

HALLOWE'EN

Or

The Evening of All Hallows

Where Did it Come From?



(Image courtesy of Salvatore Vuono / FreeDigitalPhotos.net)

HALLOWE'EN

By the Church of God

Goblins, witches, trolls, demons, poltergeists, black cats, broomsticks and jack-o-lanterns-*what's it all about?* Millions in the professing “Christian” world observe “Hallowe'en.” Yet millions do not know WHY! Here are some astounding FACTS which you probably *never knew* about the celebration of “Hallowe'en.”

“Trick-or-treat, trick-or-treat!” the gleeful voices shouted. This time I had decided in advance that I would avoid vandalism (even the childish habit of “soaping the windows” by rubbing bars of common hand soap onto the screens and windows of my house or the streams of toilet paper dangling in my trees) by having some “treats” ready for the marauding bands of little children who, dressed like skeletons and grotesque monsters, would come trooping to my door during the night of October 31st.

Not wanting to further contribute to their junk-food habits and poor health, I decided I would purchase a bushel of apples and have them near the door.

But *this* time, I wanted an object lesson to be learned. To the gang of upraised faces and grotesque masks, I responded, “I've got something for each one of you, but first, you have to tell me what is the *real meaning* of Halloween!”

Giggles. A shuffling of feet. A couple of them whispered to each other, and there was a little nervous milling about.

“Come on,” I prompted, “Surely you know *why* you're out dressed like demons and goblins, going to people's houses and demanding food or candy?”

One or two said, “I don't know,” a couple giggled, wondering if I was serious. Finally, one little boy in the back of the group, brightening, said, “I know! It's the day *Columbus discovered America!*”

With a laugh, for I couldn't hold this kind of ignorance against the children — after all, they are merely the dupes of ignorant parents and an equally ignorant society — I proceeded to give them a one-minute, thumb-scale sketch of what Halloween was all about.

I said, “No, this is the evening before the day of ‘all-hallows,’ or the *saints* of the Roman Catholic Church. You see, they assigned one day of the calendar to each one of their ‘saints,’ and when they had more saints than 365, they simply lumped them all together on November 1st, and called it “All Saints Day.”

“They chose November 1st, because this was the day celebrated by the pagan druids of Ireland, who believed the ‘Samhain,’ the lord of the dead, would consign the souls of their departed loved ones to the bodies of animals, and they sought a lighter sentence. To do this, they would placate the evil spirits by offerings of food,

or even by sacrificing cats. They put jack-o-lanterns in their windows to frighten away evil spirits, and lit bonfires, and had all sorts of superstitions associated with that night — especially their belief that witches and demons were abroad. It's called “Halloween” because it merely means “hallowed-evening,” or the evening of ‘Allhallows.’”

The children looked at me dumbly, their grotesque, sneering or grinning masks all the more macabre for their embarrassed silence.

Next, I handed an apple to each one, and never have I seen children so eager to leave my doorstep.

I imagine when they got back to the cars where their mothers sat, motors running, keeping a protective eye on their marauding little charges, the story was quite garbled. Probably, the children were frightened of *me!*

I am equally certain that same band of tricksters did not visit my doorstep the following year!

Where Did We Get It?

Probably, *you* have “observed” Halloween. I was not allowed to “observe” the day in any organized sense, since my parents had learned the true origin of the day, rejected it as pagan, and had nothing to do with it from a time long prior to my birth.

However, like any other child, desperately desiring to be a member of the peer group, I could scarcely imagine anything more exciting than trooping around the neighborhood with a gang of my fellows, the ones with whom I played “cops and robbers” or “cowboys and Indians” during the long, warm evenings of summer, and knocking on doors and ringing doorbells, demanding “trick-or-treat,” fully prepared to carry out the trick if I didn't receive the treat.

To me, it was even more exciting to be given *license*; no, to be virtually *urged* to commit acts of vandalism, petty mischief, caprice and impish destruction of property.

In my own case, I descended upon a neighbor lady's screens and windows with a pilfered bar of used bath soap in my hip pocket, maliciously scribbling all sorts of things on her windows, without ever bothering to give the poor lady a chance to buy me off with a candy bar.

I didn't like her, because she used to chase me home for some reason or another.

Do *you* remember your youthful days of “bobbing for apples” in the basement of the church?

I do. Of course, it wasn't “my” church, but the church of a neighbor boy, and I had to sneak out of doors to get there.

How well I remember trying to take a bite out of an apple suspended on a string, or, choking as if I might drown, plunging my head into a big, metal washtub of water, trying to pinion a bobbing apple against the side, trying to take a bite out of the apple and cutting my lip in the process.

There were prizes for the best costumes, various games, and parental supervision. Of course, the big thing in those days would be a bonfire in the streets, or simply skulking about dark corners, trying to scare the daylights out of someone.

Probably, you have similar memories. If you are like me, you probably never bothered to go to some of the history books and encyclopedias, investigating the *origins* of all this, genuinely wondering *why* you did the things you did.

If you *had* investigated the origins of Halloween, here is some of what you might have found.

“(Halloween) ...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 [referring to the pagan priesthood of the Druids of Ireland and northwestern Europe] and this is further proved by the fact that in parts of Ireland, October 31st is still known as *Oidhch Shamhna*, 'Vigil of Saman'.”

Of course, this “Saman,” or “Samhain” was the so-called “lord of the dead” or the evil, demonic spirit of the underworld of “departed souls” among the pagan, heathen Druids. Such celebrations were taking place in various parts of the world *centuries* before the birth of Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ).

Not only did the Druids of Ireland in northwestern Europe have their peculiar customs associated with the “vigil of Saman” but it was also a *Roman* celebration.

The ancient Romans held a festival in honor of “Pomona” on November 1st, which is, in effect, a *harvest* festival. The winter stores of fruits, nuts, vegetables and other produce played an important part in this festival to a pagan god.

Speaking of the development of the custom on the North American continent, Ralph Linton says, “The American celebration rests upon Scottish and Irish folk customs which can be traced in direct line from pre-Christian times. 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 by the Druids in honor of Samhain, lord of the dead, whose festival fell on November 1st” (*Halloween Through Twenty Centuries* by Ralph Linton, page 4).

The Immortality of the Soul

Like many other pagan customs, Halloween centered around the belief of the *immortality of the soul*. The words “immortality of the soul” are found *nowhere* in

the Bible! For over three decades, I have been offering a certified, cashier's check of ten thousand dollars to *anyone* who can find the words “immortality of the soul” or “immortal soul” in the Bible! The Bible was not written in *English*, and the word “soul” had not yet been invented. Rather, it was written in Hebrew and Greek, with some small portions in Aramaic.

A little simple research quickly determines the true meanings of the root Hebrew and Greek words translated “soul,” in both the Old and the New Testament.

The Hebrew word is *nephesh*, and is rendered “that one, that thing, he, it, they, being, body, creature, beast, life, heart, mind,” and in many other ways.

Essentially, it means the living, breathing *being* or “creature” which has breath, and life. (For more information on this subject, write immediately for a free booklet entitled, *Do you have an Immortal soul? – The Rich Man and Lazarus Revealed*).

In the Greek language, the word is *psuche* and is the exact transliteration from the Hebrew, meaning the living, breathing *being*, which is temporal, mortal, and subject to *death*.

For a quick proof text or two, turn to Ezekiel 18:4, 20, “The soul that sinneth, *it* [that *soul*] shall DIE!” Here, the translators should have rendered the word *nephesh* as “individual” or “person” and the sense would be clearer. However, it is the *same word* everywhere rendered “soul” by the 1611 King James translators, and in this case you see that *whatever is meant* by the Hebrew word *nephesh* the scripture plainly says the *nephesh* (soul, or individual creature) can DIE!

Like many other pagan religions, the Druidic priests taught the “immortality of the soul.” In *The Book of Halloween*, Ruth Kelley says that the Druids believed the soul “...passed from one body to another at death...they believed that on the last night of the old year (October 31) the lord of the dead (Samhain) 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.”

This pagan belief, that their loved ones were *still alive* but walking about tormented by having to be in the form of a frog, an owl, a vulture, or a cat, was a source of untold agony and *mental torment* to hundreds of thousands. Diligently, they entered into the spirit of the evening of “All Hallows” as it came to be called by the early Catholics in Ireland and elsewhere, indulging in every conceivable antic and ceremonial ritual, in the fervent hope that they could somehow coax this mysterious “lord of the dead” to let *their* loved ones at least inhabit the bodies of perhaps a *higher form of animal*.

The Druids taught that, eventually, after some indeterminate number of months or years in the bodies of animals, “on the New Year, their sins being expiated, they were released to go to the Druid heaven” (*Halloween Through Twenty Centuries*, page 5).

The same source explains that Halloween “...is the eve of Allhallows or Hallowmas or all Saints' day—and as such it is one of the most solemn festivals of the church (the Roman Catholic Church).”

Samhain, the “Lord of the Dead”

The Bible says, “And the Eternal Elohim formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the *breath of life*; and man BECAME a living SOUL” (Genesis 2:7). Notice! Man *is* a soul. He does not “have” a soul—he *is* a soul! The Hebrew word is *nephesh* and is used in Numbers 19:11 for “dead body.”

Later, Yahweh warned our first parents, “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof *thou shalt surely die!*”

But the serpent said, “...ye shall NOT surely die!” (Genesis 3:4).

Here is the first *great lie!* And the entire world has swallowed it! Yahweh had told man that in the day he rebelled against his Maker; in the day that he *lusted* with his eyes, disobeyed his only parent, reached out his hand and *stole* that which was not rightfully his, and *coveted* something which had been forbidden, he had *sinned!* Sin is the transgression of the law (I John 3:4), and the wages of sin is *death*, NOT “eternal life” in some other place!

“For the wages of sin is *death*; but the *gift of Yahweh* is eternal life through Yeshua the Messiah our Master!” (Romans 6:23).

Note that well! What you *earn* by breaking Yahweh’s holy, Ten Commandments, is *death!* The payoff is the *forfeiture* of your life! You do not *stay alive* as the result of sin, in constant torment, in conscious agony, living forever and ever! As *opposed* to death, eternal life is something you *do not presently have—but* is called “the gift of Yahweh” which is *only* given “through Yeshua.” Notice again! *Eternal life is not given* at conception! It is *not given* at birth! It is *not* something with which you are naturally *born!* No, it is the *gift* of Yahweh our Elohim (God) and is only given after repentance, baptism, the receiving of Yahweh’s Holy Spirit, and becoming a member of the body of Messiah! Eternal life is only possible through the name of Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah of Nazareth, and is available through *no other name!* *Yeshua* is his birth name.

In this simple scripture, you are dealing with *two opposites*. Life, on the one hand—life, which is possible only through Yeshua Messiah (Jesus Christ) — and *death*, or the complete *absence* of life, on the other hand!

Just before He was crucified, Yeshua was asked a trick question by the Pharisees. As a part of His retort, He said, “...but as *touching the resurrection of the dead*, have ye not read that which was spoken to you by Yahweh, saying, I am the Elohim of Abraham, and the Elohim of Isaac, and the Elohim of Jacob? Yahweh is not the *Elohim of the dead*, but of the *living!*” (Matthew 22:31-32).

Plainly, your Bible says the patriarchs of whom Yeshua spoke are *dead!* “These *all died* in faith, *not* having received the promises!” (Hebrews 11:13). This chapter speaks of Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, as well as *many other* of the

patriarchs. Your Bible plainly says they all DIED—and that they “received not the promise!” (Hebrews 11:39).

Then the patriarchs of whom Yeshua spoke were *dead!* What was the meaning of Yeshua’s statement? If Yahweh is only the Elohim of the living, Yeshua Messiah was plainly speaking of the time in the *future* of a *resurrection!* They will live again! The Apostle Paul explained, that “Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that He might be the Master *both of the dead and living!*” (Romans 14:9).

Few understand that *one* of the great reasons for Yeshua’s sojourn on this earth was to *qualify*, not only as the Saviour of all mankind, but to qualify as the future King and world ruler of planet Earth! “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ and he shall reign forever and ever.” (Rev.11:15).

The “lord of the dead” who ghoulishly presides over the dark, dank, underworld of the dead bodies of millions of human beings is the pagan, mythological god called Samhain who’s attributes have been transferred to the traditional Satan or devil. The Hebrew word “satan,” simply means an *adversary* and is used in reference to people, civil and religious authorities, sin, and many other things in the Scripture, even Yahweh Himself! (Write for a copy of *The Traditional Satan the Devil Exposed!*).

In their wicked heathenism, the Druids were inspired by their own corrupt, dark, evil minds; completely given over to their carnal, lustful nature. The Bible says that, “the mind of man is desperately wicked, who can know it.” (Jer.17:9). They were called ‘sorcerers’ (Old Irish *druí*) because of their many, mystic rituals involving drugs and human sacrifice.

They sacrificed to, prayed to, and attempted to placate the capricious, impish, macabre so-called *evil spirits* conjured up by the dark minds of godless, ignorant, superstitious people.

When Messiah died (and He was truly *dead*), was buried, and then was *resurrected* by the power of Yahweh, the Father, He literally *overcame* and defeated the power of death!

Death is described as the *last enemy* that shall be *destroyed!* “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of Yahweh; neither does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, THEN shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” (1 Corinthians 15:50-55).

The Bible plainly teaches the *resurrection of the dead*. It shows we are currently *mortal*, and we must *become* “immortal,” through the resurrection from the dead, or through an instantaneous *change*, as described in this passage. Read the entire fifteenth chapter of I Corinthians—the famous, “resurrection chapter.” In it,

by simple study and concentration, you will probably learn more than you have in decades of church-going!

Shocking as it may sound, when millions of children dress up as demons, witches, goblins, ghouls, and skeletons, they are merely mimicking Samhain, a pagan, false god, and his evil spirits. They are “acting out” the capricious frolicking of the ancient *pagans* who masqueraded as evil spirits, or who built fires, left gifts and “offerings” to placate “Samhain,” the lord of the dead! Halloween celebrates the dead!

A few moments research in even *a few* of the higher-level encyclopedias is all that is required to PROVE that there is *nothing Christian* about “Halloween”!

Where Did It Come From?

The Catholics say that the first of November was set aside 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' feast during the year.”

As she has traditionally done, the universal church *adapts* its own “religious,” customs to the customs of the pagan peoples it gradually came to embrace.

It did so in the case of the ancient “Saturnalia” of the Romans and Greeks, and eventually, that festival, dedicated to the sun god, held in the middle of the dead winter, prevailing upon the sun at its lowest ebb to begin its journey once more across the northern sky bringing spring and summer, came to be known as “the mass of Christ”...or “Christmas.” (Write for a free booklet on the shocking *truth* about “Christmas.”)

For the first several centuries, the early Catholics set aside individual days to honor their martyrs. It was not until “...the fourth century,” that the Catholic Encyclopedia says,

“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 Saint 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.”

Linton says, “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 the thronging of spirits of the dead was quite in line with church policy of incorporating harmless pagan folk ideas.”

So you see, Halloween did NOT come from the word of Yahweh! The patriarchs never heard of it, although they may have been curious about some of the incredibly pagan and heathen superstitions of the ancient Egyptians, Babylonians, Zidonians, Philistines, and later, the Greeks and Romans.

None of the apostles ever *heard* of the day, except, again, as they must have shaken their heads in amazement at some of the hideously grotesque practices of the pagans around them.

But isn't it amazing that, today, Halloween is still regarded by many as a *church* festival, commemorating the “evening of all-SAINTS”?

I well remember one of my experiences of “bobbing for apples” as a child; it took place in the basement of a *church*, and was supervised by those who were normally associated with Sunday school and Bible teaching!

But the practice of celebrating Halloween has changed *dramatically* even from the time of the early 20th century!

Traditionally, it used to be a *children's* holiday - a time for children's costume parties, games, organized forays into the neighborhood (and into other neighborhoods all over the city, as parents began chauffeuring bands of children about in their automobiles) and, sometimes, organized Halloween parties in church buildings.

Now, it has been pointed out time and time again that Halloween is becoming increasingly *deadly dangerous* for children!

Sickening, incredible revelations in the news of child molestation and abuse in day care centers have dumb-founded the nation.

As if this is not shocking enough, dozens of cases have come to light in recent years of razor blades or needles placed inside apples and other fruit; LSD or “angel's dust” in candies, cookies, sugar cubes or other goodies.

In recent years, children have been horribly injured or have *died* as a result of eating the “treats,” they collected on Halloween!

It would seem that any loving and concerned parent would *forbid* the practice of “trick-or-treating” to their children! But knowing peer pressure; knowing the whines and pleas of children who want to be *like the others* - knowing the proclivity of human nature to say, “Oh well, what's the *harm?*” It is probably true that many who *read this article* will continue aiding and abetting their children in such a practice!

In recent years, Halloween has become more of an *adult* “celebration;” with license for malicious mischief and vandalism being subtly changed from children's “trick-or-treating” to alcohol and drug abuse, sex orgies, wild, frenzied, abandoned parties, especially “costume” parties where now it is the *adults* who are dressing up like ghouls, demons, monsters, and evil spirits.

Yet, some will argue, “But it's all in the name of *fun*, we don't *do* it in honor of this 'Samhain,' lord of the dead!”

Of course not! Those who do it simply do not know WHY they do it! They are abysmally *ignorant* of the facts. Instead of making a careful, studied *decision* based upon facts, they have simply gone along with the mob; followed the line of least

resistance; blended in with the crowd. After all, it's a "custom," and millions suppose, that that makes it *right*.

But does it, *really*?

Does It Make Any Difference?

Of course, all of this makes *no difference whatsoever* - *IF THERE IS NO GOD!*

Are you willing to *gamble* with your very *eternal life* that there isn't?

Speaking of the idolatry of the heathen, in what may well be a passing reference to the *Christmas tree*, Yahweh says, "*Learn not the way of the heathen!*" (Jeremiah 10:2).

The *heathen* origin of Halloween is clear. It is the "way of the heathen," which Almighty Yahweh *commands* His people to avoid like the plague! Paul admonishes believers to, "abstain from the *appearance of evil*." There is absolutely nothing *holy* about Allhallows eve! To be "hallowed" means to be made holy, sacred or consecrated. "Only a day of fun and frolicking"? What utter foolishness! This day is a *celebration of death and evil* and is an abomination to Yahweh!

Yahweh said to Israel, after He took them out of Egypt, and they were preparing to dispossess heathen nations from the land of Canaan, "Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by *following them*, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou *inquire not after their gods*, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? Even so will I do likewise." (Deuteronomy 12:29, 30).

How many customs do you know have been *borrowed* from ancient *paganism*? For openers, there is Christmas, Easter, New Years, and Halloween! Check into the very *names* of the days of the *week*; the meaning of the names of the *months*, and the belief in *astrology*.

Yahweh said His people are NOT to become curious about the "quaint" and "interesting" ways in which pagan, ignorant, superstitious *savages* worshipped their various "gods" which were merely figments of their imagination, including the belief of so-called living *spirits or demons* and the traditional devil.

Yahweh has not allowed you to decide HOW to worship Him! He only allows you the free choice to decide *whether or not you will!*

He said, "Thou shalt not do so unto the Eternal thy Elohim [worship the true Elohim *in the way* the heathens worshipped false gods!] for every *abomination* to the Eternal, which He *hateth*, have they done unto their gods: for even their sons and daughters have they burnt in the fire to their gods!" (Deuteronomy 12:31).

Halloween is completely pagan - pagan *to the core!* *It is wicked and evil. There is not the slightest aspect of the day, which is authorized or ordained by Scripture!*

Yahweh commands those who wish to be *truly obedient* to *Him*, "...Come out of her, [Babylonish religious confusion] my people, that ye be not *partakers of her sins*, and that ye receive not of her plagues!" (Revelation 18:4). In this scripture, Yahweh is speaking of "Babylon the great" (Revelation 17 :5); the great, Babylonish "mystery religion" of darkness and *confusion* that has *deceived* the nations of the world!

Plainly, Yahweh shows those who *follow the customs* of the great "Babylonish mystery religion" which is called "Mystery, Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots [she had *daughters* who came out of her, protesting!] and abominations of the earth!" will be *partakers of her plagues* — meaning, they will go directly into the GREAT TRIBULATION to strike this earth, and will be sorely *punished* for the abominations they have wrought in the sight of Yahweh!

Can any thinking, reasoning person, once he or she knows the *facts* about Halloween, *justify* dressing up like a witch or a goblin, or allowing their *children* to do so, demanding a "treat" from a neighbor under threat of "trick"—meaning vandalism? Can *any* true Christian person really feel that he or she is observing a "Christian" custom when the trappings include witches, ghouls, ghosts, goblins, jack-o-lanterns, skeletons, black cats, and all the assorted paraphernalia of demonism?

In this brief article, you have received *dangerous knowledge*. Now, you KNOW! There is no excuse for *not knowing*, for you are fully capable of checking up on the origin of Halloween in your own public library! You have seen what Yahweh says about His people observing pagan, *heathen* customs.

The rest is, of course, entirely up to you!

Winnipeg Assembly of Yahweh
Email: rondeaur@shaw.ca
Web: www.waoy.org