

How Christmas, Easter, and Sunday Came Into the Church

By

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REVELATION 18: 1-4 *"And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice saying, Babylon the great is fallen. Is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit and cage of every unclean and hateful bird.*

"For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies"

And I heard another voice from heaven saying, Come out of her my people, that ye be not partners of her sin, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

This Scripture is part of a message, which is to lighten the whole world with glory. This message is "Babylon is fallen, come out of her my people."

Now I would not be surprised if I am criticized for this sermon this morning. And if you feel that I should be and you want to criticize me, I hope that you will feel free to do it. I promise that I will listen with utmost courtesy. But when you shall have finished, I'll have just one question to ask you. I will want to know just how you would preach this message that is supposed to lighten the world with glory, "Babylon is fallen come out of her my people", without telling people who Babylon is and just what people are supposed to come out of.

Rev. 12:7-9 *"And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon fought and his angels prevailed not, neither was there place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world. He was cast out into the earth and his angels were cast out with him."*

Satan and his angels were cast into the earth, where it says that he will deceive the whole earth. It is my purpose in this sermon to show how completely he has deceived the whole world into giving to him the worship which he declared before he was cast out of heaven.

Isaiah 14:12-14. *"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer (Day Star, margin) son of the morning how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations. For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will be like the most high".*

Notice that Satan is here called "Lucifer" or "Day Star". He wanted to be worshipped as God in heaven and for this reason he was cast out to the earth where he is going to deceive the whole world into worshipping him. He knew that men would worship the most powerful and beneficial thing they could see, and so he took the day star or the sun as the object of his own system of worship. And very early in the history of man, Satan caused him to turn to worship of the sun, which seemed to be the source of all life on this planet.

Anciently we find men worshipping Moloch, the god of fire or the sun, children were offered as sacrifice to this god. In my files, I have a picture taken from the National Geographic Magazine, which is an artist's conception of a human sacrifice in Old Mexico where five priests of the sun lay a youth on a pyramid-shaped altar. Two priests hold his feet, two his hands, while the fifth lifts a gleaming knife with which he rips out the heart of this youth; and while it palpitates with life he lifts it up, dripping with the warm blood as an offering to the Sun God. Sun worship, which is really devil worship, began shortly after the flood with Nimrod the great grandson of Noah.

Genesis 10:8-10 *"And Cush begat Nimrod, he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel."* (margin: Babylon)

Thus ancient Babylon rebelled against the law of God and became the center of a system of worship in opposition to the worship of Jehovah. To know why God speaks of modern Babylon and calls his people to come out of her, we need to learn something of this system of worship found in ancient Babylon.

Pagan tradition, upon which Babylonian worship is founded, taught that when Nimrod died his spirit went to live in the sun, and when his wife Ishtar died her spirit went to live in the moon, and Ishtar was worshipped as the Queen of heaven. Tradition also taught that after Nimrod died, his spirit was born again to Ishtar as a son, whom she named Tammuz. Here, then, in the beginning of Satan's worship we find a father, a mother, and a son born of miraculous conception, a counterfeit for the Father, the Holy Spirit, and the Son of God born of miraculous conception.

The birthday of Tammuz, the eon of the pagan gods, was celebrated on Dec. 25, about the same time that the sun begins to swing back north bringing life with it.

The first letter of Tammuz, the "T" became a sacred emblem to sun worship. Often human sacrifice was made on a wooden T. It was for this reason Jesus was crucified on a T. Satan, through the sun-worshipping soldiers of Rome, succeeded in having Jesus offered on the very symbol of worship used to offer sacrifices to Satan.

From the Two Babylons by Hislop, page 199 we read: "The cross was worshipped by the pagan cults long before the Incarnation and death of Christ. It was worshipped in Mexico for ages before the missionaries set foot there. The cross thus widely worshipped, or regarded as a sacred emblem, as the symbol of Baccus, the Babylonian Messiah." Notice here the marks of the great controversy between Christ and Satan. Satan was having himself worshipped as the pagan Messiah.

This statement is taken from Wilkinson's Tribes of Egypt, Page 376: "The girdle was sometimes highly ornamented, men as well as women wore earrings, and frequently wore a small cross suspended to a necklace, or to the collar of their dress.... It was largely in use as early as the fifteenth century before the Christian era." Fifteen centuries before the Christian era, priests wore robes with "Ts" on them. One thousand five hundred years before Jesus hung on calvary's cross, that cross was worshipped as a pagan emblem of sun worship.

These pagans also, it says, wore rings and earrings. These were round circles of gold like the sun and the moon. The priests kept a group of harlots in the temple as part of their licentious worship. A circlet of gold was placed on them to denote that they belonged to the priests of the sun.

You will remember that when Moses went up onto the mountain to get the Ten Commandments, the children of Israel turned back to the sun worship of Egypt. Aaron took all those golden rings and earrings, which they had borrowed from the Egyptians, and made a golden calf, or bull, which was a symbol of fertility, used in Egyptian Sun worship.

"Encyclopedia Britannica", article "Apis": "According to this view the Apia was the Incarnation of Osiris manifested in the shape of a bull. All the mysteries of the Egyptian and their whole doctrine of the future state, attached themselves to this worship. Osiris was identified with the sun. Sun-worship was the primitive form of Egyptian religion, perhaps even pre-Egyptian."

The sun was the god of many early pagan nations, and was addressed by various names such as Ashtoreth, Baal, Tammuz, etc, all meaning "Lord" in the language of that nation. Hosea tells how these rings and earrings were made for Baal even by Israel on occasion when he would turn to Baal-worship. In fact this sun worship has been in opposition to the worship of Jehovah and has infiltrated the true worship, which belongs to the Creator.

Hosea 2:8 & 13 *"For she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, which they prepared for Baal.... 13 And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgot me, saith the LORD."*

According to tradition, Tammuz, the son of Ishtar, Queen of Heaven, died and went down to the pagan hell. To obtain his release, Ishtar went down to hell and pleaded with Hela, the goddess of Hell to release Tammuz. Hela is supposed to have agreed to let Tammuz return from the dead provided the world would be made to weep and fast for forty days. This forty day period of weeping was supposed to precede the date of his conception on March 25. This date was observed then by the pagans to celebrate the return of their god from the dead.

About March 25th was the spring equinox, when life began to spring forth after the death of winter. Nine months later (nine months being the prenatal period of man) on December 25, Tammuz was supposed to have been born and that date was celebrated for his birthday. Ezekiel mentions this period of weeping for Tammuz as being practiced right at the very door of the tabernacle.

Ezekiel 8:14-15 *"And he brought me to the door of the gate of the Lord's house which was toward the north; and, behold there sat women weeping for Tammuz. Then said he unto me, hast thou seen this, O son of man? Turn thee yet again and thou shall see greater abominations than these."*

Ezekiel 8:9-10 *"And he said unto me. Go In, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping thing, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed upon the wall round about."*

This weeping for the sun god at the very door of God's temple was abomination enough, but there are more yet to be shown. The pagans drew pictures on the walls of their temples. The pagans also used little round cakes with "Ts" on them as an offering to the queen of heaven.

Jer. 7:17-18 *"Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women kneed their dough, to bake cakes to the Queen of Heaven."*

On the 25th of March the sun-worshippers would go out very early in the morning to a high hill and pray toward the sun as it came over the horizon. The egg too, was a symbol of life and was used as a sacred emblem. In fact the Queen of Heaven, according to tradition was hatched from an egg. Another tradition said that the world itself was hatched from an egg about the time of the Spring Equinox.

The rabbit, too, came very early to be connected with moon worship because of its nocturnal habits and because it bears its young in 29 days, the same as the orbit of the moon.

The days of the week were named for the planetary gods. The first day of the week we know was named for Baal, the sun god. Baal, or Tammuz, means "lord". So the first day was called Sun's day, Baal's day, or Lord's Day. The next day was named for the moon or moon's day (Monday). The other five days were named for five of the then-known planets. The day of Saturn (Saturday) was a day of ill omen and looked upon with disdain.

On December 25, when the sun begins to swing back north, bringing light and life to the world, the pagans used two emblems, one to represent their dead god and another to represent his being born again. On the night before December 25, a dead log was burned to represent the death of the pagan god, and the next morning an evergreen tree was brought in to symbolize the god's return to life.

Jer. 10:2-5 *"Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of the heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain; for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not; they must be borne because they cannot go..."*

Groves of evergreen were dedicated to Baal worship. And over and over the Bible says, "they built altars under every green tree." One of the first tasks God committed to his prophets when he called his people back from idolatry was to cut down the groves of Baal.

This ancient Baal worship was constantly getting into the worship of God. In Rev. 17 we have modern Babylon portrayed to us, and it is this Babylon out of which people are called by a special message in the last.

Rev. 17:3-5 *"So he carried me away in the spirit unto the wilderness; and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns, and the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colors, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand and full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication; and upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon the Great, Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth."*

This woman was the mother of harlots. A woman represents a church; therefore we conclude that the woman represents some great church, which is the mother of other apostate churches.

During the third, fourth and fifth centuries after Christ, there came a coalition between pagan sun-worshippers and Christianity at Rome. Constantine the emperor of Rome, on his way to the battle of the Milvian Bridge, was praying toward the sun early one morning when he claimed to see a cross in the sun. The bishops of Rome, eager to win the support of Constantine for Christianity, urged him to affect a union of sun worship and Christianity. They urged him to believe that the vision of the cross in the sun signified that this should be done. Constantine promised that if he won this battle of the Milvian Bridge he would become a Christian. He won that battle and embraced Christianity.

But accepting Christianity for Constantine did not mean that he gave up all his other gods. It was customary for the Romans to adopt any religion which came to them, adding new gods to their already long list. Agrippa built a temple to all the gods in 27 B.C. called the Pantheon. The name Pantheon is from the Greek "pan" "all" and "theos" = god.

Throughout the empire whole armies were baptized just as they might be initiated into any pagan cult. Soon these half converted pagans, holding on to the old gods and old customs, were in control of the church at Rome.

When Dec. 25 came around these "pagan Christians" still wanted to observe their winter festival in honor of the birthday of the sun god. The church was forced to compromise with this powerful element in the church so it made a special mass on Dec. 25, and called it "Christ-mass" or Christmas. The Yule logs and the evergreen tree, once worshipped as heathen idols, found their way into the Christian church.



Why do Christians have services in honor of the sun?

The spring festival too, when the sun god returned from the dead by being conceived miraculously by Ishtar, the Queen of Heaven, was a favorite with these pagan Romans and on this point too they demanded compromise with the church. And here too, the church was equally willing to compromise. Since the sun-worshippers kept the festival of their god's return to life in the spring, the church let them keep it, only now they observed the same festival with them, excusing their conscience by saying it was the resurrection of Christ they honored. This festival to this day bears the name of the Queen of Heaven. Ishtar. (Easter)

And through the centuries the church has continued to follow the pagan custom of Easter sunrise service, and then going home to hunt the colored eggs hidden by the Easter bunny. And all my life I have wondered just what sunrise services, colored eggs, and bunny rabbits had to do with the resurrection of Christ.

But just before this Easter festival, the sun worshippers fasted for forty days and wept for Tammuz that he might be restored to life again on Easter morning. That forty-day period came into the church through the door already thrown wide open by Christmas and Easter and occupies a very prominent place on the church calendar as Lent. Humbolt's Mexican Researches-Article, Lent: "Lent in Mexico: Three days after the vernal equinox began a solemn fast of forty days in honor of the sun."

The pagans also had their cakes with Ts on them which were baked for the Queen of Heaven and hot cross buns have gone with the Easter season ever since.



Communion wafer has IHS in it

In the Catholic mass a little round wafer is used with three letters on it. These three letters are I-H-S. The priest will tell you that these letters represent the Latin words, Iesus, Hominum, Salvator, interpreted as "Jesus the Saviour of Men." These letters also occupy prominent positions in many Protestant churches today.

What many do not know is that down in Alexandria, Egypt, the sun-worshippers too, had little round cakes on their altars; and these little cakes had three letters on them and those letters were I-H-S. Only there they meant Isis-Horus-Seb, the father and mother of their pagan god.



Pagan Symbols

We also read that Ezekiel was shown the heathen idols portrayed walls of their temples. These idols still adorn the walls of Catholic temples and other buildings. When a sun worshipper drew a picture of his god he was portrayed as a man with the sun's disc back of his head. And strangely enough, even today we see Christ or the so-called saints pictured with a halo of the sun around their heads. The word for halo is the Greek word "heilos" or the sun.

The church at Rome followed the practice of adopting any custom of any people she tried to win, permitting the custom to remain but trying to give it a Christian meaning. This statement is taken from the history book Development of Christian Doctrine, pages 571-573:

"We are told in various ways by Eusebius, that Constantine in order to recommend the new religion to the heathen, transferred into it the outward ornaments to which they had been accustomed in their own. Incense, lamps and candles, holy water, holy days and seasons, the ring in marriage, images, all are of pagan origin, and sanctified by their adoption into the church."

The pagans also kept little basins of holy water at the doors to their temples. This water was made holy by plunging a lighted torch into the water signifying that the god of fire or the sun had gone into the water. This water then was sprinkled on babies to keep evil spirits away and so began sprinkling and infant baptism.

Bishop Hay's book, *Sincere Christian*, Volume I, Page 565: "The Greeks plunged a burning torch into the water to signify that the god of fire or the sun was going into the water. The Catholic priest does the same thing. In blessing the water a lighted candle is put into the fount."

When God called Moses up on the mount and gave him instructions for the building of the sanctuary, he was commanded to build the tabernacle facing the east. This was so that the worshippers would have their backs to the rising sun and their faces toward the law of God in the sanctuary.

James, Fausset & Brown, (Commentary) Page 65 "The ark and the mercy seat were placed in the west end of the tabernacle, and consequently the door fronted the east, so that the Israelites in worshipping Jehovah turned their faces to the west, that they might be thus figuratively taught to turn from the worship of that luminary which was the great idol of the nations, and to adore the God who made it and them."

Let us notice again how **Ezekiel** says a change was coming even into the worship of Jehovah. Just after he had been shown the idols portrayed on the walls and the women weeping at the door for Tammuz the sun god, he says in **verses 15 and 16**:

"Then said he unto me, hast thou seen this, O son of Man? Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these. And he brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house, and behold at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the Lord, and their faces toward the east and they worshipped the sun toward the east."

The five and twenty men represent the twenty four regular priests and the High Priest. The ministers today turn their backs on God's law and with their faces to the east they worship the sun. Why do ministers today turn their backs on God's Ten Commandments? They do it for only one reason: so they can get Baal's day in to take the place of God's Sabbath. Ezekiel 22:26 "Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned my holy things...and have hid their eyes from my Sabbath."



Vatican, Rome, Italy

The Roman church took the birthday of the sun god and made it the birthday of Christ; the day kept in honor of the pagan god's return from death and made it Easter named for Ishtar, the queen of heaven; and even that pagan queen of heaven, the mother of their god, became the Virgin Mary; the forty days of weeping for Tammuz became Lent; Holy water, idols, sprinkling infant baptism, relic worship, saint worship, purgatory and a whole host of pagan customs were given a Christian meaning. Baal's day (the heathen lord's day) became the Lord's Day of the Roman church.

Paganism in Our Christianity by Welpall, page 145 "The church made a sacred day of Sunday largely because it was the weekly festival of the sun, for it was a definite Christian policy to take over the pagan festivals endeared to the people by tradition and give them a Christian meaning. But as a solar festival, Sunday, was the sacred day of Mithra, and it is interesting to notice that since Mithra was addressed as "Dominus" or "lord", Sunday must have been the Lord's Day long before Christian times."

Satan was to deceive the whole world into worshipping him. And how he must exult with his angels as he sees how completely his worship has been taken over by a large segment of so-called Christianity. That message is growing even louder and louder as it swells into a mighty loud cry, "Babylon is fallen (the seat of both ancient and modern Baal worship) is fallen. Come out of her my people."

I Corinthians 10:20-21 *"But, I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice unto 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 the table of devils."*