

Back to the Bible Week 5

How the Enemy Deceived the Church into Accepting Paganism

Part I) What is a Pagan/Paganism?

The word Pagan comes from the Latin word “paganus” meaning “country dweller” or “rustic.” It was used in the 4th century to refer to people who were not Christian and by The 5th century it was used to refer to all non-Christians.

Paganism is nature based spiritual beliefs as seen in the New Age Movement. Their religious practices include such things as animism and shamanism and the worship of multiple gods and goddesses (polytheism).

Animism- the belief that all objects, places, and creatures possess a distinct spiritual essence.

Shamanism- the practice of entering an altered state of consciousness to interact with the spirit world and gain spiritual knowledge.

Polytheism- the belief in and worship of multiple gods and goddesses.

Nature Worship- the practice of honoring and worshipping nature, its cycles, and its elements. (Worshipping creation, but not the creator).

Spiritual Healing- the practice of using spiritual practices to heal the body, mind and spirit.

Magick- the belief that one can influence the world through rituals, spells and other forms of energy work. (Witchcraft/sorcery)

Do Pagans believe in a Deity?

-Some believe in no deity, others believe in multiple gods and goddesses. Some believe in a “higher power” or force.

Paganism vs Wicca

Paganism encompasses a wide variety of spiritual and religious beliefs and practices whereas, Wicca is specific religious tradition based on the worship of nature and belief in multiple gods and goddesses. Some other Pagan organizations include:

- Covenant of the Goddess
- The Church of All Worlds
- Pagan Federation International

Source: <https://paganeos.com>

Part II Where it all started

1). **The Biblical Calendar**- the Biblical Calendar was replaced with the Julian Calendar (Julius Caesar- with the help of an astronomer in 45 BC), then the Gregorian Calendar (Pope Gregory XIII- 1582). The Biblical calendar used the 1st day, 2nd, day, etc. The man-made calendar named the days after Roman/Germanic pagan gods.

See video

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=3489788741155259&id=100003725022058

2). The Council of Nicaea in 325 AD Edict regarding the Sabbath

-At this council, Roman Emperor Constantine and the Catholic Church established Sunday as a day of rest. And at the Council of Laodicea around 365 AD, the Catholic Church made it illegal to “Judaize” or be idle from work on the 7th day sabbath.

-According to historian Paul Johnson, “Constantine never abandoned sun-worshipping and kept the symbol of the sun on his coins.” It is believed that his supposed conversion to Christianity was more of a political maneuver than a spiritual one. Some historians believe that he saw changing the sabbath to Sunday as a way of uniting the pagan-sunworshippers with the Christians who formerly observed the Sabbath on the 7th day instead of the 1st day. But he still worshipped the Sun instead of the SON!

-The Catholic Universe Bulletin printed August 14, 1942, page 4 states:

“The Church changed the observance of the Sabbath to Sunday by right of the divine, infallible authority given to her by her founder, Jesus Christ. The Protestant claiming the Bible to be the only guide of faith has no warrant for observing Sunday. In this matter the Seventh-day Adventists is the only consistent Protestant.”

-Catholic Virginian printed Oct. 3, 1947, pg. 9 article: “To Tell You the Truth”:

“For example, nowhere in the Bible do we find that Christ or the Apostles ordered that the Sabbath be changed from Saturday to Sunday. We have the commandment of God given to Moses to keep holy the Sabbath day, that is the 7th day of the week, Saturday. Today most Christians keep Sunday because it has been revealed to us by the (Roman Catholic) church outside the Bible.”

Biblical scripture relating to the above:

“He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to **change times and law.**” Daniel 7:25

“For I am the Lord, I change not.” Malachi 3:6

“Jesus is the same yesterday, and today and forever.” Hebrew 13:8

Part III – Have Christians Been Deceived into Celebrating Pagan Holidays?

Halloween

The Druids were an order of priests in Gaul (ancient France) and Britain. They were devil worshippers who told people they must hold an annual celebration to their two leading gods: the Celtic sun god and their lord of the dead. On this night, the god who brings death—Satan—was worshiped in a variety of peculiar ways. This October 31 festival was named Samhain (or Sowein; both are pronounced “SAH-win”).

On the night of October 31, they believed the dead came out of the graves and walked around, so they offered up sacrifices and had special feasts to honor them. The priests of Druid taught that if they did not do this, when they themselves dies they would be reincarnated as animals instead of people.

Around 433-475 AD Druidic priest became nominally converted to Christianity when it entered their country. The Druidic practices, including the October 31 festival to devils, came into the church around 558 AD. To pacify the followers of Druid in the eight century, Pope Gregory III declared November 1 to be a special feast day honoring the dead. This is known as “All Saints Day.” Coincidentally, November 1 is the first day of the Druid new year.

Source: The Real Story Behind Christmas, Easter and Halloween by *Vance Ferrell*

Christmas

History

Christmas was first formally celebrated in ancient Rome on December 25, 336 AD. Before this, the early beginnings of the Christmas spirit as we know it today could be found in pagan rituals of Saturnalia and Sol Invictus

Saturnalia- an ancient Roman festival and holiday in honor of the god Saturn. The holiday was celebrated with a sacrifice at the Temple of Saturn.

Sol Invictus- the official sun god of the Roman Empire revived by Emperor Aurelian in 274 AD.

Is Christmas really Jesus' Birthday?

The answer is no for many reasons. One of the most notable is that in Luke 2:8-20 the Angels visit the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks at night. In verse 11 they said: “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.” The shepherds would not have had their flocks in the field past October and certainly not in December because it would have been too cold.

(See: September 11-The True Date of Jesus' Birth @ ifapray.org)

So, whose birthday, is it?

- The pagans have always celebrated the birthday of Nimrod on December 25.
- The same Nimrod who started the great organized worldly apostasy from God that has dominated the world even today. (Remember the Tower of Babal?)
- Nimrod married his own mother, Semiramis, who propagated the evil doctrine of the survival of Nimrod as a spirit being. She claimed a full-grown evergreen tree sprang up overnight from a dead tree stump, which symbolized the springing forth unto new life of the dead Nimrod. On each anniversary of his birth, she claimed, Nimrod would visit the evergreen tree and leave gifts upon it.

Source-*The Plain Truth About Christmas* by David J. Steward

-Traditionally, a yule log was burned in the fireplace on Christmas Eve during the night as the log's embers dies, there appeared in the room, as if by magic, a Christmas tree surrounded by gifts. The yule log represented the sun-god Nimrod, and the Christmas tree presented himself resurrected as his own son Tammuz."

Source: "After Armageddon-Chapter 4" by John A. Sarkett

"December 25 was highly honored and recognized by Nimrod's supporters...Many centuries later this pagan custom was "Christianized" as being the birthday of Christ."

Source: *Easter and Christmas Paganism 2000 BC to Date* by Edward Stevens

The Christmas Tree- part of the Winter Solstice celebration. The Druids* and Celts believed that evergreen trees were a sign of life and renewal, and the Romans used evergreen branches to decorate their homes during the Saturnalia festival which is a Roman festival held in December near the winter solstice to honor Saturn, the god of agriculture and the harvest. It included a sacrifice of young pigs at a temple dedicated to Saturn, which were then eaten at a public feast the next day.

Biblical Scripture relating to the "Christmas Tree"

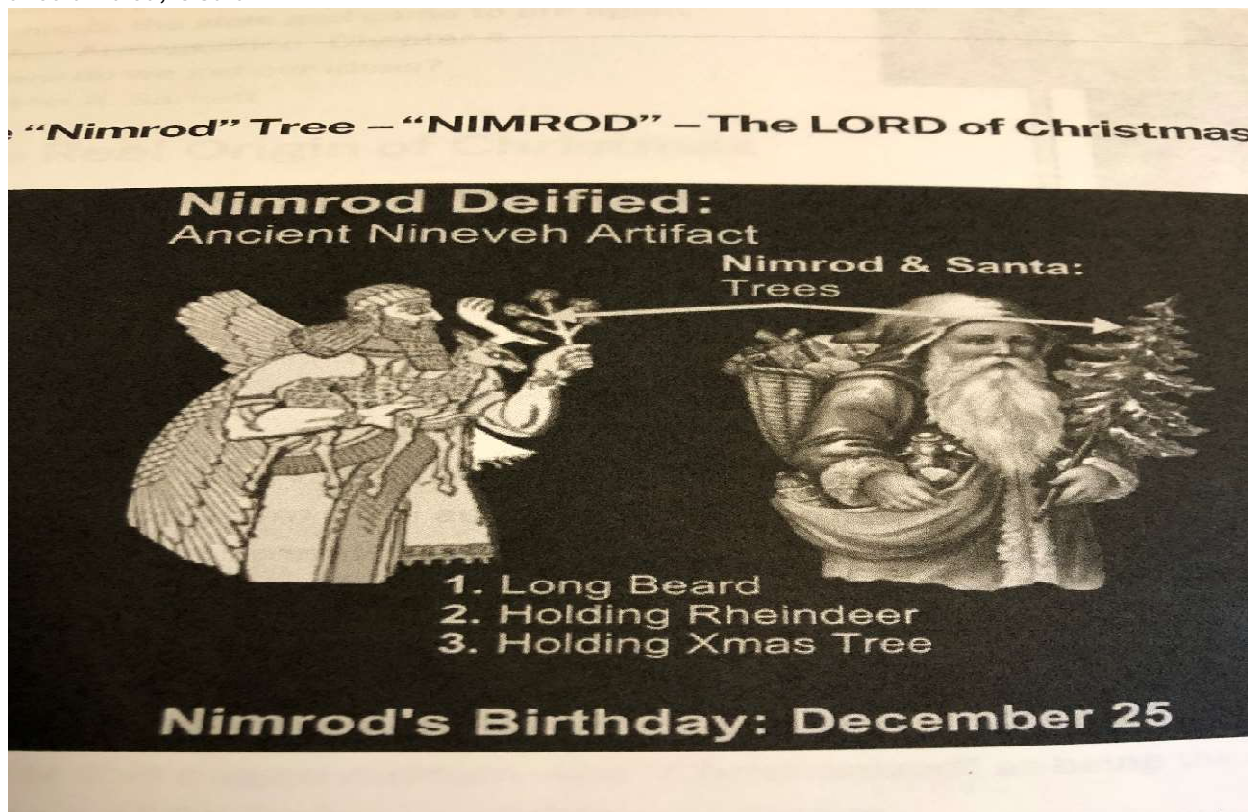
"For the customs of the peoples are futile; For one cuts a tree from the forest, The work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They decorate it with silver and gold; They fasten it with nails and hammers so that it will not topple." Jeremiah 10:3-4

*The Druids are known for their nature-themed magic, drawing powers from the natural world. They often have the ability to transform into various animal forms, known as "shape changing" or "shape shifting".

Santa Claus- Christmas counterfeits of Christ

Santa	vs.	Christ
Comes in the night		Comes as a thief in the night (2 Peter 3:10, 1 Thess. 5:2)
Dressed in white and red		Clothed in white and red (Rev. 19:13-14, Isaiah 63:1-3)
Brings gifts and rewards		Brings gifts and rewards (Romans 6:23, Rev. 22:12)
Knows if you've been good or not		Knows (Rev. 2:23)
White, curly hair		White hair (Rev. 1:14)
Comes with reindeer		Comes with horses (Rev. 19:11, 14)
Comes with a sleigh		Comes with chariots (Isaiah 66:15)
Lives at the North Pole		Lives on the sides of the north (Psalm 48:2)
Children tell him what they want		We pray to him (Matt. 7:7)
Santa Claus is not real, only imaginary		We should not take part in lies (Rev. 22:14-15)

Old Saint Nick, one of Santa's names is a name for Satan (See "Old Nick" in the dictionary) The word, "Santa," unscrambled, is Satan.



Easter

The only time Easter is mentioned in the Bible is in Acts 12:4 and it is a mistranslation of the word in the original Greek which is “Passover.”

Easter began long before the time of Christ. Semiramis became known as the fertility goddess Ishtar. She took on many names in different cultures including Isis, Diana, Astarte, Aphrodite, Ashtoreth, Cybele, Demeter, Ceres, Venus, Inanna and Freya. Easter was the Ishtar celebration. Ishtar is the mother goddess; she was also called the Queen of Heaven who interceded with the gods on behalf of mankind. She is the goddess of love and fertility. The Old Testament called her Ashtoreth and described the construction of her altar by King Solomon and its destruction by King Josiah.

The Council of Nicaea decreed that all must honor the resurrection of Christ by keeping the pagan Easter festival but only on a certain Sunday of each year. Prior to this decree, Christians celebrated Passover on the 14th of April each year.

See video: How Passover Become Easter

<https://youtu.be/NdATelfFW8A?si=zCn3DsrFJAN2IKSe>

See video: Baal (Allah) and Ashtaroth (Easter) in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/ySkcZbdAxDvb/>

Symbols of Easter

Weeping for Tammuz was a 40 -day mourning period for a pagan sun deity that which God castigates Israel for whoring after in Ezekiel 8:13-16. Today this period of mourning is called **Lent**. Source: Biblical Hermeneutics Stack Exchange.com

The women also said, “And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, did we make cakes for her to worship her and pour out drink offerings to her without our husbands’ permission Jeremiah 44:19. The cake offerings are now **“Hot Cross Buns”**

Easter Eggs

Every year, on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox, a celebration was held. It was Ishtar’s Sunday and celebrated with rabbits and eggs. “Ishtar Eggs” were dyed in the blood of babies sacrificed to Tammuz with the “cross of Tammuz” emblazoned on them as the children would then “hunt” the eggs in the likeness of Tammuz and Nimrod the mighty hunters. (See Jeremiah 32:35)

Bunny Rabbits – Tammuz was noted to be especially fond of rabbits and they became sacred in the ancient religion as it is one of the most fertile creatures on earth.

Easter Ham- Tammuz was believed to be killed by a wild boar he was hunting, and the consumption of ham on Easter is a symbolic reference to this event.

Sources:

-The Truth About Easter: www.babylonforsaken.com

-The Resurrection of Tammuz on Easter Sunday [www.ravshau.com/mysteryreligion/The resurrectionofTammuz.htm](http://www.ravshau.com/mysteryreligion/The%20resurrectionofTammuz.htm)

Part IV) Review the 10 Commandments

Part V) The Story of King Josiah (II Kings 22 & 23 and II Chronicles 34 & 35)

Around 622 BC Hilkiah the priest finds the Book of Law (believed to be the Book of Deuteronomy) in the temple during repairs. He gave the scroll to Shaphan, King Josiah's secretary who read it to the King.

King Josiah, inspired by the Book of the Law initiates religious reform, including the destruction of idols and the restoration of worship of the true God in Jerusalem. He also reinstated the observance of Passover which had not been done since the time that the Judges ruled over Israel.