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THE BABYLONIAN TREE (THE MODERN CHRISTMAS TREE?)

By Gordon F. Nelson

"For the customs of the people are vain (worthless): for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not." Jer. 10:3-4.

"Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition...and many such like things do ye."

Mk. 7:13. This one scripture convicted me of the method that I had chosen to learn the Bible; principally through pulpit preaching. Relying completely upon pulpit preaching in Pentecostal churches, my growth was stymied. It wasn't until I abandoned pulpit preaching, designed for *"itching ears,"* (2 Tim. 4:3) that I began to comprehend the Word of God. *"If any man will DO HIS WILL, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself."* Jn. 7:17. You learn sound doctrine by "doing His will" and following the Holy Ghost. *"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you ALL THINGS."* Jn. 14:26.

"But in vain (folly, to no purpose) they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matt. 15:9. Is what you believe based on the Word of God? or do you even bother to read the Word of God? You (implied) *"study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth."* 2 Tim. 2:15. Do you know what tradition is? It is something you believe to be scriptural, but is not!

Do you believe the Christmas tree can be found in the Bible? It is present in every church, but the Christmas tree is foreign to scripture, except for our text: *"For the customs of the people are vain; for one cutteth a tree out of the forest."* (Jer. 10:3)

The only connection of a tree with the life of Jesus Christ, is the one they hung Him upon. *"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a TREE."* Acts 5:30. Perhaps, this is the tree Christians and the heathen celebrate on December 25th. The modern-day Christmas tree should be declared a symbol of Jewish "goyism." The Gentile cows really get milked on December 25th!

The Christmas tree is to Christmas, what the Easter bunny is to the resurrection, or the Jack O' Lantern to All Hallows Day, a day of prayer. The devil perverts everything of a spiritual nature. Mary Bush, an ardent reader of *RBN*, received a poem from the Lord. It is a little late for Halloween, but all these holidays have been perverted to take glory away from God.

The Day of Ghosts & Goblins

By Mrs. Mary Bush (Mary of Bethany – Spirit name)

The day of ghosts and goblins
Is the day the world retorts,
You're not going to make us feel ashamed.
It's only a day of fun and games.

Look! Moms, Dads, teachers and children
All take part in innocent fun, dressing up in spooky, cute costumes.
We hurt no one.

Just because we knock on doors and cry "Boo!"
What is that to you?
Some have large bags, some have small.
We only ask for candy and goodies from one and all.

It's just tradition, cries some.
What if one child disappears?
Some child falls ill of a poison, a razor or a needle slipped into an apple?
It is such a few compared to what we do.

Please don't be one of them
Who wants to ban Halloween,
Just because some may eat too much and be ill,
Or the dentists have a field day
And discover cavities in everyone.
After all it's just a day of fun and games.

I only saw a demon one time in my life. Would you believe this demon was in the center of a Christmas tree? My wife had been totally enveloped in the Christmas spirit. We had three teenage children. Our Christmas tree sat as some kind of god, all decorated, in our living room.

I needed my wife's help to type a message for the Lord. I couldn't get her attention; she was so spaced by the Christmas spirit! The more I'd tried to get my wife's attention to do the Lord's work, the more this demon, dressed like a Joker (Jokers used to entertain kings as in the stories of King Arthur of England), would laugh at me, pointing his finger, and even kicking his heels for glee! My wife was busy making "piglets," using a bar of soap. She was inserting toothpicks for legs, etc. This demon was only about one foot in height, dressed like a clown. His message seemed to say, "How dare you try to do anything for God during this season!"

Interpreting this laughing demon's message, I grabbed hold of that tree. Of course, balls and lights began to fly, but I had their attention! With balls continuing to fly, I marched out the front door. The garbage truck had just backed into our driveway. Neighbors peering, our dog barking, balls flying, up in

the air I flung the Christmas tree onto the garbage truck. Needless to say, but that was the last Christmas tree to ever be in our home.

With three teenage children, however, I had to give some explanation to them for such behavior. Kids love the message stemming from the tree, "Get something for nothing!" This is the same message of the politically correct Demon-crat Party. "In the future," I told the kids, "we'll present our gifts as did the wise men, before the Nativity scene of Jesus' birth. Just as the wise men brought their gifts before Jesus in a manger, we became a type of the wise men. Wise men still follow Christ's example. I purchased 3 foot high, plastic figurines of Mary, Joseph and the Wise Men, presenting their gifts to Jesus.

"Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: Thus saith the LORD, LEARN NOT THE WAY OF THE HEATHEN, and be not dismayed (Heb.-fall prostrate, amazed) at the signs of heaven (astrology); for the heathen are dismayed at them." Jer. 10:1-2. Do you read your horoscope every day in the newspaper? The horoscope and astrology are the door to the occult. As Christians, we are to renounce these heathen customs.

The messengers of King Ahaziah went to inquire of Baalzebub. Folk often seek out a fortune-teller before seeking out the man of God. God had Elijah ask these messengers of the king, *"Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron?"* 2 Kings 1:3. As Christians we are called to be stewards of the mysteries of God. 1 Cor. 4:1. We are not to teach people about astrology, the horoscope, the signs of the Zodiac, or the Christmas tree. *"Learn (Heb.-to teach) not the way of the heathen."* Jer. 10:1.

Christmas will produce more drunkenness, crimes, theft, adultery, drugs, freeway deaths, then any other time of year. Today, it is not uncommon to get drunk on December 25th and not sober up until the New Year. What is there about the Christmas tree that ignites the human spirit? The Ten Commandments, prayer and Bible reading are condemned by our courts, but the Christmas tree is revered by both Jews and Gentiles.

Unconverted Jews will oppose the nativity scene, or a cross on public property, but have no objection to the Christmas tree. If the Christmas tree were a religious symbol, it would certainly meet the same disdain.

The Christmas tree was around long before Jesus Christ came to earth. It is the evidence of an amalgamation from another culture--Babylon. December 25th has been revered by the world ever since Nimrod declared it a legal holiday in remembrance of his son. Nimrod's son, following in the footsteps of his famous father, aspired to be a hunter. In the process of hunting wild boar, one of the boar turned

on the young hunter and gored him to death. Nimrod grieved greatly over the loss of his only begotten son. Nimrod called the entire earth to mourning and fasting for an entire month, commencing with December 25th, his son's birthday. Nimrod believed God would raise his son from the dead during this month of mourning which was held annually.

When it became evident that Nimrod's son would not rise from the dead this year, he repeated the fasting and prayer for the following year, always with the expectancy of his son's resurrection from the dead. He never gave up hope! If not this year, perhaps the next, until December 25th became a heathen tradition.

Nimrod and his family are still the most revered people the earth has ever known. The continuance of the December 25th observation is the proof. Nimrod, as dictator of the entire earth, was a type of God, his wife the Queen of the heavens, and his only begotten son a type of Jesus Christ. As in the natural, so in the spiritual. The worship of Mary, the mother of God, probably came from the Babylonians, Nimrod, and the Greek's Diana heathen religions.

Nimrod's
Queen

The Greek's
Goddess Diana

Rome's
The Virgin Mary

Jesus Christ was born in the fall, between September and October. The shepherds would have frozen on the hillsides of Judea in December. Catholicism gave birth to a Mass for Christ which was later called Christmas. Christians are very much like the Republicans in Congress in standing up to Rome. In the recent Kenneth Starr hearings, there is no precedence for allowing the presence of Clinton's lawyer, David Kendall. In an attempt to be fair with these Demon-crats, the Republicans are compromising to their own self-destruction.

As in the natural, so in the spiritual. Christians are forever compromising with Rome. The Christians forsook their day of worship to accept Rome's "Christ-mas." The Christmas tree, in today's vernacular, with Romanism, is the "door" to the document, Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millenium. And, the tree is proof that we acquiesce with our own signature as well.

Jeremiah writes about his description of the Christmas tree in the 7th century B.C. We learned from last month's *RIVERBANK NEWS*, about "The Trail of Two Serpents."



Babylon to Pergamos to Rome

Through wars and the victor's spoils, the conquering nation confiscated the gods of the vanquished as booty. As a "king of kings," King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had all the gods of this world, which included those of the Egyptian and Assyrian empires, which had preceded the Babylonian Empire.

In the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, Daniel says, *"This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thy hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold."* Dan. 2:36-38. From this description, Nebuchadnezzar was an absolute monarch, having the power of life and death over every individual in the Babylonian Empire.

Eventually, Babylon was besieged by Alexander the Great, who conquered every known nation on earth! Still a young man and the whole earth at his feet, Alexander the Great wept because there remained no more countries to conquer. Alexander the Great received as spoils of war, all the gods of the known world. What did he do with these gods? History records Alexander stored these gods at Pergamos, *"where Satan's seat is."* Rev. 2:13. Unquestionably, Jeremiah's Christmas tree, along with Nimrod's horoscope and the signs of the Zodiac, were all stockpiled in Pergamos by Alexander the Great.

Upon Alexander the Great's death, his kingdom was divided among his four most trusted generals. It was the land that was divided, but the captured gods remained in Pergamos. This division of his kingdom prepared the earth for the next worldwide dictator; Caesar Augustus of Rome. The Caesar's ruled as gods over the people.

By the transfer to Rome of the gods stockpiled by Alexander the Great in Pergamos, is how Rome became known in scripture as Babylon. Just as the Roman Empire was conquered by Greek culture, the gods of Babylon conquered Rome. The Roman Empire conquered the entire earth, including Pergamos. The Pontiff's moved these gods of Pergamos to Rome. Rome had many gods! Yet they declared, "There is but one god and his name is Caesar."

All religions have become the wayward daughters of Rome. The Mother of Harlots is calling for her daughters to come home. Catholicism no longer refers to us Protestants as heathen, but Rome now calls us "separated brethren," making it easier for us to return. We are only wayward children.

They are coming home as evidenced by the success of ecumenicalism, the Promise Keepers, and the signing of the document Evangelicals and Catholics Together. *"And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus:*

and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.” Rev. 17:5-6.

Do you know there is only one church that we as Christians are forbidden to join? It is the Roman Catholic religion. This religion is much like Christian Science, which is neither Christian or is it science. Similarly, Catholicism is no longer Roman, nor is it catholic (universal) since the Reformation. It is called Babylon. *“Alas, alas, that great city Babylon.” Rev. 18:10.* Also, it is not a religion, but a cult called “Marianism.”

“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, that YE RECEIVE NOT of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.” Rev. 18:4-5. We must flee this Babylonian religion.

Jeremiah further describes the Christmas tree like an idol. *“They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go (walk). Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good.” Jer. 10:5.*

“Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen.” Jer. 10:1-2.

Nimrod’s kingdom was centered in the land of Shinar. *“And the beginning of his (Nimrod’s) kingdom was Babel...in the land of Shinar.” Gen. 10:10.* Nimrod refused to “Go ye” into all the world as God had commanded. *“Be ye fruitful, and multiply, and replenish (fill) the earth.” Gen. 9:1.*

The reason Nimrod refused to “Go ye,” was because of his own unbelief in God. Nimrod believed God was a murderer! He convinced the whole earth that God was not to be trusted. God may change his mind! He had destroyed the entire world by a flood, perhaps he’d do it again. God’s promises were to Nimrod like Bill Clinton’s promises are to us.

“I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.” Gen. 9:13. These promises went unheeded! Man must save himself. In a sense, that is how Antichrist, a humanist, comes into power. Antichrist’s system represents man’s best efforts to save himself. To trust God represents a sign of weakness in our own society.

Hence, Nimrod’s “Go ye,” is turned to a “Go to.” *“Go to, let us make brick!” Gen. 11:3.* Nimrod had the bricks made, then ordered, *“Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto the heaven; and let us MAKE US A NAME, LEST we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.” Gen. 11:4.*

That spirit remains today among all denominational workers: we must make a NAME FOR OURSELVES! Man refuses to build a church under LOCAL CHURCH AUTONOMY. The “Go ye”

has been changed to a “Go to.” Had the Assemblies of God abandoned their tower in Springfield, MO, and making a name for themselves, the Holy Ghost would be building His church as Christ promised to do. *“I will build my church.”* Matt. 16:18.

“For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.” Jer. 2:13. A cistern is a vessel to hold water. The broken cisterns are the type of government to hold the water. The Bible condemns the *“lords over God’s heritage”* cistern. 1 Pet. 5:3. The preacher invariably gets the fat head, and imagines he is a Caesar or god over the people. It is only a matter of time that we read about such a preacher in our daily newspapers!

The other broken cistern is described in Luke 22:25. *“The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them (the people); and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors (to be plump--receive the tithes).”* Such is a “hireling” system of government.

Man loves what he sees in Washington D.C. The General Superintendent exercises lordship over the District Superintendents, and the Superintendents lord it over the presbyters. *“And my people love to have it so.”* Jer. 5:31. Why does man always want to be in rebellion to God?

Nimrod built his tower into the heavens! Nimrod, atop his ziggurat tower, studied the stars and gave earthlings astrology and the zodiac, which knowledge developed the doorway to the present day horoscope. Nimrod’s type of “Go to,” brought a “Go to” from the Lord. *“Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel.”* Babel means confusion, *“because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth.”* Gen. 11:7-9.

This is a great mystery. I can’t quite comprehend it. In Nimrod’s day, “the confusion of languages” stopped the building of the city and tower. In the end time ecumenicalist one world religion, under the auspices of the Pope, “confusion of tongues” tends to build by networking their New Age religion unto the heavens. Through the efforts of David du Plessis and Paul Shock of the First Assembly of God church in Oakland, “tongues” were first introduced to Catholicism, and Rome accepted. What is one more sign to Rome? As long as you can stomach Rome, Rome has the capability of absorbing you!

“Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee.” Gen. 12:1. God must have appeared to Abram’s father first with the same command, simply put: “Get out!” Abraham’s father, Terah, and his family, *“they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan (the promised land).”*

Gen. 11:31.

The Bible says, *“And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”* Gal. 3:29. Are these religionists of today only *“hearers of the word”*? Jas. 1:23. *“But when he (John the Baptist) saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance.”* Matt. 3:7-8. In other words, produce proof or evidence of your intention of getting out of Dodge! *“Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that YE RECEIVE NOT of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven.”* Rev. 18:4-5. Lot was visited by angels that commanded him and his family to leave Sodom and not look back. In similar manner, we are commanded to come out of Roman Catholicism; her Babylonism.

Slippery Bill Clinton may escape impeachment, but Rome will not escape annihilation by the very beast she rides upon. *“And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate.”* Rev. 17:16.

And to the eternal securitists of this day (nothing new under the sun), *“We have Abraham to our father.”* (Matt. 3:9) *“We are eternally secure in being of his seed!”* Abraham had to get out of Dodge! Why aren’t you moving if you are Abraham’s seed? This is the evidence of being a *“doer of the word.”* Jas. 1:22.

The promised land is a type of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost experience. But this experience and power is soon dispersed in a broken cistern. Much of the “babbling in tongues” today is in a “Go to,” environment. Despot leaders always cause God’s people to revert to the slime pits of Egypt.

Tongues is a sign to the unbeliever. 1 Cor. 14:22. The devil often uses “tongues” as a sign to the believers. The false prophet also uses “tongues,” while the true prophet allows the “tongues of fire” to burn up the drought; *“but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”* Matt. 3:12. When you succumb to a preacher owning his own church, he is using “tongues” to deceive. *“While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption.”* 2 Pet. 2:19.

The false prophet inherently has an admiration for Rome. He admires this absolute, totalitarian rule over God’s people, as though he himself were a god. These “little gods” of Pentecostalism have no qualms with Rome, they only covet Rome’s authoritarian rule over their individual dioceses. There is more freedom in a Catholic diocese than in a Protestant diocese. In Bebe H. Patten’s diocese one was not even permitted to attend another church. Even Rome has lightened up on Catholics, as a result of this present day ecumenicalism, and they permit Catholics to own their own Bible and attend other churches. Under these circumstances, they become a real challenge for Protestants to win them to Jesus Christ.

When a deliverer is sent forth to deliver God's people, it is always from a "brick and mortar" program directed by some Pharaoh. *"And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field."* Ex. 1:14.

"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and HE WENT OUT, not knowing whither he went." Heb. 11:8. Don't you dear sojourners have enough intelligence to leave a despotic ruling system? I left Dr. Bebe H. Patten when her husband-manager announced he had eight brand new Cadillacs sitting in his driveway! Having left, should I seek out another Pharaoh of Pentecost? or should I be like Abraham? *"By faith he sojourned in the land of promise (the Pentecostal blessing), as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles (non-brick and mortar)...for he looked for a city which hath foundations (government), whose builder and maker is God."* Heb. 11:9-10.

That city which hath the foundations that Abraham sought, was the church at Antioch, *"where believers were first called Christians."* Acts 11:26. Antioch was not a "husband-wife" team babbling in tongues, nor was it boot camp to train novices fresh out of Bible School to be "hirelings." The hireling hired by the people is democratic rule (Laodicea: Gk.-the people rule). Whoever hires you, can fire you! But God says, *"The elders which are among you...feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight (collectively)."* 1 Pet. 5:1-2. It is not a one-man job to feed sheep.

**Merry Mass for Christ, and the Pope adds his blessing to you!
(But Abraham withholds his!)**

"The voice of them that flee and escape out of the land of Babylon, to declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, the vengeance of his temple. Call together the archers against Babylon: all ye that bend the bow, camp against it round about; let none thereof escape: recompense her according to her work; according to all that she hath done, do unto her: for she hath been proud against the LORD, against the Holy One of Israel." Jer. 50:28-29

THE COMING GREAT THIRST
That Astonishing Day Just Ahead When Water Shall Be No More

Water, water everywhere and how the boards did creak.
Water, water everywhere and nary a drop to drink.
--from Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner

A coming great thirst will soon envelop the whole world. Almost overnight, water shall become the Earth's most precious--and most scarce--resource. Men's tongues shall become scorched with thirst. Entire industries that use water in their processes will grind to a halt. Green things everywhere will quickly become hot, parched, and brown, and shall wither away. Oceans and waterways will become poisoned and be as thick blood, filled with the rotting and stinking residue of dead fish and dead sea creatures.

Are all these things too fantastic--too difficult--to believe? Then hold your breath, because every frightening event described here is about to occur. In fact, the actions of the hidden Illuminate elite, its United Nations, and

government, will guarantee it. But most important: Bible prophecy says it will happen!

In this almost heart-stopping special report, Texe Marrs gives an anointed message. He pictures a bleak era and a world desperate for water and dying of thirst, exactly as it shall be in a few short years. He explains how and why this shall occur. The coming great thirst will bring with it a tremendous toll of death and turbulence. Entire societies will be disrupted, cities will explode with violence, men and women will be suddenly thrown out of work, and hunger will overtake humanity as crops fail. Men will curse God for the horrors that have come upon them and will kill their neighbors for a mere drop of moisture. *All this will occur on that astonishing day when water shall be no more.*

The Coming Great Thirst will examine these startling developments, and more:

- World Goodwill, a major New Age globalist organization, has just published a stunning special report entitled *By the Grace of Water*. What spiritual significance does water have to the world's occult elite? why this emphasis on water?
- The United Nations has declared 1998 the "*International Year of the Oceans*." Is it a coincidence that 1998 is also the triple 666 (3 x 666) year, recognized by satanists, cabalists, gnostics, and witches alike as the great year of dark occult power and infernal majesty?
- Why is the elitist-controlled environmental movement insanely pushing its wetland acts--attempting to drive the people off the lands adjacent to all waterways everywhere?
- Will the global conspiratorial elite soon cause a hideous terrorist act so that our drinking water is afflicted with deadly chemical toxins, viruses and bacteria, and nuclear contamination?
- What is the strange and shocking significance of the "holy water" used in Catholic rites and in their churches?
- Does the Bible prophesy that in the last days, men will suffer and die of thirst, drinking their poisoned water in "astonishment?"
- Is mankind soon to witness that spectacular event in which waters and oceans are turned into blood and a burning star called "Wormwood" falls "upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters...and many men die of the waters, because they were made bitter?" (Revelation 8:10-12)
- To whom is the inspiring and utterly wonderful promise made that , after the thirst and the hunger and the tribulation and bloody horrors of that day, they shall stand before the throne of the Most High God, and "*They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more...For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes*" (Revelation 7:3-17)?

"All Christians should prepare now for the Coming Great Thirst." --Texe Marrs

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