

The fact that Rome was combining sun worship with the worship of Christ is well documented, and is commonly understood among those who study the subject. These vastly different theological viewpoints have numerous superficial similarities as described in the following quote:

*“The Dies Natalis Invicti was probably first celebrated in Rome by order of the Emperor Aurelian (270-5), an ardent worshiper of the Syrian sun-god **Baal**. [emphasis added] With the Sol Invictus was identified the figure of Mithra, that strange eastern god whose cult resembled in so many ways the worship of Jesus, and who was at one time a serious rival of the Christ in the minds of thoughtful men. - Mithraism resembled Christianity in its monotheistic tendencies, its sacraments, its comparatively high morality, its doctrine of an Intercessor and Redeemer, and its vivid belief in a future life and judgment to come. Moreover Sunday was its holy-day dedicated to the Sun.” ~ Christmas in Ritual and Tradition by Clement A. Miles p. 23.*

The specific name of the pagan deity "**Baal**" appears 64 times in the King James Bible. This same pagan deity pops up over and over throughout the ages, as a snare to the children of God. It should come as no surprise that we now find it's association, in the above quote, with the pagan side of this

holiday.

According to all sources, the religion of pagan Rome was constantly changing throughout the centuries. Foreign lands were conquered and their religious rituals were assimilated into Roman culture. Perhaps it was inevitable that Christianity would at some point, be added to the mix. The pagans of 4th century Rome would take no offense to Christ being added to their religious operations. True Christianity, on the other hand would strongly object to the association of the Savior of all mankind, with paganism. Mr Miles, describes the development of the Christian feast of the nativity as a keen conflict between the Church authorities and "mankind's instinctive paganism". We continue to see the connection between Christ and December 25th; now we also begin to see why the connection was made to begin with. It appears to have began with the most noble of intentions, the attempted conversion of pagans to Christianity.

*"The conflict is keen at first; the Church authorities fight tooth and nail against these relics of heathenism, these devilish rites; but mankind's instinctive paganism is insuppressible, the practices continue as ritual, though losing much of their meaning, and the church, weary of denouncing, comes to wink at them, while the pagan joy in earthly life begins to colour her own festival." ~Christmas in Ritual and Tradition by Clement A. Miles p. 26*

Today in Christianity, we like to think that we can make a very clear distinction between sun worship, and worship of the Son. However, we still commonly find a connection between "Sol" or "Baal" and Christianity in today's "Christian" artwork. It is very common to see Christ, the Apostles, Prophets, Mary, lambs and doves portrayed with a sunburst, or halo of light surrounding their head. A halo or sunburst is also sometimes included in images of the cross. These halos and sunburst are the same as those used in Mithraism or sun worship. Throughout the Bible we are told that the people of God polluted the house of God with the abominations of the heathen. 2Ch 36:14 *Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem.* It seems history is repeating itself once again. Many if not most Christian churches today, contain this remnant of sun or Baal worship in their stained glass windows and other artwork. Since at least the middle of the 4th century, there has been a connection between the 25th of December, the birth of the sun god, and the birth of our Savior, Christ. The halos and rays of sun depicted in the stained glass windows and other modern "Christian" artwork, stand as a witness to the connection between the relics of the temples of Baal, and the Christian church.

## Son or sun?



This 3rd or 4th century mosaic from the Vatican necropolis under St. Peter's Basilica, Mausoleum M, portrays Christ as Sol invictus. This mosaic demonstrates that the pagan Roman culture of the day was incorporating Christ into the myriad of idols that they worshiped. The Chronography of 354 shows that they also connected Christ and Sol invicti with the date of December 25th. They were combining the pagan practice of worshiping the sun with the Christian practice of worshiping the Son of God, Christ Jesus. Another name for sun worship is Mithraism. The Encyclopedia Britannica calls Mithra "the Iranian god of the sun, justice, contract, and war" and states that this pagan deity was referred to as "Mithras" in the Roman empire during the 2nd and 3rd centuries. These facts combine to explain why the Catholic Education and Resource Center website states that "since the 200s, Jesus was honored with the title, 'Sun of Justice'". It is simply the attachment of a mithraic title to Christ.

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## Son or sun?



**This informational pamphlet gives the reader a basic understanding of the connection between sun worship and modern Christianity.**

