

## Extended Q&A Session

### The "Unwrapping" of Christmas

#### 1. "Unwrapping" the Pagan Mystery of *Christmas*

- (A) Mithraism, the Persian mystery religion, widely followed by soldiers of the Roman army - celebrated the BIRTH of the Persian SUN GOD (Mithras) on DECEMBER TWENTY FIFTH:
- (1) The celebration occurred around the WINTER SOLSTICE marking the "BIRTH" of a NEW SUN and was thus called, "the NATIVITY of the SUN"
  - (2) This celebration, which ANTICIPATED the WARMTH of SPRING with its bringing forth of NEW VEGETATION - was celebrated with the DECORATION of EVERGREEN TREES
  - (3) The Roman Emperor Constantine, in substituting the worship of Christ for that of Mithras, adopted this PAGAN CELEBRATION to COMMEMORATE the BIRTH of CHRIST

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#### 2. "Unwrapping" the Divine Miracle of *Christmas*

- (A) The Scriptures point to LATE DECEMBER (CHRISTMAS TIME) as the occurrence of the DIVINE MIRACLE of the INCARNATION, "and the WORD WAS GOD, and the WORD WAS MADE FLESH" (John 1:1,14):
- (1) Zacharias was a PRIEST "of the COURSE OF ABIA" (Luke 1:5), i.e. of the EIGHTH COURSE (I Chronicles 24:9)
  - (2) King David organized the sons of Aaron into 24 PRIESTLY "COURSES", i.e. "DIVISIONS" (I Chronicles 24:1) - each one serving ONE WEEK, i.e. FROM SABBATH TO SABBATH (II Chronicles 23:8)
  - (3) PASSOVER (Exodus 12:1), "the BEGINNING OF MONTHS" (Exodus 12:2), being in EARLY APRIL - would put the time of the EIGHT COURSE in MID JUNE
  - (4) Zacharias, upon completion of his priestly service - returns home with the GOOD NEWS of his WIFE'S CONCEPTION of JOHN and his WIFE is HID for FIVE MONTHS (Luke 1:23-24) - making the TIME NOW as LATE NOVEMBER
  - (5) LATER "in the SIXTH MONTH" (Luke 1:26), i.e. EARLY DECEMBER, the angel appears to Mary with the GOOD NEWS concerning her FORTHCOMING CONCEPTION of the MESSIAH (Luke 1:35)
  - (6) Mary "AROSE IN THOSE DAYS, AND WENT ... WITH HASTE ... and ENTERED INTO the HOUSE of Zacharias, and SALUTED ELISABETH (Luke 1:39-40)
  - (7) It is NOW LATE DECEMBER when Elisabeth declares that "the BABE LEAPED in my womb FOR JOY" at Mary's salutation (Luke 1:41,44) - REJOICING in the GOOD NEWS of MESSIAH'S INCARNATION (Luke 1:42)
  - (8) NINE MONTHS LATER (LATE SEPTEMBER) is the MESSIAH'S BIRTH - around ISRAEL'S ANNUAL TIME of REJOICING BEFORE THE LORD, i.e. the FEAST OF TABERNACLES (Leviticus 23:33-34,39-40)
    - (a) The angels bring "GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY" with their ANNOUNCEMENT OF the SAVIOUR'S BIRTH (Luke 2:9-15)

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2. "Unwrapping" the Divine Miracle of *Christmas* - cont'd

(B) The DIVINE PURPOSES of the INCARNATION:

- (1) The INFINITE GOD became a FINITE SINGLE CELL implanted in a MAIDEN'S WOMB  
([Matthew 1:22-23](#) cf. [Isaiah 7:14](#))
- (2) This was ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD  
([Hebrews 10:5-7](#) cf. [Psalms 40:6-8](#))
- (3) Thus, He is "the one MEDIATOR BETWEEN  
God and men" ([I Timothy 2:5](#))
- (4) As "the WORD OF GOD ... MADE FLESH  
([John 1:1,14](#)), He is the REVEALER OF THE FATHER  
([Matthew 11:27](#))
- (5) As "the LAMB OF GOD", He is MAN'S SIN BEARER  
([John 1:29](#) cf. [Isaiah 53:7,10](#))
- (6) As "the SON OF MAN", He is the DIVINE JUDGE  
([Revelation 20:11-12](#) cf. [John 5:26-27](#))
- (7) SALVATION OR JUDGMENT ([Hebrews 9:27-28](#)) -  
"WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT?" ([Isaiah 53:1,10](#))