

Christmas & Easter



CHRISTMAS AND EASTER ARE PAGAN FESTIVALS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO GOD

By George Lujack

Christmas and Easter are the two most celebrated Christian holidays. Many people do not know the evils associated with these adopted pagan-based festivals and naively enjoy these holidays believing that they are of God.

What do Christmas trees, exchanging gifts, Santa Claus, Easter bunnies, and painted chicken eggs have to do with celebrating the birth, death, and resurrection of the Messiah (Christ)? This article will examine the pagan origins of Christmas and Easter and will show why true believers, who worship God in spirit and truth, should not partake in these false holidays.

CHRISTMAS: YESHUA (JESUS) WAS NOT BORN ON DECEMBER 25TH

LUKE 2:4-8:

Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were in the same country SHEPHERDS LIVING OUT IN THE FIELDS, KEEPING WATCH OVER THEIR FLOCK BY NIGHT.

In the Bethlehem region, south of Jerusalem, December 25th is the coldest part of the year. First century shepherds would not have been living out in the field, day and night, watching their flocks in winter. The time of Messiah's (Christ's) birth was not in the winter on December 25th. Shepherds in the Bethlehem region do not live out in the fields, and their herds are not out in the pasture, in wintertime to this day.

Christmas was first celebrated on December 25th by decree of Roman Emperor Constantine in 336 AD. Catholic Pope Julius I officially declared that the birth of Yeshua (Jesus) was on December 25th in 350 AD. Catholic Pope Julius I did not choose December 25th as Yeshua's (Jesus') birthday by any direction or indication from the Scriptures, but instead incorporated the pagan festivals of Saturnalia and the winter solstice into Christianity and called it Christmas, and declared December 25th as Christ's birthday to replace other pagan gods' birthdays celebrated on that date.

The dominant Gentile pagan culture rampant in Rome, Greece, and Egypt worshiped various gods, and Catholicism accommodated them through Christmas. Nimrod was acknowledged as being born on December 25th and was replaced by Christ. Christianity was perverted and the pagans were satisfied. Christians who celebrate Christmas as Yeshua Messiah's (Jesus Christ's) birthday are unwittingly following the 4th century dictates of Roman Emperor Constantine and Catholic Pope Julius I. Christmas is not a festival of God.

WHEN WAS YESHUA (JESUS) BORN?

The exact date of Messiah's (Christ's) birth is unknown, but most true Scripture scholars believe it was during the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) in the fall, typically near the end of September on the Gregorian calendar.

CHRISTMAS TREES ARE IDOLS

JEREMIAH 10:2-5:

Thus says YHWH (the Lord):

“Do not learn the way of the Gentiles. Do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, for the Gentiles are dismayed at them. For the customs of the peoples are worthless. For one cuts a tree from the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with an ax. They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with nails and hammers so that it will not topple. They are upright like a palm tree, and they cannot speak. They must be carried, because they cannot go by themselves.”

YHWH (the Lord) says DO NOT do this: take a tree from the forest, decorate it with silver and gold, fasten it at its base so it does not topple, stand it up as a palm tree and carry it in and out, for these dead trees cannot move by themselves. Yet every Christmas season, Christians do this: erect a Christmas tree, in spite of what YHWH (the Lord) has told them not to do. As the saying goes, “If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, then it’s a duck.”

Christmas trees are carried like idols, because they cannot move by themselves. They cannot speak, just as idols cannot speak. They are set up in a prominent place in the home to be displayed, just as an idol would be. They are adorned, just as an idol is adorned. They are bowed before and worshiped, just as an idol is.

When people buy gifts to exchange with others on Christmas, they sacrifice their labor, money, and time to buy and wrap those gifts, then bow before the Christmas tree idol in the home and place their sacrifices under the tree. This is idolatry, sacrifice, and worship, whether acknowledged by believers or not.

Songs have been written and praises sung to Christmas tree idols in worship.

*“O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, How steadfast are your branches!
Your boughs are green in summer's clime, And through the snows of wintertime.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, How steadfast are your branches!”*

*O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, What happiness befalls me,
When oft at joyous Christmas-time, Your form inspires my song and rhyme.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, What happiness befalls me.*

*O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, Your boughs can teach a lesson,
That constant faith and hope sublime, Lend strength and comfort through all time.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, Your boughs can teach a lesson.”*

WHEN YESHUA (JESUS) RETURNS HE WILL END CHRISTMAS

ISAIAH 14:8:

Indeed the cypress trees rejoice over you, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, ‘Since You have come down [RETURNED], no woodsman has come up against us.’

When Yeshua (Jesus) returns, He will end the annual practice of axmen going to the forest to chop down trees for the pagan festival of Christmas.

SANTA CLAUS UNSCRAMBLED IS SATAN LUCAS

What does Satan Lucas (Lucifer), disguised as Santa Claus, have to do with celebrating the birth of Yeshua (Jesus)? Santa Claus takes children’s focus off of Yeshua (Jesus), instills in them the values of coveting, makes them believe that Santa knows when they have been bad or good (replacing Almighty, all-knowing, omnipresent God in this role), and tells them to be good for goodness’ sake (not for righteousness’ sake).

Often when children come of age, they learn to distrust their parents who lied to them, telling them Santa Claus was real. Doubts are placed in their hearts as to whether they should believe in God or if God should just be considered another fairy tale.

EASTER ETYMOLOGY: EASTER NAMED AFTER PAGAN GODDESS ISHTAR

The early Christian churches did all they could to accommodate the religions of the world and incorporate them into what would become Christianity. Slickly renaming the Passover 'Easter,' was one of these deceptions. Ishtar was the pagan goddess of fertility, love, sexuality, and war and it was the early Christian churches that renamed the Passover 'Easter,' in honor of this pagan goddess.

Christians, who may deny that the word 'Easter' has anything to do with Ishtar, should ask, "Where then is the word Easter derived from?"

The origin of the word Easter, as officially declared by Christianity, is 'unknown' at best and is possibly linked to a pagan goddess at worst.

1 CORINTHIANS 5:7:

For indeed Messiah (Christ), our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

Passover means that God's wrath passes over us. Yeshua (Jesus) said, "Do this in remembrance of Me" (Luke 22:19). Do what? Remember Him as our Passover Lamb (Luke 22:15; 1 Corinthians 5:7). His blood covers our sins so that God's wrath 'passes over' us, just as lambs' blood had covered the doorposts of the enslaved Hebrews in Egypt, so that the angel of death would 'pass over' their dwellings.

THE KING JAMES BIBLE REPLACES PASSOVER WITH EASTER

ACTS 12:4 (KJV):

And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after EASTER to bring him forth to the people.

The word 'Easter' appears in one verse within the imperfect King James Bible, obviously inserted there in place of 'Passover' in the 17th century by a biased King James translator who made the word switch. Easter was properly corrected to Passover in the New King James Bible.

ACTS 12:4 (NKJV):

So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after PASSOVER.

The disciples in the book of Acts never celebrated Easter. They celebrated the Passover in remembrance of Yeshua (Jesus). All true believers should likewise do so. Easter *became* a separate holiday apart from Passover, on an independent date from the Jewish calendar, based on rulings from early Christian bishops at the First Council of Nicea in 325 AD.

YESHUA (JESUS) WAS NOT CRUCIFIED ON GOOD FRIDAY, NOR DID HE RISE ON EASTER SUNDAY

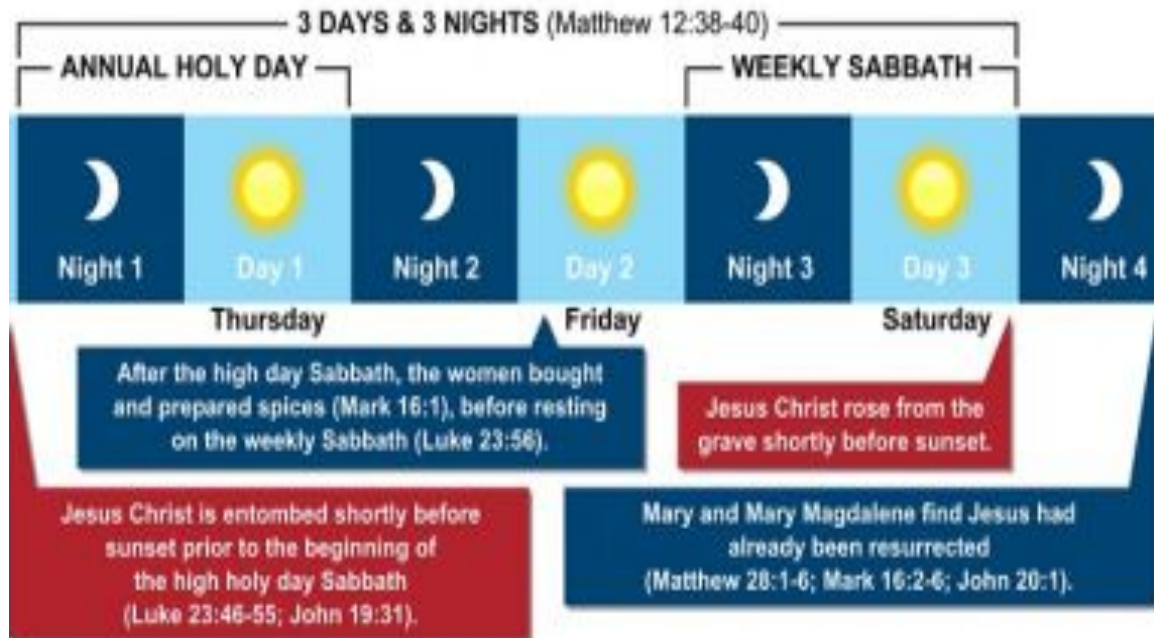
The Good Friday to Easter Sunday holiday observed by most Christians is a corrupted representation of the Passover sacrifice of Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus the Christ), His time in the grave, and His resurrection. Yeshua (Jesus) did not die on Friday evening and rise on Sunday morning.

THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS DOES NOT EQUATE TO GOOD FRIDAY TO EASTER SUNDAY

MATTHEW 12:40:

For as Jonah was three days AND three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days AND three nights in the heart of the earth.

Counting the days of a Good Friday crucifixion through Sunday morning resurrection does not equal three days and three nights. Being in the grave from only Good Friday (evening) to Easter Sunday (at sunrise) would have meant He was in the grave on Friday evening, Saturday day, and Saturday evening, which is only one day and two nights.



JOHN 20:1-2:

Now the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, WHILE IT WAS STILL DARK, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Yeshua (Jesus) loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.”

There was a special high Sabbath during the Passover week that Yeshua (Jesus) was crucified on (Mark 16:1). When Mary Magdalene went to the tomb of Yeshua (Jesus) Sunday morning, *before sunrise*, she found it empty. Yeshua (Jesus) did not therefore rise Sunday morning. He had obviously risen beforehand on Saturday evening. Yeshua was crucified Wednesday afternoon and was placed in His tomb on Wednesday before sunset. Yeshua (Jesus) was in the grave Wednesday night, Thursday day, Thursday night, Friday day, Friday night, Saturday day, and rose Saturday night. He was in the grave three days and three nights just as He said He would be.

Christians who claim that they want to continue to observe Easter to celebrate the resurrection should do it right and celebrate the Passover in remembrance of Him (Luke 22:15-19). Messiah (Christ) is not our Easter; He is our Passover (1 Corinthians 5:7).

BUT GOD KNOWS MY HEART

JEREMIAH 7:8-10:

Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit. Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, AND WALK AFTER OTHER GODS WHOM YOU DO NOT KNOW, AND THEN COME AND STAND BEFORE ME IN THIS HOUSE WHICH IS CALLED BY MY NAME, AND SAY, ‘WE ARE DELIVERED TO DO ALL THESE ABOMINATIONS’?

JEREMIAH 17:9:

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?

MATTHEW 7:14:

“Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

Many deceive themselves into believing that celebrating Christmas and Easter is OK, because God knows their heart. Are Christians really being honest when they say that they are celebrating Christmas and Easter for God, or are they really celebrating these holidays for themselves? The road is harder to not follow the ways of the world than it is to partake in them.

LIPSTICK ON A PIG - SPIRITUAL FORNICATION

Celebrating Christmas and Easter, to honor our holy God, is like putting lipstick on a pig and calling it a woman. It is still a pig.

Celebrating Christmas and Easter to honor God is like a rich man who loves his good faithful wife, but has decided to end his marriage as he has found a younger, more exciting woman who he wants to make into his new wife. So, the man tells his wife that he is leaving her for another woman. The wife is devastated at the news, and the man feels bad that he has hurt his faithful wife’s feelings. So the man decides to try to cheer up his wife by having a surprise party for her. He organizes a surprise party for his wife, on his mistress’s birthday. His wife comes home and the husband introduces his wife to his mistress, who he is committing adultery with, and then a bunch of strippers pop out from the cake, which is in the center of the home, and the strippers all say “Happy Birthday!” to the man’s wife and everyone joins in the hedonistic festivities of this chaotic party. The wife, in shock and horror, turns her back and leaves her residence, unable to look upon her husband who is dishonoring her with this sleaze-filled party.

The analogy here is that the husband is like the believer who thinks he can worship God in any manner he chooses. The mistress is like the goddess Ishtar. The birthday cake, set up in a prominent place in the home, is like the Christmas tree idol. The strippers, who pop out from the cake, are like the falsehoods and evils that are part of paganism (Santa Claus, elves, Easter bunnies, painted eggs). The faithful wife, who comes home to the horror of this celebration in honor of her, is like God.

Spiritual fornication is how Yeshua (Jesus) views Christmas and Easter, the honoring of Him through festivals of falsehoods, idolatry, and paganism.

ISAIAH 45:9:

Woe to Him who strives with his Maker! ... Shall the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?'

JOHN 4:23-24:

“True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

It is not for the creation to tell the Creator how he or she will honor and worship God, but that is what many people do when they refuse to worship God in spirit and truth and instead honor and worship Him in a manner of their own choosing. If Christmas and Easter were festivals that God wanted man to worship Him through, He would have declared so in Scripture. We MUST worship Him in spirit and truth, not through worldliness and untruth.

GOD'S FESTIVALS ARE NOT 'JEWISH' HOLIDAYS

LEVITICUS 23:1-2:

And YHWH (the Lord) spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘The feasts of YHWH (the Lord), which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, THESE ARE MY FEASTS.

Due to the fact that there is much confusion coming forth from organized Christianity and Judaism, and because of the historic separation of Christianity from the Jews, God's festivals have been classified as 'Jewish' holidays.

THE SEVEN FEASTS OF YHWH (THE LORD)

- **Passover (Pesach)**
- **Unleavened Bread**
- **First Fruits**
- **Shavuot (Weeks) (Pentecost)**
- **Trumpets**
- **Atonement (Yom Kippur)**
- **Sukkoth (Booths) (Tabernacles) (Wedding)**

In addition to Christmas and Easter, other Christian or secular holidays, which to some greater or lesser degree are evil, man-made, pagan, or secular in origin would include: Ash Wednesday, Corpus Christi, Halloween, Thanksgiving, St. Patrick's Day, St. Valentine's Day, and many others. These holidays of man take people away from the holy festivals of God.

The feasts of YHWH (the Lord) are not Jewish holidays; they are God's holy day convocation festivals. Christians who see and understand this truth, and who wish to come out of Christian-Babylonian pagan worship of God, and who wish to worship Him in spirit and truth, should study God's festivals and find out more about them by attending a Messianic synagogue, where the festivals of YHWH (the Lord) are known, observed, and practiced.

WHAT'S A BELIEVER TO DO DURING CHRISTMAS AND EASTER?

1 CORINTHIANS 5:9-10:

I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, SINCE THEN YOU WOULD NEED TO GO OUT OF THE WORLD.

A believer can still attend a Christmas or Easter gathering, and not partake in the pagan festivities.

Believers are permitted to meet with family, friends, or relatives during pagan events, but should not partake in the rituals involved in these events. It is permissible to meet with family and friends, eat and greet with them as usual, but a believer should not participate in decorating the Christmas tree, exchanging gifts, singing Christmas carols, forsaking the dietary commands by eating Christmas or Easter ham, practice paganism by coloring Easter eggs, or playing Easter games. A true believer should use the opportunity of pagan holidays, such as Christmas and Easter, to reveal the truth of what God's word says about these false holidays and expose them.

Christmas and Easter are holidays not truly dedicated to God, but to the things of this world. Christmas is a celebration of mystical things in celebration of material covetousness. Christmas trees are idols; Santa represents Satan who miraculously knows all things; his elves represent his co-working demons; and Santa provides gifts for children by delivering them on Christmas Eve on reindeer that fly. Easter is a counterfeit Passover that celebrates the resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus the Christ), but does so in a corrupted way by declaring the actual time the Messiah (Christ) spent in the grave was a day and two nights, rather than three days and three nights; renames Passover 'Easter' in honor of the pagan goddess Ishtar; uses rabbits to extol fertility (and sexual promiscuity); and painted eggs to represent offspring (and sacrifice of offspring). Easter subtly glorifies fertility as the way of new life, in place of the resurrection of Yeshua (Jesus) as the resurrection to new life.

Worshiping God through the false pagan holidays of the world, which are not His holy festivals (Leviticus 23), is not worshiping Him in truth. Believers are told that we MUST worship God in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24). Worshiping God the way the world incorrectly honors Him is NOT an option and we should not partake in the evil things of this world, which are disguised as good (1 John 2:15-17, 4:4-6; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15).