

Thanksgiving and Christmas
Holydays Greetings 2019

Shalom Partners in the Service of the Lord,

The beginnings, the roots, of things are important to me. Our word *holidays* comes from *holydays*.

Etymology. The **word holiday** comes from the Old English **word** hāligdæg (hālig "holy" + dæg "day"). The **word** originally referred only to special religious days.

Both Thanksgiving and Christmas are holy to believers in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And neither of them stems from pagan roots as many falsely believe.

Thanksgiving

America's celebration of Thanksgiving goes back to the colonists. But I believe its earliest roots are biblical. They lie in the joyous Feast of Tabernacles when Israel celebrated the ingathering of the final crops, the grapes and the olives. One day the final harvest will be in, and the Lord will establish His earthly visible kingdom to fulfill at last the Feast of Tabernacles.

One thing I am so very thankful for is that the Lord led me in 1967 to the ministry of Kenneth E. Hagin. It was from him I learned that the Word even tells us what we are to give thanks for. A Thanksgiving article for the *Word of Faith*, of which I was editor, was entitled "Giving of Thanks." It centered around:

Col 1:12-14

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:
Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:
In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

Not one day goes by in my life that I don't thank God for this marvelous truth. When I sit in my seat of authority in the mornings, I say, "Thank You, Lord, for delivering me out of the control and dominion of the kingdom of darkness and translating me into the kingdom of your dear Son, the kingdom of the Light." How wonderful to

begin each morning with the knowledge of this marvelous truth. Satan has no dominion over me. By the power of the blood of Jesus, he is even under my feet.

See my blog of October 25 titled “Autumn Assembly” to see how this wonderful truth manifested in victory at the Tent Meeting on Monday.

Christmas

When I asked Sister Jeanne Wilkerson about a study Bible, she recommended *The Companion Bible* with notes by E. W. Bullinger. It was here I saw that our celebrating Christmas on December 25th is most likely the celebration of the day on which “He was begotten of the Holy Ghost.” The date of His birth in Bethlehem would have been the first day of The Feast of Tabernacles, September 29, at that time. The literal Greek word *tabernacle* (usually translated *dwelt*) bears this out.

John 1:14 Young’s Literal Translation

And the Word became flesh, and did tabernacle among us, and we beheld his glory, glory as of an only begotten of a father, full of grace and truth.

I have attached Bullinger’s Appendix 179 for you to see it. Get out your magnifying glass—the print is small. But it’s worth it not to go around believing we are celebrating because of a Roman pagan holiday which does happen to be on December 25.

The Magi

Babylon’s high governmental offices included one known as the Rab Mag. Rab Mag is a title. Chief or Head of the Magi, the Wise Men.

The ancient Chaldeans were known as studiers of the heavens. Astronomy, as well as astrology, was their forte. (By the way, we still count hours, minutes, and seconds on their base 60 system.)

Jeremiah 39:1-3 ASV

¹ And it came to pass when Jerusalem was taken, (in the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, came Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon and all his army against Jerusalem, and besieged it; ² in the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, the ninth day of the month, a breach was made in the city), ³ that all the princes of the king of Babylon came in,

and sat in the middle gate, *to wit*, Nergal-sharezer, Samgar-nebo, Sarsechim, Rab-saris, Nergal-sharezer, Rab-mag, with all the rest of the princes of the king of Babylon.

Jer. 39:13 So Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard sent, and Nebushazban, Rab-saris, and Nergal-sharezer, Rab-mag, and all the chief officers of the king of Babylon. (ASV)

When Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the king promoted Daniel to the office of "Rab Mag."

Dan. 2:48 Then the king made Daniel great, and gave him many great gifts, and made him to rule over the whole province of Babylon, and to be chief governor over all the wise men of Babylon. (ASV)

Daniel became the chief of all the wise men, or the Rab Mag. Daniel, as the Rab Mag, would have taught those who studied under him that a star would be connected with the coming of the King Messiah. It would be a "sign" of His coming." (See Genesis 1:14.)

Numbers 24:17, 19 ASV

I see him, but not now;
I behold him, but not nigh:
There shall come forth a star out of Jacob,
And a sceptre shall rise out of Israel...
And out of Jacob shall one have dominion,

Daniel knew this prophecy. He would have taught it to the magi of the Babylonian Empire. He would have known it pertained to the King Messiah. And He would have known that the time of the coming of the Messiah was at the beginning of the Fourth Day. (The chart of 7 days, one day equaling a thousand years.) In all probability that's why the Magi came from the East at our Savior's birth.

3BI

With Billye Brim Bible Institute, we study the beginnings, the roots of Bible truths and prophecies, some of which are coming into fulfillment in our days. I have had such fun teaching. And the classroom students are thrilled with our in-depth studies.

The way we produced the accredited studies available online January 1, was in a classroom setting. I have an old oak teacher's desk with an apple and a bell (Isaac rings it to begin classes). But those are the only things that are "old-school." I have what I call, for lack of a better term, a "magic blackboard." My childhood dream of being a teacher is so "realized" when I write on the board, and then can erase it with a swipe of my hand.

I am so happy, and even experience a sense of satisfaction, with this outreach. I have longed to look deeply, with serious students, into the Word from its beginnings at what the Creator reveals to us in His Holy Word.

Here is how you can be a part of our studies. I welcome you to our classroom.

In Him,

Dr. Billye Brim