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The Scriptures inform us that Satan is a real spirit being who is bent on preventing our becoming spirit beings (by accepting and following Jesus Christ as our Savior) by using any means possible. The Bible also tells us Satan appears as “an angel of light” to deceive folks through tainted religious practices.

Gods Holy Word, says: **1 Corinthians 10:21** *Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.*

We, who are saved by grace, are not supposed to continue in sin. Admit to yourself and God that you sinned in ignorance by observing pagan customs. **God commands that people REJECT the PAGAN-ORIGINATED HOLIDAYS and come back under the tutelage of the holy spirit and obey His Laws. REJECT MAN-MADE HOLIDAYS AND OBEY GOD.**

God's Word as found in the Bible is for all mankind – not just the ones labeled as “Christians.” God wants all to come to the knowledge of truth. All of us have common roots that go back to Noah and his

family saved by the Flood. Therefore all of us come from the first man Adam who was created to become an obedient, loving Son of God. Adam disobeyed and disobedience became a way of life. God has wanted each of us to be reconciled ever since. The wicked will perish in their sins unless they repent (turn from sin and obey God by the Bible's teachings)

God loves you, yes you! No matter what you have done in the past or how you have lived – He wants you to turn your heart to Him. **He wants all of mankind to be saved.** [I John 4:10-11; I Timothy 2:4, John 3:16-18]

God sent His only Son, Jesus the Messiah (Christ), to pay the death penalty required for our disobedience. He did this so you and I can be forgiven and receive eternal life as a gift of reconciliation. All it takes is for you to confess to him that you are a sinner and that you need to be forgiven by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. **Then start life anew as a living saint of God –Keeping the Commandments and having Faith in Jesus.** [II Corinthians 5:17; Revelation 14:12; Romans 10:9-13]

Pray to the One True God and read His Word.

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CHRISTMAS.

Did you ever wonder about the origins of the celebration and the various trappings of the holiday called Christmas? Christmas trees, Yule logs, holly -wreathes and kissing under the mistletoe ? Are they “Christian”? Does Christmas honor “the birth of baby Jesus”? If not, what are its origins? Where did these customs come from?

The Catholic Encyclopedia, 1911 Edition, published by the Roman Catholic Church informs us that **"Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church..."** the first evidence of the feast is from Egypt. "Pagan customs centering around the January calends gravitated to Christmas."

This source also educates us that: "...**In the Scriptures, no one** is recorded to have kept a feast or held a great banquet on his birthday. It is only sinners who make great rejoicings over the day in which they were born into this world"



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Eph 6:17 And take..the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God.

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THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED
TO KNOW ABOUT XMAS
BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

It is a well-known fact that Christmas was merely a new name placed on an ancient heathen festival. "Our annual Christian festival (Christmas) is nothing but a continuation under a different name of this old solar festivity (Saturnalia)." (The New Golden Bough, page 653).

In the **Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia** we read "How much the date of the festival depended upon the pagan Brumalia (December 25th) following the Saturnalia (December 17-24), and celebrating the shortest day of the year and the "new sun" . . . cannot be accurately determined. The pagan Saturnalia and Brumalia were too deeply entrenched in popular custom to be set aside by Christian influence. The pagan festival with its riot and merry-making was so popular that Christians were glad of an excuse to continue its celebration with little change in spirit and manner. Christian teachers of the West and Near East protested against the unseemly frivolity, while Christians of Mesopotamia accused their western brethren of idolatry and sun worship for adopting as Christian the pagan festival"

Early Churchman Origen said in 248 a.d. –“ It would follow as a consequence that we could take part in the public feasts, if it were proved that the public feasts had NOTHING wrong in them and were GROUNDED upon true views of the character of God...However, the so-called public festivals can in NO WAY be shown to harmonize with the service of God. Rather, on the contrary, they prove to have been devised by men for the purpose of commemorating some human event- or to set forth certain qualities of water, earth, or the fruits of the earth. Accordingly, it is clear that those who wish to offer an enlightened worship to the Divine being will act according to sound reason and NOT take part in the public feasts.”

Tertullian 200a.d. – “He says 'Let your works shine.' But now all our shops and gates shine! Nowadays, you will find more doors of pagans without lights and laurel wreaths than those of Christians!...Do you say, ' But the lights in front of my doors, and the wreaths on my gate-posts, are an honor to God'? However, they are not there as an honor to God, but to him who is honored in God's place through ceremonial observances of this kind.”

Okay – Christmas is NOT Christian but utterly pagan in its roots.

Some readers may say “But we don’t honor pagan gods now so its okay isn’t it?” A person may even assume they do honor God and Jesus by observing Christmas. What does God think?

Does God say that it is alright to observe the pagan festivals such as Christmas even if we say we are honoring Him? Notice carefully what he said to the Israelites before they entered the promised land;

Deuteronomy 12:29-32 “When the LORD thy God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land; **Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them**, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou **enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God**: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods. **What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.**”

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With the advent of modern corporations, pagan holidays such as Christmas have become big business. For major profits, toy, candy, decoration manufacturers and all retailers promote Christmas -- which may have altogether disappeared without their influence. Even Christians have supported this unwholesome merchandising.

"The practice of exchanging presents at Christmas stems from the ancient Roman custom called Strenae. During the Saturnalia, Roman citizens used to give "good luck" gifts (strenae) of fruits, pastries, or gold to their friends on New Year's Day." [Colliers' Encyclopedia. New York: P. F. Collier, 1991. p404.]

"Christmas gifts themselves remind us of the presents that were exchanged in Rome during the Saturnalia. In Rome, it might be added, the presents usually took the form of wax tapers and dolls, the latter being in their turn a survival of the **human sacrifices** once offered to Saturn. **It is a queer thought that in our Christmas presents we are preserving under another form one of the most savage customs of our barbarian ancestors!**" (William Walsh, The Story of Santa Klaus, p.67).

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Earl W. Count, Professor of Anthropology at Hamilton College, in his book, "4000 Years of Christmas" page 18 states:

"We do not know its beginning . . . we do not really know when the Christ child it venerates was born: or the time and place when Christmas was first celebrated: or exactly how it was that, over the centuries, a bishop saint of Asia Minor, and **a pagan god** of the Germans merged to become Santa Claus". "Although the Christmas story centers in the Christ child of Bethlehem, **it begins so long before his coming** that we find its hero arriving on the scene after more than half of the time of the story has gone by. **Christmas began over 4000 years ago**, as the festival which renewed the world for another year. **The 12 days of Christmas, the bright fires and probably the yule log; the giving of presents; the carnivals with their floats; their merry makings and clownings; the mummers who sing and play from house to house, the feasting; the church processions with their lights and song all these and more began three centuries before Christ was born.** And they celebrated the arrival of a new year."

3

ORIGIN OF CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS

"**The Christmas tree**, now so common among us, was equally common in pagan Rome and pagan Egypt. In Egypt that tree was the palm tree. In Rome it was the fir. The palm tree denoting **the pagan messiah** as Baal-Tamar (Judges 20:33). The mother of Adonis, the sun god and great mediatorial divinity, was mystically said to have been changed into a tree and when in that state to have brought forth her divine son. If the mother was a tree, the son must have been recognized as "the man of the branch" and this accounts for the putting of **the yule log** into the fire on Christmas Eve, and the appearance of the **Christmas tree** the next morning" (The Two Babylons - Hislop, page 97).

"The idea of using **evergreens** at Christmas also came to England from **pre-Christian northern European beliefs**. Celtic and Teutonic tribes honored these plants at their **winter solstice festivals** as symbolic of eternal life, and **the Druids** ascribed magical properties to the **mistletoe** in particular." [The Encyclopedia Americana International Edition. New York: Grolier, 1991. p666.]

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The Encyclopedia Americana says "Christmas, . . . it was, according to many authorities, not celebrated in the first centuries of the Christian church, as the Christian's usage in general was to celebrate **the death** of remarkable persons **rather than their birth . . .**" (The taking of bread and wine, which is instituted by New Testament authority, is a memorial of the death of Christ.) ". . . A feast was established in memory of this event (Christ's birth) in the **fourth century**. In the fifth century, the Western church ordered it to be celebrated forever on **the day of the old Roman feast of the birth of Sol** [the sungod], as no certain knowledge of the day of Christ's birth existed."

"It happened that the date (Dec. 25th) did fall in the midst of the Saturnalia. Far from being an invention to compete against Roman and Persian paganism, the birthday of Christ ran the danger of being swallowed up in **pagan merrymaking**. The (church) fathers tried strenuously to keep Christmas strictly a churchly celebration. It was part of their unremitting struggle to break the grip of the pagan gods upon the people. And as they broke, Romans became Christians . . . **but the Saturnalia remained**" (Earl W. Count, "4000 Years of Christmas, page 28).

4

All The Trappings = Saturnalia (a pagan holly-day displeasing to God)

Many of the customs associated with Christmas also took their origins from the **heathen observances**. **The exchanging of gifts, extravagant merriment, and lighting of candles all have previous counterparts in the Roman Saturnalia. The use of trees harkens back to the pagan Scandinavian festival of Yule.** ~James Taylor, "Christmas," in The New International Dictionary of the Christian Church (J. D. Douglas, ed.; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1974), p. 223.

"On the Roman New Year (January 1), houses were decorated with greenery and lights, and gifts were given to children and the poor. To these observances were added the German and Celtic **Yule rites . . . Food and good fellowship, the Yule log and Yule cakes, greenery and fir trees, gifts and greetings** all commemorated different aspects of this festive season. **Fires and lights**, symbols of warmth and lasting life, have always been associated with the winter festival, both **pagan and [later] Christian**" (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 15th edition, Micropaedia, Vol. II, p. 903, "Christmas").

6

NOEL

Millions casually assume that the "first Noel" simply means "the first Christmas." Not so. The word has a Celtic origin, and comes from two words among the ancient region of Gaul (modern day northern France and Brittany), *novo Hel*. *Novo* means "new" and *Hel* means "sun." You will recognize both ancient words in our English words "novice," and "heliograph." It meant "new sun", or the winter solstice, and marked the first day of the year when the days began lengthening. Every aspect of Christmas was pagan –merely painted up to look "Christian" to deceive folks into believing it was acceptable before God. Should Christians take part in remnants of paganism?

Early Churchman Tertullian wrote in 200 a.d. – "The saturnalia, New year, midwinter festivals, and matronalia are frequented by us! Presents come and go! There are new years gifts! Games join their noise! Banquets join their din! **The pagans are more faithful to their own sect**...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!**"

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"Ancient Celtic priests [pagans] considered the plant [**mistletoe**] sacred and gave people sprigs of it to use as charms. The custom of decorating houses with mistletoe probably came from its use as a ceremonial plant by early Europeans." [The World Book Encyclopedia. Chicago: World Book, 1995. p528.]

The World Book Encyclopedia "The ancient Romans held year-end celebrations to honor Saturn, their harvest god; and Mithras, the god of light. Various peoples in northern Europe held festivals in mid-December to celebrate the end of the harvest season. As part of all these celebrations, the people **prepared special foods, decorated their homes with greenery, and joined in singing and gift giving**. These customs gradually became part of the Christmas celebrations." [The World Book Encyclopedia 1995. p528.]

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