

SCHOOL OF MESSIAH BIBLE INSTITUTE
YESHIVAH MASHIACH

Under the Auspice of New Covenant Messianic Ministries Int'l

Course:

PAGANISM



Prepared By
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President & Overseer

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PAGANISM

SUBJECTS

LESSON 1

- A. Kingdom of Darkness**
- B. Origins of Paganism**
- C. Spread of the Pagan System Throughout the earth**

LESSON 2

Common Features of Pagan Worship Traditions

LESSON 3

Pagan Calendar

LESSON 4

Calendar of YHVH

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PAGANISM

Lesson 1

Definition:

Paganism is derived from the the word "pagan". Pagan literally means a "country dweller" and is associated with the terms "hethan" and "gentile". From a Biblical point of view, these terms refer to non-Hebraic ethnic groups. Paganism has come to typically be used to refer to all non-Hebraic indigenous polytheistic religious traditions.

A Biblical definition is revealed in Romans 1:18-24

Paganism is also known as the world system.

It is a system of confusion to pervert the plan of God for mankind.

It is a counterfeit system designed to draw mankind away from the Most High.

Preface:

Two Opposing Systems in the Earth

1. Kingdom of God
2. Kingdom of Darkness

A. The Kingdom of Darkness

1. Associates References:
 - Power of Satan (Acts 26:18)
 - Power of the Air (Eph. 2:2)
 - Power of Darkness (Col 1:13)(Note: "power" is exousia in Greek meaning governmental authority)
2. Ruled by Satan (John 12:31, Eph. 2:2.)
3. Visible Manifestation is through the Pagan (World) System

B. Origin of the Pagan System

1. City of Babylon (Gen. 11:1-9, Rev. 17:1-5)
 - a) Name means confusion
 - b) Called the Mother of Harlots
 - c) Birthed the religious system of idolatry

C. Spread of the Pagan System Throughout the Earth

1. Occurred as a result of the people being scattered (Gen. 11:8)
2. Occurred as a result of the landmass being divided (Gen. 10:25)

PAGANISM

Lesson 2

Common Features of Pagan Worship Traditions

A. Worship of the Creation (sun, moon, earth, stars etc.)

Romans 1:25; Deut. 17:3-5; 2 Kings 23:5

B. Polytheistic (Worship many gods)

C. Sun God veneration

Deut. 17:3-5; 2 Kings 23:5,11; Ezekiel 8:17

D. Mother Goddess of Fertility called "Queen of Heaven"

Jeremiah 44:17-19

E. Mother goddess and Child veneration

Judges 2:11-13

F. List of Some Pagan Traditions

Babylonian

Sun god: Shamash

Semiramis and Tammuz (Ezekiel 8:14)

Egyptian

Sun god: Ra

Fertility goddess and child: Isis and Horus

Canaanite

Ashteroth and Baal

Celtic

Sun god: Lugh

Persian

Sun God: Mithra

Greek

Sun god: Helios

Roman

Sun god: 1st. Apollo, 2nd. Sol Invictus

Paganism Lesson 3

Pagan Calendar

I. Days of the Week

- A. Named after gods
- B. List of days:
 - Sunday - Sun god
 - Monday - Moon god
 - Tuesday - Tiw (Norse god, Odin's son)
 - Wednesday - Odin's day (King of the Norse gods)
 - Thursday - Thor's day (Norse god, Odin's son)
 - Friday - Frige (Odin's wife)
 - Saturday - Saturn (Roman god of agriculture)

II. Months of the Year

- A. Solar Cycle
- B. Named and Dedicated to gods and goddesses
 - January - Named after "Janus" & dedicated to "Nuit"
 - February - Dedicated to "Astarte"
 - March - Named after "Mars" & dedicated to "Ostara"
 - April - Dedicated to "Maat"
 - May - Dedicated to "Isis"
 - June - Named after & dedicated to the goddesses "Juno" and "Hera"
 - July - Dedicated to "Sekhmet"
 - August - Named after Ceasar Augustus
 - September - Dedeicated to "Pomona"
 - October - Dedicated to "Hathor"
 - November - Dedicated to "Hekate"
 - December - Dedicated to "Vesta"

III. Major Annual Feasts

- A. Winter Festivals
 - Dec 19 - Return of the Sun God. Druid Festival of Alban Arthuan
 - Dec 21 thru 25 - Old Egyptian festival of Isis, the Magna Mater (Mother of God and Mother of All) giving birth to God Horus.
 - Dec 22 - Winter Solstice
 - Dec 24 - Celtic Tree Month - Month of Reed ends, Tree Month of Elder begins.
 - Dec 25 - European Feasts of Herne, Frey, Dionysus - Birth of the God, the Light of the World.
 - Dec 25 thru Jan 5 - Norse Yule: Old Norse festival honoring Frey and Freya (Deities of Fertility) and the new-born Baldur (God of Light) with evergreens, fires, and feasting.

B. Spring Festivals

March 20 or 21 - Spring Equinox/Vernal Equinox/Ostara & marks the beginning of Spring. This holiday represents the first creation, but also the annual creation (planting so crops grow each year) and most symbolic, the perpetual creation. Fertility symbols abound such as eggs and rabbits.

March 29 - Festival of Ishtar (Babylonian)

- Delphinia (Greece)

March 30 - Eostre's Day (Germanic)

April 22 - Earth Day - Day to honor the Earth and to meditate on Deity manifesting as Mother Earth

- Festival of Ishtar (Babylonian)

- Feast of the Divine Couple (Japanese)

C. Fall Festivals

Oct 31- Samhain / Hallowmas / Halloween - Celtic New Year and feast of Cerridwen (Goddess of Death) and Beli (the Holly King, God of the Waning Sun).

Oct 31 - Nov 2 - Descent of Inanna - Sumerian fast recalling the descent of Inanna (Goddess of Life) to the Underworld. Ereshkigal (Goddess of Death and Rebirth) detained her until she agreed to have Dumuzi (God of Life and Death) remain there each Winter.

Oct 31 - Nov 6 - Mid-Autumn / Day of the Dead / Hallowmas - Festival marking the transformation of life to death, the end of the agricultural year, departure of migrating and hibernating animals, and decay and death of vegetal and animal life. Observed by remembering departed ancestors and contemplating one's own mortality.

Paganism
Lesson 4
Calendar of YHVH

Preface: The purpose of this lesson is to contrast the pagan calendar with calendar of YHVH God. The calendar of YHVH is based upon the premise that Yeshua is the lamb slain from the foundations of the world (Rev. 13:8).

I. Days of the Week

- A. Given in numerical order

II. Months of the Year

- A. Lunar Cycle
- B. New Year begins in the spring

III. Moedim (Appointed Times of YHVH) Lev. ch. 23

- A. Purpose of the Appointed Times
 - 1. Present the message of man's redemption through Messiah
 - 2. Show the process of the Restoration of all things

IV. List of the Appointed Times - Lev. ch. 23

- A. One Weekly Appointed Time
 - 1. Sabbath (Messianic Kingdom Age)

- B. Seven Annual Appointed Times
 - 1. Passover (Death of Messiah)
 - 2. Unleavened Bread (Righteousness of Messiah)
 - 3. Firstfruits (Resurrection of Messiah)
 - 4. Shavuot/Pentecost (Giving of the Torah & Harvest of the Saints)
 - 5. Yom Teruah/Trumpets (Call to repentance, Coming & Return of Messiah)
 - 6. Yom Kippur/Day of Atonement (Messiah the High Priest)
 - 7. Sukkot/Tabernacles (Final Harvest & Messianic Kingdom)