

Warning: “Take Christ out of Christmas!”

<http://sdaprophecies.wordpress.com/2014/12/19/warning-take-christ-out-of-christmas/>

Jeremiah 10 (NKJV) **Idols and the True God**

² Thus says God:

“Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; ...

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.

Christ was never in Christmas! Every researcher who writes on this subject, no matter how apologetic to the practice of Christmas within the broader reaches of Christianity, confesses one salient fact—**Christmas is derived from the pagan deity**— *Dies Invicti Solis*—The Sun god, or “god of the unconquerable sun”.

The Roman Catholics takes credit for the **introduction of *Christ-mass*** into the Christian Church, did not originally receive it with good flavor. In their online Encyclopedia, they recount that, “Christmas was *not among the earliest festivals of the Church*. Irenaeus and Tertullian omit it from their lists of feasts; Origen, glancing perhaps at the discreditable imperial Natalitia, asserts (in Lev. Hom. viii in Migne, P.G., XII, 495) that in the Scriptures sinners alone, not saints, celebrate their birthday...”

[2] <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/03724b.htm>

For SDA’s Only

Many Adventists have taken an uncritical view, and wholesale acceptance of Ellen White’s earthy commentaries on the pagan tree of Christmas, without any regard for the Bible and sacred history’s recordings on this question. Here is one of her over-worked statements, promoting the tree: “Let the several churches *present to God* Christmas trees in *every church*; and then let them hang thereon the fruits of beneficence and gratitude, –offerings coming from willing hearts and hands, fruits that God will accept as an expression of our faith and our great love to him for the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ. Let the evergreen be laden with fruit, rich, and pure, and holy, acceptable to God. Shall we not have such a *Christmas as Heaven can approve?*” [4] [4] *Review and Herald*, Dec. 9, 1884. (Also be found in *The Adventist Home*, p. 477; emphasis supplied)

The idea that believers should hang “offerings, great and small,” on this devil-instituted symbol, is tantamount to offering “strange fire before the LORD.” “And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not.” Lev. 10:1. “And Nadab and Abihu died, when they offered strange fire before the LORD.” Num. 26:61. In other words, we cannot expect the LORD’s blessings on gifts reserved for his honor, when they are served to Him on the altar of Baal-Berith! Friend, there is no agreement with the altar of Yahweh, and the altar of Baal, they are patently incongruous. When Elijah stood on Mt. Carmel against Baal’s prophets in defense of true worship, he purposefully refused to use the same altar dedicated to Baal worship for the offering of sacrifices dedicated to Yahweh. We are told, “And he [Elijah] repaired the altar of YHWH that was broken down... And with the stones he built an altar in the name of YHWH.” 1 Kings 18:30, 32.

What a legacy of an example he left for us to follow! We cannot offer offerings to the GOD of heaven on Baal’s altar, and expect to win His favor! Friend, let us not compromise with Baal worship when we are so close to the borders of the eternal world. Elijah might well have reasoned, “It is the end of day, we are all tired since we’ve been here from early in the morning; let’s just use this already established altar of Baal and get on with this aspect of the showdown.” But no, he took the time to repair and build an altar in the name of Yahweh, on which he later offered his sacrifice. Unless otherwise shown, I am convinced of this one thing, had Elijah offered his sacrifice on the altar dedicated to Baal, the story would have had a very different ending! Friend, **heaven demands that we make a conscious “difference between the holy and [the] profane” (Ezek. 22:26; Lev. 10:10);** this is what Elijah did, and great was his reward! The challenge is now ours in this evil and adulterous age to stand for the truth and righteousness though the heavens fall!

As Adventists, we have long proclaimed the call to “Come out of her [Babylon] my people” (Rev. 18: 4), but this call is not merely a plea to leave the physical domain of Babylon only, merely to enter into the Third Angel’s message and continue as we were in Babylon. No, no, no! This call requires a departure from Babylon, both spiritually, physically, morally, and ideologically. One might say: “well, from the time I accepted the Sabbath truth, I came out of Babylon.” This is not necessarily true if you have not left Babylon’s domain ideologically and spiritually. The apostle Paul explained it as follows, “And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? ...Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” 2 Cor. 6:16-18.

The earlier directive from Ellen White that a Christmas tree should be placed in “every church,” is woefully contrary to everything written in the Scriptures, and must be understood as her having knowledge only “in part,” (1 Cor. 13: 9), and thus gave counsel based on her ignorance, though the *best* available light to her at that time. **But this ignorance would not last forever, for she, after having been enlightened on the truth of Christmas, has rescinded all previous statements with the following rebuke: “The youth in this country [Australia] require more earnest spiritual labor than in any other country we have yet visited. Temptations are strong and**

numerous; the many holidays and the habits of idleness are most unfavorable for the young. . . . But from their youth up they have been educated to the popular idea that the appointed holidays must be treated with *respect* and be *observed*. From the *light* that the Lord has given me, **these days have no more influence for good than would the worship of heathen deities; for this is really *nothing less***. These days are *Satan's special harvest seasons*. The money drawn from men and women is expended for that which is not bread. The youth are educated to love those things which are *demoralizing*, things which **the word of God condemns**. The influence is *evil and only evil continually*.” [5] [5] Ellen G. White, 1894, *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p.320.3.

The above statement has never been reproduced by our denomination in any literature expressing Ellen White's position on Christmas, and I find it to be disingenuous to set her writings in such a light as to not show the balance therein, especially as she grew in knowledge, light and understanding, to realize that Christmas commemoration is “nothing less” than the adoration and “worship of heathen deities.” Further, since in order for one to either pin a gift to the bowers of the tree, or place a present under its spreading branches, requires the genuflection of “bowing” or at the least nodding before the tree, Satan is more than pleased when Christians “bow” to him, all the while thinking they are offering praise to Jesus! I say, Christian beware! Satan does not care *how* you are deceived, but only exults in the one fact that you *are* deceived. The challenge is ours to unmask his sophistries and turn to the Lover of our souls in true repentance, and worship Him “in spirit and in truth,” based on His commandments,