

BE NOBODY'S VALENTINE!

WHAT IS VALENTINE'S DAY AND WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

One day a year when much of the world traditionally sets aside everything for a loved one, in order to show someone in particular how much they are loved, they go all out in trying to impress someone they love, through following a tradition that is rooted in pagan worship.

Should we not show our love for יהוה (Yahweh) and יהושע (Yahushua) every day?

The month of February has, for a long time, been used as a month in which much of the world celebrates a day that has been set aside as a day to show one's love toward someone. Some feel that by not celebrating this day that one is unable to show love towards others. One has to be a little watchful about celebrating such days because there might be some underlying reasons why it is not found in the Scriptures. One must therefore look into history to find how this celebration began. As it turns out, this day had many different beginnings which were eventually combined together.

How it Started

It may surprise you that Valentine's Day came from the same place as many other seemingly innocent secular pre-Christian observances such as Christmas, New Year's Day, Easter, and Halloween. These days can be traced directly to earliest pagan history. The "universal church", as she did with all these other observances, selected a popular pagan holiday, adopted it, and dressed it up with a "Christian name." And, what is this special day which seemingly has no pagan attachment? Valentine's Day!

Origin

What was Valentine's Day first called long ago? Its original name was Lupercalia. It was celebrated thousands of years before there were any people known as "Christians" or "saints". Lupercalia was known in Roman mythology as an ancient Roman fertility rite or "Feast of Lupercus", which took place on February 15. This rite was named after a Roman god named Lupercus who was said to watch over the shepherds and their flocks and keep them from the wolves. This feast was celebrated every February to honour Lupercus so that no harm would come to the shepherds and their flocks. A Latin word for wolf is lupus and someone once wrote, "Today we still refer to one who fancies himself as the ladies' man as something of a 'wolf,' and when a pretty girl walks down the street young men give a 'wolf whistle,' which shows that the spirit of the Lupercalia is still with us."

Romulus and Remus

Lupercalia is also a celebration to honour the mythical founders of Rome, Romulus and Remus. It is said the wolf Lupa suckled Romulus and Remus in a cave named Lupercal. Later, priests (called Luperci), dressed in goatskins, would sacrifice a goat (symbol of fertility) and a dog (symbol of protection) to the gods, anoint themselves with the blood of the sacrifices and then run through the streets whipping onlookers with a thong made from the goat's skin. These thongs were called februa and the lashing the februatia, both stemming from a Latin word Februarius (February) meaning to purify through sacrificial offerings. Women in the city placed themselves in positions around the streets so that the priests could strike them with the februa to assure these women of fertility and easy childbirth.

In another part of the celebration, priests would pair up the young men and women in the city by writing down the names of the girls and collecting them in a box. Boys then individually drew the girls' names from the box, and became paired with them until the next year's Lupercalia celebration.

Juno and Faunus

This same festival was also used to honour Juno, the Roman goddess of women and marriage, and Faunus (associated with Pan), the god of nature. On the eve of this festival a lottery was held. Names of teenage women were placed in a box, teenage men drew a name and they were paired up for one year. At the following year's Lupercalia, another lottery was held and the process continued.

Webster's Universal Unabridged Dictionary defines Faun (Faunus) as a class of rural deities represented as men with the ears, horns, tail, and later also the hind legs of a goat.

Pope Gelasus

Traditionally, mid-February was a Roman time to meet and court prospective mates. Over time the lottery as associated with Lupercalia was replaced with a lottery where both men and women were allowed to draw from the box and now this box contained the names of saints. When a saint's name was drawn the person was expected to imitate the life of the saint whose name they had drawn.

Over time this new lottery lost favour with the populace. In its place the young men began a custom of offering women they admired and wished to court handwritten greetings of affection on February 14. Thus began the idea of Valentine's Day cards.

Emperor Claudius II



During the third century the Roman Emperor Claudius II was a warmonger. He enjoyed winning and the power that was associated with winning. Because of this he was continually recruiting soldiers for his wars. Soon the men refused to join his army and preferred to stay at home with their families. Because of this the emperor declared that all engagements were cancelled and that no more marriages could be performed. This didn't sit too lightly with the populace. They began secretly getting married behind the emperor's back. How did they accomplish this? There was a Roman priest, bishop of Interamma, by the name of Valentine. He thought the emperor's orders were unrealistic so he secretly began marrying people. As one might expect Valentine was soon found out, arrested, put in jail, and sentenced to die. It seems that while he was in jail that he fell in love with the Jailer's daughter who was blind. During his imprisonment he wrote letters to those in his parish and is said to have always signed them "From your valentine." Valentine was eventually beheaded on Palatine Hill at the site of the ancient altar to Juno. Since this time Valentine was considered a martyr who sacrificed himself in the name of true love.

Valentine's Day

In the fifth century the reigning pope declared February 14 as Valentine's Day in honour of St. Valentine. The tradition of drawing names on St. Valentine's Day continues in England and other places. Also the Europeans believe that on February 14 the birds began to choose their mates. This tradition of birds choosing their mates on St. Valentine's Day led to the idea that boys and girls should do the same.

Syncretism

All these are nice stories! However, they are examples of the on-going efforts of the religious leaders of the Christian church to appease their members and new converts through syncretism.

According to the dictionary, syncretism is defined as:

"a combination, reconciliation or coalescence of varying, often mutually opposed beliefs, principles of practices into the new conglomerate whole typically marked by internal inconsistencies."

This is a form of compromise that allows one to side-step a difficult issue. This is a way to avoid taking a stand for your beliefs and having to defend the basis of that belief.

Most people today could remember the story of St. Valentine, but Lupercalia and associated deities of classified mythology are forgotten. We rarely study them or see any significance in our lives. The St. Valentine story motif has the elements of a good story: love, honour, courage, and sacrifice. But, let's go deeper into the significance of Lupercalia and the mythology behind this.

Mythology

Ancient pagan fertility rituals have come down to our present time almost intact. The only difference in the ancient pagan rituals and their modern counterparts is the fact that their names have changed in order to venerate them with Christian respectability.

'Lupus' is the Latin word for 'wolf'. The wolf is the ancient pagan symbol for valour. 'Valentine' was a common Roman name, which Roman parents often gave to their children in honour of the famous man who was first called valiant: Valentine, and in antiquity: Lupercus the Hunter.

The Romans identified Lupercus with 'Faunus', a deity of nature. The Greeks called this deity of nature— Pan.

Pan, according to mythology, was the chief of the satyrs and presided over rural occupations and was the patron of fisherman, hunters and shepherds.

Wolf suckling Romulus and Remus,
the mythical founders of Rome



“**Faun**” was the Roman mythological name. It corresponded with the satyrs of mythology. They had pointed ears, short horns and a tail.

“**Pan**” was an Arcadian deity of light and, as evil, was equivalent to the Sun deity: “**Ba’al**”, also spelled as **B-A-L** or **B-E-L**.

Ba’al is any of the numerous local deities among Semitic peoples, typifying the productive forces of nature and worshipped with orgiastic rites. Ba’al simply meant “lord” or ‘master’ or ‘husband’.

Ba’al, which is mentioned often in the Scriptures, was a title of Nimrođ, the hunter who was against Yahweh. Speaking of Nimrođ we see it being said in: **Berěshith/Genesis 10:9** “**He was a mighty hunter before יהוה, therefore it is said, “Like Nimrođ the mighty hunter before יהוה.”**”

The hunter, Nimrođ, it is said, pursued wolves in the Apennine Mountains of Italy, and acquired the title of Lupercus - wolf hunter or hunter of valour.

Remember, ‘**valens**’ means, ‘**to be strong, powerful, and mighty**’.

Nimrođ not only was strong, powerful and mighty in a political sense, but he was also strong, powerful, and mighty in a sexual sense.

The worship of the pagan people was centred on sexual activity to insure fertility. (The Hebrew word for “**Lord**” is “**Ba’al**” which means ‘**lord, husband or landowner**’ and when used as a title it means: “**The Lord**”)

Nimrođ, known as: Ba’al/ The Lord /Sun-God of the ancients, is the basis for all mythology worldwide.

His exploits and those of his wife Semiramis (also known as Ishtar/Easter or Astarte) and their foundation of the satan-centered system of mythology are explained in great detail in the excellent book titled “**The Two Babylons,**” written by Alexander Hislop.

If you study the origin and symbols of Valentine’s Day, they are not simple and meaningless. They refer you to a pagan ruler Nimrođ who rebelled against יהוה (Yahweh). Perhaps to continue recognizing these holidays, we are giving support to that rebellion by Nimrođ. Nimrođ was not the first to rebel, however. The first was Satan. We do not wish to associate ourselves in any way to that great rebel.

Christianity Embraces Pagan Customs

It is a documented fact that pagan customs were grafted into the “Christian religion”. Although Christianity swept the world in a relatively short time as histories of great religions go, the early missionaries faced an uphill task. The pagans were reluctant to give up their false deities and ancient practices. So, missionaries, unable to convert them easily to an entirely new code of worship, did the next best thing. They took the pagan festivals as they were and gradually grafted the observances of the new faith into these festivals and the rites and customs surrounding them.

Yes, the Christian missionaries took each of these pagan festivals and venerated them with Christian respectability by changing their names. That is why today we have Christmas rather than Saturnalia (birth of Tammuz, son of Semiramis), Easter rather than the Festival of the Goddess of the Dawn (Semiramis/Ishtar), and Valentine’s Day rather than the Lupercalia.

Even though Christian missionaries took the pagan festivals as they were and gradually grafted the Observance of the new faith into their festivals, with their rites and customs, they are still abominations in the sight of יהוה (**Yahweh**).

In fact, יהוה (**Yahweh**) has given us a direct command not to serve Him in the way that the pagans served their deities! In **Debarim/Deuteronomy 12:29-32**, we read:

“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, 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.’ 31 “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.”

Does יהוה (**Yahweh**) have something to say about religious leaders who took the pagan festivals as they were and gradually grafted the observances of the new faith into these festivals and the customs and the rites surrounding them? Yes, He does.

Let’s look at what **Qorintiyim Bět/2 Corinthians 11:13-15** says:

“For such are false emissaries, deceptive workers, masquerading as emissaries of Messiah. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself masquerades as a messenger of light! 15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works!”

Although these ancient fertility rituals have come down to us through Satan's ministers in forms of beauty, by observing them we are still creating, maintaining and renewing fertility to the same ancient pagan deities that יהוה (Yahweh) says are an abomination to Him. As described earlier, we are using new terms and stories, but they all have the same roots. The roots are found in the Old Testament Scripture. יהוה (Yahweh) was concerned with them and still is today.

Its Roots

Valentine's Day has its roots in pagan fertility celebrations. They were not acceptable in their original forms and even if we are using a "modern" approach, we would still be practicing pagan celebrations which honour the pagan deities. Do not fool yourself. We are not honouring יהוה (Yahweh) in any way by associating ourselves with this type of holiday.

It is a Scriptural fact that we cannot serve יהוה (Yahweh) while serving in this world's style of pagan worship. Let's see what **Qorintiyim Aleph/1 Corinthians 10:20-22** says:

"No, but what the gentiles offer they offer to demons and not to Elohim, and I do not wish you to become sharers with demons. 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. 22 Do we provoke the Master to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?"

In other words, we can't have it both ways. We have to choose whom we serve.

In **Romiyim/Romans 6:16**, we are emphatically told that we are servants to whom we obey:

"Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves servants for obedience, you are servants of the one whom you obey, whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness?"

Cupid



The symbol which is almost a Valentine entity in itself, "**Cupid**", is the Roman mythological son of Venus, the goddess of love. In Greek he is called Eros, the god of love, and son of Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty. Cupid has always played a role in the celebrations of love and lovers. He is known as a mischievous, naked, winged child carrying a bow and a quiver of arrows. There is more to the stories of Cupid, but suffice it to say that Cupid has pagan origins

The Heart

Along with Cupid another symbol used over and over again during the season of Valentine's Day is the heart. In the book, "The Two Babylons," the author, Alexander Hislop, writes on pages 188- 189:

"The 'heart' was one of the sacred symbols of Osiris (Egyptian deity of the underworld) when he was born again, and appeared as Harpocrates, or the infant divinity, borne in the arms of his mother Isis. Therefore, the fruit of the Egyptian Persea was peculiarly sacred to him, from its resemblance to the human heart. Hence, this infant divinity was frequently represented with a heart, or the heart-shaped fruit of the Persea in one of his hands...Thus the boy-god came to be regarded as the 'god of the heart,' or, in other words, as Cupid, the god of love. To identify this infant divinity with his father, 'the mighty hunter (Nimrod),' he was equipped with 'bow and arrows;' and in the hands of the poets, for the amusement of the profane vulgar, this sportive boy-god was celebrated as taking aim with his gold tipped shafts at the heart of mankind. His real character, however, as the above statement shows, and as we have reason already to conclude, was far higher and of very different kind. He was the woman's seed. Venus and her son, Cupid, were none other than the Madonna and the child."

There's more. **"How came it that the 'Heart' became the recognized symbol of the Child of the great Mother? The answer is, 'The Heart' in Chaldee is 'Bel;' and as, at first, after the check given to idolatry, almost all the most important elements of the Chaldean system were introduced under a veil, so under that veil they continued to be shrouded from the gaze of the initiated...Now, the worship of the 'Sacred Heart' was just, under a symbol, the worship of the 'Sacred Bel,' that mighty one of Babylon, who had died a martyr for idolatry; for Harpocrates, of Horus, the infant god, was regarded as Bel, born again."**

The most predominant symbol of the fertility rite of Valentine's Day is the heart. In our country, the heart symbol has the same meaning as love. Almost everywhere one looks you can see examples of this symbolic representation of love. The heart is also a popular design for costume jewellery, saying love without saying it, so to speak!

This symbol was also familiar in ancient Babylon where it symbolized the deity who was worshipped. This symbol did not come down to our day untainted and pure, despite what the world has been deceived to think. In fact it has now also become a symbol of the acceptance of homosexuality, which should once again warn us against the depravity that this symbol represents!



Let us read a very revealing and astounding excerpt from **Halley's Bible handbook**. This will certainly put **"the heart"** of truth into proper context:
"The Imperial Church of the 4th and 5th centuries had become an entirely different institution from the persecuted church of the first three centuries. In its ambition to rule it lost and forgot the spirit of [Messiah]. Worship, at first very simple, was developed into elaborate, stately, imposing ceremonies having all the outward splendour that had belonged to heathen temples.

"Ministers became Priests. The term 'priest' was not applied to Christian ministers before A.D. 200. It was borrowed from the Jewish system, and from the example of heathen priesthood. Leo I (440-61) prohibited priests from marrying, and Celibacy of priests became a law of the Roman Church.

"Conversion of the Barbarians": The Goths, Vandals, and Huns who overthrew the Roman Empire accepted Christianity; but to a large extent their conversion was nominal and this further the Church with Pagan practices." We are warned *"learn not the way of the heathen,"* Jeremiah 10:2.

Arrows

What about the significance of **"Arrows"**? J.E. Cirlot offers this in his Dictionary of Symbols: **"It was used to designate the sun's rays. But, because of its shape, it has undeniable phallic significance, especially when it is shown in emblems balanced against the symbol of the 'mystic center,' feminine in character, such as the heart. The heart is pierced with an arrow of conjunction."**

The Blending of Pagan and Christian Values

During the fourth century the church seemingly swallowed up many people in the sake of religion. In doing so the people swallowed up brought along their own version of religion. This meant many pagan practices were incorporated into the practicing religious celebrations. Even though they tried to rid themselves of these pagan practices, a book, **"The Story of Valentine Symbols,"** says,

"Unable to abolish some of the pagan festivals that the people loved, they accepted them and gave them Christian names. So it was with the Lupercalia, which survived late into the fifth century. St. Valentine's name was given to a festival that was celebrated in the springtime and dealt with the fertility in human beings and other animals. And, doing what the church might, the ancient meaning never quite left it. Memories of the Lupercalia as a celebration of mating were handed down, attaching themselves to the saint's name."

The ideas connected to St. Valentine's Day were brought to the United States and that day was first celebrated in the United States during the Civil War.

Retailers Thrive

No sooner does the Xmas celebration end that one finds retailers displaying their Valentine's Day goods. Retailers not only target adults with the schemes displayed above, they target young children also. They encourage school children to purchase a card for each child in their class. If a class has 30 pupils and each buys a card for the other children, then that totals 870 cards. Multiply this by a small monetary amount for each card and this will total in the hundreds of dollars. Then, multiply this by the number of classrooms in the country doing the same thing and what do we have? A business venture not left alone.

As we have seen, becoming involved with the celebrations of worldly holidays and special days, points overwhelmingly to pagan symbolism. This we are to avoid. We must never place anything above **יהוה (Yahweh)** and His way of life. The celebration of these days only shows that the spirit of disobedience is running rampant in the world. But, **יהוה's (Yahweh's)** true spirit is here also and is available to all those who have a real desire to live according to His will. **יהוה (Yahweh)** has promised us a place in His kingdom if we are willing to obey His Truth.

Its Meaning is Lost

The Adversary has once again shown his ability to shadow the true meaning of this pagan celebration. As with other pagan days which society chooses to celebrate, as Halloween or Christmas, Satan has convinced mankind that nothing is wrong with doing something good on this day. Mankind really has had the wool pulled over their eyes.

By merely looking in a dictionary or an encyclopaedia one can find out for yourself the origin of this day. You will be surprised what those reference books will say.

Don't let Satan beguile any of us. It is of utmost importance you recognize the true meaning of this and all pagan celebrations. Yahweh is most assuredly not for them. He hates manmade festivals. We must turn from them if we want to have a position of rulership in His Kingdom when our Saviour, יהושע (Yahushua), returns to set up that Kingdom.

Serve יהוה (Yahweh), Not Man

If we obey יהוה (Yahweh) by practicing every Word that proceeds from His mouth without adding to his Word or taking from His Word, we are servants of יהוה (Yahweh). However, if we follow after the servants or ministers of Satan, who are deceived into grafting pagan customs into Christianity, then we are servants of Satan.

Servants of Satan! Now that is the truth without veneer or syncretic manipulation. That is a frank description of whom we obey when we acknowledge and honour Valentine's Day. It seems harsh and certainly not politically correct, but truth feels that way sometimes.

יהוה (Yahweh) warns us to come out of this pagan system. If we choose not to do this, we have made our choice and will be identified with it. Consider what Hazon/Revelation 18:4 has to say:

“And I heard another voice from the heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.”

Now that we have identified this world's holidays, the wrong ones to be associated with, what does יהוה (Yahweh) prefer?

Using Scripture to Prove All Things

How does it happen that we are unable to correctly discern what is true and what is false? How does the world innocently accept a holiday like Valentine's Day, which in fact has a history that leads you back to the deity of this world, Satan?

Remember what we are told in Eph'siyim/Ephesians 6:12:

“Because we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against authorities, against the world-rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual matters of wickedness in the heavenlies.”

We learn more about the attributes of Satan in Yehezqël/Ezekiel 28:12-13:

“Son of man, take up a lamentation for the sovereign of Tsor, and you shall say to him, ‘Thus said the Master יהוה’, “You were sealing up a pattern, complete in wisdom and perfect in loveliness. 13 “You were in Ĕden, the garden of Elohim. Every precious stone was your covering: the ruby, topaz, and diamond, beryl, shoham, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald and gold. The workmanship of your settings and mountings was prepared for you on the day you were created.”

Satan's demons are very intelligent and aware of reality. We find this in:

Marqos/Mark 3:11: “And the unclean spirits, whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried out, saying, “You are the Son of Elohim.”

Eph'siyim/Ephesians 2:2, Satan is described as having a special power over us:

“In which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience,”

Most people believe that it is יהוה's (Yahweh's) world or certainly יהושע's (Yahushua's) world, and while it is true that the earth and all that is in it is יהוה's (Yahweh's), we must remember that this world was given to Satan to rule for 6 days (6000 years) after which יהוה (Yahweh) will come and set up His Kingdom reign on the 7th day – the 7th Millennium!

The following Scriptures confirm who the real ruler of this world is:

Yoḥanan/John 12:31 “Now is the judgment of this world, now the ruler of this world shall be cast out” –

Yoḥanan/John 14:30 “I shall no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he possesses none at all in Me”

Qorintiyim Bêt/2 Corinthians 4:4 “in whom the mighty one of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, so that the enlightening of the Good News of the esteem of Messiah, who is the likeness of Elohim, does not shine on them.”

Yoḥanan Aleph/1 John 5:19 “We know that we are of Elohim, and all the world lies in the wicked one.”

These Scriptures confirm that this whole world is under the influence of Satan and his demons, who are able to manipulate, deceive, and confuse at will. They construct history and culture to meet their needs. The symbolism used during the Valentine's Day celebration is just another example of their work.

BE NOBODY'S VALENTINE – but rather: LOVE יהוה (Yahweh)

Debarim/Deuteronomy 6:4-9 “Hear, O Yisra’el: יהוה our Elohim, יהוה is one! 5 “And you shall love יהוה your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your being, and with all your might. 6 “And these Words which I am commanding you today shall be in your heart, 7 and you shall impress them upon your children, and shall speak of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up, 8 and shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 “And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Yoḥanan Aleph/1 John 5:2-3 “By this we know that we love the children of Elohim, when we love Elohim and guard His commands. 3 For this is the love for Elohim, that we guard His commands, and His commands are not heavy”

The correct Feasts or Festivals that we are commanded to keep are listed clearly in **Wayyiqra/Leviticus 23**: **Pēsah** (Passover) and **Matzot** (Unleavened Bread); **Bikkurim** (First Fruits); **Shabuoth** (Feast of Weeks/Pentecost); **Yom Teruah** (Day of Trumpets); **Yom Kippur** (Day of Atonement); **Sukkot** (Booths/Tabernacles).

In **Wayyiqra/Leviticus 23** we are also clearly reminded that His Sabbaths are commanded to be kept each week and are grouped in with the Feasts of יהוה.

There is NO Easter, NO Christmas, No Halloween, NO Valentine’s Day in Scripture – these are pagan rooted celebrations of sexual fertility worship and child sacrifice!!!

Love יהוה – and be nobody’s valentine!