

### **Isaiah 4 – The Church in Apostasy**

Lets first look at the symbolism of the message in verses one.

- 1 As we know from the Bible prophecy that a woman represents a Church in the Bible Rev 12:1-6, Ephesians 5:22-33
- 2 Seven just as 10 in the bible means as many as full of completion Zechariah 8:23.
- 3 Food in the bible is likened unto bread which is the word of God Deuteronomy 8:3 and Jesus declares himself the bread of life John 6:25-35.
- 4 Clothing is the righteousness hence our righteousness is termed as filthy rags Isaiah 64:6 and referred as naked in Revelation 3:18

With the symbol already unmasked, we find out that this churches which have fallen in apostasy they call upon the name of the Lord but they have their own message and trust in their own self-righteousness. What does it mean to eat your own food and wear your own clothes? 2 Timothy 3:5: whereupon you profess the name of God but not follow sound doctrine and so this church preach that Jesus crucified the Moral Law (Ten Commandments on the cross while Christ himself says he didn't come to do away with the law but to magnify it Mathew 5:17 and he rather says that if you love me obey my commands John 14:15. Paul says we cannot break the Law for the grace to abound Romans 6:15, 7:7. So this churches worship in vain because they follow rules made by men Mathew 15:8, Isaiah 29:13. And so the Lord says in the following verses that He shall have a remnant who shall not forsake the truth and the His Commands Rev 14: 12 but shall endure and lead many to righteousness Daniel 12:3, then He shall come and take His Spotless Church Home Ephesians 5:26-27.

### **Mathew 25:1-13 – The Ten Virgins**

Virgins in the Bible represent a people or a Church walking in absolute truth Rev 14:1-5 and we are told Christ is the Bridegroom Ephesians 5:24, Mark 2:20. Oil denotes the Holy Spirit Zechariah 4:1-6. And so after the Church walking in absolute truth for long and Jesus was long in coming it fell in a slumber and drowsy but verse six says that there was a warning of a cry. Which event is this? In 1844 there was a message that really was forgotten: the 3 Angels Message and part of it was the sanctuary message. Their was a mis-interpretation because the people who were dealing with prophesy thought that the sanctuary denoted the earth only to be found that it is the heavenly sanctuary Daniel 8:14. Many left the true church because of the disappointment because they were teaching of the second comin and not the ministration of the Jesus Christ in the Heavenly sanctuary. The wise continue with journey and entered with Christ in the holy of holies and we find that the Holy Spirit which continues to influence the church and cannot be bought hence those who dwelt on human principles gave up but the ones who waited upon the Holy Spirit continues to be illuminated. The other issue is the Sabbath that has been a real contention between the churches and so Mathew 25:1-13 Church can be likened unto the Church in Isaiah 4:1-6. by the time this churches will want to enter into the Holy of Holies it will be already closed and the door shut by Christ Himself hence be told "I don't know you" Mathew 7:21-29, Mathew 25:11, 12.

### **PAGANISM ABOUT CHRISTMAS**

The time in which Christ was born has been considered a subject of great importance among Christians. However, the matter has been considered of no moment by Him who inspired the evangelists; as not one hint is dropped on the subject, by which it might be possible even to guess nearly to the time, except the chronological fact mentioned in the synoptic gospels. A late writer makes though following remark: "The first Christians placed the baptism of Christ about the beginning of the fifteenth year of Tiberius; and thence reckoning back thirty years, they placed his birth in the forty-third year of the Julian period,

the forty-second of Augustus, and the twenty-eighth after the victory at Actium. This opinion obtained till A. D. 527, when Dionysius Exiguus invented the vulgar account. Learned and pious men have trifled egregiously on this subject, making that of importance which the Holy Spirit, by his silence, has plainly informed them is of none. Fabricius gives a catalogue of no less than 136 different opinions concerning the YEAR of Christ's birth: and as to his birth DAY, that has been placed by Christian sects and learned men in every month in the year. The Egyptians placed it in January-Wagenseil, in February-Bochart, in March-some, mentioned by Clemens Alexandrinus, in April-others, in May-Epiphanius speaks of some who placed it in June-and of others who supposed it to have been in July-Wagenseil, who was not sure of February, fixed it probably in August-Lightfoot, on the 15th of September-Scaliger, Casaubon, and Calvisius, in October-others, in November-but the Latin Church, supreme in power, and infallible in judgment, placed it on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December, the very day on which the ancient Romans celebrated the feast of their goddess Bruma." See more in Robinson's Notes on Claude's Essay, vol. i. p. 275, &c. Pope Julius I. was the person who made this alteration, and it appears to have been done for this reason: the sun now began his return towards the northern tropic, ending the winter, lengthening the short days, and introducing the spring. All this was probably deemed emblematical of the rising of the Sun of righteousness on the darkness of this world, and causing the day-spring from on high to visit mankind. And above all LIES; the assertion by POPE JULIUS I that the placement of it on 25<sup>th</sup> December is emblematical of the rising of the Sun of righteousness on the darkness of this world and causing the day spring from on high to visit mankind sums **VANITY OF ALL VANITIES.**

Do you know where the observance of Christmas originated? Christmas, as a festival, existed long before Jesus was born into this world. December 25 was actually celebrated hundreds of years before Christ was born. The pagans worshiped the sun, and they noticed that in December, the days were becoming shorter and shorter and the sun was getting farther away from them. Fearing that the sun would leave them altogether, they prayed and offered sacrifices. Then on December 25, for the first time, they could tell that the sun was coming back closer; the days were beginning to lengthen out again. So these people said, the sun is reborn to us. They called December 25 the birthday of the sun or sun god. It became a great religious festival with them. Only the pagans celebrated the day until the counterfeit papal system was taking form. At that time, the day was adopted by the papacy and called the birth of the SON, instead of the birthday of the SUN. Dr. Gilbert Murray, M.A., D. Litt., LL.D., F.B.A., professor of Greek at Oxford University, has written this: Mithraism had so much acceptance, that it was able to impose on the Christian world its own Sunday in place of the Sabbath; its Sun's birthday, 25th of December, as the birthday of Jesus. History of Christianity in the Light of Modern Knowledge, Chapter III; cited in Religion and Philosophy, pp. 73, 74. New York: 1929. Actually, we do not know the date of Christ's birth. As you can readily see, the adoption of December 25 was based purely upon the heathen observance of the festival of sun worship. Please take note how easily a pagan institution can slip into Christian churches and can even be passed along in Protestantism.

### **The Order of Jesus Life**

So we have a prophesy on Jesus coming and the Jewish Nation to anoint Him as the Messiah Daniel 9:20-27. Now Luke 3:23 records Jesus began His ministry when He was 30 according to the requirements of the law Numbers 4:13. This was the time of Herode Agrippa the year Historians says is AD 27. He ministered for 3 ½ years according to the Scripture Daniel 9:27, Luke 13:6-7, 13:31-35 and he was cut off by rulers of the people, that's the Roman Government of the false accusations of the leaders of the people that's the Pharisees John 11:45-53. The day on which he was crucified? Deuteronomy 16:1 April (Abib) 14, AD 31. because the scriptures indicates that Jesus Christ is the Passover lamb 1

Corinthians 5:7, so we are sure that he had to be crucified on the selfsame date of that year during the time of the Annual Passover which was on the aforesaid date. The Jews were in the dark of the Scriptures that they did not even know what was happening. And so it is reported by witnesses that when Jesus Christ was Crucified on the Cross, the lamb which was to be sacrificed that day ran and the scriptures records that the veil which separated the holy of holies from the holy place was rent twine Mathew 27:51. After resurrection Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene before he ascended in Heaven John 20:17 and did not talk of any authority because his sacrifice had not been Presented in heavenly courts. But on the same morning he went to heaven on 16<sup>th</sup> April (Abib) AD 31 amidst the welcome of Heavenly Hosts Acts 1:9, Rev 5:1-14. After that he came back after opening the little book Rev 5:1-7 Rev 6. He came back to His disciples and assured them of the accepted sacrifice (His death on Calvary) and power and authority he had been given Rev 3:21 Mathew 28:18.

### OFTEN OVERLOOKED QUOTES SOP ABOUT HOLIDAY GIFTS AND ENFORCING THE PAPAL FESTIVALS

**MOTTO:** "The Bible must be your counselor. Study it and the testimonies God has given; for they NEVER contradict his Word." — Letter 106, 1907.{3SM 32.3}

„I have said to my family and my friends, I desire that no one shall make me a birthday or Christmas gift, UNLESS IT BE WITH PERMISSION TO PASS IT ON INTO THE LORD'S TREASURY, to be appropriated in the establishment of missions.“ {AH 474.1}

„The youth in this country require more earnest spiritual labor than in any other country we have yet visited. Temptations are strong and numerous; the many holidays and the habits of idleness are most unfavorable for the young. Satan makes the idle man a partaker and co-worker in his schemes, and the Lord Jesus does not abide in the heart by faith. The children and youth are not educated to realize that their influence is a power for good or for evil. It should ever be kept before them how much they can accomplish; they should be encouraged to reach the highest standard of rectitude. But from their youth up they have been educated to the popular idea that the appointed holidays must be treated with respect and be observed. FROM THE LIGHT THAT THE LORD HAS GIVEN ME, THESE DAYS HAVE NO MORE INFLUENCE FOR GOOD THAN WOULD **THE WORSHIP OF HEATHEN DEITIES**; FOR THIS IS REALLY NOTHING LESS. THESE DAYS ARE SATAN'S SPECIAL HARVEST SEASONS. THE MONEY DRAWN FROM MEN AND WOMEN IS EXPENDED FOR THAT WHICH IS NOT BREAD. The youth are educated to love those things which are demoralizing, things which the word of God condemns. The influence is evil and only evil continually.“ {FE 320.3}

"Every dollar and every dime that we can spare is needed now, to aid in carrying the message of truth to other lands. At the holiday season much is spent by our own people upon gifts and various gratifications which are not only useless but often hurtful. Appetite is indulged, pride and self-love are fostered, and Christ is forgotten. If the money usually

devoted to these objects were **ALL** brought into the mission treasury, our foreign missions would be lifted above embarrassment. Shall we not this year consecrate to GOD NOT MERELY A PART BUT **ALL OUR HOLIDAY GIFTS** for the relief of his cause, which is in so great need? How can we more appropriately celebrate the coming Christmas, how better express our gratitude to God for the gift of his dear Son, than by offerings to send to all the world the tidings of his soon coming?" -- Review and Herald, Dec. 6, 1887.

"God would be well pleased if on Christmas, each church would have a Christmas tree on which shall be hung offerings, great and small, for these houses of worship. Letters of inquiry have come to us asking, Shall we have a Christmas tree? will it not be like the world? We answer, You can make it like the world if you have a disposition to do so, or you can make it as unlike the world as possible. There is no particular sin in selecting a fragrant evergreen, and placing it in our churches; BUT THE **SIN LIES IN THE MOTIVE WHICH PROMPTS TO ACTION, AND THE USE WHICH IS MADE OF THE GIFTS PLACED UPON THE TREE.**

The tree may be as tall and its branches as wide as shall best suit the occasion; but let its boughs be laden with the golden and silver fruit of your beneficence, and present this to Him as your Christmas gift. Let your donations be sanctified by prayer, and let the fruit upon this consecrated tree be applied toward removing the debts from our houses of worship at Battle Creek, Mich., and Oakland, Cal." {RH, December 11, 1879 par. 15}

„There are many things which can be devised with taste and cost far less than the unnecessary presents that are so frequently bestowed upon our children and relatives, and thus courtesy can be shown and happiness brought into the home. YOU CAN TEACH YOUR CHILDREN A LESSON WHILE YOU EXPLAIN TO THEM THE REASON WHY YOU HAVE **MADE A CHANGE IN THE VALUE OF THEIR PRESENTS, TELLING THEM THAT YOU ARE CONVINCED THAT YOU HAVE HITHERTO CONSIDERED THEIR PLEASURE MORE THAN THE GLORY OF GOD.** TELL THEM THAT YOU HAVE THOUGHT MORE OF YOUR OWN PLEASURE AND OF THEIR GRATIFICATION AND OF KEEPING IN HARMONY WITH THE **CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS OF THE WORLD,** in making presents to those who did not need them, than you have of advancing the cause of God. Like the wise men of old, you may offer to God your best gifts and show by your offerings to Him that you appreciate His Gift to a sinful world. Set your children's thoughts running in a new, unselfish channel by inciting them to present offerings to God for the gift of His only-begotten Son.“ {AH 481.4}

„ The holidays are approaching. In view of this fact, it will be well to consider how much money is expended yearly in making presents to those who have no need of them. **The habits of custom are so strong that to withhold gifts from our friends on these occasions would seem to us almost a neglect of them.** But let us remember that our kind heavenly Benefactor has claims upon us far superior to those of any earthly friends. Shall we not, during the coming holidays, present our offerings to God? Even the children may participate in this work. **Clothing and other useful articles may be given to the worthy poor, and thus a work may be done for the Master.** Let us remember that Christmas is celebrated in commemoration of the birth of the world's Redeemer. **This day is generally spent in feasting and gluttony. Large sums of money are spent in needless self-indulgence.** The appetite and sensual pleasures are indulged at the expense of physical, mental, and moral power. Yet this has become a habit. **Pride, fashion, and gratification of**

**the palate have swallowed up immense sums of money that have really benefited no one, but have encouraged a prodigality of means which is displeasing to God.** These days are spent in glorifying self rather than God. Health has been sacrificed, money worse than thrown away, many have lost their lives by overeating or through demoralizing dissipation, and souls have been lost by this means.

God would be glorified by His children should they enjoy a plain, **simple diet**, and use the means intrusted to them in bringing to His treasury offerings, small and great, to be used in sending the light of truth to souls that are in the darkness of error. **The hearts of the widow and fatherless may be made to rejoice because of gifts which will add to their comfort and satisfy their hunger.**" {MYP 311.312}

„Parents have not taught their children the precepts of the law as God has commanded them. They have educated them in selfish habits. **THEY HAVE TAUGHT THEM TO REGARD THEIR BIRTHDAYS AND HOLIDAYS AS OCCASIONS WHEN THEY EXPECT TO RECEIVE GIFTS, AND TO FOLLOW THE HABITS AND CUSTOMS OF THE WORLD.** These occasions, which should serve to increase the knowledge of God and to awaken thankfulness of heart for His mercy and love in preserving their lives for another year, are turned into occasions for self-pleasing, for the gratification and glorification of the children. They have been kept by the power of God through every moment of their life, and yet parents do not teach their children to think of this, and to express thanksgiving for His mercy toward them. If children and youth had been properly instructed in this age of the world, what honor, what praise and thanksgiving, would flow from their lips to God! What a revenue of small gifts would be brought from the hands of the little ones to be put into His treasury as thank offerings! God would be remembered instead of forgotten.“ --Review and Herald, Nov. 13, 1894. {CSW 142.1}

„Under the Jewish economy on the birth of children an offering was made to God, by His own appointment. **NOW WE SEE PARENTS TAKING SPECIAL PAINS TO PRESENT GIFTS TO THEIR CHILDREN UPON THEIR BIRTHDAYS; THEY MAKE THIS AN OCCASION OF HONORING THE CHILD, AS THOUGH HONOR WERE DUE TO THE HUMAN BEING. SATAN HAS HAD HIS OWN WAY IN THESE THINGS;** he has diverted the minds and the gifts to human beings; thus the thoughts of the children are turned to themselves, as if they were to be made the objects of special favor. . . . On birthday occasions the children should be taught that they have reason for gratitude to God for His loving-kindness in preserving their lives for another year. Precious lessons might thus be given. For life, health, food, and clothing, no less than for the hope of eternal life, we are indebted to the Giver of all mercies; and it is due to God to recognize His gifts and to present our offerings of gratitude to our greatest benefactor. These birthday gifts are recognized of Heaven.“ {AH 473.3}

"I see no objection to placing even in our churches a Christmas or New Year tree bearing fruit in gifts and offerings for the cause of God. We may thus take advantage of the occasion to turn the customary gifts of the season into the **RIGHT CHANNEL.** And such a holiday celebration is a useful lesson to our children, teaching them to bestow their gifts in a manner to honor their Redeemer. But when we devote our means and labor to feasting ourselves, we fail to render to God that honor which is his due." {ST January 4, 1883, par. 7}

„I entreat the followers of Jesus not to let the precious opportunities of these coming days pass unimproved. Let not time and means be spent in preparing gifts which will benefit neither giver nor receiver. Remember that both your time and means are intrusted you of God, and that he will call you to account for the manner in which you employ his gifts. **AS CHRISTIANS WE CANNOT HONOR A CUSTOM WHICH IS NOT APPROVED OF HEAVEN.** Let us, rather, seek to bring our hearts into a right condition, to free ourselves from pride, vanity, selfishness, and every other evil, and let mercy, truth, goodness, and love dwell therein. Let us remember the Lord our Creator, and bring to him the offering of gratitude, and he will accept not only the gift but the giver. We may have such a spirit of love and joy in our hearts and homes as will make angels glad.

If all the means that will at this holiday season be expended to gratify unsanctified desire, or that will be needlessly invested, were brought as an offering of gratitude to God, to be used in advancing his cause, what an amount would flow into the treasury! Who are willing this year to deviate from their usual custom? How many will turn their thoughts and plans into a more elevated, heavenly channel? In this time of peril and backsliding from God because of selfish indulgence, will we not look from the human to the divine? Will we not show our remembrance of God and our gratitude for his continual mercies, and, above all, for the gift of his dear Son? Shall we not seek to conform to the Divine Model? To imitate Him who went about doing good?“ {RH, December 26, 1882 par. 10.11}

„While urging upon all the duty of first bringing their offerings to God, I would not wholly condemn the practice of making Christmas and New Years gifts to our friends. It is right to bestow upon one another tokens of love and remembrance if we do not in this forget God, our best friend. We should make our gifts such as will prove a real benefit to the receiver. I WOULD RECOMMEND SUCH BOOKS AS WILL BE AN AID IN UNDERSTANDING THE WORD OF GOD, OR THAT WILL INCREASE OUR LOVE FOR ITS PRECEPTS. Provide something to be read during these long winter evenings. For those who can procure it, D'AUBIGNE'S HISTORY OF THE REFORMATION will be both interesting and profitable. From this work we may gain some knowledge of what has been accomplished in the past in the great work of reform. WE CAN SEE HOW GOD Poured LIGHT INTO THE MINDS OF THOSE WHO SEARCHED HIS WORD, HOW MUCH THE MEN ORDAINED AND SENT FORTH BY HIM WERE WILLING TO SUFFER FOR THE TRUTH'S SAKE, AND HOW HARD IT IS FOR THE GREAT MASS OF MANKIND TO RENOUNCE THEIR ERRORS AND TO RECEIVE AND OBEY THE TEACHINGS OF THE SCRIPTURES. During the winter evenings, when our children were young, we read from this history with the deepest interest. We made it a practice to read instructive and interesting books, with the Bible, in the family circle, and our children were always happy as we thus entertained them. Thus we prevented a restless desire to be out in the street with young companions, and at the same time cultivated in them a taste for solid reading.“ {RH, December 26, 1882 par. 18}

"His cause cannot go forward without your aid. **LET THE GIFTS YOU HAVE USUALLY BESTOWED UPON ONE ANOTHER BE PLACED IN THE LORD'S TREASURY.**I present before you, my brethren and sisters, an object, the European mission. In every church let your smaller offerings be placed upon your Christmas tree." {RH December 9, 1884, par. 9}

„Let it advance. If **ALL**, both old and young, **WILL FOREGO GIVING PRESENTS TO ONE ANOTHER**, and forego the selfish outlay of means in these coming holidays, there would be in heaven a most precious record of self-denial for Christ's sake. **EVERY TREE IN SATAN'S GARDEN HANGS LADEN WITH THE FRUITS OF VANITY, PRIDE, SELF-IMPORTANCE, EVIL DESIRE, EXTRAVAGANCE, --ALL POISONED FRUIT, BUT VERY GRATIFYING TO THE CARNAL HEART.** Let the several churches present to God Christmas trees in every church; and then let them hang thereon the fruits of beneficence and gratitude,--offerings coming from willing hearts and hands, fruits that God will accept as an expression of our faith and our great love to him for the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ. Let the evergreen be laden with fruit, rich, and pure, and holy, acceptable to God. Shall we not have such a Christmas as Heaven can approve? Thousands of dollars are needlessly spent every year in gifts to each other. That is means lost to God, lost to his cause. It pleases the vanity, encourages pride, creates all kinds of dissatisfaction, murmuring, and complaints, because perhaps the gifts are not just what was desired, not of the high value wanted or expected. Christmas is not observed as its name implies it should be. Man has forsaken God in almost everything, and has turned the attention to self. He has left the pure springs of living waters which flow from the throne of God, and hewn out to himself broken cisterns, which can hold no water. God gave man a probation that he might be fitted for heaven. He was to look upward to God, who was to be the soul's adoration; but talent, skill, and inventive powers are all exercised to make self the supreme object of attention. Man has withdrawn his gaze from Deity, and fastened his eyes upon the finite, the earthly, the corruptible.“ {RH, December 9, 1884 par. 9.10}

„The twenty-fifth of December is supposed to be the day of the birth of Jesus Christ, and its observance has become customary and popular. **BUT YET THERE IS NO CERTAINTY THAT WE ARE KEEPING THE VERITABLE DAY OF OUR SAVIOUR'S BIRTH. HISTORY GIVES US NO CERTAIN ASSURANCE OF THIS. THE BIBLE DOES NOT GIVE US THE PRECISE TIME.** HAD THE LORD DEEMED THIS KNOWLEDGE ESSENTIAL TO OUR SALVATION, HE WOULD HAVE SPOKEN THROUGH HIS PROPHETS AND APOSTLES, THAT WE MIGHT KNOW ALL ABOUT THE MATTER. But the silence of the Scriptures upon this point evidences to us that it is hidden from us for the wisest purposes. In his wisdom, the Lord concealed the place where he buried Moses. God buried him, and God resurrected him, and took him to heaven. **THIS SECRECY WAS TO PREVENT IDOLATRY.** He against whom they rebelled while he was in active service, whom they provoked almost beyond human endurance, was almost worshiped as God after his separation from them by death. **FOR THE VERY SAME PURPOSE HE HAS CONCEALED THE PRECISE DAY OF CHRIST'S BIRTH;** that the day should not receive the honor that should be given to Christ as the Redeemer of the world,—one to be received, to be trusted, to be relied on as he who could save to the uttermost all who come unto him. The soul's adoration should be given to Jesus as the Son of the infinite God. **THERE IS NO DIVINE SANCTITY RESTING UPON THE TWENTY-FIFTH OF DECEMBER;** and it is not pleasing to God that anything that concerns the salvation of man through the infinite sacrifice made for them, should be so sadly perverted from its professed design.“ (RH, December 9, 1884)

„Chapter 49— Failure to Advance. The Reformation did not, as many suppose, end with Luther. It is to be continued to the close of this world's history. Luther had a great work to

do in reflecting to others the light which God had permitted to shine upon him; yet he did not receive all the light which was to be given to the world. From that time to this, new light has been continually shining upon the Scriptures, and new truths have been constantly unfolding. Luther and his co-laborers accomplished a noble work for God; but, coming as they did from the Roman Church, having themselves believed and advocated her doctrines, it was not to be expected that they would discern all these errors. It was their work to break the fetters of Rome and to give the Bible to the world; yet there were **IMPORTANT TRUTHS WHICH THEY FAILED TO DISCOVER, AND GRAVE ERRORS WHICH THEY DID NOT RENOUNCE. Most of them continued to OBSERVE THE SUNDAY WITH OTHER PAPAL FESTIVALS.** They did not, indeed, regard it as possessing divine authority, but **BELIEVED THAT IT SHOULD BE OBSERVED AS A GENERALLY ACCEPTED DAY OF WORSHIP.** There were some among them, however, who honored the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. Among the reformers of the church an honorable place should be given to those who stood in vindication of a truth generally ignored, even by Protestants—those who maintained the validity of the fourth commandment and the obligation of the Bible Sabbath. When the Reformation swept back the darkness that had rested down on all Christendom, Sabbathkeepers were brought to light in many lands.“ {SR 353.2}

„**Popery** had become the world’s despot... For hundreds of years the doctrines of ROME had been extensively and implicitly received, its rites reverently performed, its **FESTIVALS GENERALLY OBSERVED.**“ {GC 60.1}

„As the sign of the authority of the Catholic Church, papist writers cite “the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday, which Protestants allow of; ... because by keeping Sunday, they **ACKNOWLEDGE THE CHURCH’S POWER TO ORDAIN FEASTS,** and to command them under sin.”—Henry Tuberville, An Abridgment of the Christian Doctrine, page 58.“ {GC 448.1}

„“These have one mind.” There will be a universal bond of union, one great harmony, a confederacy of Satan’s forces. “And shall give their power and strength unto the beast.” Thus is manifested the same arbitrary, oppressive power against religious liberty, freedom to worship God according to the dictates of conscience, as was manifested by the **PAPACY,** when **in the past** it persecuted those who dared to **refuse to conform with the religious rites and ceremonies of Romanists.**“{3SM 392.4}

„And let it be remembered, it is the boast of Rome that she never changes. The principles of Gregory VII and Innocent III are still the principles of the Roman Catholic Church. And had she but the power, she would put them in practice with as much vigor now **as in past centuries.** Protestants little know what they are doing when they propose to accept the aid of Rome in the work of Sunday exaltation. While they are bent upon the accomplishment of their purpose, Rome is aiming to re-establish her power, to recover her lost supremacy. Let the principle once be established in the United States that the church may employ or control the power of the state; that **RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES may be enforced by**

**secular laws**; in short, that the authority of church and state is to dominate the conscience, and the triumph of Rome in this country is assured.“ {GC 581.1}

„The cities must be worked. Those who are living in them must be warned of what is before us. Let time and means be wisely spent. See if you cannot do something in the highways and byways of the cities to proclaim the message of present truth. But do not locate your families in the city, and do not establish business interests there. **IF YOU DO THIS, YOU WILL IN THE FUTURE BE EXPECTED TO CONFORM TO THE OBSERVANCE OF VARIOUS HOLIDAYS.** Watchers will be set to seek occasion of complaint against the commandment-keeping people of God. Satan will exercise his power and enmity, and oppression will be the result. The larger the city, the greater will be the oppression.“ {19MR 336.4; Manuscript 76, 1905 - June 29, 1905}

„Thus the message of the third angel will be proclaimed. As the time comes for it to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them. The sins of Babylon will be laid open. **The fearful results of enforcing the OBSERVANCES OF THE CHURCH by civil authority**, the inroads of spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power — **all will be unmasked.** By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these. In amazement they hear the testimony that **Babylon is the church, fallen because of her ERRORS and sins**, because of her rejection of the truth sent to her from heaven. As the people go to their former teachers with the eager inquiry, Are these things so? the ministers present fables, prophesy smooth things, to soothe their fears and quiet the awakened conscience. But since many refuse to be satisfied with the mere authority of men and demand a plain “Thus saith the Lord,” the popular ministry, like the Pharisees of old, filled with anger as their authority is questioned, will denounce the message as of Satan and stir up the sin-loving multitudes to revile and persecute those who proclaim it.“ {GC 606.2}

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## Christmas Giving



In this article we will be covering what Ellen White says about Christmas gift-giving that you will never find in the compiled book called Adventist Home that Ellen White never wrote, though some have dared to put her name on the cover.

### **Adventist Home on giving Christmas gifts:**

“The Interchange of Gifts as Tokens of Affection.– The holiday season is fast approaching with its interchange of gifts, and old and young are intently studying what they can bestow upon their friends as a token of affectionate remembrance. **It is pleasant to receive a gift, however small, from those we love. It is an assurance that we are not forgotten, and seems to bind us to them a little closer. . . .**

“**It is right to bestow upon one another tokens of love and remembrance** if we do not in this forget God, our best friend. **We should make our gifts such as will prove a real benefit to the receiver.** I would recommend such books as will be an aid in understanding the word of God or that will increase our love for its precepts. Provide something to be read during these long winter evenings.” {Adventist Home, 478.4 – 479.1}

### **Not in Adventist Home on giving Christmas gifts:**

*“The holidays are approaching. In view of this fact, it will be well to consider how much money is expended yearly in making presents to those who have no need of them. The habits of custom are so strong that to withhold gifts from our friends on these occasions would seem to us almost a neglect of them.* But let us remember that our kind heavenly Benefactor has claims upon us far superior to those of any earthly friend. Shall we not, during the coming holidays, present our offerings to God? Even the children may participate in this work. Clothing and other useful articles may be given to the worthy poor, and thus a work may be done for the Master.” {Review and Herald, November 21, 1878 par. 1}

*“There is a large field for missionary labor in caring for homeless orphan children. Shall not the love of Christ constrain my brethren and sisters to use the capital intrusted for the purpose of blessing others, in providing for destitute and homeless children? Shall Christmas and New Year’s find you enriching yourselves by accepting gifts that you do not need, or will you tell your friends and relatives that you will regard it as a great favor to yourself if they will bestow their gifts on the Orphans’ Home, that needy, homeless little children may thus be cared for, clothed, and fed as*

***God would have them?*** The blessing of the Lord will surely be bestowed upon all who will deny self, using the means he has lent them in an economical way in providing for themselves, in order that they may provide for those also who are destitute and afflicted. ***God is testing and proving every soul in this probationary time, that it may be made manifest whether or not his attributes of character are formed within.*** {The Medical Missionary, November 1, 1894 par. 3}

***“We are rapidly approaching the season of the holidays, and many conscientious ones are now questioning what course they may pursue that will be pleasing in the sight of God. By the world the holidays are spent in frivolity and extravagance, gluttony and display. It is the prevailing custom at this time to make and receive presents. And it is no small burden upon the mind to know how to distribute these gifts among friends so that none will feel slighted. It is a fact that much envy and jealousy are often created by this custom of making presents.***

***“Thousands of dollars will be worse than thrown away upon the coming Christmas and New Year’s in needless indulgences. But it is our privilege to depart from the customs and practices of this degenerate age; and instead of expending means merely for the gratification of the appetite, or for needless ornaments or articles of clothing, we may make the coming holidays an occasion in which to honor and glorify God.***

***“We advise all our brethren and sisters to make a decided reform in regard to these festal days.*** Those who appreciate the gift of God’s dear Son to save them from ruin, now have a favorable opportunity to give tangible proofs of their gratitude by rendering to God their thank-offerings. Let old and young lay aside their mites as sacred offerings to God. ***If we would give to the cause of our Redeemer one-half as much as we have bestowed upon our friends, we would do much good and receive a blessing for giving.*** {Review and Herald, December 11, 1879 par. 1-3}

Brethren and Sister’s, my heart is breaking. Why have we given ourselves over to custom and fashion? Why does it seem that so few of us know anything that Ellen White says about Christmas other than that Christmas trees are not sinful and that we can have one in God’s house? Have we forgotten that some have no food to eat or clothes to wear? Have we forgotten that there are hurting children that do not have mothers and fathers to show them love affection? Have we forgotten that neglect shown towards these needy ones the Saviour considers as neglect towards Himself? “Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to Me.” Matthew 25:45. Have we forgotten? Have we forgotten? Why does it seem that we have forgotten? Is self so important? Do those need more who have no lack? Is that frivolous ditty so important for us or our friends that we have we forgotten the orphan children? Why are we so indifferent? While do we always readily accept the suggestions of Satan and put away thoughts of the needy lest conscience call us to deny our poor, wicked selves?

Go my brethren, go type in the EGW CD ROM the words “This is the wrath of the Lamb,” and find the paragraph in the Desire of Ages containing this sentence. Jesus is grieved with heartbroken tears that we take upon ourselves His name in vain by calling ourselves Christians yet neglecting the very work that He has bidden us do. Yet His wrath is as hot as the seven last plagues will soon demonstrate. Have we forgotten Gethsemane? Have we forgotten His agony? Do these things not awaken in our hearts a love and compassion for those in need?

## CONCLUSIONS:

1. Ellen G. White counseled to use Christmas to missionary work.
2. She pulled into battle against each other gift-giving, because she wanted to stream issued for gifts of money, ended up in God's hand, to make the money was paid on the work of God (agreed with the missionary gifts for our friends if they were books on biblical principles of truth or immediate assistance to the poor).
3. In their writings there is no invitation or recommendation to place the Christmas tree into our homes. Never not asked that individual members have spent money on Christmas trees and placed them at home for the purpose of mutual gift-giving. On the contrary, such a tree, which would serve the mutual gift-giving classified as "tree in Satan's garden" and mutual gifts at the tree is used with this purpose, says it is "very gratifying to the carnal heart." (RH 9. 12. 1884)
4. Never not asked that the Christmas tree to enlighten or according to pattern a the Gentiles dressed with gold trinkets or banks (astrological symbols representing the planet).
5. EGW proposed, that tree decorated banknotes in the church, to money went into God's treasury. It was a principle to streamline the cash flow of money unnecessarily issued to the correct line. Problem not seen in the cases themselves, but in the intentions of use.
6. **„THERE IS NO DIVINE SANCTITY RESTING UPON THE TWENTY-FIFTH OF DECEMBER“** (RH, December 9, 1884)
7. EGW pointed out, that the a grave error associated with the unfinished reformation is to believe, that the "PAPAL FESTIVALS" is "SHOULD BE OBSERVED AS A GENERALLY ACCEPTED DAY OF WORSHIP". {SR 353.2}
8. EGW warned that in the future, God's people will be forced "TO CONFORM TO THE OBSERVANCE OF VARIOUS HOLIDAYS" (19MR 336) and God's messengers will unmask "the fearful results of enforcing THE OBSERVANCES OF THE CHURCH by civil authority"(GC 606).

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"There is no divine sanctity resting upon the twenty-fifth of december; and it is not pleasing to God that anything that concerns the salvation of man through the infinite sacrifice made for them, should be so sadly perverted from its professed design." (RH, December 9, 1884)

"The twenty-fifth of December is supposed to be the day of the birth of Jesus Christ, and its observance has become customary and popular. But yet there is no certainty that we are keeping the veritable day of our saviour's birth. History gives us no certain assurance of this. The bible does not give us the precise time." (RH, December 9, 1884)