

# CHRISTMASS & THE TREE

Elmer's

## INTRODUCTION

What you are about to read may surprise you as it did with me. Our intention is to bring the facts into the light that all people may see the absolute truth.

"ALL FACTS, NO FICTION," Much of the information found was excerpted from reliable resources.

History books, books on Customs, & Rituals of different Cultures, books that contained customs of Tree Adoring, and Adorning, Unabridged Dictionaries to locate hard to find words, and their original meanings. The Holy Bible King James Version and the Best Concordance we found that had the Greek, & Hebrew translations. A whole lot of other books, & articles concerning this subject, and also a brief testimony that inspired the writer.

The information here is just the "Tip of the iceberg". There is a lot more detailed information about the tree used in the Mass of Christ-Birth, & its history. Because of cost, we hope to publish more information as time goes on.

Our intention is not to Judge anyone, for Judging a spiritual act, or thought, is a matter that belongs only to GOD.

To those who love God, this information will be sweet to hear, & may be hard to digest. Remember, with God, all things are possible. Matt. 19:26

Chapter 1 THE HISTORY OF TREES ADORED & ADORNED  
In the development of religious customs, & traditions in Europe, Middle East, & thru out the world in the matter of tree rituals the information is vast, & extensive. If we were to explain how these customs, & beliefs came into existence, it would take a lot more pages than these. So what we will highlight on is some of the actual customs, & traditions, & their practices, that has a close affiliation, or resemblance with that of the "Christmas tree".

Taking a look at trees adored, & adorned thru out the world was surprisingly plentiful. We have focused on the religious history of the Middle East, & the European families of the Aryan stock, where the worship of trees, and their use in rituals played an important part in their different religious activities. To name a few of the families that adored, & adorned trees. The Celts, and their oak worship of the druids; Lithuanians tree worshipping was widely known;

Ancient Germans and their sacred groves; the prevalence of tree worship in Ancient Greece, & Italy are abundant; Canaanites, & the Hebrews, and their groves.

One of the most popular rituals involving decorating a tree in honor to the sun god was during the Winter Solstice, which was generally celebrated on Dec.21-22, or on Dec.25 according to the Julian Calendar. The "Winter Solstice" is when the sun would rise, & set on the shortest day of the year, and would now start to lengthen its days. During this time of the year many heathen cults were celebrating in honoring their sun god, for a bountiful, and prosperous new year, & expressing gratitude for the suns rebirth, and hopes for an abundant crop, and livestock for the following year.

Yes, there were many pagan religions being honored this time of the year that involved decorating of trees. Depending where you were, the tree types would vary, but usually the evergreen trees were popular. Depending on the culture, the decorations would vary from stringers, laces, ornaments of fruits, candles, vegetables, and other various types of ornaments, and in some provinces, animals, & human parts, and in some cases sacrifices were part of the rituals.

Yes, in many parts of this world, utilizing trees, to honor some god, or spirits of some sort was common, but in some cultures they even worshipped the tree.\*

## Chapter 2 THE MINGLING OF CHRISTIAN & PAGAN RITES

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ was a phenomenal event that drew many in believing that Jesus Christ was, and is the Son of God! The Christian Boom had started, questions of Christ Birth were being asked, and there was much discussion regarding the Epiphany, & Nativity of Christ. The actual date of Christ birth is unknown, so to settle the arguments in the Roman Empire, Julius I, who presided as Bishop, or Pope of Rome from 337-352 AD decided to settle authoritatively Dec. 25 as the Anniversary of Christ Birth. Why did Julius I pick Dec.25 as the date to commemorate Christ Birth, when so many pagan cults, also honored Dec.25 as their date

to honor the sun god? Some of the pagan festivals that were celebrated around this time of the year were, the Saturnalia, the Calends, the birthday of Tammuz son of the sun god Nimrod, the cult of Mithra and their unconquered sun, the solar feast of Natalis Invicti, and many more. So when Christes Maesse was declared as the Anniversary of Christ Birth,\* many newly converted Christians who were formally pagans, now celebrated Dec.25 to Honor Christ in place of their sun god, but many continued with their pagan practices to Honor Christ . Here we have the mingling of Christian & pagan rites \*\*\* [Adonis Attis Osiris p.305 Augustine exhorts his Christian brethren not to celebrate that solemn day like the heathens on account of the sun, but on account of Him who made the sun.]

[Christmas Customs & Traditions by Clement A. Miles p.26...the church authorities fight tooth, and nail against these relics of heathenism, p.162...side by side with these are many usage's never christianized even in appearance, and obviously identical with heathen customs against which the church thundered in the days of her youth.]

There where strict laws that were enforced to stop all sorts of heathen \* practices, and as time went on they were suppressed that explains why there is hardly any evidence of this practice during any Mass of Christ-Birth at that time in history. This brings us from the Dark Ages to the late 1700's , when the Roman Catholic Church was losing its civil persecuting powers. It was during this time in history that a former tradition of erecting a tree, and decorating for whatever reason was starting to evolve again. What the Church couldn't suppress, some of the churches adopted, and even tried christianizing it.

Some writers have said the modern Christmas tree was derived from Germany, yes Germany did play a big part in bringing back this old pagan custom, but we must note, that before Germans excepted Christianity, this nation was a strong tree adorning, & adoring re culture, with other elements involved as the the records show.

[ A Book of Christmas by William Sansom p.84... certain German districts already had candle-lit tripods, or pyramidal frames of wood \* decorated with local fruits, or vegetation; The Tunschere of Friesland, the Klausenbaum of Bavaria, The Pyramid of the Saxon Ore Mountains, were themselves reflected in similar symbolic devices found in many other European Countries and expressing ancient magic's for the sun's rebirth and hopes for an abundant crop the following year.

Note; that the tripod, or the pyramidal frames of wood are graven images of the tree/grove.

Note; the suns rebirth happens on Dec. 21-22 this time is also known as the winter solstice.

[Christmas Customs & Traditions by Clement A. Mile p. 269.....not only at Christmas are ceremonial "trees to be found in Germany. In the Erzgebirge there is dancing at the Summer Solstice round "St. John Tree", a pyramid decked with garlands, and flowers, and lit up at night by candles.]

(The Golden Bough a study in magic & Religion by Sir James George Frazer p.126-127 .....tree worship is well attested for all the great European families of the Aryan Stock..... Sacred groves were common among the ancient Germans, and tree worship is hardly extinct amongst their descendants.)

Cultures in Germany promoted in many ways the intermingling of the tree into the Mass of Christ, and even revered the practice, for whatever the reason was they mingled their pagan rituals into their Christian lifestyle

The ritual of tree adoring, or adorning and its use for sacraments for religious reasons, to honor a season, or a god, or a spirit is very pagan, and ancient. \*\*\*

The Bible records many identical characteristics that are compatible with this tree ritual.

Yes, there were Churches / Religions that did not except this practice of the tree in Christmas, or even the Christmas celebration itself for many reasons , and even today some people & some organizations don't observe it or practice its pagan traditions. We will answer questions that people have been asking for centuries, regarding this tradition, & practices of Christmas, & the tree.

Since this subject is about Christ Birth and of the tree. Lets take a look at the story of Christ and of His Birth written in a book called the Holy Bible, the King James Version

Note; We can say that Germany did play a part in mingling this practice into the Mass of Christ, but we must remember that this practice of decorating a special tree in honor to a god, is very ancient, and is also recorded in the Bible, as a practice that GOD = YAHWEH = JEHOVAH condemns, and considers this pagan practice as abominable, & vain.

What the Bible says about Christmas

The story of Christ Birth is awesome. It is recorded in the 1<sup>st</sup>, & 2<sup>nd</sup> chapters, in the books of Matthew, & Luke in the New Testament. Please READ the stories for yourself. Here are some questions to look for.

- 1 How many wise men were there?
- 2 Where did the shepherds find Jesus?
- 3 Where did the wise men find Jesus?
- 4 What gifts did the wise men bring?
- 5 An Angel told Mary that he shall be called the \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 The city of David is called \_\_\_\_\_

The prophecies of Christ Birth in the Old Testament are Outstanding. \*\*\*

#### ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE

Note; All Bible verses are from the Authorized King James Version. The most sold Bible in the World.

There is not a command found in the Bible to celebrate Christ's Birth, neither does it condemn the act of celebrating the remembrance of Christ's Birth, even if the exact date of His Birth is not known.

No were in the Bible does it condemn celebrating Christ, or His Birth in Bethlehem on ANY-DAY OF THE YEAR, even if it were celebrated on a known pagan holiday.

Nowhere in the Bible condemns the giving of gifts. In fact the Bible recommends giving in many ways. ( Acts 20:35...remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.) ( Matthew 7:11-12 If ye then, being evil know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.; For this is the law, and the prophets.)

Also don't forget to give Christ a gift, or gifts. Remember this occasion is for Jesus Christ! Not only on Christmas, that you ought to give, but when opportunity arises. How can I give a gift to Jesus? In the Bible Jesus said "For I was hungry, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink, I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. .... Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye

have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Mt. 25:35-40"

In the Bible there is no mentioning of a tree being decorated for the occasion of Christ's Birth.

There is no command to erect a tree, & decorate it for the occasion of Christ's Birth.

There are many verses in the Bible condemning this custom, & calls it abominable, and vain.

Note; When reading the Bible, please read the chapters that surround these verses to get the big picture.

Before giving you some texts some words need to be defined.

Note; The word OBSERVER OF TIMES referred to a people that honored the sun, moon, and stars, and the seasons, and their intervals through their practice's and rituals.

One of the well-known practice that involved the decorating of a tree, was usually used in honoring a known pagan sun god, during the Winter Solstice. Tammuz was one of them, Ezekiel 8:13-18, or other heathen sun gods, or some spirit. The most famous time when this would occur would be on Dec. 21-22, or Dec. 25 on the Julian Calendar known as the Winter Solstice. The pagans would decorate a tree to honor their sun god, for a prosperous, and bountiful New Year to come. This practice is recorded in many books such as ( Christmas Customs & Traditions by Clement A. Miles; The New Golden Bough, by Sir James George Frazer; Prophecy Seminar #189 by Jere Webb Crusades; Christmas Customs Around the World by Herbert H. Wernecke), and much more. This practice is also found in the Bible.

In the Bible there is a word called grove which replaced the Hebrew word Asherah. In today's world when we see the word grove most people think an a bunch of trees although the word grove in the Bible refers to a tree, or pillar or a graven image of the tree, or a tree with carvings of an Idol on its trunk. Some Bibles replaces the word grove with "wooden image, and as you read different verses you will clearly see that it was not a wooden image but a tree, and in some other Bibles they use the word pillar and the using of this word in most of their verses would stereo type the meaning and this would be improper because of the broad meaning of the word asherah. Note; King James version is the best translation and is used by many Sabbath keeping Evangelist. Here are some examples

Compare these verses with other Bibles; Deuteronomy 7:5, Deut. 16:21-22, I Kings 15:13, II Kings 21:7, II Chronicles 24:18, Deut. 12:2-4, and there are many more to look at. Note; The word GROVE is mentioned 17 times, 16 times it was used in a ritual and 1 time as a landmark and technically it is a different word (eshel, tamarisk, ayshel), it has a different (icvt) meaning.

The word GROVES is mentioned 24 times.

In the Bible (the original King James Version) the word GROVE replaced the word ASHERAH. What is an Asherah?

(Asherah, n.; 1 A sacred piece of wood, a wooden post, or mast, sometimes a tree, or stump of a tree with, or without carvings, found always beside the altar in a Canaanitish high place, and considered by some to be a survival of an earlier tree worship. Judges VI. 28 (R. V.)

\*Ref. From: Webster's New International Second Edition Unabridged G.C. Merriam Company

Est. 1831 Publishers of Genuine Webster's Dictionaries Since 1843 Springfield, Mass. U.S.A.)

Leviticus 18:3 ...the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do....

I Kings 16:33 Ahab made a grove .....to provoke the Lord.....

II Kings 17:16 And they left all the commandments.....and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.

II Kings 21:2-7 ...observed times,....much wickedness in the sight of the Lord. And he set a graven image of the grove that he had made in the house.....

As the Bible explains Gods views, and feelings towards pagan practices, and customs, the Bible also shows how particular God is when it comes to Obeying, and Honoring Him.

There are many things that pagans do that are offensive to God, but we will concentrate on what Christians do in the Christmas practice that are offensive to Gods Law, according to the Word of GOD in the Holy Bible (King James Version)

1. The Bible simply says in Deut. 12:30-32....  
...How did these nations serve gods?....Thou shalt not do so unto the Lord thy God....  
abomination to the Lord which He hateth.

We know that pagans sacrificed their people Deut. 12:31, we know they served, &

worshipped the sun, moon, etc. Deut. 17:3, II Kings 23:5, we also know they served their gods with images, groves-trees, and decorated them. Exodus 34:13-14, Jeremiah 10:1-5, II Kings 23:5-7. We know that pagans pray, they have ceremonies, they give gifts, they sing, and they dance, and they do strange things for their gods. We know Christians pray, they have services, they give gifts, they sing, some dance in celebration.

So is this texts signifying not to do anything the pagans do? NO! What this text is saying don't do anything the heathens do that is abominable to God, which He hates, and the Bible clearly mentions these heathen customs.

2. Lets take a look at what the Bible says about heathen practices that God hates that are similar and in some cases identical as the Germans customs of old times, and other European countries in regards to decorating a tree to honor a god or spirit.

II Kings 17:15-17 .... The Lord had charged them, that they should not do like them. And they left all the commandments of the Lord their God, .... and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven.....in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger.

\*Deuteronomy 12:1-4 ....and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods, ..... ye shall not do so unto the Lord you're God.

\*Jeremiah 10:1-5 ....Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of the heavens; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain; for one cutteth a tree out of the forest.... They deck it with silver, and with gold.....

\*II Kings 23:3-7 .... All the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven..... the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven..... Brake down the houses of the sodomites that were by the house of the Lord. Where the women wove hangings for the grove. (Note; the women were making decorations.)

\*II Kings 23:6 ...brought out the grove from the House of the Lord.... Note; this grove came out of the House of the Lord, if it were today, the grove would have come out of a Church. God says in the Bible, don't do unto thy God as the heathens did to their gods. Deut. 12:3-4.



\*II Chronicles 33:2-6 But did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, like unto the abominations of the heathen, .....and made groves, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them..

- 1 Question! How is this pagan practice similar to the Christmas tree?
- 2 It was done at this time of the year by many pagans between Dec 21-25
- 3 Pagans did this to honor a god, or a spirit
- 4 Ever greens were popular this time of the year because they were green.
- 5 The trees were decorated with different type of ornaments, depending where, and what culture you were in.
- 6 Why do some Christians have a Christmas tree? Some Christians say, its THE TRADITION! Who's tradition? Yet there is no Biblical proof to do it They will have many reasons, but it is not found in the Bible, and goes against what the Word of God expresses in the Holy Bible. They need to ask, who's tradition is it? Many will say the tree is not an idol, or a god to me, I'm not worshipping it!
- 7 According to the Bible, what part of the Christmas practice is offensive, vain, and abominable to GOD?

The decorating of a special tree to honor God, just as the heathens did to their gods.

The decorating of a special tree to bring in season, just as the heathens did to observe times  
The decorating of a special tree to bring in the spirit of Christmas. What spirit?

Reliable sources relate these practices as being the same as pagan practices, but with a Christian appeal. Many books confirm this saying.

In regards to the statement ( I'm not worshipping the tree ), ( The tree is not an idol to me ), ( I'm not bowing down to the tree ), ( I'm not serving the tree ).

Question; Did you know the word SERVE replaced the Hebrew word ABAD, and do you know what it means ? We will answer this question soon!

Remember the story in the Bible of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego not bowing down to the golden image of Nebuchadnezzar found in Daniel chapter # 3

Example; There is a great possibility that there were other Jews in the crowd that heard the musician sound their instruments. Question, would they be guilty of breaking the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment if they bowed down, even if they

didn't believe the image was a god, or had any spiritual significance? Yes, according to Exodus 20:5.

Mark 8:35-38 ....whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Same as the mark of the beast, being in your forehead or in your hand, ( being in your thinking, or in your actions) even if you don't believe that Sunday is the ecclesiastical mark of the beast, in regards of Sunday being its holy day of worship. If you honor = worship the beast and it's image, you will receive the wrath of God. Note; 2 paragraphs from the Catholic Mirror

" Of course the catholic church claims that the change from Sabbath to Sunday was her act. And the act is a MARK of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters." C.F. Thomas Chancellor of Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore.

" Reason and sense demand the acceptance of one or the other of two alternatives: either Protestantism and the keeping Holy of Saturday, or Catholicity and the keeping holy of Sunday . Compromise is impossible." James Cardinal Gibbons, Catholic Mirror, Dec. 23, 1893.

When the time comes when the authorities will not allow you to buy, or sell unless you had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast; for it is the number of a man; and his number is 666. Revelation 13:15-18. We must remember, even if you don't believe in the mark of the beast, and that Sunday is its holy day and note that they call it their ecclesiastical mark , and you go along in order that you may be able to buy, or sell, you will then have had the mark of the beast, because of your agreement to honor the beast. Look what Revelation 14: 9-11 .....If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand. The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God,.....

Here is knowledge. The 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment in modern English.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment refers to a practice that God does not want his people to do, for anybody or for anything. Simple and clear don't do this practice for any reason period!

are we guilty of honoring the beast even if we don't believe in its mark when we follow it.?

You shall not make for yourself, any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth below, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down yourself to them, or serve them: for I the Lord your God is a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me. And to do mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

The word serve replace the Hebrew word abad. Abad = to work for, to enslave, dress, decorate, to meet the needs, compel, do, provide for, worship.

Some people will say that worship, & serve have the same meaning. Technically they are not the same, serve has a broader meaning than worship. Worship = admire, adore, honor, praise, glorify. The Bible shows many texts of serve, and worship as being different.

Deuteronomy 11:16 .... serve other gods, and worship them....

Deuteronomy 30:17 .... worship other gods, and serve them....

II Chronicles 7:22 .... worshipped them, and serve them....

Jeremiah 22:9 .... worshipped other gods, and served them....

Jeremiah 16:11 .... served them, and have worshipped them....

II Chronicles 7:19 .... serve other gods, and worship them....

Daniel 3:28 .... serve nor worship any god....

In regards to breaking the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment, no one needs to worship the tree, or bow down to it in order to break the Law, but by your action alone of serving it condemns anyone of breaking the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment.

\*Example: If someone was to make a statue or a shoulder and head image and once a year they would put a lei or decorate it to honor or remember the person for some occasion this practice is breaking the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment of God.

No body is bowing down to the tree, but people are definitely serving ( dressing, decorating, & there are needs to be meet, such as putting gifts under the tree, as how some pagan cultures did to their groves or idols), as people do to their Christmas tree.

May GODS GRACE be upon those who knew not the truth, but did the best they could of

what they knew about serving God, but WOE be unto them that know the truth, and do it not.

The Bible condemns the heathen practice of serving images, or groves = trees to honor some spirit, or god to meet its needs, to dress it, to provide for it

Deuteronomy 12:1-4 ... ye shall not do so unto the Lord your God

Deuteronomy 12:29-32 ... how did these nations serve their god? ... thou shalt not do so unto the Lord thy God

Jeremiah 10:1-5 ... Learn not the way of the heathen ... 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;...

**THE BIBLE CLEARLY TELLS US, DON'T DO UNTO GOD, AS THE HEATHENS DID TO THEIR GODS!!!**

The Bible clearly announces continually to stay away, and not to practice any usage of the heathen's devices, and sacrimonius emblems, that they made. The wreaths is an old symbol, which was also used to honor the sun god.

6. Parables;

a. Would you dare do something for the one you love, something that they did not like, or something they thought was abominable, on a day, or on that week that you were honoring them, especially if they were particular, jealous and also loving, gracious, and guarding in how they ought to be honored?

b. If the men in the Bible such as Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Jeremiah, Ezekeil, Josiah, were here today, and saw what Christians were doing today, they would be very \_\_\_\_\_. God can see what you are doing today.

7. Tree in the church to hang offerings on?

II Kings 23:6, II Kings 21:2-9 Now, to allow a most certain peril for an uncertain profit, and the greatest danger for the smallest benefit, in matters of faith, and religion, is a tempting of GOD, and a Grievous offense. Christmas tree in a Church will be a Stumbling block for many!!! Shall a grove made in the memory of Christ, and set up in the place of religion, be offensive? YES!

Christmas trees, Asherahs, and groves have their beginning from the heathens. The invention of groves came of no good, but of evil. By virtue of the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment, groves were not lawful in the temple of the Israelites/Jews \*II Kings 23:5-7 then by the same commandment they are not

God did not command or Ask us to do it

Serving the tree  
putting gifts under tree  
↓  
decorating the tree

\*

lawful in the Churches of the Christians. For being a moral commandment, and not ceremonial, it is a perpetual commandment, and bindeth us as well as the Jews. GODS Scriptures in no place commends the use of groves, or images, and in a great number of places mentioned in the Bible, God disallowed, and condemns this practice.

8 Santa Claus? Parents, and Friends don't lie to the Children. All Glory Belongs To GOD, in being able to give gifts.

If Timothy 4 2-5 ... And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables

9 In regards to decorating your building with lights, there was no condemnation found in scripture.

10. I Cor 8: 9 In regards to plants in your yard...

11. If it was your birthday ... gifts to others (parable for kids)

12. The moving of the ARK.... Ahaz story

13 Gideon an the ephod... Judges 8:27-35

14. If there was or is a prophet or a messenger or a noble person or a priest or a pastor or a president or pope or a teacher that speaks on a topic of the Bible or Moral values or have said that God have told them something and if it sounds real or truthful, we must still **ALLWAYS COMPARE IT TO THE WORDS OF GOD FROM THE HOLY BIBLE**, to see if it is true, and never go with your own feelings, in regards to Biblical and Spiritual matters.

15. Erecting an image, or tree and serving it for Christ, is not according to the Bible in Gods word

16. The Christmas tree, Asherah, & Grove's are of the same practice in a different era. People don't believe their worshipping the sun, moon, or some vegetation spirit, BUT they are doing the same practice as the pagans did. They are doing the motion - act of the practice= ritual, and they don't realize what the Bible says in Revelation 17:2....the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. Revelation 18:3 ....all nations have drunk of the wine of her fornication.....and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. "DRUNK WITH THE WINE OF BABYLON" = "OVER COMMED WITH THE GLAMORE / DELICACIES OF APOSTASY" The Bible says in Revelation 18:3-4 .... and the merchants of

the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies....COME OUT OF HER MY PEOPLE, THAT YE BE NOT PARTAKERS OF HER SINS....

17. Some merchants claim that December is the biggest time of the year for sales ★

18. \* Don't let anyone mislead you from doing what is RIGHT.

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 Christ.

- STUDY the Bible so you know the truth, and don't take any smooth talking preacher, teacher, or doctors words or their philosophy, if it is not based on the BIBLE, AND HARD FACTS!!!

- Note; satan's philosophy appeals to man, and man says I'll do the way that feels all right to me.

- GOD answers and says, (There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. Proverbs 14:12)

- Hear ye the call of the Lord, come out of her = Babylon my people saith the Lord. It's time to let go of the relics, and remnants of Babylon. ★

- As it was in the days of Noah

- As it was in the days of Lot

- So shall it be in the last days, many are called , but only a few will LISTEN, & OBEY.

- Matthew 7:13-14....wide is the gate and broad is the way , that leadeth to destruction.....Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

- I John 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the thing that are in the world.....lust of the eyes, ....he that doeth the will of the God abideth forever.

- Note; If people will not listen and hearken to the words of God from the Bible, look what II Thessalonians 2:1-17

- II Thessalonians 2:1-17 ..... And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.....

If they don't want the truth

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- Proverbs 3:3-7...Let not mercy and truth forsake thee... trust in the Lord with ALL THINE HEART and LEAN NOT UNTO THINE OWN UNDERSTANDING. IN ALL THY WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE SHALL DIRECT THY PATHS.
- Remember what God says... \* Jeremiah 10:1-5... Learn not the ways of the heathen ... for the customs of the people are vain ...

19 WHO DO YOU LOVE 1<sup>ST</sup> ?

Matthew 10:37-40 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....

Who is the tree for on Christmas ?

- Your children
- Your wife
- The season
- Everyone else is doing it
- For the fun of it

Remember what the occasion is for, & whom it's for, GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST ...

Brothers and sisters of the Faith of Jesus, It may seem right to erect a grove - tree for Christmas in remembrance of Christ, but according to the Scriptures, It Is Not Good !

BELIEVERS OF THE LIVING GOD  
HEAR GODS CALL

THIS COMING CHRISTMAS, AND  
THRU OUT THE YEAR, REMEMBER  
WHO DO YOU LOVE 1<sup>ST</sup>!!!

THIS IS GODS WILL AMEN

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pager # 876-8480 ask for Elmer



## SCRIPTURE

- II Tim. 3:16-17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
- II Tim. 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
- I Thes 2:11-12 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.
- I Tim. 4:2-5 Preach the word: be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine: 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. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.
- Ex 31:18 And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.
- Lev 18:2-3 Speak unto the children of Israel and say unto them, I am the Lord your God. After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do: and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do: neither shall ye walk in their ordinances.
- Prov 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.
- Is 42:8 I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.
- Heb. 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.
- Deut. 4:23 Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the Lord your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the Lord the God hath forbidden thee.
- Deut. 18:9,14 When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations: For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the Lord thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.
- Deut. 16:21-22 Thou shalt not plant thee a grove of any trees near unto the altar of the Lord thy God, which thou shalt make thee: Neither shalt thou set thee up any image; which the Lord thy God hateth.
- Deut. 20:18 That they teach you not to do after all their abominations, which they have done unto their gods; so should ye sin against the Lord your God.
- Deut. 12:3-4 And ye shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and destroy the names of them out of that place: Ye shall not do so unto the Lord your God.
- Deut. 12:30-31 Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? Even so will I do likewise: Thou shalt not do so unto the Lord thy God: for every abomination to the Lord, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods.....
- Rev. 17:2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.
- Rev. 18:3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.
- I John 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him: For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world: And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.
- Matt. 10:37 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.
- Matt. 10:38-39 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me is not worthy of me: He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.
- Matt. 10:33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.
- Matt. 22:37-40 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind: This is the first and great commandment: And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.
- Mark 8:35-38 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's the same shall save it: For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

- Rev. 22:14-15 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city: For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.
- Rev. 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.
- Rev. 3:15-16 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot: So then because thou art lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.
- Rev. 3:20-22 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches
- John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
- Matt. 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.
- Rev. 14:7 Saying with a loud voice, FEAR GOD, and give glory to him, for the hour of his judgment is come. and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters
- Matt. 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled
- I Cor. 10:13-14 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.
- I Cor. 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.
- Heb. 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edge sword piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
- Heb. 4:4-12 ..... God did rest the seventh day from all His works. .... There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.
- Matt. 10:28 ..... fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
- Matt. 10:1-42
- Mt. 6:24
- Mt. 6:19-21
- Mt. 20:16
- Deut. 4:2
- Acts 20:35
- Deut. 6:5-9
- Is. 66:22-23
- Ex. 12:18-19
- Ex. 13:4
- LEV. 23
- Hebrews chapters 8-10
- Proverbs 24:1
- Proverbs 23:4
- I Timothy 3:16
- I Cor. 3
- Ezekiel 4:6
- \*Mark 10:13-16
- Mark 11:15-18
- no man can serve two masters.\*\*\*
- lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth
- many are called but a few are chosen \*\*\*
- ye shall not add unto the word which I command you
- it is more blessed to give than receive! Jesus said
- thou shalt love the Lord thy God ... for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes...
- ... the new heavens and the new earth... from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me...
- the passover instituted ( 1<sup>st</sup> month on the 14<sup>th</sup> day even to 21<sup>st</sup> day even...)
- This day came ye out in the month Abib.
- Laws concerning Holy Days
- ..... the new covenant and old covenant
- Be not thou envious against evil men neither desire to be with them.
- Labor not to be rich; cease from thine own wisdom.
- the manifestation of Jesus\*\*\*
- works - body temple of God...
- a day for a year... (PROPHETIC INTERPRETATION) translation, should be consistent,
- And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them; and his disciples rebuked those that brought them, but when Jesus saw it he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.\*\*\*
- ..... the money changers in the temple. .... Jesus said my house shall be called of all nations the house of Prayer ?....

Isaiah 9:6-7 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Isaiah 11: 1-9 ..... the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears. But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

John 3:15-21 ..... 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 8: 24 I said therefore unto, that ye shall die in your sins; for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

\*\*\*John 8: 4-11 ..... He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.....go and sin no more.

John 8: 51 Verily, verily I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death. \*

Psalms 111:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom:

Colossians 1:26-29 ..... now is made manifest to his saints..... which is Christ Jesus....

I Corinthians 3:16-17 ye are the temple of God.....

I Tim. 1:4 ..... neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions.....

I Tim. 4:16 ..... take heed..... unto the doctrine..... save thyself, and them that hear thee.

I John 4:3 ..... spirit of antichrist....

I Cor. 2: 9 ..... eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him

Leviticus 26:6 ..... keep my Sabbaths .... And reverence my sanctuary.....

**CHOICE THE MOST POWERFUL ASSET WE HAVE!**

Psalms 25:12 ..... he that feareth the Lord, him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.

Joshua 24:15 ..... choose you this day whom ye will serve ..... as for me and my house we will serve the Lord

Job 9:14 ..... and choose out my words to reason with him?

Proverbs 1:20-29-33 ..... they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord

Isaiah 7:15-16 ..... to refuse the evil and choose the good

Luke 10:38-42 ..... Mary hath chosen that good part which shall not be taken away from her

Matt. 26:7-13 ..... why trouble the woman? she hath wrought a good work upon me.... preach what this woman done ...

Doubting Thomas; John 20:26-29 ..... Thomas because thou hast seen me thou hast believed, blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed.

December 9  
**OUR WORK IS TO  
 PROCLAIM THE  
 THREE ANGELS'  
 MESSAGES**

◆ *Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. Isaiah 58:1.*

**T**HE last great conflict will be short but terrible. Old controversies will be revived. New controversies will arise. The last warnings must be given to the world. There is a special power in the presentation of the truth at the present time, but how long will it continue? Only a little while. If ever there was a crisis, it is now.

Decided efforts should be made to bring the message for this time prominently before the people. The third angel is to go forth with great power. Let none ignore this work or treat it as of little importance. The truth is to be proclaimed to the world, that they may see the light.

This is our work. The light that we have upon the third angel's message is the true light. The mark of the beast is exactly what it has been proclaimed to be. All in regard to this matter is not yet understood, and will not be understood until the unrolling of the scroll, but a most solemn work is to be accomplished in our world. The Lord's command to His servants is "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins."

There is to be no change in the features of our work. It is to stand as clear and distinct as prophecy has made it. We are to enter into no confederacy with the world, supposing that by so doing we could accomplish more. If any stand in the way, to hinder the advancement of the work in the lines that God has appointed, they will displease God. No line of our faith that has made us what we are is to be weakened. We have the old landmarks of truth, experience, and duty; we are to stand firmly in defense of our principles, in full view of the world.

It is essential that workers be raised up to open the living oracles of God to all nations, tongues, and peoples. People of all ranks and capacities, with various gifts, are to stand in their God-given armor, to cooperate harmoniously for a common result. They are to unite in the work of bringing the truth to all nations and peoples, each worker fulfilling his or her own special appointment.

There is a wide field of action, and in their plans and devising, all need to consider the result. Everything is to move according to the divine plan. The whole body must be fitly joined together, that each member may promote the designs of Him who gave His life for the life of the world.—Manuscript 3, 1899.



## Who do you Love 1st

1. How do you get closer to God? Have a devotion. Early before the sunrise.
2. The Resurrection/easter Passover/Nissan
3. Some Christians today do things on Christmas that are contrary to God's Words in the Bible. What are they?
4. The Truth shall set you Free. John 8:32; Free from what? Sin John 8:34 being a ... Servant of Sin.
5. Straight What does Ellen G White say about the Bible?
6. Drunk with the wine of Babylon Rev. 17:2 [ wine of wrath of her fornication Rev 14:8 ]
7. History of Christmas and its practices.
8. My Testimony: I asked God why do you want me to know this about the Tree in Christmas?
9. What the Bible says about some of the practices that is being used in Christmas.  
2 Kings 23:6-7 Jeremiah 10:1-5
10. How drunk are Christians today. Story little johnny b-day..... Christmas party and have someone dress up as Jesus, watch their facial reactions.
11. Imagine the pig farmer that found out the Truth.
12. Bible texts: 2 Timothy 4:2-5 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3 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; 4 and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.
- 13.2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
14. God will always have followers that keep God's Commandments. Revelation 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.
- 15.1 John 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.
- 16.2 Thessalonians 2:7-10, 11-12 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work....why?... because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12 that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

## What has the Christmas tree to do with Christ's Birth?

1. Where did the name Merry Christmas come from? Originally from the Roman Catholic Church. It was the celebration of the Eucharist, called Mary & Christ Masses.
2. Julius 1st Bishop of Rome Authoritatively choose Dec. 25th to celebrate the Anniversary of Christ's Birth. When did the tree enter the Celebration of the Mass of Mary & Christ? Very early in its conception. There are many writings mentioning that the new converts to Christianity & Catholicism abolish the practices that they had when they were pagans honoring the sun god and now that they we're honoring Christ, they don't need to do those pagan ritual's any more.
3. Why would pagans decorate a tree? They would decorate a tree to honor the sun god & vegetation gods during the winter solstice Dec. 21-22, for a prosperous new year to come.
4. What does the Bible say about these practices? In the King James version, the word GROVE replaced a Hebrew word call ASHERAH. Asherah is a tree or mask/pole of a tree or a graven image of a tree. You may find the word Asherah in an Unabridged Dictionary.

\*When in a Study reading a verse you must apply the best word to replace the word Grove/Groves. Because when putting in another word in place of Asherah you could use Tree, or Mask/Pole of a Tree, or Graven Image of a Tree

5. Some Key words to study: Worship, Serve, Observed Times, Host of Heaven, Heavens, Adorn, Adore, Tammuz, Nimrod, Grove, & Asherah.

6. Word Study Using King James Bible: Grove is mentioned 17 times = 16 replaced Asherah, 1 replaced Tamarisk tree; Groves is mentioned 24 replaced Asherahs

Note: Exd. 34:13, Deut. 7:5, Deut. 12:1-4, Deut. 12:29-32, Deut. 16:21-22, I Kings 14:23, I Kings 16:33, Exodus 34:13, Deuteronomy 17:3, II Kings 21:2-7, Jeremiah 10:1-5, Deut. 16:21, II Kings 23:4-5, 6-7, & Deut. 12:1-4, Note: illegitimate son of Nimrod the pagan sun god Tammuz .... "women weeping for Tammuz." (Ezekiel 16:13-14)

7. A Study on; Adoring & Adorning: Worshipped & Served: The 2 Commandment

8. Sentimental, Memories, Traditions, Customs, & Who are you erecting a tree for?

The story of the pig farmer.

9. Statements: We are not worshipping the tree; It's not an Idol for me; We are not thinking of those rituals like the pagans did to please the sun god; Its an innocent decoration; Why do people put a tree up and decorate? Are you honoring Jesus with it? Are you honoring the season/season's? Matthew 10:37-40 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...; Are you doing for your children? Are you doing for your wife or husband? Are you doing it because

everyone of our friends are doing it? Who are you doing this ritual/practice/ for? Who's custom/tradition is this?

10. Note: \*Shadrach-Meshac-Abednego, if they would have bowed down even if they did not believe in King Nebuchadnezzar Idol/Statue, would they have been guilty of breaking the 2nd Commandment? \* The Mark of the Beast, if we choose to take the Mark of the Beast, so we can buy and sell, even if we don't believe that Beast's chosen day of rest (Sunday) is not a True Holy Day, are we guilty of worshipping the Beast? Revelation 14:9-11.....If any man worship the beast and his image and receive his mark in his forehead or in his hand. The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God. \*The story of Uzzah II Samuel 6:6-7: \*The story of Gideon and the ephod, Judges 8:27: \* The story of Adam & Eve, Genesis 3:1-24

11. The men in the Bible Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Jeremiah, Ezekeil, & King Josiah .... They preached against these types of practices.

12. Tree in the Church to hang offerings on? II Kings 23:6, II Kings 21:2-9 Now to allow a most certain peril for an uncertain profit and the greatest danger for the smallest benefit in matters of faith and religion is a tempting of GOD and a Grievous offense. Christmas tree in a Church will be a Stumbling-block for many. Shall a grove made in the memory of Christ be set up in a place of religion be offensive? Yes. Christmas trees, Asherahs, and groves have their beginning from the heathens. The invention of groves came of no good but of evil. By virtue of the 2nd Commandment,, groves were not lawful in the temple of the Israelites/Jews \*II Kings 23:5-7 then by the same commandment they are not lawful in the Churches of the Christians. For being a moral commandment and not a ceremonial, it is a perpetual commandment and bindeth us as well as the Jews. God's Words in the Scriptures in no place commends the use of groves or images and in a great number of places mentions in the Bible, that God did not allow and condemns this practice.

13. The Asherah, & fake Christmas trees and Grove's are of the same practice in a different era. Using Christ's name on this pagan tree ritual. People don't believe their worshipping the sun, moon, or some vegetation spirit, BUT they are doing the same practice as the pagans did. They are doing the motion-act of the pagan ritual and they don't realize what the Bible says in Revelation 17:2.....the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication: Revelation 18:3 ....all nations have drunk of the wine of her fornication .....and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies (DRUNK WITH THE WINE OF BABYLON = OVER-COMED WITH THE GLAMOR / DELICACIES OF APOSTASY).....COME OUT OF HER MY PEOPLE THAT YE BE NOT PARTAKERS OF HER SINS. Don't let any writings or persons mislead you/us from doing what is Right. 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 Christ.

14. Colossians 2:8...through philosophy...traditions; I John 2: 15-17 Love not the world.....Lust of the eyes...; II Timothy 4:2-5 ....And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables...; II Thessalonians 2:1-17.....And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion that they should believe a lie, That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but have pleasure in unrighteousness....; Proverbs 3:3-7....Let not mercy and truth forsake thee....trust in the Lord with ALL THINE HEART and LEAN NOT UNTO THINE OWN UNDERSTANDING, IN ALL THY WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE SHALL DIRECT THY PATHS. Remember Jeremiah 10:1-5 ...Learn not the way of the heathen.....for the customs of the people are vain....; II Timothy 3:16-17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction for instruction in righteousness.....

15. Who do you Love 1st? This is God's Call for you today....By the Word of God we will stand.

\*Side Project: .... Have someone dress up as Jesus Christ and show up at His Christmas party. Do you have a gift for him? And a young lady would come up to Him and say, i don't have a gift for you, Jesus would say don't worry, just remember .....if you do it to the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me.... Thank you for being sincere young lady.....now i must go to another/next party....

Matthew 25:34-46....I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat, I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink....

There is so much more info.....Ask God for Guidance in your study.



## **Christmas tree Rituals**

Why are Christians Celebrating Christmas? To Celebrate Christ's Birth, which can be celebrated any day of the year. The Bible does not condemn nor does it commands it, even if the exact date of His Birth is unknown.

Why on Dec. 25th? The actual date of Christ Birth is unknown. Julius I Bishop of Rome from 337-352 AD authoritatively chose Dec. 25 as the Anniversary of Christ Birth, perhaps to unite the Christians and the Pagans, because on Dec. 25th the pagan god, Tammuz was also worshiped. "The Origin of Christmas" by Horace G. Franks p. 9 ; (Ezekiel 8:13-16.....abominations that they do.....women weeping for Tammuz.....men, with their backs toward the temple..... worshipped the sun...)

Why do some Christians erect a tree? They say its a tradition, they are just following..... Most Christians don't know what the Bible says about this practice.

### **Where did this practice come from?**

It was the customs of the heathens/pagans. Jeremiah 10:1-5

Why did the pagans put up a tree, and who was it for? The pagans used the tree, graven image of the tree, stump of the tree with or without carvings, and the mast, too honor the sun god and the seasons, for a prosperous new year to come. It was done on 25th on the Julian Calender, and on Dec. 21-22 which is shortest day of the year and the start of the days lengthening, considered the rebirth of the sun (Winter Solstice). "Christmas Customs & Traditions" their history and significance by Clement A.Miles p. 20-27, 177-180, 161-163,

Why the tree? It was used as a symbol for vegetation rights for a bountiful new year to come, and was used to please/honor the pagan gods. Also in some pagan cultures they worship the tree. In some pagan cultures they even hung the guts of their sacrificial victims on the tree. "The Golden Bough" a study in Magic and Religion p.127-128

Is it for the season? II Kings 21:2-7.....worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them....observed times.....much wickedness in the sight of the Lord...; II Kings 23:3-7 ....vessels that was made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven....sun, moon, planets,....; II Chronicles 33:2-6 ...and made groves and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them... Note: that worshipped and served them, applies as two different action meanings <honored and provided for them>

### **What does God say about this practice? "Authorized King James Version Bible"**

The Bible mentions the word grove and groves many times in the Bible. Grove replaced the Hebrew word "Asherah". Asherah/grove is a tree, sometimes a tree stump or tree with or without carvings, and sometimes just a mast of the tree...

There are 24 Bible verses that mention groves/Asherahs "plural"

There are 16 Bible verses that mention grove / Asherah "singular"

Here are some texts from the Bible;

II Kings 17:15-17 ...and made a grove, and worshipped the host of heaven...

Deuteronomy 12:1-4 and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire.....ye shall not do so unto the Lord your God

II Kings 23:2-6 and made groves, and worshipped all the host of heaven and served them...

II Kings 23:7 Where the women wove hangings for the grove

(here the women were making decorations for the grove)

"It is Recorded they put groves in the house of the Lord"

II Kings 23:6 And he brought out the grove from the house of the Lord.....and burned it...

Deuteronomy 12:30-32 ....how did these nations serve their gods?.....Thou shalt not do so unto the Lord thy God

II Chronicles 24:18 ...served groves and idols...

**Jeremiah 10:2-5**, 2..Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven: for the heathen are dismayed at them. 3..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 ax. 4..They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. 5..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.

Deuteronomy 16:21-22 Thou shalt not plant thee a grove of any trees near unto the altar of the Lord thy God, which thou shalt make thee; Neither shalt thou set thee up any image; which the Lord thy God hateth.

The practice of decorating a tree to honor someone or the season is a practice that came from the pagans, and is recorded in the Bible.

We ask ourselves what is the tree for? Who is it for? Why do Christians do it?

Who are they Honoring? Is it for Yahweh, Yeshua, Jesus Christ?

It is for the season? II Kings 21:2-7 ...worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them...observed times.....much wickedness in the sight of the Lord...

**Who's birthday party is it? How come Christians don't erect a tree on their birthdays?**

Who are we honoring on Dec. 25th?

There is more ....so much more .... the Bible reports it.

Celebrating Christ Birth is not to be mingled with pagan rituals that the Lord Specifically says not to do.

So decorating a tree to Honor Christ Birth is a no no, according to the Word of God, found in the Bible.

Deuteronomy 12:1- 4 ...ye shall not do so unto the Lord thy God...

Deuteronomy 12:29-32 ...how did these nations serve their god? ...thou shalt not do so unto the Lord thy God.

**Jeremiah 10:1-5** ...Learn not the way of the heathen...for the customs of the people are vain...

Deuteronomy 16:21-22 ..shalt not plant thee a grove of any tree near unto the altar of the Lord....

**Remember Who you Love 1st !**

Jesus said in Matthew 10:37- 40 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...

Remember what and who the occasion is for...

**What & Who is the tree for on Christmas...?**

Your Children, Your Spouse, The Season, For God, Everyone else is doing it, For the Spirit, what spirit ?

Christians are not erecting a tree too worship the sun, moon, or some vegetation spirit, but they are doing the same practice to Honor Christ as the pagans did to honor their gods. They don't realize what the Bible says...

Jesus said ....wide is the gate and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction.....because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Matt. 7:13-14

I John 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world...lust of the eyes...he that doeth the will of the God abideth forever.

Proverbs 3:3-7 Let not Mercy and Truth forsake thee.....Trust in the Lord with ALL THINE HEART & LEAN NOT UNTO THINE OWN UNDERSTANDING, IN ALL THY WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, & HE SHALL DIRECT THY PATHS.

**Colossians 2:8** Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

**II Timothy 4:2-5** Preach the Word; Be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine; 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. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of the ministry.

Jesus said; ...Word of God ....sharper than a two edge sword, piercing .....soul and spirit... and intent of the hearts. Hebrews 4:12

**Luke 12:51** Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:

Please Read All Bible Chapters that surround these verses

Remember what and who this occasion is for!

This is the Will of the Lord, To Love Him with All thy Heart, Soul, and Mind ! Mark 12:30