

## Christmas Revealed(An extract of Spiritual House cleaning)

Exodus 20:2-3 –I'm am the Lord thy GOD who have brought you out of the land of Egypt, Out of the house of bondage, **Thou shall have no other gods before me.**

Psalms 96:4 – For all the gods of the nations are idols.

Joshua 24: 23 - Now therefore put away, said he, the strange gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto the Lord God of Israel.

### Christmas Tree Revealed (Jeremiah 10:1-5)

1 Hear what the LORD says to you, O house of Israel. 2 This is what the LORD says: "Do not learn the ways of the nations or be terrified by signs in the sky, though the nations are terrified by them.

3 For the customs of the peoples are worthless; they cut a tree out of the forest, and a craftsman shapes it with his chisel.

4 They adorn it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so it will not totter.

5 Like a scarecrow in a melon patch, their idols cannot speak; they must be carried because they cannot walk. Do not fear them; they can do no harm nor can they do any good."

We bring the Christmas tree into our homes which is (A form or an image of a god/idol), A legal right for Satan to enter our homes, Remember thou shall have no other gods before me.

### Santa Clause (Father Christmas) Revealed

Ish14:14 - Satan says: I will be like the most high...

- Latin & Spanish meaning of Santa is holy.
- The bible says only GOD is holy.

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Matt 23:9 - Call no man father on earth.  
- Yet many people call him Father Christmas.

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Rev1:14 - His head & his hair were white as wool as white as snow.  
- Santa has hair as white as snow.

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Isaiah 63:2 - Who is this that cometh....Red in apparel – i.e. clothes.  
- Santa also has red clothes.

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Mark 6:3 - Is this not the carpenter which refer to JESUS CHRIST.  
- Santa is also a carpenter as he makes wooden toys for children.

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**Ezek 8:14 - The lords house ZION, was towards the north.**  
- Everyone knows Santa comes form the North Pole.

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**Deut 32:26 - There is none like unto the God of Jeshurun, Who rideth upon the heavens to thy help, And in his majesty, upon the clouds.**  
- Who has a sleigh that rides upon the skies?

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**Zech 2:6 - (old KJV) - Ho, Ho saith the lord.**  
- Ho, Ho, Ho Merry Christmas is Santa's line.

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**Rev12:9 - The devil and his angles were cast out of heaven.**  
- This refers to Santa's helpers, The elves.

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**Psalm 102:24 - Thy years are throughout all generations, God does not age.**  
- And so with Santa ,He does not get old

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**Proverbs 1:23 - I will pour out my spirit, Reference to the HOLY SPIRT.**  
- During Christmas everywhere you hear about the spirit of Christmas,  
- Those are actual demon spirits.

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**Psalm 34:11 - Come ye children, I will teach you the fear of the lord.**  
- A Santa Song (You better be good, You better be nice, Cause Santa Knows who's naughty or nice...  
(The fear of Santa is taught)

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**Mat25:31 - Then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory Ref to JESUS.**  
- All over in malls, Santa sits on his throne & what happens on that Throne?

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**Mark 10:13-14 - And they brought young children to him to touch them.**  
- And so does Santa.  
Most children cry, Because they have a innocent sensitive spirit.

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**John 10:42 - And many believed on him. Reference to JESUS.**  
- Many children believes in Santa instead on JESUS

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**Tit2:13 - Looking for that blessed hope, the glorious appearing of JESUS CHRIST**  
- On Christmas Eve many children look for the appearing of Santa on his Sleigh

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**A tactic Satan uses to make people believe Christmas is about a tree, & Christmas father.**  
**Anagram - A re-arranging of letters**

**Santa Claus rearrange i.e.;**

**Santa -> Satan**  
**Claus -> Lucas (A new age name for Lucifer)**

## **An magazine extract from USA(The Onion)**

**"I love visiting each and every one of your homes, stuffing your stockings with toys, and enjoying the milk and cookies you leave for me. But mostly I love Christmas because it's the celebration of the birth of my son, Jesus the Christ. **You see, I'm God...****

**Don't I look familiar? I'm old, I have a white beard, I love everyone. I'm the same God as the one you and your mommy and daddy worship on Sundays. . .**

**Okay, I admit it. I'm not God. But I'm better than God. I'm jollier, and I give you real toys, not boring old psalms and empty promises you can only collect on when you die. **WORSHIP ME, NOT HIM! WORSHIP SANTA! I AM GOD!"****

**(Santa Claus, "Ho! Ho! Ho! I Am God!" The Onion, 29 Nov. - 5 Dec., 1994, p. 7 (USA))**

**Is this a CO-INCIDENCE...No!!!**

**Satan is real & is knowledgeable & will use every possible tactic to keep us from the truth and busy with the world system of doing things which keeps us from rendering true worshiping to the only true & living GOD...JESUS CHRIST OF NAZARETH, He will come as an angel of light, Be sensitive & do not be fooled, Ask the HOLY SPIRIT guidance.**

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# Christmas Before Christ: The Surprising Truth!

by Jerold Aust

If you discovered that Christmas had nothing to do with Jesus Christ's birth and actually predates that event by centuries, would you still celebrate the holiday? And if you realized that the Bible reveals Holy Days commanded by God, would you celebrate them instead?

**W**hen I was a young boy, I looked forward to Christmas every Dec. 25. Shortly before one particular Christmas, while still in grade school, one of my schoolmates laughed me to scorn for believing that Santa Claus existed. I was mortified.

When I returned home that evening, I asked my mom whether Santa was real. She said he wasn't. Privately I thought, "Well, if Santa Claus isn't real, what is?"

Years later I learned that Christmas actually predated Christianity by about 2,000 years. Many ancient nations created their own mid-winter festivals and celebrations—which later morphed into Christmas—to honor the sun and other gods around the time of the winter solstice. I also learned that the origins of Christmas contradict true Christianity.

## Christmas contradicts the biblical facts

It's commonly assumed that Christmas is celebrated because it's the birthday of Jesus Christ. But biblical scholars overwhelmingly admit that Jesus was born nowhere near Dec. 25. There are sound reasons for this conclusion. Luke's Gospel tells us that Joseph and Mary were traveling to Bethlehem to register during a Roman census when Jesus was born, and also that shepherds still had their flocks out in the open fields at that time (Luke 2:1-8).

But the Holy Land in December is cold, rainy and sometimes snowy. No sound-minded shepherd would have been so foolhardy as to leave his flock in the fields at night at that time of year. And no intelligent ruler would compel people to travel many miles to register for a census when the

likelihood of bad weather would have made such an effort self-defeating.

Why should we believe that Jesus was born on Dec. 25 when the Bible itself plainly contradicts this notion?

## The birth of Christmas

So if Christmas didn't originate with Christ's birth being on Dec. 25, when and how *did* it originate?

Christmas began long before the birth of Jesus Christ. Alexander Hislop's book *The Two Babylons* explores many historical sources showing that the holiday precedes Christ by at least 2,000 years, as earlier mentioned (1957, pp. 97-98).

A nativity celebration for pagan gods was observed near the winter solstice in both Syria and Egypt. Later, some 400 years before Christ, the Mithraic religion, centering on the Persian sun god Mithras, provided the foundation for the Christmas celebration. Mithraism became very popular in the Roman Empire, and many elements of its worship survive today in Roman Catholicism.

For example, the noted British anthropologist, historian and scholar Sir James Frazer, knighted for his contributions to our understanding of ancient religions, wrote in his book *The Golden Bough*:

"There can be no doubt that the Mithraic religion proved a formidable rival to Christianity, combining as it did a solemn ritual with aspirations after moral purity and a hope of immortality. Indeed the issue of the conflict between the two faiths appears for a time to have hung in the balance. An instructive relic of the long struggle is preserved in our festival of Christmas, which

*the Church seems to have borrowed directly from its heathen rival.*

"In the Julian calendar the twenty-fifth of December was reckoned the winter solstice, and it was regarded as the Nativity [birthday] of the Sun, because the day begins to lengthen and the power of the sun to increase from that turning-point of the year. The ritual of the nativity, as it appears to have been celebrated in Syria and Egypt, was remarkable. The celebrants retired into certain inner shrines, from which at midnight they issued with a loud cry, 'The Virgin has brought forth! The light is waxing [stronger]!'

"The Egyptians even represented the newborn sun by the image of an infant which on his birthday, the winter solstice, they brought forth and exhibited to his worshippers. No doubt the Virgin who thus conceived and bore a son on the twenty-fifth of December was the great Oriental [i.e., Middle Eastern] goddess whom the Semites called the Heavenly Virgin or simply the Heavenly Goddess; in Semitic lands she was a form of Astarte [Easter]" (1993, p. 358, emphasis added throughout).

If people insist on defending Christmas, at least they should know how it originated.

## Tertullian on Christmas

The early Catholic theologian and writer Tertullian (A.D. 155-230) was a convert from paganism. He wrote numerous works defending Christianity as he understood it, combatting contrary teachers and giving exhortation to fellow believers. In one he described how the Christian converts of his day were already ignoring the biblical Sabbath day and festivals and flocking to the pagan Roman winter festivals, such as the Saturnalia, which honored the god Saturn:

"By us who are strangers to Sabbaths, and new moons, and festivals, *once acceptable to God, the Saturnalia, the feasts of January, the Brumalia and Matronalia, are now frequented*; gifts are carried to and fro, new year's day presents are made with din, and sports and banquets are celebrated with uproar" (Tertullian, *On Idolatry*, chap. 14, quoted by Hislop, p. 93).

Tertullian rebuked Christians for joining in such pagan celebrations, noting that no self-respecting pagan would join in "Christian" celebrations: "Oh, how much more faithful are the heathen to *their* religion,

**Why should we believe that Jesus was born on Dec. 25 when the Bible itself plainly contradicts this notion?**



Practices associated with worship of the pagan sun god Mithras, such as celebrating his supposed birth on Dec. 25, survive in today's Christmas customs.

**The Mithraic religion provided the foundation for the Christmas celebration. Mithraism became very popular in the Roman Empire, and many elements of its worship survive today.**



The Egyptian goddess Isis is depicted with her son Horus. Symbol of the reborn sun, Horus was believed to have been born at the winter solstice.

who take special care to adopt no solemnity from the Christians" (ibid).

He further stated of the pagans: "For, even if they had known them, they would not have shared the Lord's Day or Pentecost with us. For they would fear lest they would appear to be Christians. *Yet, we are not apprehensive that we might appear to be pagans!*" (quoted by David Bercot, editor, *A Dictionary of Early Christian Beliefs*, 1998, p. 342). This is an incredible admission.

A zealous Tertullian could see the difference between heathen and Christian festivals. Can we?

#### A deeper look at Christmas origins

*Man, Myth & Magic* is a useful encyclopedia on mythology and religion. This multi-volume work uncovers the origins of major Western religious holidays, exploring the history of each. It offers further details on the origins of Christmas:

"Christmas has its origin in *two ancient pagan festivals*, the great *Yule-feast of the Norsemen* and the *Roman Saturnalia* . . . It was close enough to the winter solstice to acquire many of the associations of the Norse ceremony: the Yule-log, the evergreen decorations in houses and churches, even the Christmas feast itself. *These elements were combined with the Saturnalia of the Romans to provide the basis for the early Christian festival.*

"During the Saturnalia, gifts were made

the wildest debauchery, and was a festival worthy of [the god] Pan himself.

"Naturally it came under heavy censure from the early Church and despite the fact that Jesus Christ and the saints gradually replaced the pagan deities *it was long considered completely out of character with the Christian ideal.* However, *the festival was far too strongly entrenched in popular favour to be abolished*, and the [Catholic] Church finally granted the necessary recognition, believing that *if Christmas could not be suppressed it should be preserved in honour of the Christian God*" (Richard Cavendish, ed., 1995, Vol. 3, p. 418).

#### Christmas gains acceptance

The strange story of Christmas continued after the ancient celebrations were adopted by the Catholic Church. The church does not deny it.

The *New Catholic Encyclopedia* states: "Christmas originated at a time when the cult of the sun was particularly strong at Rome. This theory finds support in some of the Church Fathers contrasting the birth of Christ and the winter solstice. Though the substitution of Christmas for the pagan festival cannot be proved with certainty, *it remains the most plausible explanation for the dating of Christmas*" (1967, Vol. 3, p. 656).

*Man, Myth & Magic* explains when Christmas gained official recognition and when the name was substituted for the ancient heathen midwinter festival. "Once given a Christian basis the festival became fully established in Europe *with many of its pagan elements undisturbed.* It was only *in the 4th century* that 25 December was officially decreed to be the birthday of Christ, and *it was another 500 years [the ninth century] before the term Midwinter Feast was abandoned in favour of the word Christmas*" (Cavendish, p. 480).

James Hastings, Bible scholar, writer and editor of *The Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*, confirms that the church absorbed and tolerated heathen customs: "Most of the Christmas customs now prevailing in Europe, or recorded from former times, are not genuine Christian customs, but heathen customs which have been absorbed or tolerated by the Church" (1910, Vol. 3, p. 608).

Elements of the observance of Christmas were criticized and even forbidden in later centuries. "The *undisguised pagan element in Christmas* had often provoked criticism from extreme Protestants but the festival was not really affected by their beliefs until the Puritans came to power in the 17th century.

"[At that time] *Christmas was attacked as*



The goddess Astarte, depicted here in a Phoenician statuette, was one of several deities worshipped on Dec. 25 in the ancient world.

by the wealthy to the poor in honour of the golden age of liberty when Saturn ruled the known world, and slaves were allowed to change places and clothing with their masters. They even elected their own mocking king who, for the period of the festival, ruled as a despot. The Saturnalia involved

'the old heathens' feasting day to Saturn their God' and carols were forbidden. Finally, 25 December was proclaimed a fast day [a time of abstaining from food and festivity to focus on religious devotion] in 1644. The new rule was enforced by the army, which spent much of its time pulling down the greenery that festive 'pagans' had attached to their doors.

"In Scotland the prohibition was enforced with great rigour. This anti-Christmas attitude spread to Puritan territories in America. The Church established special services for Christmas in Boston during the 1690s, but many civil authorities strongly opposed this move. And it was not until some 150 years later that Christmas first became a legal holiday in the United States, in Alabama in 1836" (Cavendish, pp. 480-481).

**Why Dec. 25 as the date for Christmas?**

Sir James Frazer wrote at length on the roots of modern Christian holidays. And here's what he had to say about why Christmas began as it did:

"What considerations led the ecclesiastical authorities to institute the festival of Christmas? It was a custom of the heathen to celebrate on the same twenty-fifth of December the birthday of the Sun, at which they kindled lights in token of festivity.

"In these solemnities and festivities the Christians also took part. Accordingly when the doctors [theologians] of the Church perceived that the Christians had a leaning to this festival, they took counsel and resolved that the true Nativity should be solemnised on that day and the festival of the Epiphany on the sixth of January . . .

"The heathen origin of Christmas is plainly hinted at, if not tacitly admitted, by Augustine [the fifth-century Catholic theologian] when he exhorts his Christian brethren not to celebrate that solemn day like the heathen on account of the sun, but on account of him who made the sun. In like manner [Pope] Leo the Great rebuked the pestilent belief that Christmas was solemnized because of the birth of the new sun, as it was called, and not because of the nativity of Christ.

"Thus it appears that the Christian Church chose to celebrate the birthday of its Founder on the twenty-fifth of December in order to transfer the devotion of the heathen from the Sun to him who was called the Sun of Righteousness" (pp. 358-359).

This was despite God's direct warning against adopting pagan worship customs to honor Him (Deuteronomy 12:29-32).

**Does Christ approve of Christmas?**

Having considered mainstream church teaching and practice on this subject, we also need to ask: What did Christ Himself teach about Christmas?

The fact is, Jesus neither observed Christmas nor taught others to observe it. It did not originate with Him. But He did speak out strongly against the traditions of men: "And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men" (Mark 7:7).

Indeed, Jesus taught that Scripture cannot be broken (John 10:35), and it explicitly warned against adopting pagan worship customs to honor the true God (Deuteronomy 12:29-32).

Furthermore, God inspired Daniel to prophesy several centuries before Christ that religious men would attempt to change "times and law," including God's festival seasons (see Daniel 7:25; compare Leviticus 23 with Matthew 5:17-19).

After Jesus Christ returns to earth, during His reign over the nations He will see to it that all of God's annual festivals are observed by all peoples. The book of Zechariah reveals that it will take a few years before at least a few nations learn to accept Christ's teachings. The autumn Feast of Tabernacles is a case in point.

Zechariah 14 addresses the second coming of Christ, concluding with one particularly revealing insight into what will come next: "And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King [Jesus Christ], the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles" (Zechariah 14:16).

Then the account continues by describing

appropriate corrective punishments for those nations that do not comply (verses 17-19).

**Christ's true disciples today observe His Holy Days**

The big question is, are you ready to begin following the real Christ? In times past God overlooked the ignorance of men, but today He commands all men and women to repent of ungodly activities, including observing manmade religious holidays (Acts 17:30).

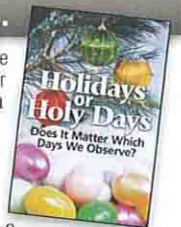
If you are coming to understand that Christmas does not represent Christ, then you should take a stand and avoid its observance (Matthew 7:21; Luke 6:46). Why stumble between the truth and error? Why not start following the true Christ and His biblical teachings? (John 8:32; 17:17).

The Bible clearly reveals our Creator's requirement to observe His annual festivals and Holy Days—the Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles and the Eighth Day. They disclose God's wondrous plan and purpose for humankind.

The Bible shows that the true followers of God observed these festivals in both the Old and New Testaments. True Christians still observe them today. God has not changed! **GN**

**To Learn More...**

How much do you know about the origins of Christmas and other popular holidays? What do Santa Claus, reindeer, elves, holly and mistletoe have to do with Jesus Christ's birth? Should we even celebrate His birth anyway, since such a celebration is nowhere mentioned in Scripture? Request or download our eye-opening free booklet *Holidays or Holy Days: Does It Really Matter Which Days We Observe?* And if you want to learn more about the Holy Days found in the Bible, be sure to read *God's Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope for All Mankind*, also free.



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