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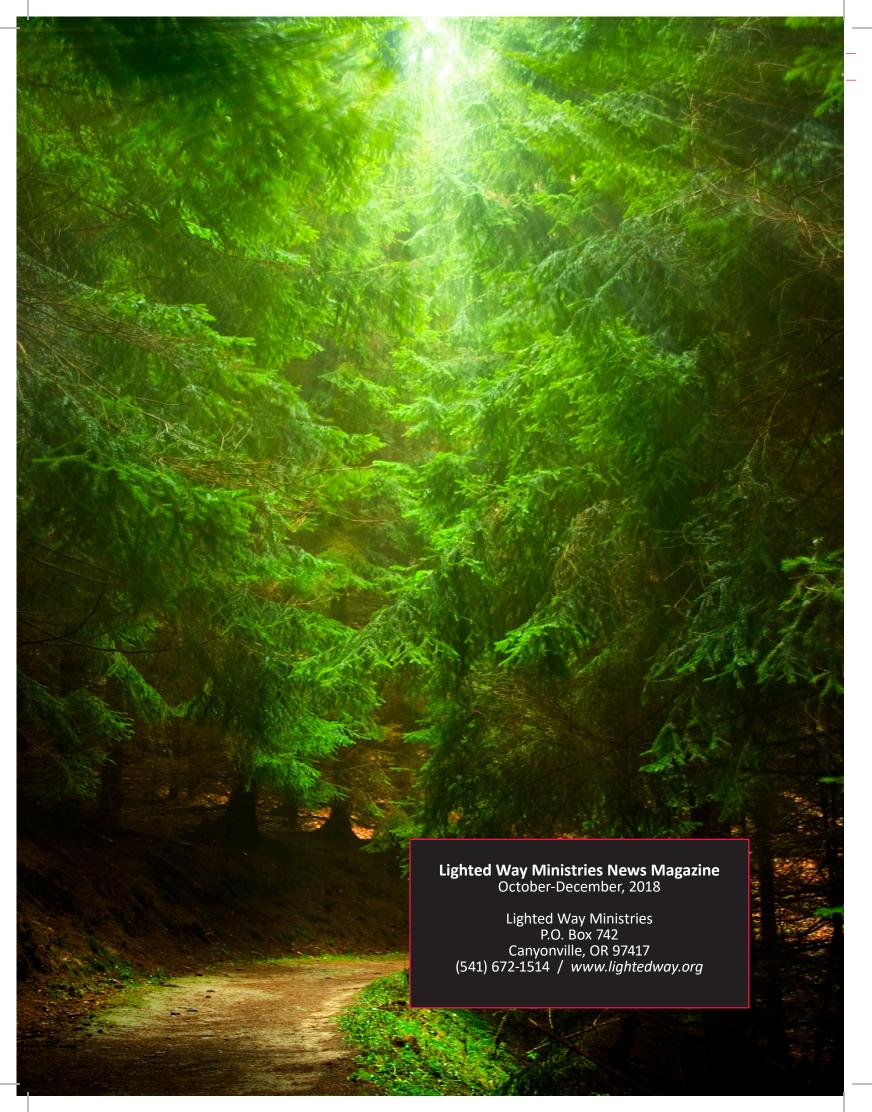
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October-December, 2018
Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet... Psalm 119:105

LIGHTED WAY MINISTRIES News Magazine

THE MICHAEL MISTOENTITY CITE Spirit of MISTOENTITY CITE SPIRIST



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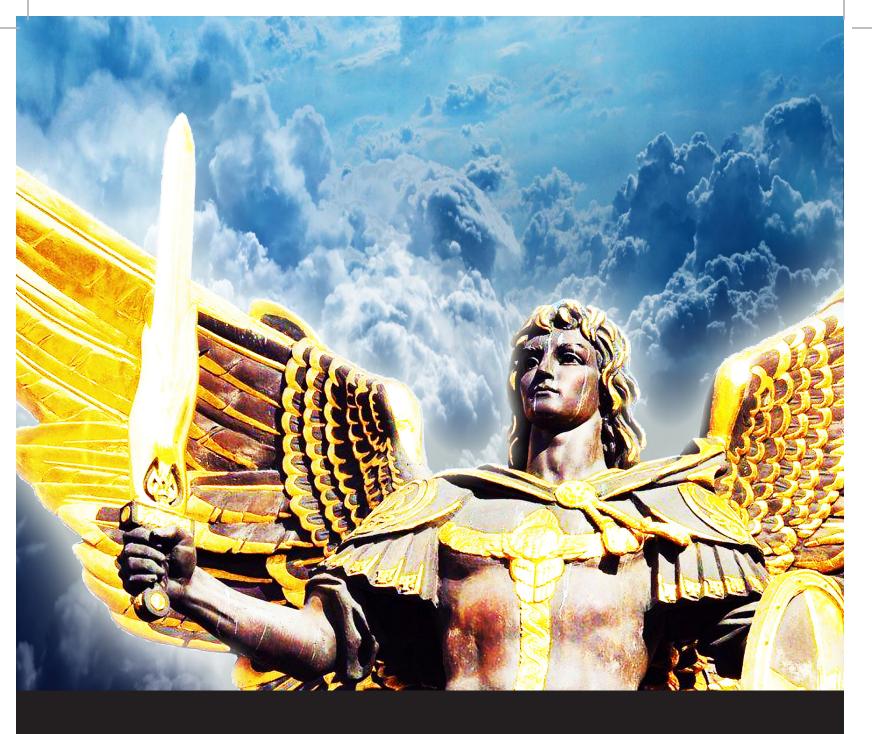
Lighted Way Ministries News Magazine (October-December, 2018 Issue)

Lighted Way Ministries
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www.lightedway.org

If you are not currently on our mailing list to automatically receive this quarterly news magazine, and would like to be added, please contact us directly.

All past issues of our magazine are archived on our website.

This news magazine is prayerfully designed to encourage you in a deeper walk with *Yahweh*. The articles focus on studies of the Word, Bible prophecy, current events, and ministry reports.



Discerning the Spirit of Anti-Christ

One might believe that the spirit of Anti-Christ is about hatred for *Yahweh* or replacing Messiah with a false "Christ". But actually, it is more specific than that. Scripture tells us that we may discern the Spirit of Anti-Christ by whether or not it embraces the divinity of Messiah. In short, all who reject the idea that "...**God** was manifested in the Flesh..." (1 Timothy 3:16) are denying that *Yahshua* was/is God. This is the spirit of Anti-Christ.

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of Yahweh... Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Yahshua Messiah is come in the flesh is of Yahweh. And every spirit that confesseth not that Yahshua Messiah is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist..." 1 John 4:1-3

The Michael Misidentity & the SPRIT of ANTI-CHRIST

Isaiah 9:6—"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given... and His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

In the Last Days the most evil, rebellious, anti-Yahweh, and totally-satanic power will be the final Anti-Christ. Ultimately, Scripture warns that this entity will be a single individual—the "man of sin", whose number is 666.

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that Day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition."

2 Thessalonians 2:3

"...Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and <u>his number is Six hundred threescore and six</u>." Revelation 13:18

Certainly, we know that we must be on guard against "wondering" after this beast power! But we can be so focused on watching out for the individual Anti-Christ that we fail to notice it is now manifesting as a *spirit* which pervades people and promotes demonic doctrines. (See 1 John 4:1-3, shown on the bottom of the previous page.).

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and <u>doctrines of devils</u>." 1 Timothy 4:1

In the End, if we fall a prey to the deceptions of the *spirit* of Anti-

Christ, we will more likely be deceived by the person of Anti-Christ. This is because this deceptive spirit is working to prepare the world to "wonder after the beast". Thus, while the ultimate Anti-Christ is not yet in power, the *spirit* of Anti-Christ has been very busy and is manifesting in all groups and walks of life. (See the yellow panel on the right.) Surprisingly, among many conservative believers, the attack on Messiah's divinity has come in through the *rejection* of the pagan trinity doctrine!

First, we must point out that, even though it is popular amongst Christians today, the trinity doctrine is not Biblical Truth.

And we are certainly not suggesting that believers are wrong for rejecting it. History makes it painfully clear that the doctrine of the triune God originates from paganism and is opposite to the clear teachings of the Bible (1 Corinthians 8:6).

"Hear, O Israel: <u>Yahweh our God is</u>
<u>one Yah</u>." *Deuteronomy 6:4*"...Know that Yahweh He is God;
<u>there is none else beside Him</u>."

Deuteronomy 4:35

During the time of Constantine, the pagan trinity doctrine was repackagedand became fundamental in Catholicism. (Continued...)

RECOGNIZING THE SPIRIT OF ANTI-CHRIST, IN ITS MANY "MUTATIONS"...

The spirit of Anti-Christ packages and manifests itself differently, depending on a person's belief-system, but in every case, its one identifying characteristic is always present.

According to 1 John 4:1-3, there is one identifying key to the Spirit of Anti-Christ: it rejects Christ's Divinity...

Here are a few of today's many manifestations of the spirit of Anti-Christ. But, notice how—in all of them—Yahshua's Godhood is rejected:

- To the pagan or atheist, Yahshua is merely a historical figure who was killed by the Romans and bears no significance for mankind today.
- To the New Age "Mystic", the Spirit of Anti-Christ teaches that Christ is a "consciousness" which every "enlightened" person may develop. And if we are all "christs", then no one is.
- To the Muslim, the Spirit of Anti-Christ promotes that Yahshua was only a prophet, lesser than Muhammad.
- To the Catholic, the spirit of Anti-Christ manifests in the Trinity doctrine, which presents Messiah as a lesser being—the Son of God who is a "co-redemptrix" (co-redeemer) with Mary (His human mother).
- The Jehovah's Witnesses reject Yahshua's divinity by identifying Him as Michael, who was an archangel equal with Lucifer.

Soberingly, conservative, Torahbelieving restorationists are not exempt from this spirit's attack either.

Identifying the created archangel Michael as Christ rejects Yahshua's Divinity, as we will show...

It wasn't just a doctrinal tenet of Catholicism. The trinity doctrine was the heart—the most central doctrinal principle—of the papal church! According to their own testimony, from this pagan hub, all other papal teachings radiate out like the spokes on a wagon wheel.

"The mystery of the Trinity is the central doctrine of the Catholic Faith.

Upon it are based all other teachings of the Church."

Handbook for Today's Catholic, p 12, 1994

Furthermore, because the pagan trinity teaching is the "Central doctrine of the Catholic faith", the Roman church considers all "Protestants" who believe in the trinity to be truly "Catholic", no matter what day they keep or denomination they claim.

"Let us believe the sole deity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, under an equal majesty, and a pious trinity. We authorize the followers of this doctrine to assume the title of Catholic Christians..." (Constantine)

From an edict given in 380 AD by Theodosius

Plainly, a vital part of being restored to the "old Path" (Jeremiah 6:16) of Truth involves rejecting the trinity doctrine and returning to the *Shemah* principle of one God. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 is the heart of the *Torah*. This passage is known by the Hebrew name *Shemah* and is the portion of the *Torah* that we are instructed to put upon our doorposts, as it encompasses all the rest of the Law of *Yahweh*!

But the "old Path" of Truth is a narrow one which passes through treacherous areas in which there are deep "pits" of doctrinal deception on either side of the "road". In the case of the trinity doctrine, the opposite pit is equally deep, which involves rejecting the Divinity of Christ.

Some by-gone leaders even considered the rejection of Christ's Divinity to be **more evil** than the trinity dogma! One such was James White:

"The inexplicable Trinity that makes the Godhead three in one and one in three is bad enough; but <u>that ultra</u> <u>Unitarianism that makes Christ</u> <u>inferior to the Father is worse..."</u>

James White, Review and Herald, Nov. 29, 1877

Actually, as J.H. Waggoner explained, the "old Path" of Truth lays in the middle, between two deceptive pits. Pagan trinitarianism was the obvious pit of deception on one side of the Path of Truth and ultra unitarianism was the more insidious pit of deception on the opposite side.

"....The great mistake of Trinitarians... is this: they make no distinction
between a denial of a trinity and a
denial of the divinity of Christ. They
see only the two extremes, between
which the truth lies; and take every
expression referring to the preexistence of Christ as evidence of a
trinity. The Scriptures abundantly
teach the pre-existence of Christ and
His divinity; but they are entirely silent
in regard to a trinity."

J. H. Waggoner, Review and Herald, 11-10-1863

As Scripture warns, denying that Christ is fully God, manifested in the Flesh (see also 1 John 1:1-14) is the work of the spirit of Anti-Christ. This is most likely why it was viewed as even "worse" than trinitiarianism.

One packaging of this Anti-Christ

spirit's attack on *Yahshua's* divinity is identifying Him with the archangel, Michael. Often conservative and well-meaning proponents of this teaching say that Michael is Christ without realizing that labeling *Yahshua* as an "archangel" undermines His divinity.

At first, it appears justifiable to contend that Michael is Christ. After all, an archangel is the head over the regular angels in Heaven. We know this because the prefix 'arch' is Greek for ruling or Chief. Although in many English translations of the Bible only one being is named an archangel: Michael. It wrong to assume that Michael is the only archangel.

Indeed, there are other archangels! According to Jewish historical writings, there are a total of seven archangels. But, whether or not this is true, we can prove that there are at least two archangels from Scripture. Michael is the first, but the second is Gabriel. In Luke 1:26, we read that Yahweh sent Gabriel to Mary to inform her that she would give birth to the promised Messiah. The name "Gabriel" identifies him as an "archangel." The following is the **Strong's** Concordance definition of "Gabriel" as it appears in Luke 1:26: Γαβριήλ Gabriel -"Of Hebrew origin [H1403]; Gabriel, an archangel..."

We can confirm this meaning from the Hebrew. The name "Gabriel" from Daniel 9:21 is as follows:

גאִירְבַּג gabrî y'êl -"From H1397 and H410; man of God; Gabriel, <u>an archangel</u>..."

Further, we find that Archangels are also angels themselves—just of a higher order. *Brown Driver Briggs Concordance* identifies Gabriel as:

"an archangel; the angel God used to send messages of great importance to man; sent to Daniel, to Zacharias, and to Mary." (See Daniel 9:21; Luke 1:19; and Luke 1:26)

Many also assume that Michael is Christ, because he is called "the great prince" in Daniel 12:1. But true doctrine cannot be rightly established upon a single text. In Daniel 10:13 and 21, Michael is referred to as "one of the chief princes."

"But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, <u>Michael, one of the</u> <u>chief princes</u>, came to help me..."

Daniel 10:13

And here we begin to see how identifying *Yahshua* with Michael is an attack on Messiah's divinity. *Yahshua* is not "one of the chief princes", which implies there are others who are equal with Him! And since the Bible clearly teaches that both Michael and Gabriel are archangels, it is plain to understand why Daniel 10:13 refers to Michael as "one of the chief princes" instead of "the Chief Prince".

The Hebrew word "EI" is the root of "Elohim". It means "mighty one". Often this Hebrew word is

translated as "God" in the English version of the Bible. But "elohim" is a term which does not exclusively apply to Yahweh. The word elohim applies to magistrates and mighty angels as well. Consider the **Strong's Concordance** definition:

H430 ביִהֹלֵא 'ĕlôhî ym

"...gods in the ordinary sense... the supreme God; occasionally applied by way of deference to magistrates... angels... God (gods), (goddess)... great, judges, mighty."

Thus, the presence of the "el" in Gabri-EL or Micha-EL associates them among Heaven's chief mighty ones. But it is not an exclusive term. And it does not mean that Michael is in any way God. Interestingly, all seven of the archangels mentioned either in Scripture or in Jewish writings have names with the "el" at the end: Micha-el, Gabri-el, Surv-el, Rapha-el, Remi-el, and Uri-el.

According to the historical book of Enoch, it was the archangel Uriel who was sent to give the patriarchs *Yahweh's* original star and constellation names, conveying Heaven's Plan of Redemption.

Certainly, Heaven's angels are mighty

beings and the archangels are the "chiefest" of them all. In the Bible, Michael is portrayed as a mighty warrior angel, whom Scripture depicts contending with Satan over the body of Moses in Jude 1:9. Michael is again shown in his warrior role as he is tasked with defending the saved people of *Yahweh* in the Last Days:

"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of Thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time Thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the Book." Daniel 12:1

But of all the beings, only one has had no beginning and has no end: God Himself.

"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God."

Psalm 90:2

According to Scripture, angels had a beginning. Nehemiah referred to angels as the "host" or "armies" of Heaven—all of which were created by *Yahweh*. (Continued...)



FEATURE

"You are *Yahweh*, You alone; You have made Heaven, the Heaven of heavens, with all their host... and the host of Heaven worships You." Nehemiah 9:6

Paul tells us that God created all things "visible and invisible," and specifically includes the chiefest or "princes" of the angels (which are archangels) with the phrase "whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities".

"(Christ) Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature. For by Him were all things created, that are in Heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him. And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist."

Colossians 1:15-17

Angels in the Bible appear to have a rank and order. Archangels (of which the Bible tells us there are at least two) have been given the Scriptural title of "chief princes" with "dominions"—or areas of jurisdiction. Under Yahweh, Who reigns supreme, these archangels have authority over other angels. For example, Michael is called "one of the chief princes" (Daniel 10:13), and appears to lead Yahweh's angelic army in Revelation.

"Now war arose in Heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they were defeated."

Revelation 12:7–8

Paul also tells us that *Yahshua* will return from Heaven "with the archangel's call" (1 Thessalonians 4:16). Scripture doesn't tell us if this

refers to one archangel or if all of them will shout in unison.

One major points of confusion over Michael's identity has arisen over the meaning of his name. Michael means "who is like God?" People have mistaken his name to be an exalting statement that Michael is one who is like God. But actually, in Hebrew, his name is a worshipful question, asking, "who is like God?" The answer to that question is, of course, that there is no one who is like *Yahweh*.

"I Am *Yahweh*, and there is none else, there is no God beside Me..." *Isaiah 45:5*

Unlike the holy archangel, Michael, Lucifer did not deflect the glory back to *Yahweh* where it rightly belonged. Before his fall, Lucifer was also a chief of the angels (Ezekiel 28:12-15). But Lucifer became prideful in his Godgiven authority, beauty, and power. Rather than glorifying *Yahweh*, Lucifer wanted to be "like God" Himself!

"How art thou fallen from Heaven, O Lucifer, 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 exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the Mount of the Congregation, in the sides of the North: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." Isaiah 14:12-14

Before his rebellion, Lucifer's position was right next to the Throne of *Yahweh* (Ezekiel 28:14). And Michael's position was on the other side of the Throne. Some conservative believers claim that Michael's position is again a proof that he must be *Yahshua*. After all

the Bible states that *Yahshua* was positioned on the "right hand" of God (Colossians 3:1). But this is a terrible misunderstanding of Scripture!

Ultimately, in placing Lucifer on one side of the Throne and Christ on the other (for they claim that Michael is Christ) it reduces *Yahshua* to be an equal with Lucifer, before his fall. In other words, *Yahshua* cannot be God, rather He is portrayed as a lesser being, who stands on the "right hand" of *Yahweh*, in much the same way a prince stands next to the throne of his father, the King.

But Yahshua is not "one of the chief princes" (Daniel 10:13). Unlike the archangels, Yahshua is not a created being at all. Rather He is the Creator of all—including the archangels (Nehemiah 9:6; Colossians 1:15-17). Verse 14 of John chapter 1 plainly identifies the Word who was God and created all things as the One who became "Flesh" and "dwelt among us". Yahshua is the Creator. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made."

ohn 1:1-3

So what does the Bible mean when it refers to *Yahshua* being at the "right hand" of God? There are some expressions in Scripture which are not meant to be taken literally. Consider the expression of one thousand. Scripture says that "Yahweh owns the cattle on a thousand hills..." (Psalm 50:10). This does not mean that when you count to hill 1001, the cattle found there do not belong to Yahweh! The reference to one thousand is a

Hebrew expression indicating completness or totality. In other words, saying that He owns the cattle on a thousand hills actually means that *Yahweh* owns everything.

Similarly, in Hebrew, the reference to the "right hand" is an expression of great power. It has nothing to do with a literal placement or position. To see this clearly, consider Psalm 16:11, which states that "pleasures" (in Paradise) are to be found on *Yahweh's* "Right Hand."

"Thou wilt shew me the Path of Life: in Thy Presence is fulness of joy; <u>at</u>

Thy Right Hand there are pleasures for evermore." Psalm 16:11

Because the "Right Hand" is an expression which indicates great power to provide whatever was promised, we can read Psalm 16:11 and not be concerned about where we are physically positioned in Heaven or the New Earth. The whole Earth will be filled with the glory of Yahweh. There won't be a dark half on the left, where the holy "pleasures" cannot reach, since they are only to be found on Yahweh's Right Hand!

Not only is the divinity of Christ under attack through misunderstanding Hebrew expressions (like the "right hand" being taken literally), but also titles of Messiah are being literally represented. Chiefly, the title of "Son of God" is terribly misconstrued, justifying the belief that *Yahshua* is a lesser Being.

But Yahshua's titles are not meant to be taken in a literal sense. He is not literally a Vine, or Bread, or a Door... Neither is He literally the "Son". Sons are born. They have a beginning. But,



because He is fully God, *Yahshua* had no beginning and He has no end. We may know this because He identified Himself as the Great I AM (which is a title for the Eternal God):

"Then said the Jews unto Him,
Thou art not yet fifty years old, and
hast thou seen Abraham? Yahshua
said unto them, Verily, verily, I say
unto you, Before Abraham was, I
AM. Then took they up stones to cast
at Him..." John 8:57-59

Also, Melchizidek was a type of Christ. Carrying out this comparison,
Hebrews 7:3 plainly states that Christ was not the Son in any literal sense:
"Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually."

Scripture plainly states that Yahshua

is fully God. In fact, it identifies Him as the "Everlasting Father", begotten (divided off from the same Life-Force) and manifested in the Flesh: "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His Shoulder: and His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

"Yahshua saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast

thou not known Me, Philip? He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?" John 14:9

Yahshua's reason for praying to His "Father" in Heaven wasn't that He was inferior, for He was "equal with God" (Philippians 2:6), being fully God Himself. Rather He set aside His divinity, while on earth, and lived in full submission to become our Example in all things. Thus, He lived in victory through the same means that we may. He was also baptised, not because He needed cleansing from sin, but—again—because He did all things that we must do (1 Peter 2:21) as our perfect Example.

In summation, according to the Scriptures, *Yahshua* is the mighty God—manifested in the Flesh! "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the Flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." 1 Timothy 3:16

Archangels like Michael are mighty, but they are not God. And making it appear that *Yahshua* is anything less than fully God is not the Truth—it is the work of the spirit of Anti-Christ. Let us be on our guard against accepting the deceptive teachings of this spirit in all of its many manifestations!



FEATURE

The True Spirit of Christmas

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the Gospel of Christ." Galatians 1:6-7

For many of us, our fondest childhood memories center around Christmas. It's been called "the DAY of days," and is a time of wonder and delight. But have you ever wondered how all the traditions of Christmas got started? People often say that "Jesus is the reason for the season". It all sounds very nice. But is it true? Where do the Christmas traditions come from? To answer this question we must look into the ancient practices of paganism.

THE YULE LOG AND THE 12 **DAYS OF CHRISTMAS...**

In the Northern hemisphere, during late December the days are at their shortest lengths and the nights are at their longest. For those in the pagan world, this has always been the greatest time of the year to celebrate and practice the works of spiritual darkness. The pagan calendar identifies the time at the end of December as the winter solstice.

And modern Christmas traditions, long before they came to be associated with Christ's birth in any way, were practiced by pagans dating back to ancient times. One such group, who practiced the traditions now associated with Christmas as part of their pagan rituals, was the ancient Norsemen of Scandinavia. In order to honor their pagan, fertility god Yule, the Norsemen engaged in a 12-day celebration in the month of December. During this celebration a log, considered to be a phallic symbol, was lit. The bonfire (short for bones-fire) was to be kept lit for 12 days. During this time animal and human sacrifices were burned in this fire on each of those 12 days.

Wild parties accompanied these sacrifices involving drunken orgies, dancing and attempting to contact and be possessed by the spirits of the season. It is from this pagan practice that we get the 12 days of Christmas tradition. During these twelve days of Yuletide, animals and humans were sacrificed on the Yule fire and it is those sacrifices that are referenced in the well-known Christmas carol, "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

WHY CHRISTMAS IS KEPT ON **DECEMBER 25...**

In pre-Christian Rome, the same kinds of celebrations were going on -honoring what appeared to be different gods, as they had different names than the Norsemen's deities. The Romans called it Saturnalia, in honor of the god Saturn—the god of excess. But, interestingly enough, the way the pre-Christian Roman gods were honored at the solstice is remarkably similar to the pagan fertility rites and rituals being practiced in Scandinavia at this time of year.

Ancient witches recognized this time as an important day when a pagan god was born. He had different names, depending on the

region, but his birthday was the same–December 25. Some called him Dionysus, some called him Attis, others called him Tammuz. Paul would have known him as Mithras. In Elijah's day this pagan god with the December 25th birthday, was called Baal.

THE "SANTA" HAT

Mithras was known as the god of the unconquerable sun. His special Phrygian cap, which had always been associated with Mithras from the ancient, pre-Christian times, is still worn today in honor of his December 25th birthday.



The Santa hat was originally the cap of Mithras (a.k.a. Tammuz) and wearing the cap was a way to honor the pagan god Tammuz, remembering his birthday.

HOW CHRISTMAS WAS ORIGINALLY CELEBRATED

During the December celebrations of Mithras' birthday in Rome, courts were closed. Any crime was permitted and unpunishable by law. Homosexuality, cross-dressing and unrestrained debauchery reigned supreme during this pagan celebration. Roman society lost all its order. Even children were encouraged to participate in the lewd practices and drunken orgies.

Below is a picture of the world's first Christmas Card. This card was created by Sir Henry Cole in 1843. Notice the image. It does not portray *Yahshua's* birth, nor anything associated with it. But you do see the grape vines and the wine glasses. The connection between Christmas and Roman Saturnalia's drunken festivities is plain. The card even shows a mother giving her child a drink of wine, just as the Romans would do on December 25.

By 270 A.D., the Roman emperor Aurelion had made it official,

setting aside seven days from
December 17 to 25 to exchange
gifts and celebrate the birth of the
son of the sun god. Perhaps in your
memory you can hear the carolers
crooning, "it's the most wonderful
time of the year!" But, in actuality,
the time surrounding December
25 was nothing short of a demonic
free ticket to sin. And only those
who enjoyed the devil's delights
found it to be the most "wonderful" time of the year.

WHAT IS NATIVITY?

The Saturnalia celebration reached its climax on the birth day of the sun god's son—December 25th.
Romans called this day *Natali Invicti Solas*. Meaning "the birthday of the invincible sun".

The words *Natali Invicti Solas* have been shortened into Nativity. But the birth they proclaim is not our dear Saviour's. It is the "sun-god's" son's birth.



The Christmas tree has nothing to do with Christ. It is another example of a holiday tradition that is rooted in paganism. To find where the Christmas tree originated, we must go all the way back to ancient Babylon and to the founding of Babel.

"And Cush begat Nimrod. He began to be a mighty one (a false god) in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before *Yahweh*: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before *Yahweh*. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel..."

Genesis 10:8-10

Nimrod, was a wicked man who led the world to build the tower of Babel and ruled the early Babylonian empire with a tyrannical and idolatrous hand. He led the people in worshipping the sun. Nimrod, the grandson of Noah, became the first king of the world, historically known as Sargon I.

In addition to Babylon, Nimrod also built Nineveh, as the Bible states in Genesis 10. Being warlike, he wore a type of helmet with a horn in the front; a trait inherited by the druid Vikings of the Celts, who were descendants of the Assyrian line.

Nimrod, which means "tyrant" was known as a mighty hunter. He led the Sumerians of Babylon to pay tribute to the skies (sun, moon, stars, and planets) with the sacrifice of their children.

(Continued...)



The reason people set up a pine tree and decorate it on December 25 is found in the story of Nimrod and his wife Semarimis, which dates back to ancient Babylon, long before *Yahshua* was born.

Nimrod's evil wife, Semiramis, became pregnant some time after he died (having been killed by Shem, to rid the world of his great wickedness). It had been far too long since Nimrod's death for anyone to believe him to be the child's father by natural means. But Semiramis had an amazing story to tell the people.

She consoled her subjects by making them believe the child she carried was Nimrod "born again." She told them that she had become impregnated by the rays of the sun while mourning Nimrod's death in the forest. Where her tears fell to the ground, Semarimis claimed the sun god caused a pine tree to sprout and grow before her eyes. According to Semarimis, this pine tree miraculously grew to full height as she watched. Nimrod, she claimed, had shown her, by pointing the pine tree straight to the heavens, that he was not really dead, rather he had taken a new shape—as the sun god.

Semarimis further blasphemed by telling the people that the child she carried was the divine Child promised in the Garden of Eden.
She told them the child was the Messiah. She told them he was God. Thus, her son, Tammuz was the first anti-Christ. The supposed child of Nimrod was born on December 25. In honor of his birth,

Semarimis cut down the pine tree –claiming it was the miraculous tree grown from Nimrod's power–and set it up in her palace yard.

The people were commanded to deck it with gold and silver offerings. If they were generous with her and her new child, she claimed that Nimrod would bring back the sun to full strength lengthening the hours of sunlight. This was the first Christmas tree—although it did not bear this title until much later.

The gold offerings were literally shaped into balls upon the tree for a graphic and ugly reason. The tree was itself a phallic symbol, as were the golden, offering balls.

The prophet Jeremiah was very familiar with the pagan practice of decking a pine tree. He warned against it.

"Thus saith Yahweh, Learn not the way of the heathen... For the customs of the people are <u>vain</u>. 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." Jeremiah 10:2-4

In order to get a full understanding of what Jeremiah meant in this text we need to look up the word "vain" in the original Hebrew. To be "vain" is a reference to idolatry and it means to "lead astray (into sin)". In other words, according to Jeremiah 10:2-4. practicing a "vain" act, like decking a pine tree serves to "lead (us and others) astray into sin."

The prophet Isaiah echoed

Jeremiah's warnings, calling the decked out tree a "graven image". "He that is so impoverished (spiritually poor) that he hath no oblation (acceptable offering with which to worship *Yahweh*) chooseth a tree that will not rot (evergreens do not lose their leaves). He seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, that shall not be moved." *Isaiah 40:20*

In Ephesians 5:11, we are told to have nothing to do with the ways of the heathen. The command to "learn not ways of the heathen" is about us teaching our children such spiritual emptiness or perpetuating this in our own homes. It is our job, to teach the truth about these pagan practices in a setting such as this one, however. We know this because the Bible also commands us to expose the works of darkness.

Since the first pine tree was decked in Semiramis' palace courtyard, pagans later came to bring the decorated pine trees into their homes and temples. In bringing this phallic idol into their space they sought the spirit of the sun god to impregnate their home, temple, or church. And they honored the birth of Tammuz by showing that they believed in his "divine" conception—thus they declared Tammuz to be none other than the "messiah", who Semiramis had proclaimed him to be. To Yahweh, and the devil, doesn't it mean the same today?

The prophet Ezekiel was warned by his angel-guide that there would be sun-worship in *Yahweh's* House. This meant that the professing people of *Yahweh* would be engaging in sun-worship practices. Ezekiel called it an "abomination".

"And he brought me into the inner court of <u>Yahweh's House</u>, and, behold, at the door of the <u>Temple of Yahweh</u>, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of <u>Yahweh</u>, and their faces toward the east; <u>and they worshipped the sun</u> toward the east. Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that <u>they commit the abominations</u> which they commit here?..." Ezekiel 8:16-17

No wonder Paul could warn us of a false Messiah and that another gospel would be proclaimed. Tammuz, who in Paul's day had been renamed as Mithras, was put before the people as the "Promised One" from the time of Eden. And the worship of Tammuz, or Mithras, was something Paul called a perversion of the Gospel of Christ.

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto <u>another gospel</u>: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would <u>pervert the</u> <u>Gospel of Christ.</u>" *Galatians* 1:6-7

THE ORIGINS OF SANTA CLAUS, HIS REINDEER AND CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

Another pagan tradition of Christmas is the story of Santa Claus, the jolly old elf with supposed god-like qualities. Actually the myth of Santa is a joining of many pagan teachings from several countries.

The tradition of his red suit and coming down the chimney came from Europe's myth of "hearth gods". Many believed in the stories of "hearth gods" who would "bless" your house with warmth and well-cooked food by coming down the chimney once a year dressed in red suits. It is from the tradition of leaving milk and cookies to please the "hearth gods" that we get the Christmas tradition of leaving treats for Santa.

But the "hearth gods" were more like dwarves in height. Santa's own height and bearded appearance came from Odin, of the Norsemen. In Scandinavia, Nimrod was called Odin, whose son was Yule. During the Norsemen's celebrations of Yuletide, Odin was believed to wander throughout the land. This was not a happy occasion for the pagan believers however, as Odin's presence meant possible death. The Norsemen believed it was up to Odin to determine which persons would prosper and which would die, from which we get the tradition of Santa checking if someone was "naughty" or "nice".

Another ingredient dumped into the Santa composite is the myth of Father Christmas. Father Christmas, known in some places as Saint Nicholas, was said to have captured and enslaved the devil himself. Thus, Father Christmas traveled the land accompanied by his devilish familiar in the shape of a black goat, called Knecht Ruprecht. (See the picture on the following page.)

Father Christmas would travel from house to house during the winter solstice asking the children to

repeat a verse or do some other task he asked. If Father Christmas was not satisfied with the goodness of the child, by their ability to comply, he would turn them over to Knecht Ruprecht to be taken (if they were really bad), or given switches if they were deemed only a bit bad. If the child had been good, Ruprecht would drop candy and small gifts into the children's shoes –set out by the fireplace for this purpose. This is where the Christmas stocking tradition comes from.

Ninteenth century writer, Theodore Storm, wrote in some detail how children were to use these switches given by Knecht Ruprecht in sadomasochistic practices. Because Knecht Ruprect was too obviously the demonic goat, those attempting to Christianize Christmas knew that St. Nicholas' devilish side-kick needed to be disguised and repackaged. The majority of Christians didn't accept Christmas or start keeping it until after this "repackaging" was complete.

Shockingly, the pagan reality of Christmas came to be glossed over by the work of a minister! In about 1819, an Episcopalian minister Clement Clarke Moore, wrote a decidedly secular tale originally titled "A Visit from Saint Nicholas". The poem later came to be known as "The Night Before Christmas". Moore's poem was published in the Troy Sentinel in New York. It became an overnight sensation. The sinister Knecht Ruprecht had been replaced by eight magical reindeer and the stern St. Nicholas had fully transformed into the jolly Santa Claus.

(Continued...)



Now Christmas has been fully

transformation that the birthday

of the pagan sun-god's son has

Messiah's birth. But before we

Christmas whoopla, we need to

viewed by our Heavenly King.

stop and consider how all of this is

repackaged. So great is the

become associated with

jump on board with all the

Can pagan practices be wrapped up in pretty coverings and made "holy" in Yahweh's Eyes? Or is keeping a repackaged pagan feast offensive to

Revelation 5:10 says that we are all called to be "priests" and "kings" in Yahweh's service. Considering this, the following Scripture grants some Heavenly perspective on this topic.

"Her priests have violated My Law, and have **profaned mine holy things**: **they** have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they showed difference between the unclean and the clean ... and I am profaned among them."

Ezekiel 22:26

At Lighted Way Ministries, we are striving to worship and serve Yahweh in ways **He** finds pleasing. Considering the true spirit of Christmas, we cannot justify participating in it. "As for us and our house, we will serve Yahweh." How about you?

LIGHTS COME FROM?

Christmas lights came from the

a candle in the window of their

Yuletide. This flame proclaimed

all to see. By lighting the flame

showed that they were keeping the spirit of Yule in their home.

every night throughout this

their loyalty to Odin and Yule for

season, the occupants of the home

homes throughout the season of

developed the tradition of placing

Vikings also. The Norsemen

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May Yahweh bless you and we thank you for your prayers and support!





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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:







and MORE...

The Lighted Way News Magazine



One of the questions folks ask us the most is, "what's new with Lighted Way Ministries"? Great question! We are so glad for your interest and prayers for the upcoming milestones and events in our ministry! Here's the latest update on what's new and what's next:

WHAT'S NEW:

• CREDIT CARD DONATIONS - Many of you who support us—and thank you and may Yahweh bless you for it—have asked us to provide credit card processing so that you can make donations via credit card. We have heard your request and we are excited to inform you that we are now able to accept donations made with either a VISA or MasterCard. Also, our online bookstore now accepts your credit card donations



when you order our materials through our website (www.lightedway.org).

WHAT'S NEXT:

- MAZZAROTH DAILY BLOG FOR 2019 We are launching a new Mazzaroth blog starting January 1, 2019. This blog will include detailed postings on the star and constellation names and means, showing Yahweh's Message in them all. It will also show the key sky events in 2019 (on the day that they occur) along with a prophetic explanation of the event's significance. And more... If you enjoyed Shauna Manfredine's book God's Amazing Star Secret, you will not want to miss this coming year's journey through the heavens via daily blog! Subscribe now, at https://godsamazingstarsecret.blogspot.com/. Also follow the blog in order to be able to comment and fully participate throughout the year. We hope you will join us for this amazing star tour!
- We prayerfully plan to continue our on-going Livestream broadcasts every other Sabbath... and more...
- 2019 DVD CLUB We continue to offer our bi-monthly presentations on DVD to our DVD Club members. Join the Club and catch all the blessings of our presentations being sent to your door. Sign up for our DVD Club or become a monthly donor! You can sign up on our order form insert. If you have been part of our DVD Club in 2018 or are already a monthly donor, again, we truly thank you and praise *Yahweh* for your support. You do not need to sign up again, but are already part of our 2019 Club.