

Myth Busters – the Finalé

Exposing the Roots of Paganistic Myths and Beliefs in Modern Christian Practices

Jude 1:3; 2 Timothy 3:12-4:4; Rev. 17 & 18

Myth Busters Info Packet – has a review of the last three weeks and some of the topics we hope to cover today. Please look over the packet. It is a good starting point for discussing, research, and prayer. Disclaimer: we are not bashing people... but we are exposing false belief systems that do not line up the Word of God, yet proclaim to be Christian (this can also include Mormonism and Jehovah Witness-ism, and others, etc.)

But as we looked at the many “clues” last week of a certain “religious institution” that has the following characteristics, it almost becomes obvious who “she” is – the Harlot that rides the Beast of Revelation 17 & 18. This Harlot has given us many paganistic traditions that many of us who are the spiritual descendants of the Protestant Reformation Evangelical movement have **again** embraced and claim that they are O.K. and even “Christian” now, somehow.

The following are characteristics, prophetically of this “Religious Institution” (that might even look Christian):

From **1 Timothy 4:1-3**:

1. Believes doctrines/teachings of deceitful spirits and demon (i.e.: Babylonian Mystery Religion)
2. Forbids marriage (→ think of the Priests, Cardinal, Nuns – they cannot marry)
3. Forbids certain foods and certain times (i.e.: Lent, Certain Fridays, cannot eat red meat, but fish only)

From **Revelation 2:12-15; 18-20**

1. They follow teachings that cause people to stray away from the Truth
also cause a stumbling block to those seeking God... (false gospel of works and pagan traditions, etc.)
2. They allow teaching that says that Idolatry is O.K. (bow down to, pray to, even kiss and carry idols)
3. They have blended paganism with Christianity (i.e. spiritual immorality)
4. They hold that Clergy (i.e.: priests/cardinals/popes) are better than and separate from the common member of the church... (Nicolaitans)
5. They allow the Babylonian Sun God Worship of Ba'al, Ashtoreth, and Tammuz – behind “Christian” masks. (i.e. Jezebel – Baal and Ashtoreth worship, etc... 1 Kings 16:30-33)

The **Harlot in Revelation 17 & 18**:

1. **Babylonian Mystery Religion** is at the core of who she is and what she proclaims... (**false gospel of works – paganistic/human traditions on par with and even more important than Scripture**)
2. She is tied to governmental systems and will eventually ride on the back of the Anti-Christ’s kingdom in fact in her past, she has “reigned over kings”. (History → think of Charlemagne, and many others)
3. She has and will commit spiritual immorality with the kings and governments of the earth
4. **She is, has been, and will be drunk with the blood of the followers of Jesus Christ**
(the **Inquisition** is just a **drop** in the proverbial bucket – to what this Harlot has done even before that time to our fellow brethren in Christ in history... who believed in the Bible just like we do now... but they were horribly tortured for their faith... and that institution has never repented of it nor retracted any of its **edicts** or **Papal Bulls** – but still has the office of the Inquisition in place → “**The Holy Office**” of which the present Pope was in charge of for many years until he just recently became the Pope... he was called the Bull-Dog of the Dogma of the “Church” and the most recent Pope’s (John Paul II) “right-hand-man” – they still claim that they were **in the right** for doing those horrible things. **They make no apologies, officially.**)
5. She is, has been, and will be both a religious institution and a City/State/County
(**which “World Religious Institution” has a seat in the U.N. and is a City and a Country???**)
6. She is full of riches and opulent clothing – and lifts a Golden Cup (chalice) as she offers a “victim” in a “sacrifice” over and over again, each “MASS” – which God says is full of abominations.

7. God has been, is, and will be continuing to Call Out His People from Her... God's people must get out of her, according to God's warnings (Rev. 18:1-5)... we are called to help them out. But we cannot help them out, if we too are just as involved with the same kind of things as they are. We must Be Holy, for Our God is Holy... we must be separate from the unholy, unrighteous things that God clearly tells us to avoid, etc. – especially things related to pagan, idolatry.

Who is this Harlot???

Quote from Martin Luther – some consider him the father of the Protestant Reformation: He said:

"I now know for certain that the papacy is the kingdom of Babylon and the power of Nimrod, the mighty hunter (Gen. 10:8-9)."

Source: Martin Luther's *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church* (1520), in *Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings*, edited by Timothy F. Lull, published by Fortress Press, © 1989, ISBN 0-8006-2327-4, page 268.

So what are some of these traditions that do not come from the Bible – but come straight from this Harlot, who sits on the Beast.

Let's look at a National Holiday (started 1870 in the USA) that retailers say helps their bottom line with income up to 60% of their total income per year. It is good for business... but since it has Christ's name on it, isn't it Biblical then?

Haven't Christians always Celebrated Christmas... isn't it a Christian Celebration?

It was not until the fourth century that Christmas began to be observed by the Roman Catholic Church. Says the *Encyclopedia Americana*:

"Christmas -- it was according to many authorities not celebrated in the first centuries of the Christian Church as the Christian usage in general was to celebrate the death of remarkable persons rather than their birth. A feast was established in memory of the birth of the Saviour 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. " (i.e.: December 25th, Birth Day of Mithras – "Natalis Sol Invitus")

That is how an ancient PAGAN CUSTOM became engrafted upon the unsuspected Christian world! But should true followers of Yeshua, the Messiah, participate in ANCIENT PAGAN CUSTOMS? Should true Christians celebrate "Christmas"?

The Puritans of the Middle Ages did not think so.

This "baptism" of pagan rites and festivals by the Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches was totally rejected by the Puritans. One of them, William Prynne, during the time of king Charles I, wrote:

"Our Christmas lords of Misrule, together with dancing, masques, mummeries, stage-players, and such other Christmas disorders, now in use with Christians, were derived from these Roman Saturnalia and Bacchanalian festivals; which should cause all pious Christians eternally to abominate them" (*The Book of Christmas Folklore*, p.8).

Because of his attitude toward Christmas and pagan rituals still observed by the professing Christian Church, William Prynne was placed in a pillory and his ears were cut off.

We know for a fact, that due to the Protestant Reformation, Evangelical Biblical churches and church movements throughout Western Europe, and in particular Scotland, banned Christmas for many years. And in Early colonial New England, it was illegal to celebrate Christmas. Why? Because, these protestants, whom we are descended from, knew all of these Scriptures and they knew History and tied them together, put two and two together and understood that participating in Pagan rituals, was offensive to God. This is why they banned it.

The Birth narratives in the Bible of Jesus Christ are exact and correct... but the Christmas celebration is a completely different subject, entirely. We know that Jesus, from the Bible, was born during the feast of Tabernacles. So why do so many “Christians” celebrate Christmas, Dec. 25th?

You might think, well, why should we care about this? Why do you think it is pagan...?

1. The early church did not celebrate Christ’s birth (the apostles, the early church, for over 300 years) That is longer than the time our nation has been in existence.
2. Almost all of the rituals, symbols, decorations, etc... derive from Pre-Christian pagan idolatry and false god worship... of which God told us not to be a part of or even to mimic (see Deut. 12:29-32).
3. **Mithras** – son of the Sun God, the equivalent of Tammuz, son of Ba’al and Ashtoreth, his official Roman Birthday celebration was December 25th – In 270 A.D. Emperor Aurelian officially declared 25th December to be the birthday of Mithras. Natalis Sol Invictus or Deus Sol Invictus → this is where the term Nativity comes from, by the way... this celebration pre-dates Christ, BTW.
4. **Santa Claus** → derives from old pagan Norse tales of the God Odin (similar to the Greek God Zeus) → not totally from Saint Nicolas... it is blending... How does he know if you are naughty or nice – he knows when you are sleeping – how can he know all that. I thought only the living and true God of the Bible can know those things. Well, this kind of fable comes from pagan god worship. Santa also, has elves, which in the cultures where this fable comes from are equivalent to fallen angels or demons. And in the earliest tales, he had a side-kick, an evil elf, name Black Pete. Santa had a Black Leather Jacket and Black Pete went down the chimney and whipped bad children. No mention of distributing presents until later in the 1800’s. Legend and mostly like an evolving cartoon. But not from the Bible. Please don’t lie to your children.
5. **Christmas Trees** → where does this tradition come from? Certainly not from God’s Word the Bible. It comes from pagan Ba’al and Ashtoreth worship – male and female fertility gods and goddess worship. In fact, in Rome, before Christianity ever came, the Romans, during their winter Saturnalia festival, put up trees, just like people do today, put presents under them to give to each other, and had a drunken feast time for 12 days (i.e. 12 days of Christmas). In most ancient cultures it is a **male** symbol, if you know what I mean... no more about that. **And this is why my wife, when she heard all of this, and I showed her all of this mountain of evidence, took our Christmas tree and threw it down the stairs in anger at me. She was not angry that she had been deceived by the Harlot sitting in Rome all these years, but because I did not know how to handle the truth and came across very Pharisaical about all of this. She has since beat me up and has forgiven me, I am pretty sure about the beating though. See Jeremiah**
6. **Yule** → ancient Norse pagan worship celebration of winter solstice time. Yule, comes from ancient Babylonian – meaning child. Thus it was Ancient Sun God worship – Tammuz, again. So when you sing about “Yule Tide Carols” remember when it comes from.
7. I could go on, and there are tons more things about this celebration that has lead me, by both God and His Word to conclude that it has definite pagan origins and does not conform to God’s Holy Word or will.

8. Regarding celebrating Christ’s Birth (without all the pagan and commercial trappings) – no one is stopping you. You are free in Christ to do so. But remember your motivation, is it because of traditions you are doing this, peer pressure, cultural traditions or a pure conviction based upon God’s Word, alone?
9. If you choose not to celebrate Christ’s Birth, or to celebrate it during the Feast of Tabernacles (his actual time of birth, biblically) – this is up to you. But remember your motivation, is it because of traditions you are doing this, peer pressure, cultural traditions or a pure conviction based upon God’s Word, alone?

Rom 14:1-13 [NASB] Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. (2) One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only. (3) The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him. (4) Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. (5) **One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind.** (6) **He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord,** and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God. (7) For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; (8) for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. (9) For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. (10) But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. (11) For it is written, "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD." (12) So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God. (13) Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this--not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.

Now about Easter.

As has been hinted before – this was one of the first conflicts between the Eastern Church and the Roman Church (or western church).

At the root of this is **Constantine**. His conversion, which I think was false, to the god of the Christians... allowed him to marry the church to the state in 313 A.D. In 325 A.D he took on the titles of Pontifex Maximus, **Vicarius Christi**, and Bishop of Bishops → at the Council of Nicaea. After the council hammered out doctrinal things, Constantine wrote a letter to the various bishops who did not come, who were from the eastern areas of the world:

ON THE KEEPING OF EASTER.

From the Letter of the Emperor to all those not present at the Council. (Found in Eusebius, Vita Const., Lib. iii., 18-20.)

When the question relative to the sacred festival of Easter arose, it was universally thought that it would be convenient that all should keep the feast on one day; for what could be more beautiful and more desirable, than to see this festival, **through which we receive the hope of immortality, celebrated by all with one accord, and in the same manner?** It was declared to be particularly unworthy for this, the holiest of all festivals, to follow the custom of the Jews, who had soiled their hands with the most fearful of crimes, and whose minds were blinded. In rejecting their custom, we may transmit to our descendants the legitimate mode of celebrating Easter, which we have observed from the time of the Saviour's Passion to the present day. We ought not, therefore, **to have anything in common with the Jews,** for the Saviour has shown us another way; our worship follows a more legitimate and more convenient course; and consequently, in unanimously adopting this mode, we desire, dearest brethren, to separate ourselves from the detestable company of the Jews, for it is truly shameful for us to hear them boast that without their direction we could not keep this feast. How can they be in the right, they who, after the death of the Saviour, have no longer been led by reason but by wild violence, as their delusion may urge them? They do not possess the truth in this Easter question; for, in their blindness and repugnance to all improvements, they frequently celebrate two passovers in the same year. We could not imitate those who are openly in error. How, then, could we follow these Jews, who are most certainly blinded by error? For to celebrate the passover twice in one year is totally inadmissible. But even if this were not so, it would still be your duty **not** to tarnish your soul by communications with such wicked people [the Jews].

Understand this, Easter, the celebration of Easter was a pre-Christian celebration of Ishtar or Isis for years in the Roman Empire. The name was **Easter** in the Spring-time. It already included a “good Friday” – which it called → “black Friday” (only Fish on that day) and it had an “Easter Sun-rise celebration” of the worshippers of the Sun god Mithra. So this celebration already was in existence, and had been “Christianized” by the Roman Church prior to this letter. The controversy was that the Eastern Church did not want to celebrate the Roman Festival that had been Christianized. The Eastern Church knew who “Easter” was, since that is where “she” came from ... from Babylon in the Middle East. Easter – was known as Ishtar, Astarté, Ashtoreth, Isis, and the like. But, the Eastern church wanted to still keep **Passover** and then celebrate the Resurrection of Christ on the first day of the week following Passover. This year, 2008, Passover starts on Sunday, April 20th... so First Fruits (or Resurrection Day) would be the Next Sunday → or April 27th, 2008. And this is true for the Eastern Orthodox Church, to this day. This was one of the final straws that started to split the East from the West. The church in the east did not want anything to do with these Paganistic feast days that had been Christianized. Eventually this controversy would lead to the split between the Eastern of the Western churches. The Controversy of the absolute power and supremacy of the “The Bishop of Bishops”, or the Pope in Rome was the real final straw that broke the camel’s back.

The Symbols of Easter (Ishtar, Oestre, Astarté, Ashtoreth, Isis...):

The Rabbit and Eggs (as well as the oyster – “Aphrodite”) → Ancient Pagan Fertility symbols.

Story about the Temple of Astarté – male prostitutes – female devotees and the children of their immorality... painting the eggs with the blood of those 3 month old children... that is the genesis of the tradition of decorating eggs. That is a great tradition to be a part of .. huh???

And we know Rabbits don’t lay eggs... so why the Rabbit? Rabbits multiply like.... oh you know... fertility symbols.

Then there is Halloween... pagan to the core... the Roman Church tried to cover over its wicked and evil past with “All Saints Day”... but we still see the remnants of it origin in Jack-O-Lanterns (represents a condemned soul between heaven and hell and cannot go to either place), ghosts, goblins, witches, warlocks, etc... Need I say more... try to find this as a sanctioned festival in the Bible for Christians to participate in.

The **Harlot** in Rome – sought to Christianize these pagan festivals and ended up absorbing paganism in the process. She became the Babylonian Mystery Lady – a mixture of paganism and some Christianity... and something like a weird hybrid that should never have been. She will some day ride the beast as seen in Rev. 17 & 18.

This should be a warning to us... to avoid paganistic customs, traditions, and practices. Thanks to Constantine and a persecution wearied church – that church developed into something like Frankenstein’s monster. Something, I am sure the founders of that institution never thought it would become.

Any church can become like that Harlot... spiritually commit immorality with pagan religions... out of fear or just to please others... or not to rock the boat, or for some other reasons. But it is definitely not pleasing to God, based upon the preponderance of Scripture regarding this subject.

Now... you have to decide what to do with all of this information, this evidence from the Holy Bible and from History. None of you can say that you don’t know. Now you know at least the tip of the iceberg regarding some of these traditions that claim to be of Christian origin, but are undeniably of pagan origin... that the Roman Catholic Church mixed in with other traditions and slapped Christ’s name on them and cannot be found in the pages of Holy Scripture.

What say you?

You can read through that Myth-Buster’s Packet and...