

# *The Easter Question*



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## **Introduction:**

*The Purpose for this booklet is to shed some light on the difference between Easter and the Resurrection. Many christians feel these are one and the same. They are not. Easter is celebrating a pagan holiday and has nothing to do with the Resurrection of Christ. This booklet quotes numerous authors as they show the origins and history of Easter.*

*The term 'Easter' is found in the KJV Bible.*

**“And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.”**

**Acts 12:4**

*(1) This is an unfortunate translation. This is a good example of how the translators did not always do a good job when they were translating. The Greek word translated Easter here is: “Pascha”. It is the word for ‘Passover’. It is found 28 other times in the New Testament. All of the other times it is translated ‘Passover’. Only in Acts 12:4 is it translated Easter. This is a bad translation of the word ‘Pascha’ in Acts 12:4.*

*(2) Other scholars say this is a correct translation because it isn't referring to christians, but rather King Herod celebrating what was likely Easter, and not Passover. Even though that observation is probably correct, my sources say the original word in the Greek was ‘Pascha’, which is always translated Passover.*

*The main reason for bringing this to our attention is that some christians say that Easter is in the Bible, therefore we should celebrate it as Easter. Well they're right, it is in the KJV. However, whichever view you take of why it's there - it's clear that Herod was celebrating it. Easter is not a christian celebration.*

*My goal here is to shed some light on the whole celebration of Easter and it's origins. To make this easily understood, I will give a brief summary of the History and Traditions of Easter. Followed by writings concerning the subject from three authors.*

**If you really want the truth on this subject, I would strongly encourage you to read all three articles. Each author brings out different aspects and applications of Easter. It's worth reading. that's why I included all three of them in the booklet.**

**Traditions of Easter - Brief Summary**

\*\*\*\*\* These are laid out in detail in the 3 articles at the end of this booklet.

**Sun Worship & Worship of Tamuz:** Started in Ancient Babylon under Nimrod. Nimrod was declared to be god.

**Tower of Babel:** Erected in Nimrod's honor. He was proclaimed the Father of the ancient Babylonian sun-god worship. This tower is what Jews believe is being referred to as the 'Image of Jealousy'. (Ezekiel 8:5)

**Beltus, or Semiramus:** Nimrod's widow. When Nimrod died, he became the Babylonian sun-god. He impregnated her with himself, (reincarnation) with the rays of the sun. Through this she gave birth to a son of god. (Or god himself) His name was Tamuz. He was to have been born on December 25th.

**Worship of Tamuz:** Ezekiel 8:11-16.

**December 25th:** Rah, (the Egyptian sun-god) was also born on this day. Mythia, (the Roman sun-god) was also born on this day. Zeus, (the Greek god) was proclaimed to be god in the temple in Jerusalem on this day.

**Tamuz killed:** He was gored to death by a wild-bore on a hunting accident when he was 40 years old. As a result, the 40 days of weeping for Tamuz, (his death) - 1 day for each year of his life - were instituted. The purpose was for the worshippers to deny themselves of a pleasure in this life for the sake of a pleasure for Tamuz in the after-life.

**Eastre:** When Tamuz mother (known as Beltus, or Semiramus) died, she was eventually sent back to earth as the goddess of the sun-god - Nimrod. She was sent back from heaven on the 1st Sunday after the first full moon after the Vernal / Spring Equinox. (Easter Sunday) She landed in a giant egg in the Euphrates River. When the egg cracked open, out came 'Eastre'. (English spelling is 'Easter'. In scripture she is also known as Ishtar, and Ashtoreth.) She emerged as the goddess of sexual desire. She showed she was a god by changing a bird into an egg-laying rabbit.

**Celebrating Easter:** Virgins were impregnated on the altar of Eastre at the Easter sunrise service. One year later (Easter Sunday) the babies were sacrificed on the same altar they were conceived on. Eggs were dyed in the blood of the babies to celebrate and honor 'Easter' (Eastre - the goddess of sexual desire) Hence, the origin of colored Easter Eggs.

**Weeping for Tamuz:** The 40 days of weeping for Tamuz culminated on Easter Sunday. That 40 day period of self-denial is now called 'Lent'. As part of the culmination of weeping for Tamuz, the sun-god worshippers would take revenge on the wild bore that killed Tamuz. This was done

*by killing a bore and eating it on Easter Sunday. Thus, the origin of eating ham on Easter Sunday.*

**Traditional Easter:** *Celebrates the pagan sun-goddess 'Easter'. ('Eastre')*

**Christ's Death & Resurrection:** *It coincides with the Jewish Passover Feast. It has nothing to do with our Traditional Easter.*

**Jesus Birth:** *When looking at the Feasts, which represent the major time frames and works of Jesus, it is believed his birth coincides with the Feast of Tabernacles which is in the fall of the year. It's in the end of September or early October. Very likely, Jesus was not born on December 25<sup>th</sup>. So we don't believe his birthday is the same day as the other pagan gods.*

**Good Friday:** *A simple look at the prophecy of Jesus and the timing of Good Friday to Resurrection Sunday will show you that Good Friday can't be the day Jesus was crucified. Jesus said he'd be in the earth 3 days and 3 nights. Do the math. Good Friday doesn't fit.*

*So what is Good Friday all about? Friday was the pagan day honoring the fish god Dagon. Scripture speaks of Dagon, the fish god. Michael Rood describes for us the pagan practice surrounding Dagon: In later years "Good Friday", the day that the Philistines sacrificed to Dagon, the Philistine fish god, also became an integral part of the Easter pageantry (if you are over 40 years of age, you will recall eating fish on Friday in the public school system in America). This entire menagerie of satanic festivities is the pinnacle of the abominations that God had pronounced to the Children of Israel before they entered the Promised Land.*

*(John Michael Rood, The Mystery of Iniquity, Chapter 8)*

**Hot Cross Buns:** *Did you know they pre-date Christianity? They were tied in with what we now know as Good Friday. They are found in Chaldean worship rites, as well as the Buns marked with a cross were made in honor of and used in the worship of the Goddess Eostre. (Easter) The cross symbolizes the four quarters of the moon and has nothing to do with christianity.*

**Concluding Thoughts:**

*There are two things that bother me concerning christians celebrating Easter:*

- (1) The obvious: It's a Pagan, Ungodly Holiday.*
- (2) We are so accepting of it.*

*I think the acceptance of it comes from not knowing the truth. However, now that we do know, we must guard against removing the power of the 'Word of God' by following traditions rather than the truth.*

**“You have observed the statutes of Omri and all the practices of Ahab’s house, and you have followed their traditions. Therefore I will give you over to ruin and your people to derision; you will bear the scorn of the nations.”**

**Micah 6:16 - NIV**

**“You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.” And he said to them: “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!”**

**Mark 7:8-9 - NIV**

**“Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.’”**

**Matthew 15:6b-9 - NIV**

*The further into the last days we move, the thicker deception will become. Part of seeing and being free of future deception involves dealing with any deception as we become aware of it.*

*Christians have been deceived with the traditions and religious celebration of Easter.*

*To correctly prepare the next generations to recognize deception and turn from it, we need to set the example. Dealing with Easter correctly is an opportunity to do just that.*

## Which Day Chosen for Easter?

*As you will notice, there is a huge discrepancy this year between the day set as 'Easter', and the day set as 'Passover'. Why is this?*

### The Timing of Easter Sunday

*Most of us are aware of the fact that Easter Sunday falls during a different week each year; but many of us are unclear as to the tradition and system for the placement of Easter on the calendar. Why does it fall on March 23 this year, but during late April another year?*

*Dr. Mark Nickens of Averett University offers the following explanation, dating back to the 4th century-- with due recognition to the full moon, the vernal equinox and the Jewish calendar:*

*Within a hundred years of Jesus' resurrection, Christians were already at odds over when to celebrate that event. The main twist involves those who wanted to celebrate Easter on the day Jesus arose, a Sunday, and those who wanted to celebrate it on Passover, regardless of which day it fell during the week.*

*This early disagreement went by the unusual name of the Quartodecimian Controversy. Those holding to this view believed Easter should be celebrated on the same day as the Jewish Passover. The origin of the name is actually simple. The Passover always occurred on the Jewish date of Nisan (or Nissan) 14. Thus the name, Quartodecimian, was derived from the number 14 ("quartus" or 4 and "decimus" or 10).*

*The Passover itself always occurred on a full moon. But how did the Jews ensure that Nisan 14 would fall on a full moon? Because the Jews used a lunar calendar and not a solar calendar. Our solar calendar measures the time it takes the earth to rotate around the sun once. But the Jews used a lunar calendar, one month being the time it takes the moon to go around the earth once. The first day of a Jewish month was the day following a new moon (when the moon is completely dark). That way 14 days after the new moon was always a full moon; therefore the 14th of Nisan—or of any Jewish month—was always a full moon.*

*So the Quartodecimian Christians—who mainly lived east of Italy in Asia Minor—wanted Easter celebrated on the same day as the Passover, no matter on which day of the week it fell. But this caused a problem because many Christians in the West—think Europe—wanted Easter celebrated only on a Sunday, the actual day on which Jesus arose. We can date this controversy to the year 155. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, traveled to Rome in that year to discuss certain issues with Pope Anicetus; included was the differences in the dating of Easter.*

*Polycarp was a Quartodecimian. He tried to persuade Anicetus to make this dating scheme standard in the European churches but Anicetus declined to enforce this. Yet Anicetus did not force the Quartodecimians to change their practice.*

*So Easter from early on was celebrated at different dates in different parts of Christianity. A Church Council was called in 325 to deal with different issues in the early church, among them the dating of Easter. In order to standardize the date of Easter, the decision was made to establish Easter on the first Sunday after the full moon after the vernal equinox (March 21). This solution satisfied both sides, those wanting to celebrate Easter on a Sunday and those wanting to celebrate Easter on a full moon (or close to it) such as when Jesus resurrected.*

*And this year, (2008) the full moon after the vernal equinox is on March 21. Easter is on March 23 and in 2011 Easter is on April 24!*

*However, you probably guessed it, there is a deeper story behind what the church did to set the date of Easter. It goes all the way back to the Babylonian Empire, Nimrod and his wife Semiramis. You will read the story in the 3 articles which describe the origin of Easter later in this booklet. Briefly, let me say that Ishtar (Old Testament - Ashtoreth) whose name was pronounced Eastre, came to earth as the Babylonian Goddess of Love and Fertility in a giant egg that landed in the Euphrates river at sunrise on the Sunday after the vernal equinox. (Now isn't that a coincidence)*

*The first day of the week which we call Sunday in the western hemisphere, derives its name from several different sources. Most seem to trace the name back through Rome to ancient Egyptian origins. Some historians trace it back to the ancient culture of the Babylonians, Nimrod, the Tower of Babel era. The day is named after the "Sun" god, who by the way is Nimrod who when he died was exalted as the sun god also called Baal.*

*Since scripture refers to the days of the week as the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. day, which is what God referred to them as in Genesis 1, it is reasonable to conclude that switching the name to 'Sun' day is realistically part of pagan / heathen worship. But then it's no surprise that most of the names of the week ultimately find their origins in pagan gods.*



**Timing of Events around Jesus' Death and Resurrection.**

**As Jonah - 3 Days & Nights in Heart of the Earth**

*Mark 10:33-34 > Jesus predicted he would rise from the dead in 3 days. (cf. - Matt. 12:40, 16:21, 17:23, 20:17-19; Mark 8:31, 9:31, 10:34; Luke 9:22, 18:31-33, 24:7, 46; Acts 10:40; 1 Cor. 15:4)*

*Prophesied in: Isaiah 53:12; Psalms 16:10; Jonah 1:17; Luke 11:29 (an example of other places in the gospels where Jesus spoke of his death and resurrection).*

*Scripture says that Jesus was in the grave 3 days and nights. We also know he had risen from the dead by Sunday morning when Mary came to the tomb (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1-2; Luke 24:1). The disciples did not call the days of the week by the names we use. They referred to the days as the 1st day, 2nd day, etc.*

*Knowing that information, we are able to determine what day of the week the Passover was on the year that Jesus died.*

**Jesus Rose From the Dead on the First Day of the Week - Sunday**

*We believe Jesus rose on the first day of the week: Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:2; Luke 24:1; John 20:1)*

*Now remember, the Jews did not calculate time as we do. They used the system that God laid out in Genesis 1:5 - "The evening and the morning were the first day". So the Jewish day begins at sunset in the evening. For example: What we would consider to be Saturday evening, if it is after sunset, the Jews would consider that to be Sunday. (Our Sunday begins at midnight. For the Jews, Sunday would begin at sunset)*

*We know that Jesus' died about 3:00 pm (Matthew 27:45-50; Mark 15:33-37; Luke 23:44-46). So his body was dead by that evening. That means that the first night and the next day were 'day one' of the three.*

*Therefore, it's quite easy to find the day of the week that was the Passover the year Jesus died. You count backwards from the day he rose from the dead. Since the first time segment he was in the tomb was at night, we must start with sunset time of what we consider Saturday. (This was when the first day began. Sunset always began the next day.)*

*So to count backwards from sunset on Saturday evening, you come to Sunset on what we consider to be Wednesday evening. The day after Passover was the High Sabbath of Unleavened Bread, so Jesus had to be off the cross by sunset of what we would call Wednesday. So Passover was on Wednesday. That's the day Jesus died.*

*- Technically, we should celebrate 'Good Wednesday', not 'Good Friday'.*

**In Scripture: the timeline is laid out backward from Passover**

*This part is a bit confusing for most people. The Gospels approach the timing of the events before Jesus died - by counting how many days until Passover. They would say \_\_\_\_\_ happened a certain number of days before Passover. With that in mind, the Triumphal Entry actually took place on Friday. Here's why we say that.*

*1) In John 12:1 > it says that Jesus arrived at Bethany six days before the Passover.*

*- Six days before the Passover was the Thursday of the previous week. So Jesus arrived in Bethany on a Thursday.*

*2) John 12:12 > the next day was the triumphal entry which was Friday.*

*3) Mark 11:12 > The day after the Triumphal Entry, Jesus cleared the temple and cursed the fig tree. This was Saturday (the weekly sabbath).*

**\*\*\* Side thought:**

*- Bethany was about 2 miles from Jerusalem (John 11:18).*

*- Jesus broke the distance allowed to walk on the Sabbath by Jewish law.*

*“Because driving, biking, blading, skateboarding or other device-driven means of transportation are prohibited on Shabbat, we walk rather than commute to synagogue. However, even walking on Shabbat has its limits.*

*Jewish law sets the maximum walking range from one’s city to 2,000 cubits (3,049.5 feet, 0.596 miles (960 meters). [However, this measurement starts 70 2/3 cubits (112.24 ft.) from the city limits.] Practically speaking, this means that you may not walk a straight line more than .598 miles (3161.74 ft.) in any direction in the wilds outside your city limits.*

*This must have been a man-made law, because Jesus broke it by walking too far (about 2 miles) the day after the Triumphal Entry which was the weekly Sabbath.*

*Quote from Chabad.org.*

*4) Mark 11:20 > The next morning (Sunday) the fig tree was withered. The rest of chapter 11 through 13 are on Sunday.*

*5) Mark 14:1 > The Passover is two days away. That makes this Monday. The day Jesus was anointed with the alabaster box of ointment. Also the day Judas Iscariot went to the chief priests to betray Jesus.*

*6) Mark 14:12 > Preparations for the Last Supper were made during the day on Tuesday.*

*According to Exodus 12:6, the Passover Lamb was to be killed at twilight (Which is after sunset - Deuteronomy 16:4,6) of Passover. This would have been right after sunset at the beginning of their day / the Passover.*

*7) Mark 14:17 > That Tuesday evening, they had the Last Supper.*

*(Remember: for the Jew, after sunset on Tuesday evening was considered Wednesday. Each new day began at evening after sunset (Genesis 1:5, 8 etc.). So Wednesday begins after sunset on what we consider Tuesday and goes to sunset on Wednesday. Jesus had the Last Supper with the disciples on Tuesday evening after sunset which was the beginning of the Passover. So technically according to Jewish time, Jesus had the Last Supper on the same day he was crucified - Passover - Nissan 14th.*

8) *Mark 14:72 > The rooster crowing three times happened on Wednesday morning - Nissan 14.*

9) *Mark 15:1-41 > Jesus was brought before Pilate and was crucified. This happened on Wednesday. V. 25 says Jesus was crucified at the 3rd hour which was about 9:00 am on our clock. From the sixth hour (noon) until about the 9th hour (which is 3:00 pm on our clock) there was darkness on the land (v. 33). Jesus died about 3:00 in the afternoon (v. 34-37) and the veil in the temple was torn in half (v. 38).*

10) *Mark 15:42-46 > Passover was that Wednesday - Nissan 14. It was the day before the first special Sabbath (John 19:31) of Unleavened Bread (not the weekly sabbath), which was also known as the 2nd Day of Passover. With Thursday being the first sabbath of Unleavened Bread - Nissan 15th (Leviticus 23:6-7), Jesus needed to be off the cross before it began.*

*Jesus died around 3:00 pm, and needed to be off the cross before sunset.*

11) *Mark 16:1 > Jesus was in the tomb 3 days and 3 nights, so the sabbath spoken of in this verse is the weekly sabbath. Jesus died on Wednesday, so Wednesday night and Thursday are one day; Thursday night and Friday are the 2nd day; Friday night and Saturday are the 3rd day. Jesus rose some time after sunset on Saturday after the weekly Sabbath. We know he was risen by sunrise on Sunday (see next verse).*

12) *Mark 16:2 > Very early in the morning (around sunrise) on the first day of the week (Sunday) the women went to the tomb and Jesus was risen.*

## *The First Article.*

### The Pagan Origin Of Easter

Easter is a day that is honored by nearly all of contemporary Christianity and is used to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The holiday often involves a church service at sunrise, a feast which includes an "Easter Ham", decorated eggs and stories about rabbits.

Those who love truth learn to ask questions, and many questions must be asked regarding the holiday of Easter.

Is it truly the day when Jesus arose from the dead? Where did all of the strange customs come from, which have nothing to do with the resurrection of our Saviour?

The purpose of this tract is to help answer those questions, and to help those who seek truth to draw their own conclusions.

The first thing we must understand is that professing Christians were not the only ones who celebrated a festival called "Easter." "Ishtar", which is pronounced "Easter" was a day that commemorated the resurrection of one of their gods that they called "Tammuz", who was believed to be the only begotten son of the moon-goddess and the sun-god.

In those ancient times, there was a man named Nimrod, who was the grandson of one of Noah's son named Ham. Ham had a son named Cush who married a woman named Semiramis. Cush and Semiramis then had a son named him "Nimrod."

After the death of his father, Nimrod married his own mother and became a powerful King. The Bible tells of this man, Nimrod, in Genesis 10:8-10 as follows: "And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord: wherefore it is said, even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar."

Nimrod became a god-man to the people and Semiramis, his wife and mother, became the powerful Queen of ancient Babylon. Nimrod was eventually killed by an enemy, and his body was cut in pieces and sent to various parts of his kingdom. Semiramis had all of the parts gathered, except for one part that could not be found. That missing part was his reproductive organ. Semiramis claimed that Nimrod could not come back to life without it and told the people of Babylon that Nimrod had ascended to the sun and was now to be called "Baal", the sun god. Queen Semiramis also proclaimed that Baal would be present on earth in the form of a flame, whether candle or lamp, when used in worship.

**Semiramis was creating a mystery religion, and with the help of Satan, she set herself up as a goddess. Semiramis claimed that she was immaculately conceived. She taught that the moon was a goddess that went through a 28 day cycle and ovulated when full. She further claimed that she came down from the moon in a giant moon egg that fell into the Euphrates River. This was to have happened at the time of the first full moon after the spring equinox.**

**Semiramis became known as "Ishtar" which is pronounced "Easter", and her moon egg became known as "Ishtar's" egg."**

**Ishtar soon became pregnant and claimed that it was the rays of the sun-god Baal that caused her to conceive. The son that she brought forth was named Tammuz.**

**Tammuz was noted to be especially fond of rabbits, and they became sacred in the ancient religion, because Tammuz was believed to be the son of the sun-god, Baal. Tammuz, like his supposed father, became a hunter. The day came when Tammuz was killed by a wild pig. Queen Ishtar told the people that Tammuz was now ascended to his father, Baal, and that the two of them would be with the worshippers in the sacred candle or lamp flame as Father, Son and Spirit.**

**Ishtar, who was now worshipped as the "Mother of God and Queen of Heaven", continued to build her mystery religion. The queen told the worshippers that when Tammuz was killed by the wild pig, some of his blood fell on the stump of an evergreen tree, and the stump grew into a full new tree overnight. This made the evergreen tree sacred by the blood of Tammuz. She also proclaimed a forty day period of time of sorrow each year prior to the anniversary of the death of Tammuz. During this time, no meat was to be eaten.**

**Worshippers were to meditate upon the sacred mysteries of Baal and Tammuz, and to make the sign of the "T" in front of their hearts as they worshipped. They also ate sacred cakes with the marking of a "T" or cross on the top.**

**Every year, on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox, a celebration was made. It was Ishtar's Sunday and was celebrated with rabbits and eggs. Ishtar also proclaimed that because Tammuz was killed by a pig, that a pig must be eaten on that Sunday.**

**By now, the readers of this tract should have made the connection that paganism has infiltrated the contemporary "Christian" churches, and further study indicates that this paganism came in by way of the Roman Catholic System.**

**The truth is that Easter has nothing whatsoever to do with the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We also know that Easter can be as much as three weeks away from the Passover, because the pagan holiday is always set as the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox.**

**Some have wondered why the word "Easter" is in the the King James Bible. It is because Acts, chapter 12, tells us that it was the evil King Herod, who was planning to celebrate Easter, and not the Christians.**

**The true Passover and pagan Easter sometimes coincide, but in some years, they are a great distance apart. So much more could be said, and we have much more information for you, if you are a seeker of the truth.**

**We know that the Bible tells us in John 4:24, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."**

**The truth is that the forty days of Lent, eggs, rabbits, hot cross buns and the Easter ham have everything to do with the ancient pagan religion of Mystery Babylon. These are all antichrist activities! Satan is a master deceiver, and has filled the lives of well-meaning, professing Christians with idolatry. These things bring the wrath of God upon children of disobedience, who try to make pagan customs of Baal worship Christian.**

**You must answer for your activities and for what you teach your children.**

**These customs of Easter honor Baal, who is also Satan, and is still worshipped as the "Rising Sun" and his house is the "House of the Rising Sun."**

**How many churches have "sunrise services" on Ishtar's day and face the rising sun in the East? How many will use colored eggs and rabbit stories, as they did in ancient Babylon.**

**In 2005, Passover begins at sundown, Saturday (Sabbath day), April 23, and continues until sundown, Sunday, April 24. Passover is based upon the biblical (God-given) lunar calendar (Leviticus chapter 23).**

**Easter in 2005 is observed on Sunday, March 27 (almost a month before Passover).**

**Easter is based on the solar calendar and the spring equinox, observed on the first Sunday after the full moon on or after the spring equinox.**

**If Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with His disciples (Luke 22:1, 15) before His arrest, crucifixion the next day, and His rising from the grave on the third day hence, after His death (Matthew 16:21, 1 Corinthians 15:4), then how is it, in 2005 that Easter, the alleged celebration of the Resurrection, is scheduled to be celebrated almost a month before the observance of Passover ?!!**

**Answer: because Easter is not the day that Jesus rose from the dead ! Jesus actually arose from the dead on the feast of "Firstfruits" (Leviticus 23; 1 Corinthians 15:20,23), not the pagan observance of "Easter/Ishtar's Day" !**

**These things are no joke, any more than Judgement day is a joke. I pray to God that this tract will cause you to search for more truth. We will be glad to help you by providing more information and by praying for you. These are the last days, and it is time to repent, come out and be separate.**

**'The Berean Chronicles' - Kelly McGinley**

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## *The Second Article:*

### Where did “Easter” get its name?

### Where did the concept of an Easter egg & bunny originate?

The name “Easter” has its roots in ancient polytheistic religions ([paganism](#)). On this, all scholars agree. This name is [never](#) used in the original Scriptures, nor is it ever associated biblically with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For these reasons, we prefer to use the term “Resurrection Sunday” rather than “Easter” when referring to the annual Christian remembrance of [Christ's resurrection](#).

### Ancient origin

Most reference books say that the name “Easter” derived from the Eastre, the Teutonic goddess of Spring. Although this relationship exists, in reality, the origin of the name and the goddess are far more ancient - going all the way back to the [Tower of Babel](#). The origin begins not long after the biblical Flood.

The Flood was a divine judgment sent on mankind after evil had become all pervasive and all people everywhere were totally unresponsive to God. The Bible says that "the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" ([Genesis 6:5](#), NKJV). It is not difficult to imagine that life must have been almost unbearable at this time in history. God gave humankind a second chance by preserving the righteous man Noah and his family (a total of 8 people).

After the Flood, Noah had a talented, but evil, great-grandson named [Nimrod](#) ([Genesis 10:6-10](#)) who rebelled greatly against God. The Bible says that he was “a mighty one”[\[1\]](#) Jewish tradition indicates that [Nimrod](#) was a tyrant "who made all of the people rebellious against God."[\[2\]](#) It is evident from history that Nimrod was not only a political leader, but also the lead priest of a form of occultic worship.[\[3\]](#)

## **King Nimrod, Queen Semiramis (Easter), and Tammuz (the “reincarnated” Nimrod)**

**Nimrod** built and organized major cities. The Bible notes that these included **Babel**, **Asshur**, **Nineveh** and **Calah** (**Genesis 10:10-12**). If you know anything about ancient history, the mention of these places may send shivers up your spine. For these were cities of great, almost unimaginable practices and perversion.

When Nimrod eventually died, the Babylonian mystery religion in which he figured prominently continued on. His wife Queen Semiramis saw to that. Once he was dead, she deified him as the Sun-god. In various cultures he later became known as Baal, the Great Life Giver, the god of fire, **Baalim**, Bel, Molech, etc.

“Later, when this adulterous and idolatrous woman gave birth to an illegitimate son, she claimed that this son, Tammuz by name, was Nimrod reborn.”<sup>[4]</sup> Semiramis “claimed that her son was supernaturally conceived [no human father] and that he was the promised seed, the 'savior'” - promised by God in **Genesis 3:15**. “However, not only was the child worshipped, but the woman, the MOTHER, was also worshipped as much (or more) than the son!”<sup>[5]</sup> Nimrod deified as the god of the sun and father of creation. Semiramis became the goddess of the moon, fertility, etc.

"In the old fables of the Mystery cults, their 'savior' Tammuz, was worshipped with various rites at the Spring season. According to the legends, after he was slain [killed by a wild **boar**], he went into the underworld. But through the weeping of his mother... he mystically revived in the springing forth of the vegetation - in Spring! Each year a spring festival dramatically represented this supposed 'resurrection' from the underworld.<sup>[6]</sup>

Thus, a terrible false religion developed with its sun and moon worship, priests, astrology, demonic worship, worship of stars associated with their gods, idolatry, mysterious rites, human sacrifice, and more. Frankly, the practices which went on were so horrible that it is not fitting for me to speak of them here.

It was at Nimrod's city of Babel that a towering structure was first built in defiance of God as part of their Satanic religion. Archaeological evidence indicates that this was a spectacular pyramid-shaped structure (ziggurat). The Bible tells us that at this time there was only one language in the world and that most of the world's population centered in this area and participated in this religion. It was evident to God that all mankind would soon degenerate into a level of evil that would parallel that of the pre-Flood world. For humanity's sake, something had to be done to slow and frustrate this organization of an evil one world, tyrannical government.

God confused their language, so that they could not understand each other ([Genesis 11:7](#)). (This is the ultimate source of the world's many languages.) As a result, many people moved away from the area in groups according to their particular new language. Most, if not all, of these people carried their evil Sun-God-based religion with them. They continued to worship the stars and practice all the other ungodly rituals of their religion. Some also continued to build pyramids reminiscent of the Tower of Babel as part of this mystery religion. Today, we can still find remnants of these throughout the world (e.g., Iraq, South America, Central America, Egypt, Burma).

Babel was the origin of an idolatrous system that swept the world. The Bible says of her, "Babylon... the nations drank her wine; Therefore the nations are deranged" ([Jeremiah 51:7](#)). The Bible often speaks of the Satanic religions which came from her. The ancient Greek historian Herodotus "witnessed the Mystery religion and its rites in numerous countries and mentions how Babylon was the primeval source from which ALL systems of [idolatry](#) flowed."[\[7\]](#) Austen Layard said "that we have the united testimony of sacred and profane history that idolatry originated in the area of Babylonia - the most ancient of religious systems."[\[8\]](#)

Basically, almost every vile, profane and idolatrous practice you can think of originated at Babel with Queen Semiramis, the Mother Goddess and [Nimrod](#). As the people scattered from Babel with their different languages, they, of course, used different names for Nimrod (Tammuz) and Semiramis. Some called the Mother Goddess "ISHTAR" (originally pronounced "Easter").[\[9\]](#) In other lands, she was called Eostre, Astarte, Oстера, and Eastre. Other names for Semiramis, the Mother Goddess include: Wife of Baal, [Ashtaroth](#) or [Ashtoreth](#), and Queen of Heaven.[\[10\]](#) The Mother goddess was frequently worshipped as the goddess of fertility - and as a sort of Mother Nature and goddess of Spring and sexual love and birth. She was also worshipped as a mediator between god and man. Sexual orgies and temple prostitutes were often used in her worship and in attempting to gain her favor.

## **The Easter Rabbit or Hare**

The rabbit is well known as a sexual symbol of fertility. In various parts of the world, religions which developed from Babel also associate the rabbit with periodicity, both human and lunar (Egypt, China, etc.). As you may remember, the Mother Goddess Semiramis (Easter) is associated with the Moon. In other words, the Easter bunny symbolizes the Mother Goddess. Annual Spring time fertility rituals are associated worship of the Mother Goddess and Tammuz, the reincarnation of her husband [Nimrod](#).

## **The Easter Egg**

Most children and families who color or hide Easter eggs as part of their Resurrection Sunday tradition have no knowledge of the origin of these traditions. Easter egg activities have become a part of Western culture. Many would be surprised and even dismayed to learn where the traditions originated.

“The egg was a sacred symbol among the Babylonians. They believed an old fable about an egg of wondrous size which was supposed to have fallen from heaven into the [Euphrates River](#). From this marvelous egg - according to the ancient story - the Goddess Astarte (Easter) [Semiramis], was hatched. And so the egg came to symbolize the Goddess Easter.”[\[11\]](#)

The idea of a mystic egg spread from Babylon to many parts of the world.[\[12\]](#) In Rome, the mystic egg preceded processions in honor of the Mother Goddess Roman. The egg was part of the sacred ceremonies of the Mysteries of Bacchus. The Druids used the egg as their sacred emblem. In Northern Europe, China and Japan the eggs were colored for their sacred festivals.[\[13\]](#)

The egg was also a symbol of fertility; Semiramis (Easter) was the goddess of Fertility. The Easter egg is a symbol of the pagan Mother Goddess, and it even bears one of her names.

## **Summary and Conclusion**

“Easter” is simply one of the names of a woman who mightily deceived the world and whose religion has caused untold suffering and misery.[\[14\]](#) She was clearly an enemy of Christianity, and her son Tammuz was an [anti-Christ](#), a [false messiah](#) that ultimately deceived millions.

If you are Christian, it is not difficult to discern the bizarre deception and confusion that [Satan](#) has successfully orchestrated. For example, notice the embarrassing irony in these traditions which are practiced innocently by most people. They are repeated year after year, because they have become traditional and their origin is unknown to many.

- On the day commemorating [Christ's resurrection](#), Americans roll decorated eggs on the White House lawn and pretend the Easter rabbit hid them. The same ritual is practiced at some Christian churches.
- “In Lancashire [England] on Easter eve boys and men have been in the habit of touring the towns and villages as 'Pace-egggers' begging for eggs before performing the 'Pace-Egging' or Pasch (i.e., Easter) play.”[\[15\]](#)

- In [Greece](#) each person in a group bangs his red EASTER EGG [not knowing that it is symbol of the Goddess] against the eggs of all the others present in turn, saying 'Christ is risen,' and receives the reply 'He is risen indeed.'" [\[16\]](#)

The seductive symbols of ancient ungodly religions inspired by Satan have been incorporated into people's everyday lives, even to this day - continuing to obscure the truth of God .

One might wonder if there is a better way for Christians to celebrate Jesus Christ's resurrection, the most important of all Christian holy days. In retrospect, it seems obvious that it would have been a better witness to the world if Christians had not attempted to “Christianize” pagan celebrations - adopting the name “Easter” (Ishtar/Semiramis) in remembrance of Christ. Jesus has been obscured by painted eggs and bunnies. Attention has been shifted away from spiritual truth and toward materialism (clothing, products and candies with the wrong symbolism). Stores merchandise the name of Easter (not “Resurrection Sunday”) and sell goods that have nothing to do with Christ's death and resurrection. Christians naively use symbols and practices that unknowingly perpetuate ancient anti-Christ traditions - symbolic customs followed by the same religious cults that inspired the destruction of great numbers of Christians and Jews. Is the Devil laughing at us?

Many church bodies recognize the problem and make every effort to keep the focus of Resurrection Sunday totally on Jesus Christ and the Good News that He brought.

## **REFERENCES AND FOOTNOTES**

NOTE: The words “paganism” and “pagan” (lowercase “p”) as used in this article and as normally understood in common English usage, specifically refer to the ancient, civilized, polytheistic peoples, such as the Greek, Romans and earlier. We are not referring to or discussing the Neo-Pagans (uppercase “P”) of modern times, nor the [Wiccans](#) which are associated with them.

1. [Genesis 10:8](#) and [1 Chronicles 1:10](#) - “...[Nimrod](#); he began to be a mighty one on the earth” (NKJV). [\[up\]](#)
2. The Jewish Encyclopedia, Vol. 9, p. 309, as cited by Ralph Woodrow, Babylon Mystery Religion (Riverside, California: Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Assn., 1966). [\[up\]](#)
3. Ralph Woodrow, Babylon Mystery Religion (Riverside, California: Ralph Woodrow Evangelistic Assn., 1966), p. 9; and Alexander Hislop, The Two Babylons (New York: Loizeaux Brothers). [\[up\]](#)
4. Woodrow, Ibid., p. 9.; In his reincarnated form (Nimrod/Tammuz), has been known as Horus (Egypt), Attis (Italy), Crishna or Iswara (India), Deoius (Asia Minor), Janus (Rome), etc. [\[up\]](#)
5. Woodrow, Ibid., p. 9. [\[up\]](#)
6. “The resurrection of Tammuz [Nimrod] through Ishtar's grief [Semiramis] was dramatically represented annually in order to insure the success of the crops and the fertility of the people... Each year men and women had to grieve with Ishtar over the death of Tammuz and celebrate the god's return,

- in order to win anew her favor and her benefits!" [Homer W. Smith, Man and His Gods, p. 86, as cited by Woodrow, p. 157.] [\[up\]](#)
7. Ibid., p. 10; Herodotus' History, Book 2, p. 109, as cited by Woodrow. [\[up\]](#)
  8. Woodrow, Ibid., p. 11; Austen Henry Layard, [Nineveh](#) and Its Remains. [\[up\]](#)
  9. Woodrow Ibid., p. 152. [\[up\]](#)
  10. The names [Ashtaroth](#) or [Ashtoreth](#), and Queen of Heaven were used for Semiramis by the Israelites and the ungodly peoples around them, see [Judges 2:13](#), [Jeremiah 44:17-19](#), etc. Other names for Semiramis include Astarte (Cyprus), Diana (Ephesus and throughout Asia Minor), Cybele (Asia Minor), Isis (Egypt), Aphrodite, Ceres (Greece), Venus or Fortuna (Romans), Shingmoo (China), Disa (Scandinavia), Nutria (Etruscans), Virgo-Paritura (Druids), Isi or Indrani or Devaki (India). [\[up\]](#)
  11. Woodrow, Ibid., pp. 152-153. [\[up\]](#)
  12. James G. Frazer, The Golden Bough, Vol. 12, 3rd Edition (1907-15, reissued 1935-36 and 1955); Maria Leach, editor, Funk and Wagnall's Standard Dictionary of Folklore, Mythology and Legend, Vol. 1 (1949). [\[up\]](#)
  13. Ibid., p. 155. [\[up\]](#)
  14. This mystery religion of Babylon is well-known to still be alive in the world today in various forms. Many of its elements are even present in the New Age movement (reincarnation, astrology, channeling, claims of mysterious powers, and more). [\[up\]](#)
  15. Edwin Oliver James, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Vol. 7 (Chicago: Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1967), p. 867.] [\[up\]](#)
  16. James, Ibid. [up] [\[up\]](#)

Author: Paul S. Taylor of [Films for Christ](#).

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## *The Third Article:*

### The Truth About Easter.

### The Shocking Origins of the Christian Practice of:

- Lent.
- Good Friday.
- and Easter.

By David M Rogers

[www.BibleTruth.cc](http://www.BibleTruth.cc)

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I remember the fun we had at Easter when I was a kid. Nearly every year we would buy a dyeing kit from the grocery store and color hard-boiled Easter eggs many different shades and colors on the Saturday evening before Easter. Waking up on Easter morning and finding a large basket for each one of us kids, though not quite equal to the thrills of Christmas morning, was nevertheless exciting. Each basket would contain colored "grass," usually green, and many colored eggs, which mom insisted we eat within the first day or so lest they should go

bad. And lots of jelly beans. And small chocolate bunnies and candies. And the prize item - a large, sometimes solid sometimes hollow, chocolate Easter bunny.

We would also get dressed up special that day for church. The girls had brand new spring dresses and big bonnets. And I (as a small boy) dressed up in a suit and a hat. My dad would always want to take a picture of everyone dressed up and holding their Easter baskets full of the goodies. So we would line up on the front porch steps and pose with our best smile.

Sunday services that day were special, too. The church would usually be packed with all the regulars and the folks who, out of some sense of obligation, would show up only on Christmas and Easter. I guess they figured that it would be better to go at least a couple times a year than not at all. God would have to look at that act of righteousness with some sort of favor, they must be thinking! After all, it was the celebration of the resurrection of Christ. Or so we thought....

What we were doing was in line with a tradition which the Christian church had been doing for over 1600 years. Now that kind of long history is hard to argue with. We had supposed, in some moment of reflection, that even the apostles of Jesus had celebrated Easter, just like we were doing. Well, a little bit of research, coupled with a sobering realization that traditions are not always from our Creator, had proved us wrong in our assumptions. And somewhat shocking and disturbing are the results of our investigation of the roots of Easter.

Come to find out that the celebration of Easter is not biblical after all! The Torah, Elohim's instructions to his covenant people, does not teach the celebration of Easter. Jesus never taught his disciples to celebrate Easter. Nor did Paul or any of the other prophets, apostles or disciples in the Bible. The celebration of Easter is not in the Bible because it is not from our Maker!

## **Lent**

In the interest of providing some history and background to the popularly observed season of Lent and to impart some perspective about what the Bible has to say about the Lenten season, I offer this summary and analysis. Many of the customs, practices and traditions of the Christian Church, which are believed to be based on the New Testament and the story of Jesus, are actually ancient customs which pre-date Christianity. The forty day fast and abstinence called Lent is one such tradition.

On the liturgical calendar, Lent is the period of time between Ash Wednesday and Easter. The term Lent is a shortened form of Lenten, which derives from the Old English term lencten,



which means spring. This word is from the Old English root word lang which means long (Online Etymology Dictionary, [www.etymonline.com](http://www.etymonline.com)). And you can probably guess that we also get our word lengthen from that term. Presumably, Lent refers to the spring because it is the season when the days begin to lengthen.

## **The Christian Practice of Fasting and Self-Denial**

### **The Ancient Practice of the 40 Day Fasting and Weeping.**

Elohim described the abominations that were going on by the priests and in the temple of those who worshiped Tammuz. The prophet Ezekiel was brought, in vision, into the temple of Yahuwah and was shown what abominable things were happening there. Again, he said, "You will see them doing things that are even more detestable." Then he brought me to the entrance to the north gate of the house of Yahuwah, and I saw women sitting there, mourning for Tammuz. (Ezekiel 8:13,14).

The whole modern day season of Lent is the carry over of the 40 days of weeping for Tammuz. And Yahuwah hates this. Yahuwah hates all that is associated with the Easter season, especially when we try to pass it off as legitimate worship of the Master Yahusha.

A recent article in the USA Today showed the popularity of the Lenten holiday to be on the rise in many Christian churches. The paper stated that many believers would be celebrating the season of Lent by fasting certain physical pleasures. During the forty day Lenten season, Christians throughout the world give up specific sins or bad habits to prepare themselves for Easter. Such a practice seems noble, yet history reveals that Lent can actually lead to sin.

Lent begins directly after the great debauchery of Mardi Gras. The French term "Mardi Gras" literally means "Fat Tuesday." This day commemorates the last day to get "fat" and eat before the fast begins. The first day of Lent is called "Ash Wednesday." On Ash Wednesday believers mark their foreheads with ash to symbolize the start of a solemn fast. Many suggest that Lent is kept to either remember the Savior's forty day fast or to prepare for the celebration of Easter. History proves that Lent is like other pagan practices that are not found in the Scriptures yet were adopted into the Church from the surrounding culture and ancient history.

"The forty days' abstinence of the Lent was directly borrowed from the worshippers of the Babylonian goddess. Such a Lent of forty days, 'in the spring of the year,' is still observed by

the Yezidis or pagan Devil worshippers of Koordistan, who have inherited it from their early masters, the Babylonians. Such a Lent was held by the pagan Mexicans, in honor of the sun and was observed in Egypt as well. This Egyptian Lent of forty days was held expressly in commemoration of Adonis or Osiris, the great mediatorial god. Among the Pagans this Lent seems to have been an indispensable preliminary to the great annual festival in commemoration of the death and resurrection of Tammuz," wrote Alexander Hislop in the *Two Babylons*, pages 104 and 105.

A pagan connection between Tammuz and Lent is apparent. Tradition shows that the wife of Nimrod, the King of Babylon, claimed she had been supernaturally impregnated by the Sun god and gave birth to Tammuz. One day while hunting, Tammuz was killed by a wild boar. His mother and her family mourned for 40 days, at the end of which Tammuz was brought back from the dead. The Wycliffe Bible Commentary states, "Mourning for the god was followed by a celebration of resurrection." The Bible condemns such ancient practices that are actually cloaked by Christianity as Lent. "And He said to me, 'Turn again, and you will see greater abominations that they are doing.' So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the LORD's house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz," Ezekiel 8:13-14.

Popular Bible commentator John MacArthur agrees, "The celebration of Lent has no basis in Scripture, but rather developed from the pagan celebration of Semiramis's mourning for 40 days over the death of Tammuz before his alleged resurrection-another of Satan's mythical counterfeits," (*The MacArthur New Testament Commentary; 1 Corinthians: Moody, 1984*).

Lent officially became a "Christian" celebration at the Council of Laodicea in A.D. 360. Yet even the famed Catholic Saint Abbot John Cassian, monk of Marseilles, admitted in the fifth century, "Howbeit you should know that as long as the primitive church retained its perfection unbroken, this observance of Lent did not exist." Today Lent is observed by most Catholics, Episcopalians, Lutherans, and some Presbyterians who desire to be closer to the Almighty. Many observe Lent without knowing its history or acknowledging its pagan past. Exodus 23:2 addresses the celebration of Lent by stating, "you shall not follow a crowd to do evil."

## **Good Friday**

Another element of the Easter season is "Good Friday." This is believed by Christians to be the day that Christ died on the cross and was buried. Theologians do a lot of interpretive gymnastics to arrive at a Friday death of Messiah, followed by a Sunday morning resurrec-

tion. This flatly contradicts what the Messiah himself said about the length of time he would be in the grave. He specifically and repeatedly instructed his disciples that he would be in the tomb for three days and three nights.

The major problem with insisting that Messiah died on Good Friday is that the math just doesn't add up. Jesus said that he would be in the grave for three days and three nights:

He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Yonah. For as Yonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (Matthew 12:39-40)

It may be feasible to count three days as: day one, the final few minutes of Friday before sundown; day two, Saturday; day three, the night portion and the first few minutes of the daytime portion of Sunday. But there just simply aren't three nights between Friday evening and Sunday morning. So, unless you ignore what the Master taught, you **MUST** conclude that he did not die on the tree on Friday. (See a detailed study of this prophesy and its fulfillment in our upcoming article, [The Sign of Jonah: 3 Days and 3 Nights](#)).

So Friday was not, in fact, the day Messiah died. But it fits in really nicely with the activities which were traditionally practiced by the pagans on Friday. Thus, it's convenient for Christians to force fit the death of Messiah into a "Friday" frame, because Friday and Sunday were significant days when the pagans practiced the worship of their god-idols.

Friday was the pagan day honoring the fish god Dagon. Scripture speaks of Dagon, the fish god: The rulers of the Philistines gathered to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their elohim and to celebrate. They said, "Our elohim has handed Samson, our enemy, over to us." (Shoftim 16:23)

And again, The Philistines took the ark of Elohim and brought it to the temple of Dagon, where they positioned it beside Dagon. When the residents of Ashdod got up early the next day, Dagon was lying on the ground before the ark of Yahuwah. So they took Dagon and set him back in his place. But when they got up early the next day, Dagon was again lying on the ground before the ark of Yahuwah. The head of Dagon and his two hands were sheared off and were lying at the threshold. Only Dagon's body was left intact. For this reason to this very day neither Dagon's priests nor anyone else who enters Dagon's temple step on Dagon's threshold in Ashdod. (1 Shemuel 5:2-5)

Michael Rood continues his terse explanation of the Easter season by describing for us the pagan practice surrounding Dagon: In later years "Good Friday", the day that the Philistines sacrificed to Dagon, the Philistine fish god, also became an integral part of the Easter

pageantry (if you are over 40 years of age, you will recall eating fish on Friday in the public school system in America). This entire menagerie of satanic festivities is the pinnacle of the abominations that God had pronounced to the Children of Israel before they entered the Promised Land. (John Michael Rood, *The Mystery of Iniquity*, Chapter 8)

During the time of the Messiah and afterward, Friday was well known in pagan circles to be a celebration of Dagon. And so, as the Scriptural practices of appointed times were being abandoned and the pagan sun-god and other deity worship began to get melded into the worship practices of followers of the Messiah, too, the blending of Dagon\fish-god worship into worship of the Messiah proceeded.

The Christian Church had adopted the pagan symbol of the fish. We all know how the third century "believers" took the symbol of the fish and used it as a representation of faith in Messiah (whom they called "Christ"). The justification goes something like this: The Greek word for fish, *ivcqu,j* (pronounced ick-thus), allegedly represents Christ because the letters which spell it also are the beginning letters of these words: the iota begins the Greek name of the Christ, *Iaysous*; the chi is the first letter in the Greek *Christos* (*Xristos* or "Christ"); the theta begins the word "theos" or "God"; the upsilon begins the word *hwee-os* ("son"); and the sigma represents "sotayr" or Savior. Thus, the reasoning goes, ickthus ("fish") represents "Iaysous Xristos theos hwee-os sotayr" - or "Jesus Christ God('s) son, (and) Savior."

Of course, this is pure pig slop at its finest. The fish symbol really has nothing to do with the Messiah of Scripture. But in order to make palatable the fish god Dagon in "Christian" circles, the word "fish" had to be given a Christian meaning! And thus was born the adoption of the very pagan fish symbol and fish god into the worship practices of those who follow the Savior of the world.

## **Easter.**

It's not hard to find information about the customs of Easter. It turns out that Easter is an old pagan worship day which Yahuwah hates. Our modern day version of Easter is just a remake of some very ancient pagan traditions and practices. If the Christian would really think about the source of "Easter" he would most assuredly abhor it.

## **The Christian Tradition of Celebrating Easter**

**Semiramis, Queen of Heaven**

**Ashtoreth, Ashtarte, Ishtar, Easter**

**The word Easter is derived from the ancient name Ishtar, a pagan goddess and an abomination to our Creator. She is also known as Ashtarte in historical literature and as Ashtoreth in the Scriptures:**

**Shemuel said to all the house of Yisrael, "If you are really turning to Yahuwah with all your hearts, remove from among you the foreign elohim and the images of Ashtoreth. Give your hearts to Yahuwah and serve only him. Then he will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines." So the people of Yisrael removed the Baals and images of Ashtoreth. They served only Yahuwah. (1 Shemuel 7:3,4)**

**These "images" are referring to the idols and statues of Ishtar, the fertility goddess of the Philistines with large, bare breasts. The record of Shemuel refers to her again later:**

**Then they cried out to Yahuwah saying, 'We have sinned, for we have forsaken Yahuwah and have served the Baals and the images of Ashtoreth. Now deliver us from the hand of our enemies so that we may serve you.' (1 Shemuel 12:10)**

**There can be no doubt that the images, statues and idols of this offensive goddess of fertility was an offense to Yahuwah. Israel, in their rebellion against their Creator, worshipped this woman Easter. What makes the modern day Christian think that the festival honoring Easter (Ashtoreth) now brings a smile to Yahuwah's face? The last time I looked, Elohim wants us to have nothing to do with the customs and practices of the pagans in worshipping their gods. He does not want us to worship him by using pagan days, dates, customs and practices. And this includes the festival which is in honor of Ashtoreth (Easter).**

## **The Rude Reality of the Easter Season**

**Easter is filled with detestable practices, including the slaughter of innocent babies, which our Father in heaven hates. John Michael Rood very rudely tells us what's wrong with the whole Easter season in his cut-to-the-chase, in-your-face, in-a-nutshell summation of that springtime festival:**

The Saturnalia originated as the birth date of Tammuz, the bastard son of Semiramis, the widow of Nimrod of biblical evil fame. After Shem cut Nimrod in pieces, Babylonian legend insists that he ascended into the heavens and became the sun god himself. The rays of the sun implanted the seed into his widow and presto! The son of the sun god was miraculously conceived, as was the adoration of the mother and child evident in every culture on the earth. On the winter solstice Tammuz was born; as were most of the traditions surrounding “the child-mass” season. Tammuz, the reincarnation of the sun god – Nimrod, was killed in a hunting accident when he was gored to death by a wild boar in his 40th year. Those who worshipped the son of “the sun god” then set aside 40 days of weeping for Tammuz. They celebrated “Lent” one day for each year of his incarnation - in which they would deny a worldly pleasure for his pleasure in the afterworld (see Ezekiel 8).

After many years, his mother Semiramis died. The gods looked favorably on “the mother of god” and sent her back to earth as the spring fertility goddess – always depicted as an exaggeratedly endowed bare breasted queen of sexual desire. Semiramis, the queen of heaven, was “born again” as the goddess Easter (Ashtarte) as she emerged from a giant egg that landed in the Euphrates river at sunrise on the “sun” day after the vernal equinox. To proclaim her divine authority, she changed a bird into an egg laying rabbit. As the cult developed, the priests of Easter would impregnate young virgins on the altar of the goddess of fertility at sunrise on Easter Sunday. A year later the priests of Easter would sacrifice those three-month-old babies on the altar at the front of the Sanctuary and dye Easter eggs in the blood of the sacrificed infants.

The forty days of Lent - or weeping for Tammuz, starts the Easter fertility season. The festivities culminate on Easter Sunday, when the priests of Easter slaughtered the “wild boar that killed Tammuz” and the entire congregation would eat the “ham” on Easter Sunday. (John Michael Rood, *The Mystery of Iniquity*, Chapter 8)

When you really boil it down to its origins, the entire Easter season is nothing more than disgusting, abominable paganism at its worst. Yahuwah has told us that worship of this kind is completely unacceptable with Him. Yet, all of Christianity is caught up in the celebration of the resurrection of the son on Easter day. Little do most Christians know that the son, whose resurrection is celebrated on Easter, is actually the repulsive sun god Tammuz of biblical fame, not the Messiah of Scripture.

## **What's Wrong With Honoring Christ During the Easter Season?**

The Easter season has become the traditional time when Christians worldwide remember and celebrate the death, burial and resurrection of the Savior of the world. For these Christians, Easter has replaced the biblical appointed times which are prophetic pictures of the death, burial and resurrection of Messiah. Pesach (Passover) is the appointed day which the Almighty has stamped on his calendar as that day when the Lamb would be sacrificed and its blood shed for the redemption of his people. Messiah clearly fulfilled this prophetic picture with his death on the tree at the appointed time of Passover.

The prophetic calendar as described in Leviticus 23 also tells us that the first day of the same week of Unleavened Bread was the time for the first fruits offering to be waved before the Father in heaven. Messiah fulfilled this ceremony by becoming the first fruits of the resurrection of the dead on that first day of the week.

But Christians have replaced these biblical appointed times of the Messiah with ceremonies adopted from the pagan practices of worshipping the sun god. Instead of guarding and observing the appointed times which Yahuwah has established as the acts of redemption which Messiah would fulfill, Christians prefer to try to worship God after the manner of the pagans!

Worship of the true Elohim must never be done in the same way that unbelievers worship their gods. The instructions given in Scripture are crystal clear about this:

Destroy completely all the places on the high mountains and on the hills and under every spreading tree where the nations you are dispossessing worship their gods. Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and burn their Asherah poles in the fire; cut down the idols of their gods and wipe out their names from those places. You must not worship Yahuwah your Elohim in their way (Deuteronomy 12:1-4, mine).

You must not worship Yahuwah your Elohim in their way, because in worshipping their gods, they do all kinds of detestable things Yahuwah hates. They even burn their sons and daughters in the fire as sacrifices to their gods. See that you do all I command you; do not add to it or take away from it (Deuteronomy 12:31,32).

Yahuwah has made it simple to understand that he does not accept worship done the way that unbelievers worship their gods. He does not want his worshipers to add to or take away from his own prescribed way of worship. He must be worshiped in the way that he has revealed in his word.

Nevertheless, the practice of Christians who think they are honoring Christ is to observe the pagan day of honoring the fish god Dagan, which is Friday. And they tell you that Christ has

**changed the meaning of that day although there is not a shred of evidence in the Bible that he did. And Christians fast for forty days because they say they are doing it like their Master Jesus did. Yet, what they are doing is actually at the time and in the manner that the pagans wept for forty days for the pagan sun god Tammuz.**

**Then Christians celebrate Easter Sunday as the time of the resurrection, with Easter Eggs, sunrise services and eating ham for dinner. All of these disgusting customs are borrowed from the pagan worship of the sun god.**

**Let's leave all these pagan ritualistic practices, customs and traditions behind us. Let's worship our Creator the way He instructs us to worship Him. Say "goodbye" to the Easter bunny, colored Easter eggs, so-called good Friday, fascination with "the fish," eating of the ham that slew Tammuz and all other such nonsense.**