



A seminar named :

HALLOWEEN

Presented by : Ali Othman

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Supervised by : Ms. siba

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The introduction :

It's that time of year again: Halloween, when we eat marinated carp, celebrate Martin Luther's 95 theses, and put out bowls of butter to salve the wounds of the dead. Who doesn't love Halloween, when we throw nuts into the fire to predict whom we'll marry, and enter a house only after firing a shot over the roof and having the owner fire back? Forget Tootsie Rolls. Forget UNICEF boxes. Forget kids in ninja costumes. This bizarrely enigmatic, riotously evolving pagan-Christian-Celtic-American-Hollywood-hyper-retail-creepingly-global holiday is "undoubtedly the most misunderstood of festivals "



Part I – History of Halloween

Many people think Halloween originated with the Christian holiday of All Hallows Eve which was to honor all the Saints that had died in the past year. This is not true, however. All Hallows Eve was celebrated in May when it was originated by the Catholic church, but in 834 AD it was moved from May to October in order to combine it with an ancient Druid festival in October. At this point in history, the Catholic church was growing and trying to convert the masses. The Church felt it would be easier to convert the masses to Christian worship by combining the existing pagan celebrations with traditional Christian holidays, feasts or celebrations. The people still had their holiday, yet it was celebrated in the name of the Church. Halloween originally had nothing to do with any Christian celebration.

So what was the original pagan holiday which began what is celebrated as Halloween today? Halloween began some 2,000 years ago among the Celts. Ancient Druids who lived in what is now England, France, Scotland and Wales celebrated the Vigil of Samhain honoring their god, Samhain, lord of the dead. This holiday was celebrated on the Celtic New Year's Eve which falls on our October 31st. These people believed that on this day the wicked spirits of the dead came back to wreak havoc and mayhem on the living. The holiday and all that took place was designed to appease Samhain as well as the spirits of these wicked dead.

History of Halloween the Word of God 1

The Vigil of Samhain as well as other occult practices gave rise to many of the traditions we see practiced on Halloween today.

More of the history of Halloween will be revealed as attention is given to some of these traditions.

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Part II – Halloween Traditions

What do you think of when you see Halloween? written in the October 31st box of your calendar?

Many people think of trick or treating, getting candy, wearing costumes/masks, bonfires, a full moon circled with flying bats, black cats and Jack-O-Lanterns. While these are symbols of Halloween, few Christians realize that EVERY SINGLE ITEM listed above has its symbolic origin rooted either directly in the Vigil of Samhain honoring the Druid lord of the dead or in some other form of occult worship.

"You mean little kids dressing up, saying "trick or treat" and getting candy is a modern-day leftover from practices honoring death and all that is evil? YES! Remember the Druids who believed Samhain and the wicked spirits of the dead would come back to haunt the living on October 31st? Well, these people devised ways they believed they could appease, fool or scare away the evil spirits.

TRICK OR TREAT

One way it was believed to appease an evil spirit was to leave food for it. This practice was later adapted by the poor who would go about on October 31st begging for food. In return for the food, the beggars would say a prayer for any members of the family who had died.

The other way believed to fool or scare away the evil spirits was to dress up to look like them. It was believed the spirits would leave their own alone or would be scared away by the scary mask.

Masks have been a way of trying to deal with evil throughout history. People have worn masks during natural disasters such as droughts, epidemics, etc. believing that the demons which brought on these disasters might be scared away by the masks. People involved with witchcraft, voodoo, channeling and other dealings with the supernatural often wore masks as a sort of link or

Door way to the spirit world.

But whether the people scared away the spirits or fooled them into thinking the people were also demons, the whole purpose was to "treat" the spirits so they would not "trick" you.

Trick or treat

BONFIRES

Have you ever wondered how a campfire came to be called a bonfire? The Druids who celebrated the Vigil of Samhain on October 31st were very superstitious and had a number of ways they believed they could see both good and bad omens of the future. Trying to scare away Samhain and the other evil spirits, the Druids would build a huge fire. At this time they would build oddly-shaped baskets and burn alive prisoners of war, criminals and animals. They believed by observing the position of the bodies of those who were burned, they could see into the future.

Bone + Fire = Bonfire



JACK-O-LANTERN & A MAN NAMED JACK

If there were such a thing as a universal symbol of Halloween, it would probably be the hollowed-out pumpkin with the face carved in it that we call a Jack-O-Lantern. It is interesting to note that this probably most popular symbol

of Halloween is associated so closely with a story about a meeting between a man and the devil. After all, Halloween is just supposed to be innocent fun. As the story goes, an Irish drunk named "Stingy Jack" met up with the Devil on Halloween night. Jack offered to have a drink with the Devil. The Devil accepted on the condition that Jack would pay for the drink. Jack argued that the Devil could turn himself into anything he wanted, so he tricked the Devil into turning himself into a sixpence to pay for the drink. Before the Devil could change himself back, Jack grabbed the sixpence and put it in his pocket next to his silver cross which supposedly kept the Devil from changing back. The Devil bargained with Jack and agreed to leave Jack alone for one year if Jack would let him out. Jack agreed thinking he would change his wayward ways and the Devil would leave him alone. Jack never gave to the poor, attended church or took his paycheck home to his wife like he had intended. The Devil came back for Jack the next Halloween, but this time Jack tricked the Devil into leaving him alone for ten years, but Jack died before even a year had expired. When Jack was turned away at the gates of heaven, he turned for hell. The Devil told Jack he would have to go back and wander the earth because he had tricked the Devil into leaving him alone for ten years. Jack went back to the earth eating a turnip while wandering in the dark for a place to rest. The Devil threw Jack a live coal from the flames of hell, and Jack being desperate to find his way, put the coal inside the turnip. Since then it is believed to be Jack and his Jack-O-Lantern seen roaming the earth for a place to rest whenever ghostly lights are seen in swamp areas and the like.

BATS, BLACK CATS AND THE FULL MOON

These last three symbols of Halloween really have little to do with the Vigil of Samhain or the early roots of the holiday. Rather, these are symbols of the occult that seemingly became a "natural" part of Halloween. The full moon is a time to perform certain occultic rituals



The black cat came to be associated with witches because of superstition. It was believed that witches could transfer their spirit into a cat, and so witches, it was believed, always had a cat. The cat was referred to as a familiar spirit. The black cat was not originally the only color cat believed capable of being a witch's familiar spirit, but it gradually became known as the witch's cat.

The last Halloween/occult symbol discussed here is the bat. Because of the bat's ability to hunt its prey in the dark, the animal has formed the reputation of having occultic power. The bat has characteristics of both a bird (a symbol of the soul in the occult) and of a demon (dweller in darkness). During medieval times, it was believed that the Devil often turned himself into a bat. With this kind of history, it is easy to see how the bat became a part of Halloween.

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Part III – Why October 31st?

Now that some of the history of Halloween has been documented and it has been noted that a celebration on October 31st originated not with the Church but with the the Vigil of Samhain, it may still be difficult to understand why October 31st is so significant.

History of Halloween the Word of God 2

Before continuing this point, it would be helpful to understand that there are certain un-holy days, times or seasons that witches, Satanists, Pagans and others celebrate. As previously alluded to, every full moon is believed by the occult to be a time of extra power. (NOTE: Extra power as in supernatural power.

Scripture teaches that supernatural power comes from one of two sources: God, or the devil). Solar solstices and equinoxes are celebrated as high, un-holy days as well as a day in February (approaching spring), April (approaching summer), August (approaching harvest) and the highest un-holy day of the occultic calendar, October 31st (approaching winter).

But the question still remains, "Why concentrate on these days, and particularly October 31st? First of all, October 31st was chosen by the Druids and was their New Year's Day, but it seems this is the day Satan has tried to declare as his. More human sacrifices take place in the Western world and in the U.S. on this day than on any other.

Part IV – Just Symbols?

Perhaps you have read all of this information about Halloween and said to yourself, "Well, maybe it started out that way, but I'm not really celebrating that when I do my Halloween stuff. After all, it's just a bunch of symbols...the pumpkin and costumes and all."

Just symbols? How about some of the other symbols pictured here

Are they just symbols without meaning? Does the cross not mean more than two perpendicular lines?

If these are just symbols without meaning, why not take the cross down from church steeples and replace it with a swastika or skull and crossbones? Obviously this would be blasphemous, and obviously symbols are not without meaning. If this is the case, why do Christians display symbols of Satan, witchcraft and the occult in the name of "fun" during this "holiday"?

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Part V – Conclusion

This paper was by no means written to give Satan any more "press" than he already gets on Halloween, rather it was written for Christians to evaluate their activities on this day. Scripture tells us that light has no fellowship with darkness (2 Cor. 6:14), and it is my firm belief that we need to avoid taking a day the Lord has made and turning it into a celebration of evil.

I also believe that people should not fear Halloween. October 31st is the Lord's day, and I, for one, will do all I can to keep Satan from trying to claim it as his own.

My opinion is not going to matter in eternity, so it is not my desire to persuade you to follow my opinion as to what you should or should not do on October 31st. You have, however been given information AND the Word of God. That was my desire. You are now responsible for what you do with what you have been given...you can no longer claim ignorance.

I hope the information here has been helpful to you in understanding both sides of the Halloween issue. God Bless.

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