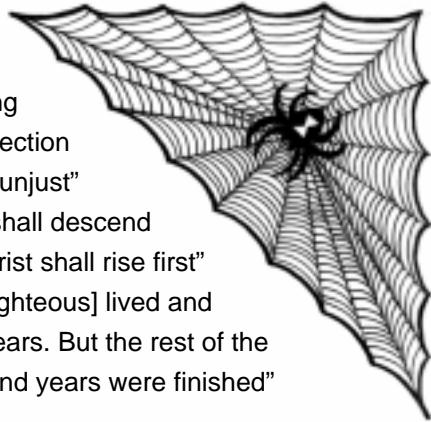


to the living. The Bible tells us that no one lives after he dies until the resurrection at the second coming of Christ. “. . . there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust” (Acts 24:15). “For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven . . . and the dead in Christ shall rise first” (1 Thess. 4:16). “. . . and they [the righteous] lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished” (Rev. 20:4-5).



A turn of the century Christian writer, named E. White, wrote that “truth is of God; deception in all its myriad forms is of Satan.”³ “Christian integrity is opposed to all deception and pretense.”⁴ “They [Christians] have yet to learn . . . to come out from the world and be separate.”⁵

“Come out of her, My people . . .” (Rev. 18:4) “and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Eph. 5:11). “What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial?” (2 Cor. 6:14-15).

Reference Material:

1. The Book of Hallowe'en, by R. E. Kelley
2. Halloween Through Twenty Centuries, by R. & A. Linton
3. Prophets and Kings, by E. White
4. Testimonies, Vol. 5, by E. White
5. Life Sketches, by E. White

If you would like to receive more information on this or other holidays that are directly related to pagan traditions and festivities, please send for our book entitled *The True Origin of Christmas & Other Holidays*. You may also obtain more copies of this tract by contacting us at:

The Gilead Institute of America

2227 Idlewood Road, Suite 16 / Tucker, GA 30084
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Halloween, October 31st, is a night that is associated with black cats, goblins, witches, and ghosts; a night of children in deceptive costumes, trick or treating, and eating candy; and a night of parental terror, fearful of their children becoming victims of some twisted mind lacing candy with poison, placing razor blades in apples, and outright abduction of children.

What Is It All About Anyway?

October 31st is nothing more than an outgrowth of Druidistic religious practices and classic pagan beliefs. Druidism was a religion of nature worship with mystic ceremonies to the sun god. They had two major feasts: May Day, the spring festival also known as Baal Fire or Beltaine, and the autumn festival known as Samhain, All Hallow Eve, All Saint's Day, and Hallowmas. The 31st of October was actually New Year's eve for the Druids and signaled the end of summer and the beginning of winter in which they celebrated the great bounty of harvest from the sun god and placated the Lord of Death. It was their belief that on October 31st this Lord of Death would release the spirits of the dead of the preceding twelve months to spend a few hours at their former homes that evening to scare and trick their living relatives. These living relatives tried to escape the hauntings of what they believed to be their recently departed family members by using crosses, pumpkins, bonfires, etc. Here's some background on their methods.



Ghosts

It was believed that on Halloween ghosts (evil spirits) played tricks and caused supernatural happenings of an unpleasant nature to both humans and animals.



Crosses

Since the Druids were sun worshipers, they associated the similarity between the shape of the cross and the reflection of the sun's rays on water. They believed that the cross was a protection from supernatural powers, hence they used the cross around their necks, at the entryway of buildings, and even on their animals.



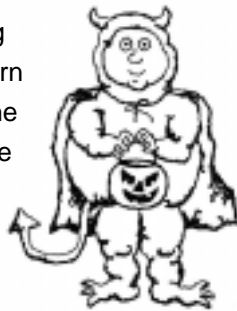
Pumpkins

Pumpkins were made into jack-o-lanterns. The Druids believed that a grotesque face carved in the pumpkin with a lit candle placed inside would effectively ward off evil spirits.



Trick or Treat

Trick or Treating is an old custom of the poor begging from the rich for a soul cake on All Soul's Eve, in return for which the poor promised to pray for the dead. If the poor received no cake from the rich, these rich people would be subject to both tricks from the poor and hauntings from the evil spirits released that night. (This holiday was later 'Christianized' by the Church.)



Fortune Telling

Astrology, predictions, and divinations (including opening up of animals' livers and intestines to determine the future) had their greatest popularity this night as most everyone was personally interested in their New Year's fortunes.



Bonfires

Bonfires served several functions depending upon custom, tradition, and location. Some were lit on hilltops in honor of the sun god. Others were lit to scare away the evil spirits who they believed were released this special night. Still others were the gathering places of the local people that night, as they would don grotesque masks and jump over, around, and through the fire in hope of scaring the recently released evil spirits. Lastly, a few were considered to be the places that witches (women who sold themselves to the devil) would dance with goblins and imps while the devil would play castanets made from dead men's bones.



Well, there you have a history of some of the ancient and current practices of Halloween. If you notice, "All the more important Church festivals are survivals of old rites to the sun. How many times the Church has decanted the new wine of Christianity into the old bottles of heathendom." ¹ The major Christian holidays are a strange blend of old pagan feasts and rites supposedly baptized into the name of Jesus Christ. And perhaps the strangest of all is the celebration we call Halloween. "Among all the festivals which we celebrate today, few have histories stranger than that of Halloween. It is the eve of Allhallows—or Hallowmas or All Saint's Day—and as such it is one of the most solemn festivals of the Church. At the same time it commemorates beings and rites with which the Church has always been at war." ²

Halloween is the night of Satan, evil spirits, powers of darkness, lost souls, witchcraft, and black magic. Can any of this be of Christ? "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one." Job 14:4. The entire concept of the Halloween celebration seems to rest in the notion that there is life after death, and that these 'beings' have spirits that can relate