

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE PROPHET JEREMIAH

RLJ-1664

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PART 14: THE CORRUPTION OF PAGANISM

THE FUTILITY OF IDOLATRY

Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden and their offspring were eventually seduced into worshiping sticks and stones and referring to these inanimate objects as gods. **Romans 1:18-25**

When God moved the Israelites out of Egypt, He was aware of pagan worship in the land of Canaan and strongly warned them. All pagan gods and places of worship were to be destroyed; they were not to be saved for historical purposes. **Deuteronomy 12:1-3**

Jesus told them not to seek out how the pagans worshiped; they were not supposed to learn these pagan customs and rituals. **verses 30-32**

Jesus uttered the same warning to the people of Judah 875 years later. They were to reject the way of the heathen and stay away from astrology. **Jeremiah 10:1-2**

DESCRIPTION OF PAGAN CUSTOMS

Jesus described the custom of the heathen as cutting down a tree from the forest, decorating it with silver and gold, and fastening it to a platform with nails so that it did not topple. **verse 4**

The upright tree could not speak and someone had to carry it. The tree by itself could not perform evil or good. **verse 5**

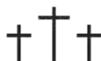
THE WORSHIP OF TREES

Some bible scholars have tried to debunk these verses by stating that they referred to wooden idols which were carved or assembled. The clear meaning of the text does not bear this out because it speaks plainly of trees being decorated. This suspiciously sounds like a Christmas tree but let's examine the historical aspect to determine the truth.

The story begins in Babel with Nimrod, who was a great-grandson of Noah. Noah fathered Ham, who fathered Cush, who in turn fathered Nimrod. **Genesis 10:1-8**

Nimrod became a mighty hunter, but the connotation is that he was a hunter of men and not of animals. **verse 10**

It was in the city of Babel (founded by Nimrod) that an attempt was made to build a tower that would reach into heaven. Ancient legends preserved within Jewish literature state that Nimrod ordered the building of this tower to have a place of refuge in case God flooded the earth once again. Regardless of the motive, it caught Jesus' attention and He came down to earth to stop this project. **Genesis 11:1-9**



Nimrod married a woman named Semiramis, who according to legend, had been a whore before meeting Nimrod. They developed their own religion and were thought of as a god and a goddess. Nimrod was worshipped as Osiris in Egypt and Semiramis became known as Ishtar/Isis.

According to ancient legends, Semiramis was promiscuous and became pregnant. When Nimrod found out, he was going to remove her as the Queen of Babel but Semiramis found out and used her priests to have Nimrod murdered. She announced that Nimrod had been killed, but failed to mention her part. Nimrod was elevated to become the moon god, and as a spirit, he had sexual intercourse with Semiramis and she became pregnant with a son named Tammuz.

Semiramis further claimed that during the miraculous birth of Tammuz, an old piece of wood in the room suddenly brought forth a full grown evergreen tree (pine tree). On the anniversary of Tammuz's birth, Nimrod would show up and place gifts under the evergreen tree that was set up to celebrate his birthday. According to Semiramis, the birthday of Tammuz was December 21.

Semiramis later gave birth to another son named Horus, whom she claimed was Nimrod reincarnated. Semiramis developed a triune religion of the father, mother and the son.

Semiramis and Horus were worshiped as "Madonna and child." As generations passed, they continued to be worshiped under other names in different countries and languages. In Rome it was Fortuna and Jupiter; in Greece it was Aphrodite and Adonis; in Canaan it was Ashtoreth/Astarte and Molech/Baal; and in Egypt it was Isis and Horus.

Thus, the evergreen tree (Christmas tree) mentioned by God dates back to the city of Babel. It declares the miraculous birth of Tammuz and has nothing to do with the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. **Luke 2:4-18**

CHRISTMAS

The celebration of the birth of Tammuz penetrated every civilization in and around the Roman Empire.

Sol Invictus ("Unconquered Sun") was the official sun god of the later Roman Empire and a patron of soldiers. Emperor Aurelian made it an official cult alongside the traditional Roman cults on December 25, 274.

Saturnalia was an ancient Roman festival in honor of the god Saturn. It was held on December 17th of the Julian calendar and later expanded with festivities to December 23rd. The holiday was celebrated with a sacrifice at the Temple of Saturn in the Roman Forum and a public banquet followed afterwards with private gift-giving, continual partying, and a carnival atmosphere that overturned Roman social norms. Gambling was permitted and masters provided table service for their slaves. A common custom was the election of a "King of the Saturnalia," who would give orders to the people and preside over the merrymaking. There was giving and the receiving of gifts at the homes of the people who celebrated in these pagan festivals. Drunkenness and sexual orgies were the norm.

When Emperor Constantine declared that Christianity was the official religion of the Roman Empire in 325 A.D., the Romanized church leadership struggled to remove the

pagan holidays. A decree was made by them that Jesus was born on December 25th and that his birthday should be celebrated throughout the Roman Empire. All the pagan customs were retained such as the Christmas ham, the wreath, kissing under the mistletoe, burning the Yule log, the wassail bowl, the holly, exchanging gifts, the Christmas tree, etc.

Christians around the world today have adopted all the pagan customs and rejected the words of Jesus in the book of Jeremiah that we are not to learn the customs of the pagans and their worship.¹ **Deuteronomy 12:1-3, 30-31; Jeremiah 10:1-2**

EASTER

Tammuz was eventually murdered and new rituals were added to the religion of Babel. A forty day fast was declared for Tammuz in order to resurrect him. A celebration of his resurrection is held every year on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox. It is a day dedicated to Tammuz and celebrated with rabbits and eggs.

The Roman Catholic Church calls the fasting “Lent” and all the pagan rituals were kept for the resurrection day of Jesus.

There are sunrise services on Sunday morning and people do not realize this is a leftover from the old pagan traditions of worshiping the sun god. Jesus spoke against such traditions and called them abominations. **Ezekiel 8:11-18**

According to the New Testament, Jesus was crucified on a Wednesday, but all Christian churches states that Jesus was crucified on a Friday. **Matthew 12:40**

THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH

Why did the people of Judah fail to understand there was none like God? They were foolish and behaved like animals. **Jeremiah 10:6-10**

Satan, the fallen angels and the evil spirits did not create the universe and the earth and they will eventually perish in the Lake of Fire. **verse 11; Revelation 20:10**

God is the creator; He is wise and awesome. **Jeremiah 10:12-13**

CHURCHES TODAY

Why are Christians so blind and brutish? If Jesus blasted the people of Judah for their idolatry, why would He overlook our idolatry today? After all, Jesus is the same today, yesterday and forever. **Hebrews 13:8**

Jesus does not have a birthday! He is God and has always existed. **John 1:1-4**

The Bible does not tell us the exact day when Jesus’ body was born.

There is no scriptural proof where Jesus told Christians to celebrate the birth of His body. Nowhere in the New Testament do we read of the apostolic church doing such a thing. On the contrary, Jesus specifically requested that we observe His death and resurrection through communion. **1 Corinthians 11:24-25**

¹ For more information, see “The Truth About Christmas. www.eaec.org/bibleanswers/christmas.htm

After the American Revolution, English customs fell out of favor, including Christmas. Christmas wasn't declared a federal holiday until June 26, 1870.

Christians in America are no better than the people of Judah 2,600 years ago.

Revelation 3:14-22

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?