



# Halloween - A Basis in Biblical History

Have you ever wondered about the origins of Halloween or as it is also sometimes called All Saints Day or in some cultures the Day of the Dead? Today's urban legend associates Halloween with the pagan practices of the Celts and Druids. Did Halloween, All Saints Day, or The Day of the Dead originate with the pagan customs of the Druids and Celts?

Actually the Day of the Dead or Halloween as it is commonly called today has its origins much farther back in history. In fact, it may surprise some to learn that this day has origins in Biblical history. Now before anyone gets the wrong impression let me say that when you learn the true origins of Halloween you won't be any more inclined to celebrate this day as a day of fun and frivolity. In fact, I would wager that you will never again look upon this day with anything but somber reflection and sorrow.

Assyria, Babylon, Egypt, Peru, Australia, India, Polynesia, Mexico and Europe all have ancient traditions concerning the Day of the Dead. Each of these cultures celebrates this day about the same time. While October 31st is the commonly accepted modern date, November 1st or in a few cases November 17th was more often associated with this day.

Many of these ancient cultures at various times began their new year on November 1st. For example the new year in Assyria began in the month Arahamna which is the equivalent to our October / November. In Egypt according to Plutarch the new year began in the month Athyr (Hathor) which was also equivalent to our October / November. In Europe All Souls Day / Day of the Dead in many places is celebrated on November 1st or 2nd depending on local traditions.

A consistent theme of all these celebrations is a remembrance of the dead. Some cultures mark the day simply in honor of the dead while others believe the dead come back to visit on this day. Lighting candles is associated with this later custom in order for the dead to be able to find their way back. Ancient Egypt provides some of the most descriptive accounts of the Day of the Dead and the destruction of mankind. "The Destruction of Mankind" as found in the Xth Dynasty Papyrus states the following: "

*".....God .....made heaven and earth at their desire. He checked the greed of the waters and made the air to give life to their nostrils They are His own images proceeding from His flesh ..... He slew His enemies and destroyed His own children because of their plots in making rebellion."* (Peterburg 1116A as translated by Dr. Alen H. Gardiner "Journal of Egyptian Archaeology")

In Dr. Ed. Naville's "Records of the Past" he translates a latter form of the Destruction of Mankind as found on the tomb of Seti I of the XIX Dynasty. In his translation Hathor is associated with the "Destruction of Mankind.

Haliburton as found in C.P. Smyth's "Life and Work at the Great Pyramid," Vol. II, p. 390 has this to say about ancient Mexico's tradition concerning the festival of the death. *"the festival of the dead was held on the 17th of November, and was regulated by the Pleiades.....They had a tradition that, at that time, the world had been previously destroyed, and they dreaded that a similar catastrophe at the end of a cycle would annihilate the race."*

In the XII and XIX Dynasties of Egypt the 17th of November (their month of Aythar or Hathor) oc-

curred as an alternate dating to the 1st of November. Plutarch also gives the 17th of November as an alternate dating on the Alexandrian calendar of his time. It is most interesting to note that the Pleiades which is commonly called the “7 sisters” was called the “7 Hathors” in ancient Egypt.

Halliburton as quoted by Smyth, shows that the Australian aborigines observed their Festival of the Dead when the constellation of the Pleiadas was most visible. The Pleiades was worshipped by them as the giver of rain.

According to the XIXth Dynasty narrative of the Destruction of Mankind it states the following: “*Ra ordered in the midst of the night to pour out the water of the vessels, and the fields were entirely covered with water ..... and there came the goddess (Hathor) at the morning, and she found the fields covered with water, and she was pleased with it and she drank to her satisfaction, and she went away satisfied, and she saw no men.....*” The account goes on to show that Ra commanded that “*Libations be made to her at every festival of the New Year.*” This new year being the 1st of Aythar (Hathor) or its alternate the 17th. (our November)

Almost every culture has an account of this great destruction of mankind. Whether it is called the Day of the Dead, All Saints Day, or Halloween each of these are different names for the commemoration in every culture of that great destruction. A destruction, it might be observed, that is associated in many of their accounts with water. In the Biblical narrative the destruction of mankind took place on the 17th day of the 2nd month. This destruction was caused by a great flood of water. Only Noah and his sons and their wives were spared.

Before the Exodus from Egypt, the Biblical calendar began in the fall of the year. (Sept/Oct) In Noah’s day the 17th day 2nd month would have been equivalent to our October 31st, November 1st or November 2nd. The ancient celebrations of the Day of the Dead, All Saints Day or Halloween are nothing more than a commemoration of the Biblical flood of Noah’s day.

How can those of us, who believe the Bible, spend this day in frivolity and fun? This day marks the single greatest destruction of mankind in recorded history. From a Biblical perspective this day commemorates the righteous judgment of our Creator on a sinful earth. Is this a day to be taken lightly? If this day that commemorates the sin and death of our ancestors is to be observed at all, wouldn’t it be better spent in sober reflection and repentance?

#### **Matthew 24:37**

*<sup>37</sup> But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

#### **Genesis 9:12-16**

*<sup>12</sup> And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: <sup>13</sup> I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup> And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: <sup>15</sup> And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup> And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.*

#### **Hebrews 10:28-31**

*<sup>28</sup> He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: <sup>29</sup> Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? <sup>30</sup> For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. <sup>31</sup> It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

#### **Colossians 2:4-8**

*<sup>4</sup> And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. <sup>5</sup> For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of you together with Christ. <sup>6</sup> As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: <sup>7</sup> Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. <sup>8</sup> Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit,*