

CHRISTMAS

By Mike Burnham

Christmas day comes down to us from Babylon. It began to be observed in the third century A.D. but didn't really gain much of a following until the late fourth century A.D. In the fifth century the Roman Catholic Church commanded that the birth of Christ be observed forever on December 25th. How did the Romish church fix on December 25th as Christmas-day?

CHRIST-MAS

Long before the fourth century, and long before the Christian era itself, a festival was celebrated among the heathen, at that time of the year, in honor of the birth of the son of the Babylonian queen of heaven. In Egypt, the son of Isis, the Egyptian title for the queen of heaven, was born at this very time, "*about the time of the winter solstice.*" In order to conciliate the heathen, and to increase the number of the so-called adherents of Christianity, the same festival was adopted by the Roman Church, only adopting the name of Christ to give it a Christian religious flavor. The Roman Catholic Church is a religion of compromise and incorporation.

A look at the word "*Christmas*" indicates that it is a mixture. Though it includes the name of Christ, it also mentions the "*mass.*" The Mass is the Catholic ritual of the Lord's supper and their belief in "*transubstantiation,*" by which the priest, through various rituals, changes the bread and wine into the literal flesh and blood of Christ. The mass, with its rituals, elaborate ceremony, pagan prayers for the dead, etc., is a continuation of paganism, the worship of the sun god. We can see that it is an attempt to merge two

conflicting systems together! To attach the name Christ with the word "Mass", a pagan and heathenistic ritual, is a pollution of the Holy Name of God, Ezekiel 20:39.

YULE DAY

The very name by which Christmas is popularly known among ourselves----*Yule-day*----proves at once its Pagan and Babylonian origin. "*Yule*" is the Chaldee name for an "infant" or "*little child*", and the 25th of December was called by our Pagan Anglo-Saxon ancestors "*Yule-day*," or the "*Childs day*," and the night that preceded it, "*Mother-night*," long before they came in contact with Christianity. This day was also celebrated by the Sabeans, who are mentioned in Job. In fact, all the *sun-gods*, Sol, Osirus, Adonis, Bacchus, Jupiter, Tammuz, and others, also are said to be born on this date. Now the fact that the various sun-gods that were worshipped in different countries were all believed to have been born at the same season, would seem to indicate that they were but different forms (under different names) of the original sun-god, *Tammuz, of Babylon*, the land from which sun-worship originally spread.

In Babylon, the birthday of Tammuz was celebrated at the time of the winter solstice with great feasts, revelry, and drunkenness----the same way many celebrate it today! Tertullian mentions that the practice of exchanging gifts at this season was a part of pagan Roman Saturnalia, by which the Babylonian celebration was known.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE

As to the *Christmas tree*, an old Babylonian fable went like this: Semiramis, the mother of Tammuz, claimed that overnight an evergreen tree sprang up from a dead tree stump. The dead stump supposedly symbolized her dead husband Nimrod; the new evergreen tree was the symbol that Nimrod had come to life again in the person of Tammuz! This idea spread and developed so that the various nations all have had their legends about sacred trees! It is interesting to notice the reading of Jeremiah 10:1-5 and compare it with today's custom of decorating a tree at the Christmas season. God says; "*The customs of the people are vain*"--worthless, empty--they add no power to true worship.