

# Nimrod

by Dr. Ken Johnson

There have been many legends about Nimrod and the corruption that came out of Babylon. Revelation 17 mentions "Mystery Babylon the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth." The idea being that Nimrod, although knowing the one true God, created his own perverted religion. This would spread out to the nations of the earth, and is the starting point for all the pagan religions. Many have tried to trace it back in an effort to know for sure what is the "Mystery Babylon." Papers have been written stating it is the Roman Catholic church, New Age movement, Pentecostals, Trinitarians, Masons, Modern day Judaism, ect. Many even say that the holidays like Christmas, Easter, New Years, Ground Hog Day ect. also come from here, and try to use that to say Christians should not observe these holidays. In an effort to get at the facts I have gathered the following source material:

**Josephus Ant. 1.4.2** Now it was Nimrod who excited them to such an affront and contempt of God. He was the grandson of Ham, the son of Noah, a bold man, and of great strength of hand. He persuaded them not to ascribe it to God, as if it was through his means they were happy, but to believe that it was their own courage which procured that happiness. He also gradually changed the government into tyranny, seeing no other way of turning men from the fear of God, but to bring them into a constant dependence on his power. He also said he would be revenged on God, if he should have a mind to drown the world again; for that he would build a tower too high for the waters to be able to reach! and that he would avenge himself on God for destroying their forefathers!

**Jasher 7** Nimrod was blessed by God and won all the wars he fought. But after this he made 12 gods of wood after the 12 months of the year (or after the Zodiac), and commanded everyone to worship one monthly.

**Jasher 28** Nimrod killed by Esau with a sword.

**Ezekiel 8** every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed. Seventy elders with censers in their hands. The women were weeping for Tammuz. The priests were bowing down toward the sun in the east. They put the branch to their nose. This Tammuz may or may not be associated with the Egyptian Osiris.

**Ezekiel 13:17-21**The daughters of Israel fastened "magic bands" (*kesatot*) on their wrists and with them "trapped souls like birds." This word only occurs in this passage and is related to the Sumerian KI-ShU, meaning some kind of magical imprisonment. In the Greek form *kiste*, Latin *cista*, it appears as a container used in certain mystery rituals of the Dionysiac cult, for carrying of secret implements. The *cista* is symbolically depicted as a basket with a snake emerging. On sarcophagi inscribed with Bacchic scenes, the *cista* is shown being kicked open by Pan and the snake raising itself from the half-opened lid. The snake is an important feature of the Dionysiac cult and imagery. The Maenads of Euripides' Bacchae have serpents entwined in their hair and round their limbs, and the snake was the particular emblem of the Phrygian Sabazios (Sabadius) with whom Dionysos is identified."

**Jeremiah 7:17**; bake cakes and pour drink offerings to the Queen of Heaven. **44:19** without men. Artemis (Dianna) of Ephesus was called the queen of heaven and cakes, in the form of the crescent moon, were part of the worship of Ishtar.

In an effort to find any possible connection with holidays here is what I gathered from encyclopedias:

## **Saturnalia**

Saturn (mythology), in Roman mythology, ancient god of agriculture. In later legends he was identified with the Greek god Cronus, who, after having been dethroned by his son Jupiter, fled to Italy, where he ruled during the Golden Age, a time of perfect peace and happiness. Beginning on December 17 of each year, during the festival known as the Saturnalia, the Golden Age was restored for seven days ending on December 23. All business stopped and executions and military operations were postponed. It was a period of goodwill, devoted to banquets and the exchange of visits and gifts. A special feature of the festival was the freedom given to slaves, who during this time had first place at the family table and were served by their masters (Festivals and Feasts). In art Saturn is usually shown bearded, carrying a sickle or an ear of corn.

## **Christmas**

The origin of the festival is unknown. Scholars believe that it is derived in part from rites held by pre-Christian Germanic and Celtic peoples to celebrate the winter solstice. Christmas festivals, generally observed by Christians since the 4th century, incorporate pagan customs, such as the use of holly, mistletoe, Yule logs, and wassail bowls (toasts). The Christmas tree, an evergreen trimmed with lights and other decorations, is derived from the so-called paradise tree, symbolizing Eden, of German mystery plays. The use of a Christmas tree began early in the 17th century, in Strasbourg, France, spreading from there through Germany and then into northern Europe. In 1841 Albert, prince consort of Queen Victoria, introduced the Christmas tree custom to Great Britain; from there it accompanied immigrants to the United States. Meanwhile, Dutch settlers had brought to the New World the custom of celebrating St. Nicholas' Day on December 6, and especially St. Nicholas' Eve, when gifts were given to children, of whom the saint was patron. British settlers took over the tradition as part of their Christmas eve celebration. The English name of the legendary jolly, red-garbed man who delivers presents to good children at Christmas, Santa Claus, is derived from the Dutch Sinterklaas, a modification of Saint Nikolaas.

## **Epiphany**

The Epiphany is a feast of the Christian calendar celebrated on January 6. The word comes from the Greek and means "manifestation," "appearance," or "revelation." The observance originated in the Eastern church, and at first celebrated the total revelation of God in Christ. Later it focused upon two events of Jesus' ministry, his baptism (Mark 1:9-11) and the changing of the water into wine at Cana of Galilee (John 2:1-12). Interestingly, a similar festival of DIONYSUS, the wine god, was kept on this day in the Aegean Islands and Anatolia. When the observance of January 6 spread to the West, it became associated with the visit of the MAGI to the infant Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12)

## **Èastre**

Èastre, the Anglo-Saxon name of a Teutonic goddess of spring and fertility, to whom was dedicated a month corresponding to April. Her festival was celebrated on the day of the vernal equinox; traditions associated with the festival survive in the Easter rabbit, a symbol of fertility, and in colored Easter eggs, originally painted with bright colors to represent the sunlight of spring, and used in Easter-egg rolling contests or given as gifts.

Sirens - Enoch 19:2 (Greek) and Micah 1:18 (LXX) Seirim (satyr) - Jeroboam made idols of calves and seirim 2 Chr. 11:15, the ritual may have contained the eating of blood and fornication Lev. 17:7.

## **Legends**

These are some of the myths. I am still uncertain if there is any validity to them.

Nimrod's wife, Sumerimus, had a child named Tammuz. In order to counterfeit the prophecies made by Adam and Noah she declared Tammuz the Son of God. His birthday each year would be celebrated by the decoration of fir trees. Later his resurrection would be connected to the festival of Ishtar.

The legend told of Sumerimus being impregnated by a sunbeam. So on Easter morning her worship would include a sunrise service with an orgy. This is what was beginning to happen in Ezekiel 8 and Jeremiah 7. After the young women weep for Tammuz forty days, (this is where lent is derived from) Eli's sons take them into the tabernacle to have sex. (Deut. 12) The mention of "the branch to the nose" is part of the worship of Tammuz.

After the Flood, Noah and his sons were the only living people on the planet. As their descendants spread out over the earth parts of the knowledge of the one true God was lost and myth was added to fill in the gaps.

In an effort to Christianize the pagans it was standard practice to try to replace the paganism but allow the people to have their holidays and some customs. This worked well in expanding the medieval church but began to backfire with pagan customs and ritual and sometimes doctrine creeping into the church.

Montanius brings ecstatic mystery rites of Cybele into the church. They were called Phrygians or Cataphrygians. When the goddess Cybele becomes the Holy Spirit. Eusebius mentions Marcus the Gnostic who taught that he had the power to make the Holy Spirit, whom he called Sophia, put a drop of her blood into the wine they used for communion. This would turn the wine redder and would give those who drank it supernatural power, like visions and tongues. This was condemned as heresy but centuries later would be the basis for transubstantiation and holy water.

Acts 19 burned magic books in Ephesus where Diana's temple was.