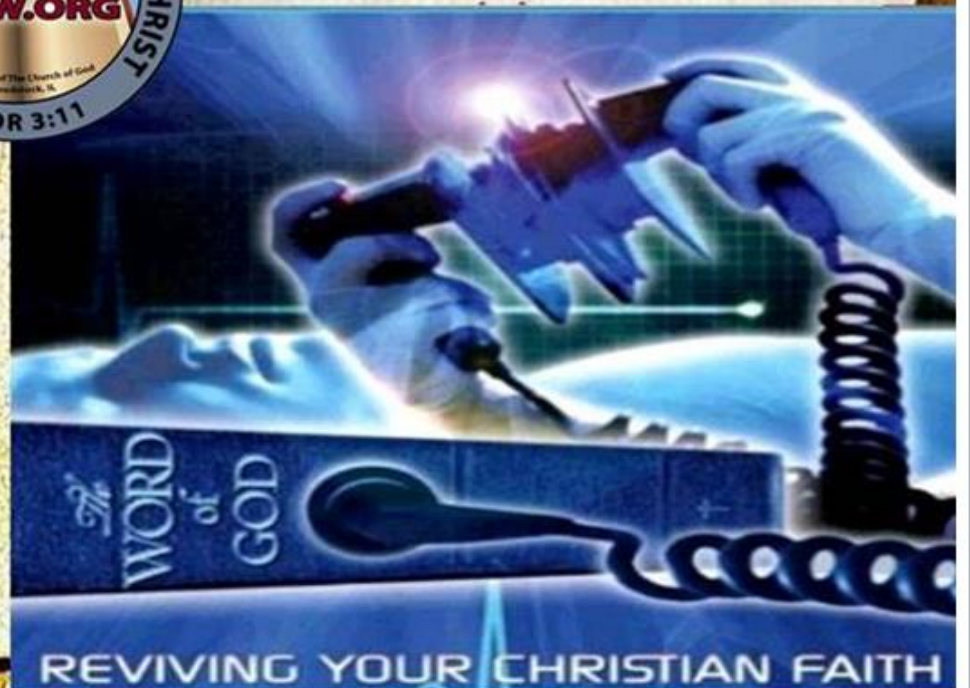
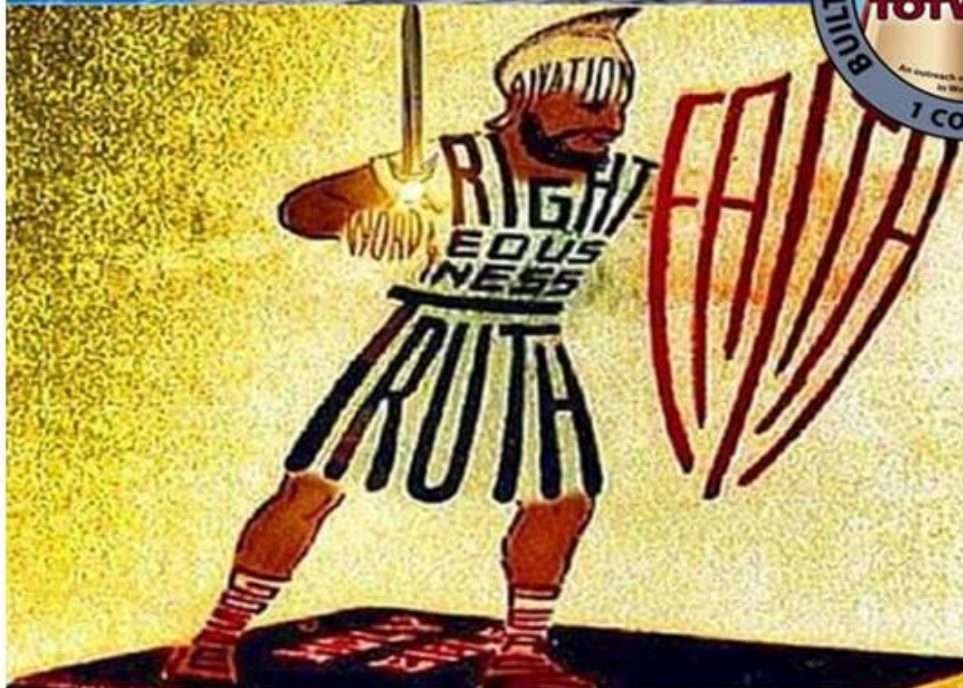
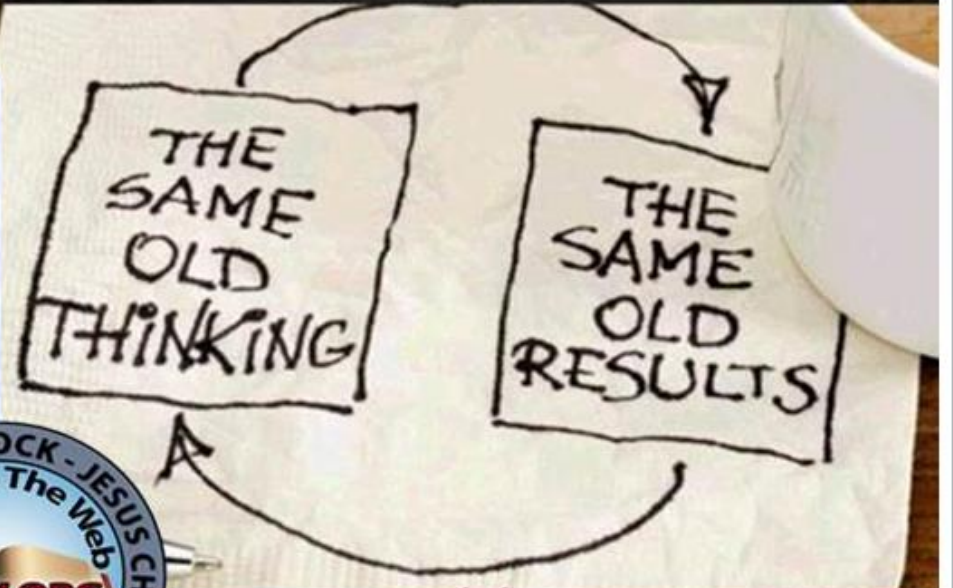


# Think BIBLICALLY

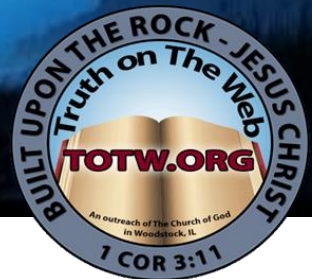


## RENEW your mind ROMANS 12:12



# Unwrapping Christmas

Facts & Fictions



Idolatree



**Jeremiah 10:1-4** 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 at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: 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.

**Jeremiah 10:5-9** They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good. Forasmuch as there is none like unto Thee, O LORD; Thou art great, and Thy name is great in might. Who would not fear Thee, O King of nations? for to Thee doth it appertain: forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto Thee. But they are altogether brutish and foolish: the stock is a doctrine of vanities. Silver spread into plates is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz, the work of the workman, and of the hands of the founder: blue and purple is their clothing: they are all the work of cunning men.



Test Your Knowledge

**TRUE**  
— OR —  
**FALSE**

**Baal was a sun god and is the real “reason for the season”**

**TRUE**  
— OR —  
**FALSE**

**December 25<sup>th</sup> was the birthday of Tammuz, the son of Nimrod and Semiramis**



**TRUE**  
— OR —  
**FALSE**

**Saturnalia was an ancient Roman festival celebrated  
December 25<sup>th</sup> in honor of the winter solstice  
marking the birth of the sun**

**TRUE**  
— OR —  
**FALSE**

**Aurelian instituted the festival of Natalis Sol Invicti on  
December 25 in 274 CE**

**TRUE**  
— OR —  
**FALSE**

**Mithras = Sol Invictus?**

**TRUE**  
— OR —  
**FALSE**

**The observance of December 25 (as a Christian festival) only dates from the fourth century and is due to assimilation with the Mithraic festival of the birth of the sun.**

*World Popular Encyclopedia, Volume 3*

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**FALSE**



**Baal was a sun god and is the real “reason for the season”**

A specific "calendar of Baal worship days" isn't readily available because ancient Baal worship practices varied across different regions and time periods, but based on historical records, Baal was primarily worshipped during the spring and summer months, often coinciding with agricultural cycles and the rainy season, with key festivals likely occurring during the summer solstice and harvest time. 

Key points about Baal worship days:

**Seasonal focus:**

Most Baal worship centered around the spring and summer months due to his association with fertility, rain, and thunderstorms, crucial for crop growth.

**Summer solstice:**


This pivotal point in the solar year was likely a significant time for Baal celebrations with rituals focused on his power over the sun and weather.

**Harvest festivals:**

As Baal was seen as a provider of bountiful harvests, celebrations likely occurred during harvest time as well.

**New moon and full moon:**

Some scholars suggest that Baal worship might have been tied to specific phases of the moon, with rituals performed during new moons and full moons. 

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**FALSE**



**December 25<sup>th</sup> was the birthday of Tammuz, the son of Nimrod and Semiramis**


**Genesis 10:8-10** And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. **9** He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. **10** And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

**1 Chronicles 1:8-10** The sons of Ham; Cush, and Mizraim, Put, and Canaan. **9** And the sons of Cush; Seba, and Havilah, and Sabta, and Raamah, and Sabtecha. And the sons of Raamah; Sheba, and Dedan. **10** And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be mighty upon the earth.

The earliest references to Semiramis, the legendary queen of Assyria and Babylon, are from the classical historian Herodotus and the Greek scholar Diodorus Siculus: 





### Herodotus


The first to mention Semiramis, Herodotus's version of the story is considered the most down-to-earth. He described how Semiramis fortified the banks of the Euphrates and a city gate in Babylon was named after her. 



### Diodorus Siculus

Wrote a detailed, semi-historical account of Semiramis's reign in his work Bibliotheca Historica. Diodorus's work was based on the work of Ctesias of Cnidus, a Greek doctor who served the Persian court in the fourth century B.C. 

Semiramis is thought to be based on the historical Sammu-Ramat, the queen regent of the Assyrian Empire from 811–806 BCE. Sammu-Ramat held the throne for her young son, Adad Nirari III, until he came of age. However, modern historians are divided on whether an historical Semiramis ever lived. 

The stories of Semiramis have been exaggerated and changed over thousands of years, and it's not wise to base any cause or belief on them. 



Stele of Sammuramat, queen of Shamshi-Adad, King of the Universe, King of Assyria, Mother of Adad Nirari, King of the Universe, King of Assyria, Daughter-in-Law of Shalmaneser, King of the Four Regions of the World.

Other ancient accounts, such as those by Diodorus Siculus, also seem to have combined earlier accounts of Sammu-Ramat's reign with myths and legends relating to the goddess Astarte and Ishtar/Inanna so that, in time, the historical queen became the mythical, semi-divine, Semiramis.

[worldhistory.org/Semiramis](http://worldhistory.org/Semiramis)



**FALSE**



**Saturnalia was an ancient Roman festival celebrated  
December 25<sup>th</sup> in honor of the winter solstice  
marking the birth of the sun**

Our ancestors restricted the Saturnalia to a single day, the fourteenth before the Kalends of January, but, after Gaius Caesar had added two days to December, the day on which the festival was held became the sixteenth before the Kalends of January, with the result that, since the exact day was not commonly known—some observing the addition which Caesar had made to the calendar and others following the old usage—the festival came to be regarded as lasting for more days than one.

And yet in fact among the men of old time there were some who supposed that the Saturnalia lasted for seven days...

[But] one can infer, then, from all that has been said, that the Saturnalia lasted but one day and was held only on the fourteenth day before the Kalends of January; it was on this day alone that the shout of “Io Saturnalia” would be raised, in the temple of Saturn, at a riotous feast. Now, however, during the celebration of the Saturnalia, this day is allotted to the festival of the Opalia, although the day was first assigned to Saturn and Ops in common.

Macrobius Ambrosius Theodosius - Saturnalia I.10 (ca 400 AD)

I judge that I've now abundantly demonstrated that the Saturnalia used to be celebrated on one day only, the fourteenth before the Kalends, but that it was later extended to three, first as a result of the days that Caesar added to the month, and then by the edict of Augustus in which he assigned to the Saturnalia a three day holiday. As a result, they begin on the sixteenth day before the Kalends and end on the fourteenth, when the one day observance was formerly held. But the addition of the Sigillaria extends the public bustle and religious celebration to seven days.

Macrobius Ambrosius Theodosius - Saturnalia I.10

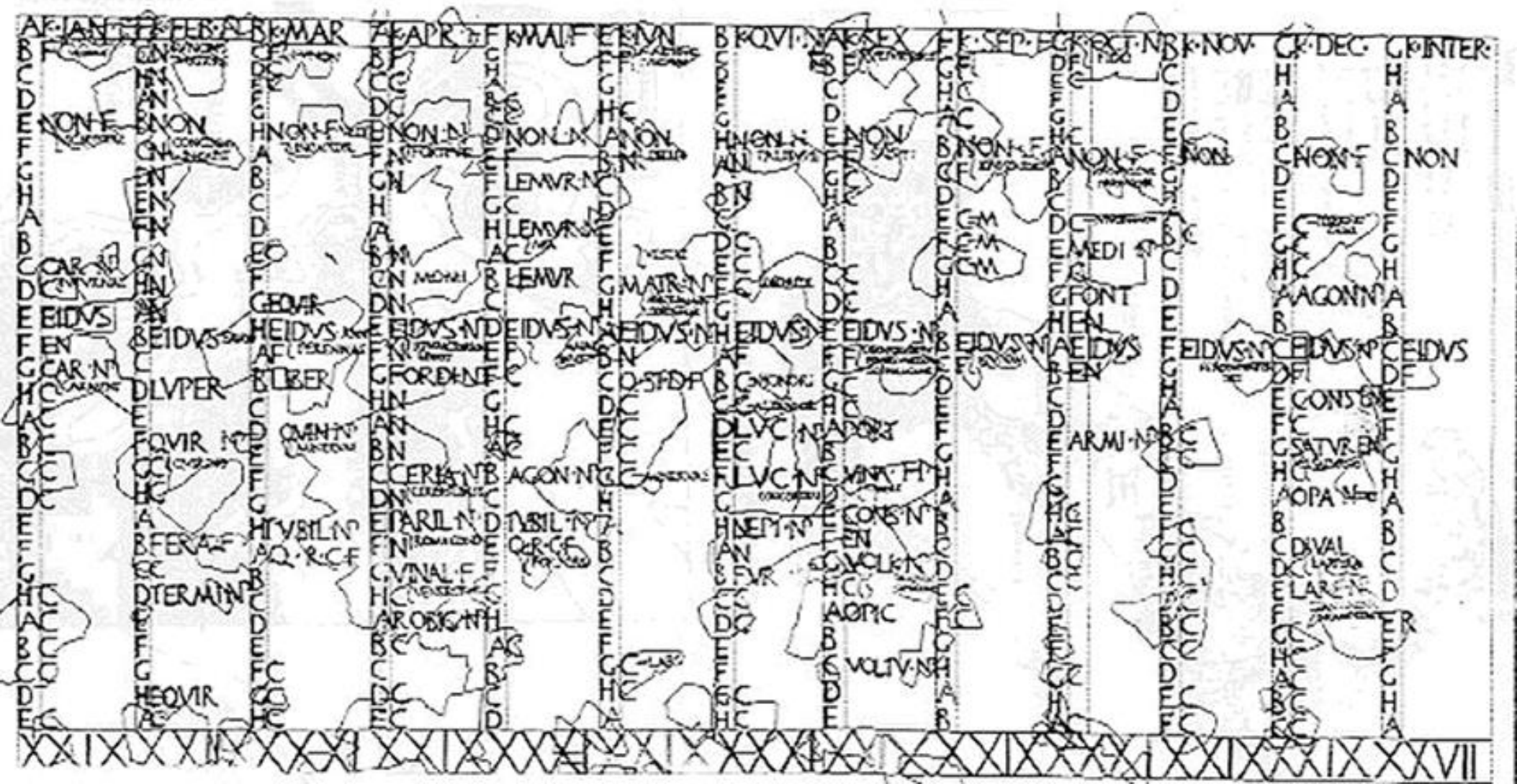


# MENSIS DECEMBER

habet dies XXXI.

1	D	F	G	KAL · DECEMB	SARMATICI · $\overline{CM}$ · XXIII
2		G	H	III · NON	INITIVM · MVNERIS
3		A	A	III	SENATVS · LEGITIMVS
4	E	B	B	PRIDIE	MVNVS · ARCA · DIES · AEGYPTIACVS
5		C	C	NON	MVNVS · ARCA
6	F	D	D	VIII · IDVS	MVNVS · ARCA
7		E	E	VII	
8		F	F	VI	MVNVS · KANDIDA
9	G	G	G	V	
10		A	H	III	
11		B	A	III	SEPTIMONTIA
12	H	C	B	PRIDIE	LVDI · LANCIONICI
13		D	C	IDIB	LVDI · SENATVS · LEGITIMVS
14		E	D	XIX · KAL · IAN	LVDI · DIES · AEGYPTIACVS
15	I	F	E	XVIII	$\overline{N}$ · DIVI · VERI · $\overline{CM}$ · XXIII
16		G	F	XVII	LVDI
17		A	G	XVI	LVDI · SATVRNALIA
18	K	B	H	XV	LANCIONICI · $\overline{CM}$ · XXIII · SOL · CAPRICORNO
19		C	A	XIIII	MVNVS · ARCA
20		D	B	XIII	MVNVS · KANDIDA
21	A	E	C	XII	MVNVS · ARCA
22		F	D	XI	
23		G	E	X	MVNVS · ARCA
24	B	A	F	VIII	MVNVS · CONSVMMAT
25		B	G	VIII	$\overline{N}$ · INVICTI · $\overline{CM}$ · XXX
26		C	H	VII	
27	C	D	A	VI	
28		E	B	V	
29		F	C	IIII	
30	D	G	D	III	$\overline{N}$ · DIVI · TITI · $\overline{CM}$ · XXIII
31		A	E	PRIDIE	MAGISTRATI · IVRANT





Fasti Antiates maiores ca. 85-54 BC

# Calendar From The Baths Of Titus



- I
- II
- III
- IIII
- V
- VI
- VII
- VIII
- VIII
- X
- XI
- XII
- XIII
- XIII
- XV



- XVI ○
- XVII ○
- XVIII ○
- XVIII ○
- XX ○
- XXI ○
- XXII ○
- XXIII ○
- XXIII ○
- XXV ○
- XXVI ○
- XXVII ○
- XXVIII ○
- XXVIII ○
- XXX ○



**Aurelian instituted the festival of Natalis Sol Invicti on December 25 in 274 CE**

The celebration of the Nativity of Christ on 25 December, just after Saturnalia, is first attributed in the calendar of Philocalus in AD 336, and the day may have been chosen in opposition to the festival held that day in honour of Sol Invictus, whose temple was dedicated in AD 274 by Aurelian.

H.H. Scullard, *Festivals and Ceremonies of the Ancient Roman Republic*, New York: Cornell University Press, 1981, p.207

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H.H. Scullard, *Festivals and Ceremonies of the Ancient Roman Republic*, New York: Cornell University Press, 1981, p.207

The contention that December 25<sup>th</sup> was an especially popular festival for Sol in late antiquity is equally unfounded, as is as the notion that this festival was established by Aurelian when he supposedly instituted a new cult of the sun. Aurelian did of course build the sun a magnificent new temple and he raised the priests of Sol to the level of *pontifices*. A new festival on December 25<sup>th</sup> would not have been out-of-place in this context, but it must be stressed, *pace* Usener, that **there is no evidence that Aurelian instituted a celebration of Sol on that day. A feast day for Sol on December 25<sup>th</sup> is not mentioned until eighty years later, in the Calendar of 354 and, subsequently, in 362 by Julian in his Oration to King Helios.** In short, while the winter solstice on or around the 25 of December was well established in the Roman imperial calendar, **there is no evidence that a religious celebration of Sol on that day antedated the celebration of Christmas, and none that indicates that Aurelian had a hand in its institution.** One might think that celebrating the sun on the winter solstice is so self-evident that we need hardly doubt that such a festival had a long tradition, but what evidence we have actually belies that notion. The traditional feast days of Sol, as recorded in the early imperial *fasti*, were August 8<sup>th</sup> and/or August 9<sup>th</sup>, possibly August 28<sup>th</sup>, and December 11<sup>th</sup>. These are all dates that are unrelated to any important celestial alignment of Sol, such as the solstices and equinoxes.

Steven Hijmans

*Sol: The Sun in the Art and Religions of Rome, Volume 1, chapter 9*



**FALSE**



**Mithras = Sol Invictus?**











**FALSE**



**“The observance of December 25 (as a Christian festival) only dates from the fourth century and is due to assimilation with the Mithraic festival of the birth of the sun.”**

*World Popular Encyclopedia, Volume 3*

Many Christians think that Christians celebrate Christ's birth on December 25th because the church fathers appropriated the date of a pagan festival. Almost no one minds, except for a few groups on the fringes of American Evangelicalism, who seem to think that this makes Christmas itself a pagan festival. But it is perhaps interesting to know that the choice of December 25th is the result of attempts among the earliest Christians to figure out the date of Jesus' birth based on calendrical calculations that had nothing to do with pagan festivals.

Rather, the pagan festival of the "Birth of the Unconquered Sun" instituted by the Roman Emperor Aurelian on 25 December 274, was almost certainly an attempt to create a pagan alternative to a date that was already of some significance to Roman Christians. Thus the "pagan origins of Christmas" is a myth without historical substance.

William J. Tighe

*Calculating Christmas: The Story Behind December 25*

Hippolytus seems to have been the first to fix upon Dec. 25. He had reached the conviction that Jesus's life from conception to crucifixion was precisely thirty-three years and that both events occurred on Mar. 25. By calculating nine months from the annunciation or conception he arrived at Dec. 25 as the day Of Christ 's birth.

*The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*

**ca 180-185 CE**

Why is it necessary for us to make an Easter calculation of the moon with the Jews? In fact, just as we ought to celebrate the birthday of the Lord on whatever day the **8 kalends of January** shall fall, so also the Easter of Christ on the day of 8 kalends of April, when the resurrection happened.

Theophilus of Antioch - Magdeburgenses, Cent. 2. c. 6. Hospinian, de origine Festorum Christianorum

**ca 202-211 CE**

For the first advent of our Lord in the flesh, when He was born in Bethlehem, which happened **eight days before the kalends of January**, on the 4th day of the week, while Augustus was reigning

Hippolytus - Commentary on Daniel 4.23.3

**221 CE**

Sextus Julius Africanus identified December 25 as the date of Jesus' birth.

“Around 200 C.E. Tertullian of Carthage reported the calculation that the 14th of Nisan (the day of the crucifixion according to the Gospel of John) in the year Jesus died was equivalent to March 25 in the Roman (solar) calendar. March 25 is, of course, nine months before December 25; it was later recognized as the Feast of the Annunciation—the commemoration of Jesus’ conception. Thus, Jesus was believed to have been conceived and crucified on the same day of the year. Exactly nine months later, Jesus was born, on December 25.

This idea appears in an anonymous Christian treatise titled *On Solstices and Equinoxes*, which appears to come from fourth-century North Africa. The treatise states: “Therefore **our Lord was conceived on the eighth of the kalends of April in the month of March [March 25], which is the day of the passion of the Lord and of his conception. For on that day he was conceived on the same he suffered.**” Based on this, the treatise dates Jesus’ birth to the winter solstice.

Augustine, too, was familiar with this association. In *On The Trinity* (c. 399–419) he writes: “For **He [Jesus] is believed to have been conceived on the 25th of March, upon which day also he suffered**; so the womb of the Virgin, in which He was conceived, where no one of mortals was begotten, corresponds to the new grave in which He was buried, wherein was never man laid, neither before Him nor since. **But He was born, according to tradition, upon December the 25th.**”



**In the East, too, the dates of Jesus' conception and death were linked. But instead of working from the 14th of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar, the easterners used the 14th of the first spring month (Artemisios) in their local Greek calendar—April 6 to us. April 6 is, of course, exactly nine months before January 6—the eastern date for Christmas.** In the East, too, we have evidence that April was associated with Jesus' conception and crucifixion. Bishop Epiphanius of Salamis writes that on April 6, "The lamb was shut up in the spotless womb of the holy virgin, he who took away and takes away in perpetual sacrifice the sins of the world." Even today, the Armenian Church celebrates the Annunciation in early April (on the 7th, not the 6th) and Christmas on January 6.

Thus, we have Christians in two parts of the world calculating Jesus' birth on the basis that his death and conception took place on the same day (March 25 or April 6) and coming up with two close but different results (December 25 and January 6)."

<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-topics/new-testament/how-december-25-became-christmas/>

Timeline of events:

**180-185 AD** – Theophilus of Antioch states Jesus' birth was December 25.

**202-211 AD** - Hippolytus gives Jesus' date of birth as December 25.

**218 AD** - Elagabalus becomes Emperor at age 14. Introduces Sol to Rome.

**274 AD** - Aurelian elevates Sol worship. Dedicates a temple and institutes games to Sol – but not on December 25th. Dies the next year.

**336 AD** - The first mention of "Natalis Invicti" on December 25th

**363 AD** - Emperor Julian "the Apostate", who despised Christianity and tried to replace Christianity with paganism, gives us the first explicit reference to a celebration of Sol in December.



## DOES THE BIBLE POINT TO THE BIRTH OF CHRIST IN DECEMBER? THE ANSWER IS "YES!"

### ZECHARIAH AND THE COURSE OF ABIJAH

The dating of Jesus' birth finds its roots in the historical details presented in Luke's Gospel, particularly through the account of Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist.

In Luke 1:5, it states, "In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah." This detail offers a significant chronological clue when placed within its historical context. To grasp its importance, we must consider the organized system of priestly divisions instituted by King David for Temple service.

David arranged the priesthood into twenty-four divisions, as outlined in 1 Chronicles 24:7-18. Each division served in the Temple for one week, twice a year, in addition to serving during major festivals. Zechariah belonged to the division of Abijah, which was the eighth in this rotation.

The Jewish liturgical calendar begins in the month of Nisan, corresponding to March/April today. Each division's service spans a full cycle of twenty-four weeks, meaning each served twice a year, with all priests coming together during the important festivals: Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles.

Historical sources, including writings from Josephus and findings among the Dead Sea Scrolls, shed light on these priestly rotations. Scholars find that Zechariah's service in the division of Abijah would have occurred twice each year, once in spring, and once during the second annual rotation in the eighth month (Tishrei), coinciding with the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) in late September, a major observance in the Jewish calendar.

Apart from written sources in the early church speaking to Christ's birth in December, Luke 1:10 supports this second timing by describing "the whole multitude of the people praying outside at the hour of incense," indicating a large gathering typical of significant occasions like Yom Kippur.

Such timing is vital for establishing the chronology of related events. It was while performing his priestly duties that Zechariah had an encounter with an angel of the Lord, who foretold of the future pregnancy of his wife Elizabeth and the birth of John the Baptist.

After completing his temple service, Zechariah returned home and laid with Elizabeth, leading to the conception of John the Baptist. As Luke 1:23-24 notes, "And when his time of service ended, he went home. After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived and for five months she hid herself." Given Zechariah's service timeline, John's conception likely occurred in late September or early October, aligning with the month of Tishrei.

**Matthew 1:18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise...

# The Conception of John

**Luke 1:5** There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.

**Luke 1:23-24** And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house. And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying,

**1 Chronicles 24:7-19** Now the first lot came forth to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah, The third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim, The fifth to Malchijah, the sixth to Mijamin, The seventh to Hakkoz, **the eighth to Abijah**, The ninth to Jeshua, the tenth to Shecaniah, The eleventh to Eliashib, the twelfth to Jakim, The thirteenth to Huppah, the fourteenth to Jeshebeab, The fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immer, The seventeenth to Hezir, the eighteenth to Aphses, The nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezkel, The one and twentieth to Jachin, the two and twentieth to Gamul, The three and twentieth to Delaiah, the four and twentieth to Maaziah. **These were the orderings of them in their service to come into the house of the LORD, according to their manner, under Aaron their father, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded him.**

**2 Chronicles 23:8** So the Levites and all Judah did according to all things that Jehoiada the priest had commanded, and took every man his men that were to **come in on the Sabbath, with them that were to go out on the Sabbath**: for Jehoiada the priest dismissed not the courses.

## **NOT STATED IN SCRIPTURE:**

- The start date for the 24 courses
- How the courses cycled
- What about the three pilgrimage Feasts?



At three times during the year, all twenty-four priestly watches have equal status, in that all receive a share in the Temple service independent of the standard order of the watches and all receive a share in the accompanying gifts of the priesthood: In the portions of the offerings of the Festivals sacrificed on the altar and in the distribution of the shewbread on Shabbat during the Festivals.

Sukkah 5.7

As the Sages said: When the Temple was destroyed for the first time, that day was the Ninth of Av, a date on which several calamities had already occurred; and it was the conclusion of Shabbat, i.e., it was on the day after Shabbat, a Sunday; and it was the year after a Sabbatical Year; and it was the week of the priestly watch of Jehoiarib; and the priests and Levites were standing on their platform and singing song. And what song were they singing? They were singing the verse: “And He brought upon them their own iniquity, and He will cut them off in their own evil” (Psalms 94:23). And they did not manage to recite the end of that verse: “The Lord our God will cut them off,” before gentiles came and conquered them. And likewise, the same happened when the Second Temple was destroyed.

Arakhin 11b

**2 Kings 25:8-9** And in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month, which is the nineteenth year of king Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, came Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, unto Jerusalem: **9** And he burnt the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great man's house burnt he with fire.

**Jeremiah 52:12-13** Now in the fifth month, in the tenth day of the month, which was the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, came Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, which served the king of Babylon, into Jerusalem, **13** And burned the house of the LORD, and the king's house; and all the houses of Jerusalem, and all the houses of the great men, burned he with fire:

...strangers entered into the temple, and ate in it, and defiled it, the seventh and eighth days; and on the ninth, towards dark, they set fire to it; and it burned and continued all that whole day...

## 587 BCE CALCULATED NEW MOONS (Jerusalem)

These dates are for Israel and regions westward to the International Date Line.

Date (Evening)	Sunset	Moonset	Illum. %	Sun's Azimuth	[Moon's at Sunset] Azimuth	Sun's Altitude	Sun's Alt (M)	Visib Number	Visible?
17 Mar	5:48	6:07	0.42	88.13	83.50	2.99	-4.09	39.54	Not Visible
18 Mar	5:48	7:17	3.11	88.59	81.70	17.0	-18.6	211.4	Visible

First Day of the Month is Saturday, 19 Mar 587 BCE

Date (Evening)	Sunset	Moonset	Illum. %	Sun's Azimuth	[Moon's at Sunset] Azimuth	Sun's Altitude	Sun's Alt (M)	Visib Number	Visible?
15 Apr	6:04	6:02	0.18	101.1	97.33	-1.41	0.54	-4.468	Not Visible
16 Apr	6:05	7:10	1.85	101.5	95.58	12.2	-13.3	146.0	Visible

First Day of the Month is Sunday, 17 Apr 587 BCE

Date (Evening)	Sunset	Moonset	Illum. %	Sun's Azimuth	[Moon's at Sunset] Azimuth	Sun's Altitude	Sun's Alt (M)	Visib Number	Visible?
14 May	6:22	5:57	0.17	111.8	110.5	-5.73	5.05	-45.39	Not Visible
15 May	6:23	7:04	0.85	112.1	107.3	7.03	-7.81	83.35	Not Visible
16 May	6:23	8:09	4.03	112.4	103.9	19.4	-19.1	245.3	Visible

First Day of the Month is Tuesday, 17 May 587 BCE

Date (Evening)	Sunset	Moonset	Illum. %	Sun's Azimuth	[Moon's at Sunset] Azimuth	Sun's Altitude	Sun's Alt (M)	Visib Number	Visible?
13 Jun	6:39	6:56	0.19	117.9	115.8	2.16	-2.93	28.65	Not Visible
14 Jun	6:40	7:55	2.24	117.9	110.3	13.1	-13.0	160.5	Visible

First Day of the Month is Wednesday, 15 Jun 587 BCE

Date (Evening)	Sunset	Moonset	Illum. %	Sun's Azimuth	[Moon's at Sunset] Azimuth	Sun's Altitude	Sun's Alt (M)	Visib Number	Visible?
12 Jul	6:43	6:39	0.02	116.8	119.6	-1.56	0.84	-9.570	Not Visible
13 Jul	6:43	7:29	0.90	116.6	112.2	7.64	-8.22	90.26	Prob Not Visible
14 Jul	6:43	8:12	3.77	116.5	104.4	16.4	-15.6	211.2	Visible

First Day of the Month is (possibly one day earlier) Friday, 15 Jul 587 BCE

Dates	Course
9 <sup>th</sup> of Ab – Sabbath, July 23, 587 BC	
Sabbath, July 23 – Sabbath, July 30	Jehoiarib
Sabbath, July 30 – Sabbath, August 6	Jedaiah
Sabbath, August 6 – Sabbath, August 13	Harim
Sabbath, August 13 – Sabbath, August 20	Seorim
Sabbath, August 20 – Sabbath, August 27	Malchijah
Sabbath, August 27 – Sabbath, September 3	Mijamin
Sabbath, September 3 – Sabbath, September 10	Hakkoz
Sabbath, September 10 – Sabbath, September 17	Abijah

Dates	Events
Sunday, September 18 – Friday, September 23	John conceived
Sunday, March 19 – Sabbath, March 25	John 6 months
Sunday, December 24 – Sabbath, December 30	40 weeks

In Iraq, the principal lambing season of Awassi ewes is in November, and in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Israel in December-January.

H. Epstein - Professor Emeritus of Animal Breeding at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

Published by Food and Agricultural Organization: <https://www.fao.org/4/p8550e/P8550E01.htm>

**Luke 1:5** There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia:

Assumption:

1.

**Luke 1:5** There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of **the course of Abia**:

Assumption:

1. This was the first course of Abiyah



**Luke 1:23-24** And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house. And **after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived**, and hid herself five months, saying,

Assumption:

1.

**Luke 1:23-24** And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house. And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying,

Assumption:

1. Elisabeth conceived immediately

**Luke 1:26-33** And **in the sixth month** the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, **behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a Son, and shalt call His name JESUS.** He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of his father David: And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end.

**Luke 1:34-38** Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and **this is the sixth month with her**, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

# No Date Given in Scripture!

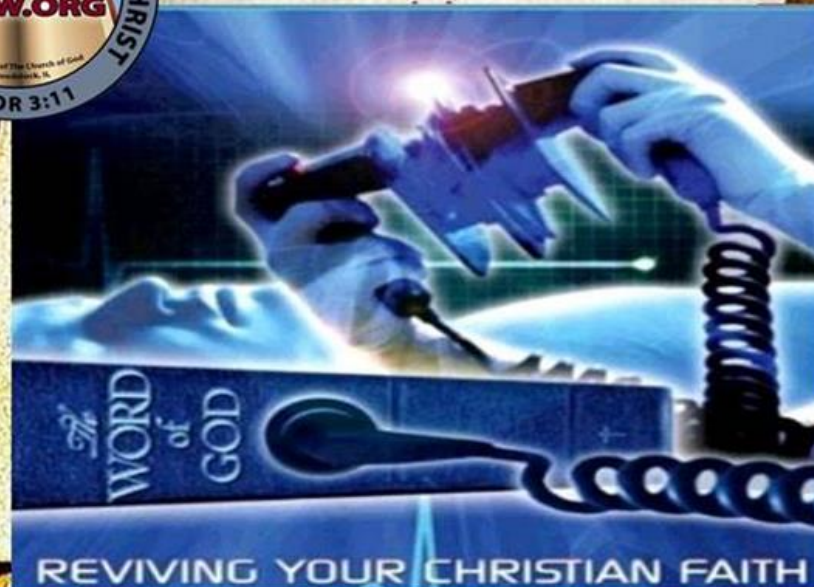
**Matthew 1:18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise...

**Matthew 2:1** Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem.

**Luke 2:7** And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

**Acts 17:22-30** Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent.

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