

Satan's High Holy Day?

Halloween – Innocent Fun or Ghoulish Horror?

Is Halloween merely innocent merry-making or a celebration of the “dark side” -- sinister forces and occult powers that exist on the earth? What is the truth about this fascinating holiday and people's captivation by it? Where did it come from? Should God's people celebrate it today?

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What is the truth about “Halloween”? Is it really so innocent and full of fun? Why does the whole western world celebrate this day – second only to Christmas in popularity?

Take a good look at the present day celebration of Halloween. The whole theme is one of darkness, death, fear, threats, destruction and evil. There are witches, broomsticks, bats, owls, ghosts, skeletons, death, and monsters. People dress up their children as demons and witches and ghouls and monsters and werewolves and send them out into the street in the darkness to “trick or treat.” But where did this custom come from?

At Halloween there are parties where people masquerade, dress up as bizarre monsters, freaks, or weird figures. There is apple bobbing, divination, fortune telling, haunted houses, candles lit and spirits called up. There will be seances and ouija boards in the name of “fun” and excitement.

And,, on the part of some, there will be sacrifices of dogs, cats, rats, chickens, goats and – believe it or not – even humans!

The Mystery of Halloween

October 31 is the most important day in the satanic year. [Some say it is known as the devil's birthday.] It marks the Celtic new year. It was the end of the growing season. It became a festival of death. On this day, the god of the Celts was to have called up the spirits of the wicked dead who had died during the past year. At the same time, other evil spirits arose and went about the countryside harassing the people. On October 31, the Celts expected to be harassed by ghosts, evil spirits and demons; and it was no fun and games to them. They would light bonfires to guide the spirits to their own town and to ward off evil spirits.

We read in USA Weekend, October 22-23, 2005, of Halloween:

“Rooted in pagan traditions more than 2,000 years old, Halloween grew out of a Celtic celebration marking the onset of winter’s gloom. Called Samhain (pronounced *sow-in* or *sow-een*), it combined the Celt’s harvest and New Year festivals, held in late October and early November by people in what is now Ireland, Great Britain and elsewhere in Europe. This ritual was tied to the seasonal cycles of life and death, as the last crops were harvested and livestock were brought in for winter or for slaughter.

“The Celts saw Samhain as a fearful time, when the barrier between the world of the living and dead broke and spirits walked the Earth. Going door-to-door, children collected wood for a sacred bonfire that provided light against the growing darkness. During this fiery festival, the Celts wore masks, often made of animal heads and skins, hoping to frighten off spirits. As the celebration ended, families carried home embers from the communal fire to relight their hearth fires.” (“Don’t Know Much about Halloween,” Kenneth Davis, *USA Weekend*, Oct.21-23, 2005).

The author continues:

“Christianity took a dim view of these ‘heathen’ rites, attempting to replace the Celtic festival of the dead with a church-approved holiday, the seventh-century Pope Boniface IV designated Nov.1 All Saints’ Day to honor saints and martyrs. Then, in 1000 A.D., the church made Nov. 2 All Souls’ Day, a day to remember the

departed and to pray for their souls. Even still, people continued to celebrate holy days like Samhain, costumed as angels and devils, with bonfires and parades. Together, the three celebrations (All Saints' Eve, All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day) were called Hallowmas, and the night before came to be called All-hallows Evening, eventually shortened to 'Halloween.'

“Merged with Christianity, these Celtic rituals held sway in Europe for centuries. And when millions of Irish and Europeans emigrated to America, they carried along their traditions.

“Halloween, in other words, is deeply rooted in myths – ancient stories explaining the seasons and the mysteries of life and death”
(*ibid.*).

The *World Book Encyclopedia* states, under “Halloween,”

“**HALLOWEEN** is a festival that takes place on October 31. In the United States, children wear costumes on Halloween and go trick-or-treating. Many carve jack- o’-lanterns out of pumpkins. At Halloween parties, people enjoy such activities as fortune telling, hearing stories about ghosts and witches, and bobbing for apples.

“Halloween developed from ancient new year festivals and festivals of the dead. In the A.D. 800's, the church established All Saints' Day on November 1 so that people could continue a festival they had celebrated before becoming Christians. The Mass that was said on this day was called *Allhallowmas*. The evening before became known as *All Hallow e' en*, or *Halloween*.

“**The Celtic Festival** of Samhain is probably the source of the present-day Halloween celebration. The Celts lived more than 2,000 years ago in

what is now Great Britain, Ireland, and northern France. Their new year began on November 1. A festival that began the previous evening honored Samhain, the Celtic lord of death. The celebration marked the beginning of the season of cold, darkness, and decay. It naturally became associated with human death. The Celts believed that Samhain allowed the souls of the dead to return to their earthly homes for this evening.”

What is the real truth about “Halloween”? Why does the whole western world celebrate this day – of witches, ghouls, goblins, demons, and skeletons? Why is it second only to Christmas in popularity?

Obviously, Halloween is not Christian in origin nor is it mentioned directly anywhere in the Bible. On October 31, the druids went from house to house demanding certain foods, and all those who refused were cursed. The people were tormented by means of magic. As they went, the druids carried large turnips which they had hollowed out and on which they had carved demon faces as charms. Each one was believed to contain the demon spirit that personally led or guided that priest: his little god.

Continuing in the *Worldbook Encyclopedia*::

“On the evening of the festival, the Druids, who were the priests and teachers of the Celts, ordered the people to put out their hearth fires. The Druids built a huge new year’s bonfire of oak branches, which they considered sacred. They burned animals, crops, and possibly even human beings as sacrifices. Then each family lit its hearth fire from the new year’s fire. During the celebration, people sometimes wore costumes made of animal heads and skins. They told fortunes about the coming year by examining the remains of the animals that had been sacrificed.

“**The Romans** conquered the Celts in A.D. 43 and ruled what is now Great Britain for about 400 years. During this period, two Roman autumn festivals were combined with the Celtic festival of Samhain. One of them, called *Feralia*, was held in late October to honor the dead. The other festival honored Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. Apples probably became associated with Halloween because of this festival.

“**All Saints’ Day.** Many of the customs of the Celts survived even after

the people became Christians. During the 800's, the church established All Saints' Day on November 1 (see ALL SAINTS' DAY). The people made the old pagan customs part of this Christian holy day. The church later began to honor the dead on November 2. This day became known as All Souls' Day.

“Regional Halloween Customs developed among various groups of Celts.

In Ireland, for example, people begged for food in a parade that honored Muck alla, a god. The leader of the parade wore a white robe and a mask made from the head of an animal. In Scotland, people paraded through fields and villages carrying torches. They lit huge bonfires on hillsides to drive away witches and other evil spirits. In Wales, every person marked a stone and put it into a bonfire. The people believed that if a person's stone was missing the next morning, he or she would die within a year.

“In England, Halloween was sometimes called *Nut-crack Night* or *Snap Apple Night*. Families sat by the fire and told stories while they ate apples and nuts. On All Souls' Day, poor people went *a-souling* (begging). They received pastries called *soulcakes* in exchange for promising to say prayers for the dead” (*Worldbook Encyclopedia*, vol.9, p.25).

Origin of Halloween

David J. Meyer, a former witch who converted to Christianity, writes of Halloween:

“Where did it all come from? October 31st is a day of ghosts, witches, goblins, and grotesque creatures. It is also a day of orange and black, of candles and jack-o-lanterns. Costume parties and strange customs occupy the minds of western civilization, and all of this seems to be intensifying every year. Children wearing every kind of costume imaginable, and some unimaginable, have been going from door to door for years at the end of October saying ‘trick or treat’ and collecting bags full of treats. In recent years, many people have been decorating their yards as cemeteries and making their houses look spooky. Even churches have Halloween parties and set up "haunted houses" as fund raising projects. Where did it all come from, and what does it all mean? Most people would say it is all harmless fun. Some would venture to say, ‘If there is any witchcraft in it, it is white witchcraft.’ In order to truly answer both of the questions where did it come from and what does it mean, we must go clear back to the origin of it all.”

“Halloween has its origin in the British Isles about 1300 years ago. In those days, there were many men and women who practiced a so-called ‘nature religion’ known as Wicca. (The word ‘Wicca’ means ‘wise ones.’ The word ‘witch’ is derived from ‘Wicca.’) The witches worked their spells and magic as individuals or sometimes in groups of 13 known as Covens. Sometimes the witches and wizards worked as a triumvirate or power of three. The female Wiccan was known as a witch, and the male Wiccan was known as a wizard. . . .

“Eight times each year, the witches celebrated a sabbat and the ritual work and spell casting was always done on the eve of the sabbat. The sabbats are Imbolc on February 2nd, the spring equinox on March 22nd, Beltaine on May 1st, the summer solstice on June 22nd, Lughnasaid on July 31st, the fall equinox on September 22nd, *Samhain on October 31st*, and the winter solstice on December 22nd, which is also known as Yule.

“Witches have special ways of celebrating for each sabbat, and even though they do not believe in Satan, it is Satan who gives them the experiences they have and deceives them into thinking it is the forces of nature they are tapping into. Halloween is the most important of the eight sabbats in witchcraft and is known to the witches by the Scotch-Gaelic word ‘Samhain’, which is pronounced ‘SOW-EEN.’ It is believed that on that night, the barrier between this world and the next, known as the astral plane, becomes very thin. The witches believe that this allows spirits of departed ones to travel freely back and forth between the earth and the spirit realm. Thus, Halloween is the highest day in Wiccan witchcraft. On that night for many centuries, witches would work their magic and then have wild parties all through the darkness of that night. They would play games, such as bobbing for apples, because witches regard the apple as sacred. The witches would also tell stories from their personal diaries of spells known as their ‘book of shadows.’ These ghost stories would start when the hosting High Priest or Priestess would say, ‘A witches’ tale and a cup of ale for the host of our guests unseen.’

“In those early days in England, there was another kind of witchcraft known as Druidism. The Druids were called “men of the oaks” and were a strange clan of men who dressed in white robes. The Druids worshipped Cernunnos, the ‘horned hunter of the night.’ Halloween was sacred to the Druids because their sun god receded to the underworld on October 31st, which is why darkness increased and light decreased according to their reckoning.

“As darkness set in on October 31st, the clan of Druids would put on their white robes and hoods. They would carry sickles and Celtic crosses as they began a torchlight procession. At the beginning of the procession, a male slave was killed and dragged by a rope fastened to his left ankle. The Druids would walk until they came to a house or a village where they shouted the equivalent of ‘trick or treat.’ The treat was a slave girl or any female to be given to the Druids. If the people refused to a girl as a “treat”, blood was taken from the dead slave and used to draw a hexagram or six-pointed star on the door or wall of the village. Spirits of the ‘horned hunter of the night’ were invoked by the Druids to kill someone in that house or village by fear that night.

“If the house or village gave a girl as a “treat”, the Druids put a pumpkin with a face carved in it in front of the door or gate of that place. Inside the pumpkin was a candle made of human tallow to keep evil spirits away. Thus, the Jack-O-Lantern was and is a sign that you have cooperated with Satan.

‘The treats or female victims were taken to Stonehenge where they were raped and killed and then sacrificed on the sacred bonfire until only glowing embers were left. The ‘bonfire’ is the origin of the modern day bonfire. As a matter of luck for winter survival, all villagers were expected to use the glowing embers of the bonfire to light their hearths.’

Should We Celebrate Pagan Customs?

Clearly, Halloween is a pagan holiday, pagan to its rotten core! It is a filthy abomination to God and no Christian should have anything to do with this Satanic holiday!

Halloween is not mere harmless fun or merry-making! It's roots are far more sinister than that!

The apostle John declared, “that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan . . . deceives the WHOLE WORLD” (Rev.12:9). He wrote, “The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one” (I John 5:19, NKJV).

Satan has people in our modern era mimicking the witches and Druids of old. We live in a time when witchcraft is being revived. Movies are filled with witchcraft and numerous television programs are teaching witchcraft to millions. The Harry Potter books are furthering the cause of Satan!

Halloween is not harmless fun! This evil holiday has its roots in Satanic practices and should be no part in the life of a Christian. The Roman Catholic Church tried to “baptize” this evil day and make it “Christian,” but you cannot make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear!

The Command of God

What does Almighty God say about observing such days, or participating in their frivolities? Should Christians today celebrate this ancient festival? Many today may think it is all right, but the opinions of men are not our standard or authority. What does the Word of God itself say about this matter? It is a very serious question.

Is it all right in the sight of God for men to take pagan customs and traditions, and to observe them, calling them “Christian”? Is it all right to merge and combine *PAGAN* practices with the truth of God?

According to the prophet Malachi, God does not change (Mal.3:6). His laws and commandments are eternal (Psa.111:7-8). Does God say it is all right to observe the traditions and customs of the pagans?

God commanded ancient Israel, “I am the Lord your God. You must *NOT* DO AS THEY DO IN EGYPT, where you used to live, and you must *NOT* DO AS THEY DO IN THE LAND OF CANAAN, where I am bringing you. *DO NOT* FOLLOW THEIR PRACTICES. You must obey my laws, and be careful to follow my decrees” (Lev.18:2-4).

God hates idolatry! He detests it with vehement passion. He tells us, “. . . Be careful not to be ensnared by inquiring about their gods, saying, ‘How do these nations serve their gods? We will do the same.’ YOU must NOT WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD IN *THEIR WAY*, because in worshiping their gods, they do all kinds of *DETESTABLE THINGS the LORD HATES*” (Deut.12:29-31).

God’s Word thunders: “Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled. Even the land was defiled, so I punished it for its sin, and the *land VOMITED out its inhabitants* . . . Anyone who does any of these *DETESTABLE THINGS* -- such persons must be cut off from their people. Keep my requirements and do NOT follow *ANY OF THE DETESTABLE CUSTOMS* that were practiced before you came and do not defile yourselves with them. I am the Lord your God” (Lev.18:24-30).

Learn Not the Way of the Heathen

God tells us plainly: “Hear ye the word which the Lord speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: 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. For the *CUSTOMS* of the people are *VAIN* [futile, empty, useless, worthless]” (Jeremiah 10:1-3).

Truly, the whole world has been deceived by Satan the devil and his clever masquerades and machinations (Rev.12:9). God Almighty thunders: “Wherefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Are ye *POLLUTED* after the manner of your fathers? and commit ye *WHOREDOM* after the manner of *THEIR ABOMINATIONS*? . . . ye *POLLUTE* yourselves with all your *IDOLS*, even unto this day But as for you, O house of Israel, thus saith the Lord GOD: Go ye, serve ye every one his idols, and hereafter also, if ye will not hearken unto me: but ***POLLUTE YE MY HOLY NAME NO MORE*** with your gifts, and with your idols” (Ezek.20:30-39).

Jesus Christ and the early Church never observed Halloween, or anything remotely resembling it!

Jesus Christ said to His disciples, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will *KNOW THE TRUTH*, and the *truth will set you FREE*” – free from the shackles of error, superstition, mythology, and pagan deception! (John 8:32, NIV).

Christ also warned about observing “traditions of MEN.” He declared, “Why do you transgress the commandment of God because of your *TRADITION*?” (Matt.15:3). He warned, “These people draw near to Me with their mouth,, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And *IN VAIN* they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” (verses 8-9).

Search through the Bible and you will find no evidence that either Christ, the apostles, or the New Testament Church ever observed “Halloween”! It is a *HUMAN* custom, a “tradition of men,” and

even worse – it is connected closely with WITCHCRAFT, and the Word of God condemns ALL “witchcraft”!

Witchcraft an Abomination

The prophet Samuel declared to king Saul, “Behold to OBEY [God’s law] is better than sacrifice, and to HEED than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of WITCHCRAFT, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry” (I Samuel 15:22-23).

Halloween celebrates witchcraft, demons, familiar “spirits,” and the occult forces of darkness. God declares in His Holy Word: “Give NO REGARD to mediums and familiar spirits [demons]; do NOT seek after them, to be DEFILED by them: I am the LORD your God” (Lev.19:31).

God warns severely, “And the person who turns to mediums and familiar spirits, to prostitute himself with them, I will set My face against that person and CUT HIM OFF from his people” (Lev.20:6).

God commands His people, “And you shall be HOLY to Me, for I the LORD am holy, and have SEPARATED you from the peoples, that you should be MINE” (Lev.20:26).

King Solomon was inspired to write: “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:13; 16:25). Jesus Christ said, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by *every word* that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4).

Taking pagan practices and celebrating them as “harmless fun” is making light of these serious warnings of God, and tantamount to inviting the devil into your house and home – and heart! You cannot justify observing pagan practices and calling them “Christian”! If you say, “We are delivered to do these things,” then the Word of God says He will cut you OFF from among His true people!

“The wages of sin is DEATH” (Romans 6:23).

Be Separate and Holy

Should you simply go along with the crowd and celebrate this popular holiday of Halloween?

God says: “Do NOT be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. . . Therefore come out from among them,

and be separate, says the Lord,. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty” (II Corinthians 6:14-18).

God sent ancient Israel into captivity because that nation forsook His commandments and began following pagan ways and incorporating pagan traditions, customs, and superstitions into the worship of God! Should we follow their example?

The question is whether or not we are willing to trustfully obey God, even if we do not fully understand why He tells us to do something. To learn this kind of obedience based on faith is of decisive importance not only for our life here and now, but also for all eternity.

Whether or not we observe pagan customs labeled “Christian” makes a great deal of difference to God. Therefore, let's get back to the pure, unaltered and unadulterated faith which was once delivered to the saints.

Halloween is utterly pagan. There is no doubt about it.

The question is: What are you going to do about it? May God help you to make the right decision, so you can inherit eternal life, and reign with the saints forever (Rev.2:26-27; 5:10; 20:4).

HALLOWE'EN

Trick? or Treat?

Millions of people observe Hallowe'en as a time to have fun, kick up their heels, go to costume parties, dress up as ghosts, mass murderers, goblins, ghouls, witches, warlocks, demons, and send their children "trick or treating." But WHY? What is behind this major holiday, whose commercial importance grows year by year? Is it all so innocent as millions assume? What does the Word of the Living God say about it?

William F. Dankenbring

According to the comic strip "Cathy," in the Sunday, October 29, 1995 Pasadena *Star-News*, in the past ten years Hallowe'en has tripled in size, and one out of every three adult men and women will dress up in full Hallowe'en costumes this year. Hallowe'en parties now rank third, right behind New Year's Eve and the Superbowl, and Hallowe'en is second only to Christmas for home decorations. "Cathy" asks, "What's going on here?? Can a generation raised on therapy find no better way to cope with stress than to put on a Batman suit??" She goes on, "Are we so repressed that we need to create a \$400 million holiday to act out our fantasies??"

Good questions! Where did Hallowe'en come from, anyway? Why do so many people enjoy it, and dressing up in bizarre, ghoulish, and grotesque costumes? Is it all just innocent fun and games, and nothing to worry about? Or is there an occult, sinister, dark side to Hallowe'en that few people today suspect, or know anything about?

In the November issue of a religious magazine called *The Plain Truth* (I call it the "Plain Trash"), there is an article on Hallowe'en in a section called "Questions." The question they attempt to answer is: "How should a Christian view Halloween?" Notice how they tippy-toe around this question in their answer. First of all, they admit:

"Halloween, or All Hallows' Eve, falls on Oct.31. It immediately precedes

All Saints' Day on Nov.1. All Saints' Day celebrates the memory of Christian martyrs who suffered and died for the sake of the gospel [sounds like they are

endorsing its observance, doesn't it?]. . . the Roman Catholic Church did not order the UNIVERSAL OBSERVANCE of All Saints' Day on Nov.1 until *the ninth century*.

"In ancient Britain and Ireland, Oct.31 marked the eve of the new year and the pagan Celtic festival of Sambain (*sic*, it should be "Samhain"). . .

"At Sambain (*sic*), the souls of the dead were thought to come back and visit their homes. Bonfires were lit to scare evil spirits. Sinister figures -- witches, ghosts, goblins, and demons -- supposedly roamed about" (p.10).

It almost sounds as if they are admitting that the origin of Hallowe'en is distinctly PAGAN. But they also seem to be admitting that it is a "Christian holiday," now, and assert, "The pagan practices gradually *swayed* the celebration of All Hallows Eve." Is it all right, therefore, for Christians to observe it? Or should all people steer far clear of this pagan celebration? The article concludes, in a weak-kneed, insipid, compromising stance, giving *no advice whatsoever* and *never answers the original question!* Rather, the magazine says:

"Because of the pagan elements that long ago became attached to the evening, many devout Christians *choose* to avoid trick or treating and other Halloween customs. Christian parents *often* steer their children away from taking part in what *they see* as a celebration of darkness and mischief" (emphasis mine, throughout).

How quaint. How sweet. The implication, of course, is that the decision is yours to make -- that God's Word says nothing really about it one way or the other. The article concludes, "A dedicated Christian will not knowingly celebrate evil. With this in mind, *many* Christians avoid participation in the dark practices associated with the celebration of Halloween" (*ibid.*).

Really? Is that all there is to it? The idea seems to be that you can celebrate it if you wish, so long as you avoid any purely "evil" or "dark practices" connected with it, whatever they may be. The message I receive from this is that you can go ahead, and have fun, but just "remember Christ" and don't do anything that would constitute a "dark practice." I suppose that means, don't murder, rape or kill somebody, dismember, or hurt anybody.

I found the *Pasadena Star-News* article far more informative and helpful, in exposing the true origin of this popular holiday. In an article "Unmasking Halloween traditions," Christopher Nyerges writes:

“The roots of Halloween go back to the Celts. To the ancient Celts, there were six significant fire ceremonies during the year. The greatest of these were Beltane, the first of May, and Samhain, the last day of October.

“The feast of Samhain (meaning ‘summer’s end’), marked both their Feast of the Dead and the Celtic New Year. This time of the year, half-way between the autumnal equinox and the winter solstice, was a time of decay and death on the earth.

“Samhain ushered in the darkest and most barren time of the year, a time fraught with ghosts, witches, demons, and fairies.

“Fire rites, during which *HUMAN AND ANIMAL SACRIFICES* were made, were performed in the belief that they’d protect the crops and flocks from demonic influence” (Saturday, October 28, 1995).

The Celts believed that on the Feast of Samhain, the spirits of their ancestors would rise up from the cold fields and graves and come into the warm homes and cottages of the people, and had to be greeted with decorations and festivities, parties and acceptance, in order to get “protection” for the household from evil spirits during the coming winter months. Offerings were made to protect the household from malicious spirits or demons. Says Christopher Nyerges:

“Thus, in its origin, the Feast of Samhain was a rite designed to protect humans from the ‘evil’ activities of the dis-incarnate. It was, if you will, a BARGAIN WITH THE DEAD so they’d stay away and cause no trouble during the next year.”

The *World Book Encyclopedia* describes the origin of this holiday in these words:

“The Celtic Festival of Samhain is probably the source of the present-day Halloween celebration. The Celts lived more than 2,000 years ago in what is now Great Britain, Ireland, and northern France. Their new year began on November 1. A festival that began the previous evening honored Samhain, the Celtic *lord of death*. The celebration marked the beginning of the season of cold, darkness, and decay. It naturally became associated with human death.

The Celts believed that Samhain allowed the *souls of the dead to return to their earthly homes for this evening.*

“On the evening of the festival, the Druids, who were the priests and teachers of the Celts, ordered the people to put out their hearth fires. The Druids built a huge, new year’s BONFIRE of oak branches, which they considered sacred. They burned animals, crops, and possibly even human beings as SACRIFICES. Then each family relit its hearth fire from the new year’s fire. During the celebration, people sometimes WORE COSTUMES made of animal heads and skins. They told fortunes about the coming year by examining the remains of the animals that had been sacrificed” (article “Halloween,” p.25).

This Celtic holiday entered the Roman Empire after the Romans conquered the Celts in A.D. 43 and ruled Great Britain for about 400 years. During this time two Roman festivals of the autumn were combined with the Celtic Festival of Samhain. One of them, *Feralia*, was held in late October to honor the dead. The other honored Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruits and trees. Apples probably became connected with Halloween because of this festival.

Says the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, eleventh edition, of Hallowe’en:

“Hallowe’en and its formerly attendant ceremonies long antedate Christianity.

The two chief characteristics of ancient Hallowe’en were the lighting of bonfires and the belief that of all nights in the year this is the one during which ghosts and witches are most likely to wander abroad. Now on or about the first of November the Druids held their great autumnal festival and *lighted fires in honor of the SUN-GOD in thanksgiving for the harvest.* Further, it was a Druid belief that on the eve of this festival, Saman, LORD OF DEATH, called together the wicked souls that within the past twelve months had been condemned to inhabit the bodies of animals. Thus it is clear that the main celebrations of Hallowe’en were *purely Druidical*, and this is further proved by the fact that in parts of Ireland the 31st of October was, and even still is, known as *Oidhche Shamhna*, ‘Vigil of Samhan.’ On the Druid ceremonies were GRAFTED some of the characteristics of the Roman festival in honor of Pomona held about the end of November, in which nuts and apples, as representing the winter store of fruits, played an important part. Thus the roasting of nuts and the sport known

as ‘apple-ducking’ -- attempting to seize with the teeth an apple floating in a tub of water -- were once the universal occupation of the young folk in medieval England on the 31st of October. The custom of lighting Hallowe’ en fires survived until recent years in the highlands of Scotland and Wales. In the dying embers it was usual to place as many small stones as there were persons around, and next morning a search was made. If any of the pebbles were displaced it was regarded as certain that the person represented would die within the next twelve months” (“Hallowe’ en, p.857-858).

But what happened? How did this ancient Druid, Celtic festival in honor of the “Lord of the Dead,” and celebrated in worship of the “Sun-god,” ever creep into the practice of the “Christian Church”?

Hallowe’ en Enters “Christianity”

Many ancient pagan practices became incorporated into the practices of the early Church, including virtually every pagan festival known to the Romans and the inhabitants of the Roman Empire. Hallowe’ en was no exception. The *World Book Encyclopedia* relates:

“Many of the customs of the Celts survived even after the people became Christians. During the 800’s, the church established All Saints’ Day on November 1. THE PEOPLE MADE THE OLD PAGAN CUSTOMS PART OF THIS CHRISTIAN HOLY DAY. *THE CHURCH BEGAN TO HONOR THE DEAD ON NOVEMBER 2.* This day became known as All Souls’ Day.”

Writes Christopher Nyerges, in “Unmasking Halloween traditions”:

“In the 700s, the Roman Catholic Church authorities accepted the fact that they had failed in their attempts to eliminate the Samhain observations, which were considered ‘PAGAN.’ Thus, *as has often occurred when New*

Religion

clashed with Old Religion, the names of the holy days were changed. Nov.1 became All Saints’ Day, and the day before became the Hallowed Eve, or Holy Eve, which we today call Halloween. *THIS WAY, THE OLD RELIGION PRACTICE OF SAMHAIN COULD CONTINUE, BUT NOW IT WAS A*

CHRISTIAN [sic] HOLY DAY. As a result, the members of the Catholic Church increased, everyone way happy and things went on as usual."

How blatant! How plain! How clever and odious! The Church could not conquer or stamp out the paganism in the hearts and traditions of the people, so it did the opposite -- it embraced, and took to its bosom, the paganism of old, and "baptized" it, and then called these pagan practices "CHRISTIAN"!

But what does Almighty God, and Jesus Christ, our Saviour, say about this sort of thing? Is it all right in God's sight if any of His people worship Him with the practices of ancient pagan religions? Is it acceptable with God if we follow pagan-derived practices and call them "Christian"?

Christ never observed Hallowe'en. None of the apostles observed it. None of the early churches in the first century observed it. It did not even become an official "Catholic" holy (*sic*) day until the NINTH CENTURY -- over 800 years *after* the time of Christ!

The fact that Hallowe'en is making a huge successful comeback, today, and is observed by MILLIONS around the world, shows that paganism is itself making a tremendous leap forward under the guise of the modern "Christian" religion. Should any true Christian, or believer in the Messiah Yeshua, observe the popular holiday?

What the Word of God Says

Jesus Christ very plainly said that man should not live by bread only, but by every word of God (Matt.4:4; Luke 4:4). All Scripture is given by God's inspiration and is profitable for doctrine, correction, reproof, and guidance in our lives (II Tim.3:16-17). God's Word is truth -- truth to live by (John 17:17).

What then does God's Word say about adopting and "baptizing" pagan practices and calling them "Christian" and following them?

Is it all right to combine PAGAN religion -- the "old religion" -- with God's truth? God's Word says: "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you" (Deut.4:2).

God thunders in His Word: "Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee for ever, when thou doest that which is good and right in the sight of the LORD thy God. When the LORD thy God shall cut off the nations [pagan nations] from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land; take heed to thyself *that thou BE NOT SNARED BY FOLLOWING THEM . . . and that*

thou inquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise.

“THOU SHALT NOT DO SO UNTO THE LORD THY GOD: for *EVERY ABOMINATION to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the FIRE to their gods.*

“What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: *thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it*” (Deut.12:28-32).

The prophet Jeremiah plainly tells us in straight language which brooks no compromise or misinterpretation: “*Thus saith the LORD, learn NOT the way of the heathen . . . For the customs of the people are VAIN . . .*” (Jeremiah 10:2-3).

The pagan origin of Hallowe’en, no matter how the Roman Catholic Church tries to whitewash it, or colorize it, or “Christianize” it, is plainly obvious for all to see. The real question is: Whom are we going to obey? The true God of heaven and earth, our Creator? Or the “god” of this world, Satan the devil, the real “god” behind the mask of Hallowe’en?

The Scriptures tell us forcefully that Satan is “the great dragon,” “that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, *which DECEIVETH THE WHOLE WORLD*” (Rev.12:9).

He is the master of subtlety and deception. He calls good evil, and evil good. He says, “What’s the harm in observing Hallowe’en, and having a little ‘innocent’ fun?” It is his purpose to delude, deceive, and destroy mankind by leading them into sin, lawlessness, and disobedience to the laws and Word of Almighty God.

When Caesar invaded Britain, he found the Druids leading the Britons in the worship of the sun-god and his consort, the queen of heaven. This was the same age-old “mystery” religious system that originated from ancient Babylon and Egypt. Samhain, the “lord of the dead,” was none other than that old idolatrous figure Nimrod. Says Alexander Hislop in *The Two Babylons*:

“The Druidic system in all its parts was evidently the BABYLONIAN SYSTEM. Dionysius informs us, that the rites of Bacchus were duly celebrated in the British Islands . . . and Strabo cites Artemidorus to show that, in an island close to Britain, Ceres and Proserpine were venerated with rites similar to the orgies of Samothrace. It will be seen from the account of the Druid Ceridwen and her child, afterwards to be noticed -- that there was a great analogy between her character and that of the great

goddess-mother of Babylon. Such was the system; and the name Dryw, or Droï, applied to the priests, is in exact accordance with that system. The name Zero, given in Hebrew or the early Chaldee, to the son of the great goddess queen, in later Chaldee became 'Dero.' The priest of Dero, 'the seed,' was called, as in the case in almost all religions, by the name of his god; and hence the familiar name 'Druid' is thus proved to signify the priest of 'Dero' -- the woman's promised 'seed'" (p.81, footnote).

Hislop further tells us:

"The worship of Bel and Astarte [Nimrod and Easter] was very early introduced into Britain, along with the Druids, 'the priests of the groves' From Bel, the 1st of May is still called Beltane in the Almanac; and we have customs still lingering at this day among us, which prove how exactly the worship of Bel or MOLOCH (for both titles belong to the same god) had been observed even in the northern parts of this island . . . every year, at Beltane (or the 1st of May), a number of men and women assemble at an ancient Druidical circle of stones . . . They light a fire in the centre, each person puts a bit of oat-cake in a shepherd's bonnet. One piece has been previously blackened, and whoever gets that piece has to jump through the fire in the centre of the circle, and pay a forfeit. This is, in fact, A PART OF THE ANCIENT WORSHIP OF BAAL, and the person on whom the lot fell was *previously burnt as a sacrifice*. Now, the passing through the fire represents that, and the payment of the forfeit redeems the victim" (p.103-104).

One of Nimrod's names under which he was worshipped as a god, was "Molech," the god of fire. Molech was the god of barbarity, cruelty and blood. The name itself is a form of the Hebrew word 'melek' which means "king." Nimrod was the first man after the Flood of Noah's time to become a "king" and to carve out for himself a "kingdom" on the earth (see Genesis 10:8-10). At first he was worshipped as the "revealer of goodness and truth," but gradually his worship was made to correspond to the darker and more forbidding side of his nature. The horrible rites associated with the worship of this fiend have made the very name a symbol of cruelty and terror, such as is associated with Hallowe'en. Only it was very real, not just pretend.

Says Hislop:

“In almost every land the bloody worship prevailed; ‘horrid cruelty’ hand in hand with abject superstition, filled not only ‘the dark places of the earth,’ but also the regions that boasted of their enlightenment. Greece, Rome, Egypt, Phenicia, Assyria, and our own land under the *savage Druids*, at one period or other in their history, worshipped the same god and in the same way. *Human victims were his most acceptable offerings; human groans and wailings were the sweetest music in his ears; human tortures were believed to delight his heart*” (p.151).

Hislop relates that the Druids “offered human sacrifices to their bloody gods.” He adds:

“We have evidence that they ‘made their children pass through the fire to Molech,’ and that makes it highly probable that they also offered them in sacrifice; for from Jeremiah 32:35, compared with Jeremiah 19:5, we find that these two things were parts of one and the same system. The god whom the Druids worshipped was BAAL, as the blazing Baal-fires show, and the last cited passage proves that children were offered in sacrifice to Baal. When ‘fruit of the body’ was thus offered, it was ‘for the sin of the soul.’ And it was a principle of the Mosaic law, a principle no doubt derived from the patriarchal faith, that the priest must partake of whatever was offered as a sin-offering (Numbers 18:9, 10). Hence, the priests of Nimrod or Baal were necessarily required to eat of the human sacrifices; and thus it has come to pass that ‘Cahna-Bal,’ the ‘Priest of Baal,’ is the established word in our own tongue for a devourer of human flesh” (*Two Babylons*, p.232).

Thus our word “cannibal” comes from the word “Cahna-Bal,” meaning originally “priest of Baal.” Also, Molech, the name for “King” Nimrod, another appellation of Baal, or Bel, was obviously connected with the “bon fires” that were lit by the ancient Celts in their celebration of “Samhain,” “lord of the dead.” Thus the origin of the holiday we know as “Hallowe’en” is incredibly ugly, vile, and an abomination in the sight of Almighty God, and Jesus Christ.

God’s Word says of this inhuman and vile pagan religion: “And they built the high places of BAAL, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to *pass through the fire unto Molech*; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this ABOMINATION . . .” (Jer.32:35).

God thunders: “They have built also the high places for BAAL, to *burn their sons with fire for BURNT OFFERINGS unto BAAL*, which I commanded not, nor spake it, neither came it into my mind: Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that this place shall no more be called Tophet, nor The valley of the son of Hinnom, but The valley of slaughter” (Jer.19:5).

When we consider the horrible ancestry of this modern celebration of Hallowe’en, and its gruesome and grotesque connection with darkness and evil, how can a true Christian even imagine to have anything whatsoever to do with this hideous, horrible, and macabre eve of pagan glorification of Satan, witchcraft, demons, ghouls, sorcery, and diabolical Satanic deception? What should a true Christian do about such “holidays”? God’s Word clearly commands and instructs us:

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with DARKNESS? And what concord hath Christ with BELIAL (Satan the Devil)? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with IDOLS? . . . Wherefore, *COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM, AND BE YE SEPARATE, saith the Lord, and TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN THING*; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty” (II Corinthians 6:14-18).

Make “no bones” about it. Hallowe’en is an abomination in the sight of God, and any son or daughter of His should have nothing whatsoever to do with this wicked, evil, and despicable “holiday” which the world around us celebrates with fervor and glee. God forbid that any of His children should get involved in this wicked abomination! As the apostle Peter declared, “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conduct; because it is written, Be ye holy, for I am holy” (I Pet.1:15-16).