

While Halloween is all about sweets and treats for kids, the sweetest thing for parents is to see their kids happy. Also, we all want to see our kids grow up to be happy and healthy adults too, and to continue on in happy families themselves. We all wish we could just live on in love forever as one big happy family, and yet, as Halloween reminds us, death hangs over us all, like a scary poisonous spider ready to pounce at any time.

As such, you may be glad to know that beyond the candy and costume fun, **the forgotten history of where “Halloween” came from actually holds the key to ultimate happiness for you & your children!**

Some forgotten famous person said, “All that’s past is prolog,” meaning that the past is just introductory information to help future generations learn how to live. Someone else said, “If we don’t learn from the mistakes of the past, then we are doomed to repeat them.” So it is that the mysterious historical origins of what we celebrate as “Halloween” holds a key lesson for making sure you and your family have the happiest of futures. **So where did Halloween come from?**

THE ANCIENT “DAY OF THE DEAD”

If you look on many calendars in the USA, they not only identify special holidays and commemoration days in America, (like Halloween), but also those of Canada, Mexico and elsewhere. If you look at November 1 and 2 you will usually see that there is a festival day in Mexico called “The Day of the Dead!” Also, many calendars will point out that it is also the RC-Church Holy Day known as “All Saints Day” and/or “All Souls Day”. What is that about? Well, they are all connected to what historically morphed into our modern celebration of Halloween and its association with graveyards, ghosts, skeletons and all things scary (that we like to make light of at Halloween).

“The Day of the Dead” is actually a very ancient remembrance day that was commemorated by ancient civilizations around the world. Even today, for many, it is a time to honor dead ancestors. In pagan cultures it became a superstitiously fearful day to dread, as it was believed that evil spirits and/or the ancestral spirits of the dead (ghosts) would rise at midnight on the eve of

this day to roam throughout the land and haunt, hurt or even kill people unless they warded them off or appeased them. With such an association with evil spirits this day also became associated with all manner of occultic practices and real witchcraft. This is why our modern Halloween is still associated with such in a more lighthearted make-believe costuming and decorations and make-fun kind of way. But in ancient times, and with some still today, this was a significantly serious and scary event. In times past, in another part of the world, some would put out scary looking Jack-o-lanterns in front of their homes in hopes of warding off (scaring away) such ghastly, ghostly spirits. Others would put out plates of treats in hopes of appeasing the spirits so that they would not attack them. The memory of these practices came to America with immigrants and morphed into our modern make-fun pumpkin decorating and trick or treating and costuming celebration renamed Halloween. **With this in mind, where did the name “Halloween” come from and why?**

THE HISTORY OF “HALLOWEEN” (WHAT’S IN A NAME?)

What we now know (and are a part of) as Western Civilization developed from the European Church culture of medieval times. The formerly pagan Roman Empire was changed into the Holy Roman Empire as the Emperors became converted and then elevated their church to a very influential status over the culture. As such, the Church authorities of those times replaced many ancient pagan festivals with Church “Holy Days”, which we now know as Holidays.

One such change was to take the ancient and scary “Day of the Dead” festival and turn it into a more positive focused Holy Day commemorating the “faithfully departed” and other deceased ancestors (on All Saints Day and All Souls Day) on November 1st and 2nd . The evening before this “Holy Day” was considered to be kind of an unofficial beginning and preparatory time, and thus became known as All Hallows Eve or the Hallowed evening (or e’en for short). In subsequent history then, these words, “Hallowed” and “e’en,” were conflated & contracted together to form the one word “Halloween.”

Though the Church tried to replace all the superstitious nonsense and fearfulness of this day, many of the ancient practices and associations with all things death and scary remained ingrained, and the memory of such was passed down in the cultural form of our modern make-fun, make-believe, costume and candy celebration of today.

WHERE DID THE DAY OF THE DEAD COME FROM, AND, WHY IS IT AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR?

The answer to that question holds the key to ultimate happiness for your children and also for you! You see, when investigating ancient historical calendar information including what is revealed in the Bible about ancient civilization, it confirms that the “Day of the Dead” arose as a commemoration by subsequent generations regarding the most catastrophic disaster event in all of human history – the worldwide flood in the lifetime of a man named Noah. The biblical information gives specific ancient calendar references which link the beginning of this cataclysmic and deadly disaster to what we know as the beginning of November (end of October) in our modern calendars. The true historical, biblical association with this day was long ago lost along the way as subsequent civilizations drifted into pagan spiritism, occultism, polytheism, pantheism, and all the other non-biblical (Man-generated) religions arose and developed. But in essence the ancient Day of the Dead, and even our modern celebration of Halloween, still unconsciously commemorates that ancient historical day when every air-breathing animal and human on earth died, except those who took refuge on Noah’s Ark-ship (which basically included only Noah’s family, with 3 married adult sons and their wives, from whom we are all descendants). **So what was that all about?**

The Bible story of Noah and the flood are true history, and make the point that the Almighty, All Holy (perfectly pure and good) God is for real, and He means what He says about hating & judging sin (badness/wrongdoing)!

God had started the human race by creating one couple (Adam and Eve), from whom all of humankind would descend, with the intention that we would all be one big happy loving family on earth, under God’s ultimate Fatherhood and loving, righteous leadership (Kingship) forever!

Well, Adam and Eve, as you probably heard, messed that up royally, by believing the Devil’s word (a lie from a rogue-rebel angel) over God’s word (the truth), and thus they sinned against God. God then instituted a disconnection from Him, and then eventual death (as He said He would) as a preliminary earthly judgment which would warn all generations of people to come of the eternal judgment that He hopes to save people from. With God, the eternal well-being of people is the ultimate concern. God is not only the King of humanity but also our ultimate Judge. He cannot allow anyone with sin into His holy kingdom, but must rather banish & punish them. Since the human nature of Adam and Eve had been corrupted and contaminated, then this sin nature was passed on down to all their descendants (the whole human race, including us). So now we are all born with a nature which is naturally contrary towards God and good. This starts manifesting itself early on right from childhood onward (this is where the terrible 2s come from, as well as the turbulent teens, etc.). Parents don’t have to (and shouldn’t) teach their kids bad behavior and selfish attitudes, it just starts coming out naturally from early on. So one of the most important jobs of parenting is to teach kids right from wrong and good manners, and to behave (and restrain their negative impulses). This is also, secondarily, a job of schools, churches, and government (Laws), and other social institutions. However, for the generations immediately after Adam and Eve there were no organized societies, institutions, or governments, and most everyone just did what was right in their own eyes, according to their naturally selfish, negative, immoral and destructive impulses. God had implemented a plan whereby people individually could be redeemed and reconciled with Him if they wanted to be (that is, if they were repentant and receptive towards Him). But, by the time of Noah however, it had gotten so bad that only Noah and his family cared anything about God and righteousness, and everybody else in the world was having a free-for-all party of selfish debauchery. Corruption, criminal activity and violence were everywhere, and God had had enough, and decided to start the human race over again from scratch (from Noah’s family), and so decimated the earth with a worldwide flood. Noah, his family, and some from all of the animal kinds were saved on board the Ark. This is the real reason that we have the geological phenomena of billions of dead things (fossils), buried in rock layers, laid down by water (sedimentary rock), all over the earth.

Amazingly, here we are, some 5000+ years later (unknowingly) still commemorating that event every October 31st as Halloween!

After Noah's time and from his sons and other descendants, the human race split up into all different regional ethnic & language groups (ala the Tower of Babel) and developed civilizations and nations (and faulty religions - trying to find a way back to the original eternal life and happiness which the real Creator-God had intended). We may have various superficial physical and cultural characteristic differences, but all the world's people have the same human nature which is still struggling with sinfulness (and so subsequent human history has continued to be rife with wars, corruption, crimes and immoral lust, greed, arrogance, anger, abuse, prejudices, neglect and selfishness). These are the things that ruin societies, and marriages and families and kid's lives and happiness, as well as put us all in danger of an eternal disaster. God promised Noah that there would never again be a worldwide flood judgment on his descendants, but He also appointed that there would be a day when He would ultimately end the human race and judge all people for all the ungodly things they have spoken, and done, and even thought. The sad fact is that we all face a date with the disaster of death and eternal judgment because of our sinfulness.

However, God still had and has a loving, merciful plan to reconcile with, and save anyone who will be like Noah and trust in God's word, and turn to Him in repentance of their sinfulness, and seek His mercy and a right relationship with Him, on His terms.

God's plan included becoming a descendant of Adam and Noah himself. That is to say, God became a member of our human race, through a miraculous birth, in the person of Jesus Christ (on that first Christmastime), so He could be our substitute Savior.

Through blood, sweat and tears, lovingly poured out on the wood of an old rugged cross (on which He was executed by mankind), Jesus paid a substitute payment of God's justice due our sins. With the wood of that cross Jesus built a new ark of sorts, (a spiritual ark) so that we could be mercifully pardoned, saved and spared from the eternal judgment disaster which will come upon all of humanity (except those who are so spared by Jesus' substitution & salvation).

Jesus then rose from the dead at that first Easter time to prove this all true. He promises that we all can experience such a resurrection to eternal life, healthiness and happiness to come, if we will come to Him in faith and receive a relationship with Him, and a new life from Him (making us spiritually born again, into God's family).

In Noah's time there was only one door to be able to get on the only ark of rescue from disaster, just as there is now only one way to get in on eternal salvation from the sin disaster and doom we face. Jesus said, "I am the door... by Me if anyone enters in they shall be saved." Jesus also said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no man can come to the Father but by me." "Of all who come to Me, I will cast none away." So, no matter how bad you may have already been, Jesus is calling any and all to come to Him to get into God's forgiven family forever.

TRICK OR TRUTH & TREAT

Halloween's association with evil spirits and scary things, and with death, reminds us of the real truth that there is a real Devil who is still trying to deceive & destroy people with the same kind of lies and alternative pleasures (sinful ones) to divert them away from God's good purposes and salvation into eternal life. The question is, are you going to let the Devil TRICK you, or are you going to receive the TRUTH from God which will TREAT you to the sweetness of an earthly life and eternal heaven, reconciled with our loving Creator-God??

If you want God as your Father, so that you can be part of His one big happy, loving family forever, you must enter in through a trusting dependence upon Jesus Christ alone. You must come in to a personal saving relationship with Christ directly & individually (nobody can do that for you, or confer that on you, nor make you do that). You cannot get into God's family by just associating with a Church and imitating being a Christian through Christian religious activities that you may have grown up with or joined in on. You cannot pay or earn your way into heaven that way.

God's word (The Bible) says very plainly that the wages (which we deserve) for our sin is death (and then eternal judgment & destruction), but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (fully paid for and given by Him to those who repentantly believe & receive Him).

You must enter into a direct relationship with Christ, where you sincerely, apologetically admit your guiltiness and condemnableness, and just trust & depend on his fully paid for pardon, and receive it from Him along with a new life connected to his Spirit (which can & will transform your life from within as one of God's adopted children forever). So, to receive this relationship and salvation from Christ you need to repentantly & believably call on him and ask for it. God's word in the Bible says, "whoever trusts in him will never be put to shame...for whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." If you are ready, then you can go ahead and do that right now, from your heart to Christ (he is waiting & wanting to hear from you, and to give you that free gift of merciful pardon, salvation and eternal life in good relationship with God).

If you want to help your kids get in on this as well (so you can all be together in happiness forever) then you must teach them about this, and pray for them to realize it is the truth and act on it genuinely. But it is ultimately their own decision to make for themselves, as each person must believe it and receive it for themselves.

If you have entered into this relationship with Christ/God then you need to now learn how to follow Him and His purposes for your life (which his Spirit in you is there to enable you to do). The Bible is your main guide, but you need help with that. Begin by reading the Gospel stories about Jesus. Then to learn the Bible's lessons for our life we also need to associate with a Bible-based, Bible teaching Church and teachers and media - find good Christian radio stations at moodyradio.org & wordfm.org. Some Churches are on the right track with this, but many have gotten off track and have morphed into social clubs of people just assuming they are Christian automatically by growing up in it, and/or by trying to imitate Christianity in hopes of earning their own way into Heaven by being relatively good and religious enough (which, as was already explained, is not God's way, and is not accepted by God as good enough). For any spiritual help or questions, or to find a good biblical Church please phone 1-888-633-3446; or on the web at: www.NeedHim.org

MY HALLOWEEN WISH FOR YOU

I hope you have a truly happy "Hallowed-Evening," and that you & yours will get in on God's sweet treat of a joyful-loveful earthly and eternal life in Christ as well !!!

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HAVE...

THE HAPPIEST HALLOWEEN EVER

**(for parents & kids,
and anyone else)**

**From the amazing
forgotten history of
Halloween!?!**

