

of Jesus Christ to abolish all human governments and establish His Kingdom on the earth!

Day of Atonement - *OT Meaning* - A day of fasting and repentance. The only Holy Day where a fast is commanded. Observed with a full 24-hour fast (without food and water) Leviticus 23:26-32. *NT Meaning* - Represents the binding of Satan for 1,000 years, which will occur at the beginning of the Millennial reign of Christ with His true saints. The world will become at one (hence the word at-one-ment) with God.

Feast of Tabernacles (*Feast of Ingathering*) - *OT Meaning* - A celebration of the great autumn harvest. Observed by living in booths or temporary dwellings for seven days Leviticus 23:33-44. *NT Meaning* - Represents the Millennial reign of Christ with His true saints, who will assist Him in ruling the earth.

Last Great Day (*eighth day*) - *OT Meaning* - Observed right after the seven-day Feast of Tabernacles. Regarded as a separate feast Leviticus 23:36,39. *NT Meaning* - Pictures the coming "Great White Throne Judgment." Those who have not previously been called, and have died throughout the ages, not knowing the true God, will be given a chance to hear and accept the true Gospel, and have an opportunity to choose salvation.

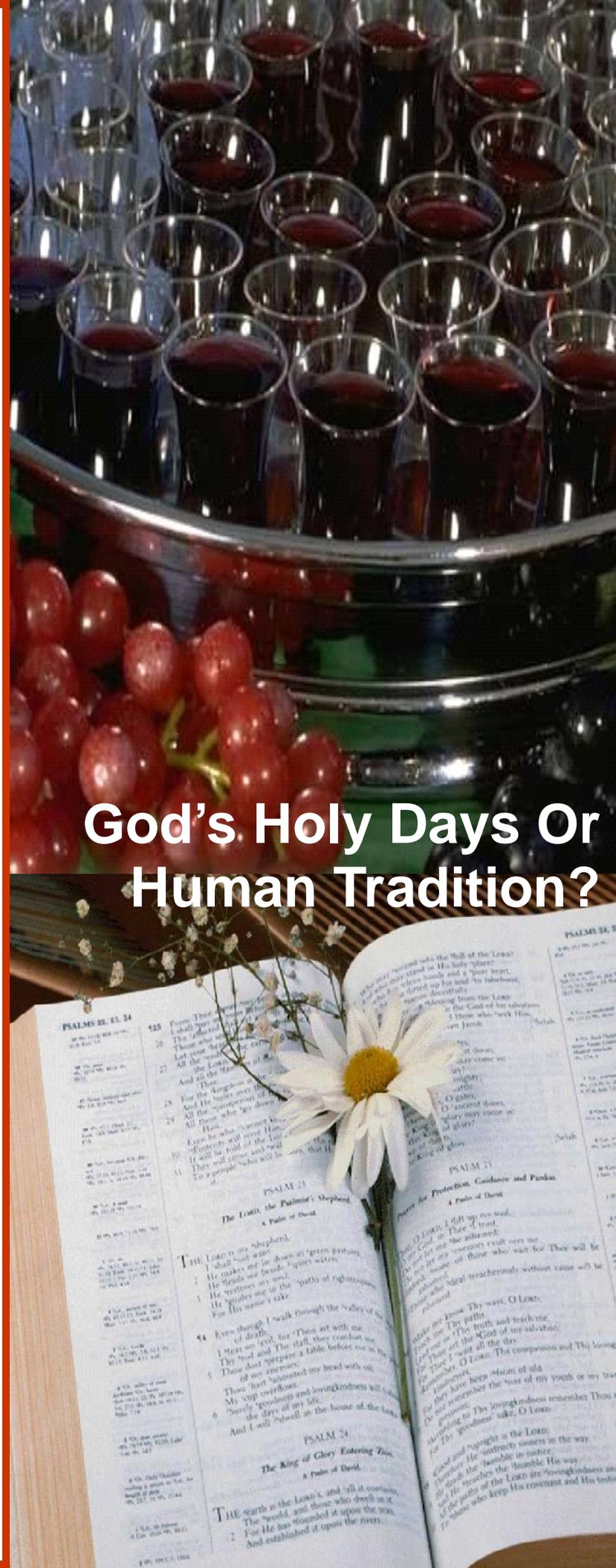
Note: You may have grown old in the Church of your choice, or the Church that you were brought up in, and have been taught false doctrines that you accepted, without realizing that they are not even found in the pages of your Bible. Do not be deceived! Scripture admonishes us to prove all things. Hold fast to the good. Avoid every kind of evil 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22. We must study the scriptures diligently. Examine the scriptures daily. Always base our convictions on the truth of God's word. Not human traditions, inventions, opinions, feelings or ideas Acts 17:11. You must never take for granted what any priest, pastor or minister says, without checking for yourself first in the Bible, which is the inspired word of God 2 Timothy 3:16-17. The scriptures are profitable for reproof and correction. God's word is truth! Will you now begin to celebrate God's appointed Holy Days?

Scriptural References:

Exodus 12
Exodus 13
Exodus 23:14-19
Exodus 34:18,25
Numbers 9:1-14
Numbers 28:16-31
Deuteronomy 12:29-32
Deuteronomy 16
2 Chronicles 30
2 Chronicles 35:1-19
Ezra 6:19-22
Jeremiah 44
Ezekiel 45:13-25
Matthew 26:2,17-19
Mark 14:1,12-16
Luke 2:41
Luke 22:1-23
John 2:13,23
John 4:45
John 6:4
John 7:1-24
John 11:55
John 12:1
John 13:1
John 18:28,38-39
John 19:14
John 21:20
Acts 20:6,16
1 Corinthians 11:17-34
1 Corinthians 16:8
Hebrews 11:28

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God's Holy Days Or Human Tradition?

Have you ever wondered what Santa Claus, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Christmas trees and decorations, Easter rabbits and colored eggs have to do with Christianity? What does the Bible mention about human traditions such as Christmas and Easter? Where do these holidays originate? Does God want us to celebrate them? Do they promote idolatry and covetousness, or the love and worship of the True God?

Human traditions such as Christmas and Easter were not celebrated by Jesus Christ, the Apostle Paul and the early New Testament Church. Instead, they observed God's appointed Holy Days. God commands us to worship Him in Spirit and in truth [John 4:24](#). Christ rebuked the Pharisees who put aside God's Laws and biblical truth; and upheld their own human, man-made rules and traditions [Matthew 15:7-9](#); [Mark 7:6-9](#). God condemns those who draw near to Him only with their mouths, and honor Him with their lips; but their hearts are far from Him. This is called hypocritical, vain worship. God has never authorized the observance of highly-commercialized, pagan human traditions with their rituals and customs. You may be shocked to discover the origins of both Christmas and Easter!

What are the origins of Easter? Only the KJV translation mentions 'Easter' once in the New Testament, in [Acts 12:4](#). According to the 'Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words,' this is a mistranslation for the word 'Passover.' Furthermore it states that: "Easter is not of Christian origin. It is another form of Astarte, one of the titles of the Chaldean goddess, the queen of heaven. The festival of Pasch held by Christians in post-apostolic times was a continuation of the Jewish feast, but was not instituted by Christ, nor was it connected with Lent. From this Pasch the pagan festival of 'Easter' was quite distinct and was introduced into the apostate Western religion, as part of the attempt to adapt pagan festivals to Christianity." According to [1 Kings 11:5](#), Astarte/Ashtoreth is referred to as "the goddess of the Sidonians," and [2 Kings 23:13](#), as "the vile goddess of the Sidonians."

The word "Easter" comes from the name of the Babylonian and Assyrian goddess of fertility, sex and war. Her cult involved ritual prostitution, and she was worshipped mainly at the Assyrian cities of Nineveh, Ashur and Arbela. God condemns the worship of false gods and goddesses, such as the "Queen of Heaven." This is idolatry, which is a breaking of the first two commandments [Exodus 20:3-6](#), and provokes God to anger [Jeremiah 7:16-20](#); [44:17-25](#). God commands us to flee paganism [1 Corinthians 10:14-22](#). Pagan traditions promote the love of pleasure, rather than the love of God. They promote covetousness (excessive desire for wealth or possessions, or to eagerly desire what belongs to someone else), which is a breaking of the tenth commandment, and separates one from God [Exodus 20:17](#).

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica: "the English word 'Easter' is of uncertain origin. One view was that it derived from Eostre, or Eostrae, the Anglo-Saxon 'goddess' of spring and fertility."

The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia mentions: "the English word 'Easter' comes from the Anglo-Saxon Eastre or Estera, a Teutonic 'goddess' to whom sacrifice was offered in April, so the name was transferred to the paschal feast." Furthermore it states: "the Jewish Christians in the early church continued to celebrate the Passover, regarding Christ as the true paschal lamb, and this naturally passed over into a commemoration of the death and resurrection of our Lord, or an Easter feast."

The Catholic Encyclopedia states: "the custom may have its origin in paganism, for a great many pagan customs, celebrating the return of spring, gravitated to Easter. The egg is the emblem of the germinating life of early spring." Furthermore it states that, "the rabbit is a pagan symbol and has always been an emblem of fertility." Easter contains originally pagan elements. Among these are customs connected with Easter hares, rabbits and colored eggs. The inclusion of hares into Easter customs may have originated in Germany.

What are the origins of Christmas? The word 'Christmas' is not mentioned anywhere in the Bible. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica: "the English term Christmas ('mass on Christ's day') is of fairly recent origin. The earlier term Yule may have derived from the Germanic *j* or the Anglo-Saxon *ge* *l*, which referred to the feast of the winter solstice. The corresponding terms in other languages—Navidad in Spanish, Natale in Italian, Noël in French—all probably denote nativity. The German word Weihnachten denotes "hallowed night." Since the early 20th century, Christmas has also been a secular family holiday, observed by Christians and non-Christians alike, devoid of Christian elements, and marked by an increasingly elaborate exchange of gifts." The Christmas tree is a pagan tradition and ritual surrounding the winter solstice. It included the use of evergreen boughs, and an alteration of pagan tree worship. The Wikipedia Encyclopedia states: "Numerous parallels have been drawn between Santa Claus and the figure of Odin, a major god amongst the Germanic peoples prior to their Christianization. Since many of these elements are unrelated to Christianity, there are theories regarding the pagan origins of various customs of the holiday stemming from areas where the Germanic peoples were Christianized and retained elements of their indigenous traditions, surviving in various forms into modern depictions of Santa Claus."

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, which is the ninth reindeer with a red and shiny nose, is a fictional character which was invented in 1939 by Robert L. May, and has nothing to do with Jesus Christ and the true Gospel.

Was Jesus born on December 25th? Why do many professing Christians celebrate Christ's birth on December 25th, when the Bible nowhere mentions Christ's birth date? It was not recorded by the early Christians. They did not celebrate the birth of Christ, because they considered that it was a pagan custom to celebrate anyone's birth. In fact, there are many scriptures which indicate that Christ could not have been born on this day. [Luke 2:8](#) mentions: "And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night." The shepherds were not out in the field in the cold, rainy weather. They would have sought shelter for their flocks. Most reputable Bible commentaries clearly admit this truth. The flocks pastured in the fields from about Passover time in April until October. During this period of time, the shepherds lodged there. Christ's birth most likely occurred in autumn, and in late September, which is close to the time of an important Biblical Feast called the 'Feast of Trumpets,' or early October, which is the 'Feast of Tabernacles.'

The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia states: "there is no certainty as to the month or day of the birth. The Christmas date, December 25, is first met with in the West in the 4th century (the eastern date was January 6), and was then possibly borrowed from a pagan festival. December, in the winter season, seems unlikely, as unsuitable for the pasturing of flocks (Luke 2:8), though this objection is perhaps not decisive (Andrews, Conder). A more probable date is a couple of months earlier."

Did the Magi visit baby Jesus? In [Matthew 2:1-2](#), describes the Magi arriving at Jerusalem to search for and worship the King of the Jews. In [verse 11](#), when the Magi found Jesus, they worshiped Him and presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. These gifts were not "birthday presents." They came to "worship" the child and offer tribute to the King of the Jews! Notice that when the Magi visited Jesus, He was not a baby in a manger. They came to the house where the child Jesus was with His mother Mary. The KJV Study Bible mentions on pg. 1354: "Contrary to tradition, the wise men did not visit Jesus at the manger on the night of His birth as did the shepherds. They came some months later and visited Him as a "child" in His "house." Also, there were not three wise men, as many professing Christians believe. The KJV study Bible mentions on pg. 1356: "The three gifts perhaps gave rise to the legend that there were three wise men. But the Bible does not indicate the number of the magi, and they were almost certainly not kings." Therefore the nativity scene depicting three wise men is incorrect. Christmas distorts the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

According to [Leviticus 23](#), God has appointed seven annual Feasts or Holy Days: Passover; Days of Unleavened Bread; Pentecost; Feast of Trumpets; Day of Atonement; Feast of Tabernacles; and Last Great Day! These are not only Jewish Feasts. They are for all Christians to celebrate, as they picture the destiny that God has planned for humanity. God's Festivals have meaning and significance, and as we celebrate them, we will learn and understand God's plan of salvation and purpose for humanity. For example, at Passover we commemorate Christ's sacrifice as we partake of unleavened bread which symbolizes Christ's broken body, and the wine which symbolizes Christ's blood shed for the forgiveness of sins. [Read tract: 'Precious Blood of Jesus - Wonder Working Power!' In Matthew 26:18-19; Mark 14:12; Luke 2:41-43](#), Jesus Christ kept the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Passover - Old Testament Meaning - A lamb was sacrificed, and some of its blood was put on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the Israelite's houses in Egypt. On that same night, God passed through Egypt, and struck down every Egyptian firstborn [Exodus 12:1-30](#); [Leviticus 23:5](#). New Testament Meaning - Jesus Christ was the perfect sacrifice and His precious blood was shed for the cleansing, forgiveness of and redemption from sin [Colossians 1:19-20](#); [1 Corinthians 5:7](#).

Days of Unleavened Bread - OT Meaning - Seven-day Festival in which unleavened bread (bread made without yeast) is eaten, and leaven is eliminated from the home [Leviticus 23:6-14](#). NT Meaning - Pictures submitting and surrendering our lives to Christ, and the removal of leaven which represents sin [1 Corinthians 5:8](#). Paul instructed the early Church to observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread [1 Corinthians 5:7-8](#).

Pentecost (Feast of Weeks or Feast of Firstfruits) - OT Meaning - A one-day celebration of in-gathering of the first and smaller of the two annual harvests [Leviticus 23:15-22](#). Seven weeks plus one day counted (or 50 days) from a fixed point in previous feast, to determine when to celebrate Pentecost. NT Meaning - At this stage in God's plan, God grants His Holy Spirit to a chosen few, the firstfruits of His spiritual harvest, called the 'firstfruits of His salvation.' The New Testament Church began on the Day of Pentecost [Acts 2:1-4](#).

Feast of Trumpets - OT Meaning - Rejoicing and celebration with loud trumpet blasts [Leviticus 23:23-25](#). In the Bible, the trumpet signifies an alarm of war, a call to assemble, or a command to march [Numbers 10:1-10](#). NT Meaning - Represents war and the pouring out of God's plagues, culminating in the return