The Truth about Easter

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Nearly every sect of Christianity commemorates the resurrection of Christ every year on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox. This holiday has been named Easter and it is considered by many to be the most important observance of the Christian calendar. The day is traditionally celebrated with confections of all sorts including hard boiled eggs, candy, hot cross buns, and baked ham. Traditional activities include sunrise services, coloring eggs, and Easter egg hunts.

Most who observe Easter claim that it represents Christ rising from the dead, but is this really true? The holiday claims to be focused on the Messiah, but why then is the prominent symbolism an egg-laying rabbit? Where did these symbols and traditions come from? Is Easter mentioned in the Bible as the day when Christ rose after three days and three nights in the tomb? When did this observance begin, and from what part of the world did it originate? Did the New Testament Church observe Easter Sunday? Why is it celebrated with sunrise services? Where did this holiday get its name? Is anything about Easter actually related to Christ?

Those who claim to be Christian need to know the answers to these questions. While many consider Easter to be a sacred observance, the shocking truth reveals a story that is far from holy. This booklet examines the traditional Easter activities in light of historical records. It also examines the Scriptures to consider if Easter is something God would approve, or could it be a great evil which He actually hates.

Most believe that Easter celebrates the resurrection of Christ, but its roots can be traced to ancient civilizations that existed long before the birth of the Messiah. Ancient civilizations of Rome, Greece, Assyria, Egypt, and Babylon all embraced religious rites that are directly related to the celebration of Easter. A clue to the similitude between these rites and Easter comes from the name itself. What few realize is that the term Easter is not found in the Bible. Easter is the name of an ancient goddess of spring that was worshipped by pagan cultures centuries before the birth of Christ. Consider the first two of many quotes acknowledging this truth:

> Our name Easter comes from *Eostre*, an ancient Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring, originally of the dawn. In pagan times an annual spring festival was held in her honor. Some Easter customs have come from this and other pre-Christian festivals (*Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia,* vol. 4, p. 200).

> The name *Easter* is derived from the pagan spring festival of the Anglo-Saxon goddess Eostre, and many folk customs associated with Easter (for example, Easter eggs) are of pagan origin (*Grolier Encyclopedia of Knowledge*, vol. 4, p 316).

Many of the Easter customs of today came from a spring fertility goddess originally known as Eostre which is pronounced *Yahster*. Eostre was also known as Ishtar, Astarte, Inanna, and Ostara depending on the region of her worship. Notice what Ethel Urlin wrote while researching the origins and continued existence of ancient aspects of worship found in modern church festivals and holy days:

> On this greatest of Christian festivals, several survivals occur of ancient heathen ceremonies. To begin with, the name itself is not Christian but pagan. "Ostara" was the Anglo-Saxon Goddess of Spring... There is a reflection of ancient solar or fire-worship in some well-known Easter ceremonies (*Festivals, Holy Days, and Saints' Days*, p. 73).

The famous historian Alexander Hislop also indicated that Easter is not of Christian origin, but rather dates back to Babylon long before the death and resurrection of Christ:

> It is not a Christian name. It bears its Chaldean origin on its very forehead. Easter is nothing else than Astarte, one of the titles of Beltis, the queen of heaven, whose name, as pronounced by the people of Nineveh, was evidently identical with that now in common use in this country. That name, as found by Layard on the Assyrian monuments, is Ishtar (*The Two Babylons*, p. 103).

Astarte is the same goddess worshipped by the Anglo-Saxon pagans. It is no coincidence that Astarte, Ishtar, Eostre, and Easter have striking similarities in their pronunciation. As historian Will Durant noted, "Ishtar" is known as "Astarte to the Greeks" and "Ashtoreth to the Jews" (*The Story of Civilization*, Vol. 1, p. 235). This same pagan deity is mentioned several times in the Bible as a heathen goddess of Canaan that was not eradicated during Israel's conquest of the Promised Land. Many Israelites gave in to her worship and God despised their worship of Ashtoreth to such a degree that He tore the ten tribes of Israel away from Judah because of their idolatry with this legendary sex goddess. As the book of Kings documents:

> Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: 'Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten tribes to you (Jereboam)... because they have forsaken Me, and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians... and have not walked in My ways to do *what is* right in My eyes and *keep* My statutes and My judgments, as *did* his father David (1Kings 11:31-33).

Worship of such false god's led to Israel's destruction at the hands of the brutal Assyrians. Their enemies slaughtered tens of thousands and took the rest as captives to Persia. The progeny of the ten tribes lost all because of their respect of false gods such as Ashtoreth—known today as Easter. Feminist and occult

advocate Barbara Walker described Ashtoreth as one of the great false goddesses found in both biblical and heathen history:

> Ishtar: Babylonian "Star," the Great Goddess who appears in the Bible as Ashtoreth, Anath, Ashera, or Esther, the Queen of Heaven... Another of her titles was the Goddess Har, who called herself the compassionate prostitute. Men communed with her through the sexual rites of her harlot priestess... Akkadian sources show that Ishtar was the same Great Goddess revered all over the Near East under such names as Dea Syria, Astarte, Cybele, Aphrodite, Kore, Mari, etc (*The Women's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets*, pp. 451-452).

Though Ishtar was worshipped from ancient times as a goddess of many things, her primary reverence was attributed to the fertility associated with spring and the mating activity of nature. As a result, many ancient artifacts of this fertility goddess portray her nude. Historian Will Durant wrote of Easter's festivities while studying ancient civilizations:

> Ishtar (Astarte to the Greeks, Ashtoreth to the Jews) interests us not only as the analogue of the Egyptian Isis and prototype of the Grecian Aphrodite and the Roman Venus, but as the formal beneficiary of one of the strangest of Babylonian customs. She was Demeter as well as Aphrodite—no mere goddess of physical beauty and love, but the gracious divinity of bounteous motherhood, the secret inspiration of the growing soil, and the creative principle everywhere. It is impossible to find much harmony, from a modern point of view, in the attributes and functions of Ishtar: she was the goddess of war as well as of love, of prostitutes as well as of mothers... She was represented sometimes as a bearded bisexual deity, sometimes as a nude female offering her breasts to suck; and though her worshippers repeatedly addressed her as "The Virgin," "The Holy Virgin," and "The Virgin Mother," this merely means that her amours were free from all taint of wedlock.

> Astarte was the Greek of the Phoenician Ishtar; she had the distinction of being worshiped in some places as the goddess of a cold Artemisian chastity, and in others as the amorous and wanton deity of physical love, in which form she was identified by the Greeks with Aphrodite. As Ishtar-Mylitta received in sacrifice the virginity of her girl-devotees at Babylon, so the women who honored Astarte at Byblos had to give up their long tresses to her, or surrender themselves to the first stranger who solicited their love in the precincts of the temple. And as Ishtar had loved Tammuz, so Astarte had loved Adoni, whose death on the tusks of a boar was annually mourned at Byblos and Paphos with wailing and beating of the breast... Religious prostitution flourished in Syria, as throughout western Asia, the fertility of the soil was symbolized in a Great Mother, or Goddess, whose sexual commerce with her lover gave the hint to all the reproductive processes and energies of nature and the sacrifice of virginity at the temples was not only an offering to Astarte, but a participation with her in that annual self-abandonment which, it was hoped, would offer irresistible suggestion to the earth, and insure the increase of plants, animals and men (*The Story of Civilization*, Vol. 1, pp. 235, 294-296).

Barbara Walker again acknowledged the connection between Easter and ancient heathen fertility gods:

> Easter: Springtime sacrificial festival named for the Saxon Goddess Eostre, or Ostara, a northern form of Astarte. Her sacred month was Eastre-monath, the Moon of Eostre... Easter shows its pagan origin in a dating system based on the old lunar calendar. It is fixed as the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox, formerly the "pregnant" phase of Eostre passing into the fertile season (*The Women's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets*, p. 267).

There are dozens of sources acknowledging the ungodly origin of Easter. They all reveal that it is deeply rooted in the pagan world. The *Encyclopedia Britannica 11th Edition* noted:

> The name Easter, like the names of the days of the week, is a survival from the old Teutonic mythology. According to Bede, it is derived from *Eostre*, or *Ostara*, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring, to whom the month answering to our April, and called *Eostur-monath*, was dedicated (Vol. 8, p. 828).

Anglo-Saxon is a term describing several Germanic tribes that migrated northward in the 5th century A.D. However, many remained in central Europe and the traditions of their pagan fathers are well known to this day. Notice what Jacob Grimm wrote in his fourth edition of Teutonic Mythology regarding traditions of ancient German tribes:

> We Germans to this day call April *ostermonat* and *ostarmanoth* (Ostara month)... The great Christian festival, which usually falls in April or the end of March, bears in the oldest of OHG (Old High German) remains the name Ostara... it is mostly found in the plural, because two days were kept at Easter. This *Ostara*, like the Anglo-Saxon *Eástre*, must in heathen religion have denoted a higher being, whose worship was so firmly rooted, that the Christian teachers tolerated the name, and applied it to one of their own grandest anniversaries... *Ostara*, *Eástre* seems therefore to have been the divinity of the radiant dawn, of upspringing light, a spectacle that brings joy and blessing, whose meaning could be easily adapted to the resurrection-day of the Christian's God. Bonfires were lighted at Easter, and according to a popular belief of long standing, the moment the sun rises on Easter Sunday morning, he gives three joyful leaps, he dances for joy. Water drawn on the Easter morning is, like that at Christmas, holy and healing; here also heathen notions seem to have grafted themselves on great Christian festivals (*Teutonic Mythology*, 1882, pp. 290-291).

Easter is considered the pinnacle of Christian worship in spite of its pagan history. But the evidence of Easter's abominable past can be found in more than its name. Many of the seemingly innocent activities today continue to reflect its heritage.

The Easter Bunny

The traditions of Easter celebrations seem like good clean fun, but most celebrants would be shocked to discover that the activities are connected to pagan rites. According to *Compton's Encyclopedia*:

> Many Easter customs come from the Old World... Colored eggs and rabbits have come from pagan antiquity as symbols of new life (Vol. 4, p. 200).

Not only does the religious use of eggs and rabbits come from pagan sources, the Bible gives no indication that they can be used religiously by Christians. This is noted by scholars of world religions who wrote:

> The Rabbit was known as an extraordinarily fertile creature, and hence it symbolized the coming of spring. Although adopted in a number of Christian cultures, the Easter Bunny had never received any specific Christian interpretation (*The Encyclopedia of Religion*, vol. 4, p. 558).

There is no Christian interpretation for rabbits. This is not surprising when we realize that Easter is not Christian. The pagan symbols of new life continue to be an intimate part of its celebration. The reason they chose rabbits as a mascot for Easter is directly related to their rapid breeding process.

Most species are sexually mature by 4½ months of age. Their breeding season lasts three quarters of the year and gestation is only 31 to 33 days long. In addition, once their babies are born, the mother can mate and get pregnant again the following day. Apply this process over a rabbit's lifetime and it is possible for a doe to produce over 1,000 bunnies.

These facts have been known from antiquity and led many pagan cultures to use the rabbit as a symbol of fertility. This is openly admitted by the very organization that instigated adopting Easter into Christianity:

> The custom may have its origin in paganism, for a great many pagan customs, celebrating the return of spring (and therefore directly related to SUN-worship), gravitated to Easter. The egg is the emblem of the germinating life of early spring... the Easter rabbit lays the eggs, for which reason they are hidden in a nest or in the garden. The rabbit is a pagan symbol and has always been an emblem of fertility (*The Catholic Encyclopedia*, 1913, v. 5, p. 227).

One study of the origins of church holidays and secular customs led Ethel Urlin to publish the following statement about the Easter bunny:

> In some places, hares instead of, or combined with, eggs are given as presents at Easter. This is a survival of the connexion *(sic)* of the hare in Teutonic myths with Eostre, or Ostara, the Goddess of Dawn and Spring. "Catching the Hare" was a custom at the festival of the Easter Goddess, Eostre, as the hare was her emblem, just as it was the emblem of Aphrodite in Greece (*Festivals, Holy Days, and Saints' Days*, p. 81).

Teutonic is an expression denoting the Germanic branch of the Indo-European language family. Many sources indicate that the Easter bunny descended from pagan religion. The History Channel published a brief article on the subject in which they wrote:

> You won't find them in the Bible, but many cherished Easter traditions have been around for centuries. The most prominent secular symbol of the Christian holiday, the Easter bunny reportedly was introduced to America by the German immigrants

> who brought over their stories of an egg-laying hare (http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/easter-symbols, retr. 2/1/2017).

According to a popular handbook for "Christian" customs, even scholars who profess to be Christian acknowledge the origin of the Easter bunny:

> The Easter bunny had its origins in pre-Christian fertility lore. Hare and rabbit were the most fertile animals our forefathers knew, serving as symbols of abundant new life in the spring season... However, the bunny has acquired a cherished role in the celebration of Easter as the legendary producer of Easter eggs (*Handbook of Christian Feasts and Customs*, p. 236).



Despite the heathen history, the Easter bunny continues to be a symbol used by millions who claim to honor Christ in their festivities. Reader's Digest explained:

> Children's stories in many countries tell how Easter eggs are brought not by a chicken but by hares and rabbits. These long-eared hopping mammals have represented fertility in many cultures because they breed so quickly. In traditional Christian art the hare represents lust, and paintings sometimes show a hare at the Virgin Mary's feet to signify her

> triumph over temptations of the flesh. Yet as a symbol of life reawakening in the spring - often portrayed as the innocent and cuddly Easter bunny - the rabbit co-exists in many places with the solemn Christian rites of Easter (*Reader's Digest Book of Facts*, 1987, p. 122).

The bunny's use as a symbol of fertility among pagans predates Christianity by centuries. Though it coexists with what many consider to be Christian rites, an egg laying rabbit's association with Easter is nothing new. The rites of today have been handed down from an ancient pagan past, and they truly cannot be considered Christian. Bunnies have long been associated with the false gods of Eostre, Ishtar, Ostara, Astarte, Aphrodite, and others. As will be explained, the reverence given to the Easter Bunny is an abomination!

Easter Eggs

Coloring eggs for Easter is a tradition enjoyed by millions of families around the world. From Germany to Russia, Ireland, and the Americas, literally billions of people take part in decorating or distributing Easter eggs. But where did this behavior come from? How did a rabbit become associated with laying-colored eggs? Does this practice have anything to do with the resurrection of Christ? The answers to these questions become clear as we review the facts of history beginning with the *Encyclopedia of Religion*:

> In traditional folk religion the egg is a powerful symbol of fertility, purity, and rebirth. It is used in magical rituals to promote fertility and restore virility; to look into the future, to bring good weather; to encourage the growth of crops and to protect both cattle and children against misfortune, especially the dreaded evil eye. All over the world it represents life and creation, fertility and resurrection... In early times eggs were interred with the dead. Later they were linked with Easter (*The Encyclopedia of Religion*, vol. 5, p. 37).

God's design of some animals hatching from eggs has been misused by pagans for thousands of years. Consider the words of historian Francis Weiser who wrote:

> The origin of the Easter egg is based on the fertility lore of the Indo-European races. To our pre-Christian ancestors it was a most startling even to see a new and live creature emerge from a seemingly dead object. The egg to them became a symbol of spring (*Handbook of Christian Feasts and Customs*, p. 233).

The "pre-Christian" ancestors Weiser mentions are heathen cultures that existed long before the birth of Christ. Notice what another encyclopedia notes regarding the ancient misuse of both eggs and rabbits:

> The Easter Bunny was older than Christianity; it was the Moon-hare sacred to the Goddess in both eastern and western nations. Recalling the myths of Hathor-Astarte who laid the Golden Egg of the sun, Germans used to say the hare would lay eggs for good children on Easter Eve... The Persians began their solar New Year at the spring equinox, and up to the middle of the 18th century they still followed the old custom of presenting each other with colored eggs on the occasion. Eggs were always the symbol of rebirth, which is why Easter eggs were usually colored red—the life color... Village girls like ancient priestesses sacrificed the Lord of Death and threw him into water, singing, "Death swims in the water spring comes to visit us, with eggs that are red" (*The Women's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets*, p. 267).



Pagan superstitious customs such as the ones mentioned prior spread throughout Europe. This is also noted by authors Jones & Pennick in their volume of pagan history:

> Pagan festivities at this time have been included in Easter, such as Easter eggs, taken from Baltic Paganism and the Easter rabbit or hare, which recalls the sacred hares of the British tribes (*A History of Pagan Europe*, p. 122).



Ancient decorated Phoenician stone egg excavated from the tomb of Isis

It is believed that the heathen ideology regarding Easter eggs began in Egypt before spreading to Europe. Consider two quotes from renowned authors James Bonwick and Alexander Hislop who documented many religious beliefs stemming from ancient Egypt:

> Eggs were hung up in Egyptian temples. Bunsen calls attention to the mundane egg, the emblem of generative life, proceeding from the mouth of the great god of Egypt. The mystic egg of Babylon, hatching the Venus Ishtar, fell from heaven to the Euphrates. Dyed eggs were sacred Easter offerings in Egypt, as they are still in China and Europe. Easter, or spring, was the season of birth, terrestrial and celestial (*Egyptian Belief and Modern Thought*, pp. 211-212).

> From Egypt these sacred eggs can be distinctly traced to the banks of the Euphrates. The classic poets are full of the fable of the mystic egg of the Babylonians; and thus its tale is told by Hyginus, the Egyptian, the learned keeper of the Palatine Library at Rome, in the time of Augustus, who was skilled in all the wisdom of his native country: "An egg of wondrous size is said to have fallen from heaven into the river Euphrates. The fishes rolled it to the bank, where the doves having settled upon it, hatched it, and out came Venus, who afterwards was called the Syrian Goddess—that is Astarte." Hence the egg became one of the symbols of Astarte or Easter; and accordingly, in Cyprus, one of the chosen seats of the worship of Venus, or Astarte, the egg of wondrous size was represented on a grand scale (*The Two Babylons*, p. 109).

Despite knowing about its pagan use, the religious organization that became known as the Roman Catholic Church adopted the heathen perspective of the egg while attempting to change its symbolism to that of Christ's resurrection. The Encyclopedia of Religion confirms:

> The church did not oppose this, though many egg customs were pre-Christian in origin, because the egg provided a fresh and powerful symbol of the resurrection and the transformation of death into life (*The Encyclopedia of Religion*, vol. 5, p. 37).

Ethel Urlin also explained how the Catholic Church frequently integrated paganism into its liturgy in an attempt to convert pagans:

> The custom of giving eggs at Easter is very ancient, and world-wide. Among the ancient Persians, eggs were given at this time of the year, because of the Vernal Equinox, which began the year; and eggs are a natural symbol of new life. The ritual of Pope Paul V, Christianized the pagan custom, in the prayer that "Thy creature of egg may be a wholesome sustenance to thy faithful servants, eating it in thankfulness, on

> account of the Resurrection of Our Lord" (*Festivals, Holy Days, and Saints' Days*, p. 80).

God would never approve of using eggs to represent the resurrection of our Lord. As the Apostle Paul noted, it is the heathen cultures that have "exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creation rather than the Creator" (Rom. 1:25). As innocent as Easter eggs may seem to most people, they simply have no place as a religious symbol in true Christianity. Modern pagans understand this and continue to use eggs in their Ishtar celebrations.



Neo-pagan Ishtar or Ostara eggs

The Cross

A prominent symbol of Easter is that of the cross. Few realize that the cross has little to do with Christianity. Historian Alexander Hislop also explained how the cross was prominent in the Babylonian Mystery religions of pre-Christian times:

> The same sign of the cross that Rome now worships was used in the Babylonian Mysteries, was applied to paganism to the same magic purposes, (and) was honoured with the same honours. That which is now called the Christian cross was originally no Christian emblem at all, but was the mystic Tau of the Chaldeans and Egyptians—the true original form of the letter T—the initial name of Tammuz... That

> mystic Tau was marked in baptism on the foreheads of those initiated in the Mysteries, and was used in every variety of way as a most sacred symbol... The Vestal virgins of Pagan Rome wore it suspended from their necklaces, as the nuns now do... There is hardly a Pagan tribe where the cross has not been found. The cross was worshipped by the Pagan Celts long before the incarnation and death of Christ (*The Two Babylons*, pp. 197-198).

When considering the heathen history of this symbol, it is unlikely that Christ was crucified on a cross. In fact, the word translated as "cross" in the Bible is actually *stauros* in the Greek primarily meaning "a *stake* or *post*" (*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, G4716). As the Apostle Peter wrote, the Savior was hung on an upright beam referred to as a tree:

> Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree (1Peter 2:24).

Despite the origin, believers worldwide have adopted the cross as a sign of their faith. It can be found on copious amounts of religious paraphernalia. For more information about the cross read our booklet—*The Truth about the Cross*.

Traditional Foods of Easter

One of the traditional foods of Easter is the salted thigh of a pit or hog known as ham. God declared this animal unclean for human consumption, and yet many have long enjoyed this meat prepared in a variety of ways. Consider Francis Weiser's handbook stating:

> The pig has always been a symbol of good luck and prosperity among the Indo-Europeans. Many traces of this ancient symbolism are still alive in our time. In some German popular expressions the word "pig" is synonymous with "good luck" (Schwein haben)... Saving boxes for children in the figure of a pig (piggy banks) carry out the ancient symbolism of good luck and prosperity. It is an age old custom, handed down from pre-Christian times, to eat the

> meat of this animal on festive occasions (*Handbook of Christian Feasts and Customs*, p. 237).

The fact that it was an "age old custom" to eat this animal on festive occasions is further evidence of Easter's history. The laws of unclean meat strictly prohibit consuming swine flesh (Lev. 11:4-8; Isa. 66:16-17). These laws were also in effect from pre-Christian times. Jesus Christ lived by those dietary laws that are still applicable for genuine believes today. God would never approve of using a pig for food at any time. For more on this topic, read our booklet explaining *The Unclean and the Clean.*



Another traditional food of Easter are rounds of bread called hot cross buns. While this may seem innocent enough, hot cross buns reveal another layer of Easter's heritage. Alexander Hislop did extensive research and explains paganism's sinister connection:

> Such is the history of Easter. The popular observances that still attend the period of its celebration amply confirm the testimony of history as to its Babylonian character. The hot cross buns of Good Friday, and the dyed eggs of Pasch or Easter Sunday, figured in the Chaldean rites just as they do now. The "buns" known too by that identical name, were used in the worship of the queen of heaven, the goddess Easter, as early as the days of Cecrops, the founder of Athens—that is,

> 1500 years before the Christian era. "One species of sacred bread," says Bryant, "which used to be offered to the gods, was of great antiquity, and called Boun" (*The Two Babylons*, pp. 107-108).

Ethel Urlin also explains how this sacred bread of the pagans became acceptable to the Roman church:

> The English word "bun" is probably identical with the Greek "boun." It was a ceremonial cake of circular or crescent shape, made of flour and honey, and was offered to Artemis, Isis, and Ashtoreth (*see* Jeremiah xliv, 19). Marked with the cross it gained, of course, a Christian significance and could be lawfully retained in popular Christian custom (*Festivals, Holy Days, and Saints' Days*, p. 63).

The cross, hot cross buns, and ham were never to be a part of Christian rites. Such symbols were only used by pagans in their heathen festivities. In fact, the prophet Jeremiah delivered scathing rebuke against the nation of Judah for participating in ungodly activities such as these. Notice the indictment which includes mentioning a special type of bread prepared for a false goddess whom they called the "queen of heaven":

> Do you not see what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and *they* pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger... *Do they* not *provoke* themselves, to the shame of their own faces? (Jeremiah 7:18).

These words display God's hate of idolatry pagan religious traditions. Through the prophet Jeremiah, He declared that it is a shameful to participate in pagan religious rites. His reference to the supposed "queen of heaven" makes it even more obvious that Easter is one of the idolatrous customs that God abhors.

The Resurrection of Christ was Not on Sunday

While reviewing the history and traditions of the Easter holiday we consistently find that this holiday does not worship Christ in spirit or truth. But what about the resurrection?

What most celebrants consider to be the most reverential aspect of Easter is sunrise church services on Sunday morning. These ceremonies are observed with the belief that they honor Christ's resurrection from the dead, and that this monumental event took place on a Sunday morning. What may come as a shock to many is that Christ did NOT rise Sunday morning. Consider some of the evidence the Bible presents.

The only begotten Son of God declared that He would be, "three days AND three nights in the heart of the earth" (Mat. 12:40). This was the concluding evidence proving that He was the Messiah. His words were not a riddle or a Jewish idiom. Any misrepresentation of three days and three nights by the Messiah would be considered deceptive and a lie.

Therefore, anything less that than three days and three nights in the grave would make Christ a liar. However, the Scriptures declare that, "In Him there is no sin" (1John 3:5). Christ always told the truth. Therefore, the Savior died and His body did lie in a tomb for exactly three days AND three nights. This becomes clear when we simply examine the biblical evidence and realize that we cannot deduce three days and three nights between the traditional Friday crucifixion and Sunday morning resurrection.

Friday ***night***	**Saturday** ***day***	**Saturday** ***night***	**Sunday** ***morning***
Night one	Day one	Night two	

The misconception of a Friday crucifixion developed from the fact that Christ was crucified on a "preparation day" (John 19:14; Luke 23:54). It is common knowledge to most Bible students that God's people have long referred to the day prior to the weekly Sabbath as a day of preparation (Exo. 16:5). Therefore, many assumed that Christ died on Friday. However, there are also days of preparation preceding God's annual

Sabbaths known as Feasts. With this understanding, the New Testament Scriptures reveal that Christ died on the day of Passover—the day portraying His sacrifice. This day is also known as a preparation before the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread—an annual Sabbath called a "high day." As the Apostle John wrote in His gospel:

> Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover… Therefore, because it was the Preparation *Day,* that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away (John 19:14-31).

Christ was not crucified on a Friday. Instead, the Scriptures indicate that Christ was crucified on a Wednesday. His body was placed in the tomb as the sun was setting that evening. His body lay in the tomb that for three nights and days, and finally resurrected as the sun was setting at the end of the weekly Sabbath. For this reason, we read that when the women came to the tomb Sunday morning it was still dark and Christ was gone (John 20:1-2).

Three Days and Three Nights

Night One	***Day One***	***Night Two***	***Day Two***	***Night Three***	***Day Three***
Began at sunset	*Thursday day*	*Began at sunset*	*Friday day*	*Began at sunset*	*Sabbath day*
Christ was in the grave	*Christ was in the grave*	*Christ was in the grave*	*Christ was in the grave*	*Christ was in the grave*	*Christ was in the grave*
Christ's body was put in a sepulcher just before sunset	*First high day of the Feast*			*Weekly Sabbath began*	

There is much more evidence proving that Christ rose from the dead just as the Sabbath ended on Saturday evening. For more on this subject read our booklet regarding the actual *Day of Christ's Resurrection.*

Sunrise Services

Despite the noticeable deviations from the Bible, many continue to believe that sunrise church services on Easter Sunday morning are legitimate. Ethel Urlin recognized the biblical perspective and wrote:

> There is a reflection of ancient solar or fire-worship in some well-known Easter ceremonies (*Festivals, Holy Days, and Saints' Days*, p. 73).

The reflection of ancient sun worship found in the Easter ceremonies is sunrise services. An example of this can be found in the book of Ezekiel where God described an event in which a number of men turned their back on Him, gave honor to a pagan deity associated with Ishtar, and worshiped the sun at its rising. Notice what the Almighty declared to the prophet while calling such behaviors an abomination:

> "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. Then He said to me, "Have you seen *this,* O son of man? Turn again, you will see greater abominations than these." So He brought me into the inner court of the LORD's house; and there, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, *were* about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east, and they were worshiping the sun toward the east (Ezekiel 8:13-16).

Easter and its sunrise worship services did not originate in honor of the true God. Instead, they are related to the worship of Ishtar and another pagan deity known as Tammuz. But who

is this additional false god and how is Tammuz related to Easter? Sandra Cicero studied the ancient religions of Mesopotamia and provides the answer:

> Mesopotamian religion viewed the sexual union between male and female as essential to the productivity of the land. Sex was also considered pleasing to the gods, particularly to the goddess Ishtar, the goddess of love and erotica. The Babylonians explained the creation of the universe as the result of a series of divine marriages between pairs of deities. This idea was the beginning of the tradition known as the *hieros gamos* or sacred marriage. The divine couple associated with this sacred marriage was Ishtar and Tammuz (*A Guide to the Babylonian Tarot*, p. 23).



The heathen legends of Tammuz being raised from the dead spread to other pagan cultures throughout the world. The mythical resurrection later influenced an apostate form of Christianity to connect these pagan myths to the true resurrection of Christ. Notice what Ethel Urlin wrote:

> The date of the celebration of Easter coincides with the date of the worship of Attis, another deity of vegetation, in Rome, and it is suggested that this date was appropriated expressly by the church for this reason. This date, March 25, was also that of the

supposed creation of the world. A feast of Osiris was held in Upper Egypt, at which pots were offered filled with sand, and barley was planted in them, water was poured over them, and the barley allowed to grow, and these gardens were held to be emblems of the resurrection of Osiris. This is even more graphically symbolized In the Temple of Isis at Philae by a sculpture in which stalks of corn are seen sprouting from the dead body of Osiris, which a priest waters from a pitcher in his hand.



Here Osiris seems to be a personification of the corn which springs up in the fields after they are fertilized by the great inundation. It corresponds to the Mysteries of Demeter, when a reaped ear of corn was shown to the worshippers as the central mystery of their religion (*Festivals, Holy Days, and Saints' Days*, p. 90).

We have heard much about "mystery religion." However, the mystery can be known when we recognize where pagan worship originated. It began during the time of Nimrod when he established a nation called Babylon which gave birth to dozens of pagan gods. These false deities multiplied after God confused the language of Nimrod's subjects and they

scattered over the face of the earth (Gen. 11:6-9). In their new locations they erected false gods and observed unholy rituals based upon what they had learned from in Babylon. The pagan gods of old changed names and religious rites were added, but the mysteries of Babylon remained intact. Revelation 17:5 reveals that Babylon's mystery religion has continued to influence people around the world down through time and unto this present day. It has even affected most of those who claim to believe in Christ. Even the 40 day fast of the Savior has been misrepresented during the Easter season.

The Lenten Season

Millions of Catholics believe that the Lenten season is also associated with Easter. They have been taught that it is a time of self-denial and sacrifice that is related to Christ's 40 day fast before being tempted by the devil. However, Christ's miraculous fast did not take place during the pre-Easter season. Instead, the Scriptures reveal that it occurred in late summer or early fall at the beginning of His ministry—not the end. So where did Lent originate? Alexander Hislop provides insight into this custom explaining that it did not come from the Christian faith established by Christ and the apostles:

> "It ought to be known" said Cassianus, the monk of Marseilles, writing in the fifth century, and contrasting the primitive Church with the Church in his day, "that the observance of the forty days had no existence, so long as the perfection of that primitive Church remained inviolate." Whence, then, came this observance" The forty days' abstinence of Lent was directly borrowed from the worshiper 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 of forty days was held in the spring by the Pagan Mexicans, for thus we read in Humboldt (*Mexican Researches,* v. i, p. 404) where he gives account of Mexican observances: "Three days after the vernal equinox... began a

> solemn fast of *forty days* in honour of the sun." Such a Lent of forty days was observed in Egypt, as may be seen on consulting Wilkinson's *Egyptians* (*Egyptian Antiquities,* v. i, p. 278). This Egyptian Lent of forty days, we are informed by Landseer, in his *Sabean Researches*, was held expressly in commemoration of Adonis or Osiris, the great mediatorial god (*The Two Babylons*, pp. 104-105).

The rites of Lent are not confirmed by the Scriptures. Instead, it is a time connected to pagan superstition and idol worship. Nonetheless, millions continue to believe that Easter celebrations honor the God of the Bible. Nothing is further from the truth. Consider His words:

> Take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them (heathen)... that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.' You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods (Deuteronomy 12:30-31).

Easter is not in the New Testament

Contrary to popular belief, Easter has nothing to do with worshipping Christ. Neither is it found in the New Testament Scriptures. Some might think the contrary and claim that Easter can be found in a single verse in the King James Version of the Bible. However, the verse in question suffers from inference and mistranslation. Notice the verse in question found in the book of Acts which 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 (KJV, Acts 12:4).

The word translated as Easter in this verse is the Greek *Pascha* which means Passover. *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* states:

> Pascha; the Passover [the meal, the day, the festival or the special sacrifices connected with it] (H6453).

The King James translators presumptuously changed Passover to Easter. In turn they misrepresented the actual observance of faithful Christians. The mistranslation is related to the fact that the Church of England adopted many of the same pagan observances embraced by the Roman Catholic Church.

Without question, the King James Version has influenced nearly every other rendering of the Bible. Notice what the famous Bible commentator Albert Barnes wrote regarding the King James translation of Acts 12:4:

> There never was a more absurd or unhappy translation than this. The original is simply after the Passover. The word "Easter" now denotes the festival observed by many Christian churches in honor of the resurrection of the Saviour. But the original has no reference to that, nor is there the slightest evidence that any such festival was observed at the time when this book was written. The translation is not only unhappy, as it does not convey at all the meaning of the original, but because it may contribute to foster an opinion that such a festival was observed in the time of the apostles. The word "Easter" is of Saxon origin, and is supposed to be derived from "Eostre," the goddess of Love, or the Venus of the North, in honor of whom a festival was celebrated by our pagan ancestors in the month of April (Webster). Since this festival coincided with the Passover of the Jews, and with the feast observed by Christians in honor of the resurrection of Christ, the name came to be used to denote the latter. In the old Anglo-Saxon service-books the term "Easter" is used frequently to translate the word "Passover." In the translation by Wycliffe, the word "paske," that is, "Passover," is used. But Tyndale and Coverdale used the word "Easter," and hence, it has very improperly crept into our King James Version (*Barnes' Notes on the New Testament*, Vol. 10, p. 190).

With all due respect, the King James translators accurately translated the word *Pascha* as Passover in 28 other instances throughout the pages of the New Testament.

Confiscating Easter for Christ?

Easter does not originate from the practice of faithful forefathers. Its observance is not found in the Bible. Instead, it came from the ancient worship of Eostre, Ishtar, Ostara, Astarte, Ashtoreth, and several other false gods condemned by the God of the Bible. Easter's Christendom began in the second century A.D. The expanding Roman church and state began to adopt holidays and traditions of pagans in an attempt to convert the masses that the Roman armies had conquered. Consider just a few quotes from the many sources acknowledging the heretical practice of an apostate organization that claimed to be Christian:

> The clergy had believed it necessary to hasten the conversion of the masses of people whom the imperial government delivered over to their propaganda and, sacrificing quality to quantity, they had joyfully inscribed, as converts to the faith, the names of men who know little of it save some few formulas. They could not understand these at all well and, in making their acquaintance, they had forgotten none of their pagan customs... They had to be content with teaching them no more than the symbol of baptism and then baptizing then *en masse*, postponing until a later date the task of eradicating their superstitions, which they preserved intact. To tell the truth, this "later date" never arrived, and the Church adapted to herself, as well as she could, them and their customs and beliefs. On their side, they were content to dress their paganism in a Christian cloak... The ancient festivals are kept as holidays and celebrated in the country parts, and the Church can only neutralize their effect by turning them to account for her own profit (Charles Guignebert, *Ancient, Medieval, and Modern Christianity*, pp. 208-214).

To conciliate the pagans to nominal Christianity, Rome, pursuing its usual policy, took measures to get the Christian and Pagan festivals amalgamated, and, by a complicated but skillful adjustment of the calendar, it was found no difficult matter, in general, to get Paganism and Christianity—now sunk far in idolatry—in this as in so many other things, to shake hands (Alexander Hislop, *The Two Babylons*, p. 105).

For almost every pagan ceremony, some Christian rite was introduced (John Brand, *Clavis Calendaria, Vol. 1,* p. 196).

Paganism survived in the moral sense, as a joyous indulgence of natural appetites; as a religion it remained only in the form of ancient rites and customs condoned, or accepted and transformed, by an often indulgent Church. An intimate and trustful worship of saints replaced the cult of the pagan gods, and satisfied the congenial polytheism of simple or poetic minds. Statues of Isis and Horus were renamed Mary and Jesus; the Roman Lupercalia and the feast of purification of Isis became the Feast of the Nativity; the Saturnalia were replaced by Christmas celebrations, the Floralia by Pentecost, an ancient festival of the dead by All Souls' Day, the resurrection of Attis by the resurrection of Christ. Pagan altars were rededicated to Christian heroes; incense, lights, flowers, processions, vestments, hymns, which had pleased the people in older cults were domesticated and cleansed in the ritual of the Church (Will Durant, *The Story of Civilization IV The Age of Faith*, p. 75).

In general the Church did not so much encourage superstitions as inherit them from the imagination of the people... the vestments of the clergy and the papal title of *pontifex maximus* were legacies from pagan Rome. The Church found that rural converts still revered certain springs, wells, trees, and stones; she thought it wiser to bless these to Christian use than to break too sharply the customs of sentiment... Pagan

festivals dear to the people, or necessary as cathartic moratoriums on morality, reappeared as Christian feasts, and pagan vegetation rites were transformed into Christian liturgy... The celebration of Christ's resurrection took the pagan name of Eostre, the old Teutonic goddess of the spring (Will Durant, *The Story of Civilization IV The Age of Faith*, p. 745).

In the middle of the second century we hear for the first time of a difference between the observance of Passover and the observance of the Sunday and Easter by the Western Church (J. Van Goudoever, *Biblical Calendars*, pp. 164-165).

The name of the feast, according to the Venerable Bede, comes from Eostre, a Teutonic goddess whose festival was celebrated in the spring. Her name was given to the Christian festival in celebration of the Resurrection... There is no doubt that the Church in its early days adopted the old pagan customs and gave a Christian meaning to them. As the festival of Eostre was in celebration of the renewal of life in the spring it was easy to make it a celebration of the resurrection from the dead of Jesus (George William Douglas, *The American Book of Days*, p. 201).

By a stroke of tactical genius, the church, while intolerant of pagan beliefs, was able to harness the powerful emotions generated by pagan worship. Often, churches were sited where temples had stood before, and many heathen festivals were added to the Christian calendar. Easter, for instance, a time of sacrifice and rebirth in the Christian year, takes its name from the Norse goddess Eostre, in whose honour rites where held every spring. She in turn was simply a northern version of the Phoenician earth-mother Astarte, goddess of fertility (*Readers Digest*, The Last Two Million Years, p. 215).

Eosturmonath (German for Easter month) has a name which is now translated 'Paschal month' and

> which was once called after a goddess of theirs named Eostre, in whose honour feasts were celebrated in that month. Now they designate that Paschal season by her name, calling the joys of the new rite by the time-honoured name of the old observance (*The Reckoning of Time*, Faith Wallis (trans.), Bede, p. 54).

It is important to realize that the church leaders who adopted heathen holidays were not those led by Christ and the apostles. These apostate church fathers were those of the church and state government based in Rome. The first Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. explains where the widespread apostasy of Easter began. Notice Emperor Constantine's letter regarding this empire's newly endorsed religion:

> 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. For what can be more becoming or honorable to us than that this feast from which we date our hopes of immortality, should be observed unfailingly by all alike, according to one ascertained order and arrangement? 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, and are, therefore, deservedly afflicted with blindness of soul. For we have it in our power, if we abandon their custom, to prolong the due observance of this ordinance to future ages, by a truer order, which we have preserved from the very day of the passion until the present time. Let us then have nothing in common with the detestable Jewish crowd; for we have received from our Saviour a different way. A course at once legitimate and honorable lies open to our most holy religion. Beloved brethren, let us with one consent adopt this course, and withdraw ourselves from all participation in their baseness (*Eusebius Pamphilius*, p. 525).

This edict orders citizens of this empire to abandon the observance of Passover and adopt the celebration of Easter. Despite the fact that Christ and the New Testament Church continued to observe Passover and all of God commanded holy days, the blasphemy calls them a "practice of the Jews." The religious organization that became known as the Roman Catholic Church emerged as the largest religious organization in history when she aligned with state leaders and began to embrace pagan holidays such as the Samhain, Saturnalia, Lupercalia, and Eostre. The heathen festivals received a makeover in an attempt to reinvent them as Christian holidays.

However, modifying pagan holidays does not change what they truly represent. It directly violates the first three commandments and disregards God's instructions to not learn the way of the heathen (Jer. 10:2).

Albeit unknowingly, those who celebrate Easter are not honoring Christ—they are respecting abominable counterfeits designed by God's adversary—the devil. Not surprisingly, neo-pagans continue to observe Easter. According to a universal religious website:

> Many of those preparing to celebrate Easter may not realize there are others planning to celebrate Ostara at the same time. The two holidays are actually closely related and draw upon similar historical roots. Ostara is essentially the pagan incarnation of the traditional Christian Easter (https://www.themonastery.org/blog/2013/03/easter-and-ostara-converging-traditions/).

An Angel of Light

When most people consider Satan, they picture a red man with horns and a pointy tail. Some may go as far as to imagine a horrific beast that appears to be part human. However, if we were to meet Satan on the street he would not be frightening or repulsive. Instead, the devil would likely appear friendly and appealing. The Apostle Paul recognized this and wrote:

> And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness (2Corinthians 11:14-15).

The behavior that Satan promotes is attractive to the carnal mind. Satanic festivals are alluring and appear to be fun. They appeal to physical and emotional senses of human nature. This is the devil's deception and why Christ revealed to John that Satan "deceives the whole world" (Rev. 12:9). His deception is so great that many do not even believe the devil exists! However, he does exist, and Satan's values are broadcast throughout the world like a powerful radio signal that human minds can tune in to. As the Apostle Paul wrote, the devil is "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience" (Eph. 2:2).

The behaviors promoted by the devil portray that which is profane as holy while rejecting the righteous worship that is commanded by God. For example, most religious organizations that claim to be Christian reject the sanctity of the seventh day Sabbath and instead spend a short period of time attending a church service on Sunday—the first day of the week. They discard the invaluable annual holy days outlined in the Bible and instead cling to pagan holidays that are corrupt counterfeits. Easter may seem good and fun on the outside, but inside it is filled with blatant idolatry. Easter does not lead believers to worship God in spirit and truth—just the opposite. Whether celebrants recognize it or not, Easter is observed in a spirit of disobedience. It is abhorred by God because it rejects His truth in order to embrace the devil's lie.

The purpose of this booklet is to help you to realize that pagan holidays such as Easter have nothing to do with true Christianity! Instead, Christians should observe the same holy days that the New Testament Church faithfully kept (Acts 12:4; 20:4-6; 1Cor. 5:7). The Church of God under the leadership of Christ and the apostles NEVER kept Easter. Notice the honest words of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

> There is no indication of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament, or in the writings of the apostolic Fathers... The first Christians continued to observe the Jewish festivals, though in a new spirit, as commemorations of events which those festivals had foreshadowed. Thus the Passover, with a new conception added to it of Christ as the true Paschal Lamb and the first fruits from the dead, continued to be observed (11th Edition, Vol. 8, p. 828).

God's Holy Days vs. Pagan Holidays

God commanded specific days to be observed in a prescribed manner. These observances have great meaning. They literally outline His plan of salvation. Sadly, most professing Christians malign God's holy days as burdensome, call them Jewish, and consider them not necessary for Christians to observe. Nothing could be further from the truth. Nowhere in the entire Bible does God say that His commanded observances are done away. In fact, God declared numerous times that His holy days are to be a "statute forever throughout your generations" (Lev. 23:14, 21, 31, 41).

The pages of the New Testament indicate that Christ and His disciples kept Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, The Day of Atonement, the Memorial of Trumpets, and the Feast of Tabernacles. Prophecies of the Old Testament explain that these holy days will also be observed when Christ returns (Eze. 46:9; Zec. 14:16). There is not a shred of credible evidence indicating that Easter should be observed by faithful Christians. The Scriptures repeatedly condemn pagan gods, goddesses, and traditions associated with them.

Despite the truth about Easter, most pastors, ministers, and priests presumptuously claim that we can use pagan symbols and holidays to honor Christ. Perhaps they are themselves deceived, but do not be fooled by such deceptive words. Christ's admonition to all believers declares that:

> God is a spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

Easter is not truth. The only certainty about this unholy day is that we can be sure it is inspired by a spirit of disobedience to God. It is a lie decorated with chocolate, marshmallow peeps, brightly colored eggs, and bunnies. Even though many who observe it may claim to believe in Christ, the symbols and traditions of Easter actually mock Him! Eggs, bunnies, ham, and sunrise services do not pay homage to God. Instead, they revere pagan gods of old.

The ancient people of Israel fell into the same trap. They claimed to worship the true God, but were halfhearted in their attempts. In addition, they began mixing heathen religion into God's commanded observances. Notice what God told them and how His words stand true for us today:

> Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known *the difference* between the unclean and the clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them (Ezekiel 22:26).
>
> I hate, I despise your feast days, and I do not savor your sacred assemblies (Amos 5:21).

If you think that it does not matter which days are observed as long as we still believe in Christ, think again. As shocking as this may be to hear, God the Father and His Son despise Easter! The deceptive activities are unclean. They do not distinguish between the holy and the profane, but instead blind people to the fact that God has outlined terms and conditions of true worship.

What may be the biggest failure of secular Christianity is the belief that people can choose for themselves how to worship God and it is only what is in the heart that matters. Such a belief has led billions to think that Christ will overlook all kinds of behavior as long as we believe. This is not true! God has never allowed people to choose for themselves how they will honor Him. Such presumption has led to all sorts of false

worship. Consider a warning from the Savior to all those who claim to believe while refusing to do what the Bible says:

> This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. And in vain they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men (Mark 7:6-8).

Christ explained that belief alone counts for nothing. As the faithful elder James pointed out, "Faith without works is dead" (Jam. 2:26). The Messiah also explained that those who claim to believe, but do not have the works of true faith will not be included in God's Kingdom:

> Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness! (Matthew 7:21-23).

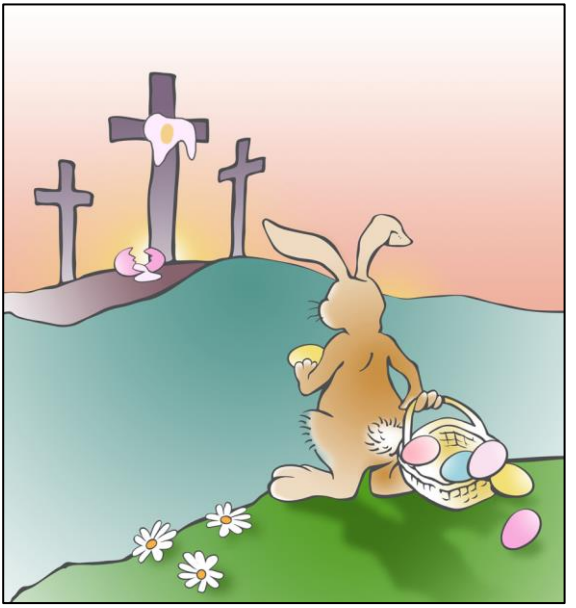
Lawlessness is a refusal to keep God's commandments and holy days. It ignores God's instructions to not learn the way of the heathen. While many claim that Christ is Lord, the observance of Easter declares that Eostre is their lord. Therefore, their worship is in vain because such activities do not reflect faithfulness to the God of the Bible.

We cannot take it upon ourselves to decide how we will worship God. We cannot follow a religion that claims we can adopt pagan traditions to honor Christ. God alone declares how He is to be worshipped and His words strongly prohibit mingling paganism with reverence for Him:

> Do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.' You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD

> which He hates they have done to their gods... Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it (Deuteronomy 12:30-32).

Easter does not honor Jesus Christ, nor does it respect the sacrifice that He made on our behalf. As the following image depicts, the observance of this holiday actually disrespects the miracle of Jesus' resurrection while demeaning what it means to mankind.



The Eternal Church of God offers a variety of books, booklets, articles, audio, and video to help people better understand the Bible. Some of the printed material available includes:

The Truth about Christmas

The Day of Christ's Resurrection

The Shocking Truth about Valentine's Day

Easter or Passover

The Shocking Truth about Valentine's Day

The Unclean and the Clean

The Truth about The Cross

The Gospel of the Kingdom of God

The Magnificent Meaning of God's Holy Days

The Truth about New Year's Day

The Truth about Mardi Gras and related holidays

The Truth about Halloween

The Trinity – fact or fiction

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