

THE ORIGIN OF HALLOWE'EN

Gerhard O Marx

What about this strange festival? What have goblins, witches and ghosts to do with this feast of All Hallows Eve? And why the demoniacal masks and gaudy decorations?

EACH YEAR millions around the world observe the strangest of all festivals, Hallowe'en — All Hallows Evening. Especially so in Great Britain, Scandinavia and the United States.

Every autumn, young and old alike anticipate its revels. It's a night of frolicking fun and frivolous foolishness. All kinds of nonsense and superstitions are associated with this festival.

But Why?

On the eve of this night children dress in outrageous costumes and put on witch-like masks. Then they are turned loose to frighten or otherwise induce people into giving them food items and other gifts. Millions are familiar with the "trick-or-treat" threat associated with Hallowe'en. Buildings are desecrated, windows broken and other fooleries are resorted to.

WHY do so many keep Hallowe'en? What useful purpose does such a celebration fulfill in this "enlightened" scientific twentieth century? What purpose did it ever serve?

Is it merely a harmless celebration to amuse our children? It's about time we checked into this observance to see WHERE and WHEN it really originated and FOR WHAT PURPOSE it was established.

You may not have realized it, but the ancient pre-Christian Druids in Britain, the pagan Romans and Greeks, and even the Babylonians, among others, kept a Hallowe'en festival.

Not Christian

Yes, Hallowe'en long antedates Christianity! It was only later introduced into the professing Christian world — centuries AFTER the death of the Apostles.

Notice! "The earliest Hallowe'en celebrations [in Britain] were held by the Druids in honour of Samhain, Lord of the Dead, whose festival fell on November 1" (see "Halloween Through Twenty Centuries", by Ralph Linton, p. 4).

"It is clearly a RELIC OF PAGAN TIMES"! ("The Book of Days", Chambers, v. 2, p. 519.)

Further, "It was a Druidical belief that on the eve of this festival Saman, lord of death, called together the wicked spirits that within the past 12 months had been condemned to inhabit the bodies of animals" ("Enc. Brit.", 11th ed., v. 12, pp. 857-8).

Read what this November celebration was like! It was a pagan belief that on one night of the year the souls of the dead return to their original homes, there to be entertained with food. If food and shelter were not provided, these spirits, it was believed, would cast spells and cause havoc towards those failing to fulfill their requests.

"It was the night for the universal walking about of all sorts of spirits, fairies, and ghosts, all of whom had liberty on that night" ("Highland Superstitions", Alexander Macgregor, p. 44). Literal sacrifices were offered on this night to the spirits of the dead, when, so the belief went, they visited their earthly haunts and their friends.

There was a reason why November was chosen for that particular event. The Celts and other Northern people considered the beginning of November as their New Year. This was the time when the leaves were falling and a general seasonal decay was taking place everywhere. Thus it was a fitting time, so they reasoned, for the commemoration of the dead.

Since the Northern nations at that time began their day in the evening, the eve leading up to November 1st was the beginning of the festival. According to the Roman calendar it was the evening October 31 — hence, Hallowe'en — the evening of All Hallows.

Observed Everywhere

Hallowe'en, or "All Souls Eve," was kept throughout the ancient pagan world. The observance was widespread.

"There was a prevailing belief AMONG ALL NATIONS that at death the souls of good men were taken possession of by good spirits and carried to paradise; but the souls of wicked men were left to wander in the space between the earth and moon, or consigned to the unseen world. These wandering spirits were in the habit of HAUNTING THE LIVING... BUT THERE WERE MEANS BY WHICH THESE GHOSTS MIGHT BE EXORCISED" ("Folklore", James Napier, p. 11).

To exorcise these ghosts, that is, to free yourself from their supposed evil sway, you would have to set out food and provide shelter for them during the night. If they were satisfied with your offerings, it was believed they would leave you in peace. If not, they were believed to cast an evil spell on you.

"In Wales it was firmly believed that on All Hallows Eve the spirit of a departed person was to be seen at midnight on every crossroad and every stile" ("Folklore and Folk-Stories of Wales", Marie Trevelyan, p. 254).

In Cambodia people used to chant: "O all you our ancestors, who are departed, deign to come and eat what we have prepared for you, and to bless your posterity and to make it happy" ("Notice sur le Cambodge", Paris 1875, E. Aymonier, p. 59).

This sort of Hallowe'en festival was strenuously observed throughout the non-Christian world. Pagans would pray to their false gods to prevent "DEMONS" and "witches" from molesting them.

Notice! "The Miztecs of Mexico believed that the souls of the dead came back in the twelfth month of the year, WHICH CORRESPONDED TO OUR NOVEMBER. On this day of All Souls the houses were decked out to welcome the spirits. Jars of food and drink were set on a table in the principal room, and the family went out with the torches to meet the ghosts and invite them to enter. Then, returning to the house they knelt around the table, and with their eyes bent on the ground, prayed the souls to accept the offerings" ("Adonis", Frazer, p. 244).

This, then, is the way the heathen world celebrated their Hallowe'en, their "All Souls Day". Although some aspects of the Hallowe'en festival varied with each country, the overall pattern and purpose remained the same.

Hallowe'en "Christianized"

But how did the professing Christian world come to accept and keep such a day?

Here is what you, probably, haven't been told.

In 607 A.D. the Roman Emperor Phocas defeated the Barbarians who were in control of Rome. The Pantheon in Rome, a pagan edifice which had been wrested from the barbarians, was given to pope Boniface IV.

Originally, Emperor Hadrian built the Pantheon — around 100 A.D. He dedicated it to the pagan goddess Cybele and to the other Roman deities. This temple became the central place in Rome where the pagans honored and commemorated their gods.

With this splendid edifice now falling into the hands of professing Christians, the question was, What should be done with it?

The pagans had dedicated it to Cybele and all their gods. But the Roman bishop now CONSECRATED IT TO THE VIRGIN MARY AND ALL THE SAINTS of both sexes (see "The Mysteries of All Nations", Grant, p. 120). Thus this pagan building became "holy." No more did the pagan Romans use this edifice to pray for their dead. It was now the professing Christians who employed the Pantheon in praying for their dead.

This re-dedication of the pagan temple to Mary and others occurred in 610 A.D. Now converted into a Christian shrine, an annual festival was instituted to commemorate the event. The day chosen was May 13.

This May 13 commemoration of the dead saints was known by the name of "All Saints Day." It continued to be held in May for over two centuries — until 834 A.D. In that year the NAME and the DATE WERE CHANGED.

Notice! "The time of celebration was altered to the FIRST OF NOVEMBER, and it was then called ALL HALLOW" — from where we get the name Hallowe'en, ALL HALLOW merely meaning ALL HOLY, and the "een" is a contraction of evening ("Folklore", James Napier, p. 177).

Thus in 834 A.D. the Church in the Middle Ages began to celebrate Hallowe'en on the FIRST OF NOVEMBER for the first time. This was the very same day the Druids in Britain, the Norsemen in Scandinavia, and the pagan Germans among others were keeping their festival of ALL SOULS EVE, in commemoration of Saman, lord of death, and his demons.

Reason for Change

Why did the church change the date to November 1st, thus coinciding with the pagans' feast of ALL SOULS? There is a reason!

It was a general practice of the restored Roman Empire, now professing Christianity, to "convert" the pagans within the empire as quickly and on as large a scale as possible. Changing dates of festivals often made it easier to influence newly conquered peoples.

Ever since the time of Constantine — who made a state religion out of Christianity — the Roman emperors realized how essential it was to have a UNIFIED empire, in which as many as possible would be of ONE MIND. The civil and religious leaders saw how important it was for the sake of unity to ALLOW ONLY ONE RELIGION within the restored Roman domain.

It became therefore a stringent state policy to force all non-Christians to accept the new state religion.

Here is how the plan was carried out.

Conversion of Germans

When the German Frankish king Charlemagne invaded and conquered parts of Eastern Germany, he compelled the conquered German king, Wittekind, to be baptized and to accept Christianity. Having no choice and seeing his life was at stake, this heathen ruler who knew little or nothing about Christ — was forced into this "conversion." And with him his entire people.

This policy brought complex problems. These pagans, who were usually baptized EN MASSE, were still pagans at heart. Even though they became nominal Christians, they still yearned for many of their heathen practices, which they were expected to discard.

With Wittekind's baptism, for example, a vast number of barbarians were suddenly added to the roll call of the church. Wittekind's Germans, now professing Christians, and other conquered pagans, had a profound influence on the ecclesiastical affairs of the church in the early 800's A.D. These barbaric and uncultured people brought with them many outright pagan practices and celebrations, Hallowe'en merely being one of many. They were fervent in clinging to their past ceremonies and observed them openly — yet supposedly converted to Christianity.

What was the church to do? Excommunicate them and thus reduce her membership? This she would not do. Was she to force them into discarding their heathen practices and adopt Italian or Roman ones? This, as she had learned in past times, was not possible.

There remained only one other way.

This, then is what was decided:

Let the recently converted pagans keep certain of their heathen festivals, such as Hallowe'en or All Souls Day — but label it "Christian." Of course the Germans were asked not to pray to their ancient pagan gods on this day. They must now use this day to commemorate the death of the saints. To make it easy for them, the Roman Church even CHANGED HER DATE of All Saints Day from May 13 to November 1st to satisfy the growing numbers of Germanic adherents. The Church understood the yearnings the Germans and others had for their old ways.

Throughout history, the Christian-professing world has resorted to this action. We have the theological explanation of this given to us by Pope Innocent. He refers to a heathen festival the pagans kept in the early part of the Roman Empire and explained how the professing Christian world should treat this day:

"The heathen dedicated this month [2 Feb.] to the infernal gods... In the beginning of this month the idolaters walked about the city with lighted candles, and as some of the holy fathers COULD NOT EXTIRPATE SUCH A CUSTOM, they ORDAINED that Christians should carry about candles IN HONOUR OF THE "VIRGIN MARY" ("Folklore", James Napier, p. 181).

If a pagan practice or festival could not be forbidden, it was reasoned, "let it be tamed." Thus many were persuaded to TRANSFER devotion from their former gods to the Christian God. So it was with the festival of ALL SOULS EVE. Notice this admission:

"Thus, at the first promulgation of Christianity to the Gentile nations... THEY COULD NOT BE PERSUADED TO RELINQUISH many of their superstitions, which, rather than forego altogether, they chose to blend and INCORPORATE with the new faith" ("Popular Antiquities of Great Britain", John Brand, p. xi).

What About Our Time?

Now come down to the twentieth [& 21st] century. You'll be surprised to what extent we have inherited pagan rites and ceremonies from our forefathers, so obvious in the celebration of Hallowe'en.

Note this classic example. "In many Catholic countries the belief that the DEAD RETURN on this day is so strong, that food is left on the tables and people still decorate the graves of the dead [on this day]" ("Dictionary of Folklore", Funk and Wagnalls, v. 1, p. 38).

In Protestant countries many pagan superstitious beliefs and practices have become an integral part of each year's celebration.

In many parts of Britain, BONFIRES are set alight on the eve of Hallowe'en. Of course fire has nothing to do with praying for dead saints. The original reason for the fire, however, was to frighten away witches and evil spirits on this night. Fire has always been an essential part of Hallowe'en in Great Britain.

You and Your Children

What about you and your children? What comes to your mind when thinking about Hallowe'en? The truth of the Bible? Not at all! Instead, weird and FRIGHTENING MASKS — persons PORTRAYED AS WITCHES AND DEMONS. Pumpkins and turnips hollowed out in the shape of EERIE-LOOKING faces! Lighted candles are placed inside to help bring out the more frightful side of these carvings. Dough is baked into small figurines RESEMBLING WITCHES AND SPIDER'S WEB CAKES are baked by the dozen for this occasion. Children, dressed up in the most revolting garments, are let loose on the neighbors, trying to scare the daylight out of them.

Let's be honest. I have before me the "Good Housekeeping's Book of Entertainment", which my wife picked up from the local library. On page 168 of this much-read book, there is a section on what to do on Hallowe'en. Notice the astonishing advice given!

"Halloween decorations are quite as important as the food. When planning them, remember that if the room is to be dimly lit (preferably by candle and FIRELIGHT) the decorations must be bold to be effective. Orange, black and red, THE DEVIL'S COLOURS, are the colors associated with Halloween and THIS SCHEME SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT as far as possible... Have paper streamers and lanterns hanging from the ceiling, or, if you would like to have something less usual, you could make a giant SPIDER'S web with black and orange strings, or in narrow strips of crepe paper coming from the four corners of the room, complete with a LARGE SPIDER — one of the DEVIL'S FAVOURITE FOLLOWERS."

Notice where the stress lies—on the saints or on devilry? Read further of the black magic associated with this festival. "To decorate the walls, make large silhouettes of CATS, BATS, OWLS AND WITCHES ON BROOMSTICKS... For the supper table small WITCHES WITH BROOMSTICKS can be made by using lollipops on 4-inch sticks."

Weird lanterns, witch-balls, and witches' cauldrons are some other objects, the book suggests, which must fit into the evening somehow.

How pagan can you get?

NOWHERE does the Bible command us to observe Hallowe'en.

Hallowe'en and other common festivals which people observe in the Christian-professing world have NO BIBLICAL BASIS. They originated in paganism.

The testimony of history stamps Hallowe'en as a HEATHEN festival. It's built on a PAGAN FOUNDATION. Your Bible warns: "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 3:11).

Which is the BASIS of YOUR practice and belief?

It is time we discovered the SOURCE of our religious beliefs and found out whether we ought to observe them. TO understand where many religious ideas have come from - and whether we ought to follow them- Turn to Deuteronomy 12:29-31 and read God's condemnation of Hallowe'en!

WHAT'S SO HALLOWED ABOUT HALLOWEEN?

Clayton D Steep

The name means "hallowed evening." But is it really? Where did it come from? What is it all about? And is it really good for children?

Creepy goblins, ghosts and demons, witches on brooms, spiders and bats, dead men's bones, flickering jack-o-lanterns, black cats, eerie costumes and parties.

What a weird festival this is!

And an increasingly costly and dangerous one too! Each year following this strange celebration, gruesome accounts surface of the giving of booby-trapped "treats" to children: apples with concealed razor blades; candy bars with hidden needles; cookies containing ground glass; bonbons laced with harsh laxatives or spiked with poisons. This is to say nothing of the cases, reported and unreported, of muggings and molestations which occur on the eve of "All Hallows."

In addition there are other incidences of bodily harm inflicted during the course of Halloween festivities, some on purpose, some accidentally: the automobile driver failing to see the child dressed in black crossing the street at night, the burns resulting from a flammable ,costume which is ignited by a candle in a jack-o-lantern.

Are these instances not related to the theme and purpose of this festival? Perhaps they are, after all.

At one time in rural America perhaps the "ultimate" in Halloween mischief was moving the outhouse off its foundation. There may have been an uncomfortably inconvenient change of the owner's normal routine the next morning, but it was basically not too serious. Sometimes, unfortunately, far more extensive destruction is done to private and public property by senseless vandalism. Any Of us could face the soaring costs of repairing property damaged by tricksters.

Is It Good?

The Halloween period is big business. It is one of the three top candy-selling seasons of the year. Hundreds of millions of dollars sweeten the cash register tills in exchange for hundreds of millions of pounds of confections. Greeting card companies, manufacturers and retailers of costumes, and decorations take their share of the profits too. For them it pays well to keep the Halloween "spirit" alive.

But in calculating the price of Halloween, we can't stop there. We must include the added cost — impossible to calculate — that all of those refined, chemical-laden "treats" ultimately exact in dental and medical bills.

Besides whatever physical harm children may suffer from Halloween, there is an as yet unmeasured damage inflicted on the child's standard of values. After all, are not children taught by Halloween to beg? Isn't it an attempt to get something for nothing? And what is "trick or treat" but extortion? "Give me something... or else!" Impressionable minds cannot fail to see how richly it pays off, and then may expect the same to continue in the days and weeks that follow.

Still, every year millions of people refuse to let these negative aspects stand in the way of their Halloween fun and frolic. Children and adults alike adorn themselves with bizarre and frightening costumes and engage in a hectic night of partying, merry-making and general mayhem.

But just how did these strange goings-on get started anyway?

The Origin of Halloween

It really is no secret that Halloween has been around for thousands of years. Centuries before the birth of Christ, ancient Druids performed mystical rites and ceremonies in honor of the dead on their "New Year's Eve" (October 31).

History books and encyclopedias freely and openly describe this pagan origin. Even newspapers, as an item of curiosity, print articles at Halloween time explaining the pagan beginnings and their parallelism to today's customs.

The point is, Halloween is pagan.

Still, most people, particularly those who are parents, will justify Halloween's observance by saying, in effect, something like this: "So what? So it was started by pagans. We aren't thinking about pagan gods today. We're just having fun. And it's great for the children. Where it came from doesn't make any difference."

Well, it doesn't make any difference unless...

Unless you care what God says on the subject! And if you accept the teachings of Jesus Christ and true Christianity, then it does make a great deal of difference! God's Word, the Bible, as we

shall see, has a great deal to say about why you should not be involved with customs such as those centering on Halloween.

Let's be honest. One only has to look at Halloween costumes and decorations to see that it celebrates death, devils, witches and darkness. Christianity is the antithesis of these things! Christians are supposed to conduct themselves in a way that exemplifies light and life, not darkness and death.

The diametric contradiction between these two approaches is noted by Ralph Linton in *Halloween Through Twenty Centuries*: "Among all the festivals which we celebrate today, few have histories stranger than that of Halloween.... it commemorates beings and rites with which the church has always been at war." He then goes on to describe Halloween festivities as customs which were "once forbidden to good Christians."

Somewhere along the line, these alien pagan customs have worked their way into what the world considers as Christianity.

G.W. Douglas discloses in *The American Book of Days* that "the mystic rites and ceremonies with which Halloween was originally observed had their origin among the Druids centuries before the dawn of the Christian era in the celebration on the eve of the festival of Samhain [the lord of the dead — Satan].... The early [medieval] Christian church adopted the eve and the day following and gave new names to them, as it did with many other Christian observance [sic]."

Writer Dorothy Wood of the *Wichita Beacon* stated the case clearly back on October 30, 1959. She wrote: "This ancient night of revelry for the devil and his cohorts has degenerated.... It's the Christians who are to blame. For centuries, they've been grabbing off all the old heathen festivals. The midwinter feast with its greens and feasting and drinking has become Christmas. The wild spring festival has become Easter, and the worshippers of Christ boldly use the old pagan symbols of fertility—chicks and rabbits and eggs. Now they've completely taken over Halloween."

A Serious Matter

God does not look at this lightly. He does not want His people to "borrow" pagan customs (Deuteronomy 12:29-31) with their inevitable detriment to the development of spiritual character. He plainly and directly commanded through the prophet Jeremiah: "Learn not the way of the heathen..." (Jeremiah 10:2).

Through Moses, God condemned as abominable all that has to do with witchcraft, necromancy (black magic), and other demonic works of darkness (Deuteronomy 18:9-12).

In view of this biblical condemnation, we should want to stay as far away as possible from whatever falls into these categories. Instead, all across the land in this "Christian" nation, children — and adults — dress as witches, demons and other manifestations which honor the "lord of death" on his special night.

People do not seem to realize that Satan and his demons are the enemies of God. Halloween purposefully worships Satan. "Halloween decorations," says the Good Housekeeping Book of Entertainment. "are quite as important as the food. When planning them, remember that if the room is to be dimly lit... the decorations must be bold to be effective. Orange, black and red, the devil's colors, are the colors associated with Halloween.... you could make a giant spider's web ... complete with a large spider — one of the devil's favorite followers."

The apostle Paul summed up the attitude true Christians should have and should teach their children: "... For once you were darkness [in the past — before becoming Christians], but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light [not dressed as demons, witches, zombies, and other beings of darkness] (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true); and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them [by letting your light shine]. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret [let alone to participate in them]" (Ephesians 5:7-12).

Counterfeit Days

Very few seem to realize that Halloween and the other religious "Christian" holidays are actually counterfeits that have been subtly introduced to take the place of the holy days God instituted.

The holy days of God are listed in Leviticus 23. These are the days that were observed by Jesus, the apostles, and the early New Testament Church. Shortly after the death of the apostles, however, the keeping of these days was discontinued by a developing great counterfeit religious system — a system which ultimately brought in its own sacred days adapted from heathen religions.

It seems, in fact, that throughout history man has continually sought to replace that which God originally gave for man's good with that which is inferior and a corruption of the truth. Halloween is a classic example of such a counterfeit.

Some of the before — mentioned feast days God established (see Leviticus 23:24, 27,34) fall in the seventh month of the sacred calendar, at a period which varies slightly from year to year but centers on early October. Ancient Israel was ordered to observe these God — ordained days. But instead of keeping the feasts of God in the seventh month, *King Jeroboam ordained his own feast one month later (I Kings 12:27-33). This counterfeit festival, in the middle of the eighth month, was approximately equivalent time wise to Halloween today!*

A provable connection? No [BICOOG argues yes! see below]. But the point is, God rejected the inferior substitute that was made for something He had instituted — and rejected the whole people because they had rejected Him.

There is a lesson in that for us.

A clergyman recently jolted the readers of a magazine well respected in mainline Protestantism, saying that Halloween is "thoroughly, utterly, totally pagan: the worship of the dead, the

placating of evil spirits, the honoring of the Lord of the Dead...." But then he added, "I don't think you can simply take it away from the children without putting something in its place." What could be better — for children and adults, too — than restoring the observance of God's holy days according to His instructions? Better than Halloween, Christmas, Easter or any of the other humanly devised substitutes.

During the early part of October, while commercial advertisements begin to prepare people for yet another Halloween, the members of the Church of God observe the Feast of Tabernacles, one of God's Festivals. They enjoy themselves in good, clean fun at some of the most beautiful locations on earth, while rejoicing in light and truth, learning how to give and share — the exact opposite of the "get" mentality of death — oriented Halloween observance — and preparing themselves for the soon-coming world tomorrow.

Once a person properly keeps the days God has commanded, he realizes what cheap, inferior, meaningless substitutes are the religious holidays of the world. If you haven't yet experienced them, you're really short-changing yourself and your children. You're missing something good.

What Is "Hallowed"?

God commands us to hallow His holy days — which include both weekly and annual Sabbaths (Ezekiel 20:20). In the world tomorrow all people will be taught to hallow God's Sabbaths (Ezekiel 44:24). (read our free booklet Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?) The word "hallowed" means "regarded as holy or sacred."

At the start of this article the question was asked: "What is so 'hallowed' about Halloween?" The answer is nothing. Absolutely nothing. But the setting of the sun at the beginning of one of God's holy and sacred Sabbaths ushers in a truly meaningful and hallowed evening.

WHY NOT? EXORCISE HALLOWEEN

David Jon Hill

Shades of Samhain — Lord of the Dead! By good old Druid reckoning, here we are at that time of year again. Dress your little kiddies up in the most demon-inspired outfits possible: witches, ghosts (unholy), skeletons, ghouls, black cats (they make the best mediums), monsters of every description (a modern touch), or any animal costume will do if it has a weird and possessed look. Now send your little sub juveniles out for their once-a-year lesson in total delinquency to pillage, extort and vandalize. Don't worry — most laws are suspended for this harmless practice because it's a "Christian" religious holiday: All Saints' Day!

But don't send them out during the day, because, as we all know, Satan is the Prince of Darkness and the Devil does his best work under cover of the night. Also, it would be a good idea to go along as a bodyguard, because there are some intolerant adults who like to retaliate against this mayhem by slipping razor blades into apples, LSD into candy, or just scare the blazes out of the youngsters when they come "trick-or-treating."

Halloween was "baptized" in "Christianity" in about A.D. 834, but all the practices, including the "protection" money and gifts of food, were observed by many different pagan cultures long, long before the word "Christian" was ever coined.

Ignore that command from God in the Old Testament which says: "Take heed to thyself that thou... inquire not after their gods, saying, How did I these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. Thou shalt not do so unto the Lord thy God: for every abomination to the Lord, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods..."! (Deut. 12:30-31.) And, because Halloween has a completely pagan foundation, you will also have to ignore that New Testament statement: "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 3:11). Fact is, why not join the kids? You could do more damage, have more fun — and it would be more in keeping with the ancient pagan practice!

Or...

You could recognize Halloween for what it is, have just as much fun teaching your kids where it came from, and maybe even "treat" a neighbor kid to a little intellectual enlightenment on this dark night of Satanism.

Just a "harmless day (night) for the kids to have a little fun"? Why not take the opportunity to explain that in ordered society vandalism is not "fun." That extortion (trick or treat) should be left to the Mafia and/or the politicians. That the Devil and his demons don't have to be bought off with candy and scare tactics, but that God is alive and in control, and the mere name of Jesus Christ is sufficient protection from the dangers of demonism. Exorcise Halloween — why not?

HALLOWEEN

Where Did IT Come From? by Herman L. Hoeh Part XI

HALLOWEEN-the strangest holiday of the entire year!

Every autumn, on the eve of November 1, children dressed as goblins, or as witches with broomsticks, knock on doors, announce "trick or treat," soap windows of schools and stores, tear down mailboxes, and give the police a great many headaches with their juvenile vandalism. It is a time which young people "let off steam."

To perpetuate this spirit of Halloween with its frolicking fun, stores are filled with black and orange masks, with pumpkins and other gaudy decorations to attract the eye. Even some older people enjoy their games and frivolity.

In this "enlightened" age, with ignorance and superstition supposedly banished, we find the nation still celebrating one of its most ridiculous holidays, with its goblins, the fear of black cats, and children masked as demons and witches.

In schools, the children march in weird processions during the day, in anticipation of a hectic night of fun and foolishness.

Is this the way in which children should be brought up? WHY is this holiday celebrated anyway? Where did the custom of “trick or treat” originate?

It is time that people who think themselves intelligent begin to look into the origin of this spirit of frivolity and understand how it entered a supposedly Christian society. Certainly such a custom never came from the Bible!

Real Origin of Halloween

Do you know that Halloween was introduced into the professing Christian world centuries after the death of the apostles, yet it was celebrated by the pagans centuries before the New Testament Church was founded!

How did Halloween come to America?

Here is the intriguing answer from history: “The American celebration rests upon Scottish and Irish folk customs WHICH CAN BE TRACED IN DIRECT LINE FROM PRE-CHRISTIAN TIMES” -from paganism! “Although Halloween has become a night of rollicking fun, superstitious spells, and eerie games which people take only half seriously, its beginnings were quite otherwise.

The earliest Halloween celebrations were held”-not by the inspired early church, but--“by the Druids in honor of Samhain, Lord of the Dead, whose festival fell on November 1.” (From Halloween Through Twenty Centuries, by Ralph Linton, p. 4.)

Far from being Christian, this festival is an old pagan holiday, masquerading as though it were one of the customs of the church. And yet professing Christians allow their children to get into the spirit of this pagan custom!

The Encyclopedia Americana states about Halloween that it “is clearly a relic of pagan times.”

Now notice what the authoritative Encyclopedia Britannica says about Halloween: “It long antedates Christianity. The two chief characteristics of ancient Halloween were the lighting of bonfires and the belief that this is the one night in the year during which ghosts and witches are most likely to wander about. History shows that the main celebrations of Halloween were purely Druidical”-from the pagan Druids of Northwest Europe--“and this is further proved by the fact that in parts of Ireland October 31 is still known as Oidhch Shamhna, ‘Vigil of Saman.’” Saman or Samhain was the pagan lord of the dead among the Druids.

So Halloween was celebrated among the pagans long before Jesus was born in Bethlehem. This pagan holiday, however, was not celebrated alone among the Druids. It was also a Roman festival!

The Britannica continues: “On the Druidic ceremonies were grafted some of the characteristics of the Roman festival in honor of Pomona held about November 1, in which nuts and apples,

representing the winter store of fruits, played an important part.” Notice the widespread pagan custom to celebrate this season of the year.

WHY Halloween Was Celebrated

Now comes the shocking truth from history as to why this holiday was celebrated! Here are the plain facts as written in The Book of Halloween, on page 10, by Ruth Kelley: The pagan Druid priests “taught the immortality of the soul, that it passed from one body to another at death . . . They believed that on the last night of the old year (October 31) the lord of death gathered together the souls of all those who had died in the passing year and had been condemned to live in the bodies of animals, to decree what forms they should inhabit for the next twelve months. He could be coaxed to give lighter sentence by gifts and prayers.”

“On the New Year, their sins being expiated, they were released to go to the Driud Heaven.”
(From Halloween Through Twenty Centuries. p. 5 .)

Halloween was celebrated to preserve in the minds of the people the false doctrine of the immortality of the soul-that the dead are not really dead. Almost all heathen nations had days in honor of the dead-days originally instituted to commemorate the death of Nimrod (Genesis 10:8-10) whom Semiramis, his wife, said was still alive.

Now let us understand the meaning of the word “Halloween.” “It is the eve of Allhallows or Hallowmas or All Saints’ Day-and as such it is one of the most solemn festivals of the (Catholic) church.” (From page 3 of Linton’s Halloween Through Twenty Centuries.)

Halloween is the evening of Allhallows or All Saints’ Day, which falls on November 1. Since in ancient times, the days were customarily reckoned as beginning at sunset, Halloween was merely the evening celebration in anticipation of the great day of November 1, dedicated to the lord of the dead!

Who Was the “Lord of the Dead”?

You will remember that shortly before his crucifixion, Jesus was questioned by the Sadducees about the resurrection.

In order to prove that there would be a resurrection from the dead, Jesus told them: “But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken to you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is NOT the God of the dead, but of the living” (Matt. 22:31-32).

Notice the meaning of Jesus’ answer. Since the patriarchs are DEAD, and since God is ONLY the God of the living because the DEAD serve not the Lord (Psalms 6:5; 115:17)-then there must be a resurrection of the DEAD in order that they might live again and that God might be their God.

To make the resurrection possible, “Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be the Lord both of the dead and living” (Rom. 14:9). Observe that Jesus became the lord or master of the dead because through his resurrection he gained the keys of the grave and death (Rev. 1:18) and will resurrect the dead so they may live to serve him. But from whom did Jesus gain these keys? Who had prior mastery over the dead?

Paul, in the book of Hebrews, speaks of “him that had the power of death, that is the DEVIL” (Heb. 2: 14). So the devil, Satan, was lord or master of the dead!

Among the heathen Druids, Samhain or Saman, the lord of the dead, was Satan! To this day people still celebrate with frolicking fun a wild night in honor of the devil! Paul says that the heathen who thought they were worshipping the true God were actually serving demons (Gal. 4: 8). Youngsters today who tear up the countryside on Halloween are not serving God.

But if Halloween is merely the evening in honor of the devil, how did the day-called Allhallows or All Saints’ Day-come to be celebrated in the professing Christian Church?

The Origin of All Saints’ Day

The first of November, celebrated among the pagans in honor of Samhain-Satan-is today celebrated in hundreds of churches “to honor all the saints, known and unknown, and according to (pope) Urban IV, to supply any deficiencies in the faithful’s celebration of saints’ feasts during the year” (Catholic Encyclopedia).

How did the veneration of saints, supposedly alive in heaven, come to be celebrated on a day in honor of the devil?

Prior to 300 A.D. separate days were set aside by gentile Catholics in honor of particular individuals who suffered martyrdom-in much the same manner as Americans commemorate such presidents as Washington and Lincoln. During the reign of the Roman emperor Diocletian, so many were put to death that joint commemorations were held on particular days in local communities.

Then, according to the Catholic Encyclopedia, “In the fourth century, neighboring dioceses began to interchange feasts, to transfer relics, to divide them, and to join in a common feast; as is shown by the invitation of St. Basil of Caesarea (397) to the bishops of the province of Pontus...The Church, feeling that every martyr should be venerated, appointed a common day for all.”

Notice, what once was a memorial for each martyr on different days became a general day in honor of the dead who were believed to be alive in heaven. “Gregory II (731-741) consecrated a chapel in the basilica of St. Peter to all the saints and fixed the anniversary on November 1 . . . Gregory IV (827-844) extended the celebration on 1 November to the entire Church. The vigil”-Halloween--“seems to have been held as early as the feast itself.”

Notice that the celebration of Halloween, the eve of the day, is as old as the celebration of All Saints' Day in the Catholic Church. On page 6 of his book, Ralph Linton says of this holiday. "All Saints' Day was introduced into the church calendar because the year was not long enough to make it possible to dedicate a special day for each spirit of the Catholic Church . . . That the day chosen was one already associated in the popular mind with a thronging of spirits of the dead was quite in line with church policy of incorporating harmless pagan folk ideas."

It was not the Bible, but the policy of the Catholic Church to choose pagan customs and call them by Christian names. Thus the pagan day in honor of the spirits of the dead became a day in honor of those who were slain for Catholic dogma. The day was preserved to teach the people the false doctrine of the immortality of the soul-that the dead are not really dead!

But this is not the end of the amazing story. Whereas the pagans regarded November 1 as a day in honor of the dead in general, the Catholic Church at first honored only the martyrs as patron saints by the special days, a practice stemming from the Roman custom of honoring a patron god in each community.

With the rapid influx of pagans into the fold of the church, what was the Church going to do with the heathen custom of prayers and gifts to appease the lord of the dead so that the "souls" of the unrighteous would not have to suffer punishment but could go to a heaven?

Prayers for the Dead Introduced

In order to gain more heathen converts, who were accustomed at Halloween season to give gifts and pray SO the dead might become worthy of heaven, the Catholic Church introduced All Souls' Day, celebrated generally on November 2.

Here is how it happened. As the Catholic Church spread toward the North of Europe, it naturally found that "in Germany there existed . . . a time honored ceremony of praying to the dead on 1 October. This was accepted and sanctified by the Church," states the Catholic Encyclopedia.

This ceremony of praying to and for the dead-a satanic deception to blind mankind from the true plan of God was introduced into the church "by Odilo, Abbot of Cluny, France, who died in 1048 . . . The custom spread from there to the other congregations. By the end of the thirteenth century, the celebration of All Souls' Day was practically universal," wrote Linton in his book on page 13.

Far from being Christian, the Halloween season is filled with heathen practices. The Encyclopedia Britannica, article "All Souls' Day," states: "Certain popular beliefs connected with All Souls' Day are of pagan origin and immemorial antiquity. In many Catholic countries the dead are believed by the peasantry to revisit their homes on All Souls' night and partake of the food of the living."

For years it has been the custom of Belgian children to "build shrines in front of their homes with figures of the Madonna and candles, and beg for money to buy cakes. As many cakes as one eats, so many (people) should be free from Purgatory" (Book of Halloween, pp. 144-145). Observe

not only that the festival is of pagan origin, but also that the purpose of it is to perpetuate one of Satan's many false doctrines-that human beings already possess immortal life.

Here is the Catholics' own explanation of the feast which they derived from the ancient Halloween celebrations: "The theological basis for the feast is the doctrine that the souls which, on departing from the body, are not perfectly cleansed from venial sins, or have not fully atoned for past transgressions, are debarred from the Beatific Vision"-being in the immediate presence of God in heaven-"and that the faithful on earth can help them by prayers, alms deeds and especially by the sacrifice of the Mass."

Prayer for the dead is acknowledged by many Protestant churches when they recite from the Creed: "I believe in the communion of saints"-which means that men can communicate with saints on behalf of souls in Purgatory!

Although most Protestants have not continued to observe the two Catholic feasts of the Halloween season, which originated from paganism, they continue to observe the most foolish part of the pagan ceremonies-Halloween!

Protestants have continued the celebration of Halloween partly "since it was on this day, in 1517, that Martin Luther posted his epoch-making ninety-five theses on the door of the castle church at Wittenberg" which started the Protestant Reformation. "He chose Halloween night because he knew that the townsfolk. . . would be coming to the church that night" (Halloween, pp. 9, 10.)

Origin of "Trick or Treat"

Do you know where the common Halloween prank of children knocking on doors and shouting "trick or treat" originated? Linton says: ". . . certainly it comes from pagan times." In Ireland up to the turn of the century, it was customary to have a procession "led by a man in a white robe wearing a horse-head mask. (The horse was sacred to the Sun God," says Linton, "which indicates that this custom was a survival of a Druid rite.")

The procession levied a contribution from the farmers in the perverted name of what probably was an old Druid god. Unless the procession was "treated" liberally with gifts, the farmers were "tricked" with the threat of a curse that would ruin next year's crops!

This traditional custom of having processions at Halloween is further derived from another unusual practice. Wealthy churches during the Middle Ages, copying the ancient Greek and Roman religious processions, paraded the relics of patron saints. The poorer parishes could not afford to buy relics, so they used caricatures of their patron saints. "Those who were not playing the parts of the holy ones also wanted to get into the procession, and so they dressed up as angels or devils. The Allhallows procession around the churchyard eventually became a gay and motely parade." (From page 103 of Halloween Through Twenty Centuries.)

The present day "trick or treat" is but a continuation of these degenerate and absurd customs which came out of paganism and have been labeled with Christian names.

Is it any wonder that children take part in tying cans to cats' tails, soaping windows, soaking front porch furniture with water hoses, or wantonly damaging private property, especially mail boxes-which is a government offense-on a day originally dedicated to Satan, the Destroyer!

Hallowe'en Wears a Political Mask

by Peter Salemi

Something diabolically insidious has wormed its way into modern Christian religion, but it isn't new. Hallowe'en did not begin with the Druids of the British Isles. *It began with their ancestors, the House of Israel*, a deliberate attempt to replace one of God's annual Holydays by changing the time and location of the feast. And that attempt has proven to be widely successful.

The plan to substitute a false holy day was part of a plot which *made religion a tool of power politics*.

Solomon's empire had fallen apart in civil war. The northern tribes of Israel had separated from the southern Kingdom of Judah (which included Benjamin and Levi). Solomon's son Rehoboam sat on the Throne of David in Jerusalem (1 Kings 12:15-20), and Jeroboam was made King over the people of the northern ten tribes of Israel.

Jeroboam needed to consolidate his power. He realized that the one thing that threatened his hold over the people of his kingdom was their worship at the temple at Jerusalem (verses 25-27). So he built two golden idols, placing one in Dan and the other in Bethel. He built structures in high places (places set aside for sacrifices) and made priests to serve his altars from amongst the lowest class of people (verses 28-31). *Basically he mixed the Babylonian religion with God's religion, and made the people of Israel to worship*. To find out about the origins of the Druids read our booklet the USA and the British in Prophecy.

"Jeroboam (king of Israel) *ordained a feast on the 15th day of the eighth month (Heshvan - equivalent to late October early November), like unto the feast that is in Judah,*" (1 Kings 12:32). It was a feast Jeroboam deliberately copied after God's feast being held in Jerusalem on the fifteenth day of the seventh month-The Feast of Tabernacles.

His purpose was political. He used religion as his method to ensure that the people of Israel would not re-unite with the House of Judah.

In its aspects and character the feast Jeroboam set up looked like the feast of Tabernacles and undoubtedly included the eighth day-the Last Great Day of the feast.

Jeroboam's last great day has come down to us as HALLOWE'EN.

In the Roman calendar we commonly use, some of the months of the year are named for pagan gods, others a simply numbered. Some are named for Roman emperors, who proclaimed that they were gods and named months for themselves.

At one time, September was the seventh month, October was the eighth, November was the ninth, and December was the tenth, deriving their names from the Latin numbers.

Both Julius and Augustus decided that since they were gods, they should have months named for themselves. July and August were inserted into the calendar, and September became the 9th, October the 10th and so on.

The renaming of the months obscured the identity of God's annual festivals and pushed the memory of Jeroboam's false feast beyond easy identification.

God's Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day were established in the seventh month of the Hebrew Calendar (Leviticus 23:34-36). These festivals usually fall in late September and early October, followed by the eighth month beginning in late October.

The Feast of Tabernacles depicts the happy reign of Jesus Christ on earth, and his return to this earth to establish his kingdom. The feast of the last Great Day depicts the final Judgment period, when all those who have lived, and died without knowing God's way of life will be resurrected and will be given an opportunity to learn it and to submit to God's will. The final Holy Day, the Last Great Day, also called the Great White Throne Judgment Day. It is the day of Resurrection to life that is made a mockery of by Hallowe'en and festival of DEATH!

Today there are power hungry religionists out there who mix religion with politics pushing their own agenda. They are no different from Jeroboam, a commoner who liked playing King.

There is a danger mixing politics with religion. God reminds us of it again and again in indicting one king after another, "And he did evil in the sight of the Eternal; he departed not from, the sins of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin" (2 Kings 15:9, 18, 24, 28).