

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

DECEPTION IN THE END TIMES

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PART 11: SATANIC HOLIDAYS

EXPANSION OF THE CHURCH

As the Christian churches began to expand into the Roman Empire after 325 A.D., more and more pagans were converted to the Christian faith, but few of them were born again and were “Christian” only in name. They became members of the churches and through baptism by sprinkling of water they were declared “Christians” but they still observed pagan holidays and this created pressure on the church leaders. The new converts did not want to give up their pagan holidays and the only way out of this dilemma was for the church leaders to take over the pagan holidays and “Christianize” them.

The mixture of faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and pagan worship dates back to the time when Abraham lived on earth but the most flagrant violation of mixed worship was carried out by King Solomon around 900 B.C. **1 Kings 11:1-9**

THE DEVIL DOES NOT HAVE A NEW PROGRAM

Satan had built upon the platform started by King Solomon during the time of the prophet Isaiah (740-700 B.C.) and the Kabbalistic pagan worship had permeated the rabbinical system in Israel. **Isaiah 5:13-20**

The prophet Ezekiel encountered the same problem some 200 years later when he spoke with great concern about worshipping the sun god and Tammuz. **Ezekiel 8:9-18**

Satan polluted the worship of God in Judaism and he continued the same program with the Christian faith by bringing in pagan worship. **1 Timothy 4:1-2**

RITUALS AND HOLIDAYS

There were no observations of Old Testament holy days or pagan holy days during the apostle’s time in the first century. It was the practice to meet with other Christians after work and share a common meal, partake of the Lord’s Supper and have prayer, teaching and singing. There were meetings every Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of Christ, and at the Jewish Passover Days, the Christians would have a special day of worship and praise to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus, which later became known as Easter.

Pentecost and the Ascension of Jesus were two other Christian holidays added after the apostles had died but only the festival of Easter had been polluted with pagan customs.



EASTER

Pagan worship originated among people prior to the great flood and was resumed by the descendants of Noah and his three sons. Satan chose Nimrod as the man he could corrupt and empower. His wife was Semiramis, and according to the pagan chronicles, her son was named Tammuz.

The doctrine of the demonic inspired religion of the queen of heaven (Semiramis) stated that her husband had been slain and became the moon god. He came back to Semiramis as the moon god and supernaturally impregnated her and the male child conceived was named Tammuz. When Tammuz was born, a dry evergreen tree branch in the room suddenly came to life and spouted new needles.

This pagan religion spread from Babylon into the different nations and the name of Semiramis changed to Ishtar, Eostre, Ostera, Astarte and Ashtoreth. All these names refer to one goddess, the goddess of fertility. In the pagan religion of the Norse gods she was known as Freja or Frigg. In Rome she was called Ceres.

Every spring there were festivals to the goddesses of fertility and in Rome there was a seven day festival to the goddess Ceres. All the nations had spring festivals during the month of April to the same goddess, just under a different name.

Satan had taught the heathen that there had to be a 40 days of fasting every spring so Tammuz could be resurrected for another year.

In the Babylonian worship of Astarte, it was believed this goddess had been hatched from a huge egg that fell from heaven into the Euphrates River.

The Roman goddess of Venus was also a goddess of sexual fertility, her sacred day being Friday, which was observed by her followers by only eating fish on Fridays.

The word "Passover" in Hebrew is "pascha," in Swedish it is "Pask," and in German is "Ostern." In the King James Bible, the word "Easter" is correctly used in Acts 12:4 since Herod was celebrating the Roman spring festival of Ceres, not the Jewish Passover feast.

Eggs and the rabbit were strong symbols of fertility at the spring festivals.

CHRISTIANIZED PAGAN SPRING FESTIVALS

The simple form of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus on the Sunday after the Jewish Passover was changed into a festival of seven days, called the Holy Week early in the fourth century. It began with Palm Sunday and ended on the next Sunday, which we now know as Easter.

The bishops of Rome incorporated a number of pagan customs in order to make the Christianized pagans more comfortable and willing to give up their ungodly holidays.

1. The 40 days fasting for Tammuz were renamed “Lent” and preceded by a time of drunken orgies and sexual immorality; this time of partying in the United States is known as “Mardi Gras” and takes place just before the Holy Week.
2. In Sweden, “Paskafton” is the day before Easter Sunday when people color boiled eggs and eat multiple eggs at meals to celebrate Easter. In the United States there are Easter Egg hunts for children, who are told about the Easter Bunny and the laying of eggs.
3. The queen of heaven (Semiramis) was worshiped by baking special cakes for her. **Jeremiah 7:18**

The bishops introduced “hot cross buns” to be eaten by the Christians during the Easter Festival. In the country of Sweden they are called “fastlagsbullar.” A hole is carved in the bun and filled with marzipan. Whipped cream is sprinkled on top of the buns and the carved out hole is placed back on top of the whipped cream. These pastries are placed in bowls and eaten with hot milk, which is poured into the bowl.

4. In order to offset the worshipping of Venus on Fridays, the crucifixion of Jesus was placed on Friday, despite the fact that He was crucified on a Wednesday; we know this because Jesus stated He would be in the grave for three days and three nights. **Matthew 12:40**

To make the Venus worshippers happy, the bishops of Rome mandated that Christians could only eat fish on Fridays.

5. The worship of the sun was widespread among pagans, and in order to please them, the sunrise service on Easter morning was instituted. **Ezekiel 8:14-18**

CHRISTMAS

Christmas is the favorite holiday of today’s Christians and the unbelieving world, yet this was never a Christian festival since its origin, but a construction of the bishops of Rome to lure the pagans into some type of Christian worship.

There is no mention that Christians ever celebrated the birthday of Christ in the New Testament nor is there any place where we are told the day Jesus was born.

The oldest Roman mid-winter festival was Saturnalia, which was a festival of six days, lasting from December 17-23. This was in honor of the god Saturn, who also was honored with his own weekday – Saturday.

The six day festival began with a public sacrifice at the temple of Saturn in Rome, followed by public banquets, gift giving and parties where the alcohol flowed freely. There was even a custom of allowing slaves to sit at tables and be served food by their masters. Compare this with the modern day custom at Christmas to feed the poor and homeless.

It was also called a festival of lights, and extra oil lamps and candles were lit to make these feast days less drab, as the sun came up late and went down early

in the winter time. Gambling was one of the entertainments during these feast days.

The decorations for Saturnalia were evergreen trees placed in a home, decorated with gold and silver items and gifts placed under them. The round wreath, mistletoe and holly were also used as decorations for Saturnalia and this practice still continues today.

Roman Emperor Aurelian added a new pagan cult to Rome in 274 A.D. called "Sol Invictus." This was the sun god that had never been defeated. The worship of Sol became the official state religion and the birthday of Sol was observed on December 25.

The Norse god "Oden" and the other Norse gods were worshipped in December, culminating with the mid-winter sacrifice on December 21-22. This Norse god national festival was held in Uppsala and it lasted for nine days.

The sacrifices began with a large boar that was led into the temple, killed and had its blood sprinkled on the altar. The flesh was later cooked and it is from this sacrifice that the traditional Christmas ham comes into being.

During each of the nine days, there was the sacrifice of nine men and nine male horses and dogs, which after they were slain and their blood sprinkled on the altar, their bodies were hung up at a grove until the birds had eaten all of their flesh. Each tree in this grove was considered holy and empowered by the people and animal corpses hanging there.

Drinking of alcohol became part of the celebration and most of the participants became very drunk. One of the traditions from this festival was "dipping in the pot," which in Swedish is called, "Doppa i Grytan," and is still practiced to this day.

The day before Christmas Eve a huge pot of about five gallons or more was filled with ham, pork ribs and sausages and cooked until tender. On Christmas Eve and also on Christmas Day, the pot was warmed and meat was taken out eaten. Each person taking part in this meal would take a slice of bread and dip it into the pot and soak the bread in the fat, place it on their plate, and eat it with mustard and the cooked meat. As a child I learned to like this feast and would eat up to ten slices of dipped bread.

A BREW FROM THE DEVIL

Churches and pastors today are trying to make pagans welcome in their churches with rock bands, strobe lights, smoke and dancers just like the Roman bishops of old. The fact that they committed a "spiritual rape" on the Christian church did not bother them as they sought to create the most beloved festival in the Western world. Christmas is now even part of Japan and other nations who do not have a Christian background. America, Canada, and the Western nations in Europe have stripped out Christ but kept all the rest of the traditions. Even American Jews have Christmas trees in their homes and partake in the gift giving. Every year people talk about the spirit of Christmas and they are correct, there is a strong demonic presence during the Christmas holiday season.

Here is what the Roman bishops did during 336-354 A.D.:

1. Up to this time in church history, there had been no celebration of the birth of Jesus. No one knew the day Jesus was born. We are told that Mary conceived Jesus six months after Elizabeth got pregnant with John the Baptist. The Germanic tribes and the Druids had a pagan worship called "Midsummer" on June 24th, and since the pagans in Rome had their great festivals in December, the bishops declared that John the Baptist was born on June 24 and Jesus was born on December 25. The bishops of Rome declared that the creation had begun on March 25, which was the date of the vernal equinox, the beginning of spring, according to what Julius Caesar had set in 45 B.C. Therefore this was the day that the Holy Spirit impregnated Mary, the mother of Jesus and therefore Jesus had to be born on December 25.

The narrative in the New Testament indicates that Jesus was born in the fall, before winter had started, but this did not bother the bishops of Rome. They were sure that in time people would accept this lie as truth. Some 1,700 years later Christians emphatically believe that Jesus was born on December 25th, and if you ask them how they know this, they cannot provide proof for their answer.

2. In order to stamp out the pagan festivals and replace them with the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the bishops also declared there would be a special mass conducted on the 25th. The name of this new festival was called "Christ-Mass."

The bishops imported all the pagan traditions to make the Christianized pagans happy with this new "Christian festival." They took the evergreen tree from Saturnalia and called it a "Christmas tree."

The gifts that were exchanged became known as "Christmas gifts," and with it came the mistletoe, the round wreath and the holly. They imported the "Christmas ham" and other hog products from the pagan Norse gods. Since different nations have different customs, the Yule log, cookies, rice pudding, cakes, etc. were added as time went on.

There are two sources for Santa Claus. The Anglo-Saxon version is from bishop Nicolaus, who died in 333 A.D. and many times Santa Claus is referred to as "Old Saint Nick." For the Scandinavian people he is known as "Tomten," a spirit being who could be good or bad. According to tradition, every farm in the Scandinavian countries had a "tomte" living on it that was some kind of a ghost ruler over the farm.

The current Santa Claus has replaced Jesus; he has supernatural power, lives at the North Pole, rides a sleigh in the sky powered by reindeers and is able to descend into chimneys and drop off his gifts even though he is wider than the chimney openings. He is all-knowing and children are told to be good in order for Santa to bring them gifts.

3. The whole story of Christmas is based upon lies and pagan worship. The demons who created this myth have such strong spiritual powers that they have been able to convince the most conservative and spirit-filled preachers to buy into this lie and propagate it year after year. When the Pilgrims and the Puritans founded the colonies in America, they forbade the celebration of Christmas. It was not until around 1900 that Christmas became the biggest commercial holiday in America.

WHAT SHOULD A CHRISTIAN DO WITH CHRISTMAS?

For many years I ignorantly participated in Christmas even though I was on fire for the Lord. However, the moment I found out the truth about Christmas, I made a decision to reject the whole festival, since I knew it was built upon a lie.

The Word of God is true; you can either line up with the Bible or be crushed by it.
Matthew 21:42-44

God knew that I loved Him with all my heart and wanted to live for him despite partaking in pagan worship. He had patience with me, but once my eyes were opened, there was no more grace and mercy; I had to make a decision to be obedient or continue rebelling. **1 Samuel 15:22-28**

You can be blessed or cursed, the choice is yours. **Deuteronomy 28: 1-3, 15-16**

“Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:14-15)

WHAT WILL YOU CHOOSE TO DO?

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?