

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS – SHOULD WE BE OBSERVING THEM?

(Please note that in this article the Names of יהוה – Yahweh and יהושע – Yahushua are written in the Scriptural Hebrew text)

What is the deal with ‘birthdays’ and the celebration thereof? Why has this ‘tradition’ become so binding upon man, that so many wilfully refuse to ‘let go’ of this ‘tradition of man’ and in the process are unable to fully embrace the Torah (instructions of Elohim)?

**Marqos/Mark 7:7-8 “And in vain do they worship Me, teaching as teachings the commands of men.’ 8 “Forsaking the command of Elohim, you hold fast the tradition of men.”**

As we consider this tradition of ‘birthdays’, let us look at what Scripture says as well as some of the well-known and documented roots of the traditions behind the celebration of birthdays. Some of the content you are about to read has been extracted from Lew White’s book, “**Fossilised customs**”, along with further research and insight into the roots of birthday celebrations; with a clear look at what Scriptures tells us in this regard; in order to show why we firmly believe that ‘birthday celebrations or parties’ are one of the many ‘traditions of man’ that is rooted in ancient pagan worship, and is not something that we are instructed to observe by our Creator.

The whole world ‘celebrates birthdays’, and among all religions, beliefs, cultural backgrounds and ethnic groups, birthdays has become one such tradition that is kept at large by all; and as one digs further into researching this widely debated topic, it becomes very clear that the popular celebration of one’s ‘yearly day’ or annual birth-day is widely acknowledged and accepted to be, by all authorities on ancient customs, a ritual that has its roots in pagan worship practices inherited from Babelon. The Babelonians served the sun, moon, planets, and constellations – a pagan practice of the nations, that is clearly condemned in Scripture by יהוה, as we see written in:

**Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 10:2 “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.”**

**Timotiyos Bet/2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All Scripture is breathed by Elohim and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for setting straight, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of Elohim might be fitted, equipped for every good work.”**

This above Scripture is one that is well-known and widely quoted by so many, yet many who quote this do not actually heed what it is telling us, as they clearly do not allow Scripture to teach, instruct, reprove or set straight for instruction in righteousness, as they ‘hold fast’ to many traditions that run contrary to the commands of Elohim; and one of these ‘traditions’ is the observance and practices of traditional birthday celebrations.

If we acknowledge, which we should, that the above verses from Timotiyos Bet, clearly show us that all Scripture is to be our teacher and guide to make us fit and equipped for every good work, then it is safe to say that our entire lives should be directed by the clear instructions of the Word of Elohim; and in saying that we are able to then look at many of the ‘traditions’ that have been handed down to us by our fathers and ‘test’ them against the pure plumb line of the Word of Elohim. Now having said that we also recognise that not all traditions are inherently bad, yet we are to carefully weigh up our lives continually and consistently with the Truth of the living Word of Elohim; and if such traditions that we have held on to are not instructed or and primarily condemned in Scripture, we must be quick to let go and loosen our once tight grip of traditions that are based on falsehood, lies and abominable worship practices as opposed to Truth.

Sha’ul actually tells us that we are to stand fast and hold to the traditions which we were taught:

**Tas’loniqim Bet/2 Thessalonians 2:15 “So, then, brothers, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or by our letter.”**

The traditions that Sha’ul is referring to is the adherence to the clear instructions of how we are to love, serve and worship our Creator, Redeemer and King by following the commands He has given us through His Torah, Prophets and Writings

Often when telling someone that the practice of ‘birthday celebrations’ or ‘birthday parties’ is not Scriptural and is in fact a pagan rooted system or form of worship, great resistance is put up as many get heavily offended by such statements as they are driven by their injured emotions into defending something they assume to have a lawful right to hold fast to and keep.

Having said that, when we consider the ‘tradition of birthdays’, what we must first do is look at the Scriptures to see what is taught regarding this tradition, or rather what events transpire around the mentioning of this tradition and from these be able to be clearly instructed on whether the observance of such traditions are acceptable in the eyes of our Maker or not.

**Birthdays are mentioned in the T-N-K (O.T.) a total of 3 times:**

In Scripture we actually do see birthdays being mentioned, and so it is critical that we, for the sake of this topic, look at the accounts we have in Scripture that speak of birthdays and the events that occur on such days, instead of being driven by emotions!

**1: When Yosēph was in prison in Mitsrayim:**

**Berēshith/Genesis 40:20** “**And on the third day, Pharaoh’s birthday, it came to be that he made a feast for all his servants. And he lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and of the chief baker among his servants**”

The baker was hanged on the Pharaoh’s birthday, and it was a custom of the eastern Kings to celebrate their birthdays by holding feasts and granting pardons to offenders. This was a common practice in many lands that had kings, and here Pharaoh did this but in a show of his power he ordered the death of his baker.

**2: Iyob’s sons celebrated their birthday’s and sinned and cursed Elohim!!!**

**Iyob/Job 1:4-5** “**And his sons went and had a feast in the house of each on his day, and sent and invited their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. 5 And it came to be, when the days of feasting had gone round, that Iyob would send and set them apart, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings – the number of them all – for Iyob said, “It might be that my sons have sinned and cursed Elohim in their hearts.” This Iyob always did.**”

In the situation described in **Iyob/Job 1**, Iyob sacrificed an animal because he was aware of his children’s idolatry, for which they all died when the house they celebrated in collapsed on them in a violent wind storm.

“**his sons went and had a feast in the house of each on his day** . . .” (the NIV eliminated this phrasing, but you can clearly see it in the *KJV, NAV, NAS*, and others).

**3: Herod’s birthday when Yoḥanan the immerser (John the Baptist) was beheaded:**

**Mattithyahu/Matthew 14:6** “**But as Herodes’ birthday was being held, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herodes**”

A Lēwite, Yoḥanan the Immerser (our Saviour’s cousin) was beheaded on Herod’s birthday!!!

**HEBREW AND GREEK WORDS:**

The term ‘**birthday**’ in Hebrew used for Pharaoh is **יּוֹם הַמֵּלֶכֶת** – ‘**yom huledet**’ – and is made up from the two root words: **יּוֹם yom** – Strong’s H3117 which means, ‘**day, age, birthday, chronicles**’ and **יָלַד yalad** – Strong’s H3205 which means, ‘**to bear, bring forth, beget, born**’ and it is written in the ‘hophal tense’ which renders the meaning of ‘**day of birth, birthday**’.

In **Iyob/Job** – the Hebrew word translated as ‘**his day**’ is **יּוֹמוֹ** – ‘**yomo**’ which is from the root **יּוֹם yom** – Strong’s H3117 and is giving clear reference to which day – ‘his day’ - referring to each of their own ‘birthdays’!

In the Greek text on the account of Herod’s birthday the Greek word used for ‘**birthday**’ is **γενέσια genesis** – Strong’s G1077 which means, ‘**birthday, a birthday celebration**’, which comes from the word **γένεσις genesis** – Strong’s G1078 which means, ‘**origin, birth, life**’.

This word - **γενέσια genesis** – is only used twice in the Greek transcripts of the Renewed writings (N.T.) – and both deal with Herod’s birthday – **Mattithyahu/Matthew 14:6** (as above) and:

**Marqos/Mark 6:21** “**And a suitable day came when Herodes on his birthday gave a feast for his great men, and the high officers, and the chief men of Galil.**”

With these 3 witnesses in Scripture on the only recorded accounts of a birthday celebration, we clearly can see that the events that transpired are wicked! No positive accounts of a birthday celebration is found anywhere in Scripture, which should cause us to question the true validity of whether the practice of such traditions is acceptable in the eyes of **יהוה** or not. Looking closely at these three accounts should be enough to convince any true follower of Messiah to recognise that celebrating a birthday is not something that is done by those who call upon the Name of **יהוה** and walk in and remain in **שְׁעֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ** Messiah. This clear evidence from Scripture should be enough to settle the debate once and for all – that birthday celebrations are not to be held by true believers, however due to so many clinging on to this tradition, we will dig further into the origins of this practice with the hope of exposing the lies of these inherited traditions of false worship.

**THE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION/PARTY RITUAL**

When one thinks about a birthday party, whether you are a baby, toddler, teenager or adult, certain pictures are formed in one’s mind as to the generic way of celebrating the day; and we have to begin to ask ourselves where these common practices comes from; and when you start to dig you quickly find out that the ritual of the typical ‘birthday cake’ with candles that are lit and blown out, together with ‘best wishes’ from all, along with the giving of presents are not as

innocent as they may at first appear; and so we will see that they in fact serve to give thanks to so called “sky luminaries” for allowing the birthday celebrant to reach the annual cycle of their birth.

### THE CAKE

The cake was traditionally was baked for the **Queen of Heaven**, and it was decorated, and monogrammed with the celebrant’s name. In ancient times the word for ‘cake’ or ‘bread’ were used interchangeable in many cultures, with the primary difference being that a ‘cake’ was sweetened while ‘bread’ was not. In ancient Roman culture ‘cakes’ of flat rounds made with flour containing nuts, leavened with yeast, and sweetened with honey were occasionally served at special birthdays. The ‘birthday cake’ as we know it today became an integral part of Western Culture since the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, yet this adopted practice stems further back into ancient Greek celebrations and even further back to the days of Nimrod and Semiramis and Tammuz.

יהוה spoke very clearly through the prophet Yirmeyahu about how Yehudāh were making cakes to the queen of heaven and this provoked יהוה!!!

**Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 7:18 “The children are gathering wood, the fathers are lighting the fire, and the women are kneading their dough, to make cakes for the sovereignty of the heavens, and to pour out drink offerings to other mighty ones, to provoke Me.”**

Today, when many are confronted with the root history of birthday celebrations and the making of a ‘special cake’, the popular response is that they do not care where it comes from and while they may hear the origins of the traditions that have been widely accepted as the norm for society, they refuse to let go of ancient pagan custom by justifying their reasoning in a selfish manner, which tries to express that they are giving thanks to our Creator for their birthday and they will continue to follow such practices, and no one will tell them otherwise!

This kind of reasoning is simply a clear indication of stubborn selfishness and pride that wilfully refuses to detach themselves from traditions of man that have blinded the eyes of the masses to the True and pure worship that is called for from our Creator! When I hear excuses like this, I am reminded of the ladies who said the same thing to Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) in:

**Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 44:16-17 “We are not going to listen to you in the matter about which you spoke to us in the Name of יהוה! 17 “But we shall do whatever has gone out of our own mouth, to burn incense to the sovereignty of the heavens and pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done, we and our fathers, our sovereigns and our heads, in the cities of Yehudāh and in the streets of Yerushalayim. And we had plenty of food, and were well-off, and saw no evil.”**

This is a very serious problem that we still see today among those who stubbornly refuse to let go of traditions that have been erroneously handed down and taught as being acceptable in the eyes of יהוה. The clear stubborn declaration here to Yirmeyahu who was calling people back to the Torah, is a sad reality of how so many today are echoing the same words, as they think that by offering ‘cakes to the queen of heaven’ that they will be better off and satisfied with life!

Listen further to what they say to Yirmeyahu:

**Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 44:18-19 “But since we ceased burning incense to the sovereignty of the heavens and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked all and have been consumed by the sword and by scarcity of food. 19 “And when we burned incense to the sovereignty of the heavens and poured out drink offerings to her, did we make cakes for her, to idolize her, and pour out drink offerings to her, without our husbands?”**

They claimed that since they stopped doing was abominable in the eyes of יהוה, all went bad and their claim was that they did not do these things without the consent of their husbands!!! Yirmeyahu clearly responds in saying that because of their stubborn rebellion against the Torah of Elohim, in that they went following after the practices of the nations, that יהוה would remove His Name off of the lips of all Yehudāh, and that they would be consumed by scarcity of food, famine and the sword in the land of Mitsrayim (where they should not have been in in the first place).

This is a stern warning for us today, as it was back then – This is primarily the reason why the Yehudim (Jews – 1 tribe of Yisra’ēl) do not speak the name of יהוה – they profaned it by running after the practices of the wicked nations and so He removed it from their lips!!! Without His Name of the lips of His people, deliverance could not be cried out for!!! For all who call upon the Name of יהוה shall be delivered. Today the Western Church claims to be calling upon the Creator for salvation, yet with a falsified Greco-Roman man-made name that does not contain the Name of יהוה – this makes us realise that the reason for this is because the Western Church has profaned His name through the adoption of pagan traditions that have rendered them unable to actually speak or call upon the only name that Saves – יהוה – unless they come out of the whores system of teaching and are then able to call upon the Name of יהושע which means, יהוה is our Deliverance/Salvation!!!

Those who arrogantly refuse to let go of the vain traditions of man which are rooted in pagan forms of worship, risk the reality of having the Name of יהוה removed from their lips, rendering them powerless against His coming judgement! It is certainly time to ‘think twice’ before making rash statements that people will continue to make ‘cakes to the queen of heaven’ – be it in the form of birthdays or any other such pagan custom of worship unto her false ways, such as ‘hot cross buns’ which is widely promoted at Easter time (a festival to the Queen of Heaven – Ishtar), yet adopted by the church in their vain attempt at thinking it represents the Feast of Passover. One just has to stop and think for a second and realise that during the Feats of Passover and Unleavened Bread (Pěsaḥ and Matzot) which lasts 7 days, no leaven or yeast products are to be found in our homes!!! Well guess what – hot cross buns have yeast in them and are therefore forbidden from being consumed at that time – so who are they making these cakes to??? Certainly not unto יהוה!!!

## CANDLES

The modern tradition of the candles placed on a cake and being lit stems from the ancient Greeks who used to put candles on the cake in a circle and light them in order to make them glow like the moon! Greeks would then take the cake to the temple of Artemis in worship unto the ‘queen of heaven’.

Artemis was the ‘goddess of the moon’, and the Greeks celebrated her birthday once each month by bringing special cakes to her temple. The cakes were round like a full moon. And, because the moon glows with light, the cakes were decorated with lighted candles.

With the blowing out of the candles and a wish being made by the one whose birthday it was, the smoke of the candles were believed to carry their prayers to their false ‘mighty ones’/deities.

The candles symbolized the sacred fire, carefully numbered for each annual cycle completed. This ‘blowing out of the candles is an ancient pagan worship rite, by those who believed that the solar presence was fire and they would send the smoke of their prayers to their ‘gods’.

In Scripture we see a clear pattern of how the lampstand in the Tabernacle was to continually be tended and burn day and night – the putting out of light is a pagan custom that teaches our kids the opposite of the Truth of how we are to be the light of the world shining before all that they may see our good works (walking in the Torah) so that our Father in Heaven may be esteemed. This practices of blowing out candles from the earliest age, does not teach our children this truth and then we wonder why there is so much compromised worship and works of darkness flourishing in the world! If the one whose birthday it was could blow-out all the candles, then a secret wish that was made to a GENIE (known as Jupiter) or JUNO if the person was female, would be granted.

In ancient Rome, Jupiter was worshiped as the ‘king of all the mighty ones’ and Juno was his wife, the ‘goddess of the sky’ and so this practice of sending secret wishes to them was a form of worship and thanksgiving to these false deities for their life!

## THE PRAYER CHANT – SONG SUNG TO THE RECIPIENT

The prayer chant was and still is a form of ritual worship on the day of one’s birth, and these are carefully observed among the many pagan rooted religions in the world, together with all the ritual procedures that go with such ‘celebrations of darkness’, which is seen as a very religious occasion.

Witches and wiccans regard the day of one’s birth to be the most significant event in a person’s life, and from ancient times until today, astrologers base everything on the day of one’s birth.

The birthday itself was a time of great superstition to a Pagan; a time when they believed that the realm between the spirit and the flesh was opened to the one whose birthday it was, and in order to secure a protection from any demonic forces they would be surrounded by their friends and relatives, and the giving of gifts was seen to be a means to appease the spirits from bringing harm to the recipient.

In the Greek culture, it was believed that personal abilities and talents were bestowed on an individual by being “inhabited” (possessed) by one or more demons, called *MUSES*.

A person’s “**genius**” was believed to be from the gift of the Genie, thought of as the overseer of the Muses. The Muses were 9 female deities believed to endow skills in speech, art, science, memory, scholastics, agility, and *music* - a word derived from the word “MUSES” (9 daughters of Zeus & Mnemosyne).

The names of these 9 Muses were *Clio, Euterpe, Thalia, Melpomene, Terpsichore, Erato, Polymnia, Urania, and Calliope*. You may recognize some of their names as having become part of our language, like “Uranus”. They are the Greek deities of the **Arts** and **Sciences**, giving us the word *museum*, a showplace of Art and Science.

The fairy tale *Sleeping Beauty* directly refers to the gifts and benefits bestowed by the Muses, since the Muses were known as *Fairies* in the Germanic and Gaelic cultures.

The “**Three Fates**” were a triad of female deities also known as the **Three Graces**, or **Three Charities**. In the Greek and Roman mythologies, they ruled the lives of men, and determined the **length** of a person’s life. “**Clotho**” spun the “**thread of life**”, “**Lachesis**” determined its length, and “**Atropos**” cut it.

This was the type of idolatry that Sha'ul (Paul) was correcting the believers in Galatia and Ephesus for observing, since they were falling back into these patterns instead of exposing them and excluding them from their lives. He told them that they had lived as Pagans and been in darkness, but now were called-out from such ignorance.

This “programming” in these practices became absorbed, and people are either ignorant of them, or too weak to break free of them. Their spiritual leaders aren't going to tell them, because they are hypnotized as well.

The reason the Scriptures don't make much sense to people is because they are not aware of, and don't recognize their own behaviour as being Pagan. Everything has been pushed into the “background” so well, that their eyes are “blinded” to the real truth.

Astrology, an ancient Babelonian process of worship, was used to determine the “*sign*” under which a person was born. Everything that happened to a person was determined by “**the stars**”. The position of the sun, moon, planets, and stars at the time of one's birth produced a personal “**horoscope**”, used since ancient times by witches, palmistry experts, fortune tellers, diviners, sorceresses, tarot card readers, magicians, soothsayers, and others who dabble in the “**OCCULT**”. The word “**occult**” means *hidden*. Such “**divination**” is **idolatry**:

**Wayyiqra/Leviticus 19:26 “Do not eat *meat* with the blood. Do not practise divination or magic.”**

**Wayyiqra/Leviticus 19:31 “Do not turn to mediums, and do not seek after spiritists to be defiled by them. I am יהוה your Elohim.”**

**Deḅarim/Deuteronomy 18:13-14 “Be perfect before יהוה your Elohim,<sup>14</sup> for these nations whom you are possessing do listen to those using magic and to diviners. But as for you, יהוה your Elohim has not appointed such for you.”**

**Shemoth/Exodus 22:18 “Do not allow a practiser of witchcraft to live.”**

These are clear instructions for us to not allow the practices of the nations to be absorbed into the clearly instructed worship we are given to do by our Creator.

Yisra'el had sadly not listened to these instructions and fell into the trap of running after and listening to the divination practices they were strictly forbidden to do, and יהוה tells Yisra'el to let that which they have called upon in falsehood to come and save them from what was about to happen!

**Yeshayahu/Isaiah 47:13 “You are exhausted by your many counsels; let the astrologers, the stargazers, and those who prognosticate by the new moons stand up and save you from what is coming upon you.”**

These practices from Babelon are tightly woven into our cultural tapestry. When the people of יהוה mixed gentile religious practices into their lives, He brought the punishments forth that He had promised would come upon them at **Deḅarim/Deuteronomy 28 and 30**. The severe punishments for idolatry documented in the Tanak (O.T.) are to serve as **examples** for us:

**Qorintiyim Aleph/1 Corinthians 10:5-7 “However, with most of them Elohim was not well pleased, for they were laid low in the wilderness. <sup>6</sup> And these became examples for us, so that we should not lust after evil, as those indeed lusted. <sup>7</sup> And do not become idolaters as some of them, as it has been written, “The people sat down to eat and to drink, and stood up to play.”**

**Ḥazon/Revelation 14:12 “Here is the endurance of the set-apart ones, here are those guarding the commands of Elohim and the belief of יהושע.”**

Our Redeemer and King, יהושע Messiah, commands us, to come out of Babelon and her wicked practices :

**Ḥazon/Revelation 18:4-5 “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.<sup>5</sup> “Because her sins have piled up to reach the heaven, and Elohim has remembered her unrighteousnesses.”**

The enemy has caught many in his web/net of destruction through the practices of false traditions that have corrupted pure worship unto Elohim.

**Ḥabaqquq/Habakkuk 1:15 “The wicked foe has pulled all of them up with a hook, caught them in his net, and gathers them in his dragnet. Therefore he rejoices and exults.”**

Part of the wicked foes “**dragnet**” is the calendar system that is used based on the solstices. Witches have used it since Babelon. Satan, by stealth, has this planet worshipping him by diversion. As we strip away all the inherited falsehood and lies and the adherence to traditions that are rooted in pagan worship, it becomes increasingly evident to that pretty much most of what is primarily followed by the world at large is designed (although in the background) according to the plans of Satan, and he is behind the sun-worship customs:

**Yeshayahu/Isaiah 14:12-14 “How you have fallen from the heavens, O Hēlēl, son of the morning! You have been cut down to the ground, you who laid low the gentiles! <sup>13</sup> For you have said in your heart, ‘Let me go up to the heavens, let me raise my throne above the stars of Ĕl, and let me sit in the mount of meeting on the sides of the north; <sup>14</sup> let me go up above the heights of the clouds, let me be like the Most High.’”**

Satan will be exposed as the source of sun worship - and all that is 'in the background' or 'hidden in plain sight' shall be exposed for the darkness that it is!

He has caused so many to fall astray into following the wicked practices of sun-worship that have been disguised as pure worship, and those who are ignorant of the Scriptures and are unable to discern the set-apart from the profane are perishing for lack of knowledge!

Christianity and the Church at large teach that Christmas is the celebration of the birth of our Saviour, however this is a ridiculous lie from the dragnet of Satan's crafted web of delusion, that has so many blinded people caught in the twisted and 'confused' worship practices of Babelon.

**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? 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. What we are to also recognise is that 'December 25<sup>th</sup>' is not even a 'date' on the Creator's calendar!!!

This teaching of the assumed celebration of Messiah's birth as being associated with the giving of gifts is another twisted application of the Truth! Many claim as they are erroneously taught in sun-day school, and the 'church Christmas plays' that 3 gifts were brought to Messiah at His birth. Those who believe and teach such nonsense, clearly do not know their Scriptures.

Messiah was born on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Sukkot/Tabernacles (15<sup>th</sup> of the 7<sup>th</sup> month) as He came to dwell/tabernacle among us - which takes place around Sept. each year, and at 8 days old He was circumcised, according to the Torah, on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of Sukkot (Shemini Atzeret - the last great day). When He was born in a 'sukkah' (temporary dwelling) the only ones who came to see Him were the shepherds who were tending their flock:

**Luqas/Luke 2:8 "And in the same country there were shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night."**

**Luqas/Luke 2:15-16 "And it came to be, when the messengers had gone away from them into the heaven, that the shepherds said to each other, "Indeed, let us go to Bēyth Lehem and see this matter that has taken place, which the Master has made known to us." 16 And they came in haste and found Miryam and Yosēph, and the baby lying in a feeding trough."**

But what about the 3 wise men and their gifts???

Firstly we must realise that the Scripture never mentions that there were only 3 'wise men' - in fact they would not have been very wise if they were only 3 of them who travelled with such precious gifts, alone through the rough and mountainous terrain of Iraq, Syria and Jordan!!! What we also need to take careful note of is that these men from the east did not come to Messiah when He was born in a Sukkah, but rather they came almost 2 years later!!!

**Mattithyahu/Matthew 2:11 "And coming into the house, they saw the Child with Miryam His mother, and fell down and did reverence to Him, and opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, and frankincense, and myrrh."**

What so many fail to see from this verse is that these Magi from the east, did not come to the child, יהושע, while He was in the Sukkah at his birth, but rather came into the 'HOUSE' where יהושע, the Child, was with His mother Miryam. They then presented Him 'gifts' of gold, frankincense and myrrh - 3 types of gifts - but many gifts!!! These men from the east had first been called to Herod in a secret meeting to find out when and where יהושע was born, after which he (Herod) issued a decree to kill all boys 2 years old and under. No date is given for the arrival of these men, but from the accounts we have in Scripture we can clearly see that יהושע was not a baby any longer but was closer to 2 years old!

These gifts came at the right time for Yosēph and Miryam to escape with יהושע to Mitsrayim, helping them pay the way to leave, for they had been poor as they had brought the offering of the poor for יהושע to the priest (2 doves). Many believe that these gifts may have actually been the 'estate' of Dani'el who, being a eunuch, had no children and he had taught the men of the east how to look for the sign of the birth of Messiah, and this clear provision for their escape and livelihood to survive was a clear provision from יהוה.

The celebration of Christmas is a pagan rooted festival of sun-worship and for more on why we should not celebrate Christmas, please see the article "**Should we celebrate Christmas - NO!NO!NO!**" at <http://atfoc.com>

## IN SUMMARY

This article is in no way a complete exposition on the pagan roots of birthday celebrations, yet it does however present the reader with the clear instructions of what Scripture says regarding such abominable practices. What we must recognise is that we have inherited much falsehood which we must be urgent to repent and come out of!

**Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 16:19** “**יְהוָה**, 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.”

**Yeshayahu/Isaiah 28:15** “because you have said, “We have made a covenant with death, and with the grave we have effected a vision. When the overflowing scourge passes through, it does not come to us, for we have made lying our refuge, and under falsehood we have hidden ourselves.”

This is why what you are reading will cause what the prophet says:

**Yeshayahu/Isaiah 28:19** “As often as it passes through it shall take you, for it shall pass through every morning, and by day and by night. And it shall be only trembling to understand the message.”

Trembling to understand the message!!! We are called to work out our deliverance with fear and trembling – will those who hear this message respond with fear and trembling and come out of a pagan rooted practice of sun and moon worship!

The “world” which the Writings speak of which we are to be set-apart (qodesh) from is the “broad road” of tradition we see everywhere, based on folly. We are called-out of the ignorance, and repent of observing “Easter”, birthdays, Christmas, Halloween, Sun-day, the Nimrod based year cycle, and so on. But, we don’t show “hatred” for people who are still trapped in them, but love.

Here are a couple of quotes on the celebration of birthdays:

**Flavius Josephus, a first-century Hebrew historian, says this regarding birthdays: "Nay, indeed, the law does not permit us to make festivals at the births of our children." (Flavius Josephus, *Against Apion*, Book 2, Section 25).**

Comments from the Catholic Church as well as many of the early church fathers establishes the fact that many Christians objected to the celebration of birthdays. **Origen of Alexandria, an early theologian of the Christian church, wrote in 245 A.D.: "none of the saints can be found who ever held a feast or a banquet upon his birthday, or rejoiced on the day when his son or daughter was born." (Catholic Encyclopaedia, 2003). Origen also asserted that it was sinners alone, and not saints, who celebrated their birthdays.**

And this from the catholic Encyclopaedia!!!

According to M'Clintock and Strong's Cyclopaedia, "**The Jews and early Christians regarded birthday celebrations as part of idolatrous worship.**" (Vol. 1, p. 817).

According to the German periodical *Schwabische and Zeitung* of April 1981, "**Down to the fourth century Christianity rejected the birthday celebration as a pagan custom**". After the fourth century, celebrating one's birth became a common practice, due largely in part to the Romans, who having practiced this custom for thousands of years, began to embrace Christianity.

What is very clear is that the root of birthday celebration is of pagan origin and while it may have been adopted into syncretised worship practices of mixed worship unto our Creator, we must come out of these twisted traditions and follow **יְהוָה**'s instructions, bearing His light as we continually shine the Light of His Truth, guarding against any traditions that try to snuff it out; and be set-apart bearing and proclaiming His Name to a lost and broken world!

Therefore think twice before celebrating that next birthday you may have been looking so forward to!!!

Shalom