

WORD OF THE WEEK

The Subject: Saturnalia, The Festival of Christmas

Leviticus 18:21,24,30 -- *Thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through fire to Moloch (sun-god) -- Defile not yourselves in "any of these things" -- Therefore shall ye keep mine ordinance, that ye commit not "anyone of these abominable customs" -- and that ye defile not yourselves therein.*

Deuteronomy 12:30,32 -- (Speaking of the heathen sun and moon worship) *Take heed -- enquire not of their gods -- What thing soever I command you observe and do it "thou shalt not add thereto nor diminish from it."*

Jeremiah 10:2,3 -- *Learn not the way (course of life; mode of action) of the heathen -- for the "customs" of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest-- They deck it with silver and gold--*

Note: The grove was the only tree goddess (moon) in Israel and was introduced as such by Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal (with Baal), a priest of the Astarte (tree god-Allah) of Babylon (I Kings 16:31-33). It is the same system that was ejected by the Persian kings and found its seat in Pergamos (Rev. 2:13). This Chaldean (Babylonian) worship became part and parcel of the Roman people when Attalus III (The last king of Pergamos) left by will, all his dominions to the Roman people. Thus it merged into the Romanist system. The grove in Israel is the very Christmas tree of the Saturnalia (moon and sun worship) as placed into the Roman church by Constantine. (Babylon mothered "all" idolatry - Rev. 17:15)

Colossians 2:8 -- *Beware lest any man spoil (seduce into captivity) you through philosophy (love of mans wisdom) and vain deceit (empty delusion), after the tradition (instruction) of men, after the rudiments (principles) of this world, and not after Christ.*

The Christmas Festival was not celebrated in the church till the fourth century A.D. Two thousand years before Jesus was born, the pagans celebrated a festival called the Saturnalia (feast of Saturn) in honor of the birth of the son (Saturn Adonis - Hercules) of the Babylonian "Queen of Heaven" (Venus). This yearly revelry (drunken New Year feast) was a "birthday" to honor the "unconquerable sun", Saturn. Saturn was the fertility god among the pagans. The pagans assisted their fertility sun god in his promise to bring new crops in the spring by helping to warm the earth putting a yule (fire wheel, child of the sun) log on the fire and building large bonfires (Baal-fires). Believing the evergreen to be magical, the pagans hung wreaths, holly and greenery in their pagan temples and homes. Hence, "Deck the halls with boughs of holly". They erected evergreens at this rebirth of the sun in the depth of winter during the Saturnalia (Dec. 17 - Dec. 25). Alexander Hislop speaks in *The Two Babylons* published in 1916:

In order to conciliate the heathen, and to swell the number of adherents to Christianity, the same festival was adopted by the church and given only the name of Christ (Christmas).

That Christmas was originally pagan is beyond all doubt. To conciliate the pagans to nominal Christianity, Rome took measures to get the Christian and Pagan festivals amalgamated. The Pontiffs first measure was to encircle the heads of the images of Christ with the rays of the sun. This "halo" was, in ancient times, behind the head of Aesculapius, the Serpent, the child of the sun. The "golden beams" around the heads of pictures and images called by the name of Christ were intended to show pagans that they might safely worship them, as the images of their well known divinities, though called by another name.

Pope Julius I gave Christmas (The Mass of Christ) its pagan name. It did not appear on the calendar as a holiday until 354 A.D. It was not celebrated by the early church. In pagan antiquity December 25 was known far and wide as the very birthday of Adonis, the Herculean sun-god of Babylon. Fleeing Papal persecution during the reformation, the Puritans banned the celebration of Christmas in England (1642). The Protestants in early America considered Christmas to be heresy and passed laws against it, exacting criminal penalties for its celebration. Christmas was not a legal holiday in America until 1856. It is the custom of the heathen, for which God pronounced judgment from the mouths of the prophets (the 70 weeks of Daniel - Dan. 9:24-27; The Valley of Dry Bones - Ezek. 37). Halloween, the fire worship of the Druids, a later version of this Godless system, finds its roots in the heart of this Christmass (Saturnalia) festival. Oh, how we have erred from the principles of the Word of God. God have mercy on us.

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