

Does Halloween Commemorate Noah's Flood?

By T.W. Tramm

JESUS says that when He returns it will be like "the days of Noah" (Matt. 24:37).

With the above correlation in view, it's significant that Noah's Flood began in the biblical month of Cheshvan, corresponding to October-November and the popular holiday known as Halloween.

It's generally taught that Halloween has its origins in the pagan practices of the Druids and Celts. The Celtic festival Samhain, which comes from the Old Irish for "summer's end," marked the end of the harvest season and the darker half of the year.

The Celts believed that during Samhain the boundary between the physical and spiritual world was thinner and spirits could more easily traverse the realms. The visiting spirits, thought to be degraded versions of the ancient gods, had to be appeased to ensure that people and livestock would survive the winter. Thus food and drink were left out as offerings, or "treats," for the gods.

Another Samhain tradition involved the hollowing out of turnips or beets to become lanterns, often with grotesque faces carved into them to represent spirits or supernatural beings. The lanterns were used by festival participants to frighten people and alternatively placed on windowsills to keep evil spirits out of one's home.

A clue that Halloween's roots extend beyond the traditions of the Celts, however, is the fact that ancient cultures worldwide, from the Aztecs of Mexico to the Aborigines of Australia, have similar traditions about a day of death and departed spirits around the end of October each year.

The ancient Aztecs observed the Day of the Dead in November.

The Assyrians had ceremonies for the souls of the dead in October-November.

The Peruvians ended their November New-Year celebration by placing food and drink on the graves of the departed.

The Hindu 'Durga' festival of the dead was originally linked to the start of the year in November.

The Persians began their New Year in November in a month named Mordad, "the month of the angel of death."

The early Anglo-Saxons called November "blood month."

The aboriginal Australians would, at this time of year, paint white stripes on their arms and legs to look like skeletons.

What's interesting is that equally as prevalent as the November memorials to the dead are traditions about a flood that nearly wiped out the human race. Extending back into the Bronze Age and Neolithic prehistory, accounts depict a deluge sent by a god or gods to destroy civilization as an act of divine retribution. A common thread in these myths is that the destruction of humanity marked the beginning of a new era or cycle.

Diverse traditions based on common themes—a day of death in the autumn, often connected with tales of a great flood and a new beginning—indicate a common origin related to an actual historical event.

According to the Bible, the real historical event that occurred in the autumn, wiping out nearly all of humanity and commencing a new era, is the Flood of Noah.

Therefore the annual Halloween celebration, known by different names and celebrated in various ways around the world, is in actuality a pagan memorial to the dead who perished during Noah's Flood.

That Halloween pays homage to the wicked destroyed in Noah's day sheds a revealing light on this macabre holiday and explains its exploding popularity as we near the day of Jesus' return.

“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.”

NOTES:

1. According to Scripture, the people who perished in Noah's Flood were not entirely human. Genesis chapter 6 reveals that Satan's co-rebel angels took human wives and begat a hybrid race of "giants." By corrupting human flesh in this way, Satan aimed to thwart God's plan to redeem fallen man via a Savior born from the seed of a woman (Gen. 3:15). To keep the fallen angels from corrupting the whole human bloodline, God moved to purge the earth via a global flood. The angels who sinned by taking human wives were at this time imprisoned in the abyss to await judgment; whereas the disembodied spirits of the giants who perished in the Flood still roam the earth, harassing and taunting people, as demons (1 Pet. 2:4; Enoch 15:8-12). The demonic desire to possess a flesh-and-blood body stems from the fact that, unlike the angels, the giants once inhabited such a body. Thus, the departed "ancestors" or "gods" memorialized during the autumn festivals for the dead are, in fact, the disembodied spirits of the hybrid race of giants—the men of renown whose hearts and thoughts were evil continuously in Genesis 6.

2. Ancient flood traditions are ubiquitous: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_flood_myths

In Egypt, the tale of Osiris' chest, or coffin, floating on the water for a year is thought to be a distorted Egyptian remembrance of the Flood. Plutarch says Osiris' was shut up in his box on the seventeenth day of the month Athyr. In Plutarch's time, Athyr coincided with October-November.

3. In 2020, the Flood anniversary (Cheshvan 17) corresponds to November 2, the final day of the three-day Festival of the Dead celebrated by cultures worldwide. In Mexico, the three-day festival is observed as follows: On October 31, All Hallows Eve, the children make an altar to invite the spirits of the dead children to come back and visit. November 1 is All Saints Day, when the adult spirits are believed to return for a visit. November 2 is All Souls Day, when families go to the cemetery to decorate the graves of relatives. NOTE: The pre-calculated Jewish calendar has Cheshvan 17 corresponding to November 4 in 2020. However, reckoning the first day of Cheshvan from the new moon (October 17) as in ancient Israel, the 17th day of the biblical month corresponds to November 2nd.

4. In 2020 Halloween coincides with a Blue Moon, which is a rare second full moon in a single (Gregorian) calendar month. A Blue Moon on Halloween last occurred in 2001 and before that in 1955.

5. Americans spend an estimated 7 billion annually on Halloween.