

# WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DECEMBER 25?

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## PREFACE:

Most secular church-attending Christians and nonchalant professing Jesus believers may not know that there is no biblical recording of the birthday of Jesus Christ / Yahushua Messiah, at least in any explicit expression. Rather, scripture places the focus on the life and death of Jesus the Christ. We're clearly informed of the time of year and the day when Christ / Messiah DIED, in *all four* gospel accounts. He died on Passover *day*, the 14th day of the first new moon month aka Abib. After partaking in the last Passover meal and imbibing the bread and wine will & testament covenant symbols (during the previous night - the onset of the 14th day), Jesus Christ / Yahushua Messiah said, "...do this in remembrance of Me" in direct reference to the bread and wine symbols. (Luke 22:19, 1-Cor 11:25, et.al). How many self-proclaiming Jesus believers ignore His explicit mandate, "...do this in remembrance of Me" (on the night he was betrayed - 1-Cor 11:23-34), but engross themselves in the December 25th festivities and the so-called Christmas spirit that have no biblical mandates or relevancy?

Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32 and Revelation 22:18 admonish not to add to or subtract from the Word and His commandments. Deuteronomy 12:30 admonishes and mandates the REFRAINMENT of following after foreign gods and say, "How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise". Paraphrased, *don't do it!* However, these said admonishments and mandates have been ignored throughout the centuries in favor of pagan traditions. The eschewal of the Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32, Revelation 22:18 and Deuteronomy 12:30 expressive mandates necessitates so-called 'Christian' institutions to twist and contort additional biblical mandates in the course of maintaining an obstinate repudiation of the Word of God, but at the same time making claim to Jesus. One monster twist and contortion is the notion that the Old Testament (aka OT) was nailed to the cross with Jesus Christ / Yahushua Messiah. However 2-Timothy 3:16 reads, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." The apostle Paul penned these last said words, the very apostle who has been falsely accused of annulling the OT. Moreover, during the time when the apostle Paul lived, the New Testament (aka NT) was only in its infancy stage, not fully formed, nor yet fully codified. The apostle Paul was strictly referring to the OT Greek Septuagint (aka LXX) since the Hebrew Masoretic (aka MT) text wasn't codified until roughly 900-1000 A.D., and the understructure source of the MT can only be traced back to Masada in around A.D. 73-74.

It's worth noting here: the discovery of the fragment remains dating to A.D. 73-74 at Masada (which is the understructure source of the Hebrew MT used in the English translations of the King James, New International Version,... and other Protestant bibles) by Yigael Yadin during his expedition in 1963-1965 included the book of Sirach which is codified in the LXX, but was disregarded in the MT in around A.D. 900-1000 by the Rabbinic Pharisaic Masorettes. Additionally, the OT quotes (quoted by Paul and the other apostles) located in the NT match the OT Greek Septuagint.

Many people know the names of Hollywood movie stars, scene details in the latest movies, the names of football athletes, trendy clothing fashions, vacation getaways, the menu of McDonalds fast food restaurant, and so forth, but know very little or if anything about the Savior of mankind. These said type of people also know very little about the laws in their state, county and city, and quite honestly... nor do they care. Hosea - a prophet to the house of Israel, who lived in the 8th-century B.C. was divinely inspired to write, "My people are destroyed for the lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you, that you shall be no priest to me, seeing

you have forgotten the law of your God (YHWH), I will also forget your children." Is it a true wonder when many people pray to God for help, He is absent? The question has been posed far to many times: "where is God?" when infelicity, disaster, and wars occur. The relationship with the God on High and His Son is a two-way street. Many people fail in their side of the relationship. Allegorically speaking; many people put YHWH the Father and the Son in their back-pocket and attempt to pull Them out like a credit card only when they want something or are in the need of help. YHWH the Father and Son *might* get a little lip service once in a while. Malachi 1:6 reads, "A son honoreth his father, and a servant his master; if then I be a father, where is my honor? And if I be a master, where is My fear saith YHWH of Hosts unto you..."

## **DECEMBER 25**

The 1960 copyright Britannica Encyclopedia, Volume 5, under the heading "Christmas" reads, "**Christmas customs are an evolution from times that long antedated the Christian period--a descent from seasonal, pagan religious and national practices, hedged about with legend and tradition.**" "In the beginning, many of earth's inhabitants were sun worshippers because the course of their lives depended on its yearly round in the heavens, and feasts were held to aid its return..." "In the south of Europe, in Egypt and Persia, the sun gods were worshipped with elaborate ceremonies at the season of the winter solstice..."

"Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the church, and before the 5th century there was no general consensus of opinion as to when it should come in the calendar..." "In Britain, Dec. 25 was a festival long before the conversion to Christianity." "When the missionaries were sent from Rome to the outlying provinces in A.D. 601, their instructions given by Pope Gregory I made clear the policy of the church." The shines of the idols were not to be destroyed, but the idols were to be switched-out for Christian idols and symbols. "...because they were wont to sacrifice oxen to devils, some celebration should be given in exchange for this." And, altars were to be erected in the pagan temples so the people could continue to worship in the same place at the same time as before. "...as Christianity spread among the people of pagan lands, many of the practices of the winter solstice were blended with those of Christianity..." "From the pagan accent on light, it is not difficult to trace the rise of lights and open fires -- from the bonfires of sun worship and their variant, the yule log, to the many customs centering around the candle and its legends to the light of Christ."

The so-called Christmas tree is spoken of in the bible in Jeremiah 10:1-5, long before the Christ child was born. "**Thus saith YHWH, learn not the way of the heathen,...**" "...one cutteth a tree out of the forest...with an ax. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers that it may not move." As a repeat, the admonishment is: "learn not the way of the heathen."

The 1960 copyright Britannica Encyclopedia, Volume 15, under the heading "Mithraism" reads, "The institution by Aurelian (AD 274) of the state cult of the 'unconquerable sun' *Sol invictus*, may have contributed incidently to the prestige of Mithra, who also bore the proud title." "...under Diocletian (AD 307), ...an imperial dedication" was made "to Sol Invictus Mithra, acclaiming him as 'protector of the empire'." "It was not, however, this national cult of Mithra that was to attract the west, but rather an amalgam, in effect a new creation that sprang up abroad in the wake of the Persian conquests." Speaking of Mithra and Christianity, "superficially, at least, the two religions had much in common: a divine lord by whose deeds, performed once (unlike the annual passion of an Attis or an Osiris), man was assured of salvation; a sacramental meal; a ritual of baptism; a concept of religion that could liken the religious life to enlistment and service under a divine commander; not dissimilar ideas of heaven and hell and of a Last Judgment; a moral code..."

In the historical books of the Maccabees, specifically in 1-Maccabees 1:54-59; 4:52-55 & 2-Maccabees 6:1-5, it's been recorded that Antiochus IV Epiphanes (215 BC-164 BC) profaned the Temple of YHWH (168 or 167 BC) in honor of the Olympian Zeus. He sacrificed a pig, filled the temple with debauchery and revelry. They amused themselves with prostitutes and had intercourse with women in the sacred court. The first pagan sacrifice in honor of Zeus occurred on the 25th day of month of Chislev (aka Kislev). And, thereafter, on every 25th day of every month, a pagan sacrifice was made in the honor of Zeus until Judas, also called Maccabee (meaning: the son of the hammer) and his devoted YHWH fearing group of warrior troops were able to retake the temple from the pagans. (Also Ref: Flavius Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, XII.5.4.)

Please know: the Hebrew month of Chislev falls between the Gregorian calendar months of November and December. Additionally, in ancient times, a month was determined upon the sighting of the first crescent moon. Wherefore, the 25 day of a month based on a new crescent moon sighting will naturally differ from that of the Gregorian Calendar in-use today. (Ref: The 1970 copyright, Judaica Encyclopedia under the headings "Calendar" and "New Moon". Also reference the copyright 1997 Encyclopedia Americana under the heading "Calendar".) Wherefore; whether the accounting of time is by the means of the Gregorian Calendar or by the means of the ancient new moon sighting, the 25th day of the month was anciently and has been affixed for pagan deity celebrations.

The 1960 copyright Britannica Encyclopedia, Volume 23, under the heading "Zeus", it reads that the most important cult festival was in the month of March (on the 25th day of the month) which required a pig sacrifice. Based upon historical records, the pig sacrifice was in honor of Zeus. Wherefore, if you ever wondered where the Christmas ham and Easter ham festive ritual came from, *well now you know*. Although, swine sacrifices to pagan deities predate Zeus based upon my current knowledge and originated with Tammuz, who was said to be killed by a wild boar (pig). (Ref: Ezekiel 8:14 and the ancient writing, the Epic of Gilgamesh, ancient Sumarian hymns - also a Assyrian version, but not limited too.) Tammuz was an ancient Syrian, Acadian god whose worship spread through the ancient world. It's worth reading Isaiah 65:1-7 in view of eating abominable swine's flesh. YHWH, the creator of heaven and earth and mankind, is not pleased to say the least.

## **BIRTHDAYS IN THE BIBLE**

There is no celebratory birthday mandates within the bible. However, there are two birthdays specifically mentioned in the bible, but the said birthday celebration events are coupled with a murder. In the NT, King Herod made a supper to his lords, high captains and chief estates of Galilee on the day of his birthday. This very said day, Herod granted the head of John the baptist to the daughter of Herodias. (Ref: Mat 14:6- and Mark 6:21-) In Genesis 40:20-23, the Egyptian Pharaoh made a great feast unto all of his servants; and on this said day, he hung the chief baker.

Today, we see idol images of baby Jesus in a manger in neighborhood yard decorations and town stores during the December 25 Christmas celebrations. As a repeat, Pope Gregory I in A.D. 601 initiated this practice. However, given the modern commercialization of the celebrations, many religious people say, "we need to put Jesus back into Christmas!" The fact is, Jesus was never in the so-called Christmas festivities until roughly five hundred years after Jesus Christ arose from the grave. Perhaps it's time for the Christmas lovers to know the facts. If Jesus wanted us to celebrate His birthday, we certainly would have been given instructions. However, no instructions were given and no date of His birth was officially recorded by the disciples.

The Luke 2:8-11 narrative contradicts a December / winter solstice birth. Luke 2:8-11 reads, "Now there were shepherds in the region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. ...'" Shepherds would not be *living in the fields* and maintaining a night watch over their flock in the geographical area of the City of David during the winter season. The temperature would be too cold. Additionally, Joseph and Mary stayed in an animal shelter, what we modernly call a barn, because there was no inns available most likely due to the mandated census whereas many people in Judea were traveling. Joseph and Mary were possibly offered the barn shelter upon seeing Mary was pregnant, or it's possible the owner of the barn rented the barn space to them upon request. Since Mary laid baby Jesus in one of the mangers, and all three were spending the night in the barn, this last said narration of events implies the animals were not sleeping in the barn and *eating from the manger*. Consequently, the animals of burden were most likely sleeping in the pasture fields as like were the sheep and the shepherds. The seasonal temperature must have been warm during the nighttime hours because during the winter season, the animals would have been in the barn, and the sheep would have been in animal pens containing shelter structures to protect them from the cold and undesirable weather elements. Moreover, I have difficulty believing the barn, at that time, was unsanitary. (Given that I have a farm-life background, I know what animal barns are like.) The barn must have been somewhat clean in order for Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus to sleep in it and this means the animals must have been sleeping outdoors during the time of year that Jesus was born. The barn narrative is another strong implication the animals were sleeping outside as like the narrative about the shepherds which eliminates the possibility of a winter birth. And given the Holy day event patterns that are replete throughout scripture, its more probable that Jesus Christ / Yahushua Messiah was born on one of the Holy days or during one of the appointed mandated feasts. YHWH's appointments (His Holy days and feasts) reveal and allegorically project the redemption of mankind. Jesus is the lamb of God (John 1:29, 1:36), not the pig of God.

## **CONCLUSION**

WHEREFORE; the birthday of Jesus did not occur on December 25. Nor is there any explicit recordation of His birthday. December 25 is a celebratory day for the pagans to worship, make an abominable sacrifice, and pay homage to their pagan deities. The December 25 celebratory practices are no where mentioned in the virgin birth narratives located in the NT, but have been insidiously attributed to it whether done ignorantly or not. The pagan holiday(s) have usurped and preempted the true ceremonial laws required by our Savior and the Father on High.

The people of the earth, regardless of nationality or race, if they do not heed the mandates of YHWH - the Creator of heaven and earth, the Father and the Son and perform obeisance (Ref: Psalm 2:6-12), severe judgment and punishment will be rendered unto them. Isaiah 24:5-6 reads, "For the earth has been defiled under its inhabitation, because they have TRANSGRESSED THE TEACHINGS, CHANGED THE LAW, BROKEN THE EVERLASTING COVENANT. Therefore a curse shall consume the earth, and those who dwell in it be punished. Therefore the inhabitants of the earth shall be burned and few men shall be left." This quoted verse is a judgment decree from the Highest Judge, but it appears -based on the explicit statement- only a few people on earth will heed it. This said judgment decree remains in effect and has not been annulled. If anyone disagrees, perhaps they should read the book of Revelation in the NT which details the horrific -very near- future event.

Make no mistake, Isaiah 24:5-6 is not limited to the adverse pagan holidays, but encompasses any altered biblical teachings purposely promulgated and presented as Holy truth.