

“MERRY CHRISTMAS?”

Christmas is celebrated very unlike other holidays in that a whole season is dedicated to it. The Christmas Season begins the day after Thanksgiving, dubbed “Black Friday.” December 25th has become the holiest day on the Christian Church Calendar.

Globally, it is the most celebrated day by the secular world. Ironically, the holiest day on the Christian Church calendar is also the most celebrated holiday on the secular calendar around the world.

The so-called Christmas Story ...

For many families, the tradition will be to gather and read from the Bible the 2nd Chapters of the Gospels of Luke and Matthew. Those Chapters have become known as the Christmas Story about the birth of Jesus. Then, the families retrieve gifts from around the Christmas tree.



The Magis came from the East



Following a star



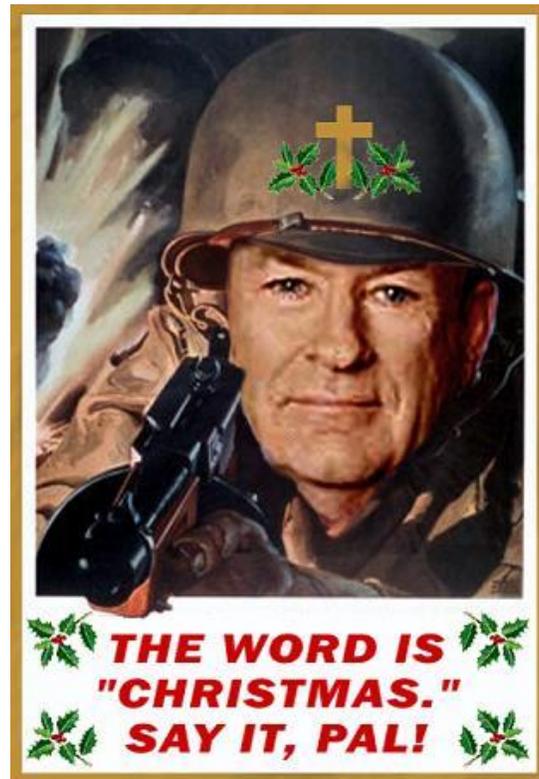
Found the Baby Jesus in a Manger



And ended up in Church



For many, who no longer celebrate Christmas, it is a very awkward time of year relating to family, friends, and co-workers who are deeply passionate about the Christmas time of year.



What is the origin of Christmas?
Is Christmas a worldly Holiday or is it a Christian Holy Day?
Should Christ be in Christmas?
Is Jesus the Reason for the Season?
How should true believers respond to Christmas?

Where did Christmas originate?

From the Bible or paganism?

What is the real origin of Santa Claus—mistletoe—Christmas trees—holly wreaths—and the custom of exchanging gifts?

Many are concerned about putting “Christ back into Christmas.” Was He ever there?



Christmas is thought by most to be a wonderful time, focusing the participants on giving, family togetherness, beautiful music and decorations, feasting on special foods, and singing Christmas carols throughout the neighborhood. All of this is supposedly centered around the worship of Christ.

What does the Bible have to say about Christmas and its relationship to the Birth of Christ?

NOTHING!

Is Christmas even in the Bible?

NO!

Where did the Christmas tradition truly began?

Genesis 10:8 And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one (God) in the earth.

10:9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.

10:10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

The Word before is the Hebrew word paniym, paw-neem'; plural (but always as singular) of an unused noun; paneh, paw-neh'; from 6437); the face (as the part that turns); used in a great variety of applications (literally and figuratively); against, anger

10:9 He was a mighty hunter before (Against) the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before (Against) the LORD.

It is believed that Nimrod was against YeHoVaH and that he led the people in rebellion against YeHoVaH to build the tower of Babel. Look at what happen under Nimrod's leadership.

Genesis 11:1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

11:2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

11:3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

11:4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

11:5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

11:6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

11:7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. 11:8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

11:9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

“let us make us a name” The word for name in Hebrew is Shem.

{8034}— shem, shame; a primitive word (perhaps rather from 7760 through the idea of definite and conspicuous position; compare 8064); an appellation, as a mark or memorial of individuality by implication honor, authority, character

A name:

A Shem

The Name:

Ha Shem

Twice in identifying this rebellion against YeHoVaH, it is noted where the rebellion began.

10:10 And the beginning of his kingdom (Nimrod) was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh,
in the land of Shinar.

11:2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

SHINAR (Heb. shinar). The region containing the cities of Babel, Erech (cf. modern Iraq), Akkad, and Calneh (Gen 10:10), the locations of which, except Akkad, are unknown. Shinar, on the alluvial plain of Babylonia, for many centuries was perhaps the most fertile region on earth.

The early postdiluvians traveled east and started to build a tower there (Gen. 11:1-9). Amraphel, king of Shinar, invaded Canaan in the days of Abraham (Gen. 14:1). Nebuchadnezzar was ruler of the land of Shinar Dan 1:2

Legend has it that in the midst of the tumult of war, Nimrod and Semiramis met--and in none too savory circumstances, for tradition states that she was an inn/brothel keeper in the city of Erech---leading one to speculate upon the nature of their initial acquaintance.

Semiramis was a native of Erech, which as evidenced by its name seems to have been built by a Hamitic family (Ham's wife was said to have been descended from Cain who built the first Erech in honor of his son). The name Semiramis is a later, Hellenized form of the Sumerian name "Sammur-ammat", or "gift of the sea."

The initial element "sammur" when translated into Hebrew becomes "Shinar" (the Biblical name for lower Mesopotamia) and is the word from which we derive "Sumeria". This one tarnished woman then, had such a lasting impact upon world history that not only do we call by her name the land from which civilization flowed, but YeHoVaH, Himself, through the sacred writer has let us know that its distinguishing characteristic was that it was "the Land of Shinar," or Semiramis.

Very little has come down to us through the millennia concerning Semiramis' rise to power, but it is safe to assume that it was initially upon Nimrod's coattails that she rode. Although later in life, as well as throughout history, her influence overwhelmingly obscured that of her husband.

Of course, it would not do to have an ex-harlot upon the throne, so the "polite fiction" was invented that she was a virgin sprung from the sea at Nimrod's landing, and hence a suitable bride for the emperor (thus the title Semiramis which has totally obscured her original name).

Although Nimrod was supposedly a brilliant strategist, he made a fatal blunder when he allowed Semiramis to retain full control over this religious hierarchy, and through it the minds and hearts of the people. For when a schism occurred between them, she was able to turn it from a tool of support into a deadly weapon.

The rift between husband and wife occurred when the queen bore an illegitimate son, and the king threatened her with both dethronement and exposure of her true origin. Semiramis, of course would not allow this to take place, and devised a plot to overthrow Nimrod.

During the course of the New Year's festivities, at which the advent of Nimrod's rule was celebrated, there was a certain feast exclusively for the royal family and the upper echelons of the priesthood. During this feast, which included "courses" of psychedelic and hallucinogenic drugs, a year-old ram was traditionally sacrificed by being torn limb-from-limb while still alive, and its flesh eaten raw. This ram symbolized the old year passing into the heavens to allow room for the new year. A new-born lamb was then presented which, symbolizing the new year, would be kept and fattened for the next year's ceremonies.

This year Semiramis directed the ritual according to the formula, with the exception that when the time came for the ram to be slaughtered, it was the king who was torn to pieces at the hands of the drug-crazed priesthood, and Semiramis' bastard son was installed as king.

Thus Nimrod, the mighty hunter, died a horrible death as a trapped beast himself.

Semiramis named her son Damu (from the Sumerian "dam," or blood), which in the later Babylonian language became Dammuzi, in Hebrew Tammuz, and in Greek Adonis (Adonai).

Adōnis was a borrowing from the Semitic word adon, meaning "lord", which is related to Adonai, one of the names used to refer to the God אֲדֹנָי in the Hebrew Bible and still used in Judaism to the present day.

Syrian Adonis is Gauas or Aos, akin to Egyptian Osiris, the Semitic Tammuz and Baal Hadad, the Etruscan Atunis and the Phrygian Attis, all of whom are deities of rebirth and vegetation.

Semiramis assumed the regency for her son and ruled as absolute monarch for 42 more years.

In order to avoid having to kill her son on the next New Year's Day, she instituted an annual nationwide sports competition, the winner of which would have the "honor" of taking Damu's place and ascending into heaven to become a god.

From Babylon, this mystery-religion spread to all the surrounding nations as the years went on and the world was populated by the descendants of Noah. Everywhere the symbols were the same, and everywhere the cult of the mother and child became the popular system.

Their worship was celebrated with the most disgusting and immoral practices.

The sign of the cross was sacred to Tammuz, as symbolizing the life-giving principle and as the first letter of his name. It is represented upon vast numbers of the most ancient altars and temples, and did not, as many have supposed originate with Christianity.

From this mystery-religion, the patriarch Abraham was separated by the divine call, and with this same evil cult the nation that sprang from him had constant conflict, until under Jezebel, a Phoenician princess, it was grafted onto what was left of the religion of Israel in the Northern Kingdom in the day of Ahab.

It was the cause of their captivity at the last. Judah was polluted by it, for Baal-worship was but the Canaanite form of Babylonian mysteries, and only by being sent into captivity to Babylon itself did Judah become partially cured of her fondness for idolatry. Baal was the Sun-God, the Life-giving One, identical with Tammuz.

TAMMUZ (Heb. tammuz). A fertility god widely worshiped in Mesopotamia, Syria, and Palestine; equivalent to Osiris in Egypt and Adonis of the Greeks. His consort was the goddess Ishtar (Astarte or Ashtoreth) (EASTER). Their cult involved licentious rites.

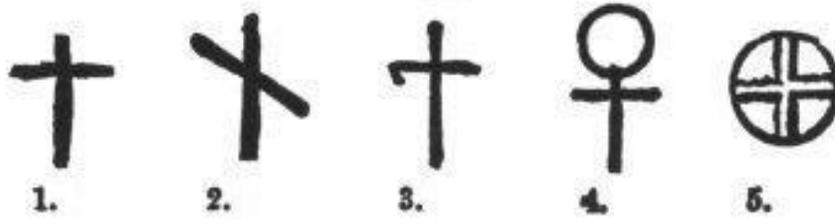
Tammuz was supposed to have been killed by a wild boar while shepherding his flocks. His wife rescued him from the underworld. His death was taken to represent the onset of winter. The long dry season was broken by spring rains when he came to life again.

The fourth month of the Babylonian and later Jewish calendar was named for him (June-July). The only mention of him in the Bible occurs in connection with the custom of women mourning for him (Ezek 8:14). His Greek name, Adonis, is derived from the Phoenician and Hebrew word for "Lord" (Adonai).

The letter " t " is a Pagan symbol of the god Tammuz.



The Flying Penis



The Transition of the Symbol of Tammuz

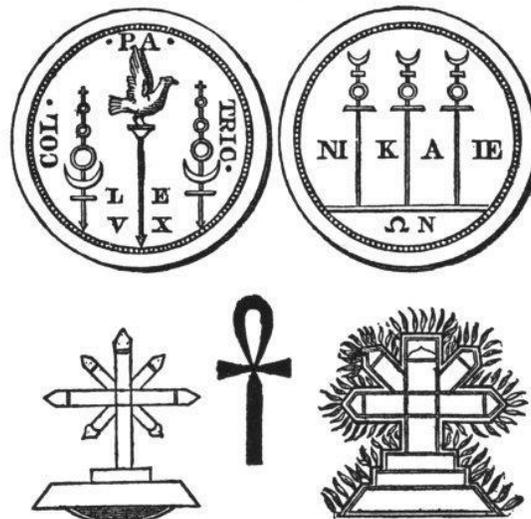
Pope Benedict



Notice the shape of the Cross he is wearing on his vestment.

As a Lutheran Pastor, I was given a similar cross to wear when I was robed for Liturgical Service.

Ancient Symbols of the Cross



Other symbols of the cross



By the time of Ezekiel, these idolatrous practices had strongly taken hold.

Eze 8:12 He said to me, “Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel are doing in the darkness, each at the shrine of his own idol? They say, ‘The LORD does not see us; the LORD has forsaken the land.’ ”

Eze 8:13 Again, he said, “You will see them doing things that are even more detestable.”

Eze 8:14 Then he brought me to the entrance to the north gate of the house of the LORD, and I saw women sitting there, mourning for Tammuz.

Eze 8:16 He then brought me into the inner court of the house of the LORD, and there at the entrance to the temple, between the portico and the altar, were about twenty-five men. With their backs toward the temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east, they were bowing down to the sun in the east.

To date, Christians, Jews, and many Muslims face east when they pray.

Eze 8:17 He said to me, “Have you seen this, son of man? Is it a trivial matter for the house of Judah to do the detestable things they are doing here? Must they also fill the land with violence and continually provoke me to anger? Look at them putting the branch to their nose!

Eze 8:18 Therefore I will deal with them in anger; I will not look on them with pity or spare them. Although they shout in my ears, I will not listen to them.”

According to Langer's Encyclopedia of World History, (article "Santa"), "Santa" was a common name for Nimrod throughout Asia Minor. This was also the same fire god who came down the chimneys of the ancient pagans and the same fire god to whom infants were burned and eaten in human sacrifice among those who were once God's people.

Today Santa (Satan) Claus comes from "Saint Nicholas." Washington Irving, in 1809, is responsible for remaking the original old, stern bishop of this same name into the new "jolly St. Nick" in his Knickerbocker History of New York.

Most of the rest of America's Christmas traditions are even more recent than this.



"Old Nick" has long been recognized as a term for the devil.

In Revelation 2:6 and 15, we read about a “doctrine of the Nicolaitanes,” which Messiah twice tells His people “[He] hates.” Let’s analyze the word Nicolaitane. It means “follower of Nicholas.”

Nikos means “conqueror, destroyer.” Laos means, “people.” Nicolaitanes, then, are people who follow the conqueror or destroyer—Nimrod.

If you have believed that following Christmas is an innocent Christian custom, let this truth sink in!

“An old Babylonish fable told of an evergreen tree which sprang out of a dead tree stump. The old stump symbolized the dead Nimrod, the new evergreen tree symbolized that Nimrod had come to life again in Tammuz!

Among the Druids the oak was sacred, among the Egyptians it was the palm, and in Rome it was the fir, which was decorated with red berries during the Saturnalia!” (Walsh, Curiosities of Popular Customs, p. 242).



The Encyclopedia Britannica, under “Celastrales,” exposes the origin of the holly wreath: “European pagans brought holly sprays into their homes, offering them to the fairy people of the forests as refuges from the harsh winter weather.



During the Saturnalia, the Roman winter festival, branches of holly were exchanged as tokens of friendship. The earliest Roman Christians apparently used holly as a decoration at the Christmas season.”

Christmas is incomplete to many unless it involves “kissing under the mistletoe.” This pagan custom was natural on a night that involved much revelry done in the spirit of drunken orgies. Just like today, this “kissing” usually occurred at the beginning of the Saturnalia/Christmas celebration.



Jeremiah 10:1-4

10:1 Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel:

10:2 Thus saith YeHoVaH, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

10:3 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.

10:4 They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.

Jer 10:5 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.

Jer 10:6 Forasmuch as there is none like unto thee, O YeHoVaH; thou art great, and thy name is great in might.

Matthew 2:1-11

Magi come to

Yeshua in the house

See Luke 2

Finally Read

Romans 1:18-32