

How PAGAN our language is. What God will do.



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This sermon will surprise you as we so often use the names of pagan gods and goddesses in our language – often without even realizing it. I list many common everyday words we use that are names of pagan gods. You will probably be surprised. So what are we to do? Some are insisting believers should eradicate all such words from their vocabulary. Is that even possible? What did Yeshua do? What does scripture say and do on the subject? How will our Father in heaven solve this problem? He has a plan. Find out what it is.

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Over the years, various groups and people have attempted to rid their language and speech of any reference to any false and pagan gods or pagan roots. Some even refuse to meet with other believers if they don't follow suit.

I've spoken in the past – several times – about how I don't celebrate pagan-based holidays such as Christmas, Easter, Halloween, Valentine's and others, but that's not what I'm covering today. I'm talking about trying to speak without referring to pagan gods and goddesses and things pagan. I'll submit that this could prove to be an almost impossible goal. Bear with me, and find out. I'll try to keep this message to the point and shorter than most of mine.

WHY cover this topic?

- Because some of you are going beyond what God's word tells us and even refusing fellowship with others because of your belief to never use words that most people don't even realize you are considering to be pagan words. So division is being caused by this. Plus, it leads to a "holier than thou" attitude and people judging each other.
- I also want to show that there will come a time when we all will have a pure language, without any detestable references to pagan gods, evil speaking or profanity. I'll show you the scriptures in a few minutes.

DOES SCRIPTURE use names of pagan Gods?

Whatever your understanding of any scripture you think says to never use a pagan god's name... let's see what scripture itself does.

There are over 30 pagan gods listed and mentioned in the Bible.

You readily know some of them are mentioned OFTEN – like Baal, Baal-Peor and other variants of Baal; Molech, Dagon, Amon (NOT to be confused with saying “Amen” at the end of a prayer), Diana of the Ephesians, Mercury, Milcom, Tammuz, Ashtoreth. Those are just a few of the more commonly known ones. But there are well over 20+ more! So the Bible cannot be telling us to never use a pagan god's name – because the Bible certainly does.

Even Jesus referred to Beelzebub, right? See Matthew 12:27.

So some of you get upset when people use words you deem to come from paganism – and yet Yeshua did! He said “Beelzebub”. How do you explain that? Or perhaps sometimes, some of us go to the extreme on some matters. Is that possible?

Yeshua even mentioned the arch-god of all pagans – Satan – by name! Several times. So I hope you're beginning to see that some of you may have been pushed into an extreme position on this topic. Scripture names them by name, dozens and dozens of times.

Get out a concordance and look up some of those pagan gods and goddesses' names – Tammuz, Baal, Dagon, Molech, etc. and you'll readily see my point.

First of all remember **pagan gods do not exist**. They're simply words and someone's imagination. So saying their name – like if you refer to the first planet as Mercury, a pagan god's name – saying the planet's name is not worshiping that non-existent god, nor does it give it any power.

I think you're going to be amazed in this sermon just how many times we all indirectly refer to pagan gods – and yet, what can we do about it? We're not even conscious we're mentioning a god's name when we say things like “good fortune”. So should we stop referring to “Thursday” or a planet named after them, like Venus or Mars? So let's examine this whole pagan language thing.

Then add to that – that many words we use have uncertain origins. Take the word “**luck**” as in “good luck” or “lucky”. Some claim it goes back to Lucifer! Most sources say it comes from uncertain ancient German or Dutch words. So who knows the source of so many words we use every day!?

Well-known WORDS from PAGAN GODS in our daily language

If we take the approach that we have to remove all mention of pagan words or gods from our vocabulary, how will you ever refer to the months of the year, or days of the week, or any of the planets? Let's take a closer look.

ALL the planets – except possibly ours -- are named after pagan gods. We use those names all the time when we speak of Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, Uranus. I think Pluto is no longer considered a true planet. Of course our sun itself – a smallish star – was worshipped as the sun god. Some feel even our English word “*ray*” may be connected to the pagan sun god Amon-Re, the worship of the sun god.

Of course some of our months are named after pagan gods, so we speak of **Janus** (January), **February** also comes from paganism, **Mars** (March), **April** –the roman god of new openings; **Juno**– (June), the goddess of weddings. August is after Augustus, when emperors were often considered gods. Now the current names of September – referring to the number 7 – was due to the fact that originally September was the 7th month. October was the 8th month, and so on, closer to the Biblical numbering of the months before the calendar was changed. So our Feast of Tabernacles often falls in September, as Tishrei of the Hebrew calendar is the Hebrew 7th month.

The days of the week (depending on your country) are named after ancient pagan gods, and no wonder it was the custom for Jews just to refer to “1st day, 5th day” and so on.

Sunday -- the day for the Sun. That sounds real Biblical, doesn't it?

Monday -- The day for the Moon god.

Tuesday is from the Germanic god TIU, the god of war and sky and associated with Tyr, the Norse god. It is also associated with Mars, the god of war.

Wednesday comes from the day for Woden, same as the Norse “Odin”.

Thursday comes from “the day for Thor”, the Norse god of lightning and thunder.

Friday -- named after the old English goddess Frige, often associated with Venus. Friday in olde English was “Frigedaeg”, the day of Frige.

Saturday – is simply the day for the pagan god Saturn. I recommend you do what the southern Europeans still do – and just call it the

sabbath (sabado in Spanish and Italian) – which we got from the Hebrew word shabbat, meaning “rest, stop”.

PAGAN NAMES GIVEN TO HEROES OF THE BIBLE

Now don't misunderstand. We live in this world. In order to communicate, we all do often use the pagan names. **Even Daniel and his three friends were renamed with pagan names, whose true meanings are still debated** (Daniel 1:6-7). But undoubtedly they were pagan originated names.

Remember **Esther** of the Bible? That was a pagan name. Her real Hebrew name was *Hadassa*, meaning “a myrtle”. Esther refers to “star”.

One of the additional apostles mentioned in the Bible was – **Apollos**. So there's another name from a pagan god. There's no indication people avoided using his name or that he changed his name. See Acts 18:24; 19:1.

How about NAMES we use – often come from pagan gods and goddesses, or pagan mythological hero stories. Names like, just to name a few, **Jason, Iris, Ira, Lydia (Lidia), Aphrodite, Helen (of Troy)** and many more. Let's include **Phoebe, Thea (Theia) and Rhea** – 3 titans of lore. What are you going to do? Rename your children, or change your own name? Or not speak the names of those with pagan god names?

What about major **cities? Paris** (of Helen of Troy fame) and **Athens** (Athena) for starters. Do you ever say those names? Of course you do, and of course you would. I hope I'm making my point.

LESSER KNOWN WORDS THAT MIGHT SURPRISE YOU

Then the gods' names and words from pagan stories even spill over into our everyday words and dialogue – like **Echo, Tantalize** (Tantallus), **Fortune** and fortunately, **cereal** from the goddess Ceres, **Insomnia** – from Somnus the god of sleep, equivalent to the Greek god of sleep – Hypnos. So “**Hypnotize**” –yep, it comes from paganism. **Harp**. Yep – from paganism. **Siren. Sprite**. Look them up. Interesting words which come from pagan lore and stories and gods and goddesses.

We wear **Nike** shoes, the pagan god of victory. Maybe some of you may buy Adidas or Sketcher instead now. So we **drive cars named after pagan gods** or pagan origins – Saturn, Taurus, Solstice, Mercury – and there are

probably more. I owned a Taurus once. I'm not saying you should get rid of your car! I'm just making a point.

Sometimes we're just not even aware how pagan our daily words are. So we use words like "erotic" – from the pagan god **Eros**. We might say your daddy is **narcissistic** – from **Narcissus** who enjoyed looking at himself and focusing on himself. So we even end up naming some of our flowers after the gods. Even our asters, come from ancient words meaning "star", similar to Esther.

We speak of the huge and strong **TITANS** – 12 pagan gods, children of Neptune and Gaea we're told. So when we say "titanic", we're referring to the titans. Six were males, six were females. Every time we say "**Ocean**" – we use the name of one of the 12 titans (Oceanus). How about **ATLAS**? One of the legendary titans who was punished for his insurrection and forced to hold up the heavens. Crazy story. But we use the word, right? You may have driven on Atlas tires. You may refer to an "atlas" for directions and maps. We also say he made a "herculean" effort... and guess what? That's referring to **Hercules**. Something "**mercurial**" – guess where that comes from. Easy, right? It comes from Mercury.

Are you beginning to see how pervasive and widespread the pollution of our very words, our very language, has been? It's not just in English. The words are similar in any of the "romance" languages – Spanish, French, Italian and so on. But I'll guarantee you that **ALL languages have been polluted**.

Languages – especially English – grow. They capture words from other places and incorporate them into English. So we speak of the boondocks – which came from the Filipino word for mountain, "Bundok" –and came into our language after the Philippine-American War around 1898-1900. And in the course of time, some pagan names got absorbed as well.

- She's quite "the dame" – French "dame" for woman. Notre Dame – Our Lady, referring to Mary. I could use hundreds more examples.
- No end of food names come from French, Greeks, etc – croissant, hor's deovre , gyros, brochette, and on and on.
- He got "shanghai'd" –referring to the awful practice of drugging and kidnapping men in bars in Portland and San Francisco and putting them on a ship to Shanghai (they needed sailors and workers).

- Even our word “**BLUETOOTH**” – comes to us from pagan King Harald “Bluetooth” Gormsson who united Denmark and Norway in 958 AD. He had a dead bluish-grey tooth, hence the nickname. When several tech industry leaders **like Nokia, Intel and Ericsson** wanted to have standardization in short range wireless technology, this word – Bluetooth – which originally was just a code name for the project, stuck. OK, for political and military reasons he “converted” to Christianity later on, but most historians say he remained truer to his pagan roots.

So what is OUR CREATOR GOING TO DO?

So how should we handle all this knowledge going forward? First understand, this is Satan’s world, not God’s world. Satan has completely messed everything up, including ALL languages. So one of the first orders of business for our Messiah will be to give us all a pure tongue. He confounded the languages at Babel, and he can undo that. He can give us all the pure tongue again. Untouched by paganism. With all the profanities removed. With all the filthy cuss words removed. With all references to pagan gods removed.

I personally believe it will be by divine fiat. It will just happen. We’ll all start speaking correctly – at least those peoples and nations who surrender to the rule of God-on-earth, Yeshua the King of Kings.

Zephaniah 3:9

“For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of YHVH, To serve Him with one accord. “

Other translations say he will “purify, turn” us to a pure language. I believe the divine intervention of languages at Babel (Genesis 10) will be reversed and we’ll have one pure language, from God once again. I don’t think we’ll have to go to school to learn this new language but we’ll be given it – like Adam and Eve were. It’s something our God does, not something we do. He does it for us – and the first reason that’s mentioned here for the change: that we may call on his rightful true name – YHVH -- and to serve him unitedly, with one accord.

You Jewish brothers and sisters – *your* Bible will say “that they may call on the name of Adonai” – but that’s NOT what the original says. Our Creator wants us to know and to use his rightful name, and part of the description of the new covenant in Jeremiah 31:31-34 is that EVERYONE will know YHVH (the LORD, or Jewish Adonai) and call upon his name YHVH. Everyone.

Yes the living God will scrub our speech of all references to pagan non-existent gods and goddesses. But not now – but when Messiah rules the earth. Daniel and his friends and the apostles all continued to function in their world and their day. In business, if you refused to use the names of the days of the week or the months – how would you function. How would you say “Let’s set our next appointment for Monday, June 4, 2018”? Really, are you going to say, “I’ll see you on 2nd day”, and then give the Hebrew calendar date? Come on!

Zephaniah 1:4-6

"I will stretch out My hand against Judah,
And against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

I will cut off every trace of Baal from this place,

The names of the idolatrous priests with the pagan priests —

5 Those who worship the host of heaven on the housetops;

Those who worship and swear oaths by YHVH,

But who also swear by **Milcom;**

6 Those who have turned back from following YHVH,

And have not sought YHVH, nor inquired of Him."

I urge you to hear my 2 part sermon on Our Creator’s NAME, if you haven’t already. I need to give an update those sermons. It’s also very clear, as I’ve taught for quite a while now – that the name YHVH can be easily proven to refer both to the One we know as God the Father(such as Psalm 110:1-2) *as well as to the one we know as Christ* the Son of God, the Word.

God the Father is God Most High. Yeshua is of the same type – part of the One God – but clearly is under authority to God the Father. Even a casual reading of **1 Cor. 15: 25-28** shows you that Christ will rule on earth until all are under his authority – and then he himself will turn everything over to the Father in heaven and be subject to God the Father.

Anyway, we’re getting a completely pure new language. Perhaps its one that has been around for untold millennia for all we know. We know there are “tongues of men and of angels” (1 Corinthians 13:1). I can’t wait.

Other extreme examples of words that some call “pagan”

In other words, believe it or not, some say even words used in our English Bibles are often connected to pagan origins. So some will say we shouldn’t even use these English words : “holy, god or God, church, amen, bless you” and so on, because some people out there have tied all these words to pagan roots. So some prefer to say “set-apart” instead of Holy.

But yes, you heard me right. Even the words “God” and “church” and “amen” are avoided by some people.

- Even the word “**Bible**” – some say comes from the pagan city “Byblos”, which housed many, many papyrus scrolls (books). Bible means “books”. It’s holy. So we say “Holy Bible”. But in the ancient coastal city of Byblos we’re told the Phoenician goddess of fertility – Biblia – was worshipped there. So some won’t say “Bible” – but say “Scripture” instead. **Don’t get hung up on it and be willing instead to wait for our King to change it when he returns.**
- These same folks will tell us not to say “**holy**” because it refers back, they say, to the sun’s glow and is part of sun worship. So the word “**halo**” also goes back to that, they say. Therefore so does the word “hallowed”. And from there they go on to say even the gold wedding ring is a picture of the endless sun, and endless love we are to have. So I know people who won’t wear a wedding ring now. Nonsense, folks!

God’s people wore RINGS, folks. The father of the prodigal son – put a ring on his son’s finger (Luke 15:22). There were rich church members with gold rings (James 2:2). Abraham’s servant gave Rebekah a gold nose ring and heavy bracelets (Gen 24:22). Joseph was arrayed in gold chains and ring (Gen 41:42). So let’s wake up out of this nonsense! If not, you could end up as a nervous wreck trying to decide if a word you’re about to use is pagan or not.

This wrong focus on words is nonsense in my opinion and takes us away from our true focus on Yeshua Our Messiah, our Saviour. Yes, Jesus our Christ.

For those of you who refuse to use words like “God”, or “Holy” or “Jesus” or even “amen” and “church” – if you want to be perfect on this score, you will also need to FIND, and then quit using, ALL the dozens and dozens of “English” words that come from paganism – or you’ll still be using pagan-originated words! I promise you, that project will be impossible to fulfill in this world and age. If you take that extreme view, you won’t be able to say echo, harp, fortunate, tantalize, insomnia, hypnotize, narcissistic or days of the week or months of the year and on and on. Don’t go overboard!

I submit that most of us have no CLUE how many dozens and dozens of words we each use every single day that come from paganism! You may feel good about not saying “Sunday” – but in the next breath say “fortunately” or some other pagan-originated word. What’s the difference?

And why attack good believers who don't take – what I feel is -- an extreme view? So I say we have to wait for Zephaniah 3:9 to happen.

DON'T MISS THE TRUNK OF THE TREE

Let me say this: all of this reminds me of what Yeshua said to the religious leaders of his day. "You're MISSING THE POINT". He said God has to draw us and open our minds. He said "you study the scriptures daily for in them you think is life, but you won't come to ME that you might have life" (John 5:39).

Don't get into the weeds! Stay on the main point. That is what this website is all about: focus on the light and focus on the ROCK that we build our house on – and that Rock is Christ! **(1 Cor. 10:4)**. He's our Light. He's our Rock. He's our Way. He's our Life. He's our truth. And here at Light on the Rock – we focus on Yeshua, our Light and our Rock, and on our Father, God Most High.

So many times people pursue "truth" – but get tangled up in the weeds – and lose sight of our beloved Savior! That's why I'm giving this message: to wake some of you up out of this distraction you're getting into. Get back to the Trunk of the tree, the true Vine – which is Christ (John 15:1-5).

I know people who have become so centered on this distraction that they've found that almost everything we do is rooted or can be traced back to ...paganism! Wedding cakes, cutting the cake, wedding rings, heart symbol, make-up, eye-liner or lipstick – the list is endless. But pagans also took baths and ate meat. But by that same logic some people use, that if something can be traced back to pagans, we shouldn't do it – then we need to quit taking baths and eating meat, since pagans took baths and ate meat. This would be ridiculous, of course.

You could go crazy trying to rid your life of anything connected to paganism. Folks, this isn't God's world ... yet.

John 17:16-18

"They are not OF the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have **sent them into the world.**"

We're sent into the world, but we're not "of it". Paul tried to find common ground wherever he could, remember. Come together. Don't let this keep you separated from other children of God.

Did you know even our word “**charity**” from the Greek word “Kharisma”. **Charis was a pagan goddess, the wife of Hephaistos, the fire god.** To this day, even the word “charred” means “burned”. See the connection? You’ll go crazy trying to decipher every word you use.

We say “**cloth**” – which comes from Clotho, one of **the 3 Fates** of pagan lore. She was the producer of the thread of life. One of the other 3 Fates was Atropos, who cut the thread of life, determining how long a person lived. We still speak of “**atrophy**”. We still say the word “fate” as in “as fate would have it”. Now that’s a phrase I don’t use. I believe God has everything to do with my life and it’s NOT up to “fate”. I don’t believe in the 3 fates. Very pagan.

Don’t be more righteous than Yeshua – who spoke the name Beelzebub. Don’t be more righteous than scripture – which refers to pagan gods’ names dozens and dozens of times.

Let’s let our Creator do it right. In the meantime, frankly when I say Jupiter or Tuesday, or echo – I never think of ancient pagan gods, nor am I worshipping them, nor am I lauding them.

Otherwise I will have to describe what I want to say. Imagine trying to describe “echo” if you don’t want to use that word.

Pidgin English was like that. There was no word in Polynesia for “piano” so it was described.

“Big black box, many white teeth, you bang him, him sing out”.

That was how they said -- “piano”.

Let’s wait, and let’s praise our God when it happens. And here and now, spend your time praying to Yeshua and Our Father and coming to know and love our God more than ever before. Stick to the trunk of the tree.

And let’s let God be God and change the language when HE deems it’s time.