

The truth about Christmas... lets separate truth (scripture) error (tradition)

The Truth about Christmas – Hulu special?

Krammer invented “Festivus” on Seinfeld? Originally created by author Daniel O’Keefe, Festivus entered popular culture after it was made the focus of the 1997 Seinfeld episode

What does Festivus mean? Festivus is the name of a secular and non-commercial holiday characterized by the raising of an aluminum pole, the serving of a dinner, the airing of grievances, and the demonstration of feats of strength.

Narrative – Matt 1:18-2:2 CHARLIE BROWN... Nativity scene...

1. Birth of the messiah – hundreds of prophecies in the old testament, many were over a 1,000 years before.

A virgin will give birth – Isa 7:14

Come from Davids offspring – 2 sam 7:12,13

Born in Bethlehem – Micah 5:2

Travel to Egypt – Matt 2:14,15

A king with a humble birth – psalm 8:5,6

Shepherds would watch – Luke 2:8

His birth and adult ministry would have a forerunner – Isa 40:3,4

ON Dec 25th? December 21st the shortest day and longest night of the year, was co-opted from pagan rites connected with the winter solstice. Dec 25th was the day celebrated as the birth of the Sun god “Sol”. Around 300 AD people merged a pagan celebration with a Christian one.

Some say Christ was most likely born in the spring, others say the fall. No Biblical record indicates the day.

2. manger / Nativity – Luke 2:1-20 no drummer boy! (I just got this kid to sleep, would you knock off that pounding?) “The Christ child” video, “the chosen” Christmas, The Nativity video

3. wise men – were not at the nativity scene – he was a toddler (about 2) when they arrived at his house, not at a manger, cave or animal trough.

Daniel in the OT was a Jewish scholar, interpreter of dreams, and possibly a scientist. (AKA Magi) He was taken to Babylon (east of Israel) in 600 BC.

3 wise men were from the east but why would they care about a Jewish messiah?

Possibly descendants of Daniel

Dan 2:2 So the king summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed. When they came in and stood before the king, 3 he said to them, “I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means.” 4 Then the astrologers answered the king, “May the king live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will interpret it.”

Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. 18 He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. 19 During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision.

Arioch took Daniel to the king at once and said, “I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can tell the king what his dream means.”

26 The king asked Daniel (also called Belshazzar), “Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?” 27 Daniel replied, “No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, 28 but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come.

4. star of Bethlehem – Matt 2:9 –

They, having heard the king, went their way; and behold, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, until it came and stood over where the young child was.

Astronomy is the study of stars and constellations – science

Astrology says that the stars can govern or predict your life and future.

NOT a CHRISTIAN belief.

There are 100 billion galaxies in the universe.

100 billion stars in each galaxy.

But 100 trillion cells that make up a human being.

The Bible says that God created the heavens, stars, and planets. They exist to testify about Him. Not to be worshipped by us.

Job 9:9 says the He is the Maker of Orion and the constellations.

1 Cor 15:41, Duet 4:19, Isa 40:26, Psalm 8:3,

- Not the north star, Polaris.

Star of Bethlehem is a conjunction of Jupiter and Venus, they came so close that they stacked like a figure 8.

They combined brightness to create the brightest star ever seen.

5. King Herod

He was an Arab raised in Jewish culture, a powerful insecure tyrant, known for his colossal building projects and conquests. The ruler of Judea who ordered the Massacre of the Innocents to prevent the birth of another king. Appointed “king of the jews” by the roman senate. The first “anti-Christ”. Not only did he rebuild Solomons temple but also built temples for other religions in the area. He combined Jewish customs with Roman and pagan practices. Killed John the

Baptist, married his brother's wife, and killed 2 of his own sons. **His “anti-Christ spirit” recognizes holy things, holy places and holy people but only uses them for his own gain.**

Is it possible that Traditions of Christmas does the same thing?

6. retail capitalism – in 2019 over 1 trillion spent. \$6.1 billion on trees, 5.9 billion on decorations, 1.8 billion on airfare, \$22 mill on turkey dinners. Each individual spends on average about \$998 on themselves, friends, and families. 21% go into debt for presents.

New York stock market saw the personification of Christmas as an opportunity to sell goods and began to associate this early image of Santa Claus with their advertisements in the 1840s. The cover up, camouflage, or façade, has replaced a life changing Biblical message with greed, traditions, fables, and distractions. Jesus' birth was about a family in poverty, in crisis who brought hope and salvation. Not credit card debt for the latest toys and material indulgences.

7. Christmas tree - Evergreen trees had a special meaning for people in the winter. Just as people today decorate their homes during the festive season with pine, spruce, and fir trees, ancient peoples hung evergreen over their doors and windows. In many countries it was believed that evergreens would keep away witches, ghosts, evil spirits, and illness. There is no conclusive evidence that the modern custom of a Christmas tree originated in paganism. The Romans did decorate their houses with greens and lights and exchanged gifts, just not on Dec 25th, and not to celebrate Christ. Late in the Middle Ages, the Germans and Scandinavians placed evergreen trees in their homes or outside their doors to show their hope in the forthcoming spring. The modern-day Christmas tree evolved from these early German traditions.

In the 16th century in Germany, the Pennsylvania German settlements had community trees as early as 1747. But, as late as the 1840s Christmas trees were seen as pagan symbols and not accepted by most Americans. It is not surprising that, like many other festive Christmas customs, the tree was adopted so late in

America. To the New England Puritans, Christmas was sacred. The pilgrims's second governor, William Bradford, wrote that he tried hard to stamp out "pagan mockery" of the observance, penalizing any frivolity. The influential Oliver Cromwell preached against "the heathen traditions" of Christmas carols, decorated trees, and any joyful expression that desecrated "that sacred event." In 1659, the General Court of Massachusetts enacted a law making any observance of December 25 (other than a church service) a punishable offense; people were fined for hanging decorations. That stern solemnity continued until the 19th century, when the influx of German and Irish immigrants undermined the Puritan legacy

Jer 10:3 - For the customs of the peoples are worthless; they cut a tree out of the forest, and a craftsman shapes it with his chisel. They adorn it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so it will not totter. Like a scarecrow in a melon patch, their idols cannot speak; they must be carried because they cannot walk. Do not fear them; they can do no harm nor can they do any good."

8. santa claus – Some say Nicholas of Bari was Greek. Some say St Nicholas a devout Catholic, born in Turkey in 280 AD, he became a bishop. Most say he was a devout Christian who shared his inheritance with the poor and sick. His folklore has evolved to being a plump elderly supernatural all knowing, ever present extravagant gift giver who likes cookies and milk.

9. Rudolph, elves? – no comment...

Jesus said to religious people – Matt 15:3 - And He answered and said to them, "Why do you yourselves also break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?"

The TRUTH is...

1. The Biblical narrative of the birth of a savior from a virgin, is THE MOST SACRED, PRECIOUS, HOLY TRUTH to ever exist. we needed and still need a savior.

We can NOT save ourselves. We can not obey the entire law, we will never be blameless. Our transgressions need justice. The perfect sinless life was given in our place.

2. The messiah is the promised one. Our only hope of redemption.

3. We should celebrate Gods gift. Tell the story!!!!

4. We should testify to the world.

5. We should share with others Gods blessings. It's OK to give gifts and share from our resources.