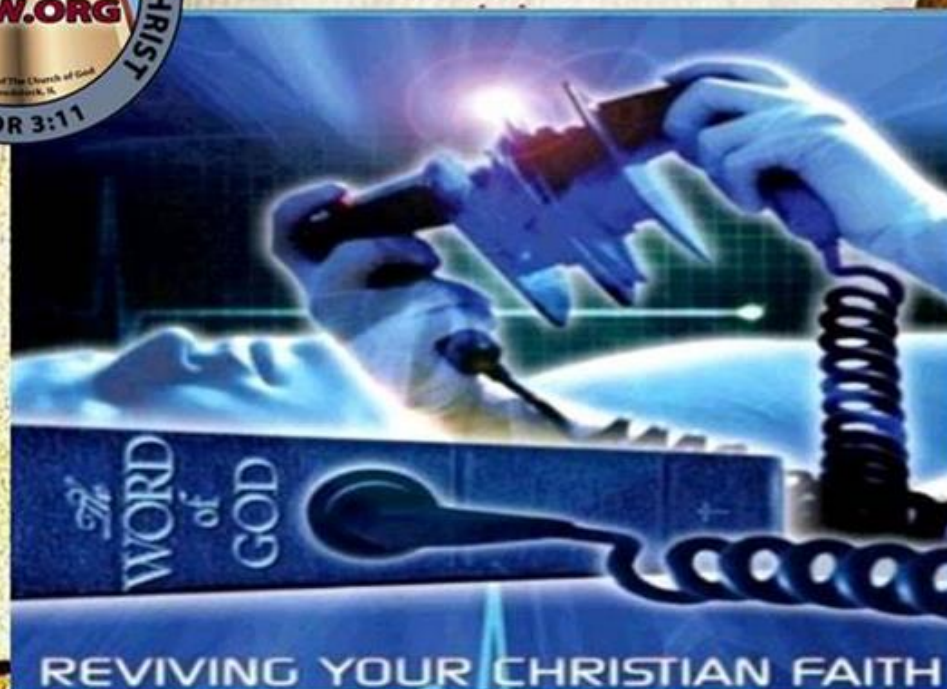
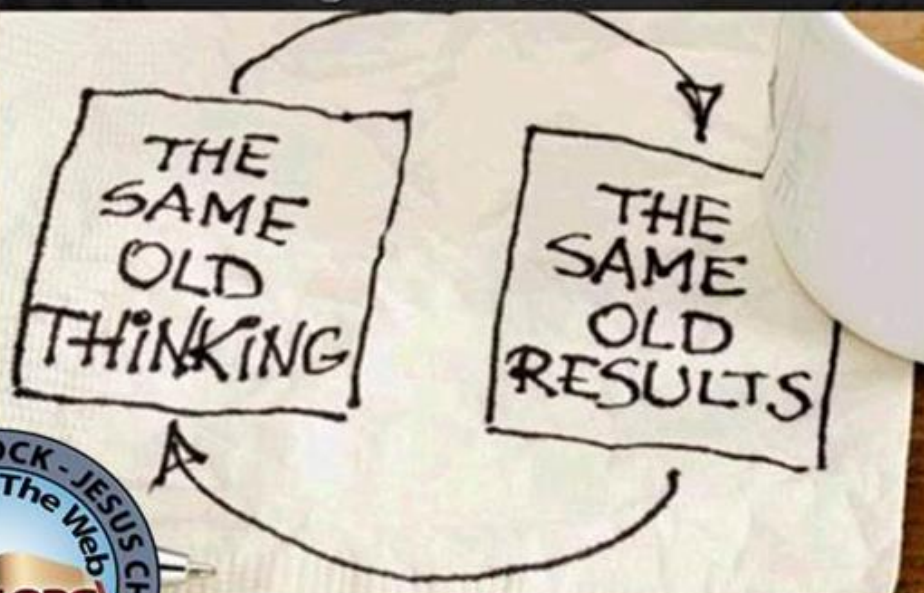


# Think BIBLICALLY

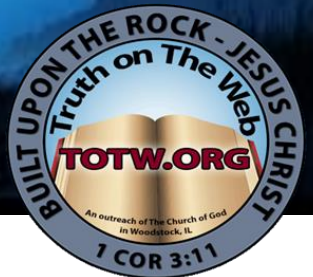


**RENEW**  
your mind  
ROMANS 12:12





# Unwrapping Christmas



**Matthew 1:18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise...

**Matthew 1:18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise...

**Nativity 12:25** Now the birth of Jesus Christ is on this ignorance...

# Merry Sukkot?



Happy  
Birthday  
Jesus

[wishyoucard.com](http://wishyoucard.com)

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**John 1:14** And **the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us**, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

**John 1:14** And **the Word was made flesh, and dwelt** [*skenoo*] **among us**, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

**4637. *skenoo***

from 4636; to tent or encamp, i.e. (figuratively) to occupy (as a mansion) or (specially), to reside (as God did in the Tabernacle of old, a symbol of protection and communion):-- dwell.

**John 1:14** And **the Word was made flesh, and  
dwelt among us,**

Assumptions:

1.

2.



**John 1:14** And **the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,**

Assumptions:

1. **the Word was made flesh** = day of birth
- 2.

**John 1:14** And **the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,**

Assumptions:

1. **the Word was made flesh** = day of birth
2. John's use of *skenoo* signifies the FOT

**Revelation 7:15** Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple: and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

**Revelation 12:12** Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

**Revelation 13:6** And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

**Revelation 21:3** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God.

# The Conception of John

**Luke 1:5** There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.

**Luke 1:23-24** And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house. And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying,

**1 Chronicles 24:1-6** **Now these are the divisions of the sons of Aaron.** The sons of Aaron; Nadab, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. But Nadab and Abihu died before their father, and had no children: therefore Eleazar and Ithamar executed the priest's office. **And David distributed them, both Zadok of the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech of the sons of Ithamar, according to their offices in their service.** And there were more chief men found of the sons of Eleazar than of the sons of Ithamar; and thus were they divided. Among the sons of Eleazar there were sixteen chief men of the house of their fathers, and eight among the sons of Ithamar according to the house of their fathers. Thus were they divided by lot, one sort with another; for the governors of the sanctuary, and governors of the house of God, were of the sons of Eleazar, and of the sons of Ithamar. And Shemaiah the son of Nethaneel the scribe, one of the Levites, wrote them before the king, and the princes, and Zadok the priest, and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, and before the chief of the fathers of the priests and Levites: one principal household being taken for Eleazar, and one taken for Ithamar.



**1 Chronicles 24:7-19** Now the first lot came forth to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah, The third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim, The fifth to Malchijah, the sixth to Mijamin, The seventh to Hakkoz, **the eighth to Abijah**, The ninth to Jeshua, the tenth to Shecaniah, The eleventh to Eliashib, the twelfth to Jakim, The thirteenth to Huppah, the fourteenth to Jeshebeab, The fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immer, The seventeenth to Hezir, the eighteenth to Aphses, The nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezekel, The one and twentieth to Jachin, the two and twentieth to Gamul, The three and twentieth to Delaiah, the four and twentieth to Maaziah. **These were the orderings of them in their service to come into the house of the LORD, according to their manner, under Aaron their father, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded him.**

**2 Chronicles 23:8** So the Levites and all Judah did according to all things that Jehoiada the priest had commanded, and took every man his men that were to **come in on the sabbath, with them that were to go out on the sabbath**: for Jehoiada the priest dismissed not the courses.

## **NOT STATED IN SCRIPTURE:**

- All courses worked on Feast weeks together  
(Sukkah 5.7 indicates this)
- The start date for the 24 courses
- How the courses cycled

**Luke 1:5** There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the  
course of Abia:

Assumption:

1.

**Luke 1:5** There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the  
course of Abia:

Assumption:

1. This was the first course of Abiyah and it took place the 9<sup>th</sup> week of the year



**Luke 1:23-24** And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house. And **after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived**, and hid herself five months, saying,

Assumption:

1.

**Luke 1:23-24** And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house. And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying,

Assumption:

1. Elisabeth conceived immediately

**Luke 1:26-33** And **in the sixth month** the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, **behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a Son, and shalt call His name JESUS.** He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of his father David: And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end.

**Luke 1:34-38** Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and **this is the sixth month with her**, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

**Luke 1:39-45** And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda; And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth. And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit: And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.



**Luke 2:1-7** And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

**Luke 2:7-8** And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a **manger** [*phatne*]; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

**5336. *phatne***

from *pateomai* (to eat); a crib (for fodder):--manger, stall.

**Luke 2:7-8** And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; **because there was no room for them in the inn.** And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

# No Date Given in Scripture!

**Matthew 1:18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise...

**Matthew 2:1** Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem.

**Luke 2:7** And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

**TEST YOUR  
KNOWLEDGE**





# TRUE — OR — FALSE

**Baal was a sun god and is the real “reason for the season”**

# TRUE — OR — FALSE

**Aurelian instituted the festival of Natalis Sol Invicti on  
December 25 in 274 CE**

“The Dec. 25 festival of *natalis solis invicti*, the birth of the unconquered sun, was ordered by the emperor Aurelian in A.D. 274 as a Winter Solstice celebration...”

The True Origin of Christmas

David Pack / Restored Church of God

# TRUE — OR — FALSE

**“The observance of December 25 (as a Christian festival) only dates from the fourth century and is due to assimilation with the Mithraic festival of the birth of the sun.”**

*World Popular Encyclopedia, Volume 3*

# TRUE — OR — FALSE

**Saturnalia was an ancient Roman festival celebrated  
December 25<sup>th</sup> in honor of the winter solstice  
marking the birth of the sun**



Our ancestors restricted the Saturnalia to a single day, the fourteenth before the Kalends of January, but, after Gaius Caesar had added two days to December, the day on which the festival was held became the sixteenth before the Kalends of January, with the result that, since the exact day was not commonly known—some observing the addition which Caesar had made to the calendar and others following the old usage—the festival came to be regarded as lasting for more days than one.

And yet in fact among the men of old time there were some who supposed that the Saturnalia lasted for seven days...

[But] one can infer, then, from all that has been said, that the Saturnalia lasted but one day and was held only on the fourteenth day before the Kalends of January; it was on this day alone that the shout of “Io Saturnalia” would be raised, in the temple of Saturn, at a riotous feast. Now, however, during the celebration of the Saturnalia, this day is allotted to the festival of the Opalia, although the day was first assigned to Saturn and Ops in common.



I judge that I've now abundantly demonstrated that the Saturnalia used to be celebrated on one day only, the fourteenth before the Kalends, but that it was later extended to three, first as a result of the days that Caesar added to the month, and then by the edict of Augustus in which he assigned to the Saturnalia a three day holiday. As a result, they begin on the sixteenth day before the Kalends and end on the fourteenth, when the one day observance was formerly held. But the addition of the Sigillaria extends the public bustle and religious celebration to seven days.

Macrobius - Saturnalia I.10

# MENSIS DECEMBER

habet dies XXXI.

1	D	F	G	KAL · DECEMB	SARMATICI · $\overline{\text{CM}}$ · XXIII
2		G	H	III · NON	INITIVM · MVNERIS
3		A	A	III	SENATVS · LEGITIMVS
4	E	B	B	PRIDIE	MVNVS · ARCA    DIES · AEGYPTIACVS
5		C	C	NON	MVNVS · ARCA
6	F	D	D	VIII · IDVS	MVNVS · ARCA
7		E	E	VII	
8		F	F	VI	MVNVS KANDIDA
9	G	G	G	V	
10		A	H	III	
11		B	A	III	SEPTIMONTIA
12	H	C	B	PRIDIE	LVDI · LANCIONICI
13		D	C	IDIB	LVDI            SENATVS · LEGITIMVS
14		E	D	XIX · KAL · IAN	LVDI            DIES · AEGYPTIACVS
15	I	F	E	XVIII	$\overline{\text{N}}$ · DIVI · VERI · $\overline{\text{CM}}$ · XXIII
16		G	F	XVII	LVDI
17		A	G	XVI	LVDI            SATVRNALIA
18	K	B	H	XV	LANCIONICI · $\overline{\text{CM}}$ · XXIII    SOL · CAPRICORNO
19		C	A	XIII	MVNVS · ARCA
20		D	B	XIII	MVNVS · KANDIDA
21	A	E	C	XII	MVNVS · ARCA
22		F	D	XI	
23		G	E	X	MVNVS · ARCA
24	B	A	F	VIII	MVNVS · CONSVMMAT
25		B	G	VIII	$\overline{\text{N}}$ · INVICTI · $\overline{\text{CM}}$ · XXX
26		C	H	VII	
27	C	D	A	VI	
28		E	B	V	
29		F	C	III	
30	D	G	D	III	$\overline{\text{N}}$ · DIVI TITI · $\overline{\text{CM}}$ · XXIII
31		A	E	PRIDIE	MAGISTRATI · IVRANT



The celebration of the Nativity of Christ on 25 December, just after Saturnalia, is first attributed in the calendar of Philocalus in AD 336, and the day may have been chosen in opposition to the festival held that day in honour of Sol Invictus, whose temple was dedicated in AD 274 by Aurelian.

H.H. Scullard, *Festivals and Ceremonies of the Ancient Roman Republic*, New York: Cornell University Press, 1981, p.207

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H.H. Scullard, *Festivals and Ceremonies of the Ancient Roman Republic*, New York: Cornell University Press, 1981, p.207

The contention that December 25<sup>th</sup> was an especially popular festival for Sol in late antiquity is equally unfounded, as is the notion that this festival was established by Aurelian when he supposedly instituted a new cult of the sun. Aurelian did of course build the sun a magnificent new temple and he raised the priests of Sol to the level of *pontifices*. A new festival on December 25<sup>th</sup> would not have been out-of-place in this context, but it must be stressed, *pace* Usener, that **there is no evidence that Aurelian instituted a celebration of Sol on that day. A feast day for Sol on December 25<sup>th</sup> is not mentioned until eighty years later, in the Calendar of 354 and, subsequently, in 362 by Julian in his Oration to King Helios.** In short, while the winter solstice on or around the 25 of December was well established in the Roman imperial calendar, **there is no evidence that a religious celebration of Sol on that day antedated the celebration of Christmas, and none that indicates that Aurelian had a hand in its institution.** One might think that celebrating the sun on the winter solstice is so self-evident that we need hardly doubt that such a festival had a long tradition, but what evidence we have actually belies that notion. The traditional feast days of Sol, as recorded in the early imperial *fasti*, were August 8<sup>th</sup> and/or August 9<sup>th</sup>, possibly August 28<sup>th</sup>, and December 11<sup>th</sup>. These are all dates that are unrelated to any important celestial alignment of Sol, such as the solstices and equinoxes.

Steven Hijmans

*Sol: The Sun in the Art and Religions of Rome, Volume 1, chapter 9*

Many Christians think that Christians celebrate Christ's birth on December 25th because the church fathers appropriated the date of a pagan festival. Almost no one minds, except for a few groups on the fringes of American Evangelicalism, who seem to think that this makes Christmas itself a pagan festival. But it is perhaps interesting to know that the choice of December 25th is the result of attempts among the earliest Christians to figure out the date of Jesus' birth based on calendrical calculations that had nothing to do with pagan festivals.

Rather, the pagan festival of the "Birth of the Unconquered Sun" instituted by the Roman Emperor Aurelian on 25 December 274, was almost certainly an attempt to create a pagan alternative to a date that was already of some significance to Roman Christians. Thus the "pagan origins of Christmas" is a myth without historical substance.

William J. Tighe

*Calculating Christmas: The Story Behind December 25*

Hippolytus seems to have been the first to fix upon Dec. 25. He had reached the conviction that Jesus's life from conception to crucifixion was precisely thirty-three years and that both events occurred on Mar. 25. By calculating nine months from the annunciation or conception he arrived at Dec. 25 as the day Of Christ 's birth.

*The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*

### **180-185 CE**

We ought to celebrate the birth-day of our Lord on what day soever the 25th of December shall happen.

Theophilus of Antioch - Magdeburgenses, Cent. 2. c. 6. Hospinian, de origine Festorum Christianorum

### **202-211 CE**

For the first advent of our Lord in the flesh, when He was born in Bethlehem, which happened **eight days before the kalends of January** [December 25th], on the 4th day of the week, while Augustus was reigning

Hippolytus - Commentary on Daniel 4.23.3

### **221 CE**

Sextus Julius Africanus identified December 25 as the date of Jesus' birth.



“Around 200 C.E. Tertullian of Carthage reported the calculation that the 14th of Nisan (the day of the crucifixion according to the Gospel of John) in the year Jesus died was equivalent to March 25 in the Roman (solar) calendar. March 25 is, of course, nine months before December 25; it was later recognized as the Feast of the Annunciation—the commemoration of Jesus’ conception. Thus, Jesus was believed to have been conceived and crucified on the same day of the year. Exactly nine months later, Jesus was born, on December 25.

This idea appears in an anonymous Christian treatise titled *On Solstices and Equinoxes*, which appears to come from fourth-century North Africa. The treatise states: “Therefore **our Lord was conceived on the eighth of the kalends of April in the month of March [March 25], which is the day of the passion of the Lord and of his conception. For on that day he was conceived on the same he suffered.**” Based on this, the treatise dates Jesus’ birth to the winter solstice.

Augustine, too, was familiar with this association. In *On The Trinity* (c. 399–419) he writes: “For **He [Jesus] is believed to have been conceived on the 25th of March, upon which day also he suffered**; so the womb of the Virgin, in which He was conceived, where no one of mortals was begotten, corresponds to the new grave in which He was buried, wherein was never man laid, neither before Him nor since. **But He was born, according to tradition, upon December the 25th.**”

**In the East, too, the dates of Jesus' conception and death were linked. But instead of working from the 14th of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar, the easterners used the 14th of the first spring month (Artemisios) in their local Greek calendar—April 6 to us. April 6 is, of course, exactly nine months before January 6—the eastern date for Christmas.** In the East, too, we have evidence that April was associated with Jesus' conception and crucifixion. Bishop Epiphanius of Salamis writes that on April 6, "The lamb was shut up in the spotless womb of the holy virgin, he who took away and takes away in perpetual sacrifice the sins of the world." Even today, the Armenian Church celebrates the Annunciation in early April (on the 7th, not the 6th) and Christmas on January 6.

Thus, we have Christians in two parts of the world calculating Jesus' birth on the basis that his death and conception took place on the same day (March 25 or April 6) and coming up with two close but different results (December 25 and January 6)."

<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-topics/new-testament/how-december-25-became-christmas/>

Timeline of events:

**202-211 AD** - Hippolytus calculates Jesus' birth as December 25.

**218 AD** - Elagabalus becomes Emperor at age 14. Introduces Sol to Rome.

**274 AD** - Aurelian elevates Sol worship. Dedicates a temple and institutes games to Sol – but not on December 25th. Dies the next year.

**336 AD** - The first mention of "Natalis Invicti" on December 25th

**363 AD** - Emperor Julian “the Apostate”, who despised Christianity and tried to replace Christianity with paganism, gives us the first explicit reference to a celebration of Sol in December.

"On hearing that the son of Herod, king of the Jews, had been slain when Herod ordered that all boys in Syria under the age of two be killed, Augustus said, 'It's better to be Herod's pig than his son.'"

Macrobius Ambrosius Theodosius  
*Saturnalia*, II, 11

## Chronology of Herod's Final Illness and Death

Event	Days Elapsed	Total Minimum Days Elapsed
Herod's physicians tried many remedies	1 day minimum (more likely 2-3 weeks)	1 (more likely 14-21)
Travel from Jericho to Callirrhoe (about 50 miles)	3 days minimum	4
Treatment at Callirrhoe	1 day minimum (more likely 1 week or more)	5 (more likely 11 or more)
Return to Jericho	5 day minimum	8
The Jewish elders throughout Herod's realm are summoned	6 days minimum	14
Herod receives permission to execute Antipater and has him executed	1 day minimum	15
Herod's death five days later	5 days	20
Funeral arrangements and funeral	5 days minimum	25
Seven days of mourning	7 days	32
Feast in Herod's honor	1 day	33
Archelaus' initial governance	7 days	40
The Passover	1 day	41 (more likely 62)

**Acts 17:22-30** Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent.



**"God hates you for  
keeping Christmas!"**

**" And I hate what  
God hates!"**

**The bible says I can!**

**I ALREADY TOLD YOU!! CHRISTMAS IS  
PAGAN!! ITS NOT IN THE BIBLE! GOD  
HATES IT AND ANYONE WHO KEEPS IT  
WILL BURN IN THE LAKE OF FIRE!**





**Go on, pagan! Say  
"Merry Christmas"  
to me one more  
time! I dare ya!**





**Okay! Okay! Don't shoot! I believe it was Constantine who changed everything!**

**Get that present away from me! Don't make me beat the devil outta you!**





**All we said was "Merry Christmas" to those Sabbath-keepers!  
We didn't mean any harm and they are our family members!**

# TRUTH IN LOVE

**Ephesians 4:15** But **speaking the truth in love**, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:

**Romans 12:9** *Let* love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

# HOW TO RESPOND IN A CHRIST-LIKE MANNER

- **Take it as a Polite Gesture – not a personal attack**
- **Thank them for the sentiment – but gently let them know you do not observe the day.**
- **Educate Them– gently like a patient teacher, share a suitable tract regarding your beliefs, let them know you do believe in the virgin birth of Christ and it is Him you seek to honor by your abstinence of the season.**







[www.totw.org](http://www.totw.org)