

widely from region to region as his guise and name. He appears as St. Nikolaus (mainly in Catholic areas), Klaus, Nickel, Sünnerklas, Seneklos, Pelznickel, Knecht Ruprecht, Weihnachtsmann and Christkindl (in mostly Protestant areas). **He is afoot or astride a white horse, a reindeer, a mule, or even a goat.** More diverse than those of the saintly Nikolaus are the many legends and traditions surrounding his often wild companions: the Zwarte Pitt, Hans Muff, Schimmelreiter, Krampus, Leutfresser, Rumpelklas, Schmutzli. A religious myth whose source was in a Semitic nation, was subsequently developed by a Mediterranean people, and finally superimposed on the quite alien mythologies of the Northern Europeans. The result is a wide array of coexisting customs, Christian and Germanic....**In many regions, and also in the U.S., the festivities originally attributed to the gift-giving St. Nikolaus have been transferred from December 6 to Christmas. The giver of gifts is the "Weihnachtsmann" [Santa Claus] or the "Christkindl" [Christchild, an angel]. The latter, misunderstood by Anglophones, became "naturalized" as "Kris Kringle." Christmas customs are perhaps the nicest example for cultural transfer and adaptation resulting in an American tradition with a German touch.**”

What!?!? Christmas customs are the nicest example for cultural transfer and adaptation resulting in tradition? We would say that they are one of the best examples for the blending of the false pagan customs and traditions of men who love not the truth, but love lies (2 Thes. 2:9-11).

Let's take a look at the things associated with this character called Santa Claus so we can truly understand his nature.

ST. NICKOLAUS

Supposedly, Santa Claus stems from a Christian bishop of Myra named St. Nickolaus who gave out many gifts to others. He died on December 6th 343 CE and his gift-giving tradition was transferred to December 25th to associate him with this Santa Claus figure.

In actuality, the name Santa Claus does come from Saint Nickolaus. It is quite easy to see the association between the two names. The name Santa Claus is just a contracted form of Saint Nickolaus.

But Nickolaus is a Greek name coming from a combination of two words, "Nike" and "Laos." Nike is the name of a Greek Goddess that means "victory," or "conqueror." Laos is the Greek word for "people." Thus, Nickolaus means "conqueror of the people," or "victory over the people."

It is reported that this Nickolaus is presented afoot or astride a **white horse**, a reindeer, a mule, or even a goat.

The book of Revelation chapter six reveals Yahshua the Lamb stripping seals off of a scroll. The first seal reveals one on **a white horse**, going forth **conquering** and to **conquer**. (v. 2)

The words "conquering" and "conquer" both come from the root word "nike."

In the book of Genesis, the serpent conquered the woman with a lie. This same serpent is revealed in Revelation 12:9 to be, "...**that old serpent**, called the Devil, and Satan, **which deceiveth the whole world...**"

Are you one of those who continues to propagate this falsehood named Santa Claus (St. Nickolaus)? If so, then you are one who is being conquered by him.

WOTAN

Are you one of those who continues to propagate this falsehood named Santa Claus (St. Nickolaus)?

The pagan Germanic god Wotan has been interwoven into the Santa Claus figure. The form of his name is quite varied in the various cultures. Wotan is his High German name, Woden is the Low German name. He is known as Oden to the Norse and Odin to the Anglo Saxons. He was the leader of the "wild hunt."

The original leader of the wild hunt was Nimrod, the world's first tyrant/ dictator/messiah after the flood, "And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before Yahweh: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before Yahweh. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar," Gen. 10:8-10.

The beginning of his kingdom was Babel. Babel means "confusion." Babel is none other than Babylon. Check out your interlinears, concordances and dictionaries to see if such is not the case. Babel/Babylon comes from another Hebrew word "balal," which means to overflow, to mix, to fodder. Balal, in turn, comes from another Hebrew word "beliyl," which means "mixed feed." Another Hebrew word associated with these is beliyal, which is defined as without profit, worthlessness, wickedness, destruction, etc.

History.com says this about Oden, "The end of December was a perfect time for celebration in most areas of Europe. At that time of year, most cattle were slaughtered so they would not have to be fed during the winter. For many, it was the only time of year when they had a supply of fresh meat. In addition, most wine and beer made during the year was finally fer-

mented and ready for drinking.

In Germany, people hon-

The pagan Germanic god Wotan has been interwoven into the Santa Claus figure.

ored the pagan god Oden during the mid-winter holiday. Germans were terrified of Oden, as they believed he made nocturnal flights through the sky to observe his people, and then decide who would prosper or perish. Because of his presence, many people chose to stay inside.”

Odin’s/Oden’s/Wodan’s/Wotan’s place of dwelling was Valhalla. Valhalla means “Hall of the slain.” “The hall itself has 540 doors, so wide that 800 warriors could walk through side-by-side. It is said that there is room enough for all those chosen. Here, every day, the slain warriors who will assist Odin in Ragnarök, the gods’ final conflict with the giants, arm themselves for battle and ride forth by the thousands to engage in combat on the plains of Asgard. Those who die in the fighting will be brought back to life. At night, they return to Valhalla to **feast on the boar Sæhrímnir and drink intoxicating drink.**” (*Wikipedia*)

So now we can understand why there is the Christmas ham tradition in America along with the boar’s head in England. Also, we can understand why there is a lot of partying and drinking associated with the holidays at the end of the year.

The point is that this character, Santa Claus has been mixed (Hebrew balal) with the false pagan god Wotan/Odin so that the whole story becomes a mythological hodge-podge of belial (Hebrew beliyal).

WEDNESDAY & MERCURY

While our calendar is called the Roman calendar which utilizes the names of many of the Roman deities for the months of the year, some of the days of the week are still primarily named after the Norse deities. Woden’s/Odin’s companions were Tyr (Tiw), Thor and Frigg. Tuesday is named after Tyr/Tiw, Wednesday is named after Woden/Oden, Thursday is named after Thor and Friday is named after the female goddess Frigg.

The naming of Wednesday after Woden also

associates him with the Roman, Latin deity Mercury and the Greek Deity Hermes.

Mercury and Hermes were the messenger gods. Mercury was the Mediator between heaven and earth (blasphemy).

Odin, Mercury and Hermes were deities of the merchants. Words that issue forth from Mercury are merci (mercy), merchant and merchandise.

They were also “trickster” deities. Both Mercury and Hermes are represented with wings on their feet, which not only represented them as messengers, but as tricksters who could fly from place to place causing various troubles. Wotan/Odin could also fly about and so can Santa Claus.

Now let’s get to the gist of the matter. Santa Claus is a mythological, fictitious character. December 25th is not the true birthday of the Savior. Of course, the religious hierarchies are the ones who propagate the falsehoods, but the merchants also have their part.

The merchants love to focus on Christmas and Santa Claus because through their trickery, they profit greatly. They propagate a spirit around that time of the year, which if we allow it, it will turn our heads to think that it is a beautiful, heart warming time of love and gift giving. It seems good and like the right thing to do. After all, it’s especially for the children, right?

It is deceit, trickery. The religionists and merchants may rejoice in today’s world, but when the true Messiah is revealed, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. What will you be doing at that time?

This publication is produced by the **YAHWEH’S EVANGELICAL ASSEMBLY** (Y. E. A.), a branch of Messianic Assemblies of Yahweh 7th Day, Nairobi, Kenya. For more copies of this or other information simply write to, Y. E. A., P. O. Box 31, Atlanta, TX. 75551 All publications are FREE.



Y. E. A.
The Menorah Shines on the Torah



THE LEGEND OF SANTA CLAUS

Who is Santa Claus? Where is he found in the annals of the past? Is it important? We will present the information here and you can be the judge, but remember this, we must judge righteous judgment.

By Jerry Healan



A careful study into the modern day seemingly loveable character Santa Claus produces alarming results; especially when one allows the truth of the Scriptures to be his guide.

An article entitled “*Christmas Customs And Their Pagan Origins*” has this to say, “The church also placed Christ’s birth at the time of the winter solstice and fostered as the bringer of gifts St. Nikolaus, the bishop of Myra in Asia Minor, who died on December 6, 343. **Christian symbols and earlier historical layers of Germanic mythological figures began to meld, or to live side by side. Consequently, the old German God Wotan, riding the wild skies with his retinue, emerged out of the pre-Christian past.**

To this day Nikolaus traditions vary as