

Host of Heaven

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung 12/24/2016

Today, I want to make the point that we in God's Church have a great deal to **rejoice** about.

For the rest of the world, today is Christmas Eve. Think about this – out of seven billion people on earth – how many know the truth about Pagan days. We can **rejoice** that we are so blessed.

And never – ever think – we are the minority—because in God sight the way He reckons—we are the majority. We are safe and protected. There is an important principle here:

2Chronicles 32:7 Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed of the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him: for **there be more with us than with him.**

2Chronicles 32:8 With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

Sometimes we get the feeling at Christmas time that we are being inundated by the overwhelming sights and sounds that everyone is engaged in.

Today is a special day for me. I'll tell you the story of my dad who finished high school at Longview, TX – just a few miles from the Big Sandy Ambassador College. He was in the US Navy for five years, 1935-1940. In 1941 the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. It happened 2½ weeks before Christmas. America's entrance into World War II was an act of war – that's the **spirit of Christmas**.

My parents were married – and that took place seventy-five years ago today - December 24, 1941. We do not smile on Christmas – do we?

Christmas is not a man-made holiday celebration – it has nothing to do with the birth of Jesus Christ. Christmas is Satan inspired – a tool of Satan and his demons. We will let the Bible explain.

The **spirit of Christmas** is not what everyone makes it out to be. There is great deal of greed, selfishness, lust and excess, that leads to indebtedness, depression, loneliness, hurt and worse... The spirit of Christmas is not a good thing.

I was newly married (1963) in Alexandria, LA and I saw a convenience store manager in 1964. I had taken a friend to the emergency room at 5 AM - Ambulance – holes in his shoes – cash register empty – slain! That is the Spirit of Christmas at work.

It seems that the commerce and industry of the entire earth are grinding to halt as men everywhere celebrate the most widely acclaimed holiday of them all - Christmas.

We are privileged to know the real story of Christmas – we should rejoice and give God the thanks.

Philippians 3:1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord.

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord **always**: and again I say, Rejoice.

The vast deception is astounding to those who have been given the eyes to see. The entire world has bought into this terrible deception.

*"...That old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, **deceives the whole world.**" (Revelation 12:9)*

That deception is strangely manifest in Christmas in a very visible way. We know how the Sabbath has been abandoned and replaced by the deception of Sun-Day. But the celebration of Christmas is something else!

It is a strange quirk of nature that everyone is able to read those words and think to themselves, "Yes, everyone is deceived—except me."

But those words about deception in Revelation 12:9 are God's words for all those who have not entered into a marriage **covenant** with Him by agreeing,

Our Covenant – that means we recognize that God is our creator.

“All the words which the LORD hath said **we will do**” (Exodus 24:3).

“[Moses] took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, “All that the LORD hath said **will we do**, and be obedient.” (Exodus 24:7)

Brethren, we covenanted with God when we were baptized. We have kept covenant – we can **rejoice**.

Leviticus 26:11 And I will set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you.

Leviticus 26:12 And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people.

Leviticus 26:13 I am the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright.

Satan has co-opted almost everything and made them a part of his vast deception – snowflakes and open fires – Boughs of holly – jingle bells and sleigh bells, and evergreens covered with snow... All co-opted so much of God's winter scene – wreath and berries - fruit cakes – chestnuts...

People begin celebrating Christmas very early before Thanksgiving.

(There were not 3 wise men, but 12 princes of Israel looking for messiah – Jesus was 2 years old when they arrived.)

We are a small voice in a deceived world. They say, “Put Christ back into Christmas” – No, Jesus has never been in Christmas.

Nimrod is author of sun worship – he's the grandson of Noah - killed by righteous Shem in Rome - thrown into the river as a warning against paganism. Fertility rites led to the fish Santa's hat in Europe – it is a fish hat - like a bishop's hat. We find that all over Europe.

Semiramis is queen of heaven. Her son has many names, Horus, Nimrod – it is both history and myth. A part of the Mother and son worship - way before Jesus - in Pagan nations. How can the world be oblivious history of Christmas?

So much good has been supplanted and corrupted:

“It's for the kids,” they say. It's deception - syncretism world and God – mixed together. Not reindeer, yes and no Santa, but God is real - really? It's all lies and confusion.

The apostles did not celebrate Christ's birth. Christmas is not in Bible. The Bible condemns Christmas. It is an abomination - spiritual adultery.

There are millions upon millions of Christmas trees - not the tree of Life. It's Sun nature worship – Bells, candles, holly, and yuletide decorations, fertility, merry Christmas, exchange of gifts, sleighs,

Reindeer, snow flake and ice icicles, the nativity scene, mistletoe,

colored lights, north pole, symbolism, Santa Clause - little church with steeple in snow and evergreens - warmth and security, elves - helpers

saint Nicholas - Christmas changes from year to year...

The **spirit of iniquity** makes Christmas big – it is the spirit of Christmas. Lights, trees, music, attractive - socially necessary!

Christmas contains, Lusters of food, gifts, wild parties – It's the spirit of Christmas. God does not smite immediately - licentious paganism - so much modification to excess - wine sex rebellion wild times - addictive and captivating.

Christmas is required! Decorations, cards, gifts - you are ostracized if you do not yield. "Christmas bonus" is thrust upon you – it is not Christmas or a bonus - you earned it.

Do not bow a knee to Baal. 7,000 have not.

Christmas is a substitute for true worship - it violates God's faithful relationship. Jesus will implement His Feast Days in all the earth. No more Christmas then. If they won't keep the feast Jesus will shut off their water – till they come.

Zechariah 14:17 And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

For example – let's say that Egypt – type of sin – still refuses to come... Jesus will slowly turn up the heat...

Zechariah 14:18 And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Zechariah 14:19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

The result will be a great feast unto the Lord with meat on the table for all - and men will find out that those bells are not Christmas bells at all – but Feast of Tabernacles bells.

Zechariah 14:20 In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar.

Zechariah 14:21 Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and seethe therein: [the Hebrew means stew and Bar-b-que] and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.

All will know the way of the Lord – and keep His Feast Days – and when you hear this ---RING Sleigh bells... The **children** will think Feast of **Tabernacle bells!** – When they hear that sound!

1Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively **hope** by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

There's something to rejoice about!

1Peter 1:4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

1Peter 1:5 Who are kept by the **power** of **God** through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Ephesians 1:19 And what is the **exceeding greatness** of his **power** to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his **mighty power**,

Ephesians 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ...

1Peter 1:6 Wherein ye **greatly rejoice**, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

But the people of God were not obedient and reverted back to the false gods of Egypt.

Exodus 32:1 And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

Exodus 32:2 And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.

Exodus 32:3 And all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron.

Exodus 32:4 [Aaron] received the [golden earrings] at their hand, and fashioned it with an engraving tool, after he had made it a [golden] molten calf: and they said, These be **thy gods**, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

Notice closely. That one gold calf was representative of **many** gods – did you catch that. Who are these many gods? Just that quick, the worship of the One True God was supplanted by the false worship of the **host of heaven**. That is what these **many gods** are called in the New Testament—the **host of heaven!**

Acts 7:38 This is [Moses] that was in the Church in the wilderness with the messenger [Jesus] who spoke to him in Mount Sinai, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us.

Acts 7:39 To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust him from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt,

Acts 7:40 Saying unto Aaron, Make us **gods** to go before us: for as for this Moses, which brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what is become of him.

Acts 7:41 And they made a **calf** in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the **idol**, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.

Notice what they were worshipping. Stephen makes it clear right here that the false gods that the golden calf represents are the demonic **host of heaven** – including all the false deities of the Old Testament.

Acts 7:42 Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the **host of heaven**; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices by the space of forty years in the wilderness?

Were they worshipping the gold calf that they knew was made out of their gold earrings—or were they worshipping the many pagan gods – **the Host of Heaven** – that the idol represented?

Jeremiah had a tree that was decorated with shiny silver and gold. They began putting a **star** on top of Jeremiah's Christmas tree long before Jesus was born. [Jeremiah 10]

Isaiah 14:12 O Lucifer, morning **star**...

That star is **Satan's star** – he is the god of this world (2Corinthians 4:4).

Amos 5:26 But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the **star of your god**, which ye made to yourselves.

Acts 7:43 Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the **star of your god Remphan**, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.

“Deuteronomy” means the second giving of the law: God's instructions to the nation of Israel:

Deuteronomy 4:7 For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for?

Deuteronomy 4:8 And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?

Deuteronomy 4:9 Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

Deuteronomy 4:16 Lest ye **corrupt** yourselves, and **make** you a **graven image**, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female,

Deuteronomy 4:17 The likeness of any beast that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air,

Deuteronomy 4:18 The likeness of anything that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the waters beneath the earth:

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.

This is speaking of demon gods—false gods.

Deuteronomy 4:20 But the LORD hath taken you, and brought you forth out of the iron furnace, even out of Egypt, to be unto him a people of inheritance, as ye are this day.

Be not dismayed at the **heavenly** signs.

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.**

Jeremiah 19:11 And shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Even so will I break this people and this city, as one breaketh a potter's vessel, that cannot be made whole again: and they shall bury them in Tophet, till there be no place to bury.

Jeremiah 19:12 Thus will I do unto this place, saith the LORD, and to the inhabitants thereof, and even make this city as Tophet:

Jeremiah 19:13 And the houses of Jerusalem, and the houses of the kings of Judah, shall be defiled as the place of Tophet, because of all the houses upon whose roofs they have burned incense unto all the **host of heaven**, and have poured out drink offerings unto other gods.

2Kings 6:14 Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about.

2Kings 6:15 And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?

2Kings 6:16 And he answered, Fear not: **for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.**

2Kings 6:17 And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

One-third of the angels fell and became demons. Two thirds remained faithful and continue to praise God. 2/3 of angels are good servants of God – and us.

Luke 2:7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Luke 2:9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

Luke 2:10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Luke 2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel a **multitude** of the **heavenly host** praising God, and saying,

Multitude? How many is that? – I believe it is the majority – the two-thirds of the good angels.

Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2:15 And it came to pass, as the **angels** were gone away from them **into heaven**, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

Solomon loved many wives: Each wanted something different for their favorite god.

1Kings 11:1 But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites;

1Kings 11:2 Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.

1Kings 11:3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.

1Kings 11:4 For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.

1Kings 11:5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

All of these demon-deities represent Satan's holidays of Christmas, Halloween, St. Valentine's Day, Easter, All Saints Day, etc.

1Kings 11:6 And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.

1Kings 11:7 Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.

1Kings 11:8 And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.

Solomon was a great master builder – and he built each wife a Chapel, arbor, Gazebo, Fountain, patio, temple, Grotto, Trellis, Pergola, Grove,

Lattice, or pavilion. Every wife had her favorite **false god**.

1Kings 11:9 And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice,

1Kings 11:10 And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded.

The **New Testament Church** brethren saw this same paganism in their day. They did not call it "Christmas," because that word was first recorded in 1038 AD—but it was Christmas none the less. The people had substitutes for Christianity – like the Christmas regalia and decorations take the place of true Christianity today.

Old Testament Israel - God's people were not faithful to their covenant with God. Stephen explains:

Those Israelites, recently delivered from Egyptian bondage, broke covenant with God.

Acts 7:39 To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust him from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt,

Acts 7:40 Saying unto Aaron, Make us **gods to go before us**: for as for this Moses, which brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what is become of him.

Those Israelites had just covenanted with God to be their God, and they broke their confidence with God before Moses could get down off Mount Sinai.

Acts 7:41 They made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto **the idol**, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.

Acts 7:42 Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the **host of heaven**; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices by the space of forty years in the wilderness?

What Israel did was to revert back to the paganism of the heathens that we know as Christmas and Easter today. And for that, God said that He would lead them into captivity—out of the Promised Land.

“Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.” (Acts 7:43)

Satan has chosen the coldest darkest time of the year to celebrate his greatest holiday. Here is what God says about feasts or holidays like Christmas (Saturnalia, Winter Solstice) and Easter (Ishtar):

God says that He hates those days – “your feasts,” God says, not His own Feasts of the Lord.

“I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not delight in your solemn assemblies... I will **not accept** them: neither will I have regard for them...” (Amos 5:21-22)

On the other hand, **God has chosen** the beautiful budding spring and fall harvests for the time settings of **His Holy Days**.

God uses the harvest seasons to show us His Plan for the great harvest of mankind in His Kingdom.

“Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the **Feasts of the LORD**, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are **My Feasts**.” (Leviticus 23:2)

Brethren, we are so blessed to have been called to a knowledge of the Truth – and able to come out of this evil world with its Christmas spirit – that looks so good – sounds so good – so enticing – to so many all around the earth.

How much more should we **exceedingly rejoice**, than they, knowing that we have not broken covenant and shall stand before Him at His appearing and His kingdom?

Psalms 68:3 But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God: yea, let them exceedingly rejoice.

Indeed brethren, while they are singing, “Joy to the World,” **our rejoicing** should far exceed that of the world.

What will happen to Christmas, Easter and all the rest of the idols in the end?

Exodus 32:19 And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.

Exodus 32:20 And he took the **calf** which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strew it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.

Where is that golden idol today? It is spread all over that wilderness around Mt. Sinai – never to be seen again. We can rejoice over that.

1Peter 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1Peter 1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye **rejoice with joy unspeakable** and full of glory.

Satan is the shinny glitter on his Christmas tree – costume jewelry at best.

Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Acts 5:30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

That tree had **only one ornament** – Jesus - the light of the world.

We rejoice!

End: Host of Heaven