

Do Not Learn the Way of the Nations

Written by: Todd D. Bennett
www.shemayisrael.net

This article was published on Day 20 of Month 10 on the Creator's Calendar, also reckoned as December 25, 2021 on the Roman solar calendar.

Today is also the seventh day of the week known as Shabbat. It is a set apart day of rest that commemorates the first week of Creation when the Creator finished His work and rested.

Unlike the pagan week days and months that have names associated with them, the Sabbath is the only one that YHWH named. Other than the Sabbath, the days and months are numbered in the Scriptures. The House of Judah ascribed names to the months while in Babylon, but YHWH never condoned such a thing.

Time and time again, YHWH takes ownership of the Sabbath day. In Leviticus 23:3 He states:

"Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest (Shabbat shabbaton), a set apart convocation (qadosh-miqra). You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of YHWH in all your dwellings."
Leviticus 23:3

YHWH often refers to the seventh day as "My Sabbath."

"¹² And YHWH spoke to Moses, saying, ¹³ Speak also to the children of Ysrael, saying: Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am YHWH who sets you apart. ¹⁴ You shall keep the Sabbath,

therefore, for it is set apart to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. ¹⁵ Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, set apart to YHWH. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. ¹⁶ Therefore the children of Yisrael shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual Covenant. ¹⁷ It is a sign between Me and the children of Yisrael forever; for in six days YHWH made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.” Exodus 31:12-17

So, the Sabbath is not just a day of rest. It is a “qadosh-miqra” – a set apart rehearsal. It is a sign as well. What you do on this day demonstrates whether or not you are in a Covenant relationship with YHWH.

Remember in the last article titled “Time’s up . . . no what?”, we discussed the pattern of seven in relation to the fixed time appropriated for this present existence?

The seventh day represents the Millennial Age. YHWH will no longer strive with man as He did for the first six days represented by 6,000 years, or 120 Jubilees. (see Genesis 6:3)

The seventh day belongs to Him, and He will come and claim it.

I think people often lose sight of how important this sign and rehearsal really is. To some, it becomes common, because of its frequency. To the contrary, the fact that it occurs every seven days, instead of once a year like the other Appointed Times, should demonstrate just how important it is.

In fact, we learn from Isaiah just how important it is.

“¹³ If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My set apart day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the set apart day of YHWH honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, ¹⁴ Then you shall delight yourself in YHWH; and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of YHWH has spoken.” Isaiah 58:13-14

So, what a contrast we have going on in western culture on this day, because today is also the pagan holiday of Christmas.

While the covenant Assembly of Yisrael is resting, the pagans are commemorating the rebirth of the sun - offering gifts under the symbolic phallus of Nimrod, known as a Christmas Tree.

If you are celebrating this day, you are participating in pagan sun worship, regardless of what it means to you.

I know it sounds harsh, but it's true.

Yahushua the Messiah was not born on December 25th. That was the ancient date associated with the worship of sun gods. So, if you are applying that date to the Messiah of Yisrael, then you are worshipping YHWH in the same manner as the Nations, also known as Gentiles or heathens. You are mixing, and that involves conduct prohibited by the Scriptures. (see Deuteronomy 12:1-4)

I was guilty of mixing for the first half of my life. In fact, I was a pagan and I didn't even know it. I was participating in ancient Babylonian rites, believing that I was following the ways of the Creator.

Since I was a Christian, I automatically assumed that I was on the right path, while other religions were in error.

I believed that I was saved, because I asked Jesus into my heart - whatever that means.

Since Jesus Christ was my personal savior, I couldn't be a pagan. Right?

Wrong! I was a pagan who called myself a Christian.

While I thought I was saved, I was wrong. I was deceived by my church into living a lawless life, because I was supposedly "under grace," and there was nothing I could do except continually "plead the blood of Jesus."

As a result, I participated in Christian traditions, never questioning why I did certain things. For instance, what on earth does a Christmas tree have to do with the birth of the Messiah of Yisrael, and how did they come up with the December 25th date? How about the presents, wreaths, mistletoe, yule logs, elves and of course, Santa Claus?

I probably missed some things, but the point is that I just ignored these questions, because Christmas was a Christian Holiday filled with traditions. Since I was a Christian, I just kept on participating, never realizing that it all derived from Babylon and Rome.

Amazingly, this information is easily accessible, especially in this information age that we live in. For goodness sake, I see "fact-checkers" debunking scientific studies proving the dangers of certain vaccines and treatments within minutes of their publication. Surely, there would be some fact-checkers debunking the validity of Christmas, at least for Christians.

In fact, if the Christian religion was filled with people interested in the truth, you would think that the information concerning the pagan origins of Christmas would spread through the religion like wildfire.

With all of this information so readily available, you would think there would be a revival as Christians repented and rejected the pagan traditions.

That's what we all thought would happen to our individual churches when we told people about the Name, the Sabbath, the Appointed Times etc. Right?

Instead, just crickets. Nothing! Eventually, if you continued to talk about these issues, you would likely get the right foot of fellowship as you were lovingly shown the door. As it turns out, most people would rather cling to their traditions than let go of them.

Now, if you confront most Christians with the irrefutable truth about the pagan origins of their holidays, the typical response is "Well that's not what it means to me!"

Some get downright hostile, and are ready to do battle to defend their pagan rituals.

As part of the defense, some Christians then attack those who point out the error of the pagan holidays and the need to observe the Appointed Times, follow the instructions of the Torah, and exhibit the sign of the Sabbath.

They lash out and call them "legalistic" or "Judaizers".

I recently read an article titled "Against the Modern Judaizers" which attempted to malign those who point out these truths.

The entire premise of the article was to justify Christmas as a cultural part of Gentile Christianity that is permissible based upon Acts 15.

The article promoted the notion that traditions like Christmas and Easter were the glue that held western culture together under a Christian umbrella which allowed for the success of these societies.

Here is a quote from the article:

Acts 15:22-35 recounts the Council's final decision to allow Gentiles to come into the Church, as Gentiles, without requiring that they keep the Law of Moses. A letter was sent to Gentile Christians with the following instructions: (1) the Judaizers do not have any authority from the Church in Jerusalem, you may ignore them, (2) listen to Paul and Barnabas instead, (3) abstain from participating in idolatry, (4) don't drink animal blood, (5) don't eat bloody (strangled) meat, and (6) don't engage in sexual immorality. That was it. The Council of Jerusalem put no further obligations on the non-Jewish (Gentile) Christians. We see Paul deal with the Judaizing heresy again, multiple times, throughout his epistles in the New Testament.

The bottom line is this. Christians can be ethnically Jewish or ethnically Gentile. One's race or ethnicity (or even one's culture) is irrelevant. It is forbidden, however, to impose the Law of Moses on Gentile Christians in any way. Christianity is not to be an ethno-religion, overriding Gentile cultures with Jewish culture, but rather a universal faith for people of all races, ethnicities, and cultures.

The ancient Greeks had a word for such universalism. It was an adjective called *katholikos* (καθολικός) and it translates to "universal," meaning not tied to any particular race, ethnicity, or culture. It is where we get the English word "catholic." Acts 15 set Christianity as a *katholikos* (or "universal") faith for all people. Gentiles need not adopt the precepts of the Law of Moses, or Jewish culture, to be good Christians. The word *katholikos* (καθολικός) was first recorded in AD 105 by Ignatius in his Letter to the Smyrneans. Ignatius was a bishop of the early Church in Antioch, and a direct disciple of the Apostle John. He was martyred that same year in the Colosseum in Rome, mauled by lions.

This leads us to another word you won't find in the Bible, or the writings of the early Christians, but was later coined to succinctly describe what the early Christians were doing in the first few centuries of Church history.

That word is inculturation. Inculturation describes the process of Christianity absorbing cultures as it advanced from place to place in the ancient world. The idea behind it is based on the events recorded in Acts 15. Rather than steamrolling over Gentile cultures with religious precepts that demand a culture adapt to it, which is exactly what the Pharisees did (Islam does it too), Christianity absorbs a culture and baptizes it (so to speak), preserving what is good and wholesome, or at least harmless, about that culture, while eliminating those things that are idolatrous or immoral.

This is how Europe was made. It's also how Russia was made. It is also how the Middle Eastern and North African Christian cultures were made before they were steamrolled by Islam. More recently, we see the principle of inculturation applied to the Americas over the last 500 years, and we are only beginning to see it applied to Sub-Saharan and Far Eastern cultures now. Inculturation, based on the principle laid down in Acts 15, is how Christianity baptizes and redeems different Gentile cultures, preserving them and making them into a tapestry that is called "Christendom."

I hope it is obvious that this is utter nonsense. I can hear the nachash (serpent) hissing this argument all the way back from the Garden - "Has God indeed said ..."

In other words, pay no mind that Elohim repeatedly exhorted His people to diligently obey the Commandments, apparently there are two different groups of people in the Kingdom. Those who must obey and those who do not.

According to this author, Christendom is a lawless suburb in the Kingdom of Elohim where the Commandments apparently do not apply.

Remember that the goal of the nachash was to get the man and the woman to disobey the Commandments? Well that seems to be the same goal as the author of the article.

So, instead of repenting and immersing yourself to get washed and cleaned from all of your pagan conduct, you are apparently supposed to "baptize" those pagan traditions and incorporate them into your belief system.

Of course, that is the opposite of what the Scriptures command, but it is exactly what the Catholic Church has done for centuries through a process known as syncretism.

The major flaw of the article is the utter failure to understand the purpose of the Commandments of YHWH. The Commandments are specifically there to instruct a set apart people how to dwell in the presence of a Set Apart Elohim.

Indeed, the Torah is there to teach us acceptable traditions and permissible conduct for the culture of the Covenant People.

Acts 15 is a favorite passage for those looking to disregard the Commandments, because it is so easy to misunderstand if you remove it from its proper context.

If you read Acts 15 in its entirety, it is clear that James provided a prescription for Gentiles to come into the Renewed Covenant Assembly, not the Church.

Generally, Yisraelites were born into the Covenant and then circumcised on the Eighth Day as a sign etched upon their bodies.

The challenge was generally keeping them in the Covenant and preventing them from straying into the ways of the nations.

The Pharisees had their own “conversion” process that involved circumcision right at the beginning, but that placed the emphasis on an act, not the work of Yahushua. This was the argument regarding “works” that Shaul was making against the ones he referred to as “The Circumcision.”

The point is that the act of circumcision alone is meaningless without the Messiah. Muslims circumcise their males at the age of 13. The fact that their males are circumcised does not mean they are in the Covenant renewed by the blood of the Messiah. In many western cultures, circumcision was automatically performed on newborn males. It did not mean that they were in the Covenant either.

Acts 15 was dealing with the issue of those who were never circumcised, but coming into the Covenant faith that requires circumcision in order to fully participate.

The focus of the Covenant is the circumcision of the heart, not the flesh. That is why the message was repent and be immersed, not repent and be circumcised.

You can only repent if you recognize that you are sinning, and you must understand that sin is the transgression of the Torah.

The Scriptures are clear that *“Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.”* 1 John 3:4

The word “lawlessness” literally means “without the Torah.” So, you need to learn and know the Torah, before you can truly understand sin and actually repent.

James understood this and used wisdom in his judgment. He decided they were going to reject the Pharisaic formula for converts, and not place immediate emphasis on circumcision of the flesh, but rather circumcision of the heart.

That is why James concluded his prescription with the comment:

“¹⁸ Known to Elohim from eternity are all His works. ¹⁹ Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to Elohim, ²⁰ but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood. ²¹ For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.” Acts 15:18-21

Did you catch that last sentence?

For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath. The author of the article neglected this critical point, and completely misrepresented this foundational event in Acts 15.

Acts 15 did not provide a limited set of commandments for Gentiles. Instead, it provided a starting point for them in their process of repentance and cleaning up, so they could join in the Assembly and listen to Moses (the Torah) being read in the Synagogue.

Why? So, they could learn all of the terms of a Covenant.

You know how various software providers have an End User License Agreement that you need to acknowledge that you read and agree to the terms before they let you use the product?

Most people just click the box without reading and understanding what they agreed to.

That's not how YHWH operates. He wants you to know and understand what you are getting into before you agree to the Covenant.

We saw this at Mount Sinai when He literally put "the fear of Elohim" into all of them. Only when He got their attention and then later Moses read all of the terms, did they then provide their consent.

"So Moses came and told the people all the words of YHWH and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, 'All the words which YHWH has said we will do.'" Exodus 24:3 NKJV

YHWH wants His people to only consent when there has been full disclosure. That is what James was insuring.

Don't circumcise them until they know exactly what the Covenant involves. Get them to the Synagogue on Shabbat, because that is where the Torah was read. They could then hear and learn all the Commandments.

Once they fully heard and understood "all the words" they could then decide to join the Renewed Covenant and proclaim "All the words which YHWH has said we will do."

Once they made that decision, circumcision could follow as a sign of their decision. They were then permitted to fully integrate into the Assembly by partaking in the Passover meal and walking in the Covenant path.

They did not join the Church and become Christians. They entered into a Covenant relationship with YHWH Elohim and became Yisraelites.

That is where the Christian religion goes awry, and that is the flaw in many Christian Evangelistic outreaches. They fail to provide the proper context for the work of the Messiah within the Covenant. Most fail to explain the terms of the Covenant, or the fact that you need to enter into a Covenant to be saved.

They really should follow the formula set forth in Acts 15. Once the Good News is proclaimed, it is not about altar calls and numbers. Rather, it is about explaining the Torah so people can truly repent, be immersed, get cleaned up and then filled up with the Set Apart Spirit provided through the renewed Covenant.

Of course, it is interesting to note that Acts 15 is the transition point in the Book of Acts, when the emphasis is shifted from the Apostles to Paul. This was purposefully done, as was the inclusion of Paul's letters immediately following Acts.

The texts of Peter, James and John, the three pillars of the early Assembly, were suspiciously relegated behind Paul's letters. I point this out and discuss it further in the Walk in the Light series book titled *The Scriptures*.

Paul spent a great deal of time opposing those described as "Judaizers," but his struggle is something often misunderstood. A Judaizer is not someone who suggests that you keep the Commandments. A Judaizer is someone who tries to get you to act "Jewish" and follow the Pharisees.

Obedience to the Torah and observance of Jewish traditions and customs are two very different things. The Pharisees thought their piety and their laws and traditions made them righteous. We see this today with the emphasis in Judaism on "good deeds" and doing a "mitzvot."

Good deeds will not get you cleaned up from your sin. Only the blood of Yahushua can do that.

Judaizers will try to get you to follow the Rabbis, and their oral torah. That is a terrible trap.

Sadly, I see a lot of Judaizers and I see people who are influenced by Judaizers. For instance, I see people adopting the traditions of the Pharisees, such as kippahs and tallits. I see people wearing and displaying the "Star of David."

They follow the “Jewish Calendar” created by the Pharisees that violates the Torah.

They follow Jewish traditions and treat the Appointed Times as Jewish Holidays.

I see people adding to the Torah, like the Pharisees, including celebrating Hanukkah as if it is a kosher form of Christmas.

Likewise, I see many Christians who fail to come out of Babylon.

It is a narrow and difficult way that leads to life, and as Yahushua stated “few will find it.” (Matthew 7:13-14)

The point of Acts 15 was not to establish a subset of Commandments that are only applicable to Gentiles, while allowing them to retain and maintain all of their inherited pagan traditions.

The point was to get them started by directing them on to the Covenant path.

Another fatal flaw of the article was to relegate things described as “abominations” in the Scriptures to harmless traditions that unify Gentile Christians. The author missed the point that YHWH desires to draw a people out of the Nations through His Covenant.

If you truly enter into a Covenant relationship with YHWH, then you diligently obey the commandments.

The problem with most Christians is that they failed to read the terms. They were likely taught that the terms don’t apply to them, because they are under grace.

Sadly, most probably don't even know where the promise of forgiveness of sins, through a Renewed Covenant, is found in the Scriptures.

Here it is.

“³¹ Behold, the days are coming, says YHWH, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah - ³² not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says YHWH. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Yisrael after those days, says YHWH: I will put My Torah in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know YHWH, for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says YHWH. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.” Jeremiah 31:31-34

Did you catch that?

The Renewed Covenant is made with Yisrael – not the Christian Church. The Covenant involves the Torah of Moses being placed in their minds and on their hearts.

That was exactly the process being initiated by James in Acts 15.

This was not Judaizing. In fact, it was quite the opposite. It was rejecting the conversion process of the Pharisees, who later founded the religion of Judaism. Judaizers attempt to impose Jewish religious traditions, rather than the Torah of YHWH.

So those who attempt to portray obedience as Judaizing are sadly mistaken. They obviously have not read prophecy, nor do they understand Yahushua's purpose when He said, "*I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the House of Yisrael.*" (Matthew 15:24)

Indeed, Jeremiah described the people of YHWH as lost sheep who were led astray by their shepherds. (Jeremiah 50:6) Ezekiel specifically provided that the House of Yisrael would be revived so that they can be restored to the Covenant. (Ezekiel 37)

The House of Yisrael will surely get revived, cleaned up and restored through the Covenant renewed by Yahushua. In fact, it is happening now.

You would hope that all this might get some Christians wondering if they are in the wrong assembly. Instead of the Christian Church, they may want to join the set apart Assembly of Yisrael if they believe in the Messiah of Yisrael – King Yahushua.

Last week we talked about the punishment over the House of Yisrael being completed, and we are seeing the dry bones come to life.

Read what happens next.

"²¹ Then say to them, Thus says Adonai YHWH: Surely I will take the children of Yisrael from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; ²² and I will make them one nation in the Land, on the mountains of Yisrael; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again. ²³ They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their

Elohim. ²⁴ David My servant shall be King over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them.” Ezekiel 37:21-24

The point is that they will separate and be removed from among the nations, so they can walk in obedience. Not so they can continue practicing pagan traditions and apply them to YHWH.

For all this to happen, we need to know the definition of sin, and then repent, so that we can be washed clean.

That was the formula given to the House of Yisrael.

“Therefore, I will judge you, O House of Yisrael, every one according to his ways, says Adonai YHWH. Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin.” Ezekiel 18:30

This is the same message preached by Peter on Shavuot. Only now, Peter was revealing the source of forgiveness – Yahushua.

“Then Peter said to them, Repent, and let every one of you be immersed in the Name of Messiah Yahushua for the remission of sins.” Acts 2:38

Repent - turn away from your transgressions. That was the message of Yahushua, and it has always been the message of the prophets. (Matthew 4:17)

Once you have changed course and your face is toward YHWH, be immersed. Cleanse yourself and wash away the filth of the past sins so that you can dwell in His presence.

This is symbolic of the cleansing that YHWH will perform over His lost sheep.

“²⁴ For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ And I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. ²⁸ Then you shall dwell in the Land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your Elohim. ²⁹ I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you.” Ezekiel 36:24-29

This is all part of the journey back to YHWH through the renewed Covenant.

Acts 15 was simply describing the process for the House of Yisrael to come out of Babylon, and be restored to the Covenant.

Sadly, Christianity has become the religion that integrates with Babylon. Indeed, the Roman Catholic Church has utilized “inculturation,” better known as syncretism, to build its numbers for centuries.

The emphasis is quantity, not quality, as it attempts to become the “universal” one world religion of the New World Order.

The Christian religion does not currently promote the Covenant renewed by Yahushua that restores people into a right relationship with YHWH through repentance and obedience.

Instead, it involves joining “the Church” through a brand-new covenant instituted by a Greek child of Zeus named Jesus. It promotes a new sabbath on the first day of the week - Sunday. It promotes

lawlessness, and as a result, the broad road described by Messiah that leads to destruction.

Most Christians are likely sincere in their observance of Christmas, but they have been deceived through lies and traditions built into their religion.

While they have been singing “Silent Night” and “Joy to the World,” they have missed the actual message of the Messiah. They have lost what it means to “Let Earth receive her King.”

The King is coming for those set apart ones who keep the Commandments of Elohim and have the testimony of Yahushua. (Revelation 12:17 and 14:12)

Currently, most Christians have the testimony of Jesus, and they do not keep the Commandments. That is a recipe for disaster.

They claim to love Him, but they fail to do what He says to do. Yahushua specifically stated: *“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”* John 14:15

They call Him Lord, but they don’t obey Him. Again, Yahushua pointed out: *“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”* Luke 6:46

Unless they accurately understand Acts 15, and the procedure provided for the Lost Sheep to return from the Nations, most Christians are not going to make it.

Here is the Good News:

YHWH chose a people who would be redeemed through a Covenant.

Those people broke the Covenant and were punished and exiled.

YHWH sent His Son as a savior to Renew the broken Covenant. He came on an Appointed Time, and shed His blood on an Appointed Time.

He is coming back at an Appointed Time to collect those included in His Renewed Covenant. During this process, more blood will be shed – the blood of those who oppose Him.

It's not going to be pretty, and many will be horrified that they have been lied to. When they discover that they are outside the Covenant, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

They will realize too late that raising their hand in a Church service did not guarantee them a ticket to heaven. They needed to enter into the Covenant through the process prescribed in Acts 15.

Jeremiah warned the House of Yisrael that they would inherit lies, worthless and unprofitable things. (Jeremiah 16:18)

He also warned the House of Yisrael not to learn the way of the Nations that they were scattered within. In doing so, he even warned of activities that sound a lot like Christmas.

“¹ Hear the word which YHWH speaks to you, O House of Yisrael. ² Thus says YHWH: Do not learn the way of the Nations; Do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, for the Gentiles are dismayed at them. ³ For the customs of the peoples are futile; For one cuts a tree from the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. ⁴ They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with nails and hammers so that it will not topple. ⁵ They are upright, like a palm tree, and they cannot speak; They must be carried, because they cannot go by themselves. Do not be afraid

of them, for they cannot do evil, nor can they do any good.” (Jeremiah 10:1-5)

Jeremiah is describing idolatry, and this is what is at the heart of Christmas.

Christmas is one of those futile lies that we have inherited from our fathers. It is sad to see people desperately attempting to hold on to their traditions and justify their inherited pagan practices.

Did you know that Christmas was actually outlawed in some of the early settlements in America? That is because some Protestants actually recognized the lies and rejected them.

It is time for modern Christians to do the same.

Anyone in the Covenant renewed by the blood of Yahushua is supposed to obey and live set apart from Babylon. We are not supposed to integrate with Babylon.

Instead, we are told to *“come out of her . . . lest you share in her sins . . . ”* Revelation 18:4

Last week we talked about the prayer of Daniel as he sought the timing for the House of Judah to come out of Babylon, and return to the Covenant Land.

YHWH heard the prayer of Daniel because of the intention of his heart. His prayer was centered around the Covenant and the Commandments.

He repented for the sins of his fathers and we should be doing the same thing, especially on this set apart day that most of the world is profaning.

Remember how Daniel prayed.

“O Adonai, hear! O Adonai, forgive! O Adonai, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my Elohim for Your city and Your people are called by Your Name.” Daniel 9:19

One thing is certain, YHWH does not hear the prayer of those who reject His Torah.

“⁹ One who turns away his ear from hearing the Torah, even his prayer is an abomination. ¹⁰ Whoever causes the upright to go astray in an evil way, He himself will fall into his own pit; but the blameless will inherit good.” (Proverbs 28:9-10)

Yahushua warned that many people will call Him “Lord, Lord” and they will be told *“I never knew you.”* (Matthew 7:21-23)

A sure way to hear the words “I never knew you” from Yahushua is to remain in Babylon and continue participating in pagan traditions.

Christmas is not a cultural issue; it is a pagan tradition deriving from Babylonian sun worship. It is an abomination. It’s that simple.

This is easy to figure out, and recognizing those pagan traditions is just the beginning. We then need to walk according to the Commandments, which has nothing to do with Judaizing and everything to do with obedience.

The Creator is currently looking for obedient “sons” from the House of Yisrael to call “His people” and fill His House. (see Hosea 1)

He is looking for a people who will be set apart as He is set apart. (Leviticus 11:45, 19:2, 20:7)

Our present obedience could never undo the sins of the past, but it is the evidence of our repentance and our circumcised hearts.

We could never earn our salvation back into paradise. Our restoration to Elohim always relied on Him. That was the first lesson learned when Abram entered into the Covenant with YHWH.

While Abram “slept”, a furnace of smoke and a lamp of fire passed through the cuttings of the blood covenant. (Genesis 15:17)

Later, when Abraham was prepared to sacrifice His promised son Isaac, YHWH revealed that He would provide the sacrifice. (Genesis 22)

YHWH provided a ram with its horns caught in a thicket. We know that prophetic event was fulfilled on Passover when Yahushua, the “only begotten Son of Elohim” and the Lamb of Elohim was offered up with a crown of thorns on His head.

While Jesus may be the reason for the Christmas season - Yahushua is not. Instead, Yahushua is the reason for all the “seasons” (moadim) that we observe according to the two great lights as described in Genesis 1:14. He is the fulfillment of the rehearsals of the moadim (the Appointed Times).

It is very sad to see how so many people never even get to that point of understanding, because they simply can't give up the lies they have inherited.

So, instead of Merry Christmas - I wish you all Shabbat Shalom!

It is a distinction with a difference!

Shabbat shalom

Todd

www.shemayisrael.net

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,
YHWH our Elohim, YHWH is one.’
Mark 12:29*

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