

Origins Of Christmas And Its Associated Traditions

Intro: This morning we will explore the origins of Christmas. Is Christmas a Christian holiday, or did it originate in pagan festivals? That's the question we would like to look at this morning. *Where did Christmas and the Associated Traditions—the tree, lights, ornaments, Santa, etc.—Originate?*

I. Origins of Christmas

A. Definition of Christmas

B. Pre-Christian Origins

Saturnalia—the winter festival

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

C. Christian Origins

1. Egyptian priests

2. Hippolytus

3. Sextus Julius Africanus

4. Emperor Constantine

5. John Chrysostom

Santa Claus

D. Secularization of Christmas

II. Origins of Santa Claus

A. Dutch immigrants brought “*Sinter Klaas*” to America where he became Santa Claus

B. Washington Irving

C. Clement Clarke Moore

D. Thomas Nast and the Coca-Cola bottling company

E. Robert May

III. Origins of the Christmas Tree and Decorations

* German immigrants brought the Christmas tree to America

Let's keep Christ in Christmas: share Christ's birth in Luke 2:1-20 with your family