

HAPPY BIRTHDAY?
WHAT IS THE VERDICT?

BY CHUCK W. HENRY
3624 S. 16
FT. SMITH, ARKANSAS 72901
JUNE 1987

1st printing 1995
2nd printing 2007

REPRINTED BY:
ASSEMBLY OF YAH
2695 N. 2409TH RD.
MARSEILLES, IL 61341
1 [815] 357-9926
E-mail askyah@pcwildblue.com
Internet: Assemblyofyah.com

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"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal." (I Corinthians 13:1)

I am writing this article out of the love in my heart for Yahweh, for His truth. It is my intention to present this to you in love, and further, to ask if *you really* love Yahweh (creator of heaven & earth and all that in them is) enough to give up practices that heretofore were unknown by you to be from paganism. Will you *lack and reject knowledge* and be destroyed as describes in **Hosea 4:6**????!

Jeremiah 10:2 plainly tells us: *"...learn not the way of the heathen..."* Furthermore, v. 3 says *"...the customs of the people are vain..."!* **II Corinthians 10-20-22** and **II Corinthians 6:14-18** plainly show us that if we are going to serve Messiah, we have no business messing with customs that have their roots in Paganism and Unrighteousness.

By now, if you've read this far, you're probably wondering just what I'm getting at, and I urge you to stay tuned and finish reading this article if you really are seeking truth, and if you really care about your salvation. The evidence that will follow certainly demands a VERDICT.

Following, are some excerpts from some Encyclopedias that I think will lend a good background for this article. Keep in mind that the following quotes are *not my* words. Notice the various references to the time of one's birth that these quotations have in them.

"An individual horoscope (Greek: 'hour watcher') usually plots the moment of birth and is used by astrologers to analyze character, as well as--in connection with other astrological data--to predict the future." 1

"HOROSCOPE, *HAHR oh skohp*, is a chart that shows the influences the stars supposedly have on a person because of their positions at the time of his birth. Astrologers 'cast' a horoscope by determining which stars were in the ascendant, or rising in the east, at the time of the person's birth.

"...Astrologers also use positions of the stars at the time they cast the horoscope to predict the person's future. The word horoscope comes from the Greek horoskopos meaning one who observes the hour." 2

"Astrology probably began among the Chaldeans who lived thousands of years ago in the region around the Persian Gulf. ...The astrological lore of the region was so famous that the very names Chaldean and Babylonian came to mean astrologer. ...Today the principal survival of the former astrological practices is the casting of horoscopes. ...An astrologer casts a horoscope depicting the character of a person and prophesying the events of his life by preparing a diagram representing the heavens at the time of his birth." 3

NOW, ON TO MORE SPECIFIC DETAILS.

Are you superstitious? Does the Bible teach us to be superstitious, or to PRACTICE superstition? MOST ASSUREDLY NOT! Rather, it teaches that we are *to commit our way to Yahweh (Psalms 37:5), trust in Him will all of our heart, and acknowledge Him in all of our ways (Proverbs 3:5-6).*

"A pleasant superstition, believed by many children today, says that a child must blow out the candles on his birthday cake with one breath to make his wish come true." 4

Let's hear what the World Book--Childcraft International on "Holidays and Birthdays" has to say on this subject: *"The day you were born is a very special day for you and your family. You probably celebrate this holiday with a birthday cake, perhaps with a party--and by getting presents!*

"For thousands of years, people all over the world have thought of a birthday as a very special day. Long ago, people believed that on a birthday a person could be helped by good spirits or hurt by evil spirits. So, when a person had a birthday, friends and relatives gathered to protect him or her. And that's how birthday parties began.

"The idea of putting candles on birthday cakes goes back to ancient Greece. The Greeks worshipped many gods and goddesses. Among them was one called Artemis (AUH tuh mihs).

"Artemis was the goddess of the moon. The Greeks celebrated her birthday once each month by brining special cakes to her temple. The cakes were round like a full moon. And, because the moon glows with light, the cakes were decorated with lighted candles." 5

REMEMBER THAT THE MOON "NEWS" ONCE EACH MONTH.

Yes, the Childcraft makes it simple enough for a child to understand. Does it not? What about Pin-the-Tail-on-the-Donkey, Party Noisemakers, Birthday Spanking, etc.??? Note well the following:

"More and more, though, people the world over attach a certain magic to their actual date of birth. Many think the exact hour is important, too. They believe that this tells them something special about the kind of person they will be and the kind of life they will have.

"Yet most of us cannot resist reading our horoscope in the daily newspaper. We may wear a ring with our birthstone in it for good luck. And when we blow out the candles on our birthday cake, we are careful to keep what we wished a secret. If we tell, of course, our wish won't come true.

"In other words, we follow many of the old birthday beliefs. We pay attention to the meanings of old-time birth symbols. And we carry on the old celebrations. We don't necessarily take them seriously. We do these things mainly for fun. But it is also possible that there is something deep inside us that wants to believe.

"Later, during the Middle Ages, many people dabbled in magic. They believed that certain gems had special properties that could ward off evil spirits. Also, each stone was supposed to bring a special kind of good fortune. Soon people began wearing brooches, pendants, and rings with the stone that was said to be the symbol of their month of birth.

"Astrologers also stated that the exact positions of the heavenly bodies at the times of a person's birth were very important. The stars decided your future. They also decided your character, your personality, your talents, your health, and many other things about you. All of this information and much more, was to be bound in your horoscope or birth chart.

"Probably one reason that we have party on our birthday is to surround ourselves with well-wishers. For the good wishes of our friends and relatives are supposed to protect us from evil spirits. Some people say that birthday wishes must be offered as early as possible in the day.

"In many parts of the world, it is a tradition to give the birthday child pinches, smacks, spansks, thumps, bumps, or punches. Even though they may hurt a

little, they are said to be very lucky. And you must never cry. For the saying goes that if you do, you will 'cry all year.'

"The reason for birthday spanks is to spank away any evil spirits and send them scurrying far into the distance. Punches, thumps, and pinches, the harder the better, are supposed to do the same thing. In Belgium, a family member may tiptoe into the birthday child's room early in the morning. Immediately on awakening, the child will be pricked with a needle for good luck!"

"The older you are, the more spanks, punches, or bumps you will probably receive. Usually there is one for each year of your life plus 'one to grow on,' 'one to live on,' 'one to eat on,' 'one to get married on,' and so forth."

"Party snappers, horn, bursting balloons, firecrackers, and other noisemakers are just one more way of trying to scare off any bad-luck spirits that may be hovering about."

"The games we play at birthday parties are often a symbol of trying to know the unknown. In this case, of course, the unknown is the future, or the new year of life that lies ahead for the birthday child."

"One of the oldest birthday games is Pin the Tail on the Donkey. A large picture of a donkey without a tail is pinned to the wall. Each child at the party is given a donkey's tail made of paper and a pin to stick through it. Then, one by one, the children are blindfolded. They are spun around a few times and pointed in the direction of the donkey. The child who pins the tail closest to where it should be on the donkey wins the prize."

"There are other versions of this game, such as Pin the Nose on the Clown or Pin the Ear on the Bunny. But the idea of trying to guess correctly, while blindfolded, is the same."

"The gifts that everyone is most excited about, though, are the ones that have been brought to the birthday child. These presents are usually opened at the party so everyone can admire them. They, too, are a form of well-wishing."

"Finally the last quest leaves, the party is over, and the new year of life is about to begin in earnest. It is hoped that all the birthday rituals and ceremonies will have worked their magic and that the year ahead will indeed be a happy one."

Are you picking up the same thing that I am?--That birthday celebrations are connected in with wishes for a good future, and trying to protect yourself for the future, which seems to be tied into Astrology, the Horoscope, and Superstition; let alone the fact that the Childcraft says that these celebrations are linked to the worship of Artemis!!!

Have you ever asked yourself the question: "Who told me that I should celebrate my birthday each year?" Take a long, hard look thru the pages of the Bible. You will find that the Pharaoh of Egypt celebrated his birthday, on which the chief baker was hung (**Genesis 40:20-22**). You will also find that Herod celebrated his birthday, on which John the Baptist's head was cut off (**Matthew 14:6-10**). You won't find (that I know of) anywhere that Yahweh ever commanded His people to celebrate their birthday, in fact, on the contrary, **Ecclesiastes 7:1** says that the day of death is better than the day of birth. If we don't even celebrate Yahoshua Messiah's birthday, HOW MUCH LESS OUR OWN?! Yahoshua told us what to do in remembrance of Him, see **I Corinthians 11:23-26**: *"For I have received of the Master that which also I delivered unto you, That the Master Yahoshua the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, Take, eat: This is My body which is broken for you: This do in remembrance of Me. After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Master's death till He come."*

So, who told us to celebrate our birthdays? It's a tradition that we've been raised with. A *cunningly devised fable* to separate our attention from Yahweh, and cause us to miss the mark (**II Peter 1:16; Colossians 2:8**)--As is the case with Christmas, Easter, etc.

Will you continue this practice? And WILL YOU CONTINUE TO TEACH THIS PRACTICE TO YOUR CHILDREN SO THAT THEY CAN *LEARN THE WAY OF THE HEATHEN???*

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? Yahweh forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (**Romans 6:1-2**)

Revelation 18:4 says, *"Come out of her (Babylon), my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."*

Let us NOT lay aside this commandment to hold on to *traditions of man*

(Mark 7:6-9).

Oh! I know that you may think that I'm too serious about all of this. Maybe you think I'm off-the-wall, out-to-lunch, and don't know what's going on. But then again, that's probably what was thought about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they refused to simply bow the knee! See **Daniel 3**.

One additional thought before the closing scriptures: the use of a pagan word in **reference** to a time or place is far different from **practicing** the WAY of the heathen. Even in the Sacred Scriptures references are made to places wherein the term "Baal" is used (**Judges 9:4; Joshua 11:17; 12:7; 13:5; etc. also see Numbers 25:5**).

Please see the closing Scriptures: **Matthew 10:34-49**.

HALLELUYAH!

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