



Shalom all

Today is Day 21 of Month 9 on the Creator's calendar, otherwise known as December 13, 2025 on the Roman Calendar.

Well, it's that time of year again.

While we have been focusing on the cycle of time ordained by אָדָם, we still find ourselves in the midst of a culture that operates on a completely different calendar with an entirely different focus. It is an important reminder that this is not the Kingdom of Elohim. We are exiled within a different kingdom that is ruled by evil.

That is why I try to emphasize the distinction between these kingdom calendars every week as a reality check - and I mean that literally. The calendar of אָדָם, tied directly to Creation, represents reality, whereas the calendars of Rome and Babylon have fabricated an

illusory alternate existence designed to deceive and mislead humanity.

They offer a reality separate and apart from the Kingdom of Elohim, filled with amusements, distractions, and celebrations. During this particular time of year, we are vividly reminded of the fact that we dwell in a pagan culture.

Most of us were raised and indoctrinated in a society that celebrates Christmas on December 25. That was all completely normal to most of us in our youth. But it was more than just a single day.

Leading up to that specific day, people would fully immerse themselves in the “Christmas spirit” of the “Christmas season” throughout the month of December, even past December 25th.

The Christmas season goes far beyond a single-day of celebration; it encompasses an extended period of shopping, feasting, parties, and festivities, all beginning immediately after Thanksgiving and building toward the climax on December 25, but then continuing through January 1.

Now, it’s important to understand that this “season” extends all the way back to the Roman empire, and this all has its roots in pagan practices and customs. Many rightly connect modern Christmas celebrations to the ancient Roman Saturnalia, though the correlation is not exact.

Christmas is not identical to Saturnalia, yet it is unmistakably rooted in the same pagan traditions and shares striking similarities as an extended celebration centered on the same time of year.

Saturnalia originally fell on December 17 but was later prolonged, often continuing until December 23, with feasting, gift-giving, role reversals, and revelry in honor of the god Saturn.

At its core, this season revolves around the winter solstice, which in the Roman Julian calendar occurred around December 21–22. While we today view the solstice as a precise astronomical date, ancient peoples observed a whole array of customs both leading up to it and following it.

It truly was a “season,” encompassing a variety of pagan celebrations clustered around this darkest period of the year.

In fact, numerous traditions from that era revolved around the idea of a “divine child” or the rebirth of the sun. The specific choice of December 25 ties directly to the Dies Natalis Solis Invicti - the “Birthday of the Unconquered Sun” - established by Emperor Aurelian in AD 274.

This festival celebrated the renewal of the sun god after the solstice, complete with chariot races and offerings to Sol Invictus, who was often identified with Helios and other solar deities.

This is important to note because ultimately, this all revolves around sun worship that traces back beyond the Roman Empire. It wasn't just Helios that was tied to the winter solstice, but a string of gods such as Mithras, Dionysus, and Osiris, along with the Babylonian deity named Tammuz.

So, the broader pattern of sun worship and renewal during this time traces back through Roman, Persian, Egyptian, and ultimately Babylonian influences.

Deities associated with wine, such as Dionysus (known to Romans as Bacchus), were also honored in festivals that blended into the solstice season. Lesser-known traditions like Brumalia further illustrate the depth of these customs.

The Brumalia celebration derived from “bruma,” meaning “shortest day.” It began around November 24 and extended through the solstice period, often merging into Saturnalia.

Hmmm. Doesn't that sound familiar?

That's exactly what we see going on in America from Thanksgiving to Christmas.

Brumalia focused on Bacchus and Saturn and featured nighttime feasts, gift-giving (including wax candles called cerei), winter prophecies, and Dionysian games such as jumping on inflated wineskins. The Roman writer Cato even noted that oak wood and vine props were prepared during this dark season, linking agricultural rites to the time.

Practices involving cutting trees also connect to rituals described by Arnobius concerning the pine tree sacred to Attis in the cult of Cybele, with themes of mourning and rebirth.

So all these traditions, including Saturnalia, Brumalia, and others, wove together into a broader winter solstice “season” venerated by mystery religions originating in Mesopotamia.

Our modern Christmas season is generally the same celebration with some slight variations, and the focus of the god has been altered to Jesus, from where we derive the English name Jesus. It's important to recognize that historically and mythologically, Jesus was a child of Zeus

So, we are not simply talking about getting nitpicky about Christmas Trees, wreaths, mistletoe, and Yule logs; we are confronting ancient pagan traditions rooted in sun worship that exalt this particular time of year.

In fact, the deeper one examines the evidence, the more profoundly dark and pagan it reveals itself to be - a spiritual darkness that actually mirrors the physical shortening of days at the time of the winter solstice.

There is simply no evading these facts for anyone who honestly examines the evidence. Yet if someone is determined to participate in solstice celebrations, justifications can always be found. Christians have been crafting such rationales since at least the third century, and possibly even the second century after the birth of Yahushua.

I recently heard a Christian apologist declare that any tradition lacking Scriptural foundation should be discarded without hesitation. I thought that was a good start, so I decided to listen further. Remarkably, he then went on to defend Christmas, even while conceding it has no basis in Scripture and acknowledging that Yahushua was not born on December 25.

That's one of the "Huh?" moments.

His entire argument rested on the idea that since the birth of the Messiah is a biblical event, celebrating it - even through a non-biblical holiday - is permissible as long as the biblical event remains part of the observance. This is inverted and twisted logic, utterly without foundation, yet it illustrates what happens when people cling tightly to cherished traditions.

It is also what happens when someone has monetized their YouTube channel and relies on likes, subscribers, and views. If your cash cow comes from a Christian audience, then the last thing you want to do is offend them.

I have found through the years that you can justify just about anything if you try hard enough. There is always an argument to be made to support your desires. It may not be a good argument, but generally, people don't need much to convince themselves of what they want to believe.

I can pretty much guarantee that if you look hard enough, you will find a teaching on the internet to support any and all positions on every subject in the Bible.

And let's be honest: most of us harbor warm, fuzzy feelings about this season because of childhood memories. In many Western neighborhoods, homes are adorned with lights and decorations. Sometimes you can see their decorated Christmas Trees lit up inside their front windows. You may even encounter Christmas trees inside churches.

So what exactly is a Christmas tree? The modern practice of bringing decorated evergreens indoors emerged in sixteenth-century Protestant Germany as a symbol of life persisting through winter. Its earlier roots, however, lie in pagan customs like Brumalia.

Romans decorated with laurels, Germanic peoples used greenery during Yule, and various cultures employed evergreens to ward off evil spirits or celebrate renewal and fertility.

Again, these were all pagan customs and traditions keyed to the winter solstice season.

Now consider these words from Jeremiah:

“Hear the word that אֱלֹהִים speaks to you, O house of Yisrael. Thus says אֱלֹהִים: ‘Learn not the ways of the Nations, nor be dismayed at the signs of the heavens because the Nations are dismayed at them, for the customs of the peoples are vanity. A tree from the forest is cut down and worked with an axe by the hands of a craftsman. They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so that it cannot move. Their idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field, and they cannot speak; they have to be carried, for they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good.’”
Jeremiah 10:1-5

Many people use this as their proof text against Christmas Trees, but Jeremiah is plainly describing the fashioning of carved idols overlaid with precious metals for worship, not modern Christmas trees.

Similar warnings appear elsewhere, such as Habakkuk 2:19: *“Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake; to a silent stone, Arise!”*

Or Isaiah 40:19–20, which details the crafting of immovable idols.

“¹⁹ The workman molds an image, the goldsmith overspreads it with gold, and the silversmith casts silver chains. ²⁰ Whoever is too impoverished for such a contribution chooses a tree that will not rot; He seeks for himself a skillful workman to prepare a carved image that will not totter.” Isaiah 40:19-20

Many Christians seize on this distinction, triumphantly declaring that Jeremiah has nothing to do with Christmas trees - only idols. Yet they conveniently overlook the opening warning: *“Learn not the ways of the Nations.”*

This echoes clear Torah instructions, including Exodus 23:24, Leviticus 18:3, Deuteronomy 12:31, Deuteronomy 6:13-14, and Exodus 34:14 - all prohibiting the adoption or adaptation of pagan practices in the worship of אֱלֹהִים.

The principle is straightforward: do not take a pagan custom, rebrand it, and pretend it honors Elohim.

Jeremiah offered one contemporary example, but the prohibition is far broader. In fact, it's the same error committed with the golden calf, when Yisrael repurposed an Egyptian symbol and claimed it represented אֱלֹהִים. Repackaging pagan solstice rites for worship of the true God is equally forbidden.

You can easily correlate a Christmas Tree with a Golden Calf.

Now, I know what die-hard Christian solstice celebrants might say: "We aren't worshipping our Christmas trees. They only represent the phallus of Nimrod. It's only his sexual organ that we have propped up in our living room as a decoration. We're not worshipping it."

Well. Maybe they won't admit that much.

In fact, when provided with that information, most will likely respond: "That's not what it means to me."

In that sense, it is like setting up a golden calf in your family room and calling it "Ralph." "Yes, of course, it might look just like one of the Egyptian cow gods Apis or Hathor, but that's not what I call it."

The simple fact is that it really doesn't matter what any of it "means" to us, but rather what it meant to the Nations and how אֱלֹהִים views it. We are not supposed to learn or mimic the customs and traditions

of the pagan Nations. Instead, we are supposed to diligently follow the Commandments contained in the Torah.

Research clearly reveals that decorating trees or evergreens has undeniably pagan origins. There is no Scriptural warrant for placing a Christmas tree in one's home, only warnings against imitating heathen ways.

If the desire is to honor the birth of the Messiah, $\aleph \Upsilon \aleph \aleph$ has already provided a specific time. He took care of all the details ahead of time, because Yahushua was born on Yom Teruah - the Day of Blasting. We have discussed that on many different occasions.

People had unwittingly been celebrating and rehearsing His birth for centuries before He was born, and now even after. Indeed, $\aleph \Upsilon \aleph \aleph$ actually provides us with a "season" to rejoice. The entire seventh month is an amazing time, even with Yom Kippur, because we have the answer to the needed atonement for sin.

So, $\aleph \Upsilon \aleph \aleph$ kicks off the month with a celebration of the Messiah's birth and culminates with a Wedding celebration. What an amazing "season" to rejoice.

Sadly, the majority of people who claim to follow Elohim fail to understand that Yahushua is the "reason for the season" in Month 7 and instead, look to Iesus (Jesus) as the reason for the season of the winter solstice.

Instead of celebrating the time of the fruit harvest, the most joyous time of the year, Christians are focused on the darkest and most pagan time of the year.

It really is amazing to observe the level of deception that has permeated throughout humanity, including the religions of men. As I

have said on many occasions, I spent the first half of my life thinking that I was a Christian walking in truth while everyone else, outside of Christianity, was a pagan.

My ultimate awakening involved recognizing that Christianity was actually a pagan religion created by the Roman Empire. I had been deceived by my religion, which taught me some kernels of truth, but was leading me down the road of lawlessness that ends in destruction.

When I finally woke from my slumber, I had a choice to make. I could either remain in the religious bubble that provided me assurances of eternal security and endless supplies of grace to make up for my lawless behavior, or I could step out and actually walk in the light of truth.

As we consider issues like Christmas, we see that people may devise endless justifications to participate in these dark traditions, but this matter ultimately reveals the condition of the heart, much like the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13.

When the truth about אֱלֹהִים's Appointed Times confronts Babylonian-derived holidays, responses vary. Some hearts are too hardened by tradition for the seed to take root; others receive it superficially but fall away under pressure; still others allow worldly cares and customs to choke it out. Only good soil bears lasting fruit.

And if you allow the seeds of pagan traditions to remain planted in your heart, the only fruit that you will bear is Christmas trees, hollies, and mistletoe, which is not the fruit that אֱלֹהִים is looking for. I can assure you that those trees and branches will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

So, this is no minor error or trivial matter. The season starkly delineates the Kingdom of Light from the kingdom of darkness. The enemy exploits it to distract and ensnare those who profess to follow Elohim, redirecting their devotion away from truth.

And no matter how hard Christians try to “sanitize” the pagan history, the undeniable focus of Christmas remains the winter solstice, not the birth of Yahushua.

If the birth were truly central, the date would not be dogmatically fixated upon December 25.

Nearly every informed Christian acknowledges Yahushua was not born then. Yet by persistently linking His birth to these pagan rooted celebrations, it transforms believers into unwitting participants in paganism rather than drawing pagans to the true Messiah.

This syncretism is a primary reason mainstream Christianity has drifted so far that it can rightly be described as paganized.

We are commanded not to touch the unclean thing if we want to serve
אֱלֹהֵינוּ.

“Depart! Depart! Go out from there, touch no unclean thing; Go out from the midst of her, be clean, you who bear the vessels of אֱלֹהֵינוּ.”
Isaiah 52:11

“Depart! Depart!” is אֱלֹהֵינוּ’s way of shouting to us: DEPART!!!! We are supposed to be separating from the Nations where we find ourselves scattered. We are to “come out” from among the Nations and be separate.

“And you shall be holy (set apart) to Me, for I אֱלֹהִים am holy (set apart), and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine.” Leviticus 20:26

These winter solstice festivities ultimately exalt the hosts of heaven, against which Deuteronomy 4:19 explicitly warns:

“And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which אֱלֹהִים your Elohim has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.” Deuteronomy 4:19

In other words, if you want to serve the gods of the Nations, then go ahead and stay in the Nations. But if you want to dwell with אֱלֹהִים in His set-apart Assembly, then you stop acting like the Nations.

In this darkest season of the year, we are called to be a light to the Nations, to shine forth His truth amid the surrounding darkness.¹ The enemy wants us to dim our lights, adorn ourselves with his decorations, and join in his celebrations.

Many feel the draw and are tempted because they don't understand the severity of the issue. You see, the adversary seeks not merely to coexist with אֱלֹהִים's Kingdom, but to usurp and replace it.

The powerful force behind Saturn seeks to substitute the Sabbath with “Saturn's day” (Saturday). It seeks to divert attention from the Appointed Times and the Son of Elohim to the “anti-christ” son of Zeus and the festivities of Saturnalia. We even see how much of the world currently believes the lie that the chosen people of Elohim are

¹ Isaiah 49:6 prophecies, *“I will also give You as a light to the Nations, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.”* This was about Yahushua Who declared Himself to be the Light of the World. Now we are supposed to carry that Light and shine His Light to the Nations.

the Jewish people who specifically reject the Son of $\aleph\Upsilon\aleph\aleph$. The modern State of Israel actually waves its banner containing the six-sided Star of Saturn.

Much of this is blatant and in our faces, yet few have eyes to see. Babylon's aim has never been coexistence; it is total replacement of $\aleph\Upsilon\aleph\aleph$, His ways, and His people.

Therefore, in this season of darkness, it is all the more vital that we shine undimmed as beacons of His Light and not learn the ways of the Nations.

Berakhot

Todd

www.shemayisrael.net

Christmas video

Many years ago, I produced a short video on YouTube titled Should Christians Celebrate Christmas. It comes at the issue from a different angle by looking at the term Christian. You might enjoy it, and please send it along to friends and family who may be struggling with this issue.



Prison Ministry

I returned to New York with some nice correspondence at my office from our brethren who are currently incarcerated. We regularly receive reports of changed lives, and I believe that the prisons are one of the most fertile places where we can be sowing seed. We are regularly sending out the Walk in the Light series to prison libraries as well as individual books and newsletters to prisoners. Many thanks to all of you who contribute to this work. It is definitely bearing fruit!

Free Newsletter

If this message was forwarded to you from a third party, you can sign up for this free weekly message by scanning the code below and entering your email address.



Newsletter sign-up

You Tube Channel

Many of these newsletters have been turned into audio/video recordings. Check out our YouTube channel at the link below for a variety of videos and teachings.



Donations

I want to thank everyone who has donated in the past, and especially those who send in funds regularly. It is a really big help to keep everything going. We spend funds on various charity projects and regularly print and mail books to prisoners, among other things.

I hope that people have come to trust me as someone who is only focused on getting the truth out. I'm not interested in marketing, monetizing, or self-promotion.

I recently found a new and simple way for people to donate called "Buymeacoffee." If you find value in these messages, maybe consider buying me a coffee :)

Some people have been using it, and it seems like a nice tool. Again, my thanks to everyone who helps out!

The link is <https://buymeacoffee.com/shemayisrael>



Egypt to Sinai to Jordan Tour

We have people signing up for the Passover tour, and I am in the process of preparing the materials that are meant to not only tell the story but also examine the patterns and lessons that are built into these Appointed Times on the correct calendar.

Here is a map showing the sites we intend to visit:



As stated before, I'm not aware of anyone ever having done a trip like this, at the Scriptural Appointed Times, and it is sure to be an amazing opportunity.

We will hold a Passover seder in Goshen on the Creator's calendar and then move on to Mount Sinai in Arabia and ultimately conclude at the Jordan River in the Plains of Moab. It is a literal rehearsal of the

Appointed Times, and I am very excited to invite you along on this trip. I believe it will be a life-changing experience.

We will be packing it full of incredible sights and archaeological locations with a really top-notch travel company and fantastic guides. If you would like to find out more information or sign up for the trip, you can do so on the [Living Passages website](#).

I hope you can join us for the trip of a lifetime, which is a remembrance and a rehearsal of our Covenant Journey.



2026 Passover Tour

Walk in the Light Series

For some people, this is a new site with new information. Shema Yisrael Publications began with the twelve-part Walk in the Light Series, which is at the foundation of the message of remembering, returning, and restoring the relationship between man and Elohim. If you have never read the series, it's a good place to begin your journey.



Walk in the Light Series

Shema Yisrael (Hear O Yisrael) are the words that Yahushua spoke when asked what was the First Command:

*“The first of all the Commandments is: ‘Hear, O Yisrael,
יהוה יהוה our Elohim, יהוה יהוה is one.’”
Mark 12:29*

*“He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”
Matthew 11:15*