

Who Is The Master of Christmas?

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Define: Master = a man who has people working for him, especially servants or slaves.

Who is the Master then of Christmas? Jesus or Santa? Am I dressed as Santa or as descriptions of God? Let's start off with Jesus and then we will meet Nicholas a Preacher who will soon be corrupted.

For starters, according to a study of the Bible, Jesus Christ was not born in December – but rather was born in September probably somewhere between 23-26 in the year 3 BC. Be that as it may, when Constantine the Great declared Christianity as the Official Roman State Religion he wanted the Church to replace pagan holidays with “Christian” observances and feast or fast days.

As the Catholic Church then began to flex its muscles, they declared a celebratory Mass to be held on the former Pagan Roman Holiday of Saturnalia – which by Constantine's time celebrated the birth of Mithra the Sun God on December 25. Thus the Catholic Church instituted the Christ Mass to be observed on December 25 back in 336 AD.

Some 10 – 15 years after that first Christ Mass, in a town called Myra in modern-day Turkey, a Catholic Bishop named Nicholas was persecuted and put to death. Nicholas was known to give gifts to poor children and is rumoured to have thrown 3 sacks of gold down a chimney so that a local man's 3 daughters would have a dowry and they could get married. His loss to the community was felt by all but his kindness in gift giving was not forgotten – nor were the 3 sacks of gold going down the chimney.

Years later some enterprising Italians supposedly used Nicholas' 3 bags to form 3 balls to advertise his Pawn Shop.

As time moved on, in the 13th Century Gregorian Chants began to be sung that celebrated the Birth of the Christ Child. By this time the Catholic Church and the Greek Orthodox Christian Church both awarded Nicholas a feast day. Both Churches styled him as Saint Nicholas. Saint Nicholas day became a day observed in Europe of placing candy, fruits and toys in the shoes of good children and putting lumps of coal in the shoes of bad children.

In the 16th Century in Europe, the stories and traditions about St. Nicholas had become very unpopular.

But someone had to deliver presents to children at Christmas, so in the UK, particularly in England, he became 'Father Christmas', a character from old children's stories (in Scotland he's more commonly known as Santa). In France, he was then known as 'Père Noël'; in Germany, during the Reformation in 16th-17th-century Europe, many Protestants changed the gift bringer from Sinterklaas to the Christ Child or *Christkindl* (corrupted in English to Kris Kringle). Later, German and Dutch settlers in the USA took the old stories of St. Nicholas with them and Kris Kringle became 'Sinterklaas' or as we now say Santa Claus!

St. Nicholas became popular again in the Victorian era when writers, poets and artists rediscovered the old stories this can almost all be traced to 1823 when the famous poem 'A Visit from St. Nicholas' or 'Twas the Night before Christmas', was published. A New York Doctor Clement Clarke Moore originally published it anonymously, but once it was seen to be a commercial success he later claimed that he had written it for his children. He described Saint Nicholas because of a Dutch Peddler he had seen....

The way we view Santa would be cemented during the War Between the States. With many Southern children having hardly no Christmas presents at all Abraham Lincoln called upon Thomas Nast the great propagandist to steal the Northern-originating Santa Claus and make him into the Yankee Claus thus on the cover of the January 3, 1863 issue of Harper's Weekly, one of the most popular illustrated periodicals of the Civil War era, Nast showed Santa visiting Union troops and handing out gifts. A star-spangled Santa – Fattened Uncle Sam if you will – sits atop a sleigh and shows a wooden doll that is none other than Confederate President Jefferson Davis – being HUNG.

Inside that same issue, Nast showed a woman on Christmas Eve praying for her husband at the foot of their child's bed in one porthole portrait as the companion porthole showed the soldier husband staring into a campfire and imagining the hearth of home. Above the two scenes, a tiny Santa climbs down a chimney in the upper left corner and later rides in his sleigh in the upper right corner.

Nast's imagery began to define what Santa looked like. It started again in 1864, as Nast drew a more hopeful and happy vignette. In one titled "Eve," we see Santa Claus weighed down by his sack of toys and smiling over children sleeping in their beds.

On December 31, 1864, Nast published another Christmas scene, but gave Santa the day off. Instead, a different bearded figure takes center stage—Abraham Lincoln. Surrounded by smaller Biblical scenes of forgiveness and reconciliation, Lincoln presides over the center scene, in which he extends a magnanimous arm to invite weary Confederate soldiers to join in "The Union Christmas Dinner."

Father Abraham plays the role of Father Christmas here to give the gift of forgiveness and peace to the war-torn country.

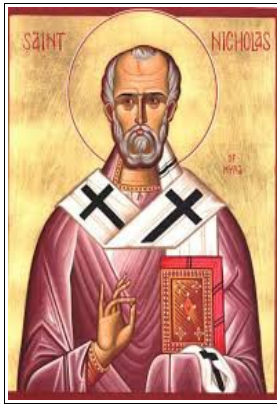
the Richmond Examiner attempted to do away with Santa stating: "Santa Claus is a Dutch Toy monger, an immigrant from England, a translated scrub into New York and New England who has no more to do with genuine Virginia hospitality and Christmas merrymakings than a hottenot." There is something I see here though folks – Yankees ordered churches closed – in the beginning – and that they ought not to hold Christmas services – yet in the South in Peacetime and Wartime – they attended Church on Christmas day (we at Danielstown Baptist have sought to reclaim that Southern Christmas tradition).

As the War ended and our dreams of Independence snuffed out, the Yankee creul hand came back that Christmas and slapped the South adding insult to injury. On Dec. 30, 1865, Nast presented his first post-war, post-Lincoln Santa scene. Santa reclaims his central position amidst scenes of holiday merriment—a return to normalcy after the surreal life under war – a normalcy if you're a Yankee. However, at the foot of the composition, Nast shows a stage of sorts peopled by uniformed Yankee soldiers and US Cabinet members. At the center of the scene at the bottom Santa presides, smiling approval as Ulysses the Giant Killer satnad over the Decapitated heads of Confederate Generals A. P. Hill, Robert E. Lee and Richard S. Ewell.

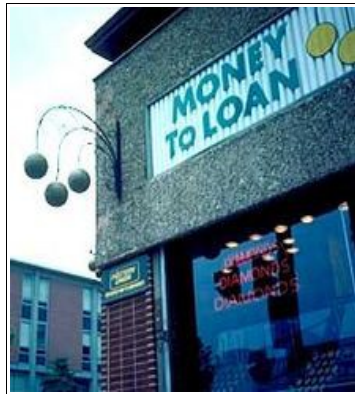
Clearly, you can see that someone deliberately created a Secular counterfeit to Jesus Christ, matching the many attributes of Jesus Christ with Santa Claus! There are too many direct matches for this creation of Santa Claus to have been an accident, or coincidental. We are told in Job 1:6-7 that Satan walks up and down on the Earth, as if it were a small garden plot completely under his domination. Satan can be thought of as a Master Marionette, pulling the strings on Earth. Certainly, in these Last Days, Satan would have wanted someone else to draw the attention, admiration, and love of the children away from Jesus Christ. But, not only that, Satan would have wanted to infect children early with that most devastating of spiritual diseases, the love of material things, and the **love of oneself** that goes with trying to get as many presents as possible!

Let's compare the two vying for our loyalty and service:

How a Preacher was Changed Into Yankee Propaganda and Became a Pseudo-Master of Christmas



St. Nicholas



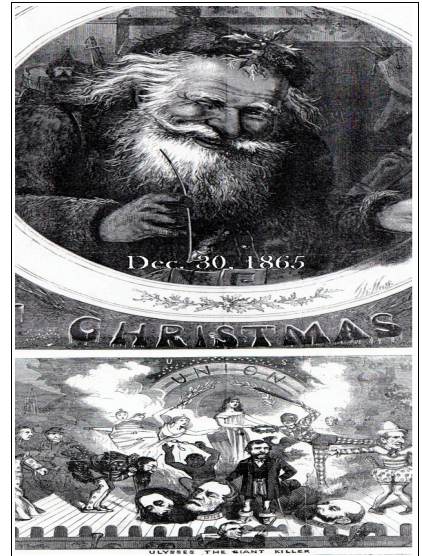
Pawnbroker's Symbol



Felix Darby's St. Nicholas (of PA)



Jan 3, 1863 (62) edition of *Harper's Weekly* an “Uncle Sam” dressed Santa Claus, “lynching” a toy of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Santa's enlisted in the Propaganda war against the CSA.



Dec.1863-Santa at Chimney & Seeing the Children.. Dec. 30, 1865-Santa looking on severed heads!