

"Think not that I come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill." Matthew 5:17

Jewish Heritage Revival



One Heritage United by Messiah

"And When he puts forth his own sheep, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice" John 10:4

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True Origin of Easter

What is the true origin of Easter? Is it the celebration by the church that commemorates the resurrection of Jesus from the grave?

This is what we are lead to believe, however, it is not what God instituted. Are you saying that hundreds of millions of people, including church leaders from all over the world are wrong about Easter...Yes I am.

So, if God did not institute Easter, where does Easter come from and what is it? In our next article we will go into greater detail as to what He did command. This article will focus solely on the origins of Easter.

First, nowhere in the Tenach (Old Testament) or B'rith Hadoshah (New Covenant) will you find mention of a feast ordained by God with pagan origins. What we know as Easter, is not of God or from God. It is of man.

Is Easter mentioned in the Bible? Once in Acts 12:4, in the King James version states "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." We know that this is not actually Easter but Passover from the previous verse (Acts 12:3 - And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)) The word translated Easter is the Greek word pascha (derived from the Hebrew word pesach; there is no original Greek word for Passover), and it has only one meaning. It always means Passover.

The first church as found in the Book of Acts didn't celebrate Easter, but rather celebrated God's feasts, as He commanded. If this is so, what happened?

The answer isn't in God's Word, but rather found in history. The changes began when the Roman Emperor Constantine assimilated Christianity into the Roman Church.

It was common practice for the Roman Church to take a pagan celebration and convert it into a church celebration. This practice enabled the church to influence many pagan nations, making it more palatable and familiar to heathen worshippers, whom the Church was trying to attract.

As further explained by historian James George Frazer: "Now the death and resurrection of Attis were officially celebrated at Rome on the 24th and 25th of March, the latter being regarded as the spring equinox, and...according to an ancient and widespread tradition Christ suffered on the 25th of March...the tradition which placed the death of Christ on the 25th of March...is all the more remarkable because astronomical considerations prove that it can have

had *no historical foundation*...When we remember that the festival of St. George in April has replaced the ancient pagan festival of the Parilia; that the festival of St. John the Baptist in June has succeeded to a heathen Midsummer festival of water; that the festival of the Assumption of the Virgin in August has ousted the festival of Diana; that the feast of All Souls [following Halloween] in November is a continuation of an old heathen feast of the dead; and that the Nativity of Christ himself was assigned to the winter solstice in December because that day was deemed the Nativity of the Sun; we can hardly be thought to be rash or unreasonable in conjecturing that the other cardinal festival of the Christian church—the solemnization of Easter—may have been in like manner, and from like motives of edification, adapted to a similar celebration of the Phrygian god Attis at the vernal equinox...*It is a remarkable coincidence*...that the Christian and the heathen festivals of the divine death and resurrection should have been solemnized at the same season...*It is difficult to regard the coincidence as purely accidental*" (note 2)

Easter is actually a pagan festival of fertility celebrated to the goddess of spring. In Babylon she was known as Ishtar. The Anglo-Saxon fertility goddess was known as Eostre or Ostara. The goddess of Easter was *one* goddess with *many* names—the goddess of fertility, worshipped in spring when all life was being renewed.

Easter has nothing to do with resurrection...it is all about fertility. It was a celebration of renewal in that it was celebrated during spring when plants returned from their dormant winter state and animal reproduced. There is nothing miraculous about this...all living creatures (plant and animal) are able to reproduce. Using Easter as a celebration for the resurrection of our Messiah is completely wrong and totally off the mark.

So why would the church use this "holiday"? Again, you have to go back into history. When Rome adopted Christianity, the persecution of believers by the Roman empire ceased, however, their hatred for the Jewish people didn't. Throughout church history, the Jewish people have been known as the ones who killed Christ. Rome wanted nothing to do with a heritage of a people that they hated, even if Jesus was Jewish. Intentional efforts were made to remove the Jewish heritage from the Messiah of the world who was promised to the Jewish people, written of by the Jewish people and was Jewish Himself. The adoption of Easter, along with Good Friday was the church's attempt to replace God's ordained festivals. It is also very conceivable, that Satan was the chief deceiver in this plot to destroy the church...guiding the church away from being at the center of God's will.

The 1967 edition of *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, when describing the final decision of the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325, quotes the words of the Emperor Constantine, writing to all the churches: "At this meeting the question concerning the most holy day of Easter was discussed, and it was resolved by the united judgment of all present that this feast ought to be kept by all and in every place on one and the same day...

And first of all it appeared an unworthy thing that in the celebration of this most holy feast we should follow the practice of the Jews, who have impiously defiled their hands with enormous sin

...for we have received from our Saviour a different way...And I myself have undertaken that this decision should meet with the approval of your Sagacities in the hope that your Wisdoms will gladly admit that practice which is observed at once in the city of Rome and in Africa, throughout Italy and in Egypt...with entire unity of judgment." (Vol. 5, p. 228). (note 3)

Claiming that Jesus provided a "different way" to honor Him is completely false and not supported by the scriptures.

What does God's Word say about replacing His ways with "man's" traditions? Jesus himself addressed the Pharisees in [Mark 7:1 - 13](#) regarding putting aside God's commandments for those of man.

Not only was this pagan celebration adopted by the church, but so were many of the customs for which you will probably be familiar.

1. **Lent** - For which you will not find any instruction in the bible, is a forty-day abstinence period was anciently observed in honor of the pagan gods Osiris, Adonis and Tammuz. (note 4)

According to Johannes Cassianus, who wrote 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". There is neither biblical nor

historical record of Christ, the apostles or the early Church participating in the Lenten season. (note 5)

2. **Easter Eggs** - The egg, originated through early European races (pre Christ), first as the symbol of spring. During the church era, the egg became the symbol of the rock tomb for which Jesus emerged from.

3. **The Easter Bunny** - Nowhere in the Bible will you find mention of the Easter Bunny (rabbit) in relation to Jesus. The rabbit's origins can be traced to that of the symbol of fertility in ancient Egypt. This symbol later found its way into European customs and traditions.

4. **Sunrise Service** - Unlike the previous three traditions of Easter, the Sunrise service is mentioned in the Bible. Even though it is found in the Bible, God is not all that fond of it. In speaking to [Ezekiel, in chapter 8](#), He clearly states His dislike of such an action.

God is very specific in His word regarding the worshiping of idols or false gods. Even though the church has wrapped Messiah into a pagan celebration doesn't make it right. Throughout God's Word, he conveys His displeasure for this practice.

In [Jeremiah chapter 44](#), Jeremiah conveys from God a message to His people who fled to Egypt during the Babylonian captivity.

In [Judges chapter 2](#), Israel had greatly angered God.

What does God think about pagan gods? [1 Samuel chapter 5](#) provides us with His displeasure of other gods.

I can hear you saying now, "it isn't a big deal, we are not celebrating a pagan holiday, but rather the resurrection of Jesus" That is exactly what Satan wants the church to believe. Let's look at the emphasis of Easter as it is celebrated today.

Now, take a look at the focus of society during Easter. Walk down the aisles of your nearest Wal-mart, Kmart or any store for that matter. What do you see? Easter bunnies, chocolate eggs and candy, greeting cards with bunnies and eggs. Nowhere do you see the mention of our Messiah's name. Maybe that is a good thing, however, Easter has turned into something completely out of control. Many millions celebrate with Easter egg hunts, and going to church (the most attended church day during the year) but fail to know the truth, of their true heritage.

As Easter is a pagan holiday, so have the symbols of Easter consumed the thoughts of society.

Where in the bible does God's Word ordain Easter? The answer is nowhere. God's word is specific to His feasts...for which Easter is not one of them.

There is much sin in the church, for which the celebration of Easter is at the forefront. This issue is a greater deal than you have been lead to believe.

I have great concern for the church as it is today. The great deceiver has done a masterful job in blinding the church of the truth.

That has to stop now.

The time is at hand where the return of our Messiah is close and can happen at any time. He is coming for His bride - **HIS SPOTLESS BRIDE**. It is time for the church to remove it's spots, and prepare for the coming of it's Bridegroom.

What are you going to do about it?

Our next article will focus on what God intended for celebrating the death, burial and resurrection of our Savior.

References

Schofield Study Bible - King James Version

Note 2 - James George Frazer - *The Golden Bough*, Vol. I, pp. 306-309

Note 3 - 1967 edition of *The Catholic Encyclopedia*

Note 4 - John Landseer, Sabaeen Researches, pp. 111, 112

Note 5 - First Conference Abbot Theonas, chapter 30

True Origin of Easter - David Pack

| Color Type | Indication |
|------------|---------------------------------------|
| Blue | Bible Text |
| Red | Bible Text referencing Jesus speaking |
| Black | General Text |