon closest to the equinox, which is typically in the months of March/April.

Shemoth/Exodus 12:2 "This month is the beginning of months for you, it is the first month of the year for you."

This was not a 'change' in the Creators calendar – this was a command to return to His timing, as this nation had been under the influence of sun-worshipping Mitsrayim for over 400 years and they had to come out of a sun-worship calendar and be restored to true obedience to the Creators Calendar – and His word does not change – His Calendar has not changed. So be diligent in carefully considering who you worship and follow!

This is a call to come out and repent of abominable worship practices and turn back to the Living Elohim and with great delight keep His Sabbaths and Feasts and no longer engage in the abominable practices of sun-day worship and pagan rooted man-made feasts of Easter and Christmas!!

Now you have been told - what will you do!!!

In closing this article, please see below my response to a very influential 'leader' of a worldwide ministry, after he wrote some ridiculous whitewashed notion that Christmas is about the Messiah! (I did not get a reply!)

Shalom to you Pastor

Sadly, you all have it wrong!

Celebrating pagan feasts have never been an acceptable form of worship unto יהוה. יהוה has clearly given us as His Bride very straight forward instructions on how to worship Him. He makes it very clear that each one should not do as he sees fit but rather to worship Him His Way and not man's way through twisted doctrines and traditions that have led people away from the True Word. Christmas is pagan - it is all about sun worship and no matter how sincere you try to make it - it remains an abomination in the eyes of יהוה!

When Aharon built a golden calf and made an altar while Mosheh was up on the Mount, and Aharon said 'tomorrow is a feast unto יהוה' and everyone, the next day, got up and had a very merry time... when this happened, do you think that יהוה thought, 'wow, just look at my people worshipping me all wrong - isn't it wonderful'....No ways, He told Mosheh to get straight back down there to sort them out as they had become corrupted and had quickly turned from the instructions of יהוה, and he wanted to wipe them out and start all over with Mosheh. Mosheh interceded (a wonderful foreshadow of Messiah - which doesn't give us a licence to use pagan methods to worship our Creator!)

As you are a leader of a worldwide ministry, I am shocked at your lack of knowledge of the Word, to which you are teaching people falsehood and lies!!!

יהוה has given us very clear instructions on what feasts we are to celebrate each year in **Wayyiqra/Leviticus 23** and Christmas is certainly not one of them. These feasts are to be kept forever... forever is forever! They are not "Jewish" feasts... they are יהוה's Feasts to be kept by יהוה's people.

In **Romiyim/Romans 8** Sha'ul (Paul) makes it clear that to walk in the Spirit is to walk in the Torah of יהוה.

He says in verses 5-8 that those who walk in the flesh are unable to submit to the Torah of יהוה and are unable to please Elohim... in other words they have no faith as faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word (Romiyim/Romans 10:17 - which Word was Sha'ul referring to?)

The Tanak - Torah-Prophets and Writings - commonly known to us today as the 'Old Testament' which is a sad designation given by man as there is nothing Old about His Word... His Word is eternal therefore time has no effect on it and it is as new and as fresh and alive to us today as it was back then!

Those who do not submit to the Torah of Elohim, walk by the flesh and are unable to please Elohim.

For those who are 'in' Messiah there is no condemnation (katakrima - judgement or penalty as a result of judgement).

For those who walk in Messiah - walk in the perfect Torah of freedom there is freedom from the judgement aspect and curse of Torah as when we had forsaken the covenant the Torah was powerless in the flesh to provide a means of reconciliation and left only judgement to which Messiah came in the flesh to condemn sin in the flesh and so bring us the ability to have the Torah of righteousness completed in us.

In **Yoḥanan Aleph/1 John 2:3-5** it says that this is the way that we know we know Him - that we guard His commands and anyone who says that he knows Him yet does not guard His commands is a liar and the Truth is not in Him but those who guard His commands then truly the love of Elohim has been perfected in them.

Yoḥanan Aleph/1 John 2:6 tells us that if we claim to live 'in' Him then we are to walk as He did. יהושע tells us that if we remain 'in' Him He will remain in us.

Yoḥanan Aleph/1 John 5 tells us that by this we know that we love the children of Elohim - when we love Elohim and guard His commands - for this is love for Elohim - that we guard His commands and His commands are not heavy!!!

יהושע came to set us free from traditions and doctrines of men that we may truly be free to walk in His instructions. יהושע certainly did not keep pagan feasts - HE kept יהוה's feasts.

Christmas is the worship of the sun-god and celebrates the birth of baby Tammuz – the son of Semiramis (also known as Ishtar/Easter) – the wife of Nimrod.

יהוה showed Yeḥezqël/Ezekiel the abominations in the Temple and one of them was the woman 'weeping for Tammuz' **Yeḥezqël/Ezekiel 8:14**.

Easter too, is a pagan feast and has nothing to do with the death and resurrection of Messiah.

Easter is the pagan celebration of Semiramis (Easter) - the pagan fertility goddess who supposedly was reincarnated and came back in a giant egg, landing in the Euphrates river and popping out as a bare breasted fertility goddess and turned a bird into an egg laying rabbit.

Each year on the spring equinox they would worship Easter and impregnate virgins on the altar and a year later those 3-month-old babies that were conceived the previous year would be sacrificed on the altar and they would dip eggs in the blood of the infants - this is sick I know yet some churches do not even know where Easter egg practice comes from!!!

Good Friday has nothing to do with the death of Messiah - it is the worship of Dagon the fish god - half man half fish (hence the fish hat on the pope - Dagon worship - and that is why the Catholics eat fish of Fridays!!!)

יהושע told his disciples that there would only be 1 sign and 1 sign only that would show His authenticity of being the Messiah and that is the sign of Jonah - 3 days and 3 nights as Jonah was in the belly of a fish, so would יהושע be 3 days and 3 nights in the heart of the earth and on the 3rd day arise. There is no physical way possible that anyone can get 3 days and 3 nights between Good Friday and Easter Sunday - not even Einstein!

Yet in the West we have sadly not learnt to simply count to 3!!!

יהושע is our Passover Lamb who died on Passover - the 14th of the 1st month at twilight (wed evening before sunset) and arose on Saturday at sunset - the third day - for when the women went to the tomb early before sunrise the tomb was empty.

The day begins at sunset - Saturday after sunset was the 1st day of the week.

Coming back to Christmas - I am saddened that many Christians will acknowledge that יהושע was not born on December 25 yet still celebrate a pagan feast and neglect to celebrate Sukkot or feast of tabernacles which is in around September time for a week when He was born on the first day of Tabernacles and partially fulfilled this feast by dwelling among us and was circumcised on the 8th day - the Shemini Atzeret - the last great day which foreshadows our eternal reign with Him!

Christmas trees and all the stuff related to it is an abomination and is none other than Nimrod and Tammuz worship. **Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 10:3-4** clearly describes the making of Christmas trees and adoring them with gold and silver balls - symbolic of Nimrod's penis and his testicles - this may sound crude and is but it is what it is and it is time for the True worshippers to worship in Spirit and in Truth and come out of a Babylonian system of worship and follow the Living Torah - the very Word made flesh - יהושע Messiah, and His Name is not 'Jesus' and never will be - His Name is יהושע (יהוה is our Salvation).

I am saddened to see you in a position of great authority in leadership over many, yet you fail to test all things and are as describes in Ezekiel - one who muddies the waters and is given people muddied water - muddied with traditions that cloud out the Truth. Woe to the shepherds who lead His flock astray.

I appeal to you to carefully consider what you preach.

I am encouraged that you say on your blog that you may change your mind as you learn.... please learn the Truth... You have an opportunity to lead people according to the Truth and I ask you do just that... present yourself as a workman approved before Elohim and man, be as the Bereans were - test everything - even what I am presenting you here.

It is time to come out of Babylon and worship according to the Torah of יהוה - walk in יהושע Messiah.

The real reason יהושע came to earth was to redeem His Bride. יהוה made a covenant with Abraham and when a covenant was made each party would walk through the blood and witness to one another that if any should break the covenant then they would be as the animals they were walking through - dead.

יהוה put Abraham asleep after he had prepared the animals and יהוה Himself came down and by fire passed through or walked through the sacrifices and was clearly making a statement that if Abraham or any of his descendants break the covenant then יהוה Himself would come down and walk the 'bloodpath', which he duly did, by יהושע Messiah the right hand /outstretched arm of יהוה.

According to the Torah, if a woman is divorced as a result of adultery, and is joined to another and is then divorced again, then she may not marry her first husband again. We are also told that it is at the death of the covenanted one that one is released from covenant.

Well, we know that יהוה married Yisra'el as Mount Sinai – Yisra'el committed adultery by whoring after other gods - like nimrod worship etc. and יהוה issued a certificate of divorce. In order for Yisra'el to be once again betrothed to her Maker and Redeemer, her Husband had to die, in order for her to be released from the covenant she broke and be able to enter into a renewed Covenant and not be guilty of adultery - that is why יהושע came and died and took up His life again - that He may restore the marriage made at Mount Sinai with Yisra'el.

יהושע clearly said that He came only for the lost sheep of Yisra'el - the dispersed 10 northern tribes that never returned but were scattered throughout the earth and became wild in nature and so too will bring in an abundant harvest of those who are grafted in by faith. He has come only for a covenanted people – and it is by His Blood that we who were once foreigners to the covenants of promise are brought near and grafted in by His Blood and so become a part of His covenanted Bride – that is Yisra'el – not the Church or Christianity!!!

I know I am sharing a lot with you, but please hear my heart - as a man who seemingly should know His Word - you ought to be aware of these things, unless the teaching and doctrines of man that you have sat under has been contrary to sound teaching of the Word!

There is a misconception that the church was birthed at Pentecost (Shavuot - Feast of Weeks - another of יהוה's feasts). This is so far from the Truth. What we must realise is this - there was 120 'Jewish' believers - from the tribe of 'Yehuḏah/Judah' that were keeping the Feast in the temple and were praying when the Spirit came with fire and wrote the Torah upon their hearts on the day of Shavuot – Feast of Weeks - the very day it was given on stone at Mount Sinai.

This was the 'renewed covenant' - it was no longer on stone but now on hearts of flesh.

Only 15 years later was Cornelius the first 'gentile' (not of the tribe of Yehuḏah) convert saved!

The church, as we know it, was birthed and officially established by Constantine who was a worshipper of Mithras (the Roman sun-god version of Tammuz).

He sought to conquer the world through religion and found a way to twist the truth to gain control over the masses. He changed יהוה's appointed times and days (attempted that is because no man can actually change יהוה's time and calendar!) **Dani'el/Daniel 7:25** speaks of this at how they will attempt to change the times.

Constantine forbid keeping Sabbath and made Sun-day worship law and the world has followed since like blind sheep. יהוה is calling back His Bride and you may reject what I am sharing with you - that is your choice - I urge you to pray and seek out the Truth and test these words according to the Word and not according to doctrines and traditions and commentaries of man.

There are many who look to you for advice and direction - lead them to יהושע!

May יהוה grant you wisdom by His Spirit and teach you truth, I pray earnestly for you and for the thousands or even perhaps millions that sit under your ministry - that they may not be led astray and that truly there can a worldwide move of the Spirit bringing back to obedience to sons and daughters of the Most-High El (El Elyon) Shalom to you in the precious and wonderful Name of the only True Saviour and King, יהושע Messiah

CHOOSE THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE! TURN AWAY FROM PAGAN MYTHS AND SERVE THE TRUE CREATOR IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH, AND DO NOT FOLLOW AFTER THE WAYS OF THE WORLD, BUT HOLD FAST TO HIS COMMANDS AND KEEP HIS APPOINTED TIMES AS SET FORTH IN WAYYIQR/LEVITICUS 23!