

Christmas and Saturnalia

Have you ever wondered what Christmas has to do with Yahshua? Well, the easy answer is absolutely nothing! For one thing, Yahshua was not born on December 25th as is widely believed by the world (He was most likely born in the fall during the feast of Sukkot). When Yahshua was born, there were still flocks in the field. In Israel, flocks would not be out in a winter field. Most people don't know this, but it commonly snows during Israel's winter. Christmas actually is nothing more than a renamed pagan fertility festival with roots in the ancient celebration of Saturnalia, an ancient Roman festival honoring the agricultural deity named Saturn.

Most ancient fertility festivals have their roots in sun worship. People long ago feared winter. Many died of starvation because of the year's crop failures,

or froze to death as they struggled to keep warm during the long winter. They could see the sun waning in the sky, and the ancient cultures tried to "bring back the sun" by having elaborate festivals, including Saturnalia. Many feared the sun would never come back! Most of the "Christmas" traditions today, have their roots in paganism, such as mistletoe, wreaths, candles and yule logs. Wreaths, in particular, were used in sun worship due to their round shape.

One of the largest figures recognized during Christmas, is Santa Claus. Chil-

dren are taught that Santa Claus "watches" over them day and night to see if they are good enough for him to bless with many gifts. Let's get something straight, right now. Yahweh alone watches over us, not some fictional bearded man in a red suit. And Yahweh alone blesses or curses people. Let us strive to worship Yahweh in spirit and in truth, as we are commanded.

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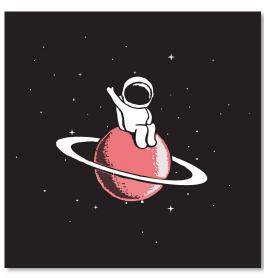
Thus says Yahweh, "Do not learn the way of the nations ... for the customs of the peoples are delusion; because it is wood cut from the forest, the work of the hands of a craftsman with a cutting tool. They decorate it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers so that it will not totter."

Jeremiah 10:2-4, NASB

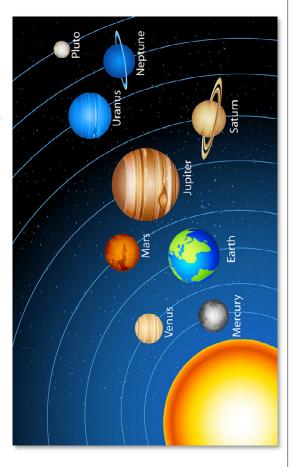


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Do you know?



- 1. What is Saturnalia?
- A. A Roman festival honoring Saturn.
- B. A Greek celebration honoring Jupiter.
- C. A Mayan festival of good crops.
- D. A festival related to moon worship.
- 2. Why did ancient cultures fear winter?
- A. Starvation was common as crops couldn't grow in winter.
- B. They feared that the "waning" sun might never come back, according to their faulty logic.
- C. Many couldn't keep warm enough to survive.
- D. All are true.
- 3. Which of the following have their roots in paganism?
- A. Mistletoe.
- B. Wreaths.
- C. Yule logs.
- D. All of the above.
- 4. Was Yahshua born on December 25th?
- A. No, He was most likely born during the Feast of Tabernacles.
- B. Yes.
- C. He was born during Easter time.
- D. He was born during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
- 5. In particular, what were wreaths honoring?
- A. The moon.
- B. The sun.
- C. The circle of life.
- D. The round cakes in honor of the so-called queen of heaven.
- 6. Who watches over children day and night?
- A. Santa Claus.
- B. The Roman deity Saturn.
- C. Yahweh alone.
- D. The Greek deity Zeus.
- 7. How should we all worship Yahweh?
- A. Any way we feel is right.
- B. In spirit and in truth.
- C. Any way we want as long as we are nice to people.
- D. Any way that is fun.



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Isaiah 53

AFFLICTED CRUSHED DESPISED EXALTED HEALING

INTERCESSION REJECTED POURED OPPRESSED TENDER



YAIY

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- 1. Who said, "Come, see a man, which told me all things that I ever did?" (John 4:29, 7)
- 2. Who said, "We have found the Messiah?" (John 1:41)
- 3. Who said, "I am innocent of this righteous man's blood?" (Matthew 27:24)
- 4. Who said, "He saved others, but cannot save Himself?" (Matthew 27:41-42)
- 5. Who said, "What will you give me if I betray Him?" (Matthew 26:14-16)
- 6. Who said, "He it is, who is coming after me is preferred before me?" (John 1:15)
- 7. Who said, "We would see Yahshua?" (John 12:20-21)
- 8. Who said, "Truly, this is Yahweh's Son?" (Mark 15:39)
- 9. Who said, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46)
- 10. Who said, "No man spoke like this man?" (John 7:46)
- 11. Who said, "I know not this man of whom you speak?" (Matthew 26:69-75)
- 12. Who said, "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets?" (Matthew 5:17)
- 13. Who said, "Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace?" (Romans 6:15)