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MYSTERIES
OF THE **FOURTH** TEMPLE
AND MORE....



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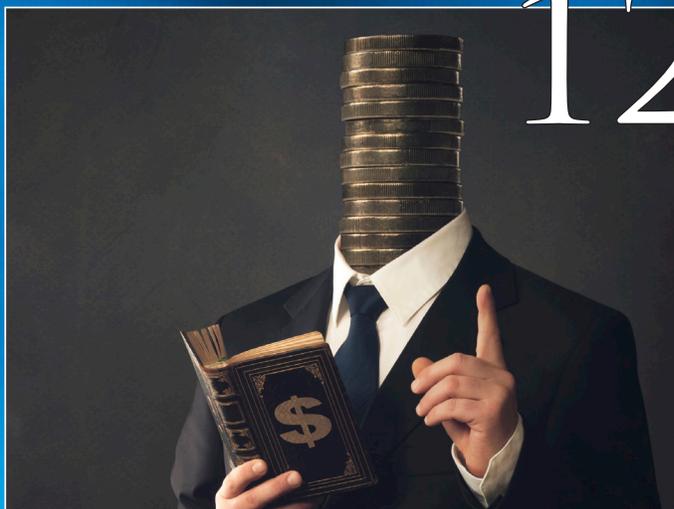
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Restoration Times expounds the close ties between the Old and New Testaments. We teach the continuity and harmony that extend from Yahweh's actions anciently down through His present activity in Yahshua the Messiah. This was also the conviction of the early New Testament Assembly.

This publication is sent free of charge, made possible through the tithes and offerings of those who desire to see the truth of Scripture restored in our day.

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FRONT COVER:

Nighttime photo of the temple mount complex in Jerusalem, Israel.



MYSTERIES OF THE THIRD (FOURTH) TEMPLE REVEALED

by Alan Mansager

Of all the fascinating topics taught in Scripture, the needle on the interest meter nearly always swings to the top when it comes to prophecy. Who doesn't want to know what the future holds, especially in a fragile world that changes with lightning speed?

As we see the culture imploding morally and spiritually, we look for the return of Yahshua to reset law and order under Yahweh's righteous Kingdom government.

We see increasing signs of His soon return. Just as indicative of the end-times as social trends are the prophetic portents appearing in the sky, serving as heavenly communications that Yahshua Himself validated.

Just ended this fall was a heavenly series of four super blood-moon eclipses (tetrads), moons that came closest to earth and all occurring within a short span of a year and a half. Notably, each came on or prior to a spring or fall Feast day. The tetrad ended at the start of the Sabbatical year.

The odds of all of it happening that

very way are off the charts. Never have such phenomena happened before. For 300 years, from 1600 to 1900, there were no tetrads.

The prophet Joel wrote in 2:31, "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of Yahweh come." This phenomenon is also prophesied in Acts 2:20.

John spoke of a red moon in Revelation 6:12: "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood." This will occur just before the seventh seal when the saints are granted protection by Yahweh for the rest of the tribulation.

We know that Yahshua will gather His elect into the air and then touch down on the Mount of Olives. His final destination is a temple. It is at the temple where Yahshua will begin His millennial reign.

Ezekiel – Temple Prophet

The prophet Ezekiel deals with the future temple in detail, along with the Millennial

Kingdom. But today no temple exists. At some point it must come into existence.

One cannot talk about the temple without looking first at the prototype, the tent-like tabernacle in the wilderness. The tabernacle was the blueprint for the more permanent temples to follow. Both tabernacle and temple have profound, spiritual teachings about worship and the future.

The tabernacle Israel was commanded to make was a half-size pattern of the temple to follow, and served them for 400 years. It was significant in many ways:

- Foremost, the tabernacle housed the holiest place where Yahweh dwelled with Israel;
- It was where the Ark of the Covenant was placed, a piece of furniture that defined true worship both then and now and in future manifestations;
- It was where Israel came to worship and sacrifice;
- It was the center of Israel's lives spiritually and physically;
- In just the design of the temple grounds we learn about approaching Yahweh in

worship and how each part teaches a lesson. Of all the tabernacle's attributes, the first is the most important—the Holy of Holies where Yahweh dwelled. Yet, there is still more in the person of Yahshua, our High Priest. John 1:14 tells us, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

“Dwelt” means to reside as Yahweh of the Old Testament did in the tabernacle of old. He dwelt (tabernacled) among us. *Thayer's Greek Lexicon* says about dwelt: “To abide in a tabernacle or tent; Yahweh will spread his tabernacle over them so that they may dwell in safety and security under its cover and protection.” *Vines Expository Dictionary* ties tabernacle to a hut or temporary residence.

We keep with the letter and spirit of the tabernacle when we dwell in temporary residences at the Feast of Tabernacles. The real significance of the temple is in its prophetic implications as well as its symbolism.

Illustrated Teachings

Ezekiel wrote more about the temple and its details than any other prophet. Of all the Bible's prophets, this prophet-priest is one of the most captivating. Ezekiel and other prophets often used images and metaphor when communicating Yahweh's prophetic revelations.

The Hebrew mind was more receptive to imagery than our western analytical brains are. So while Greek language is more technical and literal, the Hebrew language is highly poetic and rich in visuals.

For example, we see Isaiah running around without shoes and clothes for three years portending a future calamity in Ethiopia and Egypt; and there is Jeremiah with a yoke around his neck, picturing the yoke of Babylon.

But Ezekiel exceeds them all. He used all kinds of visual aids to make his points, like a brick and two sticks, drawing a picture of Jerusalem on a tile (see Ezekiel 4:1–3); lying on his left side for 390 days, and right side for 40 days (4:4–8); baking bread with dung (4:9–17); cutting his hair into thirds: burning a third of it, chopping up a third and throwing the rest to the wind. All to make vivid, unforgettable points.

In eight chapters we find prophecies about a third temple that are key to end-

time events, as well as Yahshua's coming rule.

As we look into the temple and its significance—both the ancient temples, and the one still to be built—we will glean some understanding of Yahweh's plan for this world and us.

The Three Temples

The first temple was built by King Solomon in the 10th century BCE. It was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE. The Second Temple was a rebuild of the first temple, a somewhat modest rehab by Zerubabel 70 years later when the Jews were freed by Persia from Babylonian captivity.

Herod the Great enlarged and enhanced that temple beginning in 20 BCE. Herod's temple was the one standing in Yahshua's day, being destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE.

The Temple Mount has remained a focal point for Jewish services for thousands of years. Prayers for a return to Jerusalem and the rebuilding of a third Temple have been uttered by Jews since the Second Temple was destroyed.

Dominating a panorama of Jerusalem today is a gold-domed shrine called the Dome of the Rock. It was built by an Islamic caliph in the late 7th century.

Islamic tradition says that Muhammad, the founder of Islam, ascended to heaven from that location to receive revelations from Allah. But that tradition was a later development. Muhammad himself was said to loathe Jerusalem and he sanctified only one place, the Kaaba in Mecca.

Jerusalem was retrofitted into Islamic history to become the third holiest site in Islam. The city isn't even mentioned in Islam's bible, the Quran. Jerusalem is mentioned in the Hebrew Bible 656 times.

Yahweh chose the temple as His dwelling place on earth. Anciently, it was where Yahweh interacted with men, first in

the tabernacle then in the temple Solomon built.

Yahweh commanded in Exodus 25:8: “And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.”

In Ezekiel 43:7 He promises once again to dwell with His people. Yahweh asked Israel to make a sanctuary for Him. He could Himself have made a sanctuary so amazing that people would come from everywhere just to see it. Yet, humans were told specifically to make Him a sanctuary



YRM's Israel expedition team with archaeologist Eli Shukron at the Dome of the Rock in 2014

themselves.

That command has profound spiritual implications. Through the Holy Spirit living within, we become a living sanctuary that we ourselves must prepare.

Ezekiel 36:26 prophesies: “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.” He provides the help and we produce the results by the way we live.

We have a choice about receiving His Spirit to live within us. Endowment of the Spirit doesn't happen without our participation. Acts 5:32 says He gives His Spirit to those who obey Him. Do we keep His true Sabbath? His Feasts? His laws in the New Testament? If not, then the Spirit will not indwell us.

We must prepare our hearts so that Yahweh will live within us through His Spirit. This truth is reflected in the way the people through the priest had to prepare their step-by-step approach to Yahweh in temple sacrifice and worship.

We begin with repentance followed by baptism and the laying on of hands to receive the Spirit, Acts 2:38: "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Yahshua Messiah for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Yahweh's Spirit is not forcibly imposed upon us. We must desire it by doing what Peter said, which included repentance, immersion, and living a righteous life.

More than just Yahweh's dwelling place, the temple also shows the work and person of Yahshua. We see Yahshua our High Priest in every part of its features, from the altar of sacrifice as the only way to approach Yahweh, to the lampstand shedding the light of truth. We see Yahshua in the showbread as the Bread of Life. And He is present at the ark in the Holy of Holies, which housed all the commandments.

The temple shows salvation in all of its manifestations. Those who assume that salvation was not taught in the Old Testament are not looking with open eyes.

Although the temple was destroyed 2,000 years ago, the Jews still talk of rebuilding it. The temple is so significant in biblical history that archaeologists divide Israel into two eras, First-temple and Second-temple periods. And the temple at Jerusalem is central in Bible prophecy.

Jerusalem – Coming World Capital

Jerusalem occupies the most sought-after real estate on the planet. During its long history Jerusalem has been attacked 52 times, besieged 23 times, and captured and recaptured 44 times. The whole city of Jerusalem has been demolished twice and parts of it were destroyed at least 40 times.

Jerusalem's destiny to become Yahweh's world capital is central to its being the most hotly contested city in all of

human history.

Micah 4:1-2: "But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of Yahweh shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh, and to the house of the Elohim of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem."

Because He is an imposter, the Antimessiah will know well the key the temple at Jerusalem holds in the return of Yahshua and he will take possession of a re-established temple during the tribulation. Paul prophesied of this in 2Thessalonians 2:4: "Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called Elohim, or that is worshiped; so that he as Elohim sitteth in the temple of Elohim, shewing himself that he is Elohim."

In an attempt to prove his own legitimacy, the Antimessiah will go to the

to the mountains?"

The imposter will come to the temple because He knows that the true Messiah will go to a temple when He returns.

Which Temple Will He Inhabit?

But we have a problem. Prophecy says that the soon-coming, re-established Temple will be destroyed, Daniel 9:26: "...and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined."

In the war that we call the Apocalypse, or inaccurately Armageddon, the armies of the Antimessiah that surround Jerusalem will besiege the city and destroy most of it, including the sanctuary, which means the rebuilt temple. That is when Yahshua intervenes.

As we have seen, the temple is closely tied to the purpose and person of Yahshua in all of the manifestations. No wonder the Antimessiah will go there as he tries to represent Yahshua. Even more, however,



Remains of the city wall of Jerusalem from the time of King Hezekiah (First Temple period)

temple, just as Yahshua is prophesied to do. Yahshua Himself foretold this event in Mark 13:14: "But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing, where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains."

Some believe the abomination of desolation is the present Mosque of Omar. But that shrine has been standing for 800 years. How can it fit the end-time prophecy if it says, "When you see this mosque, flee

we learn that Yahshua will have His throne in the Temple as well.

We read in Ezekiel 43:5-7: "So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of Yahweh filled the house. And I heard him speaking unto me out of the house; and the man stood by me. And he said unto me, Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile, neither they, nor

their kings, by their whoredom, nor by the carcasses of their kings in their high places.”

That Yahshua is prophesied to begin His reign in a temple raises some serious issues. Will He go to a temple that has been polluted by the Antimessiah? And how can He possibly go to that temple if it will be destroyed beforehand? Still, we are left with Ezekiel’s prophesy of a future temple in chapters 40–48.

A New Temple Built

The key that unlocks this mystery is the place of this temple and the area it occupies.

The dimensions of the temple site from which Yahshua will rule will exceed the footprint at the traditional site on Jerusalem’s Temple Mount. The building of yet another fourth temple will need to follow the return of Yahshua.

The prophet Ezekiel in 47:1–12 describes extensive physical and geographical changes that will take place in Israel in preparation for the messianic Kingdom and His temple. From where Ezekiel was standing, the city was to the south.

In Ezekiel 48:8 and 10, the prophet places the temple in the middle of an area allotted to the priests south of Judah. The city of Jerusalem, however, will be south of the Temple in the middle of an area allotted to the people, Ezekiel 48:15–20. The city proper will measure one and a half miles square, 48:16.

The entire area of Yahshua’s Temple grounds will be roughly eight and a third miles

by three and one-third miles (Ezek. 48:10, *Living Bible, Modern Language Bible*). This is several times the size of the present Temple Mount area.

The Temple footprint will be about 750 feet square with a space around it measuring 150 feet (Ezek. 45:2). That means the Temple proper will occupy a space three football fields long in each direction.

Zechariah prophesies that this future Temple will be built by Yahshua with the help of the resurrected saints. In 6:12 he writes, “And speak unto him, saying, Thus

speakeh Yahweh of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH [Yahshua]; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of Yahweh: Even He shall build the temple of Yahweh; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both. And the crowns shall be to Helem, and to Tobijah, and to Jedaiah, and to Hen the son of Zephaniah, for a memorial in the temple of Yahweh. And they that are far off shall come and build in the temple of Yahweh, and ye shall know that Yahweh of hosts hath sent me unto you.”

Why Mt. of Olives?

Could it be that the reason Yahshua’s feet will stand in that day on the Mt. of Olives instead of going directly to a temple is that the Antimessiah’s armies will have destroyed the rebuilt temple along with most of the city? In one of Ezekiel’s visions, the prophet sees the glory of Yahweh depart



The western side of the Mount of Olives looking from the Temple Mount complex

from Jerusalem and come to rest “above the mountain east of it” (Ezekiel 11:23).

According to the prophet Zechariah, Yahshua will return not only in the same way He left (via the sky), but to the same place He left, which was the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:11–12). Zechariah declares, “On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem...” (14:4).

Last of the Temples

The historical succession of physical temples ends in the city of New Jerusalem when Yahweh Himself comes to earth.

There will be no temple after the millennium when the earth will be cleansed with fire. Peter wrote,

“But the day of Yahweh will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up,” 2Peter 3:10.

The *Revised Standard Version* speaks of two events, but not as if the day of Yahweh and the cleansing of the earth are concurrent events: “But the day of Yahweh will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up.”

Revelation 21 is about New Jerusalem. Verse 22 reads, “And I saw no temple therein: for Yahweh Elohim Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.” The final Temple will doubtlessly be destroyed along with the rest of the burning earth, 2Peter 3:10.

Only One Right Way

The temple was always a highly visible declaration that said the manner in which we approach Yahweh is of the utmost importance. What we believe and do matters. This is the way Yahweh commanded it. He says this is the only way you can worship me. Anything else is not worshipping me.

While surrounding nations worshiped on top of any hill or under any convenient tree in their fertility rites, the temple of Israel declared boldly that

Yahweh’s worship is different from all other religions in the world. Every aspect of temple worship was precise, regulated, and unchangeable. It reflected the very nature of the One True Father who is being worshiped.

That is why He was so specific about how the temple was built and what was put into it. It spoke of how He was to be approached by His people. Yahweh doesn’t change. He expects the same adherence from us when it comes to His commanded worship. This is the greatest lesson of the temple. ✓

Unwrapping Christmas

by Randy Folliard



Christmas is a holiday loved and cherished by most of the world, Bible believers and nonbelievers alike. While many see it as a time of fun and jubilation, you may be surprised to discover the real history behind this day.

Contrary to popular tradition, the modern Christmas was not based on the Messiah's birth, but pagan tradition that the Church accepted and repackaged. We could hardly make this statement if it were not true. For this reason, many in England and early America refused to honor this day.

Opposition to Christmas

Author Robert J. Myers in his book *Celebrations* says, "In England, for example, the Puritans could not tolerate this celebrating for which there was no biblical sanction. Consequently, the Roundhead Parliament of 1643 outlawed the feasts of Christmas, Easter, Whit-suntide, along with the saints' days," p. 312.

This writer corroborates that the Puritans in 1643 outlawed both Christmas and Easter. Notice why this was done; he writes that these observances were outlawed because they had no biblical sanction.

The History Channel notes this refusal included the pilgrims and other early Americans: "In the early 17th century, a wave of religious reform changed the way Christmas was celebrated in Europe. When Oliver Cromwell and his Puritan forces took over England in 1645, they vowed

to rid England of decadence and, as part of their effort, cancelled Christmas. By popular demand, Charles II was restored to the throne and, with him, came the return of the popular holiday. The pilgrims, English separatists that came to America in 1620, were even more orthodox in their Puritan beliefs than Cromwell. As a result, Christmas was not a holiday in early America. From 1659 to 1681, the celebration of Christmas was actually outlawed in Boston. Anyone exhibiting the Christmas spirit was fined five shillings" (history.com, *Christmas*).

Christmas was not a holiday in early America. Not only was it not recognized, but Boston from 1659 to 1681 outlawed this day and fined those who exhibited the "Christmas spirit."

What would happen if all Bible believers took such a stand today? Much of today's error and subsequent problems would be eliminated and a time of unparalleled truth would arise. We need only to ask, is the observance sanctioned by my Heavenly Father and His Word?

No Biblical Support for Christmas

The fact is, there is nothing about the Christmas celebration that was not borrowed, fabricated, or twisted in some way. For instance, the common notion of the Messiah's being born on December 25 is far from the truth and biblical narrative.

There is no evidence that Yahshua the Messiah was born on this day or anywhere

close to it. For example, the *New Catholic Encyclopedia* states: "Inexplicable though it seems, the date of Christ's birth is not known. The Gospels indicate neither the day nor the month" (1967, Christmas).

The Roman Catholic Church chose December 25 as the date of the Messiah's birth.

The fathers of the first three centuries spoke nothing about the celebration of the Nativity. Clearly, the celebration of the Messiah's birth was unknown to the men who governed the church for the first three hundred years.

Jolly Come Lately

You would think that such an important, historic event would have been understood by these stewards. The fact that the church fathers were oblivious to this observance shows that it had no early historical ties to Christianity. So if the day of the Messiah's birth is not known even in the earliest years of the church, why then did the church later select December 25? What was so special about this day?

This day has another past more sinister than many realize. December 25th was chosen because of its connection with pagan worship, specifically with sun worship, a religious practice going all the way back to ancient Babylon. In Roman culture there were three observances that contributed to the timing and customs of Christmas. Possibly the greatest and most popular

was the celebration for Saturn, known as Saturnalia. According to most historians, this festival resembled Mardi Gras and New Year's; it was a time of decadence and confusion.

The *Standard American Encyclopedia* confirms, "...the feast in honor of Saturn, celebrated by the Romans in December and regarded as a time of unrestrained license and merriment for all classes, even for the slaves" (1940, "Saturnalia").

The *Encyclopedia Americana* says, "It [Saturnalia] probably originated as a harvest celebration. Under the Caesars it was celebrated from the 17th to the 23rd of December, during which period public business was closed, masters and slaves changed places, and feasting, giving of gifts, and general license prevailed" (1956, "Saturnalia").

The Saturnalia was observed December 17-23. It is no coincidence but by design that the dates of Saturnalia closely correspond to Christmas.

This Roman festival honoring the god Saturn was one of the happiest times of the year. It included the giving of gifts, the suspension of work, and easements in cultural norms and ethics. Slaves were given temporary freedom and certain cases of immorality were overlooked.

Birthdays of Mithra

Another belief influencing Christmas was Mithraism. This was a cult in the Roman culture that was reserved for men only and was especially popular among soldiers.

According to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, "The origin of the cult of Mithra dates from the time that the Hindus and Persians still formed one people, for the god Mithra occurs in the religion and the sacred books of both races, i.e. in the Vedas and in the Avesta. In Vedic hymns he is frequently mentioned and is nearly always coupled with Varuna, but beyond the bare occurrence of his name, little is known of him (Rigveda, III, 59). It is conjectured (Oldenberg, 'Die Religion des Veda,' Berlin, 1894) that Mithra was the rising sun, Varuna the setting sun; or, Mithra, the sky at daytime, Varuna, the sky at night; or, the one the sun, the other the moon. In any case Mithra is a light or solar deity of some sort; but in vedic times the vague and general mention of him seems to indicate that his name was little more than a memory.... Mithraism was emphatically a soldier religion: Mithra, its hero, was especially a

divinity of fidelity, manliness, and bravery; the stress it laid on good fellowship and brotherliness, its exclusion of women, and the secret bond amongst its members have suggested the idea that Mithraism was Masonry amongst the Roman soldiery" (newadvent.org, "Mithraism").

As we see from this reference, not much is known about this cult. It goes back to when the Hindus and Persians formed one people, but how and in what form this deity was worshiped is unknown. As this deity evolved over time and cultures, it found a home in Rome; it especially gained popularity among the Roman military. At this point, Mithra had been reinterpreted as a deity of war and as a result, Mithraism again took root within the Roman culture.

Now what's the connection between Mithraism and Christmas? We find part of the answer in the book, *Mystery Religions in the*

"This ancient celebration was nothing more than sun worship."

Ancient World. Mithra was "the creator and orderer of the universe, hence a manifestation of the creative Logos or Word. Seeing mankind afflicted by Ahriman, the cosmic power of darkness, he incarnated on earth. His birth on 25 December was witnessed by shepherds. After many deeds he held a last supper with his disciples and returned to heaven. At the end of the world he will come again to judge resurrected mankind and after the last battle, victorious over evil, he will lead the chosen ones through a river of fire to a blessed immortality," p. 99.

Do you notice any resemblances between Mithra and the Messiah? Scripture states that the Messiah is the creative Word or Logos, John 1:1-3. We also know that His birth was witnessed by shepherds and that He shared a last supper (Passover) with His disciples and was afterward murdered and resurrected to heaven.

The Bible also prophesies of His return, when He will remove evil and conquer all those who oppose Him. Because of these similarities, some scholars believe that Mithraism was a major force in Christianity and a serious threat to the Church.

According to Ernest Renan, a French historian and expert in ancient cultures, "...if the growth of Christianity had been arrested by some mortal malady, the world would

have been Mithraic..."

Mithra was born on December 25. There's little doubt that this fact played a role in the establishment of December 25th as the Messiah's alleged birth.

Rise of the Unconquered Sun

A third system that added to the adoption of Christmas was the Feast of Sol Invictus. The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* states: "During the later periods of Roman history, sun worship gained in importance and ultimately led to what has been called a 'solar monotheism.' Nearly all the gods of the period were possessed of Solar qualities, and both Christ and Mithra acquired the traits of solar deities. The feast of Sol Invictus (open unconquered Sun) on December 25th was celebrated with great joy, and eventually this date was taken over by the Christians as Christmas, the birthday of Christ" (2000,

vol. 11, p. 390).

In addition to Saturnalia and Mithraism, the Feast of Sol Invictus also helped solidify December 25 as the date for the Nativity. The *Britannica* openly states that the Church adopted this day for Christmas. There should be no doubt that Christmas is an amalgamation of ancient pagan practices later adopted by the Roman church.

This ancient celebration was nothing more than sun worship. Rome at this point was considered a "solar monotheism." The term "solar" refers to the sun, while "monotheism" refers to the worship of one deity. Most ancient religions were polytheistic, meaning that they worshiped many gods. So to find a point in history where sun worship was a monotheistic religion is noteworthy.

We also find evidence for the role that sun worship played in Christmas from the *New International Dictionary of the Christian Church*. It states, "December 25 was the date of the Roman pagan festival inaugurated in 274 as the birthday of the unconquered sun which at the winter solstice begins again to show an increase in light. Sometime before 336 the Church in Rome, unable to stamp out this pagan festival, spiritualized it as the Feast of the Nativity of the Sun of Righteousness," p. 223.

According to this source, December 25th was marked as the birthday of the sun in 274 CE and about 60 years later the Church adopted this day as the birthday of the Messiah due to its inability to stamp out this pagan observance. Instead of staying faithful to the Word, what happened? The Church compromised by adopting this pagan practice and by doing so, changed the faith forever!

Superstitions Yule Find Elsewhere

In addition to its history, Christmas is riddled with non-biblical traditions, including the Christmas tree and Santa Claus. Tree worship, especially the evergreen, has been an object of worship for millennia.

Scripture provides many examples of tree worship, but none clearer than Jeremiah 10, “Hear ye the word which Yahweh speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: Thus saith Yahweh, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. 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. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. 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,” verses 1-5.

Even though this doesn't directly describe today's Christmas tree, it fits the context and practice surrounding the Christmas tree perfectly. Jeremiah said in verse 2, “Learn not the way of the heathen.” Does this warning also apply to Christmas?

We simply ask, where is Christmas found in the Bible? The answer is, nowhere. We can safely say, yes, this admonition includes Christmas. When Yahweh said through Jeremiah, learn not the way of the heathen, He was referring to all pagan worship, including days like Easter and Christmas.

In addition to the biblical record, scholarship also confirms that tree worship was common anciently. For example, *The Golden Bough* states, “...Tree worship is well attested for all the great European families of the Aryan stock. Amongst the Celts the oak-worship of the Druids is familiar to everyone. Sacred groves were common among the ancient Germans, and

tree-worship is hardly extinct among their descendants at the present day,” p. 58.

In addition to the Christmas tree, we have the tradition of Saint Nick. According to the book, *Santa Claus, Last of the Wild Men*, the traditional Santa Claus may have roots in Odin, a major deity in Norse mythology: “... children would place their boots filled with sugar, carrots or straw, near the chimney for Odin's flying horse, Sleipnir, to eat. Odin would then reward those children for their kindness by replacing Sleipnir's food with gifts or candy. This practice survived in Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands after the adoption of Christianity and became associated with Saint Nicholas as a result of the process of Christianization and can be still seen in the modern practice of the hanging of stockings at the chimney in some homes” (pp. 71-73).

While many state that Saint Nick traces



back to Saint Nicholas, bishop of Myra, who existed during the 4th-century, the truth is very different. The roots of this figure trace to German and Dutch folklore, none of which is sanctioned by Scripture.

Exploring the Biblical Record

Let's now transition from the historical roots of Christmas to the scriptural facts about our Savior's birth. We begin by asking, when was He born? From Scripture we find that He was likely born in the fall. We find evidence in Luke 1:5, “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.”

Zacharias, John the Baptist's father, served at the temple. His course of service

was of the course of Abia. In the Old Testament there were twenty-four courses of temple service. The cycle of courses began at Abib (the first biblical month) or in the springtime, and went from Sabbath to Sabbath.

Each priest was required to serve twice a year. Abia was of the eighth course which would have fallen around the beginning of June. We can extrapolate from this that John the Baptist was conceived around early June. Luke 1:26 states that Mary conceived Yahshua six months after Elisabeth conceived John the Baptist.

If John the Baptist was conceived in early June and if Yahshua was conceived six months later, the Savior would have been conceived in early December, placing His birth somewhere around September, possibly during the Feast of Tabernacles.

What about the shepherds? The traditional Christmas story goes that shepherds in the field received a miraculous message about the birth of the infant Yahshua on December 25th. The traditional story is based on Luke 2:13-18:

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising Elohim, and saying, Glory to Elohim in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass which Yahweh hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.”

The question is: Are shepherds and sheep out grazing in the fields at the end of December? Scholars say this is highly doubtful. *Adam Clarke's Commentary* says,

“It was a custom among the Jews to send out their sheep to the deserts, about the passover, and bring them home at the commencement of the first rain: during the time they were out, the shepherds watched them night and day. As the passover occurred in the spring, and the first rain began early in the month of Marchesvan, which answers to part of our October and November, we find that the sheep were kept out in the open country during the whole of the summer. And

as these shepherds had not yet brought home their flocks, it is a presumptive argument that October had not yet commenced, and that, consequently, our [Master] was not born on the 25th of December, when no flocks were out in the fields; nor could he have been born later than September, as the flocks were still in the fields by night. On this very ground the nativity in December should be given up. The feeding of the flocks by night in the fields is a chronological fact, which casts considerable light upon this disputed point.”

Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary confirms, “From this most critics, since Lightfoot, conclude that the time which, since the fourth century, has been ecclesiastically fixed upon for the celebration of Christ’s birth—the 25th of December, or the midst of the rain season—cannot be the true time, as the shepherds drove their flocks about the spring or Passover time out to the fields, and remained out with them all summer, under cover of huts or tents, returning with them late in the autumn. But recent travelers tell us that in the end of December, after the rains, the flowers come again into bloom, and the flocks again issue forth. The nature of the seasons in Palestine could hardly have been unknown to those who fixed upon the present Christmas-period: the difficulty, therefore, is perhaps more imaginary than real.”

Unwise to Count Three Wise Men

Let’s consider one more piece of the puzzle and that is the wise men. This story is based on the second chapter of Matthew. It reads, “Now when Yahshua was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him... When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Miriam his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh,” verses 1-2, 10-11.

Tradition says that three wise men visited the infant Yahshua in the manger to honor His birth. Do we find evidence of that here?

First, Scripture says nothing about three wise men, but only the three gifts they gave.

Second, they did not visit the infant

Messiah at the manger, but the boy Messiah at His house, verse 11. And third, the wise men were not there to worship the birth of the Messiah but to worship the king of the Jews, verse 2.

Other than the wise men visiting the Messiah, the traditional account is missing in Scripture, with no mention of the number of wise men, no manger they visited, and no mention of the Messiah’s birth.

Yahshua was about the age of two when visited by the wise men. Verse 16 reads, “Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.”

Scripture verifies here that Herod murdered all male children two years and under. Why did he start with the age of two? It’s likely that Yahshua was about this age when the wise men came to visit. From this we find again that the traditional story of the Messiah’s birth has little basis in Scripture.

Christmas is not found in the Bible, but through pagan Roman tradition the Church compromised and adopted it.

What’s amazing is that even after coming to this knowledge many churchgoers keep celebrating this day. They see nothing wrong with an observance rooted in paganism with traditions twisted from the biblical narrative. As we read in Jeremiah 10, we’re commanded to abstain from learning the ways of the heathen.

And if Jeremiah’s warning is not enough, the Apostle Paul in 2Corinthians 6:14-18 also warns about compromise and accepting false worship.

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Messiah with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of Elohim with idols? for ye are the temple of the living Elohim; as Elohim hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith Yahweh, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith Yahweh Almighty.”

Paul asks a series of key questions:

- What fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness?
- What communion has light with darkness?
- What concord has Messiah with Belial?
- What part has a believer with an infidel?
- What agreement does the temple of Elohim have with idols?

In each question Paul shows the distinction between right and wrong; between worship that is honoring and worship that is not.

Decision Time

Based on the fact that Christmas contains no scriptural foundation and was borrowed from pagan worship, it is clearly to be avoided by those in Messiah wanting right worship. As believers, we must worship in spirit and truth.

Perhaps the hardest part of coming out of Christmas is the negative reaction from family. Many believers who come out of popular worship find themselves in the crosshairs of those they love most. For the majority this proves to be most difficult.

In these cases, it’s important that we remember two lessons: we cannot allow others to determine our worship, and our loyalty must first be to our Heavenly Father and Savior.

Yahshua in the tenth chapter of Matthew stated, “He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his burden, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me,” vv. 37-38.

If we allow our families to choose how we worship, we are in essence showing Yahweh that we love them more than Him. As our Savior clearly said, those who do this will not be found worthy of Him!

Contrary to what you might hear from the vast number of pulpits, living for Yahweh is not easy. It requires a level of commitment second to none.

Those who make this commitment will be blessed. However, those who compromise for family or friends will find a different fate.

The greatest choices we make in this life are not those involving earthly relationships or careers, but those determining our eternal salvation. May we choose wisely by taking a stand for truth as this world’s holiday season approaches.



Selections on Christmas from the **Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature**

“The observance of Christmas is not of divine appointment, nor is it of New Testament origin. The day of [Messiah’s] birth cannot be ascertained from the New Testament, or indeed, from any other source. The fathers of the first three centuries do not speak of any special observance of the nativity... It is historically certain that the Christmas festival proper is of comparatively late institution.”

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“The exact year of his birth is not agreed on by chronologers, but it was about the four thousandth year of the world; nor can the precise season of the year, the month, and day in which he was born be ascertained.”

•••

“[Christmas] was celebrated with all the marks of respect usually bestowed on high festivals, and distinguished also by the custom, derived probably from heathen antiquity, of interchanging presents and making entertainments. At the same time, the heathen winter holidays (Saturnalia, Juve-nalia, Brumalia) were undoubtedly transformed, and, so to speak, sanctified by the establishment of the Christmas cycle of holidays ; and the heathen customs, so far as they were harmless (e. g. the giving of presents, lighting tapers, etc.), were brought over into Christian use.”

•••

“The houses and churches were dressed with evergreens, and the former especially with mistletoe—a custom probably as old as the Druidical worship. Whether this festival was always celebrated on December 25th is a subject of dispute. It was not till the sixth century that the whole Christian world concurred in celebrating the nativity on the same day.”

•••

“In later ages many observances, some pleasant, others absurd, grew up around the Christmas festival. Accounts of old English Christmas usages may be found in Chambers, *Book of Days* (Edinb. 1864, 2 vols. 8vo), and in Brand, *Popular Antiquities* (Lend. 1841. 3 vols. 12 mo). Among them are the following. It was

customary to light candles of large size, and relay upon the fire a huge log, called a Yule log or Christmas block, a custom not yet extinct in some part, of England. Yule (from *huel*, a wheel) was a sun-feast, commemorative of the turn of the sun and the lengthening of the day, and seems to have been a period of pagan festival in Europe from ancient times. At court, among many public bodies, and in distinguished families, an officer, under various titles, was appointed to preside over the revels... but the office was suppressed by act of Parliament, A.D. 1555. Stow (Surrey of London, p. 79) describes the same officer as Lord of Misrule.”

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“... It does not, however, appear probable that the vulgar account [Dec. 25] is right; the circumstance of the shepherds watching their flocks by night agrees not with the winter season. Dr. Gill thinks it was more likely in autumn, in the month of September, at the feast of Tabernacles, to which there seems some reference in John 1:14.”

•••

The Puritans regarded these diversions, which appear to have offended more against good taste than against morality, with a holy horror. Prynne says, in his strong way (in *Illostrio-Mastix*), “Our Christmas lords of misrule, together with dancing, masks, mummeries, stage-players, and such other Christmas disorders, now in use with Christians, were derived from these Roman Saturnalia and Bacchanalian festivals, which should cause all pious Christians eternally to abominate them.”

Alexander Hislop on Christmas from **The Two Babylons**

“How did the Romish Church fix on December the 25th as Christmas-day? Why, thus: Long before the fourth century, and long before the Christian era itself, a festival was celebrated among the heathen, at that precise time of the year, in honour of

the birth of the son of the Babylonian queen of heaven; and it may fairly be presumed that, in order to conciliate the heathen, and to swell the number of the nominal adherents of Christianity, the same festival was adopted by the Roman Church, giving it only the name of Christ. This tendency on the part of Christians to meet Paganism half-way was very early developed; and we find Tertullian, even in his day, about the year 230, bitterly lamenting the inconsistency of the disciples of Christ in this respect, and contrasting it with the strict fidelity of the Pagans to their own superstition. ‘By us,’ says he, who are strangers to Sabbaths, and



Illustration of the Tower of Babel, site of the first major departure from Truth

new moons, and festivals, once acceptable to G-d, the Saturnalia, the feasts of January, the Brumalia, and Matronalia, are now frequented; gifts are carried to and fro, new year’s day presents are made with din, and sports and banquets are celebrated with uproar; oh, how much more faithful are the heathen to their religion, who take special care to adopt no solemnity from the Christians.’ Upright men strove to stem the tide, but in spite of all their efforts, the apostasy went on, till the Church, with the exception of a small remnant, was submerged under Pagan superstition. That Christmas was originally a Pagan festival, is beyond all doubt.” pp. 93-94.

Have you ever wondered why typical paintings of a Hebrew Messiah – with the common Latinized-Greek name Jesus – show a man with European features sporting pasty white skin, thin nose, and long, golden hair?

And have you ever looked closely at paintings of Bible scenes in many older Bibles and wondered why these ancient Israelites of the Middle East are all dressed like people of the Renaissance?

Even Bible standouts are outfitted like Italians: Abraham sporting a toga and David in the royal garb of a Caesar.

Or how about the KJV's use of words like unicorn, duke, sheriffs, holy ghost, reward, cringing pins, and jangling? Do such anachronisms clarify or just add to the confusion when it comes to understanding Scripture?

It is amazing how time, culture, and extraneous beliefs can skew our understanding so that we "wist not" the facts. Innumerable doctrinal anomalies have been absorbed and repackaged as Bible truth.

Even most Bible students are oblivious to truth as elementary as the simple fact that our Savior was a Jew, yet with an impossible Latinized Greek name only later pinned on Him. These indisputable facts fly under the radar of the surface skimmer and scholar alike.

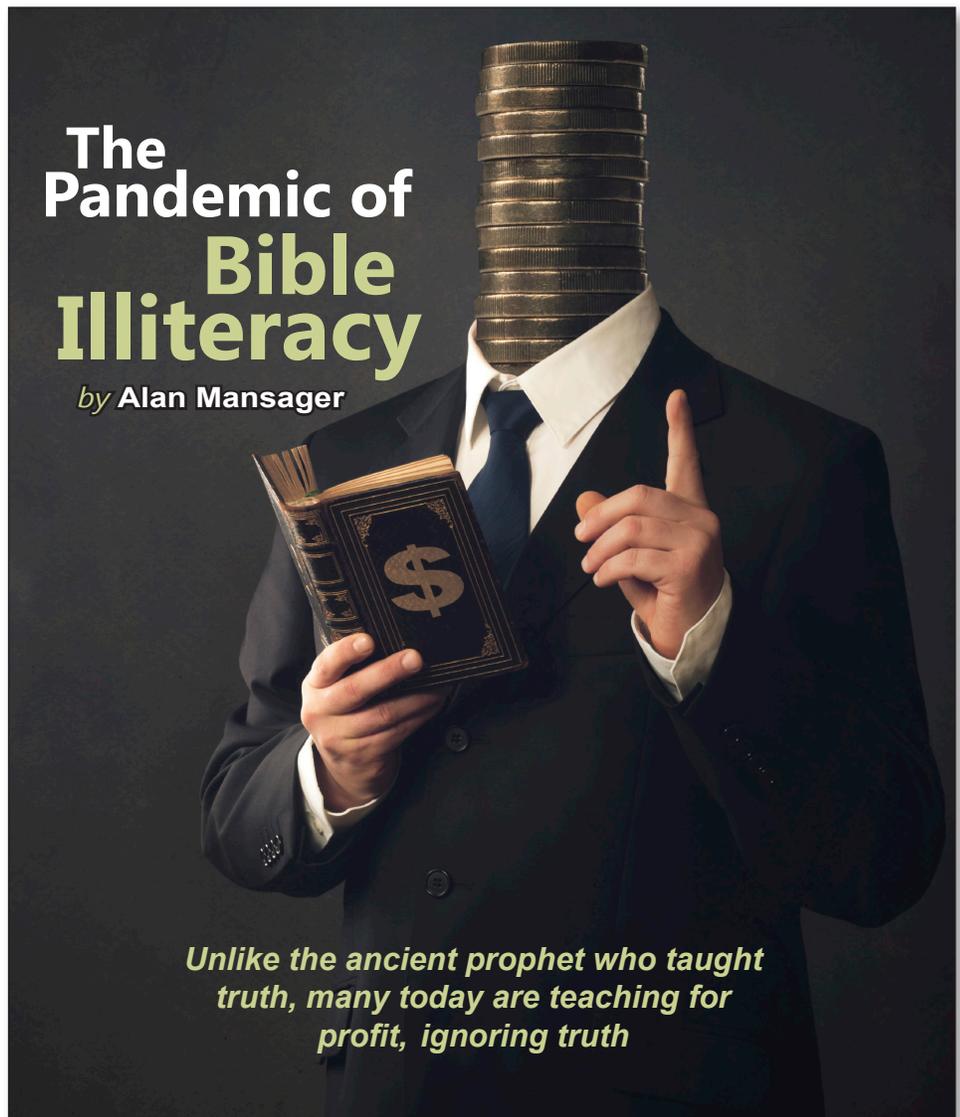
The vast majority totally miss the simple reality that the Savior, a Hebrew, taught from a Hebraic perspective straight from the Old Testament because that was all that existed in His time. When He quoted Scripture those hundreds of times, He was quoting the Old Testament.

We today look at the Bible through Western, Greco-Roman filters, which has led to a boatload of misunderstanding and false doctrine. Most professed Bible believers have no concept of how time and tradition have altered today's church teachings and beliefs.

Yahshua's statement in Mark 7:9 has been proved completely accurate: "And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of Elohim, that ye may keep your own tradition."

Swallowed Hook, Line, and Sinker

Unknown to the vast majority, the common portrayals of the Savior completely miss the mark. Ask the average person what the Messiah looked like and they will point to



the popular painting of a blue-eyed, sandy-haired, narrow-nosed European with long locks and a sad, puppy-dog look, holding up two fingers and a thumb in a blessing gesture.

In reality, no one knows what Yahshua the Messiah looked like. He would never allow a first-century artist to paint His portrait or sculpt Him.

Scripture doesn't offer any description of Him except to indicate that He had a beard (Isa. 50:6) and that He would have looked like the average darker-skinned, curly-haired Jew of His day.

But if His appearance had been described, you can be certain that artists would re-create His image over and over rather than focus on the truth He spoke (which they try to do anyway, contrary to the Second Commandment).

Our Savior was a rugged Hebrew carpenter with typical Middle Eastern

features weathered from years laboring out in the scorching Mideast sun. The weak, effeminate Savior typically portrayed couldn't go 10 feet carrying a heavy beam to His execution, especially after hours of beatings that turned Him into a cut up, swollen, bloody shadow of His former self.

Putting Renaissance garb on first-century Judeans is no mere faux pas. This and other anachronisms play right into the diabolical plan of the Adversary to derail both a correct understanding of biblical truth and proper worship that naturally results when taking things in their proper historical and social context.

Infuse the New Testament church with Euro-Nordic paganism while Grecianizing its teachings and beliefs and you change the whole force and effect of the Bible itself.

When you ignore the Hebraic underpinnings of the New Testament and put everything into Greco-Roman context, you

rip the faith taught by our Savior from its roots. That is where popular worship is today.

Paul warned in 2Timothy 4:3-5: “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears. And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

He further cautioned in Colossians 2:8: “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Messiah.”

Paul warns of the influence of the world and the power of the Babylonian mystery religion going back to Nimrod and his rebellion. It gradually infused most all aspects of worship.

Most first-century believers were slowly weakening in Truth rather than strengthening, and were beginning to feel that the best thing to do was to give in—inch by inch—to the world and the powerful influence of pagans. By deviating from the truth that the apostles had taught, the church was being derailed nearly from the start.

Church and Culture Become Church Culture

Because of two millennia of preconditioning most today have been led to believe that Yahshua and His disciples were much more Roman than Israelite. The majority today are so misled by tradition they can't recognize, let alone accept, the truth even when it smacks them in the frontal lobes.

This debacle is squarely the fault of church teachings, and not the trusting individual who thinks he is being properly led.

The culture itself also bears some of the blame. The simple fact is that the Western world looks at the Bible through Western eyes. It is a natural human response, and a big problem for the last 2,000 years.

In truth, the Bible is a book about Middle Eastern peoples known as Israel and their Hebraic-centered beliefs in a Mighty One named Yahweh. This iron-clad fact was highly distasteful to the early Roman church. From the very early years the church came into the clutches of a Greco-Roman system and form of worship with all of its beliefs and trappings.

That the church had a “Jewish” Messiah was an inescapable truth that

clerics avoided like poison ivy. From the start many key aspects of true worship were displaced.

The Messiah's name became Latinized and Grecianized. A new sabbath was created from heathen worship that honored the sun deity. They called it Sun-day. Biblical holy days were branded “Jewish,” and replaced by pagan celebrations called “holidays,” made from the two words “holy” and “day.” But where's the holiness in honoring the sun deity and the heathen goddess of love named Ishtar?

New Testament writings, mostly of Paul, were twisted to support a whole array of doctrines borrowed from the religions of the world as well as Greek philosophers like Plato and Aristotle.

Torn from its Israelite roots, the church joined an eclectic European culture already in progress, while the Apostles were made to look as if they wrote their epistles on the steps of Roman basilicas.

All of this is just the tip of a tragic domino effect when it comes to the vast gulf separating biblical truth from most of today's mainstream beliefs.

Many popular doctrines today are just as contrived as the artist's rendition of a people of an ancient culture wearing clothing that would not be invented for another 1,500 years.

The nub of the issue is, how much of our Bible is being taught as a Hebraic, Israelite book? That is the root of the problem of popular misconceptions. If it is centered on a people known as Israel, then how can it reflect and support the vast array of Greco-Roman beliefs and teachings part and parcel of today's worship and practice?

Even those with only a superficial knowledge of Scripture know that Hebrew is the language of the Old Testament manuscripts – the same language found in biblical books of the Dead Sea Scrolls. They can accept that much, including Yahweh, the true Name of their Creator.

But when it comes to the New Testament, how many will go the distance in demolishing the church traditions most have been taught all their lives?

A major misstep is thinking the New Testament was originally written in Greek simply because Greek is the language of the oldest discovered New Testament manuscripts. Keep in mind that the Greek text also was the oldest text we had of the Old Testament until the Hebrew-language

Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947.

The almost universal belief for the past 2,000 years is that Hebraic thought and practice of a people known as Israel completely changed with the coming of the New Testament. The inference of most is that the Bible's Hebraic roots somehow metamorphosed into supporting Western world ideology with its Romanized Greek underpinnings and beliefs popularized by the Roman church.

This thinking is directly counter to what we find throughout Scripture. In Acts 1:6 His disciples asked Yahshua: “Master, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.”

What were they talking about? The early church would lose the all-important links bridging the gap from Old Testament to New Testament. Re-introducing those links is one of the major thrusts of this restoration ministry. Bringing back neglected truths is key to knowing the Truth of the Word and teachings of Yahshua.

Misled and Confused Bible Believers

If you could get inside the minds of most churchgoers today you would see an entirely different faith from what the New Testament apostles practiced.

Today's teachings center on reformed, New Testament people who traded the Sabbath for Sunday and replaced biblical Feasts for Christmas, Easter, and other holidays that became the center of gravity for the new faith.

Church teachings today are all about a westernized, Romanized Bible cut off from its Israelite roots.

The assumed advocate for all of these transformations has been the Apostle Paul. Today's seminaries and clerics promote Paul as a Hellenist from Tarsus who wrote his letters specifically to teach a transformed New Testament faith cut off in every way from its Old Testament roots.

As we read part of Paul's autobiography in Philippians 3:5 let us ask ourselves whether Paul was this iconoclast he's been made out to be.

From Paul's Own Mouth

Paul, whose name was actually the Hebrew Shaul, writes of himself, “Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe

of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee.”

Paul’s own expression, “an Hebrew of Hebrews,” is a Hebrew idiom that means a Hebrew through and through – in language, attitude, thinking, lifestyle, and every other way (NIV note). It is backed up by the fact he had been a Pharisee.

Paul’s real name was Shaul, not the Latinized Paul. The Pharisees were a prominent sect of Judaism. In fact, Paul grew up a Jew in Jerusalem, which was the center of Pharisaic Judaism. He studied under Gamaleel, a pre-eminent Jewish law scholar.

At this point some might be saying, “Okay, I concede that Paul was Hebrew, but he wrote to encourage the growth of Greek-Christian assemblies.” The notion that the Jews loved the Greeks and their language is bogus. Recall that it was the Greek Antiochus IV Epiphanes who sacrificed swine on the temple altar. One reason the Maccabees revolted against the Greek Seleucids in 167 BCE was because they hated their pagan religion, and so they cleansed and re-established Temple worship.

In fact, Scripture reveals that Paul’s letters or epistles were written to various groups of the Jewish dispersion. Each group or assembly contained a core of Jews along with others who joined them, including gentiles. The Jews would teach the others in their circle from Paul’s letters written to them in the Hebrew.

Note what one authority writes: “..we must not forget that Christianity grew out of Judaism...The Pauline epistles were letters written by Paul to small [Messianic] congregations in Asia Minor, Greece, and Rome. These early [believers] were mostly Jews of the dispersion, men and women of Hebrew origin...The Epistles were translated into Greek for the use of converts who spoke Greek,” *Holy Bible from the Peshitta*, George Lamsa, p. xi.

Incidentally, the word “church” comes from the Middle English *kirke/chirche*, derived from the Greek goddess Circe, who was worshiped in Greek temples that later became Christian churches. Many of the old pagan Roman Basilicas were appropriated for use as Christian churches as well — which was quite fitting, being that much of pagan Roman worship was incorporated right along with its buildings!

An example of how Paul ministered

first to the Hebrew-speaking Jewish element wherever he went is found in Acts 17. Here Paul and Silas come to Thessalonica where there is a synagogue of the Jews. In verse 2 we read: “And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the Scriptures.”

A Message to Hebrews

Why did he go to the synagogue first, and on three consecutive Sabbath days, no less? Repeatedly we find that Paul went to the synagogue where both Jews and gentiles were worshipping on the seventh-day Sabbath.

Nowhere in the New Testament do we read where Paul goes to church on Sunday. And never did he tell the people that the switch was on to change the Sabbath to Sunday. Paul was a Jew and as a Jew he kept and taught the seventh-day Sabbath as well as Yahweh’s Feast days, just as Yahshua would instruct him after His resurrection.

Did Paul Write a New Bible?

Another key to Paul is 1Corinthians 10, where Paul talks of “our fathers” who were in the Exodus from Egypt, meaning their Israelite forefathers. And which books did Paul teach from? The only books in existence in his day were the Old Testament Scriptures.

Paul taught out of the Old Testament, from a Hebrew book about Hebrew people – not about Greeks or Romans or Europeans, but about Israelites and their faith. He said in Acts 24:24: “But this I confess unto you, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the Elohim of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets.” “Law and prophets” was a common term meaning Old Testament Scriptures.

Where do we ever read Paul telling anyone that his letters, his epistles, constituted a new Bible and a new religion for a people called Christians? Something that significant surely would have been emphasized throughout the Word. Yet we find not one word of it.

In fact, Paul told the young Timothy in 2Timothy 3:16-17, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of Yahweh, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of Yahweh may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

“All Scripture” first and foremost was the Old Testament and only later would embrace the New, once it was written. The Old and New testaments make a complete book teaching one faith.

There cannot be two different faiths in one book. Doesn’t the Word teach the same Creator and His same will for man in BOTH testaments? Yahweh explicitly says He doesn’t change, Malachi 3:6.

Many must be thinking that Yahweh’s laws were essentially given to Israel by mistake, thinking He made a monumental error that His Son Yahshua had to fix by purging those bloody laws from the New Testament faith. Therefore we avoid His statutes at all costs in this age of grace. Right? That’s what Christian clerics say.

But wait...Hebrews chapter 11 tells us about law-observant, Hebrew patriarchs who will be in the coming Kingdom because of their faithful obedience. Why will Yahweh reward them for their faithfulness to a law of works if works are unnecessary and even wrong for salvation?

Was it because the Israelites were under a different religion in the Old Testament? Could the Bible really be two separate books teaching two distinct faiths and not what we read in John 10:35 that Scripture cannot be broken? Or does the Word of Yahweh endure forever, as we find in 1Peter 1:25? Since Yahweh inspired all Scripture then He had to have inspired two different faiths in one book, apparently, and not as Ephesians 4:5 says that there is “one master, one faith, and one baptism”!

Sadly, false thinking drives worship today, either explicitly or implicitly.

Another problem: if Paul were teaching a Romanized faith in his New Testament writings, why did he teach from a Hebrew Old Testament? Why did he use lessons about Old Testament Israelites (for example, in 1Cor. 10) if we are under a new system of grace and law-less-ness in the New Testament?

Breakaway Beliefs

If Paul went around Turkey, Greece, and Macedonia teaching a new religion, then why did he uphold Old Testament precepts by confirming Old Testament law? Was he just having a bad day when he wrote: “Do we then make void the law through faith? Yahweh forbid: yea, we establish the law” (Rom. 3:31)?

Yahshua Himself upheld – even

amplified – the necessity to obey His Father Yahweh. Read Matthew 5:17 to the end of the chapter.

Even though Scripture cannot be broken, churchianity's clerics for the past 2,000 years have done their level best to break the New Testament away from the Old Testament. The reason? At the heart of their motives is that they hate obedience and despise the law that the Bible says is holy, just, and good.

By claiming that the New Testament was written in Greek, today's cleric can use this crutch to justify a "New Testament" belief system that is disconnected from anything considered "Jewish," but resembling Grecian teaching and practice.

The idea is that if it were okay with Yahweh to inspire it in Greek, then the clerics are almost justified in accepting foreign, Grecianized teachings, and much further away from their Israelite roots.

The modern worshiper is mostly oblivious to the fact that he is being drawn away from the Israelite foundation on which True Worship rests.

An abundance of internal evidence points clearly to the unavoidable conclusion that the New Testament was originally written in the Hebrew language and was translated into Greek only later. This fact alone provides a powerful tie that binds Israelite worship in the Old Testament to the faith of spiritual Israel of the New Testament.

Paul says in Romans 9 and 11 that today's believers are grafted in to that same Israelite Covenant promise given in the Old Testament.

Hebrew Expressions in New Testament

If the New Testament writings were originally Greek, then we would expect to find exclusively Greek words from which we derive the English translation.

Yet, we find many Hebrew words and expressions that have survived even into the English because the Greek lacked any Greek

equivalents when the Hebrew originals were translated into the Greek.

For example, we find in the King James and other versions the purely Hebrew/Aramaic words "Abba" (which means dearest father); "Messiah" (anointed one); "Sabbath" (repose, desist from exertion);

untranslated in the Greek text.

Also scattered through the New Testament we find many Hebrew (and Aramaic) idioms, expressions that cannot be translated very well into the Greek, so they are left virtually untranslated. They make perfect sense in Hebrew, but not in Greek or in English.

Such expressions include: "If your eye is evil" (Matt. 6:23); "let the dead bury the dead" (Matt. 8:22), and "you shall heap coals of fire on his head" (Rom. 12:20).

A great deal of clear evidence shows that the New Testament was originally a Hebrew work that only later was translated into the Greek.

All Grafted into Israel

When Yahshua returns His feet will stand not upon Mount Olympus on the Grecian coast, or on one of the seven hills of Rome, but on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem (see p. 5).

We read in Zechariah 14:4: "And His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave [split] in the midst thereof..."

He is coming to redeem all who are of Israel, Romans 11:26, meaning those who are faithful to the same covenant that Israel was given. He is not coming for those of a Greco-Roman faith.

Note what Paul wrote about the New Testament Assembly in Ephesians 2:20:

"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Yahshua the Messiah being the chief corner stone." Did you catch that? He mentions both apostles and prophets as establishing the foundation of the New Testament Assembly. The Old Testament is the foundation of the New.

We know that the apostles are those in the New Testament era, but who are the prophets? Simply defined, "prophets" is a general term referring to Old Testament writers.

In Luke 16:29 Yahshua the Messiah in His parable implored us to listen to Moses and the prophets. Again, both are found in the Old Testament. Many other direct connections bind the Old Testament and New Testament together. This harmony gives a single faith, not two separate religions. 

Did You Know "church"?



The word "church" is most commonly used for the Greek word *ekklesia* which means, "called out." Church is not an accurate translation of *ekklesia* but is a derivative of the name of a pagan Greek goddess Kirke (Circe) who specialized in turning men into swine. She was skilled in the magic of metamorphosis, the power of illusion, and the dark art of necromancy. She was also the daughter of Helios, the sun deity.

It is interesting to note that William Tyndale, in his Bible translation, translated *ekklesia* as "congregation" and only used the word "churches" for heathen temples in Acts 19:37!

Kirke's name was derived from the Greek verb *kirkeō* meaning "to secure with rings" or "hoop around," a reference to her magical powers. The word "church" is known in Scotland as *kirk*, in the Netherlands as *kerk* and in German as *kirche*.

The derivation from the Greek Kirke is evident. **Oxford English Dictionary** 1971 regarding the word church lists the following:

"Forms. A) *cirice, chiriche, churche*, etc. B) *circe, chirche, church, church etc.* C) *kirke, kirke, kirk*, etc. *Kirika, cirice*, was originally applied to the building, it is clear that with the conversion of the Teutonic nations, it was assumed as the naturalized equivalent of *ecclesia*."

From antiquity to Teutonic peoples and to the present we see a clear perversion in associating Yahweh's people with a pagan deity. "Assembly" or "congregation" is much more accurate.

"Eli, eli lama sabachthani" (my El, my El, why have you forsaken me?); "talitha cumi" (meaning maid arise); "mammon" (riches), and "hosanna" (save! We beseech).

If the New Testament were originally written in Greek (by Hebrew writers, no less!), then these terms and words would have Greek equivalent words and meanings and would not have been preserved



You CAN Afford Yahweh's Feasts!

by the late Donald R. Mansager

With Yahweh's command that His people keep His annual Holy times, we encourage all to seriously take to heart the biblical method of saving for Yahweh's annual pilgrimages.

In His command Yahweh was very complete, making provisions for the financing of our trips to His gatherings without having them become a great burden. After all, His Feasts should be a delight, the highlights of the year.

Yahweh's annual Feast days are one of the greatest blessings He bestows on His people. Unless you have kept them in the place where He puts His Name, you can't imagine what a joy they truly are. A veritable Kingdom on earth!

A common question posed by those to whom Yahweh has newly revealed the importance of His annual Feast days is, "How can I afford to attend?" A subsequent question is, "When and where are these Festivals held?"

Yahweh's Restoration Ministry publishes a calendar each year showing the dates of each of the seven annual Feast days. Our calendar is based upon Yahweh's lunar months. We go by the monthly new moons that Yahweh placed in the sky for this purpose, Isaiah 66:23 and Numbers 28:11. The Feasts are grouped according to the harvest seasons, beginning with Abib (meaning green ears), which comes in the spring at the time of the barley harvest (Ex. 9:31).

Next begins the harvest of wheat in early summer (Pentecost or Feast of Weeks), followed by the harvest of oil, grapes and garden stuffs in the fall (Tabernacles).

Yahweh's Feasts are prophetic (Col. 2:16-17). He works everything out according to His timetable: "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Eccl. 3:1). Yahweh's purpose was established at creation when He made the lights in the heavens: "And Elohim said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons [Hebrew = MOED], and for days, and years" (Gen. 1:14).

The Hebrew word *moed* means an "appointed time." His Feasts are special times that Yahweh has set aside and that He will use to accomplish His will. The seven annual Feasts are His "moedim" or appointed times when He meets with His people.

Until we recognize that His Feast days are appointments that we keep with Yahweh, we miss important truths revealed to His people. All of the Feasts are listed in Leviticus 23, with special emphasis placed on some.

The fact that these Feast days will be kept in the Kingdom (Ezek. 45:21-25) shows that they are of special importance now. We cannot ignore them and still be His people, especially when those who

refuse to honor them in the Millennium will be plagued with no rain, Zechariah 14:18-19.

His Sign and Seal Ignored

The two most ignored commands in the Bible are the sign He has given us and the seal by which we are preserved. The sign is keeping His Sabbaths:

"Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I [am] Yahweh that sanctify them" (Ezek. 20:12). "And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that you may know that I [am] Yahweh your Elohim" (Ezek. 20:20).

By keeping His Sabbaths Yahweh will sanctify or set His people apart as a sanctified for a holy purpose. The Sabbaths are a special time in which we learn to know Him and we draw closer to Him. The world in general irresponsibly ignores these days, believing that they are free from all such obligations.

The seal is His Name: We are sealed with His Name upon baptism (Rev. 14:1) and already carry His Name for we are known as "His wife" (Rev. 19:7), and have prepared or made ourselves ready. The sealing agent is the Holy Spirit: "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of Elohim, whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption" (Eph. 4:30).

The seven annual Feasts are not

optional for the seeker of Truth. They are commanded convocations. They are a part of that sign showing that we are truly His people when we keep them. His Feast days also set us apart, sanctifying us, as they did Israel.

Financing the Feasts

Just as we are expected to tithe to Yahweh so that His plan of salvation can be proclaimed around the world (Mat. 23:23), He also shows us that we are to set aside funds to keep the Feasts.

“Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year. And thou shalt eat before Yahweh your Elohim, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear Yahweh your Elohim always. And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it; [or] if the place be too far from thee, which Yahweh your Elohim shall choose to set his name there, when Yahweh your Elohim hath blessed thee: Then shalt thou turn [it] into money, and bind up the money in thine hand, and shalt go unto the place which the Yahweh your Elohim shall choose: And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before Yahweh your Elohim, and thou shalt

rejoice, thou, and thine household, And the Levite that [is] within thy gates; thou shalt not forsake him; for he hath no part nor inheritance with thee” (Deut. 14:22-27).

Notice, this second tithe is a special tithe to use for the Feasts. It is to be kept and managed by the individual to assure that one has funds to attend the Feasts. It is separate from the tithe to proclaim the evangel to the world, which is holy unto Yahweh and to be used for that purpose.

Instead of setting aside cash as the world does in a “vacation fund” or some Xmas savings plan, Yahweh long ago gave us this guide as assurance that we could always attend His Festivals.

Yahweh’s people need to plan their vacations and time off to coincide with the Feast days.

No Vacation Can Compare

What better way to spend a “vacation” than to gather with others of like faith and clearly identify with the “sign” Yahweh gives us that we might learn of Him by keeping His Sabbaths. Spiritual enrichment for the entire family is a part of His design so that we get to know and share our joy and experiences with the future priests of His coming Kingdom!

Making Feast attendance a part of our lives is a maturing experience as we discipline ourselves to obey our Father and come together to where He has placed His Name.

We are told that the three “pilgrim

Feasts” are: the seven days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, and the eight days of Tabernacles. Preparations such as plane reservations, transportation, accommodations, and auto repairs should be taken care of early.

Israel was commanded to eat of the tithe of their produce at the Feast. For those traveling a distance, Yahweh says, “Then shalt thou turn [it] into money, and bind up the money in thine hand, and shalt go unto the place which Yahweh your Elohim shall choose,” which He does through His ministers (Deut. 14:25).

Consider the words of Moses to Israel just before they were to cross over into the Promised Land – just as the faithful will some day come into the Kingdom: “Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before Yahweh your Elohim in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before Yahweh empty” (Deut. 16:16).

Yahweh promises a blessing upon those who obey Him. Don’t you want to be blessed? Isn’t it time you came out of the world of sin in these last days and prepared for your eternal life in Yahweh not far away? We look forward to seeing YOU at His commanded Feasts! ✨

(The next appointed time will be Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread, to be observed at our Holts Summit meeting hall).

Selected Remarks from Those Who Attended the Feast of Tabernacles 2015

“

There is nothing else on earth like the Feast of Tabernacles. Afterwards, many people ask, ‘How was your vacation?’ It is difficult to put into words, because the experience

is so spiritual in nature. The fellowship is spiritually uplifting and fortifying. It helps remind me what it is like to draw close to Yahweh and be one of His people. I feel blessed to have been called to the Feast of Tabernacles. – NB

The 2015 Feast of Tabernacles will be looked upon by my family as one of the best! The activities available for the



Feast of Tabernacles 2015

children were off the charts. The spiritual blessings and fellowship among fellow believers were like a rejuvenation to the soul. The physical food offered was the best I have ever experienced at any previous feast. Far and away, the facilities blew away anything in the past. Next year will be counted down with great anticipation! – JF

It was awesome being around like-minded brothers and sisters, having in common a strong desire to worship Yah from the standpoint of loving Him. Amazing to know that there are other believers who study, do

their own research, who are so openly friendly and freely engage in conversation as if they are meeting old friends. Truly refreshing! – SN

We had a wonderful first Feast and I’m so glad we could be there with all of you! We tried to count the states that were represented and fell miserably short. We came up with 12...so happy that it

was really 19! We will be sharing all the wonderful info we got. – AN

That was a wonderful Feast in the Missouri wilderness – perfect weather, wonderful people, great messages, great food, and lots of children... Met some of the sweetest brothers and sisters in the world! – HB

I can't wait to see everyone again. Great time, great camp. – LL

Was the best Feast I have ever gone to, praise Yahweh. – CB

What a Feast! Eleven new brothers and sisters, beautiful music, wonderful fellowship, and informative teachings. The young caretakers at the park were a joy to be around and very helpful to us. My brother who lives close to the park came with me every day of the FOT. He was really taken by all the wonderful people, and the love. He wants to come again next year. Thank you for making him feel welcomed. – LB

Wow, I had such a great time at the feast. Each year somehow seems to get better and better, and this feast was no exception. Warm fellowship, delicious food, and inspiring messages made the time go by too fast. I can't wait till next year. – JW

The Feast of Tabernacles was fantastic! The devotion and love from those who attended were remarkable. There was a true spirit of unity and peace throughout the Feast. For the families, the gymnasium was great. The kids and adults loved the indoor basketball and volleyball along with the blacklight roller skating. My 10-year-old especially loved the skating! The camp meals were also a blessing, especially the turkey dinner. The men's BBQ was also great! The most memorable part of the Feast was the 11 new brothers and sisters who were immersed into Yahshua's Name. It was indeed a taste of the Kingdom. Can't wait for next year! – RF

On Oct. 24 we immersed three more brethren at Holts Summit, making a total of 14 immersions for the month, more than any month in YRM history. A great blessing of Yahweh. – ED

This year's Feast of Tabernacles was our third one attending consecutively with Yahweh's Restoration Ministry. Our first FOT was very, very memorable since we were baptized into Yahshua's name. Every year at FOT is better than the year before and you wonder how that is possible. Meeting new friends and renewing relationships with old friends with a common bond of belief and faith is so needed from one year to the next. Furthermore the worship,



praise music, and the solid teaching of absolute TRUTH of the scriptures is life changing, drawing you closer to Whom we worship. Camp Allen FOT is well balanced with open slots of time and activities for children and adults. It's commanded by our heavenly Father Yahweh and our Savior Yahshua lived it out throughout His life at His first coming. So, come and join us next year for FOT or perhaps at Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread this spring. Why not practice what's commanded now before our Savior's soon second return. It's very affordable and we are looking forward to meeting more new faces next year.



– D & R F

We had such an amazing time celebrating Yahweh's Feast of Tabernacles with you all



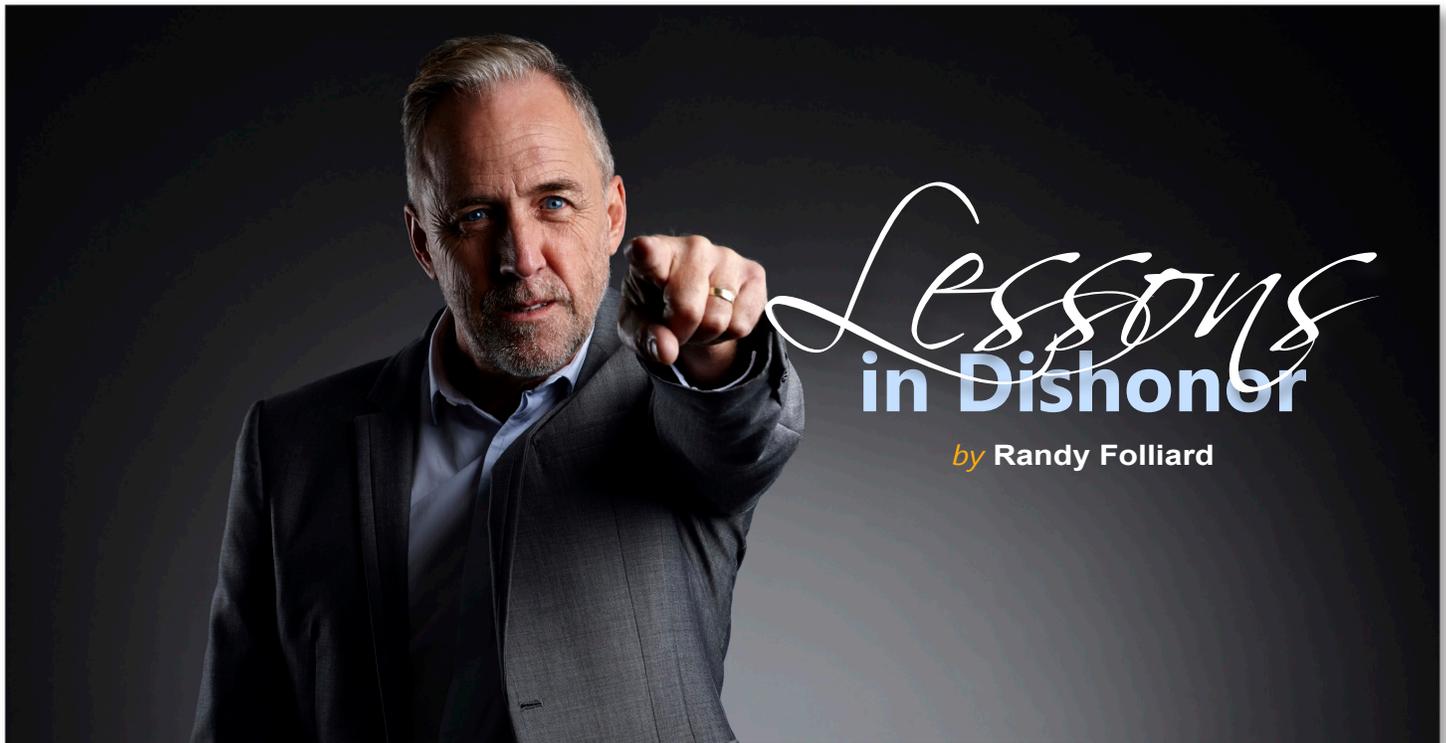
this year. It's always such a blessing to come together with other believers in worship and praise! The music was so uplifting, The messages were very edifying and food for the soul. Our children absolutely loved the Sabbath school classes, giant slide, the gym and the music. The fellowship meals

were great. It was such a treat to visit all the brethren from so many different areas all walking in Yahweh's faith together. Our youth had such an uplifting time it was such a blessing for them to feel so included in Yahweh's plan. It will be good for them to carry these experiences into the years to come. We enjoyed hearing the reading of the book of Deuteronomy, the games and the campfire music and fellowship. The men's BBQ was yummy! Thanks guys! Our high point at the feast was arriving there, as we has some trials doing so but praise Yahweh we made it and everyday was such a blessing to be part of! Thank you so much! – M and A B

I just want to say thank you for all the hard work that YRM put into this feast. It was a major success. I was baptized into Yahshua's name and was able to meet a lot of great brethren. It was very exciting every day I was there. I only wish it lasted longer. I learned a lot from the service messages and I am using some of those messages and took some ideas from your skits and power point presentations for some exciting home Bible study ideas. I'm looking forward to next year already. – MH

I thank YRM for one of the most memorable times of my life at my first feast. It was a time I will never forget. I was so happy to be able to share my time with like believers. I met many wonderful new sisters and brothers in Yahshua, everyone was so wonderful and full of joy and so friendly and helpful, the joy and excitement of it all is still with me. One of the greatest highlights of the feast was to be baptized in Yahshua's Name, to be a part of the family of Yahweh, an unforgettable moment of my life. Loved all the services, and as usual I learned a great deal from them, I must say that YRM did an awesome job with putting all this together and they can't be thanked enough and need to be commended for all their hard work and the great job they all did. It all went by too fast for me. I hated to see it come to an end. I am so looking forward to the next feast and can hardly wait for next year, it can't come soon enough. Looking forward to being with you all next year. – DH

”



Lessons in Dishonor

by Randy Folliard

One of the most important lessons in our Father's Word is honoring those principles He deems holy. The reasons for our nation's moral ailments are directly tied to violating this principle.

While we may not always know the answer or understand it, everything in Yahweh's Word has meaning and purpose. Every word and commandment He gave is for our benefit and blessing.

Consider the Feast of Tabernacles. As many recently experienced, this Feast is a time of spiritual rejuvenation, renewal, and recommitment. We achieve this by coming out of this world, by hearing His Word, and by fellowshiping with those of like faith.

Another blessing is that it foreshadows the millennial Kingdom. It looks to a day when Yahshua the Messiah will rule and govern this world with equity and righteousness. This is but one example of many blessings we find through His Word.

Yahweh's Desire

So what is Yahweh's desire for us? It's the same desire that He had for Israel in the Old Testament. Exodus 19:5 reads, "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation. These are the words which thou

shalt speak unto the children of Israel."

Yahweh mentions here three blessings upon His people:

- a peculiar people
- a kingdom of priests
- a holy nation

The word "peculiar" here doesn't quite express the meaning of the Hebrew. This phrase comes from the Hebrew *cegullah* and means, "wealth." In addition to peculiar, the KJV translates this word as, "jewel, treasure, and special." Yahweh is calling out a special or treasured people.

The second blessing is a "kingdom of priests." What's amazing about this promise is that it's also found in Revelation 20:6. There it reads, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of Elohim and of Messiah, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

What an amazing harmony we find between Old and New testaments; the promise that Yahweh gave to Israel is the same for us today.

Now, what must we do as believers to be worthy of these blessings? It's very simple, we must obey His voice and keep His covenant. Obeying His voice is the same as keeping His commandments. The word "covenant" here comes from the Hebrew *beriyth* and refers to a compact or agreement. This agreement essentially

says, I Yahweh will be a Mighty One to you and you shall be My people.

Now what happens when we dishonor Yahweh through disobedience? We forfeit the blessings that he has so kindly offered. Yahweh cannot bless a person who willfully rejects Him or His Word!

Feeling the Heat

An example of this is found in the tenth chapter of Leviticus. It reads, "And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before Yahweh, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from Yahweh, and devoured them, and they died before Yahweh. Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that Yahweh spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace," verses 1-3.

Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took it upon themselves to offer strange fire before Yahweh. It's important to remember that prior to this Yahweh gave a command warning against polluting His worship in this way. The lesson here is that they had no respect or honor for Yahweh's worship and we must show a difference between what is holy and common.

This applies to everything that is holy in our Father's Word, including commandments like the Sabbath, the Feast

days, qualifications for ministers, and marriage.

Let's consider for just a moment what Yahweh says about marriage. He defines marriage as a holy union between one man and one woman for life; His Word provides for no exceptions. Marriage builds the very core or foundation of a nation. Considering the high divorce rate in this nation along with the fact that it now accepts homosexual marriage; it's no wonder that we are seeing an explosion of immorality.

Knowing Your Boundaries

Let's now review a few examples from Israel's monarchy. The first case study is from a man who had great potential, but who in the end fell short. This is none other than King Saul.

One of his most egregious mistakes is found in 1 Samuel 13, where when Samuel did not show up, King Saul took it on himself to officiate as a priest by administering a burnt offering. This was contrary to Yahweh's command. "And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of Yahweh thy Elohim, which he commanded thee." Saul lost his reign as a result.

Before considering Saul's infraction here, let's first consider some of his more noble qualities. First, he never sought kingship. Second, prior to becoming king he showed humility, even though Scripture states that he had the stature of a great man. And third, the Bible shows that he had a sincere love and concern for the people of Israel.

Bearing in mind these attributes, why did Saul fall so deeply into sin? The simple answer is he did not maintain holiness. Instead of waiting for Samuel to arrive for the burnt offering he usurped priestly authority.

Before condemning Saul let's consider the situation. He and his army were at the brink of war with the Philistines and they had waited for seven full days for Samuel to arrive. Think about the stress that Saul and his men were under. The anxiety was becoming so great that some of the soldiers began to scatter.

Now this observation is not to condone or support what Saul did, but to convey the pressure he was under. The fact is, many of us have compromised under a lot less stress. In these situations we should ask, are we any better?

Both Nadab and Abihu and Saul ignored what was holy. This is how serious Yahweh views those who refuse to honor and respect His Word. If He commands us to do something that He defines as holy or sacred then we must fully obey.

Strange Influence

Many years after King Saul another king, Solomon, was also guilty of transgressing Yahweh's Word. A record of this man's sins is found in 1 Kings 11, "But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; Of the nations concerning which Yahweh said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their mighty ones," vv. 1-2.

Solomon's downfall was that he loved and married many strange woman. The word "strange" comes from the Hebrew *nokriy* and refers to an alien or foreigner. In the seventh chapter of Deuteronomy Yahweh commanded Israel not to make marriages with these nations or their hearts would turn from Him to their false mighty ones.

On a side note, this is why Paul says in the New Testament to marry only within Messiah, i.e., within the faith.

Sadly, Solomon even allowed the worship of Molech. The worship of this pagan god was the very worst. Worshipers would kill their children and then offer their corpses to this false deity.

It's amazing how Solomon could allow this to happen within the land of Israel. This was the son of David, and David was the most devoted and beloved king in the history of Israel.

Yahweh had blessed Solomon with incredible wisdom, surpassing all others. How is it possible that such a man could be led astray? It was really quite simple: just as Saul before Him, he did not honor that which Yahweh deemed holy. The marriage institution is holy; this is why it is called holy matrimony.

Now even though much of this happened when he was old and perhaps at a time he was losing his discretion, the fact is, he married most of these women when he was young. Because he did not follow Yahweh's word as a young man he suffered in his old age. This is a great lesson for

today's youth.

Even though we may not always realize it, many mistakes we make when we are young will follow us through life or perhaps come back to hurt us in the end. Ironically it was Solomon who said in Ecclesiastes 12 that we are to remember Yahweh in our youth.

Perverse Worship

One more example is King Jeroboam. We find a somewhat lengthy list of sins this man was guilty of in 1 Kings 12:

"Then Jeroboam built Shechem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and went out from thence, and built Penuel. And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David: If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of Yahweh at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their sovereign, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah. Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy mighty ones, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan. And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan. And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi. And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar," 25-32.

In YRM's 2014 pilgrimage to Israel we had the opportunity to visit Tel Dan. This was one of the locations where Jeroboam placed the golden calves. Archaeology has discovered what is believed to be the actual site of the altar, the platform for the golden calf, and the place where the people would have worshiped.

To save his own neck, Jeroboam prevented the people of Israel from going back to Jerusalem for the Feast. To accomplish that he changed the date and location of worship. Instead of keeping the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem on the date that Yahweh appointed, he changed the date to the 15th day of the 8th month and the location to Dan and Bethel.

He also replaced Yahweh with two golden calves, a direct violation of the

Second Commandment. Exodus 20:4-5 states, “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I Yahweh thy Elohim am a jealous El...”

He made priests of those not qualified as well. Clearly, Yahweh requires His ministers to meet high moral standards. This is why Paul provides a list of strict qualifications for elders in the New Testament. In 1Timothy 3:2 he states that an elder must be, “blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior...” Men who do not meet these standards cannot be considered ministers.

All of these are extreme examples of dishonoring Yahweh through man-made, traditional worship. What’s amazing is that we still find this kind of compromising in popular worship today.

While many believers see nothing wrong with Halloween and Christmas, both were borrowed from paganism and clearly go against His Word. Observing these days is no different from what Jeroboam did by changing the Feasts on his own.

Learning the Lessons

Paul in 1Corinthians 10:5-12 states that these are lessons for us: “But with many of them Yahweh was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Messiah, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye as some of them also murmured and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”

As believers we’re to consider how those in the Old Testament fell short so that we don’t repeat those mistakes. In almost every case, the reason for the sin was the same and that was a disregard for holiness.

As Winston Churchill once said, “Those that fail to learn from history, are doomed to repeat it.” We are seeing a moral decline like never before in the history of this nation. We have forgotten about the mistakes of the past. Ironically, Israel’s history provides many examples of what happens when a nation turns its back on Yahweh.

Although it might be too late for the world, it’s not too late for those who sincerely desire to follow Yahweh now in

every aspect of their lives.

It’s the goal of this Ministry to bring about a restoration to the world by providing an uncompromised position on Yahweh’s Word.

We must learn the lessons from Saul, Solomon, and Jeroboam along with all the other examples we find in Scripture. The Bible is a guide to living. It provides all that a person needs to know in order to live an upright and moral life that will please Yahweh.

Restoration Study Bible
3RD EDITION

Based on the King James Version
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Answers in Scripture



Q How did you determine that the 2015-2016 year is the Sabbatical year?

A Abundant evidence showing that the historically provable Sabbatical years just happen to be divisible by seven in today's Gregorian Calendar. Thus, 2016 is a Sabbatical year being divisible evenly by seven. Sabbaticals and Jubilees begin at Atonement in the year previous, Leviticus 25:9.

King Agrippa recited a section of Deuteronomy that a king was required to review in conjunction with the Sabbatical year (Deuteronomy 31:10-13). The Sabbatical year on which this was done was 41 - 42 C.E.

An ancient deed of loan was recovered at Wadi Murabba near Bethlehem. This legal note said that a "year-of-release" was occurring in the 2nd year of Nero Caesar. Because Nero ascended to the throne in autumn of the year 54 C.E., the cited Sabbatical year would have occurred on 56 C.E.

The year 69-70 C.E. is shown to have been a Sabbath year by the early rabbis. The Taanith (part of the Talmud) indicates that the Second Temple was destroyed on a Sabbatical year (B. Taan., 29a). The Arakin has "thus it is found that it [the destruction of the Second Temple] happened during the last part of a septennate" (B. Arak., 12 b). A third century rabbi (Hunna) computed the Sabbatical cycle based upon the fact that the Second Temple was destroyed in a sabbath year (B. Azar., 9b).

In addition, a reference in the second century Jewish work called the Seder Olam

can be interpreted as showing the Temple at Jerusalem being destroyed in a Sabbatical year, 70 C.E. The Talmud says that the First and the Second Temple were destroyed "on the closing of the Sabbatical year" ("Moza'e Shebi'it," *Jewish Encyclopedia*).

Dated documents have been found concerning the Bar Kokhba revolt of the Jews against the Romans, showing that the year C.E. 132 to 133 was a Sabbatical year.

The year 139-140 C.E. also indicates a Sabbatical based upon another legal paper recovered at Wadi Murabba. It was written in late autumn of 134 C.E. describing sub-lease agreement terms. The lease was to last until the "eve of the Sabbatical year." It is clear that 5 years from autumn in the year 134 C.E. ends with autumn of the year 139 C.E. which corresponded to the start of the year-of-release that included 140 C.E.

The ruins of an ancient synagogue were uncovered with a date in the mosaic for the Jewish year 4000, which it says was the second year of a Sabbatical cycle which equates to C.E. 237 to 238.

A reference in the Jewish Talmud (Sanhedrin 97b) says that the Messiah will release the world from its bondage of corruption in the year after 4291 of the Jewish calendar. Though the prophecy failed, the year after 4291 corresponded to C.E. 531 to 532, a Sabbatical.

Yahshua began His ministry on a Sabbatical, according to Isaiah 61. The Sabbatical year was likely 27-28 C.E. Seven years before or afterward don't fit the scriptural or historical timeframe.

Israel became a nation by a UN resolution in the fall of 1947, following the Sabbatical year of 1946.

All of these key years declared Sabbaticals historically are divisible by 7 and coincide with 2016.

Q I've read your Biblical Calendar booklet and other resources I could find on when the holy days begin, but am still left with one

question: Do they begin as soon as we sight the new moon (i.e. Trumpets), or when Israel does (following the pattern? set with the Aviv)? If we do not see it, but someone three states away does, does that "count"? For instance, I did not see it on Monday night (rookie observer in NH, though several people did in Canada NW of us, and in Pennsylvania). Jerusalem did not see it that night.

A We mark the biblical month by observations of trusted brethren who sight it in North America. We do this for three reasons.

First, as Israel marked the new moon in their own land, we do the same. Paul did the same while away in far-flung places like Greece and Macedonia.

Second, because we are commanded in Deuteronomy 16:1 to "observe" (from the Hebrew *shamar* meaning to guard by the way of watching) the new moon, we do not believe that we can abdicate this part of our worship to others several time zones away. This is especially important when the new moon is seen in the United States prior to a sighting in Israel. This happens at times because of an eight-hour difference between these locations.

And third, just as we use our local sunset to mark the Sabbath, it is entirely consistent that we would do the same with the new moon, as we wait and watch for both the sun and moon to come and reveal to us and not elsewhere on the planet.



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"Thank you kindly for the literature; I really enjoyed reading them. ...they teach me all about the laws of our Creator, of which I've been in search of for many, many years. One morning, as I looked through the television channels, and one of your ministers caught my attention, and all of it made sense to me. – IS

We caught your program on 'Angel One' and just wanted to thank you. You are indeed a blessing to many people. –TM

We thank you and thank Yahweh for you providing such a blessing for those of us who don't have a place to keep Sabbath consistently. We are so blessed every week by your teaching and by your generosity in sharing your family with us! – Carter family

I have been a frequent visitor on your website, Sabbath services via net and downloads of your television program episodes. I must commend you on the good work you guys are doing spreading of the Word and Truth. – EF

Thank you YRM for your love and support in this outreach we are blessed to be a part of. –MI

I enjoy listening to your teachings. They really do enlighten me. – JL

We send our love to you all as brethren in a far country. We thank you for all the literature you have sent us that uplifts our hearts. – DC

I am so thankful for this Ministry and all the work you do. HalleluYah! – RS

I love listening to all the songs on the Discover the Truth ROKU Channel! – MI

My goal is to love [Yahweh] with all my heart and obey what He has commanded. I can tell from your response you are aware of some of the difficulties there are in the teaching of churches, in understanding what grace really means, and what grace replaced. All my church experience has taught me once saved, always saved, yet my heart told me my sins had broken what I once had with [Yahweh] and I desperately want to return to that relationship with Him and even be closer. I am so glad you answered my email, you have no idea the blessing you are. I will study the references you have provided. I deeply thank you for your help and hope someday to thank you in person. – JE

Recent Comments on the Restoration Study Bible

Can't miss with [the Restoration Study Bible]. The reference points are a big help when looking for scriptures that support a certain topic plus other helpful tools and facts are also located inside. – KT

Love my Bible. Great word studies with it. –AA

Amazing Bible for study! –SC

I love my Restoration Study Bible. I have three in all and have given three or four to friends. I'm trying to learn to say Yahweh and Yahshua the right way. Pray for me. I am 83 years old and as a widow I live alone. – ES

I've never owned a better study Bible. –MA

Discover the Truth Traveling to Israel

YRM is planning a second trip to the Holy Land in the fall of 2016. This trip will be different from the previous in that the main purpose is to record full length programs for Discover the Truth. It's our goal to record a minimum of 12 programs. Locations for episodes will likely include: Caesarea, Tel Megiddo, Mount Carmel, Tel Dan, Caesarea Philippi, ancient location of Sodom and Gomorrah, Mount of Olives, City of David, Golden Gate, Valley of Hinnom, Capernaum, Chorazim, and the Garden Tomb. We are estimating a total cost of approximately \$15,000. If you would like to help with this important work through a tax-deductible donation, you can send your financial gift to: YRM, c/o Israel Pilgrimage, PO Box 463, Holts Summit, MO 65043. You can also donate online @ donate.yrm.org. Please make sure to notate that the funds are for the 2016 Israel Pilgrimage.

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