

## Easter - 2000 B.C. to Date

“Prove all things.” (2 Thess. 5:21)

Is the name “Easter” of divine origin simply because it is found in our Bibles, in the King James translation of Acts 12:4 - “...intending after **easter** to bring Him forth”? “After the **passover**,” is given in the original. IN reading the following lines every honest mind will be able to discern whether or not hte celebration of Easter and also Christmas has divine sanction.

We search our Bibles in vain for any authorization of celebrating the resurrection of Christ. The setting of different dates for Easter from year to year is explained thus, in Schaff-Herzog Ency. of Religious Knowledge, Vol. 2, p. 682: “The present variable time was appointed by early Romanism in amalgamation with the very ancient pagan spring festival to the goddess of spring. It was fixed on the Sunday immediately following the 14th day of the paschal **moon** which happened on or first after the vernal equinox.” Please note Col. 2:16, “Let no man judge you in meat or in drink, or in respect of an **holy** day, or of the **new moon**, or of the sabbath.” Spiritual Christians do not celebrate the resurrection of Christ, they **demonstrate** it.

The Babylonian “quen of heaven,” Semeramis, the wife of Nimrod, was the original impersonation of the heathen goddess, Asarte and Venus of the Greeks, Juno, of the Latins, Ashtoreth, of the Zidonians, **Ishtar**, of the Babylonians, and **Eostre**, the goddess of spring, of the early Anglo-Saxons. The Druids held religous festivities in her honor and of the sun-god in April, calling it “**Easter Monath**.” Hence the careless insertion of the word “easter” instead of “passover” in Acts 12:4 by the King James translators. It is a blot inexcusable on their otherwise excellent work.

This Ishtar, or Eostre, was worshipped as the goddess of love and fertility, and as the life of nature. In Babylonish mythology this “queen of heaven” was worshipped as the goddess of the sexual impulse. In Hasting’s Ency. of Religious Ethics p. 117, we read of these ancient “easterners”: “A spring feast was celebrated. These occasions were marked with great sexual license.” This is the vile Phallic worship referred to in Isa. 57:5-8 and Ezek. 16:17. The “groves” connected with the “high places” that Israel so frequently “went a whoring with” (Psa. 106:28:39) were the images and places where these filthy “queen of heaven” festivals were carried on. The word “groves,” found forty times in our English Bible, comes from the Hebrew word “Asherah” and is always associated with the worship of Ashtoreth, alias Ishtar, Eostre, the goddess of spring.

The so-called “Lent season” is of purely Babylonish origin. The word “Lent” came from the Saxon word “Lenct,” meaning “spring.” Pagan Mexicans also celebrated forty days in April. Forty days in the vernal equinox in April was celebrated by the devil worshippers of Koordistan in honor of the sun-god. This was brought from Babylon

where 2000 B.C. it originated in the weeping for Tammuz, the supposed reincarnation of Ishtar's (or Semeramis') husband (Nimrod). In the spring his **death** and **reappearance** was celebrated. A time of **mourning** was followed by one of joy. God condemned Israel's partaking in this celebration as given in Ezek. 8:13, 14, "He said unto me, Turn thee yet, again and thou shalt see greater abominations that they do. Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the Lord's house which was toward the north, and behold, there sat woman **weeping for Tammuz.**"

## MODERN EASTER CUSTOMS

One may well ask, What connection have buns, eggs, rabbits, and new clothes with the resurrection of Jesus Christ the Lord of glory? The origin of modern "hot cross buns" is sufficiently explained in Jer. 7:18; 44:17-19: "The children gather wood and the fathers kindle the fire and the women knead their dough, to make **cakes to the queen of heaven** and to pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger." Surely God's anger is still being provoked when Christians take up these heathen customs in connection with the resurrection of His beloved Son.

The custom of giving **eggs** in April can be traced to the philosophy and theology of the Egyptians, Persians, Gauls, Greeks and Romans, among whom the egg was an emblem of the universe - the work of the supreme Being. The dyeing of eggs can be traced to the Chinese. Eggs were the sacrificial emblem of the Druids. Rome made the egg to become the consecrated emblem of Christ's resurrection. Pope Paul V taught people to pray at Easter: "Bless O Lord, we beseech Thee this Thy creature of eggs that it may become a wholesome sustenance unto Thy servants, eating it in remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Ancient Babylonians believed an egg fell from heaven into the Euphrates river and the fishes rolled it to the shore where the doves hatched out "the Queen of Heaven," or Ishtar. Hence the egg became a symbol, the licentiously worshipped goddess of the ancients, and is used today by deluded, unthinking Christianity in its celebration of Easter. What an ungodly travesty!

The **rabbit** fad at Easter time can be traced back to pagan Germany. Children were told that if they were good, a white hare would steal into the house while they were asleep and secrete any number of beautifully **colored eggs** in odd corners of the house. Here then originated the modern "Easter **egg hunt**" provided for innocent children. Any custom or pastime that takes the child's mind away from the glorious truth of the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, through which He conquered Satan, death, hell and the grave, pleases Satan well.

The hare, from ancient times was a symbol of the moon, it being a nocturnal animal. The hare is the only rabbit born with its eyes open. The Egyptian word for hare is "un,"

meaning “to open.” Thus the hare was associated with the opening of a new season, spring, in April, at the vernal equinox. The hare and eggs were mutually symbolical in Egypt of the opening of their new year, at which time eggs were ceremoniously broken.

But whence the customs of wearing **new clothes** at Easter? Answer: In early England it was considered **unlucky** not to wear some **new** article of clothing at Easter time.

Lastly, what about Easter **sun-rise services**? Do they, too, come under divine condemnation? Regardless of how or when they started, we need only to look to the criterion of God’s holy Word, for “faith cometh by **hearing** and hearing by the Word” and “whatsoever is **not** of faith is **sin**.” (Rom. 10:17; 14:23). Hebrews 11:6 states that without faith it is impossible to please God. It is also true that without **tradition** it is impossible to please **men**. “God is a Spirit and they that worship Him in spirit and in truth” (the truth of God’s Word), we read in John 4:24.

When God’s people, Israel, took to the idea of “sun-rise services,” God expressed His disapproval in Ezek. 8:15-18: “Turn thee yet again and thou shalt see greater abominations than these. And he brought me into the inner court of the Lord’s house and behold, at the door of the temple of the Lord between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men with their backs to the temple of the Lord and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east ... and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.” Reading this in God’s Word and knowing that the sun-god, Baal, or Tammuz, the “husband-son” of Semeramis (Ishtar) has been given idolatrous homage from the very beginning of all idol worship, the spiritual, God-fearing Christian will have not part with a Christ-rejecting world in seemingly innocent and sentimentally “beautiful” Easter sunrise services or in any and all Christ-deflecting customs which are of proved, Satan inspired, pagan origin.

Christians should “not follow a multitude to do evil.”

“That which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.” (Luke 16:15)

“Be ye not conformed to this world but be ye **transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that ye may know what is that good and acceptable and perfect (complete) will of God.” (Rom. 12:2) See also 2 Cor. 6:14-18; 7:1,2.

In 2 Tim. 2:8 we are told to “remember that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead,” but “days and months and times and years” are not to be religiously observed. (Gal 4:10, 11) Christ, as “Sun of Righteousness” will soon return from heaven. Are you looking for Him, reader?

The apostle Paul acknowledged that he had much “religion” (like multiplied thousands today) but that he was a lost soul until he obtained “through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.” (See Gal. 1:13-16; Phil. 3:4-10.)

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received and wherein ye stand; by which also ye have received and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I have preached unto you unless ye have beleived in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures; and that He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve.”

“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting live; and he that believeth not on the Son shall not see life but the wrath of God abideth on him.” (John 3:26)

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