



# **Cupid's Dangerous Darts**

## **Truth about Valentine's Day -**

By Daniel Rendelman

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According to the National Retail Federation, this year's Valentine's Day will continue the tradition of spending billions to spread love. Popular gifts like candy, flowers, jewelry, and cards will cost the average man \$163.37, compared to an average of \$84.72 spent by women. (Doesn't this seem a little ridiculous?) Children of course will send Valentine's cards to their classmates. And Americans will purchase more than 46 million heart shaped boxes of chocolate in celebration of cupid. Valentines Day is so sweet! Sweet and toxic.

The holiday seems harmless and wonderful but dangers lurk in this pagan love feast. The Encyclopedia Britannica explains, "This holiday has its origin in the Roman festival of Lupercalia, held in mid-February. The festival, which celebrated the coming of spring, included fertility rites and the pairing off of women with men by lottery.." Thousands of years ago, On February 15, Romans celebrated Lupercalia, honoring Faunus, god of fertility. Men would go to a grotto dedicated to Lupercal, the wolf god, located at the foot of Palatine Hill. Here, the Romans believed that the founders of Rome, Romulus and Remus, were suckled by a she-wolf. These men would sacrifice a goat, wear its skin, and run around, hitting women with small whips, an act which was supposed to ensure fertility.

The *Encyclopedia Americana* states the custom of exchanging valentines was "handed down from the Roman festival of the Lupercalia, celebrated on the 15th of February, when names of young women were put into a box and drawn out by men as chance directed."

Later, the Catholic Church replaced Lupercalia with St. Valentine's Day. History shows that early church policy was to incorporate pagan celebrations. Instead of just banning these ancient satanic religions, the Catholic Church adopted evil practices into the Christian faith. A story was fabricated about a martyred Catholic priest who would sign his letters, "with love from St. Valentine." Today, we have the mixture of a Roman festival, savvy retail marketing, and a false story of a patron saint. Valentines Day is no longer part of the liturgical calendar of any church.

This day was dropped from the Catholic calendar in 1969 and not surprisingly has returned to its original pagan roots of unbridled love making. The Bible says to “take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, rebuke and expose them,” Ephesians 5:11.

Mythology teaches that Venus was the mother of Cupid, whose name means “desire.” Nimrod's mother, Venus desired / lusted after her own son. That is why she is called the goddess of sexual immorality - she had relations her own son. Their twisted sexuality is the object of Valentine's Day as their relationship was consummated on February 14. Cupid can also be traced back to the evil man Nimrod, who built the tower of Babel in Genesis 10. Nimrod / Cupid was a mighty hunter with bow and arrows. His vicious rebellion against the Almighty continues with Valentine's Day.

The history and origin of modern practices and holidays should be an issue to Bible believers. Pagan holidays, like the love feast Valentine's Day, should be avoided. Zephaniah 1:8 says, “On that day of judgment," says the LORD, "I will punish the leaders... and all those following pagan customs." Love is wonderful but Valentine's Day is like a tainted candy with deadly poison. "Deal as sparingly as possible with the things the world thrusts on you. This world as you see it is on its way out," 1 Corinthians 7:3.