

Unmasking Your Eternal Destiny

The ancient Druids were not unique. People have always been afraid of the unknown and supernatural. People innately know that there is a heaven and a hell. Although they try to mask their fears, deep down they worry which one will greet them when they die.

Thankfully, in His Word, God has told us what will happen and has made this difficult point quite clear—all people will rebel against Him and His holiness and therefore are under His wrath. Isaiah 64:6 says: “All of us have become like one who is unclean, and our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment.”

How do we rebel against God? Every one of us rebel by rejecting Him—either by outright denial or by putting on masks. Sometimes we mask His holy perfection. Other times we mask our own sin and inadequacies. Yet God sees all.

Our rebellion is sin and it separates us from God. Isaiah 59:2 says: “Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear.” Because God is perfectly just, without His grace, this separation lasts forever.

But God, who is rich in grace and mercy, provided the way for us to be forgiven while fulfilling His justice. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be the Savior. Jesus lived a perfect life, suffered the punishment for sin and on the third day He rose from the grave!



Because of His love for us, Jesus willingly became the guilt offering for sin! Isaiah 53:10 explains: “The Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief, if He would render Himself as a guilt offering.”

When we believe and trust only in Christ’s death on the cross for our salvation, we are forgiven. Romans 4:5 says: “To the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness.”

Scripture urges you to repent of your sin and surrender to Jesus as the Lord of your life! Romans 10:9 promises: “If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.”

Finally, get to know your Lord through regular prayer, faithful study of His Word, and involvement in a good Bible-teaching church so that God can use you for His glory and your joy!

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PRESENTS...

THE MASK



What are the origins of Halloween?

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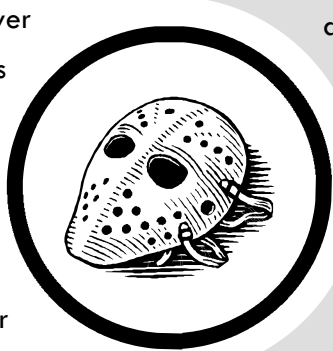
What is the Origin of Halloween?

Halloween is not a new holiday! Although shrouded in mystery, it likely began over 2,000 years ago with the Celtic Druids who lived in Ireland, Great Britain, and France. Some of the origins of Halloween are thought to be rooted in their customs.

The Druids believed that November 1st brought the end of summer and harvest. It also signaled the beginning of the cold, dark winter. According to their beliefs, this day marked the time when the boundary between the living and the dead became its thinnest—so thin that the dead could freely cross the barrier into the living. The people feared that once the dead returned to the living world, they would terrorize the countryside!

In order to escape the threat of these spirits, many Celts dressed up as devils, ogres, and imps with the hope that the demons would be unable to distinguish between the living and the dead.

The Druids believed that ghosts (or just people wearing costumes) would visit homes to play pranks on them—but if given a treat, these pranksters would spare their homes and move on.



What is the Most Dangerous Mask?

The ancient druids wore masks out of fear and attempted to disguise and protect themselves. To this day, we continue their tradition and still wear masks. Of course we don't believe all the superstitions of the druids, but we may still be in danger. You see, there is one mask that we put on that is more dangerous than all others. It determines how we act, think, and can even affect where we will spend eternity.

This is not a mask that we put on *ourselves*, instead we put it on God. We cover God with a mask to make Him fit an image that makes us feel more comfortable, one which we prefer. When we do this, we distort God and sabotage our ability to understand Him, ourselves, and eternity. So, what kind of masks do we put on God? Here are a few of the most common:

The Docile Mask: This mask says that God is a placid old man who just winks at sin. In Romans 2:5, the Lord says otherwise: "But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God."^{*}

The Stern Mask: Instead of being too kind, some people make God into a judgmental ruler who is just out to ruin our fun. Yet, Psalm 16:11 shows that our fullest joy is found in the Lord: "In Your presence is fullness of joy; in your right hand there are pleasures forever."

The Chameleon Mask: This mask changes the true God to reflect whatever any particular religion says about Him. The Bible is clear, however, that there is no salvation apart from Jesus. Acts 4:12 says: "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."

The Teacher Mask: Many people think that God grades on a curve—if their actions are generally good, then they will get a passing grade and enter Heaven. James 2:10 refutes this by showing that even one sin has eternal consequences: "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all."

The Maitre d' Mask: Sometimes people mistakenly think that God will usher everyone into Heaven. Matthew 7:13 says that many will not be saved: "Wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it."