

YAIY

Beacon

Nov-Dec 2008 - Spreading the Word throughout the world - yaay.org

Who wants everyone to be deceived?

What is one really celebrating at this time?

YAIY Beacon

Volume 2 Number 6



TABLE OF CONTENTS



Christmas - Mythologically Speaking 3
 What is Christmas really all about? How did it really get started? What seems to be more visually important? What is the origin of this all important day?
 by Elder Roger G. Meyer

Santa Claus, The Red-Suited Gnome 7
 The history and origin of this image began a long time ago.
 by Tim Stallings



Satan Claws - a poem by Tim Stallings 12



BeNot Deceived 13
Part 1 - The Foundation of Truth
 Who is the greatest deceiver? Do you feel you are free from his attempts to lead you astray? Read and find out what is the Foundation of all Truth.
 by Elder Buel Hallpike

The Love of the Father 18
 Just what does the Love of the Father involve? Is the love of our physical father to employ some of these same characteristics? Read and find out.
 by Elder John Fisher

QUESTION & ANSWER 21

Revealing the Truth TV Broadcast 23

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission and purpose is to reach people around the world with the message of the revealed personal Names of Yahweh and His Son Yahshua the Messiah, as well as teaching the salvation truths that have been neglected for centuries.

This magazine, **YAIY Beacon**, is published bi-monthly by Yahweh's Assembly in Yahshua, 2963 Co. Rd. 233, Kingdom City, MO 65262.

This magazine is sent free of charge, made possible through the tithes and offerings of those who desire to see the light of truth shine in our day.

© 2008 Yahweh's Assembly in Yahshua

Mail:
 YAIY
 2963 Co. Rd. 233
 Kingdom City, MO
 65262



Phone:
 573-642-4100
 Toll free:
 1-877-642-4101



Fax:
 573-642-4104



Email:
 beacon@yaiy.org

Internet:
 www.yaiy.org



Cover: Courtesy of
 BigStockPhoto.com



Christmas, Mythologically Speaking

In order to get the emphasis of what this writing is meant to say, one must first put in the forefront of one's mind the meaning of the word "myth." Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary defines the word "myth" as

1. a traditional or legendary story, usually concerning some being or hero or event, with or without, a determinable basis of fact or a natural explanation, esp. one that is concerned with deities or demigods and explains some practice, rite, or phenomenon of nature;

2. stories or matter of this kind: *realm of myth*;

3. any invented story, idea, or concept: *His account of this event is pure myth*;

4. an imaginary or fictitious thing or person; and

5. an unproved or false collective belief that is used to justify a social institution.

Please keep this definition in the forefront of your mind as you continue to read. The object of this writing is to look at and compare scriptural and historical truths on Christmas with this definition.

Manger Scene

Retailers love this time of the year. They make the majority of their annual profits at this time. People purchase items to give as gifts, especially to children and to loved ones. People base this idea of gift giving on the scriptural account of the wise men bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh,

And when they (wise men) were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh, Matt 2:11.

"Arrival in Bethlehem brought worry and upset: there was no room for them to stay at the hotel. There was only space in the stable - the animal house for travelers' donkeys and horses. [Yahshua] was born that night, and as they had no bed for him, they used an animal feeding box filled with the dry grass the animals ate." (internet under Christmas)

Today, the manger scene can be seen in front of church buildings, in store windows, and, in some case, on someone's front lawn. The scene usually depicts a baby (our savior) lying in a manger with his parents (Mary and Joseph) beside him. Also shown are the three wise men kneeling and offering the three gifts to the baby, and sometimes shepherds are also shown. Did you ever wonder why there were always three wise men? Three different gifts? One will not find any Scripture saying there were three wise men; at least two, yes, since it says "men", but not three anywhere.

What is wrong with this scene? Matt 2:11 says that the gifts were given to the young child in a house. The Greek word translated house is *oikia* and means a residence or abode. The Greek word translated an inn in Luke 2:7 is *kataluma*. Neither of these two Greek words is ever translated as the other.

So, the familiar scene seen at Christmas time does not totally match what Yahweh's word says. What, then, really matches today's celebration? All the information below in double quotes can be found on the internet where all pagan names are replaced with their Sacred Name equivalents in []. Word to search for is listed at the end of each quote in parenthesis.

Saturnalia

"In ancient Rome, the largest Solstice holiday was the Saturnalia, in honor of the harvest god Saturn. Not many people today have heard of Saturnalia, or know that most of our popular holiday customs are directly descended from the ancient holiday season. Saturnalia was a big holiday – businesses and courts closed for days. The halls were decked with holly branches and evergreen wreaths.

"People visited family and attended lavish banquets and holiday parties. Gifts of silver, candles, figurines, and sweets were exchanged. Another popular custom at Saturnalia involved slaves and their owners swapping roles. The equality of all was emphasized by the wearing (even by the emperor) of the red felt pileus cap of the freed slave – headgear that has long gone out of fashion, except for the character of Father Christmas, aka Santa Claus (more on this character in an accompanying article).

"So how did a raucous Pagan celebration become associated with Christianity? Very intentionally. At the time the date of [Yahshua's] birth was officially assigned [the Messiah's] birthday, Rome was pretty thoroughly Christianized, but the former pagans were more reluctant to give up the

holiday than they were their gods. After brushing aside inconvenience facts, the names were changed – but the holiday remained the same.

"Nativities were celebrated at Christmas-time, including that of Mithras, known throughout the empire as 'the light of the world,' and the nativity of Sol Invictus, the birthday of the sun.

"John Chrysostom, a fourth century Bishop, wrote: 'On this day also the Birthday of [the Messiah] was lately fixed at Rome in order that while the heathen were busy with their profane ceremonies, the Christians might perform their sacred rites undisturbed. They call this (December 25th), the



Birthday of the Invincible One (Mithras)." (Saturnalia)

Mithras

"Saturnalia may have been responsible for the pageantry of our midwinter festival, but it's Mithraism that seems to have inspired certain symbolic religious elements of Christmas. The comparison of Mithraists and Christians is not coincidental. December 25 was Mithras' birthday before it was [Yahshua's]. The actual choice of December 25 for Christmas was made under the Emperor Aurelian because this was the date of the Winter Solstice and was the day the

devotees of Mithras celebrated the birthday of the invincible sun." (Mithras)

Date

"The middle of winter has long been a time of celebration around the world. Centuries before the arrival of the man called [Yahshua], early Europeans celebrated light and birth in the darkest days of winter. Many people rejoiced during the winter solstice, when the worst of the winter was behind them and they could look forward to longer days and extended hours of sunlight." (Christmas)

The Christian world today celebrates the birth of our Savior,

Yahshua, on December 25. But, does this date conflict with the events surrounding His birth? When the announcement of the birth of Yahshua was made to the shepherds, the shepherds were tending their flocks by night,

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of Yahweh came upon them, and the glory of Yahweh shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is the supreme Messiah, Luke 2:8-11.

The shepherds were told where to go to find Him "wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger," verse 12.

December 25 is not the time of year conducive to the tending of flocks at nighttime at that latitude. After the shepherds witnessed the babe in Bethlehem, they spread the news.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds, Luke 2:17-18

“Another related Roman festival celebrated at the same time was dedicated to Sol Invictus (“the invincible sun”). Originally a Syrian deity, this cult was imported by Emperor Heliogabalus into Rome and Sol was made god of the state. With the spread of Christianity, Christmas celebration became the most important Christian festival. In the third century various dates, from December to April, were celebrated by Christians as Christmas. January 6 was the most favored day because it was thought to



be [Yahshua’s] Baptismal day (in the Greek Orthodox Church this continues to be the day to celebrate Christmas). In the year 350, December 25 was adopted in Rome and gradually almost the entire Christian church agreed to that date, which coincided, with the Winter solstice and the festivals, Sol Invicta and Saturnalia. Many of the rituals and traditions of the pagan festivals were incorporated into the Christmas celebration and are still observed today.

“Probably the most celebrated holiday in the world, our modern Christmas is a product of hundreds of years of both secular and religious traditions from around the globe.” (Christmas)

The Yule Log

Alexander Hislop, in his book “The Two Babylons or The Papal Worship,” writes on page 97 that “The Christmas tree, now so common among us, was equally common in pagan Rome and in pagan Egypt. In Egypt it was the palm-tree; in Rome it was the fir; the palm- tree denoting the Pagan Messiah, as Baal-Tamar, the fir referring to him as Baal-Berith. 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 the branch.’ And this entirely accounts for the putting of the Yule Log into the fire on Christmas-eve, and the appearance of the Christmas-tree the next morning.”

On page 98 he continues by writing, “Therefore, the 25th of December, the day that was observed at Rome as the day when the victorious god reappeared on earth, was held at the *Natalis invicti solois*, ‘the birthday of the unconquered Sun.’ Now the Yule Log is the dead stock of Nimrod, deified as the sun-god, but cut down by his enemies; the Christmas-tree is Nimrod *redivivus*— the slain god come to life again.”

Now, who really is Nimrod? Nimrod was the grandson of Ham, the son of Noah, Gen 10:1-8. The book mentioned above indicates that Nimrod founded Babylon and Nineveh. This book also reports that Nimrod’s wife was named Semiramis, and that both were deified. Reportedly, Semiramis is called the queen of the heavens under the name of Astarte (queen of the heavens – Astarte – Easter).

In the book, *Babylon, Mystery Religion*, page 164, we read,

“In connection with the customs of the Christmas’ season, we will mention the Christmas tree. An old Babylonian fable went like this: Semiramus, the mother of Tammuz (Ezek 8:14) claimed that overnight an evergreen tree sprang up from a dead stump. The dead stump supposedly

symbolized her dead husband Nimrod; the new evergreen tree was the symbol that Nimrod had come to life again in the person of Tammuz!”

What this sounds like is that one is equating Semiramus to both the wife and mother of Nimrod (Tammuz).

Again, on page 98 of *The Two Babylons* we read,

“Now the Yule Log is the dead stock of Nimrod, deified as the sun-god, but cut down by his enemies. If the mother was a tree, the sun (Nimrod) must have been recognized as the ‘Man the branch’. And this entirely accounts for the putting of the Yule Log into the fire on Christmas eve.

“Nimrod was the divine child born at the winter solstice as a new incarnation of the great god (after that god had been cut in pieces), on the purpose to revenge his death upon his

To read this mini-study go to our web-site, www.yaiy.org, or phone 1-877-642-4101

Mini - Study

Is Christmas a Biblical Observance?

“Put the Savior back in Christmas,” people cry. But was He ever there in the first place?

By far the most important celebration in the Western world today is Christmas. Billions of dollars will be spent this year on gifts, gift wrapping, candy, decorations, and greeting cards in a gigantic, annual spending spree that starts in earnest right after Hallowe’en—and shifts into overdrive the day after Thanksgiving.

Merchants hinging their hopes for the entire sales year on Christmas profits keep the momentum at a fever pitch. A nonstop flood of advertisements and promotions entice an exploitable public to continue spending themselves into debt at this time each year.

The more religiously disposed object to the commercialization of the “Savior’s birthday.” They can see that this annual celebration has little in common with any Biblical observance. On the contrary, Christmas today is little more than a mandatory ritual of gift exchanging done under the guise of family togetherness and pleasing children.

But the Bible believer must stop to ask himself, am I pleasing my Heavenly Father by my Christmas observance? If this is what He wants me to do, then surely I can find in His very Word—the Bible—at least one passage telling me to keep this holiday.

Shocking as it may be, you cannot find even one command in the entire Bible to keep this supposed birthday of the Savior! Furthermore, nowhere in the New Testament is there a single instance where someone observed Christmas. Not one of the Apostles observed December 25, nor did any of them ever in the Savior’s 33 years on this earth throw Him a birthday party. Nowhere do we find His disciples giving a gift to Him on December 25. Nor did anyone else. Not even to one another.

murderers. Now the great god, cut off in the midst of his power and glory, was symbolized as a huge tree, stripped of all its branches and cut-down almost to the ground. But the great serpent, the symbol of the life restoring Aesculapius, twists itself around the dead stock, and lo, at its side up sprouts a young tree – a tree of an entirely different kind, that is destined never to be cut down by hostile power – even the pal-tree, the well-known symbol of victory.”

The word “Yule” is the Chaldee name for an “infant” or “little child.”

The Christmas Tree

“Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition as we now know it in the 16th century when devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes. Some built Christmas pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreens and candles if wood were scarce. It is a widely held belief that Martin Luther, the 16th-century Protestant reformer, first added lighted candles to a tree. Walking toward his home one winter evening, composing a sermon, he was awed by of stars twinkling amidst evergreens. To recapture the scene for his family, he erected a tree in the main room and wired its branches with lighted candles.



Wreath



Mistletoe

“Most 19th-century Americans found Christmas trees an oddity. The first record of one being on display was in the 1830s by the German settlers of Pennsylvania, although trees had been a tradition in many German homes much earlier. The Pennsylvania German settlements had community trees as early as 1747. But, as late as the 1840s, Christmas trees were seen the brilliance as pagan symbols and not accepted by most Americans.

“It is not surprising that, like many other festive Christmas customs, the tree was adopted so late in America. To the New England Puritans, Christmas was sacred. The pilgrim’s second governor, William Bradford, wrote that he tried hard to stamp out ‘pagan mockery’ of the observance, penalizing any frivolity. The influential Oliver Cromwell preached against ‘the heathen traditions’ of Christmas carols, decorated trees, and any joyful expression that desecrated ‘that sacred event.’ In 1659, the General Court of Massachusetts enacted a law

Go to www.yaiy.org/literature and click on **The Untold Story of Christmas** to read more on this unscriptural celebration

making any observance of December 25 (other than a church service) a penal offense; people were fined for hanging decorations. That stern solemnity continued until the 19th century, when the influx of German and Irish immigrants undermined the Puritan legacy.” (Christmas)

Today, lit candles on the Christmas tree have been replaced with colored electric bulbs.

Mistletoe, Holly and Wreaths

“The use of the mistletoe bough has its origin in Druidic, Norse and English traditions and superstition. Kissing under the mistletoe is of English origin. It was derived from Babylonian Mysteries dealing with ‘the man - the branch,’ Nimrod. Holly is a plant that is used to make Christmas wreaths.” (Mistletoe and Holly)

The Christmas Story

The facts listed above indicate the origin of the story told in Christian churches every December 25 comes from traditions based on pagan rites. Centuries ago the Catholic Church, in order to gain members, allowed the rites and celebrations of these pagan peoples to be adopted. Setting

<see **Christmas** page 20 >



Christmas Tree

Santa Claus

The Red-Suited Gnome

never gave up believing that all the stories in the Bible are TRUE, which our Dear Mother would read to us. So quickly I believe, Yahweh had put it in my heart to quickly figure out there was no bunny, no tooth fairies, nor anything else but His Word of Truth. These are the thoughts of children at an early age. They are not dumb. They do form thoughts and opinions on their own!

Countless times we have seen over the years that children turn into teenagers and become rebellious. Why? Because of these very same thoughts I had. They still remember all the lies they are told which are not true. They remember and this is the reason why many of them fall into unbelief as they move on to College! This falsehood is what churchianity and most of the world teaches. Hence, the falling away of so many when they get out from under their parents' wings.

If I can remember this at my age now, surely a child can remember it now. His Word tells us not to lie, so parents quit telling your children lies about Santa Claus, who doesn't exist! Please don't give me "That Santa's in your heart thing" either. Your heart is wrong in this! The Father Yahweh and His Son Yahshua tell you these things are wrong in His Word.

To tell your children and to yourselves as parents that these things are ok, is irresponsible according to His Word! Please reconsider and come to the Holy Days of Yahweh and out of the bondage of Babylon and Egypt.

Fairy Tales

The "image" of Santa Claus is one of the most familiar in the world. For as long as anyone can remember, the jolly, elderly, fat, bearded man in a red suit trimmed with fur has been the symbol of the nation's most popular "holiday." We can name his flying reindeer. We know he lives at the North Pole, where his elves spend the year churning out toys for children who have been good.

But like many things in life, his origins are complicated. In earlier traditions, he punished as often as he rewarded. *It*



A Reflection Back

In 1968 or 69, I wondered for a little, "Why couldn't Santa deliver to me a pogo stick?" I really wanted that pogo stick and I never got it! Santa left a note instead saying, "I'm sorry I didn't bring you a pogo stick but I brought you and your brother a TV instead." Now, I was happy about the TV which my brother and I enjoyed many TV programs on it growing up. We did not mind sharing. So I pondered a few hours, "Why didn't Santa deliver?" If you were good, as I was, then why couldn't he deliver a pogo stick because of my good behavior??? Hmmm. The handwriting on this note looked a lot like Mom's. I must also add, now that memory serves me right (funny how we remember), this was also the first time Santa had messed up and had to leave a note. Why, I thought? Santa messing up!!!

The stores had plenty of pogo sticks that I saw on the TV commercials. If Santa didn't have time to make one, then why couldn't he have dropped by the store to get me one?

Back to the Note: I figured out this was indeed Mom's handwriting and confronted her with it. She told me the truth that it was all made up! It's just a story to make you feel good about yourself, I was told. It's a good thing I was strong emotionally even then, because I didn't cry about it. I just accepted it and moved on. But can all children do this? The answer is No! My brother knew the whole time, and I didn't get mad at him either.

But the thought came to pass quickly. "What else is not true?" It's a good thing that even at that young age I

sounds like Santa is a respecter of persons, something that Yahweh or Yahshua is not (emphasis mine).

And he didn't always look the way he does today. As few as 140 years ago, Santa could be portrayed as a gnome-like little man, or a dashing beardless violinist, or a dignified bishop wearing a traditional mitre. The history of Santa's changing form is closely tied to the history of Christmas, perhaps the most American of all "holidays." (Excerpts from www.findarticles.com)

Now I'm not against the Irish at all, I grew up with some friends who have Irish ancestry. But, I still recall reading childhood books of gnomes, leprechauns, fairies, and let's not forget the ugly trolls who live under bridges, waiting and lurking, ready to pounce on some poor innocent victim. This is what these are, Fairy Tales, just like old Santa. Do you really want to teach your children this? What will you say when they really want the truth from you?

Ho, Ho, Ho, Mary ChristMass

The above headline is quoted many times during this coming "winter" season. Let's find out just exactly what it means and who is saying it, and why. All the Clauses surely know this saying don't they? I know I used to say it in my ignorance. Satan is very cunning and wily, but we can know what this means spiritually in Yahweh through Yahshua.

Ho – an interjection: Used to express surprise or joy, to attract attention to something "sighted," or to urge "onward." (free online dictionary) Questions anyone...?

Did I ever really hear Santa say this? Or was it just repeated by tradition? The first thought I have is I've never seen Santa, except some guy in a store with a fake beard, with possibly bad breath and a fat belly. I can hardly believe I sat on his lap.

Secondly, we are being urged onward to believe in something that is not real nor seen.

Thirdly, attract attention to what? Something not real, that takes our minds away from Yahweh and His Son Yahshua, as well as to take you away from His Word, and proper worship?

And lastly, there's no joy in Santa. Only surprise that people steal in his name for something that's not true, and go into debt for a cause that only causes selfishness in the early or latter years of those who want to take instead of give, or give to receive.

Isn't it better to give than to receive, instead of giving to receive? I see Satan using Santa against the people who have no knowledge whatsoever that he is doing this to them. He's a deceiver and his gifts of joy bring out the worst in people. Is this something the people should really be following blindly? The blind gifts are deceptions of Satan.

Mary Christmas – Well, we know Mary is asleep, she is not a deity as the Catholics claim. Let's put the true Mary (Mariam) into perspective. Scriptures indicate an angel of Yahweh, as well as Elisabeth, said she is "Blessed among Women," Luke 1:28 and 42. And she is, because she is whom Yahweh the Father chose as a virgin to give birth to our Saviour.

But when the fullness of the time was come, Yahweh sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law (penalty of death with no Saviour until Yahshua) that we might receive the adoption of sons, Galatians 4:4-5.

"Might" means to accept and believe, and to endure until the end. Now, after his death and resurrection! Oh, to be baptized in Yahshua's Name. So Mariam is indeed blessed, but to exalt her to a deity is far fetched based upon "one" scripture! Salvation is in Yahshua, not in Mary. It is clear that "Merry" is a play of Satan upon the English name Mary, in the religious sense the Catholic Mary, to whom a lot of people worship falsely, and Satan uses this to make it sound real pious and good. But it's an exposed lie. Make "Merry." Do what you want to, just believe, and all is well! Let's remember that this is all coming from just one sentence of Claus and his cronies!

Christmas – Worshipped in Catholic to Protestant to Fundamentalist churches and beyond. The word Christmas itself reveals who married paganism to the true believers in Yahshua, before they fell and during, and to those who would fall afterwards! And as the Jews and Gentiles died off (the true believers), the customs of Yahshua and the commandments of Yahweh were supposedly changed from the Law and the Testimony (Isaiah 8:20 and Revelation 12:17).

The word Christmas is a combination of the words "Christ" and "Mass." The word Mass means death and was coined originally by the Roman Catholic Church, and belongs exclusively to the Church at Rome. (Most excerpts from www.lasttrumpetministries.org)

The ritual of the Mass involves the death of Christ (Messiah) and the distribution of the "Host" wafers. Our unleavened bread they are misusing, (Now remember in Catholicism, Mary is first and Messiah second). Hence, Ho Mary! The word "Host," in Latin #5 of (Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary 1983), means *hoste, oste* which is *eostre*, which is Easter, which is not Passover, and the definition of host is – Eucharist, sacrifice, the eucharistic bread.

Many of the world believe Messiah died for them, but are following the ways of Babylon. Eating and drinking Messiah's blood through fermented wine, week after week. Rather it's a memorial service (Passover) done only once a year. Yet, and they offer the bread of life each week as though Messiah has to do it all over again and again. (Hebrews 9:24-28)

Also the Nicholas *host* precedes # 5. Hence, Mary Christmas, along with Nicholas (Santa – St. Nick), with Satan's approval, no doubt, is a lie. Without going into extreme detail, we know that the Roman Catholic Church thinks that each sun-day morning mass, and partaking of what they may think, is Passover. But it is Eucharist only and is really quite disturbing according to the Word. Passover is once a year, Easter and Eucharist is every week, and on sun-day, which is

nowhere to be found in Yahweh's Word!

They put the wafer symbol of the Holy Spirit in a box, which is made of pure gold. It supposedly represents the Ark of the Covenant, They pray and worship to a box, as well as praying to idols and statues, and rubbing rosary charms. Now I could go on and tell you more, but I would then have to write a book. But just remember that Diana of the Ephesians is the same tool of Satan used at that time and has never left the world, and he creates new tools all the time, just to deceive!

All that from Santa Claus in one short sentence. Just a tip I found from the iceberg! Satan's ruse (trick), his lies exposed!!!

The Facts vs. Santa

There was a man named Hagios Nikolaos (his real Greek name), who was the Bishop of Myra in modern day Turkey and did kind things and acts we are told, whose name we now know as St. Nicholas. He reportedly died around 350 C.E. His name became a version, as well as a perversion, of many myths and legends. (Excerpt from w.lone-star.net).

It seems old Claus has many mythological names from many countries across the whole world. Just to name a few, Father Christmas, Kris Kringle, Pope Noel (No-El?), perish the thought! The Kristkind, Sint Klaas, Shengdan Laoren, Black Peter, Pa Norsk, and Grandfather Frost (some excerpts from w.lone-star.net).

All these different names from different countries are worshipping a man who has been long dead. We know there's only One Name for Salvation under Heaven whereby men must be saved and that is Yahshua, Acts 4:12. Why are people in the U.S. as a whole worshipping a mythological person with flying reindeer who doesn't even exist? We shall see!

Santa Claus and The Saturnalia

During Roman times, winter solstice marked a period of darkness and cold with little harvest for the people. So

festivals were held in the honor of the god of agriculture, Saturnalia, and gods and goddesses of harvest. Masquerades, parties, and great feasts were held for days on end. Slaves became masters, schools and businesses were closed, and peasants ruled the cities. People threw off the mores of society for a month of festivity and debauchery.

Children were honored around the same time with a special festival called Juvanelia, held in honor of Mithra, the infant god of the unconquerable sun. It was believed the infant was born on December 25, which was considered the most sacred day of the year.

When Christianity began to spread during the third century, Constantine was seeking a way to reach the so-called pagans or non-converts. Religious leaders combined Roman religious practices with Christian beliefs and December 25 was transformed from the birth of the sun god Mithra, to the birth of [Yahweh's Son, Yahshua].

Religious leaders knew that by holding Christmas at the same time as the Roman festivals, it would be more readily assimilated into Roman culture and would make the process of converting the people to Christianity easier as well. Let it be known that by this time they had dropped the Name Yahshua for Jesus, a man-made name.

Originally known as the Feast of The Nativity (Christ's Birth), the religious custom spread along with Christianity into Egypt by 432 C.E., and to England by the end of the Sixth century. (Excerpts from Sherri Daus, w.lakelandmirror.com)

By the time of The Middle Ages, Christianity had completely accepted this as the norm.

Contrary to popular belief, our Saviour was not born on the 25th of December, and many reputable scholars claim to know when He was born. Some say in the fall, some say in the spring, but no man alive knows, and it is not made completely clear in the scriptures. To do so is to add your "own thoughts" to His Word as to actually what day it was!!!

For more information go to www.yaiy.com, click on Literature, then click on "The Untold Story of Christmas," an in-depth booklet, as well as "Biblical Holy Days," another in-depth Booklet—what you find may surprise your interest!

Santa With Flying Reindeer?

Santa's sled is a magical imagination no doubt, but couldn't this also be considered a Chariot of Old? Indeed a Chariot of the sun! (2 Kings 23:11) Christmas and Easter go hand in hand. You can't have one without the other, these are not the Holy Days Of Yahweh!

We know Ashtoroth is Ashtoreth, which has become modern day Easter, and is celebrated by not only Christianity but other faiths as well. Yahweh condemns such practices of the people round about in following the spring full moon equinox as well as the winter full moon equinox. These are "holidays" that Yahweh condemns, as they are not His Holy Days nor His Feasts (see 1 Kings 11:5-13). This is the very reason Yahweh divorced Israel until Yahshua came and died on the tree for our sins, so that we could be reconciled to Yahweh through Him! The reason why Yahweh divorced the 12 tribes of Israel over time in the Old Testament, was because of the mixing of the Babylonian system of the gods of the people round about them. This is what Churchianity is doing now and has been for over 1900 years!!! (2 Kings 23:11-28 and 1 Kings 11:33)

The 8 days of Christmas with Santa and the false flying reindeer correspond to the 8 days of December 25th through New Years Day. These 8 days are a perversion of Satan counterfeiting the 8 Holy Days of Yahweh in the seventh scriptural month known as the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day.

The 8 days of Easter in the spring is a perversion of Satan counterfeiting the one day memorial of Yahshua dying for our sins (Passover) and the seven days of Unleavened Bread which follow. These are well known facts, and the early assembly in the NT kept these



Detail from *First Celebration of the Festival of St. Nicholas by The New-York Historical Society*, Broadside by Alexander Anderson, December 6, 1810, commissioned by John Pintard, SY 1864-21, negative number 28883.



His looks are changing, but it is still *Saint Nicholas*
Period Postcard



"Merry Old Santa Claus," by Thomas Nast, *Harper's Weekly*, January 1, 1881.



Coca-Cola Santa by Haddon Sundblom Courtesy of the Coca-Cola Company



Nast Santa, Bishop Nicholas, Coke Santa, illustration by Renee Graef, *A Special Place for Santa Roman, Inc.*, 1991. Permission pending.



Saint Nicholas 1849 engraving by Boyd

The evolution of nineteenth century Saint Nicholas to present day Santa Claus

days, not the "holidays" that are kept now. They kept the Holy Days before Constantine started this messy abomination! (1 Cor. 5:6-8)

The Protestants indeed "protested" against the Catholic Church to be able to interpret the Bible on their own, not through an earthly high priest man, as the catholic priests said that "they only" held that right. The Protestants over time and torture won out, but they kept the very same abominable "pagan holidays" of the Catholic Church, and do keep them still unto this very day, including sun-day worship!

They only "protested" the right to study the scriptures for themselves, but held onto the pagan "holidays"! Yahshua is our High Priest in heaven now, and also will be when Yahweh sends Him back to this earth to redeem us so that we can reign with Him a thousand years! And beyond.

You're not going to hear this in sunday school. This is what is meant by the scriptures concerning Yahshua

saying in Revelations to "Come out of (her) Babylon my People," Rev. 17:5 and 18:2-8. Please heed His Word as it will save your lives.

Witchcraft

What does Yahweh say about witchcraft? He says,

And Yahweh spake all these words, saying, I am Yahweh your Elohiym, which have brought you out of the land of Egypt, Thou shalt not have no other elohiym before Me. Thou shalt not make unto you any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in Heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down yourself unto them, nor serve them: For I Yahweh your Elohiym am a jealous Elohiym, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them who hate me; And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and

keep my commandments, Exodus 20:1-6.

Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it Holy, Ex. 20:8.

The New Testament provides excellent witness against witchcraft, which is what the celebration of Christmas is.

Howbeit then, when ye knew not Yahweh, ye did service unto them which by nature are no mighty ones. But now, after that ye have known Yahweh, or rather are known of Yahweh, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain, Gal 4:8-11.

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings,

murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of Yahweh, Gal 5:19-21.

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of Yahweh? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of Yahweh, 1 Cor 6:9-10.

And what agreement hath the temple of Yahweh with idols? for ye are the temple of the living Elohim; as Elohim hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith Yahweh, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith Yahweh El Shaddai, 2 Cor 6:16-18.

Fables

Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than righteous edifying which is in faith (so do), 1st Tim. 1:4.

But refuse profane old wive's fables, and exercise yourself unto righteousness, 1 Tim. 4:7.

And they shall turn their ears away from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables, 2 Tim. 4:4.

Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth, Titus 1:14.

For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Sovereign Yahshua Messiah, but were eyewitnesses of His Majesty, 2 Peter 1:16.

Lies

Then Yahweh said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in My Name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto

them: They prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nothing, and the deceit of their heart, Jeremiyah 14:14.

Because with lies you have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, by promising him life, Ezekiel 13:22.

A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape. Proverbs 19:5.

Wouldn't telling and teaching your children about Santa, his reindeer and elves, be considered lies? They surely would be!

Gifts

As for you, O House of Israel, thus saith Almighty Yahweh; Go you, serve you every one his idols, and hereafter, If you will not hearken unto me: but pollute you no more My Holy Name with your gifts, and with your idol, Ezek. 20:39.

Many will intreat the favour of the prince: and every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts, Proverbs 19:6.

Your princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves, everyone loves gifts, and follows after rewards: They judge not the fatherless, neither does the cause of the widow come unto them, Isaiah 1:23.

These are just some of the reasons it's better to give than to receive! Let me follow up with these last few scriptures.

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the elements of the world, and not after Messiah, Colossians 2:8.

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but Mighty in Yahweh to the pulling down of strongholds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of Yahweh, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Messiah; and having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled, 2 Cor. 10:3-6.

For we wrestle not with flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places, Ephesians 6:12.

Conclusion

We can clearly see now that from the scriptures we are not to be joined with Santa, his flying reindeer, nor his elves, which do not exist. These are just the traditions of men and women from the past 1700 years or so of this make believe story, which truly comes from Satan, and then through man, ridiculing the Salvation and true worship of the Saviour Yahshua. "Thinking to," but not really. For those of us who know better, who study daily the Word, of thinking to "replace" Yahweh's Feasts and Holy Days with a man-made Babylonian worship style religion of man and Satan. The very same religion of Satan as in what started at the Tower of Babel (confusion), which was of Satan. Yahweh is not The Author of Confusion through His Son Yahshua. But He did bring it about at the Tower of Babel because of man's disobedience! This Christ-mass thing is the very same Babylonian religion Satan started through Nimrod, with Semaramis, his evil mother.

Yahweh's Holy Days are not weak and beggarly. They are what He said they are, Holy! To be treated with respect and proper reverence. You cannot find this with silly make-believe things that don't exist but in the hearts and minds of false people, worshipping false mighty ones. For those of you who are celebrating these events, I implore you to seek these things out for your own good, happiness, salvation, and personal welfare in Messiah Yahshua.

I can tell you this truly that I quit keeping Christmas about 26 years ago because it was not in His Word, even though I was a Sunday keeper until 2002. By the grace of Yahweh and His Son Yahshua, and because I studied to show myself approved in His sight, He led me to understand about His Feast Days from 2004 to 2006 from a dear friend of another Assembly. But, I

didn't get to partake until last year 2007, when I went to my first Feast of Tabernacles.

What I noticed and felt immediately when I arrived was that we were all in "one accord" as the scriptures teach. There was no strife, no backbiting, no one getting angry for any reason whatsoever. It was what I had been

searching for all of my life. There was and is perfect peace in this and I beg you by the Name of Yahshua to search out the meaning of the Holy Days as they show His Perfect Plan of Salvation. It will bring you complete fulfillment in His Word and in your life. This is what you're seeking, and when you find it, hold onto it with your very

life!!! Seek out a Yahweh/Yahshua (Salvation in) Assembly in your area. You will not regret it! Shalom!

Tim Stallings

Satan Claws

A poem by Tim Stallings

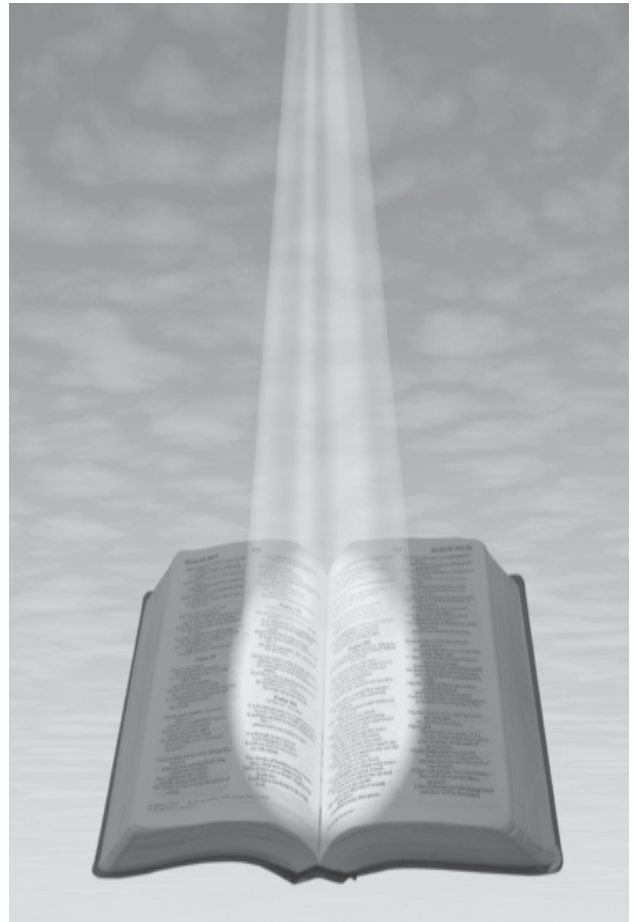
"Twas the night before x-mass" we all have so heard,
But still in my heart I find it absurd.
How a fat-man can get down a chimney so fast,
Where even I, a small man, would need a big blast.
With promises of toys, if the children obey,
For only a month they are told how to sway.
Be good for a while and then gifts you'll receive,
Believe in the fat-man to whom you can't conceive.
He flies in one night from heaven above,
With twelve tiny Reindeer adjoined like a glove.
They always will get there or so you may glean,
Destinations of night in which they are not seen.
If I really could think that I thought this was true,
Then what I know now no one should misconstrue.
If ever I thought that the parents could think,
To take Yahweh's Word and throw it in the drink.
These lies that are told on these abominations,
Come not only from hearts but imaginations.
To all the children that have been misled,
Don't listen to them, it's just all in their head.
The Good Book indeed talks of a Saviour to love,
And His Name is not Nicholas, but Yahshua from
above.
Saint Nicholas the story has been told to the nation,
But what about money and commercialization.
They buy and they spend to give gifts and to receive,
To make themselves poor and when over, they grieve.
If only I had not spent so much on the tree,
The presents and the money, Oh how my heart wants to
be free.
To feed the poor children, who we know are in need,
I'm not sorry to say but I know we must heed.
This story they tell is a lie and that's one for those led,
I'm still trying to get this thing out of my head.

This story of Claus and the seeing of red,
He comes round every year while you are in bed.
This big gnome red fat man with a bag full of toys,
To give to all children, both girls and boys.
To give them away, it takes but one night,
To the world at large this seems all right.
But the toys they received became huge piles of junk,
And out they are thrown and become nothing but bunk.
And on these gifts was spent so much money,
Which was then given to one called honey.
This money used could have been better spent,
Before the gifts were all come and then all went.
O Yahweh, O Yahshua, in Whom we do believe,
Our hearts are in unison in Him Who gives relief.
We need not to think that He will not provide,
His Word is a buckler, It is pure and tried.
When I say that it's tried in Whom we agree,
We know from experience it's Him we shall see.
We need no false stories to live life to His purity,
His Spirit inside us which dwells for a surety.
There's just one more thing that I want you to see,
How did 12 tribes became reindeer with a fat man all
glee.
We know it's not true, as reindeer can't fly,
Oh to you parents I say, Why then Oh why, why?
I know when I tell you that Santa is dead,
Because all who believe the story should well call him
Fred.
It makes no whole matter of difference to me,
If those who condemn me shall not wholly see.
I am telling you the truth, as this is no lie,
I still will be praying that you come out with no cry.
So don't make up stories to make children believers,
Hold onto His Word which you must be receivers.
Seek ye Salvation from Yahshua above,
Not from the strangers who show you no love.
There's truly a mix here and you surely will have falls,
If you trust in the story of Old Satan Claws!!!

Be Not Deceived!

Part 1 The Foundation of Truth

(Note: Except where otherwise stated all Bible references are taken from the New King James Version - NKJV with the Holy Names inserted.)



Introduction

As Yahshua “*sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, ... what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?’*.” (Matt 24:3) He started His reply by saying to them: “*Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Messiah and will deceive many’*” - verses 4 and 5.

He continued with a similar warning, but with a different emphasis in verses 11 and 12.

This article is the first of a series of writings that will examine these important end-time signs of deception that Yahshua said will take place on a massive scale before His return. This first part will cover some basic concepts that will be of fundamental significance throughout the series.

End Time Signs

Yahshua’s disciples probably thought that the end of the age and Yahshua’s return would have been during their lifetime. They wanted to know the signals they could expect as that time drew near. Those disciples have all died, but Yahshua’s answer to their inspired question is of special importance to His disciples today.

We are living at a truly historic time when events are moving at an unprecedented pace and we are seeing the fulfilment of many prophecies in our lifetime. Problems facing our leaders have moved from a national to a global scale.

The solutions they seek are no longer confined merely to the welfare of any country but are as far-reaching and interlinked as the problems themselves, embracing all of mankind. The forces of evil are more rampant now than they have ever been before. Payday is here. The wild seeds of selfishness, greed and deception sown over countless generations are now producing a profuse harvest of suffering and anxiety. No longer can we feel secure in the cocoon of stability and safety that we had painstakingly woven. Now more than ever we are vulnerable to whirlwind forces that are beyond our control. The world seems to be getting into and messing up every ‘tidy’ corner in which we had lived. In this global setting we can better appreciate the significance of Yahshua’s words. Although deception has been a feature of life since the time of our earliest parents, it has grown and is continuing to grow at an alarming rate encompassing the world in accordance with predictions in the Bible. Now more than ever it is a real challenge to maintain our guard and to be faithful to the end. Those of us who have read the end of the drama know that without the present scenes we cannot get to the finale. We are getting there fast! Let us ensure that we will proceed not as fearful helpless spectators, but as active participants in the role for which we were chosen.

Yahshua’s warning to His disciples in Matt 24:4-5 of pseudo messiahs, is taken up by John who wrote in 2 John 1:7,

“many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Yahshua the Messiah as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an anti-Messiah.”

1 John 4:3 tells us,

“every spirit that does not confess that Yahshua the Messiah has come in the flesh is not of Yahweh. And this is the spirit of the Anti-Messiah, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.”

In all of the major religions, hundreds of people have either themselves claimed or have been acclaimed to be the Messiah since Yahshua made His prediction. Never before has any one of these false religions posed such a global threat and danger as Islam now poses to the rest of the world. Islam is the second largest but is also the fastest growing religion. Their objective is world dominance. They see non-Islams as infidels who must be converted, subjugated or eliminated. Meanwhile, although the largest religion (Christianity) recognises Yahshua (called Jesus) as the true Messiah, it is a very diluted, weak, and fragmented version of the early nucleus of followers that Yahshua had established. By departing from the doctrines of their Messiah, they have become ineffective and are allowing other religions such as Islam to make significant inroads into the religious life of their nations.

Those who are convinced that Yahshua is the Messiah need to hold on to that conviction in spite of any opposition. Though wrong may sometimes seem to prevail, it does not and cannot become truth. Only Yahshua is

“the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through [Him],” John 14:6.

Only Yahshua is the Son of Yahweh. Only He died for our sins and rose again. Only He is seated at the right hand of Yahweh. Only He is coming again to judge the living and the dead, including Mohammed and anyone else who claims equality with or superiority to Yahweh's Son;

“nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under

heaven given among men by which we must be saved,” Acts 4:12.

The focus of this series of articles will not be on Anti-Messiahs and false religions, but instead on another warning that Yahshua gave in Matthew chapter 24. In verses 11 and 12 Yahshua forewarned us of a different form of deception. He said,

“Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.”

The deceivers in this case are not pseudo Messiahs, but false teachers who would corrupt the sound doctrine previously taught by Yahshua and His disciples.

Weymouth renders Matt 24:11 and 12 as follows:

“Many false prophets will rise up and lead multitudes astray; and because of the prevalent disregard of [Yahweh's] law the love of the great majority will grow cold.”

Peter expressed this same thought when he wrote in 2 Peter 2:1-3a,

“There were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying [the Redeemer] who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words.”

In Acts 20:29-30a Paul stated:

“I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.”

Paul continuing this theme said

“in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,” 1 Tim 4:1-2.

These repeated prophecies emphasise that in the last days, many false teachers and prophets (in addition to the pseudo Messiahs) will arise who will seek to minimize the

significance of Yahweh's commands. Massive numbers of persons will be led from following after the truths and commandments of Yahweh into obeying their deceived and deceiving teachers who will disregard the laws of Yahweh and promote a doctrine that glorifies self rather than Yahweh.

The initial stages of the fulfilment of these prophecies began soon after the words were spoken. Jude expressed a compulsion to write about deceivers who had crept in unnoticed and had *“[turned] the grace of our Elohim into lewdness”* (Jude 3-4). He admonished all true believers to *“contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints”* - verse 3b. It appears from Jude's comments that 'grace' was used as the licence for licentious behaviour. He was therefore admonishing his readers to hold fast the message that Yahshua had delivered once for all time and for all people, and which was unalterable. In part 2 of this series, we will be considering how Christendom has departed from Yahshua's teachings.

Since Jude's day, deception has multiplied to the present unparalleled global level. Today there are many *“wolves in sheep's clothing”* teaching whatever draws and woos a crowd, according to the dictates of their mind. This form of deception is subtler than that of Anti-Messiahs in other religions, for the false teachers all claim to take their doctrines from the Bible, and to be followers of Yahshua (Jesus). On the surface they may appear to be declaring the truth but actually they twist, spin or over-emphasise a particular Biblical topic so as to promote their own agendas and beliefs. Generally, they raise expectations of a good life here and now, or of an easy route into the kingdom by bypassing or diluting Yahweh's commands, or embracing customs and traditions that are steeped in paganism. Such teachings have many adherents in Christendom;

“for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life,

and there are few who find it," Matt 7:13-14.

Yahshua, foreseeing this, cautioned all His followers to be on the alert and not to be hoodwinked by any popular or persuasive teaching or prophecy that will lead large numbers away from the truth that He had taught. The momentous happenings in the world that are in fulfilment of Bible prophecies are the signal that Yahshua's return is near. Now is not the time to go astray but rather to heed Yahshua's warnings. Be on your guard lest you are also swept away from Yahweh's truths by the strong currents of lies and deception that are so prevalent now as the Bible has predicted. **Be not deceived!**

The Deceiver and the Deceived

Whatever form deception may take, it emanates from the central source or headquarters of all deception, the arch-deceiver called Satan.

Yahshua described Satan as "a liar and the father of it," John 8:44. Revelation 12:9 calls him "the great dragon...that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world."

Satan is active today more than ever in his job that began before man was created. Gathering together his team in heaven, he led one third of the angels in rebellion against Yahweh. Thrown out of heaven he came to earth angry and resolved to wreck Yahweh's work on the earth and to cause others to be separated from Yahweh. His earthly evil plan was soon targeted at Yahweh's first human creatures, and in the Garden of Eden he seduced Eve, causing her with Adam to violate the commands of Yahweh and to be banished from the Garden. When Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit, their eyes became opened to sin, but closed to righteousness. Spiritually, they had become blind, or to be more exact, myopic. They could see the short-term gains and quick-fix solutions but could not perceive the more long-range eternal values, based

upon obedience to Yahweh. Spiritual myopia like a disease passed on to all of their descendants throughout all generations even to this day.

Thus partly through the sinful nature acquired from our forefathers, but mainly as a result of Satan's relentless work in bombarding and infiltrating unsuspecting minds, man has been constantly deceived. Blind, deluded and with false confidence, he gropes in darkness, holding on to whatever is within limited vision, easy reach, or promises sensual gratification. He is obsessed with the things that pertain to this life – the here and now, but is sceptical or uninterested about the hereafter. Short-sighted, he remains an unsuspecting captive of Satan's duplicity.

"DECEIVED!" seems to be the caption that applies to most people at the present time. Evidence of deception or of being deceived is to be found in many ways and in all areas of life. It is demonstrated in drug addicts who think they know the way to tranquillity and enlightenment but end up even more distressed and deluded. It is in the terrorists and religions that believe their causes will succeed by destroying their opponents. It is equally evidenced in governments or individuals who imagine they can somehow defeat an evil ideology without accepting the remedy for man's inherently wicked nature. It manifests itself in infants, who, without training, know how to conceal their wrongdoings from their parents. It is shown in teenage pregnancies, broken homes, indiscriminate stabbings, school shootings, moral decline and global financial upheavals. It motivates all attempts to cheat or lie everywhere. It is in all generations, races, and socio-economic classes of people throughout the world who believe they already know and can provide or find the solutions to life's greatest and elusive problems without walking in the paths wisely designed by their Maker.

Diabolical manipulation of the mind through misinformation manifests itself in racism, Satanism, the theory of evolution, the occults, false tactics in advertising, merchandizing and selling

and in double-dealing and double-talking in nearly all pursuits of life. Deception knows no bounds. It is in every crevice of our society, even in places of worship that should be the bastions of truth that are tainted with many misconceptions, half-truths, downright lies and elements of paganism such as Santa Claus and the many customs associated with the Christmas celebrations. The list is endless. Deception is rampant in schools, colleges, universities, homes, workplaces, families, and organizations – generally where there is interaction between two or more persons. It causes many to make wrong decisions that carry long-lasting detrimental consequences. Indeed, it is so far-reaching that no one could boast of having never deceived or been deceived. Paul had aptly described our times when he wrote:

"Know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of Yahweh, having a form of [the worship of Yahweh] but denying its power. And from such people turn away!" (2 Tim 3:1-5).

All of these characteristics flow from a deceived mind that seeks its own way and not the will of Yahweh. As sin and suffering entered the world when Eve was deceived and disobeyed Yahweh, so the whole world is experiencing a deterioration that will only worsen while it continues in a thick cloud of deception as it turns its back away from the light of its Creator. Yet, they prefer the 'wisdom' of their deceived minds than to consider and take heed of the wisdom that comes from above. Better the devil we know than the Almighty who we do not know seems to be their maxim.

The Deceiver's Strategy

The chaotic and diabolical situation of the world is evidence of the activity of

Satan who with his team of demon spirits “walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet 5:8) and bombards and captivates the minds of ordinary people turning them from Yahweh into paths of unrighteousness and destruction. Paul explains that some who do not know the truth fall into

“the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will,” 2 Tim 2:26.

Over the ages Satan and his demons have been setting baited traps into which many unsuspecting persons have fallen, causing disorder, havoc, wickedness and sin to multiply and accelerate with each generation.

The temptations of Yahshua and Eve (Read Matt 4:1-11 and Gen 3) give some insight into how the deceiver tries to worm his way into our minds in order to bring about his desired destructive and evil intent. In each case, although some details of his technique varied to suit the object of his temptation, his fundamental intentions and strategy were the same.

In both instances he

- Sought to disrupt Yahweh’s plan
- Knew Yahweh’s word beforehand, twisted it and
- Took advantage of a potential weakness in his subjects – naivety in Eve and Yahshua’s hunger.

His strategy for doing this was to try to get both Eve and Yahshua to

- Satisfy self rather than please Yahweh
- Obey him and disobey Yahweh
- Sever their relationship with Yahweh and
- Achieve a goal by taking shortcuts and ignoring the consequences.

The same purposes and methods of Satan brought about totally opposite responses from Eve and Yahshua.

- Eve did not know Satan for He was disguised. Yahshua knew him instantly.
- Eve was gullible and accepted the words of the serpent in preference to Yahweh’s words. Yahshua stood firmly on Yahweh’s words and could not be moved.
- Eve allowed her senses to follow in the direction where Satan led and acted accordingly, even though she was not hungry. Yahshua, though hungry and weak after fasting for forty days, put Yahweh above the demands of His body.
- In the end Eve yielded to Satan. Yahshua drove him away.

The fundamental strategy used by Satan in deceiving Eve and trying to deceive Yahshua is the same as he employs today to lead Yahweh’s people astray. He twists Yahweh’s words, takes advantage of man’s inherent weaknesses, tempts us to satisfy the flesh rather than please Yahweh, seeks to get us to obey him and disobey Yahweh and emphasizes the short cuts to the kingdom or to a better life here and now.

Deceptions are strong delusions or lies by which the enemy hopes to lead astray large numbers (if possible the world) from following after the truths of Yahweh. Do not be deceived. In whatever guise and through whomsoever he works, his intention is the same. He comes “to steal, and to kill, and to destroy,” John 10:10. He wants to sever your relationship with Yahweh, deny your heritage of eternal life and hinder Yahweh’s plan in your life and for His people. DO NOT LET HIM. Use Yahshua’s example to defy and defeat him. Believe and stand

resolutely on Yahweh’s word, allowing no room for compromise. Satan does not ask for much initially – the smallest aperture of doubt, the minutest sign of gullibility, the least interest in promoting self, or the most negligible weakness will suffice to give him sufficient space in which to curl and expand himself round your mind until you are captivated, strangulated, and finally separated from Yahweh.

Satan did not succeed in deceiving Yahshua and neither must he be allowed to triumph over you. Yahweh’s word in you is greater than all the forces and strategies of the adversary. It is your sword. Use it to resist the enemy; then in ‘Yahshuan’ style send him packing. The truth of Yahweh abides forever, and you can stand forever on those truths, immovable, firm and strong though others around you are opting for diluted and popular theologies of Satan dressed up as truths.

Where is Truth?

When Eve was tempted, she disobeyed Yahweh by devaluing His commands. Yahweh said she would die. Satan put doubts into Eve’s naïve mind, and then won her over by persuasive self-gratifying suggestions. Whenever the truths of Yahweh are compromised for what is appealing, or satisfying to the senses, you can be sure that Satan has once again re-enacted the Garden of Eden strategy.

Satan went and did his mischief in the Garden of Eden which was the most perfect place on earth where Yahweh would frequently visit those He had created in His own likeness. The nearest thing to Eden in this day and age should be the places where Yahweh is worshipped. Like innocent Eve in the Garden, many worshippers do not consider that no place is out of bounds from Satan. Since Satan had the impudence to enter Yahweh’s meeting place, and thousands of years later sought to lead Yahweh’s Son astray, then it is clear that no individual, organization or sacred place

is beyond Satan's field of interest. Satan knows that if he can get in among those who desire to be in Yahweh's presence and dress up himself and his counterfeit teachings in an attractive attire, that is acceptable to the majority, they will coast along with false confidence in his broad-way that leads to destruction.

Contrary to the misconceptions of most religions and denominations, truth is not the prerogative or monopoly of any organization or group, however sincere they may be. Sincerity is not the hallmark or measure of truth. It is possible to be sincerely wrong. Truth resides only in Yahweh.

"The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever," Ps 119:160.

Man's interpretation of Yahweh's word can be and is often wrong. Our knowledge and understanding at its best is limited, "For now we see in a mirror, dimly, ... Now I know in part," 1 Cor 13:12. For this reason it does not follow that because some one claims to be a prophet, or teacher, he/she is necessarily always declaring the truths of Yahweh. No one is the total and perfect embodiment of all truth. Only Yahweh and Yahshua are the holders of such a unique and prestigious position. If we are to avoid the pitfalls of deception, we must "not put [our] trust in princes, nor in a son of man," Ps 146:3, nor his religion, nor in his teachings, nor our reasoning, feelings or convictions, but only in Yahweh and His undiluted word, which is "a lamp to [our] feet and a light to [our] path," Psalms 119:105. (If the dosage of Yahweh's word is too strong for you or makes you feel uncomfortable, do not try diluting it. Instead take it in smaller portions.)

Yahshua, the Son of Yahweh, who came from heaven to be the Saviour of the world and to show us the way to the Father, told us

"whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him

to a wise man who built his house on the rock," Matt 7:24.

If we would take heed to Yahshua's words and pay less attention to man's words, we would not be deceived.

Conclusion - Avoiding Satanic Seduction

In Matthew 24:13 Yahshua said, "He who endures to the end shall be saved." With the strong tides of deception that are sweeping the earth, you will not survive except your beliefs are built upon the solid, strong and sure foundation of Yahweh's truth. It is clear from Yahshua's strategy in His temptation that when we "know the truth, ... the truth shall make [us] free" and enable us to discern error (John 8:32).

We do not have to yield to Satan's seductive messages, regardless of who bears them. Satan cannot force you to believe a lie. The Hebrew boys and Daniel defied the threats of their heathen king and stood resolutely on the commandments of Yahweh in total disregard of the possible fatal consequences. You do not have to give in however strong the opposition or allurement may be. Take your stand, and the truth will set you free from the bondages of the adversary. There is only one way we can safely confront and withstand all false teachings. It is by the unswerving application of Yahweh's pure words. We must know what Yahweh's word really says for ourselves, have it riveted into our minds and be determined beforehand that we will not deviate to the left or to the right. We can learn from Eve's defeat and Yahshua's triumph. One wavered. The other was steadfast.

Let us stand upon the truths of the Bible and pay special attention to Yahshua's words. **HE** is the way and the truth.

Hebrews cautions us:

"See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth,

much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, 'Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.' Now this, 'Yet once more,' indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain," Hebrews 12:25-27.

Yahshua having left His words with us is still speaking to us through those words. The final shaking has begun. Everything that can be shaken is being shaken that in the end only that which cannot be shaken will remain. Nothing, no place and no one on earth will escape the shaking, except the pure, unadulterated and authentic word of Yahweh, including His prophecies that cannot be shaken. The shaking will weaken the beliefs of many persons, but be not deceived. If you are truly anchored in Yahweh's word, you may be shaken but you will not be moved for

"those who trust in Yahweh are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever," Psalms 125:1.

Therefore let us not turn away from the voice of Him who *speaks* from heaven today through the fulfilment of His written word, to heed the voice of someone who may appear to be 'heavenly'. We ought only to listen to others when their words are in strict accordance with the distinct words of Yahweh. A doctrine based upon one word, or a misunderstood concept in the Bible, or a verse taken out of context, is not correct simply on the basis that it is taken from the Scriptures. This is how false doctrines are started and developed. Be not deceived. The power of Satan is already broken. His deceptions do not have to lodge in your heart.

"Submit to Yahweh. Resist the devil and he will flee from you," James 4:7.

"Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown," Rev 3:11.

Elder Buel Hallpike

The Love of the Father

In preparing this study, I found myself, as is my perpetual desire, asking Our Heavenly Father what His will is regarding the words He wants me to write. I shared with Him that it is my hope to write for others the words He might write to me.

As I sat in the quietness, awaiting His response, I was amazed to feel the loving kindness of our Heavenly Father, who understands our sinful nature, forgives those who struggle to obey, and who sets clear rules of living to everyone everywhere so that we have no excuse but to obey; a Father who always uses the perfect amount of discipline – not too harsh, not too lenient – and is always honest, always accepting. He is always available in those desperate moments when it seems we have no friends, and never fails to offer a shoulder to cry upon, arms with which to be embraced, a tear to empathize, a smile to encourage us and an affirmation that we are His children. Most importantly, He offers words of wisdom to help us to understand, to accept and to appreciate this world into which He has brought us.

This Elohim-cursed World

He provides all these things for us in order to help us to overcome this temporary, Elohim-cursed earth (yes, I did say that); for it's no mystery that the ground was cursed for our sake and that the "prince of the air" is the ruler, the "god" of this world – Satan himself.

Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return," Genesis 3:17-19.

Keil & Delitzsch offer a commentary on Genesis 3:17. They wrote, "The reason why the life of the man did not come to an end immediately after the eating of the forbidden fruit, was ... [so] that the mercy and long-suffering of Elohim afforded space for repentance, and so controlled and ordered [*I would say, "defined"*] the sin of men and [*ordered*] the punishment of sin, as to render them subservient to the accomplishment of His original purpose and the glorification of His **name**." (Emphasis mine)

Matthew Henry's Commentary on Genesis 3:17 says, "This curse upon the earth, which cut off all expectations of

a happiness in things below, might direct and quicken him to look for bliss and satisfaction only in things above."

Paul reflects upon this curse in Romans 8:20-21:

For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of Elohim.

The Father's Plan

The fall is part of the Father's plan: the perfecting of the saints; the Refiner's fire; separating the wheat from the chaff – for our sake – because of us; because we are who we are; because we and the earth will be changed to perfection.

And after they had preached the gospel to that city [Derbe] and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of Elohim," Acts 14:21-22.

HalleluYah! Thank you Father for not obliterating us, and instead offering salvation by the working of Your Holy Spirit in our lives and in our tribulation. Yahshua, speaking before His impalement, said

Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself, John 12:31-32.

At the time of Yahshua's sacrifice as the propitiation for our sins, the battle began. Now, we will be equipped to destroy and put away the works of Satan. This world, as much as we can see the hand of Yahweh in its creation and the beauty within it, is nevertheless still cursed.

So That He Might Bless Us

He, Yahweh, through Yahshua, provides for us in order to help us overcome this temporary, Elohim-cursed earth – so that we might come to trust Him, to accept the salvation He has wrought for us through His Son, Yahshua, the Anointed, Set-apart, living Elohim-in-the-flesh, our Sovereign King of Kings. He does all this to reveal to us and prove: His Power and Justice, His Mercy and Lovingkindness, His Perfection and Uniqueness, His Wondrous Works, His Glory and Set-apart Spirit, His Truth and His Right to rule our hearts and minds, our souls and our very lives. Think about that; He could rule us now with a rod of iron, but His Plan is

more noble – to allow us to honor Him without constraint or force, so that we might demonstrate our love for Him, out of our hearts, that we might become true children of the father. So that He might bless us. He puts us in the lion's den – so that He might rescue us and prove His strength to those who believe and do His will.

He is our salvation. The "Salvation of Yahweh" is the literal translation of the name of the Messiah. The "Salvation of Yahweh", Yahshua, walked with us (*take a moment to visualize that*). He spoke directly to us, loved us, disciplined and corrected us, taught us, bled for us, died for us and was resurrected for us. In Him is the Love of the Father. Praise Yahweh! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of Yahweh!

The Hand of Our Heavenly Father

I've met many people who know the Father; who understand all that I've mentioned above. If you're reading this, then you may very well know the Father. You know His love; you've felt His love, the warmth of His embrace – and you also know the heat of his discipline! C'mon now, be honest; you've felt His hand on your ornery hide, haven't you! You've undoubtedly had the occasion to know that you were doing something wrong – that is, if you know the Law of the Father. His discipline followed. And, then what did you do? You examined yourself, and in humility, in your feelings of guilt and shame, you saw the folly of your ways and recognized your sense of pride and willfulness. You then decided to follow His rules. To return to obedience. He is truly our Father.

Therefore the redeemed of Yahweh shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away, Isaiah 51:11.


"Return to Me, and I will return to you," says Yahweh of hosts, Malachi 3:7.

And, because you know the Love of the Father, and because you felt

humility, you looked at yourself and at your environment – your relationships, your ache for physical pleasure and your work ethic. In them you recognized other things you were doing wrong. You saw your disobedience and how you hurt others through your willfulness, selfishness, pride and your unwillingness to relent from your self-centeredness.

Do you know what I'm talking about? Do you know the Father? If you do, then you know what happens when you repent of your worldliness, begin reading the scriptures again, begin again to humble yourself in prayer to Yahweh and begin again to treat others with kindness (especially if you do not believe they deserve your love). If you know what I'm talking about, then I believe that you know the Father.

To read this mini-study go to
web-site www.yaiy.org or phone
1-877-642-4101


Love
How it Fulfills the Law

Are the Ten Commandments replaced by love? Did the Messiah come to teach that we no longer have to obey the Ten Commandments, but merely show love in our life? Did He do away with the Ten Commandments? What does the New Testament teach on this pivotal subject?

The visitor seemed amused that we should be teaching anything about the Ten Commandments. "Don't you know the laws were done away at the cross?" he asked incredulously. "They were only for the Jews anyway, and we are under grace."

Then he added, "If you believe in the New Testament, then you must preach love, for the Savior did away with the law and said we are to love the Father and our neighbor and on these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets," he beamed.

Perhaps you have been told this same thing by well-meaning people who feel enlightened, not obligated to obey anything in the Old Testament, sincerely believing that they are not burdened by any law. Their interest is in the New Testament only and they emphasize the grace and love of our Savior.

The Meaning of Love

The source of love is from our Heavenly Father Yahweh who *"so loved the world, that he gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16)

John declares that Yahweh is the source of all love, and also writes: *"He that loves not knows not Yahweh; for Yahweh is love."* (1 John 4:8)

Two distinct words for love appear in the Bible. The Greek word *phileo* means "to have ardent affection

Yahweh has granted us understanding, and one of His most poignant concepts is based on His character, mercy. His acts of mercy toward us have nothing to do with our deserving it (in fact, this is the very definition of mercy). I believe that He grants us mercy to demonstrate to us how we are to be. He has codified it in His Word.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, Matthew 6:12.

For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, Matthew 7:2.

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets, Matthew 7:12.

Yahweh has granted us tremendous freedom. In effect, He is saying to us, "If you want to be in My Kingdom; if you want to be a member of My family, give the gift to others that I have given to you. Be merciful, give, share, lead, protect, teach and love others as I have loved you.

The Hand of Our Earthly Fathers

I've met many people who didn't, and still don't, know the Heavenly Father, Almighty Yahweh. A young woman, not acquainted with our Assembly's teachings, spoke to me recently about an up-coming Father's Day celebration her family expected her to attend. She described tremendous anxiety and hate about going to meet with her father whom she described as cruel and abusive, citing physical and emotional abuse in her childhood. I won't describe the depth of the content of her words, because of the inappropriateness of her language; but after her tirade, she then asked, "What is a father?"

What a question! Clearly, she was confused and felt as mortally wounded as if he had actually tried to kill her; because, in her mind's eye she had an image of what a father was supposed to be – kind, nurturing; yes, strict and strong, but inspirational and loving. However, she described a history of being on the receiving end

of his meanness: neglect, threats, rejection, disgust and hate. I asked myself, "How is this person ever going to believe in Yahweh, our Heavenly Father, while having such a marred image of her own father?" "What is a father!" How sad to not have a tangible representative, a likeness or an image of our Heavenly Father to serve as her childhood's template for the reverence, appreciation and worship of our Father in Heaven!

How Will One Know the Voice of Our Heavenly Father?

So, what did I say to her? Not as much as she deserved to hear; and not as much as I would have loved to have shared with her. Because, in my profession there are laws and ethics which regulate the nature of the relationship between a counselor and a client; one of which is the right to self-determination, loosely interpreted as, "Don't preach your religious beliefs to those who are vulnerable to the influence of someone who is seen as an authority." Or, "Don't take advantage of someone in their weakness to gratify your own needs." So, I didn't tell her about our Heavenly Father, the Almighty Yahweh, who loves her with the love of a perfect father. I encouraged her to seek out people who had the qualities of a perfect father, that in doing so, she might relearn and redecide about herself – and about fathers. We explored what those qualities might be. I prayed that I might speak to her as the Father would speak to her. Perhaps she has a clearer picture in her mind about our Heavenly Father; not by any proper name, but through an understanding and a vision of His character through my efforts to listen to her in the Spirit of Yahweh – the Spirit that is merciful, loving, kind, encouraging and uplifting. My hope and prayer is that when and if He calls her, she will recognize the Father when He speaks to her.

May we live our lives, especially in the sight of our children, but also in the eyes of the world, so that when Yahweh does call those whom we have

loved, they will hearken to the call of the One Who loved us first.

HalleluYah!

Elder John Fisher

<from **Christmas** page 6>

December 25 as the date of our Savior's birth was set (declared) by the Council of Nicea. The national Roman Catholic monthly magazine, **U. S. Catholic**, has from time to time pointed out that Christmas is indeed a pagan holiday and admits that it is a "grotesque counterfeit." Even the editor-priest of this magazine, some time ago, stated, "The Christmas season has been perverted so grossly that it has become a threat to mental and emotional well-being. It is time to come out of the land of Babylon, which the hucksters or wares and materialism have taken over...and leave December 25 to the pagans."

Probably the most celebrated holiday in the world, our modern Christmas is a product of hundreds of years of both secular and religious traditions from around the globe.

In the Dec. 16, 1967 issue of the Saturday Evening Post, the following appeared under the title, "Why So Serious About Christmas?":

"Christmas, to begin with, is scarcely a Christian holiday at all. There is certainly no evidence that [Messiah] was born that day, nor was the day celebrated as such for some three hundred years after His death. Instead, there were various festivals commemorating the winter solstice on December 21, and December 25 was officially decreed to be the birthday of the 'unconquered sun,' climaxing the orgiastic week of Saturnalia. Teutonic and Celtic tribes added the rites of the Yule log, and the Christmas tree apparently dates from a fir tree planted by St. Boniface to replace the sacred

oak of odin in eighth-century Germany. Added to all this, from various places in various times, came Santa Claus, Good King Wenceslaus, and the office Christmas party."

Who Do You Believe?

The Bible, in Jeremiah 10:2-4, clearly tells us not to mix pagan worship or customs with Yahweh's truths:

Thus saith Yahweh, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.

Do these verses refer to the evergreen tree that is cut and brought into the house prior to December 25 and decorated? There are over 12,000 cut-your-own Christmas tree farms in the United States and over one million acres of land devoted to producing some 34 to 36 million Christmas trees each year.

The truth of the Christmas story is staring you right in your eyes. If you celebrate December 25 as the date when the Messiah was born, you are in fact showing your allegiance to an idol. Instead of celebrating Christmas, New Years and Easter, start now by turning your back on them and keeping the Feast days that will be kept in the Kingdom. Plan to keep and celebrate now those annual feast days which Yahweh has commanded us to keep. You will have everything to gain by doing so.

Elder Roger G. Meyer

QUESTION & ANSWER

Q Can I buy food grown in the Sabbatical year?

A The Sabbatical year comes around every seven years and was to have started when Israel came into the Promised Land (Lev.25:2-7). *“When you come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a Sabbath unto Yahweh. Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof. But in the seventh year shall be a Sabbath of rest unto the land, a Sabbath for Yahweh.- you shall neither sow your field, nor prune your vineyard,”* Lev. 25:2-4. Twice in the above passage it states that the land Sabbath is unto and for Yahweh. Exodus 23: 10-11 shows that the land was to enjoy a Sabbath of rest (Sabbath = sabbathown) and lie fallow. The land Sabbath began as did the Jubilee year, on the day of Atonement in the fall of the sixth year after the crops were harvested, and extended until the day of Atonement the seventh year. The Jubilee came every 50 years, but is not stated here as being a Sabbath for Yahweh.

Leviticus 25:20-22 promises that the **land** will produce food for three years in the sixth year, and sowing can begin in the eighth year. While most of us deem it wise to stock up on food, at times, the important point is to remember to observe the Sabbatical year.

Being taken captive into Babylon because of their sins, Israel’s 70-year captivity was based upon their 490 years of neglect in observing the Sabbatical years, 2Chronicles 36:20-21.

Some commentators contend that Joshua entered the Promised Land on a Sabbatical year, based on Leviticus 25:5. Apparently Israel ate of the old grain that the former land tenants, the Canaanites, had planted but not harvested, Joshua 5:11-12. At any rate, they entered Canaan in the spring of the year and ate of the crops planted by

unregenerate **man**. Israel was allowed to eat what grew naturally on the Sabbatical. Does not the same apply to what the natural man, who is ignorant of truth, grows?

Under Joseph’s direction, food was stored by Pharaoh in the seven years of plenty to carry them over the seven years of famine in Egypt. One of those years had to have been a Sabbatical year. Yet the heads of the 12 tribes of Israel, and Jacob himself, ate of the grain planted and harvested by others in a Sabbatical year, all under Yahweh’s direction.

We have no control over the world’s activities. Our concern is what’s under our control: not to plant **our** gardens on the Sabbatical. We cannot be certain the car we bought was not made on Saturday by ambitious, overtime workers. Or that the gasoline we buy on Sunday was not delivered or processed on the Sabbath. The same for the clothes we wear, the rolls we eat Sunday morning, or anything we buy.

Our focus should be to strive to keep the Sabbaths holy by refraining from polluting them through our own direct activities.

Q How do we know this year was the Sabbatical year land rest?

A Every seventh year was to be a Sabbatical for Israel, when the land was to rest and no crops would be planted. The seventh part was always holy to Yahweh, just as the seventh day of the week is a holy Sabbath and the last 1,000 years of the 7,000-year “week” of human history is also a grand Sabbath known as the Millennium, when the earth will rest from Satan’s way.

Indications are that 2001 was indeed a Sabbatical year (starting in the fall on the Day of Atonement) when the land should lie idle. For various reasons after the beginning of the Sabbatical year in the fall of 1994 the land was unable to

bring forth a bountiful harvest across the country. We believe the primary cause was that this was a Sabbatical when the land was supposed to lie at rest.

News reports from the Midwest breadbasket during the summer of 1995 lamented the constant rainfall which kept farmers from working their fields, and delayed in planting cash crops such as corn, milo, and soybeans. All wheat was down 100 million bushels. The fruit crop also suffered.

It takes about 90 days to produce corn for harvest. Late plantings invite the danger of frost before the corn ripens. Many farmers switched to planting soybeans as an alternative because of their shorter maturing time. But these suffered from little rain later in the year, as did the parched crops in the entire northeast United States.

In marked contrast, the year before, the summer of 1994, was a phenomenal bumper crop across the country, and one of the best producing years on record. That bears out Yahweh's promise that the sixth year will produce abundantly,

"And if you shall say, What shall we eat the seventh year? Behold, we shall not sow, nor gather in our increase: Then will I command my blessing upon you in the sixth year, and it shall bring forth fruit for three years," Lev. 25:20-21. Granted, few farmers observe the Sabbatical today. Yet, we believe that the principle of blessing the sixth year is still operating, albeit to a lesser degree than it could be, as witness to this important law of Yahweh. This is also a testimony to those who do keep the Sabbatical land rest.

Because man generally ignores the Sabbatical year, he is under a long-term curse in these final days. One report noted, "Worldwide grain reserves are being eaten away due to the growing population, with consumption exceeding production for the third straight year."

In the eyes of the world, not tilling, planting, and not harvesting every seventh year does not make sense when the world is seeking more and

more foodstuffs for the burgeoning population. Not knowing the promises of Yahweh and His omnipotent power, the world cannot understand how He can increase productivity of the land on the sixth year to provide food enough for the seventh year as well as for a Jubilee year (Lev. 25:21; Isa. 37:30).

We have but to look at Israel in the wilderness to see that they were provided an extra day's manna on the sixth day so they would not have to gather any on the weekly Sabbath.

In a prophetic vein, the Sabbatical year is understood by many to have occurred in 69-70 of our Common era, according to the second century Jewish work call Seder Olam. Projected forward to our day, this means that 2001-2002 was a Sabbatical year as well as 2008-2009 and so forth.

Yahshua quoted Isa. 61:1-2, leaving off the reference to "the day of vengeance," which apparently refers to the "great and terrible day of Yahweh," when Yahshua returns, Luke 4:18-19. Yahshua may well come on the Sabbatical year.

Q I find your mini-studies very educational and I read about the Sabbath in your magazine. According to Scriptures, the Sabbath was part of the Israelite Law. Since Yahshua fulfilled the law why should we keep the Sabbath?

A Yes, Yahshua did fulfill the law as Matt. 5:17 and other Scriptures tell us. Some believe that the word fulfill means to bring to an end. If fulfill is to mean to bring to an end then Yahshua did not instruct his disciples very well. After Yahshua's death and resurrection the Scriptures indicate that the Apostles kept the annual Sabbaths and taught very diligently that one must keep the commandments. By keeping Yahweh's commandments we show our love of Yahshua. Yahshua kept Yahweh's Law perfectly and He is our role model. We are to follow Him and walk in His footsteps. By placing our

faith and trust in Yahweh, He will give us the free gift of the Holy Spirit to help us in our fight to obtain eternal life when Yahshua returns.

Q Is it permissible to use binoculars or telescopes to spot the thin, scimitar-shaped new moons?

A While it may be helpful for some researchers to first locate the new moon with binoculars or telescopes, the actual verification of all new moon sightings must be with the naked eye. We would thus be in keeping with the sightings made by King David when he was but a shepherd boy in the hills of Galilee, as well as those spotting the new moon during the time of the Messiah.

Q Please explain Galatians 4:27: "For it is written, Rejoice, you barren that bear not; break forth and cry, you that travail not: for the desolate has many more children than she which has an husband."

A Go back to the beginning of chapter 4 and read the entire chapter to get the context. The 27th verse is a quotation of Isaiah 54:1. Chapter 4 is speaking in metaphor about the law and the promises given to Israel. Those who take hold of the New Covenant promise are Sarah, the freewoman, and Hagar who represents the bondage of those who adhere to the law of physical circumcision or who practice works of the flesh (see Gal. 5:2).

Paul says we (of Sarah) don't have as many children (are not as numerous) as those of the bondwoman Hagar. Nonetheless, those who have many children are spiritually desolate and don't enjoy the promise of Isaac, v. 28.

These sons of Hagar are the masses in bondage to the world who don't take hold of the New Covenant and hence will not have a part in the blessings promised by Yahweh to the faithful.



Yahweh's Assembly in Yahshua's Weekly Television Program

Revealing the Truth

On the Air in These Cities. Check Listings or www.yaiy.org for Broadcast Times

USA, California, San Diego
Cox Cable Community Access, Channel 18

USA, Illinois, Urbana
Urbana Public Television, UPT, Channel 6

USA, Hawaii, Honolulu
Olelo Community Television, Channel 52

USA, Kentucky, Highland Heights,
Campbell County Community Media, Ch. 17

USA, Missouri, Columbia
Columbia Access Television, Channel 3

USA, Missouri, Jefferson City
Jefferson City Access Television, Channel 3

USA, New Mexico, Albuquerque
Quote...Unquote, Inc., Channel 27

USA, New Mexico, Los Alamos
Public Access Channel, Channel 8

USA, New York, Fairport
Fairport Area Community Television, Channel 15

USA, New York, Rotterdam (Upstate New York)
Time Warner Cable, Channel 18

USA, New York, Schenectady
Schenectady Public Access, Channel 16

USA, North Carolina, Charlotte
Time Warner Cable, TV Access, Channel 21

New locations are added regularly. Become a local sponsor to get Revealing the Truth on the air in areas not listed.
Call toll free: 1-877-642-4101

"Love one another..."

"Your Name is Yahweh alone, Most High over all the earth..."

"Truth came through Yahshua the Messiah..."

"What is His Name?"

"Remember the Sabbath Day..."

"Every one of your righteous ordinances endures forever..."

"I will walk in Your truth..."

YAHWEH'S ASSEMBLY IN YAHSHUA
2963 CO. RD. 233
KINGDOM CITY, MO 65262

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
KINGDOM CITY, MO
PERMIT NO. 7

MOVING? Help us save 75¢ per issue by
sending us your new address!



Another statue built
to place importance
on an unscriptural
belief - the trinity

A baroque trinity column
in Zwettl, Austria

www.usa-ostime.com