

# Christmas & Easter



## CHRISTMAS AND EASTER ARE PAGAN FESTIVALS, NOT ACCEPTABLE TO GOD

By George Lujack

Christmas and Easter are the two most celebrated Christian holidays. Many people do not know the evils associated with these adopted pagan-based festivals and naively enjoy these holidays believing that they are of God.

What do Christmas trees, exchanging gifts, Santa Claus, Easter bunnies, and painted chicken eggs have to do with celebrating the birth, death, and resurrection of the Messiah (Christ)? This article will examine the pagan origins of Christmas and Easter and will show why true believers, who worship God in spirit and truth, should not partake in these false holidays.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS; WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN?

merry: cheerful, happy, and lively

Christ: the Messiah, the Son of God

mass: a mass funeral (or funeral Mass/Mass of Christian burial) is a Catholic service for the deceased, focusing on prayer, Scripture, and sacraments to commend the soul to God, emphasizing resurrection and eternal life rather than just celebrating the person's life. It's a sacred act of worship, a communal prayer for the dead.

### **DEUTERONOMY 18:10-11 (NKJV - Condensed):**

**There shall not be found among you anyone who ... *calls up the dead.***

IS CHRIST (MESSIAH) DEAD? MANY PEOPLE MAY CURRENTLY THINK SO...

The word 'Christmas' and the phrase, 'Merry Christmas' do not appear in Scripture. When a person says, "Merry Christmas," they are literally saying, "Be Merry, Christ is dead." It is amazing how Satan deceives the world.

### **REVELATION 12:9 (NKJV – Condensed):**

**That serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world;...**

Scripture opposes the "Merry Christmas message that Christ is dead.

### **LUKE 24:6, MARK 16:6 (NKJV):**

**He not here, but is risen!**

YESHUA (JESUS) WASN'T BORN ON DECEMBER 25TH

### **LUKE 2:4-8 (NKJV):**

**Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with Child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.**

**And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.**

**Now there were in the same country SHEPHERDS LIVING OUT IN THE FIELDS, KEEPING WATCH OVER THEIR FLOCK BY NIGHT.**

In the Bethlehem region, south of Jerusalem, December 25th is the coldest part of the year. First century shepherds would not have been living out in the field, day and night, watching their flocks in winter. The time of Messiah's (Christ's) birth was not in the winter on December 25th. Shepherds in the Bethlehem region do not live out in the fields, and their herds are not out in the pasture, in wintertime, to this day.

Christmas was first celebrated on December 25th by decree of Roman Emperor Constantine in 336 AD. Catholic Pope Julius I officially declared that the birth of Yeshua (Jesus) was on December 25th in 350 AD. Catholic Pope Julius I did not choose December 25th as Yeshua's (Jesus') birthday by any direction or indication from the Scriptures, but instead incorporated the pagan festivals of Saturnalia and the winter solstice into Christianity and called it Christmas, and declared December 25th as Christ's birthday to replace other pagan gods' birthdays celebrated on that date.

The dominant Gentile pagan culture rampant in Rome, Greece, and Egypt worshiped various gods, and Catholicism accommodated them through Christmas. Nimrod was acknowledged as being born on December 25th and was replaced by Christ. Christianity was perverted and the pagans were satisfied. Christians who celebrate Christmas as Yeshua Messiah's (Jesus Christ's) birthday are unwittingly following the 4th century dictates of Roman Emperor Constantine and Catholic Pope Julius I. Christmas is not a festival of God.

#### WHEN WAS YESHUA (JESUS) BORN?

The exact date of Messiah's (Christ's) birth is unknown, but most true Scripture scholars believe it was during the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) in the fall, typically near the end of September on the Gregorian calendar.

#### CHRISTMAS TREES ARE IDOLS

##### **JEREMIAH 10:2-5 (NIV):**

**This is what YHWH (the Lord) says:**

**“Do not learn the ways of the nations or be terrified by signs in the heavens, though the nations are terrified by them. For the practices of the peoples are worthless; they cut a tree out of the forest, and a craftsman shapes it with his chisel. They adorn it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so it will not totter. Like a scarecrow in a cucumber field, their idols cannot speak; they must be carried because they cannot walk.”**

YHWH (the Lord) says DO NOT do this: take a tree from the forest, decorate it with silver and gold, fasten it at its base so it does not topple, stand it up as a palm tree and carry it in and out, for these dead tree idols cannot move by themselves. Yet every Christmas season, Christians do this: erect a Christmas tree in spite of what YHWH (the Lord) has told them not to do. And as the saying goes, “If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, it’s probably a duck.” Christmas trees are carried like idols, because they cannot move by themselves. They cannot speak, just as idols cannot speak. They are set up in a prominent place in the home to be displayed, just as an idol would be. They are adorned, just as an idol is adorned. They are bowed before, sacrificed to (through gifts), and worshiped, just as an idol is. Yeshua (Jesus) never authorized Christmas.

**JEREMIAH 3:13 (NKJV) [WITH INTERPRETATION]:**

**Only acknowledge your iniquity, that you have transgressed against YHWH (the Lord) your God, and have scattered your charms [GIFTS] to alien deities under every GREEN TREE, and you have not obeyed My voice,’ says YHWH (the Lord).**

When people buy gifts to exchange with others on Christmas, they sacrifice their labor, money, and time to buy and wrap those gifts, then bow before the Christmas tree idol in the home and place their sacrifices under the tree. This is idolatry, sacrifice, and worship, whether acknowledged by Christians or not.

An idol is an idol. Many people would deny that Christmas trees are idols or objects of worship. Yet, the fact remains that songs have been written and praises sung to Christmas tree idols in acts of worship.

O Christmas Tree (There are numerous variations of this song):

*“O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, How lovely are your branches!  
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, How lovely are your branches!  
Not Only Green When Summer’s Here, but in the Coldest Time of Year  
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, How lovely are your branches!  
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, Much Pleasure do you Bring me!  
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, Much Pleasure do you Bring me!  
For Every Year This Christmas Tree Brings to us Much joy and Glee  
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, Much Pleasure do you Bring me!  
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, we Learn From all Your Beauty!  
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, we Learn From all Your Beauty!  
Your Bright Green Leaves With Festive Cheer Give Hope and Strength Throughout  
the Year! O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, we Learn From all Your Beauty!”*

**ACTS 17:30-31 (NKJV):**

**“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”**

The Christmas tree and the wreath represent pagan symbols of fertility. The Christmas tree represents a phallus symbol (penis), the ornament balls on the tree represent testicles, the tinsel represents ejaculated semen, and the wreath represents a vagina.

THE FALL OF BABYLON, JUDGMENT OF EARTH, AND END OF CHRISTMAS

**ISAIAH 14:8 (NKJV) [WITH INTERPRETATION]:**

**Indeed the cypress trees rejoice over you, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, ‘Since you [BABYLON (AMERICA)] were cut down [DESTROYED], no woodsman has come up against us.’**

**PSALM 96:12-13 (NKJV):**

**Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the forest will rejoice before YHWH (the Lord). For He is coming to judge the earth.**

When Yeshua (Jesus) returns, He will end the annual practice of axmen going to the forest to chop down trees for the pagan festival of Christmas.

WHO IS SANTA CLAUS? SANTA CLAUS UNSCRAMBLED IS SATAN LUCAS

What does Satan Lucas (Lucifer), disguised as Santa Claus, have to do with celebrating the birth of Yeshua (Jesus)? Santa Claus takes children’s focus off of Yeshua (Jesus), instills in them the values of coveting, makes them believe that Santa knows when they have been bad or good (replacing Almighty, all-knowing, omnipresent God in this role), and tells them to be good for goodness’ sake (to receive presents, not for righteousness’ sake). Often when children come of age, they learn to distrust their parents who lied to them, telling them Santa Claus was real. Doubts are placed in their hearts as to whether they should believe in God or if God should just be considered another fairy tale.

## EASTER ETYMOLOGY: EASTER NAMED AFTER PAGAN GODDESS ISHTAR

The early Christian churches did all they could to accommodate the religions of the world and incorporate them into what would become Christianity. Renaming Passover 'Easter,' was one of these deceptions. Ishtar, also known as Eostre, Ostara, and the Queen of Heaven was the Mesopotamian pagan goddess of fertility, love, sexuality, and war. It was the early Christian churches that renamed Passover 'Easter,' in honor of this pagan goddess.

Christians, who may deny that the word 'Easter' has anything to do with Ishtar, should ask, "Where then is the word Easter derived from?" The origin of the word Easter, as officially declared by Christianity, is 'unknown' at best and is *possibly* linked to a pagan goddess at worst.

### **1 CORINTHIANS 5:7 (NKJV):**

**For indeed Messiah (Christ), our Passover, was sacrificed for us.**

Passover means that God's wrath passes over us. Yeshua (Jesus) said, "Do this in remembrance of Me" (Luke 22:19). Do what? Remember Him as our Passover Lamb (Luke 22:15; 1 Corinthians 5:7). Yeshua's (Jesus') blood covers our sins so that God's wrath 'passes over' us, just as lambs' blood had covered the doorposts of the enslaved Hebrews in Egypt, so that the angel of death would 'pass over' their dwellings.

## THE KING JAMES BIBLE REPLACES PASSOVER WITH EASTER

### **ACTS 12:4 (KJV):**

**And when King Herod had apprehended Peter, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after EASTER to bring him forth to the people.**

The word 'Easter' appears in one verse within the imperfect King James Bible, obviously inserted there in place of 'Passover' in the 17th century by a biased King James translator who made the word switch. Easter does not appear in any other Bible version and was properly corrected to Passover in the New King James Version Bible.

### **ACTS 12:4 (NKJV):**

**So when King Herod had arrested Peter, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after PASSOVER.**

The disciples in the book of Acts never celebrated Easter. They celebrated Passover in remembrance of Yeshua (Jesus). All true believers should likewise do so as an everlasting ordinance (Exodus 12:14). Easter *became* a separate holiday apart from Passover, on an independent date from the Jewish calendar, based on rulings from early Christian bishops at the First Council of Nicaea convened by Roman Emperor Constantine I in 325 AD.

MESSIAH (CHRIST) WAS NOT CRUCIFIED ON GOOD FRIDAY, NOR DID HE RISE ON EASTER SUNDAY

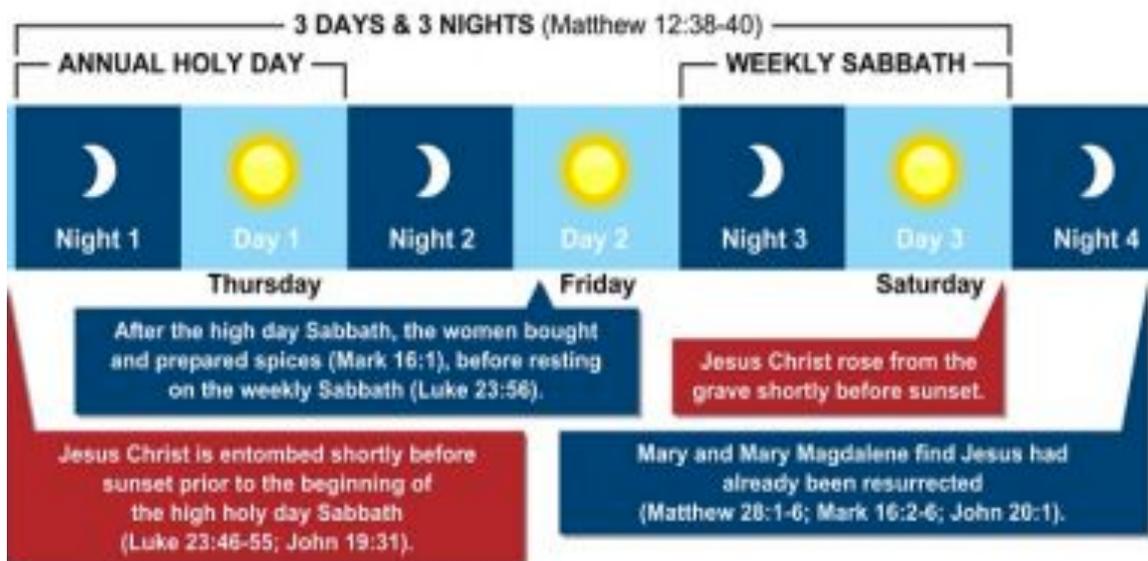
The Good Friday to Easter Sunday holiday observed by most Christians is a corrupted representation of the Passover sacrifice of Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus the Christ), His time in the grave, and His resurrection. Yeshua (Jesus) did not die on Friday evening and rise on Sunday morning.

GOOD FRIDAY TO EASTER SUNDAY DOES NOT EQUATE TO YESHUA (JESUS) BEING THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE GRAVE

**MATTHEW 12:40 (NKJV):**

**“For as Jonah was three days *and* three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days *and* three nights in the heart of the earth.”**

Counting the days of a Good Friday crucifixion through a Sunday morning resurrection does not equal three days and three nights in the grave. Being in the grave from only Good Friday (evening) to Easter Sunday (morning, at sunrise) would have meant He was in the grave on Friday evening, Saturday day, and Saturday evening, which is only one day and two nights.



**JOHN 20:1 (NKJV):**

**Now the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.**

When Mary Magdalene went to the tomb of Yeshua (Jesus) early Sunday morning, *before* sunrise, she found it empty. Yeshua (Jesus) therefore did not rise on Sunday morning. He had already risen beforehand and departed the tomb before Sunday morning at sunrise. There was a special high Sabbath during the Passover week that Yeshua (Jesus) was crucified on (Mark 16:1). Yeshua was crucified Wednesday afternoon and was placed in His tomb on Wednesday before sunset. Yeshua (Jesus) was in the grave Wednesday night, Thursday day, Thursday night, Friday day, Friday night, Saturday day, and rose Saturday just before sunset, equating to three days and three nights in the tomb.

Christians who claim that they want to continue to observe Easter to celebrate the resurrection should do it right and celebrate Passover in remembrance of Him (Luke 22:15-19). Messiah (Christ) is not our Easter; He is our Passover (1 Corinthians 5:7).

BUT GOD KNOWS MY HEART

**JEREMIAH 7:8-10 (NKJV):**

**Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit. Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, AND WALK AFTER OTHER GODS WHOM YOU DO NOT KNOW, AND THEN COME AND STAND BEFORE ME IN THIS HOUSE WHICH IS CALLED BY MY NAME, AND SAY, 'WE ARE DELIVERED TO DO ALL THESE ABOMINATIONS'?**

Yeshua (Jesus) did not deliver mankind from sin so that man can worship Him through the abominations of other gods.

**JEREMIAH 17:9 (NKJV):**

**The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?**

Many deceive themselves into believing that celebrating Christmas and Easter are OK, because God knows their heart. Are Christians really being honest when they say that they are celebrating Christmas and Easter for God, or are they really celebrating these holidays for themselves and their children?

**MATTHEW 10:37 (NKJV):**

**“He who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”**

**LUKE 6:46 (NKJV):**

**“Why do you call Me Lord, Lord and do not do the things which I say?”**

#### SPIRITUAL FORNICATION

Celebrating Christmas and Easter to honor God is like a man who says he loves his good faithful fiancée, but has decided to end his relationship with her as he has found a more exciting woman who he wants to be with. So the man decides to try to cheer up his fiancée by having a surprise birthday party for her. So he organizes a surprise party for her, *on his new mistress’s birthday*. His fiancée comes home and the man introduces her to his mistress, and then a stripper pops out from a cake, which is in the center of the home, and the stripper and her friends all say “Happy Birthday!” to the man’s fiancée, even though it is not her birthday, and everyone joins in the hedonistic festivities of this chaotic party.

The analogy here is that the husband is like a person who believes he can worship God in any manner he chooses. The mistress is like the goddess Ishtar. The birthday cake, set up in a prominent place in the home, is like the Christmas tree idol. The stripper, who pops out from the cake, and her friends are like the falsehoods and evils that are part of paganism (Santa Claus, elves, Easter bunnies, painted eggs). The faithful wife, who comes home to the horror of this birthday celebration, supposedly in honor of her, is like Yeshua (Jesus). This is basically how people ‘honor’ Yeshua (Jesus) through Christmas and Easter.

Spiritual fornication is how Yeshua (Jesus) views Christmas and Easter, the honoring of Him through festivals of falsehoods, idolatry, and pagan gods.

**ISAIAH 45:9 (NKJV - Condensed):**

**Woe to Him who strives with his Maker! ... Shall the clay say to him who forms it, ‘What are you making?’**

**JOHN 4:23-24 (NKJV):**

**“True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”**

It is not for the creation to tell the Creator how he or she will honor and worship God, but that is what many people do when they refuse to worship God in spirit and truth and instead honor and worship Him through pagan festivals and other gods.. If Christmas and Easter were festivals that God wanted man to worship Him through, He would have declared so in Scripture. True believers MUST worship God in spirit and truth, not through worldliness and untruth.

## GOD'S BIBLICAL FESTIVALS ARE NOT 'JEWISH' HOLIDAYS

### **LEVITICUS 23:1-2 (NKJV):**

**And YHWH (the Lord) spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of YHWH (the Lord), which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, THESE ARE MY FEASTS.**

Due to the fact that there is much confusion coming forth from organized Christianity and Judaism, and because of the historic separation of Christianity from the Judaism, God's festivals have been classified and regarded as 'Jewish' holidays by many.

### THE SEVEN FEASTS OF YHWH (THE LORD)

- Passover (aka Pesach)
- Unleavened Bread
- First Fruits
- Pentecost (aka Shavuot or Weeks)
- Trumpets
- Atonement (aka Yom Kippur)
- Tabernacles (aka Booths or Wedding)

In addition to Christmas and Easter, other Christian or secular holidays, which to some greater or lesser degree are evil, man-made, pagan, or secular in origin would include: Ash Wednesday, Corpus Christi, Halloween, Thanksgiving, St. Patrick's Day, Valentine's Day, and many others. These holidays of man take people away from the holy festivals of God.

The feasts of YHWH (the Lord) are not Jewish holidays; they are God's holy day convocation festivals. Christians who see and understand this truth, and who wish to come out of Christian-Babylonian pagan worship of God, and who wish to worship Him in spirit and truth, should study God's festivals and find out more about them by attending a Messianic or Hebrew Roots congregation, where the festivals of YHWH (the Lord) are known, observed, and practiced.

## WHAT IS A BELIEVER TO DO DURING CHRISTMAS AND EASTER?

### **1 CORINTHIANS 5:9-10 (NKJV):**

**I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, OR IDOLATORS, SINCE THEN YOU WOULD NEED TO GO OUT OF THE WORLD.**

A true believer can still attend a Christmas or Easter gathering and not partake in the pagan festivities. True believers are not commanded to hide on pagan holidays, but are to be salt and light.

### **MATTHEW 5:13-16 (NKJV):**

**“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.”**

Believers are permitted to meet with family and friends, or during pagan events, but should not partake in the rituals involved in these events. It is permissible to meet with family and friends, greet, and eat with them as usual, but a believer should not participate in decorating the Christmas tree, saying “Merry Christmas,” exchanging gifts, singing Christmas carols, forsaking the dietary commands by eating Christmas or Easter ham, practice paganism by coloring Easter eggs, or playing Easter games.

A true, knowledgeable, Holy Spirit filled believer should use the opportunity of pagan holidays, such as Christmas and Easter, to reveal the truth of what God’s word says about these false holidays and expose them.

Christmas and Easter are holidays not truly dedicated to God, but to the things of this world. Christmas is a celebration of mystical things in celebration of material covetousness. Christmas trees are idols; Santa represents Satan who miraculously knows all things; his elves represent his co-working demons; and Santa provides gifts for children by delivering them on Christmas Eve on reindeer that fly. Easter is a counterfeit Passover that celebrates the resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus the Christ), but does so in a corrupted way by declaring the actual time the Messiah (Christ) spent in the grave was a day and two nights, rather than three days and three nights; renames Passover ‘Easter’ in honor of the pagan goddess Ishtar; uses rabbits to extol fertility (and sexual promiscuity); and painted eggs to represent offspring (and sacrifice of offspring).

Easter subtly glorifies fertility as the way of new life, in place of the resurrection of Yeshua (Jesus) as the resurrection to new life.

Some people say “Keep Christ in Christmas.” Christ was never in Christmas in the first place, so it is appropriate to keep the X in Xmas. Likewise, Easter does not replace Passover, and we are to do this: Passover, in remembrance of Him (Luke 22:14-19).

Honoring and worshiping Yeshua (Jesus) through Christmas and Easter, which are pagan holidays of the world, which are not His holy festivals (Leviticus 23), is not worshiping Him in truth. Believers are told that true worshipers MUST worship God in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24). Worshiping Yeshua (Jesus) through Christmas and Easter, the way many in the world dishonors Him, is NOT an option for the true believer and we should not partake in the evil things of this world, which are often disguised as good (1 John 2:15-17, 4:4-6; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15).