

## Christmas In Ritual And Tradition Christian And Pagan

[#Christmas traditions](#) [#Pagan origins of Christmas](#) [#Christian Christmas rituals](#) [#Winter solstice traditions](#) [#History of Christmas customs](#)

Uncover the rich tapestry of Christmas rituals and traditions, exploring how both Christian observances and ancient Pagan practices have intertwined to shape the modern holiday. This deep dive reveals the fascinating origins of beloved customs, examining everything from early winter solstice celebrations to established Christian rites, offering a comprehensive look at the evolution of Christmas.

These textbooks cover a wide range of subjects and are updated regularly to ensure accuracy and relevance.

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### Christmas in Ritual & Tradition: Christian and Pagan (Illustrated Edition)

Christmas in Ritual and Tradition, Christian and Pagan is a study of the history and folklore surrounding Christmas holidays in several countries. It is an amazing collection of Christmas-related traditions from the first introductions of Christianity to the early 20th century. The book covers the history of Christmas as a Christian feast day and how that developed. It also discusses pre-Christian festivals and observances and how a lot of them survived by being given a Christian veneer although the overt paganism disappeared. Clement A. Miles (1881-1918), an author and translator, was a member of the Folk-Lore Society. He had been for many years on T. Fisher Unwin's literary staff and he was the author of an important work: Christmas in Ritual and Tradition. Miles possessed a wide knowledge of European languages, and translated numerous works from French and Italian.

### Christmas in Ritual and Tradition, Christian and Pagan

Reflect on the Christmas Season with a Celebration of Virtue 1900 "To be honest, to be kind--to earn a little and spend a little less, to make upon the whole a family happier for his presence....here is a task.." - Robert Louis Stevenson, A Christmas Sermon A Christmas Sermon is not necessarily a book about Christmas. In fact, it is a book that tries to educate the reader preaching the Christian values of morality, humility and kindness. It is also a book about how to approach the end of a year and the eve of a new one full of hope and optimism. ,This book has been professionally formatted for e-readers and contains a bonus book club leadership guide and discussion questions. We hope you'll share this book with your friends, neighbors and colleagues and can't wait to hear what you have to say about it.

### Christmas in Ritual and Tradition, Christian and Pagan

Unlike some other reproductions of classic texts (1) We have not used OCR(Optical Character Recognition), as this leads to bad quality books with introduced typos. (2) In books where there are

images such as portraits, maps, sketches etc We have endeavoured to keep the quality of these images, so they represent accurately the original artefact. Although occasionally there may be certain imperfections with these old texts, we feel they deserve to be made available for future generations to enjoy.

#### Christmas in Ritual and Tradition, Christian and Pagan

Book Excerpt: , the subjective aspect of the matter would come increasingly into prominence, until in the festivals of the Christian Church the main object is to quicken the devotion of the believer by contemplation of the mysteries of the faith. Yet attached, as we shall see, to many Christian festivals, are old notions of magical sanctity, probably quite as potent in the minds of the common people as the more spiritual ideas suggested by the Church's feasts. In modern England we have almost lost the festival habit, but if there is one feast that survives among us as a universal tradition it is Christmas. We have indeed our Bank Holidays, but they are mere days of rest and amusement, and for the mass of the people Easter and Whitsuntide have small religious significance--Christmas alone has the character of sanctity which marks the true festival. The celebration of Christmas has often little or nothing to do with orthodox dogma, yet somehow the sense of obligation to keep the feast is very strong, and there are few

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#### Christmas in Ritual and Tradition Christian and Pagan

Excerpt from Christmas in Ritual and Tradition, Christian and Pagan The French Nil - Latin Hymnody in Eighteenth-century France Spanish Christmas Verse - Traditional Carols of Many Countries Christmas Poetry in Protestant Germany - post-reformation Verse in England - Modern English Carols. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at [www.forgottenbooks.com](http://www.forgottenbooks.com) This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

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## Christmas in Ritual and Tradition, Christian and Pagan [microform]

Christmas In Ritual and Tradition, Christian and Pagan is written by Clement A. Miles in the English Language. Christmas: how many images the word calls up: we think of carol-singers and holly-decked churches where people hymn in time-honoured strains the Birth of the Divine Child; of frost and snow, and, in contrast, of warm hearths and homes bright with light and colour, very fortresses against the cold; of feasting and revelry, of greetings and gifts exchanged; and lastly of vaguely superstitious customs, relics of long ago, performed perhaps out of respect for use and wont, or merely in jest, or with a deliberate attempt to throw ourselves back into the past, to re-enter for a moment the mental childhood of the race.- The book shows how Christmas is or has been kept in various lands and through out the ages, to trace as far back as possible to the origin of the pagan elements that have mingled with the Church's feast of the Nativity, Christmas. The book goes into great depth of the Christmas Calendar and all it's traditions, with the book including conclusion, notes, bibliography and index. Christmas In Ritual and Tradition, Christian and Pagan has also included original illustrations from frescos of Madonna; and some of the first drawings featuring the Child to the Adoration of the Shepherds and the holy night itself of the birth of Christ. If you enjoy a good read with a great learning attributes whilst enjoying an excellent book, this is perfect for you.

## Christmas in Ritual and Tradition, Christian and Pagan - the Original Classic Edition

Christmas--how many images the word calls up: we think of carol-singers and holly-decked churches where people hymn in time-honored strains the Birth of the Divine Child; of frost and snow, and, in contrast, of warm hearths and homes bright with light and color, very fortresses against the cold; of feasting and revelry, of greetings and gifts exchanged; and lastly of vaguely superstitious customs, relics of long ago, performed perhaps out of respect for use and wont, or merely in jest, or with a deliberate attempt to throw ourselves back into the past, to reenter for a moment the mental childhood of the race. These are a few of the pictures that rise pell-mell in the minds of English folk at the mention of Christmas; how many other scenes would come before us if we could realize what the festival means to men of other nations. Yet even these will suggest what hardly needs saying, that Christmas is something far more complex than a Church holy-day alone, that the celebration of the Birth of Jesus, deep and touching as is its appeal to those who hold the faith of the Incarnation, is but one of many elements that have entered into the great winter festival. In the following pages I shall try to present a picture, sketchy and inadequate though it must be, of what Christmas is and has been to the peoples of Europe, and to show as far as possible the various elements that have gone into its make-up. Most people have a vague impression that these are largely pagan, but comparatively few have any idea of the process by which the heathen elements have become mingled with that which is obviously Christian, and equal obscurity prevails as to the nature and meaning of the non-Christian customs. The subject is vast, and has not been thoroughly explored as yet, but the labors of historians and folklorists have made certain conclusions probable, and have produced hypotheses of great interest and fascination. THE CHRISTIAN FEAST CHRISTMAS POETRY CHRISTMAS IN LITURGY AND POPULAR DEVOTION CHRISTMAS DRAMA PAGAN SURVIVALS PRE-CHRISTIAN WINTER FESTIVALS ALL HALLOW TIDE TO MARTINMAS ST. CLEMENT TO ST. THOMAS CHRISTMAS EVE AND THE TWELVE DAYS THE YULE LOG THE CHRISTMAS-TREE, DECORATIONS, AND GIFTS CHRISTMAS FEASTING AND SACRIFICIAL SURVIVALS MASKING, THE MUMMERS' PLAY, THE FEAST OF FOOLS, AND THE BOY BISHOP ST. STEPHEN'S, ST. JOHN'S, AND HOLY INNOCENTS' DAYS NEW YEAR'S DAY CONCLUSION NOTES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

## Christmas in Ritual and Tradition, Christian and Pagan

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### Christmas in Ritual and Tradition

An examination of the sacred botany and the pagan origins and rituals of Christmas • Analyzes the symbolism of the many plants associated with Christmas • Reveals the shamanic rituals that are at the heart of the Christmas celebration The day on which many commemorate the birth of Christ has its origins in pagan rituals that center on tree worship, agriculture, magic, and social exchange. But Christmas is no ordinary folk observance. It is an evolving feast that over the centuries has absorbed elements from cultures all over the world--practices that give plants and plant spirits pride of place. In fact, the symbolic use of plants at Christmas effectively transforms the modern-day living room into a place of shamanic ritual. Christian Rätsch and Claudia Müller-Ebeling show how the ancient meaning of the botanical elements of Christmas provides a unique view of the religion that existed in Europe before the introduction of Christianity. The fir tree was originally revered as the sacred World Tree in northern Europe. When the church was unable to drive the tree cult out of people's consciousness, it incorporated the fir tree by dedicating it to the Christ child. Father Christmas in his red-and-white suit, who flies through the sky in a sleigh drawn by reindeer, has his mythological roots in the shamanic reindeer-herding tribes of arctic Europe and Siberia. These northern shamans used the hallucinogenic fly agaric mushroom, which is red and white, to make their soul flights to the other world. Apples, which figure heavily in Christmas baking, are symbols of the sun god Apollo, so they find a natural place at winter solstice celebrations of the return of the sun. In fact, the authors contend that the emphasis of Christmas on green plants and the promise of the return of life in the dead of winter is just an adaptation of the pagan winter solstice celebration.

### Christmas in Ritual and Tradition, Christian and Pagan - Scholar's Choice Edition

Short history of the origin of the festival of Christmas, what Christmas owes to both Christian and pagan traditions, and the changes it has undergone through the centuries.

### Pagan Christmas

Contents:Christmas TraditionsA Brief History Of Christmas TraditionsChristmas PoetryMore Christmas PoetryChristmas In Liturgy And Popular DevotionChristmas DramaPre-Christian Winter FestivalsAll Hallow Tide To MartinmasSt. Clement To St. ThomasChristmas Eve And The Twelve DaysThe Yule LogThe Christmas Tree, Decorations, And GiftsChristmas Feasting And Sacrificial SurvivalsEnglish Activities During The Twelve DaysSt. Stephen's Day And Other Special DaysNew Year's DayEpiphany To CandlemasSample text:Chapter XThe Yule LogThe peoples of Europe have various centres for their Christmas rejoicing. In Spain and Italy the crib is often the focus of the festival in the home as well as the church. In England-after the old tradition-, in rural France, and among the southern Slavs, the centre is the great log solemnly brought in and kindled on the hearth, while in Germany, one need hardly say, the light-laden tree is the supreme symbol of Christmas. The crib has already been treated in our First Part, the Yule log and the Christmas tree will be considered in this chapter and the next. The log placed on the fire on the Vigil of the Nativity no longer forms an important part of the English Christmas. Yet within the memory of many it was a very essential element in the celebration of the festival, not merely as giving out welcome warmth in the midwinter cold, but as possessing occult, magical properties. In some remote corners of England it probably still lingers. We shall return to the traditional English Yule log after a study of some Continental customs of the same kind...N.B. "A Brief History Of Christmas Traditions" was originally published as "Christmas in Ritual and Tradition, Christian and Pagan."

### Christmas Traditions

## Christmas in Ritual and TraditionClement A. Miles

### A Brief History of Christmas Traditions

This is a study of the origin of modern Christmas in ancient pagan traditions, how the festival was adopted by Christianity, and its evolution through history. Hidden between the words of this book is the secret of Santa Claus as allegory for the bodies inner Christos that flows up the seals to the land of milk and honey to unveil a thousand petaled lotus along with realizations of I am. Miles includes descriptions of folk-lore related to the Christmas season from a wide range of European countries, including an extensive collection of folk songs. It is important to learn about these traditions to remind ourselves that before Christmas became a hyper-commercialized festival of consumption, it was a joyous celebration of renewal and friendship.

### Christmas in Ritual and Tradition

In some respects, the contrasts of Christmas are what make it the most delightful time of the year. It is a time of generosity, kindness and peace on earth, with broad permission to indulge in food, drink and gifts. On the other hand, Christmas has become a battleground for raging culture wars, marred by debates about how it should be celebrated and acknowledged as a uniquely Christian holiday. This text argues that much of the animosity is based on a fundamental misunderstanding of the holiday's core character. By tracing Christmas's origins as a pagan celebration of the winter solstice and its development in Europe's Christianization, this history explains that the true "reason for the season" has as much to do with the earth's movement around the sun as with the birth of Christ. Chapters chronicle how Christmas's magic and misrule link to the nativity, and why the carnival side of the holiday appears so separated from traditional Christian beliefs.

### Our Pagan Christmas

Reprints the 1912 study of the origins, evolution, and meaning of Christmas rituals and practices of many nations, including caroling, Christmas drama, the manger, the Christmas tree, the Yule log, and the twelve days.

### Christmas in Ritual and Tradition

Who was in the manger that first Christmas morning? Some say he would become a great moral leader. Others, a social critic. Still others view Jesus as a profound philosopher, a rabbi, a feminist, a prophet, and more. Many are convinced he was the divine Son of God. Who was he—really? And how can you know for sure? Consulting experts on the Bible, archaeology, and messianic prophecy, Lee Strobel searches out the true identity of the child in the manger. Join him as he asks the tough, pointed questions you'd expect from an award-winning legal journalist. If Jesus really was God in the flesh, then there ought to be credible evidence, including Eyewitness Evidence—Can the biographies of Jesus be trusted? Scientific Evidence—What does archaeology reveal? Profile Evidence—Did Jesus fulfill the attributes of God? Fingerprint Evidence—Did Jesus uniquely match the identity of the Messiah? The Case for Christmas invites you to consider why Christmas matters in the first place. Somewhere beyond the traditions of the holiday lies the truth. It may be more compelling than you've realized. Weigh the facts . . . and decide for yourself.

### How Christmas Became Christmas

Llewellyn's Sabbat Essentials series explores the old and new ways of celebrating the seasonal rites that are the cornerstones in the witch's year. A well-rounded introduction to Yule, this attractive book features rituals, recipes, lore, and correspondences. It includes hands-on information for modern celebrations, spells and divination, recipes and crafts, invocations and prayers, and more! Yule—also known as Midwinter—is when nighttime has reached its maximum length, but there is a promise of brighter days to come as candles are lit and feasts are enjoyed. This guide to the history and modern celebration of Yule shows you how to perform rituals and magic to celebrate and work with the energy of the winter solstice.

### Christmas Customs and Traditions, Their History and Significance

Comprehensive and engaging, this colourful study covers the whole sweep of ritual history from the earliest written records to the present day. From May Day revels and Midsummer fires, to Harvest Home

and Hallowe'en, to the twelve days of Christmas, Ronald Hutton takes us on a fascinating journey through the ritual year in Britain. He challenges many common assumptions about the customs of the past, and debunks many myths surrounding festivals of the present, to illuminate the history of the calendar year we live by today.

### The Case for Christmas

"Today, Christmas is celebrated with a host of rituals and conventions, from decorating the evergreen tree to lighting the Yule log, from hanging a beribboned wreath on the door to exchanging brightly wrapped gifts with our families and friends. But what are the origins of these traditions?" "This entertaining compendium explores the symbols and ceremonies, the popular stories and arcane lore, the rites and rituals that have been passed down from generation to generation to become our most beloved Christmas traditions."--BOOK JACKET. Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved

### Yule

Christmas is a time of celebration, rich with ritual and detail. But more than just a season for angels and wrapping paper, Christmas has its own heritage which intersects in fascinating ways with human history and human beliefs, behaviors, and experiences. In this book of fifty Christmas questions, Joseph Walsh gives us the details behind Christmas traditions, such as Santa's origin and appearance, the story of Rudolph, holiday decorations and greenery, the nativity, Christmas tales, celebrations and rituals, gift-giving, and card-sending. He links contemporary practices and historical tradition, explaining why, for instance, we kiss under the mistletoe, and describing the time when Christmas was responsible for a truce in World War I. In this illustrated book, readers will find answers to questions they've often asked and some they've never thought about.

### Stations of the Sun

Many people long for an alternative to the commercial industry Christmas has become. This illustrated, full-color book, brimming with folklore, stories, recipes, games, activities, decorating ideas, and songs, will help families who are burned out on Christmas create celebrations more in keeping with the heartfelt spirit of the original Winter Solstice festivals.

### Where Did Christmas Come From?

Even the most orthodox Christian scholars admit that Jesus' exact birth date is unknown. Why then is His birthday observed between late December and early January around the world? Read "Christmas Before Christianity," the riveting book by award-winning Christian author, historian, and Bible authority Colonel Lochlainn Seabrook and find out!

### Were They Wise Men Or Kings?

Holidays and the Feasts, revised and expanded, looks at three major subjects: The Old Testament feasts, Christmas, and Easter. Within this book the author examines the alleged pagan roots of Christmas and Easter, provides a biblical case for celebrating Christmas, and answers the question "Are Christians obligated to observe Old Testament feasts?" Contents: Part 1: Christians and the Feasts. Part I examines the Old Testament feasts, their function, and how Christians should understand them today. This section of the book begins by summarizing the Old Testament festivals and how they were understood in Jesus' day. Following this, applications are drawn concerning contemporary Christian practice. Part 2: Christmas and Paganism. Part II of the book examines the alleged claims of Christmas' pagan roots. In this section, Holidays and the Feasts argues that Christmas developed independently from pagan celebrations before speaking to various pagan ties Christmas is often charged with. The book looks at what ancient Christians wrote and thought concerning Christmas and weighs whether those Christians would form a holiday for the sake of replacing a pagan one. Part 3: A Biblical Case for Celebrating Christmas. Part III of the book presents a biblical case for celebrating the incarnation despite not being an explicitly instituted observance. This section speaks to celebration in general before moving into the Gospels and Paul in order to demonstrate that the incarnation was celebrated by the New Testament Christians, leaving an annual observance permissible. Part 4: Easter and Paganism. Part IV of the book challenges the claims that Easter is pagan by examining what is 'pagan' and then moving into the term "Easter" itself. Following this, the section discusses the connections of Easter

with Ishtar and Eostre before demonstrating that Easter was a very early observance in church history formed to commemorate the resurrection. On the Third Edition: Reformatted for ease of readability  
Reorganization of parts of the book Expansions in parts I, II, and IV. New Chapter in Part IV Two new Appendices for supplemental reading

### The Winter Solstice

Not so very long ago, Yuletide was as much a chilling season of ghosts and witches as it was a festival of goodwill. In *The Old Magic of Christmas* you'll find a Christmas bestiary and a White Witch's herbal, as well as tips for delving more deeply into your relationship with the unseen. Bring the festivities into your home with cookie recipes and ornament making while brushing elbows with veiled spirits and discovering the true perils of elves. Rife with the more frightful characters from folklore and the season's most petulant ghosts, this book takes you on a spooky sleigh ride from the silvered firs of a winter forest to the mirrored halls of the Snow Queen.

### Christmas Before Christianity

When was Christmas first celebrated? How did December 25 become the date for the feast? How did the Bible's "magi from the East" become three kings named Melchior, Caspar, and Balthasar who rode camels from three different continents to worship the newborn Christ? How did the Feast of the Nativity generate an entire liturgical season from Advent to Candlemas? Why did medieval and Renaissance artists portray Joseph as an old man? When did the first Christmas music appear? And who was the real Saint Nicholas? These and many other questions are answered in this revised and expanded edition of *The Origins of Christmas*. The story of the origins of Christmas is not well known, but it is a fascinating tale. It begins when the first Christians had little interest in Christ's Nativity, and it finishes when Christmas had become an integral part of Christian life and Western culture. *The Origins of Christmas* covers a variety of topics in a concise and accessible style, and is suitable for group discussions.

### Holidays and the Feasts

Reveals how Christian mythology has more to do with long-standing pagan traditions than the Bible

- Explains how the church fathers knowingly incorporated pagan elements into the Christian faith to ease the transition to the new religion
- Identifies pagan deities that were incorporated into each of the saints
- Shows how all the major holidays in the Christian calendar are modeled on pagan rituals and myths, including Easter and Christmas

In this extensive study of the Christian mythology that animated Europe in the Middle Ages, author Philippe Walter reveals how these stories and the holiday traditions connected with them are based on long-standing pagan rituals and myths and have very little connection to the Bible. The author explains how the church fathers knowingly incorporated pagan elements into the Christian faith to ease the transition to the new religion. Rather than tear down the pagan temples in Britain, Pope Gregory the Great advised Saint Augustine of Canterbury to add the pagan rituals into the mix of Christian practices and transform the pagan temples into churches. Instead of religious conversion, it was simply a matter of convincing the populace to include Jesus in their current religious practices. Providing extensive documentation, Walter shows which major calendar days of the Christian year are founded on pagan rituals and myths, including the high holidays of Easter and Christmas. Examining hagiographic accounts of the saints, he reveals the origin of these symbolic figures in the deities worshipped in pagan Europe for centuries. He also explores how the identities of saints and pagan figures became so intermingled that some saints were transformed into pagan incarnations, such as Mary Magdalene's conversion into one of the Celtic Ladies of the Lake. In revealing the pagan roots of many Christian figures, stories, and rituals, Walter provides a new understanding of the evolution of religious belief.

### The Old Magic of Christmas

This book explores the history and traditions of Yule and Christmas in ancient Germany. Tille describes the pagan origins of these celebrations and their evolution over time, including the incorporation of Christian elements. He also discusses the significance of various rituals, such as the Yule log and the Christmas tree, and the role of gift-giving in creating a sense of community. With its detailed research and rich cultural insights, this book is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of Christmas. This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the "public domain in the United States of America,

and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

### The Origins of Christmas

Explains the many strange customs and ceremonies which are part of Christmas, tracing rituals from their Stone-Age beginnings to present-day practices in all parts of the world, and analyzing the pagan and Christian mid-winter festival.

### Christian Mythology

Why is Christmas the way it is? How did we get from the birth of Jesus to everyone pushing their credit card and their belts to their maximum extent? Starting with the events surrounding Jesus' birth, this book takes us through centuries of commemoration, celebration and over-consumption. Along the way we'll find out why we eat turkey, how an obscure Turkish saint turned into a man flying a sleigh, and why that tree in your house should really contain an apple and a snake. Combining in-depth historical research, cheerfully irreverent humour and cutting-edge guesswork, Nick Page explores what this festival really means, and how we can get back to something real and true beneath all that wrapping.

### Yule and Christmas

The origins of Christmas stem from each the pagan and Roman cultures. The Romans truly celebrated vacations within the month of December. The first became Saturnalia, which changed into a -week festival honoring their god of agriculture Saturn. On December twenty fifth, they celebrated the start of Mithra, their sun god. Both celebrations were raucous, drunken parties. Also in December, wherein the darkest day of the yr falls, the pagan cultures lit bonfires and candles to preserve the darkness at bay. The Romans additionally included this tradition into their personal celebrations. As Christianity spread across Europe, the Christian clergy have been now not capable of decrease the pagan customs and celebrations. Since nobody knew Jesus's date of delivery, they tailored the pagan ritual into a celebration of His birthday.

### A Book of Christmas

The Ancient Origins of Modern Holidays draws from the Bible and Jewish sources on what has always been defined as paganism and idolatry. In this book we learn which holiday practices are forbidden and which ones are not. The Dead Sea Scrolls record the origins of the festivals celebrated on the equinoxes and solstices and reveal why they are important for Christians today. Using these sources, Christians can easily draw the line on practices and celebrations. We learn how to nullify paganism and take back what God gave us, so we can be obedient to His commands. In the second section of this book, we find the most ancient histories of the holiday traditions; like the Easter egg and Easter bunny, the Christmas tree, evergreens, and many more. If you have Pan-Babylonian family or friends (those who think all holidays are pagan), who refuse to celebrate Christmas or Thanksgiving with you, this book should help bring them back into fellowship with the family.

### Christmas: Tradition, Truth and Total Baubles

Have you ever wondered what a Christmas tree has to do with the birth of Christ, or, why children decorate eggs in commemoration of Christ's death? Well, the answer is a sobering one. Because of the compromise between pagans and the Catholic Church many Christian holidays are Christian in name only. In this book Elisha J. Israel traces the origins of this unholy compromise. Elisha J. Israel is the author of *Into Egypt Again With Ships: A Message to the Forgotten Israelites (African Americans)* and *Killing Black Innocents: The Program to Control "African American" Reproduction (from Slavery's End to the Present-Day Self-Inflicted Genocide)*.

### Christmas Origin

It was the early Roman Catholic church that declared Jesus to be born on 25 December in order to compete financially with the numerous other celebrations that took place on 25 December to celebrate the Gods of other religions. Many modern Christmas customs have been directly influenced



by such festivals, including gift-giving and merrymaking from the Roman Saturnalia, greenery, lights, and charity from the Roman New Year, and Yule logs and various foods from Germanic feasts. The Egyptian deity Horus, son to goddess Isis, was celebrated at the winter solstice. Horus was often depicted being fed by his mother, which also influenced the symbolism of the Virgin Mary with baby Christ; all occurring contemporaneously or historically. Many popular customs associated with Christmas developed independently of the commemoration of Jesus' birth, with certain elements having origins in pre-Christian festivals that were celebrated around the winter solstice by pagan populations who were later converted to Christianity. These elements, including the Yule log from Yule and gift giving from Saturnalia, became syncretized into Christmas over the centuries. The prevailing atmosphere of Christmas has also continually evolved, since the holiday's inception, ranging from a sometimes raucous, drunken, carnival-like state in the Middle Ages, to a tamer family-oriented and children-centered theme introduced in a 19th-century transformation. Additionally, the celebration of Christmas was banned on more than one occasion within certain Protestant groups, such as the Puritans, due to concerns that it was too pagan or unbiblical. Jehovah's Witnesses also reject the celebration of Christmas. Prior to and through the early Christian centuries, winter festivals—especially those centered on the winter solstice—were the most popular of the year in many European pagan cultures. Reasons included the fact that the winter solstice indicated that the days would now begin getting longer, less agricultural work needed to be done during the winter, as well as an expectation of better weather as spring approached. The purpose of this series of books on religion, mythology and theology is designed to emphasize our common humanity and spirituality and eliminate the divisiveness that exists within the organized religions. This book is designed to be a state of the art, academic reference work and provides an overview of the topic and gives the reader a structured knowledge of the topic at the most affordable price possible. The accuracy and knowledge is of an international viewpoint. The edited articles represent the inputs of many knowledgeable individuals and the most current knowledge on the topic, based on the date of publication.

#### Ancient Origins of Modern Holidays

Have you ever wondered why we Christians do what we do for church every Sunday morning? Why do we “dress up” for church? Why does the pastor preach a sermon each week? Why do we have pews, steeples, and choirs? This ground-breaking book, now in affordable softcover, makes an unsettling proposal: most of what Christians do in present-day churches is rooted, not in the New Testament, but in pagan culture and rituals developed long after the death of the apostles. Coauthors Frank Viola and George Barna support their thesis with compelling historical evidence and extensive footnotes that document the origins of modern Christian church practices. In the process, the authors uncover the problems that emerge when the church functions more like a business organization than the living organism it was created to be. As you reconsider Christ's revolutionary plan for his church—to be the head of a fully functioning body in which all believers play an active role—you'll be challenged to decide whether you can ever do church the same way again.

#### The Pagan Origins of Christian Holidays

##### The Birthday of the Gods