

Brain Massage®: Show No. 914 Christmas Is Christian, And That's Why
"They" Hate It!

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1 Segment.01 Hello. I'm Dr. Jerry Scheidbach, pastor of the
2 Lighthouse Baptist Church in Santa Maria, CA—and your brain
3 masseur—get ready for your brain massage.
4 Merry Christmas, my friends!
5 Christmas is Christian and that's why they hate it!
6 First, here is the simple truth about Christmas!
7 God celebrated the day of the birth of HIS SON! Luke 1-2. He had
8 sent Gabriel privately to announce the coming births of John the
9 Baptist, and God's Son, Jesus the Christ.
10 John's father was a Levite, a priest in the order of Abia (Luke 1:5—
11 *Abia* is Greek for the Hebrew name *Abijah*, I Chronicles 24:10).
12 His name was Zacharias. While he served in the Temple, Gabriel
13 visited him and announced the fulfillment of the prophecy
14 concerning the coming of the Messenger (Malachi 3:1), and
15 instructed Zacharias to name him John. (Gabriel is the angel that
16 gave Daniel his prophecies, including the one that told the Jewish
17 children when to expect the arrival of MESSIAH, that is, CHRIST
18 (Daniel 9:24-27).)
19 Six months later, this same Gabriel visited Mary, again, privately,
20 with news of the coming birth of GOD's SON (Luke 1:26-36).
21 When Joseph discovered Mary was "with child" he was troubled
22 and thought to put Mary away secretly—but this same angel—
23 Gabriel—visited him privately, and explained the child was God's
24 Son.
25 At this point, the point is, all these visitations from GOD were
26 private.

27 But, on the day of Christ's BIRTH, God put on a glorious PUBLIC
28 celebration of the event: Luke 2:8-20. The angels declared that the
29 child was born a SAVIOUR, which is CHRIST the LORD. CHRIST
30 translates MECHIACH which is MESSIAH and refers to the
31 promised KING OF ISRAEL—Who would rule over all the earth.

32 To a group of shepherds, by a band of angels—a MULTITUDE (a
33 plethora—whole lot) of the "Heavenly Host *praising God*, and
34 saying, GLORY TO GOD in the HIGHEST, and on earth peace,
35 good will toward men." The idea that the angels sang comes from
36 the fact they were *praising God*, which is generally accompanied by
37 singing praises—as when the angels sang at the setting of the
38 CORNER STONE of the EARTH at CREATION (Job 38-4-7). The
39 birth of Christ, the CORNERSTONE no doubt again inspired the
40 angels' song! But truly in their *praises* they were heard *saying*:
41 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth PEACE, GOOD WILL
42 TOWARD MEN." And this has become a *saying* and a *prayer*
43 among men to this day!

44 God celebrated the birth of HIS SON publicly — and so should we!
45 As to the day, some argue December the 25th is a pagan
46 celebration. But no record can be found of any December the 25th
47 celebration among the pagans until more than 300 years after
48 Christ's birth—something contrived by an Apostate named Julian,
49 who attempted to displace the Christian celebration of CHRIST'S
50 BIRTH. But records are found showing Christians did set aside the
51 day to honor the Birth of CHRIST long before the pagans
52 attempted to steal it. And this effort to steal the glory of this day
53 continues. So, where did Christians get the idea to celebrate
54 Christ's birth on December the 25th?

55 I mentioned that Gabriel had given to Daniel a prophecy that
56 provided what Israel needed to calculate the time of Messiah's
57 arrival and the promised coming of THE KINGDOM OF GOD—
58 Daniel 2, with 9:24-27.

59 Some background is needed.

60 God created the *kingdom of man* (Genesis 1-2) and gave to man the
61 *dominion* — i.e., rule over the resources of the earth. After the
62 flood, God added to the kingdom of man the power of what we call
63 capital punishment (Genesis 9:6).

64 So, *the kingdom of man* included rule over the earth's resources and
65 the power to execute capital punishment upon men for capital
66 crimes—murder was specifically named.

67 In the beginning, the kingdom of MAN knew only one KING, and
68 that was GOD. A mighty man named Nimrod came along and
69 attempted to pull the kingdom of man out from under God and set
70 himself over mankind as the king (Genesis 10-11). The kingdom he
71 founded was called Babel—which later became Babylon.

72 God intervened and destroyed Nimrod's kingdom, and scattered
73 mankind over the earth — and this was the beginning of the
74 kingdoms of man. From this time God began selecting a kingdom
75 that He would elevate over the kingdoms of man—He would give
76 to that kingdom the dominion and the sword. He promised that
77 one day He would send HIS CHRIST into the world, the king of all
78 mankind.

79 Without breaking it all down, here is the summary. In Daniel 2,
80 GOD gave Daniel an overview of the history of the kingdoms of
81 man from Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon to the end of the kingdoms
82 of man and the arrival of THE KING. The "kingdom" would pass
83 from Babylon to Persia, then to Greece, then to the fourth
84 kingdom. In Daniel 9:24-27, Gabriel explained how long it would
85 be from the passing of the kingdom from Babylon to Persia to the
86 arrival of MESSIAH THE PRINCE. He said it would be "seven
87 weeks, and threescore and two weeks" (Daniel 9:26). This gives us
88 the year of Christ's birth—because if you calculate the number of
89 years represented in 69 weeks of years, and factor in the fact that

90 biblical prophecy is calculated on a 360 day calendar, and take into
91 consideration the pauses that occurred during the fulfillment of the
92 first segment of this prophecy, the seven weeks, it lands exactly in
93 the year of Christ's birth. But, tell me about the day?

94 Well, I can give you the month! And I can narrow that down to the
95 last part of the month!

96 Remember, I said Gabriel visited Zacharias while he was serving in
97 the Temple?¹ Zacharias was in the lineage of Abia. That's Abijah!
98 David had organized the priest's Temple service into 24 courses.
99 The eight course was given to Abijah—this means Zacharias would
100 have been serving in the Temple in November.² He was told his
101 wife would conceive. Zacharias would have returned home in
102 November and it's reasonable to expect she conceived late in
103 November. John the Baptist was born 270 days later, or in later
104 July. Jesus, as we know, was born six months later—and that puts
105 His birthdate in late December.³ By the way, get my notes to find
106 all the Scripture references to help you sort this out for yourself.

107 So that's the biblical argument. You know that some disagree, and
108 essentially it comes down to arguments about whether or not
109 Christ was born corresponding to the Jewish festival of
110 Tabernacles. That has to do with His Second coming! Arguments
111 from the idea that pagan Christians purposely alienated themselves
112 from the Jewish festivals and so associated the celebration of the
113 birth of Christ with Chanukah is somewhat contradictory—since
114 Chanukah is a Jewish holiday — which, by the way, is NOT
115 FOUND IN MOSES traditions but was adopted later by the Jews
116 on the occasion of God's deliverance from Haman's wicked plot

¹ Zacharias in the Temple, of the order of Abia: Luke 1:5—*Abia* is Greek for the Hebrew name *Abijah*, and Abijah appointed to the eight course: I Chronicles 24:10; see I Chronicles 23). First course began March 23-April 22., which puts the eight course at October-November. The eight course would be toward the end of November.

² Ibid. Zacharias ...

³ Christ conceived six months after John: Luke 1-26-36. Assuming Elizabeth conceived in November, this puts Christ conception at end of May beginning of April, and his birth nine months later, or around the end of December.

117 (Esther). It was called the Feast of Dedication (John 10:22). Also
118 called the *feasts of lights* since it began with Esther as the Feast of
119 Purim (*Purim* means *lights*).⁴ It is celebrated in part by beginning
120 with a time of darkness, and then suddenly, all the lights are turned
121 on.⁵ This became a traditional Jewish festival, however, it is not
122 expressly named within the Tanach (*Hebrew Bible*). It is presented
123 in the books of Maccabees. And yet, Jesus celebrated this feast,
124 which, interestingly, has traditionally been celebrated by both Jew
125 and Gentile (John 10:22). Remember, according to the prophecies
126 concerning Christ's birth, He came a *Light to the Gentiles* (Isaiah
127 49:6; Luke 2:32).

128 Certainly, it would be fitting that His FIRST coming would be
129 connected with a holy day that was not associated with the Law of
130 Moses, and that was one traditionally celebrated by both Jews and
131 Gentiles. And our own celebration of Christmas, even today, has a
132 coming together of Jews and Gentiles in celebrating the LIGHT
133 that GOD sent into the world.

134 Okay, let's talk about the use of the tree in celebrating Christmas
135 on the other side of our break. Enjoy some Christmas music!

136 I'll be right back!

137 Segment.02 Hello. Welcome back! I'm Dr. Jerry Scheidbach, pastor
138 at the Lighthouse, your brain masseur, and Paul Revere's lantern
139 lighter, lighting the lamps in the church belfry arch, signaling the
140 enemy is on the march, an enemy that would steal from us our
141 liberty.

142 The traditional use of a decorated tree for celebrating Christ's birth
143 is one of the most controversial issues among Christians—I mean,

⁴ Esther 9:25-31 — it is believed the Gentiles in the provinces where Purim was celebrated joined in the celebration for "fear of the Jews."

⁵ Preach It Teach It, Tools for Pastor, Teachers, and Believers, *Jesus Celebrated Hanukkah!* no date, no author named [ONLINE: <https://prechitteachit.org/articles/detail/jesus-celebrated-hanukkah/> — 12/23/22] For pdf, see 914.0.1

144 beyond Santa Clause coming down chimneys and reindeer flying,
145 and stuff like that.

146 It's probably safe to assume anyone listening to me understands
147 there has been an effort on the part of unbelieving pagans to coopt
148 the celebration of Christ's birth, and secularists to turn it into a
149 fanciful farce, capitalizing on the day to serve commercial interests.

150 So I'll not give any time to addressing the obvious stuff—except to
151 point out that there are elements of pagan lore that have crept into
152 the celebration of Christmas by many who don't know any better.
153 This comes under Paul's instruction regarding meats sacrificed to
154 idols. If you are asked to sit at meat, and no one makes an issue of
155 the fact that the meat set before you was sacrificed to some idol, eat
156 it asking no questions. If someone makes an issue of it, don't eat it,
157 and specifically to protect the conscience of the one who showed it,
158 for it has no power over your own conscience, since you know that
159 GOD made all things and gave to us meat to eat with thanksgiving
160 to HIM.

161 But let's look at the tree.

162 Jeremiah 10:1-5 speaks of a pagan tradition adopted by the Jewish
163 people that involved cutting down what appears to have been a
164 pine, setting it up on some base, and decorating it in honor of the
165 Queen of Heaven. Well, you can't get more pagan than that.

166 So, let's look at this passage. Jeremiah rebuked the people of Judah
167 saying, "Thus saith the LORD, learn not the way of the heathen,
168 and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are
169 dismayed by them" (Jeremiah 10:2). Then he gives some examples.
170 He describes one of the customs of the people that He called *vain*.
171 And it goes like this!

172 Jeremiah 10:3-5 "For the customs of the people are vain: for one
173 cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the
174 workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they

175 fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are
176 upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne,
177 because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do
178 evil, neither also is it in them to do good."

179 Notice that the point is the tree has no spiritual significance. It's
180 sort like the meat issue in the New Testament—don't eat the meat
181 with conscience of the idol, but otherwise, eat it!

182 Don't use the tree in any religious fashion, don't ascribe to it any
183 spiritual significance, it has no power to do evil, neither does it
184 have any power to do good. As a decoration, it is benign.

185 It's rather like the prohibition against making images is not
186 intended to forbid making carvings of art, but rather, we are not
187 to "bow down to them, nor serve them" (Exodus 20:5).

188 It's true that some believers are of such sensitive conscience they
189 would argue it's sacrilege to make any image of any creature even if
190 it's merely an artistic expression honoring GOD's creation. But
191 most of us are okay with a bust made of some person we might in
192 that way remember and argue that since we are not bowing down
193 to it, or serving the image, the mere display of such is not what the
194 Spirit has in mind in Exodus 20:5. Rather we view it similarly to the
195 way we view art, a painting—I enjoy painting and displaying
196 landscapes and seascapes. But we don't bow down to them or serve
197 them.

198 Similarly, when the Jews used various symbolism in their worship,
199 they did not worship the Ark, or the Tabernacle, or the cherubims
200 set on the mercy seat, or the lambs presented as sacrifice
201 representing Christ. Clearly, God did not forbid such artifacts, even
202 though He certainly prohibited the worship of these things—or
203 even the notion that there was in any such thing some mystical
204 power. When the Jews began worshipping the staff with the serpent
205 set on it commemorating that amazing event in the Wilderness

206 when the people were tormented by flying serpents, and God
207 instructed Moses to set a brasen serpent on a staff and speak to the
208 People to LOOK and LIVE — this was not idolatry. But later when
209 the people began to worship the thing, and to burn incense to it,
210 GOD moved the great king Hezekiah to contemptuously curse the
211 thing, to break it all to pieces, and call it Nehushtan — just a piece
212 of brass (II Kings 18:1-5).

213 So, if you are inclined at all to burn incense to your tree, or worship
214 it, or sing to the fool thing, or ascribe some magical powers to it —
215 tear it to pieces and declare ARAR-Etz — just a piece of cursed
216 wood. Hahah. But really!

217 So, does use of a decorated tree during Christmas come from this
218 ancient pagan tradition? Actually, no! At no time in Christianity
219 did anyone look at the pagan use of a tree and say, what a good
220 idea, think I'll do that.

221 The history of a decorated tree for Christmas began in Germany,
222 with Martin Luther. He was preparing a Christmas message,
223 contemplating the relationship of that glorious event with the
224 sending of the LIGHT of the WORLD into the WORLD, and when
225 he looked out his window, he noticed the starlight flickering
226 through the pine trees. He got the idea that it would be pretty to set
227 up such a tree in his home and decorate it with lighted candles.

228 This would probably not pass OSHA standards today, but this was
229 back in the early 1400s and it was a German, snowy winter. This
230 became a favorite "vain" custom among the Christians in Germany
231 who brought this with them when they migrated to America.

232 The Puritans immediately saw in this a pagan accommodation and
233 rejected it vehemently. In their railing statements against the use of
234 the tree in this way, they acknowledged Christmas was celebrated,
235 but they objected to the use of the tree in that celebration.

236 Over time, however, in the interaction with the Lutherans here, it
237 became clear that these folks were not worshipping the tree, nor
238 were they ascribing to it any magical or spiritual powers—it was a
239 harmless custom like many other such customs that come along
240 with immigrants — and finally, virtually all Christians began using
241 them as part of their Christmas *festival of LIGHTS* —USING
242 THEM SIMILARLY TO HOW THE JEWS WOULD DECORATE
243 WITH LIGHTS DURING CHANUKA. Hanging lights all about,
244 here and there, on trees and shrubs too —

245 And now we decorate our homes with lights in connection with
246 our celebration of the LIGHT OF THE WORLD sent to lighten the
247 Gentiles with the TRUTH of GOD's WORD.

248 So, the entry of a decorated tree into the cultural celebration of
249 Christmas did not originate with pagan traditions.

250 Time to conclude. So, what makes Christmas so special that so
251 many do all in their power either to distract from it's central
252 message, or just attack it directly with irrational hatred?

253 Christmas — the word means *Christ - Sent*. It does not refer to the
254 mas of the Catholic church held on this day — they conduct a mas
255 on Easter too, but we don't refer to that holy day as Eastermas. The
256 word *mas* means SENT, and the celebration acknowledges the day
257 GOD the FATHER SENT His only begotten SON into the
258 WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS.

259 Now, if that was all the celebration was about, I'm sure the Devil
260 would not like it but the Devil is not threatened by that so much as
261 what that MEANS. It means the people are delivered OUT FROM
262 UNDER HIS POWER and AUTHORITY and brought under the
263 POWER and AUTHORITY of CHRIST — the ANOINTED ONE,
264 promised KING of the world.

265 The CHRIST Child defeated Satan and broke his power over
266 mankind, allowing every member of the family of man obey the

267 COMMAND OF GOD to REPENT and BELIEVE — to turn from
268 darkness to LIGHT, from the power of Satan to GOD — and
269 receive the full and free forgiveness of GOD for all sins — for our
270 LORD, JESUS, CHRIST died for our sins, and not for ours only but
271 for the sins of the whole world — so that WHOSOEVER SHALL
272 CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD shall be saved.

273 Receive the best of all Christmas gifts right now! Humble yourself
274 to GOD and call upon Jesus Christ, confessing HE IS LORD, and
275 BELIEVING HE AROSE from the DEAD — call upon His Name
276 and ask Him to forgive you — RECEIVE the free gift of His
277 salvation right now!

278 Merry Christmas!

279 I have lit the lamps in the Church belfry arch and now you let me
280 know if you see them.

281 Email me by going to our web site at branmassage.net. That's
282 brainmassage.net. Find the CONTACT button and send me an
283 email.

284 You can leave a message on our Listener Response Hotline:
285 805.314.2114.

286 God bless you. God bless America! I'll see you in Church.