

The Unvarnished Origin of Thanksgiving

Believe it or not, Thanksgiving is as pagan as they come. Read on. If we are going to observe holidays, national or otherwise, it would be well to make sure that they have a pure origin. If we wish to honor the Creator then we need to make sure that we do not create our own ways of doing so. Are you interested in learning the historical facts about Thanksgiving? Let's not assume that we have no need for further enlightenment or no need to advance beyond our present condition.

When we first began observing the Creator's feasts (appointed times), it was easy to see the pagan underpinnings of Easter, Halloween and Christmas. We figured that our National holidays (July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, etc.) were all safe. Were we ever wrong! After learning the truth behind Thanksgiving, it too has been jettisoned along with the other pagan holidays. The following information is an excerpt from a chapter in an up-and-coming book of our friend, Catherine Sinclair.

Thanksgiving for the annual harvest is one of the oldest holidays known to man though celebrated on different dates. The Chinese and Hindus are said to have celebrated harvest feasts thousands of years ago. The Israelites were instructed to keep the feast of Tabernacles (Sukkoth) a celebration, a holy convocation that was to last eight days. The Old Testament is replete with commands to gather harvest and rejoice. The most well known are found in **Deut. 16:14** and **Lev. 23:10**.

The ancient Greek harvest festival was called Thesmophora and celebrated Demeter, the founder and goddess of the harvests. The symbols of Demeter were poppies and ears of corn, a basket of fruit and a little pig. The Roman goddess of the harvest, Ceres (from whom we get our word cereal) had a festival, which occurred on October 4th and was called the Cerealia.

SYMBOLS OF THANKSGIVING OR SYMBOLS OF THE FRUITFUL GODDESS AND HER FERTILITY RITES

Cornucopias- In Greek Mythology, the horn of Amalthea (the name of the goat who suckled Zeus) became known as the cornucopia or horn of plenty. ISIS (the Egyptian faithful wife, mother, and goddess) was identified with Hathor, the HORNED COW Goddess. Horns are still used in pagan festivals today.

Harvest Queen- A name given to Ceres the Roman goddess of agriculture and crops or to a young woman chosen from among the reapers to whom was given a post of honor at the harvest home. Also the 1948 edition of The Universal World Reference Encyclopedia tells us, "Demeter, the Greek version of the Egyptian goddess Isis and Roman version of Ceres, is one of the principle Grecian deities, the great mother goddess, the nourishing and fertilizing principles of nature."

Corn - represents Ceres, the corn goddess (agriculture and crops) or Xilonen -goddess of the new corn.

Poppies - Ceres corresponds with Isis of the Egyptians and Demeter of the Greeks. She is represented with a garland of ears of grain on her head, holding in one hand a lighted torch and in the other a poppy, which was sacred to her.

Piglet (Sow)- Demeter was presented with a cow and a sow as well as honey, poppies, corn and fruit indicating thanksgiving for a land of plenty. [Swine are an abomination to YHVH, see **Isaiah 65:3-4**.]

Thanksgiving - a holiday, or holy day? Remember YHVH has given, through His Holy Scriptures His holy days. YHVH tells His people to keep His feasts in Leviticus 23. He says these are signs for His people. The Feast of Tabernacles is the only feast to be celebrated as the feast of ingathering for His people.

In England, the autumnal feast was called Harvest Home and was derived from the druidical harvest feast. [The druids are the most openly Satanic in their form of worship.] This three-day feast began with a special service at the village church, which had been decorated for the occasion with fruit and flowers, afterwards followed a communal dinner. In America the celebration of Thanksgiving sprang up haphazardly and was celebrated, if at all, on different days in different parts of the country.

Here in America, the Puritans originally shunned the Harvest Home (Thanksgiving). All Saint's days were swept off the calendar as well as Christmas and Easter, on the grounds that these mixed "popish" rituals with pagan customs. Their religious beliefs as well as the austerity and difficulty of their lives in the rather primitive settlement, did not permit them the luxury of gay and merry holidays. Their severe living conditions required discipline and sacrifice. Later, Thanksgiving, a holiday thanking God for the harvest enabling them to survive the winter, seemed to them to be a more fitting celebration than the other more established feasts of the church. But was it the right decision?

Now let's take a closer look at our Thanksgiving holiday, today, celebrated by nearly all in the United States, and in different countries throughout the world. In 1620, as the story goes, the small band of Pilgrims of Plymouth Colony braved the perilous North Atlantic in quest of religious freedom. Instead of landing in spring and further south as planned, they landed in the winter months (November) and faced a harsh winter with meager supplies. Those meager supplies dwindled rapidly, leaving only 55 of the original 102 to survive till spring. Because the summer was blessed with sunshine and rain and the autumn harvest was bountiful, the Pilgrim colony, appropriately grateful established a three-day feast of Thanksgiving. Today, being taught this understanding of Thanksgiving, nearly all Americans celebrate this holiday believing it pure and holy, a day thought to be closer to really pleasing and praising God with thanksgiving than any other. However ... is it?

THANKSGIVING VENEER EXPOSED

The first veneer layer (liar): The Plymouth Colony was not the first English Colony to land in America, nor were they the first to offer thanks.

The second layer: The first Thanksgiving was held August 9, 1607, by colonists enroute to found the short lived Popham Colony at what is now Phippsburg, Maine. After their two ships had reached one of the George's Islands off the Maine Coast, they gave "God" thanks for their "happy metinge and saffe aryval into the country." The first permanent English settlement in America was founded at Jamestown, VA 1607. As early as December 4, 1619 the settlers set aside a day to give thanks for the survival of their small company. Their day of thanks continued to be observed on December 4, until 1622, when a conflict with Indians almost devastated the colony.

The third layer: The historical official pilgrim Thanksgiving Day, was not even a day completely given to thanks and praise to God as some believe we do today. This day was a show of military power for the Indians as seen in the following article:

"The first autumn, an ample harvest insured that the colony would have food for the winter months. Governor Bradford, with one eye on the divine Providence, proclaimed a day of thanksgiving to God, and with the other eye on the local political situation, extended an invitation to neighboring Indians to share in the harvest feast. In order to guarantee that the feast served to cement a peaceful relationship, the three-day long feast was punctuated by displays of the power of English muskets for the benefit of suitably impressed Indian guests." *Thanksgiving, an American Holiday, an American History* by Diana Karter Applebaum

Fourth Veneer layer: As much as we'd like to think of Thanksgiving as a pure and holy holiday begun by the Pilgrims in Plymouth in 1621 it is not the truth. On the contrary, the Pagan harvest festival can be traced to the land of Ancient Babylon and the worship of the Great Mother (whore).

"The Christians took over the Roman holiday and it became well established in England, where some of the Roman customs and rituals for this day were observed long after the Roman Empire had disappeared.

"In England the "harvest home" has been observed continuously for centuries. The custom was to select a harvest queen for this holiday. She was decorated with the grain of their fields and the fruit of their trees. On Thanksgiving Day she was paraded throughout the streets in a carriage drawn by white horses. This was a remnant of the Roman ceremonies in honor of Ceres. But the English no longer thought of Ceres or cared much about her. They went to church on this day and sang their Thanksgiving songs." *Our Wonderful World* by Grolier Incorporated, New York, 1966, Vol. 17, pp. 220.

The Primitive Fertility Religions have been portrayed through "cute" stories which effectively HID the VILE, HIDEOUS MEANING behind them. This WORSHIP during the day of "Thanksgiving" is emphatically the Ancient Fertility Rites merely veneered with the so called "respectability" of Christianity! The fact remains, that it is still the Ancient Fertility Worship.

"But," you say, "Weren't our Pilgrim Father's righteous?" The Pilgrims only served YHVH as far as they would. Definitely, the Pilgrims worshipped on Sunday and they definitely did not keep the Holy Feast Days as ordained in Leviticus 23. They did not keep the clean and unclean food laws as listed in Leviticus 11 and Deut. 14. As the Pilgrims studied the Bibles they had, they would have read of the Sabbath, Holy Feast Days and about the clean and unclean food laws for themselves. I ask you now, "Why did they not obey God by doing what he commanded in **Ex 20, Lev. 11 & 23** and **Deut. 14**?"

Like so many Christian churches and denominations today, the Pilgrims wanted to do it their way and not YHVH's way. Is it any wonder then, that the Pilgrims would be just as deceived as the churches and assemblies of today--chasing after Baptized Paganism? However, there has always been an advocate for the TRUTH through out all ages, not all our early fathers were deceived. *As for me and my house we shall serve YHVH*, says Joshua the successor of Moses. Can we say that with conviction? May our Father in Heaven have great mercy on us as we continue to study the origins of these holidays which have sought to usurp the authority, praise and worship of our Heavenly Father, Creator of the Heavens and the Earth, Revelation 14:7.