

BABYLON RISING

AND THE FIRST SHALL BE LAST



ROB SKIBA

FOREWORD BY
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— Chapter Eight —

TRUTH or TRADITION

O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit.

(Jeremiah 16:19)

God has used Babylon largely as His place of judgment for the Hebrew nation. *When they refused to honor God the way He told them He is to be honored, obeyed and worshiped,* He gave them over to the gods they chose over Him. So it was that they went into exile and captivity.

Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried into Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD. (2 Kings 20:17)

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But because our fathers had provoked the God of heaven to wrath, He gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this temple and deported the people to Babylon. (Ezra 5:12 NASB)

The Jews spent 70 years there in captivity.^[1] Psalm 90:10 defines a generation as 70 years (80 if by strength). Thus, it would appear that an entire generation went into bondage. Then, finally after a full generation's time, the Jews came out of Babylon. Unfortunately, they carried Babylon with them when they left. They brought back many pagan customs, beliefs and practices from their time there, just as they did when they left Egypt (during a previous time of bondage). Those customs, ideas and practices became intermingled with the true faith of YHVH, and it always got them into trouble.

The traditions brought forth from Babylon were the primary cause of many of the issues that Jesus had to deal with when confronting the Pharisees and Sadducees of His day. Today, His Church has basically gone and done the same thing. Many of the traditions and practices of Christian churches today are rooted in pagan Babylon.^[2]

As we have already seen, the United States was founded on things that originated not with the one true God of the Bible, but rather with the gods that (originally) came out of Babylon. In the previous chapters, I spent a lot of time talking about our government. My goal with this final chapter is to show you some of the things I believe we need to take a serious look at within our churches and ultimately within ourselves.

As I am writing this chapter, I'd like to point out that today is Christmas Day, 2011. Therefore, I want to pause for a moment and address a comment I made in the *Man of Many Names* chapter concerning why I believe Christians should have nothing to do

1. Jeremiah 25:9-12 & Jeremiah 29:10

2. For more on this, read *Too Long in the Sun* and *Time is the Ally of Deceit* by Richard Rives and *The Pagan-Christian Connection EXPOSED* by Michael Rood.

with the celebrations of December 25th. The origins of Christmas are directly related to the thesis of this entire book series — and it all traces directly back to Nimrod and Babylon. Before I go any further though, I feel it is necessary to lay a little bit of a foundation for this portion of the chapter:

The dictionary defines the word:

rebuke as: *to express sharp disapproval or criticism of (someone) because of their behavior or actions.*

condemn as: *to pronounce to be guilty; sentence to punishment: to condemn a murderer to life imprisonment.*

As I point out some things, please keep the above definitions in mind. Although, rebuke to the one being rebuked often feels like condemnation, it is neither my desire nor intent to condemn anyone. Look at it this way: If I were stepping off into some sin like fornication, adultery, alcohol, drugs or whatever, would you not tell me that it is wrong? Or would you just let me continue on to my own destruction? I would hope you would seek to correct me and show me that the path I am on is not good.

Having said that, how well do alcoholics typically receive the message that what they are doing is wrong? How well does the fornicating adulterer take it when you tell them that they need to break off the affair? How well does the drug addict take it when you tell them they can't have anymore?

Usually, the response is not good and is often followed by, “*Stop judging me!*” or “*What gives you the right to condemn me?*” and other similar responses along those lines. I pray neither of those are the responses you will feel toward me. My hope is that you take what I write in the spirit in which it is intended, rather than becoming defensive. My sincere hope and desire is that this chapter will cause you to think about some things perhaps you have never considered

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before. Please do your own research and see if the Holy Spirit bears witness to what I am saying.

PAGANISM AND CHRISTIANITY

I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of Babylon, my people, so that you do not participate in her sins and suffer from any of her plagues."
(Revelation 18:4 GOD'S WORD Translation)

Even as our troops have come out of Babylon (Iraq) in a physical sense, I believe the Church needs to begin its exodus from Babylon in a spiritual sense. The concept of a son of god being born on December 25th, goes all the way back to Nimrod, progressing into Tammuz, then Osiris, later Zeus, Mithra and a host of other sun gods who were all celebrated on the day we now call Christmas.

The actual observance of the day of Jesus' birth was long in coming. In particular, during the first two centuries of Christianity there was strong opposition to recognizing birthdays of martyrs or, for that matter, of Jesus. Numerous church fathers offered sarcastic comments about the pagan custom of celebrating birthdays...

— *Encyclopedia Britannica*

Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church. Irenaeus and Tertullian omit it from their lists of feasts...

— *The Catholic Encyclopedia*

Writing about this very issue, Tertullian (155-220 AD) reports that the early Christians did not join the pagans in their holiday customs and celebrations.

*On your [pagans] day of gladness, we [Christians] **neither cover our doorposts with wreaths**, nor intrude upon the day with lamps... We are accused of lower sacrilege because we do not celebrate along with you the holidays...*

—Tertullian (c. 197, W), 3.44.

Christians have no acquaintance with the festivals of the Gentiles.

—Tertullian (c. 198, W), 4.24.

*You Christians have your own registers, your own calendar. **You have nothing to do with the festivities of the world. In fact, you are called to the very opposite...***

—Tertullian (c. 2122, W), 3.101.

*We must now address the subject of holidays and other extraordinary festivities. We sometimes excuse these to our wantonness, sometimes to our timidity – in opposition to the common faith and discipline. The first point, indeed, on which I will join is this: whether a servant of God should share with the very nations themselves in matters of this kind – either in dress, food, or in any other kind of festivity... “There is no communion between light and darkness,” between life and death. Or else we should rescind what has been written, “The world will rejoice, but you will grieve”... When the world rejoices, let us grieve. And when the world afterward grieves, we will rejoice.... **There are certain gift days, by which some adjust the claim of honor; or with others, the debt of wages.... If men have consecrated for themselves this custom from superstition, why do you... participate in festivities consecrated to idols?***

—Tertullian (c. 200, W), 3.68, 69.

“The pagan Romans clad their door posts with green and branching laurels... In the Saturnalia...

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*presents come and go... There are... gifts... and banquets... yet **Christians should have no acquaintance with the festivals of the pagans.***

—Tertullian quoted by David Bercot,
A Dictionary of Early Christian Beliefs, 1998, p. 342

To the pagans, the Saturnalia was fun. To the Christians, the Saturnalia was an abomination in homage to a disreputable god who had no existence anyway.

—Earl Count, *4,000 Years of Christmas: A Gift from the Ages* (1997)

*Faithful men of God who knew and loved the Scriptures of truth **fought against the mingling of paganism with the name of Christ. They were valiant in opposing the entry of Christmas and its festivals among the believers.***

—R. F. Becker, *The Truth about Christmas: Flee from Idolatry*

The early Christians discouraged the use of evergreen decorations in Christian homes and assemblies, because their display had long been associated with heathen festivals.

—Campbell, *The Story of Christmas*

Historically speaking, Tertullian and many others strongly expressed the disapproval by early Christians of those who participated in pagan holiday festivities on December 25th and at other times as well. Clearly, the Christian Church of today however, is *much* different than it was in the first two centuries after Christ.

Truth or Tradition

If you spend time searching God's Word for most of the common practices in conventional churches, you will rarely find them. If you go further and spend time tracing the history of these practices, you will soon discover that most of our religious habits are man-made choices. In fact, you're likely to discern a pattern about the way that we "do church" these days: If we do it, it's probably not in the Bible as one of the practices of the early church! Does it surprise you that most of what we do in religious circles has no precedent in scripture? This includes many of the activities within church services, the education and ordination of clergy, the routines commonly used in youth ministry, the methods of raising funds for ministry, the ways in which music is used in churches, even the presence and nature of church buildings...new perspectives and practices that churches have held on to for many years...

— George Barna, *Pagan Christianity*, p. xxvii-xxix

Christians today are showing that they are no different than the Israelites of the Bible, who were prone to straying in the direction of pagan practices.

*And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and **they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them.***

(2 Kings 17:15)

*And **he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, after the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.***

(2 Kings 21:2)

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*Thus saith the LORD, **Learn not the way of the heathen,** and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. (Jeremiah 10:2)*

What is the “*way of the heathen*” that the Lord was constantly warning His people to avoid? Pretty much anything that was not of Him! It’s quite simple really. If God warned against it, the people of God were not to do it. Nothing has changed. God’s laws and commands remain in full effect. The first one being:

“Thou shalt have no other gods before me!”

The Hebrew phrase translated to “*before me*” in English literally means, “before my face.” In other words, God is saying, “*I don’t even want to see any hint of a false god among you! Get it out of my face!*”

Barne’s Notes on the Bible says:

*Before me—Literally, “before my face.” The meaning is that no god should be worshipped in addition to Yahweh. Compare Exodus 20:23. The polytheism which was the besetting sin of the Israelites did not in later times exclude Yahweh, **but associated Him with false deities.***

—*Barne’s Notes on the Bible*, commentary on Exodus 20:3
[emphasis mine]

I’ve already shown you how many gods are “in His face” all over our nation’s capital. But the Church compounds the problem by participating in things like Christmas and Easter—especially while doing so in His name.

One of the responses I hear most often when making comments like that is, “*But that’s not what it means to me...*” followed by some excuse about not thinking about other gods, but rather focusing on Christ while doing what they do during those holidays.

It really doesn’t matter what it means to us.

It matters what it means to God!

While Christians argue that they are not worshipping or even thinking about any other gods on Christmas and Easter; claiming that their hearts and minds are solely on Christ, I have to ask how are those justifications any different from the rationale of the Israelites in the wilderness when they set up the altar with the golden calf?

*Now when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people assembled about Aaron and said to him, “Come, make us a god who will go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” Aaron said to them, “Tear off the gold rings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” Then all the people tore off the gold rings which were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. He took this from their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool and made it into a molten calf; and they said, “**This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt.**”*

*Now when Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and **Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD.”** So the next day they rose early and offered burnt offerings, and **brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.** (Exodus 32:1-6 NASB)*

Notice what they did. They set something up and declared that the works of their hands was God—the One who brought them up from their slavery in Egypt. They worshiped a representation of a pagan deity, proclaiming that it “*shall be a feast to the LORD!*” The word “LORD” there in English is translated from the Hebrew word YHWH, which is the true name of God. Thus, they were

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doing as the heathen do—and doing it in the name of YHVH while claiming that He was the one they were thinking about as they brought gifts, ate, drank and made merry.

That is *exactly* what Christians all over the world are doing with Christmas. They are associating the Son of God with traditions that have always been attributed to the false sun gods of antiquity and participating in rituals that have nothing to do with the one true God of the Bible or His Son, Jesus Christ. If you keep reading that story in Exodus, you will see that God was extremely unhappy about that sort of thing. It didn't matter what the people thought. Clearly it mattered more what He thought about it all.

The next usual response I hear from Christians is, “*But God knows my heart...*” Thinking about that response, I posted the following question on my Facebook page on December 13, 2011:

If your spouse cheated on you with someone else, but you were gracious enough to woo him/her back (and did so at great personal cost) and then after coming back to you, they started to celebrate your birthday on the day the person they committed adultery with was born—while doing so in your name—how would that make you feel? Even if they said, “But I’m thinking of you. Honest. Oh come on, honey, you know my heart.” Would you be OK with that? Seriously?

I received over 150 responses! Before people realized what I was really asking, these were some of the responses and my interaction with them:

Male Friend A: This situation actually hurts to think of!

Me: I think so too.

Male Friend B: Where did you hear about this situation? Is this something you read, or based upon some folks you know?

Me: It was a disturbing situation I discovered that was happening to someone I love dearly.

Male Friend A: *Oh gosh! I'm sorry to know that.*

Male Friend C: *I know that Person as well. I agree, very disturbing. [this person got it!]*

Me: Me too. Yeah [Friend C], quite a few have heard about it. Most just don't care. I appreciate your concern guys. Pray that the wayward spouse realizes what they are doing and has a change of heart. The other one doesn't deserve this.

Female Friend A: *That is just so wrong*

Me: I agree. How can someone do that? Especially to a spouse willing to love them so much!

Female Friend A: *They only get away with what one lets them get away with.*

Male Friend D: *Do you think the spouse knows the correct day to celebrate and just chooses not to? Or do you think it's unintentional? [this person got it!]*

Male Friend E: *It's like your spouse knowing your day off but, takes her day off on her ex-lover's day off. Hmm, Probably just a "bad habit." What's another word for habit? Oh yeah "tradition"... [this person got it!]*

Female Friend B: *Betrayal once is hard enough; betrayal twice is unacceptable; betrayal thrice(?), hmmm...Forgive and forget which would mean to forget the one who betrayed you, end the relationship, and move on...*

Me: Well, when you're married to someone, I would think you'd at least do them the courtesy of remembering their birthday. I mean, that's almost as bad as saying someone else's name while being intimate.

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Can't be good.

Thing is, this girl should know better. Her husband is truly an amazing guy. I know him. He's crazy in love with her even though she constantly does things that hurt him. I asked him why he puts up with it. He said, "I just love her so much. More than my own life!" I was reading a story once that showed how far he went to woo her back. Wow. I mean it was insane how much he did to get her back. And she does this? It's criminal. Yet he still wants to stay with her.

Some people just don't know what they've got.

***Female Friend A:** Sounds like a addiction, he needs to go cold turkey. Once a cheat always a cheat. They just get better at hiding it. Not to mention he is now making her a idol. And we know the commandment about idols.*

Me: Yeah... I hear ya. How in love can someone be to take that kind of continual abuse? I know I couldn't deal with it. My previous wife slept with someone else. Short of crucifixion, or a terminal illness, I don't know if I can imagine anything more painful than that was. We ended up divorced. But if I took her back and she did that... wow. Game over. But he keeps pursuing her—to the ends of the universe if need be.

I don't think it's idolatry though. It's the best example of unconditional love I've ever seen—because he knows that she has a lot of damage from the physical and emotional abuse of her previous relationships. He's willing to love her through it though.

***Female Friend C:** This is an awesome perspective... I wish more would see it this way. [this person got it!]*

***Female Friend A:** But even God punished Israel for adultery!*

Me: Yeah [Female Friend C], he tells me all the time that I have a lot to learn. In many ways I wish I could love like he does. What an amazing role model! I am so blessed to know him.

Yes, He did [Female Friend A]... but He also pursues her even to this day. And one day Israel will turn back to Him because of it. My friend reminds me of that all the time.

Male Friend F: *That's an interesting scenario. Call it quits, but that's my personal opinion. Adultery is biblical ground for divorce. The most disrespectful part is celebrating your birthday on the day they committed adultery. Maybe I misunderstood, but the day they chose to celebrate is not the spouse's actual birthday right? Anyone that will commit adultery, then rub it in your face by making a celebration of it has not been "wooded" back. Cut your losses and move on. Sometimes people get in God's way, and again, just my opinion, but it seems 100% clear that the cheating spouse was in a RELATIONSHIP with another person. There is a huge difference between a random sexual encounter and having two relationships going on in which special dates are remembered. If it was just cheating, I'd say, to each their own, but that scenario is way out of line. Cheating is forgivable, starting another relationship is not.*

Female Friend A: *Sorry, but your friend is a fool! As long as he takes it, she will do it.*

Me: Maybe so. But the Bible gives a great illustration of this whole scenario in the book of Hosea. God pursues and pursues His bride!

Female Friend A: *But he also wants repentance!*

Me: Indeed, He does.

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Those were just a few highlights of the passionate responses that thread generated and my interaction with those Facebook friends. Similar responses continued for awhile until someone exposed what I was really saying.

A little over 3,000 years ago, the prophet Nathan used a similar parable to get King David's attention.^[3] The results were the same in that Facebook thread as they were in that Old Testament story. People got emotional and drew from personal experiences (pain) to give their opinions—and then they realized that *they* were the ones being rebuked as the unfaithful spouse.

*And God said, Let us make man in our image, **after our likeness**: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So **God created man in his own image**, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. (Genesis 1:26,27)*

Man was created in the physical appearance of God as well as in His *likeness*. At the realization that we are the bride who has confused our Groom's birthday with that of His arch-enemy, this should give us pause to think about our usual defense of Christmas. If we feel this way as humans made in the image and *likeness* of God, why should we think that God does not feel the same way?

In that light, "*Oh, but you know my heart*" just doesn't seem to cut it, does it? If your spouse said that to you, would it work? No, and I don't think it flies too well with our Heavenly Spouse either.

Is this a salvation issue?

No, I do not believe this is a salvation issue. Nor do I believe that a Christian who celebrates Christmas or Easter is going to go to hell

3. See 2 Samuel 12

for doing so. That said, I still do not believe God is pleased with a heart/mind that knows to do good and does it not.

*Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not,
to him it is sin. (James 4:17)*

Is celebrating Christ's birth the right thing to do? I see no one in the Bible doing so, but I would not go so far as to say that it is wrong. Angels, shepherds and wise men celebrated it. Indeed, the birth of Christ is an amazing and wonderful thing to celebrate. But what about doing so on December 25th? Ah, now there is where I see a problem.

Here are a few books I highly recommend on the subject:

- *Too Long in the Sun*, by Richard Rives
- *Time is the Ally of Deceit*, by Richard Rives
- *The Pagan-Christian Connection Exposed*, by Michael Rood

“Well that’s just the day I choose to celebrate His birth!”

Since when do we choose what day to celebrate someone else's birthday? Should it not be on the day they were actually born?

“But no one knows when Christ was born! So, why not celebrate it on December 25th?”

First of all, I believe that is a lie. I do not believe that “no one knows when Christ was born.” I believe the Bible tells us *exactly* when He was born, and it most certainly was not on December 25th!

The Bible gives us all we need to know concerning God's redemptive plan for mankind. In it, God Himself tells us which holidays He wants us to celebrate and specifically when we are to do so. They are called the *Seven Feasts of God*. See Leviticus 23 for a full description, but in a nutshell, they are:

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1. Passover
2. Unleavened Bread
3. First Fruits
4. Pentecost
5. Trumpets
6. Atonement
7. Tabernacles



Figure 84

The first thing I want you to know is that these are not the Feasts of the Jews. *They are the Feasts of YHVH!*

These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. (Leviticus 23:4)

On Mt. Sinai, God essentially gave Moses the “Script” for His “Divine Drama” and commanded His people to learn and practice it. If they did, they would know the timing and exact nature of each of God’s Divine Acts, and most notably the works of His only begotten Son, Jesus. If we do the same, so will we.

Everything God did in the Bible, lines up with these Feasts. Thus, everything Jesus did also had to line up. And you know what? They did! Thus, if we want to start looking for the time of Christ’s real birthday, we should start there— not during the time of pagan Winter Festivals that were always associated with false gods, and originated with Nimrod in Babylon. Therefore, I believe part of coming out of Babylon means coming into an understanding of our Hebrew roots. After all, the Bible was written by Hebrews, for Hebrews, in a Hebrew mindset. So why not look at the Scriptures through the lens of the Hebrews instead of the historically pagan Gentiles? When we do, everything becomes *much* clearer.

Jewish tradition says that Adam was created on Yom Teruah (aka the Feast of Trumpets and Rosh haShanah). I cannot confirm

that from the Scriptures, but based on what I can confirm, that notion seems plausible. For I believe that the “Second Adam” was born on that day, and Stellarium^[4] appears to confirm that notion. But Americans (especially) will perhaps find the exact date a little bit disturbing.

The Fall Feasts happen... well, in the Fall. And the beginning of the Fall Feasts is usually in the September/October time frame. Keep that in mind. Now let’s look at a New Testament Scripture. I believe Revelation 12 gives us the best clue as to when Jesus was born.

And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.
(Revelation 12:1-5)

I’ve read a lot of commentaries on this passage and most (if not all) of them try to say that the “man child” is the Church. I strongly disagree. The Church is always referred to as a *female* and as the “*bride* of Christ.” John is not all of a sudden advocating homosexuality. No. The Church is not the “man child” to whom he is referring. Furthermore, the Church is not to rule all nations with a rod of iron, nor has she yet been caught up unto God and to His throne. The only One who fits the above description is Jesus, the Son of God who was born of a virgin.

4. Stellarium is a free software that enables you to view stellar alignments throughout history. You can download it at: <http://www.stellarium.org>

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In the heavens, there is a constellation known as Virgo (the virgin). God has placed His divine plan both in the Scriptures as well as in the stars above.

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. (Psalm 19:1)

Yes, they do. The above passage in Revelation is describing a stellar alignment, which is indeed showing His marvelous handiwork. That stellar alignment happened exactly as described on only one day in human history: **September 11, 3 BC** (imagine that)!

Using the free software available at stellarium.org, you can go back in time to September 11, 3 BC (note: the software reckons 3 BC as -2) and see it for yourself. This is how you do it:

- First, set the *Time Zone Settings* on your computer to Jerusalem time (UTC+02:20).
- Open the software and select F6 on your keyboard to access the *Location* window. Set your viewing location for Baghdâd, Iraq, then close that window.
- Select F5 on your keyboard to access the *Date and Time* window. In the year window option, highlight whatever is there and replace it with “0,” then use the down arrow to back the year date off to -2. Set the month window to “9” and the day window to “11.” Set the software clock to 5 a.m. and then close that window.
- Select F4 on your keyboard to access the *View* window. In the *Sky* menu, check off the “Show planets” and “Scale Moon” boxes. Then, select the *Markings* tab and check off the “Show lines,” the “Show boundaries” and the “Show art” boxes. Back off the “Art brightness” value to “.25,” then lose that window.
- Hit the letter “A” on your keyboard to get rid of the atmosphere.
- Using your mouse, click on the sky and spin the view

around by dragging left or right until you see the “E” on the horizon. This indicates that you are now facing the eastern sky. You should see Virgo’s head and shoulders, with Venus and Mercury within them.

- Hit the letter “G” on your keyboard to get rid of the ground.

I believe this is what the Magi saw from their location in ancient Babylon. It was the exact fulfillment of what the apostle John would later write in Revelation 12. If the atmosphere and ground-plain views were turned on, you would just barely see the sun about to come up over the eastern horizon. Let’s see how this alignment gives us a better idea of what may have so impressed those ancient sky-watchers.

- Hit F5 again to bring the *Date and Time* window back up. Drag it off to the right side of your screen.
- Move your cursor back over the sky, and using the scroll wheel on your mouse, scroll back to zoom out a bit more in order to reveal Jupiter and the constellation of Leo.
- Back the date off to 8/6/-2 (August 6, 3 BC).
- Advance the day window, one day at a time and watch the dance that takes place with the moon, planets and constellations.

Depending on how far out you have zoomed your view, you should see the moon at the top of your screen. Venus and Jupiter should be right in front of Leo’s face.

Jupiter is known as the “king planet.” Venus is known as the “queen planet.” Beginning around August 6 of 3 BC, Venus chases her king. As you advance the days forward, you will see that the waning moon crosses over the two planets around the 9th of August. On the 12th of August, Venus sits on top of Jupiter. This would have been a very bright alignment!

As you advance forward in time, Venus leaves her king and is joined

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by Mercury (who was known as the “messenger of the gods” in mythology). This would have also been a bright alignment. These two head straight for the constellation Virgo (the virgin).

Meanwhile, by September 11th, Jupiter, the “king planet” literally parks and sits over Regulus, the “king star,” which is in the paw of Leo, the “king constellation.” Again, this would have been a very bright alignment and a significant sign to the ancient astronomers. If there truly were “three kings” that witnessed the birth of Christ, these were the three!^[5]

On September 11, 3 BC (-2), we see the waxing sliver of a New Moon (which signals the beginning of the Fall Feasts) under the feet of Virgo, who is now “clothed with the sun” shining brightly in her belly, with Mercury and Venus at her head. If we consider the nine bright stars of Leo plus the planets Jupiter, Venus and Mercury at and above her head, we have an exact match to the description John gives in Revelation 12:1-5!

Thus, I believe the heavens declare the glory of God, and as such, they reveal that the true birth date of Jesus was September 11, 3 BC (-2) and not December 25th. Dr. Michael Heiser agrees and has a good presentation on it that you can watch here:

www.michaelsheiser.com/Videos/Rev12/Rev12.html

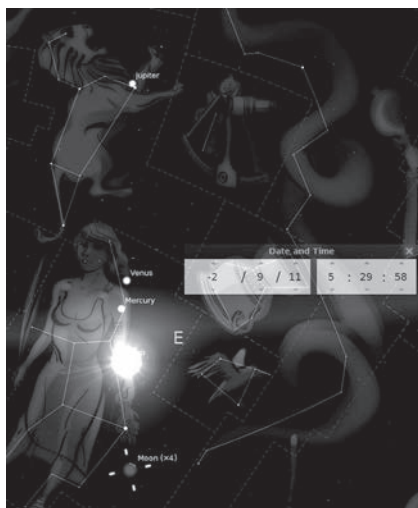


Figure 85

***NOTE:** Be sure to reset your computer’s Time Zone back to your original settings after you close the software.*

5. There were likely many more than just three magi (wise men) who came to see Jesus. Note also, they did not arrive for His birth in the manger. They arrived when He was approximately two years old and living in a house. See Matthew 2:11.

Jewish scholar, Mark Biltz on the other hand gives a very compelling argument for Christ being born later in the Fall Feasts, during Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles). You can watch his video presentation at: www.babylonrisingbooks.com/videosC803.html

Here's the thing: I am not an expert on this stuff by any stretch of the imagination, but as I understand it, the Fall Feasts last 23 days total: from Tishri 1 to Tishri 23. They are broken down as follows:

1. **Feast of Trumpets** (aka Yom Teruah and/or Rosh haShanna): Tishri 1
2. **Day of Atonement**: Tishri 10
3. **Feast of Tabernacles**: Tishri 15-21 with the 8th day of assembly on the 22nd and the giving of the Torah on the 23rd.

The Hebrew month "Tishri" would roughly land around the time we call September, but the date varies due to our reckoning of time by the sun versus the moon and the Gregorian Calendar versus the Hebrew calendar.

As much as Mark Biltz's descriptions make a lot of sense (and may even be absolutely true), I still lean toward the birth being on the Feast of Trumpets, primarily because of Revelation 12:1-5. That Scripture (at least for me) takes all the guesswork, assumptions, and "coincidences" (as interesting as they may be) out of the equation.

Regardless, either way, many scholars agree that Jesus was born sometime during the Fall Feasts. These feasts last for three weeks! So, why settle for a one-day pagan holiday that has more to do with the Antichrist than Jesus Christ, when we can have a wonderful three-week party with God, celebrating His Son, His way, on the days He set aside for our benefit and His divine plan!? There may be other, more sobering reasons to observe this season too.

September (Tishri) is the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar, and judging by the sliver of a New Moon, September 11, 3 BC

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certainly appears to have been the date for Yom Teruah (Trumpets/Rosh haShanah), which begins with *two witnesses* confirming the sighting of the New Moon.

Two witnesses? Does that sound familiar to anyone? There are Two Witnesses described in the Book of Revelation! Could the time of Jesus' birth be related to the timing of His return as well?



Figure 86

Many do in fact believe that Christ will return on Yom Teruah during the blowing of the trumpets—specifically the “last trump.” Could it be that Jesus will return on His birthday? If so, and you are one of those Christians who celebrates His birthday on the day that the Antichrist was born (December 25th) you’ll probably miss the party.

Take note of the *Parable of the Ten Virgins* in Matthew 25:1-13. The statement in verse 13, “*Watch therefore, for ye know not the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.*” is a direct reference to the Feast of Yom Teruah (Trumpets), which has always been known as “*the day no man knows the day or the hour.*” The reason for this is that the new moon had to be verified by the two witnesses as appearing at a very specific point on the horizon as viewed from the Temple mount. If it didn’t appear on one day (which begins at sunset), it began on the next. Thus, the phrase “*the day no man knows the day or the hour*” was a Hebrew idiom for that particular time of the Feast of Trumpets.

If that is true, it only serves as yet another reason (among many) that I believe proves Christians need to not have anything to do with Christmas. It is a day of deception, and it has nothing to do with our Savior or His real birthday. It is a day that will keep you in darkness and lead you astray concerning the days to come.

Worst of all, it is a day that has roots going back to Babylon and as the title of the previous chapter suggests, we need to come out of Babylon! This is yet one more way for the church to do so.

A friend of mine on Facebook posted the following:

When the Da Vinci Code came out a few years ago, pastors were incensed about the movie promoting a fictional idea that our Messiah had children by one of His followers. Books were passed out in churches condemning this movie and exposing the lies. Sermons were preached everywhere attacking the lies in the movie. Meanwhile, each year hundreds of thousands of churches institutionally promote the lie that Christmas is about our Messiah among other vacant theologies.

Where is the same indignation about those lies?

In this case, why are those of us who expose these lies for the purpose of helping people to see the truth, the ones subject to condemnation while the promoters of the lies are defended?

I can certainly identify with the lamentation of his last question. I have come under a great deal of attack for taking a stand against Christmas. Sadly, the most resistance came from clergy and seminary-trained individuals who should know better. On one hand, they will say, “*We know Jesus was not born on December 25th.*” On the other, all of their songs, banners, cards and signage will indicate otherwise. That is both hypocrisy and lying wrapped up in one! How does that bring honor and glory to God?

WHY LUCIFER LOVES CHRISTMAS AND EASTER

My personal opinion is that Lucifer loves Christmas. Why? Because I think the Adversary is rather pleased with the overall effects of that particular holiday.

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TEN REASONS:

1. More suicides than any other time of the year.
2. Pastors believing in and perpetuating a lie from their pulpits.
3. Parents lying to their children about both Santa Clause and the birth of Christ.
4. Entire generations of gluttonous, spoiled brats who are never satisfied with what they have and demand more every year.
5. People going into debt, thus enslaving themselves to a system created by Lucifer himself.
6. People (including Christians) *totally* unaware of the true holidays that YHVH Himself told us to celebrate.
7. Churches spending money on Christmas lights, trees (that are really ancient representations of Osiris' phallus) and other decorations steeped in ancient occult rituals; putting them all over the house of God (church) just like the Jews did to the Temple.
8. Churches putting on huge plays, spending money on costumes, props and lights instead of widows and orphans, thus corrupting pure religion as defined by Scripture: *"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."* (James 1:27)
9. The world laughs at and mocks us as being ignorant Christians, because they know the truth (that Dec. 25th is a pagan day of sun-god worship).
10. Christians blasting those who try to share the truth.

I could go on and on, but I think you get the picture.

Do people get saved on December 25th and on Easter as a result of church "outreach" activities on those days? Sure. I've participated in, wrote and directed many Christmas and Easter plays. I even

played the part of Christ in a number of Passion Plays that drew crowds who don't normally go to church. Over the years, I would say several dozen people got saved as a result of attending those plays too. But the reality is we should be doing that all year long; that is, we should be doing things that draw people to Christ. I just maintain (now) that we should never have to do it through lies!

Many will try to tell me, that Christmas and Easter are the two times of the year that people who normally would never go to church, will. My question is where do you see that model in the Scriptures? The world is not *supposed* to come to the Church, the Church is supposed to go to the world!

*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:** and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.* (Matthew 28:18-20)

Jesus didn't give a Great Commission, commanding us to do things that would draw the world to come through the doors of a building. He commanded us to **go out to all the world** and to teach the nations all that He commanded us to do. Since Jesus was the Word that was with God, and was God made flesh and dwelt among us,^[6] that means the commands given in the Old Testament are just as much His commands as those given in the New Testament.

God, through His Word, commanded us to have nothing to do with the practices of the pagan heathens. Christmas and Easter are both celebrations that are totally and completely related to Nimrod and his mother-sister-wife Semiramis. Christmas celebrates his birth, not Jesus' birth. Easter is based completely on the fertility goddess myths that were started by and centered on the worship of Semiramis/Isis/Ishtar (from which we get the word Easter) and has nothing to do with the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

6. John 1:1-14

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Furthermore, if you only knew how many more people could be reached around the world with the kind of money most churches spend on Christmas and Easter celebrations, you would be absolutely shocked! I know one local mega-church that literally spends *millions of dollars* on a massive Christmas show every year (that also depicts Santa Clause). Others do the same for Easter. The problem is, *most* of the people in those audiences are *already* saved. Do you know how far that kind of money would go in third-world countries and on both the foreign and domestic mission fields? I was a missionary for nearly seven years, so I know how far that much money could go. The key word in that last sentence is “go,” which is what we should be doing and where our money should be spent in support of missionaries who are doing just that.

Having been a missionary and having worked with missionaries in nearly a dozen countries around the world, I know firsthand that pretty much all of them struggle to get by with the barest minimum of financial support. I have seen hundreds of thousands of dollars go toward building gyms and basketball courts, while missionaries struggle to get a church to give them \$100 a month to help them actually do what Jesus commanded us to do. That is truly sad, and I believe it both grieves and angers our Lord’s heart.

All said and done, I’d say the devil actually has far more to gain from Christmas and Easter than do the lost and needy. And when it comes to the Great Deception that’s on the horizon, those two pagan holidays have only been preparation for a payoff later.^[7]

THE WHOLE WORLD WORSHIPS THE BEAST

*And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and **all the world wondered after the beast.** And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: **and they***

7. See also *The Beast and the Anti-Messiah* (New-Age “Maitreya”) for more interesting reading about Christian traditions associated with and/or derived from Nimrod worship at: <http://www.fossilizedcustoms.com/beast.html>

worshipped the beast, saying, *Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?* (Revelation 13:3,4)

Have you ever wondered why the Scriptures say that the *whole world* will worship the Beast? I believe they will because they already have! Maybe they did so in ignorance, but if you can get someone to ignorantly follow you, it is that much easier to convince them to do more later. This is why I think the pagan traditions that have crept into the true faith of Jesus Christ are so very dangerous.

Does God honor the heart of the Believer who loves Christ, who sings to Him and celebrates His birthday on December 25th and His resurrection on Easter in ignorance? I believe He does. After all, they don't know any better. However, we live in a day when people no longer need to do things or live in ignorance. All the truth we need is here and readily available. But now, people *refuse* to hear it and blast people like me who seek to share it. Being willfully ignorant is different from simply not knowing something. As a traveling evangelist I once heard put it, "*Willful ignorance is like being dumb on purpose.*"

Yes, I think Lucifer, the Father of Lies, Satan, that old Serpent the Devil loves Christmas and Easter! More Christians celebrate on the days that *he* created to be a holiday than they do the seven Holy Feasts that *God* created to be observed and celebrated. Thus, the whole world has already been worshipping the beast—and that right there must be the ultimate snub to God.

I think Lucifer is probably the biggest egomaniac in the universe. He will do everything he can to get people to worship him, even if it means slapping the name of Jesus over the former names of Zeus, Osiris, Mithra, Baal, Tammuz, Nimrod, etc. to do it. I can almost see him laughing at us and mocking God. I believe he looks at all of this and says,

"Ha, ha, ha YHVH! Look at that! They know nothing about YOUR holidays, but they love mine! And he, he, he, Ho, Ho, Ho..."

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they actually think they are celebrating YOUR Son's birthday! Wow! Gotta love it. Your people are so easily deceived!

Meanwhile Jesus is all alone on Yom Teruah (His real birthday), with only a few people gathered to honor that and all of the other days His Father set aside for us to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

Speaking of *Ho-Ho-Ho*, I won't even bother to go into all of the Satanic links there are to Santa Clause, but consider this: In Hebrew, *Ho-Ho-Ho* would be spelled with the letters *Hey Vav-Hey Vav-Hey Vav*. The letter *Hey* at the beginning of a word means "the" and the letter *Vav* has a numerical value of 6. Hmm... Does that mean, "*Ho-Ho-Ho*" really means, "*The 6 -The 6 -The 6*," which is of course the number of the beast? Maybe it's just a coincidence. Then again, maybe not. All of this comes from Nimrod. And as we've already learned, Nimrod is the Antichrist. So, apparently it all fits together quite well.

Church, it's time we come out of Babylon!

If you cannot receive any of the things I've been saying about Christmas and Easter, please at least take the time to do your own research into the various topics I've raised in this book. A good place to start might be to watch the video, *Truth or Tradition*^[8] by Jim Staley. Please do so before being tempted to criticize me or post negative comments about this material on reviews, blogs and/or Facebook pages. Pastor Jim Staley does a fantastic job of tracing the origins of our traditions, where they came from (Babylon) and why we started doing them, as well as why we should stop.

THE COMING GREAT DECEPTION

What does all of this boil down to? I believe that as both Americans as well as believers in Jesus Christ, we must wake up and speak up! We can no longer stay silent. We have been lied to about a great many things, and if we don't wake up soon and begin learning

8. Watch *Truth or Tradition*, by Jim Staley of *Passion for Truth Ministries* at: <http://www.babylonrisingbooks.com/videosC801.html>

and teaching others about the truth, it will be that much easier for billions to be deceived in the coming Great Deception that Jesus spoke of, which will spread like a cancer in the Last Days.

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.
(Matthew 24:24)

Some have argued that “*if it were possible*” means that it is not going to be possible. However, both Jesus and the apostle Paul seem to indicate just the opposite is true:

*And he said, **Take heed that ye be not deceived:** for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them.*
(Luke 21:8)

***Be not deceived;** God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.* (Galations 6:7)

***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)

These are admonitions to not let or to not be deceived. That implies that it is indeed possible. It is up to us to not let that happen. But if it has been so easy to deceive us so far, I feel confident in saying, “*You ain’t seen nothin’ yet!*” It is going to get worse, much worse. Whether I am 100% correct in all that I have written here or not is irrelevant. If even some of what I’ve said in this book is true, we are going to need to be as close to our Savior as possible to avoid the dangers that lie ahead.

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We *must* come out of Babylon! Her ways are evil. She brings plague, sickness and disease of mind, spirit and body, and the call of the Last Days grows louder and louder:

I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of Babylon, my people, so that you do not participate in her sins and suffer from any of her plagues.”

(Revelation 18:4 GOD’S WORD Translation)

I don’t believe it is just a coincidence that Christ was really born on September the 11th, and that this day just so happens to be the worst date in American history. Can you imagine singing, “*It’s the most wonderful time of the year...*” on that day? Lucifer has done everything he can to steer us away from the things of God and to set the stage for *his* son, the Antichrist, Nimrod to rule and reign.

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

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; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

(2 Thessalonians 2:1-4)

I believe the “falling away” Paul is referring to is a departure from the true faith (as opposed to a physical depart as some Pre-Tribulation Rapture adherents like to propose). I believe the coming Great Deception will indeed be very great, and I also believe it will be possible for many Christians to be deceived right alongside everyone else. That is the primary motivation behind all that I am writing: I don’t want to be among the deceived, and I don’t want you to be either.

Babylon has indeed been rising. The first anti-Christ will indeed be the last. He is the direct mirror opposite of Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God. Nimrod is a son of Satan. Jesus came to give us eternal life. The Antichrist will present a false means of gaining immortality.^[9] Jesus was known as the *King of kings and Lord of lords*. So was Nimrod. Jesus is known by the symbol of the cross. Nimrod/Osiris is known by the symbol of the ankh. Jesus set up a kingdom for his people with Himself at its head. Nimrod will set up a New World Order with himself at its head. Jesus came from Heaven, died, rose again and went back to Heaven. Nimrod died, went to hell and will rise again—and rule until he is cast alive into the Lake of Fire. Jesus is the One who “was, and is, and is to come.” Nimrod is the beast that “was, and is not, and yet shall be.”

Church, be not deceived! This individual will be very convincing. Everything I have written about here came from Babylon. It’s time we came out of Babylon. It actually makes me sick when I consider the depths of the deception that impacts our lives on every level, from the foods we eat to the days we celebrate as holidays and from the truth behind our country’s foundation to the millions dying around the world in unjust wars based on lies. It literally touches everything.

I am not judging anyone except myself at this point. It truly saddens me, because I was guilty of playing the game for 41 of the 44 years of my life. By that, I mean that I didn’t take the time to truly search out the truth behind these things for myself. I believed what I was told by good people who were only teaching what they were taught.

“Traditions are passed down to us in innocence and accepted in ignorance.”^[10]

In years past, I accepted much in ignorance and as a result I participated in a lot of things that only contributed to the problem, and unknowingly drew me farther away from Christ

9. And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. (Revelation 9:6)

10. Michael Rood is fond of making this statement in his teachings.

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and closer to the Antichrist (whether I knew that was happening or not). Never again!

I would encourage you not to believe the things that I have written either. You are not going to be held accountable to me. You will be held accountable to God. I could be wrong about some or all of this. Or I could be right about some or all of it. I don't know. I've simply done my best to share what I believe I have learned. So please ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to all truth. Check out the things I have said for yourself. Try the spirits to see whether they be of God or man or devil. Finally, I will leave you with this prayer, that I have sincerely prayed for myself as well:

Father in Heaven, please forgive me. I know I am a sinner. I believe You sent your Son, Jesus, to die a horrible death on the cross to pay the price for my sin and to draw me out of Lucifer's grasp in order that I may spend eternity with You. I accept Jesus' sacrifice and ask Him to come and live in my heart right now. Cleanse me of my sins and save me, Lord. Father, send Your Holy Spirit to help me know and do right. Please help me to get on Your calendar and to no longer give the devil any form of worship — even in ignorance! Help me to know and to share the truths You reveal to me in love so that others can come out of Babylon before it's too late. In Jesus' holy name I pray, Amen.

If you prayed that prayer and this is the first time you've asked Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior, please send us an e-mail^[11] and let us know. We'd love to celebrate and pray with you!

11. E-mail: RobSkiba@seedtheseries.com