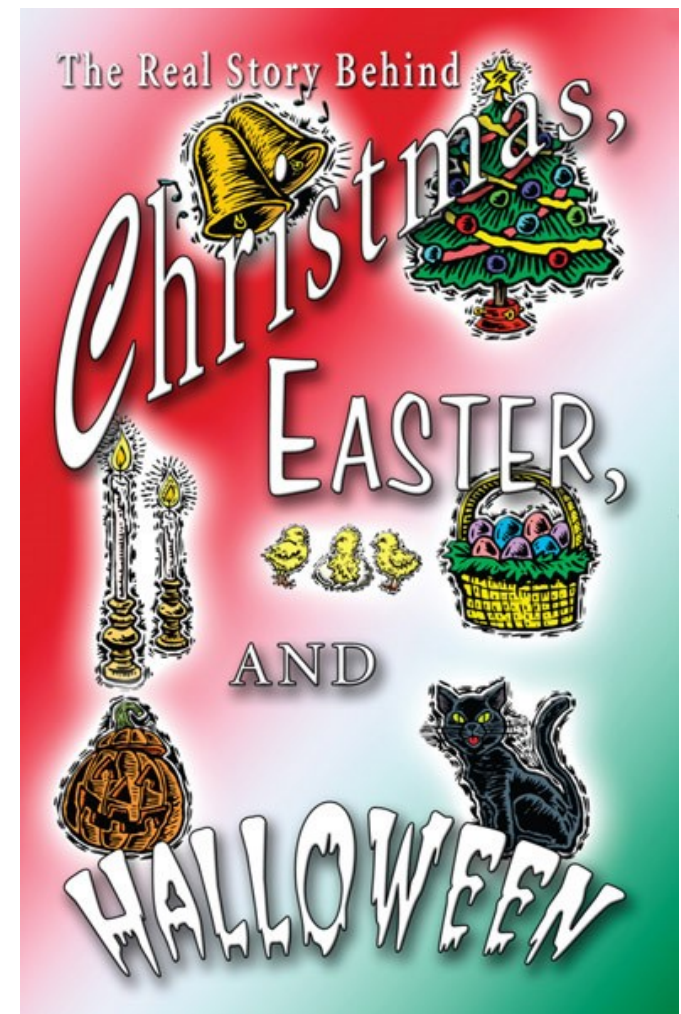


rose to positions of leadership in the Church, they made policy changes in agreement with contemporary heathen customs. And that is how we got Christmas. "A feast was established in memory of this event [Christ's birth] in the fourth century. In the fifth century the Western Church ordered it to be celebrated forever on the day of the old Roman feast of the birth of Sol [the Latin word for 'sun'], as no certain knowledge of the day of Christ's birth existed."—Encyclopedia Americana (1944 edition), "Christmas." If the Bible contained no certain knowledge of when Christ was born, then we should not try to select a definite day on which to worship Him. Instead, **we should remain with the only weekly worship day God ever gave us, the seventh-day Sabbath** (Genesis 2:1-3, Exodus 20:8-11). The above quotation spoke about a pagan feast back then, in honor of the yearly birth of Sol. That word means "sun" in Latin and was another name for Mithra, the sun god. A strong controversy arose in the Christian church over this apostasy by Western church leaders: "Certain Latins, as early as [A.D.] 354, may have transferred the birthday from January 6th to December 25, which was then a Mithraic feast . . . or birthday of the unconquered sun . . . The Syrians and Armenians accused the Romans of sun worship and idolatry."—Encyclopedia Britannica, 1946 ed. It was clearly understood by the faithful Christians that this pagan holiday should not be adopted as the memorial day of the birth of Christ. **HOW DID MITHRA WORSHIP BRING THESE THINGS INTO THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH?**—In order to understand how and why Christmas came into the Christian church back in those early centuries, **we need to understand the tremendous influence of pagan Mithraism in the first few centuries after the time of Christ—and how Christian leaders decided to adopt the customs of paganism in order to win the battle against it. The following information is vital and comes from an earlier study by the present writer: THE PLANETARY WEEK**—The various days of the week were, in ancient times, called the

first day, second day, etc.; for these were their Biblical names. But about the time of Christ they were given new names. The non-Christians began calling them **the Day of the Sun, the Day of the Moon, etc.**, in honor of different heavenly bodies. **This was known by the pagans as the "planetary week."** Each day was ruled over by a different god; but the most important of all gods was given the rule of the first day of the week, with the idea in mind that the first is always more important than that which follows it. The most important of all the heathen gods was given the rule over the first of the seven days. **It was his day, the day of the Sun. And Mithra, the Sun god was worshiped each week on his day, the Sun day.** Now, although these names for the days of the week were new, the day devoted to the Sun god was not new. The worship of the sun arose from a devotion to that most powerful of natural objects. It was one of the most ancient forms of worship and is represented by solardisk images found on nearly every continent of our world. **"Sun worship was the earliest idolatry."**—A.R. Fausset, Bible Dictionary, page 666. The Arabians appear to have worshiped it directly without using any statue or symbol (Job 31:26-27). Abraham was called out of all this when he went to the promised land. Ra was the Sun god of Egypt; and On (Heliopolis, which means "city of the sun" in Greek) was the center of Egyptian Sun worship (see the Hebrew of Jer. 43:13). Entering Canaan under Joshua, the Hebrews again encountered Sun worship. Baal of the Phoenicians, Molech or Milcom of the Ammonites, Hadad of the Syrians, and... **For the whole story, please contact us for your free book - The Real Story Behind Christmas, Easter and Halloween. FOR MORE INFORMATION, AND OR ANYTHING ELSE, PLEASE CONTACT: MOBILE: 0404 881 885. INTERNATIONAL: 61 404 881 885. WEB SITE: www.freeliteraturemultimedia.org EMAIL: freeliteraturemultimedia@gmail.com POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 220, MUNDARING, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 6073.**



How thankful we can be for Jesus Christ, what He has done for us—and is doing right now. The book does not question the reality of our Lord and Saviour, the great work of redemption, or His soon coming in the clouds of heaven to redeem His people. We do not question the truth of Christ's birth, but we would like to know where "Christmas" came from? And why is it celebrated on December 25? Who is "Santa Claus" and how did he get into Christmas? We value the resurrection of Christ from the grave, but we would like to know the origin of "Easter," and why it is celebrated with bunny rabbits and colored eggs. Then there is Halloween. Where did it come from? Why is it connected

with witches, misshapen creatures, fires, and skeletons? **Contents of the book** Where Did Christmas Come From? p.4 Historians Tell Us More about Christmas p.17 Where Did Easter Come From? p.44 Additional Historical Facts about Easter p.51 Where Did Halloween Come From? p.64 Additional Facts about Halloween p.74 How to Come to Christ and Stay Close to Him p.87 Entering a Deeper Walk with God p.101 Source Index p.124 **Where Did Christmas Come From? Yes, where did Christmas come from? It did not begin at the birth of Christ; it began earlier! The December 25 celebration had nothing to do with His birth. It is an interesting story; one I think you will be interested in. WHEN WAS JESUS BORN?—It is well-known among Biblical scholars that Jesus was not born in December**, because the shepherds were never out in the fields with their sheep at that time. “There were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.”— Luke 2:8. Shepherds always brought their sheep in from the mountainsides and field and corralled them not later than October 15, to protect them from the cold, rainy season that followed. (Also read Songs 2:11 and Ezra 10:9, 13.) “It was an ancient custom among Jews of those days to send out their sheep to the fields and deserts about the Passover [early spring], and bring them home at commencement of the first rain. During the time they were out, the shepherds watched them night and day. As . . . the first rain began early in the month of March, which answers to part of our October, we find that the sheep were kept out in the open country during the whole summer. “And, as these shepherds had not yet brought home their flocks [when Christ was born in Bethlehem], it is a presumptive argument that October had not yet commenced, and that, consequently, our Lord was not born on the 25th of December, when no flocks were out in the fields; nor could He have been born later than September, as the flocks were still in the fields by night. On this very ground the nativity in December should be given up. The

feeding of the flocks by night in the fields is a chronological fact . . . See the quotations from the Talmudists in Lightfoot.”—Adam Clarke, Commentary, Vol. 5, 370. The census of Caesar Augustus is mentioned in Luke 2:1-2, but historians are not certain when it was issued. But it is improbable that he would call for the citizens of the Roman Empire to return to their native homes, to be enrolled in the census in the middle of winter. Even his own armies avoided marching during the hazards of winter weather. **Many authorities believe that Christ was born in the spring of the year; but, in the wisdom of God, the date of Christ’s birth has been hidden from us. Why, then, does all the world celebrate the birth of Christ—not merely in December—but on a certain day in December? We need to know (1) What is “Christmas?” (2) How did Christmas get into the Christian church? and (3) Why did it enter back in those early days? Here are answers to these questions: WHAT IS “CHRISTMAS?”—The word, “Christmas,” means “Mass of Christ” or, as it came to be shortened, “ChristMass.” It came to the modern world from the Roman Catholic Church. Unfortunately, they did not get it from the Bible, but from paganism. Read this: “Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church . . . The first evidence of the feast is from Egypt. Pagan customs centering around the January calends [the pagan calendar] gravitated to Christmas.”—Catholic Encyclopedia, 1911 ed., “Christmas.” Origen, an early Christian writer, said this about celebrating birthdays in the Bible: “In the Scriptures, no one is recorded to have kept the feast or held a great banquet on his [Christ’s] birthday. It is only sinners [like Pharaoh or Herod] who make great rejoicings over the day in which they were born into this world.”—Origen, quoted in Catholic Encyclopedia, 11th ed., “Natal Day.” **HOW DID CHRISTMAS GET INTO THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH?—In one brief paragraph, the New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge tells us how the December 25 holiday entered the Christian church: “How much****

the date of the festival depended upon the pagan Brumalia [The December 25 celebration], following the Saturnalia [an eight-day December 1724 festival preceding it], and celebrating the shortest day of the year and the ‘new sun’ . . . cannot be accurately determined. The pagan Saturnalia and Brumalia were too deeply entrenched in popular custom to be set aside by Christian influence . . . The pagan festival with its riot and merrymaking was so popular that Christians were glad of an excuse to continue its celebration with little change in spirit and in manner. Christian preachers of the West and the Near East protested against the unseemly frivolity with which Christ’s birthday was celebrated, while Christians of Mesopotamia accused their Western brethren of idolatry and sun worship for adopting as Christian this pagan festival.”—New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge, “Christmas.” Church leaders adopted a pagan holiday, in spite of the protests of some godly local pastors. It was considered idolatry to do this, since it was nothing more than a heathen day of worship. In addition, **the day for this worship had been selected in honor of Mithra, the sun god. December 25 was dedicated to the keeping of his birthday. Therefore sincere Christians considered it to be a form of sun worship. The sun had reached its lowest angle in the sky on December 21 (the winter solstice), and the 25th was the first observable day in which it began rising in the noon sky. So December 25 had, for centuries, been celebrated as the “birth of the sun god.” But, back in those earlier centuries, earnest believers recognized that Christians dare not accept pagan practices or pagan holidays.** These heathen customs are not found in the Bible as being used by Christians, so they ought to be shunned by conscientious Christians. The Roman world was essentially pagan. Many converts to Christianity had come to enjoy those festivities and did not want to forsake them after baptism into the Christian church. But when half-converted church members