A dramatic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and long, colorful rays of light that pierce through a cloudy sky. In the foreground, a rocky ridge is silhouetted against the light. Several sheep are standing on the ridge, their forms dark against the bright background. The background shows a vast, hazy valley with rolling hills and mountains under a sky filled with soft, golden light. The overall mood is peaceful and majestic.

**FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN, TO US A SON IS GIVEN;
AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER,
AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL COUNSELLOR,
MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE.**



*The Birth of Jesus
& the Christmas Message*

1 Timothy 3:14–16

14. I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long;
15. but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one should act in **the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.**
16. Beyond question, great is the mystery of godliness: **He who was revealed in the flesh,** was vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

- Does the Bible tell us when Jesus was born?



The truth is we simply don't know the exact date of our Saviour's birth. One thing is clear: if God felt it was important for us to know the exact date of the Saviour's birth, He certainly would have told us in His Word. He hasn't!

Gotquestions

- Does the Bible tell us when Jesus was born?
- Where did December 25th come from as the date of the birth of Christ?



Researchers have agreed that the Roman Catholic Church chose December 25 because it ties in with the winter solstice and Saturnalia, a festival dedicated to the Roman deity Saturn. It seems that the church believed that she could also co-opt this popular pagan festival, as well as the winter celebration of other pagan religions, by choosing December 25 to celebrate Jesus' birthday.



Since there is no evidence that the birth of Jesus Christ occurred on December 25, why is Christmas celebrated on this date? The Encyclopædia Britannica says that church leaders probably chose it “to coincide with the pagan Roman festival marking the ‘birthday of the unconquered sun,’” at the time of the winter solstice. According to The Encyclopedia Americana, many scholars believe that this was done “in order to make Christianity more meaningful to pagan converts.”



There was no celebration of the birth of Jesus during the first two centuries of the early church. Speculation on the subject began in the 3rd and 4th centuries, when the idea of fixing Christ's birthday started. Significantly it was about this time that Christianity arose as the dominant religion of the Roman Empire and became corrupted with pagan elements coming in. This corrupted form of Christianity became the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches. These churches turned against the Jewish roots of the New Testament faith and the Jewish people.



In Rome, December 25 was made popular by Pope Liberius in 354 and became the rule in the West in 435 when the first 'Christ mass' was officiated by Pope Sixtus III. This coincided with the date of a celebration by the Romans to their primary god, the Sun, and to Mithras, a popular Persian sun god supposedly born on the same day. The Roman Catholic writer Mario Righetti admits that, 'to facilitate the acceptance of the faith by the pagan masses, the Church of Rome found it convenient to institute December 25 as the feast of the birth of Christ to divert them from the pagan feast, celebrated on the same day in honour of the 'Invincible Sun' Mithras, the conqueror of darkness.'

(Manual of Liturgical History, 1955, Vol. 2, p. 67).



The origins of Christmas are in a mixture of paganism (error) and remembrance of the birth of Jesus (truth). **When you mix truth and error, error tends to become dominant.** Today we have mostly the pagan elements of the mid-winter festival without the truth of the birth of Jesus. We have excessive eating, drinking and the mythical figure of Santa Claus / Father Christmas, all of which connect to the pagan mid-winter festival, not the birth of Jesus. Santa Claus is seen as a fantastic being whom you can ask things from and they will appear (miraculously) after he comes in the night.

- Does the Bible tell us when Jesus was born?
- Where did December 25th come from as the date of the birth of Christ?
- Is there any indication in Scripture regarding the time of the year of the birth of Jesus?

Luke 2:8

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.



Shepherds were “**living out of doors and keeping watches in the night over their flocks.**” Flocks lived in the open air from the week before the Passover [late March] through mid-October. They passed the winter under cover and from this alone it may be seen that the traditional date for Christmas, in the winter, is unlikely to be right, since the Gospel says that the shepherds were in the fields.

Daily Life in the Time of Jesus





It was traditional for the Jews to send their sheep to pasture from the spring until early October. As the cold winter months began, the flocks would return from the fields for protection and warmth. Since the shepherds were still tending their flocks in the fields around Bethlehem it can be deduced that the angels announced the news of Jesus' birth no later than October.

Adam Clarke (Bible commentator)

- Does the Bible tell us when Jesus was born?
- Where did December 25th come from as the date of the birth of Christ?
- Is there any indication in Scripture regarding the time of the year of the birth of Jesus?
- Does it really matter if, as a Church, we celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas on December 25th?

John 4:23-24

23. But a time is coming, and even now has arrived, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit **and truth**; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.
24. “God is spirit, and those who worship Him **must worship in spirit and truth.**”

John 4:23–24 (Amplified Bible)

23. A time will come, however, indeed it is already here, when the true (genuine) worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and **in truth (reality)**; for the Father is seeking just such people as these as His worshipers.
24. God is a Spirit (a spiritual Being) and those who worship Him **must worship Him** in spirit and **in truth (reality)**.

Mark 7:9

He was also saying to them, “You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.”

Mark 7:9 (Amplified Bible)

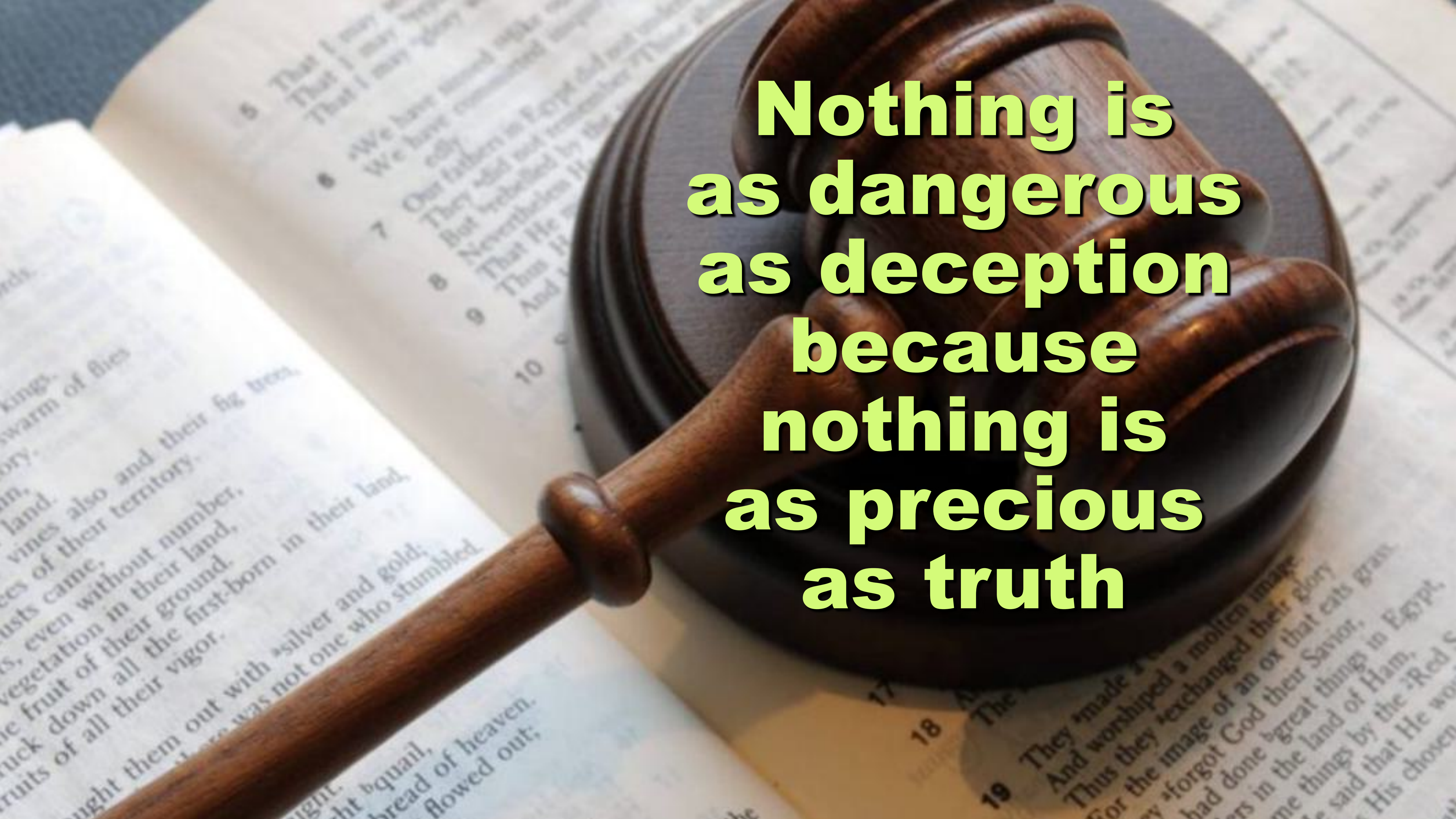
And He said to them, You have a fine way of rejecting [thus thwarting and nullifying and doing away with] the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition (your own human regulations)!

2 Timothy 4:3–4 (Amplified Bible)

3. For the time is coming when [people] will not tolerate (endure) sound and wholesome instruction, but, having ears itching [for something pleasing and gratifying], they will gather to themselves one teacher after another to a considerable number, chosen to satisfy their own liking and to foster the errors they hold,
4. And will **turn aside from hearing the truth** and wander off **into myths** and **man-made fictions**.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, **full of grace and truth.**

A wooden gavel with a dark head and a lighter handle rests on an open book. The book's pages are filled with text, including numbered verses. The gavel is positioned diagonally across the frame, with its head pointing towards the top right. The text on the pages is partially obscured by the gavel and the central text overlay.

**Nothing is
as dangerous
as deception
because
nothing is
as precious
as truth**



HANUKKAH IS NOT THE JEWISH VERSION OF CHRISTMAS

John 10:22-27

22. At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter,
23. and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon.
24. So the Jews gathered around Him and said to Him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."
25. Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name bear witness about Me,
26. but you do not believe because you are not among My sheep.
27. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

John 4:23-24

23. But a time is coming, and even now has arrived, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit **and truth**; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.
24. “God is spirit, and those who worship Him **must worship in spirit and truth.**”

Isaiah 9:6-7

6. For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7. Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

1 Timothy 3:16

For He was.....

manifested in the flesh
vindicated by the Spirit
seen by angels
proclaimed among the nations
believed on in the world
taken up in glory