

FIVE MYTHS ABOUT CHRISTMAS

By Mario Seiglie, Dec. 17, 2022

Probably, the Commandment most broken by people is the **9th Commandment**: "You shall **not** bear false witness against your neighbor" (Ex. 20:16) & this includes **not lying** (Lev. 19:11). Many people think it's OK to tell a fib or a "white" lie. Yet to God, **any** type of a lie is very serious & breaks the 9th Commandment.

John gives an important spiritual principle about this when he said, "**No lie is of the truth**" (1 John 2:21). In other words, either the Bible **confirms** something **as a truth or it is false** and thus, **a lie** (Is. 8:20). Take, for example, the idea of **Santa Claus** living in the North Pole & bringing presents to kids. This is a **total lie**. No fat man lives there nor does he bring presents to children in a sled. It is really **their parents**.

A second example is the Christmas Tree. This is a **pagan** practice (in ancient Rome they celebrated the **birth of the Sun god** by decorating **trees** on **Dec. 25**) & is based on **tree worship**. An example? In **Jer. 10:1-11** a tree is symbolized as a false god. Also, why kill a perfectly good young tree to keep Christmas?

The typical story of the manger scene is full of errors & myths. Here are 5 myths about Christmas.

1. Joseph & Mary (about to have the baby) travel to Bethlehem & are **desperate** to find a place (Lk. 2:1-7).
2. They go to an inn (Gk. *kataluma*) but it is full. **False**. We now know this term is a mistranslation and it was actually **a guest room** (Luke 10:8; Gk. *pandokheion*; 22:11, Gk. *kataluma* see NIV, ERV, YLT versions).
3. So they find a stable & have the baby. **False**. At night, a house's 1st floor was used to keep the animals.
4. Jesus was born on Dec. 25. **Wrong**. Census not in the winter, nor were shepherds out in the fields then.
5. The Magi were there as well, guided by a star. **No** (Mt. 2:1-11). **Angels** as stars (Judges 5:20; Job. 38:7).

TYPICAL BUT WRONG MANGER SCENE

1. Desperate



2. Inn

5. Magi

3. Stable

4. Shepherds

So, Christmas (from **Christ + Mass**, a special Catholic Mass kept on Christmas eve) is one the **pagan** religious feasts that was "converted" to a Catholic holiday by the Church in Rome. First, Sunday & Easter were adopted by Emperor Constantine & the Pope. Later, Christmas was officially listed on the Catholic church calendar in AD 354. Pope Liberius declared at that time that all Christians should celebrate the birth of Christ on December 25, yet Paul said we should avoid such **lying** works of the Devil (Eph. 5:11).

We see these *man-made* feasts such as Easter & Christmas are cheap substitutes for God's 7 Holy Feasts found in Lev. 23 & kept by the New Testament Church. These were times of real rejoicing & looking forward to the Kingdom! (Dt. 14:22-26). They are **much** better than Christmas -- and **not** based on **lies**! Yet, we should apply Col. 4:6 when talking about this to others and be gentle and understanding.