There Is Nothing Christian About Christmas Celebrations

‘Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers, for what fellowship has righteousness with iniquity? Or how can light fellowship with darkness? What harmony can there be between the purity of Jesus and the devil? Or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? What agreement can there be between a temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will dwell among them and will walk among them, and I will be their God and they shall be My people. So come out from among the unbelievers and separate yourselves from them,” says the Lord, “and do not touch any unclean thing; then I will receive you and treat you with favour’” (2 Corinthians 6:14 to17).

This Bible study is about the way Christians combine Christianity with ancient paganism. The general attitude is; that it is okay to do this, yet we can read in the above verses that God strongly forbids it. ‘Depart, depart, go out from there! Touch no unclean thing! Go out from the midst of Babylon; cleanse yourselves and be clean, you who bear the vessels of the Lord’ (Isaiah 52:11).

Christmas is as pagan as any celebration can be, and we as Christians need to stop merging Christmas with Christianity. There is nothing Christian about Christmas. Christians who tell their children that ‘Santa’ is real, are in reality blatantly lying to innocent, impressionable children, and that is sin. Parents need to tell their children honestly that they and other family members are the ones giving the gifts. The modern Christmas is a mixture of Babylonianism, paganism, idolatry and ancient Egyptian rituals, plus a few more modern traditions and extreme materialism. Genuine Christians should be horrified at the thought, that for all their lives, they have been ‘touching the unclean things’. There is a way we can enjoy the festivities of this season, such as the holidays, gifts and family, without resorting to the paganism of it.

Christmas was celebrated in Rome by 336 AD. The Winter Solstice and the pagan festival Saturnalia (December 17th), which was the Roman feasting week, occurred at the same time. This was a time of merrymaking, dancing, feasting and the exchanging of gifts. The ancient Roman New Year’s Day pagan festival, was held on January 1st. We still celebrate New Year’s Day, because it has carried over. The approximate middle date of these two big pagan festivals was the 25th December, which was adopted to celebrate the birth of the new religion called ‘Christianity’; merging paganism with the Holy Truth of the Word of God; thus defiling the early church. That is quite probably one of the reasons the church died off for so many centuries during the ‘Dark Ages’. What is even worse than that, is the 25th December is the celebrated birth date of the ancient Persian mystery god Mithra – known as the ‘sun of righteousness’. Christmas, with its feasting, gifts and New Year’s Day, are both ancient pagan festivals still observed by the modern world, and have nothing to do with Christianity in any way.

In Roman Latin, the word ‘Christus’ was a mistranslation of the Hebrew word ‘Messiah’ or the ‘Anointed One of God’, and Christus was a derogatory term for the believers of the Jewish Messiah. The Latin word ‘massa’ means ‘to form together into a mass’ or ‘bring together in masses’. The Romans put the two words together and they came up with Christus Massa; literally ‘these silly believers in the Jewish Messiah all massing together’. The word ‘Christian’ was the Greek version of the same derogatory term. We can see that Christmas back in the early days had nothing whatsoever to do with glorifying the birth of our Lord, but on the contrary – it was to ridicule believers in the Messiah who regularly met together. The English word Christmas, adopted from the Latin words Christus Massa, was spelt this way about 1488, was changed to Cristesmasse, then Christ-tide, then reverted back to the word Christmas about 1656. The ancient Greeks spelt it as Xmas, and the word for ‘Christian’ was spelt as the equivalent of Xtian. The term ‘Christ’ was spelt Xt.

The Madonna and child has nothing to do with Mary and Jesus either. It was adopted from the Babylonian religion mentioned in the book of Jeremiah 44:17 to 44:25, and that brought great curses onto those who practiced it. The worship of Mary was set up in 381 AD. There is no mention of worshipping Mary until then and there is no worship of Mary in the Bible. This actually dates back to the days of Babylon and the Tower of Babel. It was Babylon who started heathen worship which became known as Babylonianism and that is still practiced today. When Damascus became the head of the Babylonian cult which worshipped the ‘queen of heaven’ and her son (the Madonna and child), the Catholic Church thought it would be politicly expedient to give them a parallel figure to bring into their new officially imposed worship. That was when Mary was elevated to divine status. The image of mother and child had been an object of primary worship from Babylon for centuries before the birth of our Lord Jesus, our Messiah. The Trinity Scene was a take of the Madonna and child, plus with Joseph added to go along with the new Christian beliefs. Mary is sometimes

referred to as the ‘Queen of Heaven’. Once again, the early Christians simply added paganism to their religion, thus defiling it further.

The Christmas tree was adopted from more sinister beginnings. The worship of decorated evergreen trees was the custom of ancient Egyptians and Europeans as a symbol of eternal life. An evergreen tree, usually the Yule tree was put into the entrance of homes and decorated with bees wax candles, apples and wafers on the 24th December to ‘scare away the devil’. Even after converting to Christianity, the Europeans did not do away with their worship of the evergreen Yule tree, they simply added the ancient Germanic and Celtic rites to their new religion. The Celtic Germans renamed their Yule tree the ‘Paradise tree’, in line with their new religion, supposedly to depict Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. The Germanic Paradise tree has given way to the modern Christmas tree. It was brought to England by the German Prince Albert who married the deeply religious British Queen Victoria – so merging the ancient pagan symbol with the so-called Christian Christmas as recently as the 19th century. The Christmas tree was taken to America by the original Britons who first arrived in America as missionaries then later by German travellers. So the Christmas tree is another ancient pagan custom still observed by the modern world.

Another adoption of a pagan symbol is the star atop the Christmas tree and other decorations. One pagan symbol that has largely died out, is the Christmas pyramid. It was made of wood with shelves to hold the small pagan idols. The pyramid was decorated with a star on top (like Christmas trees often are today) and surrounded with candles and evergreen leaves. The Christians merged the ancient Egyptian pyramid and an evergreen tree with their ‘new religion’. Even today, there is still the Yule log (symbolising the tree), Yule cakes (symbolising the wafers) and blinking lights (symbolising candles).

In 1645 the British Parliament ordered that Christmas Day be a day of fasting, not feasting, and in 1648, Christmas was abolished altogether. In 1660, King Charles ll revived Christmas and it slowly became the celebration we know today. There are modern traditions attached to Christmas that have nothing to do with any ancient ritual.

The Christmas card began in the Middle Ages as an expression of goodwill. Wood engravers would produce prints with religious themes by carving their etching into wood then quickly painting it and pressing it onto paper. They were very expensive – selling for a shilling (10c) each! This practice began in England by publisher Sir Henry Cole and has been followed by all English-speaking countries, and is growing in many others.

The Christmas turkey began as a new tradition when the first six turkeys arrived in England from Mexico in 1526. Yorkshireman William Strickland bought the six turkeys from an American Indian trader, and sold the turkeys in Bristol for two pence each. British King Edward VII made eating turkey at Christmas time, popular.

Christmas crackers were developed in 1840 by an English confectioner, Tom Smith. They began as individually wrapped sweets like Tom had seen in Paris, then he added a love motto. A few years later, watching a log crackling on a fire, he had the idea of adding a ‘crack’. They were called Cosaques. Later he added tiny metal toys or charms.

The original Santa Claus was a fourth century bishop from Turkey named Saint Nicholas who was known for his acts of kindness towards children. He became very popular in Holland where he was known as Sinter Klaus (Saint Charles). Around 1870, the Americans turned the name into Santa Claus. The English character of Father Christmas, a jolly, laughing old man who provided the Christmas feast, merged alongside Santa. He was depicted as tall and thin, and who wore green and brown. In 1890 Santa’s appearance changed to the red and white clothed, portly old gent by Swedish artists Jenny Nystrom, who drew a series of Christmas cards, and Haddon Sundblom, who adopted the new image for Coca-Cola’s advertising campaign. Then Santa was given a herd of flying reindeer.

An American poet, Clement Moore had the idea of Santa dropping down chimneys. Christmas stockings were supposed to be Santa’s boots full of toys for children. The English plum pudding began as a plum porridge. It was a soft sweet mixture enriched with nuts and various dried fruits, and over time it became thicker. The fairy as an ornament on a Christmas tree started as a ‘baby Jesus’ and in Europe became a shining angel. Eventually the angel reverted back to a female fairy, complete with dress and wand.

Christmas carols became popular around the 1400’s. The general population wanted something less severe than the old Latin refrains. In 1822 the first modern collection of Christmas carols was published to be sung

outdoors – not in church. Towards 1900, when church music writers wanted to recover the old carols, they looked to ancient texts and the tradition of singing Christmas carols outdoors was established. Churches began singing Christmas carols only about the 1950's.

We can see by all this, that Christmas is not in the least Christian, nor is it scriptural. To appease their uncertainty regarding the festive season, Christians have adopted the attitude that we celebrate the birth of Jesus, but the trouble with that is, He was not born in December. We can put together a series of scriptures to find out the approximate month Jesus was born. Zachariah was serving the Lord in the temple on the Jewish Day of Atonement (Luke 1:9 & 23), which is around late September to the middle of October; changing year by year in line with Passover, when the angel Gabriel promised him a son, who was born to be John the Baptist. Zachariah's wife Elizabeth was six months pregnant (Luke 1:26) when Gabriel went to visit Mary. That brings the date to late March to mid April. Mary, who had just conceived Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:26 to 38) stayed with Elizabeth for three months (Luke 1:56) and just after that, Elizabeth gave birth to John (Luke 1:57). That brings the date to June or July. The scriptures we have read shows us that logically, Jesus was born three months after John, so we can see that Jesus was born around the time of the Day of Atonement – somewhere between late September and the middle of October. That date fits in with why Jesus came to earth – to atone for our sins.

There is no need to feel uncomfortable with celebrating Christmas as a Christian, as long as we do not worship the tree or be involved in any of the pagan rituals. Giving gifts, resting, feasting with family, sending notes, letters and cards of goodwill and peace, and having a holiday is all good, because if we read the book of Esther, we can see that the Jews celebrated by feasting, giving gifts, enjoying a holiday, enjoying a good rest; it was a time filled with gladness and they wrote letters of greeting one to another. Their leader spoke peace to his people (Esther 9:17 to 22; 10:3).

Although Jesus our Messiah was not born in December, we can still celebrate His first coming to earth as a baby, while we wait for His second coming to earth as our King. May you have a very blessed and restful time this festive season with family and other loved ones.

Amen and God bless you. www.bibleabookoftruth.com