

YAIY NEWS



ABIDE IN THE SHIP



“Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved” (Acts 2:31).

The Scriptures tell us in, that the time has, and will yet come when some will not endure sound doctrine, but will depart from

the faith and take to themselves teachers who will scratch their itching ears and turn them from the truth to ‘fables’ – and all this on the eschatological calendar before the revelation of “that man of sin, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself” (2 Thess. 2:4) and who, like Satan, will think that he, too, could become as the Most High (Isa. 14:14).

Draw Near, Hold Fast

The time ahead is perilous and only they which continue steadfastly in, and earnestly contend for, the faith – enduring to the end – will be saved. The writer of the Book of Hebrews charges us, therefore, to **“draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith”** ... to **“hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering ... for he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed”** ... to **“consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works; not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching”** (Heb. 10:22-23; James 1:6; Heb. 10:24-25).

In such a time as this, it is well to remember the words of the Apostle, **“to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of Eloha”** (Acts 14:22) and that when we begin to experience that trouble which Yahshua affirmed we should have in the world (John 16:33), that what we experience is but the fulfillment of prophecy.

Even the ancient psalmist, himself nearly fainting, observed that he was envious at the foolish when he saw the prosperity of the wicked increasing in riches, but which were certain to perish with the using if not before becoming corrupted by moth and rust or broken up by thieves come to steal; that their strength was firm; that they had more than heart could wish; that the waters of a full cup were measured out to them; that their eyes stood out with fatness; that their mouths were set against the heavens; that their pride compassed them about as a chain. Yea, neither were they in trouble, nor plagued, as the righteous, so that the psalmist should think to himself, that he had

WASH YOURSELVES,
MAKE YOURSELVES
CLEAN; REMOVE THE
EVIL OF YOUR DEEDS
FROM MY SIGHT.
CEASE TO DO EVIL,

Isaiah 1:16 NASB

I AM FILLED
WITH
Hope
AND
Joy.

Romans 15:13

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cleansed his heart and washed his hands in vain. For all day long he'd been plagued and chastened. But then, because he had continued steadfastly in, and contended for the faith and given diligence to make his calling and election sure, he went in Assembly into the sanctuary of Eloha and there, did understand the other's end, that they should be brought into desolation and be utterly consumed with terrors. Yes, there, in the sanctuary of Eloha, was he refreshed with the knowledge that Yahweh was his Strength and would become his Portion forever and that thus now, it was good for him to have drawn near to Yahweh (Psalm 73).

No, quite, are the sufferings of the present time, and of that with which we shall abide in the future, scarcely be thought worthy of comparison with the weight of eternal glory that shall afterward be revealed in us as the sons of Eloha ... but only, if we continue steadfastly in, and earnestly contend for the faith that is presently perfecting those things that are lacking to make us into the Image of Yahweh's Dear Son Who suffered for us leaving us this example: namely, that no disciple is above his Master, but that it is enough he should be as his Master Who Himself learned obedience by those things which He suffered. Indeed, neither shall we learn obedience in any other way.

Conclusion: Now, Counting the Cost

So, counting the cost? This life will require that we first become instructed both to be blessed and to abound; to be full and to be hungry; to abound and to suffer need, before we learn to be content with whatsoever state in which we find ourselves, so that we can truly say, **"I can do all things through Messiah Who strengthens me"** (Phil. 4:13).



So, the right attitude toward what will face us, is that whatever tribulation or sorrow we face now, or shall face in the time yet to come, is but a light affliction and for a moment and that we should not, therefore, consider the fiery trial that should try us as some strange thing that is happening to us. For all that live righteously will naturally be set at *variance* with, and at *enmity* against, the world – that is part and parcel to having been called out of gross darkness and into marvelous Light; of having been passed from death to Life; of having been separated from sin and sinner; of having been made harmless, and having the answer of a good conscience, void of offense toward Yahweh

and toward man; of having become Accepted in the Beloved, awaiting in anticipation that day when He will wipe away all tears from our eyes; of that day, we say, when there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for those things shall be former things, passed away ... henceforth, all things will be made new.

Elder John W. Reece

Winter Feast? Winter Solstice!

In the northern hemisphere the winter solstice occurs when the sun reaches southernmost point in the celestial point in the sky. After this time when the sun appears to be rising higher in the sky, idolatrous worshippers would be celebrating the sun being born again.

According to *The World Book Encyclopedia*, in 354 CE the December 25th date was selected by Liberius, a bishop of Rome, "because the people of Rome already observed it as the Feast of Saturn, celebrating the birthday of the Sun."

In Central Europe a feast was held at the time of the winter solstice. A large wooden wheel was covered with straw so that no wood was visible. It was then dragged to the top of a steep mountain. Here a feast of merrymaking, games, and dancing were carried out all day. At the time of evening vespers, this symbol of the sun was set on fire and allowed to roll down the mountain.

This act represented the sun running from the sky. According to the idolatry of pagan Germans, the sun

Winter Feast? Winter Solstice! ...,cont.

was a large fire wheel rolling through space. This then, represented the celebration of the sun's birth.

Under the article "Christmas," by Cardinal McClosky, we read in the *Catholic Dictionary*:

"St. Chrysostom, in a Christmas sermon delivered at Antioch in the year 386, says, 'it is not ten years since this day (Christmas day on December 25th) was clearly known to us.'"

By this source it is evident that prior to 377 CE that December 25 was not mentioned or used as the birth date of our Messiah Yahshua.

Other sources show that this day was also known as Saturnalia, a festival of much revelry, dancing, merriment, and fasting held in honor of the sun deity Mithras. A king was appointed over the revels. Slaves were freed. Foes became friends. Friends feasted together. Evergreens decorated the houses. Songs were sung in honor of Saturnalia. Gifts were exchanged between friends. **All of this began 2,000 years before the birth of the Messiah!** This festival was adopted by the church, who turned it into was called "Christ's Mass."

Why December 25th?

A book called *Mystery Religions in the Ancient World* (page 99) reveals how closely this Mithras figure was to the Savior Yahshua. Mithras was "the creator and orderer of the universe, hence a manifestation of the creative Logos or Word and Ahriman, the cosmic power of darkness, was incarnated on earth. Shepherds reported His birth on December 25th. After many deeds he held a last supper with his disciples and returned to heaven. At the end of the world he will come again to judge resurrected mankind and after the last battle, victorious over evil, he will lead the chosen ones through a river of fire to a blessed immortality."

Among the pagans, Mithras was the sun deity. His birthday on December 25th came at the winter solstice, when the sun returned once again and warmed the dying earth. Their new year began with this phenomenon, which is why our new year starts in the dead of winter. The true Scriptural new year begins in the spring in the month of Abib (meaning "green ear month," Deut. 16:1), when all things begin to green up.

The Roman government helped the church make a conscious effort to combine elements of this pagan worship into their own worship. In the fourth century, the church desired to bring the pagan Germans and Romans into its fold. December 25 was adopted as the birth date of our Savior who was born in a manger. They incorporated many heathen rites like the yule log and the fir tree, where the yule log, representing Mithras, was burned in a fire and from it, an evergreen tree was to have sprung forth.

Bible scholars know full well that the Messiah was not born anywhere near December 25th. Yet, when this is pointed out to people, the answer quite often given is that they really don't care when He was born, just so long as a day is kept in memory of His birth. But why should anyone celebrate a day that has its roots in paganism?

Historical facts reveal that shepherds did not feed their flocks by night from late October or early November until around late April or early May because of the severity of the winter cold and rains.

Elder Roger Meyer (deceased)

Trees in Worship?

Compton's Encyclopedia, under the article *Tree and Decorations* tells the following:

"The Christmas tree was introduced into England early in the 19th century and was popularized by Prince Albert, the German husband of Queen Victoria. The trees were decorated with candles, candies, paper chains, and fancy cakes that were hung from the branches with ribbons.

"German settlers brought the Christmas tree to the American colonies in the 17th century. By the 19th century its use was quite widespread. Trees were also popular in Austria, Switzerland, Poland, and Holland. In China and Japan, Christmas trees were introduced by Christian missionaries in the 19th and 20th centuries. There, they were decorated with intricate paper designs.

"The use of evergreens for wreaths and other decorations arose in northern Europe. Italy, Spain. Other nations use flowers, instead. Holly, with its prickly leaves and red berries, came into holiday use because it reminded people of the crown of thorns worn by [Yahshua] on the way to his execution, and the berries symbolized droplets of blood."

Time to Pop the Question

Okay, so let's ask: Why observe Christmas? because it's in the Bible? Try as you might, you will not find Christmas anywhere in the Scriptures. There is neither a call to observe it, nor an example where someone in the Bible observed it. Shocking? Millions are ignorant of this simple fact.

As one authority puts it, "There is no historical evidence that our [Savior's] birthday was celebrated during the apostolic or early post-apostolic times," "Christmas," *The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*, p. 47.

Another writer makes this astounding statement: "The day was not one of the early feasts of the Christian church. In fact, the observance of birthdays was condemned as a heathen custom repugnant to Christians," George W. Douglas, *The American Book of Days*, p. 658

How can this be? Does he mean that the single most important religious holiday observed by Christianity today, would have been FORBIDDEN in early New Testament times? That is exactly what he, and many other historians and scholars, are saying.

Now read this candid admission: "Inexplicable though it seems, the date of the [Messiah's] birth is not known. The Gospels indicate neither the day nor the month," *The New Catholic Encyclopedia*, Vol. 3, p. 656.

And the *Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature* corroborates this:

"The fathers of the first three centuries do not speak of any special observances of the nativity. No corresponding festival was presented by the Old Testament ... the day and the month of the birth of [the Messiah] are nowhere stated in the Gospel history, and cannot be certainly determined," (p. 276).

Excerpted from the in-depth booklet, called:

The Untold Story of Christmas by, Yahweh's Assembly In Yahshua

Prayer List

David & Barbara Creel, Robert Dorchester, Stella Rogers, Sean Rogers and Family, Loretta Reyes and Family, Michael Hutchinson, Chauncey Hargrove, David & Nancy Wilson Family/Friends, Jerry Castle, Mary Giles Family, Quinnten Allen, Kat Durban, Isaiah Davis, Dulcena Tessner, Marylyn Patterson Family, David Andrews, Kenya Washington, Elder Lionel Gets Family, Joseph Miller, Adam Galvan Family, Neville & Maryke Stanton, Antionette Swart, Bertha Tidwell, Annette Heyward, Tammy Boucher, Magdalena M. Torres, Angela Bradley, Randell Serfess, Sonja Morgan, Dianne E. Wright Family, Maria Nelson Family, Hilda Driedger, David Nathaniel Malm, Susana Malm, Mike and Sheila Kemper, Ruth Bamba, Charlie Pelton, Marcy Mallinson, Monica Kleb, James Penn Family, Sheila Sendeyo, NyHuff/Thompson family, Robert Creech, Diane Crocker, Melissa Taylor, Henry Sunderman, Eileen Pelton, Annie Pelton, Sheree Irving, David Townsend, Thomas Hunt, Valerie Freeman, Robbie Lenard, Cecil Wideman, Steven Wonderly Family, Elijah Uchenna Family, Pat Beasley, IsaYah Perkins, Ugur Yuksel, Linda Root Family, Karl Russell, Maria Nelson, David Salley, Richard Nesselrodt, Danny O'Connor Family, Liz Napper, William Kemsley, Henry Kipngeno Family, Richard Daniel Rodriguez, Zion Gotay (age 12), Brian Huck, Robert Pugh Family, Ron Ayala, Tyree Jones, Ryan Irving, Jai Burgo, Roberta Wishon, Marilyn Montague, John Laczko, and all of the Assemblies of Yahweh in Yahshua. Also include in your prayers individuals seeking Yahweh from within prison facilities and for their families, plus overseas brethren and especially for the peace of Jerusalem (Psa. 122:6). The world's leaders could also use our prayers (Jer. 29:7; 1 Tim. 2:2).

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