

Where Is Christ In Christmas?

Rethinking A Secularized Christian Holiday From A Messianic Perspective

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The Christmas season had arrived again, and with it a plethora of symbols, activities, customs and traditions that can blur or obliterate the true biblical aspects of this holiday. To my dismay, I had recently been told that December 25th was not Christ's true birthday at all. Though I later found this to be true, I discovered that December 25th still figures prominently in Christ's birth narrative. But first, I found myself seeking answers when I was misinformed that December 25th had been chosen as Christ's birthday to help assimilate Pagans when Christianity became the official state religion of the declining Roman Empire.



According to the fear mongers, in an attempt to replace the rebirth of the Sun god with the birth of God's Son, Christ's birthday was supposedly incorporated into an ancient week of feasting called Saturnalia, which honored the rebirth of the Roman Sun god Apollo on the Winter Solstice. Though I later learned that this is completely untrue, some Messianic Jews and several legalistic or cult Churches like the Jehovah's Witnesses and Worldwide Church of God continually teach that this date was supposedly chosen by the Holy Roman Emperor in an effort to Christianize the Pagans who refused to relinquish their love of Pagan feasts. The same fear mongers also insinuate that many of the symbols we associate with Christmas, like Christmas trees, evergreen wreaths and Yule logs have decidedly Pagan origins without addressing the fact that God created evergreens in the first place and imbued them with allegorical meaning for our seeking pleasure.

But because I had not written my "Language of God Book Series" yet, and I had not done the research to know how to destroy the clever arguments against these practices being made by those touting fabricated history and brandishing copies of the

error-strewn book "The Two Babylons", I was filled with conflicting emotions and distress. I had a strong desire to live by God's truth, and so I felt forced to re-evaluate my love of the Christmas traditions I grew up enjoying.

Like the supposed feast of the Pagan goddess Ishtar called Easter, however, the Pagan holiday called Saturnalia had supposedly been "Christianized" by associating it with events in Christ's life. However, as my research later proved, Easter and Christmas are not truly Pagan holidays at all, but legitimately honor significant events associated with Christ's conception, birth, nativity, death, and resurrection! Sadly, however, this truth has been largely hidden through the efforts of those who are waging not just a war on Christmas, but on Christianity!

The truth is that there are many workers of iniquity that have been waging this war for the past 150 years by gaining academic influence and literally re-writing text books, encyclopedias, and histories to reflect their ungodly revisions of history that were spurred on by their brazen hatred of the truth. As a result, the real connection between Passover and Firstfruits with Easter, and the connection of Christmas with the weeklong Feasts of Tabernacles and Chanukah were obscured by falsely claiming that the Christian feasts are tied to so-called Pagan festival dates, rituals and symbolism.

Assuming that there was a melding of Paganism with Christianity in the past can make discerning believers extremely uncomfortable, especially in the light of the Bible's strong admonitions against worshipping false gods and following Pagan traditions. At one point before I knew better, I wondered if I had to forsake all the trappings of Christmas in order to be faithful to Christ and the teachings of His Word. As I wrestled with indecision and doubt, I searched the Bible and the writings of other believers looking for answers. Finally, through prayer, biblical studies, historical research, and an understanding of the Gospel in the Stars, I discovered that Christmas has a godly connection to Christ's birth and to the Jewish Festival of Light called Chanukah. Let me show you how I found out.

Yahweh initially answered my prayers by giving me His peace. Then, as I listened to the promptings of the Holy Spirit within me, I began to see that every created thing has a holy and divine message to share with humanity. It was such a revelation to realize that almost all the so-called Pagan symbols of Christmas are not Pagan at all, but have spiritual meanings derived from the allegorical Language of God that is revealed by the Holy Spirit and is inherent in all created things.

After discovering and learning how to apply God's secret, silent Language over a number of years, I gradually reinterpreted every once "paganized" symbol surrounding Christmas with Christian and Messianic Jewish beliefs and ideologies. Thus, the evergreen trees, wreaths and garlands used by Pagans to symbolize immortality or reincarnation became fitting symbols for everlasting life through the Resurrection. Also as a result of this Holy Spirit-guided spiritual reinterpretation of symbolism, I began to see that all the twinkling lights and countless candles used at

Christmas are visual metaphors for the many passages in the Bible that speak of light. In fact, Yahshua called Himself and all of His true followers “the light of the world” (see Mat. 5:14 and John 8:12). He also commanded us to:

“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” (Mat. 5:16).

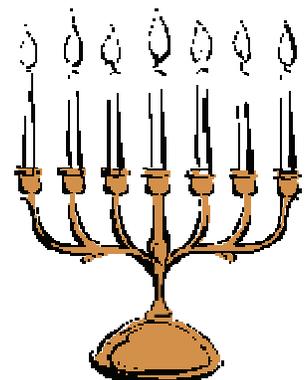


Each twinkling light shining through the dark night also brings to mind the passage in the Gospel of John that calls Yahshua (Jesus) “the light of men” (John 1:4). Furthermore, it says of Christ: “The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it” (John 1:5). How true this seems in contemporary Christmas festivities, when so many overlook the true light and love of the world for the secular counterfeit called Santa Claus. Why do so many professing believers encourage their children to believe in the lie of Santa Claus instead of the truth of Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ)? This is one tradition I cannot reconcile to my faith and must therefore discard.

Santa Claus, despite his origins as a Catholic Saint, could never know which child truly deserves his gifts. Only God knows our true hearts, and only He is worthy to judge us. No saint can hope to carry out just judgments of others without the guidance and discernment offered us through Yahshua and His Holy Spirit. All true believers in Yahshua are considered saints, and as saints they must strive to be honest with their children. Replace Santa with Yahshua this Christmas, and ask the children you know to strive after the spiritual gifts that only the Holy Spirit of Yahweh can bestow.

The many twinkling lights and candles of Christmas can serve as potent reminders of all the saints who now reside in heaven, many of whom were martyred for their faith. These colorful lights also help us to recall the Jewish celebration of Chanukah (or Hanukkah) on the 25th of Kislev of the Jewish lunar calendar. This festival nearly always falls in December.

Chanukah is the Jewish “Festival of Light.” It is a religious observance established since the time of the Maccabean rule of Israel. It honors the victory of the Jews over religious oppression and political tyranny as well as the miracle of the menorah that burned in the newly rededicated Temple of Yahweh for eight days without needing the oil replenished. In the Bible, whenever oil was used to anoint someone or something, it meant it was being consecrated for God's use. This is why all of Israel's kings were anointed by having oil poured over their heads and why Mary of Bethany poured oil over



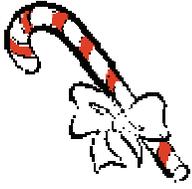
Yahshua's head and feet (Matthew 26:7, Luke 7:38, John 12:3). Interestingly, the word "Messiah" is Hebrew and means "Anointed One." No one else in history was more worthy of this title than Yahshua our Messiah.

In the Bible, oil symbolically represents the anointing of the Holy Spirit. How fitting then that at Christmas and Chanukah all the gifts of the Holy Spirit such as love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness and hope are emphasized and highlighted! The Holy Spirit, as our spiritual lamp fuel, lights our spiritual lamps so that we might enlighten others with the true light of the Gospel. Without the gift of Yahshua as our Anointed One, we in turn could not be anointed to serve Him and others through Him. We all need the oil of anointing to manifest itself in our lives if we are to be of use to Yahweh God. Chanukah represents this anointing and is therefore a very significant holiday that believers would be wise to commemorate. We will return to the subject of Chanukah a bit later in this essay. For now, however, I want to share more about God's wonderful allegorical Language.

By taking these so-called Pagan symbols, and making them allegorically and spiritually meaningful in our own faith, it is my belief that we are rightfully reclaiming these powerful symbols for the one Divine Being who originally imbued them with spiritual meaning! As revealed in my "Language of God" book series, the metaphorical meanings of many supposedly Pagan holiday symbols cannot have been lost on the ancient peoples who viewed them with their "spiritual eyes" open. These god-fearing and Spirit-led people would have interpreted God's hidden messages in nature correctly. However, once the symbolic spiritual meanings of these plants, animals, and forces of nature were known, it took little time for Satan's minions to find alternative uses for these symbols when promoting false religious beliefs.

One may ask: "How could Yahweh God have allowed this?" One answer is that He has given us free will to choose between good and evil. As a result, both good and evil exist in our world side-by-side. Unfortunately, given the choice, many of our predecessors chose to follow an evil path. My own research into this subject has revealed that the original prophetic ideas, symbols, and God-ordained holidays and festivals mentioned in the Bible incorporated far more ancient symbolism that God wished us to remember. Adam and Eve and the first generations of men knew this symbolism in its purest form. At that time, it was a source of near limitless truth about God and His creation.

Sadly, this symbolic language was progressively altered until it became so corrupted it bore little resemblance to the original truth. This was done by evil people who ultimately sought to deceive the human race. It is a shame that they virtually succeeded. Now, however, it is time to set the record straight. Many Pagan kings and priests of past ages assigned new meanings to all God-ordained festivals and symbols, including the Mazzaroth (Hebrew for Zodiac) as it was once understood in a Judeo-Christian context. To learn more about this, you can purchase my Language of God series books online at the <http://pillar-of-enoch.com> bookstore.



Candy canes are another lovely symbol associated with Christmas. They too can be reclaimed for Chanukah and Christmas to serve as reminders of the shepherds who came to see the Christ child at His birth. They also represent the shepherd's staff of Yahshua the Messiah, "The Good Shepherd." Like the sweetness we receive when we eat candy canes, we also find much sweetness in life when we learn to follow Yahshua. As shepherd's staves, candy canes can serve to remind us that Abraham and the twelve patriarchal tribes of Israel were once wandering shepherds. Even the brightly wrapped gifts people give each other at Chanukah and Christmas can serve to remind us of the Messiah, for they recall the costly gifts the Magi gave Yahshua (Jesus) sometime after His birth. The fact that this original gift giving may have been done during Chanukah makes the connection between Christmas and Chanukah even more relevant. Gift giving also helps us to remember the passages in the Bible that say: *"Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8), and "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).*

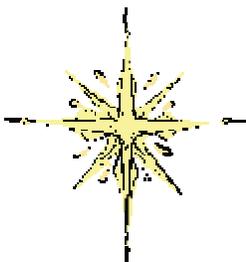
Gift-giving helps us to share the bounty that God has given to us with others we love as well as those less fortunate than ourselves. When done thoughtfully and generously, gift-giving exemplifies Christian and Messianic spiritual gifts like love, selflessness, generosity, sacrifice and brotherhood. The more generous we are at Christmas and throughout the year, the more we exemplify those who truly understand that all our material blessings are gifts from God and cannot be kept forever. They should be shared and then passed on to those we love.

As the Bible says:

"For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil." -- 1 Tim. 6:7-10

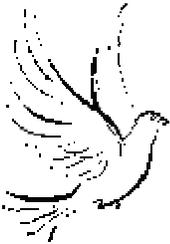
We cannot love money too greatly if we freely give it away!

Thankfully, there are many symbols of Christmas today that are not Pagan at all but are undeniably Christian and Messianic. Representations of angels abound everywhere at Christmas, and these heavenly messengers figure prominently in many Bible stories. Angels appeared on the night of Christ's birth, when they sang to the shepherds grazing their flocks outside of Bethlehem.



Stars are also familiar symbols at Christmas, and they represent the wondrous Star of Bethlehem, which led the Magi to where the Christ Child dwelled. They also can serve to remind us that one of the appellations of Yahshua is "the bright Morning Star" (Rev. 22:16), perhaps referring to Yahshua as "the star that will come out of Jacob" (Numbers 24:17).

The Nativity scenes displayed by many at Christmas are also a clear reminder that Yahshua, "the Light of the World," was humbly born. His first resting place was not likely a fairly permanent stable but something even more humble (albeit far more gaily decorated!): the temporary Sukkot booth Jews sleep in one week a year to recall their 40-year sojourn in the Sinai Desert and God's miraculous provision for them during that time. The booths (called sukkahs) also signify the rough circumstances of desert life that helped forge the Israelites from discouraged slaves into a bold nation of conquerors. This open-air booth is also where Jews still eat all their Sukkot festival meals. This graphically reminds us that Yahshua, through His Holy Spirit, is our spiritual food. This is why Yahshua is called the "Bread of Life." The many delicious pastries and cookies of Christmas help us recall that Yahshua is the only food that can satisfy our souls' cravings.



wings:

The dove is another biblical symbol seen frequently at Christmas. Through this symbol we remember the Holy Spirit descending on Yahshua in the image of a dove when John baptized Him in the Jordan River. We also can recall the wonderful word picture in the Old Testament that shows Yahweh protecting us under the shelter of His

*"He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge." --
Psalm 91:4*

Just as a baby bird can rely on its mother to shelter it under her wings, we too can rely on Yahweh Elohim and His Son, Yahshua (Jesus) to shelter us in the wonderful cover of their love, grace, forgiveness, and peace.

Many different types of plants are also associated with Christmas. These include evergreens like cedars, pines, mistletoe, and holly. There is a very good reason for this association, since evergreens stay vibrantly colorful, and vitally alive all year long. They therefore are wonderful symbols for eternity and everlasting life. Just as evergreens stay beautiful, fragrant, and alive year-round, Christ will give all who believe in Him everlasting life in new, beautiful, and perfect bodies when they are resurrected. Since God intended for humanity to be able to see and understand the allegorical meanings behind every created thing, the rumors that Christmas trees are actually idolatrous or pagan is ridiculous. God created all things to reflect spiritual truths, and it was therefore His will that we should see meanings behind their appearance, characteristics, and/or behavior.



In light of this knowledge, Yahweh God has shown me that the sacred evergreens of once Pagan rituals can now be reclaimed. Now we can use them as they were intended, to serve as reminders of Messianic attributes and roles. Sprigs of holly with their bright red berries need no longer be stigmatized by their use in Pagan worship. Instead they can help believers remember the blood tipped crown of thorns

Yahshua (Jesus) wore on the Cross. Similarly, the white berries of the mistletoe can remind us of the tears Christ shed before He raised Lazarus from the dead, and the tears that were shed by those who loved Christ and witnessed His dreadful crucifixion and death. The evergreen mistletoe, and evergreens in general also recall the temporal resurrection of Lazarus, the miraculous and eternal resurrection of Christ, and the future resurrection of all the saints into everlasting life.

In addition to evergreens, cinnamon, vanilla, and cloves are plant fragrances that are used frequently at Christmastime, and that also have undeniable Christian and Messianic applications. Whenever we smell the pungent scents of Christmas, they can help to remind us that the Bible calls our prayers and praises a pleasing fragrance unto God. This in turn recalls the incense burnt before Yahweh God in His tabernacle. In worshipping God we therefore become like holy incense:

"May my prayer be set before you like incense, may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice." -- Psalm 141:2



The spices and fragrances of Christmas also recall the gifts of frankincense and myrrh given to Christ awhile after His birth by the reverent and mysterious Magi. At the time of Christ, frankincense and myrrh were valued as highly as the gold that the Magi also gave Yahshua. Incidentally, the Magi are never numbered, nor are their names or countries of origin ever revealed in the Gospel according to Matthew. It is also interesting to note that, contrary to popular belief, Matthew makes it clear that the Magi discovered Yahshua (who by this time was "a young child") not in a manger in a stable, but in a house in Bethlehem:

"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary His mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh." -- Matthew 2:11. (KJV)

In the preceding portion of this article, I have carefully shown how many Christmas symbols are not truly Pagan at all, and how these symbols can be reclaimed for Christ. I also have shown that Christmas has an undeniable connection to Chanukah. I have done this to show that, for a Christian or Messianic to celebrate Christmas in the traditional manner, they do not have to forsake Christ for a lie! Even though the Pagan version of Christmas called Saturnalia is considered to be the birthday of the Sun or the Sun god, there is only one true God represented by the Sun, and the date for the start of Saturnalia was not December 25th at any time.

As revealed in Book One of "The Language of God" book series entitled "The Language of God in the Universe," the Sun symbolizes the true God Yahweh and His Preincarnate Son. Because of this, the Sun's nature and movements would have been of exceptional interest to the godly Sethites before the Flood, who could understand

God's divine allegorical language that was written into all of His Creation, especially the heavens! From this, we can also infer that all Pagans originally knew the true God and how to worship Him. However, they made a terrible mistake when they began to deify the physical orb of the Sun, Moon, planets and stars surrounding our Earth.

The Sun and Moon were never intended to become objects of worship on the solstices or equinoxes, or at any other time. Observing celestial movements was only intended to help measure times and seasons. These times and seasons have practical as well as prophetic applications. When we celebrate Christmas, therefore, we should see it as a way of re-appropriating the truth behind celestial symbols like the Sun and the stars and re-affirming our faith in the one true God and His knowledge, which they represent. We are also rightly taking all the symbols that apply to Chanukah and correctly associating them with the Christmas season and the light and warmth of Biblical truth.

My research also shows that we no longer need to be blinded into thinking that December 25th was Christ's actual birthday. Instead, we can see it for what it truly is: the Roman Calendar equivalent of the 25th of Kislev on the Jewish Calendar, which is the first day of Chanukah. That's right! The 25th of December is the Roman Solar or Gregorian Calendar equivalent of the Jewish Lunar Calendar date of Kislev 25.

With this knowledge as our basic defense, we can find new freedom in knowing that we celebrate Yahshua's conception in Miriam's womb during Chanukah in 4 BC, which is when His life as a human being truly began, and our Messiah actually came to be with us! By extension, we also celebrate Yahshua's birth nine months later around the time of the autumn harvest festival of Sukkot in 3 BC. We also can rest knowing that we celebrate the time that the Magi found Yahshua when he was a "young child" or toddler about a year later. Fascinatingly, the 25th day of December in 2 BC fell in the middle of the week-long Feast of Chanukah in that year.

To illustrate why it is important to reclaim so-called Pagan symbols, it helps to remember that everyone on this planet today is a descendant of the righteous man Noah and his godly family. Before, and for a time after the Great Flood, Noah, his family, and his later descendents were all united under one religion and one language. That, however, changed rapidly when Nimrod took control of the world and established the Pagan worship of the Queen of Heaven named Innana or Ishtar, as well as the celestial bodies in our Universe, which were all assigned to various gods and goddesses. This demonic Pagan religion was promulgated to replace worship of the One True God. Sadly, Nimrod's false religion managed to capture the imaginations and energy of the people of Babel so that they rejected the true God Yahweh, or relegated Him to minor place in their religious pantheon. Thankfully, however, Nimrod's powerful reign of evil was broken when God destroyed the Tower of Babel, confounded the one language of mankind into many, and made humanity incapable of communicating freely and easily together.

This divine confounding of languages and ideologies was just one of many worldwide calamities that the Bible suggests occurred in Nimrod's day. Disgusted by their idolatrous and sinful behavior, Yahweh God punished all who followed the evil King/Dictator Nimrod. As a consequence, the Earth was forever changed, millions died violently, and the survivors of the worldwide cataclysm that toppled Nimrod's bid for world domination were forcibly separated. Gradually, these groups of disparate people developed into distinct cultural and linguistic groups. These, in turn, ultimately led to the many languages, races, cultures, and religions that we have on the Earth today. The cataclysmic past of Earth is discussed in Book One and Book Three of "The Language of God" book series.

Unfortunately, the destruction of men's unity did not end the spread or practice of false religion. As their Paganism evolved, the people of the new societies that developed after Babel perverted more of the Godly symbols that remained untainted by Nimrod's folly. Soon they reinterpreted the once holy symbols associated with our Creator and made them apply to their burgeoning pantheon of Pagan gods and goddesses. In this manner, they perverted the truth behind these religious symbols just as ungodly people did prior to the Flood.

This is why, though many world religions are drastically different than Judeo-Christianity today, some still retain a few symbols and beliefs that are strikingly similar. It is likely, therefore, that many of the symbols associated with Pagan religions were symbols associated with the spiritual forerunner to Judeo-Christianity practiced by Noah and his son Shem. Later however, these meanings were lost or obscured. It is now time, however, to reclaim these symbols for Christ!

Now that we've explored the reasons why many spiritual symbols that are derived from nature are not and never were "Pagan," I'd like to return to my discussion of Chanukah and its Christian and Messianic Jewish relevance. Over a period of several years, God progressively answered my continuing prayers regarding Christmas with greater spiritual knowledge. As I studied the Word of God, the Holy Spirit led me to discern ever-deepening layers of Biblical truth. I found much joy studying Scripture and, as I advanced in understanding, I gradually learned much more about the Holy Land.



Soon, I discovered that Yahshua's birth was likely in autumn since the Bible says that the Shepherds were "still" outdoors with their flocks at night. This suggests that soon it would not be possible for the shepherds to do so. This would have indeed been the case if Yahshua had been born in Israel's fairly dry and mild autumn season, because the shepherds could not have rested out in the fields for any length of time during the cool, rainy winters in Israel from late October through March.

Later, as I read books by Messianic Jewish scholars, I found some startling information. This is in the fact that Chanukah is connected to two major events surrounding the nativity of Christ. First of all, based on internal evidence in the gospels, it is very likely that Yahshua's mother Miriam was impregnated by the power of the Holy Spirit sometime during the weeklong observance of Chanukah in 4 BC. Yahshua would have therefore been born nine months later in September of 3 BC - right around the Feast of Sukkot or Tabernacles. This weeklong feast is preceded by Rosh Hashanah or the Feast of Trumpets, which is the start of the Jewish Civil Year. Further substantiation for identifying Yahshua's birth with Sukkot is found in the Greek translation of the Old Testament. There, the Greek word for "manger" was also used to refer to the outdoors Sukkot Festival booths mentioned in the same translation. The "manger" that Yahshua was laid in was therefore probably not a "feeding trough" but an outdoor Sukkot festival booth!

Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year) and the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) precede the feast of Sukkot. Five days after the somberness of the Day of Atonement, the joyful week of Sukkot or the Feast of Tabernacles begins. During this week long harvest celebration, every Jewish family member inhabited a Sukkot booth called a "Sukkah" during the day. At night, however, the men usually slept outdoors under the stars in the makeshift booths while their wives and children slept indoors. Since there was no room indoors on the night Yahshua was born, Miriam may have been forced to sleep outside in a Sukkah with Joseph - where she subsequently may have gone into labor and gave birth to Yahshua. For this reason, this fall festival week that always occurs in September or early October should rightly commemorate Yahshua's miraculous birth. However, December 25th has validity too since Yahshua was likely conceived at Chanukah, and conception is when life truly begins!

This is a compelling argument for making Chanukah part of our December Christmas celebrations, and it is based on biblical evidence. From textual examination of the Scriptures and detailed scrutiny of the Sign in the Heavens throughout the years 4 BC, 3 BC, and 2 BC, it can be determined that the Magi from the East likely arrived in Bethlehem during Chanukah week over a year after Yahshua was born. If Yahshua were born fifteen months prior around the time of the Feast of Sukkot or Tabernacles in 3BC, He would have been a 15-month old toddler by the time the Magi arrived during Chanukah of 2 BC.

Scripture indicates that Yahshua was likely conceived at Chanukah, and was also later discovered as a young child, or toddler by the Magi over a year later (Matthew 2:11). Furthermore, these Wise Men may well have found Christ on December 25th, since Chanukah began on December 23rd in 2 BC. Interestingly, as already noted, Chanukah always begins on the 25th day of Kislev, which is the ninth month on the Jewish Lunar Calendar that corresponds to the twelfth month on a Solar Calendar. This may be why December 25th was chosen as the day to celebrate Christ's conception and birth. It shares a natural connection to the 25th of Kislev that no one can or should deny. There is also a Jewish tradition which connects Chanukah to Sukkot by seeing it as a lesser Sukkot celebration. Nonetheless, many Messianic

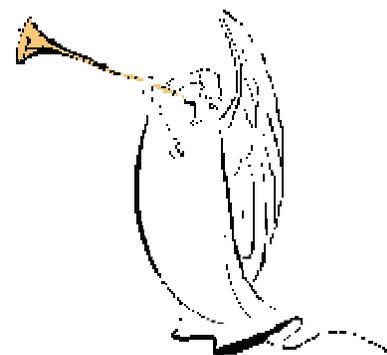
teachers are guilty of Judaizing by withholding this fact and painting Christmas as having no association with anything godly despite Chanukah's clear connection to Yahshua's birth narrative, and the celebration of Christmas on December 25th.

Since it is reasonably certain that Yahshua was physically born sometime during the Jewish Fall Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, or Tabernacles in the autumn, and it is also highly probable that Yahshua was NOT laid in a manger but in a Sukkah/booth, the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths can be honored in relation to Yahshua's birth. However, Chanukah can serve as the perfect adjunct to Christmas in December. Incorporating the Messianic aspects of Chanukah into Christmas traditions can allow believers to keep the spirit of giving and joy that surrounds Christmas alive in a biblically sound fashion.

In fact, keeping Chanukah honors Christ even more so than Christmas in some ways. This is because Chanukah recalls many powerful symbols like the Temple of Yahweh and the beautiful gold menorah that was housed inside it. It also recalls the oil that fueled the lamp. These Chanukah symbols are wonderful reminders of many biblical concepts. They remind us that Yahshua is our great High Priest and that the lamp oil we need in our hearts is the Holy Spirit. This in turn reminds us that we are the Temple of the Holy Spirit and that Yahshua is the Light of the World that makes believers give light to the lost.

For those who want to incorporate Chanukah into their Christmas festivities, the reinterpreted symbols taken from nature that are used at Christmastime can apply equally well to Chanukah. After all, as the likely time of Yahshua's conception, Chanukah would have been the true time that the Messiah came into the world to become a man! Furthermore, Chanukah was the time when His role as the Messiah and King of kings was fully recognized by the Wise Men or Magi from the East.

Many special Christmas traditions can readily be applied to Chanukah. For example, all evergreen plants can signify the role of our Messiah Yahshua as the Resurrection and the Life. So, the symbols once used by the Pagans at the Winter Solstice like evergreen holly, mistletoe and pine can be used at Chanukah to symbolize the miraculous conception of Christ, as well as the conception of faith inside new believers that promises rebirth. Our "conception" as followers of Yahshua begins when we believe in Him and are baptized with the power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, just as Chanukah represents the actual time of the physical conception of Christ, it also can depict the spiritual conception and promise of rebirth for all believers. This conception will find its fulfillment in rebirth when all believers are resurrected into everlasting life.



In Summary, though it is certain that December 25th is not Christ's literal birthday, the significant events of Yahshua's conception and His visitation by the Magi can be kept at Christmas with a clear conscience due to their connection to Chanukah.

Yahshua, the Light of the World was conceived during Chanukah, and the Magi likely found Christ at his parent's home in Bethlehem around December 25th, during the Feast of Chanukah, which begins on the 25th of Kislev every year. How fitting that the Festival honoring the Holy Spirit through miraculously replenished Temple lamp oil should also serve to represent the oil of Christ that will feed the lamps of believer's spirits for eternity!

For more information regarding the events surrounding Christ's conception and birth that tie it to the Jewish Feast of Chanukah, Tabernacles or Sukkot, and the Gospel in the Stars, see the following illustrated articles:

Read "The Divine Timing Of The Celestial Signs At Christ's Birth":

<http://pillar-of-enoch.com/essays/index.html#Birth>

Read "Yahshua's First Advent Ties to Chanukah and Christmas":

<http://pillarofenoch.blogspot.com/2010/12/yahshuas-first-advent-ties-to-chanukah.html>

For more information on what believers can learn in keeping Passover along with the day of Firstfruits/Easter, please see my online essay and downloadable Haggadah entitled "A Christian View of Passover" as a web page or in PDF format:

Read "A Christian View of Passover":

<http://pillar-of-enoch.com/essays/index.html#Lamb>

For more information surrounding Christ's Birth, please see Book One of my "Language of God" book series entitled "The Language of God in the Universe." For an interpretation of the symbols surrounding Christ's death and resurrection that are tied to the Feast of Passover, please see Book Two of the same series: "The Language of God in Humanity." To read excerpts and reviews of these books, go to the following URLs:

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We can remember God's gift of salvation on Easter or Christmas and God will not condemn us. However, it is wrong to continue to keep these holidays as they are kept by the secular world. Instead, they should be made into the truly religious holidays that they were intended to be. Focusing on and teaching others about the Judeo-Christian religious symbolism found in holiday decorations like holly, mistletoe, candy canes, festive lights, candles, and in practices like gift-giving is one way to do

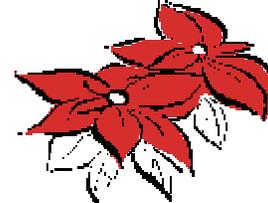
this. Furthermore, these holidays can be transformed by being stripped of their commercial importance, and being kept as God intended. This is with thoughtful spiritual reflection, and through experiencing joy in our salvation. We can also celebrate our salvation by freely sharing God's gifts to us with family, friends, and those less fortunate than ourselves - not just on holidays, but all through the year!

Some may want to go even further in their reclamation of Easter and Christmas for Christ by keeping these holidays on the days that Yahweh God Himself ordained for them in the Bible, at Passover, the Day of Firstfruits, and Sukkot or Tabernacles. However, let's not fall into the trap of legalism over this whole issue. We need to keep in mind that all Biblically sanctioned holidays are only shadows of the fulfillment that came through our Savior and Lord Yahshua. Special feast days, if they serve to help us remember the miraculous life and purpose of our Savior Yahshua, are sanctified through Him. Indeed, our Lord Yahshua fulfilled the promises and symbolism found in all the great religious festivals and observances kept by men (even those of the Pagans who sadly reject Him!). He is the source of all life and love in the universe, and every season and event on Earth can be interpreted through Him.

"Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things which were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ." -- Col. 2:16-17



**May Our Lord Yahshua
Bless You This Christmas,
Chanukah, and Throughout
The New Year!**



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