

CHAPTER 14

Truth vs. the Error of Tradition

TRUTH VERSUS TRADITION ... DOES IT REALLY MATTER?

Earlier we mentioned the historical reality of Jesus' death being on Thursday and that the traditional celebration of *Good Friday* is not true. Many of you are wondering, "How do you know this with certainty?" Others may be thinking, "Does it really matter?" Let's address the second question first. At the beginning of this book, we shared a powerful scripture from John's gospel that Jesus declared regarding God's desire for truthful worship. Jesus said; ²⁴ **"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth"** (John 4:24). So, the answer is "Yes" it really does matter to God how we worship Him, He requires that we do it led by the Holy Spirit in conformity to truth. Satanic powers know this and they seek to defile our worship by getting us to practice what is false or untrue in our worship. This is what they've accomplished through the false *Good Friday* scenario. How do we know for certain that Jesus actually died on Thursday? Please read on and discover for yourself.

THE TRUTH REGARDING JESUS' DEATH AND RESSURECTION

In Matthew chapter 12 verse 40 Jesus declared; ⁴⁰ *"For as Jonas (Jonah) was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth"* (Matthew 12:40 KJVER).

Jesus clearly revealed that He would be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth after His death. Jesus died at approximately three pm on the afternoon of His crucifixion. Therefore, if you count Friday as the first day and Friday night as the first night you have one day and one night. Then if you count Saturday as your second day and Saturday night as your second night you have two days and two nights. Jesus rose from the dead very early Sunday morning, so where is your third day and third night? It doesn't work! Let us explain to you what the scriptures and chronology of the Passion Week reveals regarding what actually happened. The Bible provides details for events that took place each day of the Passion Week (the week of Jesus' crucifixion). The only problem is that when you place Jesus' crucifixion on Friday and the Last Supper on Thursday evening it creates a blank day for Wednesday where supposedly nothing happened. In the *Fire Bible* the Passion Week is recorded on page 1453 and calls this missing day "*A Day of Rest*

that is not mentioned in the Gospels.” The note of explanation states: “The Scriptures do not mention this day, but the counting of the days seems to indicate that there was another day concerning which the Gospels record nothing.”

The reality or truth of the matter is that this missing day took place on Friday not Wednesday. The events they push to Thursday and Friday in order to hold to the Good Friday tradition actually took place on Wednesday and Thursday. How did the Roman Catholic Church which started the Good Friday tradition (later adopted by the Protestants) mess up? The hint to what happened is recorded in John’s gospel chapter 19 Verse 31. John notes that this particular Sabbath was a special “*High Day*” because it was not the regular weekly Sabbath. It was the special Sabbath that takes place on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread which occurs the day after Passover (Leviticus 23:4-8) regardless of what day of the week it falls upon. On the Passion Week this special Sabbath fell on the Friday and Passover took place on the Thursday when Jesus actually died. Therefore, the explanation that solves the mystery is that there were two consecutive Sabbaths that week where everyone rested for the two consecutive days (i.e., Friday and Saturday). The day for which nothing was recorded was this special Sabbath on Friday associated with the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Consequently, in this scenario we have the three days and three nights Jesus alluded to in Matthew 12:40:

Thursday at 3 PM	Jesus’ death	The 1 st day in the heart of the earth
Thursday night	Jesus’ burial in the Garden tomb	The 1 st night in the heart of the earth
Friday	Jesus’ second day in the tomb	The 2 nd day in the heart of the earth
Friday night	Jesus’ second night in the tomb	The 2 nd night in the heart of the earth
Saturday	Jesus’ third day in the tomb	The 3 rd day in the heart of the earth
Saturday night	Jesus’ third night in the tomb	The 3 rd night in the heart of the earth
Early Sunday morning	Jesus arose	After 3 days and 3 nights

What may have caused some confusion in this matter is that some passages declare that Jesus arose on the third day (e.g., Luke 18:31-33). The explanation for this is that in a full day there are 24 hours and in order for Jesus to arise on the 3rd day, it would have to occur within 72 hours (i.e., 3x24). Thursday at 3 pm plus 72 hours brings us to Sunday afternoon at 3 pm. Jesus arose very early Sunday morning placing His resurrection well within the 3rd day or the 3rd 24-hour period. This revelation of the truth in regards to the timing of Jesus’ death and resurrection is not something we figured out on our own, it was revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. That is why it totally makes sense of the scriptural details because it is by the Spirit and in truth.

PAGAN ASPECTS OF THE EASTER AND CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

If you Google the pagan origins of Easter and Christmas you will discover a wealth of information regarding this reality. It is due to these pagan trappings surrounding both Easter and Christmas along with the false traditions such as Good Friday and the visit of the *Magi* (Wise Men) that Deb and I no longer participate or celebrate these festivals. The Roman Emperor Constantine who converted to Christianity in the fourth century AD is considered the primary driving force in the conversion of pagan Roman festivals into the *Christian holidays* of Easter and Christmas. Rome was primarily pagan in its religious practice at the time of Constantine when he as a convert to Christianity decided that Christianity would be the national religion of Rome. In order to transition the people into the new state religion of Christianity he realized the need to convert their popular pagan festivals to Christian festivals. Easter transitioned to replace the pagan Spring Fertility celebration while the Christ-mass would replace the Winter Solstice Sun Worship celebration of December 25th.

One false practice of the Christ-mass celebration that many are unaware of surrounds the visit of the *Magi* or *Wisemen* from the east. The modern Christmas account portrays them as having visited the manger scene with the shepherds when Jesus was newly born. The truth is they visited the house where Mary and Joseph were living with the “*young child*” Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12). You may wonder why Mary and Joseph would stay in Bethlehem with baby Jesus for an extended period after His birth. The reason for this could be related to the fact that Mary was found to be pregnant before she was married to Joseph. Possibly they opted to stay in Bethlehem until the rumour and scandal mill had died down in Nazareth before returning so they could live in relative peace. At the time of the Wiseman’s visit Jesus was a young child at least one year old or more. We know this because Herod who had carefully asked the Wisemen the time that the star had appeared killed every little boy in Bethlehem two years old and under based on the time the Magi told him (Matthew 2:7-18).

CHRISTMAS, EASTER & WHITE LIES TEACH KIDS IT’S OK TO LIE

¹⁴ “*Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.* ¹⁵ *Outside are dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters and everyone who loves and practices a lie*” (Revelation 22:14-15 MEV).

As a child and even as an adult, few loved celebrating Christmas more than I did. However, when I discovered the ungodly origin of the festival and the tremendous amount of deception and pagan pageantry surrounding it, I sensed God’s call to

separate from it. It was difficult at first, but when I did it, I felt liberated and entered into a new dimension of freedom in my life. Jesus was not born on December 25th, and I knew it, and if I continued in the celebration of it, I would be practicing a lie. According to the scripture above that is a very dangerous thing to do. We have already clearly established that as Believers God requires that we worship Him in spirit and in truth. *What are some of the lies associated with Christmas?* We have the falsehood regarding the Wisemen mentioned above, but there is more. We also have a fictitious Santa Claus flying a sleigh pulled by reindeer that fly all over the world delivering toys to billions of children worldwide in one night. We team up with retailers, the Media and even NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command) to deceptively convince our children that it is all very real. We basically do the same deceptive game with the Easter Bunny and everybody loves it. Even though we are outright lying and deceiving our children on both of these festivals, it is justified because it is all in *harmless* fun for the kids. Is it really harmless or does the *Father of Lies* use it to sow seeds to justify lying in our kid's hearts? Are we working with Satan to teach them it's ok to lie as long as it is for a good purpose including protecting ourselves and not hurting others? Is it any wonder why lying has become epidemic. We may believe that lying is not so bad because *everybody does it*, but what is God's perspective? According to the following scriptures His perspective is much different than most of ours.

²² ***“Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are His delight”*** (Proverbs 12:22 KJVER). ⁸ ***“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolater, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone”*** which is the second death” (Revelation 21:8 KJVER).

In God's eyes lying or deceiving others is a detestable act and those who do not overcome by His grace will be destined for the eternal lake of fire. Therefore, lying which includes partial truths or withholding truth to cause someone to believe something false is nothing to take lightly. God is a God of Truth; Satan is the *Father of lies*. Those who desire to have relationship with God must seek to walk in truth. Those who trifle with truth and tolerate or participate in any form of deception walk in darkness with the prince of darkness (John 8:42-47).

MIRACULOUS CONCEPTION OR IMMACULATE DECEPTION?

Jesus was not born in December. The most reliable research reveals that in all likelihood He was conceived in December by the virgin Mary by the power of Holy Spirit (Luke 1:34-35). This was the Miraculous Conception when God the Son was

implanted into the womb of Mary. The glorious *Light of the World* entered this world as a preborn babe in the womb where like most every developing child He spent nine months. However, because He was not of the seed of man He was born without sin and without the sin nature like Adam was before the fall. This is why the scriptures infer that Jesus was the second Adam who did not fail and redeemed us from the curse of sin and death that the first Adam produced (I Corinthians 15:21-22; 45-49).

Jesus as God the Son was the only person ever born without sin or the sin nature because of His virgin birth. Another false doctrine taught by the Roman Catholic church is the *Immaculate Conception* of Mary the earthly mother of Jesus. Mary as a descendant of King David of the tribe of Judah (Luke 3:23-38) was a very noble and Godly young lady chosen to be the human vessel through which the Son of God would be born. Admittedly Mary was a very humble and virtuous young lady but she was not born without sin or the fallen sin nature. Only Jesus as God the Son of virgin birth had this great distinction among all humanity. Mary born of the natural sinful seed of man admitted her sinful condition and need of God's salvation in the scriptural declaration she made in Luke 1:46-55 known as *the Magnificat*. ⁴⁶“*And Mary said, My soul does magnify the Lord.*” ⁴⁷“*And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour*” (Luke 1:46-47 KJVER). Consequently, to teach anything contrary to this is another falsehood propagated by the Roman church along with the lie that Mary was co-mediator and co-redemptrix of humanity with Jesus. Only Jesus the Almighty Son of God is our Mediator and our Redeemer according to the Gospel of the apostles of our Lord. To teach otherwise as Paul warned is blasphemy and will lead to one being accursed or damned (Galatians 1:8-9).

CELEBRATE CHRIST'S ADVENT(S) IN TRUTH AT THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Due to the above facts, we have chosen to forsake these corrupted celebrations and prayerfully consider alternatives based on truth. Through our research and investigation into the timing of Jesus' birth we believe that He was born during the Feast of Tabernacles in the latter part of September or early October. During this time of year, the shepherds would still be abiding in the fields as Luke describes in Luke chapter 2 verses 8 to 20. In December the nights are too cold in Israel for shepherds to be living in the fields with their flocks at night and this is another strike against December 25th being the date of His birth.

The Feast of Tabernacles is the only feast that all nations will be required to celebrate every year after Jesus' return (see Zechariah 14:16-19). “*Why this festival?*” Could this be a permanent celebration of Jesus' three advents to earth:

- 1) When He came to save the children of Israel from the bondage of Egypt. Leading them as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (Leviticus 23:39-43; Exodus 13:20-22) which is part of the original Feast of Tabernacles celebration.
- 2) At His Incarnation when He came clothed in frail humanity to save us from the bondage of sin and this world system through His ultimate sacrifice on the Cross (Luke 2:9-11). Research reveals He was born during the Feast of Tabernacles.
- 3) When He returns during the Feast of Tabernacles future to save Israel and any Gentile converts from destruction by the Antichrist and his evil empire at His physical second coming to earth. This will be Jesus' final advent to earth to save His people and to re-establish God's Divine Government and order over planet earth (Revelation 19:11 to 20:4).

We believe that all three of these awesome visitations by God the Son to earth will be commemorated and celebrated by all nations throughout Jesus' millennial (1,000 year) reign after His physical return during the Feast of Tabernacles future. His incarnation celebration will be the greatest Birthday celebration of all, finally celebrated in Truth. Consequently, Deb and I now celebrate the incarnation and birth of Jesus for this entire eight-day celebration at the Feast of Tabernacles which takes place around our Canadian Thanksgiving each year. In fact, in 2019 the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles and Thanksgiving fell on the same day, on Monday October 14th. In some respects, Tabernacles is very similar to Thanksgiving in that it is also a celebration of God's blessings and the bounty of the harvest, but it lasts an entire week. It is the most joyous of all the festivals of God in the Bible (Leviticus 23:40; Deuteronomy 13:13-15). Certainly, the incarnation when God the Son became flesh and dwelt among us is a fitting reason to commemorate and rejoice as the angels did that first holy night as they announced His arrival to the shepherds.

¹⁰ "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this shall be a sign to you; You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying. ¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:10-14 KJVER).

CELEBRATING NEW TESTAMENT EVENTS IN UNITY WITH BIBLE FEASTS

If we as Christians desire to celebrate Jesus' incarnation, death and resurrection, God requires that we do it in accordance with the truth. Consequently, we encourage you to prayerfully reconsider how God would have you to deal with these false festivals.

If you would like a more detailed explanation of the truth about Easter and Christmas please check out our crosspoweryouth.org site for our articles: *Truth vs. Tradition: Christ's Birth* and *Truth vs. Tradition: Christ's Death*. It should be noted that all the Old Testament festivals foreshadowed specific New Testament events as follows:

- **The Feast of Tabernacles:** foreshadowed Jesus' second and third advents to earth to save His people and is the most joyful of all these festivals.
- **The Passover Feast:** foreshadowed Jesus' atoning death on the Cross as the all sufficient "*Passover Lamb*" to save us from the eternal death angel.
- **The Feast of Unleavened Bread:** leaven is a type of sin. The celebration with unleavened bread foreshadowed the removal of sin from those who would embrace Jesus' redeeming blood sacrifice for us on the Cross. The Feast of Unleavened Bread immediately follows the Passover symbolizing how the Lamb of God's shed blood had taken away the sin of all who would believe.
- **The Feast of Pentecost:** foreshadowed the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that would begin the Harvest of precious human souls which began on the Feast of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-41).
- **The Feast of Trumpets:** (Rosh Hashanah): foreshadows incredible resurrection at the Rapture when Jesus will descend with a great trumpet blast in the clouds to resurrect His children and to rescue those still living from coming wrath (I Thessalonians 4:13-18).
- **The Day of Atonement:** (Yom Kippur): foreshadows the time of great mourning, repentance and the embracing of Jesus' atoning sacrifice by the Jews that will take place after the Rapture. When they have seen Jesus, their Messiah coming in the clouds whom they rejected and crucified (Zechariah 12:10-12; Matthew 24:30-31). At that time the 144,000 Jewish evangelists will be mobilized to preach the hope of the Gospel to bring in the final harvest among the Jewish people (Revelation 7:1-8) and also the Gentiles.
- **Hannukah (The Feast of Dedication):** foreshadows how the "Light of the World" which could not be extinguished (Jesus) came to earth and was implanted in the womb of Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:26-45; John 1:1-14). This parallels how the miracle of the Lamp (and oil) in the womb of the Temple could not be extinguished. The Miraculous conception of Jesus took place in December very likely at Hannukah. The Festival of Lights is a fitting celebration of the greatest "*Light*" of all who came to earth as a preborn baby with every right to life (Amen!).

If we as God's people desire to celebrate these significant New Testament events related to Jesus' life. It would be good to look at coordinating them with the Biblical

festivals on which they occurred and that they fulfilled. Not with the pagan festivals of the winter solstice (sun worship) or the spring equinox (an erotic fertility festival) as erroneously established by the Roman Church.

THE LORD'S DAY, A RESURRECTION CELEBRATION & COMMUNION

Another way of looking at the commemoration of Jesus' death and His resurrection is in accordance with the Biblical celebrations of Communion and Sunday worship (the change of spelling is intentional to focus worship on the right *Son*). Every time we celebrate Communion we remember and proclaim the victory of His sacrificial death until He comes again (I Corinthians 11:23-26). Along with this, every *Sunday* on the Lord's Day (Revelation 1:10) is a weekly celebration of His resurrection as was instituted by the leading of the Holy Spirit in the early Gentile Church (Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:2). The early Church never celebrated Easter or Christmas and neither celebration is mentioned in the Bible. Once again we emphasize that as Christians we need to prayerfully consider laying aside these false and pagan based celebrations and focus on worshipping God in "***Spirit and Truth.***" That we follow the Biblical patterns and guidelines established by the apostolic leaders chosen by Jesus Himself. *The Lord is purifying His Church in this final hour and we believe these unbiblical festivals are part of the spots, wrinkles and blemishes being removed* (Ephesians 5:25-27).

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE LORD'S DAY OF REST FOR GENTILES

It should also be noted that the Gentile Christian Church was never instructed or required to adhere to the Old Testament Saturday Sabbath. The Jewish Christians maintained this Jewish Covenant tradition, but not the Gentiles. Instead, as mentioned above they gathered to worship and take up offerings for the needy on Sunday ... the Lord's Day (Revelation 1:10; Acts 20:7 and I Corinthians 16:2). In so doing they honoured the Spirit or principal of the law ⁹ "...*Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God.* ¹⁰ *On it you shall not do any work ...*" (Exodus 20:9-10). The Holy Spirit we believe led Paul and the Gentile church away from the Law based Saturday Sabbath to the honouring of the Lord's Resurrection Day as a day of worship and rest. The principal of working six days and resting on the seventh was maintained, but not under the Law, but under the new covenant of grace on the Lord's Day. Modern Christian companies such as Chick-fil-A (owned by the Cathy family) have reaped the blessing of honouring this new covenant principal of Sunday worship and rest by closing all their 2363 restaurants (2018) on *Sundays*. As Christians it would serve us well to honour this Spirit led principal trusting in God's faithfulness as the Cathy family has and reap His abundant blessing. Please note that Chick-fil-A which is

only open six days per week is the highest grossing restaurant chain in North America. MacDonald's which is number two in earnings grosses about \$2.7 million per restaurant (being open 7 days) while Chick-fil-A grosses \$4.1 million per restaurant (in 6 days). Thus, illustrating the amazing blessing of God on Chick-fil-A for honouring the Lord and blessing their employees with a day of rest. We encourage those who may be open or working 7 days per week to test the Lord in this regard by honouring the Lord in taking a day of rest by faith. We know that God will honour your faith as He has the Cathy family, ourselves and others. At the same time, we should remember that Jesus fulfilled the law for us to liberate us from it and that He is our Sabbath rest (Hebrews 4:1-3). Therefore, we don't want to be legalistic in making *Sunday* a mandatory day of rest for all Christians to abide by. People need the liberty to choose their day of rest in accordance with their freedom in Christ. If someone wants to honour the Lord by taking Saturday as their rest day then God bless them, or as many Pastors do, they take Monday as their day of rest. Whatever day we rest we need to do it as unto the Lord and not judge one another in this regard as Paul exhorted in Colossians 2:16-17. If you would like to do a more detailed study of this issue please see Christian Apologetics & Research ministry at carm.org. Do a search on: *Should we keep the Sabbath or not?*



THE JOYOUS BLESSING OF GENEROUS SPIRIT LED GIVING

⁴⁴ “And all that believed were together, and had all things common; ⁴⁵ And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. ⁴⁶ And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, ⁴⁷ Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:44-47 KJVER). ³²“**And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.** ³³ And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, ³⁵ And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need” (Acts 4:32-35 KJVER).

Generous giving and sharing of our substance are the hallmark of a true Believer and a vitally important part of our new life in Christ. As you can see from the above text that when the Holy Spirit truly possesses and indwells Believers through the new birth, we become generous givers. Material possessions and wealth are no longer considered our own, but the Lord's to be shared and distributed as He so directs by His Spirit.

In this new era leading to Jesus' return we believe the Lord is leading the church away from the Old Testament or precross based tithe and offering system back to Spirit led giving directed wholly by the Holy Spirit. We believe that tithing with offerings is a good basic model to start with for New Testament Believers, but Spirit led giving is what the Church needs to restore and practice. We also believe that Spirit led giving will always exceed the standards established before or during the Old Testament standard. It needs to be noted that after Jesus' death on the Cross and the establishment of the New Covenant in His blood there is no mention of or direct teaching of tithing to the Gentile church. We believe what Paul and the other apostles taught was Spirit inspired giving and liberality that was demonstrated in the early church in Acts chapter 2 and chapter 4, and also in Philippians 4:10-19. By God's grace and the leading of the Holy Spirit we need to be generous and cheerful givers and God will multiply back to us an abundance above and beyond our expectations financially and in other areas (2 Corinthians 9:6-11). We should never give merely to get back; we should give our very best because God gave us His very best. Not out of compulsion, but out of a loving and thankful heart inspired by His Spirit within. To us who truly know the value of what He has given us, giving is not a burden, but a blessed opportunity to express our love and appreciation for His priceless gift. When the Lord has control of our wallet and possessions to be used as He directs, it is a confirmation that He truly owns our heart (Matthew 6:19-21). We have personally practiced Spirit led giving after having used the tithe and offering mandate as a basic beginning standard. The Holy Spirit has never led us to give less than 10 percent of our gross income weekly. In fact, our weekly offerings far exceed 10 percent of our gross income. This is in no way to glorify ourselves, but simply to share a practical example of how Spirit led giving does not lead to a lower standard than the tithe and offering model used before the New Covenant instituted through the Cross. Spirit led giving leads to generous and liberated giving that is not based on the Old Testament precross obligation. Instead, it leads to giving in the freedom of love, gratitude and liberality directed by the Holy Spirit.