

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

- I. Preliminary considerations.
 - A. Is Christmas a legitimate celebration of the birth of Christ??
 - B. Is it ordained by God??
 - C. If not, what is its origin??
 - D. If God established it, where is the month and day recorded in scripture??
 - E. If there is no date established by scripture, where did the date of December 25 originate??
 - F. What does the word "Christmas" mean??
 - G. What is the meaning of the ritual associated with the celebration of Christmas which includes:
 - 1. The yule log.
 - 2. The Christmas tree.
 - 3. The mistletoe.

- II. The birth of Christ.
 - A. The date of the birth of Christ is not fixed precisely by the WOG.
 - B. Every feast or celebration which God instituted for His people is fixed with extreme accuracy. Ex. 12:3,15; Lev. 23
 - C. There are those who consider it impossible for the birth of Christ to have occurred in winter, but their objections can be answered.
 - 1. Lightfoot, Hislop, Mede and others state that it could not have been during the winter, based on such scriptures as Luke 2:8 and Matt. 24:20.
 - 2. The accepted chronology which we use fixes the date in Dec. 5BC or Jan. 4BC..
 - 3. Still, in no way is anything fixed as to the exact month, much less the exact day.
 - 4. As a matter of fact the year is still debatable.
 - D. Mark and John do not deal with His birth at all; Matthew and Luke do in Matt. 1:18-25 and Lk. 2:1-14.
 - E. Neither account fixes anything that can be called a definitive date.
 - F. Since there is nothing in the gospel accounts or the epistles concerning the date of the birth of Christ, and since there is no mention of a command to celebrate it, we conclude that this celebration is not the command of God, but the tradition of men.
 - G. A tradition, which did not come into existence until the end of the third century AD. There is no record of the early churches celebrating Christmas.

- III. The origin of the tradition.
 - A. In order to understand this tradition one must have some understanding of the Mother/Son cult of Babylon.
 - B. This religious counterfeit of the truth was originated during the time of Nimrod, his wife Semiramis, and their son. Gen. 10:8-10, 11:1-4
 - C. Nimrod was an apostate who masterminded the tower of Babel and led men in revolt against the Most High.

- D. His system had two main divisions, the political and the religious.
 - E. This apostasy has existed in various forms throughout history and the final forms are seen in Revelation 17 and 18.
 - F. Having seen the political form and its modern day counterpart, we will examine the religious form. (See USA in Prophecy)
- IV. The events which brought religious Babylon into existence.
- A. Nimrod was an apostate who wielded great authority and power in the post-diluvian civilization.
 - B. His wife Semiramis occupied an exalted position due to her husband.
 - C. Scripture is silent on the death of Nimrod, but a careful examination of the cultures which have the Mother/Son cult is quite enlightening.
 - D. All consistently state that the ringleader met a violent death and was cut in pieces and/or burned with fire.
 - E. Thus the cosmic system went into shock at the death of their most wonderful benefactor.
 - F. This originated the practice of weeping for the dead, which is a common practice of the Mother/Son cult in every land.
 - G. At the death of Nimrod, Semiramis realized that she would lose her position and authority, so she forged a plan to keep her place in the scheme of things.
 - H. The plan was simply this: that Nimrod had willingly died for mankind, crushed the head of the serpent, and came back from the dead in the form of her son.
 - I. The consistent representation of this in every culture is a woman holding in her arms a baby, who is recognized to be the equal of his father.
 - J. If the child was to be adored, much more the mother, without whom the work of redemption could not be accomplished.
 - K. To justify this worship the mother was elevated to the status of Deity, and given the title Alma Mater, The Virgin Mother.
 - L. She was finally given the highest title, The Queen of Heaven.
 - M. She is known under such names as Rhea, Venus, Diana, Hera, Athena, Aphrodite, Isis, and others.
 - N. Her husband/son is known as Nimrod, Tammuz, Tahmurs, Kronos, Ninus, Baal, Bacchus, Iacchus, Kisson, Phoronesus, Osiris, Dionysius, and others.
- V. The rituals associated with religious Babylon and their significance.
- A. The word Yule is the Chaldean word for an infant or little child.
 - B. The mother/son cult in Egypt and other places celebrated the birth of the son of the Queen of Heaven at the time of the winter solstice.
 - C. Part of this celebration consisted of the bringing in of the yule log with great pomp and using it as the foundation for the fire.
 - D. The following morning the palm or fir tree was set up and decorated.
 - E. The day was celebrated with a great feast, which originally consisted of a boar's head or goose.
 - F. The festival was continued with a great deal of merry making and giving of gifts.

- G. The date for these activities was set at Dec. 21, the time of the winter solstice, and Dec. 24, for the burning of the log.
- H. The yule log symbolizes Nimrod, cut down in the height of his power, cut into pieces and burned.
- I. The Christmas tree represents the reincarnated Nimrod, back from the dead, never to die again. That is the reason for the popularity of the evergreen.
- J. The period of weeping for Tammuz, symbolizes the grief of the cosmos for their dead benefactor.
- K. The following of that period of weeping by the period of merrymaking and giving of gifts symbolizes the joy at his return from the dead.
- L. The dates are chosen to portray the death of Nimrod (Solstice= to stand still) and his rebirth as the seed of the woman.
- M. The mistletoe was a representation of the pagan messiah in his character as "the man, the branch"

VI. These activities were observed long before the CA and are referred to in the OT.

- A. At the time of the writing of Jere. 44, the Jews had been involved in the worship of the queen of Heaven. c. 6th cent. BC. Jere. 44:15-17
- B. Part of this idolatrous worship consisted of the burning of logs and the decorating of trees, and the making of cakes for the queen of heaven. Jere. 7:17-18, 10:1-9
- C. God made no secret of the fact that this activity did not glorify Him, but brought His wrath on the practitioners. Jere. 7:17-20, 10:17-22, 44:20-30
- D. The cult of the mother/son originated during the time of Nimrod, and at the dispersion spread into every nation, obviously under different names, but advocating the same evil.
- E. In Canaan the cult operated under the names of Ashtaroth and Baal. Judges 2:13; ISam. 7:3, 12:10 c.1350 BC
- F. Even as late as Ezekiel, Israel was heavily engaged in the worship of the sun god, and weeping for Tammuz. Ezk. 8:14-18
- G. While the mother/son cult has been active throughout history, it is easily documented that these celebrations did not enter the Church until the third century AD, and did not gain wide acceptance until during the fourth century AD.

VII. Concluding observations and applications.

- A. Christmas has a history which predates the birth of Christ by hundreds if not more than a thousand years.
- B. It's roots lie in the Babylonian mystery cult and has been practiced in all the cultures with have the mother/son history.
- C. The Roman Catholic Church, which is the final form of the mother/son cult, instituted the observance of Christ's Mass, as is evident in the very name.
- D. As positive believers in the CA we should be informed and have an understanding of this, or any other activity in which we might engage.
- E. The adjusted believer recognizes that there are no special or "holy days" in our dispensation. Gal. 4:8-10; Col. 2:16
- F. However, as positive believers we are not to judge one another in regard to the celebration of certain days. Rom. 14:4-6

- G. Neither are we to despise or be contemptuous of believers who may not have a complete understanding of certain principles. Rom. 14:1-3,10
- H. We should certainly not emulate the cosmos in their celebration of Christmas, which includes:
 - 1. Lying concerning Santa Claus
 - 2. Unbridled pursuit of the details
 - 3. Unrestrained partying and merrymaking
 - 4. Phoniness and hypocrisy
 - 5. Inordinate spending and the incurring of debt
 - 6. Gluttony
 - 7. Human good activities
 - 8. Guilt
- I. Like anything else in the CWL Christmas should be approached with doctrine and prayer.
- J. As to the ritual of Christmas, what you do is your business, and the leadership of this church will not tolerate legalism, or spiritual bullying. Rom 14:10-14
- K. At this LC we recognize that Christmas is not a God-ordained command, so we will do nothing in terms of special services, etc., but will continue to glorify God by pursuing His Word.