

Origin of Birthdays.



Where did birthday celebrations come from? The astonishing answer is from the pagan practice of astrology! Thousands of years ago, when men looked up into the night sky and charted the stars, they invented calendars and calculated the birth dates, to the very hour, of kings, rulers, and their successors.

These ancient pagan astrologers meticulously examined horoscopes and birthday omens because they believed that the fate of the rich and powerful might affect an entire society.

Even to this day, men have been putting their trust in horoscopes instead of יהוה.

In ancient Egypt, the pharaohs ordered businesses to close on their birthdays and gave enormous feasts to hundreds of servants. In ancient Greece, wealthy males joined birthday clubs composed exclusively of men who shared their birth dates.

Once a month, the club celebrated with a feast. When a member died, he left money to help pay for future parties.

In Persia, noblemen observed their birthdays by barbecuing an ox, a camel, and a donkey and serving hundreds of small cakes to the celebrants. In ancient Rome, the emperor gave huge parties in honour of his own birthday, which included parades, circuses, and gladiatorial combat.

The celebration of days was so important to the average Roman citizen that the Roman calendar designated a majority of days for some form of celebration—including many birthdays of idols and famous men.

The Roman calendar, with its emphasis on continual celebration, has had a great influence on modern society.

Modern birthday parties and celebrations by children take their form mainly from Germany, where the birthday child receives gifts, chooses a menu, and receives a candle-ringed butter or jam cake.

The lighted candles for the cake may have originated from the birthday of the Greek moon goddess Artemis. Pagan worshippers honoured her every month with moon-shaped honey cakes. **Because the moon glows with light, the cakes are decorated with lighted candles. 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.



It should now be clear that birthdays, as celebrated these days, are not only unbiblical, but they are also pagan!

Why It Matters to יהוה

Why does יהוה care whether you celebrate birthdays? After all, it is a chance for you to give presents to someone and make him or her feel good. What could be wrong with this?

Here's what יהוה commands:

Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 10

2 “Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven, for the heathen are dismayed by them. 3 For the customs of the people are vain”.

Vayiqra/Leviticus 18

3 After יהוה freed Yisra’el from slavery, He clearly instructed them, “After the doings of the land of Mitsrayim, wherein you dwelt, shall you not do: and after the doings of the land of Kenaan, where I bring you, shall you not do: neither shall you walk in their ordinances”.

יהוה commanded that they not defile themselves with the practices and customs of the surrounding nations (vs. 24-29).

30 “Therefore, shall you keep My ordinance, that you commit not any one of these abominable customs, which were committed before you, and that you defile not yourselves therein: I am יהוה your Elohim”.

This is an emphatic command from יהוה. He does not want His servants dabbling in the customs of this world.

But what about those who reach age eighty, ninety, or one hundred years old—should we ignore altogether the many years of life experiences they have gained? No. In our current society, where senior citizens are routinely ignored and considered to be a burden, it is certainly permissible to acknowledge someone who has reached a considerable number of years.

Tehillim/Psalm 90

10 The days of our lives are seventy years; Or if due to strength, eighty years, Yet the best of them is but toil and exertion; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away... 12 **Teach us to number our days,** And let us bring the heart to wisdom.

Someone who has lived through two world wars, the Great Depression, the Atomic Age, the creation of the modern nation of Israel, the Cold War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Kennedy assassination, civil rights marches, race riots, the rise and collapse of the Berlin wall and the worldwide growth of the Internet, has reached an age where special honour should be naturally conferred upon them.

Mishle/Proverbs 16

31 “The hoary [white or gray] head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.”

People who have lived to a great age, sometimes reflected by pure white hair, often have great wisdom and experience to share with younger generations. The simple acknowledgment that they have reached age 70, 80, 90 or 100 shows them honour and appreciation. It is not wrong to acknowledge that one has reached a milestone in a long life.

Tehillim/Psalm 90

12 **Teach us to number our days, And let us bring the heart to wisdom.**

To ignore your birthday at all is also not according to Scripture as seen above in Tehillim 90:12. It is a time to be grateful for יהוה's grace in the past year. A time to praise Him for what He has done in your life. We are commanded to bless each other and what better time as on an acknowledged day each year.

Mishle/Proverbs 11

25 The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed

Tehillim/Psalm 115:15

May you be blessed of יהוה,

Maker of heaven and earth.

Bemidbar/Numbers 23:20

“Behold, I have received a command to bless;

When He has blessed, then I cannot revoke it.

What we have described above is far different than celebrating birthdays with all of the usual pagan traditions!

Celebrating the day of one's birth, as though it were a special occasion, is wrong. It violates יהוה's command. It keeps people selfishly focused on their temporary, physical lives when יהוה's purpose is to give mankind eternal life in His Family. True Truth-seekers should be focused on how their lives are preparing them for rulership on this earth at the Return of Yahushua Ha'Mashyach.