

# CHRISTMAS IN AMERICA

## A "Strange" History

Although few 20th-Century American Christians seem to see any significance in it, it is true the Christian founders of America not only did NOT celebrate the December 25th "Holiday," but attempted to prevent its observance by others in the Colonies.

Below are two newspaper clippings which verify the Christian Colonists' action; articles which should make every modern Christian want to know WHY Early American Christians did NOT celebrate "Christmas!"

—ARIZONA CURRENTS—

December, 1968 — Page Five

### ***It's a Fact!***

Christmas was not established as a legal holiday throughout the U.S. until late in the 19th century.

In 1659 the Puritan colony in Massachusetts passed a law that anyone "found observing any such day as Christmas or the like, either by forbearing labor, feasting or in any other way, shall be fined five shillings."

Many early Americans who refused to work on Christmas either went to jail or paid fines.

### **Christmas Was Banned**

BOSTON (AP) — Christmas was once banned in Boston.

The Puritans forbade the celebration of Christmas because it was a "pagan feast."

Episcopalians were the first in Boston to observe the holiday. They were followed by increasing numbers of young people who raised 18th century eyebrows with "frolics, a reveling feast and ball."

But it wasn't until 1856 that the legislature — recognizing a losing battle when it saw it—gave in and made Christmas a legal holiday.

*The Phoenix Gazette*

DECEMBER 22, 1967

Please read all of this small book. The next few pages illustrate "modern" Christmas; the rest of the book examines the "ancient" festival. You may be somewhat shocked, but we pray this booklet will help you understand what is happening to our beloved America.



# A FREE CHRISTMAS GIFT

... From Your Free Checking Bank!

We have a beautiful, Swiss-made wrist watch for you ... FREE!  
 It's packaged in an elegant jewelry case, perfect for Christmas giving. A magnificent gift for yourself or a loved one.  
 This is the new digital design.

tells you the exact time, just at a glance. More or less open or renew a \$50 Passbook or Time Certificate of one year. That's worth doing, especially the watch, because you earn 5% one year ... 5 1/2% for two, compo

**Holiday Party Scheduled**

Members of the Western Saddle Club are planning what they call "An Old-Fashioned Holiday Party" begin...

**Holiday Special**  
 COUPON  
**2 FOR 1**  
**CHRISTMAS SPECIALS**

**SLEIGH-FULLS** of **SALE**  
**SALE STARTS NOON SUNDAY**

**PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE!**

**GIFT IDEAS**

**CONSUMER CLIP**  
 PRICES GOOD THROUGH DEC. 5, 1971

# Santa time

**NEW STORE HOURS SUNDAY 12 to 5**

**CANADIAN LORD GALVERT BLEND**  
 Imported blend & aged  
 FIFTH - 80 PROOF  
 Reg. \$5.99  
**4.99**

**BOURBON**  
 World's only  
 4 Year - \$6  
 Buy the b

# The world's most popular Christmas Club



\$6.99  
4/5 Qt.

Luxuriously  
gift-wrapped  
at no extra cost



Now He'll Have  
To Buy A New  
Christmas Tree

BOSTON (AP) — Twelve years ago Joseph Mucci planted a seedling in his backyard and nurtured it until it was a 7½-foot blue spruce — his own personal Christmas tree.

Yesterday, while reading his newspaper, "I glanced out the dining room window and I knew something was wrong," the 73-year-old retired construction worker said.

"I called to my wife to come look, and then it hit me that my tree was gone... the best tree I ever had."

The vandals left Mucci with only a five-inch stump.

## Poachers are rifling tree farms

United Press International

SEATTLE, Wash. — With prime noble fir fetching as much as \$1 a foot, Christmas tree rustlers are plaguing U.S. Forest Service plantations and private tree farms to the point where the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been called to catch the poachers.

More than 500 trees have been stolen from the White River District of the Snoqualmie National Forest within the last two weeks, and other fir forests in the Pacific northwest have been hit almost as hard.

Supervisor Don R. Campbell of Snoqualmie National Forest said yesterday rangers and guards had been patrolling reforestation areas but have had little success because of the vast area involved.

Consequently, he called the FBI Agents.

CHRISTMAS CRYSTAL SPECIALS  
Crystal light fix-



Dear Santa,  
All I want for Christmas  
is a Mason-Built Home  
— any style you select  
will be fine and give  
me and my folks many  
Happy New Years and  
the Merriest  
Christmas we've  
ever known.  
Thank you,  
Santa, and  
in 1973 please bring  
my Christmas presents  
in SUPERSTITION VILLAGE  
Mesa, North on Skyway  
University Drive



If You Like It ...  
Charge It!



## Mesa's Tree-Lighting Ceremony at 7 Tonight

By OPAL JOHNSON  
Children and adults of the community will gather for the sixth Christmas tree lighting ceremony on the grounds of the Mesa police station at 44 N. Macdonald at 7 o'clock tonight.

Maurice Bateman, director of the Mesa Parks and Recreation Department, who will preside over the festivities.

The 23-foot Aleppo Pine 1, grown for years on the...

## Tempe Club Out To Sell 7,000 Trees

TEMPE — The Tempe Kiwanis Club is conducting its annual Christmas tree sale at three lots in...

## Toys Wanted For Children

MALE — Toys are wanted on the Salt Lake Indian...

Miss Nelson said the committee also needs wrapping paper and ribbons, which will be used at the wrapping party held in the student center from noon to 4 p.m. today.

## WHO GETS THE WORSHIP ?



the lights flicked on at the Holiday Tree Lighting Festival and a big "Oooo" went up from crowd

To be annual festival

The Arizona Republic  
Sunday, Dec. 1, 1972

# Santa steals hearts at city tree lighting

By ATHIA HARDT

Dick Van Dyke charmed the thousands of persons who swarmed on the Phoenix Civic Center last night, but Santa Claus stole their hearts.

"Hurrah!" the crowd cried in unison as the red-and-white-hodecked gentleman with a long white beard climbed the podium.

"Merry Christmas!" he yelled back.

Police estimated the crowd—mostly mommies, daddies and little children—at 6,000 to 7,000.

People began arriving in late afternoon for the city's Holiday Tree Lighting Festival, which city officials say will become an annual event.

By 5:30 p.m., an hour before the holiday fun was to start, about 500 had arrived to welcome the Christmas Season to the Valley.

As the West High Chorus, East High Brass Heralds and Phoenix Boys' Choir presented Christmas-ese programs, the crowd gradually spilled into Central Avenue, blocked to traffic by Phoenix police.

Some of the children who left their parents to crowd closer to the activity said they came to watch Van Dyke, who recited "The Littlest Angel" while a tableau of the Christmas tale, complete with angels in gold halos, was performed atop the Phoenix Art Museum.

The TV and movie comedian's 11-year-old daughter, Carrie

Beth, joined him on a wooden bench decked with red ribbons and surrounded by elves.

Then Santa arrived in a motorized sleigh, bringing with him Mayor John Driggs and a belly-ful of "ho-ho-hos."

He gave the mayor a big hug and handed him a present—the button to turn on the lights of the city's \$1,000 live 25-foot California pine tree.

The crowd oohed and aahed and then moved on—at the request of Santa and the mayor—to refreshments, art displays and more fun in the library auditorium and courtyard. Children got oranges, nuts and candy, and there were red carnations for the moms.

There were a few mumbled criticisms from those who came on time and were pushed to the back about not being able to see Van Dyke and about being blinded by TV lights.

There were a few lost children—reunited with their parents after the ceremony—and more than a few stomped-on toes.

Some of the crowd thought the price tag for the long-needed pine was a little high.

"That's it!" Mrs. Eleanor Latta chuckled when asked what she thought of the tree. "I can't believe that's the one."

But the most serious mishap of the evening was on stage.

"Ouch—you've got my beard!" Santa cried.

And the mayor, who caught the beard as he grabbed the microphone, let go.

## IS THE CHRISTMAS "SPIRIT" CHRISTIAN?

Some credit the "goings-on" of Christmas to a nebulous "spirit" they call the "Christmas spirit," and many praise the workings of such a "spirit."

But, do the people suddenly change their beliefs? Do they suddenly all act like Christians and then cease to act as such after December 25th? But that isn't right either, is it? For most of their actions have nothing whatever to do with Christ!! In fact, the "Christmas spirit" seems to cause almost all to act in a manner that is totally out of line with the teachings of Jesus Christ. Stores raise many prices, often pushing cheap and flimsy merchandise for "gifts," men exchange bottles or cases of whiskey, employers give "Christmas parties" with free liquor often with tragic consequences in auto accidents, or with illicit sex liaisons. Tens of thousands of families, caught up in the "Christmas spirit," overspend, and lay an additional burden of debt upon themselves for months afterward.

In addition, untold millions of little children are deceived about the existence of a little creature called "Santa Claus." Parents, who under most circumstances would severely punish their children for telling lies, blithely lie to these same children, and do it with a smile on their faces and joy in their hearts!

Are those things "Christian?" Of course not. Then what is this festival which is called "Christmas?"

The answer, which should be suspected by Christians as they watch the world "celebrate," is that this festival called "Christmas" is NOT a Christian holiday at all, but is exactly that which it appears to be, a pagan debauchery whose origins are not, and can not be, in the Holy One of Israel, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus, in the sermon on the mount, taught that: *"a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit"* (Matt. 7:17-18).

## TRY (TEST) THE CHRISTMAS "SPIRIT"

We are told by John, *"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits [plural] whether they are of God"* (1 John 4:1).

This simply means that the Christian is NOT to believe everything that seems to have a "spirit" behind it to be originated by God. Jesus warned of deceptions that, *"if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect"* (Matt. 24:24).

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Peter told believers that there would be "*false teachers among you, who privily [secretly] shall bring in damnable heresies*" (2 Pet. 2:1). A heresy is a religious teaching that has the appearance of truth, but is, in fact, a lie. Is it possible that "Christmas" is a "heresy," something that masquerades as "Christian," but is not?

Perhaps we should take this festival "apart" and examine the "parts" and see what it really is.

## THE "DAY"

When the "day," December 25th, is examined, some rather strange things are discovered. First, (and this should certainly lead professing Christians to read on) Christians observed no such day as "the birthday of Jesus" during the lives of the Disciples, or those that followed immediately after them (see page 26). Neither did the Christian founders of the American colonies who were of those who had come out of "the great whore, the Roman church" (see page 1).

Second, no one has ever come forward with even one verse of Scripture admonishing believers to observe any such "celebration" of "the birthday of Christ," nor is there any. Although such Hebrew holy days as the Passover, the Sabbath, and the annual giving of the tithes are mentioned in both Old and New Scriptures, God has left NO INSTRUCTION about Jesus' "birthday."

Third, the description of Jesus' birth night tells of a time to be taxed, of shepherds in the field with their flocks at night, and the city of Bethlehem full of travelers ("*no room for them in the inn*" Luke 2:1-8). Tax time was harvest time throughout the Roman Empire, and tithing time was harvest time according to the Law of Moses (Exo. 23:14-19; Lev. 23:1-10; Deut. 16:16-17). Common sense and custom would have the Roman governor collect taxes at the time the people had money from the harvest; when they had been taught to pay their tithes under Moses' Law.

Midwinter, i.e., December 25th, simply does NOT fit the season described in the Holy Word.

Fourth, even a very brief search of history books of various nations and peoples, shows that almost all had a mid-winter "festival" embodying all the customs of the modern "Christmas," such as feasting, drunken revelry, sexual excess, burning a log, a tree, giving gifts, etc., and it was ALWAYS done in conjunction with THE

WORSHIP OF A PAGAN GOD!! (See page 26 for a news article demonstrating how EASY it is for ministers to find the truth of the pagan origin of December 25th).

Fifth, almost all Bible scholars who have made attempts to ascertain the actual birth day of Jesus, have admitted failure to find the "exact" date, but all have estimated it to be no earlier than September 20th nor later than November 6th on our present calendar. (I have several calendar calculations in my files). This, coupled with the available evidence that neither the first century Christians, nor those of early America, observed any "birthday of Jesus," leads one to contemplate in wonder, our sixth observation!

Which is—that in spite of all evidence AGAINST December 25th being at or even near the "birthday" of Jesus, and in spite of the total lack of Scriptural admonition to Christians to observe any day at all in commemoration of Jesus' birth, the Churches, almost without exception, APPROVE, AND PARTICIPATE IN, ALMOST ALL OF THE RITUALS BY WHICH NON-CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE "CHRISTMAS!"

#### WHY?

Perhaps we will find the answer by continuing our examination of the "parts" of the whole thing.

#### THE MOTHER AND CHILD

There is an almost universal use of pictures or statues of a mother and a small baby by those who celebrate "Christmas." Believer and unbeliever alike, send cards with such pictures and place "manger" displays on their front lawns or at their place of business. Some towns or other government bodies erect them on public property weeks before December 25th. Some who do this are professing Christians, but many never darken a church door, open a Bible, or repent of a sin. Could a "mother and child" be a non-Christian symbol?

Our contemporary world has the Roman Catholics with their veneration of the "woman," calling her "Mary, the mother of God," but worshipping her as a god, for they pray to her for intercession to her "god-child." In countries where Romanism holds total sway, all pretense of worshipping the "Father" is forgotten, and the whole ritual of worship is to the woman and her child (along with the worship of dead "saints" as gods) which is identical to the ancient system of Baal worship.

And speaking of Baal, a look at ancient, pagan religions gives us the origin of the "woman and child."

The Babylonians worshipped a woman-god, "Rhea," the goddess "mother," and ascribed to her son great powers. His name was "Tammuz," and in Ezekiel 8:13-14 God condemns women for professing to worship Jehovah, while in secret **ACTUALLY WORSHIPPING TAMMUZ!** The next verse condemns worship of the "sun," which was also a part of the Babylonian "abominations." This was an example of a religion which outwardly was the "true" religion, but secretly its adherents were "Baal worshippers."

The Greeks called the son "Bacchus," and he was the god of revelry and drunkenness. His "birthday," which was supposed to be at the winter solstice (mid-December on our calendar) was marked with parties and sexual orgies in honor of the birth of this "son of the mother-god."

In Egypt, the mother-god and child were worshipped as "Isis" and "Osiris" (or Horus). In India, where the ancient religion still holds sway, they are called "Isi" and "Iswara." In other parts of Asia they are known as "Cybele" and "Deoious." In each case the child is known as a "reincarnation" of his father, making these pagan "religions" counterfeits of the true religion of the God of the Bible.

Fig. 5.



From Babylon.\*



From India.†

The Mediterranean civilizations adopted these Asiatic abominations as "Fortuna" and "Jupiter" in Rome, and in Greece as either "Ceres," the great goddess-mother with a baby at her breast, or "Irene," the goddess of peace, with the baby "Plutus" in her arms.

That this worship of "mother and child" is both ancient AND Asiatic was verified when the first Jesuit (Catholic) missionaries entered China, Japan, and Tibet, for in each nation they found the same worship of a mother and child! She was "Shing Moo," or "the holy mother," and she was portrayed complete with a "light of glory" around her, exactly as the Romanists paint their "Madonna and Child!"



## “MADONNA AND CHILD”

The name “Madonna” should be explained, as it demonstrates the paganism of Roman Catholicism and also leads us back to a goddess mentioned in the Bible.

Babylonians called their father-god “Baal,” and his wife “Beltis,” or “the mother of gods,” but the Mediterranean Latin was “Mea Domina,” the feminine form of “mother ruler.” The modern Italian (Roman Catholic) name “Madonna” is but a corruption of “Mea Domina,” or “the mother ruler,” and it is she who is really worshipped by the Roman Catholic Priests.

She is also the “goddess” who caused Paul, Gaius, and Aristarchus so much trouble at Ephesus, as recorded in Acts 19. Her name there was “Diana” (as in Greece it was “Juno,” “Hera,” and “Athena,” varying from city to city), and the merchants who made money selling statues and objects for her veneration attempted to drive Paul from the city when they realized his teachings would destroy their “business,” just as the truth about “Christmas” and about the “Madonna and Child” would destroy the “business” of so many shoddy merchants today! If it had not been for the intervention of the town clerk, these “mother-god” worshippers might have killed Paul (read Acts 19:22-41).

As we have seen, the pagan religions’ main objects of worship were the “Mother and Child,” but the father-god was also worshipped, although kept mostly in the background—and that brings us to “Santa Claus.”

## SANTA CLAUS

Santa Claus is that jolly old fellow who appears once a year, and then only to do good by bringing toys and games to “good little children.” Is that ALL there is to “Santa?” No, my Christian friend, it is not.

Although you may not believe in “evolution,” Santa, as we know him today, is a product of evolution. Let us trace his origin from the ancient times.

In Egypt, where the mother and child were worshipped, the “father-god” was known as “Khons” or “Khonos.” The name means “hunter,” or “god of the chase,” and scholars have identified him as the “Nimrod” of Genesis 10, “*the mighty hunter*,” and the builder of “*Babel*” (or Babylon). (Pagan gods are always deified humans, but that is a story too long for this small book). He is represented in both Babylon

and Egypt as a half-man and half-bull, and also half-man and half-horse (the centaur of mythology), usually with wings, and he is called "Baal-abirin," or "the winged one." He is called "the omnipotent one," and also "the unknown one," giving him the unknowable qualities that left him in the background. He would be "THE UNKNOWN GOD" worshipped in Athens in Acts 17:23.

Over the centuries, his images evolved into more human form, usually clothed in a leopard skin, signifying his hunting prowess over the swiftest of animals. This spotted garment became a mark of kings and priests in Africa and Asia. The priests of "Bacchus" in Greece were clothed in leopard skins, later adopting the spotted skin of a young fawn, or dyeing their robes to look like a spotted skin.

The "spotted deer" seems to have been adopted as combining both the spots of the leopard and the bull (or calf) of idol worship. In Ninevah, the capitol of Assyria, statues of Nimrod (Baal) show him wearing a spotted deer skin, or in some cases, carrying a spotted deer, AND NOW WE ARE GETTING CLOSE TO "SANTA CLAUS!"



In the drawing of Nimrod, above left, the similarity to "Santa Claus" can be seen in the long, flowing, white beard, the ornate dress, the "reindeer," the fir tree (the "Christmas" tree!), and the wings, giving him power to "fly through the air!"

The drawing (above right) is of the Greek "Bacchus" and the similarity is certain. He does not carry the spotted deer but has a spotted robe, the tree of uncertain origin, and the "cup," the symbol of drunken revelry, so great a part of "Christmas."

## "SANTA CLAUS" IN THE BIBLE

The true God has not left believers without testimony of the actual identity of this false "god." He describes him, and lays on him three "names" by which we can know who, or what, he is. Below are reproduced three descriptive verses in Isaiah 14, but if you will also read verses 4 and 25 (not shown here), you will see he is called "*the king of Babylon*" and "*the Assyrian*." Since the "Nimrod" of Genesis 10 is the founder of BOTH Babylon and Assyria, these verses can only be speaking of Nimrod, alias "Baal." His third name is "*Lucifer*," as we see below:

### ISAIAH, 14

12 How art thou fallen from heaven,  
O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art  
thou cut down to the ground, which  
didst weaken the nations!

13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I  
will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my  
throne above the stars of God: I will sit  
also upon the mount of the congrega-  
tion, in the sides of the north:

14 I will ascend above the heights of  
the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Let us briefly analyze this "*Lucifer*," whose destruction is prophesied from verse 4 through verse 27.

Verse 12: His activities prior to his destruction weaken the nations, i.e. they are NOT good.

Verse 13: His desire is to be "*above*" all things, to have a "*throne*" even above God. Santa Claus in the department stores is often seated on a "*throne*," and little children are required to come "*up*" to him to solicit his good favor. He will be in the "*congregation*," i.e. in the "*church of God*," which he is, most churches bring in worship of "*Santa*" in some way.

Even the direction of his abode is given as being "*north*." Santa is supposed to reside at the "*north pole*," or the regions of the north!

Verse 14: We are told Santa comes to every home, flying through the air with his reindeer and sleigh. "Modern" promoters now often have him arrive at a shopping center by helicopter.

"*I will be like the most High*," should have an ominous ring to believers. It means he will usurp God's glory, God's praise, to ACTUALLY TAKE THE PLACE OF GOD!! This "Santa Claus" does in the hearts and minds of untold millions of little children every year as both evil and

foolish adults tell them of the good things "Santa," not God, will bring them as a "reward" at "Christmas!" For most of these children the true God, the Lord Jesus Christ, never becomes as real to them as "Santa Claus" was when they were children. "Santa" has become *'like the most High.'*

MY ANSWER: By Billy Graham

## TELL THE CHILDREN SANTA'S A MYTH

**QUESTION:** What should Sunday School teachers tell their pupils about Santa?—G.H.

**ANSWER:** Tell them the truth. Explain that Santa is a mythical character, that he symbolizes the merriment accompanying the yuletide season, that he has no connection whatsoever with the real meaning of Christmas, which is the celebration of the birth of Christ.

The name Santa Claus probably comes from Saint Nicholas, bishop of Myra, and patron saint of Russia, young people and sailors. His day is actually Dec. 6, but somehow through the years, Santa Claus slipped into Christmas. He has come to be more associated with folklore than with the birth of the Christ child—but, since it has become custom to portray him as the one who brings gifts on Christ-

mas, his intrusion into this Holy Day seems to have been inevitable. Little children must have difficulty separating the two, and this is unfortunate. I have talked to people who, as children, found out that Santa was a myth, and dismissed Christ as a myth too.

A Christian parent can follow one of two courses: Make room for Santa, but explain to your children that he is just a mythical symbol of good will, and that he doesn't really exist. Or, make Christmas the birthday of Christ, as it truly is, and let Santa Claus shift for himself. Explain to them that the giving of gifts is to celebrate the love of God, who loved the world so much that He sent His only begotten Son to redeem it. Such a practice would enhance the meaning of Christmas.

Billy Graham has apparently recognized HOW the deception of "Santa Claus" creates a negative spirit in the minds of little children, often preventing them from being able to believe in Christ. And that, after all, is the object of all of satan's deceptions.

If Billy had the courage of his convictions, he'd go on nationwide TV and preach against "Santa Claus," but perhaps that is too much to expect of ministers who desire to retain their position in the "world."

In case the above has not convinced you that "Santa Claus" is *'like the most High,'* there is more.

—The Phoenix Gazette — MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1971

If you do not think "worship" of Santa Claus is the natural result of "Christmas," read the article below—and think of the millions of little children who learn to "believe" the same way.

# 'Will Santa come?'

*the answer is with you ...*

By APRIL DAIEN

The children gathered on the gray stone steps. There were three of them and they had come to see the visitors off.

They had overheard us talking in low tones with their mother about Christmas. They had heard their mother say she didn't think there would be a Christmas.

They heard her say she would try to get them "something."

So the children followed the visitors, waiting eagerly for some refutation of the conversation.

One of them clutched a tiny Christmas tree in her hands.

"You want our picture?" they said. "Nobody ever took our picture."

They posed quite earnestly, then started to make faces.

The visitors asked what they would like for Christmas.

"A truck. A white doll." The replies were easy.

"But how do you know Santa will come?"

"Because he always came before. Because he brings doll babies," they said.

"What if he doesn't come? What would you think?"

"We wouldn't believe no more," they said.

**CHRISTMAS  
FOR  
CARING**



They scowled. Their anxiety made them conscious of the cold, of the fact that they had no coats.

"Why didya ask all them questions?" they said.

Then, in unison, they beamed. "We know who you are. You're Santa Claus' helper. You're coming to see if we believe. Right?"

They scattered joyfully. They didn't wait for an answer.

\*\*\*

Perhaps you can give that answer. Send a check or money order to Christmas for Caring, Women's Forum, P.O. Box 2406, Phoenix, Az. 85002. Your gift is tax-deductible, and unless you request anonymity, your name will be published along with other donors.

To truly be "like the most High," it would make sense that "Santa" (alias Baal, Nimrod, the Assyrian, Lucifer, and others) would be made to look like God. The Bible gives us a description of God, part of which is in the verses below:

### DANIEL, 7

9 ¶ I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and 'the Ancient of days did sit, whose 'garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, 'and his wheels as burning fire.

### REVELATION, 1

12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, 'I saw seven golden candlesticks;

13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks 'one like unto the Son of man, clothed 'with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

14 His head and 'his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and 'his eyes were as a flame of fire;

15 And 'his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; 'and his voice as the sound of many waters.

Yes, secret Baal worshippers have foisted upon us their "Santa," their counterfeit "God," who appears to do "good," even as God, and they have presented him to us with white hair and beard, sparkling eyes, and a deep, low laugh. In our ignorance we have allowed our children to learn to revere their false "satan" (Baal) and become his "worshippers." Are "Santa" promoters ignorant? Or do they know what they are doing?

Do you need still more proof that "Christmas" has its origins in Baal worship? Read on. We will "take apart" more of this strange "festival."

### THE "CHRISTMAS TREE"

We have already seen the origin of the "tree" with Nimrod (Baal), which makes more significant the many times "green tree" is mentioned in the Bible in relation to heathen idol worship and heathen gods.

When Israel came into Canaan, they were ordered to destroy the heathen altars, groves, and graven images (Deut. 7), and then, "Ye

*shall utterly destroy all the places wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every GREEN TREE*" (Deut. 12:2).

Among the scores of places in the Old Testament where Israel was warned against Baal worship, or "*the ways of the heathen,*" nine of them specifically mention serving their gods, or worshipping under "*green trees.*" In most cases other terrible abominations are listed as accompanying these heathen practices, such as we read in Isaiah 57:3-5: "*But draw near hither, ye sons of the sorceress, the seed of the adulterer and the whore. Against whom do ye sport yourselves: Against whom make ye a wide mouth, and draw out the tongue? Are ye not children of transgression, a seed of falsehood, enflaming yourselves with idols UNDER EVERY GREEN TREE, slaying the children in the valleys under the cliffs of the rocks?*"

Green trees were of Baal worship, and Halley's Bible Handbook says of Baal worship: "Priestesses were temple prostitutes. Sodomites were male temple prostitutes. The worship of Baal, Ashtoreth (his wife—same as the "Madonna"), and other Canaanite gods consisted of the most extravagant orgies; their temples were centers of vice." (Page 166, 1965 edition).

Now you may more easily understand why the saloons, night clubs, and other places where adulterers, whores, homosexuals, and other blasphemers congregate, put up green trees at "Christmas."

Halley added information that showed "Baal-rites" further consisted of "murdering their first-born children as a sacrifice to these same gods," and their temples, upon excavation, were found to be full of images and carvings of sex organs and "pornographic" paraphernalia! (page 167 under "Religion of the Canaanites").

Idol worship under "green trees" is condemned in the following Scripture—read them: 1 Kings 14:22-23; 2 Kings 16:1-4; 2 Kings 17:9-10; 2 Chron. 28:4; Isaiah 57:3-5 (quoted above); Jer. 2:20; Jer. 3:6, 13; Jer. 17:1-2 and Eze. 6:13.

There is a further condemnation of those who cut down a tree for any kind of worship service. "*Learn not the way of the heathen . . . 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, they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not . . . be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good . . . they are altogether brutish and foolish: the stock (tree) is a doctrine of vanities (lies)*" (Jer. 10:2-8 in part).

The tree was also used in ancient, pagan festivals to symbolize rebirth. A log (yule log) was burned to symbolize the death of the father-god, and then a green tree was set upright to imply his reincarnation in his son. This was followed by placing gifts under the tree, in effect, "offering" the gifts to the god (idol) represented by the tree. Then, as in all pagan nations, the "sacrificed" gifts were distributed to the worshippers to consume. How many millions of families in Christendom perform this pagan "ritual" every winter at "Christmas!" May God open their blinded eyes!

For "Christians" who still may say, "Well, it is just a harmless custom, what can it hurt—and besides it is fun," I shall only ask: How can performing the rituals of the heathen glorify Jesus Christ?

The writers of the New Testament warned Christians against partaking of things offered to idols in Acts 15:29; Acts 21:25; 1 Cor. 8 (entire chapter); 1 Cor. 10:18-21; 1 Cor. 10:28; and Rev. 2:14, 20, which should be enough to make any believer stop and think.

We shall end this section on the "tree" by quoting 1 Cor. 10:20-21: *"But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table and of the table of devils."*

The "Christmas Tree" is but the modern version of the pagan custom of offering gifts to idols; it is of *"the cup of devils."* It is NOT Christian.

## THE THREE WISE MEN

In modern "Christmas" tableaux, or stories, we are often told of "the three wise men" who came to the "babe" in the manger bearing gifts. This is in spite of the simple truth that the Bible does not tell of such an event attending Jesus' birth.

Not only is the number of wise men not stated in the Bible, the Bible says they came to Jesus in a house! *"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him"* (Matt. 2:11).

That their arrival was upwards of two years AFTER the birth of Jesus is evident from King Herod's actions after he had questioned them as to *"what time the star appeared"* (verse 7). He desired the death of the Christ child, and we read he *"sent forth, and slew all the*

*children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, FROM TWO YEARS OLD AND UNDER, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men*" (verse 16—emphasis added).

Herod must have been convinced Jesus was possibly already two years old when the wise men arrived, otherwise the killing of two year olds would make no sense.

Also, in the more detailed story of Jesus' birth in Luke 2, we read of the angel, of the "heavenly host," of the shepherds, even the eighth day circumcision of the child (verse 21), of both Simeon (verses 25-35) and Anna, the prophetess (verses 36-38), yet NO WORD of any wise men. Was it because they were NOT present at His birth, but came months, or years later?

With so plain an account, why do ministers still accept three wise men at the stable? Is it because the birth of the Babylonian Messiah, the false Christ, was attended by the priests of Baal, while the birth of the true Messiah was waited upon by NO religious persons?

Truly the manger scene as we see it at "Christmas" can have no other origin but in Baal worship.

## CANDLES

Candles and candlesticks are mentioned a number of times in Scripture in relation to God, but there is also the "candle of the wicked" which is to be put out (Job 21:17; Prov. 24:20). In Jeremiah 25, God promises to take from Babylon, "the light of the candle" (verse 10), and in Revelation 18:23, as the destruction of prophetic BABYLON THE GREAT, MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH is complete, we read, "And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee." The burning of candles in a worship service is a pagan, and a Roman Catholic ritual. It is NOT Christian.

## EXCHANGING GIFTS

There is no instruction in the Bible for the mutual exchange of gifts among believers, for ANY reason, yet all of the pagan, mid-winter "festivals" include gift exchanging. It seems significant that the only mention of such a time in the Holy Word is in the Apocalyptic story of the two witnesses of God being killed, their deaths seeming to bring such joy to the ungodly that we read, "And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one

to another" (Rev. 11:10). Isn't it strange that the actions of the ungodly at the death of God's prophets IS IDENTICAL TO THE ACTIONS OF "CHRISTMAS" CELEBRANTS? Not really, when you realize that the hidden promoters of "Christmas" rituals are antichrists.

### HAM DINNER FOR CHRISTMAS

In spite of the very plain order in God's Law that we are not to eat swine (pig), *"And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be cloven-footed, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you. Of their flesh shall ye not eat, and their carcase shall ye not touch; he is unclean to you"* (Lev. 11:7-8), most Christians eat it all of the time, and especially make a great show of having their "Christmas Ham" on December 25th. They may not know that in Egyptian and Greek worship, the son of the "mother-god" was believed killed by a wild boar which was then killed by the "mother-god" prior to the "resurrection" of her son. In commemoration of this act the worshippers killed and offered as a sacrifice a pig which was then eaten by the "celebrants!"

Diana (mentioned in Acts 19) was often portrayed with a dead boar or boar's head, and in the woodcut below, the Roman Emperor Trajan is shown burning incense to Diana while the boar's head hangs on a tree.



For over 3,000 years, it has been common among the pagans to kill and eat a pig at their winter festival of the return of the sun (late

December). In Rome, it was called "the feast of Saturn" and the boar was killed as a sacrifice to Saturn. The entire animal was cooked, often served with an apple or pomegranate in its mouth. The custom still prevails in England and parts of Europe. In America, almost every minister promotes the eating of swine's flesh by his congregation.

(If you want Biblical AND medical reasons for not eating pig, send for SWINE'S FLESH AS FOOD—SOME WRONG INTERPRETATIONS CORRECTED by Pastor Emry).

### THE CHRISTMAS GOOSE

In Egypt a favorite offering to Osiris was a goose, offered at any time, but when offered in the dead of winter, the goose was then eaten.

In Rome, Juvenal writes, "that Osiris, if offended, could be pacified only by a large goose and a thin cake." (The thin cake has become the "wafer" used in the Roman Catholic sacrament). Historians record that one of the night attacks by the Gauls on Rome was defeated when the geese kept in the temple of Jupiter aroused the Roman soldiers with their cackling.

In India, they have the "Brahmany goose," sacred to Brahma. In Babylon, the goose was offered as a sacrifice by the priests of Baal. Wilkinson (Egyptians, Vol. V, page 227), states that ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics indicate the goose symbolized a son, giving itself up in



The Egyptian God Seb, with his symbol the goose; and the Sacred Goose on a stand, as offered in sacrifice.†

sacrifice that the family might be preserved. (That this is from Baal worship where the firstborn son was sacrificed to Baal is probable—see Halley's Bible Handbook on "Religion of the Canaanites").

It seems that sacrifices to false gods were usually of unclean species. The goose is unclean, being classified with the swan and the pelican of Leviticus 11:18, but then, so is everything else about "Christmas!"

## CONCLUSIONS

There are many other things I could write about, but the story is almost too terrible to continue—how most of Christendom, even professing Christians, have been deceived by the forces of darkness into acting out the rituals of Baal worship which are an abomination to our God.

Most astonishing is the almost universal rejection of these truths about the pagan origin of "Christmas" by the men in Church pulpits. Most ignore or ridicule such information as you have read in these last pages. Could the reason be that many are not followers of Jesus Christ, but instead are secret priests of the false messiah of Babylon and they only profess to be Christians so they can get in Church pulpits and lead God's sheep into the "ways of Baal worship?"

Jesus warned that "*many shall come in My Name, saying I am Christ [actually saying that Jesus is the Christ]; and shall deceive many*" (Matt. 24:5). In Matthew 7:15 Jesus said, "*Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing [come professing to be Christians], but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*"

Paul voiced a similar warning: "*For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock*" (Acts 20:29).

It is true, that if we will not hold fast to Bible Truth, we shall be deceived by men who claim to be Christians, yes, even ministers. May God grant that this little booklet on "Christmas" be used to enlighten and warn Christ's sheep, in Jesus' Name,

Pastor Sheldon Emry

For a study on how other Baal doctrines have been insinuated into the Christian religion you should read **THE BABYLONIAN CONNECTION BETWEEN ANCIENT AND MODERN RELIGIONS** and **THOU SHALT SURELY DIE** available from us for an offering of \$4.00 and \$2.00 respectively.

## ADDENDA

The need for Christians, old and young alike, who would be faithful in Christ, is to study the Bible, the Holy Word of God, and obey the True God of Israel. To that end, I shall reproduce here some very pertinent instructions from God. Read them, heed them, and then turn and read more in God's Wonderful Book which He has so graciously given to the children of men, that we all might, IN TRUTH, worship Him.

### ECCLESIASTES 12

13 ¶ <sup>5</sup>Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

14 For 'God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

### 2 CORINTHIANS 5

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; 'that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

### 2 CORINTHIANS 6

14 Be 'ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for "what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Bē-lī-āl? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for "ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, "I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Wherefore "come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

18 And "will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

### CHAPTER 7

**H**AVING "therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

## 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.

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

## 1 JOHN, 2

15 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.

21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

## 2 JOHN

8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

## 1 JOHN, 5

19 And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

HON. LOUISE DAY HICKS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 1971

Mrs. HICKS of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the words of Alfred Tennyson suggest something of the beauty with which the advent of Christmas is clothed. As Christmas comes down to us today, it is a rich heritage of customs, traditions, folklore, and legend, drawn from every age and time, and from many lands and peoples. To unravel its mystery is a fascinating and inspiring experience—the story, in essence, of the deepest desires of the human heart, that universal longing for spiritual renewal and refreshment. The words are:

"The time draws near the birth of Christ.  
The Moon is hid; the night is still;  
The Christmas bells from hill to hill  
Answer each other in the mist."

The idea of celebrating on or about December 25 was born among ancient peoples long before the birth of Christ, peoples who were close students of astronomy and who knew that the last days of December were the time of the winter solstice when the sun dwindled and the powers of darkness seemed to be gaining over the forces of light. December 25 was the turning-point at which the sun began to reassert itself, and its power gave new promise of life and fruitful harvests. In Rome, it was the dies natalis invicti solis—the birthday of the unconquered sun.

Inevitably, the Christian community found this venerable symbolism highly appropriate for heralding the coming of Christ, the "light of the world" which has overcome the darkness of despair. So it was that gradually the light of Christ in men's hearts and minds founds its expression in the customs of the sun-feast, now transformed and hallowed by the faith and prayer of the Christian commonwealth.

In the same manner, other customs, originally of pagan origin, have been assimilated into our Christmas herit-

age—the decorative tree, the glowing candles, the stories of Santa Claus, stockings by the fireplace, greeting cards, yule logs—all are now associated with the birthday of Christ.

In our own day the keeping of Christmas has often been commercialized beyond recognition of its spiritual essence and identity. Yet, while allowing for the excess that exists in any institution or custom, the Christmas commerce we so often deplore does, in fact, mean a livelihood for millions of people and often the difference between success or failure in business. Christmas is, when all is said and done, the birthday of Jesus who spent much of his life in honest commerce as a carpenter, sharing, we may presume, in the economic support of his family. Like the very parables he told, His life is an example of an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. So it is with Christmas. Whatever the excesses of its commercialization, it has probably stimulated more people to help the poor and to care for others than has any other holiday in the calendar. So long as Christmas serves to make children happy, the presence of Christ will hallow it.

It was one of Christianity's wisest moves to maintain the older midwinter festival and to transform it in the spirit of Christ. The variety of ways in which Christmas is celebrated tells us that its appeal is universal. Even those outside the Christian faith are able to share in the spirit of Christmas in the generosity of giving, the exchange of greeting and song, the sense of life to be renewed. For Christians, the feast has a special and precious meaning, set forth in the old carol:

"God rest ye merry gentlemen; let  
nothing you dismay;  
Remember Christ Our Saviour was  
born on Christmas Day . . .  
O tidings of comfort and joy!"

May the spirit of Christmas enter our hearts and bring us all "even unto Bethlehem" to behold his birth and to heed the ancient song of "peace on earth, good will to men."

The "muddled" thinking above is typical—that we can somehow "hallow" pagan practices by all joining in. Nonsense—man CANNOT "hallow" that which God has condemned. But anyway, she put in the Congressional Record the truth of the origin of our "Christmas" rituals.

## BIRTH OF CHRIST NOT CELEBRATED UNTIL 5th CENTURY

read the headline across the top of the page above this article. Except for 2 short paragraphs, it is complete for you (and your minister) to read here.

### DECEMBER 18, 1968 *Phoenix Gazette*

TEMPE — The Christmas world did not commemorate the birth of Christ until the 5th Century, according to Dr. Arnold Tilden, professor of history at Arizona State University.

"Christians considered it to be a pagan practice to celebrate birthdays, unless they occurred on the days on which a person was born to eternal life — the day of martyrdom," he observed. "Actually, it was the death-day which was celebrated, and most of the Saints' days on the calendar mark the day on which they died."

OVER THE YEARS, Tilden has researched the history of Christmas customs, passing along his observations to students at this time of the year.

"Actually, Christmas is the youngest of the Church holidays, although it has outstripped all others in importance," he commented.

The Western church was eminently practical, however. When it encountered pagan practices, it either stamped them out or adapted the festival rites to the Christian faith. In Germany, the church was successful in stamping out the eating of horse flesh because of its sacramental significance to pagans, while in Italy, it adopted the statues portraying Isis and the god-child Horus, merely renaming them Mary and Jesus. This same system of assimilation, the ASU historian explained, gave rise to Christmas as we know it.

\* \* \* \* \*  
WHEREVER the Christians went, they discovered that the latter half of December was the high season for festivals. It was the time of the winter solstice, when the days began to lengthen: the time when the Sun-God turned in his path and started back to his people; it was Saturnalia, a time for licentiousness, revelry, drunkenness and sensual pleasures. The Romans marked the day by feasting friends. There was a general exchange of presents (mostly wax dolls or tapers), Roman shops at this time resembled our own stores during the Christmas season.

THE CHURCH was anxious to distract the attention of its new converts from these heathen feast days and assimilated them, clothed them in a new and Christian significance.

"The date of the actual introduction of Christmas is disputed," Tilden states. "However, in 354, Latins may have transferred the human birth of Christ to Dec. 25. Certainly, by 400 A.D., Christmas, as a Christian festival, was established in the West and gained some ground in the East. Attempts by the church to wipe out the Manichean heresy in the first half of the fifth century may have hastened the official adoption of the date."

The Manicheans, he explained, believed God would not demean Himself to become man, but only took the form of man. Therefore, the apparent life and death of Christ were mere delusions. This belief was directly antagonistic to accepted teachings, and in the hope of destroying the creed, the church instituted Christmas, celebrating the actual, human birth of Christ.

"SO CHRISTMAS entered the official list of holy days, taking on the features of the various nations among whom it was introduced, and adopting certain pagan rites from the religions which it supplanted," said Tilden.

The Romans gave it the Latin name "Dies Natalis" (birthday of God); The Italians "Natale"; the Spanish "Nadal"; and the French "Noel." The Germans retained their old heathen designation of "Weihnachten," while in Holland and England, it was referred to as "the Mass of Christ," or as we say "Christ's Mass" (Christmas).

# Dear Mom and Dad

You say, there is a Santa Claus  
That wears those big red suits,  
With long, white beard, and tasseled cap,  
And great, big, high topped, boots.

You say, he has a great, big, sleigh,  
Eight tiny reindeer pull:  
You say, with toys, and things for children  
Old Santa has it full.

You always say, on Christmas Eve,  
"Now he'll be here tonight,  
"Just go to bed, and go to sleep,  
"And things will be alright."

Several days before Christmas comes,  
You take us up the street,  
You tell us Santa Claus is there,  
And he always has a treat.

So we go up, with Mom, or Dad,  
And look at old Saint Nick. Rev. 2:6, 15  
His old false face, and big red suit  
Is enough to make you sick.

He'll shake your hand, and lie so big,  
And ask you what to bring:  
A lie it is, I'll tell the truth;  
He never brings a thing.

Shame on you parents, to tell such things,  
You should not be a liar, John 8:44. Rev. 22:15.  
God's book says, you'll have your part  
In a lake that burns with fire. Rev. 21:8.

You go to church, and sing, and shout,  
And also testify,  
Then go home and tell your child  
A great big Santa lie. 1 Cor. 6:9,10.

Shame on you, Mom. Shame on you Dad.  
You ought not do that way,  
Because you'll have to face the Lord,  
And give account some day! Eccl. 12:14. Heb.  
9:27. 2 Cor. 5:10. Mat. 12:36, 37. Isa. 8:20.

Glenn D. Waters

# COMMUNIST

(Read these two newspaper articles. The rulers of world "communism" have NO OBJECTION to Santa Claus and other emblems and symbols of Baal worship. They are certainly antichrist, and would oppose any Christian symbols).

8-G The Arizona Republic Phoenix, Thurs., Dec. 12, 1968

## East Berlin gayer this Yule

Associated Press

BERLIN — A light and bustling air pervades Communist East Berlin this Christmas season compared to previous years.

There are more lights, more decorations and attempts at making the season visible; more traffic and more street activity than before, despite large-scale earth upheavals because of a building program in the city center.

SHOPS ARE well stocked and more buying power seems evident. Exclusive shops on Unter den Linden still offer goods priced beyond the normal consumer but people buy everything from Scotch and Havana cigars to traditional — and expensive — German Meissen china.

Toy lines are complicated, featuring imports from both the Soviet Union and West Germany. A battery-powered Red Army T54 tank, for example, sells for the equivalent of \$11.90. An ordinary shirt can cost about \$20.

Christmas decorations are spreading outward from downtown past the now traditional Christmas market area on Karl Marx Allee and onto the fronts of apartment buildings.

THERE ARE lighted trees near the wall shutting off West Berlin and one directly under the Brandenburg Gate.

The style of the East's Christmas is still far short of West Berlin's, but progress is

considerable from an East Berliner's view.

As one woman put it, "We have to live here, not West Berlin, so we must adjust to what we have." Joy, clearly, lies not only in the giving and the receiving but in being able to go out and buy.

THE COMMUNIST regime subordinates the religious aspect of Christmas but nonetheless it plays a large role in East Berliners' lives. Little shops sell hand-carved cribs, and these always go by Christmas Eve.

Christmas Eve is the traditional German time for celebrating Christmas. Services in the Protestant Marienkirche, Berlin's oldest church, are packed. Midnight Mass, celebrated by Alfred Cardinal Bengsch, also draws a full house in St. Hedwig's Cathedral, although most Germans in this area of what once was Prussia are Protestant.

THE WALL, of course, plays a big role of dampening spirits at this time of traditional family gatherings.

What the separation means to the Berliners is evident in the questions put by West Berlin residents to foreigners who have access to East Berlin.

"Tell me," one woman asked, "what does it look like over there? Are the people better off? My last Christmas across the Wall was in 1965."

It now appears that this will be the third successive Christmas that the Communists have refused to grant West Berliners passes to visit their East Berlin relatives.

# COUNTRIES!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1968

*The Phoenix Gazette*

PAGE 18

## *Soviet Santa Saluted*

By HENRY SHAPIRO

MOSCOW (UP) — There is no God, no Christmas and no Santa Claus in this formally atheist country.

But a Martian dropping down from the skies the day before Christmas in Moscow would find little superficial difference in the atmosphere between the Soviet and any western capital.

The public buildings, shops and central thoroughfares are decorated with Christmas trees — only they are called *yolka* (fir tree).

Santa Claus is there in all his glory — all wrapped up in red coat, fur cap, white bearded and high booted. But his name is *Ded Moroz* (Grandfather Frost), a popular non-Christian figure from Slavic mythology.

Grandfather Frost comes down from the Northpole riding a reindeer sled and is accompanied by his granddaughter *Snegurochka* (the Snow Maiden).

He carries a bag full of gifts not only for good little boys and girls but for adults as well.

To help him in his chores

the department stores and specialized novelty shops carry larger than usual stocks of goodies and people are encouraged to do their shopping early to avoid crowds.

The trouble is that all these preparations, although made on or about Christmas time, are not intended to observe Christmas which is non-existent here legally, but to usher in and celebrate the New Year, six days later.

There is a real, religious Christmas too, but that is only for the Russian Orthodox believers and it comes on Jan. 7 which is the Dec. 25 of the Julian Calendar still observed by the Church.

But a few years before the war, a clever old Bolshevik, Alexander Postyshev, the leader of the Ukrainian Communist Party, who was later "liquidated" by Stalin, persuaded the country to revive the old Russian mid-winter traditions of dressing up a *Yolka* and welcoming *Ded Moroz*.

The idea spread like wild-fire and soon enough New Year's day became not only a legal holiday but the most joyful day of the year,

marked by grand balls in the Kremlin, spending the night on the town and exchanging of gifts.

Gala caviar and champagne dinner are served in all the hotels and restaurants, and pity the poor fellow who has not made his reservations by the middle of December.

There is endless party giving and party going and the universal exchange of gifts.

There is a real Christmas tree (*yolka*), and none of those puny synthetic trees of the west. In every house and institution many of the *yolkas* are put up before Dec. 25 so foreigners, accustomed to the western Christmas, get the illusion of actually celebrating it here.

The country is all decorated and ready to celebrate by Christmas time but except for the small western colony the big day comes on the eve of the new year.

Probably more money is spent, more food and liquor consumed and more gifts exchanged during the Soviet equivalent of Yule than on any other holiday of the year, including May Day and the National Holiday of Nov. 7.

## THE MORNING AFTER!

'Twas the day after Christmas, and all through the land  
Millions were ailing on every hand.  
With heads ever aching and bleary red eyes  
From gorging themselves on plum puddings and pies  
On top of their chicken, or ham, or goose,  
To say nothing of wallowing in Christmas-gift booze.

They worship an image in church or at home —  
An old pagan practice promoted by Rome.  
'Twas a Jesuit priest who, many years past,  
Tied Christ in His crib and His corpse to the mast,  
So Rome's flock would bow down—against God's command  
To pay homage to images made by man's hand.

N.W.W.

### SOME FINAL THOUGHTS AND QUESTIONS:

Perhaps some well-meaning parents may say; "But we only keep Christmas because it is so much fun for the children, we're not REALLY worshipping Santa Claus and the tree, or those heathen gods!"

Let me pose some final questions for you to consider in your heart:

1. Have you considered that children understand things DIFFERENTLY than you might think they do?

2. Had you considered that your "acting out" the rituals of pagan Baal will teach them to do so also? And thus begin another generation of the same rituals?

3. Had you considered that the emotions generated by "Christmas" rituals may well affect the ENTIRE LIFE of the children God has given you to teach and protect?

A few days before the publication of this booklet, while in a local store, I overheard a mother tell of her little boy catching her and her husband putting the gifts under the tree. She said, "He saw us, and began to cry, shouting, 'You lied to me, you lied to me,' and ran back to his room crying." She was laughing as she told it, for she thought his tears were only over "losing Santa Claus." What she may never realize was, HE HAD JUST LOST HIS TRUST IN HIS FATHER AND HIS MOTHER! That little boy will never forget that night. He will NEVER AGAIN trust his parents as he had before. God alone knows how much evil is wrought by "Christmas."

My Christian friend—leave this pagan ritual—you will be amazed and delighted at the serenity and rest that will come upon you as you pass by the tensions and false emotions of “Christmas.” And teach your children the truth. You will see the new respect they have for you, and for Christ. God will honor those who honor Him. God will prove in your children and grandchildren His promise, *“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”*

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## EXODUS, 20

**A**ND God spake all these words,  
saying,

2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

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# Is Christmas Christian?



BY SHELDON EMRY



**ANCIENT BABYLONIAN DRAWING  
OF NIMROD (BAAL) 2000 BC**