

CHRIST AND CHRISTMAS SABBATH SCHOOL CLASS, PART 1

Say - Welcome to Sabbath School class. Let's bow our head and ask God for understanding as we study the scriptures today.

Say - (Say or sing) "It's Beginning to Look a lot Like Christmas", (just this one clause), then say, isn't this what most people are thinking about and is going on about us in our schools, churches, shopping malls and on radio and T. V?

Say - Have you ever wondered what Christ thinks and would say about the celebration of Christmas and supposedly His birth? Whatever He would say, is what we should be thinking and saying to those around us when they ask why we do not celebrate Christmas.

Say - All one needs to do is look up the origin of Christmas to find that the world, sadly enough, is really getting ready for the "Winter Solstice" or Saturnalia and they do not know it. Most well meaning people believe Christmas replaced the pagan festivals making it an acceptable Christian celebration. (See "winter solstice" and "saturnalia" below in the encyclopedia article. Hit Ctrl and click on word or copy <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas> and hit "search")

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas> ChristmasFrom Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia Christmas (IPA: [/krɪsməs/](#)), also referred to as Christmas Day or **Christmastide**, is an annual **holiday** celebrated on December 25 that marks and honors the birth of **Jesus of Nazareth**.^{[2][3][4]} His birth, which is the basis for the **anno Domini** system of dating, has been estimated by modern historians as **having occurred** between 7 and 2 BC.^{[5][6][7]} December 25 is not thought to be Jesus' actual date of birth; the date was most likely chosen as a means to reconcile elements from then-competing Roman religious festivals,^[8] or conceivably to coincide with the **ancient Roman winter solstice** celebration.^{[9][10]}

Modern customs of the holiday include **gift-giving**, church celebrations, and the display of various decorations—including the **Christmas tree**, **lights**, **mistletoe**, nativity scenes and **holly**. **Santa Claus** (also referred to as **Father Christmas**, although the two figures have different origins) is a popular **mythological figure** often associated with bringing gifts at Christmas. Santa is generally believed to be the result of a **syncretization** between **St. Nicholas of Myra** and elements from **pagan Nordic** and **Christian mythology**, and his modern appearance is believed to have originated in 19th century media.

History

For many centuries, Christian writers accepted that Christmas was the actual date on which Jesus was born.^[13] In the early eighteenth century, scholars began proposing alternative explanations. **Isaac Newton** argued that the date of Christmas was selected to correspond with the winter solstice,^[9] which in ancient times was marked on December 25. In 1743, German Protestant Paul Ernst Jablonski argued Christmas was placed on December 25 to correspond with the Roman solar holiday **Dies Natalis Solis Invicti** and was therefore a "paganization" that debased the true church.^[14] In 1889,


Non-Christian celebration

Main article: [List of winter festivals](#)

A winter festival was the most popular festival of the year in many cultures. Reasons included the fact that less agricultural work needs to be done during the winter, as well as people expecting longer days and shorter nights after the [winter solstice](#) in the [Northern Hemisphere](#).^[19] Modern Christmas customs include: gift-giving and merrymaking from Roman [Saturnalia](#); greenery, lights, and charity from the [Roman New Year](#); and Yule logs and various foods from [Teutonic](#) feasts.^[20] [Pagan](#) Scandinavia celebrated a winter festival called [Yule](#), held in the late December to early January period. As [Northern Europe](#) was the last part to Christianize, its pagan traditions had a major influence on Christmas. Scandinavians still call Christmas *Jul*. In English, the word Yule is synonymous with Christmas,^[21] a usage first recorded in 900.

Dies Natalis Solis Invicti


Dies Natalis Solis Invicti means "the birthday of the unconquered Sun." The use of the title [Sol Invictus](#) allowed several [solar deities](#) to be worshipped collectively, including [Elah-Gabal](#), a Syrian sun god; [Sol](#), the god of Emperor Aurelian; and [Mithras](#), a soldiers' god of [Persian](#) origin.^[22] Emperor [Elagabalus](#) (218–222) introduced the festival, and it reached the height of its popularity under Aurelian, who promoted it as an empire-wide holiday.^[23] This day had held no significance in the Roman festive calendar until it was introduced in the third century.^[24]

The festival was placed on the date of the solstice because this was on this day that the Sun reversed its southward retreat and proved itself to be "unconquered." Several early Christian writers connected the rebirth of the sun to the birth of Jesus.^[4] "O, how wonderfully acted Providence that on that day on which that Sun was born...Christ should be born", [Cyprian](#) wrote.^[4] [John Chrysostom](#) also commented on the connection: "They call it the 'Birthday of the Unconquered'. Who indeed is so unconquered as Our Lord . . .?"

Feast established

Christmas was promoted in the Christian East as part of the revival of [Catholicism](#) following the death of the pro-[Arian](#) Emperor [Valens](#) at the [Battle of Adrianople](#) in 378. The feast was introduced to [Constantinople](#) in 379, and to [Antioch](#) in about 380. The feast disappeared after [Gregory of Nazianzus](#) resigned as [bishop](#) in 381, although it was reintroduced by [John Chrysostom](#) in about 400.^[4]

The [Twelve Days of Christmas](#) end on January 5. December 26 is [St. Stephen's Day](#) and January 6 is [Feast of Epiphany](#). This period encompasses the major feasts surrounding the birth of Christ. In the Latin Rite, one week after Christmas Day, January 1, has traditionally been the celebration the [Feast of the Naming and Circumcision of Christ](#), but since [Vatican II](#), this feast has been celebrated as the Solemnity of [Mary, Mother of God](#).

 Reformation into the 19th century

During the [Reformation](#), some [Protestants](#)^[who?] condemned Christmas celebration as "trappings of [popery](#)" and the "rags of the Beast."^[34] The [Roman Catholic Church](#)

responded by promoting the festival in a more religiously oriented form. Following the [Parliamentarian](#) victory over [King Charles I](#) during the [English Civil War](#), England's [Puritan](#) rulers banned Christmas, in 1647.^[34] Pro-Christmas rioting broke out in several cities, and for weeks [Canterbury](#) was controlled by the rioters, who decorated doorways with holly and shouted royalist slogans.^[34] The [Restoration](#) of Charles II in 1660 ended the ban, but many clergymen still disapproved of Christmas celebration.

In [Colonial America](#), the [Puritans](#) of [New England](#) disapproved of Christmas. Celebration was outlawed in [Boston](#) from 1659 to 1681.

Santa Claus and other bringers of gifts

Originating from [Western culture](#), where the [holiday](#) is characterized by the exchange of [gifts](#) among friends and family members, some of the gifts are attributed to a character called [Santa Claus](#) (also known as [Father Christmas](#), [Saint Nicholas](#) or St. Nikolaus, [Sinterklaas](#), Kris Kringle, Père Noël, [Joulupukki](#), [Babbo Natale](#), [Weihnachtsmann](#), [Saint Basil](#) and [Father Frost](#)).

Father Christmas, who predates the Santa Claus character, was first recorded in the 15th century, but was associated with holiday merrymaking and [drunkenness](#).^[46]

Decorations

In many countries there are many different types of decorations used depending on the traditions and available resources.

The [Christmas tree](#) is often explained as a Christianization of [pagan](#) tradition and ritual surrounding the Winter Solstice, which included the use of [evergreen](#) boughs, and an adaptation of pagan [tree worship](#).^[48] The [English language](#) phrase "Christmas tree" is first recorded in 1835^[46] and represents an importation from the [German language](#). The modern Christmas tree tradition is believed to have begun in Germany in the 18th century^[48] though many argue that [Martin Luther](#) began the tradition in the 16th century.^{[49][50]} From Germany the custom was introduced to England, first via [Queen Charlotte](#), wife of [George III](#), and then more successfully by [Prince Albert](#) during the reign of [Queen Victoria](#). Around the same time, German immigrants introduced the custom into the United States.^[51] Christmas trees may be decorated with [lights](#) and [ornaments](#).

Since the 19th century, the [poinsettia](#) has been associated with Christmas. Other popular holiday plants include [holly](#), [mistletoe](#), red [amaryllis](#), and [Christmas cactus](#). Along with a Christmas tree, the interior of a home may be decorated with these plants, along with [garlands](#) and [evergreen](#) foliage.

Say - What is the "Winter Solstice" and where does this celebration come from or what were the origins of such worship (see above site)?

The Winter Solstice or customs of Christmas can be traced all the way back to Nimrod, the great grandson of Noah. Nimrod is given credit as the founder of the Babylonish system and its pagan customs which have been passed on throughout the centuries to the present day. (See "NOTE" below)

Say - The Bible says Nimrod is known as the “beginner of kingdoms” and we remember him for building the tower of Babel/Babylon. Nimrod is also known as the founder of Nineveh, one of the most ancient cities in the world and the capital of the Assyrian Empire which shared the same pagan customs as Babylon, Genesis 10:10. (See "NOTE" below)

NOTE: Catholic Encyclopedia under Assyria com:<http://www.newadvent> In treating of Assyria it is extremely difficult not to speak at the same time of its sister, or rather mother country, Babylon as the peoples of these two countries, the Semitic Babylonians and Assyrians, are both ethnographically and linguistically the same race, with identical religion, language, literature, and civilization.

Say - Nimrod, whose name means, “Rebel”, a pagan, godless man, is the one who started many of the customs we have today which are “rebellious” or “against” God’s ways. Nimrod was so evil he married his own mother whose name was Semiramis. After Nimrod died, his mother/wife, Semiramis, claimed that a full-grown EVERGREEN tree sprang up over night and symbolized the springing forth unto a new life of the deceased.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Two_Babylons

Say - On each anniversary of the birthday of Nimrod, which was Dec. 25, Semiramis claimed Nimrod would visit the evergreen tree and leave gifts upon it. The tree, to the pagans, became the symbol of the “Tree of Life” which is blasphemous or against God for the “Tree of Life” planted in the Garden of Eden, symbolized God’s Spirit which gives eternal life. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Two_Babylons

Say - Through her scheming; Semiramis became the Babylonian, "Queen of Heaven" and Nimrod, which can be found under various names, became the "Divine Son of Heaven", another blasphemous title. (Note: “Queen of Heaven” can be found in Jeremiah 7:18, 44:17-19, 25.)

Say - Through many generations in this idolatrous worship, Nimrod became the false Messiah or Christ and was known as the Son of Baal the Sun God. In this false Babylonish system, the "Mother and Child", stemming from Semiramis and Nimrod, became chief objects of worship among the pagans and the worship of "Mother and Child" spread throughout the entire world and we hear it proclaimed in the song, “Silent Night”.
<http://bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Topical.show/RTD/cgg/ID/388/Nimrod.htm> http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Two_Babylons
Book suggestion, [A History of Christianity](#) by Paul Johnson a British Historian

Say - From ancient Babylon and Assyrian Empires, Medo-Persian, Greek and Roman Empires, the customs were passed down with each empire renaming the same pagan god in their own language. Few realize an Emperor of Rome, named, Constantine, proclaimed to become one of God's people and placed Christianity on the same level as paganism from which he had come.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Council_of_Nicaea

http://www.xanga.com/Babylon_The_Great/674811257/item.html

http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761560455/Constantine_the_Great.html
Book suggestion, [A History of Christianity](#) by Paul Johnson a British Historian

Say - By "uniting" the pagans and the Christians, Constantine increased his empire greatly. The Bible teaches us there will be an "end-time, Constantine type" who will arise to unite the masses of people under one religion once again.

Say - The Roman's Sun God they worshiped was named, "Sol" and their winter festival in honor of the "Sun God" was called, The Winter Solstice. Notice the first three letters, "Sol"; "Sol" means "Sun". This winter festival was a feast of "The Nativity" or "Birth" of the "Unconquered Sun" or "Natalis Invicti", (known as "Sol Novus" or "New Sun"). We hear this name in the song, "The First Noel", meaning, "The First Sun". (See "Christmas" article above from Wikipedia and Ctrl click on word or copy and paste website to search)

Say - This celebration among the pagans was a time of wild partying and they did not want to give up their festival traditions. Just like today, it is a time of endless shopping, buying, decorating, partying, special foods, and travel. Constantine agreed with their wishes allowing them to keep their festival celebrations and simply changed the name from the birth of the "Sun God", "Sol", to the birth of the "Son-of-God" and kept the date, December, 25th. (See "Christmas" article above from Wikipedia and "Ctrl click" on "Sol Invictus" or copy and paste website to search)
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_I_of_the_Roman_Empire

Say - But what does God say about Sun worship? We will go to our Bibles for the answer to this question. God forbids it!! "Take therefore good heed, (listen carefully) ... do not meddle with them... Lest ye corrupt yourselves..." Take heed; (listen carefully), lest you lift up your eyes unto heaven, and when you see the SUN, and the moon, and the stars, and all the host of heaven, should be driven to worship them, and serve them, ..." Deuteronomy 2:4, 5; 4:19.

Sun - How does it make God feel when we "corrupt ourselves, and do

evil in the sight of ...God, (it) provokes him to anger” Deuteronomy 4:25. “For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God” Exodus 34:14.

Say - In contrast, God said, “... destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves” Exodus 34:13. Does that mean we are to go about and take down every Christmas tree we see and Christmas decoration? No, of course not, but we are to destroy any thought of longing in our hearts to be a part of the winter solstice celebration called Christmas.

Say - Why did God say this, because, “God said, “... I make a covenant, an agreement (with) all My people (and) I will do marvelous, (wonderful things, great things, miracles,) such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation: and all the people among which thou art shall see the work of the LORD: ..., Exodus 34:10.

Say - God goes on, “Observe that which I command you this day... listen, take heed to thyself,... for thou shalt worship no other god... lest (you) make a covenant, an agreement with the inhabitants of the land, and go a whoring after their gods,...(which cannot do any of the “Marvels” listed above), Exodus 34:11-15.

Say - What was it God wanted us to observe? God continued with the answer for us in the remainder of Exodus 34, “The feast of unleavened bread shalt thou keep. Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, as I commanded thee, ... for in the month Abib thou came out from Egypt... Six days thou shalt work, but on the seventh day thou shalt rest, (meaning the Sabbath day); in earing time (the Spring Holy Days) and in harvest (the Fall Holy days) thou shalt rest. And thou shalt observe the feast of weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the feast of ingathering (Feast of Tabernacles) at the year's end”.

Say - God continued, "Three times in the year shall all your men-children appear before the LORD God, the God of Israel. For I will cast out the nations before thee, and enlarge thy borders: neither shall any man desire thy land, when thou go up to appear before the LORD thy God". In other words your possessions would be protected while observing His Feasts

Say - "And the LORD said unto Moses, write.....these words: according to the tenor of these words meaning according to My instructions I have made a covenant with you and with Israel, (God's people)", Exodus 34:18-27.

Say - God continued, "This I say therefore, ... that you walk not as other Gentiles walk (don't go back), in the vanity of their mind, having their understanding darkened (no longer knowledge of the law of God), (and) being alienated (cut off) from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart (spiritual blindness to the truth of God): Ephesians 4:17-18

Say - How has the world strayed so far from God's instructions? What in the world happened? The Bible says, "They soon forgot his (marvelous) works; they waited not for his counsel (to implement His plan): but (they) lusted (desired) exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted or tried God in the desert" Psalm 106:13, 14. Have our world and churches forgotten God's Holy Sabbaths, weekly and annual and changed His teachings for "doctrines and commandments of men" Matthew 15:8-9? Do they long for the season they are celebrating?

Say - When I celebrated Christmas, I was just like God's description. I was blind and ignorant to any of this information. I was not a part of God's plan for eternal life. But God is always like a good Father, warning and teaching us about the ways of the world. Like a Good Shepherd, He wants the best for us which is eternal life with HIM!

Say - Now we know why God told His people and us today to keep HIS Holy Days because they are centered on God and reveal the plan of Salvation for all mankind. God's Holy Days lead us to eternal life and many times they are referred to as "Path of Life". The Spring Holy Days, Passover, Days of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost; picture repentance, forgiveness and the receiving of God's spirit as we are begotten a "New creation in Christ" at baptism.

Say - The autumn Holy Days, Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles; picture the time of reward for His "Firstfruits", being a part of the FIRST resurrection to eternal life!! Finally, with Satan banished, we are "At one with God" ruling as Kings and Priest in His soon coming Kingdom; now we are in training!!! At the end of the 1000 years will be the 2nd resurrection pictured by "The Last Great Day", a time when ALL will come to realize the Truth of God for the very first time and be given the opportunity for salvation, Revelation 20:5-7.

Say - Do you know anyone who is on the emotional high of Christmas who would listen to what God has told us in this lesson. Sadly the answer is no. With all the deception found in the history of the

celebration of Christmas, it is part of what is called the Babylonian Mystery Religion in the Bible Revelation 17:5. The customs we witness today were handed down from pagan worship and adopted by many denominations in our world.

Say - Is it any wonder God said, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD..." Revelation 18:4, Isaiah 55:7. Let's help one another do that.

MEMORY VERSE
TAKE HEED,
LEST YOU LIFT UP YOUR EYES
TO HEAVEN AND SEE
THE SUN, MOON AND STARS
AND BE DRIVEN TO WORSHIP THEM.
DEUTERONOMY 4:19

VERSES TO REMEMBER ABOUT SUN WORSHIP
DEUTERONOMY 4:19, 2 KINGS 21:3, 5; JEREMIAH 8:2

Memory verse for tots

Memory Verse
DO NOT WORSHIP
THE SUN
MOON OR STARS...
DEUTERONOMY 4:19

BELOW IS THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS FOR TOTS

CHRIST AND CHRISTMAS

NIMROD, A MIGHTY HUNTER, WAS A GODLESS MAN AND
REBELLOUS AS COULD BE;
SO EVIL WAS HE, SEMIRAMIS HIS MOTHER HE MARRIED
AND HIS WIFE SHE CAME TO BE!

MANY WORSHIPPED NIMROD FOR HE WAS HALED THE
"SON" OF THE FALSE GOD BAAL;
BUT WE ARE TO WORSHIP THE TRUE GOD WHO PARTED THE
RED SEA AND BY HIS POWER, BROUGHT DOWN HAIL!

THEN ONE DAY NIMROD TURNED UP DEAD AND THROUGH LIES
AND LEGENDS IT WAS SAID;
"ON DECEMBER 25, ALL DECKED WITH GIFTS, A TREE SPRANG
UP IN HIS STEAD"!

SOON THE ROMANS WORSHIPPED THE SUN OF THE WINTER
SOLSTICE, WITH EMPEROR CONSTANTINE AS THEIR
GUIDE;
ALTHOUGH NOW KNOWN AS CHRISTMAS, MANY INTO
PAGANISM DID SLIDE.

BUT OUR GOD OF HEAVEN SAID, "LISTEN CAREFULLY, WHEN
YOU WORSHIP THE HEAVENS, IT MAKES ME ANGRY AS
CAN BE;
FOR THOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME"!

KEEP MY FEASTS, THE SEASONS OF LIFE, FOR IN THEM
SALVATION AND ETERNAL LIFE IS WHAT YOU'LL FIND;
MY SABBATHS OF REST, IN SPRINGTIME AND THE FALL,
IS MADE KNOWN SALVATION FOR ONE AND ALL!

By B. R. B.

DO NOT WORSHIP THE SUN, MOON, OR STARS
DEUTERONOMY 4:19