

Christmas

This tract has been created to introduce those who are searching for truth set forth in God's word. This tract is not based on the traditions of men and pagan religions.

As children of God, we must look for the truth in what the scriptures teach us on Christmas. For generations people have been keeping it as a way for family to get together, to show love and kindness or to celebrate the birth of Jesus our saviour. No matter what your reason for keeping it is, you have unknowingly put your own salvation at risk by disobeying God's will.

Matthew 7:21

Verse 21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

We will take you through the history of Christmas, and the reasons why you should not keep it. To do so we are going to start with the earliest Bible references we can find with similarities to Christmas.

Isaiah 40:19, 20

Verse 19 The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains.

Verse 20 He that is so impoverished that he hath no oblation chooseth a tree that will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, that shall not be moved.

Jeremiah 10:2-5

Verse 2 Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

Verse 3 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.

Verse 4 They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.

Verse 5 They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good.

Both of these scriptures have the same symbolic emblems that people use today for Christmas, and in both cases their actions are frowned upon for their graven images and false idolatry. We know that Christmas did not actually start until much later, according to the world book millennium 2000 under Christmas, this is what it states:

"The first mention of December 25th as the birth date of Jesus occurred in AD 336 in an early Roman calendar. The celebration of this day as Jesus' birth date was probably influenced by pagan festivals held at that time. The ancient Romans held year-end celebrations to honour Saturn, their harvest god; and Mithras, the god of light. Various peoples in northern Europe held festivals in mid-December to celebrate the end of the harvest season. As part of all these celebrations, the people prepared special foods, decorated their homes with greenery, and joined in singing and gift giving. These customs gradually became part of the Christmas celebration."

We see here that Christmas was born out of paganism. It was implemented by Rome under Constantine, who accepted Christianity as a means to bring all the people together. He did this by taking the most popular pagan festival and combining it with the birth of Jesus. He was able to compromise with the Romans that were holding fast the old ways and those who had accepted Christianity. The early Protestant saw Christmas for what it was, a continuance of pagan teachings in the guise of Christianity and put it out of the Church.

We know Christmas' roots are pagan. Should Christians accept this incredible coincidence that Jesus was born on that same pagan holiday? Let us look to the scriptures to see if they tell us when Jesus was born. To do this we have to start with the beginning of God's new year.

Psalms 104:19

Verse 19 He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down.

Isaiah 66:23

Verse 23 And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.

Exodus 12:1, 2

Verse 1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,

Verse 2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

Exodus 13:3, 4

Verse 3 And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this *place*: there shall no leavened bread be eaten.

Verse 4 This day came ye out in the month Abib.

This shows us that God operates on a lunar year, which consists of forty-eight weeks and begins in the month of Abib.

Abib - an ear of corn, the month of newly-ripened grain; the first of the Jewish ecclesiastical year.

Now that we have established the beginning of God's year, we can move into Elisabeth's conception.

Luke 1:5, 8, 9, 13

Verse 5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife *was* of the daughters of Aaron, and her name *was* Elisabeth.

Verse 8 And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,

Verse 9 According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

Verse 13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

Zacharias was serving in the temple as his duty was, handed down from generation to generation. We see his course was from his ancestor Abia or from the original Hebrew Abijah. The scriptures tell us that Abijah's temple service fell in the eighth course.

I Chronicles 24:10

Verse 10 The seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah,

There are two courses per month, putting Zacharias' temple service around the end of July or beginning of August. This is when Zacharias was told that Elisabeth would conceive a son and call him John.

Luke 1:11-13, 23, 24

Verse 11 And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

Verse 12 And when Zacharias saw *him*, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

Verse 13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

Verse 23 And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house.

Verse 24 And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying,

So, Elisabeth would have conceived at the end of July, beginning of August days after Zacharias returned. We are told next that Elisabeth is six months pregnant when Mary comes to see her.

Luke 1:30, 31, 36, 41

Verse 30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

Verse 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

Verse 36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

Verse 41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:

Here we can see that Mary was pregnant with Jesus which is six months into Elisabeth's pregnancy. So, if we count forward six months from the end of July, beginning August we land in the end of January, beginning of February. We can now count nine months from then, which brings us to the end of October, beginning of November. This biblical timeline puts us roughly two months shy of Christmas.

Christmas actually came from the winter solstice which is when the earth's axial tilt is farthest away from the sun. Worldwide interpretation of the event has varied from culture to culture; but most cultures have held recognition of rebirth, involving holidays, festivals, gatherings, rituals or other celebrations around that time. Not only is Christmas derived from paganism and is not Christ's birth, Jesus was very clear on the one and only thing for us to remember him by and that is his death.

I Corinthians 11:24-26

Verse 24 And when he had given thanks, he brake *it*, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken

for you: this do in remembrance of me.

Verse 25 After the same manner also *he took* the cup, when he had supped, saying, **This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.**

Verse 26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. The scriptures speak for themselves; it is up to you to decide whether you want to follow God or man.

Acts 5:29

Verse 29 Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, **We ought to obey God rather than men.**

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