

Birthdays: Never Observed by Followers of **יְהוָה**

The Encyclopedia Americana (1991 edition) states: The ancient world of Egypt, Greece, Rome, and Persia celebrated the birthdays of gods, kings, and nobles. Authors Ralph and Adelin Linton reveal the underlying reason for this. In their book *The Lore of Birthdays*, they write: Mesopotamia and Egypt, the cradles of civilization, were also the first lands in which men remembered and honored their birthdays. The keeping of birthday records was important in ancient times principally because a birth date was essential for the casting of a horoscope. So, there is a direct connection between the Pagan practice of birthday celebrations and astrology. (horoscopes and fortune telling)

קהלת (*Qahalath/Ecclesiastes*) 7:1-4, 8...the day of death is better than the day of birth (H# 3205).

בראשית (*B-r'ashyth/Genesis*) 40:20-23...Pharaoh held a drinking feast (H# 4960) on his birthday (H# 3205): death was involved.

איוב (*'Ayub/Job*) 1:4, 5, 13, 18-19...'Ayub's children also held (H# 4960) on their days: death was involved.

מתתיהו (*MathathYahu/Matthew*) 14:6-11...Herodias held a feast for his birthday: death was involved (Ref: Mark 6:21-28).

When Was **שׁוּׁׁׁ** Born?

The year of **שׁוּׁׁׁ** birth was determined by Dionysius Exiguus, a Scythian monk, "abbot of a Roman monastery. His calculation went as follows:

In the Roman, pre-Christian era, years were counted from *ab urbe condita* ("the founding of the City" [Rome]). Thus 1 AUC signifies the year Rome was founded, 5 AUC signifies the 5th year of Rome's reign, etc. Dionysius received a tradition that the Roman emperor Augustus reigned 43 years, and was

followed by the emperor Tiberius. **אורייה** (*'AurYah/Luke*) 3:1, 23 indicates that when **שׁוּׁׁׁ** turned 30 years old, it was the 15th year of Tiberius reign. If **שׁוּׁׁׁ** was 30 years old in Tiberius' reign, then he lived 15 years under Augustus (placing Jesus birth in Augustus' 28th year of reign). Augustus took power in 727 AUC. Therefore, Dionysius put **שׁוּׁׁׁ** birth in 754 AUC. However, **אורייה**

(*'AurYah/Luke*) 1:5 places **שׁוּׁׁׁ**' birth in the days of Herod, and Herod died in 750 AUC – four years *before* the year in which Dionysius places Jesus birth. The Christian era, supposed to have its starting point in the year of **שׁוּׁׁׁ** birth, is based on a miscalculation introduced ca. 533 by Dionysius Exiguus.

אורייה (*'AurYah/Luke*) 1:26-37...the Malak visited Marym in the sixth month and she became pregnant. This would place her delivery (based on 9 months) in the 3rd month (Between May and June).

Why December 25th? Saturnalia: The Christmas You Did not Know

Roman pagans first introduced the holiday of Saturnalia, a week long period of lawlessness celebrated December 17-25. During this period, Roman courts were closed, and Roman law dictated that no one could be punished for damaging property or injuring people during the weeklong celebration. The festival began when Roman authorities chose "an enemy of the Roman people" to represent the "Lord of Misrule." Each Roman community selected a victim whom they forced to indulge in food and other physical pleasures throughout the week. At the festival's conclusion, December 25th, Roman authorities believed they were destroying the forces of darkness by brutally murdering this innocent man or woman. The ancient Greek writer poet and historian Lucian (in his dialogue entitled *Saturnalia*)

describes the festival's observance in his time. In addition to human sacrifice, he mentions these customs: widespread intoxication; going from house to house while singing naked; rape and other sexual license; and consuming human-shaped biscuits (still produced in some English and most German bakeries during the Christmas season).

ירמיהו (*YaramYahu/Jeremiah*) 7:16-18 ; 44:15-19, 24-26

What Happened the Day **אוריה** Was Born?

אוריה (*'AurYah/Luke*) 2:1-16...no tree, no festival, no Christmas, not even a bed. **אוריה** referred to as **G# 1025**.

מתתיהו (*MathathYahu/Matthew*) 2:1-16...when the magicians found **אוריה**, he was **G# 3813** and not **G# 1025**.

The Worship of the Tree: Idolatry and Is Linked to the Queen of Heaven.

Just as early Christians recruited Roman pagans by associating Christmas with the Saturnalia, so too worshippers of the Asherah cult and its offshoots were recruited by the Church sanctioning "Christmas Trees." Pagans had long worshipped trees in the forest, or brought them into their homes and decorated them, and this observance was adopted and painted with a Christian veneer by the Church.

דברים (*Dabarym/Deuteronomy*) 7:25-26...do not bring these abominations into your house.

דברים (*Dabarym/Deuteronomy*) 16:21...Yashar'al was not to plant trees for **H# 842**.

שמות (*Shamuth/Exodus*) 34:10-13...cut down their **H# 842**.

ירמיהו (*YaramYahu/Jeremiah*) 10:1-8, 14 & 15...the adorning of the tree is idolatry.

שפטים (*Shaphatym/Judges*) 2:7-13 ; 10:6...Yashar'al served **H# 6252**.

Etymology of Nicholas

Nickel: coined in 1754 by Swedish mineralogist Axel von Cronstedt from shortening of Swed. *kopparnickel* "copper-colored ore" (from which it was first obtained), a half-translation of Ger. *Kupfernickel*, lit. "copper demon," from *Kupfer* (see *copper*) + *Nickel* "demon, goblin, rascal" (a pet form of masc. proper name *Nikolaus*, cf. English *Old Nick* "the devil"). *Nikolaus* is from Gk. *Nikholaos*, lit. "victory-people," from *nike* "victory" + *laos* "people." The saint (Holy) was a bishop of Myra in Lycia, patron of scholars, especially schoolboys. A popular given name in England in Middle Ages, as was the fem. form *Nicola*, corresponding to Fr. *Nicole*. Colloquial *Old Nick* "the devil" is attested from 1640s, evidently from the proper name, but for no certain reason.

The Origin of Santa Claus

- a. Nicholas was born in Parara, Turkey in 270 CE and later became Bishop of Myra. He died in 345 CE on December 6th. He was only named a saint in the 19th century.
- b. Nicholas was among the most senior bishops who convened the Council of Nicaea in 325 CE and created the New Testament.
- c. In 1087, a group of sailors who idolized Nicholas moved his bones from Turkey to a sanctuary in Bari, Italy. There Nicholas supplanted a female boon-giving deity called The Grandmother, or Pasqua Epiphania, who used to fill the children's stockings with her gifts. The Grandmother was ousted from her shrine at Bari, which became the center of the Nicholas cult. Members of this group gave each

other gifts during a pageant they conducted annually on the anniversary of Nicholas' death, December 6.

d. The Nicholas cult spread north until it was adopted by German and Celtic pagans. These groups worshipped a pantheon led by Woden—their chief god and the father of Thor, Balder, and Tiw. Woden had a long, white beard and rode a horse through the heavens one evening each Autumn. When Nicholas merged with Woden, he shed his Mediterranean appearance, grew a beard, mounted a flying horse, rescheduled his flight for December, and donned heavy winter clothing.

e. In a bid for pagan adherents in Northern Europe, the Catholic Church adopted the Nicholas cult and taught that he did (and they should) distribute gifts on December 25th instead of December 6th.

f. In 1809, the novelist Washington Irving (most famous his *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *Rip Van Winkle*) wrote a satire of Dutch culture entitled *Knickerbocker History*. The satire refers several times to the white bearded, flying-horse riding Saint Nicholas using his Dutch name, Santa Claus (**SANTA CLAUS: Sinterklaas** (or more formally **Sint Nikolaas**), is a traditional Winter holiday figure in Dutch-speaking Europe (Netherlands and Flanders), and is also well known in territories of the former Dutch Empire, including South Africa, Aruba, Suriname, Curaçao, Bonaire, and Indonesia. He is one of the sources of the holiday figure of Santa Claus in North America.) He is celebrated annually on Saint Nicholas' eve (5 December) or, in Belgium, on the morning of 6 December. Originally, the feast celebrates the name day of Saint Nicholas—patron saint of children, sailors, and the city of Amsterdam, among others.

g. Dr. Clement Moore, a professor at Union Seminary, read *Knickerbocker History*, and in 1822, he published a poem based on the character Santa Claus: "Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, in the hope that Saint Nicholas soon would be there..." Moore innovated by portraying a Santa with eight reindeer who descended through chimneys.

h. The Bavarian illustrator Thomas Nast almost completed the modern picture of Santa Claus. From 1862 through 1886, based on Moore's poem, Nast drew more than 2,200 cartoon images of Santa for *Harper's Weekly*. Before Nast, Saint Nicholas had been pictured as everything from a stern looking bishop to a gnome-like figure in a frock. Nast also gave Santa a home at the North Pole, his workshop filled with elves, and his list of the good and bad children of the world. All Santa was missing was his red outfit.

i. In 1931, the Coca Cola Corporation contracted the Swedish commercial artist Haddon Sundblom to create a coke-drinking Santa. Sundblom modeled his Santa on his friend Lou Prentice, chosen for his cheerful, chubby face. The corporation insisted that Santa's fur-trimmed suit be bright, Coca Cola red. And Santa was born – a blend of Christian crusader, pagan god, and commercial idol.

חזון (Chazun/Revelation) 2:6, 14-15... **וְיָקֵז** hates G# 3531.

**'He who does wrong, let him do more wrong;
he who is filthy, let him be more filthy; he
who is tsadaq, let him be more tsadaq; he who
is qdash, let him be more qdash'** ...Chazun/Revelation 22:11

Your servant in the work of **אֱלֹהִים** and **אֱלֹהֵינוּ**
Yachazy'al YachazaqYahu Shalum

אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֱלֹהֵינוּ

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