Historical Timeline Involving Christmas

An overwhelming majority of sources agree that Christmas was almost entirely influenced by pre-Christian pagan celebrations. This timeline shows important events that affected how Christmas began and how it was viewed throughout history.

- Recorded Bible History. No mention of Christmas. No mention of any holy person celebrating a birthday—only sinners (like Pharoh and Herod). (Gen. 40:20; Matt. 14:6; Mark 6:21-28; John 18:36)
- Period of Biblical writings about the earthly life of Jesus Christ. No mention of his date of birth; nor its being celebrated by his 12 apostles.
- Period where Mithraism (syncretic Hellenistic mystery religion) was practiced in the Roman Empire. Mithras was a Roman soldier god whose legendary birth (as some stories go) resembles the birth of Christ (being born of a virgin in the presence of shepherds). Devotees of Mithra (say the Catholic Encyclopedia) celebrated the birthday of the invincible sun (Dies Natalis Solis Invicti) on December 25. L. M. Wright, author of "Christianity, Astrology, and Myth" 2002; suggests that the early Christian Church was influenced by much of the myth and symbolism of Mithraism.
- No mention of Christmas or any celebration of Christ’s birthday for hundreds of years after Jesus & his apostles died. The book Sacred Origins of Profound Things states: “For two centuries after Christ’s birth, no one knew, and few people cared, exactly when he was born.” Thus birthday celebrations, even of gods and leaders, were condemned as far as the late third century by Roman Catholic leaders.
- The cult of Sol Invictus was the Roman Empire’s leading official cult of the fourth century. (Wikipedia)
- History of Sun worship. Began in ancient Babylonia (between 2289 BCE and 2030 BCE) by worshipping the sun god Shamash & Nimrod (parallels exist between Babylonian New Years & Christmas celebrations - historian Pinfort in The Englishman’s Christmas).
- All Religions (including formerly persecuted Christianity) in Roman territory were legalized. It took nearly the entire 4th century for the Roman empire to transition State Religion from pagan cults to Christianity. The merging of cultic tradition with Christianity greatly assisted in this transition.

1. 1 – 100 = 1st century
   101 – 200 = 2nd century
   201 – 300 = 3rd century
   301 – 400 = 4th century
   401 – 500 = 5th century
   501 – 600 = 6th century
   601 – 700 = 7th century
   701 – 800 = 8th century
   801 – 900 = 9th century

2. 9th Century Christmas traditions spread to branches of Protestants during the Protestant Reformation

3. 16th Century Christmas traditions spread to branches of Protestants during the Protestant Reformation

4. 1836 Alabama became 1st U.S. state to legalize Christmas

5. 19th Century Commercialism revived Christmas. 1843 Charles Dickens wrote "A Christmas Carol" 1843 Christmas Cards originated in London.