

PASCHA or EASTER

What is the meaning of Easter? How do eggs and rabbits and baby chicks fit in? What about lent and Good Friday? Where did that name come from? Was Easter celebrated in the Bible?

Easter, the word, has nothing to do with Passover or Resurrection Sunday. This word was historically linked to two different goddesses. One goddess, Ashtarte/Isis/Semiramis who was married to Nimrod and also his mother. It also refers to the east, the direction that the sun rises. That is linked to sun worship. It is a time when pagans celebrate the spring equinox and new life and fertility.

*The word Easter itself is a good indication of this: whereas many other Christian cultures use a name cognate of the Hebrew *Pasha* (*Pâques* in French, *Pasqua* in Italian, *Pascua* in Spanish), German uses Ostern, and English uses Easter. This indicates that the Anglo Saxon already had such a feast at this time of the year.

Also note that the Welsh use *Pasg* and Irish use *Cáisc*. Why not Easter ? Simply because Wales and Ireland were Christianised during the Roman domination, a few centuries before the Anglo Saxons pagan migrations.

The German fertility Goddess was Ostara, who was associated with fertility of both humans and crops. Ostara mated with the solar god on the Spring Equinox and nine months later she gave birth to a child around the Winter Solstice at 21st/22nd of December. The Saxon name for the Germanic lunar goddess Ostara was Eostre. Her festival was held at the full moon after the Spring Equinox and the Catholics adopted this determination for their Easter.

www.englishstackexchange.com

Passover is when God brought the Jews out of bondage and slavery from Egypt.

Exodus chapter 12 explains the Passover

Exodus 12:5-13 –

Gen. 1:5 – And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

The twilight period, from sunset ("*shkiah*") until three stars are visible in the sky ("*tzeit hakochavim*"), is an "iffy" time period, known as "*bein hashmashot*."

Shabbat and all the holidays begin at sunset, the earliest possible definition of nightfall, and end when three stars appear in the sky the next evening, the latest definition of nightfall.

www.chabad.org

This year, 2015, Passover began at sunset on April 3rd. This evening is called the Passover. The next day is Unleavened Bread and Unleavened Bread lasts for 7 days. This time period is sometimes called Passover and sometimes called Unleavened Bread – they can be used interchangeably since they happen at the same time. So even though Passover began on April 3rd at sunset, April 4th is considered the first day of Passover. Let's go back to the time Jesus was here on the earth at Passover. He had already traveled as far as Bethany and so He sent His disciples to prepare the upper room. **Matt.26:17-19** I think it is neat to notice that Jesus had friends and people helping to take care of Him. The city would get crowded with people traveling in for the Holy Day and Jesus did not have to reserve the room or make special plans. His friend, held it for Him. When we look at John 18:1 We see that Jesus went into the garden of Gethsemane and we know this is after He had eaten what we call the Passover meal with His disciples. When we go to John 18:28 – We see that the Passover had not taken place yet, but here is Jesus on trial already. **John 18:28** – Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the Passover. (The day that the Passover meal was eaten was called "preparation" even though our English Bibles say Day of Preparation.)

Some consider Preparation Day is a reference to the day prior to the weekly Sabbath, ie Friday. Others consider Preparation Day was either,

- 1) the day preparation was made for the commanded 14th Passover celebration, or
- 2) the day leaven was removed in preparation for the Feast of

Unleavened Bread.

What is clear is that Jesus Christ died the day before a Sabbath.

Mark 15:42 Now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before *the* Sabbath,

www.bibleinsight.com

How did Jesus eat the Passover meal and then He became the Passover Lamb?

2. During the time of Christ the Hebrew calendar was determined by both calculations and observations of a new crescent by at least two eyewitnesses (marking the beginning of the month). The testimony of at least two witnesses always took priority over calculations. After the witnesses were cross-examined by the court and found sound, the court would send out messengers and light fires on mountaintops to inform the people that a new month began.

3. The Sanhedrin's authority included postponing the beginning of Nissan (adding an extra month, Adar II) and thus postponing Passover if the barley was not yet ripe, the winter rains had not stopped (causing impassible roads / bridges thus inhibiting all to come to Jerusalem to keep the Passover), inadequate lambs available, or any other reason that would make it difficult to keep the Passover.

4. Sometimes the testimony of the witnesses was uncertain. If the calculations and observation were close but not off by more than one day, the court would be on the safe side and declare two consecutive new moons and thus a second day for celebrating the festivals (i.e., Passover / Trumpets).

5. Sometimes, due to bad weather, the messengers and signals would not reach all the Jewish people, especially outside of Jerusalem. Thus the Sanhedrin, to avoid confusion and uncertainty, would institute a second day for celebrating the festivals (i.e., Passover / Trumpets).

In the year of our Lord's crucifixion, we see God's wise providential hand working. More than likely one of these two above scenarios took place causing the Sanhedrin to declare two consecutive Passovers (at the very least we can be sure that for some reason the Sanhedrin did declare two Passovers). Hence Christ and the disciples could keep the Passover, instituting Lord's Supper and yet the very next day become the sacrificed Passover lamb. www.puritanboard.com

SO HOW DO EGGS AND RABBITS AND CHICKS AND LENT FIT IN?



I was reading about the increase of eggs sold at this time of year, let alone the amount of candy and toys and merchandising that is going on. Billions are spent just on candy alone. 45% increase in selling eggs this time of year, and that is about 80 million eggs as of 2011.

Don't go beating people up. Yes, I used to do all of these things. My facebook has pictures of bunnies and eggs and the easter bunny and all of that. But when you know better, you do better.

Back at Christmastime I gave three messages in great detail about all of the things wrapped up in Christmas that have nothing to do with Jesus and don't please God at all. This Holy Day is another one that the pagan's were celebrating their way and the Roman Catholic Church decided to just roll their pagan practices into Christianity and mix the two together and yet still believe they are honoring God by doing so. And the rest of us have just followed along.

EGGS & BUNNIES

The egg, like the seed, a potent symbol of new life is associated with burial customs, according to Pauline Campanelli in *Ancient Ways*, echoing the association between death and rebirth found in the spring stories about Persephone emerging from the Underworld or Christ's resurrection. Campanelli says that decorated ostrich eggs were found in neolithic graves in pre-dynastic Egypt. The Druids dyed eggs scarlet in honor of the sun using furse (gorse) blossoms or possibly madder root. But the oldest traditions of dying eggs come from Eastern Europe, from Rumania, Czechoslovakia and the Ukraine, where the Goddess was often worshipped as a bird goddess. In Hungary, designs were scratched on eggs that had been dyed red, designs with names like the White Horse, Goat's Claw, the Snake and the Horsehoe. Also in Hungary, a 1300 year old burial of a woman was discovered in which the woman was holding an inscribed egg in each hand. There are two kinds of magical eggs found in the Ukraine. Krashanka are hard-boiled and dyed red. They are ritually eaten at sunrise on Easter Sunday. The red shells are thrown into the rivers to carry them to the spirits. Shells are also thrown into the garden and in the nests of the chickens. In Eastern European countries, scarlet eggs were symbols of resurrection and were placed on or buried in the graves of the family dead. A Romanian tale says that eggs are dyed red to represent the blood of Christ. But the Chinese used to exchange scarlet eggs at their Spring Festival in 900 BCE, so it is more likely the red color is the symbol of life. www.schooloftheseasons.com

Back to Semiramis and more on eggs:

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. (John Michael Rood, *The Mystery of Iniquity*)

www.bibletruth.cc

LENT

Remember lent is when Semiramis was weeping for Tammuz for 40 days and supposedly resurrected him by doing this each spring. The catholic church brought this pagan practice in and continue it even today.

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).

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*)

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Ezekiel 8:14-17 - Then He brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD's house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz. Then said He unto me, have you seen this, O son of man? Turn thee yet again, and you shalt see greater abominations than these. And He brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east. Then He said unto me, have you seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? For they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke Me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose.

SUNRISE SERVICES

Did Jesus arise at sunrise?

John 20:1 – The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulcher, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulcher.

This all goes back to worshipping the sun which is an abomination to God.

GOOD FRIDAY

How did Jesus die on Friday and yet stay in the earth for 3 days and 3 nights and still rise early Sunday morning? This all goes back to worshipping Dagon – the pagan fish god who is also known as Nimrod.

Matt.12:40 – For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

2 Cor.6:14-18 - Nimrod/Semiramis/Tammuz – nothing but idol worship

Where is Jesus in your celebration? Remember Him and honor Him. He gave His life and died a horrible death because He loves you. He was spit on and hit in the

face and beaten until flesh hung off of His body He had to walk that road bloodied and weak and naked. Do you think He liked any of this? No, He did not, but He did it for us.

Hebrews 12:2b – ...Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

GET THE LIES AND THE JUNK OUT OF YOUR CELEBRATION OF HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION.

Deut.12:2-4 – You shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations which you shall possess served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree. And you shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and you shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and destroy the names of them out of that place. You shall not do so unto the LORD your God.

Deut 12:31-32 – Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which HE hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods. What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: you shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Jesus was our Passover sacrifice. He died and shed His blood for each one of us. Have you accepted Him as your sacrifice? We are required to bring a Lamb as our sacrifice too. Have you offered your Passover Lamb up to God? Do you have His blood applied to your doorposts (heart and life)?

*** additional reference: <http://www.accuracyingenesis.com/happy.html>***