

## **The Detestable Things of the Nations**

**Rabbi Adam J. Bernay**

Well, here we are on this most... sacred-of-days... <pause> HALLOWEEN! You may laugh [or gasp], but it is the most sacred of days... to the Adversary and his demonic minions. Because just as the Most High has appointed times and seasons, so does Lucifer, because he is trying to be God's replacement and so tries to do the things God does. That was the point I tried to get across to a local radio talk show host yesterday afternoon, who had as a topic on his show lamenting the apparent slow, lingering death of the celebration of Halloween. He was really upset over this, and asked people to call in who may be able to explain why fewer and fewer people were involved in Halloween.

Well, as you can imagine, he might as well have come on the air and said, "Adam Bernay, will you please call in?" Just wave the cape in front of the bull. Go ahead. So, anyway, I called in and explained that in the Christian community, there has been a move towards sanitizing some of the pagan festivals out of their practice, and this was the first one they tossed out because of the obvious pagan nature of Halloween. Somehow, somehow, this host – and many callers following me – didn't buy into the idea that it was a pagan festival! Nothing Satanic about it, they claimed, and anyone saying so just wants to stop people from having fun!

Uh huh. This is the problem when people ignore the words of the Torah, as we read in:

### **Deuteronomy 18:9-20**

When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, you shall not learn to imitate the detestable things of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.

Let's see... what is Halloween all about? Might it be about learning to imitate the detestable things of the nations? The origins of Halloween go at least back to the Druids, that satanic cult that held the area that we today call "Great Britain" in its dark grip over a millennium ago. Halloween began with them, to quote from the website of "The Gathering of the Clans":

One of these festivals was called Samhain and it took place on October 31 through to November 1. During this period, it was believed that the boundaries between our world and the world of the dead were weakened, allowing spirits of the recently dead to cross over and possess the living. ...

This yearly festival was adopted by the Roman invaders, who helped to propagate it throughout the rest of the world. The word "Halloween" itself actually comes from a contraction of All Hallows Eve, or the eve of All Saint's Day (November 1), which is a Catholic day of observance in honor of saints. ( <http://www.tartans.com/halloween.html> )

Hmmm... "... allowing spirits of the recently dead to cross over and possess the living..." Now, if, like me, you don't believe that spirits of the dead can actually be awake and certainly don't possess the living... what other sorts of spirits could be crossing over and possessing the living? <pause> How about DEMONS? This might help to explain why so many young people are first exposed to occult practices at Halloween parties! Note the testimony of Pastor David L. Brown:

Like many others, I got my first exposure to occult practices at Halloween parties. My first experience came at a church Halloween party at our youth sponsor's house. A group of kids went to the basement began talking about contacting the spirits and asking them to show themselves by table levitation. I had not been exposed to anything like that before. Some of them claimed that it really worked. I became uneasy and left the party. My second experience came when I attended the Halloween party of a classmate. When it came to "game" time, we went to the basement. Carol asked us all to be seated in a circle and then placed a candle in the middle. She told us to hold hands and then turned off the lights. I asked why we were doing that and she said we were going to have a seance and to call up the devil. Not me! The last person I wanted to communicate with was the Devil. I got out of there.

I can tell you that many children get their first exposure to occult activities at Halloween. I have received communications from all over the United States testifying to that fact. In one school district a "real" Witch was brought in and told the children of the wonderful world of witchcraft including teaching them how to cast a spell. Another group of teens went on a school-sponsored Halloween field trip and visited a channeler, which is nothing but a spirit medium who practices necromancy. They had a seance with the intent of contacting (channeling) the spirit of a dead movie star.

Last year I got a call from an alarmed parent. They had discovered their daughter's diary and what they read blew them out of the water. She and several of her teenage friends were planning on being baptized into witchcraft on Halloween of 1997. Obviously this was not her first contact with witchcraft, but she and her friends had been reading occult material from the school library and decided Halloween would be a good time to form their own coven. (Taken from [http://logosresourcepages.org/harm\\_of.htm](http://logosresourcepages.org/harm_of.htm) , a website all concerned parents and others should check out)

This is serious stuff. Remember, King Saul lost the throne of Israel after involvement in necromancy. Additionally, Halloween is connected with that other evil festival, Christmas! Let's talk for a minute about that joyous figure of that season, Satan Claus (and that's not a typo)! In Celtic mythology, the "holly king" and the "oak king" represent two sides to the "greenman," or "horned god," and they rule over the two halves of the year. One version of the "holly king and oak king" symbolism, is that they do not directly switch places twice a year, but rather both live simultaneously. The "oak king" is born at Yule (or Christmas), and his strength grows through the spring, peaks at Beltane (or May Day) and then he weakens and dies at Samhain (Halloween). The "holly king" lives a reverse existence, and is born at Litha (or the Summer Solstice), waxes more powerful through the summer and fall, to his peak at Samhain, preparing for Yule. His influence then lessens until Beltane, when it is his turn to pass away.

What do you think the "holly king" looks like? Well, he's an old man with a white beard in a red suit trimmed with white fur, wearing a red stocking cap trimmed with white fur, and a sprig of holly. Sound familiar? In other words, Santa Claus – although we associate him specifically with Christmas – is, in fact, connected directly to Halloween! I could go on and on and on about the evils of Halloween, but I don't think any of us here need convincing. But the obvious evils are not the sum total of the things God deems detestable. When God tells us He wants us not to learn to imitate the detestable things of the nations, there is more involved than not participating in the obviously Satanic. We read in:

### **Proverbs 11:1-16**

A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is His delight. When pride comes, then comes dishonor, but with the humble is wisdom. The integrity of the upright will guide them, but the crookedness of the treacherous will destroy them. Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but

righteousness delivers from death. The righteousness of the blameless will smooth his way, but the wicked will fall by his own wickedness.

The righteousness of the upright will deliver them, but the treacherous will be caught by their own greed. When a wicked man dies, his expectation will perish, and the hope of strong men perishes. The righteous is delivered from trouble, but the wicked takes his place. With his mouth the godless man destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous will be delivered. When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices, and when the wicked perish, there is joyful shouting.

By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is torn down. He who despises his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding keeps silent. He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy conceals a matter. Where there is no guidance the people fall, but in abundance of counselors there is victory. He who is guarantor for a stranger will surely suffer for it, but he who hates being a guarantor is secure. A gracious woman attains honor, and ruthless men attain riches.

For those of you ladies who are wondering why a gracious woman is compared to ruthless men, the word means grace in the sense of “charm,” and remember what we read in, 2 Timothy 3:5: “... holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; avoid such men as these.” This is about putting on the pretense of graciousness. Remember what precedes it: “By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is torn down. He who despises his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding keeps silent. He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.” The gracious woman and the ruthless man are going around gossiping, tearing down their neighbors, and taking advantage of them in business.

Which brings me back around to my main point: the detestable things of the nations aren’t just divination and Christmas trees. They include every sin we are commanded against in Torah. As we discussed in previous weeks, what was the sin of Sodom? “Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had arrogance, abundant food and careless ease, but she did not help the poor and needy. Thus they were haughty and committed abominations before Me.” – Ezekiel 16:49-50. We are thus commanded to open our hand to those in need, care for the orphans and widows, care for the poor and needy.

Seething a kid in its mother’s milk? An ancient pagan practice where they would literally boil a baby goat in its own mother’s milk, offer it as a sacrifice to their pagan gods, and consume it! Marring the sides of your beards? An ancient pagan practice where they would shave the names of their pagan gods into their beards, like some people will shave words or images into the hair on the sides of their heads! These are simply two examples of seemingly mundane things we are forbidden to do because they are pagan practices in the worship and service of their pagan gods, who are actually the minions of the Adversary.

I am asked, “Well, if we’re not doing these things to honor or worship or serve the pagan gods, why can’t we do them?” The answer is that there is ultimate truth, and the ultimate truth of these things we are commanded not to do is that they are pagan worship and service, even if they don’t seem like it. I’m asked, “What if I get a tattoo of a Star of David or the Messianic seal or Hebrew words?” Well, that’s fine. On your way back, pick up an Asherah pole... err, I mean “Christmas tree”... so we can all celebrate the birth of Jesus on Yule... uh... I mean.... You know what is meant in these things.

Simply tagging something with a new name does not change their inherent nature. Last week, the College of William & Mary crowned a male student, Jessee Vassold, as their homecoming queen. How did that happen?

Jessee is a “transgender” – wearing his hair long and dressing as a woman, he goes by the name “Kathy Middlesex.” Do those actions change the fact that this is a man? No? But among the detestable things of the nations is this transgender idea... that you can call someone by the opposite gender and that makes them that gender.

Just as Jessee is not a woman, an Asherah pole is a Christmas tree, Yeshua wasn't born at the time of the winter solstice, Halloween is not harmless fun, and there are no innocuous sins.

Imitating the detestable things of the nations are the first step towards abandoning the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to turn towards the pagan gods of the nations, the false gods who are actually demons. We read in:

### **Deuteronomy 13:1-5**

If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, “Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,” you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him. But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has counseled rebellion against the LORD your God who brought you from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to seduce you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from among you.

Contrast that with what we read in:

### **Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him. This is according to all that you asked of the LORD your God in Horeb on the day of the assembly, saying, “Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, let me not see this great fire anymore, or I will die.” The LORD said to me, “They have spoken well. I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you.

“And I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. It shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him. But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.”

The prophet like Moses Who would speak the words God put in His mouth was Yeshua HaMashiach. That is in contrast with the prophet who entices people to emulate the detestable things of the nations, to go and serve other gods. Wouldn't that make such a prophet an anti-Christ? And wouldn't that make keeping even the seemingly innocuous pagan practices of the nations around us... the spirit of anti-Christ? We are told it is loose in the world. Don't succumb to it. On this pagan holy night of Halloween, pray against it. Too many of our neighbors are caught up in it. Pray for them. Pray for our city, our state, our country, and our world. Pray for the binding of the spirit of anti-Christ. Pray against the detestable things of the nations.