

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

PAGAN CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

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PAGAN TRADITIONS

Jesus is the God of the Old Testament and the Creator of Adam and Eve. Furthermore, it was Jesus who worked with Abraham, Moses and all the other people mentioned in the Bible.

Jesus was very specific when it came to the conditions upon the Israelites for entering the Promised Land. They were told not to learn the customs and traditions of the Canaanites. This law by Jesus is still in effect today.

“When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.

There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God.

For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.”
(Deuteronomy 18:9-14)

The celebration of Christmas is not found anywhere in the Bible. It was a festival created by the Roman Catholic Church in the fifth century A.D. to pacify the pagans. There are many Christmas customs and I want to examine their origins in light of the pagan religions and how they were incorporated in Christianity.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Tammuz was a pagan god worshipped in Babylon and during the time of Ezekiel it had spread into the Jews in Jerusalem.

Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, The LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth.

He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do. Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD'S house which



was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz. (Ezekiel 8:12-14)

In the Babylonian Empire Tammuz was the name of one of their gods. According to the priests of Tammuz, he was born at the time of the Winter Solstice (December 20-22nd). His birth was celebrated with lively and noisy festivities, which included drinking large amount of alcohol. Tammuz was known in Rome as the "hidden god" in the Saturnalia festivities. It was the most vile feast in the Roman Empire and it was a season of drunkenness and excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures. The Christmas season in Europe and America is known for its Christmas office parties, where people drink and fornicate.

The Christmas tree dates back to Babylon and the time of Nimrod and Semiramis.

“And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.” (Genesis 10:8-10)

According to this old pagan religion Nimrod was the king and Semiramis was the queen. When Nimrod was killed, he became the moon god and as such he came back to earth and had intercourse with Semiramis. She became pregnant and in time she gave birth to a son, that she named Tammuz. While she was giving birth to him, there was an old dried up evergreen piece of wood in the room and suddenly it became alive and sprouted. Thus from that time, the celebration of the birthday of Tammuz always included an evergreen tree.

A Christmas tree is a decorated evergreen such as spruce, pine, or fir or an artificial tree of similar appearance. Such a tree was traditionally adorned with roses made of colored paper, apples, wafers and tinsel. Lit candles were later added these in turn were replaced with electric lights in use today. There is a wide variety of ornaments like garlands, baubles, tinsel, candy canes, and gingerbread that are used to decorate the modern tree. An angel or star is also placed at the top of the tree to represent Gabriel or the Star of Bethlehem that shone in the sky following Jesus' birth.

CHRISTMAS WREATH

The Christmas wreath dates back to the Celts, a people group that at one time had its focal point in Central Europe around 800-450 B.C. They eventually began to migrate toward England, Scotland and Ireland.

The Celts in England celebrated the Winter Solstice, which was a celebration of the sun god, who they believed was starting to return to the northern hemisphere at this time of the year. This celebration was also known as Yule.

One of the decorations used by the Celts was a bough of holly. In time it became a circular structure that is the shape of the Christmas wreath today from the influence of the Romans.

Rome began its conquest of Britain in 43 A.D. and the custom of wreaths used by the Romans during their pagan festivals was incorporated by the Celts.

In time the Christmas wreath was fashioned from branches of evergreen trees. Thus, the Christmas wreath has nothing to do with Jesus, it is merely a pagan symbol used in the worship of the sun god.

MISTLETOE

The custom of kissing under the mistletoe dates back to the Celts and their priests (Druids). Mistletoe is a parasitic shrub that grows on trees, According to the Druids, the mistletoe is a sacred plant, and if it grows on an oak tree, it is even more powerful. Since it was rare for mistletoe to grow on oak trees, it became precious in their eyes, and once mistletoe was located on an oak tree, Druids prepared a sacrifice and a feast under the tree.

Two white bulls were brought to the site. A priest dressed in a white robe climbed the oak and with a golden sickle, cut the mistletoe and caught in a white cloak. People brought to the site were killed and sacrificed on a burning altar. The Druids asked their god to make the mistletoe potent as it was used in potions to cure sterile animals and an antidote for any poison.

The Vikings came in contact with the Druids when they invaded Britain and brought back their customs to Scandinavia. Decorating the ceilings with mistletoe during the Yule festivals was developed, and if a person was standing under mistletoe, any person could come up and kiss him or her. This type of physical contact opened the door to sexual intercourse since the “magical power” of the mistletoe was at work. Thus, it became an erotic enticement for sex outside of marriage.

Ground up mistletoe was also used as a sexual stimulant and a fertility herb that could be used to induce an abortion.

YULE LOG

The burning of the Yule log dates back to pagan Germanic rituals during the Winter Solstice festival. The old pagan rituals became “Christianized” after the Vikings became Roman Catholics. The Yule log was a huge block, lasting for the Twelve Days of Christmas. It was not burned completely as part of it was saved to light the following year’s Yule log.

While the mostly burned wood waited for its duty to light a new Yule log, it was kept around the house to ward off a range of misfortunes, including toothaches, mildew, lightning, house fires, hail and chilblains.¹ The log was believed to have other magical properties, particularly in parts of Northern Spain and Southern France.

WASSAIL BOWL

The Wassail Bowl is a vessel filled with hot punch associated with Yuletide. It was also a ritual to ensure a good apple cider harvest in the following year. Villagers in England would form a circle around a large apple tree in the countryside on the 12th day of

¹ An inflammation of small blood vessels brought on from exposure to cold.

Christmas and drink from the Wassail Bowl, asking the gods for a good apple harvest during the next year.

CHRISTMAS HAM

The tradition of the Christmas ham dates back to the Viking religion and the Yule worship which occurred at the temple in Uppsala, Sweden. At the Winter Solstice, the king of Sweden and all noblemen gathered to worship Odin. As they were seated in the temple, a huge boar would be led to the front. After speaking incantations over it, the boar would be stabbed in the jugular vein and the blood drained into a basin. Once the boar was dead, it would be roasted over a fire and eaten as part of the meal. Plenty of alcohol in the form of Mjod would be drunk until all the participants were in a drunken stupor. Outside the temple, hundreds of men and women would be hanged on trees around the temple as a sacrifice to the Norse gods.

Growing up in Sweden, my mother would purchase a large ham, pork ribs and pork sausages. On the morning of Christmas Eve, she would put the meats and spices into a huge 5 gallon cast iron pot and cook it all day. The Christmas dinner was served that night and we would take a piece of bread and dip it in the broth of the pot. The bread was soaked with fat from the pork. To make it tastier, the bread was covered with mustard. This was called "Dopp i grytan." I remember as a teenager eating at least four pieces of dipped bread, together with slabs of ham, sausages and pork ribs.

SANTA CLAUS

Santa Claus is an imaginary figure who is supposed to bring gifts to the homes of well-behaved children on Christmas. He is also known as Saint Nicholas, Kris Kringle or Father Christmas depending upon your geographical location. The modern Santa Claus grew out of various traditions, but he is also associated with Odin, the midwinter event of Yule, and the Wild Hunt, which was a ghostly or supernatural group of hunters passing through the sky in a wild pursuit.

Santa Claus is depicted as a jolly, fat, white-bearded man with a red coat and trousers and white fur collar and cuffs, a broad black leather belt, boots and bag full of gifts. He is said to make a list of children throughout the world, categorizing them according to their behavior, and only delivering gifts to those who are nice. He lives at the North Pole and aided by elves, loads up his sleigh, which is pulled by flying reindeer, and distributes gifts to everyone around the world in a single night.

Santa Claus is built upon a lie. God has clearly stated that lying is a sin and anyone who makes a lie is threatened with eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire. (Proverbs 6:16-19; John 8:44; Revelation 21:8; 22:15)

There is no way that a Christian can justify telling his children about Santa Claus. Anyone who does so is a liar and grieving the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, he is giving evil spirits permission to strike his children. Pastors and parents who allow Santa Claus into churches and homes are willfully sinning and there will be consequences in the spirit world. Listen to what the Word of God says:

“For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Hebrews 10:26-31)

PAGANISM CANNOT BE MIXED WITH JESUS CHRIST

Over the years I have repeatedly stated, “The people of Israel never left God, they just added a lot of pagan worship into their lives.” You must understand that God will never accept the addition of paganism to His church. God is furious over the issue and He got so angry with the people of Israel that He threw them out of the Promised Land and had the temple destroyed in Jerusalem.

When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou;

And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them:

Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.

But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire.

For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.” (Deuteronomy 7:1-6)

God told the prophet Jeremiah that they were not to learn the ways of the heathen.

“Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel:

Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.

They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.

They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go.

Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good.”
(Jeremiah 10:1-5)

When God provided Moses with the Ten Commandments, He was serious that every word should be carried out regardless what people believed.

“And God spake all these words, saying, I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.” (Exodus 20:1-6)

Here is what Jesus said:

“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”
(Matthew 5:17-20)

SUMMARY

It is impossible for Jesus to have a birthday since He has always existed. Jesus was incarnated in a human body, produced by the Holy Spirit and Mary some 2,000 years ago in the city of Bethlehem. It is therefore ridiculous to celebrate His birth.

Furthermore, Jesus never commanded His followers to celebrate his incarnation. Think about that for a moment! There isn't a single passage of Scripture where we are told to celebrate His birth. The Bible simply doesn't record the apostles observing the incarnation. It's not like Jesus got distracted or basically forgot to mention something important like that. On the other hand, Jesus specifically instructed us to remember His sacrifice on the cross.

“For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.” (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Jesus also instructed the disciples to wash one another's feet.

“Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him; Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he

poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean. So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?" (John 13:1-12)

Jesus was also very specific that new disciples should be baptized in water through immersion.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:18-20)

We find that Jesus was methodical in His instructions to the New Testament church. Completely missing is any instruction to commemorate and observe His birth. Therefore a Christian should never partake in the pagan Christmas festival. Nor should we introduce any pagan rituals into our homes. It goes without saying that no church should promote paganism and let it to flourish. Don't end up like King Solomon:

"And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.

Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.

And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.

And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded.” (1 Kings 11:6-10)

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?