I would like to start by stating that by even bringing this subject up is creates abnormal amounts of criticism. All secular and most religious people throughout history have always criticized anything even close to the truth, all books written on this subject are mocked and ridiculed by almost everyone as "Un-Scholarly" "Unfounded" "Historically Inaccurate" "Blasphemous" and even "Heresy", or at best it is po-poed and down played! This is the same criticism that all of the Protestant Reformation leaders received about their books, including Martin Luther, John Calvin, Thomas Cranmer, John Knox, and Cotton Mather, who all identified the Roman Papacy as the Anti-Messiah. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-Christ)

Mat 11:25 It was at that time that Yeshua(Jesus) said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you concealed these things from the sophisticated and educated and revealed them to ordinary folks.

Luke 16:15 "That which is highly esteemed among men is abominable in the sight of Elohim"

1Co 1:19-20 For it is written, "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVERI WILL SET ASIDE." Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age?

Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

Modern day Christendom celebrates the "Roman Catholic" decree of "Christ-Mass". Most well meaning Protestant Christians have no idea about the History behind this holiday. It's a shame that modern day Christianity didn't continue to follow their founding fathers and the entire protestant reformation, and throw out all pagan roman holidays, but rather over time succumbed to the roman Catholic holidays, and to this date remain clueless as to what really going on! Tonight I would like to look at HISTORICAL FACTS of "christmass" and all of the scripture that pertains to this festival. We know as a Biblical fact that Yeshua was born during YHWH's feast of Sukkot (See last page), and Christ-Mass proclaimed by the Roman Catholic Church has nothing to do with Messiah or anything Biblical! In fact our founding fathers outlawed the celebration of Christ-Mass in the 1620's and Christ-Mass did not get instituted as a holiday until 1870's. All "Quotes" from Historical figures and historical dates spoken of in this note are from the online encyclopedia "Wikopedia.org" unless otherwise noted.

Christ-Mass in England

Until the Protestant and Puritan reformation that happened in 1600's England and all of Europe was catholic. In the 1640's the Protestant Puritan Oliver Cromwell Beheaded the Catholic King of England "Charles I", and in 1647 parliament lead by the Puritans outlawed the celebration of "Christmas", "Easter", and "Whitsuntide". This view of christmass lasted nearly two centuries in England!

Christ-Mass in New England and America

The Plymouth Pilgrims put their loathing for the day into practice... In 1620 when they spent their first "Christmas Day" in the New World building their first structure in the New World – thus demonstrating their complete contempt for the day. A year later on December 25, 1621, Governor William Bradford led a work detail into the forest and discovered some recent arrivals among the crew had scruples about working Christ-Mass day. Bradford noted in his history book of the colony, Of Plymouth Plantation: "On the day called

Christmas Day, the Governor called [the settlers] out to work as was usual. However, most of this new company excused themselves and said it went against their consciences to work on that day. So the Governor told them that if they made it a matter of conscience, he would spare them till they were better informed; so he led away the rest and left them." When the Governor and his crew returned home at noon they discovered those left behind playing stool-ball, pitching the bar, and pursuing other sports. Bradford confiscated their implements, reprimanded them, forbade any further reveling in the streets, and told them their devotion for the day should be confined to their homes." Laws suppressing the celebration of Christmas were repealed in 1681, but staunch Puritans continued to regard the day as an abomination. Eighteenth century New Englanders viewed Christmas as the representation of royal officialdom, external interference in local affairs, dissolute behavior, and an impediment to their holy mission.

During Anglican Governor Sir <u>Edmund Andros</u> tenure (December 20, 1686 – April 18, 1689), closed Boston shops on Christmas Day and drove the schoolmaster out of town for a forced holiday. Following Andros' overthrow, however, the Puritan view reasserted itself and shops remained open for business as usual on Christmas with goods such as hay and wood being brought into Boston as on any other work day.

Although Christmas celebrations were legal after 1680, New England officials continued to frown upon gift giving and reveling. Evergreen decoration, associated with pagan custom, was expressly forbidden in Puritan meeting houses and discouraged in the New England home. Merrymakers were prosecuted for disturbing the peace. The Puritan view was tenacious. As late as 1870, classes were scheduled in Boston public schools on Christmas Day and punishments were doled out to children who chose to stay home beneath the Christmas tree. One commentator hinted that the Puritans viewed Santa Claus as the Anti-Christ.

In the aftermath of the <u>American Civil War</u>, Christmas became the festival highpoint of the American calendar. The day became a <u>Federal holiday</u> in 1870 under President <u>Ulysses S. Grant</u> in an attempt to unite north and south. The Puritan hostility to Christmas was gradually relaxed. In the late nineteenth century, authors praised the holiday for its liberality, family togetherness, and joyful observance. In 1887, for example, <u>St. Nicholas Magazine</u> published a story about a sickly Puritan boy of 1635 being restored to health when his mother brings him a bough of Christmas greenery.

The Puritan view of Christ-Mass

In *Puritans at Play* (1995), Bruce Colin Daniels writes "Christmas occupied a special place in the ideological religious warfare of <u>Reformation Europe</u>." Most <u>Anabaptists</u>, <u>Quakers</u>, <u>Congregational</u> and <u>Presbyterian</u>
Puritans, he observes, regarded the day as an <u>abomination</u> while <u>Anglicans</u>, <u>Lutherans</u>, the <u>Dutch Reformed</u> and other denominations celebrated the day as did <u>Roman Catholics</u>. When the <u>Church of England</u> promoted the <u>Feast of the Nativity</u> as a major religious holiday, the Puritans attacked it as "residual Papal idolatry".

<u>Puritans</u> heaped contempt on Christmas, Daniels writes, calling it 'Foolstide' and suppressing any attempts to celebrate it for several reasons. First, no holy days except the Sabbath were sanctioned in Scripture, second, the most egregious behaviors were exercised in its celebration (<u>Cotton Mather</u> railed against these behaviors), and third, December 25 was ahistorical. The Puritan argued that the selection of the date was an early Christian hijacking of a Roman festival, and to celebrate a December Christmas was to defile oneself by paying homage to a pagan custom. James Howard Barnett notes in *The American Christmas* (1984) that the Puritan view prevailed in New England for almost two centuries.

So what was the big stink about? Why did the Puritans and Protestants go to such great lengths to get holidays such as Easter and Christ-Mass to be outlawed? What is the TRUE history behind these days? It all starts with a King named NIMROD, and his people worshiping Him as "god" His mother/wife SEMIRAMIS and their son TAMMUZ, together they started "Sun worship" or "Mithraism" this is the story behind Easter, Christmas, and Lent!

Mithraism, Sun Worship, or Babylonian Mystery Religion

Isa 14:11-15 Your pride (Satan) has been brought down to Sh'ol with the music of your lyres, under you a mattress of maggots, over you a blanket of worms.' "How did you come to fall from the heavens, morning star, son of the dawn? How did you come to be cut to the ground, conqueror of nations? You thought to yourself, 'I will scale the heavens, I will raise my throne above God's stars. I will sit on the Mount of Assembly far away in the north. I will rise past the tops of the clouds, I will make myself like the Most High.' "Instead you are brought down to Sh'ol, to the uttermost depths of the pit.

Satan sought to turn men away from *YHWH*'s plan of redemption by producing a counterfeit Messiah. He found a ready tool in an ambitious woman, Semiramis, the widow of Nimrod, "the mighty hunter before *YHWH*" (*Gen 10:9*) who had met with a violent death. Nimrod had been defined as being a deliverer from the menace of wild animals. His wife, seeking to perpetuate his worship and also to retain power over men herself, deceived them into joyfully believing that through a "miraculous conception" she had given birth to a son called Tammuz, purported to be Nimrod reincarnated. So way before (2000yrs) Yeshua (Jesus) was even born, about 2000 B.C.E. Satan's counterfeit of the promised "Seed" of the woman was taking shape. This woman with her illegitimate son was worshipped as "mother of god" (Madonna)-- "the queen of heaven" and originated the ancient Babylonian mystery religion, the fountainhead of all idolatry covering the globe. Every idol mentioned in the Bible as well as in mythology, having varied names in different lands, can be traced to this source. The names always get changed to protect the guilty... Isis and Osiris, Venus and Adonis, the Madonna and child in various cultures down to this day! (See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mithraic_mysteries) & (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mithraic_mysteries)

Gen 11:3-4 They said to one another, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them in the fire." So they had bricks for building-stone and clay for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let's build ourselves a city with a tower that has its top reaching up into heaven, so that we can make a name for ourselves and not be scattered all over the earth." YHWH came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. YHWH said, "Look, the people are united, they all have a single language, and see what they're starting to do! At this rate, nothing they set out to accomplish will be impossible for them! Come, let's go down and confuse their language, so that they won't understand each other's speech." So from there YHWH scattered them all over the earth, and they stopped building the city. For this reason it is called Bavel [confusion] — because there YHWH confused the language of the whole earth, and from there YHWH scattered them all over the earth.

The Day of Christ-Mass

The name "Christmas" appeared about 450 A.D. when Pope Julius decreed that all Catholics must celebrate the birthday of Christ at the same time that the heathen were celebrating the Saturnalia, etc. It was designated as "Christe-masse", or Christ's mass.

The day itself holds traditions dating back thousands of years before the birth of the Messiah, just to name a few pagan festivals celebrated on Dec 25th... Dies Natalis Solis Invicti, Saturnalia, Yule, the feast of Nativity, Solstice, and the Advent. The Advent is the waiting for the coming of the Branch (Tammuz). Since Tammuz was worshipped as god incarnate, that implied also that he was an incarnation of the "lord of the heavens," the sun, and since the sun noticeably began to grow stronger at about the 25th of December, this date came to be known not only as the rebirth of Nimrod but of the Sun as well. In ancient Rome this day was known as "Natalis Invicti Solis"-- the birthday of the unconquered sun. Lights were kindled then to burn until the 6th of January (Epiphany). The feast of Saturnalia, lasting about a week, was held at this time of the winter solstice, accompanied with much merrymaking, wild revelry and debauchery. To obtain more adherents to Roman Catholicism it was the policy of the papacy to align the heathen festivals with things of Christendom. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advent) & (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas) Ezekiel 8 talks about Tammuz, although it references his "resurrection" (easter) and not his birth (Christmas). Also the fruit of this time of year is the highest rate of suicides, DUI's etc... and the best "sales" are always during this time, GREED GREED GREED GREED!

Mat 3:10 Already the axe is at the root of the trees, ready to strike; every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown in the fire!

The Tree

After prostituting herself, Semiramis claimed to have a "Miraculous Conception" and gave birth to Tammuz (which means branch) who she proclaimed to be Nimrod incarnate, the Tree is put up every year on his birthday to represent Nimrods reincarnation in Tammuz. The connections are undeniable... The fallen <u>star</u> in *Isaiah 14*, and a counterfeit "<u>Branch</u>" (Tammuz) celebrated by a "<u>Tree</u>" with a "<u>star</u>" on top for his birthday! (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tammuz_%28deity%29)

Rev 17:5-6 On her forehead was written a name with a hidden meaning, BAVEL THE GREAT MOTHER OF WHORES AND OF THE EARTH'S OBSCENITIES. I saw the woman drunk from the blood of God's people, that is, from the blood of the people who testify about Yeshua. On seeing her, I was altogether astounded.

Rev 18:4-5 Then I heard another voice out of heaven say: "My people, come out of her! so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not be infected by her plagues, for her sins are a sticky mass piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.

Eze 8:14-17 He brought me to the entrance of the north gate to **YHWH**'s (Gods) house; and there before me were women weeping for **Tammuz**. "Human being," he asked me, "have you seen this? You will see practices even more disgusting than these." He brought me into the inner courtyard of **YHWH**'s house; and there, at the entrance to the temple of **YHWH**, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of **YHWH** and their faces toward the east; and they were worshipping the sun toward the east. He asked me, "Human being, have you seen this? Does the house of Y'hudah consider it a casual matter that they commit the disgusting practices they are committing here, thus filling the land with violence, provoking me still more? Look! They are even putting the **branch to**

their nose!

Jer 10:2-5 Here is what YHWH says: "Don't learn the way of the Gentiles, don't be frightened by astrological signs, even if the Gentiles are afraid of them; for the customs of the peoples are nothing. They cut down a tree in the forest; a craftsman works it with his axe; they deck it with silver and gold. They fix it with hammer and nails, so that it won't move. Like a scarecrow in a cucumber patch, it cannot speak. It has to be carried, because it cannot walk. Do not be afraid of it — it can do nothing bad; likewise it is unable to do anything good!"

Tammuz is also referred to as Dumuzi. There are many pictures of ancient stone carvings of Dumuzi wearing many serpents, feeding people "forbidden fruits" thus drawing parallels to the serpent in *Gen 3*. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dumuzid the Shepherd) & (http://www.bibleorigins.net/Serpentningishzida.html)

Santa Claus

HO, HO, HO-OHH NO! Santa has many possible pagan roots, dating back to as early as canninite practices... People would sacrifice a child on a (heated up until it's red), metal statue of Molech/Kronos (who also wore a Frygian hat) in return the parents would get what they wished for in exchange for the child sacrifice. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Molech)

Lev 18:21 " 'You are not to let any of your children be sacrificed to Molekh, thereby profaning the name of your **Elohim**; I am **YHWH**.

Lev 20:2-5 "Say to the people of Isra'el, 'If someone from the people of Isra'el or one of the foreigners living in Isra'el sacrifices one of his children to Molekh, he must be put to death; the people of the land are to stone him to death. I too will set myself against him and cut him off from his people, because he has sacrificed his child to Molekh, defiling my sanctuary and profaning my holy name. If the people of the land look the other way when that man sacrifices his child to Molekh and fail to put him to death, then I will set myself against him, his family and everyone who follows him to go fornicating after Molekh, and cut them off from their people.

Jer 32:35 and they built the high places for Ba`al which are in the Ben-Hinnom Valley, to burn alive their sons and daughters to Molekh — something I did not order them to do, it never even entered my mind that they would do such an abominable thing — and thus they caused Y'hudah to sin.'

Acts 7:42 So God turned away from them and gave them over to worship the stars — as has been written in the book of the prophets, 'People of Isra'el, it was not to me that you offered slaughtered animals and sacrifices for forty years in the wilderness! No, you carried the tent of Molekh and the star of your god Reifan, the idols you made so that you could worship them. Therefore, I will send you into exile beyond Bavel.'

Modern history books only dating to the 17th century claim that santa came from the Germanic/Norse "god" Odin/Mercury, who rode on a horse with eight legs... "The folklore of Saint Nicolas has many parallels with Germanic mythology, in particular with the "god" <u>Odin</u>. These include the beard, hat and spear (nowadays a staff) and the cloth bag held by servants to capture naughty children. Both Saint Nicolas and Odin ride white horses that can fly through the air; the White eight-legged steed of Odin is named <u>Sleipnir</u>. The letters made of candy given by the Zwarte Pieten (Black Peter) to children evokes the invention of the <u>rune</u> letters by Odin. The poems recited during the celebration and the songs the children sing relate to Odin as a god of poetry. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odin)

Rev 6:1-2 Next I watched as the Lamb broke the first of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living beings say in a thundering voice, "Go!" I looked, and there in front of me was a white horse; its rider had a bow and was given a crown; and he rode off as a conqueror to conquer. (The anti-Messiah)

"In the Netherlands and Belgium, Saint Nicolas, ("Sinterklaas") is aided by helpers commonly known as Zwarte Piet in Dutch ("Black Peter"). "Santa Claus" sounds very similar to the Dutch "Sinterklaas", so much so that for a Dutch person the origin of the name "Santa Claus" is obvious; it's just "Sinterklaas" with an English accent"

There are various explanations of the origins of the helpers. The oldest explanation is that the helpers symbolize the two ravens <u>Hugin</u> and <u>Munin</u> who informed Odin on what was going on. In later stories the helper depicts the defeated <u>devil</u>. The devil is defeated by either Odin or his helper <u>Nörwi</u>, the black father of the night. Nörwi is usually depicted with the same staff of birch (Dutch: "roe") as **Zwarte Piet**" (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Claus)

The origins of "black peter" could come from Simon Magnus (Peter) the first Pope mentioned in *Acts 8.* Who is buried under "Constantine's" St.Peters Basilica (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circus_of_Nero)

The Yule log

"Yule" is the Chaldee name for "infant," or "little child"; and as the 25th of December was called by our pagan Anglo-Saxon ancestors "Yule-day" or "the child's day", and the night that preceded it, "Mother night", long before they came in contact with Christianity, that sufficiently proves its real character. Far and wide in the realms of paganism was this birthday observed. About A.D 730, the English historian Bede wrote that the Anglo-Saxon calendar included the months *geola* or *giuli* corresponding with modern December. He gave December 25 as the first day of the heathen year and wrote that the Anglo-Saxons celebrated all night long to honor the Germanic divine mothers:

"They began the year with December 25, the day some now celebrate as Christmas; and the very night to which we attach special sanctity they designated by the heathen term <u>Modraniht</u>, that is, the <u>mothers'</u> <u>night</u> — a name bestowed, I suspect, on account of the ceremonies they performed while watching this night through." (Bede, *De Temporum Ratione*.) (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yule)

Mistletoe is also extremely pagan (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mistletoe)

Some of the most notable "Sun Worshipers/Mithraites"...

- Antiochus Epiphanes... Who's very name was "Mithradates" Destroyed the first Temple, 167 B.C (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antiochus_IV_Epiphanes)
- Titus... Who Destroyed the second Temple, 70 A.D (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Destruction_of_the_temple)
- Constantine... Who were about to study...

How Christianity fused with Sun Worship

How did such pagan holidays find their way into Christianity? Unlike all his predecessors, Constantine did not persecute Christians, but rather accepted them into his reign... In February 313 A.D, Constantine met with

Licinius in Milan where they developed the Edict of Milan. The edict stated that Christians should be allowed to follow the faith of their choosing. (Bowder, Diana. The Age of Constantine and Julian. New York: Barnes & Noble, 1978) This removed penalties for professing Christianity and returned confiscated Church property. The edict did not only protect Christians from religious persecution, but all religions, allowing anyone to worship whichever deity they choose. Scholars debate whether Constantine adopted his mother St. Helena's Christianity in his youth, or whether he adopted it gradually over the course of his life. (R. Gerberding and J. H. Moran Cruz, Medieval Worlds (New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004) p. 55.) Constantine would retain the title of pontifex maximus (The same title as the Pope) until his death, a title emperors bore as heads of the pagan priesthood, as would his Christian successors Gratian (r. 375–383 A.D) Constantine did not patronize Christianity alone, however. After gaining victory in the Battle of the Milvian Bridge, a triumphal arch—the Arch of Constantine—was built to celebrate; the arch is decorated with images of Victoria and sacrifices to gods like Apollo, Diana, or Hercules, but contains no Christian symbolism. In 321 A.D, Constantine instructed that Christians and non-Christians should be united in observing the "venerable day of the sun", referencing the esoteric eastern sun-worship which Aurelian had helped introduce, and his coinage still carried the symbols of the sun-cult until 324 A.D. Even after the pagan gods had disappeared from the coinage, Christian symbols appear only as Constantine's personal attributes: the chi rho between his hands or on his labarum, but never on the coin itself. (Cf. Paul Veyne, Quand notre monde est devenu chrétien, 163). Even when Constantine dedicated the new capital of Constantinople, which became the seat of Byzantine Christianity for a millennium, he did so wearing the Apollonian sun-rayed Diadem. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine the Great)

In 325 A.D Constantine summoned the <u>Council of Nicaea</u> and decided that the celebration of Easter should never fall on the same day as the "Jewish" Passover, and devised how to do that best. In 325 A.D, the Roman Emperor Constantine officially replaced Passover with Easter, saying in anti-Semitic tirade,

"When the question relative to the sacred festival of Easter arose, it was thought particularly unworthy to follow the customs of the Jews who had soiled their hands with the most fearful of crimes, and whose minds were blinded. In rejecting their custom we may transmit to our descendants the legitimate mode of celebrating Easter.

We ought not therefore to have anything in common with the Jew. And consequently in unanimously adopting this mode, we desire, dearest brethren, to separate ourselves from the detestable company of the Jew. For it is truly shameful for us to hear them boast that without their direction we could not keep this feast. How can they be in the right, they who, after the death of the Saviour, have no longer been led by reason but by wild violence, as their delusion may urge them They do not possess the truth in this Easter question, for in their blindness and repugnance to all improvements they frequently celebrate two Passovers in the same year.

But even if this were not so it would still be your duty not to tarnish your soul by communication with such wicked people, the Jews. You should consider not only that the number of churches in these provinces make a majority, but also that it is right to demand what our reason approves, and that we should have nothing in common with the Jew." (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Council_of_Nicaea)

Rom 16:17-18 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put snares alongside the teaching in which you have been trained — keep away from them. For men like these are not serving our Lord the Messiah but their own belly; by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the innocent.
2Th 2:3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way. For the Day will not come until after the Apostasy has come and the man who separates himself from Torah has been revealed, the one destined for doom.

230 A.D Tertullian wrote: "By us [Gentile Christians] who are strangers to (Jewish) Sabbaths, and new moons, and festivals, once acceptable to God, the Saturnalia, the feasts of January, the Brumalia, and Matronalia are now frequented, with gifts being carried to and fro."

Pope Gregory 597 A.D "Do not destroy the temples of the English gods; change them to Christian churches. Do not forbid the "harmless" customs which have been associated with the old religions; consecrate them to Christian use."

"Providence that on that day on which that Sun was born... Christ should be born." ("De pasch. Comp.", xix)

"But Our Lord, too, is born in the month of December . . . the eight before the calends of January [25 December] . . ., But they call it the 'Birthday of the Unconquered'. Who indeed is so unconquered as Our Lord. . .? Or, if they say that it is the birthday of the Sun, He is the Sun of Justice." (del Solst. Et Æquin." (II, p. 118, ed. 1588)

Pope Leo I "Christians, on the very doorstep of the Apostles' basilica, turn to adore the rising sun. Sun-worship has bequeathed features to modern popular worship in Armenia, where Christians had once temporarily and externally conformed to the cult of the material sun" (Cumont, op. cit., p. 356).

"The well-known solar feast, however, of Natalis Invicti, celebrated on 25 December, has a strong claim on the responsibility for our December date. For the history of the solar cult, its position in the Roman Empire, and syncretism with Mithraism." - Catholic Church (http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=2933)

Exo 23:2 "You shall not follow a multitude to do evil"

Eph 5:1 "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

2Cor 6:14 Do not yoke yourselves together in a team with unbelievers. For how can righteousness and lawlessness be partners? What fellowship does light have with darkness?

Isa 5:19-22 They say, "We want God to speed up his work, to hurry it along, so we can see it! We want the Holy One of Isra'el's plan to come true right now, so we can be sure of it!" Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who change darkness into light and light into darkness, who change bitter into sweet and sweet into bitter! Woe to those seeing themselves as wise, esteeming themselves as clever. Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, men whose power goes to mixing strong drinks,

1Cor 10:21 You can't drink both a cup of the Lord and a cup of demons, you can't partake in both a meal of the Lord and a meal of demons.

The Birth of Yeshua (Jesus)

There is evidence that Yeshua was born at Sukkot. The key to calculating the date of the birth of Messiah is **Luke 1:5** where we learn that Zechariah the father of John was a priest of the course of Abijah.

The priests became to numerous to all serve at the Temple all the time, so they were divided into 24 courses (1Chron. 24). Each course served for two weeks each year, once in the former rain (first half of the year) and once in the latter rain (second half of the year). There were also three weeks in which all the priests were required to serve, these were the three pilgrimage festivals (Deut 16:16). 24 times 2 is 48 plus three is 51. 51 weeks is 357 days fitting nicely within the 360 day lunar year.

The course of Abijah is the eighth course (*1Chron. 24:10*) which serves the tenth week during the former rain portion of the year (this is because during Passover and Shavuot (Pentecost) all for the priests serve together (*Deut 16:16*). Zechariah had his vision while serving in the course of Abijah in the tenth week (It will become apparent that he was serving his first course not his second as the timing will show as we progress). Thus Zechariah's vision took place during the 10th week of the year (The religious year beginning at Nisan/Abib around 14 days before Passover). We must add two additional weeks before John could be conceived, due to the purity laws (*Lev 12:5; 15:19, 25*). So John was conceived in the 12th week of the year. He was born about 40 weeks later during the 52nd week of the year (12 + 40 = 52) which brings us to Passover. Thus John was born at Passover, the very time that Elijah was, according to Jewish tradition, supposed to appear. (*Matt 11:13-14*)

Yeshua was conceived 6 months (about 25 weeks) after John's conception (*Luke 1:36*). This means Yeshua was conceived around the 37th week around Chanukah. This would mean the light of the world was conceived during the festival of lights.

Yeshua was born 40 weeks later (around week 77 that is week 25 of the following year) this brings us to the time of the fall feasts.

Also Yeshua was born in a "manger" or stable (*Luke 2:7, Luke 2:12, Luke 2:16*). The Hebrew word for "stable" is "sukkah" (as in *Gen 33:17*) so it is likely that Yeshua was born in a Sukkah/booth.

Shabbat Shalom! Written by Jesse Himango Tabernacle of David Ministries 12-22-10

