

What Are THE ORIGINS OF HALLOWEEN?



Halloween, traditionally, was known as All Hallows' Eve, when the dead were remembered. Over time, it became cultural. For Americans, it has become extremely commercialized. We begin to see Halloween decorations in the stores several months in advance. Unfortunately, the emphasis on this commercialized holiday has shifted from the little cowboys and Indians to a much more evil, sinister and pointed attraction to all things hideous and pagan. It is a time definitely focused on the ugly, devilish and demonic. What are the origins of Halloween? Many believe the festival of Samhain to have been the beginning of the Celtic year. At Samhain, farmers brought livestock in from summer pastures and people gathered to build shelters for winter. The festival also had religious significance, and people burned fruits, vegetables, grain, and possibly animals as offerings to the gods. In ancient Celtic stories, Samhain was a magical time of transition when important battles were fought and fairies cast spells. It was a time when the barriers between the natural world and the supernatural were broken. The Celts believed that the dead could walk among the living at this time. During Samhain, the living could visit with the dead, who they believed held secrets of the future.

Scholars believe that Halloween's association with ghosts, food, and fortunetelling began with these pagan customs more than 2,000 years ago. Scripture gives us some principles on why Halloween is so devilishly demonic and ungodly. In Old Testament Israel, witchcraft was a crime punishable by death ([Exodus 22:18](#); [Leviticus 19:31](#); [20:6, 27](#)). The New Testament teaching about the occult is clear. [Acts 8:9-24](#), the story of Simon, shows that occultism and Christianity don't mix. The account of Elymas the sorcerer in [Acts 13:6-11](#) reveals that sorcery is violently opposed to Christianity. Paul called Elymas a child of the devil, an enemy of righteousness and a perverter of the ways of God. In [Acts 16](#), at Philippi, a fortune-telling girl lost her demon powers when the evil spirit was cast out by Paul. The interesting matter here is that Paul refused to allow even good statements to come from a demon-influenced person. [Acts 19](#) shows new converts who have abruptly broken with their former occultism by confessing, showing their evil deeds, bringing their magic paraphernalia, and burning it before everyone ([Acts 19:19](#)), truly repenting to God, turning from their evil demon-infested ways.

As a loving Father, God commands us to avoid things that can harm us. Concerning the spirit world, notice what God says to His people: "Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God." In addition to this command to avoid practices that pertain to evil spirits, God warned ancient Israel to avoid any kind of occult practices: "There shall not be found among you anyone who ... practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one

who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an ABOMINATION to the Lord.”
(Deuteronomy 18:10-12)