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## Is Christmas Biblical?

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Thank you for taking the time to read this instruction, I pray that the Ruach Ha'Kodesh (Holy Spirit) is present with you as you read and check with you own Bible the validity of its contents. The contents of this instruction are based entirely on God's word the Bible, to challenge your current beliefs in the spirit of love that Yeshua spoke of in John 13:35.

Irrespective of our current religious beliefs we can all agree that the Word of the God of Abraham is the medium by which all truth is defined and we must realise that, in its entirety, it is the ultimate source of authority. The information contained within these pages are primarily aimed at the three Abrahamic faiths, Judaism, Christianity and Islam but is not limited to these faiths. The word of Almighty God is for ALL nations and not one nation has the exclusive rights to its contents. (Genesis 22:18). If we take this attitude in our worship and are obedient to the creator of the universe we shall certainly be blessed.

If we find in our studies that what we read in His word does not fit with what we believe then the error is with us and not God's word, if we truly love Almighty God we must be prepared to adjust our way of life in order to be approved by Him, just as His friend Abraham did.

Please remember that I have no religious affiliation other than to Yeshua Ha'Mashiach and the Almighty God that sent Him, therefore I am bound by the Ruach and not by a manmade religious practice or tradition, assuring you that I have no ulterior motive other than the spreading of the truth that can only be found in Almighty God's word via His gift to us all... the Bible. I pray that this instruction will help you in your quest for truth.

## INTRODUCTION

*In this study we will look at what is arguably the most important festivals that is celebrated by Christendom in its entirety throughout the world. We will look at its origin and practices with a true and unbiased study that is both honest and robust.*

*As all true existing and potential Christians that wish to follow their master Yeshua (Jesus, Iesus, Iesous) with spirit and truth (John 4:24) it is imperative that we strictly adhere to Almighty God's inspired word found in the Bible to guide us in our search for the truth, after all this is the quest that should be the focus of our continuing search. We all want to be sure that we have all the facts right before we incorporate any teaching into our faith portfolio. We all need to be pleasing our most wonderful and merciful creator so we must adopt the principle of listening to Him as He speaks to us from the pages of His library of books contained in His Bible rather than relying on the doctrines and traditions of men, so we do not hear the words of Yeshua as recorded in Luke 13:27 which echo's Psalms 6:8.*

*For those Christians that have possibly spent their whole life celebrating Christmas this study is going to be particularly difficult to receive and apply in their lives as it concerns some really challenging situations they will undoubtedly encounter as they faithfully put Almighty God first in their lives, possibly to the detriment of family and close friends however, at Matthew 19:29 Yeshua tells us that, if we value his teaching over those who we hold most dear, we will be rewarded 100 fold and will inherit the new kingdom which his Father Yehovah will restore as He promised.*

*I very well know how much heartache and suffering that this can cause and it can exert almost unbearable pressure on you personally from family, close friends and the denomination that you currently subscribe to but, always remember that, to follow Yeshua you must disown yourself and cleave to him. (Matthew 16:24; 12:26). Yeshua also told us that our enemies would come from our own household, (Matthew 10:34 - 39) so we can expect opposition primarily from those closest to us. Never lose hope for even those that oppress us strongly may, by your example, start to see their error and you will be blessed by their acceptance of the Bible truth that you have so diligently held most dear. It is a wonderful feeling when you know that you have pleased our wonderful creator and drawn yet another one closer to Him and his wonderful sone Yeshua.*

*Throughout all our trials and tribulations that we face during our lifetime we can be sure that the helper that Yeshua mentioned in John 14:15. 16 which is the Ruach Ha'Kodesh and, although we may feel alone, we will never be alone if we follow our master, Yeshua.*

*I could stop at this point and tell you that, if you celebrate the birth of the Hebrew Mashiach on the 25<sup>th</sup> December you are celebrating a pagan festival, but I want to qualify that statement with the facts so, let us now unpick the concept of what Christmas is really about and how it became so popular.*

## **The popular view of Christmas**

For many if not all in Christendom Christmas is the most exciting and important time of the year, it is a time for being with family and sharing all the wonderful things that the season offers. It is a chance to renew old friendships and spread joy and happiness to all we meet. This is a noble cause and many people are drawn to the plight of the less fortunate ones in our society and donations to charities increase during this time of the year and there is absolutely nothing against giving, in fact Yeshua told us that there is much more joy in giving than receiving (Acts 20:35). There is no doubt that the author of “A Christmas Carol” Charles Dickens did much to admonish the “Christmas spirit” in the 19<sup>th</sup> century which highlighted the plight of the poor and underprivileged in that era and helped introduce the charitable giving which is indeed a Biblical command.

For those of us that have been blessed with children we can experience the joy of seeing them on Christmas morning as they see their presents under the decorated tree and their faces light up as they impatiently unwrap the package to see what “father Christmas” has brought them. And, for the adults, it is a day for admiring the Christmas decorations, the tree is resplendent with all its lights and decorations, the many cards we have given and received and the eager anticipation of the traditional Christmas dinner that many will be enjoying as we fill ourselves with festive cheer as is our tradition.

It is a wonderful time of year when we can gather the family together and indulge ourselves in all that the traditional Christmas brings, the excuse to over indulge in all the good things on offer, food, drink and merriment abound and worries are put aside in our pursuit of enjoyment.

Most people that celebrate Christmas today do so because they have always done it, even people that are outside the Christian faith are inclined to participate in some form or another, even Jewish families have a ceremony that is similar to that of Christendom’s Christmas celebrations in the form of Hanukkah, which is usually celebrated just before December 25<sup>th</sup>.

To many professed Christians the actual meaning of Christmas is somewhat vague as the gap in the secularism and religious belief widens. In the past decades Christmas has become an increasingly secular event with the retail businesses reaping financial benefits throughout the festive season and increasing their profits through extra sales throughout this period. The effect of this sales drive has been that most Christians have forgotten the message, their understanding of what Christmas means has been largely forgotten apart from the extreme basics. It would be fair to say that most Christians today don’t know and don’t really care about the religious doctrines that are attached to this time of year and use this now mostly secular event as an excuse for revelry and over indulgence in alcohol, drugs, sexual misconduct and overeating, I feel sure that you will know what I mean.

For the relatively few devout religious people that follow closely the particular doctrines and traditions of their particular denomination are acutely aware of the message that Christmas has been formulated to bring. It is not about all the revelry and secular trappings that go with this festive season but the universal message of salvation for all mankind that is embodied in the very persona of Jesus Christ that was born in Bethlehem and the significance of this momentous event. They wish to honour Almighty God rather than concentrate on the more secular events that take place during this time.

What I find quite extraordinary is that many atheists also participate in the celebration of Christmas, this is quite astonishing as they claim that there is no God, this is quite a profound paradox that reveals the true identity of what Christmas has become in our society today.

This study is for all those that have a desire to worship Almighty God on His terms and His definition of how He should be worshipped and not how all of us sinful humans perceive what His worship should be. We must always remember that Almighty God Yehovah is not to be mocked, the Bible tells us that there is only one God and one way to worship Him in a manner in which He will accept.

The concept of Christmas reflects many teachings concerning the way in which we should conduct ourselves throughout our lives and its principles do have many ties in the Bible we must be sure that to ensure ourselves of Almighty God's favour we must be careful to do it in His way, for example; the Bible tells us to give charity to the poor and needy and many people give generously but, if what they are giving is derived from an unlawful source then it will not be pleasing to Almighty God, like a thief donating the proceeds of his thievery to a charity.

Let us get a grip on the origins of Christmas and find out for ourselves if the celebration that Christendom celebrates on December 25<sup>th</sup> every year is really acceptable to Almighty God.

## Introducing Christendom's Christmas

To Christendom, Christmas is one of the most important festivals in the Christian calendar, they believe that December 25<sup>th</sup> is the birthdate of Jesus Christ in a stable in the Judean town of Bethlehem. The story of the nativity originates from this period and is described in the gospels of Luke and Matthew. Christmas is wholly based on the occurrences that are described in these gospels, Joseph, Mary, baby Jesus, the shepherds and wise men are all inseparably linked in this nativity account.

### **Celebrate Christmas to the fullest with these Catholic traditions:**

1. Go to Midnight Mass.
2. Read or chant the announcement of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ from the Roman Martyrology.
3. Add figures to your manger and bless it.
4. Pray before the baby Jesus.
5. Make your own nativity play.
6. Decorate and bless your Christmas tree.
7. Make and light a Christ candle.
8. Celebrate the Festival of Lessons and Carols.
9. Do more works of mercy.
10. Organize a Christmas carolling party.
11. Mark the feasts of the first martyrs.
12. Celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family.
13. Celebrate Mary and world peace on January 1.
14. Do a family "examen" of the year on January 1.
15. Bless your home and household on Epiphany.
16. Send the magi on a journey through your house.
17. Eat King's Cake.
18. Celebrate Twelfth Night.
19. Celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.
20. Wish people a merry Christmas.

Here we see a list of the Catholic (universal) traditions of celebrating Christmas, the Protestant religion and many of its sects celebrate Christmas in a similar manner with only slight alterations to its content. This is hardly surprising as Protestantism is, in itself is a sect of Catholicism.

Although there are some differences in the way in which Christmas is celebrated between the thousands of denominations of Christendom, the basic principles remain the same inasmuch as they all

celebrate the birth of Christ on December 25<sup>th</sup>. Usually, the celebrations commence on the evening of December 24<sup>th</sup> which is known as Christmas eve but, in many houses the various traditional Christmas decorations such as Holly, Ivy, Mistletoe and what can be called the focal point of the festive season the Christmas tree are decorated at least a week before the event and people are already getting in the festive 'mood' for many days prior to the coming of the event. There is also a change in the habits of many people, they become more friendly as the focus shifts from their secular work and they start to think more on the holiday and all the pleasure it brings. This usually lasts for 12 days from December 25<sup>th</sup> to January 5<sup>th</sup> when all the decorations are taken down and put back into their boxes ready for the next celebration the following year.

This is basically the way Christians celebrate what they consider to be the birthday of Jesus Christ and to the followers of Christendom's Jesus this festival is the most important time of the year and is closely cherished and passionately defended by both church and Christian state, even wars and plagues are expected to observe this date and give respite to those who participate and the influence of Christmas extends to non-Christian faiths also.

It would also be fair to say that most people that celebrate Christmas take a more secular approach rather than religious, if you were to ask a person in the street what Christmas means they would invariably tell you that it's a time for family gathering and having a good time, some would even tell you about the nativity but many do not comprehend what that means.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> day of Kislev the Jewish religion celebrates Channukah (Hannukah) that celebrates the re-dedication of the second temple at the time of the Maccabean revolt against the Seleucid empire after Antiochus Epiphanes had desecrated the Holy altar by sacrificing a pig on it.

Islam has a similar celebration called Milad an-Nabi which celebrates the birthday of the prophet Muhammad on the 12<sup>th</sup> of the third month of the Islamic calendar Rabi' al-awwal (the first month of spring), it involves Hamd (Praise), Tasbih (Prayers that glorify God), fasting, public processions, Na`at (religious poetry), family and other social gatherings, decoration of streets and homes which are very similar to the Christian celebration of Christmas.

Although the concept of Christmas appears to give glory to Almighty God and His son Jesus Christ, it is important that we understand all the implications that are inseparable from the Christian Christmas. This is because we all want to worship the creator of the universe and the source of our very existence in a manner which He approves for how can we expect acceptance by Almighty God if we ignore His laws in an attempt to glorify Him in a way that inappropriate to His requirements?

It is of importance to note that, when the Israelite nation was about to enter the land promised to Abraham by Almighty God YeHoVaH, they were to destroy all forms of their pagan worship systems and were warned by Almighty God Himself that they were not to worship Him in their ways. Deuteronomy 12:4.

Most secular people these days are not really interested in the religious side of Christmas, they are in it for the fun usually and on face value it does have some good points, it is good for families to get together, after all we are social animals after all. It is also great to see our children so full of joy when they receive gifts and get so excited, along with the encouragement to think about those less fortunate to ourselves and we have the opportunity to ease their suffering a little by charitable donations to worthy causes however, no matter what the situation and whether or not you consider Christmas to be a religious or secular festival, there is no escaping the fact that Christmas has its roots steeped in paganism and, by participating in the celebration, even if you do not consider yourself as religious, you are playing a very real part in supporting this pagan ceremony and this is something that we should give special attention too.

Let us now examine the practices and traditions of Christendom's of Christs Mass whilst we bare in mind Deuteronomy 12:4.



## The Origins of Christmas

There are many sources of information concerning the true traditions that are observed in what we call Christmas, the internet is full of stories concerning the origins of this religious tradition but I will highlight a few of the more well-known traditions and see how they correlate to the Biblical principles for this is the only way for us to discern whether our actions honor our wonderful and loving heavenly Father or dishonour Him and His son, a situation that we would surely wish to avoid.

Even if you are an atheist, when you participate in this pagan religious ceremony you are identifying yourself as an opposer to the true God that you don't even believe exists which is a classic oxymoron. Don't be misled, the reality is that, at the end of day's it will be of no use saying that "I don't believe in God" when you are standing before Him, its rather like a driver who is pulled over for speeding and telling the officer that "I don't believe in the driving laws". There are no prizes for guessing the officer's reply.

### Christmas and the Early Church

It is well known that, in the first and second century of our common era the feast of the nativity (Christmas) was not observed by the early followers of Yeshua, there is no records of this time of year being observed as a special time when the followers of Yeshua were to observe anyone's birthday let alone that of the most important human that has ever walked the face of this earth. There are only two birthdays that are recorded in the Bible, the account of the Baker and Cup Bearer of Pharaoh (Genesis 40:30) and that of Herod Antipas (Matthew 14:6; Mark 6:21) which concerns the beheading of John the baptizer. Both of these accounts have a theme of death running through the narrative. It is also important to note that Sha'ul (Paul) does not mention it in any of his epistles which, if the concept of the observance of Christ's birth were to be observed the religiously driven and zealous Sha'ul would have surely described how we should observe this seemingly important Christian feast. In fact, none of the writers of the Brit ha'Dashah mention the date of Yeshua's birth. Surely, if it were that important, we would find it in the scriptures would we not?

In the Bible's entirety there is no mention of the celebration of anyone's birthday as being acceptable to Almighty God Yehovah as a form of worship to Him rather, to celebrate anyone's birthday would be to dishonour our wonderful and loving creator by placing that honour onto the person whose birthday we are celebrating.

As we all know, no one knows the exact date of birth of Yeshua, it was Sextus Julius Africanus in 221CE that suggested December 25<sup>th</sup> and this date became the universally accepted date. The first recorded date of the nativity of Christ (Christmas) being celebrated on December 25th was in 336CE during the reign of the Roman Emperor Constantine. To the observer it is almost inconceivable that it took so long for a seemingly important festival to be recognized. How did the Roman church arrive at the date for the observance of the nativity? There are many



theories as to setting the date of Jesus' birthday but nothing can be found in the Bible account.

During December there were numerous pagan celebrations, the most prolific of these festivals was that of the Roman feast of Saturnalia between 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> December on the Julian calendar which is followed by the Roman festival of sol Invictus ("Unconquered Sun") on December 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Christmas festive season continued until the feast of Janus on January 1<sup>st</sup>. While the fundamental nature of Janus is debated, in most modern scholars' view the god's functions may be seen as being organized around a single principle: presiding over all beginnings and transitions, whether abstract or concrete, sacred or profane. Interpretations concerning the god's fundamental nature either limit it to this general function or emphasize a concrete or particular aspect of it (identifying him with light the sun, the moon, time, movement, the year, doorways, bridges etc.) or else see in the god a sort of cosmological principle, interpreting him as a uranic deity. It is worthy of note that this festival was not the Roman new year that was originally celebrated in March however, in 153 BCE January 1<sup>st</sup> became the official New Year's Day for the Romans and their dependent states.

To some of the non-Hebrew early church fathers who saw the need to 'spread the message' they sought the easy way to attract pagan converts into their particular doctrine of what they perceived as acceptable to the true Almighty God. These gentile leaders had little or no idea of the God of Israel\* and His requirements, they were only too eager to increase their power and wealth that is found in numbers. Rather than teaching the ecclesia that the festivals that they were celebrating to their pagan god's displeased Almighty God, they instead adopted the pagan practices they were attached to these pagan, false god ceremonies and called them Christian, this is syncretism and is an abomination to Almighty God Yehovah, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

### **Does the celebration of Christmas honour Almighty God?**

So, now we have established the actual beginnings of "the reason for the season" and its pagan origins, let us now examine what all Christians consider the necessary icons and practices that have come to be associated and added to this Romano-pagan "festive season". Many of these items and practices seem a harmless bit of fun and most of the people that celebrate Christmas are content with their ignorance however, those who strive to walk in the spirit and live their lives in honour of Almighty God as His son Yeshua told

\*Israel = Jacob.



us to do will always test all things to see whether they are in harmony with His principles, if they are not then it can be classed as sin for in their ignorance, they break His commandments. 1 John 3:4.

Throughout history Christendom has renamed and adopted many pagan practices, renaming them with more acceptable Christian names but always remember, the rebranding of an item, no matter what it is, does not physically change the essence of that item for example, if we asked the question “How many legs does a dog have? Most people would answer four, which would obviously be correct but, if we were to call the tail a leg and ask the same question many would now say five but the fact remains that the dog still has four legs, calling the tail a leg does not physically change the tail into a leg, it will always remain a tail.

Let us now look at these seemingly innocent decorations that most, if not all those Christians and many other non-believers and pagans honour during this festive period.

## **The Traditions of Christmas**

### **The Christmas Tree.**

Long before the advent of Christianity, plants and trees that remained green all year had a special meaning for people in the winter. Just as people today decorate their homes during the festive season with pine, spruce, and fir trees, ancient peoples hung evergreen boughs over their doors and windows. In many countries it was believed that evergreens would keep away witches, ghosts, evil spirits, and illness. In the Northern hemisphere, the shortest day and longest night of the year falls between December 21 and December 22 and is called the winter solstice. In their ignorance many ancient people believed that the sun was a god and that winter came every year because the sun god had become sick and weak. They celebrated the solstice because it meant that at last the sun god would begin to get well. Evergreen boughs reminded them of all the green plants that would grow again



*Traditional Christmas Tree*

when the sun god was strong and summer would return. From this we can see the connection between the Roman worship of the sun and the physical world.

The ancient Egyptians worshipped a god called Ra, who had the head of a hawk and wore the sun as a blazing disk in his crown. At the solstice, when Ra began to recover from his illness, the Egyptians filled their homes with green palm rushes, which symbolized to them the triumph of life over death.

Early Romans marked the solstice with a feast called Saturnalia in honor of Saturn, the god of agriculture. The Romans knew that the solstice meant that soon, farms and orchards would be green and fruitful. To mark the occasion, they decorated their homes and temples with evergreen boughs.

In Northern Europe the mysterious Druids, the priests of the ancient Celts, also decorated their temples with evergreen boughs as a symbol of everlasting life. The fierce Vikings in Scandinavia thought that evergreens were the special plant of the sun god, Balder.

There are many more examples of these observances but it is quite obvious that reference to such activities is not found in the pages of the Bible, and by partaking of this pagan ritual we are opening ourselves to the influence of demonic spirits that are manifest in such practices and doctrines. It is time to ask yourself, do I love God enough to turn from this God dishonouring practice or do I wish to rebel against Him and His commandments? What do you think Yeshua would do?

### **The Yule Log.**

The Yule log played an important part in Norse folk law, Yule means “Winter Solstice” in English and it has been associated with sun worship for thousands of years. The winter solstice represents the rebirth of the apparently dying sun.

In ancient times people noticed that, at a certain time the days started to get shorter and the nights longer, they thought that the sun was actually losing power and was about to die then, they noticed that the sun at a certain time, started to regain its power and the days started to lengthen. They did not know that this effect was a result of the earth’s orbit around the sun coupled with its tilt of 25.5° caused the seasons to become apparent in both northern and southern hemispheres. Due to their lack of knowledge, they attributed this effect to the deity of the sun and the sun became invincible and thus became an object of worship.

The winter solstice or Yule log was brought into the home and grain was sprinkled over it along with a libation of wine, then a blessing was said over it and it was set alight to help the sun regain its power and it was to burn for twelve days whilst the sun “recovered”. This is clearly a pagan practice as the Bible teaches us that Almighty God Yehovah is directly responsible for control of the seasons, including the movement of the stars and planets. To celebrate anything other than what Almighty God instructs us is effectively putting ourselves in direct opposition to Him no matter how insignificant we feel it might be it is an abomination to Him.

### **The Roman Festival of Saturnalia**

There is no doubt that this pagan Roman festival formed the basis of what we today call Christmas, most if not all the traditions of Saturnalia were incorporated into the traditional Christmas activities that we see today which is hardly surprising as the Latin church of those early times increased in power and wealth, the legacy of which is still so obviously with us today. Saturnalia was celebrated between December 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> but it was extended to incorporate the festival of calends on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Saturnalia was a particular raucous festival with much overindulging of food, drink and gambling, gladiatorial games, revelries, gifts were exchanged and a role reversal was incorporated where the masters ministered to their slaves.

In Roman mythology Saturn was the god of agriculture and was associated with the Greek god Cronus and was worshipped using the Greek method. (as so many of the Roman gods were).

Although Saturnalia was celebrated as a joyful festival it’s associated god Saturn had a

darker side, a god that demanded human sacrifice and one of his consorts was the goddess Lua and identified with Lua Mater, "Mother Destruction", a goddess in whose honor the weapons of enemies killed in war were burned, perhaps in expiation. This connected Saturn with the god of the underworld Dis Pater. So, we can reveal the true identity of Saturn and the diabolical origins of this God dishonouring festival.

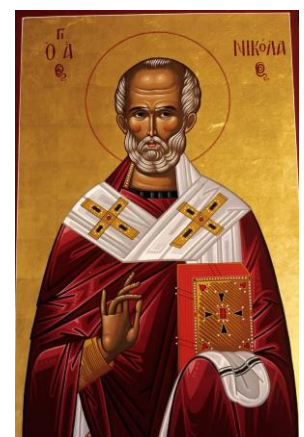
It is almost incomprehensible that Christendom could adopt such an outright pagan festival but we must remember that when Christmas was officially adopted by the early formers of Latin Christendom in 336CE the leaders of the ecclesia were gentile believers that, to a greater or lesser extent, brought their mixed christophilosophical beliefs along with them in their baggage. This, coupled with the need to increase the membership of their congregations devised a crafty strategy to entice the people into their congregations not by condemning them for their abominable practices as Yeshua would have done but they decided to take the easy route by changing the definition and name of their pagan practices to names that were, what they considered to be more acceptable for the worship of Almighty God. This was the thin end of the wedge and resulted in many other pagan ceremonies like Easter and Halloween were incorporated into the newly forming doctrines of this Latin-based form of Christianity.

### **Christmas today**

The Christmas of those early years has been subjected to many changes and additions since its introduction into Latin Christianity. As Christendom grew and spread to other parts of the world it assimilated many more pagan beliefs into its portfolio of doctrine using similar ideas that they used to rename the pagan Roman festival of Saturnalia into what became an acceptable Christian festival.

In the world of Christendom, there are many different customs between the Western (Roman) and Eastern (Greek) churches but the concept of Christmas followed the eastern ecclesia after the great Chism in 1054 but remains mostly the same as it was prior to the split. Here in the west the observation of Christmas follows the Latin Roman universal (Catholic) tradition and doctrine.

It is the understanding of many historians that the concept of a "Father Christmas" fell onto a monk that was born in a flourishing maritime and commercial city on the south-west coast of Lycia on the Mediterranean coast of Turkey near the modern small town of Gelemiş in Antalya Province on 15<sup>th</sup> March 270, his was known as Nicholas of Bari and later became Saint Nicholas of Myra when he became its bishop.



*St Nicholas*

Nicholas was neither fat nor jolly but developed a reputation as a fiery, wiry, and defiant defender of church doctrine during the "Great Persecution," when Bibles were put to the torch and priests made to renounce Christianity or face execution. Nicholas defied these edicts and spent years in prison before Constantine brought Christianity to prominence in his empire. Nicholas's fame lived long after his death (on December 6 of some unknown year in the mid-fourth century) because he was associated with many miracles, and reverence for him continues to this day independent of his Santa Claus connection.

Nicholas rose to prominence among the saints because he was the patron of so many groups, ranging from sailors to entire nations. By about 1200, explained University of Manitoba historian Gerry Bowler, author of *Santa Claus: A Biography*, he became known as a patron of children and magical gift bringer because of two great stories from his life.

In the better-known tale, three young girls are saved from a life of prostitution when young bishop Nicholas secretly delivers three bags of gold to their indebted father, which can be used for their dowries.

"The other story is not so well known now but was enormously well known in the Middle Ages," Bowler said. Nicholas entered an inn whose keeper had just murdered three boys and pickled their dismembered bodies in basement barrels. The bishop not only sensed the crime, but resurrected the victims as well. "That's one of the things that made him the patron saint of children."

For three hundred years, from 1200 to 1500, St. Nicholas was the unchallenged bringer of gifts and the toast of celebrations centred around his day, December 6. The strict saint took on some aspects of earlier European deities, like the Roman Saturn or the Norse Odin, who appeared as white-bearded men and had magical powers like flight. He also ensured that children toed the line by saying their prayers and practicing good behaviour.

But after the Protestant Reformation, saints like Nicholas fell out of favour across much of northern Europe. "That was problematic," Bowler said. "You still love your kids, but now who is going to bring them the gifts?"

In Germany St Nickolas was given a helper who was called Knecht Ruprecht who is called Krampus in Austria. According to tradition, Knecht Ruprecht asks children whether they know their prayers. If they do, they receive apples, nuts, and gingerbread. If they do not, he beats the children with his switch. In other (presumably more modern) versions of the story, Knecht Ruprecht gives naughty children gifts such as lumps of coal, sticks, and stones, while well-behaving children receive sweets from Saint Nicholas. He has also been known to give naughty children a switch (stick) in their shoes instead of candy, fruit and nuts, in the German tradition.



*Knecht Ruprecht/Krampus*

Ruprecht was a common name for the devil in Germany. Knecht Ruprecht first appears in written sources in the 17th century, as a figure in a Nuremberg Christmas procession.

There are many versions of this tale throughout Europe and the Nordic countries with Odin and Thor involved in similar roles.

Over the years Father Christmas has had many things added to him such as Reindeer and his elvan workers, his entry through the chimney and his flying sleigh. It is truly amazing how the story has progressed throughout the millennia from a Turkish monk to someone who lives at the North Pole which is a quite profound difference. There is much, much more to this story but I will leave you to test out the truth about this myth. It does not take much thought to realise how hideous this seemingly harmless story is.



Anyone that professes to be a follower of Yeshua ha'Mashiach (Jesus Christ) will reject this satanic practice in preference of searching for the continued study to find the truth. One cannot partake of the cup of demons whilst proclaiming to be a follower of Yeshua. 1 Corinthians 10:20-21. That is what the Bible tells us.

But the things the pagans sacrifice, "They sacrifice to demons, and not to YEHOVAH." (Deut. 32:17) But I do not want you to have fellowship with demons; you cannot drink the cup of our Master and a cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of our Master, and a table of demons.

(1 Corinthians 10:20-21)

## **Mistletoe**

Mistletoe is a well-known part of Christmas; we all know the tradition of kissing under the Mistletoe but what is Mistletoe and how did this pagan practice find its way into Christmas?



Little much is known about how the tradition of kissing a maiden under the Mistletoe came about. The custom of kissing under Mistletoe seems to originate England. The earliest recorded date mentioning kissing under the mistletoe is in 1784 in a song from a musical comedy called 'Two to One'. The custom appears to have started around the 1720s, so in the early Georgian period. Mistletoe was also hung on the old English decoration the Christmas Bough or Kissing Bough which were very popular during 1700s - hence the name!



There were illustrations of kissing under the mistletoe in the first book version of 'A Christmas Carol' published in 1843, and this might have helped to popularised the custom. The original custom was that a berry was picked from the sprig of Mistletoe before the person could be kissed and when all the berries had gone, there could be no more kissing!

The name mistletoe comes from two Anglo Saxon words 'Mistel' (which means dung) and 'tan' (which means) twig or stick! So, you could translate Mistletoe as 'poo on a stick'!!! Not exactly romantic is it!

There are older stories concerning Mistletoe from Norse origin, a popular story is The origins of kissing under the mistletoe, a plant that often bears white berries, are often traced to a tale in Norse mythology about the god Baldur. In the story, Baldur's mother Frigg casts a powerful magic to make sure that no plant grown on earth could be used as a weapon against her son. The one plant the spell does not reach is the mistletoe, as it does not grow out of the earth, but out of a tree's branches. The scheming Loki, upon learning this, makes a spear out of mistletoe — the spear that would eventually kill Baldur.

This is not very Christmassy I know but it does illustrate the pagan influence connected to the plant by the ancient mystics, after all, the plant itself, being a parasite does not grow from the ground but gains nourishment from its host, usually an apple tree and its fruit is ripened in winter.

## **Summary and Conclusion**

When we look into the activities that people observe at Christmas, things like family and friends, charitable giving and spending time with the children, don't you think that we should be doing these things on a daily basis? Surely, we do not need a pagan ritual to do what is right.

They tell us that it is the season to be jolly. It is a time of ornaments, red and green decorations, silver bells, holly, mistletoe and coloured lights. It is also a time of department store Santa's calling out their universal mantra, "Ho ho ho! Merry Christmas." Nearly all of the realm of so-called "Christianity" joins in and repeat this same greeting, "Merry Christmas!"

Although we hear these words constantly as they resonate millions of times throughout the land, almost nobody understands what they are really saying. It is the purpose of this tract to take the words, "Merry Christmas" and examine the true meaning and essence of those words.

A true Christian would want to examine everything they say, because Yeshua said in Matthew 12:36-37, *"But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgement. For by your words, you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned."* We will now set aside all of the customs, glitter and traditions of Christmas, which were taken from pagan witchcraft and popularized by the Latin Roman Catholic Church, and we will focus on the true meaning of the words, "Merry Christmas!"

The word "Merry" is simple to define. It unquestionably means to be happy, joyful and light-hearted. The word "merry" fits into the ambience of laughter and frivolity. This word "merry" by itself is innocent and innocuous enough, but as we will now see, it becomes heinously blasphemous when used with the word "Christmas."

Here let it be noted that most people think that the word, "Christmas" means "the birth of Christ" however, by definition, it means "death of Christ", and I will prove it by using the World Book Encyclopaedia, the Catholic Encyclopaedia, and a book entitled, *The Mass In Slow Motion*.

The World Book Encyclopaedia defines "Christmas" as follows: "The word Christmas comes from "Cristes Maesse", an early English phrase that means "Mass of Christ." <sup>(1)</sup> It is interesting to note that the word "Mass", as used by the Roman Catholic church, has traditionally been rejected by the so-called Protestants, such as Lutherans, Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Pentecostals and many other Christian sects. The word "Mass" is strictly a Catholic word and thus, so is "Christ-Mass."

It would stand to reason, that since all of these denominations love and embrace "Christ-Mass", that December 25th is the great homecoming day, when all of the Protestants become Catholic for a day. It would seem that all of the so-called "wayward daughters" of the Latin church return to their mother, the scarlet harlot. Thus, all of the so-



called Protestant churches could sing to the Pope that popular song "I'll be home for Christmas."

As previously stated, the word "Mass" in religious terms means a "death sacrifice." The impact of this fact is horrifying and shocking; for when the millions of people are saying, "Merry Christmas", they are literally saying "Merry death of Christ!" Furthermore, when the fat man in the red suit laughs boisterously and says, "Ho ho ho, Merry Christmas", he is mocking and laughing at the suffering and bleeding Savior, who died for our sins. He does this while parents place their little children into his waiting arms to hear his false promises of gifts that he says he will give them. Consider what you are saying when you say "Merry Christmas."

What is so amusing about our Savior's painful death? What is so funny? Why is Santa laughing? Why are you going along with it? Your words do count and Satan knows it. Yes, the word "Mass" does mean "death sacrifice", and to cement that fact, we will consider the definition of the inventors of the religious application of the word "Mass." I am looking at page 537 of the Catholic Encyclopaedia, which says, *"In the Christian law, the supreme sacrifice is that of the Mass."* It goes on to say, *"The supreme act of worship consists essentially in an offering of a worthy victim to God, the offering made by a proper person, as a priest, the destruction of the victim."* <sup>(2)</sup>

Please note carefully the word, "victim" of the Mass. The Latin word for victim is "Hostia" from which the word "host" is derived. The Mass, by definition of those who coined the word, is a sacrifice involving a victim. There is no other meaning for the word "Mass" or "Christ-Mass." On page 110 of a book entitled "The Mass in Slow Motion", we find the following words: *"It is only with the consecration that the sacrifice of the Mass is achieved. I have represented the Mass to you, more than once, as a kind of ritual dance."* <sup>(3)</sup>

In essence, the Mass is the ceremonial slaying of Jesus Christ over and over again, followed by the eating of his flesh and the drinking of his blood. The Mass is the death sacrifice, and the "Host" is the victim. This is the official Roman Catholic doctrine, and "Christmas" is a word that they invented. Again, I ask, what is so merry about the pain, bleeding, suffering and death of Jesus Christ? Satan has done quite a job of getting millions of so-called "Christians" to blaspheme. What a deceiver he is.

Now you know the true meaning of the word "Christmas" or Mass of Christ. There is much more to know about this pagan holiday, and we will be glad to provide you with plenty of evidence that Jesus was not born on December 25th, and that Christmas is not only a lie, but is actually a witches' sabbat called "Yule" in clever disguise. For the sake of your soul, flee from idolatry! 1 Corinthians 10:12-14 *"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. <sup>13</sup>There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. <sup>14</sup>Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry".*

Acknowledgments:

01. World Book Encyclopedia, vol.3, p. 408, 1986 ed., World Book Inc., Chicago, IL
02. The Catholic Encyclopedia, R.C. Broderick, 1975 ed., Nihil Obstat, Richard J. Sklba, Censor Librorum. Imprimatur, Archbishop William E. Cousins, Milwaukee, WI.
03. The Mass In Slow Motion, Ronald Knox, 1948, Sheed & Ward, Inc., New York, NY. Nihil Obstat, E.C. Messenger, Censor Deputatus. Imprimatur, E. Morrogh Bernard, Vic. Gen.

## GLOSSARY

- **YHVH [ יהוה ]** The personal Name of Almighty God. Y<sub>e</sub>H<sup>o</sup>V<sub>a</sub>H.
- **Yehoshua (Yeshua)** The personal name of Almighty God's son. (Modern: Jesus).
- **Ruach Ha'Kodesh** Yehovah's motive force. (Holy Spirit).
- **Kohan Gadol** High Priest.
- **Shaúl** Saul (Paul).
- **Israel** The nation comprising the 12 tribes of Jacob (Israel) including people of the nations grafted into Israel.
- **Gentile** Any person that does not follow the Abrahamic Religion (Pagan).
- **Tanakh** The books of the Hebrew scriptures. (Old Testament).
- **B'rit HaDashah** The Renewed Covenant. (New Testament)
- **Torah** The instructions or laws given to the Israelite Nation by Yehovah to Moses.
- **Oral Torah** The additional instructions added by the Pharisaic (Rabbinic) Jews which form the basis of the Mishnah, Talmud, Gemara and other Jewish religious Books.
- **Gospel** Good News.
- **Christendom** All religions that profess belief in Jesus Christ.
- **Apostolic Fathers** The group of gentiles that directed the formation of the early church after the last apostle (John) died.