

Straitway Truth
JUL | AUG | SEP 2012

NEWSLETTER



BIRTHDAYS

Prove all things;
hold fast that which is good.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:21

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Birthdays with

ELDER

DOUG



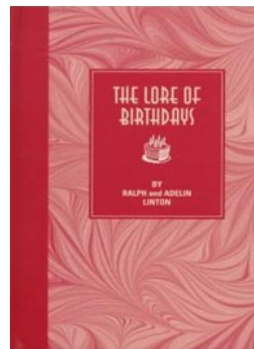
There are a great many things that on the surface might appear as nothing more than innocent diversions, and yet with some investigation into their past, there unfolds the true foundation on which these diversions were built. Many age old customs in modern day societies have traditions which span through thousands of generations. Most of these customs have become commonplace ritualistic celebrations which are practiced in some manner by the inhabitants of just about every nation upon the face of this earth.

One such custom, the birthday celebration, enjoys a very large following.

Birthdays have become a very important part of the social fabric and have assimilated into all but a few cultures. Modern man as so embraced the apparent importance of the day of one's birth in the last few centuries that they now have, as standard practice in hospitals across the globe, made it part of the birth process to issue 'birth certificates' to all new born infants. What is fact are the countless years, stemming from antiquity, of the continual conditioning of mankind to accept a myriad of customs and traditions often times rooted in pagan and occult practices, which the celebration of birthdays is so entrenched.

Pagan customs and traditions, such as birthdays, anniversaries, bridal showers, etc. receive acceptance and approval because these pagan practices have gained the support, approval and promotion of religion. Most never question the traditions handed down from generation to generation simply because it is ingrained in mankind to trust in the voices of those who had gone on before them and to continue to uphold passed down customs in the highest regards as to not destroy the chemistry of the family line, birthdays being no exception. However, there is a small voice of dissention existing in the world today which opposes the celebration of birthdays. Religious sects such as the Jehovah Witnesses staunchly disapprove of birthday celebrations, as with some of the Sacred name groups,

while some nationalities such as the Koreans do not allow birthday observances on nationally recognized days which have historical significance. Ultimately, if anyone who desires to know and understand the history of the common customs and traditions celebrated as a part of our daily lives, especially those things connected to the birthday celebration, the roots of these customs more times than not are rooted directly to the realms of witchcraft, demons, magic and the occult.



The book *The Lore of Birthdays* (New York, 1952) by Ralph and Adelin Linton, on pages 8, 18-20 had this to say: "The Greeks believed that everyone had a protective spirit or demon who attended his birth and watched over him in life. This spirit had a mystic relation with the god on whose birthday the individual was born."

The German periodical "Schwäbische Zeitung" (magazine supplement *Zeit und Welt*) of April 3/4, 1981 on page 20 stated: "Birthday greetings and wishes for happiness are an intrinsic part of this holiday; originally the idea was rooted in magic. The working of spells for good and evil is the chief usage of witchcraft. One is especially susceptible to such spells on his birthday, as one's personal spirits are about at the time. . . . Birthday greetings have power for good or ill because one is closer to the spirit world on this day."

JEREMIAH 10:1

*Hear ye the word which the LORD
speaketh unto you, O house of Israel:*

JEREMIAH 10:2

Thus saith the LORD,

*Learn not the way of the heathen,
and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven;
for the heathen are dismayed at them.*

Sad but true is the fact that over the course of the many captivities Yah's people have adopted into their culture and heritage the heathen pagan customs and practices of our captors and those of other gentile nations, and have not only learned these ways but have promoted them by participating in them. Our fathers surely have inherited the lies of the nations around them and have successfully passed these abominable customs and practices onto the many generations that have come after them even though Israel had been warned thousands of years ago not to learn of the abominations of the other nations. What we do know by the study of the scriptures is that the ancient Pharaohs held a feast in honor of their respective birthday, and there should be no doubt that our people Israel experienced firsthand the customs and practices surrounding birthdays and thusly gained an understanding of the nature of the meanings behind the birthday feasts.

GENESIS 40:20

*And it came to pass the third day,
[which was] Pharaoh's birthday
that he made a feast unto all his servants;
and he lifted up the head of the chief butler
and of the chief baker among his servants.*

GENESIS 40:21

*And he restored the chief butle
unto his butlership again;
and he gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand:*

GENESIS 40:22

*But he hanged the chief baker:
as Joseph had interpreted to them.*

Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, according to the account on the day of his birthday, executed the chief baker. It is rather amazing that the Pharaoh chose this particular day to put this man to death; it would almost appear as though this

hanging was some form of sick entertainment meant to be a part of his birthday feast or possibly a human sacrifice - and why not? Did not Pharaoh have a feast for his servants in honor of his birthday? The Pharaoh was a priest, king and god to the Egyptians and this was a root of the reason for their celebrations. Originally, the birth of common people was not celebrated, but only the birthdays of the gods; and later kings and great ones. As time went on, and since **each day had a god associated with it through astrology**, as the common people observed these they began to associate the celebrations with their own birthdays as well. The Egyptians were very much interested and influenced by astrology. The course of the stars and planets were charted and tracked being used to forecast events and to bring enlightenment on people or issues

"For beneath and above everything in Egypt was religion. ... We cannot understand the Egyptian—or man—until we study his gods." (Will Durant, The Story of Civilization. Vol. 1: Our Oriental Heritage. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1935, p. 197)

After the children of Israel left the land of Egypt, Yah made it a point to remind his people not to conduct themselves after the manner of their captors, calling the customs of the Egyptians abominable.

LEVITICUS 18:1

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

LEVITICUS 18:2

*Speak unto the children of Israel,
and say unto them, I am the LORD your God.*

LEVITICUS 18:3

*After the doings of the land of Egypt,
wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do:
and after the doings of the land of Canaan,
whither I bring you, shall ye not do:
neither shall ye walk in their ordinances.*

LEVITICUS 18:30

*Therefore shall ye keep mine ordinance,
that [ye] commit not [any one]
of these abominable customs,
which were committed before you,
and that ye defile not yourselves therein:
I [am] the LORD your God.*

As this study will show, birthday festivities are rooted in many forms of the occult: witchcraft, idolatry, astrology, etc. Mankind has learned to justify the practice of birthdays under the guise that they are the kind of things that promote good family structures and family closeness and are occasions which foster and promote happiness, while such practices as birthday parties are the very kind of things which separate us from Yah because of disobedience to his word. Before Israel entered into the land of Canaan, the Most High said that he would drive out the inhabitants of that land so that Israel would not learn the other nations' abominable ways.

DEUTERONOMY 18:9

*When thou art come into the land
which the LORD thy God giveth thee,
thou shalt not learn to do after the
abominations of those nations.*

DEUTERONOMY 18:10

*There shall not be found among you [any one]
that maketh his son or his daughter to pass
through the fire, [or] that useth divination,
[or] an observer of times, or an enchanter,
or a witch,*

DEUTERONOMY 18:11

*Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar
spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.*

DEUTERONOMY 18:12

*For all that do these things [are] an
abomination unto the LORD:
and because of these abominations the LORD
thy God doth drive them out from before thee.*

DEUTERONOMY 18:13

Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God.

DEUTERONOMY 18:14

*For these nations, which thou shalt possess,
hearkened unto observers of times
and unto diviners: but as for thee,
the LORD thy God hath not suffered
thee so [to do].*

Writes author Linda Lewis, in Birthdays, "Birthday celebrations, even at this early stage, were not strictly reserved for the great rulers. **Society adapts for its communal use those practices of the elite which it admires and can afford.** In the fifth century before Christ, the Greek historian Herodotus, describing the festivals of the Persians, wrote: '**It is their custom to honor their birthdays above all other days:** and on this day they furnish their table in a more plentiful manner than at other times. The rich then produce an ox, a horse, a camel, and an ass, roasted whole in an oven; but the poor produce smaller cattle.'

Lewis continues, "In Egypt households of the same period birthdays were celebrated similarly. A part of the family budget was set aside to buy birthday garlands and animals for sacrifice, just as we might plan to spend a certain sum for balloons, party hats, and an ice cream cake" (pages 12-13).

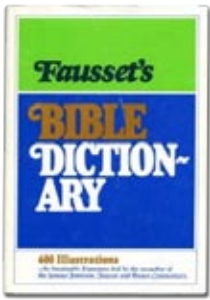
This author goes on, "Among prosperous Greek families a birth feast, a coming-of-age feast, and feasts after death held on the anniversary of the day of birth were observed, but otherwise there were no annual birthday ceremonials. The birthdays of the immortals were ritually acknowledged once a month, however, the third day of each month being sacred to Athena, Ares, and Saturn, for instance" (ibid.).

During the rule of King Antiochus Epiphanies as written about in the second book of the Maccabees, Antiochus compelled the captive Israelites to partake in pagan abominations on the same day every month, the day that signified the King's birth.

2 Mac 6:7

*And in the day of the king's birth every
month they were brought by bitter
constraint to eat of the sacrifices;
and when the fast of Bacchus was kept,
the Jews were compelled to go in
procession to Bacchus, carrying ivy.*

"Antiochus decreed pagan worship throughout his kingdom, and sent Athenaeus to Jerusalem to enforce it. The temple was re-consecrated to Jupiter Olympias (2 Maccabees 6). Pagan riot, reveling, and dalliance with harlots took place within the sacred precincts. The altar was filled with profane things, Sabbath keeping was forbidden, the Jewish religion proscribed. The Jews on the king's birthday were forced monthly to eat of idol sacrifices, and to go in procession carrying ivy on Bacchus' feast. Pigs' flesh was offered to Zeus on an altar set on Jehovah's brazen altar, and the broth sprinkled about the temple (Josephus Ant. 12-13)." Fausset's Bible Dictionary, Jerusalem



"Antiochus's general, Apollonius, dismantled Jerusalem, and from a high fortress slew the temple worshippers. Antiochus commanded all on pain of death to conform to the Greek religion, and consecrated the temple to Jupiter Olympius or Capitulinus. Identifying himself with that god "whom his fathers knew not," and whose worship he imported from Rome, he wished to make his own worship universal. The Jews were constrained to profane the Sabbath and monthly on the king's birthday to eat of the idol sacrifices, and to go in procession to Bacchus, carrying ivy." Fausset's Bible Dictionary, Antiochus

There is some speculation as to whether or not the sons of Job celebrated their birthdays. The wording found in the fourth verse of the first chapter when it says "everyone his day" appears to lend some credence that Job's sons kept the custom of celebrating birthdays. Verse five tells us that Job offered up sacrifices for the sins of his sons after the days of their feasting were "gone about", or had come full circle and been completed. There is also no indication that Job offered sacrifices for his daughters, likely because they never held a feast day in commemoration of the day of their births.

JOB 1:1

*There was a man in the land of Uz,
whose name [was] Job; and that man was
perfect and upright, and one that feared God,
and eschewed evil.*

JOB 1:2

*And there were born unto him
seven sons and three daughters.*

JOB 1:3

*His substance also was seven thousand sheep,
and three thousand camels,
and five hundred yoke of oxen,
and five hundred she asses,
and a very great household; so that this man
was the greatest of all the men of the east.*

JOB 1:4

*And his sons went and feasted [in their] houses,
every one his day; and sent and called for their
three sisters to eat and to drink with them.*

JOB 1:5

*And it was so, when the days of [their] feasting
were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified
them, and rose up early in the morning,
and offered burnt offerings [according]
to the number of them all: for Job said,
It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed
God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.*

The Bible also tells us that Job was a perfect and an upright man, but not his family: sons, daughters or his wife. The death of his sons, which we know to be the case with further reading in Job chapter 1, may have been the result of their disregard for following the example of their father and to have chosen to keep those ways and customs which were an abomination to Yah. Again, these accounts are speculative, but the possibility that Job's sons practiced pagan customs such as their birthdays should not be entirely ruled out.

Of the two accounts written directly in the bible of birthday happenings, both of these accounts involved the death of someone. We have already covered the birthday of Pharaoh and the death of the baker on that day, but there is also the account written in the gospels of another king, who on his birthday ordered the death of John the Baptist.

MARK 6:20

*For Herod feared John,
knowing that he was a just man and an holy,
and observed him;
and when he heard him, he did many things,
and heard him gladly.*

MARK 6:21

*And when a convenient day was come,
that Herod on his birthday made a supper
to his lords, high captains,
and chief [estates] of Galilee;*

MARK 6:22

*And when the daughter
of the said Herodias came in,
and danced, and pleased Herod and them that
sat with him, the king said unto the damsel,
Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt,
and I will give [it] thee.*

MARK 6:23

And he sware unto her,
Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me,
I will give [it] thee, unto the half of my kingdom.

MARK 6:24

And she went forth, and said unto her mother,
What shall I ask? And she said,
The head of John the Baptist.

MARK 6:25

And she came in straightway
with haste unto the king, and asked, saying,
I will that thou give me by and by
in a charger the head of John the Baptist.

MARK 6:26

And the king was exceeding sorry;
[yet] for his oath's sake
and for their sakes which sat with him,
he would not reject her.

MARK 6:27

And immediately the king sent an executioner,
and commanded his head to be brought:
and he went and beheaded him in the prison,

MARK 6:28

And brought his head in a charger,
and gave it to the damsel:
and the damsel gave it to her mother.

MATTHEW 14:6

But when Herod's birthday was kept,
the daughter of Herodias danced before them,
and pleased Herod.

MATTHEW 14:7

Whereupon he promised with an oath
to give her whatsoever she would ask.

MATTHEW 14:8

And she, being before
instructed of her mother,
said, Give me here John Baptist's
head in a charger.

MATTHEW 14:9

And the king was sorry:
nevertheless for the oath's sake,
and them which sat with him at meat,
he commanded [it] to be given [her].

MATTHEW 14:10

And he sent,
and beheaded John in the prison.

Herod surnamed "Antipas", was the son of Herod the Great, an Idumean, and Malthace, a Samaritan woman. After the death of his father, he was appointed by the Romans tetrarch of Galilee and Peraea. His first wife was the daughter of Aretas, king of Arabia; but he subsequently repudiated her and took to himself Herodias, the wife of his brother Herod Philip; and in consequence Aretas, his father-in-law, made war against him and conquered him. He cast John the Baptist into prison because John had rebuked him for this unlawful connection; and afterwards, at the instigation of Herodias, he ordered him to be beheaded. Induced by her, too, he went to Rome to obtain from the emperor the title of king. But in consequence of the accusations brought against him by Herod Agrippa I, Caligula banished him (A.D. 39) to Lugdunum in Gaul, where he seems to have died. He was light minded, sensual and vicious.

DEUTERONOMY 4:19

And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven,
and when thou seest the sun, and the moon,
and the stars, [even] all the host of heaven,
shouldest be driven to worship them,
and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath
divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.

Birthdays have been from the earliest times linked directly with the stars. Before the development of a calendar the stars were the chief way in which to calculate the day of one's birth. Thusly the practice of astrology was in an essence created to chart the days of one's birth, and has since its origin maintained a great degree of acceptance and has become a very favored tool of the knowing and the unknowing to focus on the day of one's birth.

"Birthdays are intimately linked with the stars, since without the calendar; no one could tell when to celebrate his birthday. They are also indebted to the stars in another way, for in early days the chief importance of birthday records was to enable the astrologers to chart horoscopes" (The Lore of Birthdays, p. 53).

Linda Rannells Lewis in Birthdays, "Birthdays have been celebrated for thousands of years. In early civilizations, where the development of a calendar made an organized reckoning of birth dates possible, the horoscopes of ruling monarchs, their successors and rivals had to be cast with care and birthday omens meticulously examined, for the prospects of the mighty would affect the prospects of the entire society."

The definition of Astrology is defined as: the study of how events on earth correspond to the positions and movements of astronomical bodies, particularly the sun, moon, planets, and stars. Astrologers believe that the position of astronomical bodies at the exact moment of a person's birth and the subsequent movements of the bodies reflect that person's character and, therefore, destiny. For many years, scientists have rejected the principles of astrology. However, millions of people continue to believe in or practice it.

With the advent of astrology also came the practice of the horoscopes. To many, the reading of one's horoscope only leads to a mild form of amusement, while to many others the relationship shared between some persons daily lives and horoscopes are inseparable, as the horoscope is the decision making tool that determines the choices made on a daily basis. Horoscopes are based on the Zodiac.

hor•o•scope [háwrə skop]

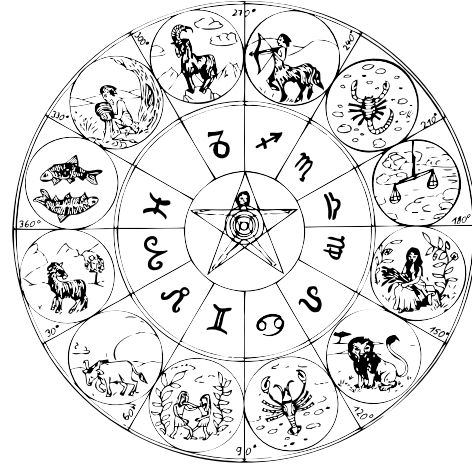
(plural hor•o•scopes)

n

1. diagram of planetary relationship: the relative position of the stars or planets at a particular moment, especially somebody's time of birth, or a diagram showing this

2. astrological forecast: an astrologer's description of an individual's personality and future based on the position of the planets in relation to the sign of the zodiac under which the person was born

[Pre-12th century. Via Latin *horoscopus* from Greek *hōroskopos*, literally "time observer," from *hōra* "time, hour" (source of English HOUR), referring to the time of birth.]



DEUTERONOMY 18:9

When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.

DEUTERONOMY 18:10

There shall not be found among you [any one] that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, [or] that useth divination, [or] an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch,

Many, many traditions and customs are related specifically to birthdays or more importantly the day one was born. In these modern times, there are many objects tied to the day that people are born on. Along with those things that are recognized by most, such as birthday cakes, candles, presents, games, songs, etc., that are a part of the birthday lore, there are also things such as birthstones and birth flowers, which commemorate the month in which one was born, much like the 12 signs of the Zodiac which corresponds to specific times of the yearly monthly cycle in accordance with twelve constellations. Some attribute the origin of the tradition of birthstones to the 12-jeweled breastplate worn by Aaron, the brother of Moses (see Exodus 39). Myths and superstitions gradually grew up regarding the stones, and symbolic meanings or virtues were ascribed to them. Five months of the year have alternate birthstones.

zo•di•ac [zodee àk]

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1. ASTRONOMY part of the sky containing the major constellations: a narrow band in the sky in which the movements of the major planets, Sun, and Moon take place, astrologically divided into twelve sections named for the major constellations

2. ZODIAC astrologer's chart: a chart linking twelve constellations to twelve divisions of the year, used as the astrologer's main tool for analyzing character and predicting the future

3. recurring set: a set of things or sequence of events that repeats itself cyclically (literary)

[14th century. Via French and Latin from Greek *zōidiakos kuklos*, literally "circle of animal figures," from *zōidion* "small animal," from *zōion* "living being" (see -zoon).]

-zo•di•a•cal [zō dɪ kəl], adj

The use of horoscopes is strictly forbidden by the Most High for it is the practice of observing times and is considered witchcraft and divination (thru the foretelling of future events) and is an abomination in the sight of Yah.

Pagan Tradition



**Thou shalt have no
other gods before me**

Exodus 20:3

S t r a i t w a y T r u t h . c o m

The Hebrew and Greek Lexicon defines Birthday as this:

HEBREW LEXICON

STRONG'S NUMBER 3205

yalad {yaw-lad'} d;l'y a primitive root; TWOT -- 867; v

1) to bear, bring forth, beget, gender, travail

1a) (Qal)

1a1) to bear, bring forth

1a1a) of child birth

1a1b) of distress (simile)

1a1c) of wicked (behavior)

1a2) to beget

1b) (Niph) to be born

1c) (Piel)

1c1) to cause/help to bring forth

1c2) to assist/tend as a midwife

1c3) midwife (participle)

1d) (Pu) to be born

1e) (Hiph)

1e1) to beget (a child)

1e2) to bear (figurative - of wicked bringing forth iniquity)

1f) (Hoph) day of birth, birthday (infinitive)

1g) (Hithp) to declare one's birth (pedigree)

GREEK LEXICON

STRONG'S NUMBER 1077

genesia {ghen-es-'ee-ah} genevsia neuter plural of a derivative of 1078; TDNT -- omitted,omitted; n n pl

AV -- birthday (2)

1) a birthday celebration, a birthday feast; **The earlier Greeks** used this word of funeral commemorations, a festival commemorative of a deceased friend.

This is a real indication of the way things change. The same word was meant to relate to the death of an individual but now it has been used to commemorate the birth of men. This meant that the death of one is parallel to one's birthdays as they age towards their unavoidable conclusion in this life; death. In essence, a birthday is actually a death ritual performed year after year until one's death, and often times the ritual observance is kept long after the person as died as a commemoration to them. King Solomon spoke on matters concerning the day of one's death having more meaning than the day of one's birth.

ECCLESIASTES 7:1

*A good name [is] better than precious ointment;
and the day of death than the day of one's birth.*

ECCLESIASTES 7:2

*[It is] better to go to the house of mourning,
than to go to the house of feasting;
for that [is] the end of all men;
and the living will lay [it] to his heart.*

It is rather interesting how Solomon, in verse 2, appears to link the day of death to the house of mourning which, according to Solomon, is better than to go to the house of feasting which appears to be linked to one's birth. Solomon was instructing the reader to consider the death of someone and develop a sense of soberness to that day rather than the days of feasting, for ultimately it is the things in our lives that define our eternity.

Many of the past cultures that have been a part of the history of man have not only held to time honored traditions and practices of celebrating birthdays, but by their own devices have added to a growing list of birthday traditions. What is certain that the birthday custom as always to some degree and with some measure been directly associated with the pagan gods of each particular culture. Because there are so many customs and traditions that are a part of the birthday celebration, I will make an attempt to briefly cover the more common customs that are a part and practice of today's societies.



the Birthday Candles:

It is said that the custom of placing candles on a birthday was started by early Greeks who used to place candles on the cake that they offered to Artemis - the Goddess of Moon. Lit candles made their round shape cake glow like the moon.

Birthday candles, in folk belief, are endowed with special magic for granting wishes. . . . "Lighted tapers and sacrificial fires have had a special mystic significance ever since man first set up altars to his gods. The birthday candles are thus an honor and tribute to the birthday child and bring good fortune".

The Germans, for religious reasons, placed candles on the cake. They used to place a big candle in the center of the cake to represent 'light of life'. The candle is marked with lines and numbers, usually 12, which would be burned every year. Scholars also say that the custom of placing candles originated because people believed that gods lived in the skies. They thought that lit candle helped to send signals and prayers to the god so that they could be answered more effectively.

The other belief that people held was when a person makes a wish while blowing out the votive candle a signal or message was received by the god and the prayers would be answered. Even today people hold a lot of superstitious beliefs about birthday candles. A person celebrating his or her birthday makes a silent wish while blowing out the candles on the cake. It is said if the person is able to blow out all candles in one breath it signifies that the wish would be answered and that the person would enjoy good luck in coming year. Another superstitious belief is that if a person reveals the birthday wish it does not come true.

The tradition of lighting Birthday Candles on a cake began years ago, and even today the candle holds its significant and illuminated presence atop birthday cake. The number of birthday candles used on a cake represents the age of a person celebrating his or her birthday.

the Birthday Cake:

Origin of Birthday Cakes dates back to ancient times but the cake of then was very different from what we have today. The word 'cake' is said to have been coined as early as the 13th century, and is said to have been derived from 'kaka' - an Old Norse word.

In Western culture, Birthday Cake is defined as a pastry or dessert served to a person on his or her birthday. Birthday cakes are usually decorated with the person's name and carry a message of congratulations. Candles equal to the number of years a person has been alive are also placed on the cake. There is also a tradition to place one extra candle to bring good luck.

History of Birthday Cake can be traced back to the ancient Greeks who made round or moon shaped honey cakes or bread and took it to the temple of Artemis - the Goddess of Moon. Some scholars, however, believe that the tradition of Birthday cake started in Germany in Middle Ages. Sweetened bread dough was given the shape of baby Jesus in swaddling cloth and was used to commemorate his birthday. This special birthday cake later reemerged in Germany as a Kinderfest or the birthday celebrations of a young child. In earlier times, birthday cakes were mostly round in shape. Scholars associate religious beliefs and technical compulsions for the same. Greeks offered round shape cake to the Goddess of Moon - Artemis as it signified moon. They even placed candles on the cake to make the cake glow like the moon.

Some scholars opine that cake in the ancient world has association with the annual cycles. Round shapes of cakes were preferred as these represented the cyclical nature of life; most specifically, the sun and moon. Technical reason given for the roundness of the cake is that most cakes we know off advanced from the bread. In ancient times breads and cakes were made by hand. Typically, these were fashioned into round balls and baked on hearthstones or in low, shallow pans. Hence, these naturally relaxed into round shapes. With the progress of times baking pans of various shapes were developed and today we see cakes in imaginative shapes and sizes.

Tradition of placing candles on Birthday cake is attributed to early Greeks, who used place lit candles on cakes to make them glow like the moon. Greeks used to take the cake to the temple of Artemis - the Goddess of Moon.

Some scholars say that candles were placed on the cake because people believe that the smoke of the candle carried their wishes and prayers to gods who lived in the skies. Others believe that the custom originated in Germany where people used to place a large candle in the centre of the cake to symbolize 'the light of life'.

In present times, people place candles on Birthday cakes and a silent wish is made before blowing out the candle. It is believed that blowing out all candles in one breath means the wish will come true and the person will enjoy good luck in the coming year. Some also smear out the name of the person before slicing of the cake to bring good luck.

In medieval times people of England used to place symbolic objects like coins, rings and thimbles in the batter of the cake. It was believed that those who found coin in the cake would be wealthy while the unlucky finder of the thimble would never marry. Wedding was signified for the person who found the slice of cake with ring.

Even today some people follow the tradition and place small figures, fake coins and small candies inside the cake.

If the cake fell while baking it was considered to be a bad omen and signified bad luck for the person in the coming year.

the Birthday Card:



History of Greeting Cards can be traced back to the ancient Chinese who are said to have started the tradition of sending goodwill messages on a New Year. Early Egyptians too are believed to have used papyrus scrolls to convey greetings to dear ones. During early 1400 the tradition of exchanging handmade paper greeting cards developed in Europe while Germans at that time are known to have printed New Year's greetings from woodcuts.

Birthday Card History is said to be over a hundred years old. Though there is no record to tell us who sent or received the first birthday card, it is said the tradition of sending Birthday Cards began in England a century ago.

Birthday Cards are an important means of communicating good wishes and love to a person. They carry a personal touch that makes them endearing and very special. Emotionally charged cards help to convey feelings of love that most people find difficult to express.

other Birthday Customs:

Saying "happy birthday" to friends and loved ones was society's superstitious way of protecting them from evil spirits. Birthday thumps, bumps, pinches, etc., were said to bring luck and send away evil spirits. Party snappers, horns and other noisemakers were also intended to scare off bad-luck spirits.

Ultimately the conclusion to the customs of the birthday celebration is that from the earliest of times birthdays have their roots in death, witchcraft, astrology and paganism. Interestingly enough, according to one of the most popular Satanists of the 21st century, Anton Lavey, Birthdays were regarded as the highest of the Satanic religious days. In 1969, Mr. Lavey wrote the Satanic Bible, and on page 96 of the 1976 version, Mr. Lavey had this to say:

"The highest of all holidays in the Satanic religion is in direct contradiction to the holy of holy days of other religions, which deify a particular the date of one's own birth. This is god who has been created in an anthropomorphic form of their own image, thereby showing that the ego is not really buried. The Satanist feels:



"Why not really be honest and if you are going to create a god in your image, why not create that god as yourself." Every man is a god if he chooses to recognize himself as one. So, the Satanist celebrates his own birthday as the most important holiday of the year. After all, aren't you happier about the fact that you were born than you are about the birth of someone you have never even met? Or for that matter, aside from religious holidays, why pay

Higher tribute to the birthday of a president or to a date in history than we do to the day we were brought into this greatest of all worlds? Despite the fact that some of us may not have been wanted, or at least were not particularly planned, we're glad, even if no one else is, that we're here! You should give yourself a pat on the back, buy yourself whatever you want, treat yourself like the king (or god) that you are, and generally celebrate your birthday with as much pomp and ceremony as possible".

the Birthday Games:

The games we play at birthday parties are often a symbol of trying to know the unknown. In this case, of course, the unknown is the future, or the new year of life that lies ahead for the birthday child.

One of the oldest birthday games is Pin-the-Tail-on-the-Donkey. A large picture of a donkey without a tail is pinned to the wall.

There are other versions of this game, such as Pin-the Nose-on-the-Clown or Pin-the-Ear-on-the-Bunny. But the idea of trying to guess correctly, while blindfolded, is the same.



the Birthday Spankings:

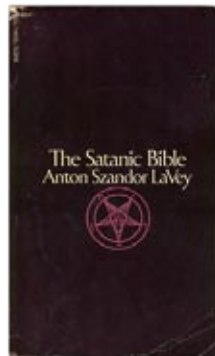
In many parts of the world, it is a tradition to give the birthday child pinches, smacks, spanks, thumps, bumps, or punches. Even though they may hurt a little, they are said to be very lucky.

The reason for birthday spanks is to spank away any evil spirits and send them scurrying far into the distance. Punches, thumps, and pinches, the harder the better, are supposed to do the very same thing.



After one's own birthday, the two major Satanic holidays are Walpurgisnacht and Halloween (or All Hallows' Eve). (Lavey A, Gilmore P. The Satanic Bible. Avon, September 1, 1976, p. 96).

Armed with the simple knowledge that Satanists consider the birthday celebration as the highest of all their holidays, should be enough clear evidence that the righteous steer clear of anything to do with the celebration of birthdays. The encyclopedia of Judaism gives this testimony concerning birthdays;



"The celebration of birthdays is unknown in traditional Jewish ritual." ENCYCLOPAEDIA JUDAICA, Second Edition, Volume 3 pg.723

The traditions embraced and held as good moral foundations such as the keeping of ones birthday have enjoyed much gala in the many thousands of years since the kings of ancient days gave feasts in honor of their own dates of birth. It is evident though that the Most High as never sanctioned the idea of the birthday custom, for if he had then most certainly Israel would keep these things as important as the feast days. The apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Corinthians that Yah's people were to come out from amongst the unbelievers and to not touch their unclean things (2 Cor. 6:17) and the apostle John encouraged the saints with these words:

I JOHN 2:15

Love not the world,

neither the things [that are] in the world.

If any man love the world,

the love of the Father is not in him.

I JOHN 2:16

For all that [is] in the world,

the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes,

and the pride of life,

is not of the Father, but is of the world.

I JOHN 2:17

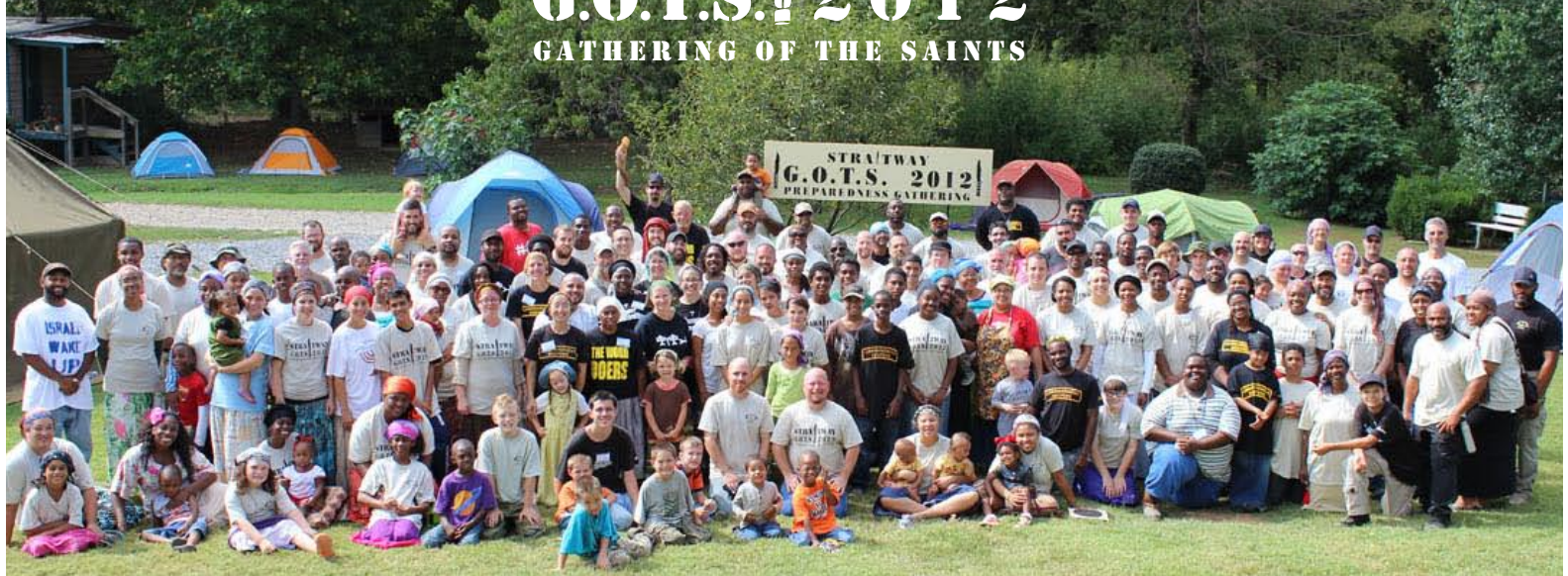
And the world passeth away,

and the lust thereof:

but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.



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The Romans also subscribed to this idea

This notion was carried down in human belief and is reflected in the guardian angel, the fairy godmother and the patron saint.

Month Flower

January <i>carnation, snowdrop</i>	July <i>larkspur, water lily</i>
February <i>primrose, violet</i>	August <i>gladiolus, poppy</i>
March <i>jonquil, violet</i>	September <i>aster, morning glory</i>
April <i>daisy, sweet pea</i>	October <i>calendula, cosmos</i>
May <i>hawthorn, lily of the valley</i>	November <i>chrysanthemum</i>
June <i>honeysuckle, rose</i>	December <i>holly, narcissus, poinsettia</i>

Birthstone, any of various gems associated with the particular calendar months of the year and considered lucky to people born in those months. Some attribute the origin of the tradition of birthstones to the 12-jeweled breastplate worn by Aaron, the brother of Moses (see Exodus 39). Myths and superstitions gradually grew up regarding the stones, and symbolic meanings or virtues were ascribed to them. Five months of the year have alternate birthstones.

The various birthstones and the qualities they symbolize, as specified by the Jewelry Industry Council in New York City, are given in the accompanying table. See also separate articles on some of the gems listed in the table.

shalom Elder Douglas Becker

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