

## DOCTRINE OF HOLIDAYS

- I. Scripture informs believers for their understanding as to one's responsibility before God in observing holidays.
- A. The adjusted believer should recognize that there are no special or "holy days" commanded for the Church Age dispensation. Gal.4:8-10 (believers returning to a form of spiritual "babies"); Col.2:16 (denotes one's observance of holidays falls into one working out their own Ph2 salvation.)
  - B. However, as positive believers we are not to judge one another in regard to the celebration of certain days. Rom.14:4-6 (denotes it is the weak believer who judges the adjusted believer who applies under the principle of their "freedom in Christ", as is appropriate.)
  - C. This principle is true with regard to dietary preferences as well as other personal choices a believer may make in the CWL, in step with their own spiritual advancement. Rom.14.1-3,10
  - D. Every feast or celebration that God instituted for His people in the age of Israel is specific and fixed as to the date. Exam. Ex.12: 2-3 cp.6,14,15; Lev.23
- II. The truth about the primary "religious" holidays as observed in American society today.
- A. Christmas: Certain questions should be addressed in the analysis of this special holiday observed by almost all fundamental and evangelical Christians of today.
    - 1. Is it ordained by God and a legitimate celebration of the birth of Christ?
    - 2. If not, what is its origin?
    - 3. If God established it, where is the month and day recorded in scripture and command for its observance?
    - 4. If there is no date established by scripture, where did the date of December 25 originate?
    - 5. What does the word "Christmas" mean?
    - 6. What is the significance behind the ritual associated with Christmas with regard to:
      - a. The yule log.
      - b. The Christmas tree.
      - c. The mistletoe.
  - B. There is no explicit commandment in the Bible to set aside a special day for the celebration of the birth of Christ, and the closest implicit rationalization would be the visit of the Magi bearing gifts for the new "King of the Jews". Mat.2:2
    - 1. Precisely the WOG does not fix the date of His birth.
    - 2. The best available evidence suggests that Christ was not born in winter.
      - a. Lightfoot, Hislop, Mede and other apologists state that it could not have been during the winter, based on Luk.2:8
      - b. Even if it had been a mild winter, there is no fixed date.
      - c. The revised date of His birth per Ballinger's "Birth of Christ Recalculated" places His birth at Sept.11, 3 BC.
        - 1) This date synchronizes with the astrological signs that appeared as fulfillment of prophecy (cp. Rev.12:1-5 denoting "Virgo (a woman) in conjunction with the Sun and Moon).
        - 2) It correlates with the Day of Trumpets (Lev.23:23-25) which theme's include "a new beginning" and kingship in Israel.
        - 3) This date places the visit of the Magi after Jesus' birth (Mt.2:2), on or about December 25, 2 BC, after the two brightest planets of Jupiter and Venus "collided" on June 17, 2 BC (star in the East, Mat.2:2), while in the constellation Leo, ultimately coming to a stationary point in mid-Virgo and in meridian over Bethlehem (Mt.2:9) on Dec.25<sup>th</sup>.

- 4) The major obstacle against a 3/2 BC date of Christ's birth and Magi visit was a long accepted 4 BC date for the death of Herod, which date has been correctly reconciled to show a 2/1 BC death.
  - d. Mark and John do not deal with His birth at all; Matthew and Luke do. Mat.1:18-25; Luk.2:1-14
  - e. Since there is nothing specific in the gospel accounts or the epistles concerning the date of His birth, and no commandment to celebrate it, we conclude that Christmas is a tradition of men, not of God.
  - f. This tradition did not come into existence in the Church until the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, and then by the Roman Catholic Church.
- C. The origin of the tradition.
1. In order to understand this tradition, one must have some understanding of the Mother/Son cult of Babylon.
  2. This religious counterfeit of the truth was originated soon after the death of Nimrod, and included his wife Semiramis and their son Tammuz. Gen.10:8-10; 11:1-4
  3. Nimrod was an apostate who masterminded the tower of Babel and led men in revolt against the Most High.
  4. His system had two main divisions: the political/commercial "*let us build a city*", and religious "*and a tower whose top will reach into heaven*". Gen.11:4
  5. This apostasy has existed in various forms throughout history with the final forms seen in Rev.17 (religious Babylon) and 18 (political/commercial Babylon).
  6. The modern day religious Babylon is seen in the form of the Roman Catholic Church (RCC).
- D. The events behind the cultic tradition.
1. Nimrod wielded great authority and power in the post-diluvian civilization.
  2. His wife Semiramis also occupied an exalted position due to her husband.
  3. Though scripture is silent on the death of Nimrod, the traditional legends of the cultures that adhere to this cult are systematically unified.
  4. All consistently state that the ringleader met a violent death and was cut in pieces and/or burned with fire.
  5. Thus, the cosmic system went into shock at the death of their most wonderful benefactor.
  6. This originated the practice of weeping for the dead, which is a common practice of the Mother/Son cult in every land.
  7. At the death of Nimrod, Semiramis realized that she would lose her position and authority, so she forged a plan to keep her position of exaltation.
  8. She began the lie that Nimrod had willingly died for mankind, crushed the head of the serpent (counterfeit of Gen.3:15), and came back from the dead in the form of her son (reincarnation).
  9. The consistent representation of this is a woman holding in her arms a baby, who is recognized to be the equal of his father.
  10. To justify worship of the mother, without whom the work of redemption could have not been accomplished, she was elevated to the status of deity and given the title, The Virgin Mother.
  11. The original cult then worshipped Semiramis as the mother goddess; Tammuz as the "begotten" son.
  12. This cult which originated in Babel, spread to every ancient and primary culture which each adopted their own names (Gen.11:8):
    - a. Egypt: Isis/Osiris.
    - b. India: Isi/Isvara.
    - c. Asia: Cybele/Deoious.
    - d. Rome: Fortuna/Jupiter the boy.

- e. Greece: Ceres (the great mother) with baby at breast; also Irene (the goddess of peace)/Plutus (babe in arms).
  - f. China: Shing Moo (the Holy Mother) with child in arms.
  - g. RCC: Madonna/child
13. In China, Tibet, and Japan, Jesuit missionaries were surprised to find the counterpart of Madonna and her child worshiped as in Papal Rome itself.
  14. In China, the so-called “Holy Mother” was represented with a child in her arms and a “glory/halo” painted around her as if a Roman Catholic artist had been employed to paint her.
  15. Ultimately, the “Holy Mother”, “Alma Mater” (virgin mother) was given the highest title, “The queen of heaven”.
  16. She is also known as (aka), Rhea, Venus, Diana, Hera, Athena, Aphrodite, Isis, and others in various pagan religions.
  17. Her husband/son is aka, Nimrod, Tammuz, Tahmurs, Kronos, Ninus, Baal, Bacchus, Iacchus, Kisson, Phoronesus, Osiris, Dionysius, Marduk and others.
- E. Rituals, symbols, and dates associated with the mother/son cult of antiquity (religious Babylon):
1. The word *Yule* is the Chaldean word for an infant or little child.
  2. The mother/son cult in Egypt and other places celebrated the birth of the son of the Queen of Heaven at the time of the winter solstice.
  3. On the ancient calendar, this was December 25<sup>th</sup>.
  4. Part of this celebration consisted of bringing in the yule log with great pomp and using it as the foundation for the fire.
  5. The following morning a young evergreen/palm/fir tree was set up and decorated; sacrifices were then placed under the tree.
  6. The day was celebrated with a great feast, which originally consisted of a boar’s head or goose.
  7. The festival was continued with a great deal of merry making and the giving of gifts.
  8. The burning of the yule log occurred on Dec.24<sup>th</sup> with the remaining activities following the next day.
  9. The yule log symbolized Nimrod, cut down in the height of his power, then cut into pieces and burned.
  10. The young tree represents the reincarnated Nimrod, back from the dead, never to die again.
  11. This was the reason of use of the conifer (evergreen) trees.
  12. The period of weeping for Tammuz, symbolized the grief of the cosmos for their dead benefactor. (Remember, Nimrod and Tammuz are considered to be one-in-the-same.)
  13. The period of weeping lasted 40 days corresponding to the modern version of lent prior to Easter.
  14. The period of weeping was then followed by merrymaking and giving of gifts.
  15. This symbolized the joy at Nimrod’s rebirth and return from the dead.
  16. The word solstice from “sun” means “stand still” as it seems to do on the shortest day of the year as it gets nearer the southern horizon.
  17. This is how December 25<sup>th</sup> was designated as the highest “holy” day of the cult.
  18. This southern most descent of the sun portrayed the death of Nimrod while the moving back and into spring portrayed his rebirth.
  19. The mistletoe used in the ritual represented the pagan messiah in his role as “the man, the branch”.
  20. Round cakes were also a feature of worship as an offering to the queen of heaven.
  21. In addition, the cult had a confessional where adherents were required to confess their sins to the priest.

- F. These activities of religious Babylon existed long before the Church Age and are denounced in the Old Testament.
1. At the time of the writing of Jer.44, the Jews had been involved in the worship of the queen of heaven around the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC. Jer.44:15-17
  2. Part of this idolatrous worship consisted of the burning of logs, the decorating of trees and the making of cakes for the queen of heaven. Jer.7:17-18; 10:1-9
  3. God made no secret of the fact that this activity did not glorify Him but brought His wrath on the practitioners. Jer.7:17-20, 10:17-22; 44:20-30
  4. The cult of the mother/son originated during the time of Nimrod and at the dispersion it spread into every nation, obviously under different names, but advocating the same evil.
  5. In Canaan the cult operated under the names of Ashtaroth (goddess of fertility) and Baal around 1350 BC. Jud.2:13; 1Sam.7:3; 12:10
  6. Even as late as Ezekiel, Israel was heavily engaged in the worship of the sun god, and weeping for Tammuz. Eze.8:14-18
  7. While the mother/son cult has been active throughout history, it is easily documented that these celebrations/abominations did not enter the Church until the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD and not gain wide acceptance until the 4<sup>th</sup> century.
- G. Let it be recognized that it was the RCC, who is the final form of the mother/son cult, that instituted the observance of Christ's Mass, as is evident in the very name.
- H. Christmas has a history that predates the birth of Christ by more than a thousand years.
- I. Easter: Easter is the logical "offspring" holiday originating from Christmas after the 40 days of mourning, then celebration.
1. The word translated "Easter"/pasca, occurs 29x in the N.T. and all but once in the KJV, is translated correctly as "Passover".
  2. Only in Acts 12:4 does the KJV translate it "Easter".
  3. Easter was the name of a pagan vernal festival, and derived its name from the fertility goddess Eastre.
  4. The eggs and rabbits associated with the Easter celebration were the fertility symbols of Eastre in her cult.
  5. As was becoming the policy of the RCC even before the translation of the KJV, they again adopted and "Christianized" the feast and festival in order to assimilate pagan cultures into the church.
  6. As there were more than 50 translators commissioned by King James, there were many religious factions involved and Act.12:4 was a compromise in order to "get the job done".
  7. As with the birth of Christ, there is no explicit commandment given to set aside a specific day to celebrate Christ's resurrection. As with His birth, this should be a prayer and thought of thanksgiving on a daily basis.
- III. Though the birthday is not considered in and of itself to be a religious holiday, let notice be given that in LeVey's Satanic bible, the birthday is considered the number 1 satanic holiday as it promotes worship of self.
- IV. Thanksgiving Day again is not a God-ordained holiday and a tradition of man.
- A. Of the traditional American holidays, thanksgiving is the "cleanest" spiritually.
  - B. It was first celebrated in early colonial times in New England.
  - C. After the Plymouth colonists completed the first harvest in 1621, Governor William Bradford proclaimed a day of thanksgiving and prayer, shared by all the colonists and neighboring Native Americans.
  - D. In 1623, during a period of drought and on a day of fasting and prayer, rain came during the prayers, hence the day was changed to one of thanksgiving.
  - E. This custom prevailed and in 1817, New York State adopted Thanksgiving Day as an annual custom.
  - F. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln appointed a day of thanksgiving, and since then each president subsequently has issued a Thanksgiving Day proclamation.

- G. The observance of this day as a custom of the early Christian settlers was designed to “formally” give notice and thanks to God and His provision for them as a “peoples” united together in a new land.
- V. Conclusion and observations.
- A. As positive believers in the CA, we should be informed to the truth of matters that “promote” Christian ideals and worship and approach these matters strictly according to BD.
  - B. As with anything else in the CWL, the above holidays should be approached with BD and prayer.
  - C. Certain STA predilections should be avoided during the cosmic celebration of all holidays:
    - 1. Lying with regard to your children. (Santa Clause, the Easter Rabbit, etc. You should explain the truth of these matters to them as early as they can comprehend it.)
    - 2. Unbridled pursuit of details during these holidays.
    - 3. Unrestrained partying and merrymaking.
    - 4. Phoniness and hypocrisy. (Not giving with the right doctrinal motivation and application.)
    - 5. Incurring of debt for fear of peer and family pressure.
    - 6. Gluttony
    - 7. Human good activities.
    - 8. Guilt
  - D. It is incumbent upon the Local Church as a representative of Christ as the head of the Church (Eph.5:23, Col.1:18), not to engage itself corporately in activities that are not ordained by God’s word, but to glorify Him through the continued pursuit of Bible Doctrine and application of it.
  - E. This would include any “special services” or “programs” established to recognize and give observance to these holidays.
  - F. However, the leadership of the church should not tolerate any legalism or spiritual bullying among individual believers in their personal and private applications regarding holidays, one way or the other. Rom.14:10-14