

Dear Helen,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You asked, where in the Bible does Jesus say, "I am as a pine tree in your home?"

Since you and we know that there is no such statement in the Bible, we assume that your question is a bit sarcastic. It is well recognized today that the custom of setting up a tree in the home at Christmas stems from pagan practices. In ancient pagan cultures the evergreen tree was considered special because it held its leaves throughout the long winter. It was an obvious symbol for the winter solstice of the endurance of life through the cold and dark winter months. Today even though the Christmas tree has nothing to do with Jesus or the Bible, it, nevertheless, adorns the homes of most Christians and is also present in many churches. The evergreen tree has become both a secular and religious symbol for Christmas.

Over the years there have been a number of Christian groups that have opposed the use of Christmas trees due to their pagan origins and have cited the words of the prophet Jeremiah to defend their position. "For the customs of the peoples are worthless; they cut a tree out of the forest, and a craftsman shapes it with his chisel. They adorn it with silver and gold; they fasten it with a hammer and nails so it will not totter. Like a scarecrow in a melon patch, their idols cannot speak; they must be carried because they cannot walk." (Jeremiah 10:3-5) During the time of Jeremiah (many years before Jesus appeared on the scene) pagans would cut down trees from which they carved likenesses of gods or goddesses, then decorated them with precious metals, and brought them into their homes to be worshipped. Jeremiah warns the Jewish nation about abstaining from such practices and worshipping the one true God. "But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God, the eternal King." (Jeremiah 10:10) Some modern Christians draw a correlation between the current Christmas tree tradition and the ancient pagan practice of worshipping idols made from trees, and, thereby, condemn the use of Christmas trees. However, there is only a remote similarity between the modern day Christmas tree and the wooden carvings brought into the pagan homes for worship. Whether one chooses to have a Christmas tree in their home or not, we feel, is a matter of personal choice even though the tree has nothing to do with Jesus' birth and has no religious significance.

We hope we have answered your question. Be sure to sign up for CQ Rewind at [www.christianquestions.net](http://www.christianquestions.net). The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

Sincerely,

**Christian Questions Radio**