

Christmas: The True Story

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Introduction

Christmas in our contemporary society is said to mark the annual festival of the birth of Jesus the Christ as recorded in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. These gospels make no mention of a specific date of birth, but based upon the Scriptural evidence, Jesus was born in the spring, (late May to early June) making it *impossible* for Jesus to be born anytime near the December 25th celebration date. Let's begin with the verses in Luke to absolutely refute the notion of a December 25th birth date of Jesus.

The Birth of Jesus

Scripture makes it impossible for Jesus to have been born anytime near December 25th.

Luke 1:26

¶ now in the **sixth month** the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth,

The sixth month in Luke 1:26 is not June, but Elul under the sacred Jewish calendar which is the calendar used in Scripture. Let's show a chart that combines the sacred calendar months with the Julian or Civil calendar that is in use today. The Babylonian names for the months are used in the Jewish calendar since after the Babylonian captivity in 586 BC.

Sacred (Jewish) Calendar Month = Black; Julian (Civil) Calendar Month = Gray

1st Month	2nd Month	3rd Month	4th Month
Nisan	Iyyar	Sivan	Tammuz
March - April	April - May	May - June	June - July
7 th Month	8 th Month	9 th Month	10 th Month
5th Month	6th Month	7th Month	8th Month
Ab	Elul	Tishri	Marcheshvan
July - August	August - September	September - October	October - November
11 th Month	12 th Month	1 st Month	2 nd Month
9th Month	10th Month	11th Month	12th Month
Chislev	Tebeth	Shebat	Adar
November-December	December - January	January - February	February - March
3 rd Month	4 th Month	5 th Month	6 th Month

According to Luke 1:26, we see that the angel Gabriel visited Mary during the month of Elul; the sixth month of the sacred calendar and August-September in the civil calendar. She was told she would conceive a son by the Holy Spirit and name Him Jesus...

Luke 1:31

"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.

... And He will be called the Son of God

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Luke 1:35

The angel answered and said to her, "the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the most high will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy child shall be called the Son of God.

In the very next verse we have a valuable clue to determine the month of birth for both Jesus and John the Baptist.

Luke 1:36

"And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren **is now in her sixth month.**

Elizabeth is six months pregnant with her child John in the 6th month, Elul which is August-September. From this verse we can easily and reliably deduce that John the Baptist was born during the month of Chislev, in late November to early December.

We can also reliably deduce from Scripture that Mary visited Elizabeth during that same month of Elul, and Mary was **with child** when she met Elizabeth.

Luke 1:39-42

39 ¶ Now at this time **Mary arose and went in a hurry** to the hill country, to a city of Judah,

40 and entered the house of Zacharias and **greeted Elizabeth.**

41 when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

42 and she cried out with a loud voice and said, "blessed are you among women, and **blessed is the fruit of your womb!**

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months, then returned home at the time of John's birth in the month of Chislev which is during late November to early December.

Luke 1:56-57

56 and Mary stayed with her about three months, and then returned to her home.

57 ¶ Now the time had come for Elizabeth to give birth, and she gave birth to a son.

Mary is now three months pregnant with Jesus in the month of Chislev, late November to early December. The math is easy from this point forward. Six months after Chislev is Sivan, the 9th month when Mary gives birth to Jesus, sometime during late May to early June which is late spring.

There is simply no way on God's green earth that Jesus was born on December 25.

With this being so, where did this December 25th Christmas story come from?

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It could be rightly argued that the origin of Christmas is entrenched in paganism; and that Christmas is in fact a Roman Catholic holiday, the “Christ-Mass” and not a biblically based church practice nor observance. Christmas was *never* a custom, festival or practice of the early church for more than three hundred plus years after the death of Christ. So how has Christmas become so revered in contemporary Christendom and the non-believing secular society?

Background

For more than 300 years, true biblical Christianity had no such practice of incorporating pagan festivals and feast days into any form of worship. Not until the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine, who converted to Catholicism, do we begin to see such practices entering what some profess to be Christianity.

When Constantine left his worship of the sun-cult and converted to Catholicism, it became the religion of the Roman Empire which ended the persecution of Christians. However, he also became a self-appointed bishop, presided over councils and changed most apostolic traditions of the church. This Roman church proceeded to integrate and absorb, for *political unification* purposes, the pagan practices of the Roman Empire’s conquered territories into a “universal” (catholic means universal in Latin) system of religion. The goal was to “convert” the pagan practices of the conquered and occupied Empire into Christianity. This explains how many non-Christian customs and practices of the many pagan religions are seen as a practice in Roman Catholicism. The pagan rituals and rites that were common practices of the Roman Empire became integrated into this new “catholic” (universal) system of worship.

For example, Sun worship now became Son worship and halo’s have their origin in this practice; Polytheism, the worshipping of many gods now became the practice of praying to canonized “saints” and the practice of sacrificial offerings, whether animal or human, was replaced by the altar in Mass and the sacrifice of Jesus. The altar is sacrificial in purpose and design and that has not changed one iota concerning the practice of the catholic mass. The catholic and other denominations that celebrate mass turn communion into a continual and literal sacrifice of Christ Jesus at each and every mass celebrated worldwide. The literal cannibalism of pagan practices is replaced by ritual cannibalism which consumes the literal body and blood of Jesus during communion through the doctrine called transubstantiation and consubstantiation.

This helped the Roman Empire’s unification effort by seizing upon this religious commonality. In effect, Catholicism, by absorbing the unholy into that which was holy, defiled herself, committed idolatry in the eyes of God and became unequally yoked, “married” to paganism and the government of the Roman Empire. Rather than teach pagan converts to abandon their old superstitions and pagan forms of worship, Catholicism found it more practical and *profitable* to give the old superstitions new names, and co-mingle Christianity with paganism. The Church of Rome abandoned the truth of God and in essence immortalized pagan practices by transforming herself into a

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new form of paganism. Scripture strictly forbids such worship practices for God's people by incorporating any form of worship of pagan deities into the true worship of God.

Deuteronomy 12:30

beware that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed before you, **and that you do not inquire after their gods**, saying, 'How do these nations serve their gods, that I also may do likewise?'

2 Corinthians 6:16-18

16 Or **what agreement has the temple of God with idols?** For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

17 "**Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE,**" says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you.

18 "And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

Many pagan religions and cultures had some form of worship, feast, or tradition surrounding the celebration of the *Winter Solstice*. Many of the rituals, customs and traditions of modern day Christmas are borrowed from various nations and pagan religions that celebrate a winter solstice. The roots of Christmas observance go deep into the folklore of the Druids, Scandinavians, Egyptians and Romans. In fact, the aforementioned derive their folklore from ancient Babylonian/Mesopotamian practices. We'll see how a number of such practices were absorbed into Christmas celebrations.

Traditions

We must recognize the whole corrupt Babylonian system as a total unit, all equally part of the same apostasy. Christmas is but one aspect of the Babylonian system that has influenced surrounding nations and cultures that crept into and was absorbed by Catholicism which in turn corrupted and defiled contemporary Christian practices. There are several other pagan practices of Babylon that were absorbed into Catholicism, but we will analyze those in different studies. The better we perceive, the less we will desire to have part of any heathen custom or pagan form of worship. When, by study, we come to perceive fully, we will be shocked and revolted at the idea of having anything to do with such apostate forms of worship. We will come to acknowledge such practices as repulsive. The regenerate Christian shall desire to get as far removed from all reprobate forms of paganism that has crept into contemporary pseudochristian worship. Anyone who continues to grow in the truth of God will inevitably come to this conviction. The tragedy is that many never grow, and God's truth becomes the object of scorn by those professing to be believers and followers of God. What a travesty!

The Christmas tree is derived from several winter solstice traditions. The Romans decked their halls with garlands of laurel and placed candles in live trees to decorate for the celebration of Saturnalia. The poet Virgil speaks of decorating the tree in honor of

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the god of drinking and revelry, Bacchus. In Scandinavia, they hung apples from evergreen trees at the winter solstice to remind themselves that spring and summer will come again. They believed the evergreen tree was the special plant of their sun god, Baldor.

The practice of exchanging gifts at a winter celebration is also pre-Christian and from the Roman Saturnalia. They would exchange good-luck gifts called Stenae (lucky fruits – inspiration for the infamous fruit cake.) They also would have a big feast just like we do today.

Mistletoe is from an ancient Druid custom at the winter solstice. Mistletoe was considered a divine plant and it symbolized love and peace. The tradition of kissing under the mistletoe is Druid in origin.

Yuletide, one of the Scandinavian solstice traditions had a lot of influences on our celebration in addition to the hanging of ornaments on evergreen trees. Their ancient festival was called Yuletide and celebrated the return of the sun. One of their traditions was the Yule log. The log was the center of the trunk of a tree that was dragged to a large fireplace where it was supposed to burn for twelve days. From this comes the twelve days of Christmas.

The date of Christmas, December 25, was borrowed from other religions. At the time Christmas was created in AD 320, Mithraism was very popular. The early Catholic Church had gotten tired of their futile efforts to stop people celebrating the solstice, the birthday of Mithras, the Persian sun god and Sol Invicta, the unconquered sun god of the Romans. Mithras' birthday was December 25, so Pope Gregory decided to make Jesus' official birthday coincide with Mithras' birthday. No one knows the exact date of Jesus' birth, but we know from Scripture that it was in the spring sometime between late May and early June.

Santa Claus mythology is a drawing in from several pagan practices. Most are familiar with the traditions of the good Bishop Saint Nicholas, the catholic patron saint of beggars and thieves. The travels of Saint Nick, riding through Europe on a white horse coincide with the Scandinavian myth of the god Wodin, who was engaged in the same activities as Nicholas during that time of year. Santa's descent down the chimney is traceable to the Norse goddess Hertha. In Germany, they worshipped the pagan god Oden, who made nighttime visits flying through the sky watching over his followers. Oden selected those who would have fortune and those he would pass up for the upcoming year. This has been incorporated in Santa's flying sleigh, and the giving of wealth (gifts) to those who are deemed worthy, or good.

So, if you are celebrating any of the western traditions of Christmas this year, remember that you are actually enjoying the rituals and activities of several ancient pagan religions whose traditions have been absorbed by Catholicism. It begs the question, "Is God pleased by such practices?" Christ's birth is in the spring and not winter.

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Cultural Practices

The pagan practices that surround the winter solstice (the shortest day of the year) have been practiced long, long before the birth of Christ. That time of year, following the harvest, has universally been a period of festivity and pagan religious significance for most agriculturally based societies in the northern hemisphere.

Christmas in Western society has absorbed most of its traditions from the pagan beliefs of the Roman Empire. Without question, the Roman festival of Saturnalia has had the greatest influence upon Christmas practices via Roman Catholicism. The Egyptians celebrated the birth and rebirth of the sun around this time as well. The fertility goddess Isis is said to have given birth to her son on December 25th.

The Roman Empire

Saturnalia and Opalia

The feast of *Saturnalia* is the climax of the Roman year and a time of great festivity for pagan Romans. This began on December 17 to honor the pagan god Saturn (Saturnus) the Roman deity of agriculture, and his wife Ops (Opalia) on December 19. Dates changed as the Roman calendar changed to Julian and festivals extended from the 17th through the 23rd and into January as we will see with the festivals listed below. The Winter Solstice was celebrated on the 22nd of December. The Roman Saturnalia was characterized by the merry customs of processions, singing, lighting candles, adorning houses with laurels and green trees, and the giving of presents and dolls. Saturnalia was more exuberant than Christmas and more like our Mardi-Gras, in the US.

A major custom of Saturnalia that was very popular in catholic practices of the Middle Ages, but not carried over into contemporary worship was the practice of buffoonery and blasphemy, the reversal of all order and dignities: a mock turning everything upside-down. Cross dressing and role reversals were commonplace where masters become slaves and slaves became masters. It was commonplace in Vesters, (prayer services of Catholicism) for blasphemous practices to be performed, evil and raunchy songs sung, perverse and vulgar language spoken, burlesque, gambling and many other upside-down rituals performed during and after Vesters. Riot and religion seemed to flow together as a solid stream.

Sigallaria, Brumalia, Kalends, and Juvenalia

Following Saturnalia came Sigallaria, the Doll Festival. On December 25, the date that the days begin to lengthen, came Brumalia, (Bruma means shortest day) the religious observance of the sun worshippers. On December 25th the Roman god Sol Invicta is said to be born.

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The Kalends of January and Juvenalia, the Children's Festival all seem to have been integrated over time into the singular festival of Christmas. The pagan Roman holidays and festivals are summed up here:

Consualia	December 15	end of sowing season
Saturnalia	December 17-18	Saturn, god of agriculture (Gr Kronos)
Opalia	December 19-20	wife Ops, goddess of plenty (Gr Consus)
Winter Solstice	December 22	
Sigallaria	December 24	Doll Festival
Sol Invicta	December 25	Unconquered Sun god; (Mithra, Persian god)
Consus	December 25	Greek counterpart of Ops, harvest grain
Brumalia	December 25	begins lengthening days
Juventas	December 27?	goddess of young manhood (Gr Hebe)
Janus	January 1	god of beginnings and gates
Compitalia	January 3-5	blessings of the fields

The Babylonian Empire

History

Babylonia is the ancient empire of Mesopotamia. The name is sometimes given to the whole civilization of Southern Mesopotamia, including the states established by the city rulers of Lagash, Akkad (or Agade), Uruk, and Ur in the 3rd millennium B.C. Historically it is limited to the first dynasty of Babylonia established by Hammurabi (c.1750 B.C.), and to the Neo-Babylonian period after the fall of the Assyrian Empire. Hammurabi, who had his capital at Babylon, issued his code of laws for the management of his large empire—for he was in control of most the Tigris and Euphrates regions even before he defeated the Elamites. Babylonian cuneiform writing was derived from the Sumerians. The quasi-feudal society was divided into classes—the wealthy landowners, merchants and priests; the less wealthy merchants, peasants, and artisans; and the lowest class being the slaves. All these Babylonian institutions influenced the civilization of Assyria and so contributed to the later history of the Middle East and of Western Europe.

The wealth of Babylonia tempted nomadic and semi-nomadic neighbors. Even under Hammurabi's successor, Babylon had to stave off assaults. Early in the 18th century B.C. the Hittites sacked Babylon and held it briefly. The nomadic Kassites (Cassites), a tribe from Elam, took the city shortly thereafter and held it precariously for centuries. Babylon degenerated into anarchy c.1180 B.C. with the fall of the Kassites. Babylon flourished once more as a subsidiary state of the Assyrian Empire (after the 9th century B.C.) It was the key area in the attempted uprising against the Assyrian king, Sennacherib, and Babylon was sacked (c.689 B.C.) during his reign.

After the death of Assurbanipal, the last great Assyrian monarch, Nabopolassar, the ruler of Babylon, established his independence in 625 B.C. He allied himself with the Medes and Persians and helped to bring about the capture of Nineveh (612 B.C.) and

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the fall of the Assyrian Empire. He established what is generally known as the Chaldaean or New Babylonian Empire. Under his son, Nebuchadnezzar, the new empire reached its height. The recalcitrant Hebrews were defeated and punished with captivity in Babylonia. Egypt had already been defeated by Nebuchadnezzar in the great battle of Carchemish (605) while Nabopolassar was still alive. The empire seemed secure, but it was actually transitory. The steady growth of Persian power spelled the end of Babylonia, and in 538 B.C. Belshazzar, the last of the Babylonian rulers surrendered to King Cyrus the Great. Babylonia became an important region of the Persian Empire.

Babylon

Babylon is the ancient capital city of Mesopotamia. One of the most important cities of the ancient Middle East, it was on the Euphrates River and was north of the cities that flourished in Southern Mesopotamia in the 3rd millennium BC. It became important when Hammurabi made it the capital of his kingdom of Babylonia.

The patron god of Babylon, Marduk (identical with Bel), became a leading deity in the Neo-Babylonian pantheon. The city was destroyed (689 BC) by the Assyrians under Sennacherib, and its real splendor belongs to the later period of Babylonia after the city was rebuilt. The brilliant color and luxury of Babylon became legendary from the days of Nebuchadnezzar (562 BC). The Hanging Gardens were one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The walls of Babylon, its palace, and the processional way with the famous Ishtar (Easter) Gate were decorated with colorfully glazed brick. Among the Hebrews who suffered the Babylonian captivity under Nebuchadnezzar, the city was famed for its sensual living. Under the rule of Nabonidus the city was captured in 538 BC by King Cyrus the Great and was used as one of the administrative capitals of the Persian Empire. In 275 BC its inhabitants were removed to Seleucia, which replaced Babylon as a commercial center and ended her reign as the greatest city in the world of antiquity.

Biblical Origins

The earliest biblical recording of what became the Babylonian Empire is in the book of Genesis. The timeframe is after The Flood, when Noah and his sons began to inhabit the earth.

Genesis 11:1-2

- 1 ¶ Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words.
- 2 It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.

As we progress further in Genesis, we find it is these same people who constructed a tower of brick, tar and mortar in their attempt to be like God in building a high tower to reach the heavens so that if God was ever to flood the earth again, this great city and

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people could survive. God saw the evil and unified purpose of their heart and motives for all the people of the earth spoke one language and were working in one accord.

Genesis 11:8-9

- 8 So the LORD **scattered them abroad** from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city.
- 9 Therefore its name was called **Babel**, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the LORD *scattered* them abroad over the face of the whole earth.

So in the land of Shinar, later to be known as Mesopotamia and Babylonia we see the earliest origins of this city. We also see that those influenced by their charismatic leader were *scattered abroad*, over the face of the *whole earth*, speaking their new languages but still with their old heart set in opposition to the Lord and His ways. Those set in **opposition to God** are **scattered** over the whole earth cannot be underscored enough. But who were the people who went to Shinar to build this great tower and city? Scripture teaches us that it was Nimrod, the son of Cush, the son of Ham, the son of Noah.

Genesis 10:8-12

- 8 Now Cush became the father of **Nimrod**; he became a **mighty one** on the earth.
- 9 **He was a mighty hunter before the LORD**; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD."
- 10 The **beginning of his kingdom was Babel** and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.
- 11 From that land **he went forth into Assyria**, and built Nineveh and Rehoboth-Ir and Calah,
- 12 and Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city.

Nimrod is the charismatic leader of the land and peoples that were later to become Babylonia and Assyria with the chief city of Babylon as the capital of Babylonia. Nimrod was a mighty hunter before the Lord and his name and fame spread throughout the world. Nimrod is said to be the first to eat meat and to make war after the flood. He was the first on earth to become a mighty man before the Lord. This phrase is not to be understood as complimentary for this should be rightly understood as being mighty in opposition or defiance to the Lord.

This too is significant, for to know the character of Nimrod and his descendants is to know the character and origins of the Babylonian and Assyrian Empires. Nimrod had influence over all Mesopotamia and Assyria which was later to be known in Scripture as the land of Nimrod.

Micah 5:6

They will shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword, the land of Nimrod at its entrances; and He will deliver [us] from the Assyrian when he attacks our land and when he tramples our territory.

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Genesis 11:8 is the earliest indication of how the rebellion and religious systems of Nimrod at Babel became widespread over the whole earth. We will come to see that the Babylonian system of religion and its practices not only served as the source of *all* the world's non Judeo-Christian religions, but it has also served to infiltrate and corrupt what many now call contemporary Christianity. Babel is the Mother of all false, idolatrous and pagan religions upon the earth. Babel is the origination of all the polytheistic, idolatrous, pagan and false religious influences, including Muslim, Islam, and a clear majority of world religions. While Babylon is not the direct source of *all* false beliefs, it has a profound influence upon all false world religions. The LORD God states that all nations upon the earth, and yes ... even the United States of America, have drunk from the cup of Babylon.

Jeremiah 51:7

Babylon has been a golden cup in the hand of the LORD, Intoxicating all the earth. The nations have drunk of her wine; therefore the nations are going mad.

Revelation 18:3

"For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed [acts of] immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality."

The Babylonian system of pagan and ungodly religions and religious practices are thriving at the time of the return of Christ according to the book of Revelation. Much of the Babylonian patterns of worship are alive and well and flourishing today to a large degree under the umbrella of Catholicism and contemporary pseudochristianity.

Thus from Babylon emerged nearly the entire complex of *human religion* - including evolutionary pantheism, promulgated via a system of astrology and idolatrous polytheism, empowered by the occult, spiritism, demonism and even many forms of contemporary denominationalism. It was because of Nimrod's rebellion against God and the building of the tower of Babel "who's top will reach into heaven," that God confused the languages at Babel and scattered the people so they could no longer cooperate with one another in the rebellion that began there. This began the migration process of cultural and religious development which did not require long ages, as evolutionists speculate. No, it is rather plausible that the entire world was inhabited within a few generations with the scattering families from Babel. Most retained the knowledge of the occult and cultic beliefs they learned from Nimrod at Babel while others brought with them the knowledge, teachings and beliefs from the one true God.

Abram, who later is renamed Abraham, is a contemporary of Noah. Noah was still alive at the time of Abraham. When Abraham journeyed into Canaan, Negev and Egypt, a developed system of polytheism and rebellion against the One True God is well in place. As stated earlier, the various gods and goddesses of Rome, Greece, India, Egypt, and other nations can be identified with corresponding gods from Babel. These pagan deities were also identified with the stars and planets – astrology, with sun-

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worship and human sacrifices occupying a central place and theme within their system of beliefs.

Babylonia and the Israelites

God reveals several amazing prophecies to Abraham concerning his descendants, and himself. Let's look at these verses in Genesis.

Genesis 15:12-16

- 12 ¶ Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, terror and great darkness fell upon him.
- 13 God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years.
- 14 "But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions.
- 15 "As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age.
- 16 "Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete."

Verse 13 reveals the first captivity of the children of Israel in Egypt that will last 400 years. In verse 14, God reveals His judgment upon the Egyptians by their plunder and destruction of their army in the Red Sea. This was fulfilled as recorded in the book of Exodus. This first captivity has much to do with Israel embracing the worship of foreign gods, i.e. the false gods of Babylon and the surrounding nations.

Genesis 35:2

So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods which are among you, and purify yourselves and change your garments;

This will become a recurrent theme with Israel. Israel departs from God to serve foreign gods; God punishes Israel; then restores her to Himself. Israel has often embraced the Babylonian and Assyrian system of worship which is based upon polytheism, sun worship, and human sacrifices. The Christ-Mass (Christmas) of Catholicism is based upon the human sacrificial system of Babylon with its sacrificial altar. Cannibalism is part of the human sacrificial system of Babylon absorbed by Catholicism.

Transubstantiation is the catholic doctrine that teaches the bread and wine become the literal body and blood of Christ consumed by the priest. Though attempts to integrate this with the teachings of Jesus are feigned, God sees cannibalism and anything representing cannibalism as an abomination, especially when such a practice is taught as a form of Christian worship. Israel, for a time, embraced the cannibalistic system of Babylon that later was embraced by Roman Catholicism under the Christ-Mass. Israel

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worshipped the god Saturn, observed Saturnalia and many other foreign gods and many other abominations before the Lord.

We get a glimpse of the human sacrifices that are part of ceremonial customs of Egypt that came from Babel. Let's go to Genesis 40 where Joseph is now Potipher's slave. He is asked to interpret the dreams of Potipher's cupbearer and the baker. Only a portion of the dreams interpretation that reveals Egyptian customs and practices is shown below.

Genesis 40:19-22

18 then Joseph answered and said, "this is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days;

19 within three more days Pharaoh will lift up your head from you and will hang you on a tree, and the birds will eat your flesh off you."

20 ¶ thus it came about on the third day, which was **Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast** for all his servants; and he lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants.

21 he restored the chief cupbearer to his office, and he put the cup into Pharaoh's hand;

22 but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had interpreted to them.

We should note several things concerning the Babylonian customs we see being practiced in Egypt. First is the celebration of birthdays. There is no such custom in Israel, or Scripture. This is a pagan ritual. For Pharaohs birthday, he has a feast and celebration for himself and part of that is to take two prisoners and offer one of them life and the other death. Does this remind us of something we see happening in Rome with Caesar? Remember Jesus and Barabbas in Matthew 27 and Mark 15? How about Herod's birthday where his daughter asks for the head of John the Baptist in Matthew 14 and Mark 6? These were all Babylonian customs for their feasts; Rome, as the ruling power, applied their customs to the feasts of the Jews as well.

Scriptures also show the Israelites, at many different points in their history, absorbed the worship of foreign gods into their worship of the one true God, Yahweh and by doing so committed idolatry. The worship of foreign gods also caused Israel to stop keeping God's commandments, Feasts and Sabbaths. One such occurrence of the Babylonian influence upon Israel is when they were freed from captivity in Egypt by God through Moses. When Moses was on Mt Sinai, the children of Israel erected a golden calf to worship.

Exodus 32:1

¶ Now when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people assembled about Aaron and said to him, "Come, make us a god who will go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."

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We even see the Israelites complete abandonment of God to serve the gods of the Babylonian system and the gods, customs and cultural influences of the surrounding nations that were equally influenced by Babylon as well.

Judges 10:6

¶ Then the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, served the **Baals** and the **Ashtaroth**, the gods of Aram, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the sons of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; thus they forsook the LORD and did not serve Him.

John Gill states in his commentary on the above verse, "After the death of the above judges they fell into idolatry **again**, as the following instances show: they served *Baalim*, and *Ashtaroth*; as they had before, also the gods of Syria; their gods and goddesses, *Belus* and **Saturn**, *Astarte* and the *Dea Syria*, and the gods of Zidon; the goddess of the Zidonians was *Ashtaroth*, and the gods of Moab; the chief of which were *Baalpeor* and *Chemosh*, and the gods of the children of Ammon, as *Milcom* or *Molech*, and the gods of the Philistines; as *Dagon* the god of Ashdod, *Beelzebub* the god of Ekron, *Marnas* the god of Gaza, and *Derceto* the goddess of Ashkalon: at other times, when they worshipped other gods, they pretended to worship the Lord also, they served the creature besides the Creator; but now they were so dreadfully sunk into idolatry, that they had wholly forsaken the Lord and his worship at the tabernacle, and made no pretensions to it, but entirely neglected it."

We already covered Saturnalia above, so we see the Israelites were steeped into the pagan worship of what we now call Christmas, the Christ-Mass. Israel became steeped into idolatry, cannibalism, Satanism, human sacrifices, baby and child sacrifices, and many other abominable acts before the Lord.

As a result, Israel saw her kingdom divided, suffered about 1000 years in captivity with the Egyptians, Babylonians and Assyrians, was blinded and could not recognize her long awaited and anticipated Messiah when He came. Israel will once again see herself deceived by the idolatry of the anti-Christ when he manifests in the future.

Christians are grafted into Israel, we are part of Israel in God's eyes and it now seems we have participated in her sins as well. There will be a separate study to address the specific forms of worship to the foreign gods along with the customs and practices of Babylonian, Assyrian and nations influenced by them.

Partial Scripture Index

Foreign gods

Genesis 35:2

So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the [foreign gods](#) which are among you, and purify yourselves and change your garments;

Christmas: The True Story

Genesis 35:4

So they gave to Jacob all the [foreign gods](#) which they had and the rings which were in their ears, and Jacob hid them under the oak which was near Shechem.

Joshua 24:20

"If you forsake the LORD and serve [foreign gods](#), then He will turn and do you harm and consume you after He has done good to you."

Joshua 24:23

"Now therefore, put away the [foreign gods](#) which are in your midst, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel."

Judges 10:16

So they put away the [foreign gods](#) from among them and served the LORD; and He could bear the misery of Israel no longer.

1 Samuel 7:3

Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you return to the LORD with all your heart, remove the [foreign gods](#) and the Ashteroth from among you and direct your hearts to the LORD and serve Him alone; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines."

1 Kings 11:8

Thus also he did for all his [foreign](#) wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their [gods](#).

2 Chronicles 33:15

He also removed the [foreign gods](#) and the idol from the house of the LORD, as well as all the altars which he had built on the mountain of the house of the LORD and in Jerusalem, and he threw *them* outside the city.

Jeremiah 5:19

"It shall come about when they say, 'Why has the LORD our God done all these things to us?' then you shall say to them, 'As you have forsaken Me and served [foreign gods](#) in your land, so you will serve strangers in a land that is not yours.'