

BETTER

12

STEPS TO
BETTER 2025

BIBLE STUDY NOTES



THE HOUSE OF HOPE
ATLANTA
4650 FLAT SHOALS PKWY
DECATUR, GA 30034
DR. E. DEWEY SMITH, JR.
PASTOR/TEACHER

Step 12: Pay It Forward

Pagan Origins of Christian Thought

2 Prominent Seasons in the Liturgical Calendar

- Advent
- Lent

1. Pagan origin of the Virgin Birth

- Virgin birth, immaculate conception, Parthenos (15- or 16-year-old, young maiden, pure sexually)
- Mary was a virgin
- Only Begotten Son (not through consummation)

Imputed Trespasses: inherited sin from our parents

Only Begotten son - not through sexual experience, not unique to Christian theology.

There are several birth narratives that predate Christianity

2. Triune or Triad - God, Son, Holy Spirit

- Zeus
- Egyptian
- Osirus
- Isis – Horas

Similar to the Virgin Birth: Black Madonna's - Virgin of Montserrat
La Moreneta- The Little Dark One

Other examples of Death Burial, and Resurrection besides Jesus

Shepards keeping watch over fields by night Spring March 25, April 5th
Corinius was the governor was to pay taxes

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3. How we got Christmas Date: Winter Solstice – festival of soul Invictus

Dec 17th -24th god of Saturn

Sol Invictus - Uncomfortable Sun

Son of God

Boltzmannian philosophy – take God out of Christianity

4. Christmas Trees

Shortest day of the year

While celebrating during Winter Solstice

Branches of evergreen to bring color and life. Would keep illness and demons away, this was a reminder the sun is going to come back out.

They celebrate in the winter in the dark times. Celebrate when it's still dark

14th-15th century the Germans adopted the idea of a winter solstice they made it more Christian.

Why y'all celebrating the pagan holiday: We celebrating the SON not the SUN

5. Easter:

OSTRE: Goddess She was depicted by a HARE (turned from bird to a rabbit and brought colorful eggs)

Celebrating fertility, and renewal

Celebrate Spring Equinox, lunar calendar

Easter eggs, painting the eggs (new life, and fertility)

Easter Bunny