

WHAT ARE YOU REALLY CELEBRATING?

Article compiled and written by H. & D. Wolfe

1Jn 2:1-6

My little children, I write this to you, so that you do not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Intercessor with the Father, יהושע Messiah, a righteous One.

And He Himself is an atoning offering for our sins, and not for ours only but also for all the world.

And by this we know that we know Him, if we guard His commands.

The one who says, "I know Him," and does not guard His commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

But whoever guards His Word, truly the love of Elohim has been perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

The one who says he stays in Him ought himself also to walk, even as He walked.

Because of the christmas season, we thought it would be extremely important and appropriate to share the information that follows. We have decided to share this because the times are extremely critical.

Before trying to dismiss or disqualify the information being presented, we challenge each and every one of you to disprove what we share or to prove this information unto yourself.

This information is not our opinion, but it is based upon historical evidence and what the Word of Yahuah says. Information not quoted or taken from the Scriptures can easily be found on the web by doing a search on these subjects.

Most important of all, the main source of this information will be both the Tanakh and Brit Hadasha of the Holy Scriptures. Scriptures we used are taken from The Scriptures.

2Ti 3:14-17

But you, stay in what you have learned and trusted, having known from whom you have learned,

and that from a babe you have known the Set-apart Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for deliverance through belief in Messiah יהושע.

All Scripture is breathed by Elohim and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for setting straight, for instruction in righteousness,

that the man of Elohim might be fitted, equipped for every good work.

If you do not agree that the Scriptures are the most important and unquestionable source for reference, there is no need for you to continue reading this document.

The Scriptures tell us:

Joh 4:24

"Elohim is Spirit, and those who worship Him need to worship in spirit and truth."

Heb 13:7-9

Remember those leading you, who spoke the Word of Elohim to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their belief.

יהושע Messiah is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

Do not be borne about by various and strange teachings. For it is good for the heart to be established by favour, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

Col 2:6-8

Therefore, as you accepted Messiah יהושע the Master, walk in Him, having been rooted and built up in Him, and established in the belief, as you were taught, overflowing in it with thanksgiving.

See to it that no one makes a prey of you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary matters of the world, and not according to Messiah.

Please consider the following:

None of the Apostles observed or taught any Believers to observe a day or season honoring the Messiah's birth, especially Christmas. Please remember that more than any of us, the Apostles would have known what the Messiah would have desired in regards to this matter, i.e. the matter of celebrating His birth-date. The Scriptural accounts of Messiah's birth do not constitute a declaration of Christmas and does not establish December 25 or alternate dates for His earthly birth.

The following information can be easily confirmed. You may do a web search to review Constantine's relevance to Christianity:

CE 313 Constantine issued the edict of Milan, in which he stated; " I renounce all customs, rites, legalisms, unleavened breads and sacrifices of Lambs of the Hebrews and all the other feasts of the Hebrews, sacrifices, prayers, aspirations, purifications, sanctifications, and propitiations, and fasts and new moons, and Sabbaths, and superstitions, and hymns and chants, and observances and synagogues, and the food and drink of the Hebrews; in one word I renounce absolutely everything Jewish, every Law, rite and custom.

Furthermore; " I accept all customs, rites, legalism, and feasts of the Romans, sacrifices, prayers, purifications with water., sanctifications by Pontificus Maxmus, propitiations, and feasts, and the new Sabbath "Sol dei" (day of the sun), all new chants and observances, and all the foods and drinks of the Romans. In other words, I absolutely accept everything Roman, every new law, rite and custom, of Rome and the new Roman Religion."

Let us be reminded what the Scriptures say:

1Jn 4:10

In this is love, not that we loved Elohim, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be an atoning offering for our sins.

CE 325 Council of Nicea stated that, “in the name of “*Christianity*”, everything relating to God’s Torah, everything considered Judaic or Hebraic was cast out in the formation of God’s “universal” church.

Anathema (death decreed to anyone who adds or changes the creed of faith at Nicea).

The word “Torah” means:

- **the first five books of the Scriptures**
- **Yahuah’s Instruction, Teaching**
- **Yahuah’s Law**

So, it is plainly stated that what the Council of Nicea threw out was Yahuah’s law, Yahuah’s instruction and His Son’s Propitiation.

Yahusha stated in the Scriptures:

Mat 7:21-27

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Master, Master,’ shall enter into the reign of the heavens, but he who is doing the desire of My Father in the heavens.

“Many shall say to Me in that day, ‘Master, Master, have we not prophesied in Your Name, and cast out demons in Your Name, and done many mighty works in Your Name?’

“And then I shall declare to them, ‘I never knew you, depart from Me, you who work lawlessness!’

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does them, shall be like a wise man who built his house on the rock, and the rain came down, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

“And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not do them, shall be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand, and the rain came down, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and they beat on that house, and it fell, and great was its fall.”

CROOKEDNESS is gross sin or an abomination. Sin is transgression of the law. This is lawlessness. Throw out Yahuah’s law, you have lawlessness.

Isa 5:18-25

Woe to those who draw crookedness with cords of falsehood, and sin as with wagon ropes, who are saying, “Let Him hurry! Let Him hasten His work, so that we see it! And let the counsel of the Set-apart One of Yisra’el draw near and come, so that we know.”

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and clever in their own sight!

Woe to the mighty to drink wine, and brave men to mix strong drink, who declare right the wrong for a bribe, and the righteousness of the righteous they turn aside from him!

Therefore, as a tongue of fire devours the stubble, and the flame consumes the chaff, their root is as rottenness, and their blossom goes up like dust – because they have rejected the Torah of יהוה of hosts, and despised the Word of the Set-apart One of Yisra'ël. Therefore the displeasure of יהוה has burned against His people, and He stretches out His hand against them and smites them, and the mountains tremble. And their carcass is as filth in the middle of the streets. With all this His displeasure has not turned back, and His hand is still stretched out!

What was it that Constantine cast out or did away with?

Note: CE means Christian era and is approximately two to four years different than A.D.

Also the Council of Nicea's use of the words "Judaic" and "Hebraic" shows that it was intended that this anathema in CE 325 apply to Jews, Jewish Believers and Gentile Believers.

During the time of the early Congregation/Ecclesia, even Gentile Believers were taught in the synagogues and followed a Judaic/Hebraic creed.

Christmas was first observed around 336 CE and possibly as early as 320 CE, long after the death of the last Apostle.

Since this tradition or practice was established by a Roman emperor and not by the Most High Yahuah, and was not mentioned or instructed as a doctrine by any of the Apostles or Scripture, then we can safely assume that it would be classified as a "tradition of man or men," which Yahuah and Yahusha tells us not to follow in Colossians 2:8.

Then, who are we to believe?

Constantine or The Most High Yahuah or Yahusha?

Who gave permission to create Christmas?

Was it the Most High Yahuah or Constantine?

WHOSE authority matters the most?

Early religious settlers in the United States, such as the Puritans, did not celebrate Christmas:

"Christmas celebrations were actually declared illegal from 1659 to 1681 in New England, the hotbed of Puritanism, historian Stephen Nissenbaum noted in his recent book, "The Battle for Christmas," which chronicles the evolution of the holiday in America. If anyone was caught observing Christmas by drinking, partying or song, they were fined five shillings.'

"Puritans did not celebrate Christmas because they thought it was a very pagan ritual.

www.newsday.com

Again, listen to what the Word of Yahuah says:

Jer 10:1-5

Hear the word which יהוה speaks to you, O house of Yisra'el.

Thus said יהוה, “Do not learn the way of the gentiles, and do not be awed by the signs of the heavens, for the gentiles are awed by them.

“For the prescribed customs of these peoples are worthless, for one cuts a tree from the forest, work for the hands of a craftsman with a cutting tool.

“They adorn it with silver and gold, they fasten it with nails and hammers so that it does not topple.

“They are like a rounded post, and they do not speak. They have to be carried, because they do not walk. Do not be afraid of them, for they do no evil, nor is it in them to do any good.”

Do the previous Scriptures describe something that sounds familiar? It is absolutely amazing as to the accuracy of the Word of Yahuah (from the Tanakh) and how it describes what is going on in millions of homes during this season!

One of the most quoted Scriptures in defense of the establishment of Christmas is Colossians 2:16-19. It is used in order to justify the supposed freedoms that Believers have in doing as they please in establishing whatever celebration they deem appropriate:

Col 2:16-19

Let no one therefore judge you in eating or in drinking, or in respect of a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths –

which are a shadow of what is to come – but the Body of the Messiah.

Let no one deprive you of the prize, one who takes delight in false humility and worship of messengers, taking his stand on what he has not seen, puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the Body – nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments – grows with the growth of Elohim.

These items or events are ordained by Father Yahuah and as such have nothing to do with the traditions of men, but of the Most High Yahuah. That is why there can be no judgment if you are observing them.

Christmas was not ordained by Elohim – Father, Son or Ruach HaKodesh. It was established as a result of Constantine's edict in 313 CE. Calling it a “holiday” is one thing, but it cannot be called one of Yahuah's “Holydays.” This Scripture has been quoted or referred to in order to justify our supposed freedom to do as we please in regards to Christmas. It is often stated by individuals that we are no longer “under the law.” But in fact, we are no longer under the Law of Sin and Death.

Rom 8:1-9

There is, then, now no condemnation to those who are in Messiah יהושע, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

For the Torah of the Spirit of the life in Messiah יהושע has set me free from the law of sin and of death.

For the Torah being powerless, in that it was weak through the flesh, Elohim, having His own Son in the likeness of flesh of sin, and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,

so that the righteousness of the Torah should be completed in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the *matters* of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the *matters* of the Spirit.

For the mind of the flesh is death, but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace.

Because the mind of the flesh is enmity towards Elohim, for it does not subject itself to the Torah of Elohim, neither indeed is it able,

and those who are in the flesh are unable to please Elohim.

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of Elohim dwells in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Messiah, this one is not His.

In Colossians 2:16 True Believers (in their observance of the New Moons, the Holydays, the Sabbaths, and Kosher eating—in all of the things that are ordained by Yahuah) who are being obedient to Yahuah in such things are not under the authority of the world's judgment.

If you honor Christmas (or any other such days), as a valid holyday, this exemption from judgment does not apply to you. In other words, this is not a good thing. In fact, this would put you under the judgment of Yahuah.

Is there any protection?

The terrible irony is that Colossians 2:16 is used in defense of something it does not defend. In fact, it actually indicts the user, if the user of this Scripture does not honor the Sabbaths, Holydays, New Moons, etc.

The Sabbath was established by Yahuah Elohim in the Garden of Eden (in the Book of Genesis) before there was ever a Jew or Hebrew. This Holyday was a day that Father Yahuah Himself observed by resting on the seventh day after Creation.

Even the Gentile Believers were in the synagogue on the Sabbath:

Act 13:42-44

And when the Yehudim went out of the congregation, the gentiles begged to have these words spoken to them the next Sabbath.

And when *the meeting* of the congregation had broken up, many of the Yehudim and of the worshipping converts followed Sha'ul and Barnabah, who, speaking to them, were urging them to continue in the favour of Elohim.

And on the next Sabbath almost all the city came together to hear the Word of Elohim.

Act 17:1-4

And having passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonike, where there was a congregation of the Yehudim.

And according to his practice, Sha'ul went in unto them, and for three Sabbaths was reasoning with them from the Scriptures, explaining and pointing out that the Messiah had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying*, "This is the Messiah, יהושע, whom I proclaim to you."

And some of them did believe, and a large number of the worshipping Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Sha'ul and Sila.

Act 18:4

And he was reasoning in the congregation every Sabbath, and won over both Yehudim and Greeks.

Colossians 2:17 reminds us: That even in correct observation and practice of the New Moons, Sabbaths, Holydays, and Kosher diet, that these are a shadow of what is to come.

A good example of what this means is as follows:

As a child if you saw a shadow of your mother approaching, it was only a shadow of her until she arrived in front of you. When she arrived, she was Mother, she was Mom, she was Mommy, your loved one. How excited you were when she arrived. The pattern and instructions given by Yahuah are the correct shadow of what will come. That is not for us to determine. We cannot determine what that shadow is, because we do not know what is to come.

Only He can determine what is the correct depiction of that shadow because only He knows the future that the shadow depicts! What we are now doing or should be doing is only a practice run.

Here is some interesting information on how the December 25 date became popularized:

In Rome December 25 was made popular by Pope Liberius in 354 and became the rule in the West in 435 when the first "Christ mass" was officiated by Pope Sixtus III. This coincided with the date of a celebration by the Romans to their primary god, the Sun, and to Mithras, a popular Persian sun god supposedly born on the same day. The Roman Catholic writer Mario Righetti candidly admits that, "to facilitate the acceptance of the faith by the pagan masses, the Church of Rome found it convenient to institute the 25th of December as the feast of the birth of Christ to divert them from the pagan feast, celebrated on the same day in honor of the 'Invincible Sun' Mithras, the conqueror of darkness" (Manual of Liturgical History, 1955, Vol. 2, p. 67).

Protestant historian Henry Chadwick sums up the controversy: "Moreover, early in the fourth century there begins in the West (where first and by whom is not known) the celebration of December 25th, the birthday of the Sun-god at the winter solstice, as the date for the nativity of Christ. How easy it was for Christianity and solar religion to become entangled at the popular level is strikingly illustrated by a mid-fifth century sermon of Pope Leo the Great, rebuking his over-cautious flock for paying reverence to the Sun on the steps of St. Peter's before turning their back on it to worship inside the westward-facing basilica" (*The Early Church*, Penguin Books, London, 1967, p. 126).

If the date of Christ's birth had been celebrated in early Christianity, there would not have been the immense confusion of the dates and the ensuing controversy. Church historians of that time could have simply quoted the Bible for support or shown the examples of celebrations in the early centuries. But none did.

Simply speaking, the date chosen had nothing to do with biblical precedent and everything to do with ecclesiastical authority.

The *Encyclopedia Americana* makes this clear: "In the fifth century, the Western Church ordered it (Christ's birth) to be observed forever on the day of the old Roman feast of the birth of Sol (the sun god), as no certain knowledge of the day of Christ's birth existed" (1944 edition, "Christmas").

What about the internal biblical evidence for the timing of Messiah's birth? We can at least determine the probable season of His birth, and all scriptural indications argue against a December or other winter date."

(This is information found from a web search with the phrase "what was the climate in Israel when Jesus was born?")

(We also found the following information from the same web search as mentioned above. We also confirmed the temperatures for Israel and they can fall into the range described below.)

WHEN WERE SHEPHERDS IN THE FIELDS?

Israeli meteorologists tracked December weather patterns for many years and concluded that the climate in Israel has been essentially constant for at least the last 2,000 years. *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible* states that, "broadly speaking, weather phenomena and climatic conditions as pictured in the Bible correspond with conditions as observed today" (R.B.Y. Scott, Vol. 3, Abingdon Press, Nashville, 1962, p. 625).

The temperature in the area of Bethlehem in December averages around 44 degrees Fahrenheit (7 degrees Celsius) but can drop to well below freezing, especially at night. Describing the weather there, Sara Ruhin, chief of the Israeli weather service, noted in a 1990 press release that the area has three months of frost: December with 29 F. (minus 1.6 C.); January with 30 F. (minus 1.1 C.) and February with 32 F. (0 C.).

Snow is common for two or three days in Jerusalem and nearby Bethlehem in December and January. These were the winter months of increased precipitation in Christ's time, when the roads became practically unusable and people stayed mostly indoors.

This is important evidence to disprove a December date for Christ's birth. Note that, at the time of Christ's birth, the shepherds tended their flocks in the fields at night.

Luk 2:8

And in the same country there were shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

A common practice of shepherds was keeping their flocks in the field from April to October, but in the cold and rainy winter months they took their flocks back home and sheltered them.

One commentary admits that, "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 Lord 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" (Adam Clarke's *Commentary*, Abingdon Press, Nashville, note on [Luke 2:8](#)).

Another study source agrees: "These humble pastoral folk are out in the field at night with their flock—a feature of the story which would argue against the birth (of Christ) occurring on Dec. 25 since the weather would not have permitted it" (*The Interpreter's One-Volume Commentary*, Abingdon Press, Nashville, 1971, note on [Luke 2:4-7](#)).

The census as described by Luke:

Other evidence arguing against a December birth of Jesus is the Roman census recorded by Luke. "And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered... So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem..., to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son..." ([Luke 2:1-7](#)).

The Roman rulers knew that taking a census in winter would have been impractical and unpopular. Generally a census would take place after the harvest season, around September or October, when it would not seriously affect the economy, the weather was good and the roads were still dry enough to allow easy travel. According to the normal dates for the census, this would probably be the season of Christ's birth.

One author states that this census "could hardly have been at that season (December 25), however, for such a time would surely not have been chosen by the authorities for a public enrollment, which necessitated the population's traveling from all parts to their natal districts, storms and rain making journeys both unsafe and unpleasant in winter, except in specially favorable years" ("Christmas at Bethlehem," *Holy-Days and Holidays*, Cunningham Geikie).

Luke's account of the census argues strongly against a December date for Christ's birth. For such an agrarian society, an autumn post-harvest census was much more likely.

This is the end of the web reference quotes.

What did Yahusha say about Winter, or what did the Scriptures say about Winter?

Mat 24:20

“And pray that your flight does not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.

That is, it would not be desirable to travel in winter conditions or cold weather or on a day designated for rest.

Please read the following on the climate of Israel:

Climate in Israel

Israel is located, between 29°-33° north of the equator, which is characterized as a subtropical region, between the temperate zone and the tropical zone. The northern and coastal regions of Israel show Mediterranean climate characterized by hot and dry summers and cool rainy winters. Whereas the southern and eastern areas of Israel are characterized by an arid climate.

The rainy season extends from October to early May, and rainfall peaks in December through February. Rainfall varies considerably by regions from the North to the South. Highest rainfall is observed in the North and center parts of the country and decreases in the southern part of Israel, from the Negev Desert to Eilat where rainfall is negligible.

Heavy snow falls only in the northernmost part of Golan Heights where the Mount Hermon summit (2,224 m above sea level) remains generally snow covered from December to March. In other parts of the country snow is observed rarely.

The city of Eilat, located at the southernmost point of Israel and at the northern tip of Red Sea, has a good climate for beach holidays all year round. www.science.co.il/Israel-Climate.asp

IN CONCLUSION:

- (1) Christmas was not ordained by Yahuah and was not celebrated until long after the last Apostle died.
- (2) Christmas is a pagan holiday and was established as a result of Constantine's edict in 313 CE.
- (3) Yahusha HaMashiach was not born in the month of December.
- (4) The Scriptures warn us not to participate in pagan festivals.
- (5) The early Puritans outlawed Christmas.
- (6) The Christmas tree is described in the Book of Jeremiah as a pagan symbol and is a way of the heathen.

- (7) Yahusha HaMashiach was in the Temple during the Festival of Hannukah.
- (8) Yahuah has not given the authority to anyone to create and designate holydays.

Finally, we would like to share the following:

Joh 10:22-23

At that time the Hanukkah came to be in Yerushalayim, and it was winter. And יהושע was walking in the Set-apart Place, in the porch of Shelomoh.

There is a winter season in Israel and Yahusha was at the Temple during Feast of Dedication or Hanukkah.

HERE ARE FIVE REASONS TO OBSERVE HANUKKAH

1. DID YOU KNOW THAT HANUKKAH IS IN THE GOSPELS?

Hanukkah is not mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures because the story of Hanukkah happened after the last book of the Tanakh (Old Testament) had been written. However, Hanukkah is mentioned in the Apostolic Scriptures, Yahusha went to the Temple for the Feast of Hanukkah.

IF HANUKKAH MATTERS TO YAHUSHA, SHOULDN'T IT MATTER TO US?

2. DID YOU KNOW THAT HANUKKAH IS A STORY OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION?

Hanukkah is a story of religious persecution and standing up for faith in Yahuah. Yahusha tells us we can expect persecution, but He also tells us that we must stand firm in our faith.

IF THAT'S WHAT THE STORY OF HANUKKAH IS ABOUT, SHOULDN'T IT MATTER TO US?

3. DID YOU KNOW THAT HANUKKAH IS THE FESTIVAL OF THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD?

Hanukkah is the Festival of Light. It celebrates the relighting of the menorah lamp that burned in Yahuah's Holy Temple. In rabbinic terminology, the menorah was called the "light of the world." Yahusha said, "I am the Light of the world," and another time He told His disciples, "You are the light of the world."

IF HANUKKAH IS THE FESTIVAL OF THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, SHOULDN'T IT MATTER TO US?

4. DID YOU KNOW THAT YAHUSHA TALKED ABOUT HANUKKAH?

Yahusha talked about Hanukkah. He warned His disciples that the thing that happened in the story of Hanukkah would happen again (Mark 13:13-16, Matthew 24:15-18).

TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HE WAS SAYING, HIS DISCIPLES HAD TO KNOW THE STORY OF HANUKKAH, AND HIS DISCIPLES KNEW THE STORY, SHOULDN'T IT MATTER TO US?

5. DID YOU KNOW THAT HANUKKAH COMMEMORATES THE DEDICATION OF YAHUAH'S TEMPLE?

Hanukkah means "dedication." It is a remembrance of when the Jews rededicated Yahuah's Holy Temple to serve only ELOHIM. The Apostolic Scriptures tell us that we are Yahuah's Temple.

IF HANUKKAH IS A FESTIVAL ABOUT THE DEDICATION OF YAHUAH'S TEMPLE, AND WE ARE YAHUAH'S TEMPLE, SHOULDN'T IT MATTER TO US?

NOTE: From *Light in the Darkness*, published by FFOZ

1Jn 2:1-6

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And He Himself is an atoning offering for our sins, and not for ours only but also for all the world.

And by this we know that we know Him, if we guard His commands.

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