
New Years/Old Ways

 Double-Minded Men & the God of Two Faces 

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ANOTHER YEAR OVER AND A NEW ONE BEGUN. THE CHANCES AND CHANGES ALL LIE BEFORE US READY TO TAKE AND TO MAKE. ENDLESS POTENTIAL. COUNTLESS POSSIBILITIES. BUT WILL WE EMBRACE THEM? WILL WE HAVE THE COURAGE TO UTILIZE ANOTHER YEAR FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE GOSPEL AGENDA IN OUR LIVES AND ENVIRONS? THIS IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEIZE THE REINS OF OUR RECKLESS LIVES AND LEAD OURSELVES TO A FUTURE OF HOLINESS AND FAITHFULNESS, NOT FURTHER INTO RELIGION OR SPIRITUALITY BUT TO CUT THE CRAP, TO TRIM THE FAT, AND TO SHAPE UP THE QUALITY OF OUR DISCIPLESHIP IN MESSIAH.



ROMANS DEDICATED NEW YEARS DAY TO JANUS, GOD OF BEGINNINGS AND TRANSITIONS. JANUS WAS USUALLY DEPICTED WITH TWO HEADS, ONE LOOKING AT THE PAST, THE OTHER TO THE FUTURE.



The god Janus

Janus – the god of entrances and exits, doors and all beginnings.

The month of January was named in honor of the god Janus.





JANUS-FACED FAITH

At this most auspicious occasion, when the worldly-wise and wild resolve to better themselves for the new year, inspired for a few hours...to exercise, eat healthy, and quit the bad habits holding them back from being their best selves, we who have been, “born anew to a living hope” ought also to make New Year’s resolutions, but ones with more meaning than our own meager vanity. And unlike the vapid masses, we will perform what we resolve. This new year let us set our goals not only on physical exercise but to “work out our salvation with fear and trembling,” not only to healthy food choices but also to choose to consume that spiritual food of the Scriptures, and not to simply knocking off our bad habits but to breaking off our superfluities. Remembering that we are not our own and are thus not leading our own lives nor building a world for ourselves, we need set our intentions for the noble and glorious purpose of divesting our minds and consciences of all vice. And yes, this will include all leftovers of lost religions and long-forgotten gods who’s ways and means we may still be keeping alive unawares.

“Wash your hands, you sinners,” said the Apostle, “purify your hearts, you double-minded men.” James wrote these words in echo of his brother, “Yeshua”, our Master, who told us we cannot serve two masters, and yet we have been trying so very hard to do so for so many centuries, mostly by using the heathen holidays of pagan gods to worship our holy Elohim of the Hallowed NAME.

Take this very celebration for example. Yes it is the dawn of a new day, the rolling over of another secular year, the changing of the calendar, but the party itself, from ancient time, has ever belonged to the false god whose own name disgraces this, the first month of the year - January. Called so for the Roman divinity, Janus, deity of doorways, past, present, & future, war & peace, contracts, choices, crossroads, coin tosses, promises, and beginnings & ends. To the Romans of old, every first of the month was sacred to Janus, but the first day of the first month was entirely offered to him as most holy of all. His worshipers flung wide the doors of his temple, gathered enmasse to shout and sing and sound trumpets and to watch for the “witching hour” to welcome him as he brought them a new year. As Janus was thought to be co-ruler of Italy with Saturn, the Titan exile of the sky, today Janus is most often depicted as “baby new year” and closely followed by an old bearded man in a cloak carrying a scythe. Sound familiar? All babies born on his day were dedicated to him, and his day was commemorated with wishes and aspirations for accomplishments throughout the year.

And yet this is far from the only holiday we've hijacked from heathens. We've been aping pagans for ages now, keeping the day of Sol Invictus Mithra called Sunday, the festival of Yule we call Christmas, the fertility rite called Lupercalia now known as Valentine's Day which honors Faunus, and the Anglo-Saxon Easter as the Christian Passover. All the while when we were instructed in Scripture to "not learn the ways of the heathen" and to "not worship YHWH, Eloheinu the way the nations worship their gods," still we have yet been keeping their cults alive by doing what their devotees did for them... We just justify it, because now it's for "Jesus" instead.



Perhaps it's advantageous we should discuss this on the day of January 1, because we have been believing in our own Elohim in a Janus-like fashion. Janus was always depicted with two faces, one looking forward and the other looking back, because he was god of beginnings and endings, crossroads, choices, and doorways. But the Most High is not two-faced. HE told us in Scripture what holy days are His and how He expects His worshipers to please Him. He made Himself clear in His Word, and then, in case we missed it, He made His Word Flesh.

Yeshua, Whom most have taken to calling, "Jesus", and Who was anything but Janus-Faced, is the Beginning & the End. He Himself made the choice to take the road to the cross, and He Himself is the doorway into everlasting life. While walking this world, this same "Jesus" obeyed our Father's commands, kept His holy days, and taught us to do as He has done. Somewhere along the way, we took a wrong turn when we began to doubt those ways and to discard them for our own or another's. We followed a two-faced guide and were surprised to find ourselves pulled in opposite directions. And thus James has taught us, "a double-minded man is unstable in all his ways."

At this new year, the time has come to make the choice, for the first time in our lives to ditch this two-faced third-rate time-god. And as we leave him behind and find our stability instead in the true Savior and His habits, may we learn nothing more from that four-eyed bastard but what not to be and what not to do. Letting go of our old ways and cultivating the

mind of Messiah, we resolve this new year to be like “Jesus” not Janus. Let us take the time in the coming days to come to know YHWH once more and His Messiah, like never before. Dedicating ourselves to the understanding that He speaks with one Voice, one Message for all time, for to Him all time is one. Not one way for the so-called “Old” Testament and another for the supposedly “New”. Ours is a timeless Elohim telling one single saving Gospel story from the Genesis inception to the judgment of Armageddon. And all that saving gracious Message can be seen in the celebrations Yeshua actually believed in, which came from a just and merciful Elohim Whose Face is One, as His NAME is One and as He Himself is One. Of all those endless opportunities to grow and change this year, will we accept the challenge to accept the fact we have changes to make, more than diet and exercise? Search the Scriptures. Have a look at history. And study the things that were Sacred to the Most High of the Bible not the baby god of New Years. If we are willing to be of one mind and to see with one face, starting with the holy Sabbath of YHWH, Eloheinu and moving through all his Days and Ways, if we resolve to look for Yeshua in these jubilant feasts, once found in the ancient Faith, a door will open for us not only to a new year but to a new beginning and a future promise of which no demon god, not even Janus, can provide.



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