

# The Christmas Tree

If one wants to evoke thoughts of Christmas and thoughts of idolatry, there is no image more readily suited for the job than that of a Christmas tree. The universal acceptance of the Christmas tree makes it the premier example of collective pagan idolatry in the world today. The Christmas tree has its roots planted deep within the heart of paganism where they bathe themselves in the crimson tide of the greatest abomination of heathen ritual: human sacrifice.

Behind the Christmas tree's sparkling needles lay bloodthirsty branches supporting a dangerously deceptive trap and lure which competes for the religious affections of mankind and draws humanity away from Christ. First, the tree has been the emblematic quintessence of pagan idolatry far deeper into the pages of history than the two thousand years since Christ walked the earth. Second, the influence of the tree has been so detrimental, the Bible gives us a clear warning about its use including a description that is accurate enough for any first-grader to immediately understand the Bible is describing what we now call a Christmas tree. Finally, as the world gathers beneath the umbrage of the Christmas tree and its pagan cousins, serious-minded followers of God must ponder the immortal words of 2 Corinthians 6:17: Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. Each of these points will be examined in order.

One need not spend long hours in research to find people throughout history have incorporated trees into their religious activities. The tree being the largest of plants readily

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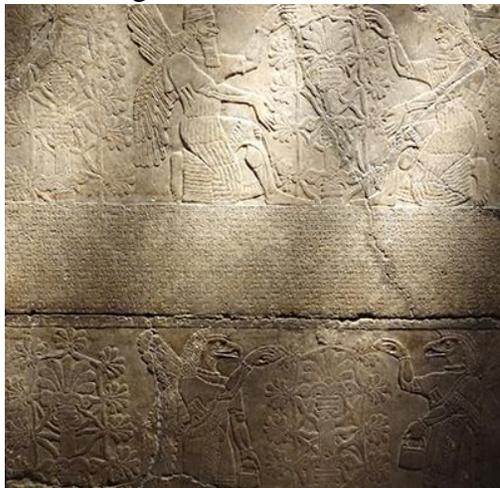
## The Christian and the Christmas Tree



**This informational pamphlet gives the reader basic information about the Christmas tree from a Christian perspective.**



lends itself to majesty in the worship of nature. Sometimes the tree itself is worshipped; other times the tree is viewed as a conduit to a god or as an object integral to the religious operations. Sometimes an altar is set up beneath a tree; other times the tree is the altar. Venerated trees are often called groves. This is true whether one is speaking of a group of trees or a single tree. In pagan rites, the grove is often a single tree, and the grove can be in the forest among other trees, or it can be moved indoors. Historically, groves were often dedicated to one or more pagan gods. Offerings were either placed beneath the grove like the Christmas custom of placing presents beneath the tree or were hung from the branches of a tree like the Christmas custom of decorating a tree. Offerings might be intended for the grove or the pagan god associated with the grove. The ancient Assyrians had their sacred trees which they purified by sprinkling with a mullilu (pine) cone which had been dipped into a sacred bucket called a banduddu as depicted in the image of the relief here.



The relief in this image is dated to the reign of Ashurnasirpal II who ruled from 883 to 859

B.C. This relief provides direct physical evidence that trees were decorated and included in religious rites nearly a thousand years before the birth of our Lord and Saviour which directly contradicts any notion the Christmas tree was developed for the celebration of Christ's birth. This relief also shows the religious operations involved a tree with leaves or needles refuting the popular assertion that pagan practices only involved the use of a bare stick or maypole. This relief was made within about 250 years of when Jeremiah penned his description of groves in Jeremiah 10 giving us an image to go with Jeremiah's description. We know the "queen of heaven" was being worshiped by Israelites during the time of Jeremiah because he speaks of her in Jer 7:18 and other verses. Shortly after first mentioning the "queen of heaven," Jeremiah shows the pagan religious rites of the people of his day also involved bringing trees into their homes and decorating them in the following verses. These verses also show the mobility of a grove in that a grove could be created by cutting a tree out of the forest, bringing it indoors, and decorating it.

Jer 10:3 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. Jer 10:4 They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. Jer 10:5 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.

These verses are so simple to understand that a child will readily recognize they are describing

what is now known as a Christmas tree. Notice that Jeremiah states the trees "must needs be borne." This aligns with the practices of Cybele's cults who paraded pine trees through the streets. The precursor to the Christmas tree has often been used in human sacrifice. There is more information about this on the webpage associated with this pamphlet. Scan the QR code on the back of this pamphlet to be directed to that page.

The tree that shines around the world is the Christmas tree. It crosses all cultural and philosophical boundaries. The secular world and other religions do not object to Christmas. They object to Christ being our Lord and Savior. Pagans, Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, and even atheists join hand-in-hand with Christians in setting up and decorating Christmas trees.

The Christmas tree is a worldwide idol. Finances Online published a list of the most expensive Christmas trees in 2018 (Gilbert). The Christmas tree in the lobby of the Emirates Palace Hotel in Abu Dhabi topped out the list. The second-place tree was in Japan, the third-place tree was in Hong Kong, and Japan also took the fourth and fifth spots. The top five most expensive Christmas trees were found in countries associated with some religion other than Christianity demonstrating once again that Christmas trees have nothing to do with the worship of Christ. Christians are called to come out from among the world and be separate in 2 Corinthians 6:17. One way to do this is to put away that foolish idol that is loved by the world and is commonly called a Christmas tree.

Gilbert, Nestor. "Top 10 most expensive Christmas trees in the world." 19 November 2018. *Finances Online*. Web. 30 April 2020. <<https://financesonline.com/most-expensive-christmas-trees-in-the-world/>>.