

**Christians who are blood bought children of the true God and have been delivered from the power of darkness (Col 1:12-14) have an obligation from their LORD to "Prove all things and hold fast to that which is good" (1Thess 5:21) and to "...cleanse themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness (separation) in the fear of God (2 Corinthians 7:1).**

## History of Easter:

Since Easter is not found in the scriptures, except where the word "Passover" is translated "Easter" in the Kings James Version (and corrected in many other translations) of Acts 12:4, we must therefore go outside the word of God to examine its origin.

The name "Easter" is the name of a female goddess of Spring and fertility<sup>1</sup>. She was known by various names in various countries...Ishtar, Astarte, Venus<sup>2</sup>, Asherah, Ishtar, Aphrodite<sup>3</sup>, Eostre, Diana (see Acts 19:23-41) and Semiramis.

The date for Easter is determined by the first Sunday after the first full moon after the "vernal equinox" (*vernal = Spring; equi = equal; nox = night...or the time when the sun's center crosses the equator and night and day are equal everywhere in length.*)<sup>4</sup> Thus we see why Easter Sunday falls on a different date each year and is obvious proof that it has nothing to do with the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lent is an Anglo Saxon word meaning Spring. Forty days abstinence was observed by the worshipers of the Babylonian goddess. Pagans in Mexico observed 40 days of fasting 3 days after the vernal equinox in honor of the sun.<sup>5</sup> Roman Catholicism incorporated Lent into their system in the late fourth century as a 40-day period of fasting for new converts prior to their water baptism. It was later spread to the entire religion. It was a time to do "penance for sins".

Palm Sunday was created by the Roman Catholics and first observed in Jerusalem in the late fourth century as a reenactment of the "triumphal entry" of Christ... without sanction from the word of God. Good Friday was originally called "Long



Friday" by the Anglo Saxons. Again, the Catholics adopted it and used it as a day to venerate the cross. Supposed relics of the cross were kissed, etc. Supposedly, Good Friday is the day of the crucifixion of the Lord.

Hot Crossed Buns were used by the Egyptians to honor their goddess Isis, the mother goddess. The Greeks used them in devotion to Diana. Some tell us the cross on the buns is actually a "T" for Tammuz, the illegitimate son of the queen of Babylon, Semiramis, both of whom were idolized.

Easter Eggs come from the worship of the Egyptians for their goddess Venus, Astarte or Easter. They taught that an egg of wondrous size fell from heaven into the river Euphrates and was rolled ashore by the fish and hatched by the doves, from which came the goddess. This too has been adopted by the Roman church and according to their desires.



Easter Rabbits are likewise associated with the Spring and fertility rights. The hare being a nocturnal animal was associated with the Anglo-Saxon spring goddess Eostre and the moon<sup>6</sup>.

Sunrise Services no doubt originated with the worship of Bal or Tammuz when fires would be built on the tops of hills to welcome the resurrected, new Spring sun<sup>7</sup> and son of Semiramis. See Ezekiel 8:5-18.

How does all this mixing with paganism harmonize with the Holy (*holy = sanctified or separate*) God's will as revealed in His word?

Deuteronomy 18:20 But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods (*Easter!!!*), even that prophet shall die.

Jeremiah 10:2 Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

II Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

## GOD HAS SPOKEN

What does **God** have to say about this and, does it matter to us what He has said?

"Thus saith the **LORD**: The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house that ye build unto me? And where is the place of my rest? For all these things hath my hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD; but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word..."

(Isaiah 66:1-5)

"My son, forget not my law, but let thine heart keep my commandments; ...Trust in the LORD with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes; fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel and marrow to thy bones." (Pro 3:1-7)

Romans 10:17; 14:23  
Hebrews 11:6

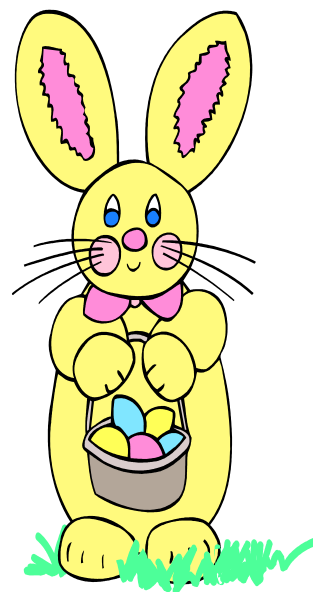
Deuteronomy 12:29-32  
Psalms 106:34-43

## WHAT ABOUT TODAY?

Some will give the following as excuses for ignoring God's word above:

***"Easter does not mean today what it once did. We have taken it away from the pagans and now it commemorates Christ!"***

Really? What do bunnies, candy, new clothes and pretty crosses have to do with the horribly ugly death, burial and then wonderfully glorious resurrection of our Lord? Does this not rather join hands with paganism and tell God to be quiet! See Deu 12:2-4, 8 & 31-32, Eph 5:11, 1Cor 6:14-7:1, Luke 16:15 and John 4:24



***"Easter is now used to reach the lost."***

Again, God is told to be quiet. See Romans 3:8..."...let us do evil that good may come?" For every one person who may be saved from a gospel message given at an Easter Sunday meeting there are likely millions who attend Easter services and think that they are Christians simply by fulfilling their assumed duty of being there on this "holy day."!

***"The significance of any holiday is how we observe it."***

And again, God is muted...please read for yourself and consider Exodus 32:5 "Aaron built and alter...feast to the Lord..." (*and God's wrath was greatly stirred*) and Ezekiel 20:39 "...pollute my holy name no more..."

***"Everyone is doing it."***

That's part of the problem! Christians (or Christ ones) are to be holy and separate from the world (see 1Peter 1:13-19). They are to be proclaiming Christ as "THE way, THE truth and THE life" (John 14:6). This cannot be done by mixing the Christian life with pagan lies.

**God's instructions on how to demonstrate the resurrection of the Lord today!**

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

2Co 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Romans 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Ephesians 3:17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what [is] the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Colossians 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, [so] walk ye in him:

I John 5:12 He that hath the Son hath life; [and] he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

John 13:35 By this shall all [men] know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

John 17:21 "that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

Throughout the ages as God has had His different programs to work with mankind (*not different plans of salvation*), only a remnant have been willing truly to follow Him. See 1Kings 19:1-18, Romans 11:1-5 and 2 Timothy 4:1-4. How about you? Are you part of the 7,000 who have not bowed the knee to Baal?

FOOTNOTES:

<sup>1</sup> **Celebrations**, Robert J. Myers (Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1972). p 103

<sup>2</sup> **The Two Babylons**, Alexander Hislop (Neptune, New Jersey: Loizeaux Brothers, 1959), p 103, 109.

<sup>3</sup> **The New Scofield Study Bible**, C.I. Scofield (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1982), p 243, 299 footnotes

<sup>4</sup> **Celebrations**, Robert J. Myers (Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1972). p 102

<sup>5</sup> **The Two Babylons**, Alexander Hislop (Neptune, New Jersey: Loizeaux Brothers, 1959), p 105.

<sup>6</sup> **Celebrations**, Robert J. Myers (Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1972). p 109

<sup>7</sup> **Celebrations**, Robert J. Myers (Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1972). p 105

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