calvary chapel portsmouth

Christmas 2025 Series



Celebrating the greatest gift of all !

Pt1 Christmas Past

A Three-Part Study Rediscovering What Tradition Has Obscured

Tradition: Enemy of The Truth

- Jesus said that tradition undermines God's Word – Matt 15:6
- As a result of tradition people miss out on incredible truths and blessings
- Tradition blinds people and builds up walls against the truth
  - So much so, that people will vehemently defend their tradition over the truth!
- This is never truer than in regard to the 'Christmas story'

Tradition: Enemy of The Truth

- Some Christians don't celebrate Christmas, believing it to be 'unbiblical' and pagan
- Other Christians fully 'celebrate' Christmas and get immersed in the 'commercial, secular, festive fun'

- Be cautious of either position!

Tradition: Enemy of The Truth

- At the outset we have to be prepared to let go of the tradition we have all been brought up with…
  - That has shaped over views and opinions!
- In search of the truth, it is essential we have the correct starting point…
- …and that is God's Word!
- God's Word alone, not man's, is true

Hidden Treasures

- It's true that the Bible does not specifically give us the exact date of the Birth of Christ
  - Nor is there any command in Scripture to celebrate the birth of Christ
- There are certain details omitted from the text…
- However, being overly cautious and skeptical, or 'blindly' following the world's narrative will cause us to miss out on wonderful, scriptural treasures!

Hidden Treasures

- The Bible actually reveals far more than most realise regarding the 1st Christmas



- Proverbs 25:2 tells us:

"It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter"

Traditional Errors

- The traditional timing is wrong
- The traditional setting is wrong
- The traditional attendees are confused
- Therefore:
  - the reason for Bethlehem is obscured
  - The role and reason for Shepherds is obscured
  - The reason for the visit of the Magi is obscured
    - The traditional location for the Magi's visit is in error,
    - as is the notion of a star over a stable!!
- They all lead to wrong assumptions – which have even found their way into modern Bibles!

Christmas 2025 Series

- Session 1. 7th December
  - Why do we celebrate Christmas? What is the history? Where did it begin?
- Session 2. 14th December
  - What does Christmas mean to me? What is Christmas? Separating the fact from the fiction and truth from tradition!
- Session 3. 28th December
  - What are the implications resultant from Christmas? What is the relevance in today's world? Why SHOULD we celebrate it?

Session ONE



Christmas PAST

The Origin of Christmas

- The story of Christmas doesn't begin 2000 years ago in a manger in Bethlehem…
- The origin of Christmas can be traced back to before the foundation of the world!
- For 4000 years God had been preparing for the 1st Christmas
- It wasn't an afterthought!

The Origin of Christmas

- It was the centerpiece of His Divine plan
  - But wasn't the Cross the centerpiece of all history?
- Yes!
- # Tradition's first disservice is to dissociate Christmas from Calvary!
  - The reason Jesus came at Christmas was to go to Calvary
  - Without Calvary there would be no Christmas!
  - Without Christmas there would be no Calvary!

Proposed CHRISTMAS GREETING?

- *'Happy New Year'* is fine
  - no one is offended!
- But *'Happy Christmas'*
  - apparently can cause offense!
- Try saying this instead:
- *"We wish you a blessed and happy holiday season!*

- as we celebrate the birth of the One and only King of Kings, the Saviour God incarnate, who came to offer the greatest gift of all, and lead us out of darkness and all false religion into the light of His love and grace!

WHY CHRISTMAS?

- Why Celebrate Christmas at all?
- *"…within the Christian Church no such festival as Christmas was ever heard of until the third century, and that not until the fourth century was far advanced did it gain much observance"* – Rev Alexander Hislop
- So, the early church clearly did not place any importance on celebrating the birth of Christ!

WHY CHRISTMAS?

- *"Long before the fourth century, and long before the Christian era itself, a festival was celebrated among the heathen at that precise time of the year, in honour of the birth of the son of the Babylonian queen of heaven…the same festival was adopted by the Roman Church, giving it only the name of Christ."* – Rev Alexander Hislop

WHY CHRISTMAS?

- *“That Christmas was originally a Pagan festival is beyond all doubt. The time of the year and the ceremonies with which it is still celebrated prove its origin.”*

  – Rev Alexander Hislop

- So why did the Christian church start to celebrate Christmas?

WHY CHRISTMAS?

- Something monumental occurred in 312 AD that changed Christianity forever!
- Emperor Constantine legalised Christianity!
  - Up to that point, Christianity had been outlawed and Christians had suffered great persecution, having to meet in secret
- At the same time, the pagan cults were 'ousted' from their temples and society at large
- *"the persecuted Christians exchanged the rags of hiding for the silks of the court"*

  – Chuck Missler

WHY CHRISTMAS?

- Many of the abandoned pagan buildings started being used by Christians as their public meeting places.
- In addition, many of the previous pagan rituals were adapted to fit their new "Christian" surroundings – supposedly in an attempt at unity
- Tertullian, about the year 200 AD, bitterly lamenting the inconsistency of the church wrote:

WHY CHRISTMAS?

- *"We Christians, who are meant to be separate from the traditional Jewish holy days like Sabbaths and new moons (which God once accepted), now instead participate fully in pagan holidays! We go to the Saturnalia, the January festivals, the Brumalia, and the Matronalia. We exchange gifts, noisily celebrate New Year's Day, and have loud parties and sporting events. It is to be wondered at! Look how much more devoted the pagans are to their religion—they are careful not to adopt any of our Christian holidays!"*

  – Tertullian, *De Idolatria,* c. 14, vol. i. p. 682

WHY CHRISTMAS?

- 'Christmas' is one such festival that was added to the Christian calendar
- *"Celebrated from a vestige of the Roman holiday of Saturnalia, observed near the winter solstice, which itself was among the many pagan traditions inherited from the earlier Babylonian priesthood."*

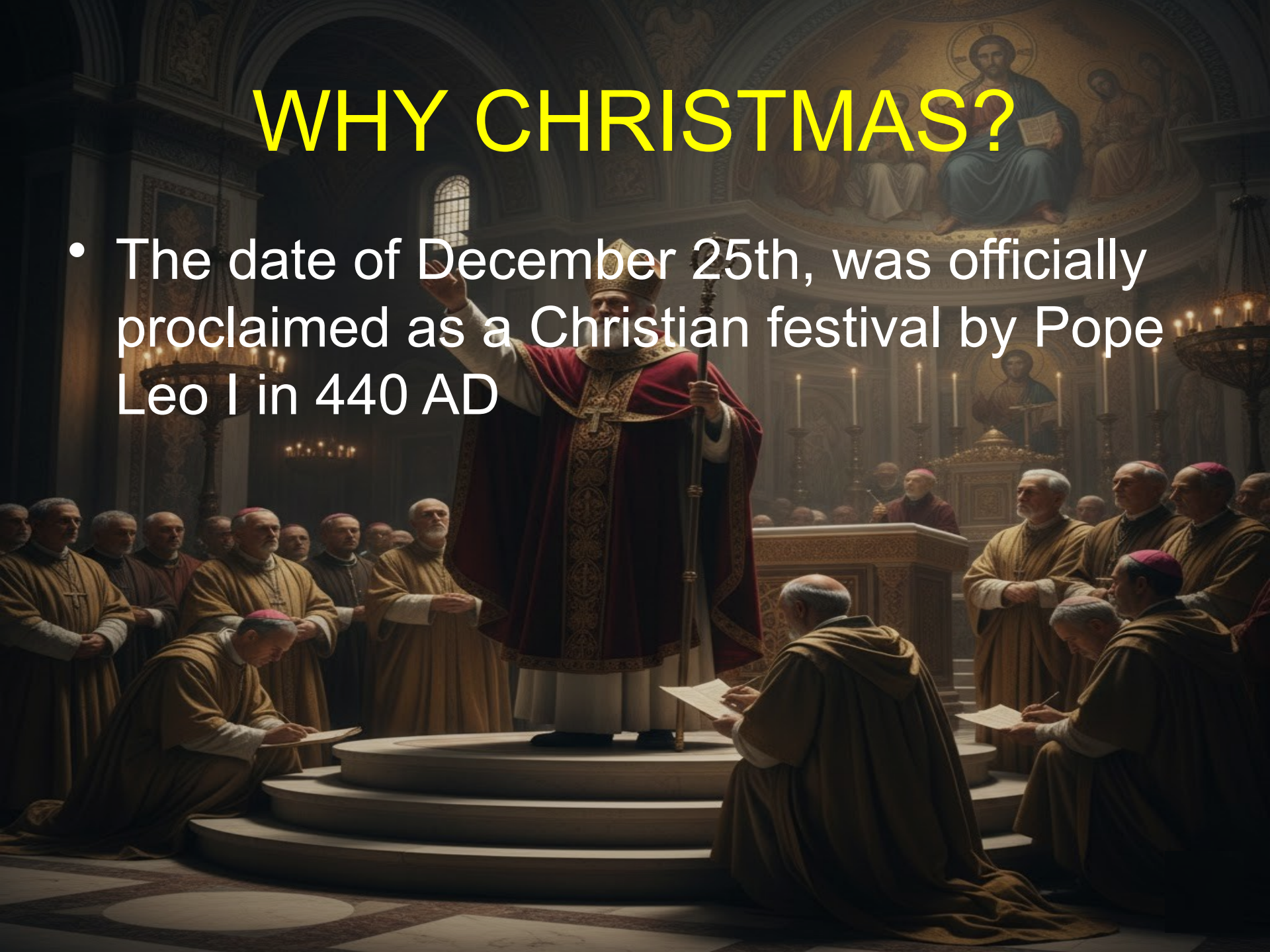
  – Chuck Missler

WHY CHRISTMAS?

- The first recorded mention of December 25 as the birth of Christ was by Sextus Julius Africanus in 221 A.D.
- The first official mention of Christmas as being a liturgical feast or Christian holiday is The Calendar of Philocalus in 354 A.D.
  - which assumed Jesus' birth to be Friday, December 25, 1 AD
- It 'just so happened' that this was the date already celebrated by pagan Romans as 'Saturnalia'

WHY CHRISTMAS?

- The date of December 25th, was officially proclaimed as a Christian festival by Pope Leo I in 440 AD



WHY CHRISTMAS?

- The first recorded celebration of Christmas in England took place on Christmas Day in 597 AD when St Augustine oversaw the mass baptism of 10,000 Saxons in Kent, marking the beginning of widespread acceptance of Christianity in England.

WHY CHRISTMAS?

- Throughout the Middle Ages (from the 11th to 15th centuries), Christmas was a major religious and state occasion
  - often celebrated for 12 full days (Christmastide),
- William the Conqueror was crowned on Christmas Day 1066
- Henry II held huge feasts and ceremonies

WHY 25th December?

- Maybe somewhat surprisingly, Christmas was not the festival we know today until the release of “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens in 1843.
- It is credited with being *‘the single most important factor in saving, reinventing, and popularising the celebration as we know it today'.*

The Father of Lies

44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

John 8:44

- Satan knew from Gen 3:15 that God would send a Saviour, born of a women.
- In an attempt to thwart God's plan, Satan tried to corrupt the earth so the Seed could not be born.

The Father of Lies

- In response, God sent a flood to rid the earth of the threat (Read Genesis 6!)
- After the flood, Satan launched a more subtle (and brilliant!) threefold stratagem:

1) World Government (Founded in Babel)

To try and manipulate mankind against the Seed

2) False Religion (Begun in Babylon)

To deceive mankind into following a false seed

3) 'Seek & Destroy' Plan (the post-flood Nephilim)

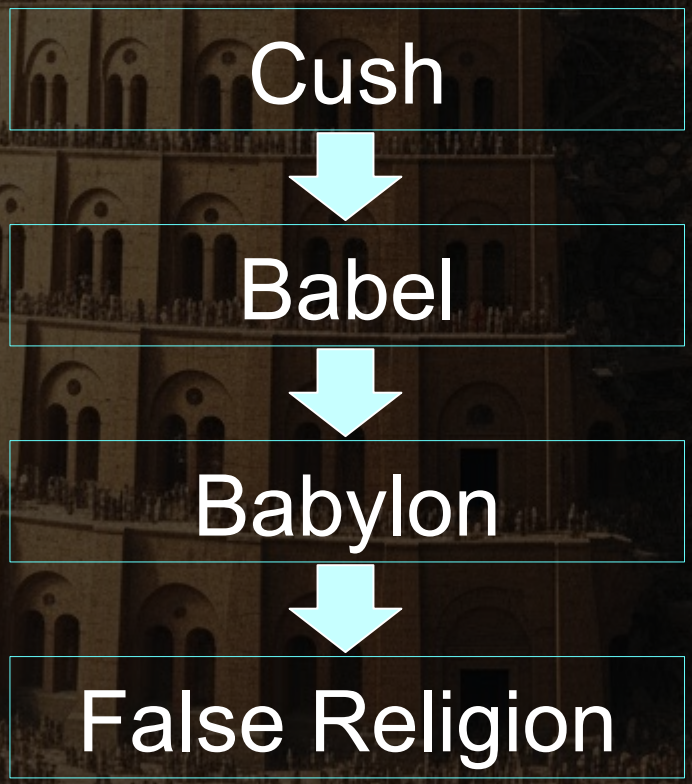
To attempt to annihilate the 'threat' of the real Seed

The source of DECEPTION

- All occultic practices have their origins in the original city of Babylon. Isaiah 47
- The same is true of almost all false religion
  - "THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" Rev 17:5

The source of DECEPTION

- Babylon was the city built out of the ‘ashes’ of the Tower of Babel – Gen 10/11



The source of DECEPTION

- Cush was the son of Ham and grandson of Noah, but he became the mastermind behind 'Project Babel'
- *"Cush, 'the son of Ham,' was the 'divider of the speeches of men.' He, it would seem, had been the ringleader in the scheme for building the great city and tower of Babel"*

– Rev Alexander Hislop

The source of DECEPTION

- *"Cush, as the son of Ham, was Her-mes or Mercury, for Hermes is just an Egyptian synonym for the 'son of Ham.' Hermes was the great original prophet of idolatry, for he was recognised by the pagans as the author of their religious rites and the interpreter of the gods"* – Rev Alexander Hislop

Worldwide deception



Worldwide deception

Noah

Shem | Ham | Japheth

Cush
aka

Mercury Hermes (son of Ham) Bel Janus Chaos

Nebo Hephaistos Vulcan 'The father of the gods' Merodach

Worldwide deception

Noah

Shem

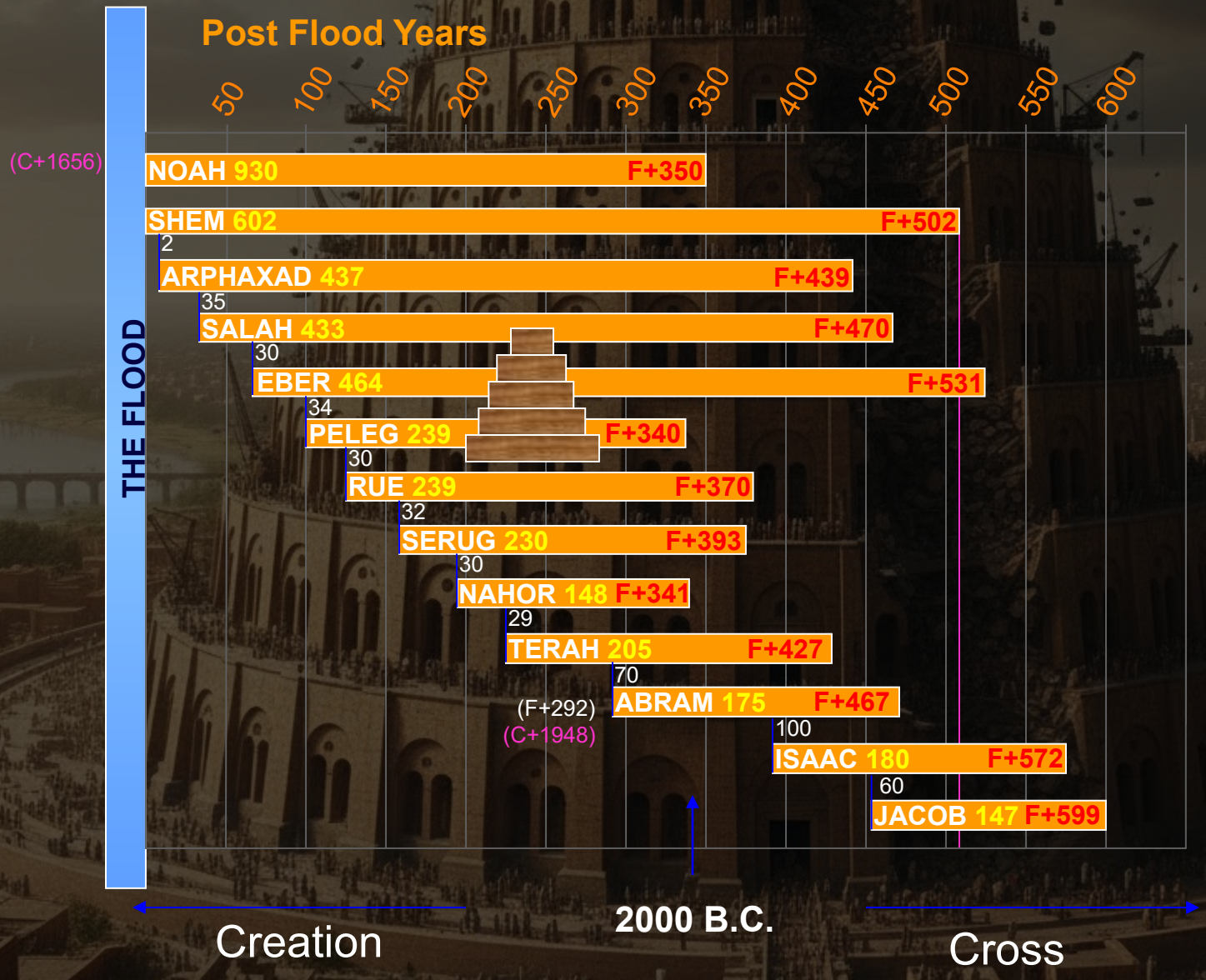
Ham

Japheth

Cush
aka
Mercury Hermes (son of Ham) Bel Janus Chaos
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Nimrod
Ninus Bacchus (son of Cush) Belus Orion Osiris
Chronos Saturn

Post Flood Lifetimes



Jacob could have known Shem for 50 Years!

The MIGHTY HUNTER!

8 And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty
one in the earth.
9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD:
wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty
hunter before the LORD.
10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and
Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of
Shinar.

Genesis 10:8-10

The MIGHTY HUNTER!

- *“Nimrod, whose general character was that of the sun-god, for he was the first grand warrior, and under the name Phoroneus he was celebrated for having first gathered mankind into social communities”*

  - Rev Alexander Hislop

The MIGHTY HUNTER!

- Nimrod become the first ‘world ruler’
- He is spoken of as ‘a mighty hunter’ Gen 10:9
  - How did he become so powerful?
  - What was he hunting?
  - Could it have been the Nephalim?
  - History is replete with such legends!
- Regardless, he introduced apostasy like never before…
- Shem to the rescue!

SHEM

- Various historical references and ancient legends strongly suggest that Shem killed Nimrod
- *“If Shem was at that time alive, as beyond question he was, who so likely as he?”*

  – Rev Alexander Hislop
- *“In exact accordance with this deduction we find that one of the names of the primitive Hercules in Egypt was ‘Sem.’”*

  – Rev Alexander Hislop

The GREAT COUNTERFEIT

"If there was one who was more deeply concerned in the tragic death of Nimrod than another, it was his wife Semiramis, who from an originally humble position, had been raised to share with him the throne of Babylon. What, in this emergency shall she do? Shall she quietly forego the pomp and pride to which she has been raised?

Rev Alexander Hislop – The Two Babylons *(p58)*

The GREAT COUNTERFEIT

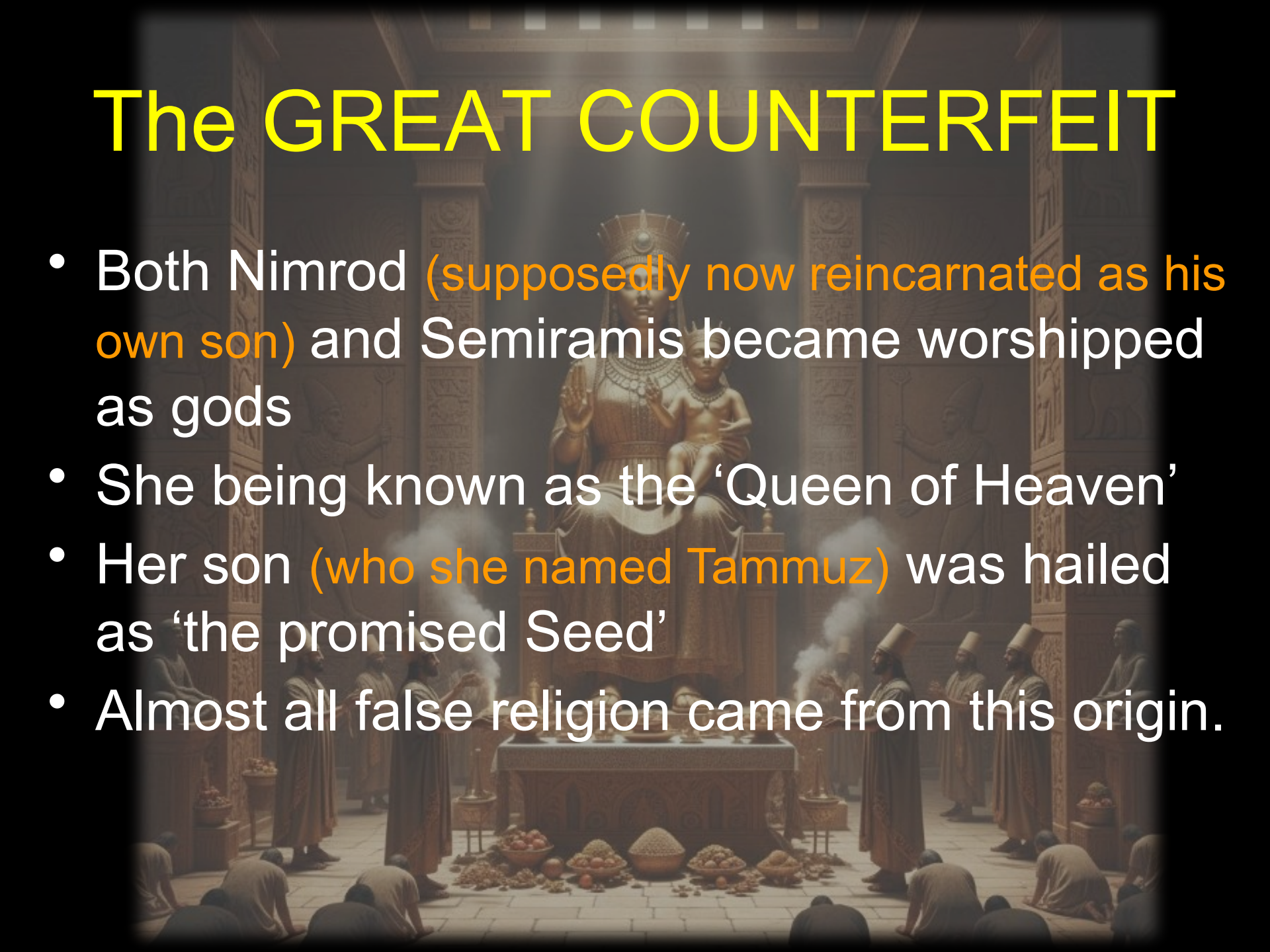
"No. Though the death of her husband has given a rude shock to her power, yet her resolution and unbounded ambition were in flight. In life her husband had been honoured as a hero; in death she will have him worshipped as a god, yea as the woman's promised seed 'Zoro-ashta'."

Rev Alexander Hislop – The Two Babylons *(p58)*

The GREAT COUNTERFEIT

- Rather than give up her throne, Semiramis told the story that her husband Nimrod, though dead, had been brought back to life as her baby son!
- And so began the worship of Mother and Child.

The GREAT COUNTERFEIT



- Both Nimrod (supposedly now reincarnated as his own son) and Semiramis became worshipped as gods
- She being known as the ‘Queen of Heaven’
- Her son (who she named Tammuz) was hailed as ‘the promised Seed’
- Almost all false religion came from this origin.

The GREAT COUNTERFEIT



- Thousands of years before the birth of the real Seed – Jesus Christ – false religions worshipping the ‘Mother and Child’ were spreading out all around the world.

The GREAT COUNTERFEIT

- In Egypt the Mother and Child were worshipped under the names of Isis and Osiris.



The GREAT COUNTERFEIT

In India, even to this day as Isi and Iswara;



The GREAT COUNTERFEIT

– In Asia as Cybele and Deoius;



The GREAT COUNTERFEIT

- In pagan Rome as Fortuna and Jupiter



The GREAT COUNTERFEIT

– In Greece as Irene and Plutus;



The GREAT COUNTERFEIT

- Easter,
- Lent,
- Lady Day,
- The Rosary,
- The sign of the cross (from the ‘T’ in Tammuz),
- The worship of relics,
- The doctrine of purgatory,
- An elite priesthood,
- The sacrifice of the mass
- …and so many other things all had their origin in Babylon.

The GREAT COUNTERFEIT



"Even in Tibet, in China and Japan, the Jesuit missionaries were astonished to find the counterpart of [the Roman Catholic] Madonna and her child as devoutly worshipped as in Papal Rome itself; Shing Moo, the Holy Mother in China, being represented with a child in her arms, and a glory around her, exactly as if a Roman Catholic artist had been employed to set her up"

Rev Alexander Hislop – The Two Babylons

The GREAT COUNTERFEIT

- Tammuz, the son of Nimrod and his queen, Semiramis, was identified with the Babylonian Sun God and worshiped following the winter solstice, ~ December 22-23
  - As the days became shorter and shorter through the winter, they become the shortest at the winter solstice
  - Tammuz was thought to have died, memorialised by burning a ["*yule*"] log in the fireplace.
- His "rebirth" was celebrated by replacing the log with a trimmed tree the following morning.
- Ezekiel records that the women of Jerusalem were found weeping for Tammuz! (Ezek 8:14)

The GREAT COUNTERFEIT

- *“‘On the 24th [of December], the Arabians celebrated the birthday of the Lord—that is the Moon… it commemorated not merely the figurative birth-day of the sun in the renewal of its course, but the birth-day of the grand Deliverer. Among the Sabeans of Arabia, who regarded the moon, and not the sun, as the visible symbol of the favourite object of their idolatry, the same period was observed as the birth festival”.*

The GREAT COUNTERFEIT

- *“The Lord Moon was the great object of Arabian worship, and that Lord Moon, according to them, was born on the 24th of December, which clearly shows that the birth which they celebrated had no necessary connection with the course of the sun”.*

  – Rev Alexander Hislop

The GREAT COUNTERFEIT

- *"The name of the Lord Moon in the East seems to have been Meni"* see Isaiah 65:11
- *"Meni or Manai, signifies 'The Numberer,' and it is by the changes of the moon that the Egyptian priests pretended that the birth of the divine son of Isis, at the end of December, was premature, but this is evidently just the counterpart of the classic story of Bacchus, who, when his mother Semelé was consumed by the fire of Jove, was said to have been rescued in his embryo state from the flames that consumed her"*. – Rev Alexander Hislop

The GREAT COUNTERFEIT

- *"That it was the birth of the 'Lord Moon' that was celebrated among our ancestors at Christmas, we have remarkable evidence in the name that is still given in the lowlands of Scotland to the feast on the last day of the year, which seems to be a remnant of the old birth festival for the cakes then made are called NurCakes or Birth-cakes. That name is Hogmanay.*
- *'Hog-Manai' in Chaldee signifies 'The feast of the Numberer,' in other words, the festival of the Man of the Moon"*

– Rev Alexander Hislop

The GREAT COUNTERFEIT

- *“The very name by which Christmas is popularly known among ourselves—Yule-day—proves at once its Pagan and Babylonian origin. ‘Yule’ is the Chaldee name for an ‘infant’ or ‘little child,’ and the 25th of December was called by our Pagan Anglo-Saxon ancestors, ‘Yule-day,’ or the ‘Child’s day,’ and the night that preceded it, ‘Mother-night,’ long before they came in contact with Christianity”*

  - Rev Alexander Hislop

The TRUTH BEHIND THE LIE!

- *"Thus, the very customs of Christmas still existent cast surprising light at once on the revelations of grace made to all the earth, and the efforts made by Satan and his emissaries to materialise, carnalise, and degrade them"*
  Rev Alexander Hislop

- Pagan cultures have for thousands of years been deceived into worshipping a lie!
- How much more should we worship the truth?

KRONIA & SATURNALIA

- The Greeks used to celebrate a festival known as Kronia (honouring Chronos)
  - Chronos was known as the ruler during the mythical **Golden Age** where humans lived in a state of innocence and equality without the need for labour or slavery.
- The Romans celebrated this festival under the name Saturnalia,
  - to honour Saturn, a god of seed and sowing, and to recreate the joyful conditions of the **Golden Age**.

The Golden Age

- Bacchus/Saturn (Rm) & Chronos/Dionysus (Gr) was the god of wine, revelry, fertility, and the grape harvest
- Festivals like the Bacchanalia/Saturnalia (Rm) and Kronia (Gr) were times of social liberation
- Both therefore represent **fertility gods** whose worship involves an annual cycle of growth, death, and rebirth, which was central to the religion of the ancient world

The Golden Age

- Pagans celebrated ‘Christmas’ with the belief in death resurrection and a coming Golden Age!
- Satan, inadvertently, has inextricably linked Christmas to death, resurrection and a coming Golden Age.
- This is what Christmas is REALLY about!
- The World HAS been deceived!
- However, we know and CAN celebrate the truth!

The Mistletoe

- *“That mistletoe bough in the Druidic superstition, which as we have seen was derived from Babylon, was a representation of the Messiah, ‘The man—the branch.’*
- *The mistletoe was regarded as a divine branch—a branch that came from heaven and grew upon a tree that sprung out of the earth.*
- *Thus, by the engrafting of the celestial branch into the earthly tree, heaven and earth, that sin had severed, were joined together, and thus, the mistletoe bough became the token of divine reconciliation to man, the kiss being the well-known token of pardon and reconciliation”.*

The Mistletoe

- *"Whence could such an idea have come? May it not have come from Psalm 85:10-11?*

10 Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness
and peace have kissed each other.
11 Truth shall spring out of the earth; and
righteousness shall look down from heaven.

Psalm 85:10-11

- The 'trappings' of Christmas actually point to Christ as the Saviour and Redeemer of mankind!

The HOPE of Christmas!

19 And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God?
20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

Genesis 50:19-20

- God has taken the deception of Satan and turned it into an opportunity to save much people alive!
- The world today has all but forgotten the pagan religions of the past, yet the birth of Christ is still celebrated around the world!

The HOPE of Christmas!

- Christmas has become one of the greatest opportunities to witness to a lost world!
- At no other time of the year will supermarkets play
  - ‘Mary’s boy child, Jesus Christ…’
  - ‘Nowell… Born is the king of Israel!’
  - ‘O holy night… Christ is the Lord!’
  - ‘Come & behold Him…’
- Yes, the date is wrong!
- Yes, tradition has obscured some wonderful truths!
- But let’s use this Christmas to ‘Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is Lord!’

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Christmas 2025 Series

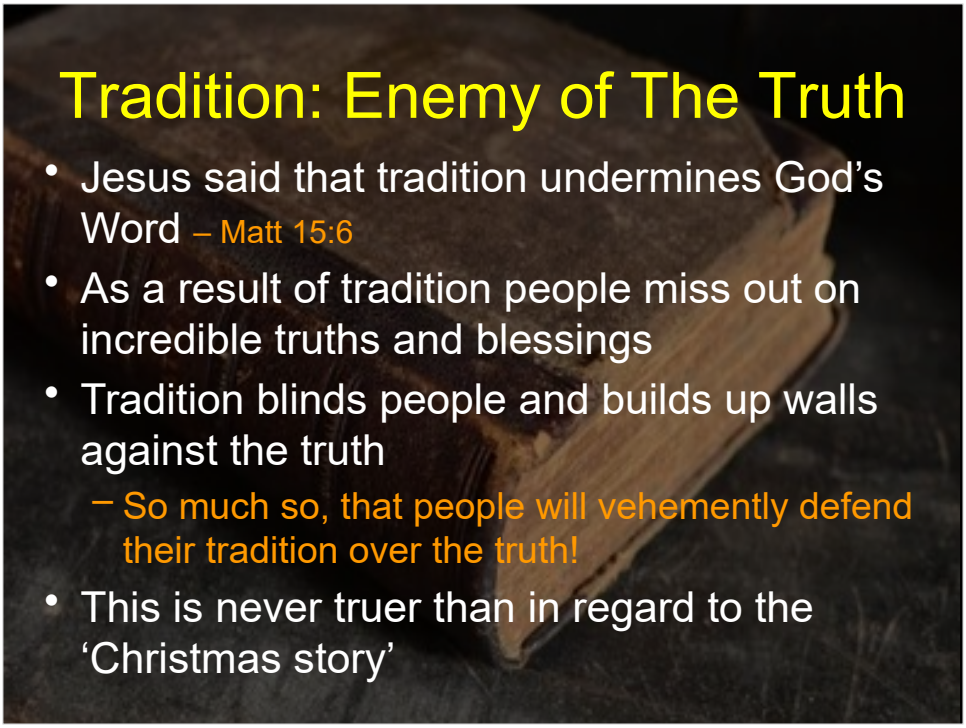


Celebrating the greatest gift of all !

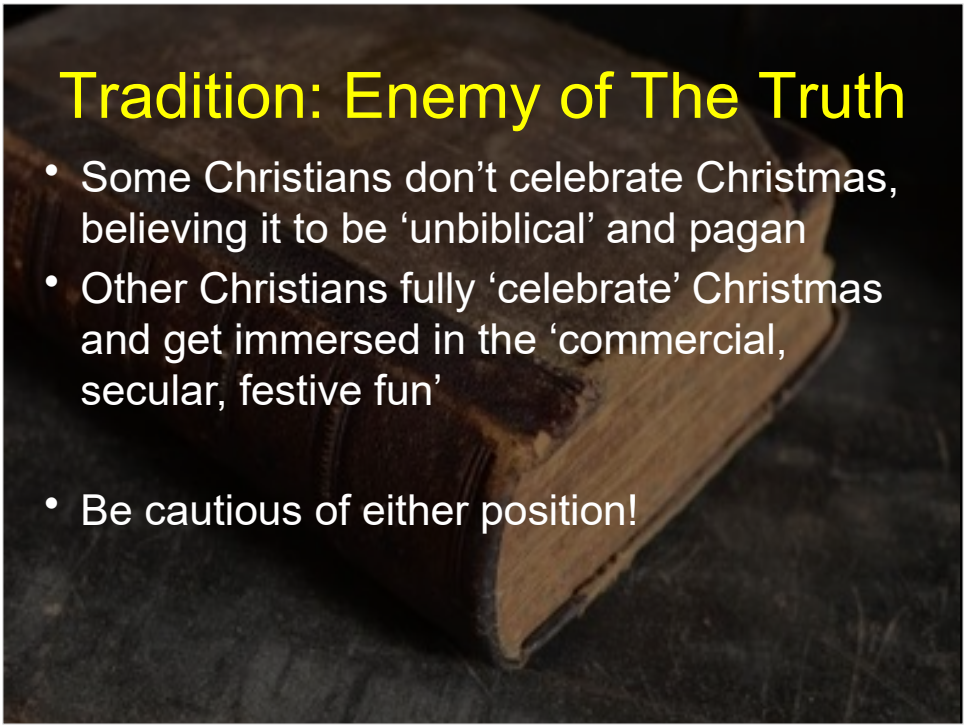
NEXT WEEK
Pt2 Christmas Present!

A Three-Part Study Rediscovering What Tradition Has Obscured

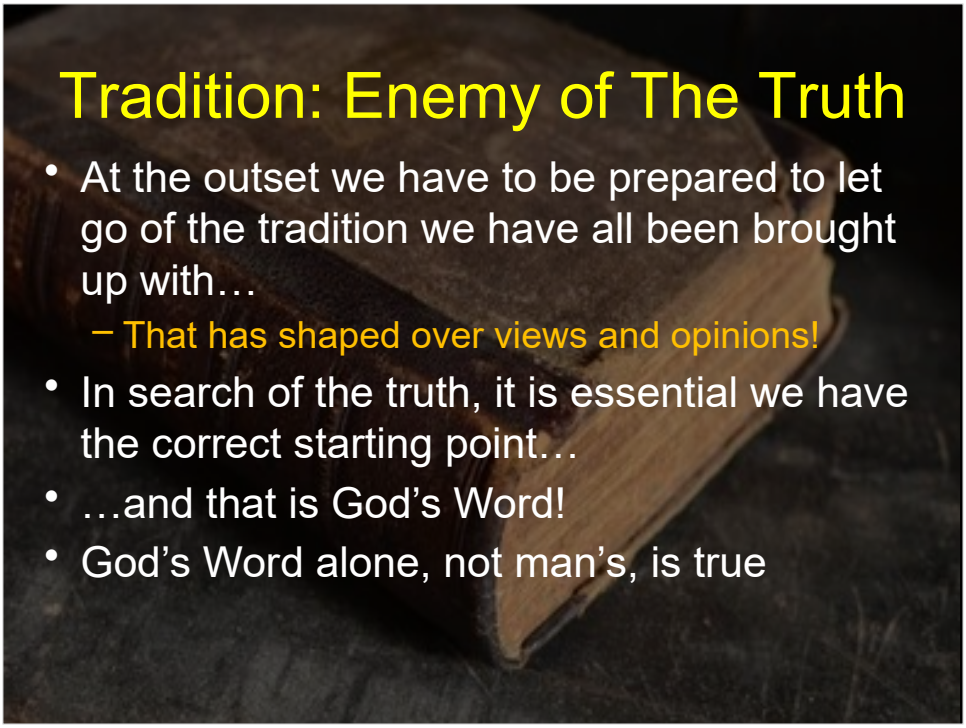

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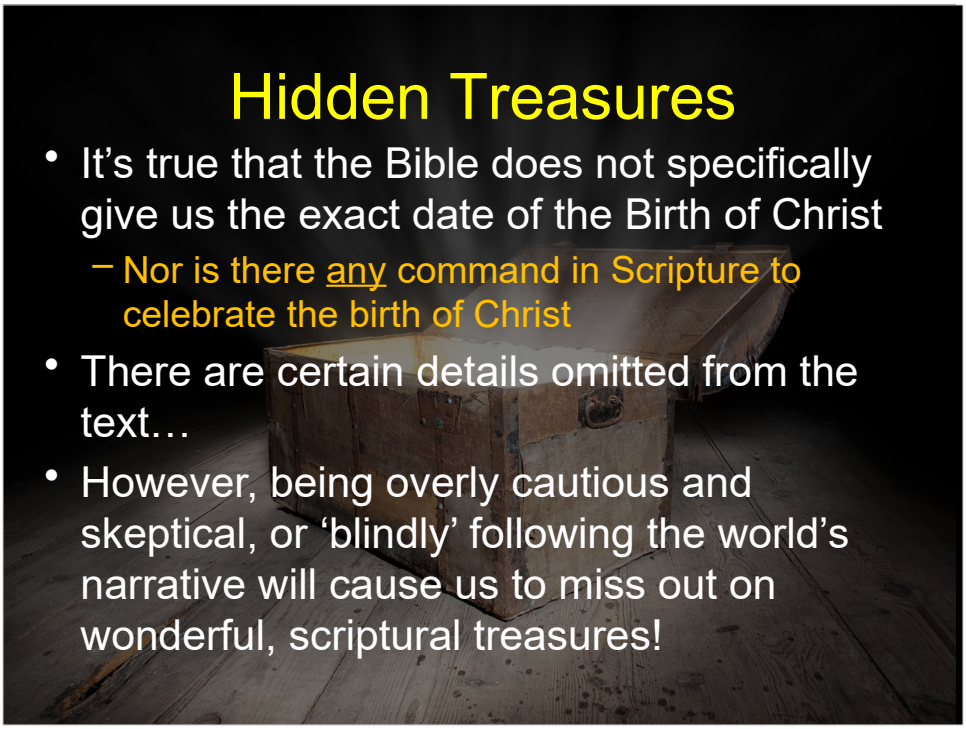
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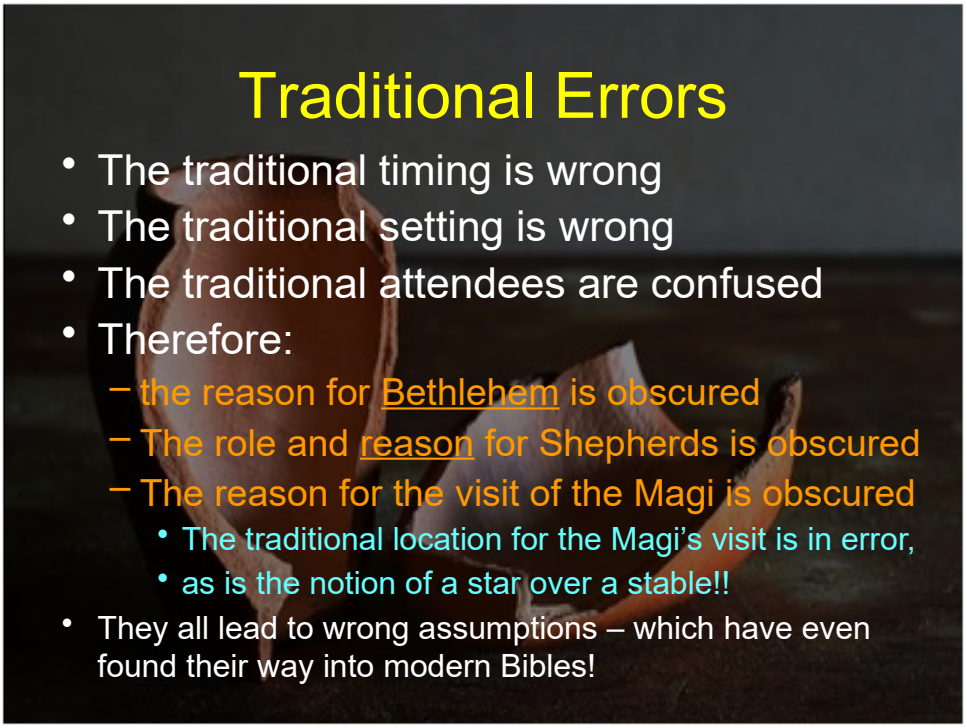
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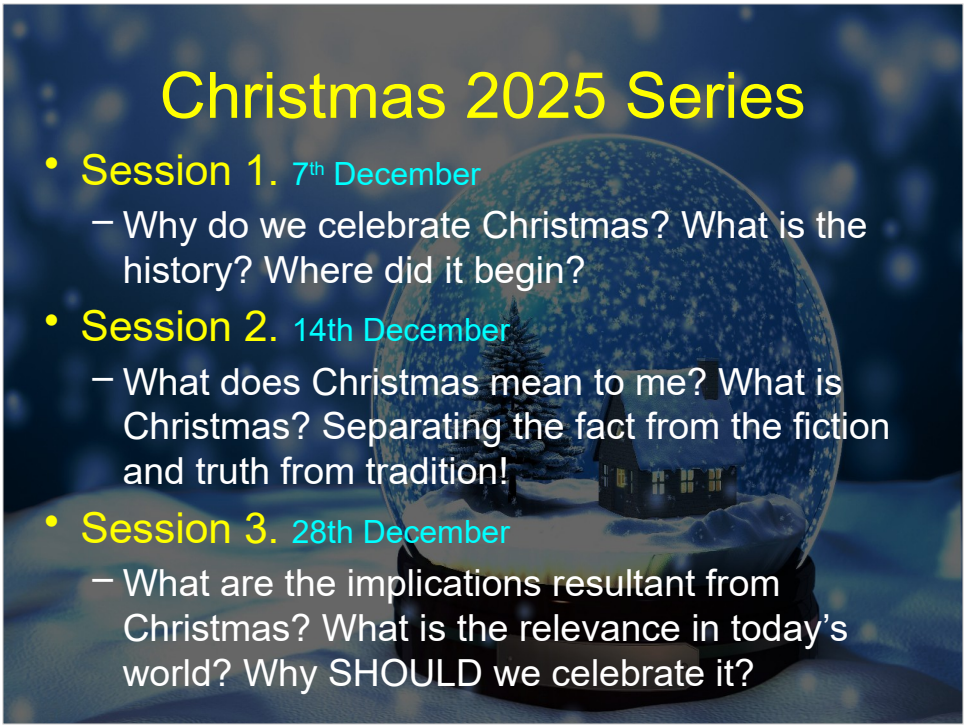
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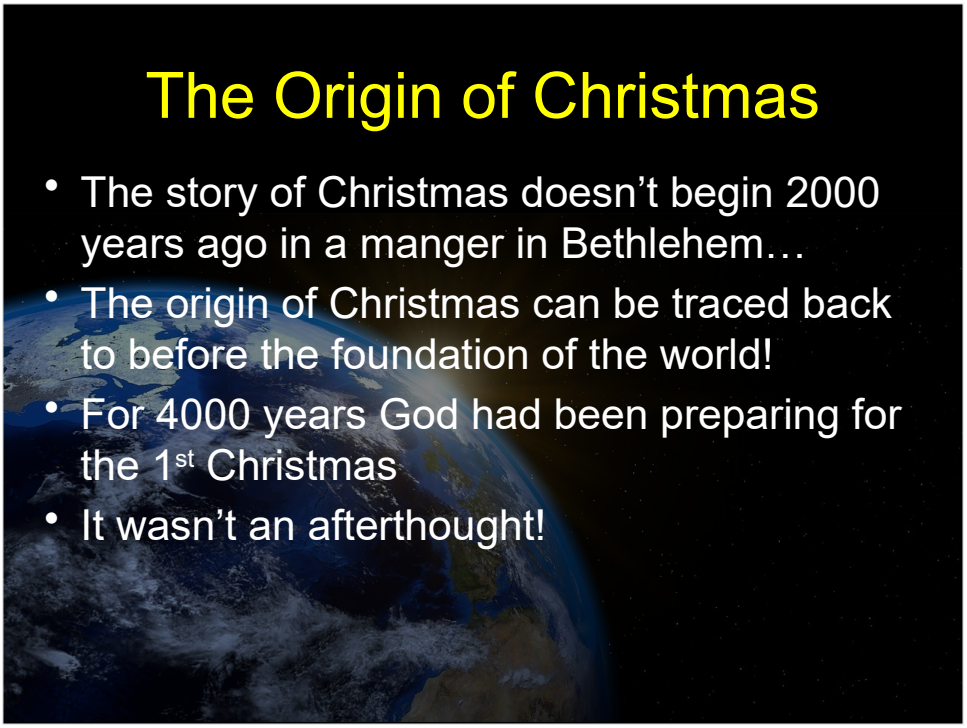
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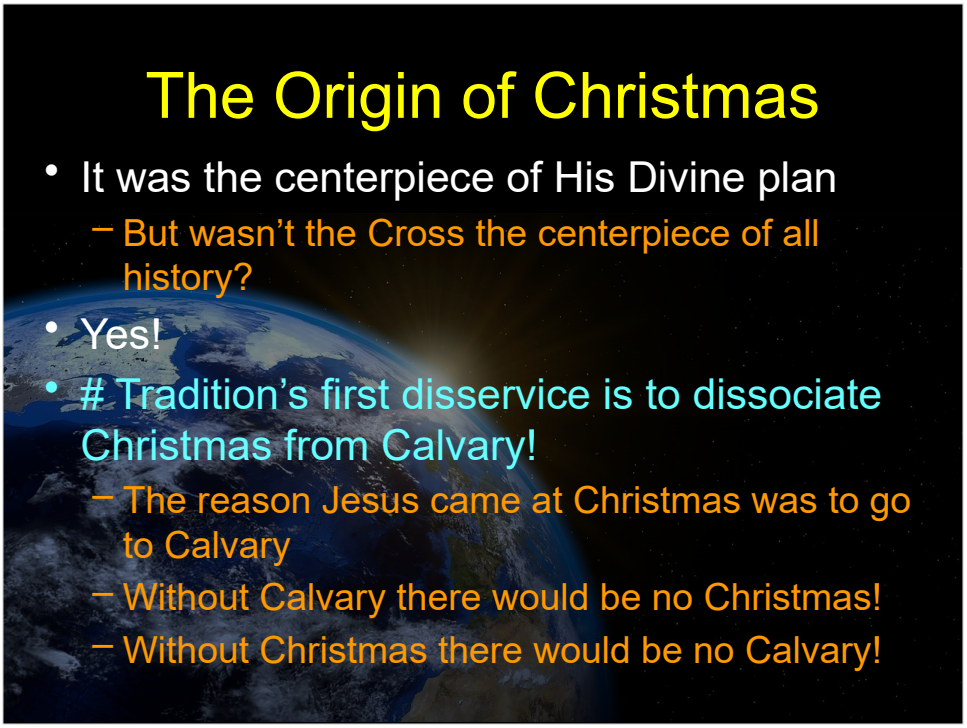
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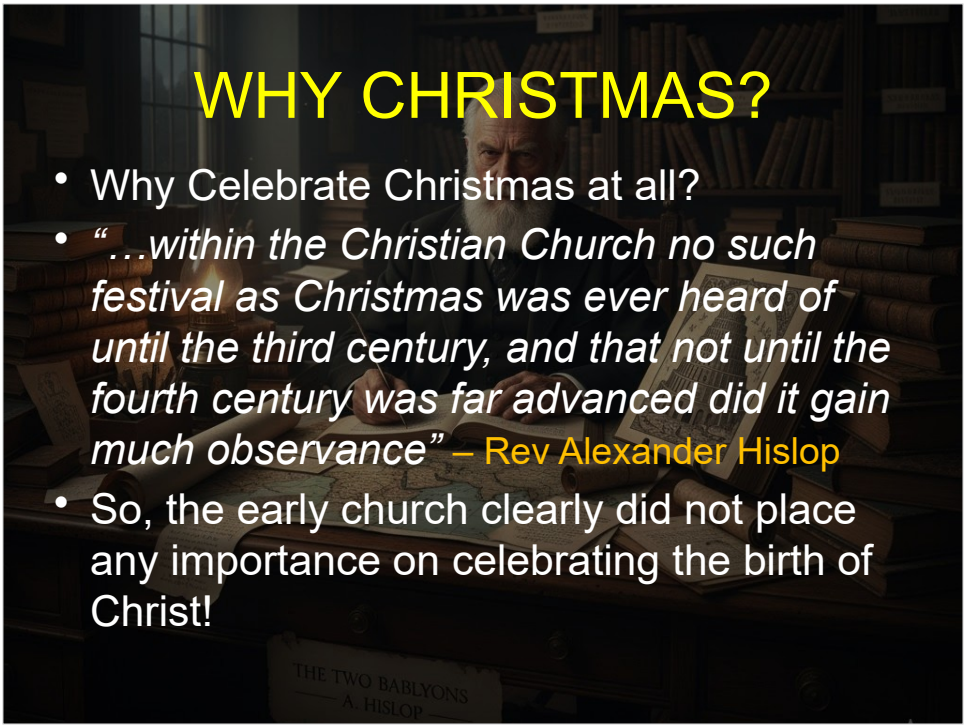
Merry Christmas offends!

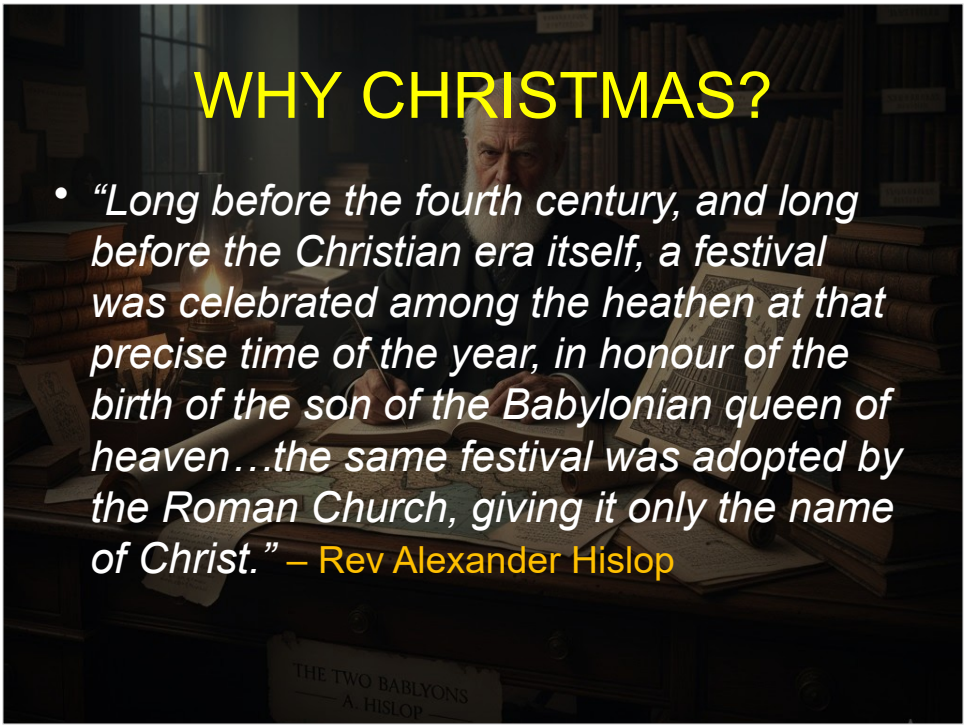
Try saying, "We wish you every blessing as we celebrate the birth of the One and Only King of Kings, the Saviour God incarnate, who came to lead us out of darkness and all false religion into the light of His love and grace – during this happy holiday season!"

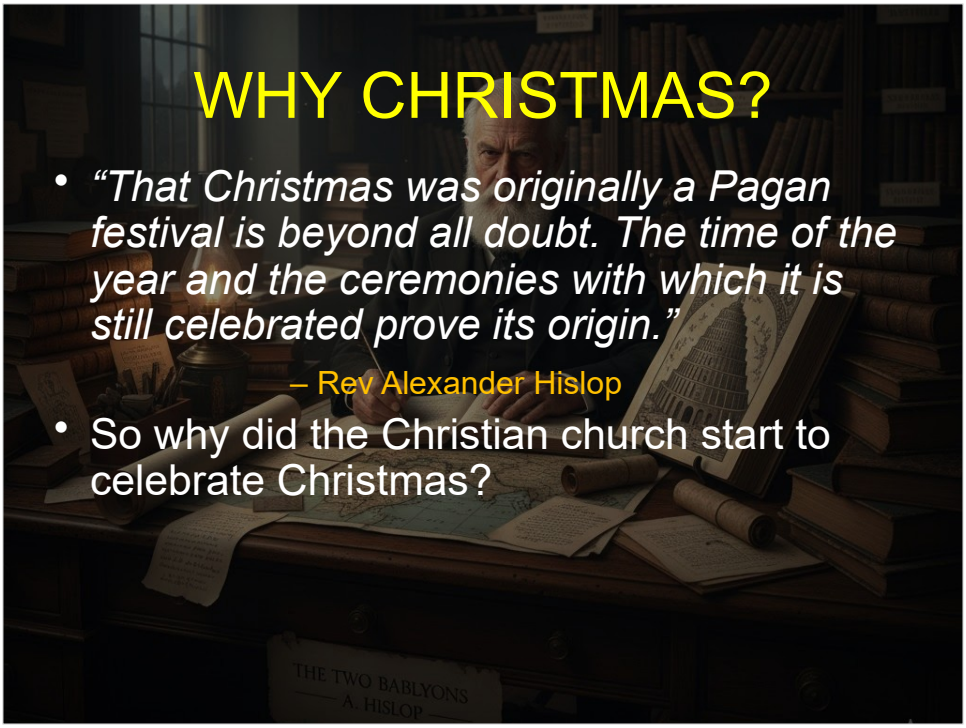
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THE TWO BABLYONS
A. HISLOP


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A. HISLOP



WHY CHRISTMAS?

- *"That Christmas was originally a Pagan festival is beyond all doubt. The time of the year and the ceremonies with which it is still celebrated prove its origin."*

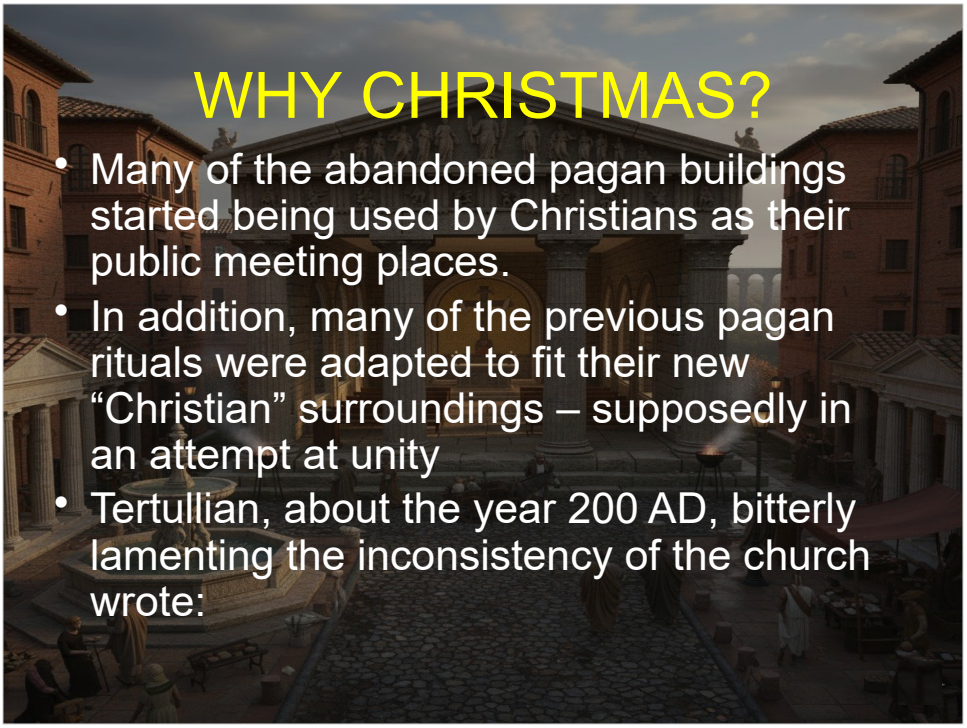
  – Rev Alexander Hislop

- So why did the Christian church start to celebrate Christmas?

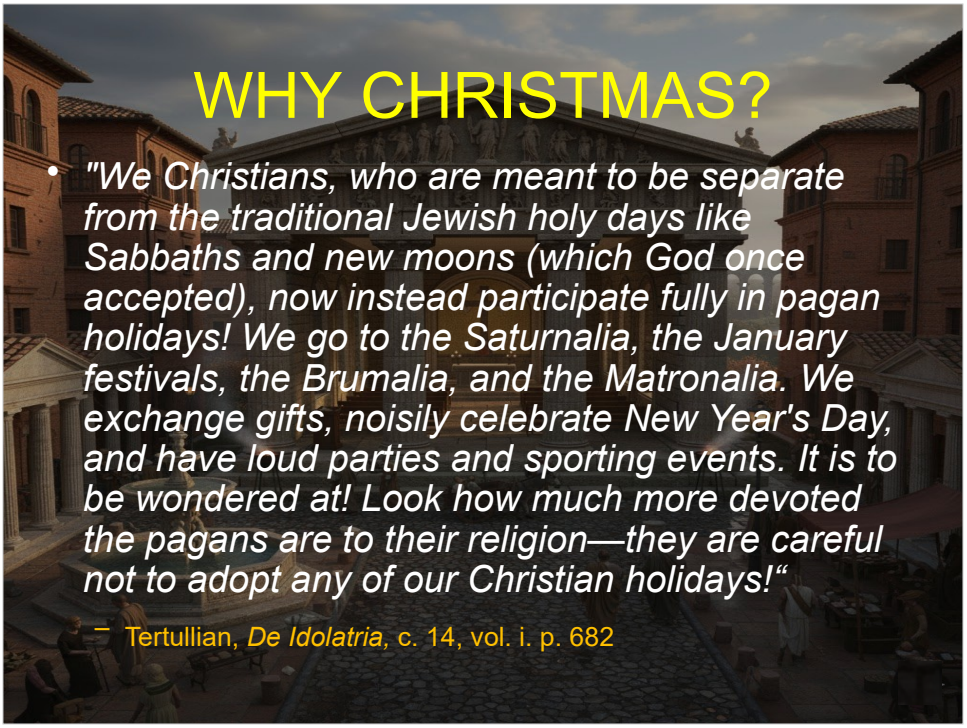
WHY CHRISTMAS?

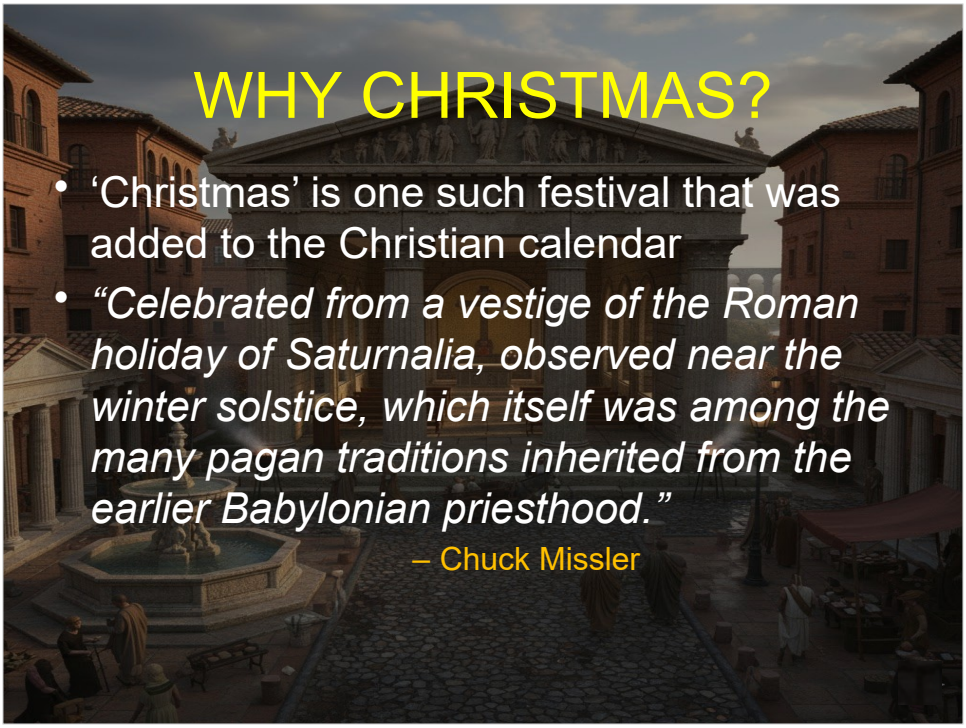
- Something monumental occurred in 312 AD that changed Christianity forever!
- Emperor Constantine legalised Christianity!
  - Up to that point, Christianity had been outlawed and Christians had suffered great persecution, having to meet in secret
- At the same time, the pagan cults were 'ousted' from their temples and society at large
- *"the persecuted Christians exchanged the rags of hiding for the silks of the court"*

  – Chuck Missler



Tertullian, even in his day, about the year 230 AD, bitterly lamenting the inconsistency of the disciples of Christ in this respect, and contrasting it with the strict fidelity of the Pagans to their own superstition.


WHY CHRISTMAS?
"We Christians, who are meant to be separate from the traditional Jewish holy days like Sabbaths and new moons (which God once accepted), now instead participate fully in pagan holidays! We go to the Saturnalia, the January festivals, the Brumalia, and the Matronalia. We exchange gifts, noisily celebrate New Year's Day, and have loud parties and sporting events. It is to be wondered at! Look how much more devoted the pagans are to their religion—they are careful not to adopt any of our Christian holidays!“
– Tertullian, De Idolatria, c. 14, vol. i. p. 682


WHY CHRISTMAS?
• 'Christmas' is one such festival that was added to the Christian calendar
• *"Celebrated from a vestige of the Roman holiday of Saturnalia, observed near the winter solstice, which itself was among the many pagan traditions inherited from the earlier Babylonian priesthood."*
– Chuck Missler

WHY CHRISTMAS?

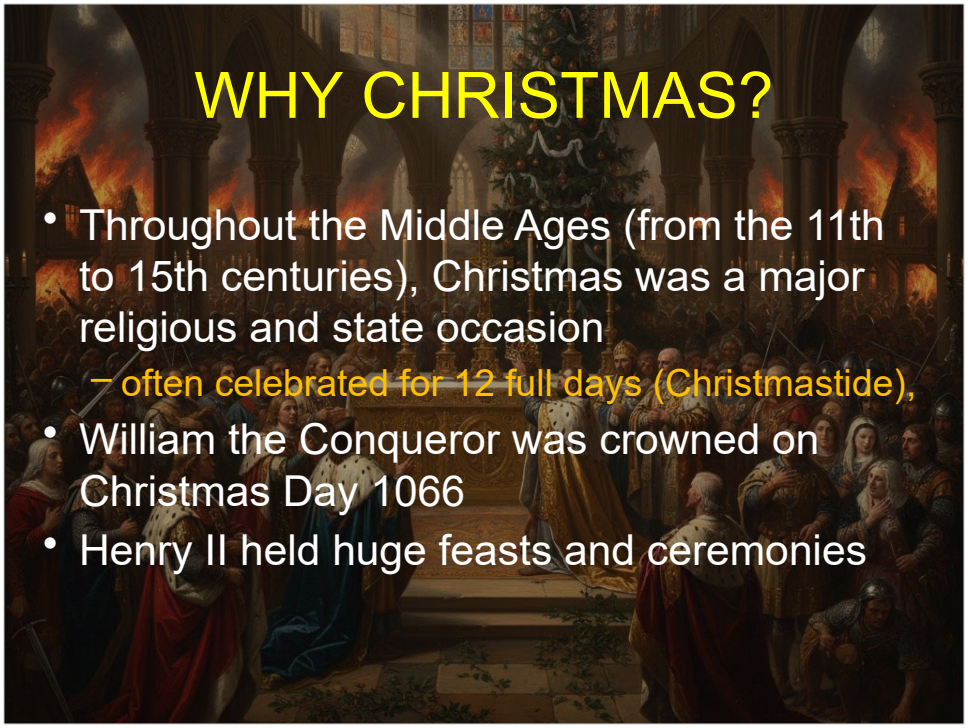
- The first recorded mention of December 25 as the birth of Christ was by Sextus Julius Africanus in 221 A.D.
- The first official mention of Christmas as being a liturgical feast or Christian holiday is The Calendar of Philocalus in 354 A.D.
  - which assumed Jesus' birth to be Friday, December 25, 1 AD
- It 'just so happened' that this was the date already celebrated by pagan Romans as 'Saturnalia'

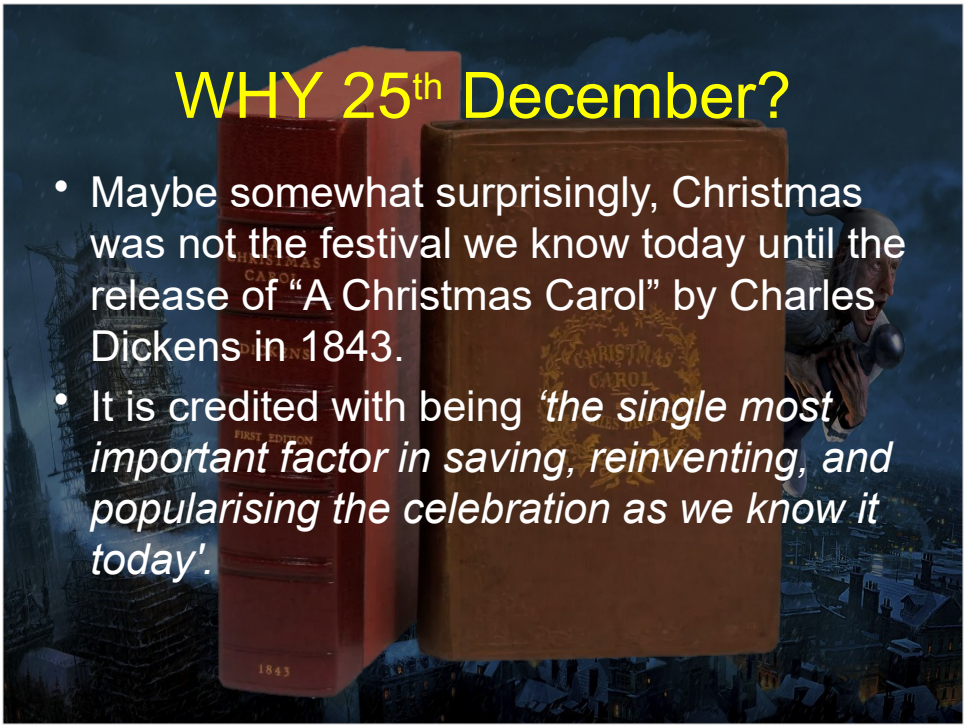
WHY CHRISTMAS?

- The date of December 25th, was officially proclaimed as a Christian festival by Pope Leo I in 440 AD




WHY CHRISTMAS?
• The first recorded celebration of Christmas in England took place on Christmas Day in 597 AD when St Augustine oversaw the mass baptism of 10,000 Saxons in Kent, marking the beginning of widespread acceptance of Christianity in England.


WHY CHRISTMAS?
• Throughout the Middle Ages (from the 11th to 15th centuries), Christmas was a major religious and state occasion
– often celebrated for 12 full days (Christmastide),
• William the Conqueror was crowned on Christmas Day 1066
• Henry II held huge feasts and ceremonies



In the 17th century, the Puritans under Oliver Cromwell actually banned Christmas for a time, viewing it as a pagan-influenced festival of excessive feasting.

The Father of Lies

44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

John 8:44

- Satan knew from Gen 3:15 that God would send a Saviour, born of a women.
- In an attempt to thwart God's plan, Satan tried to corrupt the earth so the Seed could not be born.

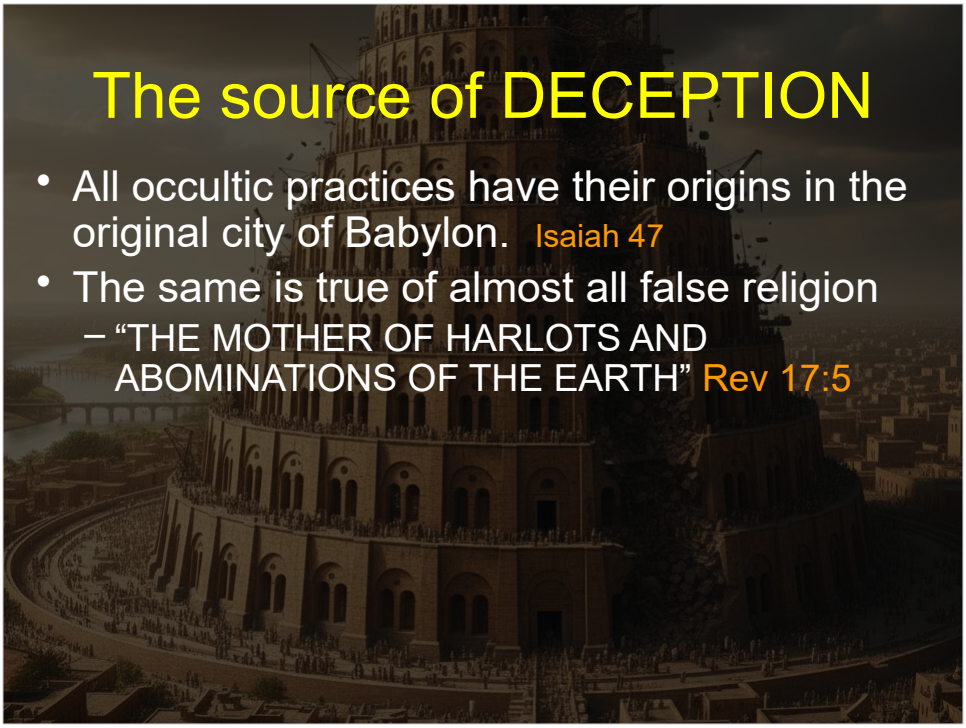
The Father of Lies

- In response, God sent a flood to rid the earth of the threat (Read Genesis 6!)
- After the flood, Satan launched a more subtle (and brilliant!) threefold stratagem:

1) World Government (Founded in Babel)
   To try and manipulate mankind against the Seed

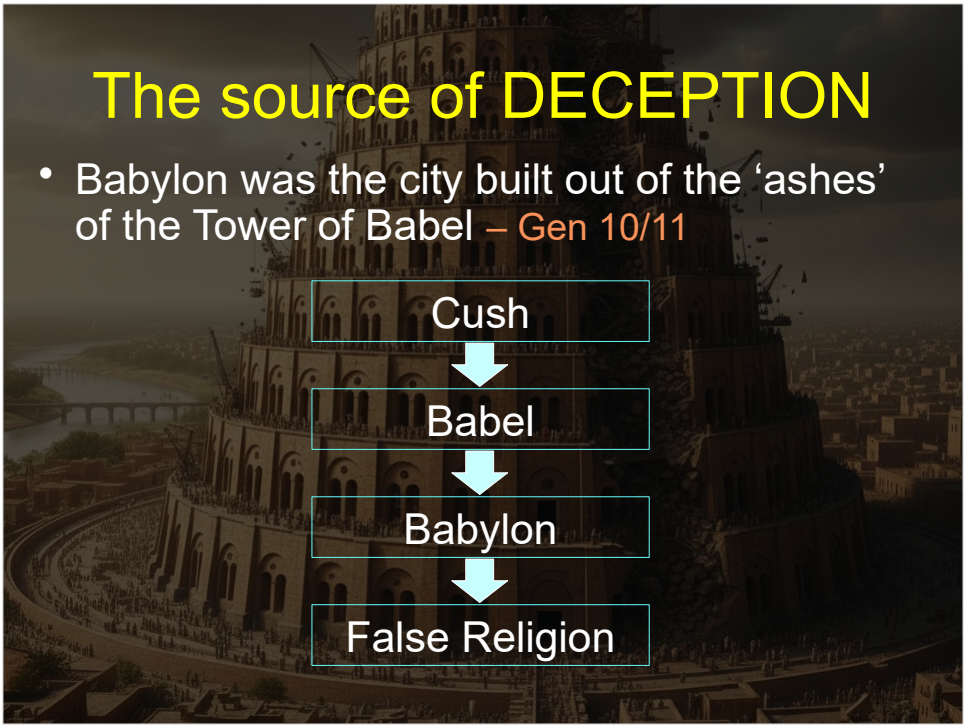
2) False Religion (Begun in Babylon)
   To deceive mankind into following a false seed

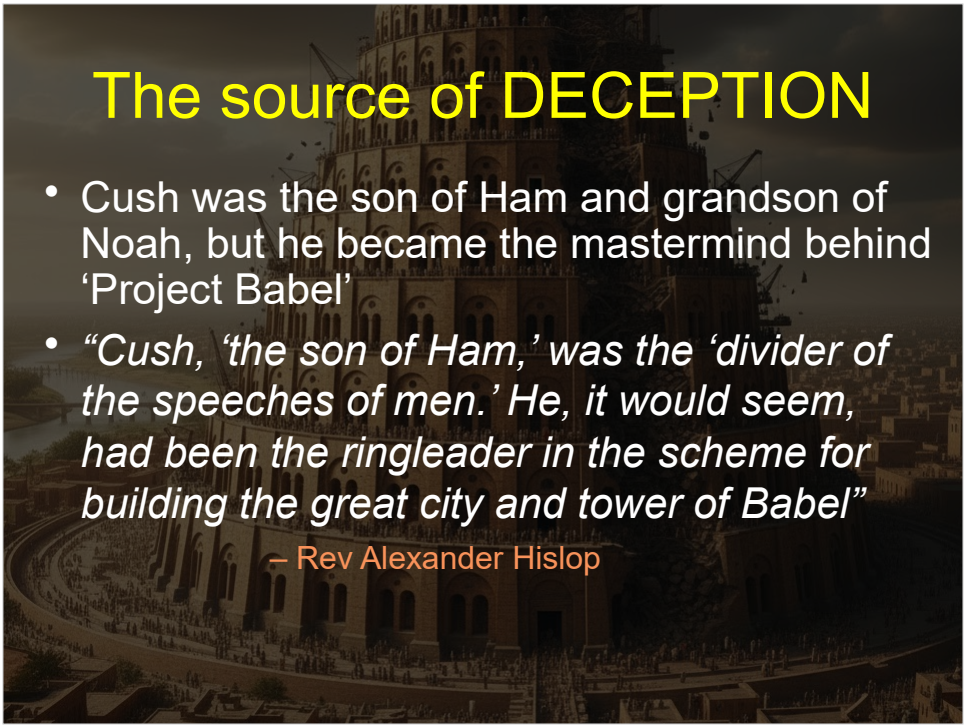
3) 'Seek & Destroy' Plan (the post-flood Nephilim)
   To attempt to annihilate the 'threat' of the real Seed

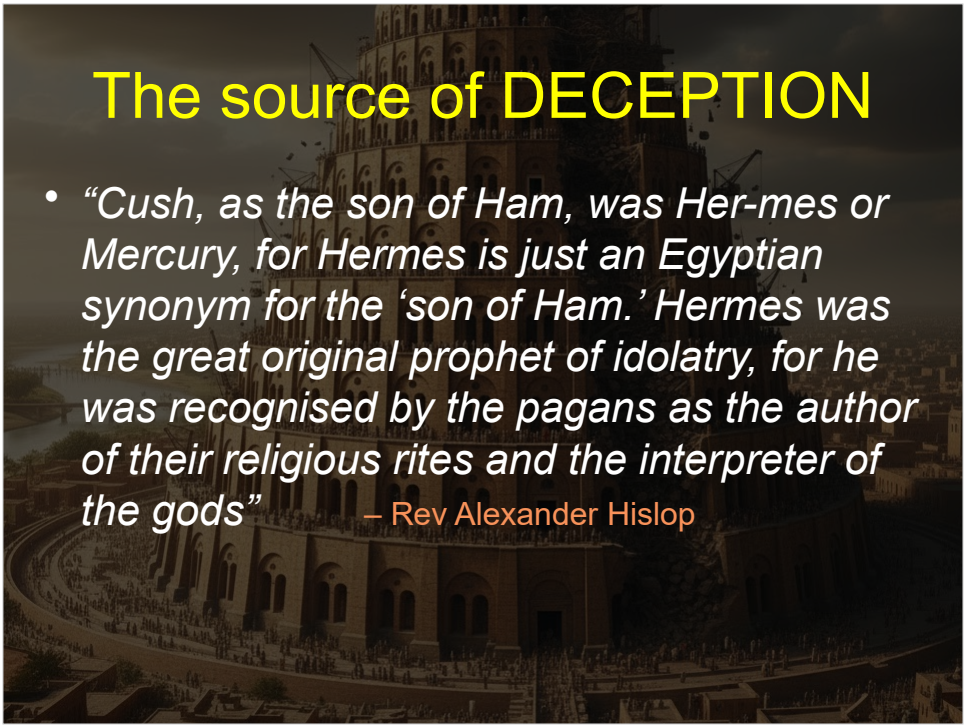

The source of DECEPTION
• All occultic practices have their origins in the original city of Babylon. Isaiah 47
• The same is true of almost all false religion
– "THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" Rev 17:5

The source of DECEPTION

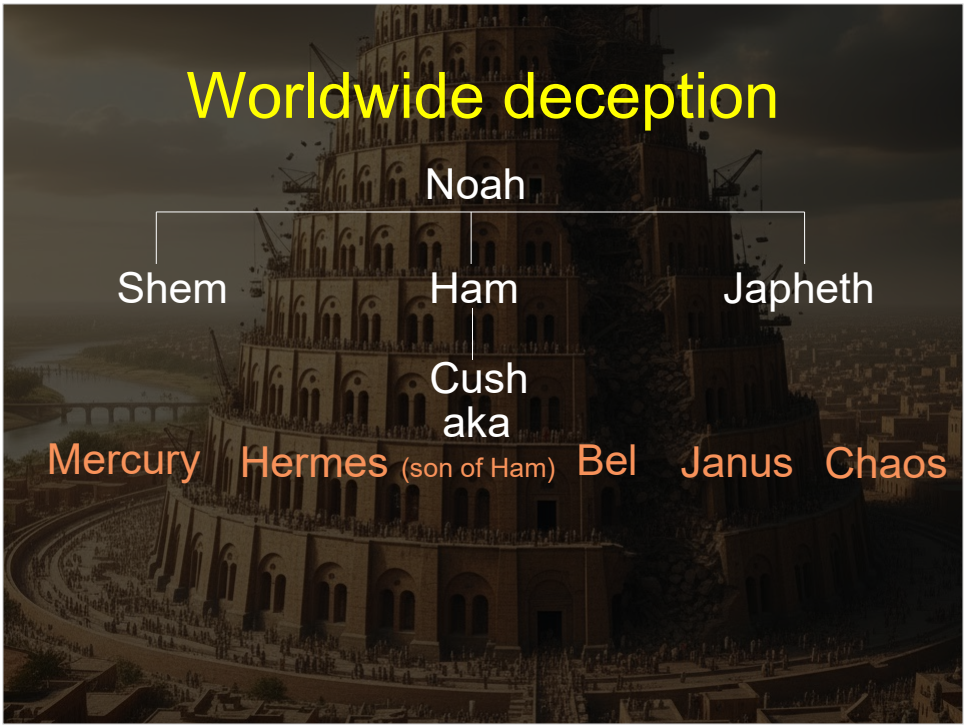
- Babylon was the city built out of the ‘ashes’ of the Tower of Babel – Gen 10/11




The source of DECEPTION
• Cush was the son of Ham and grandson of Noah, but he became the mastermind behind 'Project Babel'
• *"Cush, 'the son of Ham,' was the 'divider of the speeches of men.' He, it would seem, had been the ringleader in the scheme for building the great city and tower of Babel"*
– Rev Alexander Hislop


The source of DECEPTION
• "Cush, as the son of Ham, was Her-mes or Mercury, for Hermes is just an Egyptian synonym for the 'son of Ham.' Hermes was the great original prophet of idolatry, for he was recognised by the pagans as the author of their religious rites and the interpreter of the gods" – Rev Alexander Hislop

Je Sin E Us


Worldwide deception
Noah
Shem
Ham
Japheth
Cush
aka
Mercury
Hermes
(son of Ham)
Bel
Janus
Chaos



Merodach

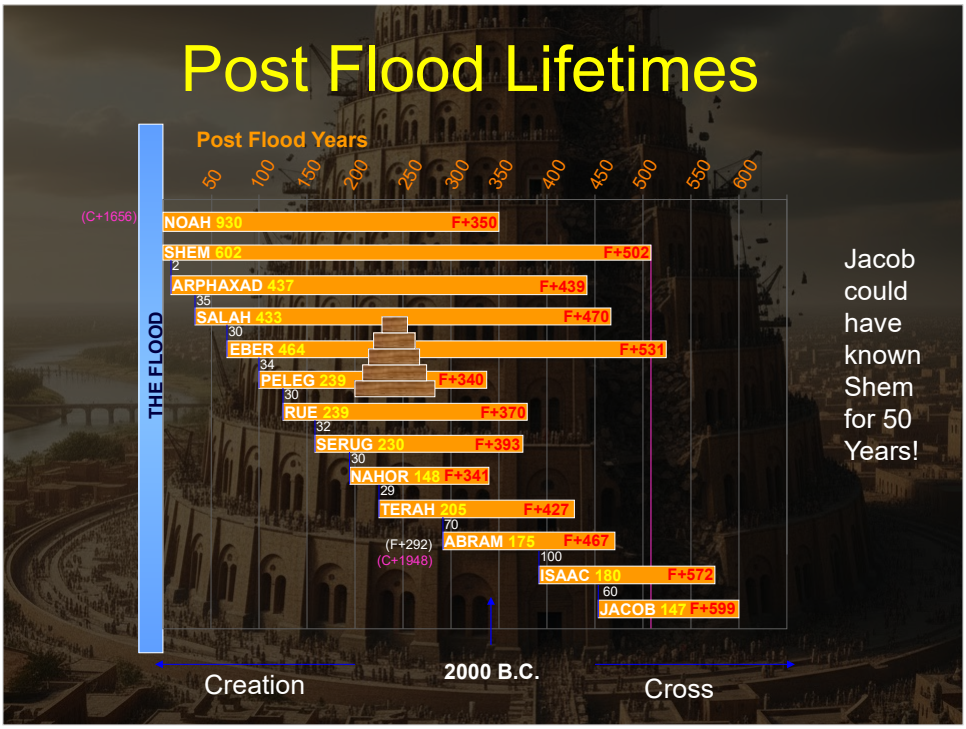
'The great Rebel,'



Merodach

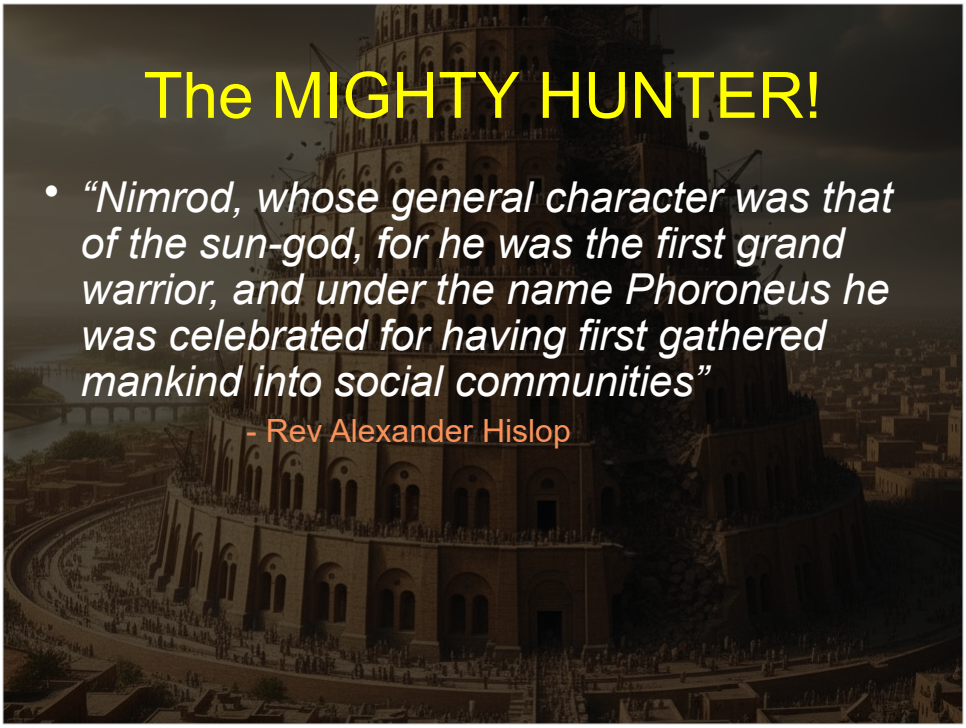
'The great Rebel,'

Post Flood Lifetimes



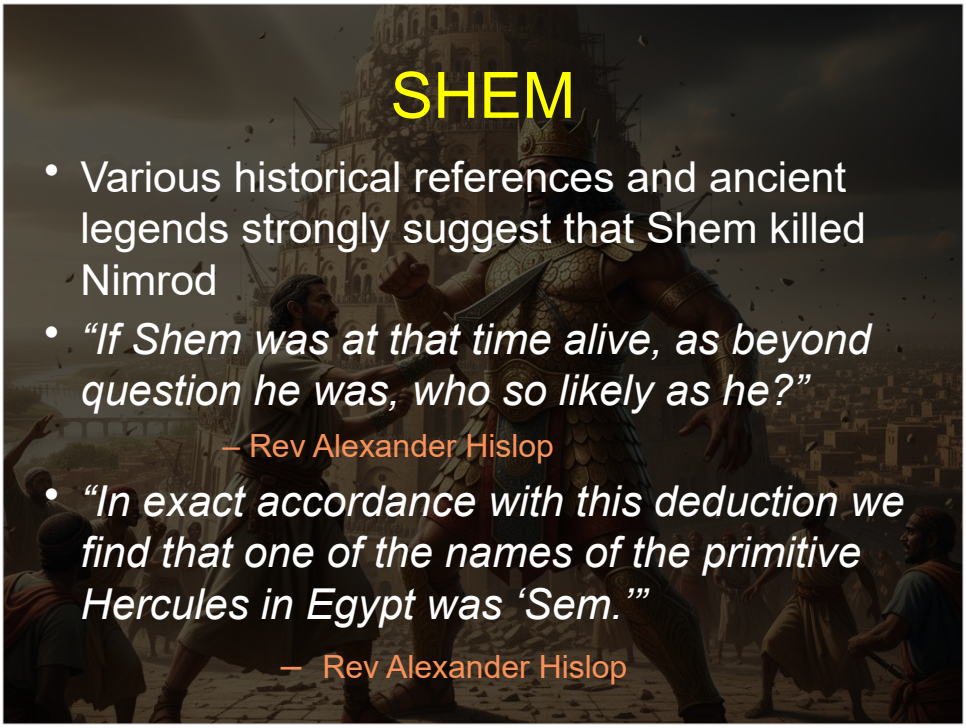
Jacob could have known Shem for 50 Years!

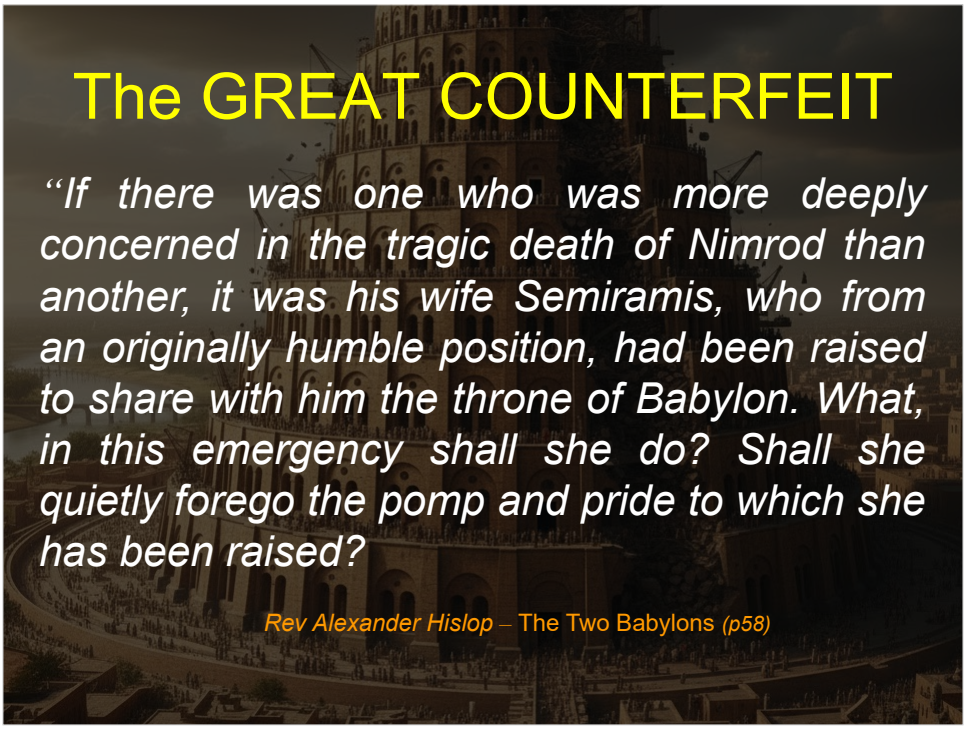

The MIGHTY HUNTER!
8 And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.
9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.
10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.
Genesis 10:8-10

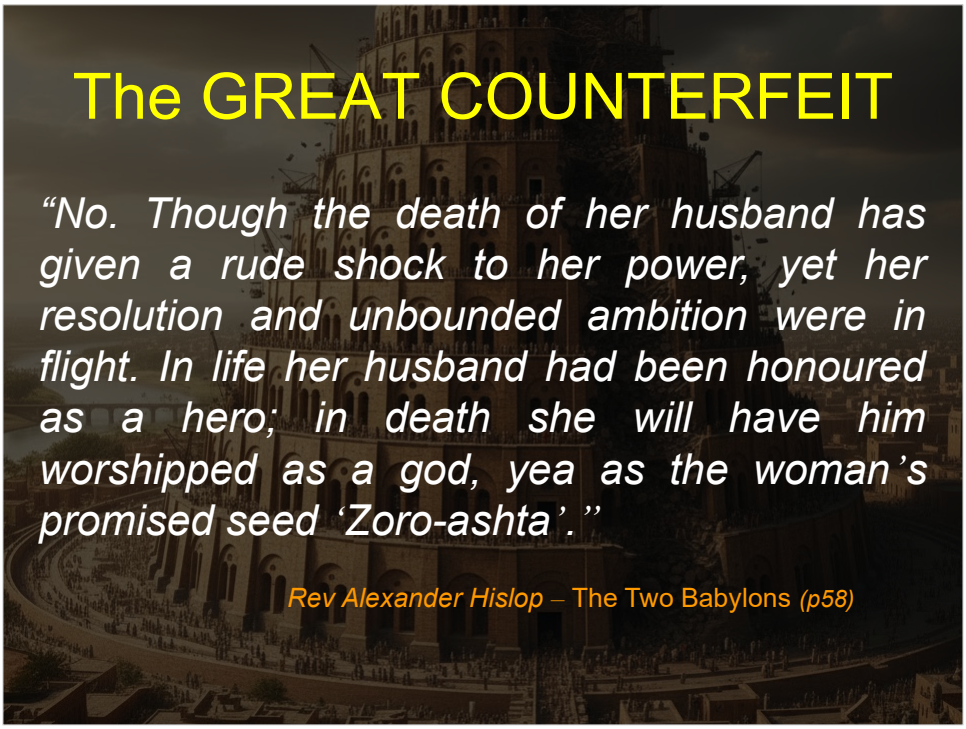

The MIGHTY HUNTER!
• *“Nimrod, whose general character was that of the sun-god, for he was the first grand warrior, and under the name Phoroneus he was celebrated for having first gathered mankind into social communities”*
- Rev Alexander Hislop

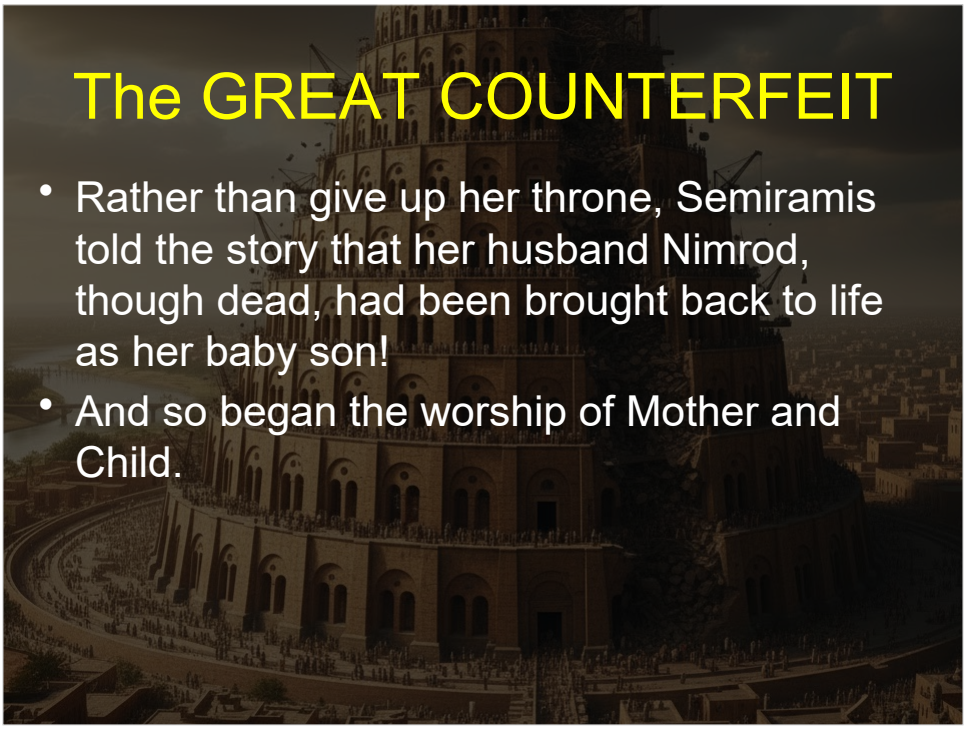
The MIGHTY HUNTER!

- Nimrod become the first ‘world ruler’
- He is spoken of as ‘a mighty hunter’ Gen 10:9
  - How did he become so powerful?
  - What was he hunting?
  - Could it have been the Nephalim?
  - History is replete with such legends!
- Regardless, he introduced apostasy like never before…
- Shem to the rescue!

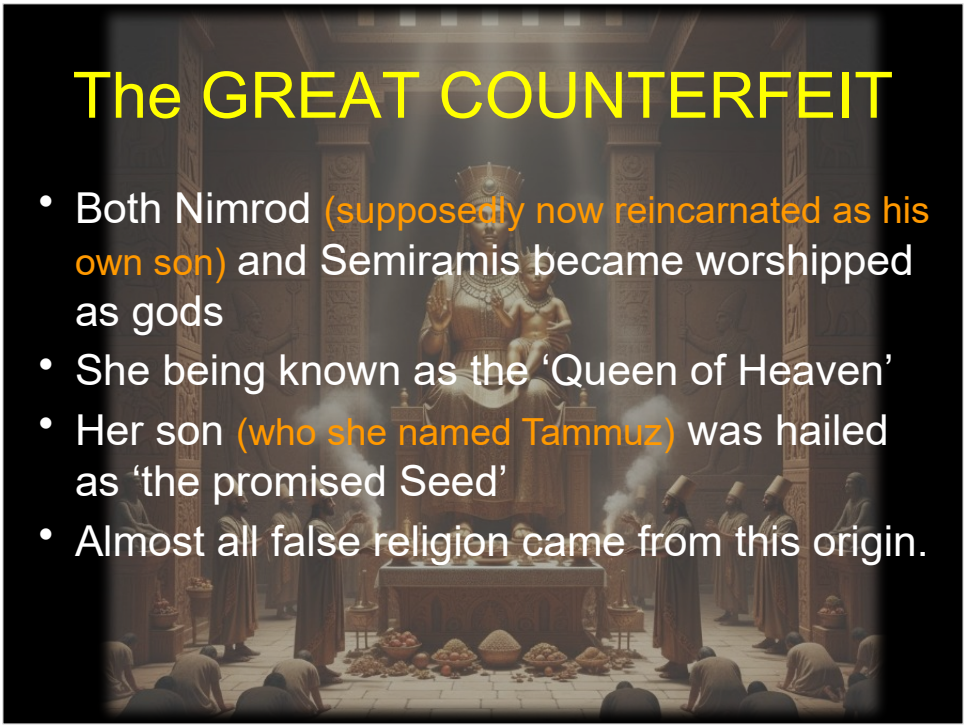

SHEM
• Various historical references and ancient legends strongly suggest that Shem killed Nimrod
• *"If Shem was at that time alive, as beyond question he was, who so likely as he?"*
– Rev Alexander Hislop
• *"In exact accordance with this deduction we find that one of the names of the primitive Hercules in Egypt was 'Sem.'"*
– Rev Alexander Hislop


The GREAT COUNTERFEIT
"If there was one who was more deeply concerned in the tragic death of Nimrod than another, it was his wife Semiramis, who from an originally humble position, had been raised to share with him the throne of Babylon. What, in this emergency shall she do? Shall she quietly forego the pomp and pride to which she has been raised?
Rev Alexander Hislop – The Two Babylons (p58)


The GREAT COUNTERFEIT
"No. Though the death of her husband has given a rude shock to her power, yet her resolution and unbounded ambition were in flight. In life her husband had been honoured as a hero; in death she will have him worshipped as a god, yea as the woman's promised seed 'Zoro-ashta'."
Rev Alexander Hislop – The Two Babylons (p58)


The GREAT COUNTERFEIT
• Rather than give up her throne, Semiramis told the story that her husband Nimrod, though dead, had been brought back to life as her baby son!
• And so began the worship of Mother and Child.

The GREAT COUNTERFEIT



- Both Nimrod (supposedly now reincarnated as his own son) and Semiramis became worshipped as gods
- She being known as the ‘Queen of Heaven’
- Her son (who she named Tammuz) was hailed as ‘the promised Seed’
- Almost all false religion came from this origin.

The GREAT COUNTERFEIT



- Thousands of years before the birth of the real Seed – Jesus Christ – false religions worshipping the ‘Mother and Child’ were spreading out all around the world.

The GREAT COUNTERFEIT

- In Egypt the Mother and Child were worshipped under the names of Isis and Osiris.



The GREAT COUNTERFEIT

In India, even to this day as Isi and Iswara;



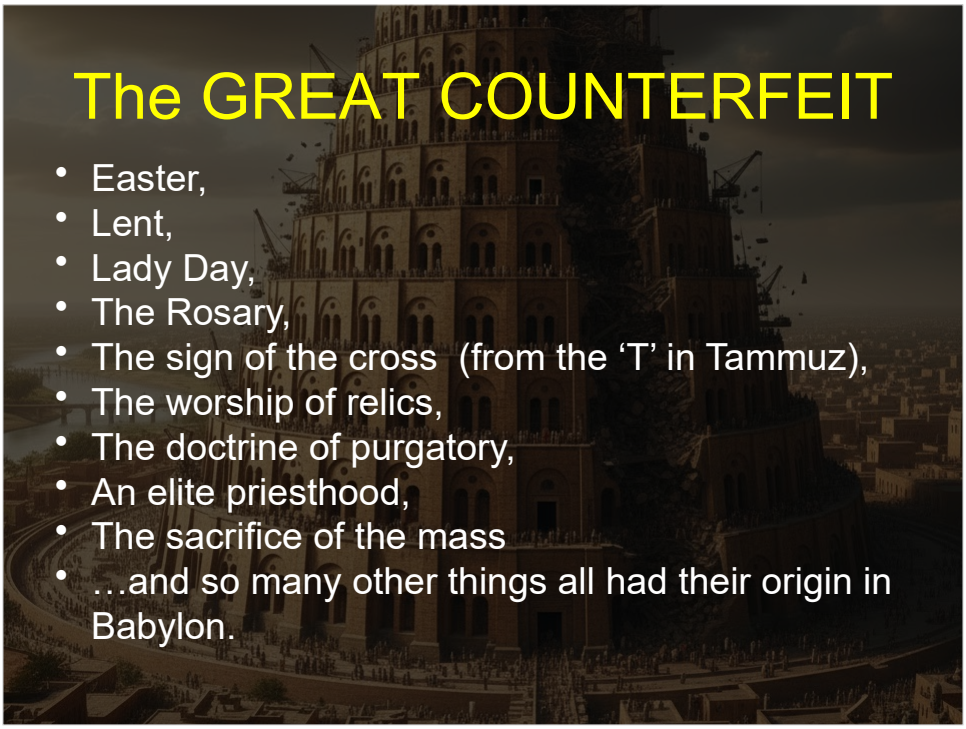

The GREAT COUNTERFEIT
– In Asia as Cybele and Deoius;

The GREAT COUNTERFEIT

– In pagan Rome as Fortuna and Jupiter




The GREAT COUNTERFEIT
– In Greece as Irene and Plutus;


The GREAT COUNTERFEIT
Easter,
Lent,
Lady Day,
The Rosary,
The sign of the cross (from the 'T' in Tammuz),
The worship of relics,
The doctrine of purgatory,
An elite priesthood,
The sacrifice of the mass
…and so many other things all had their origin in Babylon.


The GREAT COUNTERFEIT
"Even in Tibet, in China and Japan, the Jesuit missionaries were astonished to find the counterpart of [the Roman Catholic] Madonna and her child as devoutly worshipped as in Papal Rome itself; Shing Moo, the Holy Mother in China, being represented with a child in her arms, and a glory around her, exactly as if a Roman Catholic artist had been employed to set her up"
Rev Alexander Hislop – The Two Babylons

The GREAT COUNTERFEIT

- Tammuz, the son of Nimrod and his queen, Semiramis, was identified with the Babylonian Sun God and worshiped following the winter solstice, ~ December 22-23
  - As the days became shorter and shorter through the winter, they become the shortest at the winter solstice
  - Tammuz was thought to have died, memorialised by burning a ["*yule*"] log in the fireplace.
- His "rebirth" was celebrated by replacing the log with a trimmed tree the following morning.
- Ezekiel records that the women of Jerusalem were found weeping for Tammuz! (Ezek 8:14)

(The Chaldean word for infant is "***yule***." This is the origin of the "yule log.")

The GREAT COUNTERFEIT

- *"'On the 24th [of December], the Arabians celebrated the birthday of the Lord—that is the Moon… it commemorated not merely the figurative birth-day of the sun in the renewal of its course, but the birth-day of the grand Deliverer. Among the Sabeans of Arabia, who regarded the moon, and not the sun, as the visible symbol of the favourite object of their idolatry, the same period was observed as the birth festival".*

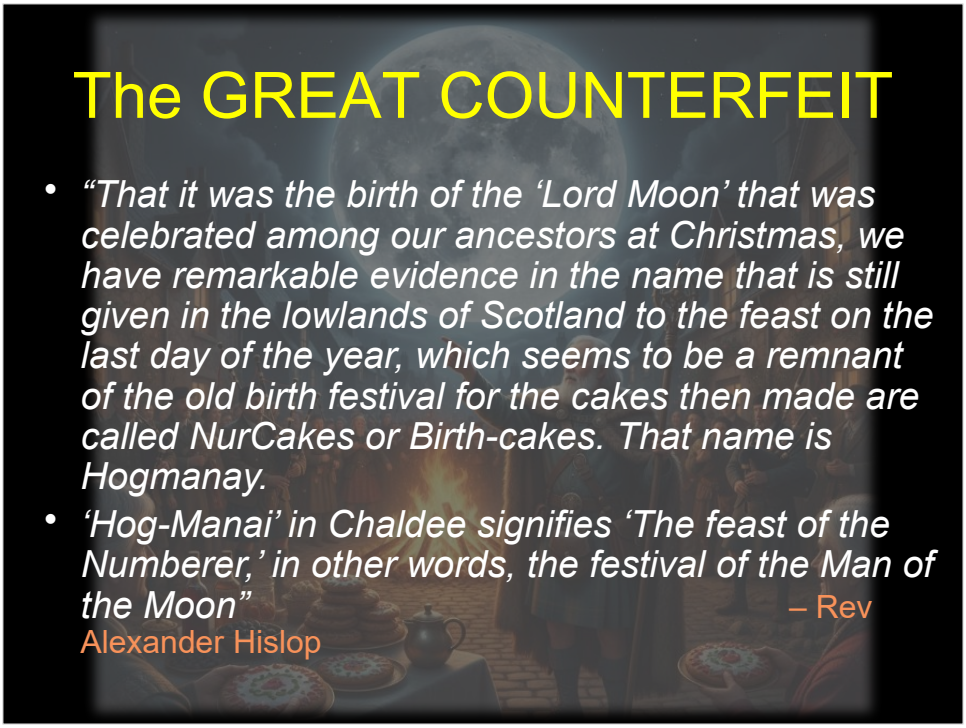
Thus, we read in Stanley's Sabean Philosophy:



Thus, we read in Stanley's Sabean Philosophy:

The GREAT COUNTERFEIT

- *"The name of the Lord Moon in the East seems to have been Meni"* see Isaiah 65:11
- *"Meni or Manai, signifies 'The Numberer,' and it is by the changes of the moon that the Egyptian priests pretended that the birth of the divine son of Isis, at the end of December, was premature, but this is evidently just the counterpart of the classic story of Bacchus, who, when his mother Semelé was consumed by the fire of Jove, was said to have been rescued in his embryo state from the flames that consumed her".* – Rev Alexander Hislop

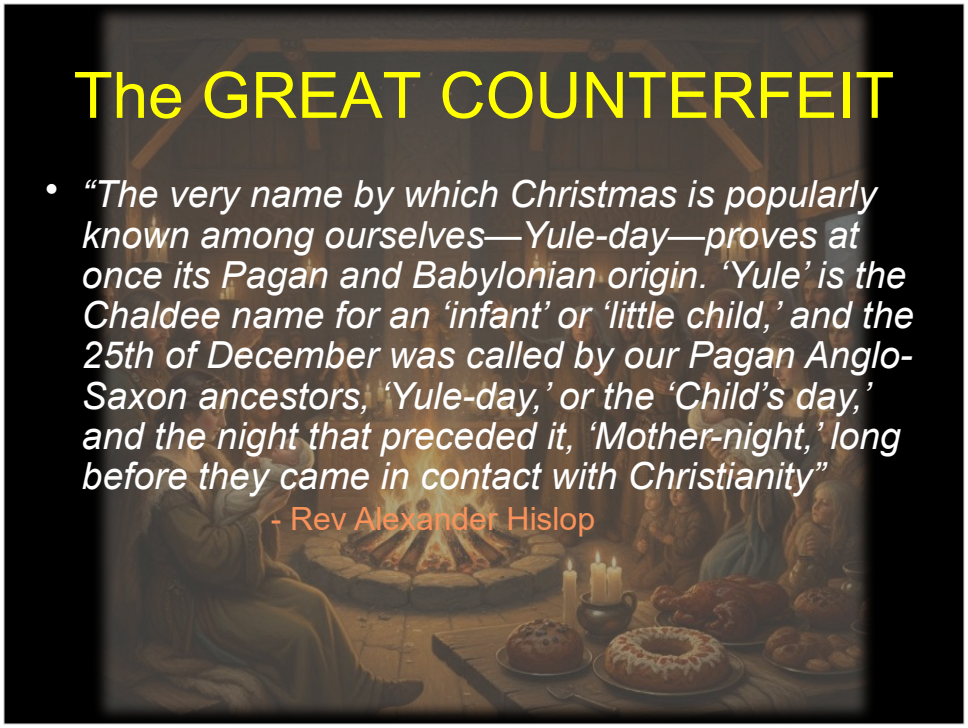


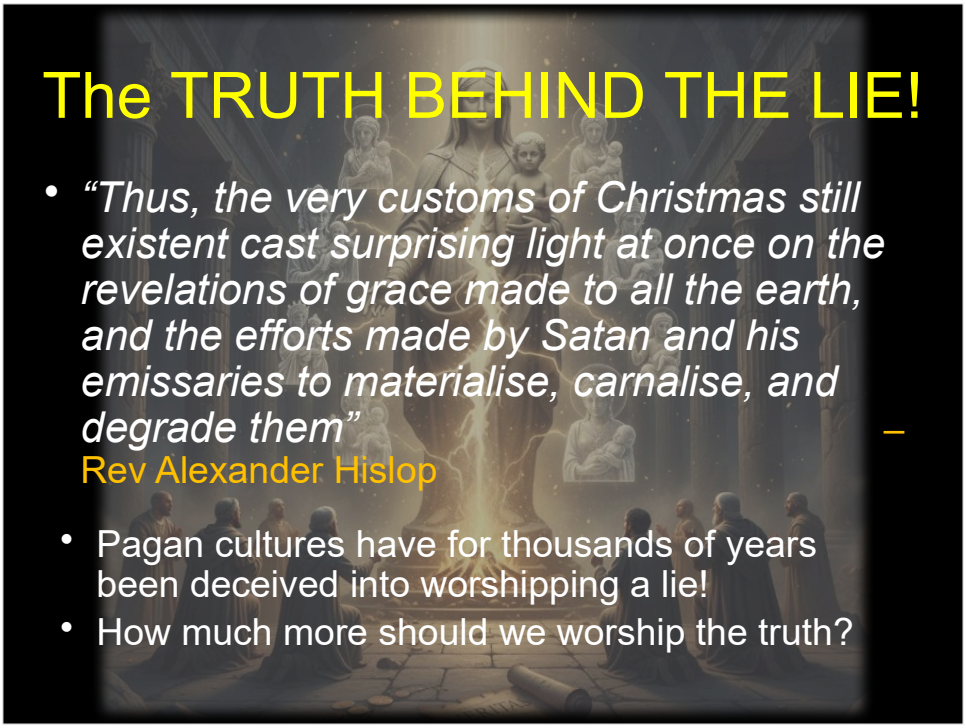
Meni, 'the numberer,' on the other hand, seems just a synonym for the name of Cush

The GREAT COUNTERFEIT

- *"The very name by which Christmas is popularly known among ourselves—Yule-day—proves at once its Pagan and Babylonian origin. 'Yule' is the Chaldee name for an 'infant' or 'little child,' and the 25th of December was called by our Pagan Anglo-Saxon ancestors, 'Yule-day,' or the 'Child's day,' and the night that preceded it, 'Mother-night,' long before they came in contact with Christianity"*

  - Rev Alexander Hislop





(The Chaldean word for infant is "***yule***." This is the origin of the "yule log.")



In the 17th century, the Puritans under Oliver Cromwell actually banned Christmas for a time, viewing it as a pagan-influenced festival of excessive feasting.

The Golden Age

- Bacchus/Saturn (Rm) & Chronos/Dionysus (Gr) was the god of wine, revelry, fertility, and the grape harvest
- Festivals like the Bacchanalia/Saturnalia (Rm) and Kronia (Gr) were times of social liberation
- Both therefore represent **fertility gods** whose worship involves an annual cycle of growth, death, and rebirth, which was central to the religion of the ancient world

In the 17th century, the Puritans under Oliver Cromwell actually banned Christmas for a time, viewing it as a pagan-influenced festival of excessive feasting.

The Golden Age

- Pagans celebrated ‘Christmas’ with the belief in death resurrection and a coming Golden Age!
- Satan, inadvertently, has inextricably linked Christmas to death, resurrection and a coming Golden Age.
- This is what Christmas is REALLY about!
- The World HAS been deceived!
- However, we know and CAN celebrate the truth!

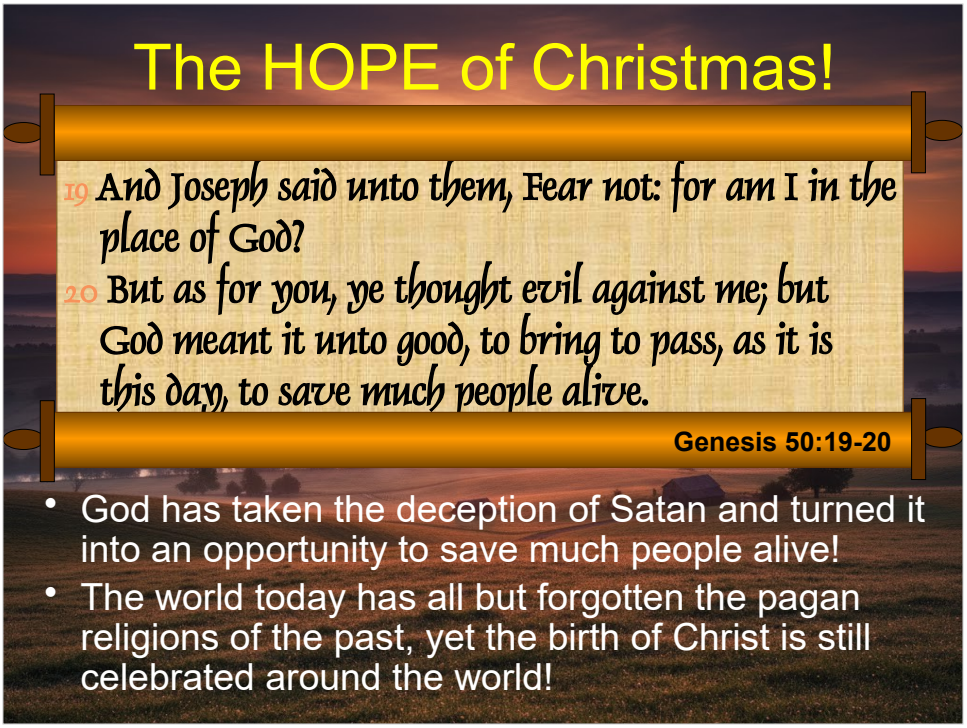
The Mistletoe

- *"That mistletoe bough in the Druidic superstition, which as we have seen was derived from Babylon, was a representation of the Messiah, 'The man—the branch.'*
- *The mistletoe was regarded as a divine branch—a branch that came from heaven and grew upon a tree that sprung out of the earth.*
- *Thus, by the engrafting of the celestial branch into the earthly tree, heaven and earth, that sin had severed, were joined together, and thus, the mistletoe bough became the token of divine reconciliation to man, the kiss being the well-known token of pardon and reconciliation".*

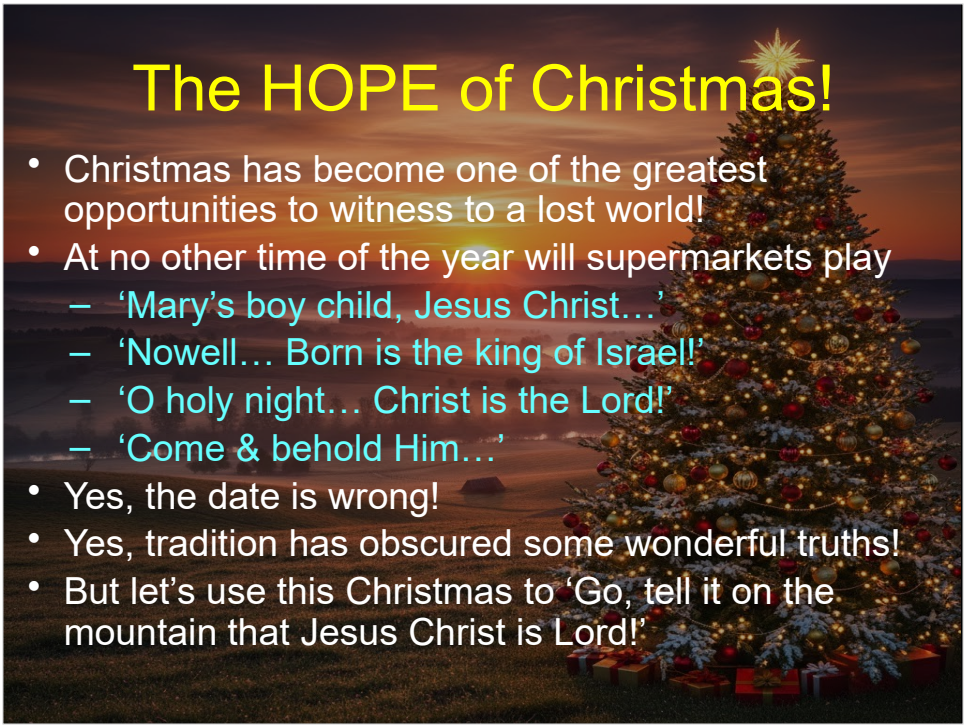
(The Chaldean word for infant is "***yule***." This is the origin of the "yule log.")



Mercy and truth are met together—righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall spring out of the earth [in consequence of the coming of the promised Saviour] and righteousness shall look down from heaven.'



Mercy and truth are met together—righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall spring out of the earth [in consequence of the coming of the promised Saviour] and righteousness shall look down from heaven.'


The HOPE of Christmas!
• Christmas has become one of the greatest opportunities to witness to a lost world!
• At no other time of the year will supermarkets play
– 'Mary's boy child, Jesus Christ…'
– 'Nowell… Born is the king of Israel!'
– 'O holy night… Christ is the Lord!'
– 'Come & behold Him…'
• Yes, the date is wrong!
• Yes, tradition has obscured some wonderful truths!
• But let's use this Christmas to 'Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is Lord!'


calvary chapel portsmouth
Christmas 2025 Series
Celebrating the greatest gift of all !
NEXT WEEK
Pt2 Christmas Present!
A Three-Part Study Rediscovering What Tradition Has Obscured