

**King James Bible Study Correspondence Course**

*An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries*  
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

**Filling in the Gaps – Lesson 15**  
**Halloween**

What is the history behind the holiday of Halloween?

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The observances connected with Halloween originated among the ancient Druids, who believed that on the evening, Saman, the lord of the dead, called forth hosts of evil spirits" (Funk & Wagnalls New Encyclopedia, 1979, Vol. 12, p. 152). Samhain, October 31 thru November 1 is a holiday that had its beginning in a pre-Christian festival of the dead celebrated by the Celtic people of England, Ireland and Scotland. The holiday is pronounced SAH-WEEN), was the biggest and most significant holiday of the Celtic year. At this time the spirits of generations of departed find it appropriate to mingle with the living. Samhain was the time when the physical and spiritual realms were, according to the Druid priests, very closely linked.

The Celts practiced an elaborate religion through their priestly class, the Druids. They believed Samhain was a time when "... wicked beings used to come forth from the cave of Cruachan and devastate the land. During this interval the normal order of the universe is suspended, the barriers between the natural and the supernatural are temporarily removed. According to Celtic mythology the sidhe was an open mound where the Aos Si (supernatural race – comparable to fairies or elves) made their homes was opened to allow all divine beings and the spirits of the dead to move freely among the living often interfering violently, in their affairs.

The Celtic festival of the dead, Samhain was an occasion marked by burning human offerings. In the eighth century All Saints' Day was moved to November 1 or Samhain from its original date, May 13, which in Roman times had been a day dedicated to the Lemures, evil gods which drank human blood. Samhain has a history of immersion in the blood of a human sacrifice.

"The Irish Druids on the eve of Samhain burned their victims in the holy fire" (The History and Origins of Druidism, p. 105). "...human sacrifice was a frequent and common element in their religious procedure... no sacrifice might be carried out except in the presence of a Druid" (same source p. 104).

The Druid rites which accompanied this festival were very frightening. They believed that Samhain gathered all the souls of them that had died the previous year to release them from the bodies of the lower animals to which they had been confined in order that they might atone for their sins. By the next day, their sins had been atoned through the blood sacrifice of animals

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and humans and they were free to go to the true heaven. Those humans that were sacrificed were usually criminals that had been gathered. They were locked in wicker and straw baskets then set afire and roasted alive by the Druid Priests.

In later centuries they would use black cats for their sacrifices. They even used horses for these sacrifices and would lead them down the Church aisle before killing them.

The festival of Samhain, while being an ancient practice, is not confined to the centuries of the past. In a book published in 1986 is stated, " Another organization with a history of indoor gathering is the church and School of Wicca. Since the late 1970s, they have held an annual Samhain Seminar, with worship, rituals and guest speakers. Approximately 40,000 students have taken some part in their course of study" (Drawing Down the Moon, Margot Adler, p. 423).

It is important to know the historic background of holidays. While almost every major holiday has been tainted with some form of paganism, none are so deeply immersed in the occult as is Halloween.

The Roman Catholic Church wanted to "Christianize" the original pagan holiday of '**all hallows eve**'. It was originally a festival of fire and the dead and the powers of darkness. It is the evening before all Saints Day which honors the Saints and martyrs and was introduced in the seventh century. They wanted it to coincide with the pagan festival of the dead. Fortunately they never succeeded.

The first settlers in America never celebrated Halloween. Halloween as we know it today comes from ancient pagan times from the worship of the druids, today the night of Halloween - Samhain has become a night of carefree fun, vandalism, ghost stories, door-to-door trick-or-treating by children dressed in "cute" costumes, such as devils, witches and ghosts. There has arisen a grave danger to the trick-or-treater...such as razor blades in the apples, candy or other "treats" - children being molested, kidnapped or hurt while making their rounds.

Church going people who say there is nothing wrong with this holiday, do not understand that they are holding hands with the devil and unclean spirits.

The earliest celebrations were held by the Druids in honor of Samhain the lord of the dead ... which is in direct contrast with The Lord Jesus Christ who is the LORD of the living.

November 1 was set aside for this day and it was also the Celtic New Year's Day and the beginning of winter or as they called it, when the light loses and the darkness wins. This referring to the fact that the days became shorter and the nights became longer.

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During this celebration candles were lit in windows to guide the souls home of the dead that were wandering around. Parents encourage their children to dress as witches, wizards and devils, they say things like "Oh, It's not that bad ..... yes it is!!... listen to Leviticus 19:31 ***Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.***

Ouija, Yesyes boards, and tarot cards are all beginnings of defilements ... séances and seeking after the dead will defile and seduce you with evil spirits. Saul sought counsel from a woman that had a familiar spirit (a witch) at Endor (1 Samuel 28:7) to seek after the prophet Samuel. 1 Samuel 15:23a..***For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.***

In our day, many people are beginning to learn what Halloween is all about and seem to be reluctant to do anything about it. Many New Agers are reverting to their heritage sacrificing to their gods even now. These are some of the rituals of Halloween - Samhain and where they came from.

This information was taken for a book called: These are from a book entitled "The Golden Bow by Sir James Frazier"

1. Bonfires ... Souls of the departed dead came home from their wanderings to warm themselves by the homefires. These bonfires were lit to keep the wandering dead away from the living until they could enter heaven., The Celtics used the bonfire to predict the future by sacrificing victims, human and animal, and as they were dying, the future would be opened to them and they would have clarity of vision. King Ahaz sacrificed his children to false gods and God judged him for this. (2 Chronicles 28:3)

2. Witches... were those that cast spells and tried to corral souls for damnation. The Bible says: ***Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live*** (Exodus 22:18)

3. Trick or treating ... Among others, the Celts, Egyptians, Chinese felt that the spirits needed food on their journey from this world to the next. People would leave food out for them and if they forgot to leave anything out, the spirits would play tricks on them. People in later centuries would dress like the devils and witches, and ghosts and goblins and fairies they sought to ward off and beg for food.

4. Jack-o-lantern ... A blacksmith made a pack with the devil that would make him the best blacksmith in the world for seven years. In return, Satan would require Jack's soul. Jack hung a sign outside his shop proclaiming himself to be the master of all masters. One day Jesus and the Apostle Peter came to Jack's shop and performed many miracles, but it did no good and Jack was not converted. Peter then offered Jack three wishes.

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Wish # 1. Jack said when he told someone to climb a nearby pear tree, that person would have to stay there until Jack told him to come down.

Wish # 2. He wished the same things on his armchair and -

Wish # 3. his purse.

He used this to his advantage when Satan came at the end of seven years and required his soul. Jack would make Satan climb the tree, sit in his armchair and then shrink himself down and enter his purse. Each time the devil gave Jack seven more years for his freedom. However Jack eventually died and when he came before the gates of heaven Peter would not let him in because of his wicked life. So he went to hell and there Satan would not let him in either because he had tricked him. Before Jack was kicked out, he managed to scoop out a handful of the burning coals and these he place into a carved out pumpkin and was condemned to carry it on this earth forever to light his way. Jack's lantern or Jack - o - lantern.

As you can see, there is nothing that honors or glorifies God in the celebrating of this holiday. It is at best a time of idolatry that draws attention away from the King of Kings. At the very worst it is a day that honors and glorifies the god of this world leading men and women to sacrifice time, talents, tithe and worse to Satan.

*James 4:17*

*17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*

## WHY A BORN AGAIN CHRISTIAN SHOULD NOT CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN

1. While there is some difference of opinion as to the specific origins of the many Halloween traditions (jack-o-lanterns; costumes; trick-or-treating; bobbing for apples; association with ghosts, spirits, witchcraft, and death), it is undeniable and universally agreed that:

- All of these traditions are rooted in the beliefs and practices of pagan peoples.
- The pagan traditions were based upon "the signs of heaven" and were connected to various types of contact with the spirits of the dead.
- It remains an important and celebrated "holy day" for modern pagans and witches.

2. While there is nothing inherently wrong with eating candy or dressing up in costume (things we do on other occasions), the following scriptures leave

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no room for doubt as to the level of involvement that Christians should have in such a holiday.

**Jeremiah 10:2-3** *Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain...*

**Ephesians 5:11** *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.*

**2 Corinthians 6:14-17** *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and will receive you.*

**Deuteronomy 18:9-14** *When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee...For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the Lord thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.*

3. The fact that so many so-called Christians and so-called churches celebrate the holiday in spite of these truths reveals two things:

- Sadly, very few have sufficient knowledge of and/or interest in what the Bible says for it to have much of an impact on how they live their lives (Hosea 4:6; 2 Timothy 2:15).
- Many of those who may know what the Bible says are more interested in pleasing self (Romans 15:3; 2 Timothy 3:1-5) and/or being acceptable to society (Galatians 1:10; 1 Peter 2:9) than they are with pleasing the Lord (Revelation 4:11) and doing what is acceptable to Him (Psalm 19:14).

## Notes

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## Filling in the Gaps – Lesson 15 Halloween

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. What was the purpose of this Bible lesson?
2. What was the original name for Halloween?
3. What are you exposing you or your child to, when you are celebrating Halloween?
4. Who were the first people to celebrate Halloween?
5. Who was being honored when they celebrate Halloween?
6. What were some of the practices of celebrating Halloween?
7. Why should a born-again Christian have no part of this wicked holiday?
8. What name was given to Halloween to draw the Christians into the Church?
9. What was All Saints Day?

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10. What was the original origin of the pumpkin cut with a face and a candle inside?
11. Why were the candles lite and placed in the window?
12. What was the original significance of the bonfires?
13. Explain James 4:17 as it relates to this lesson.
14. Why is tarot cards, reading your horoscope so dangerous for people?
15. When you light candles and put them in your windows what are unclean spirits thinking?
16. Why was God so angry with Saul when he called on the witch at Endor?
17. Explain 2 Corinthians 6:14-17

**True/false**

- Dressing up my child to go out trick or treating on Halloween is harmless?
- Using Ouija boards and Yesyes boards are just harmless games for children.
- There are good witches and bad witches.
- Placing a pumpkin at your front door on Halloween is OK with God.

**Scripture memorization**

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James 4:17; Jeremiah 10:2-3; Ephesians 5:11

Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)

any questions?