

## Thanksgiving Civil or Religious/Pagan Holiday?

- The American Thanksgiving Holiday is not pagan in origins. It is a Civil Holiday meant for giving thanks to God and to pray for America. The first national Thanksgiving Proclamations were those issued by the Continental Congress between 1777 and 1784. From 1785 to 1788 there were no national Thanksgiving Proclamations. George Washington issued the first Presidential Thanksgiving Proclamation in 1789. Abraham Lincoln issued Thanksgiving Proclamations in the spring of 1862 and the spring of 1863; both proclamations gave thanks for victories in battle. These Thanksgivings are NOT regarded as the originators of the so-far unbroken series of presidential Thanksgiving proclamations because they are giving thanks for specific victories and not for more general "blessings of God." Jefferson Davis, likewise, issued a Thanksgiving proclamation giving thanks for victories in battle in 1862 and had, early in 1861, proclaimed a Day of Fasting & Humiliation (the only other President to proclaim a Day of Fasting & Humiliation was John Adams in 1798 & 1799). Abraham Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation in the autumn of 1863 - the SECOND Thanksgiving Proclamation in that year, following his springtime proclamation giving thanks for victory in battle - gave more general thanks for the blessings of the year. This second 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation, the first in the unbroken string of annual presidential Thanksgiving proclamations, is regarded as the true beginning of the national Thanksgiving holiday. Actually, it was a resurrection and not a beginning, since there had been earlier national Thanksgivings, beginning with those proclaimed by the Continental Congress during the Revolutionary War.
- THE PILGRIMS DID NOT OBSERVE THANKSGIVING IN NOVEMBER: The Pilgrims celebrated at Plymouth for three days after their first harvest in 1621. The event occurred between Sept. 21 and Nov. 11, 1621. The Pilgrims held a true Thanksgiving celebration in 1623 following a fast, and a refreshing 14-day rain which resulted in a larger harvest. This one took place in the summer.
- Only Canada, U.S., two Caribbean Islands, and LIBERIA celebrate Thanksgiving.
- There are other countries in Europe who have similar holidays that are religious in nature with pagan origins and dealing with the harvest. They are called Harvest Festivals.
- American Thanksgiving is not a harvest festival. Fictitious traditions involving the pilgrims have been superimposed on Holiday.
- Only Pagan holiday are forbidden in the Bible. I.E. Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day, or any other non Biblical religious holiday. Civil Holidays just like voting are up to the individual.
- Jesus observed a civil holiday.
- THANKSGIVING DAY 1789 BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - A PROCLAMATION: Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor - and Whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me "to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an

opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness." Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be – That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks – for his kind care and protection of the People of this country previous to their becoming a Nation – for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his providence, which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war –for the great degree of tranquillity, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed – for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted, for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

- And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions – to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually – to render our national government a blessing to all the People, by constantly being a government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed – to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord – To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and Us – and generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best. Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789. GO. WASHINGTON.
- THE FIRST IN AN UNBROKEN SERIES OF AUTUMN PROCLAMATIONS:  
THANKSGIVING DAY 1863 by ABRAHAM LINCOLN BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – A PROCLAMATION: The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added which are of so extraordinary a nature that they can not fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the everwatchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign states to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere, except in the theater of military conflict, while that theater has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense have not arrested the plow, the shuttle, or the ship; the ax has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased

notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege, and the battlefield, and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore if, as soon as may be consistent with the divine purpose, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity, and union. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the city of Washington, this 3d day of October A.D. 1863, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-eighth.

1. John 10:22-24 (Jesus observing/participating in a civil holiday)
2. Jeremiah 29:4-7
3. Exodus 20:12 (Father's day/Mother's day)
4. Ephesians 6:2
5. Exodus 34:12-15 (Civil holidays are up to the individual to participate in. Followers of Christ should not participate in religious holidays dedicated to other god's. That would be eating food or celebrating unto idols. For example Halloween, Valentine's Day, Christmas, Easter, etc... Fourth of July, Veterans day, Thanksgiving, etc... are Civil holidays.)
6. Numbers 25:1-5
7. Acts 15:20\_29
8. Revelation 2:14-23
9. Jeremiah 10:1-5
10. 2 Peter 3:15-16
11. 1 Corinthians 8
12. 1 Corinthians 10:14-31
13. Romans 14:15-23
14. 1 Timothy 4:4-5
15. **CHURCH POLICY ON HOLIDAYS:**
  - **OBSERVED BY CHURCH/COMMANDMENT OF GOD:**

**Passover\*, Feast of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, & Feast of Tabernacles/8th day**

- **ISRAELITE CULTURAL HOLIDAYS (UP TO INDIVIDUAL):**

**Feast of Dedication & Purim**

- **CIVIC HOLIDAYS (UP TO INDIVIDUAL):**

**MLK DAY, PRESIDENT'S DAY, MEMORIAL DAY, JULY 4TH, LABOR DAY, MOTHER'S DAY, FATHER'S DAY, VETERAN'S DAY, & THANKSGIVING ETC...**

- **PAGAN/RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY (NOT ALLOWED)**

**Christmas, New Year's, Valentine's, Easter, Halloween, and any other religious holiday such as a Saint's day, Lent, Ash Wednesday, Mardi Gras etc...**